

# The Trail Companion

Winter2002

## A Day in the Life of a Crew Leader

*by Richard Allsop and Geoffrey Skinner*

If you have ever taken part in one of the Trail Center's trail construction or maintenance events, you've had the opportunity to work with one or more red-shirted crew leaders, and perhaps a crew leader trainee wearing a red bandanna. Crew leaders and trainees form a critical part of the TC's operation - without these experienced volunteers, our neophytes would never get the training and direction that makes a successful and fun event. But what makes a crew leader and how did they get their red shirts?

*Crew Leaders and crew check the trail at Arastradero*

*photo by Geoffrey Skinner*

### In the Beginning...

In the TC's early years, if you showed up for enough trail days and showed some aptitude for trail building, someone would eventually ask if you'd be a crew leader and hand you a red shirt. You'd be encouraged to attend one of the joint trainings held by the TC and Midpenninsula Regional

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

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# Trail Center Notes

## Trail Construction and Maintenance

### *REI Community Service Day at Arastradero Preserve, Oct. 27*

We made our final appearance at Arastradero Preserve with a big showing of volunteers for the first REI Community Service Day held at Arastradero Preserve. Jason Flesher, REI's Special Events Coordinator said that in their past community service days had focused on beach cleanup, but they decided to sponsor a project more directly tied to REI's emphasis. In all, 43 volunteers (over a third from Cal Berkeley's Eta Kappa Nu - Mu Chapter and a number more from Los Altos High School) gave their Saturday to improve the Preserve as we joined the Arastradero Preserve Stewardship Project staff to fix drainage on a badly rutted segment of Acorn Trail in the northwest corner of the Preserve. We also worked to close and restore a redundant section of the Perimeter Trail back to more natural state by breaking up highly compacted earth, knocking down berms to let water drain more easily, and spreading rice straw over the top to prevent additional erosion.

The ground was like concrete after the long dry summer, but the volunteers dug with gusto and accomplished everything we'd planned to complete by the time we broke for lunch provided by REI. REI also gave a wealth of thank-you gifts and drawing prizes, including water bottles, camping gear and a very nice backpack. Please check out photos

from this event in the Photo Gallery section of our website.

We expect to work in this area of the Preserve again in the spring, with another possible reroute or additional erosion control in the offing.

Thank you, Arastradero Volunteers, you put in a great Saturday! Scott Heeschen, Alan Ross, David Smernoff, Rich Allsop, Boyd Wise, Darwin Poulos, Geoffrey Skinner (crew leaders); Karen Cotter (Arastradero Preserve Stewardship Project), Lee Hickenbotham and City of Palo Alto Open Space Rangers; Jason Flesher and the REI staff; Alex Fabrikant, Benson Lu, Ray Jung, Carl Wang, Jiong Shen, Aaron Jow, Phoebus Chen, Claude Ezner, Camille Ezner, Irene Ezner, Neve Ezner, Gregory Chen, Jacqui Kuni, Daniel Hsu, Jen Hsu, Amy Tong, Rebecca De Cillis, Jim Elemen, Bart Balocki, Andrew Buysse, Colin Abraham, Jeff Clark, Esther Su, Sabra Abula, Eric Buysse, Jay, Anne Dowe Delreys, Tex Houston.

### *Fall and Winter Builds in the Redwoods on Gazos Creek, Sept. 15, Oct. 6, Dec. 8, 2001 and Jan. 12, 2002*

On Sept. 15, we held our third session at Pescadero Conservation Alliance's Field Research Station at Gazos Creek (see story, this issue). Following our earlier sessions in July and August, we concentrated on completing our 14-foot bridge over a tributary of Gazos Creek and the approach down into the ravine. Although we



*The completed bridge at Gazos Creek*

*photo by Tim Oren*

had to wait until Oct. 6 to put the final touches on the railings, everyone enjoyed being able to use the new bridge at the end of the day. We also improved several hundred yards of trail downstream from the bridge.

A small, but hardy, band of volunteers turned out on Oct. 6 and made short work of the first bridge and moved on to prepare the way for a second bridge on another tributary.

Rain postponed our final session for the year, but let up soon enough for us to try again on Dec. 8. The waterfalls on Gazos' tributaries were in full force while we built most of the approach to the second bridge and hauled bridge timbers. We cut the timbers from downed logs many hundreds of yards away - each 5-person crew that brought the 14-foot timbers to the bridge site had to carry them up an extremely steep hill. Then the crews jockeyed them into place in order to slide them down the side of the ravine to the bridge site without sending them

over a cliff. David "Tex" Houston of the PCA saved the day by rustling up a pot of hot soup that he and TC stalwart Dave Croker then lugged across the creek and up the cliff to nourish the hard-working crews. At the end of the day, we were all exhausted and muddy, but the timbers were all in place.

After December, we realized we needed to permanently attach the bridge timbers so heavy rains wouldn't carry them over the falls. We had planned an informal trip that we canceled at the last minute due to a (needlessly) pessimistic weather. We had expected to work at Jasper Ridge for our first trip of the new year on Jan. 8, but we had to change plans at the last minute, and instead headed to Gazos after all. Despite the change, enough volunteers made the long drive out to Gazos and we had a great day. Despite a broken Pulaski and shattered post-pounder, we finished the retaining wall on the approach and completed the bridge except for handrails.

Please check out photos from our Gazos events that are posted in the Photo Gallery section of our website.

Thanks, Gazos volunteers! Steve & Alice Ringer, Augie Kuo, Paulette Pan, Aaron Beverly, Bill Warburton, Sandy Venning, Alex Fabrikant, Dan Moran (and friends Dave and Jay), Chuck and Brion Doyle, David Alderman, Ed Alderman, Elena Fabrikant, Bem Jones-Bey, Elizabeth Hansell, Peter Crigger, Tex Houston, Bill, Joan Schwan, Dilgep George, Geoffrey Skinner, Justin Knowles, Tim and Pat Oren, David Taylor, Jonee Austin, Anukul Shenoy, Arvind (KC) Chakravarthy, Primrose Boynton, Sarita Jain, Dave Croker, Scott Heeschen, Bill Henzel, Justin Knowles, Bobby Shaw.

## **Crew Leader Training**

Congratulations to Bill Henzel, who graduated to Crew Leader on Feb. 9! Bill is a long-time volunteer and supporter and we have appreciated his help in many areas, including his beautiful Map Source cabinet. Welcome to the ranks of the Red Shirts, Bill!

*(cont'd on following page)*

## Spiffy Tools...

A spotless trailer and well-fed Volunteers! We held our 2001 Volunteer Appreciation, Annual Meeting, and Tool Party. It was party time at Board member Scott Heeschen's home in Campbell on Nov. 18. We scrubbed, swept, ground tool heads, replaced handles and more before chowing down on pizza. During the Annual Meeting, we unanimously elected two new members to the Board of Directors, Kim Cousin and Gael Erickson (see New Faces on the Board), as well as re-elected David Croker and Scott Heeschen. We finished up with Dave Croker's



*Clean Loppers at the Tool Party  
photo by Rich Allsop*

stunning slide show of wilderness scenes from across the West.

Whether you were able to make the party or not, we want to say a big "Thanks!" to all our members and volunteers for another good year at the Trail Center.

## Office

### *LifeScan Grant Provides New Camera and Computer*

We are pleased to announce that LifeScan awarded the Trail Center a \$1500 grant toward purchase

of a digital camera and replacement of our aged computer. We inaugurated our new camera at our August Gazos Creek event and were able to post photos on our website within a few days. The camera will be an important part of our upcoming project to create a digital collection of park, trail and trail building images to use on our website and publications.

Our new computer enables us to run desktop publishing and database software that our old computer simply couldn't handle. Thank you, LifeScan!

