

The Trail Companion

Spring/Summer 2001

New Trail Map of the Central Peninsula

The Trail Center's *Trail Map of the Central Peninsula* is finally finished! The new, full-color map shows a dozen major parks and preserves in the Santa Cruz Mountains and foothills between Woodside and Half Moon Bay.

The largest half-dozen parks highlight the redwood and mixed evergreen forests either side of Skyline Boulevard - Huddart and Wunderlich County Parks, MROSD's El Corte de Madera Creek, Purisima Creek Redwoods, and La Honda Creek Preserves, and GGNRA's Phleger Estate.

Foothill lands, including Edgewood County Park, Pulgas Ridge Preserve, and the south half of the Peninsula Watershed, encompass oak woodlands, serpentine grasslands, and chaparral slopes.

Also shown are little-known city

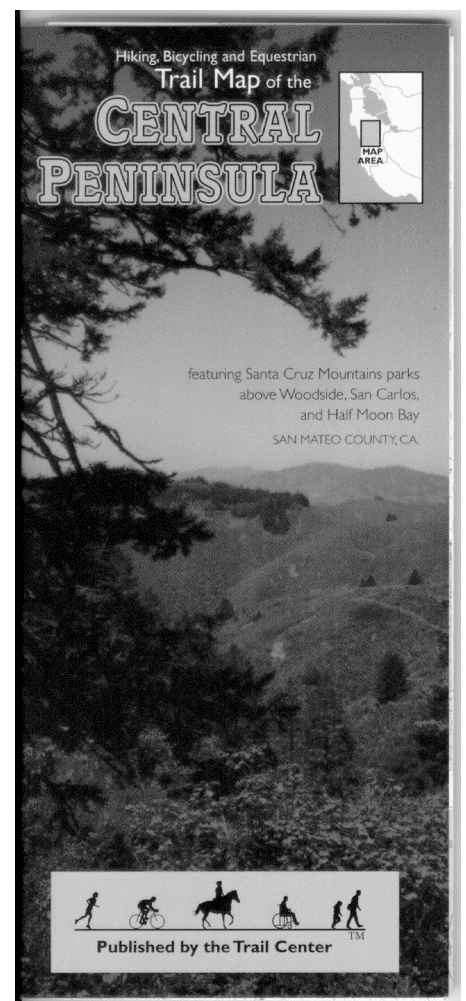
parks, from Laurelwood Park in San Mateo to Stulsaft Park in Redwood City, that provide a glimpse of the original habitat of the surrounding neighborhoods, and are ideal for quick walks close to home or work.

Tying together these parks and habitats are regional trails such as the Crystal Springs, Skyline, and Bay Area Ridge Trails, and equestrian trails in Woodside.

Most of these parks have been shown on agency brochures, but it is helpful to see them all together, and with accurate trails. (The Trail Center lent our mapping to MROSD to improve their map of El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve).

Like its companion map, *Trail Map of the Southern Peninsula*,

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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 Monday of the month at 6:30 at the Peninsula Conservation Center.

*Board of Directors
David Croker
Scott Heeschen
Geoffrey Skinner*

*Address:
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303*

*Telephone:
(650) 968-7065*

*Web Site Address
www.trailcenter.org*

*Trail Companion:
Mary Simpson Editor
Megan Hansen Editor
Scott Heeschen Layout
Geoffrey Skinner Staff Writer*

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From the Trail Center

I must begin this column with an enormous apology — the Spring issue of our newsletter did not take shape as quickly as I had intended, and it was summer before I had enough time to put the newsletter together. It was then that I discovered I didn't have enough material, so at that point I opted to put together a combined Spring/Summer issue, and here it is. Please enjoy! Also, please check out the topics for our upcoming issues on page 19 and feel free to submit articles on those topics or others. If you're unsure about your writing skills, don't worry. Our editors can work with you to polish up that piece.

The Trail Center has a lot of good news to announce this issue — we've finished our long-awaited *Trail Map of the Central Peninsula*, and installed The Map Source in the downstairs of the Peninsula Conser-

vation Center. I hope that both of these will serve as excellent references for your local outdoor journeys.

We've also included some information about the place where our office makes its home — the Peninsula Conservation Center. Bay Area Action and the Peninsula Conservation Center Fund have completed their merger and announced their new name (another long-awaited event). We also talk about the resources available at the PCC in its library, which many people probably did not realize was there.

Two excellent articles from Stanford freshmen Scott Ransenberg and Markus Rogen, a hike up Montara Mountain by Rich Allsop, and Wild Lit round out this issue. See you in the fall (no more skipped issues, I promise!)

Scott Heeschen



Finishing the trail connection at Arastradero

Trail Center Notes

Trail Construction and Maintenance

Acorn Trail, Arastradero Preserve, March 10, April 22, May 13, June 2 and 13

Despite a rainy February that forced us to cancel both the regularly scheduled workday and the rain date, we returned to Arastradero on March 10 under warm, sunny skies to repair last year's Acorn Trail reroute. The combination of natural settling, bike and horse traffic on soft earth, and winter storm damage gave us plenty to work on in preparation for the trail's reopening later in the spring. Although the trail was quite passable, we attended to various problems all along the 1400 ft. stretch. Some volunteers cleaned the slough from the inner edge, while others flattened the berms that had developed on the outside of much of the trail. We also fine-tuned the turnpike sections over the culverts. Best of all, Indian warriors and buttercups lined the trails and we were treated to many raptors overhead.

With the completion of the Arastradero Preserve Trails Master Plan, we were able to begin work on another reroute project on the other steep section of Acorn Trail (to be renamed the Oak Trail), roughly a quarter mile to the south. This segment travels between the old barn site at the top of Meadowlark Trail and Sobey Pond on Corte Madera Trail. The current trail is ex-



Lunchtime at Arastradero - always popular

tremely steep and very difficult to traverse even under dry conditions. The new trail will feature a much gentler grade as it switches down the side of the ridge, traveling to the northeast of the existing trail. Palo Alto ranger Lee Hickenbotham graciously agreed to clear out the majority of poison oak along the new route before we took volunteers out. George Taylor, Rich Allsop, Bill Henzel and Tim Oren cleared remaining PO in preparation for our California Trail Days project on April 22.

