



VOLUNTEER TODAY

Dedicate Yourself to Caring for the Land and Serving the People
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/volunteering/>



Los Angeles River Ranger District Volunteer Newsletter September 2006 Vol. 4 Issue 8

GREETINGS

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF THE FOREST SERVICE

September has arrived meaning the dog days of summer are coming to a close and the holiday season is just around the curve in the trail.

It's been a very productive Fiscal Year 2006 because of your dedication to providing a quality recreational experience on the Angeles National Forest. This productivity can be witnessed by the amount of work accomplished (70 miles of trail maintained), new programs implemented (trail patrol), team work (assisting others in accomplishing their goals), partnerships (The Audubon Center at Debs Park) and the smiles on your faces. I want to **THANK YOU** for your contributions in making it a joy to work with such wonderful individuals.

One of our groups is celebrating 25 years of volunteering on the Angeles National Forest and contributed 34,584 volunteer hours during this period. Let's all give a big high five salute to JPL Trailbuilders.

Do you have that unforgettable photo of America's Federal Recreational Lands? Sponsored by CASIO, Inc. and the National Park Foundation, in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service, the **"Share the Experience Photo Contest"** will harness the power of pictures to help connect people with their Federal Recreation Lands.

Who knows...perhaps it will be your site that is featured on the cover of the Recreation Lands Pass in 2008!

Contest details, rules and regulations can be found on: www.sharetheexperience.org

Are you interested in assisting us in enforcing the Pass Program? The Board of Directors has authorized volunteer authority to issue Notice of Non compliance. Additional training is required and entails successful completion of the 8-hour Basic Law Enforcement Orientation class. The added training will improve a volunteer's capability for making of these types of "information contacts" with the public. We're scheduling a training session for a Saturday in October, so if you're interested, please contact me.

The volunteer program is open to all individuals and/or groups that are interested in assisting the Angeles NF in accomplishing natural resource management objectives. If you're interested in assisting us in managing your National Forest or have questions about the Volunteer Program, please contact me at 818-899-1900 ext 229 or e-mail hokamoto@fs.fed.us

/s/ Howard S. Okamoto

Angeles National Forest

Los Angeles River Ranger District
Recreation Officer

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Do you know how to help the volunteers fix this trail on page 8? no? Fill the form!

**Learn from the mistakes of others.
You can't live long enough to make them all yourself.**

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- Sept 2nd Haramokngna Cultural Center (HCC)
Guest host
- Sept 9th Trail Boss
- Sept 9th Patrol hike
- Sept 9th Haramokngna Cultural Center
Seed Beater Workshop
- Sept 9th - 10th HABITAT WORKS OUTING
- Sept 16th JPL TRAILBUIDERS
- Sept 16th AC 100
- Sept 16th Haramokngna Cultural Center
Workshop
- Sept 20th 7:00 PM Forest Service - Volunteer
Meeting (third Wednesday of each month
at the Wildwood Volunteer House.
- Sept 22nd ACTRWG Workshop
- Sept 23rd - 24th HABITAT WORKS OUTING
- Sept 23rd Haramokngna Cultural Center
Fall Equinox Pancake Breakfast
- Sept 30th Take a walk and learn more
about the Angeles Forest. Meet at the
San Gabriel Canyon Environmental
Education Center on Highway 39. You
must RSVP with Steve Segreto at
626-335-1251, ext. 225 or 909-982-2829.
- Sept 30th Angeles Mountain Bike Patrol
- Sept 30th CORBA Ken Burton Trail
- Sept 30th ACTRWG Trail Repair
- Sept 30th Haramokngna Cultural Center
Workshop
- Sept 30th is National Public Lands Day, Free
Day
- Sept 30th Tree People – Ponderosa Pine
Planting & Watering Event

Forest Service Help Wanted

Chilao Visitor Center has a wide variety of volunteer opportunities available. Volunteers can lead a monthly nature walk or an occasional prescheduled school or campground presentation or can staff the Visitor Center and help others enjoy their visit to the Forest. For more information, contact Howard Okamoto

If you wish to get electronic copy of this newsletter, then go to
<http://www.mtlowe.net/VolunteerNews.htm>

Angeles National Forest Trivia

Condors are intelligent, naturally playful, curious and habitual. One of their favorite toys is 'micro-trash', which is nothing more than bottle caps, bits of metal, glass, plastic and other man-made items left behind in the forest.

