



# Volunteer News

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

June - August 2006

## Volunteers Prevail Despite Relentless Rains

### From Paul's Desk...

*And there's the horn signaling the end of the first half. As the District volunteers head into the locker room, the cheering crowd of flora and fauna go wild!*

How can it possibly be summer already? It seems like just yesterday that I was busily ringing in the new year and suddenly it's June. Of course, it didn't help that March and April were canceled this year due to rain!

Yes, the first half of 2006 certainly featured some challenging weather, but resilient District volunteers donned their rain gear, flexed their collective muscles, and dug in for the count.

Almost 30 **outdoor service projects** were completed from January through June. Volunteers from the District Preserve Partners and Crew Leader programs and groups such as Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers, Sierra Singles, Rambus, Bay Area Ridge Trail, Palo Alto Running

Club, Bay Area schools, and scout troops participated in these projects. They repaired sections of damaged trails, planted native shrubs in restoration sites, constructed sections of retaining walls, and removed invasive, non-native vegetation.

Two first-time projects were also added this year. This spring, volunteers spread mulch and helped prepare the garden area for annual tours of the historic Fremont Older house. In June, a small group of volunteers will repair and upgrade an observation deck in the northern part of Russian Ridge. The deck is a converted outdoor dance floor so *dancing shoes will be optional*.

**Trail Patrol** volunteers continued their efforts in assisting and educating preserve visitors and nearly wore their keyboards out reporting all the downed trees, slides, and trail damage.

District field staff members were very busy this spring removing downed trees and repairing damaged sections of trail. As always, trail patrol volunteers reported many of these trail hazards electronically via their on-line web forms. This 'paperless' communication system greatly increases the efficiency by which information is gathered, reviewed, and forwarded to the appropriate field office.

**Community Outreach** volunteers (COVs) began staffing the District's educational booth at local events in

### Coming Soon

This newsletter will soon contain more information about **all** District volunteer programs - including docent activities and updates.

early spring. Alongside staff, COVs spread the District news at a variety of Bay Area festivals and began work on a new outreach project titled - *Life Beyond Rancho*. The goal is to provide information regarding other District preserves to the thousands of visitors who frequent Rancho San Antonio.

**Special Project Field** volunteers also contributed in a number of ways. College interns and eagle scouts researched resource management issues and repaired trail segments. Long-time volunteer Bob Pariani assisted the Skyline Crew with a number of projects, and bluebird box volunteers began their busy monitoring season.

And last, but certainly not least, **Office** volunteers braved temperamental copy machines and stale coffee as they assisted staff in research, data entry, file archiving, and a variety of other projects.

Congratulations and continued thanks to the dedicated individuals who 'make' time to prepare for and perform this work. You raise the bar and set good examples for us all to follow.

Press on!  
**Paul**

*And here they come! The MROSD volunteers are charging out of the locker room. Check out the determined looks on their faces - we're definitely in for an exciting second half...*

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# Summer 2006 Outdoor Service Projects

## June

**Pulgas Ridge**  
*'National Trail Days'*  
Saturday, June 3  
10:00 – 3:00  
Trail Restoration

**Russian Ridge**  
Saturday, June 17  
9:30 – 2:30  
Observation  
Deck Restoration

**Rancho San Antonio**  
Thursday, June 22  
9:30 – 1:30  
Habitat Restoration

## July

**Bear Creek Redwoods**  
Thursday, July 20  
9:30 – 1:30  
Fence Construction

**Sierra Azul**  
Saturday, July 22  
10:00 – 2:30  
Fence Construction

**Monte Bello/ Los Trancos**  
Saturday, July 29  
9:00 – 2:00  
Resource Management  
& Earthquake Hike

## August

**Skyline Ridge**  
Saturday, August 12  
9:30 – 1:30  
Resource Management

**Purisima Creek Redwoods**  
Thursday, August 17  
9:30 – 2:00  
Fence Construction

**Picchetti Ranch**  
Saturday, August 26  
10:00 – 2:30  
Trail Restoration

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

# 2006 Trail Patrol and Crew Leader Graduates



## Volunteer Trail Patrol

The District's Volunteer Trail Patrol program continues to grow! In early April, 26 new members completed the annual orientation and training program and are already hitting the trails.

The energetic group of mountain bicyclists, hikers, equestrians, runners, and dog walkers 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 2006" and to the District staff and volunteers who helped lead the spring training program.

*Welcome aboard!*

### — 2006 Graduates —

Ramachandran Bala	Jennifer Basiji
Emmet Brophy	Faye Brophy
Peggy Coleman	Larry De Young
Erfert Fenton	Anna George
Sergey Gorbatov	Martijn Hemelrijk
Kristine Krozek	Philip Krozek
Harold Lischner	Tami Lollis
Lyndie Martinson	Kelly Morgan
Sonya Morrison	Fran Naylor
Jim Naylor	Glenda Smith
Nathalie Mosbach Smith	Strether Smith
Tommi Smith	Craig Taylor
Steven Tjiang	Sarah Wright

## Volunteer Crew Leaders

The District's Volunteer Crew program was created in 1998. These volunteers assist District field staff in leading 60-70 outdoor service projects each year. Projects include a variety of trail maintenance, habitat restoration, fence construction, and other important resource management tasks.

This spring (if you can call that a spring!), eight volunteers participated in the training program for new members. Training topics included general agency and program orientation, leadership skills, resource management goals and procedures, and tool safety and identification.

The emphasis of this training program is focused on SAFETY. Crew leaders learn about the many safety issues that need to be monitored during outdoor service projects. Reminding participants to take breaks and hydrate, announcing the approach of hikers and riders, and identifying Project Nemesis #1 - poison oak - are just a few of their responsibilities. They also help instruct and inform participants of procedures and project goals, provide recognition and encouragement, and assist staff and participants in completing various paperwork.

Together, field staff members and volunteer crew leaders strive to ensure each project participant enjoys a safe and wonderful experience.

Congratulations to the "Class of 2006." Thank you for all of your efforts during the training program.

*Weed Wrenches Ho!*

### — 2006 Graduates —

Bob Del Vecchio	Doug Hembry
Dennis Henley	Gayle Jarvinen
Rich Ober	Mary Oronte
Karl Rowley	David Tharp

# Bulletin Board

## Docent Program - Volunteer Opportunities

### Nature Center Host

*An opportunity to be an ambassador for open space and work with other docents at the Daniels Nature Center located on the edge of Alpine Pond at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve.*

- Greet visitors, answer questions about the natural environment, and encourage exploration of the Center's hands-on exhibits.
- The Nature Center is open on weekends from 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm during the spring and summer, and 11:00 am - 4:00 pm in the fall.

### Outdoor Education Leader

*A unique opportunity to engage students in grades 3-6 in an environmental education experience at the Daniels Nature Center.*

- Facilitate fun and learning with the *Spaces & Species* field trip program using nature-based activities including an aquatic lab, hiking, field observations, and more.
- Program conducted at the Daniels Nature Center, Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve on Tuesdays and Thursdays (9:00 am - 2:00 pm), during the fall and spring seasons.

**For more information, please contact Renée Fitzsimons, Docent Programs Coordinator  
(650) 691-1200 ext. 536 or [docent@openspace.org](mailto:docent@openspace.org)**