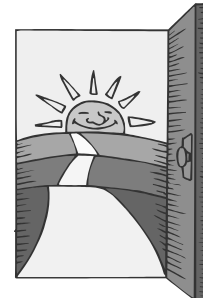


Volunteer News

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

September - November 2004



Another Rewarding Day!

From Paul's Desk...

The volunteer trail patroller lifts his trusty mountain bike onto his bike rack and takes a quick look around the Russian Ridge parking lot. He just wants to make sure that no one else needs his help before shedding his patrol vest. It's been a busy day — a rewarding day. He makes a mental note of the trail intersection he'll use to report the fallen oak tree that's blocking a portion of the Ancient Oaks Trail. *It's about 50 yards up from Mindego Trail; that's where the open space techs will want to come in from.*

The 'disoriented' couple that he helped earlier this morning (his Map Reading 101 Course) come into sight at the trailhead and wave one last thank you before heading to their car. The volunteer smiles. It's always a kick to assist the map-challenged, but today it doesn't beat the eye-opening conversation he had with the nice lady at the top of Borel Hill. They had chatted as they took in the incredible view of the Bay. Yes, she was having a wonderful hike, but was definitely missing her beloved retriever and wished they could hike together on the trails. The look on her face when he handed her the District's informational dog packet

was golden. In fact, he would bet good money that she and Rex were nearly to Pulgas Ridge by now.

Yes, it was another great day.

The preserve partner volunteer drops her keys on the table and flops down into her recliner. The well-deserved shower will have to wait. She just needs a few seconds to close her eyes and reflect on the day. The tired volunteer takes a mental *before and after* picture of the trail that she and her fellow mates had worked on for over five hours. During the morning orientation, she had contemplated recommending some 'reality-check' training for the friendly ranger who explained *the plan*. She distinctly remembers the words, *'we're going to do what?'* running through her head.

But they had indeed completed the repairs; had even finished in time to allow for a short hike up to the vista point before calling it a day.

It was difficult to decide which part had been the most rewarding. The final product was certainly an awesome sight. The ranger's plan had come together without a hitch, and she imagined that this was now the best section of trail in the entire District! But there was also the group camaraderie aspect. Within the first hour, the fifteen strangers had gelled like a veteran team, and by lunch, they knew the damaged section of *their* trail would be conquered.

What a day. She says a short poison oak prayer and heads for the shower.

The community outreach volunteer drives away from the busy art & wine festival and heads for home. If traffic cooperates, she has just enough time to check her email and change clothes before heading out to meet her friends for dinner. She makes a mental calculation and estimates that she must have talked to over 100 people about the District during her 4-hour shift. She thinks it might be the most maps and newsletters she's ever distributed.

There were a lot of great conversations throughout the morning, but none can match the talk with the young family from Palo Alto. She can't wait to tell her friends the story of the little girl and her parents who are probably at home right now signing up for their first District docent-led activity.

The young couple had heard that there were beautiful preserves with trails nearby, but were not experienced hikers and didn't feel comfortable taking their daughter out into the wilderness alone. Fifteen minutes later, they were equipped with all the information they needed to participate in their first docent-led-activity. They just couldn't thank her enough, and were visibly excited. The little girl had smiled and waved as she walked away clutching her new adventure-filled newsletter.

As the dedicated volunteer pulls into her driveway, she just can't get that glorious smile out of her mind. But then again, why would she.

She, like her fellow volunteers in the previous paragraphs, marks it down as another rewarding day.

Paul

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Preserve Partners

Fall 2004

Outdoor Service Projects

September

Sierra Azul
Jacques Ridge
Saturday, September 11
9:30 – 3:30
Fence Construction
Project

*Planning on bringing
a family member or friend?*

Each project has a designated number of spots available, based on project type, parking availability, and/or staffing. If you plan on bringing someone along, please let us know when you sign up.

Thank you.

October

Pulgas
Ridge
Saturday, October 9
9:30 – 3:30
Habitat Restoration
Project

El Corte de
Madera Creek
Saturday, October 23
9:30 – 3:30
Area Restoration
Project

Skyline
Ridge
Thursday, October 28
9:30 – 3:30
Habitat Restoration
Project

November

La Honda
Creek
Saturday, November 6
9:30 – 3:30
Habitat Restoration
Project

Pulgas
Ridge
Saturday, November 6
9:30 – 3:30
Habitat Restoration
Project

Long
Ridge
Saturday, November 20
9:30 – 2:30
Habitat Restoration
Project

To volunteer or for more information, please contact
Paul McKowan, Volunteer Programs Coordinator
(650) 691-1200 or volunteer@openspace.org

Volunteer Trail Patrol

Fall Field Trip

Many thanks to Trail Patrol member Gerry Ryan for helping us schedule the September 11 field trip at Fifield-Cahill Ridge Trail. The trail passes through the San Francisco Peninsula Watershed Area and is managed by San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC). The area is accessible by trail volunteer-led excursions only. Gerry, who also volunteers with SFPUC, will lead our hike.