Micro-trash is ingested by condor parents and unintentionally regurgitated with food for their nestlings. Micro trash is almost always a factor in the death of condor chicks, and it is preventable.



The above photo of a chick at five months of age shortly before it was found dead. There were three chicks hatched in the wild in Spring of 2002, all died just short of fledging (first flight). One chick died from ingesting items such as bottle caps and plastic shards that littered the cave.

Contact Howard on how to help in the removal of this chick killer!

AC 100 Help Wanted

We are always looking out for more volunteers to get involved with putting on the AC100 race (Sept 16th this year) particularly working at our aid stations to help the runners with aid etc..

This is our 20th anniversary year. We are over 100 runners entered now and a bunch of apps have come in recently. They come from all over the USA and foreign lands as well. Working at aid stations and observing the runners has motivated lots of people over the years to become active exercisers. The radio guys and gals running packet computer info on runner locations is a huge operation that tracks runners and helps with safe passage thru the mountains.

Contact:
Hal Winton
h_winton@juno.com
(310) 534-1704

Don't just read this, join a group!

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION (ANFFLA)

<http://www.anffla.org>

<http://www.angeleslookout>

Kermit Eller kermiteller@dslextreme.com

Fire lookout towers are now open!

If interested in volunteering please contact us.

ANGELES MOUNTAIN BIKE PATROL

(AMBP) mmcguirepoolsa@cs.com

Our mission is to provide educational and a responsible image to all trail users. To encourage rider's to obey forest regulations and working to preserve and protect trails. A.M.B.P is here to serve and inform the public

Altadena Foothills Conservancy

Rob@altadenafoothills.org

626-798-3235

Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group (ACTRWG)

Sameeretman@hotmail.com

www.altadenatrails.org 626-797-7243

ANGELES MOUNTAIN BIKERS AND TRAIL KEEPERS.

Mark Gage mrgy33@hotmail.com

Hikers and Bikers working together on trails.

We work on the trails almost every Saturday

California Trail Users Coalition (CTUC)

To provide a forum for all trail users to discuss trail related issues, problems and alternative solutions; to assist in the planning, development, maintenance and patrolling of trails to enforce rules of the road; and to develop and maintain programs designed to educate users on proper use of trails and trail etiquette.

Looking for interested hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians to be a part of this Coalition. If interested come to our next meeting or check out www.ctuc.info.

Boy Scouts of America

The High Adventure Team – Los Angeles Area Council provides training opportunities for all interested individuals. For more information: www.boyscoutsla.org click H.A.T.

Alpine Training Services

<http://www.atsenviroaction.com>

Environmental Action Days (E.A.D.) are an original creation of Alpine Training Services. We felt with the increased traffic canyons have seen over the last several years as the sport of canyoneering has grown, it was necessary to initiate a series of cleanup days to keep the canyons free of trash. E.A.D. is a new program from Alpine Training Services representing our "One Earth" philosophy — that being there is only. One Earth for us to live on, grow on, and make a future on. To learn more about Alpine Training Services and the programs we offer including our full course curriculums for canyoneering, rock climbing, kayaking, & backpacking feel free to follow the above linking, kayaking, & backpacking feel free to follow the above link

BEAR CANYON TRAIL CREW

(BCTC) <http://www.outdoorsclub.org/>

Richard 626-285-0962

Now on summer break.

Be ready to join us this Fall

Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA) <http://www.corbamtb.com>

CORBA is committed to:

1. Maintaining access to and gaining access to trails in Los Angeles and its surrounding areas, through education, information and preservation.
2. Educating mountain bicyclists in the safe and appropriate use of mountain bikes.
3. Contributing to the building and maintaining of riding areas in Los Angeles and its surrounding areas.

Join One Today

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS



THE DREADED TAMARISK!!!

