



Mission Trails Regional Park News

Vol. 15 No. 2

Publication of Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, Inc.

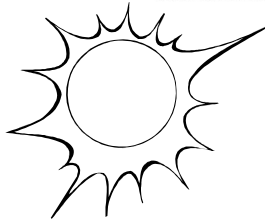
Spring/Summer 2004

PARK RESTORATION

DONATIONS RECEIVED

The Board of Directors of the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation and the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department thank those who have contributed to Foundation and City funds established to help pay for the estimated \$250,000 damage caused by the October Cedar Fire. Funds are being used for erosion control, fence and sign replacement, and to repair damage to the foot bridge at the Tierrasanta entrance and to the Old Mission Dam. Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation received a \$15,000 donation from The San Diego Foundation After-the-Fire Fund. The City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department received a \$40,000 donation from Pardee Homes to be used to replace fencing in the park.

Thanks to all who have made personal donations to the Foundation to cover some of the costs associated with restoration of the burned areas of the park. These funds are being used for equipment and materials. Anyone wishing to make a donation can use the donor form on the back of this newsletter and write After-the-Fire fund on the donor form.



TIME GIVEN

The Board of Directors of the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation and park staff thank those who have contributed their time and energy toward preparing the park for visitor use in the aftermath of the Cedar Fire. Groups such as the CCC and Scouts, as well as numerous individuals from all walks of life, responded to our request for help. These tireless volunteers, along with the much needed funds donated, have helped park staff clear trails of debris, replace fencing and signage, and provide erosion control. Due to these efforts, park staff has been able to re-open the Sycott Wash, Fortuna Mountains and Grasslands areas of the park much earlier than expected.



Second Annual Explore Mission Trails Day

Join park staff and volunteers on May 22, 2004 for an all day event highlighting everything Mission Trails Regional Park has to offer. We will host free interpretive walks, talks and programs throughout the park, including music, wagon rides, arts and crafts during the day and a star party in the evening.

For a full schedule visit mtrp.org or call (619) 668-3275.



A Message From Councilmember Jim Madaffer

Mission Trails Regional Park is beginning to recover from fire damage. What nature has begun a local company and organization are helping along. Pardee Homes and the Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation are helping with the restoration. I commend them for donating \$40,000 to the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Dept. for use in Mission Trails Regional Park. The donation was made at the January 27, 2004 San Diego City Council meeting. Beth Fischer, Vice President of Community Development for Pardee Homes said the company recognizes the immense value of our parks and community open space areas and that the contribution will be used to repair fencing, signage and other park facilities. It was a pleasure working with Pardee Homes in making arrangements for the donation.

More help is on the way. The San Diego Foundation's After the Fire Fund contributed \$15,000 to the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation. These funds will be used as needed to repair damage to the park. Pardee Homes, The San Diego Foundation and individuals who have made contributions all deserve a big thank you for their help. Generous donations such as this will help us complete critical repairs so that the entire park can be reopened in the future.

Don't miss the annual Explore Mission Trails Day on Saturday, May 22. It is a wonderful way to discover all that the park has to offer. The list of things to see and do is impressive. Tell your friends and plan on a fun day of activities.

As always, I welcome hearing your comments regarding Mission Trails Regional Park or any other issue. 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.

ART EXHIBIT

Grasshopper Art Group

Six Artists are now displaying work
in various media

Argento

Nina Jumps

Kathy McChesney

Sonja Roes

Mona Segal

Tamara Stautland

Ends May 22

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation Board of Directors

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Past Chair Mission Trails Citizens' Advisory Committee

Citizens' Advisory Committee

Past President Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation

Hon. Larry Stirling

Superior Court Judge, retired

California State Senator, Retired

Congratulations to Our Outstanding Volunteers

Saturday, February 7th, Mission Trails Regional Park welcomed our volunteers to the annual awards ceremony. Please offer congratulations to these fantastic volunteers. Without these dedicated people the park would not be what it is today.

The following individuals received a recognition plaque provided by Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation and a certificate of recognition from San Diego City Councilmember Jim Madaffer.