## Maps


### *Transit to Trails Map Available*

The Trail Center Map Source continues to grow with the addition of the free Transit to Trails map for the Bay Area. You might be surprised at how many wild places you can visit without your car! Thanks to David Coale of Acterra, we are making available a number of reprints of Transit

Outdoors' map showing transit access to Bay Area parks and open spaces. The map originally appeared in the July-September 2001 issue of Bay Nature ([www.baynature.com](http://www.baynature.com)) and also features several great photographs by former Trail Center volunteer Alan Justice. Highlighted hikes include shuttle trips such as the Ohlone Wilderness Trail and Sweeney Ridge-Mori Ridge Trail. You can pick up your copy from the Trail Center Map Source located in the lobby of the Peninsula Conservation Center.

Transit Outdoors is a project of the Bay Area Open Space Council. For more information, see [www.transitoutdoors.org](http://www.transitoutdoors.org)

## Website

We welcome new volunteers Ashley Holt and Roderick Chow on board! They are working on various projects, ranging from website usability and organization to a park and trails database for our five-county region. 



*The Map Source at the Peninsula Conservation Center*

# New Faces on the Board

Kim Cousin and Gael Erickson recently joined the Trail Center Board of Directors and were formally elected by members at the Annual Meeting. Kim has valuable non-profit experience with the NAACP, the Girl Scouts, and currently works with a women's service sorority in San Jose, as well as experience in fiscal analysis with Wells Fargo. A fairly recent transplant to the Bay Area, Kim was interested in getting to know the Bay Area's




public lands and thought the Trail Center would be a great fit.

Gael has lived in the San Francisco Bay area for over 10 years. While living in Los Gatos, she became interested in the parklands, the open space and all the hiking opportunities in the area. After reading an article in the San Jose Mercury News about the open space areas at risk, Gael joined the Greenbelt Alliance outreach and outings team. As a member of the outings team, Gael began coordinating and scheduling hikes and bike

rides. Soon after becoming familiar with the parklands and trails, Gael became a hike leader, concentrating on the Peninsula and South Bay area.

Gael is still an active hike leader and volunteer for Greenbelt Alliance and is on the board of directors for Committee for Green Foothills. After recently moving with her family to El Granada, Gael is enjoying the coast side trails. While not involved in outdoor volunteer and hiking activities, Gael is a Technical Publications Manager for Microsoft in Mountain View.

Kim and Gael, like many of our volunteers, found us through Volunteer Match ([www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)). Thank you, Kim and Gael...and welcome aboard! 

*Kim Cousin (left) and Gael Erickson (below) have recently joined our Board*



# Park News

## Windy Hill OSP Trail Named in Memory of Betsy Crowder (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District)

Friends and associates of the late Betsy Crowder gathered at Windy Hill Open Space Preserve in July to dedicate a trail in the name of the longtime and sorely missed activist, who was killed in a freak accident in September 2000. The Betsy Crowder Trail (formerly known as the Sausal Trail) was recently constructed to provide a link between the preserve entrance on Portola Road and Spring Ridge Trail. Speakers recalled her unceasing efforts to preserve and protect open space. More recently, the MRSOD Board voted to install a donated memorial bench along the trail, inscribed with a plaque reading "In Memory of Betsy Crowder."

The trail is open year-round to hikers, dogs on leash and seasonally to equestrians.

Also at Windy Hill, the new bridge from Alpine Road leading to the house under construction in the inholding will be closed to hikers weekdays through summer 2002. No equestrian access is currently permitted from the Alpine Road gate.

*Information taken in part from Marion Softkey's July 11, 2001 story in the Country Almanac, "Trail on Windy Hill dedicated to Betsy Crowder"*

*(cont'd on next page)*

(Park News from page 5)

## Acquisition of Tunitas Creek Property Proposed (MROSD)

The MROSD Board of Directors voted Sept. 26 to move forward with plans to acquire the 708-acre Tunitas Creek property from the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), using funds from the Habitat Conservation Fund Grant Program, which will be granted later this year. Although the property is outside the District's current sphere of influence, it does fall within the proposed coastal annexation. When acquired, the property will become a new open space preserve with little development beyond limited public trail access. It is an area of exceptional biological diversity. Several perennial and unpolluted creeks flow through the property, providing spawning areas for the federally listed steelhead trout and habitat for red-legged frogs, as well as numerous other species.

An existing network of ranch roads could connect with trails in both El Corte de Madera and Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserves. Further down the road, trail connections could be made to link the urban areas of the Central Peninsula with the coast and the San Mateo Coastal Trail.

## Strategic Plan for Santa Clara County Parks

Since the SC County Parks and Recreation Department was founded in 1956 with four parks, it has grown to include 27 parks

encompassing over 45,000 acres. With current projections placing the county population at over 1.9 million by 2010, both the Department and the SC Parks and Recreation Commission aim to develop a strategic plan to guide the development and expansion of the county's parks system over the next five to twenty years to serve the expected population growth. The plan would incorporate and build on many existing documents including the county General Plan and Trails Master Plan. The Department highly encourages county residents to attend regular meeting of the Steering Committee, public workshops, and related Strategic Plan events throughout the 18- to 24-month process. Contact Jane Mark, Project Manager, at (408) 358-3741, extension 152, via fax at (408) 358-3245, or by email: jane.mark@mail.prk.co.santa-clara.ca.us, or visit the SC Parks and Recreation website: [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org).

## New Trail Maps at Arastradero Preserve (City of Palo Alto)

Updated trail maps are finally available for Arastradero Preserve. The new maps feature the new names chosen for many of the trails in last year's Trails Management Plan for the Preserve. The most notable is Acorn Trail, which no longer winds through the entire preserve - the name has been kept for only the lowest segment of the trail. The maps also show which trails will close during the wet season (beginning next winter). The City expects to update the maps on a yearly basis and is in the process

of installing new trail signs throughout the Preserve.

## Proposition 12 Grant to Fund Arastradero Preserve Improvements

The City of Palo Alto was one of a handful of agencies to receive a portion of the Parks Bond Act of 2000's \$1.7 million awarded by the state Parks & Recreation Dept. The grant will fund trail improvements throughout the Preserve that were identified in the Trails Management Plan. The City is currently soliciting bids for some of the work, which will include widening, regrading and surfacing portions of numerous trails.

## Nature Conservancy Buys Gilroy Hot Springs Property

Henry Coe State park will soon extend westward to include Gilroy Hot Springs. The Nature Conservancy purchased the 240-acre historic property in February to add to hundreds of acres already preserved east of Morgan Hill and adjacent to Henry Coe State Park's western border. The land features good stands of blue oak, black oak, and coast live oak and over half a mile of frontage on Coyote Creek. What remains of the 140-year old hot springs resort area (a California Historical Landmark) will be preserved as well. The new purchase is part of the Conservancy's Mount Hamilton Project that has now safeguarded over eight thousand acres in Santa Clara County.

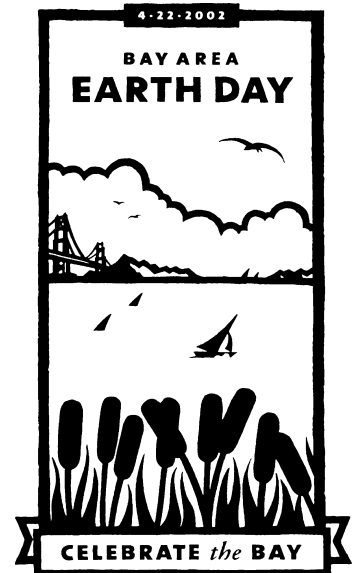
(cont'd on page 8)

# Celebrate With the Trail Center!

## Earth Day 2002 at Arastradero Preserve

Join the Arastradero Preserve Stewardship Project of Acterra and the Trail Center on Sunday, April 21, to reroute the Woodland Star (Acorn) Trail in Palo Alto's Arastradero Preserve for equestrians, hikers and bikers.

Where and when: Sign in at 8:15 to 8:45 am at the Arastradero Preserve parking lot. The parking lot at Arastradero is small. For those who can't bike or ride their horse, a van will be picking up people parked at the Page Mill Road/280 Park and Ride area or those parking on the west side of Arastradero Road between the Los Altos Hills boundary sign and Page Mill Road starting at 8:30 until 9 o'clock. We'll work until 3 p.m.



## National Trails Day



**June 1, 2002**

and...