HABITAT WORKS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (HABITAT WORKS)

Tom Persons 310-402-6700

Kim Clark 818-353-4653

If you're interested in the environment or volunteering for wildlife or habitat conservation projects around the Los Angeles or Southern California, check out

www.HabitatWork.org

Sat./Sun., Sept. 9/10, 2006, 8:30 am-5 pm
Backpack, Tamarisk Hunt & Total Body Workout
Piru Creek, Castaic Mine to Smith Fork,
Los Padres NF

Sat. 9:00 am/Sun. Noon, Sept. 23/24, 2006
Piru Creek Backpack and Tamarisk Removal
Piru @ Lockwood Creek, Los Padres NF

Outward Bound Adventures (OBA)

<http://www.obainc.org>

OBA's Mission: To provide meaningful nature-based education that promotes positive self-development, environmental responsibility, and outdoor career exposure for at-risk and urban youth.

Phone: 626-564-0844

E-mail: obainc.sbcglobal.net

website: www.obainc.org

Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center www.haramokngna.com

For additional information: 626-445-

“Need volunteers to assist in implementing the Harmokngna Design Plan”

Dear Friends

Due to overwhelming conflicts with the date of our annual fall equinox flute circle - the equinox has been moved to Sept 30. (Not really the Equinox, you can't fool Mother nature, but our celebration of the season).

so - workshops, music, vendors, volunteers, donors, take note - please join us on Sat Sept 30 for our annual pancake breakfast, silent auction, resource book sale and signing, dedication of our new weather station, and groundbreaking for our ethnobotanic garden - Sat Sept 30 -
Thanks Kat

High Country Riders

Forest wide equestrian volunteer group that patrols trails and can pack equipment, supplies etc to your worksite.

Jonathan Schultz 951-830-3400

maujds@earthlink.net

The Audubon Center at Debs Park
The Audubon Center is a unique urban nature center, envisioned by Audubon as a model to serve a new demographic of nature lovers. Located along the historic Arroyo Seco Parkway (110 Freeway) between downtown Los Angeles and City of Pasadena, in Ernest E. Debs Regional Park.
Hours: Wed. thru Sun. 9am-5pm

Monrovia Canyon Park

http://www.ci.monrovia.ca.us/city_hall/public_works/canyon_park/canyon_park.htm

Need volunteers and trail maintenance work on Ben Overturff and Waterfall Trails 626-256-8282

Join One Today

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

TreePeople

TreePeople mission is to inspire the people of Los Angeles to take personal responsibility for the urban forest - educating, training and supporting them as they plant and care for trees and improve the neighborhoods in which they live, learn, work and play.

For more information

Tom Persons Telephone (818) 623-4846

Email tpersons@treepeople.org

Contact Kristina Clark 818-623-4871
for 9/30 event

Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA)

<http://www.pcta.org>

“Mission of the PCTA is to protect, preserve promote the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail as to reflect its worldclass significance for the enjoyment, education and adventure of hikers equestrians.

For additional information: ·

Suzanne Wilson ‘Fannypack’

Regional Representative Projects on SBNF,
951-492-9836 ANF, and BLM.

swilson@pcta.org

Jan 1 to Sep 30

Swat teams to inventory trail, clear trees and boulders, and repair slides on short notice.

Open to qualified volunteers.

Contact: Pete Fish 805-658-6540

pickaxepete@sbcglobal.net

Dear hikers:

Trail patrol/hike

We had a wonderful hike on Saturday, 12 August 2006. As planned we started at the Islip Saddle parking lot (about 40 miles E of La Canada) at 10:00 am, across the Caltrans gate and hiked up the forest service road to Little Jimmy campground. The road is OK and covered with lots of pinecones. Based on the tire marks it seems like only one truck has come up in the last few months. The outhouses in Little Jimmy survived the winter with the loss of only a few roof shingles (and had paper!). The broken benches from the big snow last year are still waiting to be fixed, but the campground was clean. At 11 am there were already 6 tents with a Boyscout troop. From there we went along the Pacific Crest trail to Windy Gap. Somebody came through there recently with a chainsaw to clear a tree off the trail. At Windy Gap we decided to shorten the hike and to go up Mt. Islip instead of Troop Peak. That trail shows indications of fresh thread work and chainsaw tree clearing all the way to the top of Mt. Islip at 8250 ft. Fabulous view. This trail goes through part of the devastation of the Crystal Lake fire in 2003, but fresh Manazinita and blooming Rabbitbush provided a photogenic foreground to the “nuclear winter” landscape. By 2:50 pm we were back at Islip Saddle, directly via Little Jimmy and the Pacific Crest trail. The last 1/4 mile of the PCT to the parkinglot needs serious brushing. Total distance was 7.1 miles and 1500 ft elevation gain, about 2 miles and 700 ft less elevation than we had planned originally.

