

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 Dec. 2009

GREETINGS

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF THE FOREST SERVICE

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The mission of the Forest Service is guided by the fundamental principle of providing the greatest amount of good for the greatest amount of people in the long run and is characterized by the slogan: Caring for the Land and Serving People.

There's a chill in the air with daylight hours shorter, means the end of 2009 is coming to a close. As one reflects on this past year, there will be highs (ie installation of the Laurel Gulch Foot Bridge, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that funded trail maintenance work and employed a number of individuals) and lows (ie Station Fire – 160,000 acre fire, its aftermath effecting many people). As human beings we're just as resilient as nature and looking forward to the challenges and opportunities of 2010.

As you explore The Front Country (Newhall Pass to Lytle Creek) that hasn't been impacted by the Station Fire, we hope you'll assist us in providing a quality recreation experience by either volunteering or providing information/education to others.

Andrew Fish, Non-motorized Trail Program Manager comes to us from Arizona. He worked for Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department as a Trail Crew member and later as a Trail Planner. He'll be working Wednesday thru Saturday, and hope to see you on the trails.

California Department of Transportation and County of Los Angeles Public Works Department has opened the Angeles Crest Highway, Angeles Forest Highway, Big Tujunga Canyon Road and Upper Big Tujunga Canyon Road to thru traffic. Note that the reopening of these roads, including Hwy 2, does not change the Station Fire Recovery Closure Order. This is a point we'll want to emphasize to hikers, hunters and other visitors to the forest. Also, if you're headed into the field and utilizing these roads, please use extra caution since this is the first opportunity the public has to view the fire damage firsthand.

If further inclement weather hits the area, roads will probably be closed as a precaution, Bob Spencer, a spokesman for the L.A. County Department of Public Work said. He warned motorists to "take it easy and be cautious when they start using the roads again."

If you've accumulated 100 volunteer hours since January 1, 2009, please contact me so you can receive your Administrative Pass for 2010.

Have you accumulated 500 volunteer hours since January 1, 2007? If you have, please contact me so that you can receive your America the Beautiful – Annual Pass.

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

hokamoto@fs.fed.us

/s/ Howard S. Okamoto

Angeles National Forest

Los Angeles River Ranger District

Recreation Officer

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Age
wrinkles the
body

Quitting
wrinkles the
soul

Douglas
MacArthur

Los Angeles River Ranger District DEC 2009 Volunteer Events Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 <i>HABITATWORK</i> <u>Community Hiking Club</u>
6 <i>HABITATWORK</i>	7	8	9 Night Hike to Henninger Flats See page 7	10	11	12 <u>Community Hiking Club</u> JPL TRAILBUILDERS
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 <u>Community Hiking Club</u>
20 <u>Community Hiking Club</u>	21 First Day Winter	22	23 Night Hike to Henninger Flats See page 7	24	25 Christmas Day	26 <u>Community Hiking Club</u>
27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE		

Save April 26, 2010!

On April 26th The 20th Annual Mount Wilson Bicycle Association Pancake Breakfast will be at Cobb Estate.

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

Volunteers will be needed

Contact: usfsangelesvolunteer@gmail.com

Please leave name, city of residence, contact information (phone number and email address) and Type of Volunteer Projects of Interest. When Station Fire restoration projects are scheduled, you will be contacted by phone and email.”

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

AC100

<http://www.ac100.com>

Contact:

Hal Winton AC100 Co-RD

Volunteer 12

Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group (ACTRWG)

www.altadenatrails.org 626-797-7243

Angeles Mountain Bikers and Trail Keepers (AMBTk)

Mark Gage

mrgy33@hotmail.com

Hikers and Bikers working together on trails. We work on the trails almost every Saturday. Our focus trails are Lower Sam Merrill and Castle Canyon.

Antelope Valley Conservancy

www.avconservancy.org

OFFICE PHONE (661) 943-9000

avconservancy@yahoo.com

Angeles Mountain bike Patrol

m.rmcmguire@hotmail.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.P is here to serve and inform the public.

