



Mission Trails Regional Park News

Volume 21, Number 1

-A Publication of the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation-

Winter/Spring, 2010

Two New Mission Trails Programs



Pictured l to r: Taylor S., Landon B., Coley A., Leianna W., Claire S., Lauren E., Chloe W., Madeline S., Emily W. and Shayna B.

First Nature Club Began with a Trip Up Cowles Mountain

On January 2, 10 children, ages 7 through 12, joined Park Ranger Mika Shimada-Cicirelli on the first Nature Club activity with a three hour hike all the way up to the top of Cowles Mountain and return. Along the way Park Ranger Mika asked the children to establish New Year's environmental resolutions. They also participated in a sensory awareness exercise, and upon reaching the top, Park Ranger Mika read a short biography of John Muir.

Park Ranger Mika stated "As the lead in creating the Nature Club, I

was pleased to provide children with another opportunity to spend time outdoors and connecting with nature. Each Nature Club activity will offer hiking and various fun-filled nature related activities. Children will be immersed in the sights and sounds of nature as they build friendships and share memorable experiences with each other".

Each Nature Club activity is limited to 10 children. February is already booked to capacity. For more information, please go to our website at www.mtrp.org.

Take a Walk on the Wild Side! Wildlife Tracking Walks

Join MTRP Trail Guide and Tracking Team member Mike Gibbs for an adventure in wildlife tracking. Learn the art of discovering signs left behind by resident creatures during two fun-filled hours of "dirt time". The free tracking walks are suitable

for the whole family and will be held on the first **Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m.** Locations for the walks will vary monthly and will be posted at mtrp.org/events.asp. Don't forget to wear long pants and comfortable walking shoes. Rain Cancels.

Executive Director Jay Wilson on His First Year With MTRP



It has been an incredible year for me at MTRP. After spending nearly fourteen years working ten floors up in a cement building known as the City Administration Building, MTRP is truly a breath of fresh air. It is obviously a completely different working environment, one I cherish each and every day.

I have the good fortune of working with a great group of dedicated individuals at Mission Trails. All have helped me assimilate a great amount of valuable information; Senior Ranger Tracey Walker, Rangers Heidi Gutknecht, Mel Naidas, Mika Shimada-Cicirelli, and Tom Miller; Center Directors David Lee and Lauren Baker; Grounds Maintenance Staff Tom Folk and Carmelo Esquer; Gift Shop Manager Patty O'Reilly; a host of

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A Message From Councilmember Marti Emerald

Happy New Year! 2009 was a terrific year for Mission Trails Regional Park. The County Water Authority was hard at work planning and restoring areas impacted by their pipeline project. We found and set aside money to build a comfort station near the Equestrian Staging Area. We even got a street sign designating the road as Equestrian Circle. And more visitors than ever camped, hiked, climbed and enjoyed our beautiful open spaces.

2010 promises to be even better! With Dorothy Leonard, Jay Wilson and Senior Ranger Tracey Walker at the helm, Mission Trails will be shaped and preserved by people with true vision and passion. We have work to do at Cowles Mountain. Our network of trails has friends ready to make repairs. And your 7th District City Council staff is working with the City to create a maintenance program for Padre Dam, the jewel of Mission Trails.

Neighborhood volunteers are gearing up to make improvements in areas of Mission Trails that interface with their communities. On the north shore of Lake Murray, a small but dedicated group of parents is already raising money to rebuild a playground.

Their effort is inspiring and their goal is contagious. To be part of this great project you can go to their website;

www.lakemurrayplaygroundproject.org.

I know, this may be on the outskirts, but as future generations of children play along the shores of Lake Murray they will also look up to see the lovely hills of Mission Trails Regional Park, and come to appreciate this tremendous expanse of natural beauty and its value to San Diego.

In 2010, Mission Trails is also blessed with dedicated volunteers who do everything from pick up trash to educate the public about our park and the importance of protecting and preserving this unique resource. Our Volunteers of the Year will be honored February 6. Thanks to all our volunteers and the staff who take care of Mission Trails Regional Park. You keep the dream alive!!

Dates to Remember

Explore Mission Trails Day
May 15, 2010
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Always a great time for the whole family, Mission Trails Regional Park invites you to attend this yearly event highlighting all the park has to offer.

