

# 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 Feb 2012

### Appreciation and Many Thanks

On behalf of all the many volunteers and paid staff who participate in conservation work on the Los Angeles River Ranger District and the Angeles National Forest, we would like to extend a very hardy THANK YOU to Guy Kuhn for the wonderful job he does every month publishing this newsletter, Volunteer Today.

As regular as clockwork, Guy gathers our announcements of upcoming projects and events, and unifies our many goals and agendas into a smorgasbord of opportunities to get out and get dirty; caring for the forest we all want to see healthy and accessible for generations to come. Guy puts a spotlight on fun photos of recent projects, educates us with interesting articles, keeps us abreast of safety issues, and tickles our funny bones, sometimes when we need it most.

Guy doesn't stop at the newsletter, but is a stalwart volunteer in his own right. For many years, he's been a dedicated member of Richard Nyerges' Bear Canyon Trail Crew, pumping out many kilo-calories of hard work, maintaining that beautiful trail for hikers he will never meet. Guy has been an amazing force to reckon with on many a watershed, removing invasive species from tree tobacco, sweet clover and ivy, to tamarisk and knapweed. He's helped restore wildlife watering holes, removed dams and many miles of barbed-wire fences to re-establish wildlife corridors, has planted seeds and saplings of just about everything from oaks and pines to willow and salt bush, and has collected hundreds of pounds of high-grade condor microtrash from ANF mountain tops. Whew!

Guy is always congenial to work with, enthusiastic, timely, loyal, thoughtful and humorous. He's also a great Dad and Husband, and manages to steadfastly publish our newsletter in the face of computer glitches, viruses, crashes and snafus of all kinds. Though the many changes in forest service personnel and conditions in the field, we still have this wonderful newsletter bringing us together each month. Thank you Guy for your consistent care of our volunteer groups and activities. You make our world a better place, and we are grateful for your contribution.

On behalf of all,  
Kim and Tom, Habitat Works



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Issue 2

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<http://www.mtlowe.net/VolunteerNews.htm>**

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**Things are beautiful if you love them.  
- Jean Anouilh**

**• NEED TRAIL WORK HELP!**

The Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy (“AFC”) recently completed its purchase of 38 acres of undeveloped land at the mouth of Rubio Canyon. One of its first projects is the restoration of the historic trails that run through the property, which connect Rubio Canyon directly to Inspiration Point via the Lone Tree Trail.. Paul Ayers is directing the restoration for the AFC, beginning with the Camp Huntington Trail and the Lone Tree Trail via the old Edison jeep road. Paul is looking for volunteer to assist the project with "pick, shovel and rake work" under the guidance of experienced volunteer trail builders for about four hours the first Saturday morning of each month. Rain cancels. Tools will be provided.

Paul’s contact information is:  
[ayerspaul@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ayerspaul@sbcglobal.net) 818-378-3217.

**• FOREST SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

If you are interested in supporting either of these Forest Service activities, please contact Dennis Merkel, LARRD Recreation Staff Officer, at (818) 899-1900, ext. 229 or

[dcmerkel@fs.fed.us](mailto:dcmerkel@fs.fed.us).

**• Campground Hosts volunteers!** Los Angeles River Ranger District is in need of volunteers to serve as campground hosts for Monte Cristo, Buckhorn, and Chilao Campgrounds. The satisfaction of helping both the National Forest and its visitors is the Campground Host’s greatest reward. By their presence, Campground Hosts minimize vandalism thereby saving the taxpayer many dollars in upkeep and property damage. There is no substitute for the personal touch that makes a camper feel welcome and “at home.” Campground Hosts meet visitors from all walks of life, and often fellow campers become lasting friends. Many Campground Hosts and campers return to the same campground year after year, sharing stories of new grandchildren, winter activities, and old memories.

**• Recycling/Fund raising volunteers!** New recycling centers have been recently installed on the District and volunteers are also needed to assist with the new recycling program. The funds from the recyclables can be used by the volunteer group.

Mar 15, 1946 pg. A1

## MT. WILSON Becoming Television Broadcasting Center for Southland.

### Thirteen Sites on slopes obtained for Transmitters.

Mt. Wilson, for years the scientific attic of the Southland whence the heavens have been charted, soon will become the lofty origin for a new science--television.

Already 13 sites have been obtained on or near the 6000-foot mountain by television organizations and several additional sites will go for frequency modulation transmitters.

Two of the companies nearly have completed their buildings and installations and expect to begin televising within a few weeks. Hundreds of thousands of dollars will be invested on the mountain and old-timers anticipate the eventual establishment of a sort of sky-high Hollywood settlement on the pine-studded slopes.

### Effect Studied

This encroachment is looked upon philosophically by seasoned Wilson scientists, including Joe Hickox, who for 19 years has observed the doings of the sun from the 150-foot sun tower-- tallest of the Carnegie Institution's silver observatory structures.

Tests have been made, Hickox explained, to determine the effect of high-frequency television equipment on delicate photographic paraphernalia in the observatories. The intricate equipment apparently will not be hindered by the proximity of the powerful broadcasting stations. "and as for the influx (or up-flux) of people," Hickox said "we've had them right along anyway."

A .C. Childs , president of the Mt. Wilson Hotel Co., explained that a condition of operation of the observatory on the hotel land is that visitors be allowed to view the machinery and that an astronomical museum be maintained.

### Conditions Set

A similar condition will apply to at least one television company, he added. This organization , on land owned by the resort, will be required to allow visitors in the studio and will establish and maintain a television museum.

Reason for the rush of television companies to Mt. Wilson is scientifically basic. Television waves do not bend. They shoot straight out from their source, continuing straight into infinity over the curve of the earth into space.

Thus it is necessary to televise from as great an altitude as possible to reach the maximum range. From Mt Wilson, it is estimated that about 3,000,000 in the metropolitan area below will be able to receive picture radio waves.

Thus Mt Wilson soon will have double attraction for Southlanders, who will be able to view the stars of the universe and the stars of the ether waves at once while looking down on the majestic jeweled carpet of the citted valley below.

**FLASH FORWARD:** The mountain became so popular as a site for transmitters that, in 1963, the Metromedia company bought 720 acres from the Mount Wilson Hotel Company. Metromedia then removed the hotel and built Skyline Park. The park closed in 1976 after operating at a loss for almost a decade. The property is now the home of numerous transmitters serving the Los Angeles metropolitan area and includes radio, television and microwave relay facilities

In 1984 the Carnegie Institute began the process of shutting down the observatories on Mount Wilson, opting to concentrate on newer sites in Chile. In 1986 the Mt. Wilson Institute was formed to reopen the observatory's telescopes by the year 2000. Construction began in 1996 for six 1-meter telescopes by the Center for High Angular Resolution Astronomy at Georgia State University. This is the largest optical interferometric array ever built. Ground was broken for the telescopes in 1999 and the facility became operational in 2001.

