



Trail Center News

Volunteers Since
1983
Winter 2017

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President's Message



Judd Volino, New TrailCenter President

As the new president of the Trail Center Board of Directors, I have some big shoes to fill. During David Taylor's long tenure as board president, the Trail Center accomplished major projects on trails in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and also on the Pacific Crest Trail. For a number of summers we have taken crews to do several days of trail maintenance on the PCT in the Sonora Pass and Ebbett's Pass area and, for the past two years, worked on a PCT re-route in the Sierra Buttes area.

As we look ahead to 2017, we will continue to build on our relationships with local land management agencies and hope to develop relationships with other agencies as well. We have re-vamped our website, added two members to our existing board -- Eva Franko and Karl Mosgofian -- and we have a strong line-up of projects for our monthly workdays.

There may be some of you who would like to support the Trail Center through a donation of time but, for various reasons, aren't interested in the physical labor we do on the work days. Since we are an all volunteer organization, we are always in need of people who can work behind the scenes. Current specific needs include social media, web support, community outreach and production of this newsletter. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kathy Diamond, at volunteer@trailcenter.org if any of these opportunities are of interest to you.

This issue of the TC News will show you highlights from some of our projects during the last part of 2016 and also contains our workday calendar for the upcoming months.

Next Event



Saturday February 11

Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park - Fall Creek Unit
[Rain Date Feb 25]

[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.

I look forward to seeing you on a trail soon!

Judd Volino

President of the Board, Trail Center

Board President Profiles: Past & Present



David Taylor, Past President

Officially, David Taylor served as the Trail Center board president for 10 years, but for several years prior to that he was unofficially handling a lot of board leadership responsibilities. In fact, there probably isn't any Trail Center volunteer task that David hasn't had a hand in -- from being a workday volunteer to a crew leader and project supervisor to service on the board.

Thank you, David Taylor!

When and how did you get involved with the Trail Center?

As I recall, I saw an ad in a newspaper in 2001 for a project on Gazos Creek over near Pescadero. It was Sempervirens Fund land that they had recently acquired. I just decided to go out and check it out. I really liked the Trail Center President, Geoffrey Skinner (who now leads a trail organization in Sonoma), so I decided to do some more projects after that. I can't even remember what the second project was. A couple of years after that Dave Croker, Geoffrey and Scott Heeschen had a meeting to say that they were tired of being the project leaders, the trail leads and the board, so others needed to step forward. That's when my involvement with the board started.

What do you enjoy most about your affiliation with the Trail Center?

I think that I like interacting with the volunteers the best, especially when you really connect with someone and they become a "regular." However, it is also great exploring the parks and having that sense of accomplishment when you fix up a trail that was a mess to start with. I think those three things are key.

What has been your most memorable experience with the TC?

Fixing up trails in Edgewood Park has definitely been one of the highlights. It is close to where I live and we have really made significant repairs there -- and once we even spotted a rattlesnake!

If you have been volunteering with us for 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](#)



I am also pleased that while I was president we held two Crew Leader training events -- one in conjunction with the Mount Sutro Stewards in San Francisco -- which has made it possible for us to deploy more crews on large projects.

Finally, while I was serving as Board President the Trail Center updated its 30-year-old logo to be more contemporary and we developed a volunteer incentive program to include the Trail Center Hats and tee shirts that incorporated the new logo. The hats and shirts have proved a great success and have helped expand our cadre of regular volunteers.

Anything else you want people to know?

I think that it is so gratifying that in a time of constrained budgets that we can do so much to keep trails in the parks, especially San Mateo County Parks, safe and enjoyable. It makes it well worth the effort.



Judd Volino, Current President

Judd Volino has definitely been on the fast track with the Trail Center. After discovering the Trail Center quite by accident in 2013, Judd became a regular on monthly workdays, completed the training to become a crew leader, has worked with more seasoned volunteers to determine the routes for new trails and work out the details for various workdays, joined the Trail Center board and at the Annual Meeting last November he accepted the position of board president. Judd's answer to the first question in this brief profile makes it clear why the Trail Center is very grateful to Judd's dog and hiking companion.

When and how did you get involved with the Trail Center?

In June of 2013 I was Googling for trail information for Sugarloaf/Laurelwood Park (one of the few places I could legitimately hike with my dog) and a Trail Center announcement about an upcoming work day came up in the results. I had done some volunteer work removing invasive plants in parks and one session on a trail crew on the Appalachian Trail back east so this sounded like a good way to get involved here. On my first work day it was so hot at Sugarloaf that the

soles of my boots partially delaminated and we cut the loose parts off with a loppers.

What attracted you to trail work?

This may sound like a cliché, but I love doing hard work and seeing the tangible results at the end of the day. Of course, I'm also a hiker and I wanted to be a part of making sure the trails I get to enjoy are maintained.