We had a great California Trail Day/Earth Day. Thanks to over 80 great volunteers, we completed over 900 feet of new trail (out of 1650 feet for the entire project, including 100 feet of maintenance)! That works out to roughly 18 feet of new trail per trail volunteer. Everything went very well – from everyone's enthusiasm early on a Sunday morning to the way the trail came together by the end of the day. Greg Betts, manager of Palo Alto's Open Spaces and Sciences Division

(who joined us on the trail) was impressed by quality of our efforts. Our volunteers also removed a truckload of teasel — Karen Cotter (Acterra Arastradero Stewardship Project) was very pleased to work with so many great volunteers for habitat restoration. Among the stars were our Outreach Coordinator, Amy Morris; our crew leaders and trainees - Pat Oren, Justin Knowles, Scott Heeschen, Boyd Wise, Alan Ross, Bill Henzel, Dave Kison, Rich Allsop, Dave Croker; Karen Cotter, David Smernoff and David "Tex" Houston of Acterra; Ranger Lee Hickenbotham; Greg Betts of the City of Palo Alto; Community Impact; and the Berkeley EECS. Finally, Hobee's California Restaurants, Whole Foods Markets, Crystal Geyser, and Odwalla all helped make the day a winner through their much-appreciated food and drink donations.

On May 13, a somewhat smaller

(cont'd on following page)

but no less enthusiastic group concentrated on building switchbacks and retaining walls. We had planned on building a bridge across the drainage at the bottom, but determined that we would be better off with a culvert, so at the end of the day, we strung up yards of yellow caution tape at the crossing and made plans for our last big day

To no one's surprise, we had a great National Trails Day event and completed another 600 feet of trail! Some areas were quite difficult because of hard soil and sun, but at the end of the day, nearly the whole trail was in place. The switchbacks looked very nice and everyone had a good time. Hobe's California Restaurants once again provided coffeecake for everyone at the start of the day and we also provided lunch for everyone.

The event ran very smoothly, in large part due to a lot of behind-the-scenes effort by our Outreach Coordinator, Amy Morris. Karen



The retaining wall crew show off their hard work

Cotter (Arastradero Stewardship Project) made numerous shuttle trips between the parking lot and the event site. We also had good showing from the Crew Leaders and Trainees, including Cathy Sewell, who tackled a nasty bit of poison oak, and Bill Henzel, who very close to graduating from his apprenticeship. The crews were enthusiastic despite the heat and soil.

At the end of the day, we still had a little more work to do before opening the trail, so we held one final mini-trail event on Wednesday, June 13, from 6 pm until sunset, when we installed our culvert near the bottom of the trail. A big oak had fallen across the trail a few days prior, which meant we couldn't open up the trail immediately, but were promised help from the rangers within a few days. Despite the downed tree and caution tape, the new trail had been discovered and we predicted it would be popular.

We had coordinated the event with the Arastradero Stewardship Project's regular Wednesday night Weed Warrior session and about half the crew gathered for refreshments at Alpine Inn following the trail work. With a ball game blaring in the background – a bit different atmosphere from the quiet of Arastradero – we congratulated ourselves for a project well done and looked forward to future days at the Preserve.

Thank you to all 170+ volunteers who made the new Acorn Trail a reality!

Summer Builds in the Redwoods on Gazos Creek, July 14 and Aug. 25



Working on one of the switchbacks at Arastradero

On July 14, we held the first of two scheduled sessions (with another event possible) at Pescadero Conservation Alliance's Field Research Station at Gazos Creek (formerly known as the Mountain Camp) (www.gazos.org). The Field Research Station is on land recently purchased by Sempervirens Fund and transferred to CA State Parks, which is adjacent to Butano and Año Nuevo State Parks. For the first day, we improved several areas of a trail that runs along Gazos Creek Canyon, including a reroute and preparing for a new 14-foot long bridge.

If you missed the event, we'll be out again on Aug. 25. We'll construct the new bridge, build retaining walls and reroute another section of trail, as well as prepare for a second new bridge of the same length. Depending on turnout, we may also create some short interpretative trails within the camp boundaries. Since the Field Research Station is a bit farther afield than most of

projects, we are arranging camping (cabin or tent) for both Friday and Saturday nights. For campers, the Trail Center will provide some food and drinks for Saturday night dinner; everyone should bring something to share. For those who want to stay in the redwoods a little longer, we expect to have hikes available on the Sundays if there is enough interest.

Please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Amy Morris (outreach@trailcenter.org) if you're interested in joining us. We'll start at 10 a.m. since the driving time is longer than for most of our projects; meet at the Field Research Station (approx. 3 miles east on Gazos Creek Road from the intersection of Cloverdale Road.) by 9:45. Additional details, including detailed directions, are posted on our website.

A big thank-you to our Gazos Creek volunteers! Alex Fabrikant, Karen Gielhler, Galen Hancock, Scott Heeschen, Justin Knowles, Kathleen Loray, Dan Moran, Pheobus Chen, Tim & Pat Oren, Geoffrey Skinner.

Maps

Trail Map of the Central Peninsula

The long-awaited *Trail Map of the Central Peninsula* is finally here! Please see cover story.

The Trail Center Map Source Opens

Once again, the Trail Center is your source for maps. Although we went out of the map retail business in 1999, we still wanted to provide our members and

others with maps for SF Peninsula, South and East Bay. With the help of long-time supporter and trail builder Bill Henzel who showed off his woodworking skills by constructing the beautiful map cabinet, we've opened the Map Source in the lobby of the Peninsula Conservation Center. While we're still in the process of stocking the Map Source, we already have a good selection available. All of the maps are free of charge, though we also plan to provide samples of maps for sale elsewhere and a list of retailers.

When fully stocked, the Trail Center Map Source will carry maps from:

City of Burlingame
City of Mountain View
City of Palo Alto
City of San Carlos
City of San Jose
City of Sunnyvale
East Bay Regional Parks (selected)
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
San Mateo County Parks
Santa Clara County Parks
Santa Cruz County Parks

...and a number of others.

The Peninsula Conservation Center is located at 3921 E. Bayshore Rd., near the San Antonio Rd. North exit from 101. The PCC is open from 8-5 weekdays (often open later for meetings) and some Saturdays. Please drop by to pick up some maps for

your next outing!



Park News

MROSD

Ridge Trail section in Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve opened to bikes

The MROSD Board of Directors voted March 28 to let bicyclists use a section of Bay Area Ridge Trail in the northern end of Russian Ridge OSP. The segment, which runs the Hawk Ridge Trail and Rapley Ranch Road, had been open only to foot and equestrian traffic since the District acquired the property a number of years ago. The former owners had made the restriction a condition of the sale. MROSD proposed the opening as part of a District-wide change in bicycle policy that resulted in the closure of seven preserves to cyclists at the end of the year.

