

The Trail Center

The Trail Center is a non-profit volunteer organization formed in 1983 to provide and promote quality non-motorized trail opportunities for all people in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Alameda and San Francisco counties. The Trail Center works with government agencies, outdoor enthusiasts and other interested parties to create and manage an interconnected network of trails for the five-county region. The Trail Center has maps and books about Peninsula trails available for sale, publishes The Trail Companion, which includes an activity schedule, and organizes trail buildings and repair projects.

The Board of Directors meets every month on the third Thursday at 6:30 at the Peninsula Conservation Center

Board of Directors:

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Activity Schedule:

Tim and Pat Oren Editors

From the Editor

The Trail Companion

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Jack Beebe

James Feichtl

The Padleys

The Suhrs

Robert Christiansen

S. Shriver

Wilson Cooper

Gladys Garabedian

Outdoor Activity Schedule

for the San Francisco Peninsula and South Bay
April -May 1999

Trail Center Activities

Trail Building and Maintenance

You provide your lunch and water, boots or sturdy shoes, long sleeves, long pants and a hat. We provide a spectacular setting for awesome trail building, plus

Apr 9 - 10 (1999) - 10:00am - 1:00pm

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Apr 15 - 16 (1999) - 10:00am - 1:00pm

Apr 17 - 18 (1999) - 10:00am - 1:00pm

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Habitat Restoration

April 24 - Saturday

PORTOLA STATE PARK Native plant garden restoration from 9am to 1pm. Volunteers are needed to help refurbish existing native plant gardens in two locations. Activities include preparing soil, pruning existing plants, planting seeds and seedlings, and placing protective caging around newly planted areas. For more info call (650) 948-9098.

Regular Events

The Trail Companion

hours. Bring lunch, water (and maybe dinner?) Call
(408) 779-2728 for more info

Regular Events

Pescadero Marsh Nature Walk

Meet State Park docent at Pescadero State Beach in the first parking lot south of the Highway 1 bridge over Pescadero Lagoon. Free walks held year-round, weather permitting. Saturdays 10:30-12:30, Sundays 1-3PM. (not offered every weekend; call (650) 879-2170 for dates).

Henry Coe State Park

Wild.27owherWwalks every Sunday t-roghf thekent o, May, starttint at11am (an 1pm. Easy strolls lasttin,)]TJT*absou 2 (hour (an c(oveking essf tan 2 mi es. (Call)TjT*((408) 7 escrletmust-roms!Orangenewtswandyealowdbanana,

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4uthSATURDAY BEGINNERS ROMP CLINIC.I

ity of being apparently untouched by humans, but we change the environment with every action that brings large number of humans into a wildland. From this standpoint, a trail will likely degrade the quality of the ecosystem, even if only in its immediate vicinity. In the extreme case, so many visitors will use a trail that the it will become a road, either by design or happenstance, as hikers in Yosemite, Muir Woods, or other very popular parks can see. The broader the swath cut into a wildland and the greater the num-

With all of these considerations, it might seem obvious that the best thing we could do is to stop building trails - and perhaps remove the existing ones! In some places that may be true. Over the past several years, the Trail Center has, in fact, largely moved away from that -that tras -that

with a trail machine. We aim to cut only as much soil as necessary and avoid dumping the excess material over a wide area below the trail. When we finish, we use native materials to cover disturbed ground and speed the healing process.

lands, we have learned that we can

Regular maintenance and monitoring impact. Many erosion problems start small, but if not corrected, can destroy a trail and result in sediment washing into streams. If the soil is fragile, winter closure to some or all users may mean the difference between minor winter damage and a major problem.

The Trail Center's process of trail design and construction is not perfect - we do make mistakes, but they are nearly all the result of inexperience with a new situation and we learn as much as we can from each problem. Through our experience building trails in grass-

Join the **Arastradero Preserve Stewardship Project** of **Bay Area Action** and the **Trail Center** on April 24, 1999, to widen and improve the Perimeter Trail in Palo Alto's Arastradero Preserve for equestrians, hikers and bikers. No experience is necessary. Training, tools, and spectacular trail building settings are provided. Just wear sturdy work shoes, long pants and a hat. Bring plenty of fluids and gloves (if you have them).

Sign in at 8:45 to 9 am at the Arastradero Preserve parking lot. The parking lot at Arastradero is small. For those who can't bike or ride their horse, a van will be picking up people parked at the Page Mill Road/280 Park and Ride area or those parking on the west side of Arastradero Road between the Los Altos Hills boundary sign and Page Mill Road starting at 8:30 until 9 o'clock. We'll work until 3 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Call (650) 968-7065 or email info@trailcenter.org for directions and to reserve