Audubon Center at Debs Park

http://www.ca.audubon.org/debs_park.php
(323) 221-2255

The Audubon Center at Debs Park opened in 2003 as an environmental education and conservation center for the communities of northeast Los Angeles. The Center is located in the third largest park in the city of Los Angeles. More than half of the park is covered in walnut-oak woodland, grassland, and coastal sage scrub, a remnant of the native habitats that once rimmed the Los Angeles Basin. Over 140 species of birds have been recorded here.

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION

<http://www.anffla.org>

- Are you interested in assisting The Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association in rebuilding Vetter Mtn Lookout?
- How about help the funding with a purchase of a reusable tote bag for \$5?

Please contact:

Pam Morey

Forest Care Program Coordinator

909-744-9510 ext. 125

pmorey@fs.fed.us



Big Santa Anita Firesafe Council

cafiresafe@sbcglobal.net

Looking for volunteers to assist in fuel

hazard reduction, trail maintenance and visitor information in Big Santa Anita Canyon.

BEYOND BASECAMP

Beyondbasecamp.com 323 896-0123

There's always much to be done at our local mountains adopted back-country trail camps. We're always in need of volunteers to help with camp projects or trail maintenance.

BEAR CANYON TRAIL CREW (BCTC)

Richard Nyerges nyerges@sbcglobal.net

626-285-0962

- Jan 1, 2010 Mt Echo New Year's Day Hike & Breakfast

Blight Busters Trail Crew

Danny Treadway dayhiker86@yahoo.com

Graffiti Removal & Trail Clean Up.

Boy Scouts of America Los Angeles Area Council

<http://www.laac-hat.com/>

California Trail Users Coalition (CTUC) www.ctuc.info

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

City of Glendale

For the health and safety of our visitors, the Deukmejian Wilderness Park presently closed until further notice

- Volunteer opportunities during the fall/winter season will include filling sand bags as part of the general winter weather preparation efforts. In the spring, volunteer opportunities at the Deukmejian Wilderness Park will include the removal of exotic plants, trail rehabilitation, tree planting, and park clean up.

<http://cityofpasadena.org/publicworks/PNR/ArroyoSeco/annex.asp>

SIGN UP AT:

http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/parks/DeukmejianPark_VolunteerOpportunities.asp

Jeff Weinstein

Trails and Open Space Specialist

818-548-2000 jweinstein@ci.glendale.ca.us

Victory Park, 2575 Paloma St., Pasadena, CA

Concerned Of-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA)

Telephone (818) 773-3555

<http://www.corbamtb.com/cgi-bin/calendar.pl>

- Dec 5th
Introduction to Mtn Biking Skills Clinic Malibu Creek State Park

Community Hiking Club

communityhikingclub.org 661-259-2743

Dianne Erskine Hellrigel

email: zuliebear@aol.com

- Dec 5th - Mishe Mokwa Trail to Sandstone Peak Loop.
- Dec 12th - Island Fox Nature Series followed by a hike at Placerita Nature Center through the Canyon to Los Pinetos, up Los Pinetos to the saddle, and down to the Nature Center via the Manzanita Trail.
- Dec 19th - Ed Benison will be leading this hike into the Narrows at Towsley Canyon to the lookout.
- Dec 19th - Devil's Chair w/Dianne.
- Dec 20th - Palo Comado/Cheeseboro Canyons Loop with Linda Castro.
- Dec 26th - Henninger Flats

**RAIN AND FIRE CONDITIONS MAY
CANCEL HIKES**

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center

We will be closed until spring for public activities, but are welcoming volunteers to help with:

- clean-up
- garden recovery
- donations
- repairs
- improvements

www.haramokngna.org

Kat at 310-455-1588,

katcalls@aol.com

Hahamongna Watershed Park Advisory Committee

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: Comments on the Initial Study may be received in writing between November 23, 2009 and January 8, 2010. Written comments should be sent to: City of Pasadena, Parks & Natural Resources Division 100 N. Garfield Ave., Rm 212, Pasadena, CA 91109. If you wish to challenge the Initial Study in court, you may be limited to raising those issues that your or someone else raised in written comments or at any public hearing or meetings where this documents were considered