Trail Projects for 2001

MROSD plans to concentrate on maintenance and realignment of existing trails in the 2001 season. Slides and other winter damage from the past several years necessitate work in Skyline Ridge, Purisima Creek Redwoods and El Corte de Madera. The District recently purchased a property between Skyline Ridge and Portola Redwoods State Park that creates a corridor between the two parks for an extended Page Mill Trail. That connection is still some time off, however — major slides on Old Page Mill Road below Alpine Pond need to be fixed and staff hope to repair the

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(Park News, cont'd from page 5)

trail by fall. They will also repair slides on School Road (also in Skyline Ridge), realign the Grabtown Gulch Trail in Purisima, where a bridge washed out, and address a number of maintenance problems in El Corte de Madera. Finally, the Spring Ridge bypass trail in Windy Hill will be re-aligned to move it away from the inholding now that the driveway has been completed. Check the MROSD website for updates.

San Jose City Parks

The San Jose Metro (Mar. 29-Apr. 4, 2001) reported that the San Jose City Council approved the purchase of private land along Los Gatos Creek in an effort to extend the popular Los Gatos Creek Trail into downtown San Jose. With the purchase of a parcel near Lonus Avenue, a total of 11 parcels remain to be purchased to allow the completion of the segment. Park planners hope to complete construction by mid-to late 2003.

Portola Valley Town Trails

As part of a boost to the town trail system, the Town of Portola Valley has installed new trail signposts at all trailheads that list name, distance and trail usage. Kevin Rohani, Director of Public Works, said PV would have a digitized map of the town, including all the trails, available by

August (the only current map is hand-drawn and photocopied). The Town's network is now also officially larger, with the addition of the new Lake Trail on Coal Mine Ridge. The trail easement was dedicated as a result of the Blue Oaks development above Los Trancos Road and runs between Alpine Road at the PV Town limit and the extension of Old Spanish Trail at Los Trancos Woods. The new trail, like all PV Town trails, is open to foot and equestrian traffic

Santa Clara County Parks

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council voted in late March to withhold funding for the planned Sanborn-Skyline Ridge Trail segment due to restrictions on bicycle and equestrian usage in the planned trail. As a result, the project to extend the Ridge Trail to Lexington Reservoir is on hold indefinitely. The segment from Skyline Boulevard to Lake Ranch Reservoir may still be built as a single-track hiking only trail in the near future.

POST: Major Purchases Protect the Coast

The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) recently launched a \$200 million campaign to save "The Endangered Coast," with grants totaling \$100 million from the Packard and Moore Foundations. Since January, POST has acquired nearly 5,000 acres of San Mateo

coastland, adding to the nearly 2,000 acres optioned or purchased last year. In January, POST announced the purchase of 215 acres of prime farmland and rolling hills south of Half Moon Bay (completing their acquisition of the 815-acre Johnston Ranch and creating a buffer of protected land on the southern edge of Half Moon Bay). In May, they purchased the 4,262-acre Rancho Corral de Tierra, one of the largest undeveloped properties on the coast—surrounding the communities of Moss Beach and Montara and adjoining McNee Ranch State Park, San Pedro Valley County Park and the Peninsula Watershed. Most recently, in mid-June, POST acquired San Gregorio Farm—262 acres of agricultural fields, meadows and hills between San Gregorio and Pomponio State Beaches. Portions of the newly protected lands will remain in agriculture, while others will be added to the state and national park systems. In addition to preserving open space and habitat, the new park additions will mean new possibilities for trail connects from the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

POST has saved over 45,000 acres since 1977. For more information on current projects, see www.openspacetrust.org or call (650) 854-7696 to learn more or to donate to POST.



Big Improvements in Store for Arastradero Preserve

The National Park Service announced in late April that the City of Palo Alto will receive a \$22,040 Challenge Cost Share grant for the improvement of the Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail in the City's 609-acre Arastradero Preserve. National Park Superintendent Meredith Kaplan, in her letter congratulating the City, said the Park Service will work closely with the City to improve regional trail connections between the Preserve, Los Altos Hills and Portola Valley. The City plans to use Capital Improvement Project Infrastructure funds to match the grant money to install a prefabricated footbridge and to re-route a poorly sited trail segment. The City Council approved the Preserve's new Master Trail Plan in May and preliminary work for the Anza Trail will begin soon.

The City hopes to use the challenge grant money to improve connections between bike and equestrian trails along Arastradero Road in Los Altos Hills, with dirt trails within the Preserve. The proposed trail connection will create safe turn lanes for bikes to cross Arastradero Road, allow equestrians, hikers and cyclists to cross a creek by a new six-foot wide footbridge, and then continue through the Preserve on a smooth, gently sloped path. Although a narrow footpath exists between the border of Los Altos Hills and the primary Gateway Trail, the trail runs parallel to Arastradero Road, close to the busy road and along delicate creek habitat. The new trail will provide a more enjoyable route,

while also eliminating soil erosion along the creek bank.

The Anza Trail in Arastradero Preserve is a local segment of a nationally designated historic trail that runs through Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. The trail is believed to be one of the original routes that early Spanish pioneer Juan Bautista de Anza and a group of colonists from what is now Horasita, Sonora, Mexico used in 1775-76 to reach San Francisco, where they established a presidio and mission for New Spain. The route was designated as a National Historic Trail in 1990 and a National Millennium Trail in 1999. A map of the Anza Trail in Santa Clara County can be found at: <http://www.nps.gov/juba/plan/appc-santaclara.htm>

As part of a comprehensive Trail Master Plan for the Arastradero Preserve the City, the Anza Trail has been designed to connect neighborhood trails in Los Altos Hills with both equestrian and bike trails along Alpine Road in Portola Valley. Portions of several existing trails will be renamed and linked as the Anza Trail, including the Gateway, Corte Madera and Meadowlark and Perimeter Trails. According to City Open Space Superintendent Greg Betts, this regional trail connection will serve nearly 90,000 hikers, bikers and equestrians a year.

Betts said that many of the other improvements discussed during the planning process last year can go forward now that the Trails Master Plan has been approved. Upcoming projects



The trail's namesake - Juan Bautista de Anza

include a new trail brochure and map; new large maps at the parking lot showing the redesigned trail system; better signs and trail markers; and determining priorities for trail work to start early next spring. While the plans call for a few trails to be closed and restored, Betts said that the City intends to first complete the trail widening and realignment projects.

The City Council also approved the proposed Gateway structure in mid-June after years of debate. The structure will be located on near the Preserve parking lot and will be a "green" building, to be constructed, in part, with materials salvaged from the house and barn once located near the southwestern boundary and demolished by Bay Area Action volunteers several years ago. The Gateway structure will house a visitors' center, office space for the rangers, and program space for the Arastradero Stewardship Project.



