



The Trail Companion

Spring 2003

The Trail Center at Twenty Years... and Counting

By Geoffrey Skinner

We are pleased to introduce the new members of our revitalized Board of Directors as we move into our twentieth anniversary year. David Alderman, Ed Alderman, Rich Feldman, Bruce Hartsough, Aparna Kapur, David Kison, David Taylor, Bob Tracey, and Dawn Woo have all stepped up to the challenge we issued at the close of last year. With the help of these and many other volunteers at a critical time, the Trail Center and many of the TC's projects have new life.

The Situation at the End of our Nineteenth Year

As we approached our twentieth anniversary year, we had accomplished a lot in the past two years alone:

- Publication of the *Trail Map of the Central Peninsula* and the third edition of *Peninsula Parklands*
- Creation of the *Trail Center Map Source*
- Construction and maintenance on trails in Castle Rock State Park, Arastradero Preserve, Jasper Ridge Biological Field Station, and future

(continued on page 7)



2003 new board members: front row (l to r) - David Alderman, Bruce Hartsough, and Ed Alderman; standing (l to r) - Aparna Kapur, Dawn Woo, David Taylor, and Hank Magnuski, David Kison; not pictured - Bob Tracey and Rich Feldman.

Photo by Geoffrey Skinner.

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

Board of Directors
David Alderman, Ed Alderman,
Kim Cousin, David Croker, Gael
Erickson, Rich Feldman, Bruce
Hartsough, Scott Heeschen,
Aparna Kapur, David Kison,
Geoffrey Skinner, David Taylor,
Bob Tracey, and Dawn Woo

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Along the Trail

An Occasional Column featuring TC members and volunteers

George Taylor, a long-time TC volunteer and trail builder extraordinaire, was spotlighted in the Hidden Villa (Los Altos Hills) newsletter. George has been volunteering at HV for many years and has been responsible for creating or maintaining HV's trails. George's skills, knowledge, and general trail building prowess is legendary. Check out the story at:

www.hiddenvilla.org/Assets/George%20Story/George.htm

Crew Leader Trainee **Justin Knowles** hiked a big piece of the Appalachian Trail last summer. The last we heard from him, he was in the midst of a thousand mile section between North Carolina and West Virginia before starting Wharton's MBA program in Philadelphia in August. Unfortunately that means he hasn't been able to attend any more Trail Center events. Before leaving, he wrote, "I wanted to thank you for all of your help. I learned a great deal and had a wonderful time on the trail." He added, "Right before I left San Francisco, a wise man told me, "Go east young man, go east." For some reason though, all the Conestoga Wagons were heading west on I-70."

Former Crew Leader Trainee **Reed Palmer** is still in Panama with the Peace Corps. He recently finished up his regular two-year stint with the Peace Corps in Panama under the Environmental Education Program, but he branched out into other areas and spent a lot of time doing water

projects, including a project in his town to collect and filter water during the rainy season, with a 4,000-gallon cistern to store it for the rest of the year. The end of his service coincided with the Peace Corps Panama creating an Environmental Health Sector, for which he proposed and obtained a position as Volunteer Coordinator.

When he's not riding the parks on his mountain bike and (now) avoiding poison oak on TC projects, volunteer **Eric Larsen** heads to Yosemite for park cleanup efforts with The PGVIP Team, sponsored by Planet Granite. The team holds monthly work parties throughout the park. Projects have included building demolition, campground clean ups, and more. Contact Eric for more information e_larsen@cisco.com and check out the PGVIP website at: www.pgvip.net/

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.

What's going on with the San Francisco Bay Trail?

by *Cherise Thompson*

The San Francisco Bay Trail is a partially completed recreational corridor that, when finished, will encircle San Francisco and San Pablo Bays with a continuous 400-mile network of hiking and bicycling trails. It will provide transportation routes through and connect the shoreline of all nine Bay Area counties (San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano, Napa, Sonoma, and Marin). The trail was launched in 1989, and thus far, 215 miles have been completed under the direction of the Association of Bay Areas Governments (ABAG). Although it has taken about 13 years for a little more than half to be completed, momentum on the trail's progress is now increasing. Trail supporters are now working on constructing difficult segments (as there are many barriers to overcome, e.g. land structure, property rights, etc.) in Napa and Sonoma counties, including areas of the North Bay, San Pablo Bay and San Francisco International Airport. As reported in the Winter/Spring 2002 *Trail Companion*, ABAG and NASA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) toward establishing a trail corridor along Moffet Field's perimeter – which will close one of the major remaining gaps.

One of the major advances in the trails progress has been finally getting wetland and restoration programs started and underway. San Francisco Bay Trail has been working with the California Department of Fish and Game to find a way to bring the trail close to the shoreline, which according to Laura Thompson, Bay Trail Planner, has not been easy since “analyzing a way to bring the trail closer to the

Bay has been a long process.” Fortunately, increased funding from the counties has allowed more progress in recent years.

On May 29, 2002, an agreement between the federal government and Cargill Corporation marked first steps toward placing Cargill's salt ponds in the South Bay and in Napa County on the Napa River in public hands. Once the funding is secured, restoration can begin in the South Bay ponds that line the shorelines of Alameda, Santa Clara, and San Mateo counties. This will take a number of years; the exact amount of time is unpredictable, but once the process is complete the installation of the trails will begin. This is very exciting news for the Bay Trail since the revitalized marshlands and ponds will make the trail even more of a public asset.

The parts of the Bay Trail already complete are very popular, and opening up new areas such as the ponds will allow more people to enjoy bird watching, biking, rollerblading, and hiking in different areas. Current popular trails or hikes include a 5-mile trek from Pt. Isabel Regional Shoreline to Richmonds Marina Bay, a 2-mile long paved path from Mill Valley to Sausalito Valley, which goes through Bothin Marsh and attracts commuting cyclists, the Palo Alto Baylands, and the Lucy Evans Big Steam Park.

