

LINDA, GRANT and TED

Let us celebrate and remember these fine people who lived their lives dedicated to others and to making a difference in the world.

# SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS TRAILS COUNCIL

FALL 2013

## SPECIAL DEDICATION ISSUE



**Linda Palmer**

Linda was a Los Angeles Co. native, a retired actress under the name of Linda Hutchings, the beloved wife of Boyd, a loving mother to Michael and Jon, and a dear grandmother. She married Robert (Bob) Palmer (aka Boyd Holister stage name) April 1964 at The Little Brown Church in the Valley.

She became an ardent open space and trails enthusiast on moving to the Santa Monica Mountains in 1974 with her family and her horse. She joined the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council, became a member of the board of directors, and worked on trails every chance that she could, both physically and by meeting with land agencies and landowners.

Linda was President of the Trails Council for fourteen years, 1981 to 1994; vice-president for many years; and the first trail crew leader for the Saturday volunteer trail work parties. Trails and Horses were her passions, after her family of course.

Some of her community accomplishments include - Helped design & promote Los Angeles County's trail plan for the Santa Monica Mountains - Designed Upper Stunt High Trail and, with other volunteers, built it - Appointed to SMM Conservancy Advisory Committee by LA Co Board of Supervisors 1979-1981 and re-appointed in 1988 until 2010, serving 24 years - Chaired Trails sub-committee for Advisory Committee of the SMM Comprehensive Planning Commission - Alternate on the SMMNRA Advisory Commission - Coordinated 1984 feasibility study for LA County portion of

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**Grant Gerson**

“The trail is the thing, not the end of the trail. Travel too fast and you miss all you are traveling for.” Louis L’Amour was Grant’s partner as he journeyed through life living by the Code of the Cowboy - Live each day with courage - Take pride in your work - Always finish what you start - Do what has to be done - When you make a promise, keep it - Ride for the brand - Be tough but fair - Know where to draw the line - Remember that some things are not for sale.

Grant’s philosophy, principles & morals were the same basis for his camp program. When he started Calamigos Ranch in 1947, those were his guidelines. His Star Society program was based on loyalty, honesty, self-reliance, reverence & sportsmanship. His motto was “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, but do it first.” In his 40 years of running Calamigos Star C Camp, almost 20,000 kids went through. For some, it was life changing, as noted by those who today are adults; and for all it was enriching. Grant had an unshakable commitment to make the

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Linda Palmer

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Juan Bautista deAnza National Historic Trail - Co-chaired Anza Trail Plan Task force to assist NPS with route through LA Co.1993-94 – attended and spoke at endless meetings of the California Coastal Commission to preserve trails.

Other activities where she was involved included - Member of Mounted Assistant Unit (MAU) patrolling at Malibu Creek SP (today's MVP) - Trail coordinator for Equestrian Trails Inc. (ETI) Corral 63 - Designed trail plan for Leona Valley & advisor to Antelope Valley Trails Assoc. - Member Public Advisory Committee of Ventura Freeway Area Plan for LA Co 1993-94 - Advisor on trail issues in SM Mountains for LA & Ventura Counties and CA Coastal Commission - Board member of Cold Creek and Monte NidoValley POAs - Member of the California / Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days Committee for 21 years

Over the years Linda received many awards for Volunteerism and Equestrian activities from various entities - LA Co Board of Supervisors, Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, Recreation & Equestrian Coalition, Malibu Trails Assoc, Samuel Lutz Memorial Volunteerism Award, and Hank Grateful Award in 2010.

One of her horses was Midas, a Palomino Tennessee Walker, that she taught many tricks including rearing on command. Her other horse was Baraka, an Arabian with which she did endurance riding and trail riding. She had the fastest time ever for the Malibu Endurance Ride in 1981, 3 hrs.-43 min., beating the old ride record which she had also set. She completed the Tevis in 1985, a most arduous 100-mile, 1-day ride from Squaw Valley over the Sierras to Auburn. She often took people riding who were in responsible positions in organizations and in politics to show them important lands and trails to acquire. Many of them voted to buy the lands after riding with Linda to see how beautiful they were and how important it was to save them from development.

“The diversity and beauty of the natural world is our heritage, the network of life that supports and nurtures us. It is our responsibility to preserve it for future generations.” Linda Palmer



### A Request from Linda

Linda requested that if anyone wanted to make a donation in her memory to do so to the Trails Council. The Board will choose a trail project that would honor Linda's interests. Please note on your check that it is for Linda Palmer's project.

Grant Gerson

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world a better place. Grant was passionate about nature, and his influence and spirit left an indelible mark on Outdoor Education in the Camping Industry nationally. He pioneered the Outdoor Education program locally in the Las Virgenes school district.

Grant was generous, adventurous, optimistic, resourceful, creative, courageous & always ready for fun and a good laugh. His glass was more than half full; and he was a happy-go-lucky cowboy who always wore boots and a cowboy hat. He never had to remember what he told anyone, because he always told the truth and never lied. He enjoyed scuba diving for many years; but skiing was a favorite sport, and he skied until he was 85 yrs. He rode horses as a young man, and horses continued to be in his life as he farmed Calamigos with a draft team to plant alfalfa hay, and as he rode throughout his life, right up to his passing at 92 yrs, even with his illnesses. He spent many days riding his horse Max on the local trails and also on the trails in the backcountry of the Sierra.

Grant was a founding member of the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council in 1972. He saw trails disappear due to development, and he made the effort to help save them. He embraced life with laughter, love, taking chances and being fearless. As Louis L'Amour said, “To die is nothing. One is here, one is no longer here. It is only at the end one must be able to say 'I was a man!'.” — Louis L'Amour got it right, and so did Grant.