The View from the Top of Montara Mountain

by Richard Allsop

The climb up Montara Mountain in Pacifica provides a waterfall in the winter, excellent wildflowers in the spring, and relatively cool hiking in the summer and fall, and excellent views throughout the year. To get there, take Highway One to Pacifica and turn east on to Linda Mar Boulevard. Stay on Linda Mar Boulevard to the end, where it intersects with Oddstadt Boulevard. The sign for San Pedro Valley County Park is visible straight ahead. Turn right and then left into the entrance of the park. You have a choice of parking areas, but you will be going south from the visitor center. Parking is 4.00 per vehicle. The visitor center is open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturdays and Sundays. The center has a good selection of books and maps, some informative displays, and a pay phone.

From the visitor center, walk south past the restrooms along the Old Trout Farm Trail, with the south fork of San Pedro Creek to your left. This trail climbs gently past the tanks that are the only remains of an old fish farming operation. The eucalyptus trees that line the road make the canyon's walls appear even steeper than they really are.

When you come to a gate with a no trespassing sign, turn right onto the Brooks Falls Overlook trail. Continue on this trail, which trends north and east, for a short distance. You'll pass two side trails on your left. These are the ends of a small loop trail built, as far as I can tell, to show off some old concrete structures of unde-

terminated purpose. The trail is littered with bark strips, leaves, and nuts from some huge eucalyptus trees.

Turn left at the third junction, onto the Brooks Creek Trail, just above a bench. This trail contours up the west side of the canyon, through eucalyptus forest at first, and then through chaparral. Brooks Falls, to the south, can be spectacular during a wet winter, and the north face of Montara has some fine, almost sheer cliffs.

The trail then begins a series of switchbacks up the ridge, tunneling through manzanita in places. At the top of the ridge, you'll come to a junction with the Montara Mountain Trail and some excellent views of the ocean and Pacifica. Turn left onto the Montara Mountain Trail, which climbs gently along the west side of the ridge up to a narrow saddle between Brooks Falls Canyon and an unnamed (at least on any of my maps) canyon to the west. Look for abundant Fremont's starlily (*Zigadenus fremontii*) growing along it in the spring, as well as some invasive pampas grass.

After crossing the saddle the trail switchbacks up the north face of Montara Mountain and then contours steadily uphill, entering McNee Ranch State Park near a little knob, until it intersects the North Peak Access Road. This jeep

trail is used to service the repeater sites at the peak, and provides hiking and biking access. Turn left onto the road and follow it along the ridgeline. The rock and gravel along this stretch remind me of the Sierra. This isn't surprising; according to Ben Pease in his *Trail Map of Pacifica* (a valuable resource for anyone who hikes on the northern Peninsula), Montara is actually a chunk of granite from the south end of the Sierras, carried up by the San Andreas Fault.

As you climb, the views improve, with more of Mt. Diablo poking up over Sweeney Ridge, and Mt. Tam and Mt. St. Helena visible to the north. You can also peer down the steep canyons to the south and west at the farms and towns along the coast.



Before long, you'll go under a major power line and past the turnoff to the first radio site on what looks like the summit—the actual summit of North Peak is behind the easternmost radio sites. The views are incredible on a clear day. To the north, you can see the coastline along Pacifica, Daly City, and San Francisco, and the Marin coast up to Pt. Reyes. San Francisco Bay, Mt. Diablo, and the hills of the Diablo range can be seen to the east, and if the smog isn't too thick you can see San Jose and the observatories on Mt. Hamilton to the southeast. Turning south, you look along the spine of the northern Santa Cruz Mountains to Mt. Umunum and

down the coast past Half Moon Bay to Pescadero Point. Some of the land immediately to the south may become part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and provide future Bay Area Ridge Trail connections if the Peninsula Open Space Trust can raise enough money to complete the purchase of the 4,262-acre Rancho Corral de Tierra (see Park News). The view west looks like it's about halfway to Hawaii, but—according to my calculations—the actual line of site from 1900 feet is about fifty miles. In clear weather, you may be able to spot the Farallon Islands, 27 miles offshore to the northwest.

Unless you arranged for a

second vehicle at McNee Ranch State Park, along Highway 1 to the west, you'll need to retrace your steps back to the county park's visitor center. Even though you'll follow the same path, I can guarantee that you'll discover many new views and treasures that you missed on the way up.



Rich Allsop is a trailbuilder, crewleader and a hiker who has wandered the Bay Area for many years.

Total distance (round trip): 5 miles (from visitor center)

Time: 3 hours (with lunch stop)

Elevation gain: 1400 ft.

Maps: Pease Press *Trail Map of Pacifica* or USGS 7.5 minute quad. Montara Mountain. Trail maps for San Pedro County Park are available at the visitor center.

Selected Montara Mountain Resources

Montara Mountain has attracted much attention – from the varied plant communities to the interesting geology, as well as hiking opportunities. While far from comprehensive, the following resources may lead you to your own Montara Mountain discoveries:

In Print

Rusmore, Jean; Spangle, Frances; & Crowder, Betsy. *Peninsula Trails*. 3rd ed., 2000 update. Berkeley, Calif.: Wilderness Press, 2000. The classic SF Peninsula trail guide includes several trail descriptions for Montara Mountain and envi-

rons.
VanderWerf, Barbara. *Montara Mountain*. El Granada, Calif.: Gum Tree Lane Books, 1994. Unfortunately now out of print, you may be able to find a copy of this excellent trail and natural history guide in your local library or in a used bookshop.
Vasey, Michael. "Of Hazelnuts and Adder's Tongue: The Intriguing Coastal Scrub of Montara Mountain." *Bay Nature*, Apr./June 2001. (also on the Web: www.baynature.com/2001spring/ott_spring2001.html) A close look at the unusual coastal scrub communities, including a

nice photo of fetid adder's tongue.

On the Web

Corelli, Toni. *Checklist of Plants of Montara Mountain*. (www.stanford.edu/~corelli/montara.html). A partial plant list including 253 vascular plant species representing 62 plant families.
Kozak, Chuck. *Montara Mountain Native Plant Page*. (plants.montara.com). Billed as "an incomplete and ever-evolving catalogue of native plants of Montara Mountain."

Logging, Population Growth and Biodiversity in the Santa Cruz Mountains

by Scott Ransenberg

To a visitor or person unfamiliar with the natural and human history of the Santa Cruz Mountains, much of the land may appear to be untouched or natural. Although the region does still house hundreds of different species of plants and animals, populations have been dramatically reduced and many species have become locally extinct, such as the California condor – gone from the Santa Cruz Mountains for many years and now at the brink of complete extinction. Due to hunting and loss of habitat, the herds of tule elk no longer roam grasslands. The grizzly bear and the Swainson's hawk have become locally extinct as well, as have the bay checkerspot butterflies at Jasper Ridge. In all, nearly forty animal species and over twenty plant species found in the Santa Cruz Mountains are currently considered threatened or endangered. Although not listed as endangered, old growth redwoods have been reduced to only five percent of the 2 million acres of one hundred fifty years ago. Over the last two centuries, many factors have contributed to these losses. Logging is the most obvious culprit as the region has been heavily exploited for valuable timber. Though logging has had the greatest historical impact and continues to harshly affect ecosystems, population growth may be the greatest current threat.