The Bay Trail, full of recreational possibilities for outdoor enthusiasts, serves more than just an enjoyable exercise route. Other opportunities include wildlife viewing, environmental education of and respect for the Bay, and transportation benefits. The trail connects to public transportation facilities such as ferry

terminals, light-rail lines, bus stops, Caltrain, Amtrak, and BART stations, and will eventually join to all the major toll bridges in the Bay Area. The Bay Trail website also points out some general areas it offers access to, including commercial, industrial, and residential neighborhoods; points of historic, natural, and cultural interest; recreational areas like beaches, marinas, fishing piers, boat launches, and over 130 parks and wildlife preserves totaling 57,00 acres of open space. It passes through highly urbanized areas like downtown San Francisco as well as remote natural areas like the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (the Bay Trail's policies specifically seek to protect sensitive natural habitats). Depending on the location of its segments, the Bay Trail consists of paved multi-use paths, dirt trails, bike lanes, sidewalks or city streets signed as bike routes. The Bay Trail also connects to trails that lead inland, and with the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

More information about the Bay Trail can be found on their Website at baytrail.abag.org or baytrail.abag.ca.gov/. With new funding and new land openings it won't be long before the planned vision of a 400 mile trail around the whole San Francisco Bay is complete and available for all to use.

Cherise Thompson is a member of the Stanford Class of 2005. She is originally from Rapid City, SD.

Into the Orestimba Zone: A Coe Trip Diary

by *Richard Allsop*

The new *Henry W. Coe State Park Trail and Camping* map, published by the Pine Ridge Association (www.coepark.org/pr.html), is an essential guide to the largest state park in northern California. It's a big map, two and a half feet high and over three feet wide, with the northern and southern parts of the park on opposite sides. The topography is shown with 50-foot contour lines and shaded relief. It shows new trails and trail reroutes (features missing on the USGS quads), information about springs and possible campsites. You can get it printed on plastic, which improves the durability. I was glad to have it available before I went on an eight-day backpack in the Orestimba Wilderness, since I could carry one map, instead of six (five USGS quads and the older Coe Park trail map).

I went in with folks from the Sierra Club's Loma Prieta section backpacking group, starting from the park HQ. We hiked down through Poverty Flat and over Jackass Peak to camp near Little Long Canyon on the east fork of Coyote Creek. The next morning, we began our hardest day as we climbed over Bear Mountain and back down into Red Creek Canyon in the Orestimba Zone. Fortunately, this grunt was followed by a layover day. I spent it hiking up Red Creek to the Upper San Antonio Valley, a high, open valley with oaks scattered through meadows.

Picking up our packs once more in the morning, we hiked over the ridge and into Robinson Creek, camping near the mouth of Pinto Creek. This is one of the loveliest areas in the park, a wide valley surrounded by high ridges, with huge gray pines and sycamores. The following day was the



County Line Road, San Antonio Valley



Mississippi Lake

longest in terms of mileage. We started by hiking down Robinson Creek to Orestimba Creek, near the northeast corner of the park. We then turned south up Orestimba Creek, which actually had some running water in it. We went around the Rooster Comb on the new Rooster Comb trail (new to me, at least. When I did the trip twelve

years ago we bushwhacked over the Rooster Comb and down the other side to avoid trespassing — a truly brutal day). We continued on up Orestimba Creek and camped near the mouth of Hartman Creek.

The sixth day was short, but the climb over the Hartman Trail was demoralizing. *(continued on facing page)*

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The trail climbs steeply up over one little peak, back down the other side, and then on up to County Line Road. We continued north on County Line Road and camped at the Ramada Inn – a camp with a sunshade, a picnic table, and an outhouse (real luxury after sitting on the ground for several days) – on the north end of Mississippi Lake. The lake is actually a big reservoir, nearly a mile long. It's a popular destination with fishermen and hikers, while I like it for the turtles, redwing blackbirds and coots.

Our trail the next day took us back toward Los Cruzeros on Coyote Creek. We hiked along Willow Ridge, which is called Roller Coaster Ridge on some older Coe maps; the road climbs along the top of the ridge, following it up and down over and over and over again. We then made a steep descent down Willow Ridge Trail to our camp at Los Cruzeros. We came out the last day through the Narrows to China Hole, then up the China Hole Trail to Manzanita Point, and on back to Park headquarters via the Forest Trail.

We started right at the cusp of spring, when the oaks were beginning to leaf out and the wildflowers were blooming. The country seemed to get greener every day. I counted over fifty varieties of wildflowers, and I probably missed as many more. I'm amazed every time I realize that I had this weeklong backcountry experience an hour's drive from San Jose.

How to Get there: From Highway 101 at Morgan Hill, take the East Dunne Avenue exit. Look for the Henry Coe State Park sign 13 miles. Follow this winding road 13 miles into the Diablo Range until it dead ends at the Henry Coe State Park headquarters. Camping is available just beyond the headquarters (reservations usually needed on weekends). See the park website for more information: www.coeparks.org.

Park News

Bear Creek Redwoods OSP and Sierra Azul OSP Master Plan

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ("MROSD") is about to begin the process of preparing a master plan for Bear Creek Redwoods and Sierra Azul Open Space Preserves. Although much planning has been done since the acquisitions of both preserves, neither has undergone a master planning process. Given their close proximity, and their similar roles as conservation areas in the region, Bear Creek Redwoods OSP and Sierra Azul OSP will be included in one master plan. The master plan will guide resource management, land use decisions and any low-intensity facility development. Details available from the MROSD website (www.openspace.org), which includes a nice slide show, or by joining the master plan mailing list (masterplan@openspace.org).

Coastal Annexation Moves Forward

Following public hearings and a comment period last summer, MROSD has prepared a draft program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and will hold a public meeting early this year to certify the EIR and other steps necessary to submit the annexation application to the San Mateo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) later this year. San Mateo County LAFCo will forward the application to the Santa Clara County LAFCo for comments and a recommendation. San Mateo County LAFCo will then hold another public hearing to consider the project. Please check the MROSD website for updates.

Arastradero's Missing Link Saved

After years of negotiations and court proceedings, POST was able to step in with a successful bid to acquire the 13-acre parcel known as the Bressler property in the middle of Palo Alto's 609-acre Arastradero Preserve. Palo Alto had hoped to buy the property many years ago, but the asking price was much too high. A luxury home could have been built on the property and only the Oct. 10, 2002, ruling by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court of the Northern District of California in San Jose allowed the competitive bidding to go forward. As a result, POST paid much less than the original asking price of \$5 million. The purchase gives the City of Palo Alto three years to buy the property from POST.