# Plants that are not wanted in Angeles Forest: Giant Cane (Arundo Donax)

## What is it?

Arundo donax is a tall, perennial grass. The hollow stems, 3 to 5 cm thick, have a cane-like appearance similar to bamboo. Mature stands can reach a height up to 8 m. Stems produced during the first growing season are unbranched and photosynthetic. Underground it produces an extensive network of large, but short rhizomes like bulbs, and fibrous tap roots.

It is among the fastest growing terrestrial plants in the world (nearly 10 centimetres (3.9 in) / day) .



## Where did it come from?

Arundo donax was introduced from the Mediterranean region to California in the 1820s for roofing material, erosion control in drainage canals in the Los Angeles, as an ornamental plant, and for use as reeds in woodwind instruments.

## How does it spread?

It appears that plants in North America do not produce viable seed, and seedlings are not observed in the field. Population expansion here occurs through vegetative reproduction, either from underground rhizome extension of a colony or from plant fragments carried downstream, primarily during floods, to become rooted and form new clones. Fresh stems form roots at nodes under laboratory conditions, and root formation does occur where an attached Culm has fallen over and is in contact with the substrate.

## Why is it a Threat?

Arundo displace native plants and associated wildlife species as a consequence of the massive stands it forms. It clearly becomes a dominant component of the flora, and was estimated to comprise 68% of the riparian vegetation in the Santa Ana River.

Arundo does not provide any food sources or nesting habitats for wildlife. Arundo stems and leaves contain a variety of harmful chemicals, including silica and various alkaloids, which protect it from most insect herbivores and deter wildlife from feeding on it.

Arundo appears to be highly adapted to fires, which are unusual in native Californian riparian habitats. It is highly flammable throughout the year, and during the drier months of the year (July to October), it can increase the probability, intensity, and spread of wildfires through the riparian environment, changing the communities from flood-defined to fire-defined communities. After fires, Arundo rhizomes can resprout quickly, outgrowing native plants, which can result in large stands of Arundo along riparian corridors.

Unlike native riparian plants, Arundo provides little shading to the in-stream habitat, leading to increased water temperatures and reduced habitat quality for aquatic wildlife. At risk are protected species like Arroyo toad, Red-legged frog, Western pond turtle, Santa Ana sucker, Arroyo chub, Unarmored three-spined stickleback, Tidewater goby and Southern steelhead trout, among others.

Arundo is also suspected of altering hydrological regimes and reducing groundwater availability by transpiring large amounts of water from semi-arid aquifers. It alters channel morphology by retaining sedime

Uprooted plants also pose clean-up problems when deposited on banks or in downstream estuaries and during floods create hazards where trapped behind bridges and other structures.

# LAARD Bi-monthly Volunteer Meeting January 18, 2012

## By Kathie Reilly

- Since Forest Supervisor Tom Contreras was attending, along with Mike McIntyre and Dennis Merkel, introductions were made around the room. Which took a while since there were an awesome 37 attendees.
- First order of business was Mike and Dennis presenting Pam Bailey of the Bear Canyon Trail Crew with the Volunteer of the Year Award plaque honoring Richard Nyerges. Richard's name is also on the Volunteer of the Year plaque that will remain at headquarters listing all previous and future volunteers of the year recipients. In addition, Mike and Dennis wants to revive the volunteer yearend party, so think about when you would like to have this event.

### Dennis and Mike reports-

- Dennis passed around new time sheets to be used for reporting volunteer hours, he will also email us a soft copy. Reports need to be done at least once per year. He will also be coming up with a format for volunteers to report accomplishments.
- Send Dennis an email of where you will be working before you go each time
- Mueller Tunnel is done, and after inspections, will hopefully be open to the public the beginning of February. It is even passable with a vehicle, but there is a tricky turn right outside of the tunnel. If you need to go through before it officially opens, send Mike an email to receive an authorization.

### Organization Reports:

- **California Trail Users Coalition (CTUC):** they are taking public input for grant requests (money is from OHV fees). The County also has some money for trail work which could help in areas up against the Forest.
- **Angeles Mountain Bikers and Trail Keepers:** Lower Sam Merrill Trail is in good shape. Starting to work Mt Echo Trail.
- **Angeles Mountain Bike Patrol CORBA:** Worked Gabriellino Trail from Switzers to Red Box, Rim Trail with a grant from REI, next Eagle Project on El Prieto Trail
- **JPL Trailbuilders:** San Gabriel Peak Trail done, will get back to Mt Lowe East Trail
- **Angeles National Forest Fire Lookout Association:** new training starts in May
- **Arroyo Seco Canyon:** Cannot work in Forest due to injuries awaiting surgery. Directory cannot be updated since do not have the discs. Still have laminated wallet cards and notepads with phone numbers. Can still teach CPT/First Aid for those who request
- **Mt Disappointment 50 K:** no report
- **Terry Tanner:** trail sign planning for Charlton area
- **Scenic Mt Lowe Committee:** will be reconstructing Dawn Station structure
- **Boy Scouts of America:** Projects on Gabriellino, and Cobb Estate. Proposing Trail Boss on Silver Moccasin Trail, and Gabriellino Trail to Valley Forge
- **William Hart Trails:** no report
- **Angeles Crest 100 Mile Endurance Run:** require runners to do 1 day trail work. The race was on the cover of Ultra Runner magazine. Have been approved to run in the wilderness. Need a volunteer medical director for the race (thanks to Tom and Patty who have done it in the past). The race is full as of Christmas-time.
- **Bear Canyon:** Andy Andy Hoyer will be leading the Bear Canyon Trail Crew (BCTC) group beginning immediately.
- **Mounted Horse Patrol:** riding in Millard, Chilao, and Red Box. Will be riding in parades.
- **TreePeople:** Forest Service is having meeting tomorrow to decide when replanting can start (possibly Feb 12), will probably be earlier this year since no snow. Will probably replant in some areas planted last year. Some areas had success rate as high as 50%, which is very good.
- **MWBA:** no report