In an article published in the Jan. 24, 1997 issue of *Science*,

researchers named the Santa Cruz Mountains and the surrounding region one of the top twenty-five conservation “hot spots.” This is due almost entirely to the vast amounts of both animal and plant species that are contained within the region. From tide pools and sand dunes, to prairie grasses and foothills regions, to majestic redwood forests, these mountains house many different microclimates that foster different types of wildlife. The reason that these thriving ecosystems are such “hot spots,” though, is because of the growing pressure of population growth and development in the area. The diversity in the area consists of over 1800 species of plants, over 400 species of vertebrates, and even more invertebrates. The mountains span 1400 square miles that range about seventy-four miles from just South of San

Francisco all the way South to the Pajaro River and from the Bay out to the Pacific. The beautiful scenery varies from the pounding surf of the Pacific on the rocky beaches, to the rolling hills of oak and grasses that surround the mountains. Possibly the most impressive and desired scenery, though, is that of the majestic redwood forests throughout the region. These trees can live up to 2000 years old and grow to about 300 feet tall. This diversity of scenery, wildlife, and vegetation is unparalleled in the rest of the country and makes the Santa Cruz Mountains such a “hot spot” for conservation.

Timber Exploitation

In the development of the Santa Cruz Mountains, the timber industry has been one of the major contributors. The lack of



regulations though, led to a long period of abusive logging. Fortunately, enough people saw the consequences and decided to do something about the exploitive loggers in Northern California. Artist and photographer Andrew Putnam Hill set the precedent when he helped establish the first state park in California, Big Basin State Park, located about thirty miles northwest of Santa Cruz in the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Prior to the heroic efforts of Hill, the area had been logged extensively. The region was not very populated and few people even knew the magnificent trees existed. The loggers immediately took advantage of the resources and began what was almost a half-century of unrestricted logging. Prior to WW I, it is estimated that 75% of all of the tanbark oaks in the Santa Cruz Mountains were killed by the “peeling” method. Sections of the bark were peeled off for use in the tanning industry, usually resulting in the tree’s death. The next big advance in logging technology in the Santa Cruz Mountains came with the arrival of Isaac Graham. He is credited with building the first water-powered sawmill of any kind in the area. With the arrival of the Gold Rush, demand for lumber skyrocketed and dramatically altered the California timber industry. Towns were established in weeks and torn down not long after. Transportation presented the biggest problem to loggers of the time—they didn’t have much trouble finding an area of dense trees or actually felling the trees, but the lack of roads and machinery made getting the logs out of the forest difficult. Had better

methods of transportation and roads existed, few trees would have been left standing in California. Already by 1864, in the San Lorenzo Valley alone, over 28 sawmills were producing more than 35 million board feet of lumber annually.

The steam engine brought new techniques into the logging business. Railroads were established and the areas surrounding them were heavily logged. Steam engines were being used to bring in the logs after being cut, and put onto other machines to be taken out of the forest. The actual parts of logging being “done by hands” were decreased with each new innovation. Now logs were being transported quicker by means of water flumes and/or railroads. Soon after, tractors and logging trucks were introduced to the scene and the transportation routes kept improving with time. Finally, the inventions of cranes and chainsaws made the logging industry almost unstoppable.

Conservation Efforts and Changes in Logging Practices

Hill changed the entire scene when he came to the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1900 to photograph the area and cover a forest fire for a local publication. He was so amazed by the magnificence and greatness of the trees but so appalled by the blatant destruction of them that he founded a movement that would preserve the forests and declare them a state park. After two years of intensive planning, gathering support, and pleading with the governor and other politicians, over 18,000 acres of redwood

forest were preserved as Big Basin State Park—the first in California. Hill blazed the way in California for an attitude that would preserve the forests and lead an environmental movement.

The unrestricted logging though that went on for over a century in the Santa Cruz Mountains have had lasting affects on the ecosystems. Traditional logging causes problems in the soil, water sources, and with other fish and wildlife in the area. After a site is logged, the soil is more likely to erode and wash away, subsequently limiting the number of new trees that are able to grow and live on the land. This erosion can also cause serious damage to other lands and degrade the quality of water in springs, lakes, streams, and reservoirs around the site. In addition, the early loggers often dumped logging slash in creeks and significantly altered streamflow. The once abundant salmon and steelhead nearly disappeared as spawning sites were destroyed. Logging also drastically changed the habitat of the rest of wildlife. Some wildlife can adapt, but many species could not accommodate the rapid changes and became locally endangered or extinct.

Although conservation groups and individuals have made great efforts to restrict and even prohibit logging in the Santa Cruz Mountains and elsewhere, many lands are still being logged—there is no end in sight for our seemingly unstoppable appetite for lumber, much of which comes from the forty-four percent of the 32.6 million acres of forestland in California that are under private ownership. New, more efficient techniques have been developed that use helicopters and techno-

logically advanced machinery but essentially four methods of logging are practiced today. Forests can be logged by the “clear-cutting” system, the “seed-tree cutting” system, the “shelterwood” system, or the “selection” system. Clear cutting is what the name implies, removal of all or most of the trees. Seed tree cutting involves the removal of all merchantable trees except those required to naturally seed the area. The shelterwood system utilizes a gradual removal of the timber crop in several steps in an attempt to encourage the natural reproduction of the forest. Finally, the selection method—the most common method in Northern California (because of heavy restrictions)—makes use of periodic removal of selected trees.

Logging continues to be a huge industry in the Santa Cruz Mountains, despite considerable efforts to preserve the forests. Companies such as Roger Burch’s Redwood Empire have managed to log areas of the Santa Cruz Mountains while violating over thirty of the California Forest Practice Rules. The company has been heavily fined but is still logging at different sites across the region.

Development Pressures vs. Biodiversity

Though logging has had the greatest historical impact and continues to harshly affect the ecosystems of the region. Population growth and development are perhaps of more concern today. The area’s growth has been a major factor to the disappearance of wildlife in the Santa Cruz Mountains and is likely a greater threat to wildlife diversity at this

point. Over six million people call the Santa Cruz Mountains bioregion home and they are placing high demands on its natural resources. Within the last twenty years, technology has allowed development to accelerate at unprecedented levels and ravage many of the natural communities of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Developers are now able to build just about anywhere – from a rocky coast to a steep mountain cliff – and many people are interested in living in remote locations when satellites and wireless broadband services allow them to connect to the office. Exponential population growth means ever-increasing pressures to build and expand.

