

# Volunteer News

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

September - November 2005

## Gifts of Volunteering A Volunteer's View

### Meet Angela Owen District Office Volunteer

When you think of volunteering with the Open Space District, most picture volunteers patrolling open space lands, monitoring bluebird boxes, restoring habitat and trails, leading rides, hikes, and field trips, and staffing the nature center—the outdoor stuff! But did you know that there is also a group of volunteers who work side-by-side with administrative staff? These dedicated volunteers come in to the administrative office in Los Altos and assist the public affairs, operations, planning, real property, and administrative departments with a variety of tasks.

Angela Owen is one of those wonderful office volunteers. Each Wednesday, Angela works with the Public Affairs Team on a variety of

projects, including filing newspaper clippings, archiving photos, organizing snack packs for the outdoor service projects, assembling packets for community outreach events, and much more.

Without fail, Angela's response to each completed project is, "Okay, now who else needs help today?" Over the last 12 years, she has donated over 1,400 hours of service!

So, it is with great pleasure, that we include Angela's response to the "Submit Your Article" opportunity listed in the last edition of this newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading Angela's thoughts on volunteering as much as we did.

Thanks for everything Angela. We'll see you next Wednesday!

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### Volunteering is Cool by Angela Owen

Retirement is as much a change in lifestyle as is graduating from high school, getting married, or moving to a new town. Suddenly your orderly existence is in disarray, your routine is shot, and you find yourself with lots of time on your hands. What to do? When my time came to



retire 15 years ago, I found a new purpose in life through volunteering. It's great because:

- you meet new, interesting people
- you can continue to use your well-honed skills and acquire new ones
- you are able to explore areas in which you were always interested but lacked the time to investigate
- you can take time off to travel whenever you like without losing your "job"
- you can keep your schedule flexible
- you get out of the house and out of your spouses hair
- and you feel wanted, appreciated and useful.

What more can you ask?

Angela M. Owen

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If you would like to share your thoughts on volunteering, please submit your article to:

[volunteer@openspace.org](mailto:volunteer@openspace.org)

(or)

MROSD Volunteer Program  
330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94022

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# **Preserve Partners**

## **Fall 2005**

### **Outdoor Service Projects**

#### **September**

**Rancho San Antonio**  
Thursday, September 1  
9:30 – 1:30  
Habitat Restoration Project

**El Corte de Madera Creek**  
Saturday, September 10  
9:30 – 3:30  
Trail Restoration Project

**South Skyline Area**  
Saturday, September 17  
9:30 – 3:30  
Gate Construction Project

#### **October**

**El Corte de Madera Creek**  
Saturday, October 8  
9:30 – 3:30  
Trail Restoration Project

**South Skyline Area**  
Saturday, October 22  
9:30 – 3:30  
Resource Management Project

#### **November**

**Pulgas Ridge**  
Thursday, November 3  
9:30 – 2:30  
Habitat Restoration Project

**Fremont Older**  
Saturday, November 5  
9:30 – 3:30  
Fence Construction & Habitat Restoration Project

**Bear Creek Redwoods**  
Saturday, November 19  
9:30 – 3:30  
Habitat Restoration Project

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

# “Back to” Paul’s Desk

## A Day with the Skyline Crew

Safely back at my desk; air conditioner blasting; endless coffee pot percolating; trusty mouse and keyboard idling ~ okay, I’m back in my comfort zone and ready to transpose my thoughts to font.

This summer, I put a one-day hold on the comforts listed above and traveled up the mountain to work with the Skyline Area Crew. I was very excited about getting back into the field for a day and rubbing elbows with these hard working staff members.

I awoke that morning feeling strong, excited, and confident. By the time I got to Starbucks, I was nervous and wondering how a pair of work jeans could shrink simply by hanging in a closet. Reality began to sink in. How in the world was I going to keep pace with these fit crew members? Suddenly, a glorious sign caught my eye. BAGELS! A heavy dose of dough and cream cheese would surely slow them down and level the playing field. “I’ll take a dozen please. Wait, make that 2 dozen!”

Needless to say, my plan fell short. The morning meeting was quickly over and most of the bagels were merely sliced and prepped for late morning snacks and lunch supplements. What kind of meeting etiquette was this? The coffee pot was still half full, we had yet to kick a single topic to death, and everyone was heading toward their trucks.