## LAARD Bi-monthly Volunteer Meeting (CONTINUED FROM P5)

### OPEN FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- Chaney Trail road has a big slide past Mt Lowe Campground. Tom Sloan Trail in the area is gone, from the fire.
- Volunteer is looking for help in working Ken Burton Trail
- Reminder, the Forest Service will not support work efforts if volunteers are not wearing long sleeves, long pants, and hard hats
- Chain saw training plan will be set up within next month, and be taught by fire fighters. Those taking it may need First Aid training first. Also looking into having cross-cut training and moving rocks training by Student Conservation Association (SCA)
- The trail from Switzers to Paul Little is so bad, Forest Service is hoping for a grant
- Capital Improvement Projects have little funding at this time.
- SCA will be scouting Strawberry Peak trails
- Andrew Fish is on leave, Acting will be Greg Stenmo
- If you are having trouble with your radio, there are new frequencies so the radios need programming. Bring your radio to the next meeting and Brian will reprogram
- Dennis will provide a map for next meeting for volunteers to mark where they are working to prevent duplication
- Pam said she can help with proposals requests for money from some aerospace companies

### TOM CONTRERAS

- **Heartily thanked the volunteers**
- **Gave some personal background. Has a mountain bike, experience with skiing, backpacking, horses.**
- **There will be positive changes in partnerships**
- **You can invite him to one of your outings. He wants to get out and experience. He wants to be a ambassador for our accomplishments**

### NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION

- **Nerissa** - Focusing on 2 projects so far 1) Big Tujunga restoration 2) Friends of Angeles effort
- **Edward** wants to get to know the groups and try to get us grants

## CONGRATULATIONS !!!!!

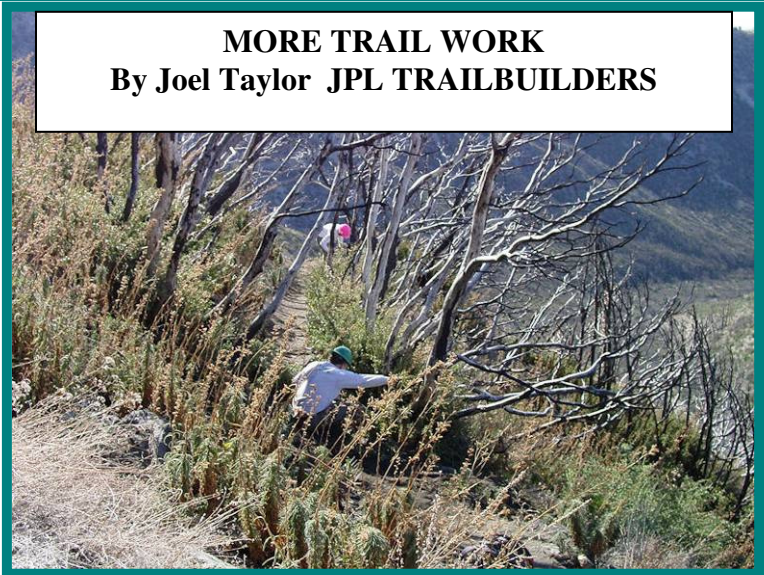


**Pam Bailey accepts the Volunteer of the Year Award for 2011, presented to Richard Nyerges of the Bear Canyon Trail Crew by Los Angeles River Ranger District Ranger Mike McIntyre and Angeles National Forest Supervisor Tom Contreras**

**MORE TRAIL WORK**  
By Joel Taylor JPL TRAILBUILDERS



**TRAIL WORK IN PROGRESS**  
BY Mitch Marich CORBA



## Rim Trail Trailwork – Report

**After CORBA’s productive trailwork day on the Rim trail in December, Belfree contractors went in and worked their magic on the most dangerous sections of the trail.**

On December 28, 29, and 30th, they hiked in with hand tools and professional know-how and achieved what would seem impossible. The narrowest, most dangerous sections of trail have been restored to a much safer width.

The slide areas near the top and the large one about two miles in have been repaired, with rock retaining walls built and/or repaired. At least 6 rock retaining walls were built, repaired or replaced, and one large tree which had fallen onto the trail and was standing nearly vertically, leaning against the rock face above, was removed. CORBA contracted Belfree Contractors for the work using a trail restoration grant from REI. When combined with our volunteer work, the grant money has helped open at least three popular trails in the Angeles.

The Rim trail is possibly in the best shape it has been in the last 10 – 15 years. Because only natural, local rock was used for reinforcement, the trail still retains a very rugged feel, and has not lost any of it’s backcountry character. In the before and after photo two retaining walls that were built and one that was repaired can be seen. We thank Belfree Contractors for working with us to stay within our grant budget, and yet achieve so much.



# WELCOME !!!!!



## **Acting Forest Supervisor Tom Contreras**

Contreras is the Forest Supervisor for the Mendocino National Forest in Willows, Calif. He is skilled in Forest Service policy and highly qualified in land management administration. During the past few months, he has assisted the Angeles as Acting Forest Supervisor and has agreed to remain indefinitely until a permanent Supervisor has been selected.

He began his Forest Service career in 1976 as an Environmental Interpreter on the Ashley National Forest, Utah, and has served in nine national forests in three Forest Service regions: the Intermountain Regional Office headquarters in Utah and the Pacific Southwest Region Office in Vallejo. Prior to his position on the Mendocino, he was Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, California, and served there as Regional Winter Sports Specialist, providing expertise on Winter Sports Management to state and federal agencies.

He has also held positions as Legal Affairs Specialist at the Forest Service National Office, District Ranger and Deputy Supervisor at multiple forests, and Recreation Staff Officer at Uinta National Forest, Utah. He also has extensive fire experience and has participated in numerous task forces and safety investigations.

Contreras was born and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. He has Bachelor's degrees in Forest Management, Outdoor Recreation Management Administration, and Environmental Interpretation from Colorado State University and University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom.

Contreras has three children: Adam, 23; Melissa, 21; and Lindsey, 19. He enjoys a wide variety of outdoor recreation including water and snow skiing, camping and hiking, and is an experienced horseman. He has a sense of adventure and enjoys new and challenging activities. His interests include classic cars, aviation and travel.



## **Recreation Officer L'Tanga Watson**

**[lwatson02@fs.fed.us](mailto:lwatson02@fs.fed.us)**

L'Tanga Watson has been a dedicated Forest Service employee since 1991, when she began as a Landscape Architect intern for the Green Mountain National Forest, Vermont. Later assignments included Project Leader for the National Forests, Mississippi, Deputy District Ranger for the Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana, and acting district ranger for the Cleveland National Forest, California.

Watson has earned a Bachelor's degree in Landscape Architecture from Louisiana State University, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from University of La Verne. She has also served as a U.S. Army logistics officer, retiring at the rank of Major. She enjoys motorcycle sport riding in her personal time.

The previous Ranger over the San Gabriel district, she has been appointed as Recreation Officer for the Angeles. Her duties cover overseeing and managing all recreation operations and functions in the forest including hiking, camping, water and ski areas and the forest's designated Wilderness areas.

