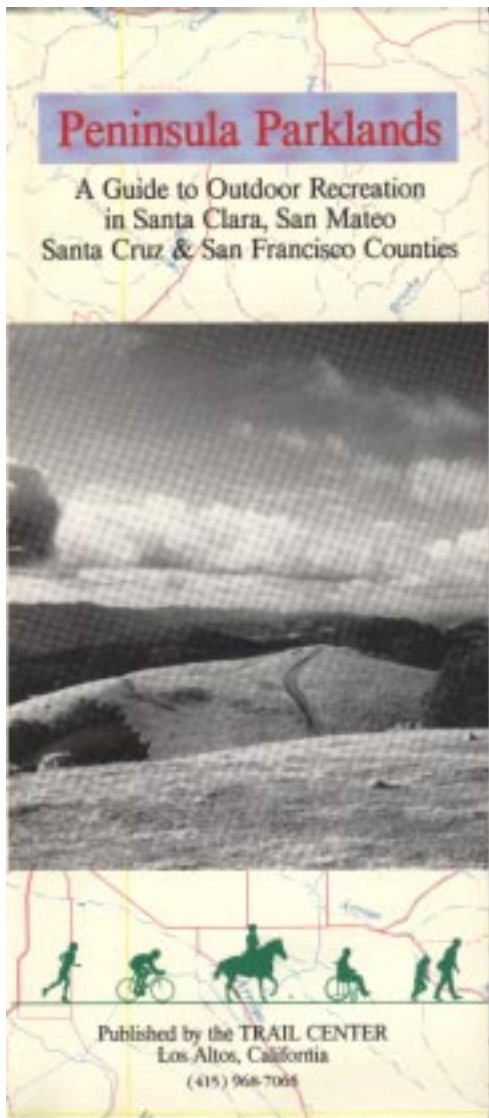




The Trail Companion

Winter 2000

A Brief History of the Trail Center



In the early 1980s, the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) received a grant from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to create the National Volunteer Program (NVP) to set up several organizations devoted to volunteerism in the outdoors across the U.S. (see the profile of the National Volunteer Project in this issue). In the Bay Area, the Santa Cruz Mountain Trail Association had an excellent track record of getting volunteers out on the trail, starting with the astounding 2,500 volunteers who turned out to build the Skyline-to-the-Sea trail project for the first Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Days in 1970. Tony Look, founder of SCMTA, representatives of a number of public agencies and nonprofits, and other interested individuals, worked with the NVP to create an organization that would expand the SCMTA's Trail Days to include

projects in public lands throughout the San Francisco Peninsula and South Bay Area. In 1983, the Trail Information and Volunteer Center (TIVC) was born as a "forum in which the public, land managers and land owners work as partners, to maintain and expand our area trail network, [and to] open new opportunities for citizens to participate in recreational activities on public lands they helped to purchase." The TIVC's mission, as stated in the articles of incorporation, was to "provide trail informational and educational programs for the general public and to increase opportunities for public stewardship of trails in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Francisco Counties in cooperation with public agencies, organizations and individuals."

For the first few years, the TIVC, located in the Peninsula Conservation Center near California Avenue

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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 publishes The Trail Companion and organizes trail building, repair and mapping projects.

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

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Letter from the Editor

I've lived in this area for a little over ten years, all that time working at high-tech companies. Sometimes, a co-worker would joke about someone writing the history of the company when they were doing something useless - referring to the need to constantly look forward in the rapidly changing technology market. Looking back is often considered a waste of time. I understand this sentiment, but don't totally agree with it. It's only when looking back that you see your accomplishments and what you've learned, and from that, decide where to go next.

We here at the trail center decided to spend this first issue of the year 2000 looking back at our beginnings and what we've done over the years. We've got a history of the Trail Center, along with a complete list of all the trailwork we've done in our 17 years. A lot this informa-

tion has been reconstructed well after the fact, so if you notice any omissions or have extra information, please let us know! In addition, if you have any photos from some of the early projects, and are either willing to part with them, make copies or scan them in, we'd really appreciate adding them to our collection.

We've also included a short summary of outdoor activities and groups in the Bay Area. This is similar to the activities schedule which we used to publish in the newsletter, but often had difficulty getting timely information in there. Now we're providing general listings.

Hope you enjoy reviewing what the Trail Center has been up to, and thank you all for your support and volunteer time through the years. Don't worry, though, we're still looking ahead for our next projects!

Scott Heeschen

Trail Center Notes

Mapping

The Map Committee worked on final touches for the updated Peninsula Parklands map and the new Trail Map of the Central Peninsula (both due from Wilderness Press by May). The new trail map is a companion to the Trail Map of the Southern Peninsula and covers the Woodside and Half Moon Bay USGS quadrangles. The CP map will detail trails in half a dozen major county parks and preserves, including Huddart and Wunderlich County Parks and El Corte de Madera Creek and Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserves.

Our partnership with Wilderness Press, finalized in early fall 1999 (see the Fall 1999 issue of the Trail Companion), is already generating new orders for Trail Center maps.

We are happy to be featured on the cover of their Spring/Summer 2000 catalog (available upon request at 1-800-443-7227)

Trail Construction and Maintenance

Castle Rock State Park, Oct. 23, Dec. 4 and Jan. 8

Trail Center volunteers continued to concentrate on the Castle Rock Trail reroute project in Castle Rock State Park this fall. We are nearing completion of this 0.7-mile project and expect to fully open the new trail in February. We were blessed with great weather and nice dirt for all days (and virtually no poison oak!). Despite predictions to the contrary, we built still more rock walls, bringing the total for this project into the hundreds of feet-far more than for any previous project. By all measures, the last trail build of the century on Dec. 4th was a rousing success with over 200 feet of trail built despite small numbers,

a late start and an early knock-off time. Bob Kelly brought out a chain saw on Jan. 8th to clean up some fallen trees on the route and remove a few larger limbs. Despite the heavy tree cover and rugged terrain, we cut only one tree over two inches in diameter over the entire route (and even the larger tree was actually a second trunk).

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (Stanford University), Nov. 14

We returned to Jasper Ridge to move a portion of the Mapache Trail out of Corte Madera Creek. When we completed work on the trail in 1996, the creek channel was about 150 feet away, but El Nino storms brought down so much silt that the stream shifted and eroded part of the trail. Although we could have built a small bridge, we were concerned about future erosion, so we relocated about 100 feet of trail uphill, crossing a narrow gully created by mineral exploration around the turn of the last century. We estimated that we moved over a ton of earth in the gully crossing alone.

Unfortunately, we also exposed a number of poison oak roots and several volunteers came into contact with them. Nonetheless, the project was a success and we look forward to further work in the preserve in the coming year.

Tool Party and Annual Meeting, Nov. 21

We outdid ourselves at the Last Tool Party of the Millennium (well, Last Tool Party of the Next to Final Year of the Millennium if you want to be technical about it...) with the fastest tool cleanup and repair on record. With the tools out of the way, we tackled a long-needed remodel of the Trail Center tool trailer with the installation of new shelves to keep tools and supplies in place and easy to access. We followed the Tool Party with pizza dinner and a short Annual Meeting. Scott Heeschen and Tim Oren were reelected to the Board of Directors in landslide votes and Dave Croker was the top write-in candidate. We celebrated with a great slide show by Darwin Poulos (Alaska and France) and Dave Croker (Trail Center projects, the Sierra Nevada and the Mojave Desert).

Upcoming Events

Trail Construction and Maintenance

Arastradero Preserve

We'll join forces again with Bay Area Action's Arastradero Preserve Stewardship Project for California Trail Days/Earth Day 2000. We expect to reroute a portion of the Acorn Trail near the Corte Madera Trail. Thanks to a grant from the

California State Parks Foundation, we will enjoy new additions to our tool stocks, including several new loppers, mattocks and saws.

Cloverdale Ranch (POST)

Planning is underway for a weekend trail build on the Peninsula Open Space Trust's Cloverdale Ranch. Cloverdale Ranch, located on the coast near Ano Nuevo, south of Pescadero, is POST's first land management project. Much of the several-hundred acre ranch will remain in agricultural production or will otherwise remain closed to public access, but large sections will be transferred to the State of California for addition to Butano State Park and other areas will have limited public access, including a 0.8 mile trail near Pigeon Point Lighthouse. Although the project is still in the early stages, we're hoping to stage an event in early fall to build this coastside trail, with overnight accommodations at the Pigeon Point Hostel, Butano State Park, or on Cloverdale Ranch itself. More details on this exciting opportunity will be available as plans are settled.

If you would like to get involved with any of our projects, email us at info@trailcenter.org or call us at 650-968-7065. See the Trail Building Calendar for dates of upcoming trail events.

Trail Center Receives Earth Day Grant

The California State Parks Foundation has awarded the Trail Center \$800 toward our California Trail

Days/Earth Day 2000 event with Bay Area Action's Arastradero Project. Our event, which will take place on Saturday, April 22, 2000, at Arastradero Preserve as part of the Foundation's Earth Day 2000 Restoration and Cleanup presented by Enron. We are honored to be one of 72 projects chosen by the Foundation, which awarded a total of \$102,000 this year for events at State Parks, community parks and schools throughout California. Grant amounts ranged from \$350 to \$2,000.

The grant will fund new and replacement tools, including loppers, McLeods and mattocks. The Foundation will also provide help with publicity and assist with project management and implementation.

Along the Trail: Member notes

Trail Center connections were responsible for another wedding this fall, when former Outreach Coordinator, Joan Schwan, married yours truly, Geoffrey Skinner, on Oct. 16th. We have longtime volunteer Jane Kos to thank for setting in motion the chain of events leading to this union-many years ago, Jane was in the Peninsula Conservation Center library and noticed Joan, who was researching internships and environmental jobs. Jane suggested that she might enjoy working for the Trail Center. From working associates, we later became friends and things only got better from there.

We were married at the house of friends adjoining Coal Creek Preserve, off Skyline Blvd. in a small ceremony with family and close

friends, including a number of Trail Center regulars and associates. Dave Croker was chief photographer, former Office Coordinator Terry Segal sang during the ceremony, Rich Allsop provided invaluable transportation and logistical help, Cathy Sewell ably decorated with bay garlands and pearly everlasting bouquets, and Scott Heesch brought a super fruit salad (among other things). Inspired by former Trail Center volunteer Angus Miller's wedding in Scotland in May, we led everyone on a Wedding Walk through Coal Creek Preserve following the ceremony and only lost (temporarily) a third of the party due to a wrong turn.