Eighteenth Annual Amateur Photography Contest

Deadline for submitting photos
April 16, 2010
All entries will be on display **from**
April 27 to May 28, 2010.
Reception and Awards Ceremony
May 23, 2010

Download the necessary form at
http://mtrp.org/photo_contest.asp

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation Board of Directors

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dedicated volunteers, and MTRP Foundation Board members; in particular Dorothy Leonard, "the Mother of MTRP"; and finally Roland Roberge the Administrative Assistant for the MTRP Foundation who had the greatest challenge in bringing me up to speed on a multitude of programs and operational tasks.

I have adopted a picnic table 200 feet out the back door of the Visitor Center. When people say let's go to lunch, I tell them to bring food. As soon as they sit down at the picnic table and look out over the valley and the surrounding mountains of South Fortuna, Kwaay Paay, Pyles Peak and Cowles Mountain, they immediately realize they are in a tranquil paradise. It beats a restaurant anytime.

To reinforce this, on another picture perfect Mission Trails Day when it was clear and 70 degrees outside, I was talking to Christine Besemer the Teacher Program Coordinator of the Museum of the Earth in Ithaca New York. This spring, she is planning a workshop at the Visitor Center for geology teachers representing CA, OR, WA, AK & HI. I asked why she picked San Diego and the MTRP Visitor Center. Christine responded it was cold and snowing in Ithaca, NY.

There have been a number of Foundation accomplishments during 2009. The Foundation opened the Predator Exhibit in the Visitor Center. The upgrading of the audio-visual equipment for the Visitor Center Theater was completed. Educational programs with Linda Hawley, including Ant-Sized Adventures, Our Naturehood and Nature Explorers classes were implemented. With a grant from the Sempra Energy Foundation, the MTRP Foundation is creating a new educational program with Alicia Berg for grades K-8 that includes visiting classrooms and offering guided tours at MTRP.

Along this first year's journey, I have also gained valuable new friends working outside of MTRP. One such individual is Mike Hennig who works with the

Visualization Lab at SDSU and RP Search Services. You may have seen Mike throughout MTRP flying a small remote controlled drone. In the next few months he will be implementing several high tech projects involving remote cameras controlled over the internet, a prototype 3 Dimensional display, and exciting information and videos available via the internet. Another new friend is Ruth Curran, the Executive Director of The Evergreen Project. She working with us on several grant opportunities and will be providing educational videos via the internet.

This year is off to a very good start for MTRP. New Year's Day was spectacular, with several thousand visitors hiking and biking throughout the park. Four hundred and twenty-five people toured the Visitor Center on January 2, our first day of business for the new year; that compares to just 157 visitors on January 2, 2009.

On Saturday, April 24th, the MTRP Foundation is joining hands with the Patrick Henry Band and their highly motivated parent-driven Spirit of 76 Foundation for a joint fund raiser at the Visitor Center. All the details will be available shortly.

Thank you again to everyone. 2010 is going to be a great year!

Book Now for Upcoming Campground Season



Looking for an affordable outdoor weekend getaway for the whole family. Look no further than San Diego's own Kumeyaay Lake Campground. Come out to enjoy Kumeyaay Lake during the greenest part of the year; blooming in full splendor. A short hike or bike ride will get you to the Old Mission Dam and the beautiful Oak Canyon Trail. Now is the time to make reservations for the Campground, as we will be filling up quickly. Reservations can be made at up to three months in advance by going to <http://www.mtrp.org/camava/>. Groups are welcome. Please write to campground@mtrp.org or call 619-668-2748 with any questions.

Arbor Day, continued from p. 8

plant trees in honor or memory of a special person in their life.

Marie Tuthill - in honor of Mayor Jerry Sanders and Betty S. Stevens
Gretchen Gines & Gaetana Patton - in memory of Edwin and Fern Gines
Mr. Hassanein - in memory of Neva Hassanein
Luranc Family in memory of Joseph Graffia
Fred & Pauline Zacharias

Our 2009 Arbor Day in Mission Trails was sponsored by City of San Diego Councilmember Marti Emerald, City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department, Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee and Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation.