Originally from Baton Rouge, La., she served as Ranger over the San Gabriel district since 2007. Her accomplishments include: evicting squatters out of the San Gabriel River East Fork area, enhancing relations with special-use, private cabin owners and the Mount Baldy community and improving billing processes.



## VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

**AC100** <http://www.ac100.com>

By: Hal Winton and Ken Hamada

The 25th Annual Angeles Crest 100 Mile Endurance Run AC100 is now full. We are not taking any more application.

Application for the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual AC100 will be available by August 1, 2012. Pre-Enter by October 1, 2012.

### Altadena Crest Trail Restoration Working Group 626-797-7243

Monthly meetings on second Tuesday at Altadena Community Center  
[www.altadenatrails.org](http://www.altadenatrails.org)

### Angeles Mountain Bikers and Trail Keepers Mark Gage

[mrgy33@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

### Angeles Mountain Bike Patrol

[m.rmeguire@hotmail.com](mailto:m.rmeguire@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.B.P is here to serve and inform the public.

### Audubon Center at Debs Park

[http://www.ca.audubon.org/debs\\_park.php](http://www.ca.audubon.org/debs_park.php)  
(323) 221-2255

FACEBOOK: AUDUBONDEBSPARK

- Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Family Nature Walk
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Tai Chi
- Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Nature Together
- Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Womans Fitness
- Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Art and Nature
- Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Solar system training  
Call Wade Webb for more information at 888-786-9322 or email [wadesolarwebb@aol.com](mailto:wadesolarwebb@aol.com)
- Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Old Time String Band Jam Session

## ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION

<http://www.anffla.org>

Pam Morey

[pammorey@fs.fed.us](mailto:pammorey@fs.fed.us)

Forest Care Program Coordinator  
909-744-9510 ext. 125



• Help rebuild Vetter Mtn Fire Lookout with a purchase of a reusable tote bag for \$5.

• It's probably easier that you realize to become an active Fire Lookout with the ANFFLA. It just takes a few classes training (which are quite fun!) and the desire to spend some time in the Angeles National Forest. For more information about becoming a fire lookout call or e-mail Pam

• Help support ANFFLA everytime you shop! Register your Ralphs Club Card and your Food4Less card and ANFFLA will receive a donation every time you shop. It's an easy to help support our efforts and costs you nothing!

### Antelope Valley Conservancy

[www.avconservancy.org](http://www.avconservancy.org)

[avconservancy@yahoo.com](mailto:avconservancy@yahoo.com)

OFFICE PHONE (661) 943-9000

Facebook: Antelope Valley Conservancy

• If you use Google or any other search engine, please try [GoodSearch.com](http://GoodSearch.com) to help us build the Sustaining Endowment. Just type "av conservancy" as your charity and Yahoo donates a penny for each search- at no cost to you! Do it now, so you don't forget. Thank you!

### Antelope Valley College, Marauders Fire Crew

Karl Smith

[karllsmith@aol.com](mailto:karllsmith@aol.com)

661 722 9097

• Although most of the group are members of the fire crew, we also invite other volunteers to join us in trail maintenance and other projects. Check us out on face book. AVC Marauders-fire.

• We have been doing trail work on all the Districts of the Angeles, mostly through the Pacific Crest Trail Association. We do have a volunteer agreement with the Angeles NF separate from the PCTA also.

We usually do some kind of projects several times per month. We are based out of the Antelope Valley College in Lancaster. Anyone wanting information about working with us can contact Karl Smith.

## VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

### Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy

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

John Howell, Executive Director (626) 796-3004

Face book: Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy  
If you're interested in helping with trail and habitat restoration in the canyon, go to: <http://www.arroyosfoothills.org/volunteer/>

Great news! The office of L.A. County Supervisor Michael Antonovich has committed \$350,000 in Proposition A funding toward AFC's project to preserve 7.75 acres of wilderness land at the top of Rosemont Ave. in La Crescenta. The commitment brings AFC more than three-quarters of the way toward its fundraising goal of \$450,000.

To read more about the project goto:

<http://www.arroyosfoothills.org/rosemont/>

### BEAR CANYON TRAIL CREW

Andy Hoyer [abhoyer@yahoo.com](mailto:abhoyer@yahoo.com)  
213-675-0420

#### • Feb 18th Outing

Andy did a walk thru and there is a lot of work to be done on the trail, so we have our work cut out for us. We will meet on the 2 at 7:50 to depart about 8:15ish

See you on the Trail  
Pam Bailey

### Big Santa Anita Canyon

<http://www.bigsantaanitacanyon.com/>

- Year round, 6 am to 8 pm every day.
- The road is gated and the gate is locked at night. Be sure to return to your car before 7:30 pm or you may not get out! During and after heavy rains, fires, or after significant earthquakes, and during fire alerts the road may be closed.
- The Sierra Madre Police Dept. is in charge of locking/unlocking the gate. If you are concerned that the road might be closed you can call them for info: 626 355-1414.
- Adams Pack Station Contact: Friday, Saturday & Sunday 8:00 am - 5:00pm (626) 447-7356

### Blight Busters Trail Crew

Danny Treadway [dayhiker86@yahoo.com](mailto:dayhiker86@yahoo.com)

### Boy Scouts of America

Los Angeles Area Council

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

### California Trail Users Coalition (CTUC)

[www.ctuc.info](http://www.ctuc.info)

• Feb 15<sup>th</sup> meeting Come and Join Us  
CTUC meets on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. at 3550 Foothill Blvd., Glendale, CA.

Our meetings are open to everyone who wishes to participate. Volunteers have a great time working together on these types of projects. To volunteer on one of our projects, please join us by calling our Chairman, Terry Kaiser at 818-353-4682. You may also email: [edwaldheim@aol.com](mailto:edwaldheim@aol.com)

### CITY OF GLENDALE

Parks, Recreation & Community Services Dept

<http://www.ci.glendale.ca.us/parks/default.asp>

Jeff Weinstein [jweinstein@ci.glendale.ca.us](mailto:jweinstein@ci.glendale.ca.us)

Trails and Open Space Specialist 818-548-2000

• Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Stream Restoration Hike  
with Jessica Hall

• Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Third Saturday Wilderness Workday  
Deukmejian Wilderness Park

### Community Hiking Club

[communityhikingclub.org](http://communityhikingclub.org)

Face book: Community Hiking Club 661-259-2743

Dianne Erskine Hellrigel email: [zuliebear@aol.com](mailto:zuliebear@aol.com)

Welcome to the Community Hiking Club!

