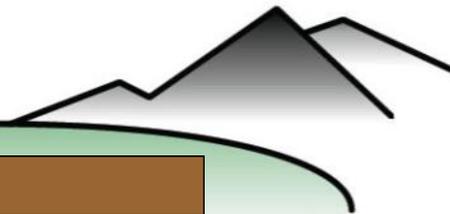


SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS TRAILS COUNCIL



SPRING 2013



On Saturday, April 20, a Trail Days crew works on the Wood Canyon Vista Trail.

Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days

The 32nd annual Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days was held April 19-21 at Danielson Ranch in Pt. Mugu State Park. The event coincided with the week of Earth Day and the beginning of National Volunteer Week. Under perfect skies and a little heat, nearly 140 volunteers participated over the
Continued on page 2

Coming Events

2013

- *National Trails Day – June 1*
(Details on page 3)
- *Annual Dinner Meeting – October 24*
(Dinner and meeting are free and open to the trails community. Details on page 4)

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 at 7:30 pm. There are three exceptions: Nov & Dec, meet on 1st Thursday and no meeting in August. Meetings start at 7:30 pm

For details on the Annual Meeting in October, please see page 4.

PRESIDENT'S VISION

Helping Trails for 41 Years

In the past 41 years that the Trails Council has been here, we have certainly accomplished quite a lot of trail work. Wow, is it really 41 years? The Trails Council is certainly an activist in the community as we organize, support, teach and lead people in building and maintaining trails. Some of these trails have evolved from being small animal trails, while others were dirt roads for traversing the lands to reach specific places, points of interest, neighbors, and just to explore. Have you learned about your favorite trails and how they evolved?

As the numbers of people who use the trails increase, the trails will need even more maintenance to ensure they have a good tread with branches and brush cut back. The recent Springs Fire did a fair amount of brushing, far more than we really needed. Now, we have to get out there and see what help the land needs so that the trails can continue to be enjoyed but later on will also support the winter's rains without sliding away with erosion. As a word of caution, please make every effort and tell your friends to stay on the trails in order to protect our precious resources.

Environmental Neuroscience is finally coming into it's own – the belief that exposure to Nature causes significant and measurable changes to the brain. So do you agree that the hiking, biking, running and horseback riding that we do are making us smarter! Of course!

There are many opportunities for people to help with the trails, so please pass the word along. The membership donation goes a long way towards our obtaining materials that we need. Your participation in events inspires others to join the group and have fun. Your learning experience prepares you to become a trail crew leader. Your satisfaction in supporting trails will give you a personal 'high' especially as you later go on the trails you worked on. What more could you want?

See you on the trails, at a board meeting, or maybe at the annual free dinner.

Ruth

Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days, continued

weekend, clearing trails throughout the park.

Volunteers included members of the Sierra Club, Concerned Off Road Bicyclist Association (CORBA), and the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council (SMMTC). Individuals and representatives from the Crenshaw Eco Club Alumni, the California Conservation Corps (CCC), and Amgen Inc. participated in the event.

A total of 4.75 miles of trail was cleared over the weekend. The younger kids worked Blue Canyon, and were thrilled to see the Mounted Volunteer Patrol horses and excited when they were “deputized” as Junior Rangers. Under joint leadership by SMMTC, The Sierra Club, and CORBA, the trails worked were Coyote Trail, Wood Canyon Vista, “Toe Stubber”, Old Boney, Upper Sycamore, and Chamberlain.

At the end of the day on Saturday, we gathered for a wonderful BBQ from State Parks. There was a lively raffle; Leigh Collins from State Parks presented a wonderful campfire program on bats and we closed the evening with a flag retirement ceremony.

After a hot day on Sunday, volunteers were treated to another raffle and a wonderful seven-layer chocolate cake donated by Claim Jumper.

This event could never happen without many hands working very hard to organize and carry it out. We are grateful for those who are generous with their time and are thankful to the many companies and individuals who donated raffle items and money to support the event and make it fun. Please visit our website, www.SMMTC.org for a list of those folks and please support our raffle donors.



On Sunday, April 21, a Trail Days crew hikes to the work zone on Wood Canyon Vista Trail.

Fire burns about 14,000 acres of NRA

In the wake of approximately 14,000 acres of burned park land, officials from the National Park Service and California State Parks have a few suggestions for how community members can help nature recover. Numerous concerned visitors eager to protect and restore the land have contacted both agencies offering assistance.

"We're touched by the outpouring of support from the community and their desire to help," said David Szymanski, superintendent of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. "We'll need everyone's help to ensure the recovery goes as smoothly as possible."