HABITATWORK.ORG

Kim Clark or Tom Persons

818-353-4653

<http://www.habitatwork.org/calendar.htm>

- Dec 5th/6th Marijuana Farm camp clean up Los Padres National Forest

CONTINUE TO
HABITATWORK.ORG P5

HABITATWORK.ORG

• Jan 2nd/3rd, 2010

Untaming the American West
Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Our deepest Thanks go out to all the wonderful volunteers serving the Angeles NF and nearby wild lands this year, in our organization as well as others. Although the Station fire has given us much to consider and respond to, the fire itself is not an end point, but a Season in the great Cycle of Life. With strategic and conservative stewardship to control invasives, we have the rare opportunity to watch a chaparral forest regenerate. We will see fire followers in their raging glory, as well as resprouters and filler-back-ins taking up the task. Nutrients have been released, and the chemistry of potash is working its magic. We look forward to lending our hearts and hands to the process. ~ Kim and Tom

High Country Riders

Forest wide equestrian volunteer group that patrols trails and can pack Trash, Rubbish, Equipment, Material and Supplies etc...to your Trail or worksite.

Glen Foster 760-868-8313
or 760-508-0344

second contact is:

Dave Ewbanks 909-489-5470

JAM Time2JAM.com

Josh@Time2JAM.com

(818) 714-0634

Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA)

www.pcta.org

From desert to glacier-flanked mountain, meadow to forest, the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) symbolizes everything there is to love – and protect - in the Western United States. Join us as we celebrate, enjoy and safeguard this unique American treasure.

<http://www.cityofmonrovia.org/community-life/parks/342-monrovia-canyon-park>

JPL TRAILBUILDERS

<http://www.jplhiking.org/>

Kathie Reilly 818-354-8321 (JPL)

626-798-7256 (home)

Jack Russell 562-861-3187

• Dec 12th Outing

Matt Maxon matt@mattmaxon.com

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

Mt Disappointment 50K/50M

www.mtdisappointment50k.com

Gary Hilliard, Director

gary@mtdisappointment50k.com

Mt. Wilson Observatory Association

<http://www.mwoa.org>

PO Box 70076 , Pasadena, CA 91117-7076

• Mount Wilson Closed To Visitors: Mount Wilson Observatory and Skyline Park is closed to visitors due to damage to access roads by Station fire. The Observatory itself survived intact and is now resuming scientific operations. Check back here for further updates.

Mount Wilson Bicycling Association

<http://mwba.org/>

Ray Herrera ray@pmbc.

• April 24 Pancake Breakfast fund raiser

MWBA was founded to be advocates of responsible trail use for mountain bikers in the San Gabriel mountains

Outward Bound – Los Angeles

<http://www.obainc.org> Phone: 626-564-0844

The mission of Outward Bound Los Angeles is to provide nature-based education that promotes positive self-development, environmental responsibility, and outdoor career exposure for low income, at-risk, and urban youth. E-mail: obainc.sbcglobal.net

Monrovia Canyon Park

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer call Kathleen at 626-256-8282.

Santa Clarita Valley Trails Advisory Committee

Meeting on a Quarterly basis at Carvalho Sports Complex Activity Center.

SCENIC MT. LOWE RAILWAY

<http://www.mtlowe.net>

Brian Marcroft 562-868-8919

Emworks@verizon.net

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Issue 11

**San Bernardino National Forest Assoc.
Partner For Conservation, Education and
Recreation**

www.sbnfa.org 909-382-2790

- Dec 5th, Dec 12th, Dec 19th, Dec 26th

Join us for a 30-minute nature walk at the Big Bear Discovery Center to learn about the local plant and wild life and some very interesting historical facts. Great activity for families and individuals who want to gain a greater appreciation for our National Forest. Nature walks are not strenuous and designed for all levels of physical conditioning.

Meets at the Big Bear Discovery Center

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

Sierra Club

www.angeles.sierraclub.org/pasadena/

- Dec 2nd

Meetings held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of every month at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N. Altadena Drive in northeast Pasadena.