## National Trails Day 2002 at Gazos Creek

Spend National Trails Day in the redwoods with the Pescadero Conservation Alliance and the Trail Center on Saturday, June 1, as we improve the Gazos Creek Trail.

Where and when: Meet at 9:30 at PCA's Field Research Station at the end of the paved portion of Gazos Road (allow an hour's travel time from the central Peninsula). Carpools strongly encouraged. We'll work until 3:30 p.m.

No experience is necessary for either event. Training, tools, lunch and refreshments provided. Just wear sturdy work shoes, long pants and a hat. Bring plenty of fluids and gloves (if you have them).

Email [info@trailcenter.org](mailto:info@trailcenter.org) or call (650) 968-7065 for directions and to reserve your space (required for these two events)! Please check our website for further information: [www.trailcenter.org](http://www.trailcenter.org).

## POST Purchases Driscoll Ranch


The Peninsula Open Space Trust acquired the 3,681-acre Driscoll Ranch in early February. This property stretches nearly two miles from the outskirts of La Honda toward the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains and adjoins La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve and the Djerassi Resident Artists Program conservation easement. Audrey Rust, POST executive director, noted in a press release that the ranch provides ideal habitat for mountain lions, as well as the endangered tiger salamander and San Francisco garter snake. Deer, bobcat, American badger, fox and coyote all have been identified on the property, and numerous raptors can be seen flying overhead, including golden eagles. With

three creeks, eight ponds and more than 35 springs and wells, the property supports steelhead trout populations and is home to the Southwestern pond turtle and federally threatened California red-legged frog. Rust said the resource management plan for the ranch will protect the biodiversity of the property, maintain cattle grazing, and facilitate low-impact recreational activities such as hiking, biking, and equestrian use. Under the terms of the agreement, the current owner, Rudy Driscoll, Jr., will retain a lifetime lease on 300 acres and additional lifetime rights for grazing, pedestrian and equestrian use. POST hopes to eventually transfer the ranch to MROSD or another agency.

## Another Bay Trail Gap To Close

NASA and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) signed an agreement in early February to allow the Bay Trail to

run through Moffett Field and connect the Mountain View and Sunnyvale segments. The trail will run approximately two miles along the perimeter of NASA's Ames Research Center.

The 400-mile San Francisco Bay Trail, when completed, will connect more than 130 parks and open spaces around the San Francisco Bay. The 2000-2001 state budget allocated \$7.5 million in Prop. 12 funds for Bay Trail projects, ranging from improvements and construction in San Mateo's Shoreline Park to San Francisco's downtown Ferry Terminal area, and planning studies in Solano and Sonoma counties. Menlo Park will complete a study for closing the 0.57-mile gap between the Dumbarton Bridge and Ravenswood Open Space Preserve, which will provide connections to the SF Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Bayfront Park, and the East Bay via the bridge. 

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## Earth Day Bay Walk

The Earth Day Bay Walk is a five-day trip starting in Mountain View on Thursday, April 18 and arriving in San Francisco on Earth Day - April 22. People are invited to join the walk for an hour, a day, or the entire trip.


At rallies along the way, participants will learn about issues affecting the Bay, such as San Francisco Airport's plan to fill up to one square mile of the Bay - an area twice as large as

Treasure Island - for new runways. We also will learn about the possible acquisition of 19,000 acres of salt ponds in the South Bay for inclusion in the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge.

This journey along the Bay Trail will be a great opportunity to learn about marshland restoration, water quality treatment, local wildlife, and historical issues, such as the successful campaigns to protect Bair Island and San

Bruno Mountain.

Come make new friends and get some exercise while enjoying our beautiful natural treasure - San Francisco Bay.

For more information, visit [www.BayAreaEarthDay.net/BayWalk](http://www.BayAreaEarthDay.net/BayWalk) or call Peter Drekmeier at (650) 320-8699. 



# Outdoor Activity Guide for the San Francisco Peninsula and South Bay Area

## 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 Trail Building schedule on our website ([www.trailcenter.org](http://www.trailcenter.org)) for details on the following projects. You may also e-mail or call the Trail Center office at (650) 968-7065. Reservations encouraged.

#### **April 21, 2002 - Sunday - Arastradero Preserve (Palo Alto)**

Celebrate Earth Day/California Trail Days with the Woodland Star (Acorn) Trail reroute. New trail construction, trail improvements and repair

#### **May 11, 2002 - Saturday - Arastradero Preserve (Palo Alto)**

Complete the Woodland Star (Acorn) Trail reroute. New trail construction, trail improvements and repair

#### **June 1, 2002 - Saturday - Field Research Station at Gazos Creek**

Celebrate National Trails Day 2002 with a return to Gazos Creek. Trail improvements and repair - Camping available - Possible hike on Sunday

#### **July 13, 2002 - Saturday - Field Research Station at Gazos Creek**

Trail improvements and repair - Camping available - Possible hike on Sunday

#### **August 10, 2002 - Saturday - Field Research Station at Gazos Creek**

Planned Gazos Creek Trail completion. Trail improvements and repair - Camping available - Possible hike on Sunday

#### **September 14, 2002 - Saturday - Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (Stanford University)**

New trail construction project. Brush cutting and treadwork. Possible bridge construction

#### **October 5, 2002 - Saturday - Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (Stanford University)**

New trail construction on connector trail

#### **October 26, 2002 - Saturday - Arastradero Preserve (Palo Alto)**

Join the TC, the Arastradero Preserve Stewardship Project and REI for REI's Community Service Day 2002. Details TBA

#### **November 17, 2002 - Sunday - Location TBA**

Volunteer Appreciation, Annual Meeting and Tool Party. Details TBA

#### **November 30, 2002 - Saturday - Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (Stanford University) (Rain date: Saturday, December 7)**

Final event for 2002. Trail construction and possible maintenance

### Crew Leader Training Program

We are planning a Crew Leader Training Seminar for September 2002. Learn the basics of leading a volunteer crew and the technical aspects of trail building and repair. Although we do not have a firm date yet, please email us ([info@trailcenter.org](mailto:info@trailcenter.org)) or check our website if you are interested in participating.

*Please see our website for updated listings and check our Links section for additional resources and organizations outside the SF Peninsula and South Bay Area.*

## Office and Program Support

Board meetings occur on the third Thursday of January, April, July and October 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 and other projects - food and drink provided. Email us to volunteer. Volunteers are always needed to help with newsletter, website maintenance, member mailings and occasional research. See our Volunteer! section of our website for additional information.

## Mapping

The Map Committee is planning updates to our Trail Map of the Southern Peninsula and Peninsula Parklands maps. We expect to have mapping opportunities for teams and individuals in the near future. See the Mapping section our website for additional information and our Maps & Publications section for a sample of our work.

## Other Trail Building and Maintenance

### Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

BARTC sponsors occasional trail construction projects, typically in partnership with other organizations. Check the Volunteer section of the website ([www.ridgetrail.org](http://www.ridgetrail.org)) or call (415) 391-9300.

### Friends of Alum Rock Park

The Friends sponsors monthly projects to improve Alum Rock Park (San Jose) trails. Contact Ken Ford at [KNFRD@aol.com](mailto:KNFRD@aol.com) or call (408) 524-7909 for more information.

### Friends of Stevens Creek Trail

The Friends sponsors occasional trail construction projects, with a large event for National Trails Day. Check the website ([www.stevenscreektrail.org](http://www.stevenscreektrail.org)), email [execdir@stevenscreektrail.org](mailto:execdir@stevenscreektrail.org) or call (408) 255-5780 or (650) 903-6067.

### Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

MROSD sponsors regularly held projects on the third Saturday each month. Check the Volunteer! section of the website ([www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org)) or call the Volunteer Coordinator at (650) 691-1200 to register.

### 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.

### San Mateo County Parks

Santa Mateo County Parks ([www.eparks.net](http://www.eparks.net)) sponsors a variety of projects throughout the year. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Nick Ramirez at (650) 599-1306.

### Santa Clara County Parks

Santa Clara County Parks sponsors a variety of projects throughout the year. Check the Volunteer section of the website ([www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org)) or call the Park Volunteer Coordinator at (408) 846-5761 email for more information.

### Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Association

SCMTA ([www.stanford.edu/~mhd/trails](http://www.stanford.edu/~mhd/trails)) 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.

### Trailworkers.com

"Preserving and enhancing trails in Santa Cruz County." Currently focusing on Nisene Marks, Wilder Ranch and Soquel Forest. Current sched-

*Please see our website for updated listings and check our Links section for additional resources and organizations outside the SF Peninsula and South Bay Area.*

ule and sign-ups on website  
([www.trailworkers.com](http://www.trailworkers.com)) or contact Val Cole at  
[val@coopercole.com](mailto:val@coopercole.com).

## Habitat Restoration

### Arastradero Preserve

Join Acterra'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](http://www.arastradero.org)) for further information or call Karen at (650) 329-8544.

### 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 ([www.stanford.edu/~rawlings/blazcon.htm](http://www.stanford.edu/~rawlings/blazcon.htm)) 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 ([www.cnps-yerbabuena.org](http://www.cnps-yerbabuena.org)) 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, E-mail to [seleve@nenewsletter/tcom.com](mailto:seleve@nenewsletter/tcom.com).

### 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.

### Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)

GGNRA Habitat Restoration Team ([www.nps.gov/goga/volprog.htm](http://www.nps.gov/goga/volprog.htm)) 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.

### 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.

### 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 Magic at (650) 323-7333 or e-mail. See Planting for the Second Hundred Years on the Magic website ([www.ecomagic.org](http://www.ecomagic.org)) for more information.

### Wildlands Restoration Team

The Wildlands Restoration Team ([www.wildwork.org](http://www.wildwork.org)) 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) 423-2801 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 the Washington Mutual Bank in Santa Cruz at the intersection of Ocean and Water Streets to carpool to a work site. 18-years or older and expect a full days workout.

### Other Resources

Please visit the Native Habitats website ([www.nativehabitats.org](http://www.nativehabitats.org)) for further opportunities for restoration work throughout the Bay Area, around the state and even around the world.

## Kids and Families

### Coyote Point Museum

The Coyote Point Museum ([www.coyoteptmuseum.org](http://www.coyoteptmuseum.org)) always has interest-

*Please see our website for updated listings and check our Links section for additional resources and organizations outside the SF Peninsula and South Bay Area.*

ing exhibits for families! Call to see what's there now. General museum admission: \$4 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.

### **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. Additional information at the Hidden Villa website ([www.hiddenvilla.org](http://www.hiddenvilla.org)).

### **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District**

MROSD offers a variety of activities suitable for families. See the MROSD calendar for details ([www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org)).

### **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. Additional park information available through Portola's Edgewood County Park website ([www.cardiffgiant.com/portola](http://www.cardiffgiant.com/portola) - click on map).

## **Hikes and Walks**

### **Big Basin Walks**

Starting Sunday, March 1st, and each Saturday and Sunday thereafter, 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Meet in front of Park Headquarters for an informative and fun walk through an old growth forest. Learn about these magnificent giants and other forest inhabitants. Easy, 7/10 mile (~1 km.), level, paced walk. Wheelchair and stroller accessible. Free (with park entrance fee). Other walks may be available, especially during summer months - check website ([www.bigbasin.org](http://www.bigbasin.org)) or call the park headquarters +1 (831) 338-8860 for more information.

### **Butano State Park**

Guided nature walks every Saturday and Sunday during the summer. Pink orchids and scarlet mushrooms! Orange newts and yellow banana slugs! Come see the color of nature. \$2 parking fee. Hwy. 1 south of Half Moon Bay, take Pescadero Road or Gazos Creek Road to Cloverdale Road. Call (650) 879-0173. Additional park information at the park page within the State Parks website ([www.calparks.ca.gov](http://www.calparks.ca.gov)).

### **California Native Plant Society - Santa Clara Valley Chapter**

CNPS's local chapter sponsors a variety of field trips and hikes throughout the year. See the Chapter's website ([www.stanford.edu/~rawlings/blazcon.htm](http://www.stanford.edu/~rawlings/blazcon.htm)) or contact the Chapter president, Don Mayall at [seleve@netcom.com](mailto:seleve@netcom.com) or call (650) 856-7579.

### **Friends of Edgewood Natural Preserve**

The Friends sponsor numerous docent-led hikes, particularly during wildflower season. Check the website ([www.friendsofedgeswood.org](http://www.friendsofedgeswood.org)), email [info@friendsofedgeswood.org](mailto:info@friendsofedgeswood.org) or call (650) 361-1218 for current schedule.

### **Henry Coe State Park**

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

### **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. Additional park information at the park page within the State Parks website ([www.calparks.ca.gov](http://www.calparks.ca.gov)).

### **Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve**

Jasper Ridge includes all the representative ecosystems of the Santa Cruz Mountains, including a large area of serpentine grassland that produces a spectacular wildflower display in the spring. Docent-led tours focus on many different aspects of the Preserve. Contact the tour service at (650) 327-2277. Check the JRBP website ([jasper1.stanford.edu](http://jasper1.stanford.edu)) for additional information.

*Please see our website for updated listings and check our Links section for additional resources and organizations outside the SF Peninsula and South Bay Area.*

## 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 website ([www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org)) for current hike calendar and additional 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 1-3 PM (not offered every weekend; call (650) 879-2170 for dates). Additional park information at the park page within the State Parks website ([www.calparks.ca.gov](http://www.calparks.ca.gov)).

### Santa Clara County Parks

Santa Clara County Parks offers free ranger-led hikes and walks in various parks throughout the county. Join hikes and learn about geology, biology and more — each park offers different opportunities. See the Scheduled Park Activities page on the SCCP site ([www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org)) for current event calendar and additional information.

### Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Association

SCMTA ([www.stanford.edu/~mhd/trails](http://www.stanford.edu/~mhd/trails)) sponsors hikes every Sunday of the year. Most range from 8 to 12 miles with a few that may be a little longer and more strenuous, travel from Mt. Tamalpais in the north, to Mt. Diablo in the east, to Pinnacles in the south and to the ocean in the west. The Santa Cruz Mountains are excellent for hiking at any time of year. The more distant hikes to Marin County and the East Bay are usually taken in spring or fall when it is neither too hot nor too rainy.

### Sierra Club - Loma Prieta Chapter

The Loma Prieta Chapter sponsors a multitude of hikes for a multitude of interests and abilities. Although membership is encouraged, some hikes, including the Day Hiking Section hikes, are open to the general public. Contact the Chapter Office at (650) 390-8411 or see the website ([www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/lomaprieta/))

### Wilder Ranch Nature Walk

Saturdays at 11 a.m. along the spectacular trails either on the coastside or backcountry. Call (831) 426-0505 for information. Additional park information at the park page within the State Parks website ([www.calparks.ca.gov](http://www.calparks.ca.gov)).

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# Bicycling Organizations

## On-Road

### Almaden Cycle Touring Club

ACTC is a group of about 1000 bicycle enthusiasts based in the south San Francisco Bay area. Emphasis is on group fun and safety, with a variety of bicycling related events for a wide range of ability levels. The club ride calendar has an average of over 100 rides per month, so there is usually a ride that will fit your needs. Guests are welcome on club rides, and it is easy to make new friends. Check the website ([www.actc.org](http://www.actc.org)) for current calendar.

### Bay Area Roaming Tandems

BART sponsors both regular events and longer rides in the Bay Area and beyond for tandem riders of all abilities. Check the BART website ([www.cruzers.com/~glennandpat/](http://www.cruzers.com/~glennandpat/)), call (415) 759-9413 or email NewsletterBART@aol.com for current calendar and membership information.

### Skyline Cycling Club

Skyline Cycling Club is a social recreational bicycle club in the San Francisco South Bay Area. The Club sponsors a number of regular events, including Wednesday night rides during the summer months. Call (408) 736-9858, e-mail [scc@pobox.com](mailto:scc@pobox.com) or check website ([www.sonic.net/~jps/skyline](http://www.sonic.net/~jps/skyline)) for current schedule.