Key Coastside Property Donated

Mike and Margaret O'Neill and their family, in one of San Mateo County's biggest ever land gifts, donated 462 acres above El Granada (near Half Moon Bay) to POST in early December, 2002. The land includes magnificent views of the coast and Montara Mountain, open grassy hillsides, coastal ridges, and a massive eucalyptus forest. Three other protected properties border the O'Neill parcel: Rancho Corral de Tierra (POST), Quarry Park (San Mateo Co. Parks; managed by Midcoast Park Lands, a local nonprofit), and Mirada Surf (SM Co. Parks; currently undeveloped). The donation makes possible future trail connections between Half Moon Bay beaches, Montara Mountain trails, and the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Keeping the Peninsula Green: A Profile of the Peninsula Open Space Trust

by John Rote

The Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) is a nonprofit land trust dedicated to preserving the open spaces of the San Francisco Peninsula and, since its founding in 1977, POST has protected more than 50,000 acres—78 square miles (equal to 49 Golden Gate Parks). The trust raises the funds necessary for the acquisition of lands ranging from coastal lands like the San Gregorio Farms and Bolso Point Ranches to redwood groves, open meadows, and mountain vistas. Maintaining a ready reserve of land acquisition capital is one of the most significant challenges faced by the trust, especially in the face of rising real estate prices and development pressures. However, this has not kept the trust from making a significant impact on the open spaces of the San Francisco Bay area. And, they have already secured 10,148 acres of land and over one hundred thirty million dollars for their current 20,000 acre, 200 million dollar project, “Saving the Endangered Coast”, which is proposed as a three-year project aimed at saving the open spaces of the San Mateo coastline.

However, even before launching their “Saving the Endangered Coast” campaign, POST had already made significant steps towards preserving peninsula open spaces. In the past 20 years, POST has been working toward the acquisition of property and subsequent protection. POST purchases lands using a combination of public and private funds. After raising funds and buying property, the lands were then sold to public agencies when public money became available for purchase. There are few sources of public funds for immediate land acquisition,

which is why POST plays a vital role in the protection of local lands through the funds they raise and make use of. POST has been so effective in raising funds quickly that some developers liken them to an 800 lb. gorilla in the land market for their ability to act as soon as desirable properties come available. The 40,000 acres purchased so far amounts to over two-thirds of lands targeted for protection by POST’s original founders. In the future, POST plans to achieve their goal with the acquisition of the remaining third of targeted land.

This goal begins with the continuation of “Saving the Endangered Coast”, which is scheduled to continue into 2004. Already, over 134 million dollars has been raised, of which the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation gave one hundred million. Already, six major properties have been purchased and there are plans to acquire more. However, POST’s function lies not just in purchasing lands for protection, but also securing plans for their future protection and development as properties. The management of these lands after purchase and eventual transfer into public agencies or restricted private ownership is just as vital to their survival as open spaces as is their original purchase. If the proposed Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District’s coastal annexation plan is approved, many of the properties will be transferred to MROSD to manage as public open space preserves in perpetuity. The Peninsula Open Space Trust embraces all of these duties and makes a similar pledge for the future, planning to continue to protect the peninsula’s open spaces for present admirers and future generations.

For more information on POST, visit their web page at: www.openspacetrust.org. Call

(650) 854-7696 or visit POST’s web page to give funds their land bank.

John Rote is currently enrolled at Stanford University as a member of the class of 2005 and is exploring options for major in departments of both International Relations and Religious Studies. He is originally from Memphis, Tennessee.

Favorite Trail Project

Chances are very good that you have a favorite trail in the Bay Area or beyond (or perhaps many favorites) - and we want to hear about it! With your help, we’re putting together a list that will appear in an upcoming issue of The Trail Companion and on our website. A few entries have already come in following a note in our email Trail Center News & Upcoming Events and we’re looking for more. Send us a bare-bones description with trail location, name, and why it’s on your list - or flesh it out with map and guidebook references, scanned photos, and anything else that adds to your description. Send your contributions to info@trailcenter.org or mail to us at Favorite Trail c/o Trail Center, 3921 E. Bayshore Rd., Palo Alto, CA 94303. We look forward to hearing your choices!

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The Trail Center and Twenty Years... and Counting

parkland on Gazos Creek adjacent to Año Nuevo State Reserve.

- Providing trail expertise to help create the Trails Master Plan for Castle Rock State Park
- Expansion of the Trail Center website
- A first-class newsletter and the launch of a popular email newsletter

Nonetheless, the active Board had dwindled back to dangerously low numbers after a promising regrouping during the summer by the time of the 2002 Annual Meeting on Nov. 17. The three remaining active members felt overwhelmed by the task of keeping the organization healthy and were generally suffering from burnout as other obligations loomed. Unlike many of our sister environmental nonprofits, the TC was in good financial shape – thanks to going all-volunteer in 1999. With no staff, nearly all of our funds could directly support our programs. On the flip side, without enough volunteers to run the organization, the organization had sputtered along on momentum (even if the faltering hadn't been particularly visible), but the Board was aware that momentum alone couldn't sustain the Trail Center. We had no problem recruiting for trail event volunteers (nor for trail projects), but our recruitment efforts for leadership and other organizational volunteers had been clearly and painfully inadequate.

We presented five scenarios at the Annual Meeting, ranging from expanding with renewed leadership and vigor to shutting down. The remaining Board members didn't want to see the organization close and neither did the other attendees. In fact, nearly everyone offered some degree of help and wanted to see the renewed TC, but we all realize

we need to look to the general membership and volunteers to make it happen. A letter explaining the situation and survey went out to our membership in December, as well as to our email list, with a plea for volunteers. If we didn't receive enough support and commitment, we warned that the TC would likely cease to exist by May 2003. In the meantime, we put all but the most essential business, including all trail projects, on hold until we had a better idea of our future.

A Welcome Response

One-third of our membership responded, as well as a number from our email list, with a total of over 50 who said they could commit to areas ranging from newsletter editing to mail parties. Most importantly, over a dozen indicated they were interested in serving on the Board. An initial meeting of the Board potentials at the end of January showed a high level of enthusiasm and concern. After a lively discussion about the state of the TC and what it would take to get us back on our feet, nearly everyone in attendance wanted to join the Board and get to work.

The new Board members will serve as appointed members until the 2003 Annual Meeting election. They come from a variety of backgrounds and interests. Many, like David Kison, Dawn Woo and David Taylor, have been long-time TC supporters and volunteers. Others, like Aparna Kapur and Bruce Hartsough, who are taking on member services, are new to the TC.