Information on the group's hikes, outings, conservation and other activities. All meetings are free and open to the public. For more information, please call 626-791-7660 or

SAN GABRIEL TRAILBUILDERS

<http://www.sgmtrailbuilders.org>

<http://www.crystallake.name>

Ben White bwootenwhite@hotmail.com

626-303-1078

We are continuing to work on restoring trails in the Crystal Lake basin, repairing the Upper Bear Creak Trail, and building a new bridge at Laurel Gulch in the East Fork of the San Gabriel River (en route to the Bridge to Nowhere). We are also completing a bridge at the Rincon Educational Center. We work on the first, third, and fifth Saturday of each month

Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest

Wrightwood, CA <http://www.grassyhollow.net>

grassyhollow@hotmail.com

Loren Lake, Presidentlorenll@verizon.net

Wednesday Hiking Club

We're Korean-Americans, who love working in the National Forest. We work the 2nd Saturday of each month on maintaining the Sunset Ridge Trail, 12W18.

If you would like to join us or have any questions, please contact Ted Kim at infocus804@yahoo.com

William S Hart UHSD of Santa Clarita

ANF Crew 5130

In January 2010, William S Hart's Regional Occupation Training Program will continue offering "Basics in Forestry and Trail Construction" as a joint training venture between WS Hart Union High School District, the USFS, PCTA, and MRCA. In addition to high school credit, the student participants will be offered paid work experience while gaining practical exposure to land management practices and career pathways related to work in the great outdoors including; trail maintenance and construction; wildlife identification and conservation; backcountry navigation; environmental stewardship; wilderness first aid; and much more!

For more information, contact Kevin Sarkissian at: ksarkiss@hartdistrict.org 661.259.0033 X 525

TreePeople

<http://treepeople.org/>

Telephone (818) 753-4600

TreePeople works to alleviate urban environmental problems by bringing the healing effects of the forest to our city. Here's why our work matters:

- Cities cover less than one percent of our planet, but contribute 80 percent of greenhouse gas emissions – a cause of global warming.
- Dark-colored pavement and rooftops in sprawling cities like L.A. create “urban heat islands” that worsen global warming.
- Ninety percent of the school grounds in L.A. are covered by asphalt.
- L.A. has to import 85 percent of the water it uses – at a huge cost to consumers and the ecosystems that supply the water.
- L.A. has the worst air quality of any major city in the United States, posing a threat to the health of our residents.

With help from our volunteers, partners and donors, we can lessen the impact of these problems by creating a Functioning Community Forest in every neighborhood of L.A.

To support our important work volunteer with us or donate today.

Night Hike to Henninger Flats

Come and enjoy a mid-week evening hike up to Henninger Flats starting @ 7:00pm. This hike is 5.4 miles round trip. We will be following the Old Mt. Wilson Toll Road out of Altadena. Take an easy or quick pace. You decide. You can't get lost, there's only one road to follow. The view of the city from the overlook is truly breathtaking at night. The hike generally takes between 50 - 60 minutes to get up to Henninger Flats. We stay up top for about 15 - 20 minutes then head back down.

Rattlesnakes have been seen on the road so always be alert. When its dark they do stand out on the dirt road, so keep your eyes open.

There is a visitors center on top but it is generally closed by the time we get up there. If there is enough interest in this hike bi-monthly, I can call up ahead and arrange to hopefully have the center opened at least once a month if not each time we hike up. They also have a little theater where they can show vintage footage of the Mt Echo Railway during its days of operation. To have a movie shown will require a few weeks notice but it's really worth the time there too.

Bring water and a snack to enjoy on top. Wear good hiking boots or walking shoes. Layered clothing. Dogs are o.k. but they **MUST** be kept on a leash at all times!!! You can bring a flashlight if you must, but we never use them while walking. The glow from the city lights up the road just fine.

If it rains we will still hike. Come prepared. Wear rain gear or carry an umbrella!!

A Few Rules...

•If you bring a dog, you will be required to clean up behind it!!

