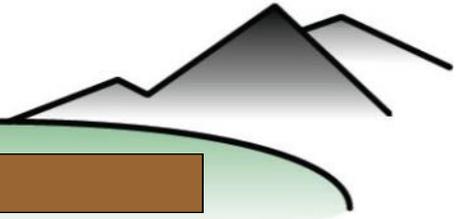


SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS TRAILS COUNCIL



SPRING 2011

Annual BBT Trek starts May 7

The 9th annual seven-day trek along the Santa Monica Mountains' Backbone Trail will begin on May 7, 2011, providing a 67-mile guided back country experience within sight of the metropolis of Los Angeles. Hikers will assemble at the western end of the trail just off Pacific Coast Highway in Ventura County and hike about 10 miles daily until arriving on May 8 at Will Rogers State Historic Park just off Sunset Blvd. in Pacific Palisades.

The Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council has organized Backbone Trek 2011 to provide an opportunity to enjoy the entire Backbone Trail that travels along ridges, canyons and valleys in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The guides are experienced volunteers with a passion for trails, mountains and camping. As interpreters, they can answer most questions on flora, fauna, geology and history of the region. Hikers can expect to see colorful wildflowers, interesting geologic formations and beautiful vistas.

A support team will carry the camping equipment and provide meals each morning and evening. Hikers will travel each day along terrain that includes average elevation gains and losses of 1500 feet. They will also carry a light daypack with water, lunch and other incidentals.

There is a fee to cover campgrounds, equipment transportation, insurance and meals. The Backbone Trek is limited to 25 hikers and is open to the public.

To receive more information on Backbone Trek 2011, go to www.smmtc.org/bbtrek or contact the event coordinator, Jerry Mitcham, at 818-406-1269 or backbonetrek2011@roadrunner.com.

Further information on the Backbone Trail may be obtained at the National Park Visitor Center, 401 West Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, 805-370-2301 or www.nps.gov/samo.



PRESIDENT'S VISION

Getting Kids into Nature

Many of us were lucky to experience Nature first-hand as children when we were growing up. It was common to build tree houses and forts and to collect all sorts of natural things we found in the neighborhood. We lived closer to Nature, and we took that for granted. We expected our children to be able to explore freely also, and we felt they certainly would want to do so. Very few people anticipated the commanding and addictive attention that the internet and other electronic media would have upon all of us.

Even though times have changed, there remains an intrinsic human need to encounter Nature and to develop a relationship. Children need experiences with Nature to fully develop healthy senses, imaginations, and intellects. The meadows and woods of many childhoods have been replaced with housing tracts, golf courses, freeways and manicured lawns. Outdoor play is structured, safe, and isolated in fenced yards and designer playgrounds. The restorative quality of a relationship with Nature is missing. The lack of the natural world in today's childhood could even be a factor in various children's ailments. Some professionals feel that children who experience Nature may also experience increased attention span, independent thinking, and the ability to cope better with stress. Children need to be acquainted with hiking, fishing, bird-watching, and disorganized, creative playing outdoors. Nature is a healing resource. It is our role as adults to help children have a positive physical and mental connection to Nature. There are no textbooks to repair the splintered bond between the young people and the natural world. There is nothing that can replace hands-on learning in Nature.

I hope that each of you will take the time this year and every year to help at least one child experience the connection with Nature. Children are the trail builders of tomorrow. Give them the desire to maintain trails, to care for the land, and to stay connected with Nature.

Ruth

30th Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days - 2011

April 29, 30, May 1

POINT MUGU STATE PARK

All Volunteers Welcome!

For a day or the weekend!

No trail work experience needed!

There's a fun job for everyone!

Help improve trails and parks for all of us to enjoy!

Help restore native plants with Restoration Crew!



Trail Days is a weekend for individuals and groups to build new trails and restore old ones. Partners with California State Parks include Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council (SMMTC), Santa Monica Mountains Task Force of the Sierra Club, California Native Plant Society, CORBA, National Park Service, SMM Natural History Assn., Malibu Creek Docents, Temescal Canyon Association and Conejo Sierra Club.

DIRECTIONS: Ventura Freeway to Wendy in Newbury Park; S to Potrero Road, turn right; at Reino bear left to NPS service road (first driveway). Cars will be escorted into and out of the park at designated times.

ARRIVE:	Fri.- 5 p.m. & 8 p.m. Sat.- 8:00 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. Sun.- 8:30 a.m.	DEPART:	Sat.- 4 p.m. and after campfire Sun.- 8 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.
----------------	---	----------------	---

BRING: LUNCHES, BEVERAGES, SNACKS AND WATER.
Tools are provided, but you can bring a pick, shovel, Pulaski, McLeod, pruning saw, or long-handled loppers. (Please, no light-weight tools or chain saws.)

DINNER: Sat. Night Barbecue Free **FOR VOLUNTEERS**. Please **RSVP** by April 25.
Bring appetizers and beverages.

WEAR: Gloves, hat, long pants, protective clothing, and work boots or sturdy shoes.

CAMPING: Free camping Friday and/or Saturday nights for trails day workers at the Danielson Multi-use Area located under the sycamores and oaks in the heart of Point Mugu State Park.
Advance camping registration *appreciated* by **April 25**. Return tear-off and SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) to: SMMTC, TRAIL DAYS, P.O. Box 345, Agoura Hills, CA 91376, or fax to: 818-889-4540.

PATCHES: Trail Days patches are available. \$3.00 each.

