



Trail Center News

Volunteers Since
1983
Spring 2016

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Letter from the President



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2015 Finishes Well, New Partnerships and Projects On Tap for 2016

Greetings! First, I want to express my apologies to you for sending out my 2015 summary so late. Sometimes one's real life slows down our volunteer efforts and early 2016 had more than its share. Nonetheless, I can report that 2015 was another great year for the Trail Center. We improved trails in a wide range of local state and county parks and spent three days working on re-routing a section of the Pacific Crest Trail in

Next Event



Saturday June 4

Portola Redwoods State
Park
Slate Creek and Summit
Trail - National Trails Day

[Volunteer Now](#)

[Project Details](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Already a Volunteer?
Become a
Trail Center Member!

The Trail Center is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, founded in 1983 and the volunteers who come out every month to build, re-route and maintain trails are the Trail Center's most valuable asset.

However, tools and work gloves and post-build snacks need to be purchased and other occasional expenses, such as trailer repair, need to be financed.

The Trail Center relies solely on membership fees and donations to meet these expenses.

If you have been volunteering with us for

Sierra Buttes. Access pictures of all our projects through the www.trailcenter.org website.

The year 2015 also represented the first ever dollar-for-dollar matching program for the Trail Center. Anyone who become a new member of the Trail Center before the end of the year or who was a renewing member who contributed any dollar amount above their past year's donation had that contribution matched. This opportunity was provided by a totally anonymous donor. The Trail Center expresses a special "Thank You" to this individual or individuals. Members donated generously and \$5,500 in matching funds were generated. All donations are used to directly support our work on the trails (tools, gloves, Tool Trailer maintenance, etc.) and to provide our volunteers with refreshing tailgate snacks at the end of each work day.

2016 started off with a series of rain delays but finally work began with a project in Junipero Serra Park, a San Mateo County Park nestled behind the cities of Millbrae and San Bruno. While small, this park offers panoramic views of the Bay Area. This was followed by a well-supported project on the Dean Trail in Huddart Park and a project in Sam McDonald Park.

Many exciting projects are under consideration for 2016. These include a new partnership with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) to build trails in its recently acquired Rancho Corral de Tierra property and/or perform repair work in Pflieger Estates near Huddart Park. The possibility of creating trails near the newly acquired Devil's Slide/San Mateo County Parks (SMCP) area is being discussed. Also being discussed with the SMCP is trail construction and repair in Quarry Park over on the coast, a park that has not benefited previously from our help. We hope to do more work in Portola Redwoods State Park and possibly build a small trail for the city of Los Altos. Finally, there is a good chance that the Trail Center will return to Sugar Loaf Mountain in San Mateo this fall to build a new trail that would connect with the our recently constructed Amphitheater Trail. Stay tuned to trailcenter.org for updates.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered in 2015. We hope to see everyone helping us build and maintain trails as 2016 unfolds.

David Taylor
President of the Board, Trail Center

Volunteer Spotlight on Kathy Diamond

awhile, please consider taking the next step and becoming a member -- for the modest fee of \$35 per year -- or making a donation of any amount.

[Donate](#)



Quick Links





Kathy Diamond is without a doubt one of the Trail Center's most enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. In addition to rarely ever missing one of the Trail Center's monthly workdays, Kathy serves as the volunteer coordinator for the Trail Center, is a member of the Projects Committee, serves as one of the providers for the refreshments served at the end of each volunteer workday and is a big promoter of the Trail Center everywhere she goes.

In this interview Kathy tells us a bit about herself and her history with the Trail Center.

How long have you been volunteering for the Trail Center?

6 1/2 years, since December 2009

What motivated you to volunteer for the Trail Center in the first place?

I met Carla Schoof, the volunteer coordinator for SM County Parks Foundation, when setting up service learning for my Biology students at the College of San Mateo. Since 2008 I have "adopted" Junipero Serra County Park for my general biology students, and two to five sections of students work one day each semester with the park rangers doing any unskilled labor they need. It has been a wonderful benefit for students, who bond with each other and feel they've done something good for the community while learning a bit of field Biology, and the park, whose rangers appreciate our work.

Carla told me about the Trail Center when I told her I was looking for a way to get on the trails without a hiking partner. I volunteered and first worked at San Bruno Mountain with Dave Croker as my crew leader and never looked back!

What keeps you coming back?

I started trail work because I figured it didn't matter if the people were friendly or interesting (because in some hiking groups they aren't) since I would just be working and enjoying being outside and giving back to the trails I love to hike. Turns out trail volunteers are the MOST friendly, interesting, and fun to boot! I've made some great friends through the Trail Center. I've found out about great new places to hike. Also it turns out I don't get hurt or sore or bored by trail work, which is what I expected to happen before I tried it.

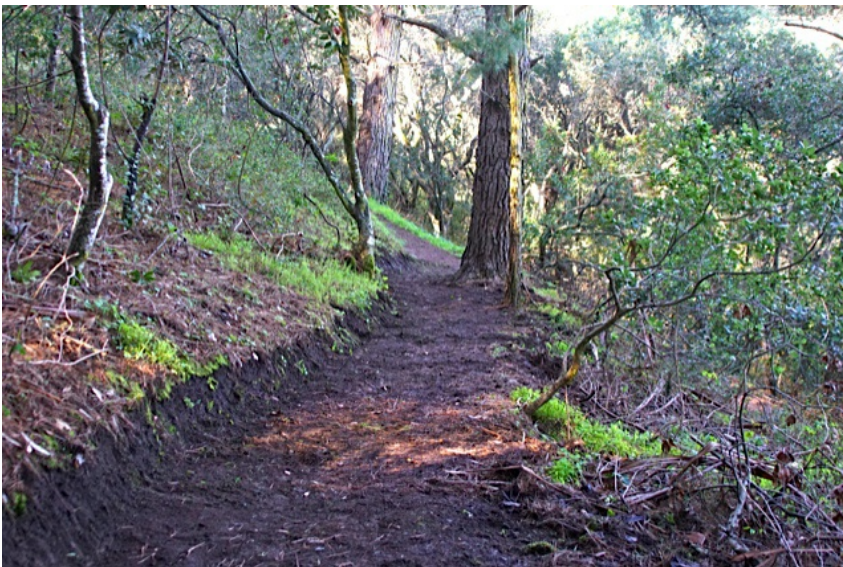
Tell us a bit about you.

I've been teaching biology at the College of San Mateo for 25 years (full time for 15); love the students, love the college, love my work. I love to hike, camp (especially in the Sierra), garden (major native wildflower bloom going on in my yard right now). I gobble chocolate and novels daily. Both of my kids have turned into major hikers and backpacker/campers.

Why would you encourage others to volunteer with the Trail Center?

It's fun, but watch out, it's addictive!

2016 Winter/Spring Projects Review



Junipero Serra Park, February 2016

After being rained out in January volunteers reconvened in February to improve a connector trail between San Bruno City Park and Junipero Serra Park.





Huddart Park, March & May 2016

In March and May Trail Center volunteers made major repairs on the popular Dean Trail in Huddart Park, which is used by hikers, runners and equestrians. The work included fixing drainage and gulleys and tread.





Sam MacDonald Park, April 2016

On the April workday Trail Center volunteers re-routed a trail in Sam MacDonald Park and also built a retaining wall.

Other Upcoming Projects

- [June 4](#) - Portola Redwoods State Park - National Trails Day
- [June 25](#) - Sam MacDonald County Park

Consult TrailCenter.org for the most current information.

Email Volunteer@trailcenter.org to sign up for a particular project.