Trail Projects and other committees are also getting a much-needed infusion of new energy. Long-time Projects member Bob Kelly has resigned as school and other obligations take priority, but many others have stepped forward to take his place and expand the committee. Likewise, the Newsletter, Membership and Finance

committees have new, enthusiastic members and are no longer the sole provinces of Board member Scott Heeschen (much to his relief!). Although Mapping is currently on hold while we get the other parts of the organization back on their feet, many people expressed interest in volunteering for future TC map projects.

The Trail Ahead

The next few months will be a time of transition. The new Board and committee members bring fresh ideas and approaches, but may not have all the necessary experience. The old Board and committee members will be working hard to train and impart all the unwritten knowledge that informs TC leadership. Some of the changes planned or underway include:

- A more regular newsletter publication schedule (at a more manageable length)
- Better response time for membership applications and renewals
- Improved volunteer relations
- Greater volunteer and membership recruitment efforts at events
- A fully stocked and current Map Source
- An updated website
- Expanded responsibility for managing trail projects from beginning to end
- Revitalized crew leader training and apprenticeship program

We have also set up a full schedule of trail events for the coming months (see Trail Center Notes and back cover) and look forward to a major project in Portola Redwoods State Park. We'll note details and additional developments in the upcoming newsletters.

“The Land” Lives On: Exploring the Heritage of the Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

by Elizabeth de Rham

In the sunny splendor of an incredible Saturday morning, I was ecstatic to be off campus and winding up Page Mill Road to explore the history of Monte Bello Open Space Preserve. As a busy and careless freshman at Stanford, I hadn't managed to get out and into the hills at all. With each breathtaking view following a sharp turn or crest in the road, I felt increasingly grateful that I finally had the chance meet the real landscape of my new home.

The preserve, located southwest of Palo Alto, encompasses 2,750 acres of the upper Stevens Creek Watershed from Monte Bello Ridge to Skyline Ridge in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Since 1977, the preserve has been owned by the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) and now offers about fifteen miles of trails, open to the public for explorations on foot, bike, or horseback. Before 1977, however, the land was privately owned and from around 1969 until the purchase, it supported a community of people who were participating in an extended experiment in harmonious living. Striving to live as lightly as possible on the land and maintain a peaceful, loving, practically self-sufficient community, they saw themselves as caretakers of the beautiful mountainside that they came to call “The Land.”

The last four miles of upper Page Mill Road was populated by a great extended community who lived in clusters with names such as Black Mountain, Rancho



Diablo, Earth Ranch, and of course the original cluster, The Land. About a mile down the road from the head of Canyon Trail, Mark Schneider welcomed me to the only remaining cluster of houses, called Struggle Mountain. Mark joined the community in 1971, lived there until The Land was purchased by MROSD in 1977, and then moved back in 1986 to the Struggle Mountain property that he and others had managed to buy in 1976. The cozy little kitchen where we sat drinking tea had initially belonged to Joan Baez. In the late sixties the owner of the land, Donald Eldridge was looking for someone to take care of the property. He called on Baez and Ira Sandperl, co-founders of the Institute for the Study of Non-Violence, and soon after they moved up to the ridge.

Migration to The Land

The people who migrated to The Land came from all over the place, disillusioned because of the Vietnam War, violence in cities, governmental repression, and the lack of environmental and global consciousness in society as a whole. They came seeking a space in which they could thrive, as close to the earth as possible and free from the restrictions and conventional authority of the government. They built their community so that it would blend into the landscape, basing the few regulations of their society around principles of non-violence towards one another and the environment. Using recycled material, they constructed homes beneath the heavy thickets of oak, madrone, and bay trees that line the tributaries of the Stevens Creek watershed. Electricity never spread further than the

few original buildings next to the road, they maintained communal organic gardens and had established guidelines to protect the ecosystem services that they observed in their surroundings.

Into the early 1960s, the only structures on the property were the original ranch house on Page Mill Road – situated immediately to the left as you stand looking south towards the ridges from the trailhead – and a large tin barn. The community began in and around the “Big House,” but by 1971 the overflow had begun to spread out into the “Backlands,” with residents living in teepees and tents until wooden structures were completed. Eldridge, who had bought the land in 1968, felt that they didn’t mar the natural setting and essentially served as valuable caretakers of his property.

At that point, in the early seventies, there were only 13 other houses on the hill, and though there were property lines, rarely were they heeded or boundaries enforced. “Yeah, people were trespassing all over the place,” said Mark. Court, another early inhabitant of The Land now living at Struggle Mountain. He related a story about a couple who began living in an abandoned chicken shed on one of the landowners’ property and, when discovered, were simply asked for a little rent and then left alone.

Human and Natural Changes

They explained that the actual landscape has changed very little; the primary changes were just those resulting from the passage of time. As we walked along Canyon Trail, Mark pointed to a particular beloved tree is showing signs of age. Each winter’s storms and the ever-dynamic San Andreas Fault are constantly reshaping the gully where one of their friends’ had once built a six-sided dwelling. A little further down the path, which they called “Swamp Drive” for the wetland area on one side and its frequently muddy dips and turns, Mark pointed out that the majority of the present trails were cut

along pre-existing ones that they and others before them had used. The Bella Vista Trail is a new scar marring the beautiful curves of the Monte Bello Ridge but it makes for an incredible hike that affords amazing views of the surrounding area.

Despite Mark and Court’s estimation to the contrary, as we walked and found the former site of the cook shack or a friend’s house, I realized there has been significant change. Where there was once a cook shack, there’s now a sunny clearing, where there was once two-story dwelling under a gnarled tree along a creek, there’s now a secret spot whose shadows beckon a glance from the trail. With most traces of the small, low-impact community disappearing, the area surely feels very different and certainly wilder than in its heyday.

I asked about changes in the animal life and patterns of local species, but Mark and Court were less certain about those differences. They thought they’d noticed an increase in animals like coyotes, fox, and deer, but were unsure of exactly what may have caused that rise in populations. During The Land era, the ground squirrels had “a field day” as a result of rich scavenging in the humans’ wake, but they said that the squirrel population had since subsided to normal levels.