Scott was gracious enough to let me off the hook for supervising the Oct. 23rd trail build at Castle Rock—we took the week off for a honeymoon, beginning with a celebratory hike to the Hikers Hut in Sam McDonald County Park in La Honda with family and more Trail Center friends, including Tim and Pat Oren and Bob and Sue Kelly. We spent three relaxing days in the park before heading to Yosemite for a 4-day backpack from Wawona to the Valley.

Mapping volunteer Ernst Meissner is the new Chair of the San Mateo County Trails Advisory Committee. He expects the 17 member Committee, which advises the San Mateo County Park Commission on trail issues, will keep him busy this year and leave little time for trail building or mapping.

Along the Trail focuses on our members' and volunteers' activities both inside and outside the Trail Center (is there really a life beyond the TC??). If you have interesting tales to tell, have created a website that may be of interest to our membership, or basic gossip that you'd

like to share, we'd like to hear about it.

In Memoriam: Will Rudge

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of former Crew Leader Will Rudge. Will was active with the Trail Center for many years from the late 1980s to the mid-1990s, particularly on our Stile Ranch Trail in Santa Teresa County Park near IBM's Santa Teresa facility, where he worked as a physicist, and the Todd Quick Trail in Alum Rock Park in San Jose. Both he and his wife, Georgiana, were enthusiastic volunteers and wanted to give back to the parks after years of enjoying hiking and backpacking. They came out to their first trail project at Sanborn-Skyline on California Trail Days to learn something about building trails before going on a Sierra Club service trip in the Siskiyou Wilderness. Both experiences were terrific and they became regular volunteers and crew leaders.

In the following years, while continuing work with the Trail Center, Will and Georgiana traveled the world to participate in more Sierra Club services trips, including two to Russia. In the first, to Pribaikalsky National Park on Lake Baikal in the Irkutsk Region, they built a bridge and cleared trails, impressing the Russians who were surprised to see the Americans' enthusiasm for work on a vacation. On the second, to the country's (and Europe's) largest national park, Vodlozero National Park in the Karelia-Arkhangelsk Region, they helped clear logging debris from the shores of Lake Vodlozero, again to the surprise of their hosts,

who were expecting college students in search of a holiday. Will retired from IBM in 1995 and looked forward to more opportunities for service and hiking as a software contractor. Unfortunately, the realities of contract work left less time free than he expected and the onset of ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) in 1996 forced Will to cut back on his activities, including active Trail Center duty. Will's last workday with us took place in 1997 on the Mapache Trail project in Jasper Ridge.

Park News

Arastradero Preserve (Palo Alto)

The Coastal Conservancy has granted the City of Palo Alto funds to develop a trails master plan and environmental impact analysis for Arastradero Preserve. The plan, which will be prepared by an outside contractor, is expected to be completed by summer and will identify trails that are incorrectly sloped or improperly located. One of the primary goals will be to plan for an all-weather "backbone" trail for the preserve and will likely specify improvements to many of the other trails, such as the Acorn Trail. The city has also applied for \$35,000 from the California Dept. of Parks and Recreation to implement the plan, including better access for hikers, cyclists, equestrians and physically challenged park visitors.

The City has approved a new gateway facility to be constructed near the parking lot. Bay Area Action will build the facility using mostly lumber salvaged from former care-

taker's house and barn. The new building will serve as a visitors' center and BAA will also use the building to hold programs and store tools for the Arastradero Project.

Castle Rock State Park

Representatives from the Trail Center will participate in a multi-agency committee to formulate the trails master plan for Castle Rock State Park. The General Plan, which has not yet been completed, calls for a separate trail plan to guide the park in developing its trail network. Two of the important issues will be bicycle use in the park and opening additional trails in the large southwestern portion of the park below the main ridge.

Representatives from the Trail Center will participate in a multi-agency committee to formulate the trails master plan for Castle Rock State Park. The General Plan, which has not yet been completed, calls for a separate trail plan to guide the park in developing its trail network. Two of the important issues will be bicycle use in the park and opening additional trails in the large southwestern portion of the park below the main ridge.

The California State Park and Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the adoption of the Castle Rock State Park General Plan and proposed Natural Preserve Subclassification on March 8 at 9:30am at the Isaac Newton Senter Auditorium at 70 W. Hedding St. in San Jose. Copies of the preliminary general plan are available at several libraries and the State Park District Office

San Francisco Watershed Lands

The SF Public Utilities Commission has released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) concerning their proposed Peninsula Watershed Management Plan. The EIR addresses the proposed Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail project, which forms a critical link in the Bay Area Ridge Trail. The proposed trail would follow the existing Fifield-Cahill Road and Old Canada Road through the 23,000 acre Peninsula Watershed. Copies of the draft EIR are available from the SF Planning Dept., 1660 Mission St., 1st floor Planning Information Counter, or by phone request at 650-872-5934. Copies are also available from the SF Main Library (Civic Center), and libraries in Atherton, Belmont, Burlingame, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Menlo Park, Milbrae, Redwood City, San Bruno, San Carlos, San Mateo, San Jose, and Woodside.

At public hearings on the EIR, held on Feb. 1, 2000, at the College of San Mateo, and on Feb. 3 in San Francisco, public support for trail access was high; only the Audubon Society advocated keeping trails out of the watershed lands. For further information concerning the environmental review of the Peninsula Watershed Management Plan, contact Alice Glasner of the S.F. Planning Dept. at 415-558-6424. For further information concerning the Plan and process, contact Joanne Wilson of the SF Public Utilities Commission at 650-871-3033.

Pinnacles National Monument

The proposed expansion of Pinnacles National Monument has been approved, and the park is now 8,000 acres larger.

Vist the Backcountry of Henry W. Coe State Park

For one spectacular weekend this spring, Henry W. Coe State Park will open the gate at Bell Station on Highway 152 east of Gilroy. The annual Coe Backcountry Weekend, held in the little-traveled east side of the 80,000 acre park is scheduled for April 15 and 16. This event, sponsored by the Pine Ridge Association, allows visitors vehicle access to a remote and beautiful area. Hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians have a unique opportunity to see and enjoy an area isolated from the park's Morgan Hill entrance by long distances and rugged terrain.

This area of the park puts on a spring extravaganza of colorful wildflowers in the oak woodland. Fishing for bass and sunfish is excellent in secluded ponds and reservoirs. The trails provide panoramic views of the Diablo Range. Visitors may come into the park for the day, camp overnight at Orestimba Corral or Pacheco Creek Crossing, or backpack to one of the seldom visited areas of the park. They may explore on their own, join a guided ride or hike, or participate in interpretive activities. Brochures, maps, information, activities, and volunteer assistance will be available.

Participants will travel 8.5 miles on an unpaved road from Bell Station to Pacheco Creek Crossing or an additional 3.8 miles to the Orestimba Corral. The road is in good condition and passable by two-wheel drive vehicles, although

there are some narrow and steep sections requiring high clearance. Four-wheel drive is strongly recommended for towing horse trailers. Because of space limitations, steep hills and creek crossings with sharp embankments, camp trailers and motor homes are prohibited.

Entry for the weekend is by reservation only. Flyers announcing the event and providing an application form are available at the Coe Park web site (<http://www.coepark.parks.ca.gov>); the REI stores in Berkeley, San Carlos, and Cupertino; Silaccis Feed Barn in Gilroy; Gunthers Feed Store in Morgan Hill; FISCO Farm & Home Store in Modesto; and at the Coe Park Visitor Center. Written requests for applications (self-addressed stamped business envelopes included) should be addressed to Application Forms, Coe Sector Office, 5750 Obata Way, Suite A., Gilroy, CA 95020.

Applications and entry fees, \$10.00 per vehicle for day use, \$20.00 per vehicle for overnight, must be postmarked by THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2000. One vehicle per application, please. We strongly encourage car pooling. A random drawing will be held to meet the 330 vehicles per day space limitation. All unsuccessful application forms will be returned with their checks to the applicants. No dogs are allowed. Camp stoves will be permitted, but no open fires, barbecues, or hibachis. A group campfire will be held on Saturday night.

Join us for an unforgettable experience. The backcountry of Henry W. Coe State Park on a spring weekend is not to be missed.

Support California Parks and Wildlife in the March 7th Election

Californians will vote for a parks bond act on March 7th for the first time since 1988 with Proposition 12, the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000. As the state's population continues to grow at a rate of 600,000 people a year the need to support our parks and environment has become even more crucial. This bond, similar to those passed by the voters during the 1970s and 1980s, provides funds for all the state agencies that protect land and recreational resources for future generations, and also makes grants to local agencies that perform the same functions. The bond act gives greatest emphasis to urbanized areas, including the Bay Area, providing special funds to heavily urbanized areas. It includes funds for urban conservation corps, recreation for at-risk youth, open space protection in fast growing suburbs, and protection of remaining wildlife areas in some of our fastest growing counties. Santa Clara County alone stands to receive over \$40 million for parks, trails, clean air and water.

The California Environmental Dialogue (CED), a coalition of business and environmental groups, has identified a need for over \$12 billion over the next ten years to protect and enhance critical natural resources and agricultural lands.

Prop. 12 will serve as a down payment for that protection.

Another important bond act is also on the ballot-Proposition 13, the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act. This act would fund improvements to California's drinking water supply, improved flood control measures (including improved control over development in flood plains), protection for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and statewide watershed protection.

More information, including a breakdown of funding, is available on the Safe Parks website (www.safeparks.org) (Prop. 12); and at the Yes on 13! website (www.prop13.org).

We urge you to invest in California's future and vote for Propositions 12 and 13 on March 7th.

(Adapted from information from Neighborhood Californians for Safe Parks and Clean Water and Yes on 13!)

WILD LIT

Bear Following Birds

Circles

You sit on beach chairs in the reek
knees covered with sun, and toes
Smoothed by slow water. No fish
You tell the men who bring their lines
Mid-day, moving your feet
To show the only presence of life in these waters

And as the hours pass you peel
Weeks off. The water marks
Time on your body
In concentric motion
As the redwoods of Calavaras have shown age
For centuries past.

Our age is not linear.
With these women we form circles
In our eyes, fingertips, the soft touch
Of our breasts and thighs.
We gather sky in our arms
And imprint the ground with our velvet toes

--Janice Dabney

Janice Dabney is native Californian who has published her poetry in numerous journals, including Poetry Northwest and Santa Clara Review. She works as a safety coordinator at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC).

There's wisdom in following birds.
Yesterday, for example, spring released a bear
through corridors of apple and peach trees
in full-lit bloom.
Her body was rigid
from circling a dark nest of sleep
with her breath-
under a winter whose stalactite teeth
stayed bared, sharp for months,
then loosened, fell off,
and slipped into the ground
to awaken this chorus
of petaled greens and whites
with its seeping, watery call.