The Community Hiking Club is based in Santa Clarita, California. We organize hikes for all fitness levels, conduct ecn-hikes for kids, offer presentations about condors, wildlife corridors and African animals to the public, and work to preserve open space and wilderness in the SCV and throughout California. We also work to improve habitat in the forest and our open space, do clean ups, graffiti removals, Tamarisk removals, trail maintenance, and much more. All ages are welcome to join us. Although many of our hikes are listed as moderate to difficult, we can accommodate everyone on every hike. We look forward to seeing you on the trail with us soon!

Join our FACEBOOK page as a fan and get updates, schedules, and photo albums on your face book newsfeed! It's easy-just go to facebook.com, and enter Community Hiking Club into your browser!

(Continue to p 11)

• **Feb 4<sup>th</sup> - This is a two for one hike.** Angela will first lead you to the waterfall in Whitney Canyon. Along the way you are apt to see deer grazing near the beautiful stream. This first portion of the hike is 5 miles RT. It is an easy and delightful trail. This hike is great for the whole family. You can finish up the hike when you return to the parking area from this hike, or you can continue on to historic Elsmere Canyon where you can view some of the remnants of the late 1800's oil industry in the SCV. This leg will add another 5 miles to your adventure, giving you a RT of 10 miles. There is virtually no gain on the Whitney hike, and about 500' of gain on the Elsmere hike, which is all at the beginning. Bring lots of water, snacks if you're only going on the Whitney Hike, and lunch if you're going on the Elsmere hike. Wear shoes with good tread, and you will find that poles will be helpful on the steeper areas of Elsmere.

Meet at the trail head at 8:15 for an 8:30 departure down the trail.

Directions to trailhead: From Valencia, go south on I-5, then north on SR-14. Exit at Newhall Avenue, and take the first RIGHT on the offramp. Turn right. Park in the Park and Ride at the End of the street for free or park in the MRCA lot (to the left at the end of the Park and Ride) for \$7.00. We will meet at the 2nd MRCA Green Gate at the end and to the far left of the Park and Ride. (This is the same meeting spot for Elsmere Canyon, but we are doing a different trail. Note: We are meeting and the SECOND green gate)

Leader: Angela Myers

Rated: Easy (Whitney) Easy to Moderate (Whitney and Elsmere)

• **Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Orienteering in Vasquez Rocks - Exercise in map and compass - Learn Navigation Skills**

Orienteering is the sport of navigating a course through the wilderness using a map and compass. Orienteering is a sport for everyone, regardless of age or experience. The goal is to find our way to various locations using a map and compass and land marks. This is not a race. The pace will be slow. The goal is learn how to find your way to the specified destination using map and compass. Participation will show you more about Orienteering than any words.

Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, bug repellent, hiking shoes with tread, lunch, hat compass. Maps will be provided. If you don't have a compass, ask Santa or go to Walmart or REI. Get a decent compass, don't skimp.

Meet in the Vasquez Rock parking lot at 9 AM

From Santa Clarita go North on CA-14 toward Palmdale for about 12.5 mi

Take exit 15 for Agua Dulce Canyon Rd

Turn left onto Agua Dulce Canyon Rd, Go 1.9 mi

The road makes a 90 right turn and becomes Escondido Canyon Rd

Continue onto Escondido Canyon Rd for .6 miles

Turn right into the Vasquez Rocks park, turn left on the dirt road and follow this all the way to the end where you will see a porta-potty and a green metal bar fence.

Leaders: Jerry and Steve

Rated: Easy

• **Feb 11<sup>th</sup> – Hike Slide Mountain to the Lookout tower**

This hike will be a fast-paced, 11 mile RT with apx 2,000 ft gain. Bring water, lunch, snacks, and shoes with good tread. To carpool, hikers can meet at Towsley Canyon OUTSIDE the gate for a 7:00 AM departure to the trail head. The leader will meet you at the trailhead at 8:00 AM. You will also need a Forrest Adventure Pass to park at the trailhead. To meet at the trailhead:

Take the I-5 Fwy north from Santa Clarita. About 6 miles north of Lake Hughes/Castaic, exit at Templin Hwy. Go left, under the freeway and turn right at the end on what Mapquest calls the Golden State Hwy. Take this to the end, this is Frenchman's Flat. Park in front of the gate.

Leader: Nikki

Rated: Strenuous

(Continue to p 12)

**Community Hiking Club (cont)****• Feb 12<sup>th</sup> -Rice Canyon Loop 6 Miles**

This fun-filled little adventure is sure to make for a great time. Along the way there are half a dozen stream crossings, pastoral grasslands, a lush variety of plant types including creeping snowberry, scarlet monkey flower, stinging nettle and four varieties of giant oaks with Sycamore and willow trees. Some of the terrain will be steep, The pace will be moderate, OK for energetic beginners.

Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, bug repellent, Waterproof boots with tread, lunch, hat.

Directions to Trailhead: Meet at East/Rice Canyon trailhead sign at 9AM, About 1 mile south of Towsley/Ed Davis park on the Old Road. Park on the street for free (You will see cars parked on the right side) or in the parking lot and Pay the Iron Ranger \$7

Leader: Dave, Assistant leader: Steve

Rated: Easy

**• Feb 18<sup>th</sup> -Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park -**

As we all know, dinosaurs are all about power. This exciting adventure starts under the power lines (park by the houses to lead our adversaries off our scent). This is a last chance expedition, as it might be closed to humans this upcoming year. We of course are on a secret mission to gain as much fun and happy memories of this park as we can. These memories include but are not limited to the Tongva, Chumash, and Tataviam people's trading routes and remnants of villages (this means they were Native Americans and lived here longgggg ago. yay!). Aside from the Indians that lived here, people with large wagons rolled over our trail not long ago, and hippie murderers roamed the land! Spahn Ranch is known for more than just a drug crazed Charles Manson, but for many (long ago famous) movies! This soap opera is not an easy one, we'll be going around 6 glorious miles, and most of that will be uphill. Don't forget to bring your best warface!

Bring lots of water, snacks, lunch, your camera, and poles if you have them.

Directions to trail head: Take the 118 West, exit Topanga, go left (south) 1 mile to Devonshire. Turn right on Devonshire (west), turn left on Larwin (right before street ends) We will meet at 10200 Larwin, Chatsworth at 8:30 AM.

Leader: Helen

Rated: Moderate ++

**• Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Switzer Picnic Area to Bear Canyon**

Distance: 5 Miles Roundtrip with 1100' gain.

