



The Nature's Tickertape

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A New Addition

To help communicate what is happening at the White Mountain Nature Center, the Board of Directors thought it would be beneficial to periodically inform our members and guests by means of a newsletter. We hope that you enjoy our newsletters and enjoy the activities that are happening at the Nature Center. We also hope that you will take part in some of our activities and whenever possible donate to some of our worthy causes. Please comment on our newsletter so that it becomes a worthy endeavor to inform all of you of our activities.

Membership

Membership dues will be due starting **January 1, 2022**. Paying your dues promptly helps the Nature Center to carry on its valuable programs. If you are not presently a member, please consider joining. Yearly memberships are available in the following categories:

Youth (under 18) - \$10

Individual - \$40

Family - \$60

Business Partner - \$100

Sustaining Member - \$1000

Lifetime Member - \$10,000

Annual Benefit Dinner

The White Mountain Nature Center's Annual Benefit Dinner held on Saturday, September 18th was a great success. The Board of Directors decided this year to hold the Benefit Dinner at the Nature Center. Even though we had less capacity than at Hon-Dah, we had a great turn out, the food was absolutely delicious, the silent and live auctions were a great success. The Nature Center netted over \$10,000.00 from this activity. The food was furnished by Dickey's BBQ. Even though the threat of rain was in the air, it did not dampen the great social atmosphere that was there. If you were unable to attend, we hope to see you next year.

NATURE

Why it's important for us to value nature.

Our forests, rivers, oceans, and soil provide us with the food we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink and irrigate our crops. We also rely on them for numerous other goods and services we depend on for our health, happiness and prosperity.

Every living thing has a purpose in this complex world of ours, whether it be insects, earth worms, wild animals, trees, humans, or even those pesky weeds. So the Nature Center helps to educate the public on this complex cycle of life.

Nature Center's Honey Extraction Event

Again this year the White Mountain Nature Center hosted a Honey Extraction event. The event last year was a huge success. We had over 60 adults and youth come to see how honey is extracted from frames from the honey supers on the bee hives.

Dennis Chandler, a local beekeeper and owner of Sweet DAC's Apiary and a board member of WMNC hosted the event on September 11th. Again this year the event was well attended. Dennis showed the audience how the frames are prepared to be put into the honey extractor and the extracted the honey from the frames. The audience was very fascinated about the process. Sampling of the fresh honey was held and the common reply was "Simply Delicious".

Currently the Nature Center has two hives with bees and two more hives that we hope to fill with bees this coming year.

So if you are looking for fresh honey from the wild flowers of the White Mountain, we have it for sale at the White Mountain Nature Center.



Funky the Owl

Funky, an Eurasian Owl, is coming to the White Mountain Nature Center. In a partnership with Land on Sky Funky along with other raptors will be moving from the valley to their new home at the White Mountain Nature Center. The move will hopefully be finalized by early to mid summer. This will be a great addition to the Nature Center. The Nature Center will be building an amphitheater to do outdoor shows. More details will be coming about this fabulous adventure. So please go onto the White Mountain Nature Center's website and donate to this fabulous cause.



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Nature Center receives major grant: "New amphitheater will benefit entire town"

11/18/21: Diana Butler, President of the White Mountain Nature Center released the following:

We are gratified today to announce that the Nature Center has been awarded a grant of \$250,000 from the Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT). The AOT grant program was designed to help across the state, but especially to help certain organizations located in rural communities that depend on tourism. Although Pinetop-Lakeside as a whole weathered the worst of the Covid-19 storm, the Nature Center was heavily affected—in 2020 almost all of the programs (including fund raising) were cancelled.

Thankfully, the Nature Center pulled through in good shape thanks to some generous donations and by leasing out some of its property. The purpose of this grant is to help expand tourism opportunities in our community. For the Nature Center that means a new, multi-purpose complex including an amphitheater and supporting infrastructures to operate a would-class Raptor Flight Show. Tourists, residents, and their guests will all benefit.

In September the Nature Center announced a partnership with Balinda Strosnider and John Glitsos of Land on Sky Wildlife Experiences to bring raptor shows to the White Mountains, starring Funky the owl, and several other awe-inspiring raptors. Land on Sky personnel helped write the AOT grant application.

Construction of the complex to house and train the raptors will begin shortly at the Nature Center. It was designed by WDM Architects of Wichita, Kansas, who designed the new amphitheater at the Phoenix Zoo., and donated their time for the first phase of this project. The company that presents the bird shows at Disney World is assisting with staging, and scripting for the shows and is also donating their time.

Contractors in the area are contributing their time and talents as well. Dan Brooks Surveying of Show Low donated the topographical survey required to begin architecture. Zeb Doll of Sheeran Consulting donated engineering and David Morris of Western Pine Development is donating his time as the general contractor. The project is receiving support from all sorts of businesses in the area, including the Town of Pinetop-Lakeside.

The initial structures include a giant netted training enclosure and viewing patio. Daily training sessions will be available FREE to the public. It is hoped that watching training inspires the community and attracts donations essential in feeding and care of the animals and completing the infrastructure project, including lighting, sound, landscaping, and other critical components.

Site plan for the new Facility (Nature Center is on the left)



The Amphitheater (below) will be located on a particularly attractive spot in the rear of the Nature Center property, overlooking a pond and wetlands area and some open forest land. It will incorporate comfortable seating, handicapped access, and a multi-functional stage.



Having a first-class facility like this in our community will open up all kinds of new opportunities. In addition to the raptor shows, it is envisioned that it being used for community events, meetings, and presentations, music shows, weddings, perhaps even for showing outdoor movies.

Donations to the building fund are being accepted now at www.WMNature.org



Forests for Monarchs

The White Mountain Nature Center is a full Partner with Forests for Monarchs due to a kind donation by Ron Miller. Google "Forest for Monarchs" and view a very interesting project in helping to preserve the Monarch butterfly by saving the forest critical to its survival. Be looking for a presentation by Ron on this great program sometime this spring or summer. We will let you know when that will be.

Donations

Rob LeFrandt from Navapache Stem Connection donated \$3,459.21

Richard Munroe donated \$1,000.00.

Antler's Inn donated \$5,000.00.

The Nature Center is grateful to these donors for their generous donations.

Whiteriver Elementary Second Graders Tour the White Mountain Nature Center on November 4, 2021.

52 Students got to do lots of hands on.

Station 1: (Inside Nature Center) - Nancy Hegener & Arlene Nelson, Nature Art

Station 2: (Patio Deck) - Ron Miller, Cones

Station 3: (Out by bird feeding station) - Mary Williams & Susie Walker, Local birds

Station 4: (Pollinator garden) - Susan High, Local trees and garden

Station 5: (TBD) - Dan Groebner, Wildlife tracks or pelts

Adam Garrard family furnished popcorn for the students which was a real treat. Probably the highlight of the excursion.