### Western Wheelers Bicycle Club, Inc.

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](http://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.romp.org](http://www.romp.org)) for a list of upcoming rides.

## Equestrian

### Bay Area Donkey and Mule Society

Promoting our long-eared friends, BADMS sponsors all-equine shows and clinics. Bay Area Donkey and Mule Society. Check website ([www.badms.org](http://www.badms.org)) or call Gloria & Lynn Walter (805) 467-9204 or Jeannette Tunstall (707) 632-5671 for more information.

### Coastside Horse Council

Represents all horse breeds, disciplines and activities and seeks to maintain the horse as a part of the San Mateo Co. coastal landscape and community. Provides a forum for coastside equestrian issues and sponsors occasional rides. Contact President Roxy Stone, 650-726-7969, email [mail@coasthorse.com](mailto:mail@coasthorse.com) or see website ([www.coasthorse.org](http://www.coasthorse.org)).

### 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. E-mail to [shaze@worldnet.att.net](mailto:shaze@worldnet.att.net)

### Los Gatos Horsemen's Association

LGHA is a primarily a trail-riding club, with rides every weekend during fair weather, plus several camping trips each year. The club also participates in several parades and invites new members - residence in Los Gatos or a horse of one's own not required! Contact Frank Baykoni, President by email, [ferencb@applied-laser.com](mailto:ferencb@applied-laser.com), call (408) 358-3598 or mail to P.O Box 1735, Los Gatos, CA 95031.

### Los Viajeros Riding Club

LV is known for its Four-Day Ride, usually held in the third week in June. The club also offers day rides and other overnight events from March through November for its members and their guests. The rides are structured to ensure safety,

good food and a good time. We're always looking for a new place to ride. Check out the club's web page ([www.losviejeros.org](http://www.losviejeros.org)) or call the President, Cathy Hatcher, days (415) 863-2641 or eves (650) 726-5375 or e-mail [cathytrails@aol.com](mailto:cathytrails@aol.com)

### Mounted Patrol San Mateo County

Meeting twice a month at its Club House located on 23 acres of wooded hills in Woodside, which is a Red Cross designated Disaster Relief Center. Members assist in search and rescue for the Sheriff of San Mateo County. The Patrol sponsors a Youth Rodeo every July 4th and hold weekly riding clinics during the summer. For more information, check website ([www.mpsmc.org](http://www.mpsmc.org)), email the Secretary at [secretary@mpsmc.org](mailto:secretary@mpsmc.org) or write to: Captain, Mounted Patrol SMC, 521 Kings Mountain Road, Woodside, CA 94062.

### North American Trail Riding Conference, Region 1 (NATRC)

NATRC Region 1 covers northern California and part of Nevada, Oregon, Washington and Alaska. They annually sponsor 8 rides in California and one in Alaska. Rides have three divisions: Novice (for new riders and young horses; Competitive Pleasure (slower pace); and, Open for those who enjoy longer, faster events). Please see web site ([natrc.trailriding.com](http://natrc.trailriding.com)) at for information on equestrian clinics and events. Jim Ferris can be contacted at [jferris@cwa.com](mailto:jferris@cwa.com) for additional information. Carol Barnes is Chairman of Region 1 and can be reached at [cbarnes99@juno.comp](mailto:cbarnes99@juno.comp)

### Peninsula Carriage Driving Club

The PCDC aims to draw together people interested in equine-powered vehicles, to give carriage driving enthusiasts a chance to meet others in the driving community, and to provide a forum for sharing information on driving. The goal of the club is to emphasize driving safety and the promotion of pleasure driving as an alternative to competitive show driving. See website ([www.acornmr.com/pcdc](http://www.acornmr.com/pcdc)) or email [gina@acornmr.com](mailto:gina@acornmr.com).

### Quicksilver Endurance Riders, Inc.

QER meets the second 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. Check website ([www.homestead.com/qsendurance/files](http://www.homestead.com/qsendurance/files)), contact

*Please see our website for updated listings and check our Links section for additional resources and organizations outside the SF Peninsula and South Bay Area.*

Maryben Stover (408) 265-0839 or write P.O. Box 71, New Almaden, CA 95042.

### **San Francisco Horsemen's Association**

Promotes interest, maintaining horses and horsemanship in and around the city of San Francisco. See website ([sfha.tripod.com/index.html](http://sfha.tripod.com/index.html)) or call Josh Hatcher at (650) 726-5375 for information.

### **San Mateo County Horsemen's Association.**

Educational seminars, clinics, youth programs, camping, general meetings and group rides. Publishes an award-winning newsletter of trail information and stories of local rides. Sponsor for the Clarkia Trail. See website ([www.smcha.org](http://www.smcha.org)), writer P.O. Box 620092, Woodside, CA 94062. or call (650) 568-1045.

### **San Mateo County Volunteer Horse Patrol**

Provide a volunteer public service while riding in your parks and open spaces. Training and certification provided annually by San Mateo County for official patrol of county park trail system. Annual first aid and CPR classes provided free. Uniforms required. Active support for trail maintenance. Sponsor for the Skyline Trail. For additional information call Marian Van den Bosch (650) 369-8305.

### **San Martin Horsemen's Association**

SMHA is a volunteer organization which sponsors trail rides, clinics, camping, education, trail building and horse advocacy. Meets monthly at 7 pm the second Friday. Families and children always welcome. See their website ([www.sanmartin.com/horseman.htm](http://www.sanmartin.com/horseman.htm)) or contact Kathy Wyland at PO Box 275, San Martin, CA 95046 [dcwyland@ix.netcom.com](mailto:dcwyland@ix.netcom.com).

### **Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association**

The SCCHA provides a volunteer public service while riding in your parks and open spaces. SCCHA is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting good horsemanship and trail use. Monthly meetings 7 pm the 3rd Friday of every month include educational programs. Visitors welcome. 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. For information on rides, check the website

([www.horsemans.com](http://www.horsemans.com)) or call the SCCHA information hotline at (408) 268-6155. Clubhouse is located at 2035 McKean Rd. San Jose CA and is available for rental.

### **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. Shows, rides, clinics and trail building. Membership includes use of facility with horse camping and direct access to miles of trails. Check website ([www2.cruzio.com/%7Ecandg/SCCHA\\_Webpage.htm](http://www2.cruzio.com/%7Ecandg/SCCHA_Webpage.htm)), write to P.O. Box 1014, Santa Cruz CA 95061 for information call Liz Maitoza (831) 763-7885 or e-mail [lmaitoza@pacbell.net](mailto:lmaitoza@pacbell.net).

### **Summit Riders Horsemen's Association**

Summit Riders was formed over 30 years ago in the Santa Cruz Mountains. It is a family-oriented group sponsoring trail rides, overnight campouts, horse shows, and play days. They also have clinics and speakers. General meetings occur the second Thursday night monthly at 7:30 pm at Mountain Bible Church on Summit Road. Contact Karel Waugh at 22420 Summit Rd., Los Gatos, CA 95030 or email [karel@prodigy.net](mailto:karel@prodigy.net)

### **West Coast Horse Association**

West Coast Horse Association is a San Mateo County coast side equestrian organization. Active in July 4th Parade in Half Moon Bay, Coastside Ranch Rodeo and schooling shows. For information, contact Roxy Stone at [rsbronco@aol.com](mailto:rsbronco@aol.com) or call (650) 726-7969. Web site will be coming soon.

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# The Gazos Creek Mountain Camp, a Field Research Station

by Rick Powers

How would you like to experience the beauty of redwood trees, ferns, and waterfalls, while doing your part to restore native habitat? Located a few miles south of Pescadero at the end of Gazos Creek Road, the Pescadero Conservation Alliance's Field Research Station at Gazos Creek provides a beautiful setting for environmental teaching and restoration projects. Tall redwoods and Douglas fir surround the twenty small cabins, main lodge, and two classrooms where teacher's workshops, children's or other teaching programs can take place. The north and south forks of Gazos Creek flow on either side of the facility. The south fork has a lovely waterfall. Both the sounds of nature, and the silence at night are magnificent.

