



Mission Trails Regional Park News

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Summer/Fall 2003

Eleventh Annual Photo Contest Winners

Awards for the Eleventh Annual Mission Trails Regional Park Photography Contest were presented at a reception held at the park's Visitor & Interpretive Center on Sunday, June 22nd. The Leonard Butterman Best of Show Award was presented to Alan Haynes for his Rough Water photograph. Brian Wright received the People's Choice Award for Mortero Sunrise.

Other winners include -

Black and White: Bill Howell 1st and 2nd place; Alan Haynes, 3rd place; Brian Wright, Honorable Mention

Youth: Aaron Spears, 1st place; Travis Thomas, 2nd place; Lindsey Foote, 3rd place and Honorable Mention.

Color - People, flora and fauna: Bill Howell, 1st and 2nd place; Sue Griffith, 3rd place; Brian Wright, Honorable Mention.

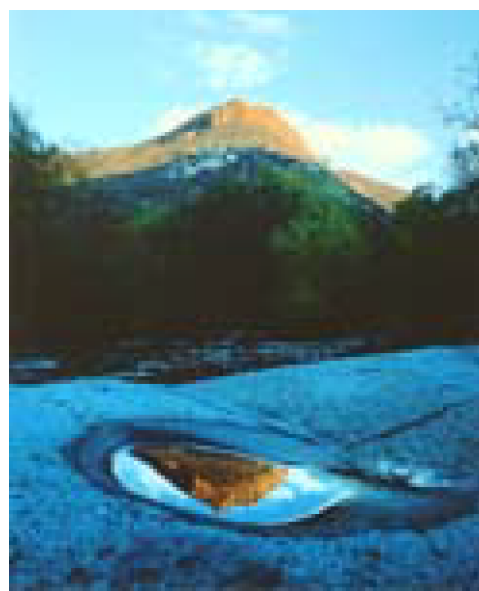
Color - Scenic Views: Brian Wright, 1st place; Alan Haynes, 2nd place; Christine Rowson, 3rd place; Chris Hammond, Honorable Mention

Thank you to our Photography Contest Committee members: Betty Ogilvie, chair; Gene Hatton, Richard Johnson, Johnnie Perkins, Bill Sperling and Roland Roberge and judges: Viv Peller, Bruce Mason and Rick Wiley. Also, thank you Starbucks, Fletcher Pkwy. for generously contributing coffee for the reception.

The amateur photography contest and reception are annual events sponsored by Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, in cooperation with the City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department.

All contest entries will be on display at the

PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD



Brian Wright - Mortero Sunrise

BEST IN SHOW



Alan Haynes - Rough Water



A Message From Councilmember Jim Madaffer

Prior to a scheduled practice rescue a real emergency happened before they could rehearse at Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP). Thanks to expert teamwork among the police officers, fire fighters and park rangers, the emergency rescue on May 31 was faster and safer due to a new plan. A woman fell while hiking, broke her ankle and needed to be airlifted from Cowles Mountain to a waiting ambulance. I happened to be driving from one community event to another and witnessed the closing of traffic on Navajo Road so that the helicopter could land. The entire rescue took only 1 hour and 20 minutes.

Here is how the new plan works. Once they are notified, the Police Department, Fire Department and Park Rangers respond to the same location and communicate using the same radio frequency. They create a staging area for personnel and a landing area for helicopters by closing the westbound lanes of Navajo Road between Cowles Mountain Boulevard and Golferest Drive. There are three equally spaced emergency staging areas on Cowles Mountain. Each area can accommodate the San Diego Police Department's A.B.L.E. helicopters and the Sheriff's Department A.S.T.R.E.A. helicopters. These areas were established thanks to the fast and unanimous approvals of the Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee and The Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force. Emergency personnel and their equipment are airlifted to the emergency staging area above the victim. The victim is then carried to the next lowest staging area and airlifted down to Navajo Road for transfer to an ambulance or medical Helicopter.

Congratulations to Sgt Dale Shockley and all involved in the rescue for a job well done!