•No Smoking

•No Alcohol

We meet at the start of the Mt. Wilson Toll Road. (Thomas Bros. pg. 536, D-5)

Directions:

Driving into Pasadena on the 210 freeway exit @ Altadena Drive. Coming from the east, turn right, coming from the west, turn left towards the mountains. Follow Altadena Drive about 2 miles to New York Drive. (There is an ARCO Gas Station on the S.W. Corner) Continue up Altadena Dr. for about another 1.5 miles to Crescent. Turn Right! (This will be the first street on your right after about 1.5 miles.) You will notice the street because there are many BOTS dots on the street to keep you from making a sharp right turn onto Crescent. Go about 200 yards to Pinecrest, turn right and go about 200 yards to the Mt. Wilson Toll Road. There is a large gate and fence there with many signs on it. It will be on your right. Park where you can. Be sure to read the posted street signs!

Try to be about 5-10 minutes early, we will get started @ 7:05pm. TRY NOT BE LATE!!! The gate might be locked!!

Minutes from the last volunteer meeting 19 November.

The Forest Service has started posting signs at the closed areas of the Forest due to the Station Fire, and plan to be finished by the end of next week. There will be patrols at certain places. Both Angeles roads are closed, the County and Caltrans are still fixing them. They hope to open to Clear Creek by the 24th, Mid-December maybe to Islip (in time for it to be closed due to weather!). By April will open other areas. Until then, we cannot go into the burn areas.

Howard passed out the list of volunteers with 100 hours for passes. He is taking uniform orders.

Howard is available Saturdays to accompany those who want to go into some closed areas. March we will be contacted to survey trails, so in April we can use the several hundreds of new volunteers who have signed up. The Forest Service will start training sessions in January. Marc proposed business cards that have an email address for volunteers to contact.

We can drive up to Cape of Good Hope without Forest Service escort as long as we let Howard know ahead of time. They are building a new gate further up past all of the houses.

Some of the fire damage: lost buildings at Mill Creek Summit and Mt Gleason, 1 building on Mt Lukens, Vetter Lookout, Wildwood. Places OK are Mt Wilson north slope, Gould Mesa, Switzers, Red Box, Charlton.

Gary, on behalf of the Mt Disappointment race, gave Howard a plaque for his 5 years of support of the race.

Brian will have a work day Dec 5 at Mt Lowe Trail Camp. The Saturday before they will go for an inspection.

January 9 all volunteers will have a work day at Mid-Merrill Trail. Meet at 8:00 at Sunset Ridge gate. Richard will modify his flyer. We'll work from Mt Echo, and hopefully the road will be open for us to drive around to the top.

Suggestions for future meetings – firemen on fighting the fire, geologist on mud slides, Adventure Pass fund usage.

Hal shared on the memorial for Doc Larson.

The Trail Program Manager position has been filled, Andrew Fish, and he starts Sunday. He is from Mariposa County. Volunteers are still under Howard.

Kathie Reilly



The Recovery has Begun!

**In under 3 months
Since the fire,
Angeles Forest is
beginning the slow
return from
the ashes as seen
in picture to left.**

**Thank you Mark
Gage for picture**



“New Year’s Day Hike & Breakfast” @ Mt. Echo

Friday, January 1, 2010 – 6:45am

**Need an excellent way to start off the New Year??
Well come and enjoy a early morning walk/hike
Up to historic Mt. Echo.**

**From there we’ll watch as the Stealth Bomber &
F-117’s or F-18’s fly over Pasadena to start the
“2010 Tournament of Roses Parade”.**

Bring binoculars & camera if you wish.

**After the fly by we’ll relax to a nice cooked breakfast.
Omelets, Sausage, Coffee, O.J., etc.**

It will be quite a feast,

And this year you can join the fun!!!

Bring your own coffee cup and an item to share.**

**We will meet at the top of Lake Ave. in Altadena between 6:30
& 6:40am. This way we can get started by 6:45 and not have to
rush up. We’ll take a leisurely walk up to Mt. Echo.**

Rain will not dampen our spirits – Bring a poncho.

****Contact Richard N. @ 626-285-0962
or @ nyerges@sbcglobal.net
to find out what you can bring
to make this a great
New Year’s Day Party on Echo!!!****



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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter Los Angeles Times March 30, 2009 email: info@tundracomics.com



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 / habitat restoration and tree planting

Other: _____