Since Andrew Hill’s initial fight with the state of California there have been numerous debates, various sources of legislation, and hundreds of agencies founded on the premise of some sort of environmental issue. Despite the great environmental advances since Hill’s time, hardly any “virgin” forests remain—in the early 1800’s there were over 2 million acres of old growth redwoods while today there are less than 74 thousand acres—but without his precedent and the efforts of the movement he inspired, we might well have no traces of the Santa Cruz Mountains as they once were.

Efforts to ensure both good timber harvesting and good development practices are critical to the continued health of the Santa Cruz Mountains bioregion. Habitat restoration for coho salmon and other species comes neither cheaply nor easily, but the importance of recognizing the seriousness of the situation can’t

be underestimated. Land trusts, from the big groups such as POST to Sempervirens Fund, to the smaller, such as the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, play a crucial role. Finally, public support of maintaining the great biodiversity that makes up our conservation hot-spot, is the most crucial of all. Ultimately, bioregion health is tied closely to the health of its human population, not just the wildlife and vegetation. We will all benefit in many ways – both tangible and intangible – if the Santa Cruz Mountains remain the rich and wonderful mix of species and habitats.



The author is indebted to *Science*, several publications from the Calif. Dept. of Forestry, including *California Forest Legacy Program Assessment of Need* (1995), T.F. Arvola’s *California Forestry Handbook* (1978) and Brian D. Dillon’s *Timberland Historical Archaeology Notes* (1995). Other sources include the PelicanNetwork (www.pelicannetwork.net) and Sempervirens Fund (www.sempervirens.org) websites.

Scott Ransenberg just complete his first year at Stanford and is from Cincinnati, Ohio. He enjoys sports, including hiking and bicycling and also community service. Scott swims with the Stanford Swim Team and is considering majoring in math or computer science.

A Trail Conquistador

Volunteering at Arastradero Preserve

by Markus Rogen

What better thing to do on a Sunday morning than get up with the first rays of the sun and perform community service in Arastradero Preserve? Frankly, I would never have thought of it before my invitation from Geoffrey Skinner, my writing mentor and President of the Trail Center. He met me and about thirty other volunteers at the Preserve parking lot for a trail building session. I didn't know what to expect – I just knew that Geoffrey had built thousands of yards of trail before and knew what he was doing. Amy Morris, the Outreach Coordinator asked me to sign in and invited me to have a piece of the Hobee's coffeecake that was sitting on the table. My morning was getting better.

After my group of volunteers had signed in, Geoffrey, full of energy and a "carpe diem" atti-



Markus (center) and fellow conquistadors

tude, told us we could either take a van or hike some distance in to meet him at a work location. He would drive his pickup with the tools we would need and couldn't take us all, so we started walking...and we kept walking. I'd lost track of how long we'd been on the trail when someone in front of me said: "We're half way, only 15 minutes to go." I was surprised that it could have been that far, but I was enjoying the scenery too much to care. The sun was getting high and the hills around us were fully lit. The green grass was swayed in the light breeze, and in the distance I recognized Stanford University's Hoover Tower.

We met Geoffrey at the top of the trail where a small dirt road met the trail and opened into a nice gathering area. Heavy

rake-like tools called a McLeods, mattocks, specially bent shovels and axes had been laid out on the ground. We all enjoyed the sun while we waited for a little while until another group of volunteers arrived. Then Geoffrey introduced the Trail Center Crew Leaders and Trainees. There was no messing around. The Crew Leaders told us which tools to pick up and before long we were under way, tools in hand, hiking through a hidden footpath to the location that was to become the new trail. Pretty soon there wasn't even a footpath left to walk on, we were just going cross-country through bushes and over fallen branches. Then, Geoffrey told us to halt.

We were somewhere in the middle of a small forest on a quite steep hillside when we heard Geoffrey's words, "Let's make a trail." Our Crew Leader started giving instructions left and right, telling us how to use what tool

(cont'd on next page)



View looking back at the valley



Gathering at the beginning of the day

(Trail Conquistador, cont'd from page 13).

and to start building.

A friendly fellow volunteer noticed my confusion as I just stood there and told me to where to start digging. I figured out that in order to build a trail on an incline, you have to first decide at what level the trail should be, then dig into the hill for a foot or two above that level. Afterwards, you fill a foot or two below the designated level using the earth you took out from the top. The Trail Center had fixed small flags on trees above the trail to designate the level the trail should be at. Thus, the small line of flags slowly turned into a trail. It wasn't hard after all.

Nevertheless...digging *is* hard. The sun rose higher and it became hotter. The trees did not provide enough shade anymore. Pretty soon, my forehead glittered

with sweat. My shirt wasn't completely dry anymore either and it clung closer and closer to my body. Nevertheless, watching the progress that we as a group made kept me going. People shared small discoveries they made, stuff they found in the ground, like an especially large earthworm or bones of a small animal. Also, we

shared new skills with each other, giving advice on how to build the trail even faster. After only a half-hour of work, we had a solid ten feet of trail. And that was just the product of my little sub-group.

The other volunteers were spread out across the woods. We were to build until we'd reach our neighboring group's trail. It was exhilarating to watch how quickly the groups moved closer. I felt like a conquistador for civilization, conquering the space of wilderness between my group and the next. I found myself asking if I'm doing a good deed for society or a bad one for

nature. There is a delicate balance for the best combination of both, the trail destroyed a great section of wildlife but it will also show the great scenery that it's running through to future visitors. Before I knew it, we had completed the rough part of our section:

Now it was time to smooth out the path, which I found to be somewhat less exciting. We had to pick out tiny roots, brush the excess earth off the path and make sure the trail was nearly as level as a paved road. This was definitely the tedious part of the day's work. The heat had become almost unbearable, people were getting tired and somewhat cranky as everyone picked little roots here and there. We were all looking for the same thing:

...a break.

The Trail Center was prepared.



Scott Ransenberg, author of the Loggin and Biodiversity article on page 10 (left) and Geoffrey Skinner



Working at getting everything right

We put our tools down and walked back to the van. Amy had organized sandwiches and cold drinks for lunch. The entire group of volunteers reunited at that spot and shared the food donated by several local companies. Everybody had stories to tell. Some had to cut entire trees from the path, others had seen a rattle snake and saved it from the ax of a nervous trail builder. I was surprised how few first-timers were around. Almost everyone I talked to told me how Geoffrey always shows great organization skills for these trail building sessions and how much fun it is to see how quickly work gets done when a lot of people volunteer as they were today. Most people there I would classify as liberal environmentalists, but it wasn't politics that united them, it was more of a sense of appreciation for the day and nature. There were some people who complained about tool shortages and I thought some volunteers showed their egotistical side when it came to issues about the level of the trail. I think everyone, working together, learned a lot about group dynamics that day.