Art Exhibits

January 30 – February 26

Two Person Photo Show
Diane Johnson and
Barbara Swanson

February 27 – March 26

Photo Show
Scott Streit

March 27 – April 22

Photo Show
Steve Gould
Reception March 28

April 24 – May 28

MTRP Annual Amateur
Photography Contest

Thank you to our many Mission Trails contributors of 2009

Sponsor

San Diego Landfill Systems

Patron

Olive Garden Restaurants

Superior Ready Mix

San Diego County Water Authority

Founder

Tierrasanta Foundation

Family and Friends - In Memory of
Walter Odening

Edmund and Ruth Gibbs - In Memory
of Edmund Gibbs, Jr.

Family and Friends - In Memory of
Lin Ackerly

Kaiser Permanente

Kiwanis Club of

Tierrasanta - San Diego

Diane Nelson and David McLaren

San Diego Firefighters Local 145

Marie Tuthill

Trailblazer

Pat Abbott

Salah Hassanein

Lawrence and Suzanne Hess

Gary Hogue

Richard and Carol Johnson

Rose Van Hook

Pathfinder

Joe and Nancy Acevedo

Ron and Nancy Anderson

John and Ann Aydelotte

Lynn Baer - In memory of Brad Baer

Mr. and Mrs. John Berry

Rita and Jerry Bierman

Boy Scout Troop 950

Maurice Pessot and Roni Breite

Vickie Brunk

Ramona Bush

Gale Romanowski and Edmund

Capparelli

Curtis Carlson

Patricia and Douglas Coe

Cosmos Coffee Cafe

Pete Cuthbert

Ted Daub

Wendy and Terry Esterly

Sally and Einar Gall

Chris and Siv Garrod

Terry Gaughen

Nancy Varah and Carol Goyne

Mary Jo Grubbs

Lois and Mike Gubitosi

Julia Guroff

Diane and Jim Hamilton

Salah Hassanein -

In memory of Neva Hassanein

Jack and Grace Hawkes

Tom and Joan Hayes

Jim and Karen Hodson

Michael and Debra Holmes

Mike Hurlburt

Patricia and Gerald Johnson

David Johnston

Patricia Knobloch and Bruce Harley

David and Sally Kotnik

Fred and Linda Kramer

Al and Lori Lehman

Dan and Dorothy Leonard

Perry Lieber

Henry and Shirley Mann

Tammi and Stephen Marshall

Michael and Genevieve Matherly

Josefa Matthews

James McKay - In Memory of

Louis Williams

Jim and Suzan McNeil

Carlton and Cathy Morse

Dick and Jan Murphy

Charles Nickel

Janie Noon

Ola and Lyn Olson

Clement O'Neill

The Michael Pent Family;

Mike, Pat, Michelle and Mary

Mike and Pat Pent

Philip Pryde

Lynn Rizer

Jacqueline Roisman

Jodi Roisman

Gregg Rosner and Jill Thacker

San Carlos Area Council

San Carlos Garden Club

Arthur and Ruth Savage

John and Sheryl Scarano

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Stephen Seaborg

Pat and Robert Sorteberg

Dr. and Mrs. William Sperling

Ruby Stanforth - In Memory of

Millard Stanforth

Donald Steele

Harold Stone

Tommie Thompson

Leonard and Janet Trentacosta

Debbie VanDusen -

In name of Barbara Rosner

George and Nancy Varga

Mark Wade

Cecile Walters

Thomas Walters

Hans and Mary Weber

Joseph Weening

West Hills High School -

In memory of Brittany Williams

Dennis and Nancy Wilson

Robert Windrem

Douglas Wong

Fred and Pauline Zacharias

Marlene Zeichick

Fred Zuckerman

Family

Raymond Anderson

Barbara Anderson

Jack and Penny Avery

Ed Barber

Luanne and Kelly Barrett

Joyce Bartos

Jim and Dorinda Bogart

Tom and April Boling

Glenn and Joan Braden

Mark and Rona Catlin

Sandi Calabough

Richard and Rosellen Cline

Colleen Conaway and Mark Peterson

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 Marc and Susana Whitaker
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 In memory of Dorothy and Robert
 Denton
 Luann and Brian Wright

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 Coralie Thomson
 Harry Wade
 Richard and Colleen White -
 In memory of Joe Acevedo

Corporate Donors

Cosmos Coffee Cafe
 Kaiser Permanente
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 San Diego County Water Authority
 San Diego Landfill Systems
 Sempra Energy Foundation
 Superior Ready Mix
 Tierra Santa Foundation