Don't forget to reserve time for the next “2nd Saturday of the month hike” on 9 September 2006.

George Aumann

SCENIC MT. LOWE RAILWAY

<http://www.mtlowe.net>

Brian Marcroft 562-868-8919

Emworks@verizon.net



JPL TRAILBUILDERS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS



JPL TRAILBUILDERS

<http://www.jplrecclubs.caltech.edu/hiking/>

Kathie Reilly 818-354-8321 (JPL)

626-798-7256 (home)

Jack Russell 562-861-3187



The JPL Trailbuilders started out in January 1981 after members of the JPL Hiking & Backpacking Club had been taking clippers along with them on hikes. A few had gone trailbuilding with the Altadena Town Council working on the Lower Merrill Trail and reseeding near Castle Canyon Trail. We contacted the Forest Service to offer to work on trails. They had us sign Volunteer Agreements, go to Trail Boss training, and participate in volunteer meetings. We learned how to use gabion baskets, build French drains, use pipe and timber walls support, and especially scrounge for trail material.

In the beginning, we would do what trails we thought needed work, restoring the Mt Lowe West Trail, Mt Lowe East Trail, and Mid Sam Merrill Trail. We did such a good job on Mid Merrill Trail that the new user group of mountain bikes used it to the point that we couldn't keep up the maintenance of it anymore. It was around that time that the Forest Service formed a Conflict Resolution Committee with Bill Reilly as our representative of trail builders to decide how to best serve the hikers, bikers and equestrians. What finally resulted was to have trails open to all except wilderness areas and PCT, except closing some trails on an as-needed basis. We found a different project rebuilding the trail on the north side of San Gabriel Peak, moving the end of the trail away from Red Box, and trying different methods of hardening the trail for bike use. We were asked to build a Muir Peak Trail in time for the Sierra Club dedication of the peak. Bill Reilly was the engineer of the group, Kathie Alpeter (later Reilly) was the organizer, Jean Nicholson was in charge of safety, and we rotated who was in charge of naps.

One of our leaders, Frank Nicholson and later on, Bert Carlyl, continued to maintain the Lower Merrill Trail on their own.

Bill Reilly and Kathie Reilly served on the Volunteer Board of Directors, helped organize annual Volunteer Training Days and Volunteer Award dinners, and California and National Trail Days.

JPL Trailbuilders received Forest Service awards for over 25,000 hours, plus individual members received awards for Outstanding Achievement. The JPL Hiking Club made the group Volunteer of the Year in 1991. The JPL Trailbuilders are even mentioned in the preface of John Robinson's '100 Hikes of the Angeles'. Various Sierra Club meetings, and other groups invited us to present our slide show on trailbuilding.

Currently we try to schedule outings every third Saturday, averaging around 8 volunteers. Over the years, the number who worked at JPL went from the majority to the minority of the group as we picked up volunteers who expressed interest when hiking by (that's how we got our leader Jack Russell), or attended our slide show, or read about us.

Other trails we have devoted a lot of time to are: San Gabriel Peak, Colby Canyon, Strawberry Peak, Cooper Canyon, Barley Flats (waiting on approvals to be able to finish it), Castle Canyon, El Prieto (until we all got bad poison oak), PCT west of Sulfur Springs, Cherry Canyon with La Canada Trail Council, and any requests from the Forest Service or the AC100.

Through the end of June, the group has 34,584 volunteer hours. Volunteers Rene Amy, Eleanor Carter, Ray David, Frances Gombkoto, Guy Kuhn, Frank Nicholson, Dolores Pressnall, Bill Reilly, Kathie Reilly, and Jack Russell have achieved 1,000.

Hathaway - Sycamores Child & Family Service

What's happening at Hathaway School

Work on the Doc Larsen Trail was completed on 7/18/06 followed by an initial survey of the southern trailhead of Oak Springs. Trail conditions were noted as poor across the board, with work commencing on the first 3000ft July 20th. Extensive tread restoration, brushing, and essential power saw work has slowed our progress to only 300ft daily, while our biggest challenge has been establishing a 6-10ft "high side" clearance through dense chaparral that has been left unchecked for sometime. Work on this trail will continue Wednesdays and Thursdays for the duration of the Summer until mid October; with full Saturday projects added as needed. Any additional power saw support would be greatly appreciated!