I found myself looking forward

to getting back on the trail after lunch. If someone had told me earlier that day that I would be thinking lunch break was too long, I would have laughed. In any case, there was more work to be done:

Geoffrey had planned to keep continue the trail to about 800 feet that day. At lunchtime, about 600 were done.

The lunch break had recharged everyone's enthusiasm and people started working like happy ants. Everyone was moving and the trail appeared to be rolling out down the hill before our eyes, as if it took no effort to construct it. The sounds of mattocks and shovels made for a somewhat arrhythmic beat, but those noises let everyone know that everybody was working towards a common goal: a completed trail. But in a way, I didn't feel like I was working. I was just around friends and doing something that I think some

people in the future will enjoy. The trail kept moving.

I was strangely disappointed when Geoffrey told us to wrap up. It could not have been later than two pm. I had adapted to the sun's heat, I felt like I could have kept going for another hour or two, digging, playing, hanging around friends and doing something that will let others enjoy this piece/peace of nature.

As everyone was leaving, the goodbye's were not really good-byes, it was more like goodbye until next time, when we finish

the trail...



Markus Rogen has just completed his first year at Stanford. He is interested in economics and political science, but hasn't yet declared his major. He swims with the Stanford Swim Team and internationally. He's enjoying California.



Now it's finished trail!

by Morton Marcus

Well

by Dawn Burke

I wish I were well
away from this desk
from this place
on a beach
just at dusk
waves licking my toes.

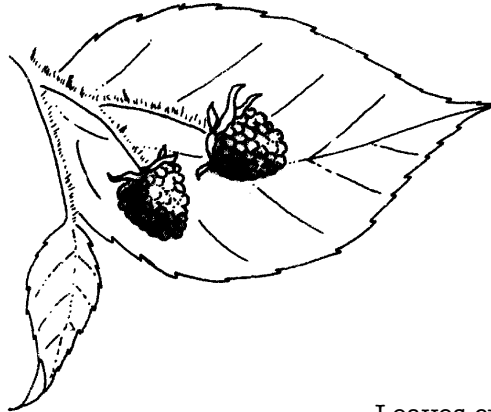
Or the woods
would be good
twigs crunch
under foot
an umbrella of leaves
as shade.

Even one tree
with a bed of soft grass
and some fluffy clouds overhead
with a slope just right
for a very short snooze
and nary a bug in sight.

Instead I sit
the sound of a.c.
and a lawn mower
nagging at me
to remember my duties, to do all my chores
not from this house to take flight.

Oh, well
for a moment
I was elsewhere
anyway.

*Dawn Burke lives in the Northwest with her husband—
sculpting, writing and swimming are her favorite
hobbies.*



The Meadow

The itinerant meadow
is about to move on.
Bees and butterflies
slip from its hair.

Wherever I turn,
it is away from my children.

Leaves

Leaves crackle under my steps.
Like hands lifting my boots,
they pass me from one leaf to another.

Redwood

So, Redwood,
I finally know you:

you are a tall bishop of dust
whose arms extend in every direction
to bless the earth.

© 1972, 1992 by Morton Marcus. Reprinted by
permission from his book *The Santa Cruz Mountain
Poems* (Capitola Books, 1992).

*Morton Marcus is a Santa Cruz poet, teacher, film histo-
rian and political activist. He has published seven books of
poetry and a popular novel. Over 400 of his poems have
appeared in literary journals around the world and he will
have two new books out in 2002*

Drawing of blackberries by Joan Schwan

Bay Area Action + Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation = Acterra : Action for a Sustainable Earth

At a big celebration held at the Peninsula Conservation Center on Saturday, June 23, BAA+PCCF cast off the unwieldy name created by the merger last August of the two environmental organizations and formally unveiled their new name. The name was chosen after a long and arduous process that included looking at over 200 names submitted by friends and associates (none made the cut), contacting “naming” companies and finding one, Cintara in San Jose, who provided more than 1,500 possible names to sift through. None really fit, but after a brainstorm, one candidate, “Apterra,” was transformed into “Acterra” – short, hi-tech sounding, and a fitting combination of

words, highlighted by the group’s slogan.

The Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation was founded in 1970 and has been a community resource for environmental information, education, and activities. PCCF has been based in the Peninsula Conservation Center and has provided office space to the Trail Center for many years. Bay Area Action sprang out of Earth Day 1990, when staff based in Palo Alto decided to form a new group. Bay Area Action has been a frequent Trail Center partner since the mid-1990s. The merged organization has about 2,000 paid members and eighteen staff. Acterra manages twenty programs covering the human

world (business, transportation and government), the natural world (including the Arastradero Project and San Francisquito Watershed Council), and educational efforts to connect the two.

For more information about Acterra, visit their new website at www.acterra.org (in development), call (650) 962-9876, or email info@baa-pccf.org to request

their new brochure.



Some information in this article came from an article in the June 27, 2001 edition of the Palo Alto Weekly

The Acterra Environmental Library: an environmental resource

Where can you view a video on wetlands? Examine historical topographic maps? Find environmental job listings? Check out trail and nature guides? Put together a lesson plan on environmental issues? Get help for that environmental question that has your local reference librarian stumped (and your favorite search engine, too)? You can find all of these at the Acterra Library (formerly known as the Peninsula Conservation Center Library), located just around the corner from the new Trail Center Map Source in the Peninsula Conservation Center.

This small gem was founded in the 1970s, when a group of

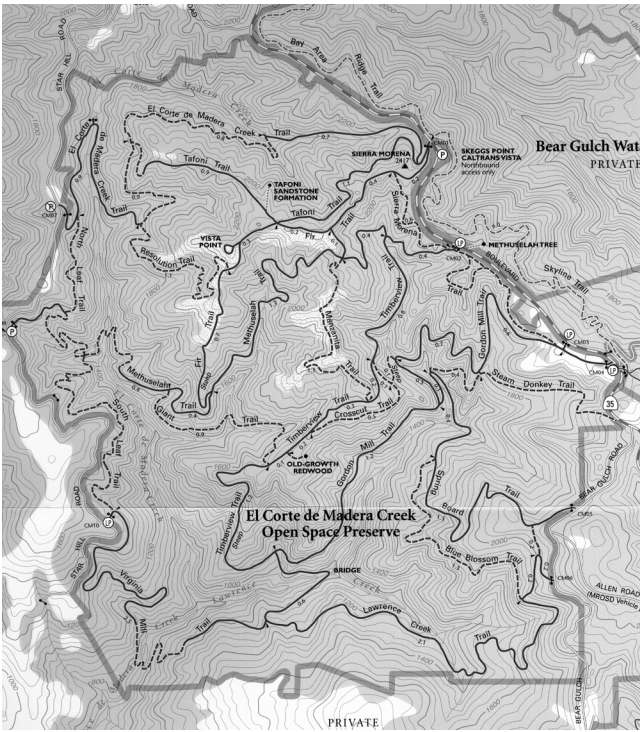
activists, who were concerned about the SF Bay Area, discovered that the general public was interested in the materials they were collecting. Since then, the Library has grown in depth and breadth to include environmental impact statements, curriculum guides, trail books, guides and maps, videos, a huge pamphlet and clipping file, information on wildlife and endangered species and environmental job resources. The book collection includes new books on sustainability (both community development and individual conduct) and energy conservation. The Library supports the Bay Area Environmental Forum (which hosts one or two

