

# Mission Trails Regional Park News

Volume 23, Number 1

-- A Publication of the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation --

Winter 2012

## Free Concerts in the Park Hosted by the MTRP Foundation

This past year, the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation initiated free music concerts in the Visitor Center theater and amphitheater. These concerts have been extremely popular and will continue throughout 2012.

On the second Sunday of the month, please come join us and the Native American Flute Players who perform in the Amphitheater, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

The third Sunday of the month, various musicians and musical groups are featured in the indoor theater. Upcoming performances will be by Mary Lu Brandwein (ancient Japanese bamboo flute) in February and the Murray Hills Strings in March. These concerts start at 3:00 pm and are followed by a reception in the Visitor Center gallery.

The award winning dance troupe, Soaring Eagles from the Southern California American Indian Resource Center, has also performed during one of the monthly flute concerts





## A Message From Executive Director Jay Wilson

A look back at 2011  
with great pleasure.

Today, I arrived at the Visitor Center with the intention of immediately writing this article. However, I decided to first welcome the group holding an all-day art class. The class was already sketching on the terrace where I met Julia Roth, president of "Friends of Taka Sumi-e", a San Diego based art society studying and sharing the art of Japanese style sumi-e brush painting ([www.takasumie.com](http://www.takasumie.com)). Sumi-e is a way of painting nature in black ink on white paper. Julia introduced me to Takashi Ijichi, a Master teacher of Sumi-e art who would be teaching the afternoon session. I spent almost two hours talking with Julia, Takashi, and other members of the group. I was invited to lunch that included an outstanding rice dish prepared by Takashi. As I concluded my visit, I invited Takashi and his students to exhibit their art on Sunday, February 19, 2012, when Mary Lu Brandwein will perform with her Japanese shakuhachi flute for our free concert in the Visitor Center theater.

I continually have the pleasure of meeting and working with many extraordinary visitors to Mission Trails. Mitsuo Tomita approached me about offering free concerts, and through his efforts we are completing our second year of free monthly concerts. Charles Carter approached me following a concert and asked if I needed help; he is now our Volunteer Music Coordinator

and can be seen volunteering at every concert. Four months ago I met John Clements as he was viewing the historical photos on the wall as you enter the library. He was looking at a 1913 photograph of a man holding a tile from the flume. I made a comment and he immediately identified the man as Lee Passmore and commented that Lee took the two photos on the far right of the wall. John is a contractor with a passion for and expertise in our California missions, including a wealth of information on the Old Mission Dam. In January he gave a presentation on the Old Mission Dam (Ca. 1816) and the flume to a packed theater for our Trail Guides and other Visitor Center volunteers. Finally there is Jan Nanning, a good friend and frequent volunteer who has helped behind the scenes with graphics and now with our new water exhibit that is in the final design stage.

2011 brought continued growth to the MTRP Foundation. Our new education program, funded by a grant from SDG&E, allowed us to bring our Mission Trails program to 2,500 children in various schools with a follow-up fieldtrip to the park. In September, the Foundation partnered with the San Diego County YMCAs, and in November, we received \$25,000 from SDG&E as part of their 2011 Environmental Champions Awards. We came in second in their ECO Ambassadors on-line voting and received an additional \$10,000 to use in expanding our educational programs.

We have added something extra for becoming a "Friend" of the MTRP Foundation. Any time you donate \$25 to the MTRP Foundation you are a "Friend" of the Foundation for the next 12 months. All "Friends" will now receive an annual "Friend of the MTRP Foundation" card featuring striking four-color photographs by MTRP volunteers David Cooksy and Wendy Esterly. You can become a "Friend" by clicking on the "Donate" button on our home page at [mtrp.org](http://mtrp.org).

## Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation

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# How YOU Can Make a Difference at Mission Trails

By Ranger Heidi Gutknecht

Do you enjoy the many wonders of Mission Trails? Well then, how about making it a New Year's resolution to pitch in sometime to help keep it the wonderful place that it is. You can get your exercise for the day, while helping to make a difference at the same time! How? Come on out to lend a hand on one of our three Volunteer Work Crews.

**The Habitat Restoration Crew** meets on the second Saturday of each month and helps out the native plant communities in the park by eradicating invasive, non-native plants. On the third Saturday of each month, the **Trail Improvement Crew** helps to maintain the park's trails and prevent erosion, making them safe for our patrons. **The Park Beautification Crew** meets on the fourth Saturday of each month and does various projects to maintain the park's appearance.

All three work crews meet by the flagpoles in the Visitor Center parking lot at 8 a.m. and work about four hours, weather permitting. Children are welcome, as long as they are accompanied and supervised by an adult. Verification forms for the hours volunteered can be provided for those who would like to apply their time toward community service hours.