The bear hovers, a cloud shadow
darkening the grass in her shape.
Breath whistling warmth,
her eyes follow the cardinals' whirl of pink
sparks
towards the honey-dense scent
of a bird-feeder
which she brings down with a clap
(a shower of those sparks flying towards
cover),
and bends over to nibble the fat-fired seeds,
to finally fill
her hollow of winter sleep.

--Maya Khosla

Maya Khosla is currently a writer-in-residence with the California Poets in the Schools program. Trained as an ecologist, Maya is interested in the interdisciplinary interaction between restoration ecology, creative writing, and art. Her poems have appeared in Raw Seed Review, Freshwater Poems, and Wild Duck Review, as well as a new poetry manuscript, Edge Effects.

Union Valley Reservoir, Peavine Ridge

The sun rises, my sister and I strip off late night layers
and dive into home. Lake water glasses bare bodies.

I am molting,
shedding the covering the world has given me.
Cerulean surrounds my new flesh

as I sun on the rocks, scratching dead skin from
my senseful limbs.

She sits unclothed beside me
gnawing at roots, trying to taste her past.

Ants slink over toenails
and rest in the crevices of my feet.

I have been naked in these woods for hundreds of years,
she says,

her bare flesh slipping through the space
between time's cupped fingers.

We were here before Gold Rush nights
when men would kill for minerals,

before Jack, Dick and McConnell named themselves
on the peaks of Crystal Range,

before Hangtown was a tourist attraction
and Moore's Overland Pony Express trail was Safe-
way lit.

She inhales pine and dry granite, exhales dawnlight
and looks across the lake

to the shedded skins we will crawl back into.

--Crystal Koch

Crystal Koch is a recent graduate of UC Davis, currently working in
desktop publishing. Her favorite pastimes include hiking, martial arts,
rafting, and skinny dipping-in private of course.

Coming up...

Spring 2000

Bay Area Wildflowers: Celebrate
spring with tips on the best hikes
and rides through area parks and
open space preserves for flowers
and other treasures

Summer 2000

Long Distance Hiking in the Bay
Area: Long distance footpaths are a
lot closer than the Sierra (and not
just the Bay Area Ridge Trail and
Skyline-to-the-Sea). Get to know
the Bay Area without a car

...as well as news of Trail Center
events, park news, and new literary
works from California writers.

We're always looking for contribu-
tions to the newsletter-trail and
park issues, hike/bike/ride descrip-
tions, book reviews, volunteer
opportunities, and literary works
(poetry or prose) on wilderness, the
outdoors and human-powered out-
door recreation (and you needn't be
restricted by the issue theme).
Articles may be up to 250 words in
length (feature articles may be
longer). We may also be interested
in reprinting or adapting articles
published elsewhere in print or
linking to articles published elec-
tronically.

Deadlines for upcoming issues:
Spring 2000: Friday, March 3
Summer 2000: Friday, June 2

Submit literary works or questions
to **Geoffrey Skinner**, Literary Edi-
tor, c/o of the Trail Center or by
email, info@trailcenter.org; all oth-
ers, to **Scott Heeschen**, Trail Com-
panion Editor, c/o the Trail Center
or by email, sheesh@alum.mit.edu.

Discovering the Textured Lands with a Hike up Black Mountain

by Richard Allsop

You can discover an infinite variety of textures on several different scales in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The fine-scale textures are obvious—the smoothness of madrone bark, the crunch of dry leaves underfoot, the softness of a larkspur blossom, and the coarseness of wild grass. The mosaic of grasslands, forests, and chaparral that you walk through form a middle range of textures, while the ridges and canyons themselves fit together to form textures at the largest, geographic or geologic, scale. You can experience all of these textures by climbing up Rhus Ridge to Black Mountain from the Rhus Road trailhead in Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve.

The Rhus Ridge Trail (actually a dirt road at this point) leaves the parking area and climbs up the canyon, past a modular home and coral, then through another gate. After a short, relatively level passage through a bay forest, the trail climbs steeply up the side of a canyon, passing a little knob that gives you the

first of many fine views of the San Francisco Bay and surrounding hills. Although the hillsides are covered with the poison oak (*Rhus diversilobum*, also known as *Toxicodendron diversilobum*) that lends its name to the trail, you can easily avoid contact with this plant by staying toward the middle of the wide fire road.

At the top of the ridge, the Rhus Ridge Trail comes to a four-way junction. To the left, the Chamise Trail goes east into Rancho San



Antonio proper, with the trail to Windmill Pasture dropping down the hill immediately in front of you. Go right on the Black Mountain Trail. This trail runs nearly level for a mile or so as it swings around the head of a canyon that drains into Permanente Creek. Bear left at the junction with the Grapevine Trail, which leads into Hidden Villa.

The trail continues through a patchwork of oaks, chaparral and grasslands as it swings to the south. Go left again at the Ewing Hill trail junction, and begin a switchbacking climb, through sections of oaks, laurels, chaparral, and grasslands. I've found both the yellow and the cream-colored butterfly Mariposa lilies (*Colochortus venustus* and *C. luteus*, respectively) in the open areas in late spring. Further up the hill, in the wooded sections, I've seen masses of green California larkspur (*Delphinium californicum*) and spotted coral root orchid (*Corallorrhiza maculata*) under the bay laurel trees.

You come out of the forest near a high-tension tower and climb a fire road along a finger of the ridge leading up to Black Mountain. This part of the trail provides an opportunity to feel the geographic texture of the mountains in your lungs and legs. In other words, it's a grunt-steep, and in warm weather, hot and dusty, with little shade. Still, I'm rewarded by a feeling of satisfaction



in the accomplishment, and by fine views of Permanente Creek canyon and the Kaiser quarry to the east, and Adobe Creek to the west. I've found golden eardrops (*Dicentra chrysantha*) in bloom along the trail early in the summer. The trail



climbs up on a little knob and descends before making a final (and somewhat demoralizing) climb to another gate.

Just beyond the gate you'll find a junction with another fire road. Bear right and take this road right a short distance to Monte Bello Road, passing near a radio site on your



left. I usually go right on Monte Bello Road and walk to the Black Mountain Trail Camp, where I eat lunch in the shade of some big pine trees while enjoying a fine view of Stevens Creek Canyon, Skyline Ridge, and, on very clear days, the Pacific. I typically turn around and walk back down the same way after lunch, but with two vehicles you

could arrange shuttles and through-hike to the Open Space District lots along Page Mill Road or Skyline Boulevard (Hwy 35).

Getting to the trailhead: The Rhus Road parking lot is only a short drive from I-280 in Los Altos Hills. From the freeway, take the El Monte exit and go west, toward Foothill College. Stop at the first light, at the entrance to the college, and make a note of the odometer reading. Drive straight through that light and the next one to a stop sign, where you turn left onto Moody Road. Stay on Moody

Road (following the signs to the Hidden Villa Hostel) a mile beyond the stoplight, when you turn left onto Rhus Road. Rhus Road is narrow and twisty, with no parking allowed along the road. The small Open Space parking lot is two-tenths of a mile up Rhus Road. This parking lot is small, and can fill up quickly.

You can also park in Hidden Villa for a small fee and hike up to the Black Mountain Trail via the Grapevine Trail or the Ewing Hill Trail. Hidden Villa is closed in the summer, when it is used for a youth camp, but available the rest of the year.

Total distance (round trip): 9 miles

Time: 5-6 hours (with lunch stop)

Elevation gain: 2380 ft.

Maps: Trail Center's Trail Map of the Southern Peninsula or USGS 7.5 minute quad. Mindego Hill. Trail maps for Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve are available at the entrance kiosk.

The National Volunteer Project and National Outdoor Volunteer Network

In December of 1981, the Appalachian Mountain Club began work on a proposal to the Richard King Mellon Foundation for a national program aimed at increasing volunteerism in the outdoors. Out of this proposal came the National Volunteer Project, with four main goals:

- * Improve the quality and quantity of outdoor recreation opportunities
 - * Promote volunteerism and citizen participation
 - * Improve management and organization of voluntary groups
 - * Ensure lasting gains for volunteers in six target areas and beyond
- The Mellon Foundation agreed to fund the proposal and NVP representatives traveled to NVP project areas to help establish six demonstration projects (which included the Trail Information and Volunteer Center) in Florida, New Mexico, California, Colorado and Washington State, with a seventh soon added in Pennsylvania.

The NVP aimed to be successful in only three years, so most of the early efforts for all the new organizations focused on ambitious projects responding to whatever needed to be done in their particular area. For the TIVC, that meant helping organize Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Days with events at numerous parks and involving hundreds of volunteers. Once the NVP

(cont'd on page 12)

(NVP - from page 11)

organizations had established a record of successful projects, each moved into considering more long-term goals, as well as developing independent funding to take them past the end of the Mellon grant.

In 1987, the NVP wound down and was proclaimed a success. Over the five years since the beginning of the program, over 600 miles of trail had been constructed and nearly 200 public service projects had been completed (including 68 sponsored by the Trail Center). The new organizations now formed the National Outdoor Volunteer Network (NOVN). Although the network was not actively maintained in the succeeding years, each of the new organizations had become an established force in bringing volunteers into the outdoors.

A Profile of NVP Organizations



Florida Trail Association (FTA).

Volunteers interested in developing the Florida Trail founded the Florida Trail Association in 1975. Although the FTA predated the NVP program, the infusion of funds and organizational help allowed the group to greatly expand its efforts. Today, the focus of the FTA and its fifteen chapters remains on the Florida Trail which runs from Miami north to the Gulf Islands National Seashore in the northwest Florida panhandle. Website: www.florida-trail.org/index.html



New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors (NMVFO)

NMVFO runs numerous projects throughout the state each project season (March-October). Recent projects have included restoration at Coronado State Monument, as well as trail work on many public lands. 35 projects are planned for 2000, including trail work the Blue Range Wilderness. Website: www.zianet.com/nmvfo



Tahoe Rim Trail Association (California and Nevada) (founded as the Tahoe Rim Trail Fund)

The Association has nearly met its goal of completing the 150 mile Tahoe Rim Trail, which encompasses the ridge tops of the Lake Tahoe Basin, crossing six counties, two states and overlapping with approximately fifty miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. They run workdays from the end for June until the middle of October, including two weekend back-country camps each season. Once the trail is complete (only a few miles remain), the focus will shift

to maintenance. Website: www.tahoerimtrail.org



Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC)

VOC is the largest of the NVP organizations, hosting volunteer programs throughout the state from April-October, in partnership with land management agencies and other non-profits. Projects range from 25 volunteers repairing trails in wilderness areas to 1300 volunteers planting trees along an urban greenway. VOC runs a volunteer clearinghouse and has an active training program with workshops in leadership, trail construction and maintenance skills, and program management. Much of the material in the Trail Center's Crew Leader Training Manual was initially adapted from VOC's excellent trail manual. Website: www.voc.org



Volunteers for Outdoor Washington (VOW)

Like the VOC, VOW sponsors volunteer projects throughout Washington State. VOW volunteers contribute up to 20,000 hours annually to projects both in wilderness and urban areas. With only 20 hours of paid staff time, VOW is able to apply nearly all of their funds toward projects. One of their most high-profile projects is the Iron Goat Trail, a rails-to-trails

project in the Stevens Pass area of the Washington Cascades 60 miles north of Seattle, which will eventually include several miles of barrier-free trail. Website: www.volunteer-outdoors.org

Volunteers for Outdoor Allegheny (VOA) (Pennsylvania)

The most local of the NVP organizations, VOA focuses on programs in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Until its dissolution in the early 1990s, VOA worked toward development, maintenance, and improvement of public-access natural areas in the Allegheny County region, including trails and parks. Projects included trail maintenance, roundup of over-populating Canada Geese for transfer to more appropriate habitat, and planting of over 1,200 native tree species in Pittsburgh's Schenley Park.

teers see us first on the Internet. We advertise with VolunteerMatch (www.volunteermatch.org) and the major search engines pick up our publicity. Currently we have listings for a dozen different volunteer opportunities ranging from trail builder to poet-and each one attracts numerous inquiries.

