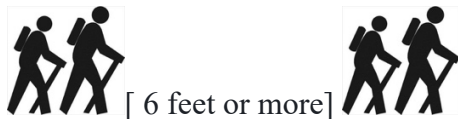




**From the Editor:** With Spring upon us, we look forward to stepping out of the shadow of the COVID-19 outbreak as case numbers are beginning to diminish. Trail Center has resumed workdays as of April, with details on those workdays, as well as those upcoming, in the following pages.



**From Trail Center Leadership:**

After over a year hiatus due to Covid-19, workdays have returned! Trail Center has developed detailed protocols and policies for workdays and we've identified projects that will allow for those to be followed. We may limit the number of participants for projects in the near term to a smaller than typical number as we learn how well our guidelines can be followed in the field. Thanks for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you out on the trails!

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**Introduction: Eva Franko**



We're pleased to introduce Eva Franko, a Trail Center Board member who has been with the organization for a number of years. In addition to serving on the Board, Eva lends her talents to the Trail Center by producing the Trail Center's newsletter. We'd like to give readers the chance to get to know Eva a little better. See below to find out more.

***How did you come to join the Trail Center, and how long have you been with us as a volunteer?***

I learned about Trail Center about 7 years ago from a friend who was a regular volunteer with the Trail Center. My first workday as a volunteer was in 2015 at Alum Rock Park. I was immediately hooked. I loved being outside, working with a friendly group to make immediate and long-lasting improvements to the trail.

***Where is your favorite place to hike locally?***

In the Bay Area, my go-to hiking is usually at Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve. One of the main reasons is that while the main trailhead is easily accessible from most places in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties, it's rarely been overly crowded. As of the last couple of years, locally means Flagstaff, Arizona. I'm fortunate to live about a quarter mile walk from the Campbell Mesa trail system that is within the Coconino National Forest – part of the largest contiguous ponderosa pine forest in the world. I'm up at Campbell Mesa at least four times a week hiking those trails.

***What has been your favorite workday project thus far?***

Without question, the work Trail Center has done at Coyote Point has been the most fun and rewarding. Over a series of weekends in the summer of 2017, Trail Center volunteers built a trail that included a set of steps down to the San Francisco Bay. For me, it was a great opportunity to increase my trail building skills while experiencing the satisfaction of leaving behind aesthetically pleasing improvements to a heavily used recreation area.

***What achievements are you proudest of from your time as a Board member and volunteer?***

As a volunteer, it would have to be the contribution made to the Bay Area community at Coyote Point mentioned above. As a member of the Board, I worked with other Board members to arrange the Crew Leader Training Days at the Djerassi Resident Artists property in Woodside in 2017. It felt great coordinating and participating in the education of upcoming crew leaders for Trail Center's volunteers.

***If you could choose any workday assignment — widening tread, brushing, drain work, etc. — what would it be and why?***

I really like brushing – opening up a trail corridor to its fullest potential. It's a way that I can make pretty immediate visible and functional improvements in the trail experience.

***What's something about the Trail Center that you wish more people knew?***

I wish more people knew that Trail Center welcomes volunteers regardless of trail building experience. When I first heard about the Trail Center, I was a little hesitant to volunteer as I had zero experience working trail. Trail Center has a number of veteran workday bosses, crew leaders and volunteer mentors who do an outstanding job of sharing their knowledge with new volunteers. Also, the Trail Center's safety and trail standards are among the highest I've seen from working on trail crews in other parts of California and Arizona.

***Anything you would like readers to know about you personally?***

I moved from the Bay Area to Flagstaff, Arizona at the end of 2018, and really miss working trail with the Trail Center. Before the Covid pandemic, I'd get back to the Bay Area a few times a year and try to coordinate those visits with Trail Center workdays. I'm looking forward to the next opportunity to be up in the Bay Area to reconnect with my Trail Center friends.