Arbor Day

John Beers - In memory of
 Rosemary Beers
 Gretchen Gines and Gaetana Patton -
 In memory of Edwin and Fern Gines
 Salah Hassanein - In memory of
 Neva Hassanein
 Luranc Family - In memory of
 Joseph Graffia
 Jocelyn Mcgrath
 Sheldon and Marcie Merel
 Eric and Elizabeth Olson
 Marie Tuthill - in honor of
 Betty R. Stevens and
 Mayor Jerry Sanders
 Fred and Pauline Zacharias - In name
 of Fred and Pauline Zacharias

Notable Donations

October- December 2009

Founder - \$1,000 - \$2,499

Diane Nelson & David McClaren

Trailblazer - \$500-\$999

Kiwanis Club of Tierrasanta

Gary B. Hogue

Richard & Carol Johnson

Path Finder - \$100-\$499

Rita & Jerry Bierman

Richard & Sue Braun

Edmund Capparelli & Gale Romanowski

Patricia & Douglas Coe

Michael Colby

Ted Daub

Wendy & Terry Esterly

Sally & Einar Gall

Terry Gaughen

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gubitosi

Patricia Knobloch & Bruce Harley

Salah Nassanein

Jim & Karen Hodson

Mike and Debra Holmes

Mike Hurlburt

David Johnston Family

Fred & Linda Kramer

Gary and Nancy Krueger

Al & Lori Lehman

Perry & Christine Lieber

Michael & Genevieve Matherly

Carlton & Cathy Morse

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Murphy

Charles Nichols

Janie Noon

Lyn & Ola Olsson

Michael and Patricia Pent

Michael Pent Family

Philip Pryde

Sheryl & Bob Scarano

Brittany Williams Memorial

Scholarship Fund*

Richard C. Schwenkmeyer

Jill Thacker and Gregg Rosner

Rose Van Hook

Tom Waters

Joseph Weening

Fred and Pauline Zacharias

*This donation was improperly listed
 in our fall/winter newsletter

Business Donors

Cosmos Coffee Cafe
 San Diego Landfill Systems
 Sempra Energy Foundation
 Tierrasanta Foundation

Two Local User Groups Give Back to Mission Trails

San Diego Mountain Bike Association Trail Day

On Saturday, November 21, 2009, San Diego Mountain Bike Association held their semi-annual Trail Day at Mission Trails Regional Park. A group of 26 men and women worked in the Suycott Wash South area of the park. Trail work included tread rehabilitation in the form of rolling grade dips, knicks and debarming. The group also closed a short social volunteer trail with large rocks and removed a dangerous tree stump located in the trail. Where widening of trails were starting to take place, the group re-vegetated the areas with native seeds provided by Mission Trails Rangers. Choking points were also added along certain portions of the trails directing the park users onto the designated trail. The next scheduled SD MBA Trail Day at Mission Trails will be on Saturday, January 30, 2010 at Big Rock and Mesa Trails. For more information, please contact Kim Wiley at kim@sdmba.com.

If your organization would like to participate in a project to enhance Mission Trails, contact Ranger Mel Naidas at 619-668-3277 or mnaidas@mtrp.org



Members of the San Diego Mountain Bike Association

Allied Climbers of San Diego Adopt-A-Crag

On Saturday, November 14, 2009, the Allied Climbers of San Diego, through their Adopt-A-Crag program, conducted a project event on the Climbers Loop South Trail in honor of Walter Odening who was an advocate of multi-use recreational activities at Mission Trails Regional Park.

Twenty volunteers (local climbers and El Capitan High School students) restored a rock wall barrier

for a sensitive habitat area located outside the southeastern corner of the Climbers Loop Trail. A solution was provided during this project by erecting a natural stone dry-stack wall which was also significantly reinforced by extensive vertical brushing. They repaired and replaced approximately 300 linear feet of silt-barrier fencing preventing further erosion of the trail. A total of 82 hours of labor was devoted to the project.



Members of Allied Climbers erecting a dry-stack wall



Members of Allied Climbers of San Diego



Mission Trails Regional Park Donor Opportunities

By donating to Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation you are preserving the past and investing in the future.

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation provides opportunities for individuals, businesses, community organizations, and foundations to support a variety of programs and projects within the park. Community support is important to ensure adequate funding to maintain the award winning Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center and the multiple amenities the park has to offer.