In our early days, we and other organizations tended to attract many who would come back again and again. On our Stevens Creek Trail project in Stevens Creek County Park, the regular BBQs sponsored by REI, Inc. convince more than one volunteer to return as many events as possible. Now, many more of our volunteers are looking for a variety of one-day events, so they may build trail one weekend with us and work with Habitat for Humanity another. Or they may be interested in just a few hours of service. Many of these volunteers belong to organizations such as Community Impact, which specializes in wide range of short, effective projects, or they may volunteer through their company's service programs.

High school and college service requirements have also changed the picture. We frequently receive calls from schools or classes requesting service projects for fifteen to thirty-five students. Finally, the Trail Center is now one of several organizations, including MROSD and Santa Clara County Parks offering their own volunteer opportunities in the parks.

Thank you, to all who have volunteered with us. We are grateful for the impressive efforts our volunteers have made in the parks and for the Trail Center. We have a terrific record of service and look forward to upholding that tradition by offering many more opportunities in the years to come.

The Changing Face of Public Lands

To illustrate the changes that have occurred between the time the Trail Center was founded and today, the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) reported that In 1983, POST had helped to protect approximately 7,000 acres, by Jan. 2000 they had protected nearly 40,000 acres. In addition, POST has transferred around 29,000 acres to public agencies. One of those public agencies, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District reported that:

* In 1983, the District had acquired 15,311 acres; by Jan. 2000, 45,103 acres.

* In 1983, 18 preserves had been established; by Jan. 2000, 24 (including the recent acquisition of Bear Creek Redwoods).

Although the District does not track the number of miles of trail, the increase in acreage represents an equally large increase in the number of miles of trails. Other public land agencies, notably Santa Clara County, have made similar gains since 1983-one reason volunteers on the trails are increasingly important.

(Thanks to Summer Morlock, POST and Kristi Webb, MROSD, for providing numbers)

The Changing Face of Volunteerism

Volunteers were backbone of the Trail Center's activities when it was founded and continue to be today (especially now that we are an all-volunteer organization). Volunteerism has, however, changed dramatically since 1983. Some of the methods for recruiting volunteers haven't changed-public service announcements, fliers and newspaper stories still attract attention, but the majority of our new volun-

A Trail Center Catalog, 1983-2000

As the new year begins, we can look back on seventeen years of service in San Francisco Peninsula and South Bay parks and open space preserves. Trail Center volunteers have built, maintained and improved trails in 104 projects in 37 parks. With over 6000 volunteer days confirmed and hundreds more unrecorded, we have contributed close to 42,000 hours of public service in projects ranging from one-day maintenance projects to two mile-long trails built over the course of two years.

The following list may have inaccuracies and omissions (please notify us of any corrections), but should be close to complete. Included are both completed and proposed projects since the 1984 Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Days. Projects are listed under park name and include year(s), number of days, and number of volunteers (when available).

Key:

- SCMTD: Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Days
- SCMTA: Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Association
- MROSD: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
- SCC: Santa Clara County
- SMC: San Mateo County
- NTD: National Trail Day
- CTD: California Trail Days
- GGNRA: Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Alum Rock Park (City of San Jose)

Todd Quick Trail

(1993-1994; 16 days; 416 vols.): Cows were the word on this project, a new 0.9 mile loop trail, kicked off on the first annual National Trails Day in June 1993 (with a cleanup in Alum Rock Creek). The loop trail in San Jose's oldest and most popular park replaced trails destroyed in the 1982/1983 El Nino storms. The trail, named for the late San Jose park ranger, is the highest in the park, and offers spectacular views of the Santa Clara Valley and Santa Cruz Mountains. Crew leaders often took time off from trail building to chase away stray cows from neighboring ranchlands. This project also has the distinction of having the most days canceled or cut short by rain. The project was funded by grants from REI and others, as well as by donations from TC members under the Buck-a-Foot program.

(1995; 1 day; 14 vols.): Trail maintenance.

Arguello Park (City of San Carlos)

Canyon Trail

(1996-1997; 12 days; 265 vols.): New 0.4-mile trail connecting the recreational facilities and school in the lower park with the neighborhood above. Trail includes a large set of stairs and two small bridges, one of which we dubbed "A Bridge Named Alice" to honor our former office coordinator, Alice Stern.

Unnamed Trails

(1997; 5 days; 87 vols.): In Phase II of our work at Arguello Park, we rebuilt several sections of existing trails, including installing a new set of steps on one trail and installing large retaining walls on others.

Arastradero Preserve (City of Palo Alto)

Acorn Trail

(1998; proposed): Reroute of steepest portion of trail near southwest corner of preserve.

(1999; proposed): Reroute of 2



eroded sections near water tank access road and closure of unneeded trails.

Perimeter Trail

(1998; CTD; 83 vols.): Reroute of 1100 ft. of trail; restoration of 500 ft. of eroded social trail; 300 ft. tread maintenance.

(1999; CTD + 1 additional day; 41 vols.): 600 ft. of tread restoration.

Big Basin State Park

Eagle Rock Trail

(1985; SCMTD; cosponsored by SCMTA and Sempervirens Fund; 140 vols.): Brushing and new trail construction.

East Ridge connector to Huckleberry Campground

(1984; SCMTD; cosponsored by SCMTA; 170 vols.): 3/4 mile cleared.

Rancho del Oso horse camp

(1988; CTD): Complete fencing at new horse camp.

Rim Trail

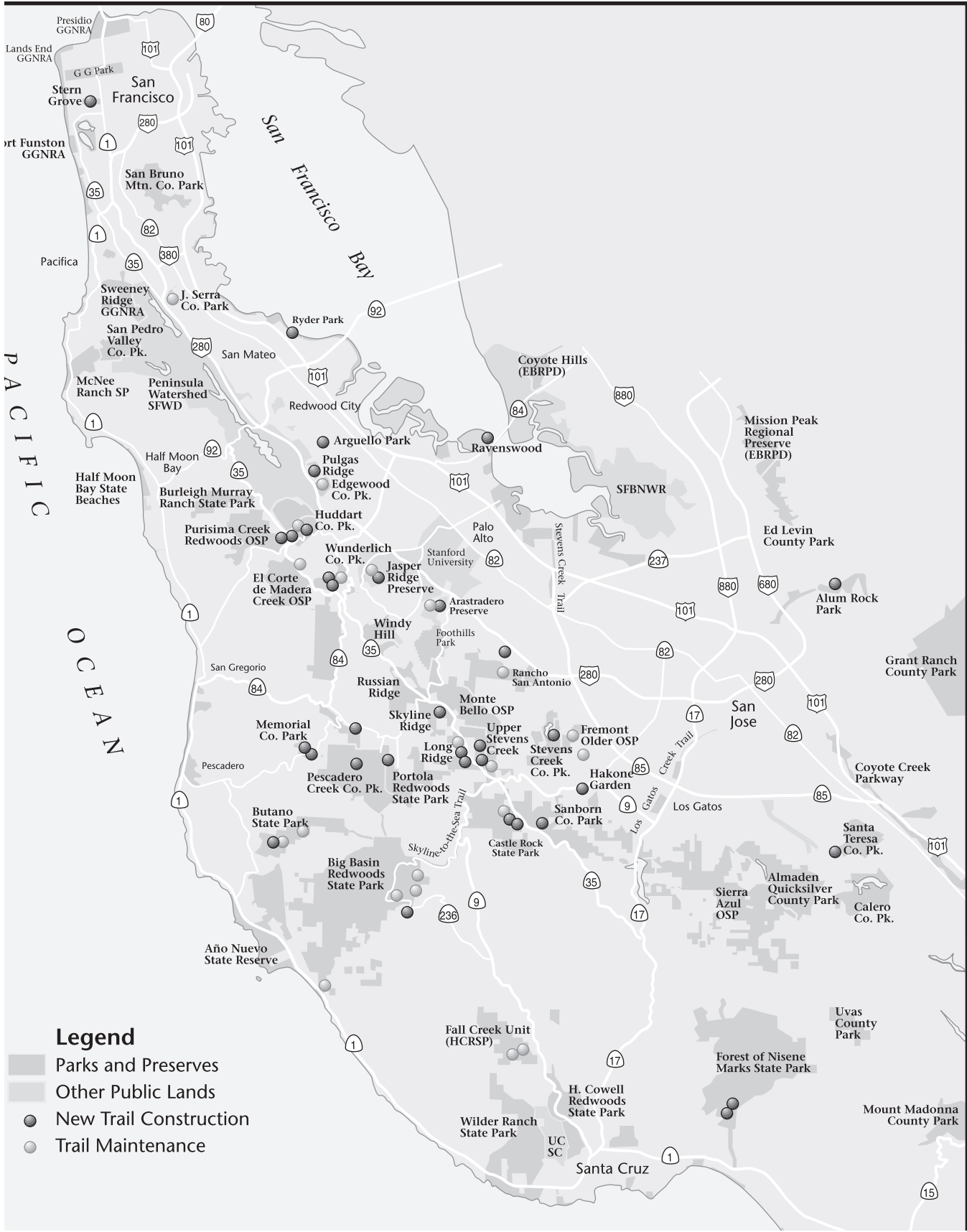
(1984; see East Ridge Connector, 1984): 3 miles cleared.

Skyline to the Sea

(1984; see East Ridge Connector, 1984): 3 miles rebuilt between China Grade and Opal Creek; 2 miles cleared on Middle Ridge.