Volunteers of the Year for 2003 - George and Nancy Varga
Trail Crew - Doug Fenske
Habitat Improvement Team - Everett Neuman
Trail Guide - Paul Whitby
Volunteer Patrol - Leon Grawborski
Visitor Center - Elaine Bonk
Gift Shop - Winona Sollock
Bird Box Project - Richard Griebe

The following individuals were recognized for having the most number of volunteer hours in 2003: Betty Neill, Greg Chiles, Winona Sollock, Clark Rassmussen

Five Year Service Awards were presented to Shirley Herring, Brian McDonald, Muriel Splitgerber, Dave Bailey, Reva Block, Paul Globerson, Everett Neuman, Gordon Patty, Barbara Rosner, Ann Sixtus, Mike Sixtus, Paul Whitby, Paul Bernd, Ed Keller, Laura Nass

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation thanks the following businesses who made donations for the volunteer awards event.

Mission Trails Regional Park Gift Shop
The Brigantine Family of Restaurants
Antica Trattoria
The Fish Merchant
O'Hungry's
Birch Aquarium at Scripps
Cheers Deli
Chula Vista Nature Center
Einstein Brothers Bagels
Megan's Cafe
Pietro's Cucina Italiana & Pizza
Souplantation
The Omelette Factory
Valley House Restaurant
Viejas Casino
P.J. King Chinese Cuisine

The annual volunteer awards event is sponsored by Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation and the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department.



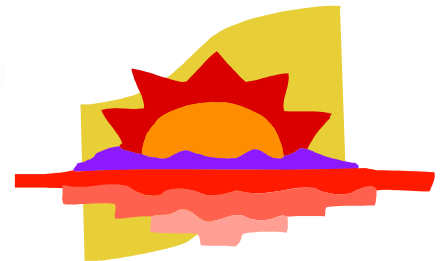
Kumeyaay Lake Campground

The sun is shining, the flowers are in bloom, baby critters scamper along the trails; Spring and Summer are upon us and it's time to get out and enjoy Mother Nature's beauty!

With the park reopening after October's fires, the trails beckon. Explore the life affirming changes that are all around us and wonder at the amazing beauty that springs from the fire's path.

Kumeyaay Lake Campground provides the unique opportunity to enjoy it all at your leisure - day and night. Trail Guide led nature walks; gazing close up at the heavens at a Star Party; hiking, mountain biking, bird watching or just chilling during some hard earned R & R. Mission Trails and Kumeyaay Lake Campground have it all and it's waiting for you. Come join us and celebrate life!

Summer Twilight Walks From Kumeyaay Lake Campground



Join MTRP Trail Guides for free special interpretive walks at twilight this summer. Walks start from the Kumeyaay Lake Campground entry station and last approximately one and a half hours. Come and enjoy an evening walk in the park and learn about the changes that occur during dusk and evenings. Participation in these very popular walks will be limited to maximize your enjoyment. Sign up by phone at 619-668-2748 or in person at the Kumeyaay Lake Campground Entry Station.

Saturdays June 19 and July 17 at 7:30 p.m., August 21 at 7:00 p.m. and September 18 at 6:15 p.m.

Recycle your glass, plastic and aluminum at Kumeyaay Lake Campground. Containers are located in the day-use parking lot. Proceeds go to MTRP Foundation.

How Bright is That Star?

By George Varga

The brightness of a star is a measure of the amount of light that our eyes perceive and is called apparent magnitude or magnitude for short. The magnitude of a star is not an indication of its size or for that matter its distance from the Earth. A candle that is close to you in the dark can appear brighter than a car headlight a mile away, even though the candle is smaller.

The magnitude scale is a numerical scale in which the larger the number the dimmer the star. The numerical scale was developed by the Greek Astronomer Hipparchus (160 - 127 BC). He divided celestial objects into six classes calling the brightest ones class one or first magnitude. The next brightest group were classified 2nd magnitude, then 3rd magnitude until the dimmest stars that he could see were classified as 6th magnitude. It was not until the advent of the telescope early in the 17th Century that people became aware of the fact that stars fainter than 6th magnitude could be seen.

On the magnitude scale the difference in brightness from one magnitude to another is a factor of 2.512. Consequently a 1st magnitude star is about 2.5 times brighter than a star of 2nd magnitude. A 1st magnitude star is therefore about 100 times brighter than a 6th magnitude star ($2.512 \times 2.512 \times 2.512 \times 2.512 \times 2.512$ or 2.5125).

There are two problems with the system as developed by Hipparchus. One is the fact that there are indeed stars that are dimmer than the human eye could see while the other is the fact that Hipparchus lumped the Sun, the Moon as well as bright planets like Jupiter and Venus as 1st magnitude stars. Over the course of time since the days of Galileo (1564 - 1642), who is reputed to be the first to see the four main moons of Jupiter, astronomers have reworked the magnitude system that resulted in using negative as well as positive numbers. The magnitude factor of 2.512 was retained.