INFORMATION: Rain (unless torrential) does not cancel. SMMTC (818)222-4531. **MUST SEE** Trail Training video and weekly trail maintenance schedule is on www.smmtc.org

REGISTRATION

Name _____ Day Phone (_____) _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 Camping: Fri Sat Group Name/Troop # _____ Age Level of Troop _____
 HOW MANY IN GROUP/TROOP? _____ BARBECUE: HOW MANY FOR DINNER? _____
 Patches Ordered _____ @ \$3.00 = _____ Number of years participated _____

New King Gillette Visitor Center Designed To Be “Green”

The visitor center in King Gillette Ranch, now under construction, is designed as the first net-zero National Park Service facility in alignment with Department of Interior sustainability goals.

The design is intended to receive a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) platinum certification upon completion, depending on successful evaluation. LEED is an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building or community was designed and built using strategies intended to accomplish energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality & stewardship of resources.

The new center, a joint effort of the National Park Service, California State Parks, and Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, expands and rehabilitates an existing building at King Gillette Ranch. NPS will use this to replace the leased visitor center in Thousand Oaks.

The new facility and surrounding property will serve as a joint educational and cultural center for over 35 million annual visitors to the private, local, state, and national parklands in SMMNRA. An education center capable of connecting urban youth in Greater Los Angeles to parks and stewardship is also planned for the property. The project is scheduled to be completed and open to the public in 2012.



Coming Events

2011

- *Trail Days – April 29, 30 and May 1*
- *Backbone Trek – May 7-14*
- *National Trails Day – June 4*
- *Annual Meeting – October 27 (Thursday)*

Trails Council Board Meetings

Board Meetings are open to the public and held at Diamond X Ranch, 26412 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas, CA 91302, on the 4th Thursday of the month with three exceptions: in Nov & Dec, meet on 1st Thursday; no meeting in August. Meetings start at 7:30 pm.

Trail Maintenance Report

From September 2010 through March 19, 2011, a total of 1,897 volunteer hours of maintenance were performed on trails in the Santa Monica Mountains and nearby areas. The number of volunteers times the days they worked totals 339 volunteer-days. Dividing by total hours yields an average of 5.6 hours worked per volunteer per day.

Volunteers							
Agency	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
COSCA	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
CSP	36	31	14	50	41	32	14
NPS	69	6	0	0	17	4	13
NPS CI	0	0	0	0	0	7	0
Total	105	42	14	50	58	43	27

Hours							
Agency	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
COSCA	0	65	0	0	0	0	0
CSP	124	173	84	280	266	192	80
NPS	316	33	0	0	100	24	65
NPS CI	0	0	0	0	0	95	0
Total	440	271	84	280	366	311	145

NOTES: COSCA (Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency), CSP (California State Parks), NPS (National Park Service), NPS CI (National Park Service, Channel Islands)



National Trails Day, June 4

Volunteer trail workers are invited to Franklin Canyon Ranch on June 4 when National Parks will partner with State Parks for the annual National Trails Day.

Volunteers are asked to bring their own lunch or snack and water. Also recommended are hat, sunscreen, long pants and gloves. Trail tools will be provided. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. No reservation is necessary. For more information, call Mike Malone (805-370-2317).

This event is held at many locations across the nation and is coordinated by the American Hiking Society.



Trails Council on the Web

This paper won't self-update, but our website will.

www.smmtc.org

Quick Access to Trail Maintenance Calendar

Type "SMMTC" into Google and our website will be first on the list. Click on "Trail Maintenance" and you will find a calendar with links to all work days on the current month. Near the top, left of the calendar is a set of left and right arrowheads. Click the right arrowhead to go to the next month.

Need to locate a trailhead? In the top paragraph of the calendar page click on "Google Map of Trailheads in the Santa Monicas." Thanks to our webmaster Liz Baumann.



Stay Connected to the Trails Council

Forward your email address to mail@smmtc.org for updates of SMMTC events after publication of our newsletter. You may also request that your newsletter be delivered by email rather than USPS.



Save the Date: 4th Thursday of October

ANNUAL MEETING

The Trails Council Annual Dinner Meeting will be held

Thursday, October 27, 2011

at the home of Ruth and Grant Gerson, providing an opportunity to meet people who share an interest in trails. Members and trail enthusiasts are invited to bring their spouse and friends. The complimentary dinner is hosted by the Trails Council and will be followed by a meeting.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ruth Gerson President	Jeanne Wallace Vice President
Georgia Farinella Secretary	Michelle Kemmer Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Howard Cohen	Lylene Sheets
Linda Mackinnon	George Sherman
Cynthia Maxwell	Ed Stauss
Jerry Mitcham	Barb Thomas
Susie Niebergall	
Annie Salerno	

Let's Fix Trail Problems

Please report trail situations that need attention such as signage repair, vandalism, trails overgrown or eroded and dangerous or other issues. Call 818-222-4531 or email to mail@smmtc.org.



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2011

Dues are on a calendar year basis. Payments in October and later will be credited to 2012. Please make your check payable to SMMTC and mail it to P.O. Box 345, Agoura Hills, CA 91376 or you may use your credit card with PayPal, www.paypal.com

Thank you for your continued and loyal support.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Check to have newsletter sent by e-mail

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual Memberships

Annual Membership — \$35

Life Membership — \$360*

Business Memberships

Supporter — \$100

Patron — \$250

Benefactor — \$500

Donation \$ _____

* Life membership may be paid in three annual payments of \$120.

SMMTC is a tax exempt, non-profit organization under IRS code 501(c)(3).

2011 — Backbone Trail Trek — 2011 May 7-14

CONTACTS

Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council

Mail: P.O. Box 345

Agoura Hills, CA 91376

Phone: 818-222-4531

E-mail: mail@smmtc.org

Internet: www.smmtc.org

Ruth Gerson, President

ruthgerson@aol.com — 818-991-1236

Ed Stauss, Newsletter Editor

edstauss@yahoo.com — 818-883-7843

The Trails Council newsletter is published twice a year, in the spring and fall.

©2011 Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council