(1991; co-sponsored by SCMTA; 1 day; 15 vols.)

The Trail Companion



Trail maintenance below Waterman Gap.

Butano State Park

Canyon Trail

(1984; SCMTD; co-sponsored by SCMTA; 35 vols.): Slide repair. (1986: CTD; 16 vols.): Trail restoration.

Connecting trails in campgrounds

(1985; SCMTD; cosponsored by SCMTA and Sempervirens Fund; 85 vols.): New trail construction at walk-in campground and in Pump-house/Goat Hill area.

Goat Hill Trail

(1984; see Canyon Trail, 1984): Brush work.

Jackson Flat Trail

(1984; see Canyon Trail, 1984): Tree clearing and drainage work.

Byrne Preserve (Town of Los Altos Hills)

Artemus Gintzon Trail

(1993; proposed): Reroute and tread improvements.

Calero Lake Estates

Calero Lake Estates Trail Easement

(1997; proposed): 2700 ft. trail on easement in Calero Lake Estates subdivision, connecting Santa Teresa County Park and Lightfoot Stable Lands, with possible extension to Calero Reservoir and County Park. Due to environmental questions, subdivision (and trail) put on hold.



Castle Rock State Park

Castle Rock Trail

(1999-2000; 14 days; 209 vols.): Rock walls, more rock walls, and still more rock walls. The 0.7 mile-long reroute of the eroded and steep Castle Rock Trail features more rock walls per mile than any of our projects, including the Stiles Ranch Trail. We completed the first half with a grand celebration for National Trails Day with the help of Any Mountain Ltd. The second half is nearly complete will be open to hikers in February 2000.

Loughry Woods Trail

(1984; SCMTD; co-sponsored by SCMTA; 30 vols.): New trail construction on a 2-mile segment. Trail originally called Loughry Forest Trail.

Reforestation project, Partridge Farm area

(1985; proposed): Proposed tree planting and restoration in former Christmas tree farm.

Ridge Trail

(1995; 3 days + NTD; 85+): Rebuilt major portions of the Ridge Trail near Goat Rock; completed on National Trails Day.

Saratoga Gap Trail

(1985; SCMTD; cosponsored by SCMTA and Sempervirens Fund; 21 vols.): Maintenance and boulder removal.

(1995; 2 days; 50+ vols.): Trail repair, rebuilding and reroute of upper portion.

Skyline to the Sea

(1984; SCMTD; co-sponsored by SCMTA; 18 vols. + CCC crew): 7 miles of Waterman Gap to Saratoga Gap rebuilt.

Edgewood County Park

(SMC)

Clarkia Trail

(1986; 1 day): Trail restoration.

Fall Creek Unit, Henry Cowell State Park

North Fork Trail

(1984; SCMTD; co-sponsored by SCMTA; 27 vols.): stream crossing rerouted, 4 mi. of trail repaired.

Pine Flat Trail

(1985; SCMTD; cosponsored by SCMTA and Sempervirens Fund; 15 vols.): New trail construction.

Forest of Nisene Marks

Unspecified trail

(1984; SCMTD; co-sponsored by SCMTA; 55 vols.): 0.5 mi. of new trail construction

[nspecified trail

(1986; CTD, 81 vols.): New trail construction on 2-mile loop.

Fremont Older Open

Space Preserve

(MROSD)

Seven Springs Loop Trail

(1986; CTD; 49 vols.): Tread restoration.

Half Moon Bay, City of

Pilarcitos Creek Trail

(1985; proposed): Unrealized trail project connecting City to beach.

Hakone Gardens (City of Saratoga)

Hakone Wilderness Trail

(1992-1993; 12 days; 266 vols.): We built a new quarter-mile long trail from Big Basin Way (Hwy 9) to the gardens in order to provide pedestrian access for Saratoga residents and others. Steep terrain, interesting drainage patterns resulting from road runoff and old skid routes made this a challenging project. Dedicated in 1993. Although most visitors arrive by car, the trail gets moderate use during the summer.

Huddart County Park (SMC)

Chickadee Trail

(1987-1988; 7 days, incl. 1988 CTD): Assisted County crews with finish treadwork and constructing handrails for new 3800-ft. wheelchair-accessible nature trail.

Dean Trail

(1984; SCMTD; co-sponsored by SCMTA and SMC Parks; 50 vols.): 25 ft. bridge constructed

Redwood Trail

(1984; See Dean Trail, 1984): Bridge and steps constructed.

Skyline Trail (1986; 1 day): Trail repair between Kings Mountain Rd. to Wunderlich Park.

(1989; 1 day; 25 vols.): Bay Area Ridge Trail pseudo-project photo opportunity for a National Geographic article on trails and greenways ("Greenways: Paths to the Future", June 1990, p. 77-99). 100 ft. of new trail built, but abandoned when County built Skyline Trail in a different location. Photos not used, either.

(1989-1990; 5 days; 107 vols.): Constructed approx. one mile of new trail at the west edge of Huddart Park, connecting the top of the Archery Fire Road (opposite Purisima Creek Road) with the top of Richards Road, traversing parallel to Skyline Boulevard through redwood groves and mixed forest. As far as Huddart's trail system

goes, this trail is a long-cut, not an obvious choice for loop hikes from either top or bottom of park. It does provide a level route across the top of the park, which with the GGNRA's acquisition of the Phleger Estate, makes it an important route for longer loop hikes along Skyline and between the two parks.

Unspecified trail(s) (1985; SCMTD; cosponsored by SCMTA and Sempervirens Fund; 85 vols.): Trail maintenance.

(1986; see Skyline Trail, 1986): build 1/3-mile horse trail connecting to Woodside equestrian trails; construct 350 ft. of split rail fence to prevent switchbacking.



Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (Stanford Uni- versity)

Trail 1 (Short Creek) (1998; 4 days; 58 vols.): Slide repair and brushing.

Trail 2 (Long Creek) (1998; see Trail 1, 1998): Reroute of trail above slide.

Trail 2 extension (Long Creek) (1998-1999; 3 days; 36 vols.): Reopening abandoned trail; large amounts of poison oak removed.

Trail 3 (Woodland) (1998; see Trail 1, 1998): Brushing and minor treadwork.

Trail 4 (Blue Oak) (1988; see Trail 1, 1998): Brushing.

Trail 6 (Rocky Road) (1998-1999; see Trail 2, 1998-1999): Short reroute out of gully.

Trail 7 (Hillside Lab) (1998-1999; see Trail 2, 1998-1999): Drainage and brushing.

Trail 9 (Chaparral) (1998-1999; see Trail 2, 1998-1999): Brushing.

Trail 10 (Teasel) (1998-1999; see Trail 2, 1998-1999): Brushing

Trail 11 (Fringe Pod) (1997; 5 days; 75 vols.): Brushing

Trail 12 (Mapache) (1995-1996; 12 days; 190 vols.): Siltation above Searsville Lake and in the lake itself, resulting in rising water tables, had forced winter closure of the trail. We rerouted of 4 sections of trail to raise it above swampy areas. Included 2125 ft. of new trail construction, 450 ft. of maintenance, a 24 ft. bridge and an 80 ft. bridge/boardwalk. Since neither bridge was near a road, we had to haul in prodigious amounts of lumber and a generator. The project was featured on a short segment of a TV program.

(1997; see Trail 11, 1997): Brushing, reroute of 150 ft.

(1999; 1 day; 19 vols.): Short reroute of a section built in 1996 that was in danger of washing out. The creek shifted dramatically after storms in 1997/1998. (See Trail Notes, this issue)

Trail a (Contact Trail) (1998-1999; see Trail 2, 1998-1999): Small plank bridge over a gully; tread maintenance.

Trail b (Garrya Trail) (1998-1999; see Trail 2, 1998-1999): Brushing, treadwork.

Trail c (Wislenzenii) (1998-1999; see Trail 2, 1998-1999): 1000 ft. of brushing and minor treadwork

Junipero Serra County Park (SMC)

Junipero Serra Park Trail (1986; 1 day): Drainage and trail repair.

Quail Loop Trail (1986; see Junipero Serra Park Trail, 1986): Drainage and trail repair [Unspecified trail(s)] (1985; SCMTD; cosponsored by SCMTA and Sempervirens Fund; 40 vols.): Trail maintenance.

Long Ridge Open Space Preserve (MROSD)

Peters Creek Trail [Jikoji Cutoff segment, aka Bohdi Cutoff]

(1988-1989; 4 days; 76 vols.): 3300 ft. Bay Area Ridge Trail segment connecting existing ranch road/trail at Jikoji Pond with Hickory Oaks Ridge Trail. MROSD later built a bridge across spillway and widened a few sections of trail. (1992; CTD; 20 vols.): Maintenance between Grizzly Flat trailhead and to Peters Creek bridge.

Trail to Vista Point (unnamed trail)

(1988; CTD; 30 vols.): 1/4-mile new side trail to vista point in Hickory Oaks Ridge portion of preserve. Intended to block steep, informal bicycle trail. Great views of Butano and Pacific Ocean.

Ward Road Link

(1984; SCMTD co-sponsored by SCMTA and MROSD; 19 vols.): 1/4-mile new trail construction; now part of Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Los Altos Hills, Town of

Frampton Court Trail

(1993; 5 days; 102 vols.): 1200 ft. long new trail on public easement, connecting Frampton Court (off Magdalena Ave.) and Fernhill Dr.).

Francemont Trail

(1994; proposed): Reroutes and improvements to existing dirt road to create loop in LAH open space; possible connectors to Black Mountain Trail in Ranch San Antonio Open Space Preserve (MROSD).



Memorial Park (SMC)

Mt. Ellen Trail

(1990-1991; 10 days; 215 vols.). Reroute of 1/4-mile trail to the top of Mt. Ellen and tread maintenance on existing trail.

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve (MROSD)

Bella Vista Trail

(1992; proposed): Trail Center proposed constructing a trail connecting the Canyon Trail with Montebello Road in a different location than the one ultimately constructed by MROSD.

Monte Sereno Open Space Preserve (MROSD)

Overlook Rd. connector

(1992; proposed): New trail would have provided access to Preserve, but TC surveyors recommended against project due to unstable hillside.

Parker Ranch (City of Saratoga)

Parker Ranch Trail

(1998; proposed): Reroute of major portions of Parker Ranch Trail, leading to Fremont Older Open Space Preserve; would have

addressed 2 large slides and an extremely steep part of the trail.
Star Court-Diamond Oaks Trail (1998, 3 days; 48 vols.): Reroute on a 400 ft. trail to make it useable year-round.

Pescadero Creek County Park (SMC)

Heritage Grove Trail

(1986; 1 day): Drainage and trail repair; step construction.