Under the new system the Sun, being the brightest celestial object, has a magnitude of about -26.7 while the faintest stars seen with the largest telescopes have a magnitude of about +25. This is a difference of 51.7 in magnitude making the Sun 480,000,000,000,000,000,000 times brighter than the dimmest star.

The magnitude of a star today is measured by photometers. However, one can estimate stellar brightness by comparing an unknown star brightness with that of a known one.

Here is a list of some objects and their magnitude:

Sun -26.7

Moon -12.7

Venus -4.0

Jupiter -2.9



Stargazing in the Park

Mission Trails Regional Park has two events per month where visitors may view the heavens through high powered telescopes. The first is led by our resident amateur astronomer George Varga (see article at left) and the other is sponsored and led by the San Diego Astronomy Association. Both are held at the day use parking lot at the Kumeyaay Lake Campground. On any given night, depending on time of year and weather conditions, one may see celestial objects as varied as stars, moons, planets and other astronomical phenomena. Because many animals come out at night, you may even hear the howl of coyote or see the aerial feats of owls and bats, as well as the nocturnal activities of other critters. These events are free and all ages are welcome. Make sure you dress warmly and bring plenty of mosquito repellent. You are welcome to bring along a telescope if you have one. Events are canceled if skies are overcast.

Star Party with George Varga

Saturday, May 22, 8:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 17, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Jupiter still high enough for viewing and Mercury low in the West. The Summer Triangle defined by the stars Vega, Deneb and Altair high overhead. New Moon this evening.

Saturday, August 21, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Moon is a waxing crescent. Many Globular and Open Clusters as well as Nebulae to choose from in the constellations Sagittarius and Scorpius. The Summer Triangle still very much overhead.

Stars at Mission Trails

The second Friday of the month roundabout sunset until

Congratulations to Our Trail Guide Graduates

Welcome to our recent graduates who are now ready to join other Mission Trails Regional Park Trail Guides in leading visitors on Ecology Walks in the park. The new graduates have been attending classes on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings for the past 10 weeks where they have learned about the plants, animals, geology and history of Mission Trails. They are eager to share their knowledge with the public: please join them on one of the up-coming Ecology Walks. See the Event Calendar for more information. Mission Trails Regional Park has over 150 volunteers working in a variety of ways to maintain the park and make educational programs available to the public.



Top row, left to right: Carmelo Esquer, Christina Wimer, Myma Bateman, Jasmine Star, Tom Hoff, Tom Sowles, Scott Wetzler. Bottom row, left to right: Sue Marder, Mary Jo Grubbs, Linda Hawley, Wendy Esterly, Judy Lemon, Trissy McGhee.

IMPORTANT PUBLIC NOTICE ABOUT WILDLIFE IN THE PARK

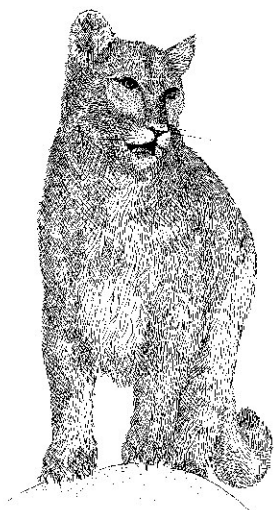
Due to the recent fire, top-end predators such as mountain lion, bobcat and coyote may be observed in the park more often. Do your part to protect yourself and your pets by following these safety guidelines.

Don't hike alone and always be aware of your surroundings.
Keep children close to you at all times.
Keep pets on a leash and stay on trails.
Never approach or feed wildlife.

If you encounter a mountain lion.

Never run, crouch, bend over or turn your back.
Do what you can to appear larger.
Speak loudly and firmly and wave your arms slowly.
Fight back if attacked.

Immediately report encounters to Park Rangers at 619-668-3281 or 668-3276. After hours call San Diego Police at 619-531-2000 or 911.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT MISSION TRAILS

Looking for an excellent volunteer experience with the greatest view in San Diego? Mission Trails offers a variety of opportunities to fit everyone's interests and capabilities. This can be a great way to learn more about nature and meet interesting people.

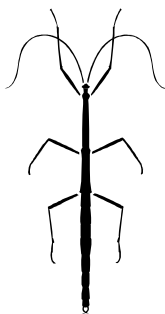
Indoor opportunities include working at our award winning Visitor Center, either at the front desk welcoming and aiding visitors or in the gift shop.