Please note that this field trip will take the place of our fall membership meeting.

Web Site & On-line Forms

The District's Web site is under construction. The content, layout, and forms are all being upgraded, and the new site will be unveiled in early fall. The trail patrol forms will retain the same general look and functionality, and the consultants are working on the new Preserve/Trail pull-down feature, which would allow members to select a preserve, mouse right, and choose trails.

The new pages and features will be checked and tested before the actual site goes live. We will also continue to monitor the 'time-out' errors that arose this summer. Our ISP recently corrected the problem; however, if you receive an error message (vs. the 'Thank You' page) after submitting a trail patrol form, remember you must re-submit the form.

Annual Breakfast A Hit

Many thanks to the three Bay Area Ridge Trail Council members that attended our annual Breakfast/Meeting/Hikes&Rides event in early July. Sandy Sommer, Bob Power, and Thomas Beck gave a very informative presentation on the history, current issues, and future of the incredible Ridge Trail which will encompass the entire Bay Area when completed.

Our next membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, January 27. MROSD Management Analyst Gordon Baillie will explain District Ordinance updates that have been approved by the Board of Directors.

A Very Special Thank You

Summer 2004 Volunteers

Bernard Aboussouan	Kristi Frederick	Shannon Perryman
Rainey Alleman	Colleen Gray	Jon Pollick
Rodger Alleman	Katherine Greene	Dena Porter
Barbara Arnoldussen	Sue Hanrahan	Adda Quinn
Greg Ayres	Mike Harper	Ted Raczek
Herb Beck	Thomas Hartmann	Fran Rappaport
Ken Bell	Doug Hembry	Michael Rappaport
David Berkstresser	David Horine	Steve Reagan
Chris Braley	Jane Huber	Margaret Reimche
Pam Brands	Gayle Jarvinen	Bruce Rosenthal
Gerry Brown	Kathleen Jones	Vicki Rosenthal
Steve Brugler	Carol Jossi	Trevor Rowland
Dorothy Carlson	Simon Keilty	Karl Rowley
Ted Carlson	Jane Kikuchi	Gerry Ryan
Carolyn Chaney	Rajesh Krishnan	Betty Salveter
Rosabel Chang	Howard Levitan	Steve Salveter
Jim Citta	Don Lorenzen	Kari Schopf
Tom Cochrane	Xiaoqu Luo	Barbara Simpson
Sue Cooper	John Malecki	Dea Smith
Wilson Cooper	George Mansfield	Marie Somma
Frank Crossman	Jeff McElroy	Ulf Stauber
Harlan Crowder	Kathleen McGall	Elizabeth Stillman
Pat Dallam	Joan Meehan	David Tharp
Arthur Deex	Paul Mennega	Liang Tue
Genie Deex	David Moler	Alex Vago
Fletch Dobbs	Steve Muther	Amy Wang
Joe Eandi	Larry Myers	Jie Wang
Jon Easterbrook	Claudia Newbold	David Ward
Dee Eduardo	Jill Kilty-Newburn	Tim Watson
Rob Ehlers	Erin Oronte	Chuck Wilson
Debbie Ellis	Mary Oronte	Susan Woita
Michelle Eugeni	Angela Owen	Jerry Wroblewski
Judy Fenerty	Stuart Palmer	Jason Yoo
Steve Forman	Bob Pariani	Rong Zhu

Special Groups

Lunar Designs	88 hrs
Oracle Corporation	53 hrs
Responsible Organized	
Mountain Pedalers (ROMP)	449 hrs

Bulletin Board

Regulations Review

SECTION 702. NATURAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

702.1 Plants

No person shall damage, injure, take, place, plant, collect, or remove any plant, tree, or portion thereof, whether living or dead, including, but not limited to, flowers, mushrooms, bushes, vines, grass, cones, and deadwood located on District Lands.

702.2 Possession of Gathered Wood Prohibited

No person shall transport or possess a tree or unmilled wood on District Lands without satisfactory evidence of lawful acquisition, such as a sales receipt of written authorization from the owner of the land from which the tree or wood was acquired.

702.3 Geological Features [Misdemeanor]

No person shall damage, injure, take, collect, remove, or attempt to damage, injure, take, collect, or remove earth, rocks, sand, gravel, fossils, minerals, features of caves, or any article or artifact of geological interest or value located on District Lands.

Volunteer News is a quarterly newsletter containing information about the District's volunteer programs. Please direct all questions or comments to Volunteer Coordinator Paul McKowan at (650) 691-1200 ext. 539

Thanks and good reading

702.4 Archeological Features [Misdemeanor]

No person shall damage, injure, take, collect, remove, or attempt to damage, injure, take, collect, or remove any object of paleontological, archeological, or historical interest located on District Lands.

702.5 Special Permission

Special Permission (Section 105) may be granted to remove, treat, disturb, or otherwise affect plants, animals, or geological, historical, archeological, or paleontological materials for research, interpretive, educational, or operational purposes.