From Commune to Open Space Preserve

In 1974 the owner of the property, Donald Eldridge, and the previous owner, Mrs. Alyce Lee Burns, disagreed over the terms of their payment contract after regional downsizing and re-zoning changed the status of property values and land rights. A series of lawsuits followed in which Mrs. Burns held a foreclosure sale on the untitled holdings at the property, bought them back, and began to look for buyers. In January 1977 she began negotiations with MROSD, which had been created in 1972 for the purpose of creating a regional greenbelt of open space lands in order to permanently preserve the

natural scenery surrounding mid-peninsula communities. In March MROSD agreed to buy the land, but required that the occupants be evicted. In August 1977 the courts upheld Mrs. Burns’ claim to the land and ruled in favor of the eviction of all occupants from the property.

During his recounting of the legal struggles, Mark was careful to note that The Land had supported the formation of the Open Space District and their goal of preserving the vast greenbelt around the growing metropolitan area. When it became clear that they would be forced to leave their homes, tension arose because they didn’t agree that their experimental community was necessarily detrimental to that goal.

Although the displacement of The Land inhabitants was unfortunate, I could appreciate the fact that MROSD’s appropriation of the area had allowed for many more people to enjoy the beautiful space. The new trails, improved road access, and regulation of the area that came after the acquisition have made it possible to get into the mountains quickly and easily. In addition, the purchase prevented further development on the ridge, limiting the luxury homes that surely would have sprung up, bringing with them the elements of increased human population that are thankfully absent as one looks out from trailhead. Could all this have been accomplished without evicting the people of The Land? Even in hindsight, the choices weren’t easy. Though The Land is long gone, its hills have been preserved so that the greater community of the area can continue to experience and appreciate a magic of a truly beautiful place.

Elizabeth de Rham is a Stanford student, Class of 2005, originally from Portland Oregon. She will probably be studying Anthropological Sciences and Spanish, with an emphasis on Environment and Populations



Bay Area Trail Books Review

By Don DeBold

Introduction

With such a wealth of outdoor adventures in the San Francisco Bay Area, it is no surprise that we have a number of good hiking guides available. The books differ in the range of locations covered, the amount of background information and natural history they provide, and the quality of the hike descriptions, maps and photographs. These books can be divided into 2 categories.

The first category consists of hiking books that focus on a small region, providing a significant amount of background information, and frequently describing multiple hikes at each location. The books in this category are: *The Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Book*, *South Bay Trails*, and *Peninsula Trails*.

Books in the second category try to cover a larger region, provide lesser background information, and rarely describe more than one hike per location. The titles of these books inevitably include the number of hikes covered. These books also tend not to limit the hikes described to "off road" trails, but may also include descriptions of walks in neighborhoods, for example. The books in this category are: 12 Short Hikes-South Bay San Francisco Bay Area, 101 Great Hikes of the San Francisco Bay Area, and 101 Hikes in Northern California.

In general I preferred books in the first category to the second because of the greater amount of information provided and the inclusion of multiple hike descriptions per location.

Trail Book Rating System:

I adopted a simple system for rating the books giving each a score of from 1 to 3 hikers:

- Doesn't turn me on: 
- Recommended: 
- Highly Recommended: 

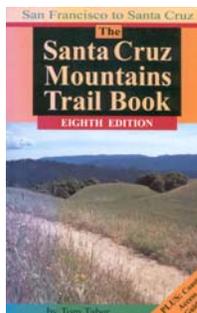
Where to find Bay Area Trail Books

Most of these books are available locally at independent booksellers such as Kepler's Books, major book retailers such as Barnes & Noble and Borders, and outdoor retailers including REI, as well as online directly from Amazon and other sources. You will also find many of them at your local public library and at the Acterra Environmental Library (www.acterra.org).

The Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Book, 8th Edition

Overall Rating: 

Written by Tom Traber. (223 pages, \$12.95, published by The Oak Valley Press, 1998. ISBN: 0-9609170-6-3). Covers 71 locations in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



This book has a long history. Now in its 8th edition, the first edition was published in 1976. It is a pleasant guide to a variety of hiking experiences in the Bay Area. For each location the author begins by describing the historical significance and general environment. He then describes one or two suggested hikes, pointing out landmarks and some items of interest. Some of the trail descriptions are pretty brief. I would have preferred more detail. Driving directions (too vague in some cases), a decent map, a photograph, and contact information, dog, equestrian and bike access information are provided for most locations. There is no consistent trail-rating scheme provided with each hike description (no elevation gains or difficulty ratings), but trail specifications are provided in an appendix. I really enjoyed the special sections covering a wide range of topics including the legend of Mountain Charlie, the biology of the banana slug, how to avoid getting poison oak, and coastal access. I found this a very interesting book to read.

South Bay Trails - Outdoor Adventures in & around the Santa Clara Valley, 3rd Edition

Overall Rating: 

Written by Jean Rusmore, Frances Spangle, and Betsy Crowder. (310 pages, \$16.95, published by Wilderness Press, 2001. ISBN: 0-89997-118-0) Covers 100+ hikes in 32 locations in the South Bay from Gilroy to Newark.

The book begins with an introduction to the geography natural history of the south bay. For each location the authors provide an overview, covering the history of the area and a general description, as well as a summary of jurisdiction, facilities, park rules, relevant maps and how to get there. One or more hikes in each area are described in detail. Header data for each hike includes a short summary of the hike, distance, estimated time, and elevation gain. I really like the background the authors provide for the area. The hints on things to look for are wonderful. For example, for a hike through Alum Rock Park in San Jose, the authors help you locate and identify remnants of the narrow gauge railroad that once brought visitors to this park. You can tell the authors really love the bay area and want the reader to share somewhat the experience they had. Good maps (including an overview map showing the location of each hike) and good hiking directions - not too much detail, but enough to keep you on track. An appendix helps you choose a hike based on a theme such as "Spring Flowers", "Expeditions" (long hikes), or "Children's Outings". This book is very pleasant to read, and is especially good for those who love to hike bay area trails as a means of learning about and experiencing our outdoor treasures and natural history.

Peninsula Trails, 3rd Edition

Overall Rating: 

Written by Jean Rusmore, Frances Spangle, and Betsy Crowder. (304 pages, \$14.95, published by Wilderness Press, 1997. ISBN: 0-89997-197-0) Covers 151 hikes in 70 locations on the SF Peninsula, including coastal areas.