But my concerns about keeping up were unwarranted. The safety-conscious crew was very good about taking it easy on the ‘office guy,’ and periodically checked in with me as the day grew longer and hotter. It was a wonderful, rewarding day.

Highlights ~ experiencing a dose of the incredible work the crew accomplishes each day; enjoying an opportunity to take a step back and regain a healthy perspective on our mission; working side-by-side with volunteer Bob Pariani; increasing my appreciation for the outdoor service projects and crew leader volunteers, and lastly—hearing no one laugh (out loud) when I needed assistance getting back to my feet after lunch.

My next excursion will be to the Foothills Area. I’m thinking pancakes instead of bagels. A heavy dose of pancake dough and maple syrup will surely slow them down...

*Cheers,  
Paul*

# A Very Special Thank You



## Summer 2005 Volunteers

Bernard Aboussouan	Pascal Gyger	Mary Oronte
David Alderman	Sue Hanrahan	Angela Owen
Rainey Alleman	Mike Harper	Karen Paffendorf
Rodger Alleman	David Harrison	Stuart Palmer
Tim Andonian	Doug Hembry	Neil Panton
Barbara Arnoldussen	Martijn Hemelrijk	Bob Pariani
Artemis Volunteers	Jake Hershey	Shannon Perryman
Nick Atkins	Kelly Hershey	Darwin Poulos
Rick Barnes	Adam Hitchcock	Jim Preston
Joy Barrett	David Horine	Adda Quinn
Chris Braley	Roger Huang	Ted Raczek
Pam Brands	Jan Hughes	Fran Rappaport
Gerry Brown	Gayle Jarvinen	Michael Rappaport
Steve Brugler	Carol Jossi	Steve Reagan
Dorothy Carlson	Jack Kay	Scott Rodamaker
Ted Carlson	Jacob Kay	Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers
Diane Cassidy	Kristen Konrad	Jamie Robson
Carolyn Chaney	Suzi Kreuzsch	Scott Rodamaker
Meichu Cheng	Linda Leong	Bruce Rosenthal
Carolyn Christianer	Howard Levitan	Vicki Rosenthal
Cindy Cima-Ivy	Elina Lin	Trevor Rowland
Jim Citta	Cynthia Lockhart	Karl Rowley
Tom Cochrane	Don Lorenzen	Sierra Singles
Sue Cooper	John Malecki	Barbara Simpson
Wilson Cooper	David Margiott	Marie Somma
Coyote Point Museum Summer Camp	Lisa McEachern	Ulf Stauber
Frank Crossman	Kathleen McGall	Dave Stoner
Pat Dallam	Joan Meehan	David Tharp
Angelo De Giuli	Menlo Middle School	Liang Tue
Anna De Giuli	John Mintz	Alex Vago
Arthur Deex	Kathy Montgomery	Barry Waldman
Genie Deex	Tom Morse	Amy Wang
Bob Del Vecchio	Barbara Muir	Jennifer Wang
Joe Eandi	Steve Muther	Tim Watson
Jon Easterbrook	Fran Naylor	Chuck Wilson
Dee Eduardo	Jim Naylor	Susan Woita
Rebecca Elliot	Claudia Newbold	Jason Yoo
Judy Fenerty	Jill Kilty-Newburn	Youth Community Service
Karl Gohl	Christal Niederer	Lisa Zadek
Toni Gooch	Martin Odian	
	Oracle Volunteers	

# Bulletin Board

## Community Outreach Events

Volunteers, Board members, and staff have been busily staffing the District's outreach booth at various Bay Area events. These venues provide a great opportunity to speak with trail enthusiasts, provide maps and other information, and introduce the wonders of open space preservation to District constituents. If you run across our booth at an event, be sure to stop by and say 'hi!'

### 2005 Schedule of Events

7/9 - 7/10	Los Altos Art & Wine Festival
8/21	Los Gatos Farmers' Market
10/8 - 10/9	San Carlos Art & Wine Faire
10/14	Synopsys Health Fair
10/22	Audubon Wildlife Education Day

**Volunteer News** is a quarterly newsletter containing information about the District's volunteer programs. Please direct all questions or comments to Volunteer Programs Coordinator Paul McKowan.

Thanks and good reading.

"Do just once what others say you can't do, and you will never pay attention to their limitations again."

James R. Cook