Switzer's Camp was once one of the most famous resorts in the San Gabriel Range. Perry Switzer along with Bob and Liz Waterman fashioned this wild resort in 1884. There once was a tennis court, croquet court, library, children's playground, and an open air dance floor. A cow horn was left hanging from a Manzanita bush 1/2 mile below the camp with instructions to issue one blast for every hungry guest. When the visitors arrived they were greeted with a hot dinner. Trout was the featured feast, caught in the adjacent stream.

The hike starts at the Switzer Picnic Area parking lot. It is located approx. 1/2 mile passed the Angeles Crest/Angeles Forest Highway Junction. Adventure Pass is required to park your car here. From the parking lot the trail will lead us pass the Switzer trail Camp, dropping in the Arroyo Seco (On the way down there are good views of Switzer Falls). From here we will walk up the creek a short way than backtrack and follow the gorge past numerous pools and mini cascades. At Bear Canyon Junction we will turn around and head back.

There are many stream crossings. Be sure to bring plenty of water, a hat, sunscreen, snacks, hiking poles, good hiking boots, and a camera.

Meet at Towsley between 7-7:15 to carpool to the trail head. If you'd like to meet at the trail head, we'll see you there at 8:00.

Directions to trailhead: Take 5 south to the 210 frwy and exit on the Angeles Crest Hwy (2 north). Drive up the Angeles Crest Hwy 10 1/2 miles to the side road down to the Switzer Picnic Area, which is 1/2 mile past the junction of the Angeles Crest and Angeles Forest Hwys. Turn right and descend 1/4 mile to the parking area outside the picnic area.

Restrooms are located at the trail head.

Leader: Dave Pulsifer

Rated: Easy

## Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association

PHONE: (818) 773-3555

FACEBOOK: CORBA [www.corbambtb.com](http://www.corbambtb.com)

The Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA) is an all-volunteer non-profit organization serving the mountain bicycling community of Los Angeles and its surrounding areas including southern Ventura County. We are dedicated to preserving open space, maintaining public access to public lands, and creating more trail opportunities for all to enjoy. We are a chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association.

For a complete schedule go to: <http://corbambtb.com/Calendar/index.shtml>

- Feb 6<sup>th</sup> COSTAC Monthly Meeting 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> CORBA's monthly meeting of the board and members.  
Location TBD. Please rsvp to [info@corbambtb.com](mailto:info@corbambtb.com) 6pm – 8pm
- Feb 24<sup>th</sup> CORBA Fundraiser at Newbury Park Bicycle Shop 7pm – 8pm  
Where: 1560-6 Newbury Road, Newbury Park, CA 91320

On Jan. 22nd, CORBA, Friends of El Prieto, Eagle Scouts and St. Francis High School re-routed a section of El Prieto trail away from a cliff edge due to collapse. This and more Eagle Scout projects coming up are doing a great job of keeping El Prieto Trail in good shape



**Friends of El Prieto Trail**  
[bannermoffat@earthlink.net](mailto:bannermoffat@earthlink.net)

**Friends of Hahamongna** [www.fohwp.org](http://www.fohwp.org)  
Go here to receive E-mail news about  
the Hahamongna park: <http://www.fohwp.org/id18.html>

## HABITAT WORKS

<http://www.habitatwork.org>

Kim Clark or Tom Persons 818-353-4653

Habitat Works - Volunteers Improving Wildlife Habitat

- Feb 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Riparian Canopy Planting and Saltbush Test Plots Wind Wolves Preserve

## Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center

[www.haramokngna.org](http://www.haramokngna.org)

We are open Sat & Sun from 10-4, and by appointment for groups during the week. We now have an answering machine (if the electricity is working) at the Center – 663-449-8975.

We have resumed our land management practices - with our "culture club" - gathering the bounty of the mountains and using those materials for material culture.

For more info on the culture club call Kat at (626) 449-8975

## 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.

### Contacts:

**Jonathan Schultz** a Forest Certified Animal Packer, Master Teacher for "LNT Chainsaw & Crosscut Saw Certified Volunteer. 951-830-3400 [maujds@earthlink.net](mailto:maujds@earthlink.net)  
**Glen Foster** 760-868-8313 or 760-508-0344  
 Or **Dave Ewbanks** 909-489-5470

## JPL TRAILBUILDERS <http://www.jplhiking.org/>

**Kathie Reilly** 818-354-8321 (JPL) 626-798-7256 (home)

**Jack Russell** 562-861-3187

• **Feb 18<sup>th</sup> OUTING** If we have a small turnout, we will work on replacing a broken pipe and timber wall on the North San Gabriel Peak Trail with a rock wall. If we have a large turnout, we will work Mt Lowe East Trail. Meet at 8:15 AM at ball diamonds parking lot in the lower part of Hahamongna Park.

## Monrovia Canyon Park

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

### Volunteering at Canyon Park

• **Have you always wanted to be a park ranger sharing your love of nature with others?** Here is your chance to fulfill your dreams! Training will be provided to help you become a volunteer, who will foster an appreciation, understanding and respect for nature for those visitors who come to Monrovia Canyon Park.

• The benefit package included children's smiles and laughter, hikers who appreciate your clearing of trails, city folks whose facial expression relax and attitude change as they find a respite from the hurried world below. Contact the Nature Center at 626-256-8282 for more information and an application.

## Mt Disappointment 50K Conservation Group

[www.mtdisappointment50k.com](http://www.mtdisappointment50k.com)

**Gary Hilliard, Director** [gary@mtdisappointment50k.com](mailto:gary@mtdisappointment50k.com)

- **Feb 14<sup>th</sup>** – Silver Moccasin Train below Shortcut Saddle towards Westfork Camp – weather dependent.
- **Mar 3<sup>rd</sup>** · Mt D. Group will volunteer and host the Orange Curtain 100K and 50K at Liberty Park in Lakewood
- **Mar 10<sup>th</sup>** Silver Moccasin Train below Shortcut near Westfork Camp – weather dependent.

Welcome to the Mt. Disappointment 50K Endurance Run where you can experience some of the finest trails and canyons of the San Gabriel Mountains. Our course is incredibly scenic, yet strenuous and challenging. We feature fully stocked aid stations as you become part of the semi-wilderness surroundings. The final climb to the summit of Mt Wilson up the Kenyon Devore Trail will test each runner with terrain and surroundings that are truly unique to these canyons.