Volunteers should bring along work gloves and wear long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes. A hat, sunglasses and sunscreen are also recommended. Drinks and snacks are provided. So, grab a friend or your family and come on out so YOU can make a difference! For more information call the Visitor Center's front desk, at (619) 668-3281, or check the events calendar on our website at [mtrp.org/events.asp](http://mtrp.org/events.asp)



*Ranger Mika Shimada taking the lead during a trail improvement project.*

## Gift Shop Think Spring 2012

Spring is coming to Mission Trails and hikers will have a grand time investigating what Mother Nature has wrought. But spring has come to the Gift Shop early, and you mustn't forget to come and see what we have for Easter, Mother's Day, or any other family event that might require a gift.

There is a lovely selection of books on gardening for our neck of the woods; which plants to choose, which ones are drought-resistant, which ones can take the hot Southern California sun, and which are best seen elsewhere.

We have our old friends, the puppets from Folkmanis, to remind the younger folks that springtime means new babies in our park, with books to read for information about them.

We have our wonderful walking sticks for those who love the trails and books on all pertinent subjects from anthropology to zoology to keep you fully informed.

And, of course, springtime brings Explore Mission Trails Day, when there will be excitement in the Visitor Center, with music and other entertainment of all kinds to see and enjoy. We look forward to seeing you!

### Dates to Remember

#### Explore Mission Trails Day

May 19, 2012  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

#### Twentieth Annual Amateur Photography Contest

Deadline for submitting photos  
**April 27, 2012**

Entry forms may be picked up at the Visitor Center or online at [http://mtrp.org/photo\\_contest.asp](http://mtrp.org/photo_contest.asp)

# Thank You to Our Many Mission Trails Contributors of 2011

## **Benefactor**

City of San Diego Special  
Promotional Program  
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## **Steward**

County of San Diego Community  
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 Mark and Renee Schlocker  
 Dolores Sniegowski - in memory of Milton and Patricia Sniegowski  
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 Cary Willard - in memory of Robert Willard

**Notable Donations**

**October 1 – December 31, 2011**

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

Linda Odening - in memory of  
 Walter Odening  
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**Trailblazer - \$500-\$999**

Lawrence and Suzanne Hess  
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**Path Finder - \$100-\$499**

Barbara Anderson - In Memory of  
 Bill Cleves  
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 Barbara and Michael Carr  
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**Business Donors**

In-kind services provided by  
 Ideal Plumbing, Heating  
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 GR Catering  
 Western Press

# MTRP FOUNDATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Working in cooperation with the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department

July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

### Exhibits

The Foundation raised \$17,000 to upgrade the history of water to the San Diego region display in the Visitor and Interpretive Center exhibit hall. It will include information about the sources of our water, San Diego County Water Authority pipelines and storage facilities located within the park, and the importance of water conservation in this arid region.

### Education Programs

With the beginning of the 2010/2011 school year, we fully implemented our new environmental education program, funded by a Sempra Energy Environmental Champions Education grant meant to target underserved populations in San Diego County. The first week Alicia Berg, our Education Program Instructor, visits the classroom. The second week the children visit Mission Trails for an additional hour of environmental instruction, go on a guided hike, and tour the Visitor and Interpretive Center. The third week Ms. Berg returns to the classroom for a follow up presentation and review. Linda Hawley continued to oversee our children's Nature Adventures program one week each month from September through June.

### Park Promotion

In January 2011, our Executive Director Jay Wilson staffed a booth at the San Diego Chapter of Meeting Planners to promote the Visitor Center as a destination for meetings and private events for conventions and corporations. The MTRP Foundation continued to contract with Ridgway Park Communications to generate publicity for the park and the annual Explore Mission Trails Day. Print advertisements promoting Explore Mission Trails Day were placed in the San Diego Family Magazine as well as the Tierra Times and the Mission Times

Courier. Fourteen four-color banners were placed throughout various communities to promote the event. Monthly articles, highlighting specific park events and generally promoting all on-going activities in the park were submitted to the Mission Times Courier, the Tierra Times, the Mission Valley News, the La Mesa Courier and the new online East County Magazine. The Foundation has joined the East County Chamber of Commerce. Our four color newsletter continued to be published quarterly with a PDF version being uploaded to our web site. The community outreach program initiated last year by the Foundation continued with the assistance of the Mission Trails Volunteer Trail Guides.

### Explore Mission trails Day

The ninth annual Explore Mission Trails Day was held on May 21, 2011. The theme of the 2011 event was Introducing Children to Nature. Activities were staged at the Visitor Center, the Equestrian Staging Area and the Kumeyaay Lake Campground.