Written by the same authors (Rusmore, Crowder and Spangle) as "South Bay Trails", "Peninsula Trails" is similar in organization and style. This book covers trails in parks, preserves and beaches from San Francisco to Southern San Mateo County. An interesting introduction

provides an overview of the natural history of the Santa Cruz Mountains and bay area, early inhabitants of the area, and activities that shaped the area as we know it today (farming, ranching, logging). The introduction also covers the basics of trail building, trail etiquette and safety, and other topics. An appendix gives a cross reference of the hikes by theme. For each location the authors provide a general description of the area, a good quality map, a summary of facilities, rules and driving directions. Most areas include at least one black and white photo. Following the location information are detailed descriptions of one or more hikes in the area. Summary information on distance, elevation gain and estimated time are provided for each hike. As in the South Bay Trails book, the best parts of this book are the "trail notes" that describe the hikes, points of interest to look for, and provide interesting historical facts about the area. Again, the authors' love of the bay area comes through. I highly recommend this guide.

12 Short Hikes - South Bay San Francisco Bay Area, 1st Edition

Overall Rating: 

Written by Nancy Salcedo. (30 pages, \$4.95, published by Chockstone Press, 1997, ISBN: 1-57540-019-7) Covers 12 hikes on the SF Peninsula from San Bruno to San Jose.

This small book focuses on 12 short hikes (5 miles or less) from San Bruno to San Jose. I liked the well-organized, step-by-step descriptions of the hikes, good directions to get to trailhead, the quick summary of each hike in section headers (trail length, time, elevation change, drive time), and elevation profile graphs. However, this book is pretty minimalist and not much information provided about landmarks, points of interest or the flora and fauna. Instead of traditional maps it includes poor aerial photos of the area with the path of the trail overlaid on top.

They are not very useful to the hiker. Unlike all the other books reviewed, there is also no overview map showing the general location of the hikes described. The biggest plusses of this book are that it is inexpensive and easy to carry with you.

101 Great Hikes of the San Francisco Bay Area

Overall Rating: 

Written by Ann Marie Brown. (318 pages, \$15.95, published by Foghorn Outdoors, 2000. ISBN: 1-57354-068-4) Covers 101 hikes in the Bay Area South to Aptos and North to Calistoga.

This is a basic book that dispenses with most of the detailed background information and natural history that are predominant features of the Rusmore/Spangle/Crowder series. A clear overview map shows the location of each hike. This book provides good descriptions of the trails themselves, and the features to look for. The header for each hike provides directions to the trailhead, a quick summary of distance and estimated hike duration, elevation change, a quality and a difficulty rating. Graphic icons also provide a quick overview of trail features such as waterfalls, wildlife viewing, and panoramic views. A simple map of the trail is included with most, but not all hikes. Brown provides detailed trail descriptions that should enable you to complete the hike even without a detailed map. An appendix provides a cross reference of the best locations for peak vistas, waterfalls, wildlife and bird watching, wildflower displays, etc. Like other books that cover a wide range, it provides descriptions of only one hike per location.

101 Hikes in Northern California - Exploring Mountains, Valleys, and Seashore, 1st Edition

Overall Rating: 

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Bay Area Trail Books Review (cont.)

Written by Matt Heid. (272 pages, \$16.95, published by Wilderness Press, 2000, ISBN: 0-89997-257-8) Covers 101 hikes in all of California north of San Luis Obispo.

This is a well-organized book that lists 101 different hikes throughout northern California. As with the other books that cover a wide range, it only describes one or in some cases two hikes for each location. An overview map makes it easy to locate the hikes in your area. Of all the books reviewed this one provided the most complete summary information for each hike - a quick glance at the header of each hike description summarizes the location, highlights, distance, elevation gain, hiking time, difficulty, best times, and appropriate topographic map. Directions on how to reach the trailheads were clear and complete. I enjoyed the hike descriptions that included landmarks, points of interest, historical tidbits and advice (e.g. "fill your water bottles here"). A feature not seen in the other books reviewed is that distance from trailhead and elevation information is given for landmarks along the way. I didn't care much for the trail maps, which consisted of sections of topographic maps with trails outlined, but no landmarks or points of interest marked.

Don DeBold is a Bay Area native with strong interests in astronomy, photography, and hiking the parks of South San Jose. His day job is the Operations Director of hpshopping.com.

Trail Center Notes

Upcoming Events

We will be working primarily in the State Parks this year. With budget cuts, our efforts are more valuable than ever. During the first half of the year, we'll concentrate on Portola Redwoods State. For our major project, we will reroute the Iverson Trail, which has been closed due to severe storm damage since 1998. The repaired trail will have to bypass a great many big trees blew down and even the less damaged sections need repair. We expect to complete this project by mid-summer.

Moving coastside and north, we'll work in McNee Ranch State Park to repair the Gray Whale Cove Trail in May and then Old Pedro Road when we finish at Portola. We are currently setting up the schedule for the remainder of the year. Please subscribe to our email newsletter, Trail Center News & Upcoming Events to be notified for new dates or check our website.

Crew Leader Training

Congratulations to Bill Henzel, our newest Crew Leader! Bill is a longtime volunteer and supporter. Bill graduated during this year's project at Arastradero Preserve and is a welcome addition to the Crew Leader ranks after putting in many events as a trainee.

Congratulations also to Alex Fabrikant and David Alderman, who both joined our apprenticeship program this year. Alex has been a great volunteer and recruiter for the past two years. His recruiting efforts among friends and fellow Electrical Engineering and Computer Science students at UC Berkeley have meant we were able to complete a project on time more than once. David has also been an active volunteer, particularly on the Gazos Creek project and recently joined the TC Board.

Outreach Coordinator Amy Morris Steps Down

Amy Morris, who began as our Outreach Coordinator in Spring 2001, stepped down this fall after a year and half of outstanding service. A new job and other responsibilities made it difficult to continue, but she looks forward to helping out for special events such as Earth Day and National Trails Day. We have all appreciated her work with our volunteers, including fielding many, many emails about our various events, and critical help in coordinating some of our bigger events. Thank you, Amy!

Welcome to Our New Outreach Assistant

Lisa Wong, like many of our volunteers, found us through VolunteerMatch (www.volunteermatch.org). She is a pharmacist working in San Francisco and took on the role of Outreach Assistant to manage the TC's incoming phone messages. With Amy's departure, we doubly appreciate the help. Thanks, Lisa!