Shaw Flat Trail

(1984; SCMTD co-sponsored by SCMTA and SMC Parks; 13 vols.): Cleared 1 mile of trail.

Unspecified trail(s)

(1985; SCMTD; cosponsored by SCMTA and Sempervirens Fund; 22 vols.): Trail maintenance.

Upper Coyote Ridge Trail

(1992-1994; CTD (all days); 73 vols.): New trail construction on trail linking Tar Water Gap trailhead (Pescadero Creek) and Coyote Ridge Trail (Portola Redwoods State Park). Proposed as a project in partnership with Hewlett-Packard, but ultimately self-funded as California Trail Day projects. Most of trail within Portola constructed by CCC crews in 1994.

Phleger Estate (GGNRA)

Bay Area Ridge Trail route

(1999; proposed): Alternate RT route from Kings Mountain Community center to northwest corner of park, paralleling Hwy 35.

Lonely Trail (and others)

(1997; proposed): Trail maintenance and drainage work.

Portola Redwoods State Park

Upper Coyote Ridge Trail

(1992-1993; 1995; see Pescadero Creek County Park, Upper Coyote Ridge Trail, 1992-1993; 1995)

Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve (MROSD)

Polly Geraci Trail

(1988-1989; 11 days; 156+ vols.): Constructed 1.3-mile new trail ascending through oak woodlands to top of brushy knoll. Named by MROSD for a prominent open space activist killed in an auto accident. MROSD later constructed bridge across creek at bottom of trail. One of the best trails around for giant trillium and fetid adders tongues in early spring.

Purisima Creek Redwoods (MROSD)

Redwood Trail

(1986; 6 days): TC volunteers constructed the base tread for the 0.25 mile whole-access Redwood Trail, which travels through redwood groves off Skyline Blvd to two accessible picnic table and accessible restroom. An MROSD contractor finished the job with a layer of polymerized decomposed granite and guide rails.

Ravenswood Preserve (SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge)

Ravenswood Trail

(1985; 5 days): 5400 ft. long trail construction atop a levee. Construction consisted primarily of spreading gravel. First major TIVC project.

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve (MROSD)

Wildcat Loop Trail

(1988; CTD; 3 vols.): Restore trail intersection with High Meadow Trail.

Sanborn-Skyline County Park

Sanborn Trail

(1984; SCMTD; co-sponsored by SCMTA; 9 vols.): 1/4 mile reroute. (1998; 5 days; 80 vols.): Tread restoration, water bars and a 200 ft. reroute.

Skyline Trail

(1989; CTD; 16 vols.): Short reroute, culvert installation, maintenance.

(1990; CTD; 45 vols.): Maintenance and restoration.

(1993; 1 day; 9 vols.): Maintenance.

(1998; see Sanborn Trail, 1998): Tread restoration; drainage work.

Skyline Trail to Lake Ranch

(1986; CTD [proposed]): A 2.5 mile extension of the Skyline Trail was planned, but carried out.

Unspecified trail(s)

(1985; SCMTD; cosponsored by SCMTA and Sempervirens Fund): Trail maintenance.

San Bruno Mountain County and State Park (SMC/State of California)

Unspecified trail

(1984; SCMTD co-sponsored by SCMTA and SMC Parks; 2 vols.): 1.4 mile of rocky trail repaired

San Mateo Shoreline (City of San Mateo)

Bay Trail

(1997; 4 days; 108 vols.): The paved Bay Trail runs along a levee in San Mateo-TC volunteers built a parallel alternative with a dirt and wood chip surface next to a tidal canal for wilder experience. The flat 0.7 mile long trail connects Ryder and Harborview Parks and is semi-accessible for wheelchair users (due to uneven surface). (1998; 1 day; 10 vols.): Woodchips spread over half the length for improved accessibility during wet months.

Santa Teresa County Park (SCC)

Stile Ranch Trail

(1990-1991; 12 days; 1346 vols.): New Bay Area Ridge Trail segment across IBM easement, connecting Fortini Rd. and Mine Trail in Santa Teresa County Park. Massive rock walls at switchbacks built under direction of former Peace Corp road engineer Don Axtell can be easily seen from the air. Portable jackhammers were used in some areas. Dedicated in September of 1991.

(1992-1993; 1 day + CTD (1993); 45+ vols.): Tread maintenance and restoration. Adobe soil badly damaged by heavy equestrian and bicycle traffic.

Skylonda Fitness Resort

Connector trails to Skyline Trail, Wunderlich/Huddart County Parks, La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve and El Corte de Madera Open Space Preserve

(1992; proposed): Trails primarily for use by the resort, but with public access.

Stern Grove (City of San Francisco)

A Trail Center Index

Number of recorded volunteer days since 1984: 6066

Project with the most volunteers: Stile Ranch Trail, Santa Teresa County Park, 1900-1991 (1346 vols.)

Project with the least volunteers: Wildcat Loop Trail, Rancho San Antonio, 1988 (3 vols.)

Largest number of volunteers on a single day: 107 (Todd Quick Trail, Alum Rock Park, 1993)

Est. average number of volunteers per project: 64

Longest new trail completed: Stevens Creek Trail, Stevens Creek County Park, 1986-1987 (2 mi.)

Highest elevation project: Castle Rock Trail, Castle Rock State Park, 1999-2000 (3120 ft. at Castle Rock)

Lowest elevation project: Ravenswood Trail, Ravenswood Preserve, 1985 (approx. 4 ft.)

Number of projects in San Francisco County: 1

Number of projects in San Mateo County: 61

Number of projects in Santa Clara County: 27

Number of projects in Santa Cruz County: 15

National Trails Day projects since 1993: 7

Santa Cruz Mountains/California Trail projects since 1984: 28

Trail with the greatest number of successive maintenance projects: Bear Gulch Trail, Wunderlich County Park (at least 5 separate Trail Day events)

Projects with the most rocks: Castle Rock Trail, Castle Rock State Park, 1999-2000 and Stile Ranch Trail, Santa Teresa County Park, 1990-1991

New trail with the most switchbacks: Stile Ranch Trail (9)

Only trail with switchbacks visible from space: Stile Ranch Trail

Number of whole-access trails constructed: 3

Best trails for wildflowers: Polly Geraci Trail, Pulgas Open Space Preserve; Stile Ranch Trail

Best parks for snow: Castle Rock State Park (Feb. 1999); Upper Stevens Creek County Park (Jan. 1991)

Project with the greatest number of rainy days: Todd Quick Trail, Alum Rock Park, 1993-1994 (6 out of 16 days)

Project with the most cows: Todd Quick Trail, Alum Rock Park, 1993-1994

Unnamed trail (Bay Area Ridge Trail segment)

(1989; CTD; 8 vols.): Restoration and maintenance on a short RT connector.

Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve (MROSD)

Saratoga Gap Trail
(1993; CTD; 9 vols.): Trail repair.



Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve (MROSD)

Ridge Trail (Hiking route)
(1991; 4 days; 113 vols.): Fully construct half of hiking alternate on ridge south of Horseshoe Pond; complete tread and finish work on remainder (cut by trail machine).



Stevens Creek County Park (SCC)

Stevens Creek Trail (aka Lower Stevens Creek Trail, REI Trail, Stevens Canyon Trail)

(1986-1987; 400+ vols.) New two-mile long new trail connects the Old Canyon Trail with the Stevens Canyon. REI provided BBQs throughout the project. Dedicated in May 1988. Longest new trail in TC history.

(1988-1990; CTD (1988, 1989) + 2 additional days; 54 vols.): Winter storm, slide damage repair; tread restoration.

(1998; 1 day + NTD; 92 vols.): Major restoration effort with several large retaining walls, slide cleanup, steps, a plank bridges and tread work to repair El Nino storm damage.

(1999; proposed): Bridge, step and boardwalk to replace creek crossing expected to fail with next heavy winter.

Stevens Creek Trail extension (1988-1990; see Stevens Creek Trail, 1988-1990): Connector trail between Stevens Creek Trail and Lookout Trail/Madrone Group Area.

Sweeney Ridge (GGNRA)

Sweeney Ridge Notch Trail

(1992; proposed): Bay Area Ridge Trail segment; not built due to envi-

ronmental impact and planning considerations.

Upper Stevens Creek County Park (SCC)

Alternate Trail

(1991; 1 day; 5 vols.): Brushing, light treadwork. One of only two workdays held on snowy trails. (1992; 6 days; 60+ vols.): Trail maintenance and reroute of two steep sections a 2-mile, lightly-used, lightly-built trail which descends from Skyline Boulevard to Table Mountain parallel to Charcoal Road

Stevens Canyon Trail

(1990; 4 days; 100+ vols.): Repair 1/2 mile of narrow but popular trail so County would agree to keep it open to bikes. We widened sections of the trail, and rerouted 1/4 mile of steep trail just south of the Table Mountain Trail and relocated the junction 100 yards up the canyon. Bay Area Ridge Trail (1991; see Alternate Trail, 1991): Tread maintenance and brushing.

Stevens Canyon Trail

(1991; CTD; 47 vols.): Maintenance work on connector between Lower and Upper Stevens Creek County Parks.

Table Mountain Trail (1994; 4 days, 62 vols.): Repair 1.1 mile existing trail descending from Table Mountain to junction with Canyon Trail at Stevens Creek.

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve (MROSD)

Connector to Spring Ridge Trail

(1992; proposed): Trail would have replaced existing social trails cutting near inholdings between Corte Madera Creek and Spring Ridge.

[Unspecified trail] (1984; SCMTD co-sponsored by SCMTA and

MROSD; 19 vols.): 100 ft. new construction and loop trail brushing.

Wunderlich County Park (SMC)

Alambique Trail

(1984; SCMTD co-sponsored by SCMTA and SMC Parks; 16 vols.): 1 mile of trail repair.

Bear Gulch Trail

(1985; 5 days): Trail restoration over 2.46 miles between park headquarters and The Meadows.

(1986; 1 day): Trail repair; construction of 400-ft. log fence in The Meadows for revegetation.

(1988; CTD): Tread restoration.

(1989; CTD + 1 day; 17+ vols.): General trail restoration-brushing, drain dips, etc.

(1990; CTD; 28 vols.): Tread restoration.

Skyline Trail

(1986; see Huddart Park, Skyline Trail, 1986): Trail repair.

(1989; CTD; 13 vols.): Finish work prior to dedication.

Unspecified trail(s)

(1985; SCMTD; cosponsored by SCMTA and Sempervirens Fund; 77 vols.): Trail maintenance.

Thanks to Ben Pease for the initial work on this catalog.

Trail Center Outdoor Activity Schedule for the San Francisco Pen- insula and South Bay Area Winter 2000 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, tools, and training - no experience necessary. You may get hooked!