## Mount Wilson Institute

<http://www.mtwilson.edu/> P. O. Box 1909 Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1909 (404) 413-5484

- **The Cosmic Café is now closed for the winter**
- **Mount Wilson Observatory is visited by thousands of people each year, and the Observatory is presently expanding its tour program. To do so, we need the help of volunteers to staff these tours and to represent Mount Wilson to the visiting public. We currently have several openings for docents and will conduct a training course in the spring of 2012. If this sounds like something you would enjoy doing and can fit into your schedule, download and submit the Docent Application Form from: <http://www.mtwilson.edu/docapp.pdf>**

## Mount Wilson Bicycling Association

Ray Herrera <http://mwba.org/>

Join us...Join IMBA It's now official...we're part of IMBA. Head on over to our Join page and that'll lead to our signup page at IMBA.

## VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

### Outward Bound Adventures <http://www.obainc.info/>

2020 Lincoln Ave. Pasadena, CA 91103 FACEBOOK: Outward Bound Adventures

Outward Bound Adventures has numerous opportunities for volunteers, both administrative and for outings. To inquire about opportunities, please e-mail us using the contact form at

<http://www.obainc.info/Contact-Us.htm> and hit the send button or call us at 626.564.0844.

- Do you want to make the world a better place? Want to work with young people? Do you want to create opportunities for people in need? Want to work outdoors? Want to train the leaders of tomorrow?

- We run programs throughout the year with a slow period during the months of November and December. We encourage those with a passion to serve our youth and community to call us for current openings. Outdoor experience is not required.

### Pacific Crest Trail Association

<http://www.pcta.org>

FACEBOOK: Pacific Crest Trail Liz Bergeron lbergeron@pcta.org

Sacramento, CA Phone: (916) 285-1846 x 2

**Volunteer!** By the joining the PCTA, you're already doing a lot to help protect and preserve the PCT for future generations; but if you'd like to help out even more, there are a number of opportunities available. Go here to find out how to volunteer: <http://www.pcta.org/help/volunteer.asp>

### San Bernardino National Forest Assoc. [www.sbnfa.org](http://www.sbnfa.org)

909-382-2796

Sarah Miggins [smiggins@fs.fed.us](mailto:smiggins@fs.fed.us)

602 South Tippecanoe, San Bernardino, California 92408

Since 1993, we've worked to complement the mission of the US Forest Service. We develop new resources and partnerships that create new opportunities, particularly through the efforts of volunteers, for conservation, education, and recreation that have added value to the forest's role as public land.

For calendar details go to: <http://www.nationalforestassociation.org/index.php?ev=2455778&mo=2&yr=2012>

- Animal Tracking Feb 11<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>
- Arrowhead Communities Fire Safe Council Feb 9<sup>th</sup>
- Big Bear Discovery Center Closed Feb 20<sup>th</sup>
- Big Bear Youth Volunteer Meeting Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Eagle Celebration Feb 11<sup>th</sup>
- Forest Service Bald Eagle Counts Feb 11<sup>th</sup>
- General Membership & Volunteer Meeting Feb 8<sup>th</sup>
- Great Seeds Forest Restoration Volunteer Team Feb 11<sup>th</sup>
- Lake Arrowhead Youth Volunteer Meeting Feb 6<sup>th</sup>
- Mountain Rim FSC: Crest Forest Chapter Feb 16<sup>th</sup>
- Nature Walks Feb 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>
- Snowshoe Tour Feb 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>
- Story Time
  - ~ Old Abe, Eagle Hero by Patrick Young Feb 11<sup>th</sup>
- Story Time
  - ~ Wake Up Bertha Bear by Chad Mason Feb 25<sup>th</sup>
- Wrightwood Fire Safe Council Feb 21<sup>st</sup>

### SAN GABRIEL TRAILBUILDERS

<http://www.sgmtrailbuilders.org>

<http://www.crystallake.name>

Helen Oakley: 626-792-4573

Ben White: 626-303-1078 |

[ben@SGMTrailbuilders.org](mailto:ben@SGMTrailbuilders.org)

We work on the first, third, and fifth Saturday of each month Trail working volunteers may join the San Gabriel Mountains Trailbuilders in the continued restoration process for trails in and around Crystal Lake and if you would like to volunteer your time, please send e-mail to [volfeedback@crystallake.name](mailto:volfeedback@crystallake.name) I will let you know when, where, and what you need to know to join us.

#### MEETING LOCATION:

San Gabriel Canyon Gateway Center,  
1950 North San Gabriel Canyon Road (Hwy 39),  
Azusa, CA 91702.

## SCENIC MT. LOWE RAILWAY

<http://www.mtlowe.net>

Brian Marcroft 562-868-8919

E-mail: [Emworks@verizon.net](mailto:Emworks@verizon.net)

The Scenic Mt. Lowe Railway Historical Committee the formal name for a group of volunteers who work to preserve the remnants of the Mount Lowe Railway, including structures and artifacts. The group formed in 1992.

## Sierra Club [www.angeles.sierraclub.org/pasadena/](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/pasadena/)

Sierra Club-Pasadena Group

P.O. Box 94086

Pasadena, CA. 91109-4086 (626) 791-7660

For more calendar details go to [http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/pasadena/outings\\_3mos.html#feb](http://www.angeles.sierraclub.org/pasadena/outings_3mos.html#feb)

- Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> Henninger Flats Conditioning Hike
- Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30 pm —Monthly Meeting: La Cresenta resident David Weeshoff, board chair of International Bird Rescue, will present "Oil Spills: Causes and Consequences for Birds, Wildlife and Humans." Information on Group's hikes, outings, and conservation activities. Newcomers always welcome. 7 pm social hour, 7:30 pm program at Eaton Canyon Nature Center, 1750 N Altadena Dr in NE Pasadena.

For information contact Group Chair: Elizabeth Pomeroy.

- Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Mt Zion Loop from Chantry Flat
- Feb 11<sup>th</sup> South Pasadena Historic Walk
- Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Zuma Canyon Ocean View Trail – Canyon View Trail loop
- Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Snowshoe/Cross-Country Ski Trip to Chilao Campground
- Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Mushroom Walk

## Tree People <http://www.treepeople.org>

12601 Mulholland Drive

Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Telephone (818) 753-4600

FACEBOOK: Tree People

For more calendar details go to <http://www.treepeople.org/calendar/2012-02>

- Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>/11<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> Park Workday
- Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> Angeles Forest Restoration Supervisor Training
- Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> Volunteer Supervisor Training
- Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> Santa Monica Mountain Restoration
- Feb 7<sup>th</sup> Full Moon Hike
- Feb 11<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> Campus Orchard Care
- Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Waste Reduction and Recycling Workshop
- Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Water Pollution Prevention Workshop
- Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Are you interested in learning about TreePeople's programs and volunteer opportunities? Want to connect with TreePeople staff and volunteers? Come to Third Thursdays at TreePeople, which takes place - well - every Third Thursday of every month at TreePeople!