More congratulations are in order. First, congratulations to everyone involved in putting on the wonderful Explore Mission Trails Day. It was a great way for people to discover all the park has to offer; plans are underway to make it an annual event. And, we want to welcome and extend congratulations to John M. Barone, the new Senior Ranger at MTRP.

As always, I welcome hearing your comments on Mission Trails Regional Park or any other issues. Call me at (619) 236-6677 or send an email to jmadaffer@sandiego.gov. I invite you to visit my Web site at JimMadaffer.com

Photos, continued from pg. 1

Visitor & Interpretive Center through July. This year's winning photographs as well as the 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 contest winners can be viewed on our web site by clicking on Photo Contest and the year you wish to view

Wish to participate? The deadline for photos for the 2004 photography contest will be May 21, 2004 with the reception to honor all photographers and announce the winners scheduled for June 27, 2004.

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County Board of Supervisors Generously Support Mission Trails Regional Park



County Supervisor Pam Slater and
MTRP Foundation Secretary/Treasurer Dorothy Leonard.

On recommendation of Supervisor Pam Slater, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors recently approved a Community Projects Program grant for Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation. On June 10th, 2003 Supervisor Slater presented Dorothy Leonard, the Foundation's Secretary/Treasurer, with a check for \$5,000. "The Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation plays a vital role in protecting an area that is at the heart of our county's ecosystem," said Slater. "These funds will allow the Foundation to continue its work of protecting Mission Trails Park for future generations. Open space preservation and protection of our ecosystem are important to everyone's quality of life." The Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation Board of Directors is appreciative of Supervisor Slater's continued support of the park and the Foundation's efforts to provide programs and projects in Mission Trails for the benefit of present and future generations.

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A UNIQUE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

If you enjoy hiking, biking or horseback riding on the trails of Mission Trails Regional Park, then perhaps you'd like to join our Volunteer Patrols! Our Volunteer Patrol members act as ambassadors and observers in the Park, helping to monitor trail usage, and answering visitors' questions about the Park's history and habitat. They also help to maintain a positive presence on the trails. Volunteer Patrol members are equipped with binoculars, map, compass and GPS to help them in their duties. The three types of Patrol are Foot, Mountain Bike and Equestrian.

The purpose of the Volunteer Patrol is to supplement patrol activities of the Mission Trails Regional Park Rangers. The goals of the Volunteer Patrol are to provide information and assistance to park patrons, inform them of the park's rules and regulations, and ensure that everyone is able to enjoy the natural beauty of the park in safety and tranquility. Other duties include protecting the archaeological, historical, cultural and natural resources of the park and helping to deter vandalism. They also assist in Land Navigation using a map, compass and GPS to pinpoint the location of endangered, threatened, and sensitive habitats and vegetation.

Dorcas McNeil

BLACK AND WHITE - FIRST PLACE



Bill Howell - American Lady Butterfly

Hermes Copper: Rare Butterfly Flourishes in MTRP

With a tiny wingspan of only an inch, it had not been observed in Mission Trails for decades, but on June 6th, 2000, I saw one. I crept close enough for a photograph and pressed the trigger. In a fraction of a second before the click, the bug bolted. It was gone. With no proof, who'd believe me now? Immortality on film was thwarted and I had nothing but a story to share with people, but I did see a very special butterfly that day: the hermes copper (*Lycaena hermes*). Named for the mythological courier in Greek legend, it spends nearly ten months of the year as an egg and can be found only in a few scattered locations in San Diego County -- no place else on the planet. The little copper-toned butterfly was once widespread throughout the area and along the Baja border until its scrubby habitats became prime real estate for development in America's finest city. It is now on the endangered list.