If you are a person who would prefer to spend time out of doors, you may sign up for a variety of activities. Park Patrol is designed to aid the public and ensure the rules and regulations are followed. Trail Guides take members of the public on short interpretive hikes. The Habitat Protection Team helps to maintain the park's varied flora. And, the Trail Improvement Team works to maintain the park's forty plus miles of trails.

No prior experience is needed. Our staff and volunteers will give you any training you need to make your volunteer experience worthwhile.

Groups such as families, adult clubs, scouts or schools may volunteer for special projects.

If interested, please call Center Director Debbie Waddell at (619) 668-3278.



Notable Donations

January – March 2004

Sponsor - \$10,000-\$25,000

City of San Diego Special Promotional Programs
The San Diego Foundation - *San Diego Regional Disaster Fund*

Patron - \$2,500-\$5,000

Family and Friends - *In Memory of Jeanne Blair*

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

Marie Tuthill

Path Finder - \$100-\$500

Lt. Col. And Mrs. Austermann
Lynn E. Baer, *In memory of Chuckles, a lake dog*
Curtis Carlson
Dr. and Mrs. Myron D. Fessler
Joe and Lesley Frazier
Diane and Jim Hamilton
Bobbi Hammack
Jerry and Pat Johnson
KTU&A
James McKay
Dan and Sylvia McKenzie
David McLaren and Diane Nelson
Charles and Ann Nickel
Dianne Onstad
Gordon Patty
Jodi Roisman
Mike and Ann Sixtus
Mark and Elaine Stover
Cecile Walters



Walks, Talks & Other Events at Mission Trails

*For activities at the campground, park at the day use parking lot.
For outdoor activities, bring water and wear sturdy walking shoes.
Outdoor activities canceled if raining.*



Star Party

Come out to the park and check out the stars with George Varga. A telescope will be available to view the stars!

Meet at Kumeyaay Lake Campground day use parking lot.

Saturdays, May 22, 8:00 - 10:00 p.m., July 17, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. and August 21, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. (See related article on page 4.)

Native Plant Walks

Ranger led walks will introduce you to the remarkable plant world of Mission Trails Regional Park. If interested, contact Ranger Paul Seiley at (619) 668-2747.

Meet at Visitor & Interpretive Center.

(Wheelchair accessible)

**1st Saturday of the month: June 5th, July 3rd, August 7th.
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.**



Ant Sized Adventures

This program is designed for preschool age children. Each adventure will explore the magic of our natural world here at Mission Trails and will include a short hike, storytime, group game and a craft to take home. Please bring water, a snack and wear layers clothing for the weather.

Meet at the Visitor Center.

Fridays, May 7th, June 4th, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Birding Basics

A sixty minute class to learn five simple techniques for identifying birds at a glance. We will also learn how to use a field guide; if you have one, bring it with you.

Meet at the Visitor Center.

Fourth Saturday of the month. 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Stars at Mission Trails

A monthly gathering of the San Diego Astronomy Assoc. at the campground day use parking lot. The public is invited to view the night sky through the members' telescopes. The event begins around sunset and continues until approximately 10:00 p.m.

Meet at Kumeyaay Lake Campground day use parking lot

Fridays, April 9th, May 8th, June 11th.



MTRP.ORG

For the most up-to-date information concerning events at Mission Trails visit our web site. Access the "Events" link near the top of the page then click a date on the calendar.

Or, use our search function to perform a search for a specific event.

For those without internet access call 619-668-3275

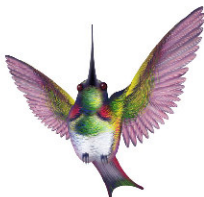
WORK CREWS

Habitat Protection Team
(Ranger Casey Smith)
Meet at the Visitor Center 8:00 a.m.
Second Saturday of the month

Trail Improvement Team
(Ranger Casey Smith)
Meet at the Visitor Center 8:00 a.m.
Third Saturday of the month



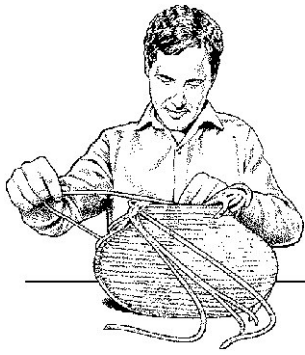
BIRD WALKS



**With David Kisner, Kerry Kenwood and Jay Rourke
All walks are the third Saturday of the month 8:00-10:30 a.m.**

May 15th - Lake Murray Loop from Kiowa entrance/parking lot.

June 19th - Kumeyaay Lake from Campground parking lot.