## Over 45 trail miles repaired by Trails Council Volunteers

2012-2013 Season Totals	Labor Hours	Volunteers	Length (Feet)	Length (Miles)
City of Malibu	80	26	3,000	0.57
Conejo Botanical Gardens	6	2	300	0.06
COSCA	90	22	12,000	2.27
NPS	604	105	18,930	3.59
NPS Channel Islands	545	26	72,820	13.79
State Parks	2,026	345	133,986	25.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,351</b>	<b>526</b>	<b>241,036</b>	<b>45.65</b>

From September, 2012 through June, 2013, a total of 3,351 volunteer maintenance hours were performed, repairing over 45 miles of trails in the Santa Monica Mountains and nearby areas.



## 2013 Trail Days Donors

Big Thank You to all these Trail Days supporters

### For donations of raffle prizes, goodie bags, etc.

Adventure 16  
Lylene Sheets  
Agoura Diner  
McDonalds  
Alamo Bar and Grill  
Michael's Bike Shop  
Annie Salerno  
National Park Service  
Big 5 Sporting Goods  
Numero Uno Pizza  
Bill's Bike Shop  
Patagonia  
Bucca di Beppo  
Real Cheap Sports  
Calamigos Ranch  
Ciscos Restaurant  
Santa Monica Cyclery  
Claim Jumper Restaurant  
REI  
Crenshaw Eco Club Alumni  
Sport Chalet  
Giant Bicycle, Inc.  
Stonefire Grill  
Harley's Camarillo Bowl  
Tecnu - Tec Labs  
Harley's Simi Bowl  
Tifa Chocolate and Gelatto  
Hollywood Storage  
Western Bagels  
Home Depot  
Westlake Cyclery  
Hugo's Restaurant  
Wolf Creek Brewing Co.  
Island Packers  
CORBA  
SMM Trails Council

### For monetary support

Art Carvalho  
Calif. Native Plant Society  
CORBA  
Conejo Sierra Club  
Malibu Creek SP Docents  
Marilyn Browning  
SMM Trails Council  
Topanga Canyon Docents

### For recyclable bottles and cans; the money collected was used toward the purchase of raffle prizes

Annie Salerno  
NPS Coastal Cleanup  
Backbone Trek  
NPS Headquarters  
Barb Thomas  
NPS National Trails Day  
Burt Elliott  
NPS Paramount Ranch  
Conejo Trail Day  
Dave Edwards  
Jerry Mitcham  
Joann Morrell  
John Holroyd  
Jon Vangorder  
Lylene Sheets  
Maureen Buchanan  
Musch Campout  
NPS Picnic  
Ron Grue  
SMM Trail Days  
Steve Clark  
Trails Council Picnic



## Ted DePass

Ted De Pass, president of the Trails Council in 1995, passed away at age 71 on August 19th from complications of Crohn's disease. Ted represented the pure definition of a "loner" in the sense that he had virtually no knowledge of his parents, had no siblings, never married nor had any children. In most any other definition of "loner," he did not qualify. He had a large circle of friends from his community, his workplace, his interest in cars and the environment. He was always first on the scene to help out anyone whom he sensed needed help. His caring nature and friendship to many made him a real asset to his community at large. He worked tirelessly for the Trails Council for many years. Recognition has come from the City of Calabasas, which recently closed a meeting in his honor, as well as The State Senate doing the same thanks to Senator Fran Pavley. There will be a bench placed in Ted's name in Wild Walnut Park in Calabasas in a few weeks. For further information and details on the dedication, contact Michael Brockman at 818-222-7005 or email at michael@mbrockman.

## Five Presidents of Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council



Much of the success of the Trails Council is due to excellent leadership through the years by these five presidents, (from left) Ted DePass (1995), Linda Palmer (1981-1984), Ruth Gerson (1998-still serving), Lenora Kirby (1996-1997), and Dick Hubbard (1972-1980).

## Annual Dinner Meeting

October 24, 2013

At the home of Ruth Gerson, the meeting provides 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 at 7 pm and the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Please RSVP by Monday, October 21 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.

### 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 & no meeting in August. Meetings start at 7:30 pm

## Annie Salerno to Coordinate 2014 BBTrek

The 2014 Backbone Trek is scheduled for the dates of May 3-10. Due to the enthusiastic turnout this year, we expect to fill the event early in 2014. Registration begins in February, watch the web site at <http://www.smmtc.org/bbtrek/>.

Annie Salerno, BBTrek coordinator for 2014, can be reached at 805-907-1826 for additional information.



Downed tree is cleared from Old Boney Trail.

## SMMTC Crews Assist State Parks With Trail Remediation in Wake of Springs Fire

In early May 2013, the devastating Springs fire roared through Point Mugu State Park. By the time the fire was fully contained, it had consumed over 24,000 acres.

Most trails in the park sustained damage. All trails were closed until surveys could be completed. Remediation efforts began as necessary. While the park was closed, SMMTC volunteers joined the trail crew in repairing the damage. The major tasks were cutting up and clearing downed trees and clearing rockslides and other debris.

Once the park was reopened, the trail crew changed its planned schedule to focus its efforts in the fire-damaged areas.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

#### DIRECTORS

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

## Receiving our Newsletter

Do you prefer an email newsletter instead of a paper copy delivered by mail?  
Please let us know by emailing to [mail@smmtc.org](mailto:mail@smmtc.org)

### PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014

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](http://www.paypal.com)

*Thank you for your continued support.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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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).

## 2014 — Backbone Trail Trek — 2014 May 3-10

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