### Amenities and Services

At the Visitor and Interpretive Center the Foundation continued to provide and maintain a computer server and computers, printers and scanners for use by all City of San Diego MTRP and Foundation staff. In addition computers are provided for use by MTRP volunteers and the public. The Foundation also pays for a computer technician to service the computers and maintain the entire system. The Foundation provided funding for and, working with park staff, oversight of the repair and replacement of all exhibits. The Foundation now pays for WI-FI internet service which is used by staff, volunteers as well as free WI-FI for the visiting public. In the Spring of 2011 the Foundation sponsored our 19th Annual Amateur Photography

Contest. The Foundation co-sponsored programs with the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department for children and adults. The Foundation continued to maintain a small gift shop to provide park related souvenirs and books. Working with city staff, and technical volunteers, the Foundation supported the city's efforts to upgrade the Visitor and Interpretive Center to become energy efficient as a "LEED" building. At the campground the Foundation maintained the Internet and Intranet websites, which were developed by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department. The Foundation continues to provide WI-FI internet access for use by staff and campground hosts. The Foundation purchases and maintains all computers at the campground for use by city staff and volunteers.

### Volunteer Program

The Foundation provided on-going support for the volunteer program sponsored by the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department. Support for FY2011 included the following: Subsidized the cost of shirts worn by park volunteers, Provided badges for volunteers. Paid for snacks for work crews, trail guide trainings, and other volunteer events, as well as lunch and snacks for volunteer trainings. Funded a monthly Trail Guide newsletter. Supported the annual volunteer awards event by providing plaques, gift cards, gift certificates and door prizes in addition to food, beverages and paper products for the potluck dinner held in conjunction with the awards program.

### Want more Information

This is only a partial, edited list of Foundation Accomplishments. For the complete document, call 619-688-3280 or e-mail [mtrp@mtrp.org](mailto:mtrp@mtrp.org). It can also be found on the San Diego Foundation's Better Giving web site

# 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 sponsorship 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 its location in the park. Contact Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation at 619-668-3280 or [mtrp@mtrp.org](mailto:mtrp@mtrp.org) 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. Yearly 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 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.
- 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 may 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. Contact 619-668-3280 or [mtrp@mtrp.org](mailto:mtrp@mtrp.org) 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 the donor's beneficiaries for life. Contact your financial advisor for information.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

	<b>Donor Levels</b>
Friends of Mission Trails - General support for all Mission Trails programs and projects. \$ _____	\$25 Individual
MTRP Foundation Endowment Fund - Earnings used for programs and projects..... _____	\$50 Family
Special Funds	\$100 Pathfinder
Education Program Fund - Funds used for education program..... _____	\$500 Trailblazer
Library Fund - Books and supplies for the library..... _____	\$1,000 Founder
Library Endowment Fund - Earnings used for library books and supplies..... _____	\$2,500 Patron
Trail Maintenance - Trail maintenance and improvement projects..... _____	\$5,000 Steward
Tree and Habitat Maintenance - To help maintain the park's habitat..... _____	\$10,000 Sponsor
Lake Murray - Special projects at Lake Murray..... _____	\$25,000 Benefactor
Total Donation - Make check payable to MTRP Foundation and mail to address above.... _____	\$50,000 Trustee
	\$100,000 Director

Charge my donation to VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_ Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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**To donate online, visit our web site at [mtrp.org/donors.asp](http://mtrp.org/donors.asp)**

*Mtrp Foundation staff use only: Date of check \_\_\_\_\_ Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Database \_\_\_\_\_ Letter \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Web \_\_\_\_\_*



**Mission Trails  
Regional Park Foundation**

One Father Junipero Serra Trail  
San Diego, CA 92119

Visitor and Interpretive Center: 619-668-3281  
MTRP Foundation: 619-668-3280  
Email: [mtrp@mtrp.org](mailto:mtrp@mtrp.org)  
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*Mission Trails Regional Park News is a publication of  
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*Roland Roberge, Editor.*

A COPY OF THIS AND PAST NEWSLETTERS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE: [mtrp.org/newsletter.asp](http://mtrp.org/newsletter.asp)

## Arbor Day in Mission Trails

This year's Mission Trails Regional Park Arbor Day was celebrated on Saturday, December 3rd at the Oak Grove Loop Picnic Area. Joe Morse, President of the MTRP Foundation, welcomed and thanked everyone for their interest, contribution and support. MTRP staff member Carmelo Esquer gave everyone instructions on how to properly plant the seven Engelmann oaks. Brownies from Girl Scout Troop 3830 assisted with planting the trees.

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation thanks the following donors for their support of our 2011 Arbor Day. Several families came to plant trees in honor or memory of a special person in their life.

**Girl Scout Troop 3830**

Marijo Luranc - in memory of Margie Graffia  
Anita Martinez - in memory of Eleanor Martinez  
Mark and Renee Schlocker  
Dolores Sniegowski - in memory of Milton and  
Patricia Sniegowski  
Don and Anne Wemple - in memory of  
Susan Louise Adkins  
Cary Willard - in memory of Robert Willard

Our 2011 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.