The PCA Field Research Station was formerly known as The Mountain Camp, a wonderful camp for children from 1965 to 1989 run by Chuck Taylor. Over 10,000 children enjoyed this camp during those summers. The Sempervirens Fund purchased the camp in 1997. PCA began a lease with Sempervirens in June of 2000 to rehabilitate the buildings, restore the surrounding lands and develop environmental programs suitable for this stunning natural environment. The California Department of Parks has recently acquired the site and has allowed us to continue the lease arrangements.

Both within the camp property and just beyond, hiking opportunities abound, including the Gazos Creek Trail now under construction. Big Basin State Park is only a 30-minute hike away. Butano and Año Nuevo State Parks lie just down Gazos Road. Come out for a visit and discover this wonderful resource for yourself!

For more info, contact David (Tex) Houston, Volunteer Coordinator, 650-739-0009 or visit the web site: [www.gazos.org/ResearchStation/index.html](http://www.gazos.org/ResearchStation/index.html)



*Rick Powers (rpvi@aol.com) is a PCA volunteer extraordinaire who has put in countless hours to restore and improve the Mountain Camp.*

*Editor's note: Trail Center volunteers spent a number of days in 2001 working on improving a trail on Gazos Creek and expect to return this summer. This project is co-sponsored by the Pescadero Conservation Alliance (PCA), who have generously hosted our crews, supplied food and lodging, bridge materials, and unbounded enthusiasm.*

*Waterfall at  
Gazos Creek*

*photo by Tim  
Oren*





*(Crew Leader, from page 1)*

Open Space District (MROSD), in which you would learn something about the tools of the trade and the typical tasks of a crew leader.

This ad hoc approach worked well enough for many situations, but it became painfully obvious that wearing a red shirt didn't always translate to a full set of trail construction skills and effective leadership, so the Crew Leader Training Committee was born. Its members worked hard to create the manual and formal training program that we use today. Prospective crew leaders (and current ones wishing to brush up) attend the two-day training seminars, consisting of a classroom session that covers terminology, basic concepts, safety, and leadership; and a field session for learning practical applications of both construction and leadership skills. Following the seminar, trainees launch into an apprenticeship program that stretches over multiple trail days. Trainees work under experienced crew leaders to hone their knowledge and check off a list of requirements that includes leading crews on their own under the guidance of a mentor. Once all the items on the list are checked off, we whoop it up and present the newly minted crew leader with their own red shirt.

Crew leaders and trainees, in addition to enjoying the camaraderie and the warm fuzzy feelings that come from making the TC run, get to participate in the occasional special projects that involve advanced technical skills such as bridge building, retaining walls, or challenging tread construction. They can also take part



*Crew Leader  
Training Class of  
1997 at Memorial  
County Park*

*photo by Rich  
Allsop*

in "Crew Leader and Trainee Only" days - the first day on some new projects and may have opportunities to help survey a new trail project.

Of course, not everyone who goes through the program becomes a crew leader, or even a trainee. Some participants in our seminars come from other organizations and want to apply the skills to their own projects. Some are more interested in improving their skills for more advanced work. Some, for reasons of their own, elect to become eternal trainees - willing to help lead in a pinch, but no less valuable because of their long experience.

## **So What Does a Crew Leader Actually Do?**

Leading a volunteer trail crew is a tough job. You are in charge of a group of strangers who don't know you or each other, and who may have no experience with the tools or work. You may not have seen the work site before, and even if you have, it was probably several weeks ago. You've got a weedy patch of hillside with a few survey flags stuck in the ground and a few pieces of plastic ribbon tied to the bushes. The workday

supervisor may be nowhere in sight. And you're supposed to get some trail built. You have to figure out what needs to be done, and what resources you have to do the job. And you get to do all of this with an audience watching you, waiting for you to tell them what to do. The job can be very intimidating the first few times you try to do it.

Crew leaders need to know safety and construction skills, but the leadership skills are the key to meeting the basic goal of a crew leader: your job as a crew leader is to make sure that the people on your crew work safely, that they enjoy themselves, and that they build good-quality trail. There is no one right way to accomplish these goals. There is also no typical workday, even over the life of a single project; every project presents a different mix of challenges, and every group of volunteers has a different mix of abilities and interests. Each crew leader has a different approach to these challenges...but all workdays do, however, present the same general challenge to a crew leader to integrate a variety of skills and manage a variety of

*(cont'd on next page)*

details in order to keep the crew happy, safe and productive. All workdays tend to have the same general structure, which in grand terms, are:

1. Start of the day
2. Arrival at worksite
3. The work period
4. End of the day

Certain things need to happen during each of these phases for the workday to go properly. For example, at the start of the day, volunteers need to be greeted and registered, tools need to be set out and assigned to volunteers, and volunteers need to be sorted into crews.

### *The Start of the Day*

Crew leaders try to get to the meeting area about half an hour before the official start of the workday so they have an opportunity to catch up with fellow crew leaders, finish breakfast, put on sunscreen and boots, and organize gear. Then comes the important step of chatting with the workday supervisor (AKA Supe du Jour) and find out as much as possible about the day's work: pin down the trail specifications, the potential hazards, the type of work to expect and the assortment of tools need, and the approximate work site. Will it be building a switchback? Removing

brush so a new stretch of trail can go in? Cutting a bench in the hillside? Making a rock retaining wall? Filling ruts and knocking down berms? Crew leaders also help get the regular volunteers organized as they arrive, set tools out, or whatever needs doing before the workday supervisor decides to get the day rolling. He or she will get everybody's attention and give a brief talk, describing the Trail Center and the project of the day. A crew leader usually gives a brief safety talk. Then the crew leaders spread out and the volunteers divide themselves into crews. As this goes on, crew leaders need to make sure their new crews have all they need for the day and (usually) check their susceptibility to poison oak. The crew leader provides more details on the crew's work and once everyone in the crew is ready, leads them to the worksite. On the way, crew leaders may learn more about crew members, point out good and bad sections of the previously built trail, reemphasize safety and point out PO to neophytes, and make sure the whole crew gets to the worksite.

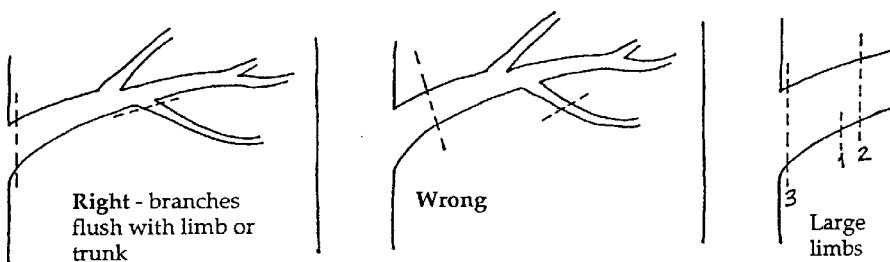
### *Arriving at the Worksite*

When the crew first arrives at the worksite, the crew leader orients them, demonstrating how

to set the tools down properly, how to avoid putting the pack and tools in poison oak, and giving an overview of the work to be done. The crew leader explains how the structures the crew will build fit into the entire trail, what tasks need to be done to build the structures, and the tools they'll need to complete the tasks. If the crew is inexperienced, the crew leader demonstrates proper tool use. Finally, she or he assigns each crew member a task, taking into account the skills, abilities and interests of the crew.

### *Throughout the Day*

During the day the crew leader constantly monitors what the crew is doing and how they are faring in order to correct any dangerous situations as soon as they come up. Crew leaders encourage crewmembers to take breaks, drink water, switch tasks, ask questions, make suggestions, and socialize - in other words, break up the day so the experience doesn't become a grind. Depending on the experience level in the crew, the crew leader may also need to monitor the construction work closely. A hard-working, inexperienced crew can build twenty feet of trail in the wrong place in no time flat. The crew leader needs to work with the crew to make sure that the alignment, grade, and other features of the trail are correct. Crew members get praise for the work they do well, and gentle corrections for mistakes they make. Crew leaders have to be ready make changes to the workflow, depending upon the crew's energy level, the availability of particular tools, the condition of the soil, etc. This isn't always as easy as it sounds at first — trail work is always full of



*An excerpt from our crew leader manual showing how to prune off branches - drawing by Cathy Sewell*

surprises. We always find something odd during every work day: a massive rock in the middle of the route, or a section of loose, crumbly soil, or a hidden pit in the hillside buried under three feet of dead leaves and sticks. The crew's energy level changes, depending upon things like their own level of interest in the work, the time of day, and the weather conditions. All our crew leaders love to get tools in their hands - at least most of the time - that's probably the main reason they signed on, but if they're working with an inexperienced crew, they'll probably only use the tools to demonstrate proper technique, or to lean on while they watch their crew's progress!