events per month) with bibliographies on their topics of discussion and houses a collection of environmental education materials heavily used by the Environmental Volunteers. It is open to the public. In addition to offering reference service by phone and email, the Library circulates almost all of its materials.

The Library is located in the PCC at 3921 East Bayshore Road. Current hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, noon to four. Call (650) 962-9876 or email libray@pccf.org for more

information.





An excerpt from our map showing El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve

(New Map, cont'd from page 1)

the new map includes USGS contours and tree cover. Trails are color-coded to show hiking, equestrian, and bicycle use. A brief text describes each park and lists guidebooks and agency contact information. The map sells for \$6.95, and can be found at outdoor stores such as REI and Redwood Trading Post, and various bookstores. You can also order it by mail by calling our distributor, Wilderness Press: 1-800-433-7227.

Thanks

Trail Map of the Central Peninsula was created by the Trail Center's Map Committee. Chairs Ben Pease and Darwin Poulos trained and organized more than a dozen volunteers to map every

trail with measuring wheel and compass over a several year period. (The area's steep canyons and dense forests, and our limited knowledge of global positioning systems favored this "traditional" mapping method). Next, Darwin, Harold Drake, and Rich Feldman converted the lists of distance and compass bearings into a plot of each trail, which we overlaid onto enlarged USGS maps and nudged until they fit.

Cartographer Ben Pease compiled the final map on the computer. Special thanks to our mappers - Harold Drake, Ralph and Carol Eschenbach, Rich and Alice Feldman, Bill Maney, Ben Pease, Ben Rosenbloom, Mike Smith, and Berry Stevens. Thanks also to Geoffrey Skinner and Darwin and Donna Poulos for text proofing, and to Ernst Meissner, Bern Smith, Dea Smith, and Pat and Tim Oren for their assistance.



Along the Trail: Member notes

The Trail Center's former Executive Director, **David Sutton**, has been directing the Trust for Public Land's Sierra Nevada program for the past several years. His efforts have paid off with TPL's agree-

ment to purchase over 30,000 acres of forestland in the Sierra Nevada Mountains from California's largest private landowner, Sierra Pacific Industries, over the next several years. First on the line will be 6,100 acres along the North Fork of the American River. See the story in the Western Region area of TPL's site at www.tpl.org. Congratulations, TPL and David!

A farewell is in order to **Beverly Fang**, who is now in graduate school in upstate New York. Fortunately for us, she says she comes back to the Bay Area frequently and hopes to make an occasional appearance.

A farewell is also in order to **Alan Justice**, trail volunteer and photographer, who has just bought a house in Crescent City. Alan's new career as a nature photographer is off to a rousing start with a published photo in the current issue of Wildfowl Carving (a pie-billed grebe) and several more photos included in the current issue of Bay Nature. The Bay Nature issue has a pull-out section on hiking trails in the Bay Area that can be reached by public transportation. Look for Alan's photos in the article on Mt. Tam. Congratulations to Alan on his move and new venture!

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.

Coming up...

Fall 2001

Families Outdoors: Time to turn off the TV and head outside with the kids. Where are the best places to take them? How do we introduce them to the natural environment? We look at ways to enjoy the outdoors with the younger set.

Winter 2002

Beating Cabin Fever: Even in rainy weather, opportunities to enjoy the outdoors abound. We look at the best places to go when it's wet (including waterfalls), and how to avoid the mud.

Spring 2002

Wild Food & Trail Food: Nuts, berries and gorp — what we like

to eat along the trail, including hiking foods, recipes, recommendations and packing "green."

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

We're always looking for contributions to the newsletter — trail and park issues, hike/bike/ride descriptions, book reviews, volunteer opportunities, and literary works (poetry or prose) on wilderness, the outdoors and human-powered outdoor 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 else-

where in print or linking to articles published electronically. See our website or inquire for full guidelines.

Deadlines for upcoming issues:

Fall 2001: Friday, Sept. 7

Winter 2002: Friday, Dec. 7

Spring 2002: Friday, Mar. 9

Submit literary works or questions to **Geoffrey Skinner, Literary Editor**, c/o of the Trail Center or by email, wildlit@trailcenter.org; all others, to **Scott Heeschen, Trail Companion Editor**, c/o the Trail Center or by email, editor@trailcenter.org.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____

Evening Phone: _____

Day Phone: _____

email: _____

Here is my Annual Membership Fee:

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

I Would Like to Volunteer:

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

I would like email notification of Trail Center events (1-3 times month)

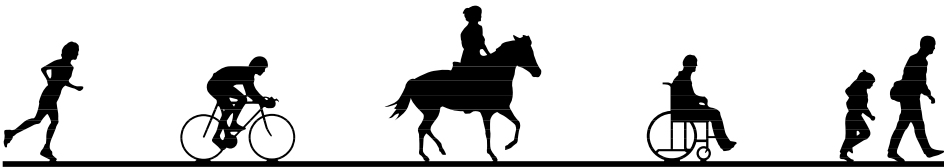
Please return to :

Trail Center
3921 East Bayshore Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 25** - Saturday - Field Research Station at Gazos Creek
Bridge building, trail improvements and repair, Camping available, Hike on Sunday
- Sept. 15** - Saturday - Location to be announced. - *Details TBA*
- Oct. 6** - Saturday - *Community Impact Day 2001* - *Details TBA*
- Oct. 27** - Saturday - Arastradero Preserve
REI Day at Arastradero – Trail repair and construction, habitat restoration
- Nov. 4** - Sunday- Volunteer Appreciation, Annual Meeting and Tool Party - *Details TBA*
- Nov. 17** - Saturday - Location to be announced. - *Details TBA*
- Dec. 1** - Saturday - Location to be announced. - *Details TBA*

Email info@trailcenter.org or call (650) 968-7065 for directions and check our website for further informa-



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