Please see our website for the latest details on the following projects. You may also email at info@trail-center.org or call the Trail Center office at (650) 968-7065. Reservations encouraged.

Feb. 26, 2000 - Saturday - Castle Rock State Park (Rain date: Feb. 12) Complete construction on the new Castle Rock Trail route along Castle Rock Ridge.

Mar. 11, 2000 - Saturday - Arastradero Preserve (Rain date: Mar. 18) Acorn Trail reroute-New construction and preparation for Apr. 22 event (details to be announced).

Apr. 22, 2000 - Saturday - Arastradero Preserve California Trail Days/Earth Day 2000 project-Acorn Trail reroute (details to be announced).

Tentative dates for the remainder of 2000 are:
May 13, June 3 (National Trails Day), July 8, Aug. 5, Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 4 and Dec. 2.

Office

Board meetings occur on the third Thursday of February, May, August and November at the Peninsula Conservation Center. Office work parties are held at the Trail Center office in the PCC on the third Thursday of off-months. Come help with member mailings - food and drink provided. Contact Scott Heeschen (sheesh@alum.mit.edu) to volunteer.

Volunteers are always needed to help with newsletter, website maintenance, member mailings and occasional research. Contact us for details.

Mapping

The Map Committee is forging ahead on our planned map of the Central Peninsula as well as updating the Peninsula Parklands and Southern Peninsula Maps. Team and individual work opportunities.

Other Trail Building and Maintenance

Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Association

SCMTA volunteers maintain the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail and trails in Big Basin Redwoods and Castle Rock State Parks. Regular workdays include:

First Saturday of each month at 9 AM. Hiking and trail trimming in Big Basin State Park. Starts from park headquarters. Call Bob Kirsch at (408) 243-4245 for details.

Second Saturday of each month at 9 AM: Trail maintenance in and around Castle Rock State Park. Meet at Saratoga Gap parking lot (Hwy. 35 at Hwy. 9). Call Al Lisin at (408) 252-8106 for details.

Third Saturday of most months at 9 AM: Trail maintenance in and around Castle Rock State Park. Meet at Saratoga Gap parking lot. Call Martin Donald at (650) 966-1984 for details.

San Pedro Valley County Park

Trail maintenance and construction on the slopes of Montara Mountain at San Pedro Valley County Park in Pacifica. 2nd Saturday of each month at 8AM. All ages welcome. Meet at Visitor's Center rain or shine. Call (650) 355-8289 or (650) 355-5454.

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

MROSD sponsors regularly held projects on the third Saturday each month. Call Paul McKowan at (650) 691-1200 to register.

Habitat Resto- ration

Edgewood Park

Exotic plant removal with the California Native Plant Society. Call Ken Himes (650) 591-8560 or Elly Hess (650) 368-8993 for information.

Arastradero Preserve
Join Bay Area Action's Arastradero Preserve Stewardship Project for regular habitat restoration, trail

maintenance, and tree plantings. Work days at the Palo Alto preserve occur on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. Jobs include planting native grass plugs and expanding wet meadow rye sites. Meet at the preserve parking lot on Arastradero Rd. between Page Mill and Alpine at 10am (January 9 through March 27) or 9am in the spring (April 10 through May 22). See the Arastradero Stewardship Project website (www.arastradero.org) for further information or call Karen at (650) 329-8544.

San Mateo Coast Dune Restoration California State Parks Department. Work continues on Pescadero State Beach and Dune restoration. Exotic plant removal, fencing, seed collection and more. Contact Laurie Neville, Senior Resource Aide at (650) 726-8816 or (650) 712-9133 for details on times and locations.

Half Moon Bay State Beaches Restoration Restore native coastal dune and bluff plant communities and protect the nesting sites of the threatened Snowy Plover. Contact Marianne Kjobmand (650) 726-8801 of the Resource Ecology Department, California State Parks, Half Moon Bay State Beach. Work at 10AM Saturdays and Sundays.

California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter Plant restoration along Hwy 280 between Edgewood Road and Woodside Road. Meet on the second Friday of every month at 9AM at the Edgewood Road Park and Ride lot at Hwy 280. Bring clippers or pruners if you have them. CNPS provides work gloves, orange vests, hard hats and safety glasses. Call Zoe Chandik (650) 747-9620 or Chuck Baccus (408) 244-2923.

See the Yerba Buena Chapter website (home.pacbell.net/bors/habitat_rest.html) for further information about this and other Native Plant Society restoration projects. For additional information on exotic plant control projects, contact president Don Mayall, (650) 856-7579, Email to seleve@netcom.com.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) GGNRA Habitat Restoration Team conducts regular habitat restoration/exotic vegetation removal projects throughout the GGNRA. Call the Habitat Hotline at (415) 556-4353. Usually each Sunday at 9:30 AM

You may also wish to call directly the location most convenient for you.

Marin Headlands (415) 331-0732.
Fort Funston (415) 239-2366.
Muir Woods (415) 388-2596.
For general GGNRA volunteer info, call (415) 561-3034 x3429.

Planting for the Second Hundred Years: Oak Regeneration at Stanford with Magic Oak planting and care in the Stanford Foothills between Junipero Serra Boulevard and Hwy 280 and elsewhere on the Stanford campus. Regular work sessions each Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon. Call Joan Schwan at (650) 323-7333 or email Magic (magic@ecomagic.org).

Wildlands Restoration Team The Wildlands Restoration Team is a Santa Cruz-based organization which works on exotic plant removal. For all projects bring layered clothing, long pants, hiking boots, at least 2-quarts of water and lunch. Instruction and gloves provided. Call the hotline (831) 662-3039 for more!

* Saturdays 10AM-1PM for 10-year olds and older. Call (831) 464-9141 for locations and to get on the mailing list.

* Sundays at 9AM meet at Denny's restaurant in Santa Cruz on Ocean Street to carpool to a work site. 18-years or older and expect a full days workout.

Other Resources Please visit the Native Habitat website (www.nativehabitat.org) for further opportunities for restoration work throughout the Bay Area, around the state and even around the world.

Kids and Families

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

MROSD offers a variety of activities suitable for families. See the MROSD calendar (www.openspace.org/hikes.html) for details.

Hidden Villa

Weekend Farm Tours offered every Sunday. For youngsters, but fun for all ages. Meet the animals and vegetables that live on the farm. 11AM-1PM. Call (650) 949-8653 for reservations one week in advance. Fee.

Parent/Infant Hikes in Edgewood Park

Sierra Club Family Outings meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 10:30AM for a 2-3 mile hike at an easy pace accommodating infant needs. Parents with 2-9 month old infants in carrier, snugly, sling or pack. Boots recommended. Meet at the main Edgewood Park entrance on Edgewood Road 1 mile east of Hwy 280. Call Laura Harter (650)

364-8216 for information or reservations.

Coyote Point Museum
The Coyote Point Museum always has interesting exhibits for families! Call to see what's there now. General museum admission: \$3 adults, \$2 seniors and students (13-17), \$1 children (4-12), children under 4 and Museum members free. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 10am-5pm, Sunday 12 noon-5pm. Call for information (650) 342-7755.

Hikes and Walks

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
MROSD offers free docent-led hikes and walks through the District's many preserves. Join hikes and learn about geology, biology, insects, birds, and more. See the hike calendar (www.openspace.org/hikes.html) for more information.

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 Cowell State Park
Redwood Grove Walks at 2PM every Saturday. 0.8-mile walk to visit amazing trees. Wheelchair and stroller accessible. Call (831) 335-7077.

Butano State Park

Nature Walks Every Saturday and Sunday at 2PM. Pink orchids and scarlet mushrooms! Orange newts and yellow banana slugs! Come see the color of nature. \$5 parking fee. Hwy. 1 south of Half Moon Bay, take Pescadero Road or Gazos Creek Road to Cloverdale Road. Call (650) 879-0173.

Big Basin
Redwood Loop Walk 11AM and 2PM every Saturday and Sunday. See the power of Mother Nature - visit the new twist in the trail since the February storms. Easy 1/2 mile walk meets in front of Park Headquarters. Wheelchair- and stroller-accessible. One hour.

Wilder Ranch
Nature Walk, Saturdays at 11AM along the spectacular trails either on the coastside or backcountry. Call (831) 426-0505 for information.

Henry Coe State Park
Henry Coe State Park and the Pine Ridge Association sponsor numerous hikes and evening talks throughout the year. Check the Henry Coe website (www.coepark.parks.ca.gov) or contact the Park Headquarters at (408) 779-2728 for current program.

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council
BARTC sponsors hikes and workdays along the Ridge Trail throughout the year. Check the BARTC website (www.ridgetrail.org), call at (415) 391-9300, write to the Council at 26 O'Farrell Street - Suite 400, San Francisco, California 94108 or email: ridgetrail@aol.com.

Coastwalk
Coastwalk sponsors occasional walks in various coastal locales throughout the year, in addition to

the namesake event which occurs each summer. Check the Coastwalk website (www.sonic.net/coastwalk) for current schedule, or contact Richard Nichols Coastwalk Coordinator, 1389 Cooper Rd., Sebastopol, CA 95472. Phone/Fax: (707) 829-6689; E-mail: coastwalk@sonic.net.

Bicycling Events

On-Road -
Western Wheelers Bicycle Club, Inc. sponsors both regular events and longer rides for riders of all abilities, as well as clinics and classes. Check the Western Wheelers website (www.westernwheelers.org) for current calendar.

Off-Road -
ROMP (Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers) ROMP is the mountain cycling advocacy and social group for San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. In addition to sponsoring numerous rides, ROMP works to maintain and improve a positive relationship with non-mountain biking trail users and create a positive image for the good of all mountain cyclists.

ROMP rides are open to both members and nonmembers. See the ROMP website (www.stanford.edu/~scoop/romp) for a list of upcoming rides.

Regular Events

Note: all of the following events are road rides sponsored by Western Wheelers Bicycle Club, Inc. For

Western Wheelers' ratings, see the information and ratings page on their website.

Mondays Only

B+C-/1.5/30 MONDAY MORNING JAVA JIVE. Meet at Chain Reaction (Homestead @ Foothill). Ride leaves at 9:30 AM. Leaders are: Gordon Maloney (408-720-0298) & Patty Burger (408-395-1942). Rain cancels.

Tuesdays Only

CD-/2/30-35 TUESDAY LOOP RIDE. Join us each Tuesday during the year, rain or shine, at the Westmoor Shopping Center in Sunnyvale, corner of Fremont & Mary, at 11 AM. The route is a variation of the Portola loop with lunch stops at various eating places in the Palo Alto Area. Pete Blasberg (408-245-1434) leads - Carol Shaw (408-730-5224 or email carol@carol.com) co-leads. Bring lunch or buy.