***Do you have a favorite tool to work with on workdays? If so, tell us why, and how the tool is generally used.***

As mentioned above, I love brushing. Loppers are a brusher's best friend. There's such a satisfying "snap" sound and feel when cutting a limb to open up a trail that's overgrown. Using the loppers correctly to position the deepest part of the blades around the wood to be cut and firmly pressing handles together to make that cut gets the job done. For a trail with lots of brush to be cleared, I'm a big fan of the bypass loppers. For spot jobs requiring less than .75" cutting diameter, I'm fond of my short-handled anvil loppers. I bring those along with my small folding saw on pretty much every workday ... "just in case".

## LOPPERS



Bypass loppers and anvil loppers are two-handed tools used for cutting of brush less than 2 inches in diameter. Those using loppers will need both hands to operate (unlike pruners) as the tool can have handles that range between 12 inches and 36 inches in length.

Bypass loppers offer a cleaner cut than the anvil type as one blade passes over another blade to make the cut, similar to scissors. With anvil loppers, the wood being cut is pressed between a single blade and a flat anvil-like surface to make the cut. Anvil loppers can have a tendency to crush rather than cut, depending on the user's technique and the material (e.g., fibrous branches vs. dead, dry wood).



(above: bypass loppers; right: Trail Center volunteer brushing with loppers)

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*If you're not yet a Trail Center member, please join now.  
See our website for details: <https://www.trailcenter.org/membership/>  
Trail Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit volunteer organization.*

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## Butano State Park's Candelabra Tree and Trails: The Trail Center's Role

As state and local parks and forest service officials continue to assess and remediate the damage from the CZU Lightning Complex fire in the Santa Cruz Mountains, one special part of the forest in Butano State Park has shown itself to be a model of resilience in nature: the aptly named "Candelabra Tree". The tree has been a "must see" destination in Butano State Park since the early 2000's. Two Trail Center crew leaders, Dave Croker and Hank Magnuski noticed the tree while surveying the trails in Butano Park in late 2003. Over the next few years, the development and maintenance of the trails in Butano State Park, and specifically the Candelabra Trail, became key projects for the Trail Center.

With the Candelabra Tree's tenacity to withstand the recent fire, it has been featured in both local and international news stories. The San Francisco Chronicle featured the tree in its November 28, 2020 article "Beloved Candelabra Tree emerges largely unscathed from CZU wildfires" (<https://www.sfchronicle.com/travel/article/Beloved-Candelabra-Tree-emerges-largely-15758095.php>). NOTE: Subscriber paywall).



The UK publication Globe and Mail featured the Candelabra Tree and some Trail Center history in its Christmas Day 2020 article, "California Candelabra Tree becomes symbol of hope and resilience after surviving wildfires (<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/world/article-california-candelabra-tree-becomes-symbol-of-hope-and-resilience-after/> Free initial view, then subscriber account required.)

Read on for a trip back in time to learn more about Trail Center's involvement in making this very special place more accessible to Bay Area hikers.

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*Reprinted from Summer 2006 Trail Companion Newsletter*

## Candelabra Redwood Trail Opens!

*By Hank Magnuski*

On June 3rd, 2006, the Trail Center celebrated National Trails Day by working on the last three problem sections of our Butano project. Thanks to the hard work of the 27 volunteers that participated in the trailbuild, we were able to complete these segments and declare the new trail "open for business" at the end of the day.

National Trails Day is sponsored by the American Hiking Society and approximately 1100 events were registered around the country for this first Saturday in June.

We had three main objectives for the day: bypassing a large blowdown on the upper section of the trail, creating new tread through the Redwood Flat, and making a connecting switchback so the lower access trail could join the mainline tread going to the Candelabra Tree.

Crew leaders Hank Magnuski and Justin Knowles went to the top of the hill and worked on the bypass and the Redwood Flat. Further down Tim Oren, Pat Oren, Scott Heesch and Frank Rowland tackled design and grading of the new switchback that connects the lower and upper sections.