Keeping the Map Source Stocked

Doug Hester is an avid hiker and has been managing the Trail Center Map Source since summer 2002. By the time he joined us, he had covered all the trails in all the parks in Santa Clara County (sometimes putting in 30 miles at a time) and was working his way north along the crest of the Santa Cruz Mountains. With all his travels, he is very familiar with both the trails and the maps. Doug has also volunteered to be the TC's trail answer source and welcomes any questions regarding particular trails and parks at trail-info@trailcenter.org. Thanks, Doug!

Notes from Afield: Sonoma

In the North Bay, a scenic 5,000-acre parcel belonging to the Mendocino Redwood Co., a logging company, is now open to hikers, bicyclists and equestrians seasonally by permit. The Willow Creek property, near the mouth of the Russian River, has long been eyed by open space, environmental and trails advocates. Although Sonoma County's population has grown rapidly over the past few decades, the area lacks the recreational access enjoyed by residents of much of the greater Bay Area who benefit from such organizations as POST, MROSD, East Bay Regional Park District, and strong county park systems. Willow Creek, roughly equal in size with the heavily used Anadel State Park above Santa Rosa, is nearly adjacent to the Sonoma Coast State Beach at Pomo Camp. Although no connections currently exist, both Mendocino Redwood and the state parks

department are interested in discussing future links.

Mendocino Redwood (a holding company controlled by the Fisher family of San Francisco, owners of the Gap, Banana Republic and Old Navy) acquired the land from Louisiana Pacific and was recently certified as practicing sustainable forestry from the Forest Stewardship Council, an international trade group. Although some critics feel that any logging will further degrade an ecosystem heavily impacted by decades of mediocre logging practices, Mendocino Redwoods claims that it will address the problems it inherited from L-P and will be logging only a small portion of the property. The Western Watershed Alliance, formed to protect the Willow Creek watershed, intends to monitor Mendocino Redwood's mitigation projects. \$200,000 of Proposition 13 money will fund extensive restoration efforts on

Willow Creek by a broad-based partnership led by the non-profit Stewards of Slavianka, and including Mendocino Redwoods.

If you are going to Sonoma County and wish to visit this scenic area with sweeping views of western Sonoma County and the Russian River, you can obtain a permit (spring and summer only) by contacting Michelle Whitman, (707) 874-2305 or email Whitman@netdex.com. Read, fill out, sign and return the liability waiver to get gate combinations. You must carry the permit on your person and display the parking permit on your vehicle when on the property.

[Information from "New Path" by George Lauer, *The Press Democrat* (Santa Rosa, CA), Aug. 9, 2001]

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 \$40 \$60 \$100 \$250 \$1000

Membership and contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by the 501(c)(3) law. Employers will often match funds. Does yours? Please ask.

Please make checks payable to: Trail Center.

I Would Like to Volunteer:

Crew Leader

Fundraising

Fundraising

Publicity/Tabling

Map Making

Web

Trail Building/Maintenance

Fundraising

Office

Newsletter

(Photography, Writing, Editing)

Other: _____

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

Please return to :

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

The Trail Center at Work: Construction and Maintenance

Woodrat Trail, Arastradero Preserve, February 9 and Oct. 26, 2002

We had expected to begin work on reopening an old trail in Stanford's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve in early spring, 2002, but due to a study of erosion into Searsville Lake, as well as a chaparral succession study, we returned to Arastradero Preserve to do a one-year follow-up on our 2001 Woodrat Trail (formerly Acorn Trail) reroute. Wet ground conditions limited our effectiveness in some stretches, but we managed to improve two of the switchbacks and complete the upper connection to the old trail, as well as many minor improvements all along the route.

The City of Palo Alto hired Dennis Smith, a trail contractor from Oregon, to do a variety of projects throughout the Preserve, including additional work on Woodrat in October, 2002, in partnership with the Trail Center. With a good turnout, the crews helped prepare two of the wettest stretches of the trail for gravel turnpikes, as well as touchups to several other stretches. Despite some serious logistical problems, the result has been encouraging and should allow the trail to reopen sooner for the dry months. Dennis closed the old trail for good and the scar is well on its way to restoration.

Thank you to everyone who worked on the Woodrat Trail: Dave Croker, Tim Oren, Alex Fabrikant, Dave Kison, Pat Oren, Scott Heeschen, Bill Henzel, Alan Ross, Rich Allsop, Justin Knowles, Geoffrey Skinner (Crew Leaders & Trainees); David Smernoff, Miles Hopkins, Peter Colby, Jane Kos, Eric Klinker, Kate Kaczmarek, Emily Kaczmarek, Jeff Kaczmarek, John Kaczmarek, Aaron Beverly, Bobby Shaw, Judith Weiss, Denise Gilbert, Abe

Epperson, Natalie Battle, Nicholas Chen, Wonsop Sim, Sangha Han, Dan Kuo, Aaron Jow, Allen Tsao, Francis Hsu, Gagan Prakash, Deborah Rodriguez, Jessica Gallagher, Zeneida Granados, Michael Jurka, TJ Ciglenjak, David Alderman, Kathyne Mulvaney, Stacy Renteria.

Woodland Star Trail, Arastradero Preserve, March 9, April 21, May 8 and 15, 2002

We followed up our spring Woodrat Trail improvements with our final Arastradero reroute project on Woodland Star Trail (also formerly Acorn Trail) in the northwest corner of the Preserve. This ambitious reroute replaced several hundred feet of steep and badly rutted trail below the Meadowlark Trail intersection near Gate C. Approval from the biologists and the City of Palo Alto came in late

winter after a biological survey revealed no endangered plants or animals on the route and we began work on March 10 in partnership with the Arastradero habitat restoration volunteers (including a large contingent from Palo Alto's Scout Troop 5), led by Karen Cotter.

While trail crews cleared poison oak, prepared a culvert crossing, and closed off an unwanted trail next to the boundary fence, the habitat restoration crews transplanted dozens of ferns and soaproot plants from the new trail route into the old boundary trail to both save the plants and speed along the closure. We had about 25 feet of new trail by the end of the day, as well as a nearly completed culvert. The poison oak crew managed to clear nearly all of the noxious vines, but at the cost of one member coming down with a nasty rash. Eric Larsen estimated he had nearly 200 square inches (!) affected and no



*Grassland trail blazers – Woodland Star Trail, Arastradero Preserve, April 21, 2002
Photo by Geoffrey Skinner.*

longer believes he's not sensitive. Fortunately, no one else had more than a few itchy spots.