### *End of Day*

People's energy level usually runs down later in the afternoon. As things slow down, the crew

leader may encourage their crew to walk the entire section of newly constructed trail - this is especially important when the crew has been working on a small section of technically difficult trail. They need to see what has been accomplished by all of the crews during the entire workday. The workday supervisor will usually call an end to the workday, although crew leaders may tell their crews to pack up a little sooner if they've run out of steam and are just sitting down. Before the crew leaves the work site, the crew leader sweeps the area for tools, packs, and other items, as well as deliver the very important reminder about the refreshments or barbecue and any thank-you gifts waiting for them at the staging area. Finally, he or she thanks the volunteers for work well done and invites them to future trail builds.

## So You Want to Become A Crew Leader...

You, too, could join the ranks! We're planning to hold a training seminar in September, perhaps in conjunction with San Mateo Parks & Recreation's volunteer program. The seminar will be free to Trail Center members and volunteers, and includes a copy of our Crew Leader Training Manual for all participants (also available for a \$20 donation to the Trail Center), and our nifty trainee bandana. In the meantime, new trainees have joined the apprenticeship program and are actively checking off their lists. We expect to graduate several of our current trainees in the coming months.

Let us know if you'd like to become a part of this great program by contacting our Outreach Coordinator, Amy Morris: outreach@trailcenter.org, or by leaving a message at (650) 968-7065.



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## Photographers Needed to Document California Plants

The Calflora database needs your help to fill out the database of California plants. As of January 10, 2002, they

- have 23,488 photos of 3,543 California plants (46%)
- need photos for 4,117 additional plants (54%).

They hope to add at least 202 additional species by May 2002. They would also like additional photos that show all parts of a plant and the variation within species. They are especially looking for photos of diagnostic (key) characters that help to identify species.

Calflora ([www.calflora.org](http://www.calflora.org)) is a comprehensive database of plant distribution information for California. The database is a collaborative project of USDA Forest Service, the UC Berkeley Digital Library Project, the United States Geological Survey, the UC Davis Information Center for the Environment, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and others. It features three databases: a species database, an occurrence database, and a nomenclature database. The species database is searchable by common and scientific names, as well as by

family. Searches can also be limited by geographic area, life form, elevation, native/non-native, rare/non-rare, and plant community. Many of the entries have multiple photos, making the database a useful tool for identifying mystery plants, particularly in conjunction with guidebooks.



*Editor's note: Common names (being what they are) may not appear in the database. The species names are taken from Munz' A California Flora and Supplement (1958 and 1968) and Skinner and Hick's CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (1994) - names in the Jepson Manual (1993) may vary!*

# Fleet Feet on Redwood and Coastside Trails

By Lenore Studt

When I first began trail running on area trails twelve years ago I rarely encountered any other runners. Hikers gave surprised glances and made startled exclamations when I came upon them. Now our open space preserves and county parks are heavily used, not only by hikers, but also by cyclists; nonetheless, I still seldom see other runners on the trails. Why do I choose to run (rather than hike or bike) our local trails? I do it because it allows me to travel our varied and beautiful natural areas at a pace that lets me see the landscape and its inhabitants. I do it because I can cover a lot of distance without combatting auto traffic and fumes. I do it because the trails, although more heavily used than they were a decade ago, are

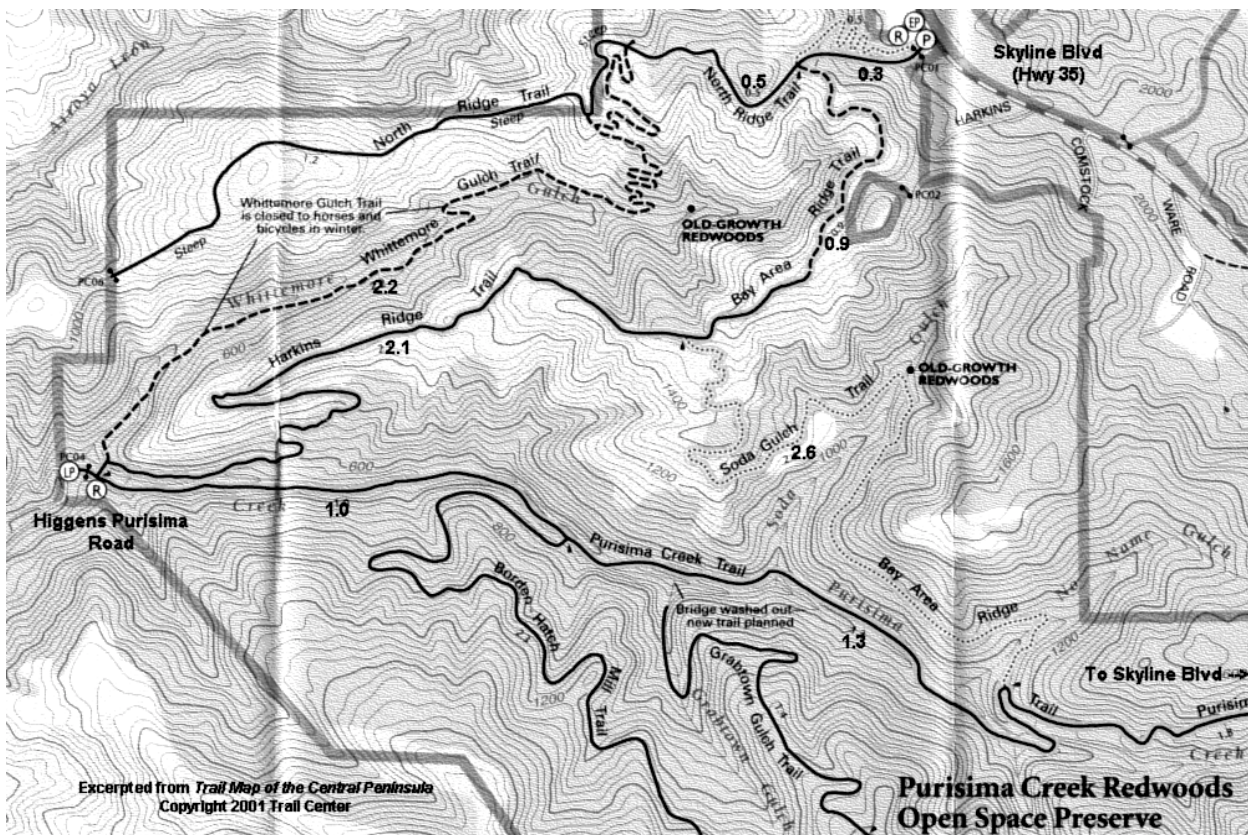
still a place of relative solitude where I can clear my mind of day-to-day cares. And as a runner, I believe there is no better place to train (for endurance, strength, and agility) than on the hilly trails through our parks and preserves.

If you are tempted to try trail running as a way to see new areas or as a way to improve your fitness, I have outlined two of my favorite nearby courses that you may enjoy. There are many other possibilities, of course, but I have chosen these examples because they are entirely within preserve boundaries so you need not run along any roadways to complete them.