In addition to these tasks, a lot of brushing, clearing and poison-oak



*Trail Center Volunteers celebrate the opening of the Candelabra Redwood Trail at Butano State Park. Photo by Hank Magnuski.*

removal was needed to open up overgrown patches of the trail. Dave Croker and his assistants handled most of these overgrown spots, making the passage easy for hikers. We also thank Ranger Michael Grant for bringing out his chain saw and removing a downed tree that was blocking the main tread.

By 3 pm all the critical tasks were complete and we gathered for a ribbon-cutting ceremony that marked the completion of two years of work at Butano.

The day ended with a BBQ prepared by Larry Stites (with the assistance of Cindy Jose) and the awarding of "trailhead prizes" provided

by the many sponsors of National Trails Day 2006.

None of this would have been possible, of course, without the many volunteers that have helped at Butano for the builds done since 2004. The Trail Center appreciates the time, energy and skills given to opening up this new resource.

This is a quiet, wooded, beautiful 1.5 mile trail with a fantastic old-growth Redwood as its centerpiece. All Trail Center members are invited to enjoy this major addition to Butano State Park.



*Reprinted from Summer 2006 Trail Companion Newsletter*



*View of the the top branches of the Candelabra Redwood, from the top of the main trunk. Photo by Francesca Bjorge, intrepid tree climber.*



*Volunteers at the May 13, 2006 build listen carefully to the safety talk given by Crew Leader Dave Croker. Photo by Ed Casper.*

## Photos from Butano Work Days



*Bill Bjorge dwarfed by the Candelabra Redwood. Photo by Francesca Bjorge.*



*The brave members of the Poison Oak Team (July 15, 2005). Photo by Ed Casper.*



*Look out poison oak - here comes Dave Croker! Photo by Ed Casper.*



*Volunteers Julia and Francesca make trail build lunch breaks a family affair. Photo by Ed Casper.*



*Volunteers at the September 10, 2005 build apply bug repellent in preparation for a productive work day. Photo by Ed Casper.*

**Trail Center Resumes Workdays!**



With a successful pilot workday on the Hostel Trail at Hidden Villa on April 10, 2021, a small group of Trail Center volunteers demonstrated that the Trail Center is well equipped, from a safety standpoint, to resume volunteer workdays on local trails. The leadership of the Trail Center has developed a Covid-19 Workday Protection Plan to ensure the safety of our volunteers during workdays.



This plan includes: limiting volunteer group size to ensure social distancing as well as supervision, pre-registration for workdays, required PPE for volunteers, as well as a number of other workday protocols. We encourage our volunteers to review the linked **[Trail Center Covid-19 Workday Protection Plan](#)** to note these updated protocols.

After a hiatus of over a year and a half, on Saturday, April 24, Trail Center volunteers returned to San Mateo County's Memorial Park with the goal of recommissioning the Homestead Trail in time for the 100-year anniversary reopening of Memorial Park. The Homestead Trail runs 0.6 miles from Azalea Flat Campground west to Homestead Flat Youth Camp. The day's projects included the prep work for, and commencement of, building retaining walls as well as reestablishing trail bed and grading along certain sections of the trail. The Trail Center is thrilled to participate in this important work, and its 19 volunteers brought this enthusiasm to April 24<sup>th</sup>'s workday. There will be additional volunteer opportunities to work on the Homestead Trail in the coming months.

### **Upcoming workdays:**

#### **June 5, 2021 – National Trails Day at the Filoli Estate**

Work on the Estate Trail. Please visit [www.trailcenter.org](http://www.trailcenter.org) for additional details. Pre-registration is required.

#### **June 26, 2021 – Memorial Park – Homestead Trail**

Continued work from the April and May workdays. Pre-registration is required.

**Are you on our mailing list to receive email notices about upcoming workdays?  
If not, contact our volunteer coordinator to be added: [volunteer@trailcenter.org](mailto:volunteer@trailcenter.org)**