We completed the bulk of the project on Earth Day, April 21, with a 65-person turnout. Despite hot weather, we had completed about 1200 feet of the roughly 1300-foot reroute. Izzy's Brooklyn Bagels and Hobee's California Restaurants (both of Palo Alto) donated bagels and coffeecake for Earth Day, respectively, to help get the day started. A great lunch set up by Outreach Coordinator Amy Morris and (now former) board member Priscilla McGee fueled volunteers for the afternoon. We were also pleased to announce volunteer (and recruiter extraordinaire) Alex Fabrikant's promotion to Crew Leader Trainee and give him his red Trainee bandana.

Two evening sessions in early May in conjunction with the Arastradero Stewardship Project's Wednesday Evening Weed Warriors were needed to finish up the remaining sections. Since the trail didn't have the customary winter to settle in before full use, some areas held up less well than we had hoped, but the old trail was immediately closed and Dennis Smith, the trail contractor, began restoration efforts in the fall. We expect the tread to be in much better shape once the trail reopens after this year's seasonal closure and minor repairs are made.

Thanks to everyone who made this project a success! Bill Henzel, Scott Heesch, Alan Ross, Rich Allsop, Darwin Poulos, Alex Fabrikant, Tim Oren, Pat Oren, Geoffrey Skinner (crew leaders & trainees); Karen Cotter and David "Tex" Houston, (Arastradero Preserve Stewardship Project), Michele Wagner and City of Palo Alto Open Space Rangers, Sue Winslow and Palo Alto Scout Troop 5, Randy Farmer, Robert Farmer, Eric Larsen, John O. Miller, David Waylonis, Charles Eubanks, Jonah Berger, Judy Doi, Loren Alegria, Rich Toste, Cindy Russell, David Smernoff, Lisa Smernoff, Ivona Vogelsang, Daniel Rumenik, Anna Kim, Carrie Cornwall, Linda Wilde, Jane Kos, Parag

Shah, Christine Lee, Jane Weber, Jessica Beard, Barbara Curlette, Ted Macintosh, Tirumal Panganamala, Valerie Wang. [Note: our list is unfortunately incomplete – apologies to anyone who was inadvertently omitted!]

Gazos Creek Trail Project, June 1 (National Trails Day), July 13, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, and Dec. 7, 2002

After eleven workdays spanning nearly a year and a half, we celebrated the completion of our Gazos Creek Trail project on Dec. 7, 2002. We began the 0.8 mile-long project of improving a narrow existing trail in future parklands along Gazos Creek (near Pescadero) on July 14, 2001. For our first workday, we made preparations for our first footbridge. Two bridges, hundreds of feet of retaining walls, several yellowjacket nests, and roughly 140 volunteers later, we declared the trail done and cut a length of flagging to mark our success. Highlights included:

- Our wettest (and quickest) trail survey day ever on Memorial Day weekend as we prepared for this season's events
 - Joining thousands of volunteers around the nation on trail projects and celebrations for the ninth annual National Trails Day with a challenging reroute above our second bridge (made even more challenging by the four yellowjacket nests near the bridge).
 - Cookouts at the Pescadero Conservation Alliance's Field Research Station.
 - Two BIG buses maneuvering up the narrow and winding Gazos Road to deposit a large group of college prep students at the trailhead on July 13.
 - An enthusiastic turnout from the Bay Area Williams College alumnae on Sept. 14
 - Jockeying several large, downed trees out of the trail on Sept. 14 and several more on Dec. 7
- To everyone involved in this trail project, including the Pescadero Conservation Alliance, Hobee's California Restau-

rants (coffee cake donation) and Izzy's Brooklyn Bagels (bagel donations), we want to say THANK YOU!! To everyone — including those who haven't seen the trail in a while — we urge you to check it out next time you visit Butano or Año Nuevo State Parks.

Great work, volunteers! Alex Fabrikant, Scott Heesch, Dave Croker, Dave Kison, Bill Henzel, Cathy Sewell, Pat Oren, Tim Oren, Geoffrey Skinner, Katherine Thomas (crew leaders and trainees); Sandy Venning, Bill Warburton, Joey Hansell, Peter Crigger, Robert Gari, Priscilla McGee, Phil Carrol, Peter Nevin, Caedmon Cahill, Ed Alderman, David Alderman, Artem Tkachenko, Aqeel Mahesri, Alan Sheih, Dan Kuo, Jonee Duffield, Judy Geer, Gagan Prahasu, Heather Young, Emilie Cortes, Pauline Seales, Kristen Burmester, Alex Burmester, Bill Brune, Vijay A. Parupalli, Jayanth Parupalli, John O Miller, Darren Corzine, Jeanne McArthur, Karen Li, Katherine Thomas, Mark Choi, Anthony Copioli, Kathleen Thurgate, Jason Tuenge, Stacy, Jennie Mollica, Grace Woo, Jesse Engelberg, Sean McAvoy, Melissa Perkins McAvoy, Darcy Ogden, Edie DeNiro, Anu Vuorikoski-Bullis, Suzanne Samuel, Carol Acker, Chris Acker, Charlie McNamara, Lauren Araiza, Charles Atkinson, Liz Shoemaker, Leila Jere, Greg Bronstein, Cabe Franklin, Bob Siegel, and Jay Steinman. [Apologies to anyone we missed]

Castle Rock Steps, June 30

If you make a trip to Castle Rock and visit the waterfall-viewing platform on the Saratoga Gap Trail, you'll see a beautiful, new set of steps constructed in part by a Trail Center volunteer crew last summer. Coordinated by Crew Leader Bill Henzel and under the leadership of State Park staff, the crew assembled the wood frames and hauled a large amount of rock and dirt fill. Thanks volunteers! Bill Henzel (crew leader), Bob Tracey, Dave Kison, David Alderman, Alan Ross, and six more (apologies for not getting all your names).

Upcoming Events

Earth Day Trail Construction – Portola Redwoods State Park

April 19, 2003 – Saturday

Gray Whale Cove Trail Maintenance – McNea Ranch State Park

May 10, 2003 – Saturday

National Trails Day – Portola Redwoods State Park

June 7, 2003 – Saturday

For directions and further information, email outreach@trailcenter.org, check www.trailcenter.org or call (650) 968-7065

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