## Purisima Creek Redwood OSP

Purisima Creek Redwood OSP has a small parking area on Higgins Purisima Road, which intersects Hwy 1 about one mile south of Half Moon Bay. These days I begin my runs from the trailhead at this parking lot. From here, on the lowest edge of the preserve, all the trails go uphill towards Skyline Boulevard. First I cross the bridge over Purisima Creek and follow the Whittemore Gulch Trail, which winds steeply up through the redwoods. It is always cool and damp through this area, so watch for banana slugs and slippery muddy patches, especially in the winter months. After about two

miles the trail rises out of the redwoods and switchbacks up the grassy hillside. Along this open stretch, if the weather is clear, I have gorgeous views of the tree-covered mountain ridges and grassy valleys that





*The view along Harkins Ridge Trail  
photo by Geoffrey Skinner*

reach toward the sea. In this area, I have often seen flocks of quail and once or twice a bobcat. Soon the trail ends at its intersection with the North Ridge Trail. I run along the North Ridge Trail, once again under the cover of trees and in approximately half mile I come to the junction with the Harkins Ridge Trail. I head south on this trail, which descends briefly before climbing back to about 1500 feet. At this beautiful vista point, I like to pause and enjoy the spectacular views of the valley and coastline below. This stop also gives me an opportunity to decide how to complete my run.

a. For a shorter route, I continue down this steep trail, which is more of a fire road, descending quickly back towards Purisima Creek. Much of this part of the loop is so steep that I find I must walk or scabble down, so be careful! The trail follows the creek for about the last one-half mile and then I am back at the bridge and heading for the parking lot. (Approx. total distance: 6.5 miles. Approx. elevation change: 1200 feet.)

b. For a significantly more challenging and longer run, I follow Harkins Ridge Trail only to its junction with the Soda Gulch Trail (about 0.3 miles). On Soda Gulch Trail (part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail) I descend much more gradually, first through open scrub, tanoak and madrone, then into Soda Gulch and its lush growth of redwoods. The trail rolls gently, but it is

narrow and partially washed out in some areas. Watch your footing! In about 2.5 miles the trail intersects the Purisima Creek Trail, probably the most popular trails in the preserve. Here I begin the final leg of my loop, which often feels much longer than it actually is (about 2.3 miles). The trail simply follows the creek down its gulch with beautiful redwoods and fern-covered banks. I return to the trailhead and am back to the parking lot in no time. (Approx. total distance: 8 miles. Approx. elevation change: 1500 ft.)

Note: Both courses leave from the western boundary of the preserve, but both could easily be adapted if you prefer to begin from the Hwy 35 parking area (4.5 miles south of Hwy. 92). Maps are usually available at both trailheads.

## **McNee Ranch State Park**

Lately, I have begun exploring McNee Ranch State Park north of

Half Moon Bay. The main trails here are actually old roads that switchback slowly up and over Montara Mountain. Except for the occasional grove of cypress the mountain landscape is coastal scrub and consequently it is very exposed. This exposure makes for some exquisite vistas of the Pacific Ocean and beaches below, but it also can lead to changeable weather conditions. Come prepared for very cool, wet fog, and breezes, or alternatively lots of direct sun. Because none of the roads or trails are marked I recommend that you save this area for a day when you have time to investigate the side trails and turn back at the dead ends. To access this area, park at the small, unmarked gate (just past Montara State Beach) on the east side of Hwy. 1, or park in the state beach parking lot and cross the highway carefully. Through the gate, follow the road to the ranger's residence. From there I like to run up the gradually climbing Old San Pedro Road to the mountain's top and simply return the same way. I think that if you try trail running you will find the perfect mix: an opportunity to experience the natural world up close and a terrific workout. If the hikes above sound daunting, try your favorite hiking route, but run some of it instead. If you do go, always be sure to carry adequate water. Have a great run!



*Lenore Studt is a resident of the Half Moon Bay area. She is an avid trail runner and also enjoys hiking with her family.*

# The Campaign for Castle Rock State Park

The Sierra Club and Friends of Castle Rock State Park are currently suing the California Department of Parks and Recreation over the Department's approval last year of the Castle Rock State Park General Plan. The Club is concerned that the Castle Rock General Plan does little to provide for responsible recreation and overlooks many legal provisions to protect biological resources.

Castle Rock has one of the last remaining black oak forests on public lands in the Santa Cruz Mountains, but the approved plan focuses the park's camping, parking, and visitor center in and around this precious resource. Firewood brought into the camping area and traffic to the campground could easily spread sudden oak death, weeds, and other dangers to the black oak forest.

The Sierra Club and FOCRSP urge you to write a letter today urging State Parks to settle this lawsuit out of court and practice responsible stewardship. The outcome of this action will be of great significance to the planning process now underway for many other state parks.

Address your letter to Acting State Parks Director Ruth Coleman with a copy to Assembly Speaker pro Tem Fred Keeley:

Ruth Coleman, Acting Director, Department of Parks & Recreation, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001, phone: (916) 653-8380, fax: (916) 657-3903, email: [dkinc@parks.ca.gov](mailto:dkinc@parks.ca.gov).

Fred Keeley, California State Assembly Speaker pro Tem, State Capitol Sacramento, CA 95814, (916) 319-2027 (tel), (916) 319-2127 (fax), email [Fred.Keeley@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Fred.Keeley@assembly.ca.gov)

The Nature Conservancy, 201 Mission Street, 4th floor, San Francisco, CA 94105, Attn: Kathy Barnes.

RHAA, 225 Miller Ave., Mill Valley, CA 94941, email: [nisenemarks@rhaa.com](mailto:nisenemarks@rhaa.com).

Key points to make in your letters

- Urge the state to negotiate in good faith and settle the suit out of court.
- Modern science mandates that General Plans look beyond park boundaries to consider the ecological context of the park. State Parks needs a regional plan that informs the conservation and stewardship priorities for each park.
- Because State Parks is strapped for finances for adequate staffing and expertise, they need a Technical Advisory Committee for science planning to advise on biological resource issues.
- Resource protection should be paramount in state park management.
- Ask for increased ranger staffing to prevent poaching of trees, construction of unauthorized trails or other activities that are damaging to natural resources.
- Relocate high impact activities such as campgrounds and food vendors from biologically sensitive areas of the parks to less sensitive areas. In particular, the black oak forest at Castle Rock and the old growth redwoods in Big Basin are compromised by intense uses.
- Ask to be put on the mailing list to be notified of upcoming meetings about the general plans.

To learn more, contact:

Grey Hayes, Sierra Club California State Parks Committee, (831) 426-3880, email: [grey@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:grey@cats.ucsc.edu).

Sandy Henn for information on the Nisene Marks General Plan, (831) 662-2843, email: [ixnae@aol.com](mailto:ixnae@aol.com).

Citizens for the Preservation of Nisene Marks State Park, (831) 662-2843, email: [citz4fnmsp@aol.com](mailto:citz4fnmsp@aol.com).



# Coming up...

## Spring 2002

"The Land" Lives On: Exploring the Heritage of the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve, The Horse: High vs. Low Impact User, and a review of Bay Area hiking guides

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

Deadlines for upcoming issues:

Spring 2002: Friday, April 5

Summer 2002: Friday, June 7

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

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## **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

## At Arastradero Preserve in Palo Alto

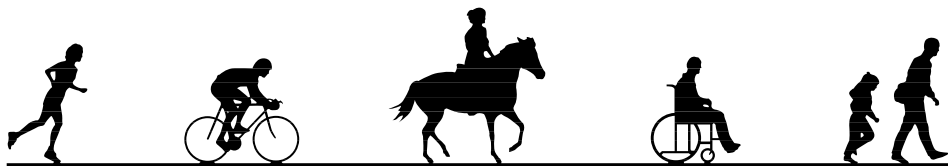
April 21, 2002 - Sunday - Earth Day  
May 11, 2002 - Saturday

## At the Field Research Station at Gazos Creek

June 1, 2002 - Saturday - National Trails Day  
July 13, 2002 - Saturday  
Aug 10, 2002 - Saturday

Call (650) 968-7065 for directions and check our website for further information: [www.trailcenter.org](http://www.trailcenter.org)

Not receiving our email newsletter, *Trail Center News & Upcoming Events*, yet? You're missing out on the most current announcements, news and alerts. Email [info@trailcenter.org](mailto:info@trailcenter.org) to sign up today!



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

***Forwarding Service Requested***

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