Learn about:

- TreePeople's 2020 vision.
- What a functioning community forest is and how you can help create one in your neighborhood.
- Upcoming volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups.
- Specific volunteer roles that will best match your talents.

And, meet other folks who share your passion for helping nature heal our city!

For questions, contact our Volunteer Manager at [volunteer@treepeople.org](mailto:volunteer@treepeople.org).

- Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Santa Monica Mountain Restoration Supervisor Training
- Feb 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Angeles Forest Restoration

## VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

### Volunteers of the Angeles National Forest Wrightwood, CA

<http://www.grassyhollow.net>

Visitor Center Phone #: (626) 821-6737

Loren Lake [lorenll@verizon.net](mailto:lorenll@verizon.net)



## Wednesday Hiking Club

### • Feb 11<sup>th</sup> Outing

We're Korean-Americans, who love working in the National Forest. We work the 2nd Saturday of each month. If you would like to join us or have any questions, please contact Ted Kim at [infocus804@yahoo.com](mailto:infocus804@yahoo.com)

## William S Hart UHSD of Santa Clarita ANF Crew 5130

Kevin Sarkissian 661.259.0033 X 525

Beginning in January 2012, 'Outdoor Recreation and Wilderness Conservation' will once again be offered as a 5 credit class through the District's Regional Occupational Training Program as a collaborative training venture between WS Hart Union High School District, USFS, PCTA, and MRCA. In addition to high school credit, participating students may be offered a paid work experience internship while gaining practical exposure to land management practices and career pathways related to conservation and resource management including; trail maintenance and construction; wildlife conservation; backcountry navigation; environmental stewardship; search and rescue response; and much more!



This 18 week class is also open to interested non-district students, adults, and agency personnel.

For a complete course outline, visit [www.hartrop.com/forestry](http://www.hartrop.com/forestry) or contact Kevin Sarkissian at:

[ksarkiss@hartdistrict.org](mailto:ksarkiss@hartdistrict.org)

661.250.0022 X 552

## MUELLER TUNNEL ALMOST DONE!

**Repairs are almost completed, But the Mueller Tunnel is still closed**

**We will announce the opening date for Mueller Tunnel.**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

## GABRIELINO TRAIL WORK



**CORBA GETTING READY TO WORK**

**WHERE IS THE TRAIL?**



**HERE IT IS!**



**WOW! MORE WORK!**



**CONTACT CORBA**  
Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association  
**PHONE: (818) 773-3555**  
**TO HELP!**

# My Turn: A penny for your walks

Special to the Los Angeles Times HEALTH SECTION

By Jack Russell *January 2, 2012*

By all accounts, Americans are becoming heavier. The number of people deemed to be obese continues to grow. The remedy is obviously proper diet and exercise, but getting enough exercise is not always easy. People need incentive, and I've got one to suggest.



Having had some issues with my heart, the medicos strongly suggested that I get regular exercise. I've always enjoyed walking, so I embarked on regular walks of approximately two miles in the vicinity of my home in Downey. In the course of walking, I would occasionally find coins lying on the ground. I began to take note of where I was finding them — mostly beside parked cars and in commercial parking lots. From this I fine-tuned six routes in my neighborhood that consistently yield stray coins, which I record in a journal.

I have gone yearlong stretches without being shut out. The money is always lying there. It keeps me out walking, because I always wonder what I might be missing if I stay home.

As I walk a street, I glance down beside the doors of parked cars, since people (mostly guys) lose coins out of their pockets while entering and exiting their vehicles. Thus, commercial parking lots are more fruitful than residential streets, given the high volume of in-and-out car traffic.

As might be expected, the most common coin to find is the penny. The cost of manufacturing pennies is said to be greater than their value, so periodically Congress proposes doing away with them. In fact, a supposed expert claimed newly minted pennies are only used once. I can certainly attest to the fact that this is not the case, because I occasionally find wheat pennies from the 1950s. I've even found World War II-era steel pennies. Maybe it is a sign of our down economy that people are raiding their piggy banks.

My record for pennies found in a single outing is 40. This happened on New Year's Day 2011, after someone apparently decided to celebrate by throwing a handful of pennies on a residential street.

Curiously, dimes found always outnumber nickels. My theory is that it's because they make less noise when they strike the ground.

My record for quarters found in one outing is five, which I found in a pay phone coin return slot. I suggested to a friend that they had been left by a drunk. He countered that perhaps five drunks each put in a quarter, but I tend to doubt that.

On any given day in the greater Los Angeles area, there are probably several hundred dollars in loose change simply lying on the ground, waiting to be picked up. Of course, it is randomly scattered over more than 300 square miles.

I must add that this is not as easy as I make it out to be. There are days when two miles of walking will yield only a single penny, but I feel it beats the boring sameness of exercising on a treadmill.

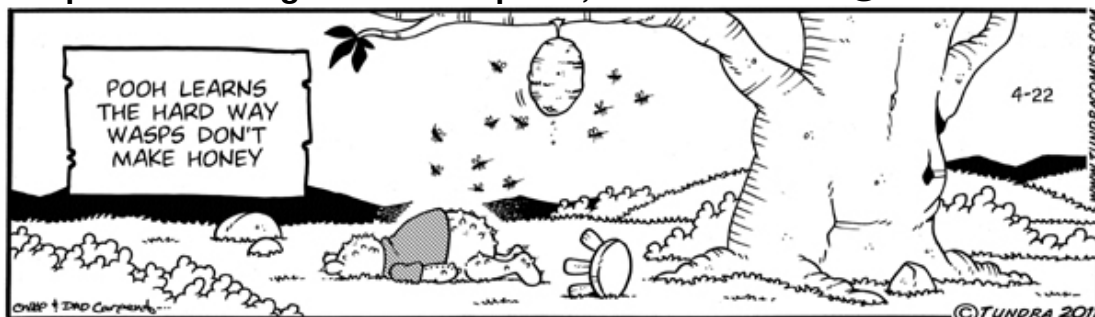
*Russell, 72, is a retired truck driver who has been an avid walker for more than seven years. His walks have yielded several hundred dollars. He is a member of JPL Trailbuilders, a volunteer group that maintains trails in the Angeles National Forest.*

**EDITORS NOTE: THERE WERE MANY FOLKS THAT WROTE TO THE L.A. TIMES PAPER THAT THEY ALSO LOOK FOR MONEY WHILE WALKING.**

**AND YES! JACK HAS FOUND COINS ON TRAIL OUTINGS!**

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

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter Los Angeles Times Apr 22, 2011 email: [info@tundracomics.com](mailto:info@tundracomics.com)



**Volunteer Today**

**Send this in Right Away to**

**Dennis Merkel —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:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_