Other News:

The Village School at Hathaway-Sycamores was awarded a \$13,000 grant from the USFS for trail maintenance in the Angeles National Forest in January 2006. These funds will be used for direct training wages, trail supplies, and logistical support for "at-risk" youth at Hathaway and Sycamores schools through October 2006. With this new funding support, we have been able to add an additional full crew, taking our total daily headcount to 21, and clearing more than 800 ft of trail per day.

• A big "Thank You!" to Howard Okamoto and Debbie from Middle Ranch for helping ANF 5130 work out the kinks regarding trailhead access.

• The School's SRLA Marathon Training Team kicks off their '06-'07 season Sunday, October 8th at the "Alive and Running" 5k. Run Hawks Run!

• The Village School's Annual "Haunted Highway" will take place Thursday October 26th, 4-10pm. Additional volunteers are welcome to participate. Contact Kevin Sarkissian at ksarkissian@hathawaychildren.org or 818 896 2474 x 306 if you want to help out!



**Los Angeles River Ranger District
12371 North Little Tujunga Canyon Road
San Fernando, CA 91342**



**Do you know how to help
these volunteers fix this trail?!**

- 1. Fill the form!**
- 2. Then take the Trail Boss
Training shown on page 9!**

Volunteer Today

Send this in Right Away to

**Howard S. Okamoto—12371 N. Little Tujunga Canyon Rd
San Fernando, CA 91342**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # (hm) _____

e-mail _____

Interests

Indicate what you would like to do. Circle area or enter your interests.

Campground Host/ Visitor Information/ Smokey Bear - Fire Prevention/

Recreation Aid / Forest Patrol /Resource Management / Computers/

Research-Librarian / Office Clerical / Tour guide/ Fire Lookout/

Conservation Education

Other: _____

How to work on trails?

Trail Boss Training-September 2006

The USDA-Forest Service, Los Angeles River Ranger District, and the Los Angeles Area Council-High Adventure Team invite you to attend the next of the on-going series of Trail Boss Training sessions.

When: September 9, 2006; 8:00 am to not later than 3:00 pm.

Where: Please contact one of the sources listed below, after September 1, for the location of this event and directions for getting there.

The purpose of this program is to train and qualify adult volunteers to organize and supervise conservation projects by sponsored groups, such as a Scout Unit. Interested persons may begin this training whenever a session is offered and proceed through it at the convenience of their schedule and interest. Only adults may take this training, which is offered free to anyone who is interested in doing conservation work in the Angeles National Forest. Registration is not required; just show up at the indicated time and place. Persons already certified as Trail Bosses are encouraged to attend, to assist with the training and to upgrade their skills. The next session of Trail Boss Training is scheduled for May 2007. An Administrative Pass, valid for this date, will be provided for vehicles that lack an Adventure Pass.

If this is your initial session, you will be given a Trail Boss training card and a syllabus, "Trail Boss-Program and Practices". A companion syllabus, "Forest Conservation", is available for those who are interested in doing conservation projects of that type. You may also be given an USDA-FS brochure, "Volunteer Applicant Packet", which briefly describes the Forest Service's volunteer program and contains an application form.

Clothing and Equipment

Persons attending need to be dressed and equipped to do a full day of trail work. The fashion-conscious volunteer wears long pants, long sleeve shirt, work boots, gloves, and a broad-brimmed hat. These are supplemented with sunscreen/sun block, dark glasses, insect repellent, and lots of water. Sneakers/sport shoes are not appropriate wear when swinging a Pulaski and moving large rocks. Conservation project sites tend to be hot, sunny, dusty, and lunchrooms for insects. Bring your lunch and whatever snacks you need to get through the day – these training sessions are usually at remote sites in the Angeles.

Additional Information

- USDA-Forest Service, LA River Ranger District, Little Tujunga Station: 818-899-1900 (M-F, 8 am-4 pm); web site, www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles.
- Howard Okamoto, Recreation Officer.
- John Horton, USDA-FS Volunteer Leader, Conservation Projects: 310-375-5032 (evenings); email: jbhorton@gte.com
- Bob Shockley, LAAC-HAT Trail Boss Training: email, robert_m_shockley@keane.com