The fire burned more than 1,000 acres of National Park Service land and more than 12,000 acres of California State Parks land. The remainder of public park land acreage is owned by several park agencies.

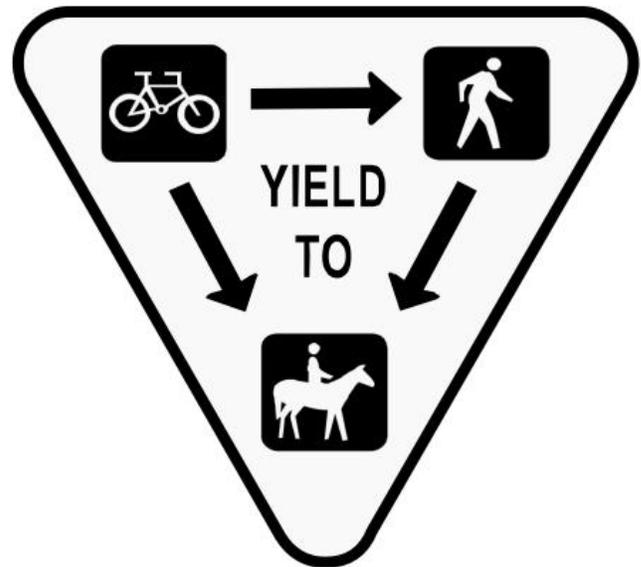
The ecosystem is especially fragile in the aftermath of fire, so park officials encourage the public to take the following steps to help nature make a healthy recovery:

1. **Respect the closures.** We're working as hard as possible to assess conditions within the burned area,
2. **Stay on the trail.** When our parks re-open, staying on designated trails (not unofficial paths created by fire crews) and minding posted closure signs is critical to protecting the wildlife and plant communities that survived the flames. Foot and bike traffic can trample sensitive soil, vegetation, burrows and nests.
3. **Sign up to volunteer.** Fire is part of nature, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't give nature a hand along the way. You can sign up now for future opportunities to do habitat restoration and trail improvement. 

Trail Maintenance Report

From September, 2012 through March, 2013, a total of 511 volunteers performed 3,370 hours of trail maintenance in the Santa Monica Mountains and nearby areas. 

| Site | Labor Hrs. | Volunteers |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| NPS - SMMNRA | 500.5 | 84 |
| NPS - Channel Islands | 364.0 | 16 |
| State Parks | 2329.5 | 361 |
| City of Malibu | 80.0 | 26 |
| Conejo Botanical Gardens | 6.0 | 2 |
| COSCA | 90.0 | 22 |
| TOTALS | 3370.0 | 511 |



National Trails Day, June 1

Volunteer trail workers are invited to the annual National Trails Day on June 1 from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. 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.

Location: Backbone Trailhead, parking lot across from Fire Camp 13, 1250 S. Encinal Canyon Road, Malibu.

Directions: From 101 Ventura Freeway, exit Kanan Road and head south about 6.2 miles to Mulholland Hwy. Turn right (west) on Mulholland

Hwy to Encinal Canyon Road, at intersection bear left road becomes Encinal Canyon. Trailhead and parking is 2.4 miles from Mulholland and Encinal intersection.

From PCH take Kanan Road north about 6 miles to Mulholland Hwy intersection. Turn left (west) on Mulholland Hwy to Encinal Canyon Road At intersection bear left. Road becomes Encinal Canyon. Trailhead and parking is 2.4 miles from Mulholland and Encinal intersection.

Car pooling is suggested because parking space is limited.

To register or for more information contact Cathy Schoonmaker, 805-370-2383.

Email: cathy_schoonmaker@nps.gov

Save the Date: 4th Thursday of October

ANNUAL MEETING

The Trails Council Annual Dinner Meeting will be held

Thursday, October 24, 2013

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 social hour begins at 6 pm, followed by a complimentary dinner hosted by the Trails Council at 7 pm and the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Please RSVP by Monday, October 22 to facilitate meal planning. Call Ruth at 818-991-1236 and leave your name, phone number and how many are in your group. The Gerson home is at Wolf Creek Ranch, 3450 Cornell Road, Agoura, CA 91301.

WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU?

- ◆ A paper copy of this newsletter delivered by mail

OR

 - ◆ An electronic copy that comes to your computer
- Please let us know by emailing to mail@smmtc.org

Trails Council on the Web

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

www.smmtc.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Let's Fix Trail Problems

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



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2013

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

Thank you for your continued support.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP _____

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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).

CONTACTS

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

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