What do you enjoy most about your affiliation with the Trail Center?

I like the chance to work with other people who are really dedicated to the trails and especially appreciate how lucky I've been to have good mentors who have shared their knowledge with me and allowed me to take a larger role.

Anything else you want people to know?

I want to encourage others who can make time to volunteer to help the Trail Center beyond the work days so we can sustain the organization and continue to ensure our trail system remains one of the foremost recreation assets in the Bay Area. Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Kathy Diamond, at volunteer@trailcenter.org and tell us what skills you can offer behind the scenes.

Workday Highlights: July - December 2016





Alum Rock Park, San Jose, December 3, 2016

The Trail Center ended 2016 with a huge turnout of volunteers to work on the Sycamore Switchbacks Trail in Alum Rock Park in San Jose.

Approximately 70 volunteers helped make the day a success, including 20 middle school students with four accompanying adults and 26 students from Santa Clara University. Three Trail Center crew leaders, Dave Croker, Woody Collins and Judd Volino, supervised under the direction of Bill Farrell who did an outstanding job planning and coordinating the workday with the San Jose City Parks and Recreation staff and rangers, who also provided invaluable onsite assistance.

Each crew had a similar scope of work: brushing, slough removal, definition of inside bench, repair of drain trenches and insloping at switchbacks, and fixing or adding drain dips as required. The work progressed up to Switchback 7, approximately 0.4 miles from the lower trailhead.

The Trail Center will be returning to
[Alum Rock Park on Earth Day on April 22, 2017!](#)



Bay Area Ridge Trail Service Day -- Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve, November 5, 2016

More than 40 volunteers plus six crew leaders, a project supervisor, three rangers and representatives from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, REI and the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council put in a productive day of work moving rock, fixing tread and generally cleaning up the Saratoga Gap Trail.

In advance of the workday, Project Supervisor Hank Magnuski worked closely with all the agencies involved and was responsible for coordinating the efforts of the crew leaders and volunteers on the day of the project. Crew leaders Lisa Jewett, Dave Croker, Aaron Heiber, Bill Farrell, Judd Volino and Woody Collins assured that all critical areas on the project list got attention and repair.

Of the six crews formed to address the work that was identified, two headed south from the staging point, two headed north from this point, and two started at the Charcoal Road trailhead and worked south.



**Portola Redwoods State Park Park/Pescadero Creek County Park
Upper Coyote Ridge Trail- October 8, 2016 and August 20, 2016**

Trail Center volunteer crews devoted two strenuous workdays in 2016 to removing low and high vegetation -- especially berry vines

and poison oak -- and slough and bringing back a more comfortable tread width throughout the Upper Coyote Ridge Trail that spans Portola Redwoods State Park and Pescadero Creek County Park. A combined total of 46 volunteers and six crew leaders, including six hardworking young men from San Mateo County's Camp Glenwood, worked to restore 1.3 miles of trail to make it more welcoming for hikers and reduce the potential for taking shortcuts that cause erosion.



Mount Ellen Nature Trail in San Mateo County's Memorial Park, September 10, 2016

Eighteen Trail Center volunteers spruced up the Mount Ellen Nature Trail in San Mateo County's Memorial Park. For a nature trail, it was quite challenging with steep sections and large roots obstructing the trail. Dave Taylor was the day's Trail Boss and he was assisted by Hank Magnuski, Judd Volino, and Larry Stites/Kathy Diamond as Crew Leaders. The effort focused on general trail maintenance. Plenty of duff and leaves had accumulated and needed to be removed. Roots had been exposed in considerable numbers and needed to be removed or "topped off." Volunteers also constructed a few drain diversions and decommissioned a temporary trail diversion around a location which had, until recently, had a large Douglas Fir blocking the trail.



Pacific Crest Trail near Sierra Buttes, July 28 - July 31, 2016

For the second consecutive year Trail Center volunteers joined crews from the American Conservation Experience (ACE) and technical advisors from the Pacific Crest Trail Association to assist with the multi-year project of re-routing a section of the PCT near Sierra Buttes. This year's Trail Center effort focused on stone work, building steps and a very long retaining wall.

This effort was part of a six-mile, multi-year project designed to move the Pacific Crest Trail from its current location on forest roads and private property where hikers have to dodge vehicular traffic, ATVs,

OHVs and mountain bikes to a new, scenic path east of the existing alignment. The opening of this segment is expected for the 2017 season. Funding is provided by the Pacific Crest Trail Association, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forest Foundation.

Other Upcoming Projects

- [Feb 11](#) - Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park - Fall Creek Unit
- [March 11](#) - Wunderlich County Park - Alambique Trail
- [April 22](#) - Alum Rock San Jose City Park - **Earth Day**

Consult TrailCenter.org for the most current information.

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