Kumeyaay Artisans Class

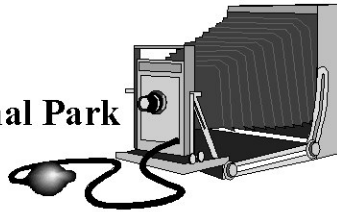
Join us with the Kumeyaay Indian instructors at the Visitor Center to learn how to make baskets in the Kumeyaay tradition. You must pre-register at the Mission Trails Visitor Center. This popular class fills up quickly; sign up early.

Sorry, no phone registrations.

Cost is \$25.

Sunday, May 23, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Twelfth Annual Mission Trails Regional Park Photography Contest



All entries will be on display at the Visitor & Interpretive Center during June and July. Monetary awards will be presented to the winners of this juried event at a reception and awards ceremony on June 27, 2004.

**To acquire a contest entry form,
go to mtrp.org/photo_contest.asp
or visit the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center.**

Shopping at the Gift Shop

Numerous new items, including a line of plush animal puppets, have recently arrived.

The Gift Shop continues to carry a fine collection of Native American baskets, pots and painted gourds.

**Open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
seven days a week**

Ways you can donate to Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation

The Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation Board of Directors extends sincere thanks to our many donors. Only because of your continuing support, we are able to fulfill our Mission – *In partnership with the City of San Diego, to preserve and protect the natural environment of Mission Trails Regional Park and to provide and promote educational and recreational opportunities.*

In addition to traditional cash donations, there are other ways you can provide short- and long-term financial support for park programs and projects.

Memorial or In Honor Of gifts – Honor a friend or family member with a donation.

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

Wills – Remember Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation in your will.

Gifts of securities – In order to allow donors to realize full tax deductions for appreciated stock, Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation accepts gifts of stock. Please call (619) 668-3280 for further details.

Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRT) – 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.

The Foundation's *Special Funds* include education and library funds, trail and tree/habitat maintenance funds, education and library endowment funds. Call (619) 668-3280 for further information. – *MTRP Foundation Federal Tax ID – 33-028509.*

Kids Night Out

Hey Kids! Join us at the Visitor Center for an evening of fun and adventure. Activities may include a campfire, cookout, hike, movie, crafts, and much more. Registration begins two weeks prior at the Visitor Center.

Space is limited so sign up early.

Drop off and pick up at Visitor Center.

Ages 6 - 12 years, Cost \$15.00 per child.

Saturdays, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

For dates and information visit mtrp.org, or call (619) 668-3278.





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

Non-Profit
 Organization
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 San Diego, CA
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E-mail: mtrp@mtrp.org Web site: www.mtrp.org
 Visitor & Interpretive Center: (619) 668-3275
 MTRP Foundation: (619) 582-7800

Address Service Requested

Spring/Summer 2004 Issue
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.

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Distribution: Marjorie Ferrante

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Mission Trails Regional Park Donor Opportunities

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation provides opportunities for individuals, businesses, community organizations and foundations to support a variety of programs and projects within Mission Trails Regional Park. Thank you to our many friends who make annual contributions to Friends of Mission Trails Regional Park. A variety of donor opportunities are available as indicated below. All contributions are tax deductible. Persons donating \$100 or more will be given a certificate of contribution. Names of contributors of \$1,000 or more will be engraved on a plaque permanently displayed at the park Visitor and Interpretive Center. Donations of \$100 and above will accumulate from year-to-year for contributor recognition purposes.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Phone (Home) _____ E-mail _____

Donor Level

\$25 Individual _____ \$1,000 Founder _____ \$25,000 Benefactor _____
 \$50 Family _____ \$2,500 Patron _____ \$50,000 Trustee _____
 \$100 Path Finder _____ \$5,000 Steward _____ \$100,000 Director _____
 \$500 Trailblazer _____ \$10,000 Sponsor _____ Other _____

Special Funds

Please check fund(s) for which you wish your donation to be used.

General Park Support _____
 Library Fund _____
 Library Endowment Fund _____
 Education Prog. Endowment _____
 Tree & Habitat Maintenance _____
 Trail Maintenance _____
 Lake Murray _____

Make check payable to MTRP Foundation and send to:
Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, Attention Secretary/Treasurer
One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, CA 92119-1008

Charge my donation to VISA _____ MC _____
 Card No. _____
 Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

Office Use Only

Check Date _____ No. _____ Amount _____
 Data Base _____ Letter _____ Donor Book _____
 \$100+ Certificate _____ Newsletter _____ Web _____
 \$1000+ Donor Board _____