Special event and project sponsorships are also available. Sponsorships for Explore Mission Trails Day, an annual event held each May, range from \$500 to \$5,000. Exhibit sponsorships begin at \$2,500. Bench and table sponsorships range from \$1,500 to \$4,000 depending upon the item and the location in the park. Call Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation at (619) 668-3280 for additional information.

Names of contributors of \$1,000 or more will be engraved on the donor board displayed at the Visitor and Interpretive Center. Donations of \$100 or more are accumulated from year-to-year for donor recognition purposes.

Become a Business Friend of Mission Trails

Business Donors making contributions of \$100 to \$500 are eligible for a web site link from the Mission Trails web site for a period of six months. Business Donors making contributions of \$500 and above are eligible for a web site link for a period of one year.

Our Funds ... You may designate your donation for one or more of the following funds.

Friends of Mission Trails—General support for all park programs and projects.

Trail Maintenance

Tree and Habitat Maintenance

Education Programs

Library Books and Supplies

Lake Murray

Endowment Funds

General Endowment Fund

Library Endowment Fund

Other ways you can donate ...

Memorial or In Honor of Gifts—Honor a friend or family member with a donation.

Matching Funds—Identify Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Foundation for a matching funds contribution if your employer has a policy of matching charitable gifts.

Gifts of Securities—To allow donors to realize full tax deductions for appreciated stock, MTRP Foundation accepts gifts of stock. Call (619) 668-3280 for further details.

Wills—Remember MTRP Foundation in your will.

Charitable Remainder Trusts—With a CRT, highly appreciated assets are placed in an irrevocable trust. Those asset proceeds provide income to the donor and/or to his/her beneficiaries for life. Contact your financial advisor for information.

Please cut here ----- Please cut here

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, Inc. One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, CA 92119-1008

Name _____ Business Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

You may designate your donation for one or more of the following funds. Please indicate the amount.

Friends of Mission Trails - General support for all Mission Trails programs and projects \$ _____

MTRP Foundation Endowment Fund - Earnings used for programs and projects _____

Special funds

Education Program Fund - Funds for education programs _____

Library Fund - Books and supplies for the library _____

Library Endowment Fund - Earnings used for books and equipment for the library _____

Trail Maintenance - Trail maintenance projects _____

Tree and Habitat Maintenance - To help maintain the park's habitat. _____

Lake Murray - Special projects at Lake Murray _____

Total Donation - Make check payable to MTRP Foundation and mail to address above..... \$ _____

Charge my donation to VISA _____ MC _____

Card No. _____

Expiration Date ____ / ____

Signature of card holder _____

Donor Levels

\$25 Individual

\$50 Family

\$100 Path Finder

\$500 Trailblazer

\$1,000 Founder

\$2,500 Patron

\$5,000 Steward

\$10,000 Sponsor

\$25,000 Benefactor

\$50,000 Trustee

\$100,000 Director

To give on line, visit our web site at
www.mtrp.org/donors.asp



**Mission Trails
Regional Park Foundation**

One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, CA 92119-1008
Visitor & Interpretive Center: (619) 668-3281
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E-mail: mtrp@mtrp.org
Web Site: www.mtrp.org

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Mission Trails Regional Park News

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, Inc., established in January 1988, is a non-profit public benefit corporation organized for the purpose of preserving, improving and maintaining Mission Trails Regional Park.

Mission Trails Regional Park News is a publication of Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, Inc., published four times a year.

Editor: Roland Roberge

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GO TO <http://www.mtrp.org/newsletter.asp>

Another Successful Arbor Day

This year's Mission Trails Regional Park Arbor Day was celebrated on Saturday, December 5th at the Equestrian Staging Area. Joe Morse, President of the MTRP Foundation, welcomed and thanked everyone for their interest, contribution and support. MTRP Staff member Carmelo Esquer provided instructions on proper planting techniques for the 10 Cottonwood and one Engelmann Oak. Members of Boy Scout Troop 950 and 951 assisted with planting the trees and shrubs. Drew Potocki, the City's Arborist and Urban Forester, also assisted with the tree plantings.

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation thanks the following donors for their support of our 2009 Arbor Day. Several families came to



Arbor Day donors planting a memorial tree

Arbor Day, continued on p. 3