

Volunteer News

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

June - August 2005

Lunchtime Speakers Visit Outdoor Service Projects



From Paul's Desk...

Each month, dozens of volunteers slip on the gloves, slop on some sun screen, and team up with District staff for fun, productive outdoor service projects.

Who are these amazing people?

During the week, they are mild-mannered high tech specialists, teachers, students, retirees, etc., but on weekends, they become Open Space Superheroes! Armed with mere weed wrenches and bent shovels, these gloved marvels battle invasive, non-native vegetation, trail damage, and other preserve menaces. They laugh in the face of French broom and swiftly drive away sloughing soil that can cause damage to roads and trails.

Working together, District staff and volunteers tackle and complete many important tasks. While the rewards and accomplishments are already endless -- things just got even better!

Several projects this season will feature special guest speakers during the lunchtime break. Volunteers will be treated to a short 20-30 minute presentation while munching on their well-earned lunches. Topics will include a wide variety of informational subjects relative to the District, the preserves, and the surrounding areas.

This new lunchtime program started in March and has already received a big thumbs-up from event participants!

David Weintraub, author of the District's new book *Peninsula Tales & Trails*, kicked things off this spring at Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve. Volunteers rested on the sunny hillside and listened to their lunchtime guest discuss the book project and read a few passages specific to the surrounding area. David concluded his presentation by signing books for the volunteers.

In May, District Docent Dick Gehler visited volunteers at the St. Joseph's Hill habitat restoration project and gave a presentation on the history of the Lexington Reservoir area, including the *damming* end to the towns of Alma and Lexington.

Volunteers attending these projects were very happy with these initial presentations and excited about the new lunchtime bonus. *It is rumored that one volunteer boldly stated that the presentations nearly made up for the anomalous snacks provided by the volunteer coordinator; however, she later succumbed to group pressure and retracted her initial assessment.*

The community programs department is very excited about organizing future lunchtime presentations for these hard working volunteers -- and, of course, we're always open to suggestions!

Paul

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New Community Programs Position To Be Posted in June

Community Programs Aide

The District will be posting the new Community Programs Aide position in June. Under the direction of the Community Programs Supervisor, this paid position will be a part of the Public Affairs/Community Programs Team and will perform a *wide variety* of tasks.

Job responsibilities will range from staffing the Daniels Nature Center at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve to assisting with the scheduling, communications, logistics, and staffing of District outreach events.

Anyone interested in finding out more about this position can visit the District's Web site (www.openspace.org) or call (650) 691-1200.



Preserve Partners Summer 2005 Outdoor Service Projects

June

Sierra Azul
Saturday, June 11
10:00 – 3:30
Fence Construction Project

Long Ridge
Tuesday, June 14
9:30 – 3:30
Trail Restoration Project

July

Rancho San Antonio
Saturday, July 16
9:30 – 3:30
Facility Maintenance Project

Rancho San Antonio
Thursday, July 28
9:30 – 3:30
Fence Construction Project

Skyline Ridge
Saturday, July 30
9:30 – 3:30
Resource Management Project

August

Picchetti Ranch
Saturday, August 13
9:30 – 3:30
Retaining Wall Construction Project

La Honda Creek
Saturday, August 27
9:30 – 3:30
Fence Construction Project

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

Volunteer Trail Patrol

16 Volunteers Join Program

The District's Volunteer Trail Patrol program continues to grow! In early April, 16 new members completed the annual orientation and training program and are already hitting the trails.

It was an enthusiastic and energetic group of volunteers that attended the informational sessions. Participants learned about the many facets of the District, participated in visitor contact scenarios, and mastered the on-line reporting procedures. They were very attentive throughout the sessions, and the training program feedback was very positive.

The entire group shared the feeling that helping other preserve visitors and reporting trail conditions was a productive and rewarding way to 'give something back' to the wonderful open space trails they enjoy so much!

Special thanks and congratulations to the "Class of 2005" and to the District staff and volunteers who helped lead the spring training program.

Welcome aboard!



2005 Trail Patrol Graduates

Tim Andonian	Joy Barrett
Angelo De Giuli	Anna De Giuli
David Harrison	Jake Hershey
Kelly Hershey	Adam Hitchcock
Jan Hughes	Suzi Kreusch
Jason Ling	John Mintz
Martin Odian	Karen Paffendorf
Neil Pantan	Dave Stoner

A Very Special Thank You

Spring 2005 Volunteers

Rainey Alleman	Kelly Hershey	Angela Owen
Rodger Alleman	Adam Hitchcock	Karen Paffendorf
Tim Andonian	David Horine	Stuart Palmer
Barbara Arnoldussen	Jane Huber	Neil Pantan
Artemis	Jan Hughes	Bob Pariani
Volunteers	Gayle Jarvinen	Jim Preston
Nick Atkins	Carol Jossi	Rambus
Rick Barnes	Trish Kaspar	Volunteers
Joy Barrett	Aparna Kapur	Adda Quinn
Herb Beck	Kristen Konrad	Ted Raczek
Dorothy Carlson	Suzi Kreusch	Fran Rappaport
Ted Carlson	Rajesh Krishnan	Michael Rappaport
Diane Cassidy	Vanessa Lea	Richie Rasor
Castilleja School	Ellis Levinson	Steve Reagan
Carolyn Chaney	Howard Levitan	Responsible Organized
Rosabel Chang	Jason Ling	Mountain Peddlers
Meichu Cheng	Cynthia Lockhart	Jamie Robson
Jenna Cirimele	Don Lorenzen	Bruce Rosenthal
Bianca Cirimele	Gak-Wee Low	Vicki Rosenthal
Cisco Volunteers	John Malecki	Trevor Rowland
Jim Citta	George Mansfield	Karl Rowley
Sue Cooper	David Margiott	Gerry Ryan
Wilson Cooper	Kathleen McGall	Drew Scott
Frank Crossman	Joan Meehan	Sierra Singles
Cub Scout	Menlo Middle	Barbara Simpson
Pack 317	School	Sorptimist Int'l
Pat Dallam	Mid-Peninsula	Volunteers
Angelo De Giuli	High School	Ulf Stauber
Anna De Giuli	John Mintz	Elizabeth Stillman
Arthur Deex	Tom Morse	Dave Stoner
Genie Deex	Barbara Muir	David Tharp
Jon Easterbrook	Steve Muther	Liang Tue
Dee Eduardo	Larry Myers	Alex Vago
Debbie Ellis	Fran Naylor	Amy Wang
Elvis	Jim Naylor	Jennifer Wang
Judy Fenerty	Claudia Newbold	Chuck Wilson
Kristi Frederick	Jill Kilty-Newburn	Susan Woita
Sue Hanrahan	Christal Niederer	Michael Wright
Mike Harper	Martin Odian	Stella Yang
David Harrison	Oracle	Jason Yoo
Doug Hembry	Volunteers	Youth Comm.
Jake Hershey	Mary Oronte	Service

Bulletin Board

Submit Your Article To *Volunteer News* !

We invite you to write us and share your thoughts on volunteering, tell about your favorite volunteer experience, or simply reflect on the satisfaction you get from giving back to your community.

If you're interested, please submit an article (300 words or less) by Monday, August 1, 2005. Selected articles will appear in the fall edition of *Volunteer News*.

Please send your article to:

volunteer@openspace.org
(or)
MROSD Volunteer Program
330 Distel Circle, Los Altos CA 94022

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.

"A balanced life is the centered intersection of your values, time, and action. That's where integrity resides."

Don Blohowiak