Drought bedraggled the Mission Trails chaparral until 2003 when Southern California rainfall assumed normalcy and the struggling plant communities in the park recovered into greenery. I suspected the bug would return, so I watched the areas where the insect should be flying. I was aware that the male would perch and wait for the females to flutter by and that they both drank nectar with their long proboscis ("tongue") from the white-with-pink flowers of flat-top buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). The caterpillars of this *Lycaena* are finicky and will munch only on the new leaves of mature spiny redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*), so I looked in places that had both plants. I knew their two-month flight time peaked in June, that the females would lay eggs only on the redberry, and that the males would seek them there. On Cinco de Mayo, of this year, I was with Judy Alvarez, on a path near Shepherd Pond when she excitedly announced her sighting of a hermes copper cruising along the trailside sipping on buckwheat



blossoms. I didn't think so. After all, she was a new trail guide and, with her rookie eye, wouldn't spot this rare insect on her first hunt. I'd been tracking them for years and had seen only one, three years earlier. Judy, of course, *had* spied the secretive critter and several more, before I glimpsed a single insect and documented its presence with my camera; so much for the trained eye.

Coppers, along with blues and hairstreaks, belong to a group called the "gossamer wings" (family Lycaenidae). It is the largest butterfly family with nearly 5000 species in the world, over 140 species in North America, and forty in San Diego County, five of them coppers. Coppers visit flowers for sustenance, rest with wings closed, but bask with wings open to soak up the rays and warm cold-blooded little bodies.

With the Mission Trails population of the hermes copper recouping from a history of contraction, this tiny creature and other members of threatened ecosystems, will herald a new day. May this little messenger of the gods reflect the improved welfare and continuing vitality of Mission Trails Regional Park.



One of the numerous campsites overlooking Kumeyaay Lake

SAN DIEGO'S PREMIER COMPGROUND

How far would you go for an excellent campground experience? Fortunately, citizens of San Diego County do not have to go far. Kumeyaay Lake Campground, nestled in the northeast corner of Mission Trails Regional Park, is just a twenty minute drive from downtown San Diego. Round up your family, drag the tent out of the garage, buy some burgers and hot-dogs and enjoy a night under the stars. The campground is fast becoming a favorite spot for those who love the out-of-doors; therefore, booking in advance is highly recommended.

Reservations can be made on our web site mtrp.org accessing the campground link. You may first want to go to our events calendar, to seek out programs being held at the campground, in order to schedule your stay during one of our popular campfire programs or Star Parties. You may also make your reservations by calling 619-668-2748, Thursday through Mondays. The campground is closed Tuesday and Wednesday.

Star Party

September 13, 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Two constellations rich in globular and open clusters, Sagittarius and Scorpius, will be visible in the southern sky. The Summer Triangle formed by Vega, Altair and Deneb will be overhead. The Moon will rise at about nine.

October 11, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

The Moon will be almost full on this evening. Mars is visible high in the Eastern sky, however, light pollution from Santee, Lakeside, and El Cajon may make seeing the planet difficult.

November 15, 4:30 to 8 p.m.

The Moon will not be up during the time of this star party. The Andromeda Galaxy is well positioned for viewing this evening. The Andromeda Galaxy is the only galaxy that we can see with the naked eye under dark skies.

There are two events you may want to keep track of in November. The Total Lunar Eclipse during the evening of 8 November and the Leonid Meteor Shower centered around the 16th, plus or minus a day or two.

YOUTH DIVISION - FIRST PLACE



Aaron Spears - Barker Way Trail



ART EXHIBIT

The Full Palette Group

Six women artists

exhibiting watermedia paintings

August 2 through September 16, 2003

COLOR - FLORA & FAUNA - FIRST PLACE



Bill Howell - Wild Onions: Allium Praecox

Notable Donations

April - June 2003

Steward - \$5,000-\$10,000

City of San Diego Special Promotional Programs
County of San Diego Community Projects Program

Founder - \$1,000-\$2,500

Rotary Club of La Mesa
Robert and Christy Mendes - *In memory of*
Carl Robert Mendes
Marie Tuthill

Trailblazer - \$500-\$1,000

Lawrence and Suzanne Hess

Path Finder - \$100-\$500

Nancy and Joe Acevedo
Ramona Bush
Jeanne Blair and Carl Kloss - *In Memory of*
David H. Rizer
Friends - *In Memory of John E. Bates*
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