C/3-4/35-60 HILLS-R-US. Plan to meet on Wednesdays, 10 AM at Shoup Park, Los Altos. The ride will vary weekly but include hills like Montebello, Highway 9, Page Mill, Old La Honda, Kings Mtn., West Alpine, and Tunitas. Rain cancels. Leaders are Steve Kramer (408-734-8161 or email bikekramer@hotmail.com) and Jim Halicho (408-749-8859 or email jhalicho@aol.com).

B+C/2-3/15-30 THE RETURN OF THE THURSDAY NIGHT TOUR. Starting April 8, there will be a series of B+/C rides led by Andy Kirk and others. These rides will start from Cuesta Park in Los Altos at 6 PM and will have 15 to 30 mile lengths depending on daylight. .

D+/2-3/20-35 THURSDAY EVENING unTOUR. Starts promptly at 6 PM from Cuesta Park, located in Mountain View on Cuesta Avenue just off Grant Road.

Rides will be led by Roger Stenson (email stealth@unicorn42.com or 408-245-3012) and others. See www.unicorn42.com/untour for the tentative schedule of unTour rides. Rain cancels.

Equestrian Events

Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association

LAHHA promotes all activities concerning horsemanship and trail access in the Town of Los Altos Hills and neighboring communities. LAHHA also sponsors frequent shows and other events between March and October. Events are held at the Town Ring on Purisima near Viscaino in Los Altos Hills.

Write to Drawer "I", Los Altos, CA 94023-4009. Fax (650) 968-4686. Email to shaze@worldnet.att.net

Los Viajeros Riding Club

Organized rides and social events. Call Carleen Whittelsey (650) 851-4000 or write P. O. Box 620171, Woodside, 94062.

Quicksilver Endurance Riders, Inc.

2nd Wednesday of each month at Santa Clara County Horsemen's Grounds. Sponsor trail rides, poker rides, moonlight rides, endurance rides plus trail building and maintenance projects. Contact Maryben Stover (408) 265-0839 or write P.O. Box 71, New Almaden, CA 95042.

San Mateo County Horsemen's Association.

Educational seminars, general meetings and group rides. Publishes a newsletter of trail information and stories of local rides. P.O. Box 620092, Woodside, 94062. (650) 568-1045.

Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association

SCCHA is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting good horsemanship and trail use. Monthly meetings the 3rd Friday of every month include educational programs. Regular monthly group rides and/or campouts, either at regional parks or on private property (by special arrangement with the owners,) as well as special events such as playdays, dances and poker rides. Rides are often followed by barbecues and/or dances. Check the SCCHA website (www.horsemens.com) for current schedule of events.

Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association.

Meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30PM at the Clubhouse at the Graham Hill Showgrounds at Graham Hill and Sims Roads in Santa Cruz. Polocrosse, shows, rides and other events. Write to P.O. Box 1014, Santa Cruz, CA 95061 for information and membership. Call Lynn Christiansen (831) 454-9513.

Tilden/ Wildcat Horsemen's Association

Organizes rides and events in the East Bay Regional Parks area. Contact Joan Andrews, President at (925) 254-7860, or Morris Older, Newsletter Editor at (925) 254-1408.

(History, cont'd from page 1)

in Palo Alto, worked closely with the SCMTA to recruit and manage volunteers for Trail Days. Hundreds of people turned out for projects all across the Santa Cruz Mountains—in 1984, 438 came out; in 1985, over 500 participated in projects in fourteen different parks. The compiler of the report on the 1984 Trail Days noted, “Perhaps too many projects were planned for one event...we purchased far too many patches.”

By spring of 1985, the TIVC had its first director, David Sutton, had moved into new quarters on El Camino Real near San Antonio Road in Los Altos and had launched its first independent program with a trail maintenance project on Bear Gulch Trail in Wunderlich County Park (San Mateo County). The first new trail construction project soon followed, with the 5,400 ft Ravenswood Trail in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Ravenswood Preserve in the SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The trail was built over 5 days with tools and gravel provided by Fish & Wildlife. Volunteers came out every other Saturday in order to complete the project before wild-fowl hunting season restricted access to the preserve.

The TIVC remained in close association with the NVP as it evolved into the National Outdoor Volunteer Network (NOVM) over the next few years and continued to search out projects beyond Trail Days with new trail construction on the whole-access Redwood Trail in Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District), maintenance on the Clarkia Trail in Edgewood County Park (San Mateo County), and others.

The TIVC shortened its name to the Trail Center (TC) in 1987 and construction began on the longest new trail to date at Lower Stevens Creek County Park. With REI’s help in recruiting and providing barbecues for volunteers, TC crews built two miles of trail, much of it tough cliff-side terrain above Stevens Creek Reservoir.

In 1988, the TC began a series of trail rides co-sponsored by a number of Bay Area equestrian groups to raise money for the South Bay portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Through the Ride For the Ridge events, many thousands of dollars were raised while providing an opportunity for riders to enjoy spectacular trails and countryside. Although the TC expected to use the money for trail construction immediately, Santa Clara County halted most new trail construction while they formulated a trails master plan.

Around the same time, the TC absorbed the West Bay Trails Council and incorporated it as the advocacy arm under the name Trails Advisory Committee. The focus of the TC had always been more oriented toward volunteerism, rather than political action, and TAC eventually withered away.

Work began on developing the mapping program with the initial layout for the first *Peninsula Parklands* map. The TC stocked scores of trail maps, but until the PP map was published in 1989, no single map existed which illustrated the various public lands in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties. Sunset Magazine featured the map and membership soared to an all-time high of 2200. Director Madeleine von Laue, who had risen from the ranks of volunteers after Dave Sutton left, scrambled to manage the huge influx

while concurrently serving as the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council’s South Bay Coordinator.

Crew leaders had always been a critical part of the trail work structure, with volunteers often promoted in the field after attending a few trail builds. The TC and MROSD held joint yearly crew leader training sessions until 1990, when the TC developed its own Crew Leader Training Seminar. Over the succeeding years, the Crew Leader Training Committee taught many would-be crew leaders, as well as numerous trainees sent by county and city park agencies.

Through the first part of the 1990s, TC volunteers built and maintained numerous trails in parks and preserves from southern Santa Clara County to the Presidio of San Francisco, including another major project in Santa Teresa County Park (Santa Clara County) with a Bob Kelly serving as part-time trail coordinator. With the continuing successful projects and high membership, the TC explored the possibility of cloning a sister organization to serve Sonoma, Napa and Marin Counties. Then the economy plunged into recession and funds for trail work from park agencies and corporate donors dried up. The TC watched the ranks of loyal volunteers dwindle as long-term projects gave way to sporadic one-day events. Madeleine’s successor, Tom French, left and the director position was abolished, with office staff consisting of Office and Outreach Coordinators carrying on most of the work. Within a short time, the TC rejoined the Peninsula Conservation Center, now on East Bayshore Road in Palo Alto.

The local economy picked up by the mid-90s and suddenly money

The Trail Companion

was available for trail work again and the TC began a number of projects at a more local level, with work in Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve and several municipalities, as well as a series of self-funded projects at Castle Rock State Park. The TC's first trail map, the *Trail Map of the Southern Peninsula*, went to press in 1997, and work began on revision of *Peninsula Parklands* and the *Trail Map of the Central Peninsula*. The TC hired its last director, Sandy Nichols, in an attempt to preserve and expand all three areas of focus-mapping, trail work and information. Despite some successes, the volunteer and funding climate had changed since the TC's early years and several projects were unexpectedly delayed or canceled. Sandy left for another position and the TC moved to part-time staffing again.

As discussed in the Summer 1999 issue of the *Trail Companion*, the Board finally faced several difficult

decisions after months of uncertainty about the TC's direction. The TC dropped the map retail business and contracted with Wilderness Press for distribution of TC-authored maps. Without map sales, the need for paid office staff disappeared and we moved to an all-volunteer operation. Since the majority of expenses were map-related, the TC budget was soon in the black for the first time since the early 90s and nearly all membership dollars could go directly to supporting trail work and map creation.

What's ahead?

As an all-volunteer organization, we will soon be in a better position to self-fund more projects and more effectively leverage our assets. We expect to begin a series of projects with Santa Clara County, beginning with a Ridge Trail project in Sanborn-Skyline County Park. We anticipate continued work with Bay Area Action's Arastradero Project, Jasper Ridge, and California State

Parks. The Web will likely become an even more important tool for recruiting volunteers and communicating with our members and the general public. We will look to volunteers for an increasing wide scope of tasks, including a possible rebirth of the map offerings (albeit at a smaller scale). Work will begin on revisions to the Trail Map of the Southern Peninsula.

In many ways, the goals and mission of the Trail Center have not changed since its birth seventeen years ago. Through all of our programs, we still strive to encourage stewardship of trails and public lands throughout the San Francisco Peninsula, South Bay Area and beyond. Thanks to the efforts of the Peninsula Open Space Trust, MROSD and others, the amount of land under public ownership continues to increase; the need for volunteers in the outdoors will only grow.

Become a Member and Support Trails in the San Francisco Bay Area:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Evening Phone: _____
Day Phone: _____
email: _____

I Would Like To Volunteer:

Trail Building Trail Advocacy
 Map Making Newsletter
 Photography Publicity
 Office Assistance Fundraising
 Other: _____

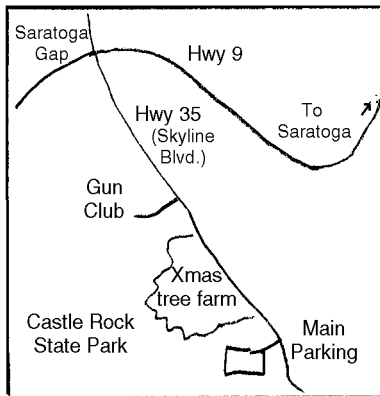
Here is my Annual Membership Fee:

\$25 Individual \$100 Sustaining
 \$35 Family \$250 Patron
 \$50 Contributing \$1000 Benefactor

Please return to:

Trail Center
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Upcoming Trail Center Events



Castle Rock State Park

* Feb. 26 - Saturday - Finish Construction

Note: Meet at main Castle Rock parking lot on Hwy 35, 3 mi. south of Hwy 9 (Saratoga Gap). This project has very little poison oak.

ArastraDERO PRESERVE in palo alto

* March 11 - New trail construction - rerouting the Acorn Trail

* April 22 - California Trail Days, construction and reroute of Acorn Trail

Call the office for more information - (650) 968-7065, or
email info@trailcenter.org, or
check our website www.trailcenter.org



The Trail Center
3921 E. Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

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