

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS TRAILS COUNCIL

SPRING 2012



Santa Monica Mountains Trail Days to be on April 27-29 at Point Mugu State Park

Volunteers are invited to the 31st annual Trail Days where there are interesting jobs for everyone. Come for a day or camp overnight to stay the entire weekend as you help improve trails and parks and help restore native vegetation.

Tools will be provided, but bring gloves, hat long pants, sunscreen, lip balm and sturdy shoes or boots. On Saturday night there will be a free barbecue for all volunteers. Bring your own food and beverages for all other times.

If you are camping, please register by April 21.

For all details and how to register, click on www.smmtc.org/maint/TrailDays_2012.php. Information is available at 818-222-4531.



An American flag flown at all major SMMNRA park sites was presented by his friends at NPS, MRCA, SMMC, CA State Parks.

BEST WISHES TO Woody

W

e wish Woody all the best in his new position as Deputy Superintendent at Yosemite National Park. His 21 years here have gone by quickly. They have been extremely rewarding for all of us, and we have greatly appreciated his vision, his experience, his quiet manner in getting things done, his ability to acquire funds for the Santa Monicas, his personal interaction with the people, and his friendship. He is truly a very capable person who has demonstrated that collaboration with partners brings success to all.

Ruth

Coming Events

2012

- *Trail Days* – April 27-29
- *Backbone Trek* – May 5–12
- *National Trails Day* – June 2
- *Annual Dinner Meeting* – October 25
(Dinner and meeting are free and open to the trails community)

Trails Council Board Meetings

Board Meetings are open to the public and held at Diamond X Ranch, 26412 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas, CA 91302, on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. There are three exceptions: Nov & Dec, meet on 1st Thursday & no meeting in August.


SMM Conservancy Honors Linda Palmer for Open Space and Trail Advocacy

Los Angeles County native, retired actress, and grandmother, Linda Palmer became an ardent open space and trail activist on moving to the Santa Monica Mountains in 1975 with her family and her horse. Joining the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council board of directors, she helped design and promote the L.A. Co. Trail Plan for the Santa Monica Mountains.

Linda was President of the Trails Council for fourteen years, 1981 to 1995; vice-president for many years; and a leader for the Saturday volunteer trail crews from the beginning of that program. She designed Upper Stunt High Trail and, with other volunteers, built it.

Her community activities led to many awards and appointments:


- LA Co Board of Supervisors, Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation, Recreation & Equestrian Coalition, Malibu Trails Assoc, Samuel Lutz Memorial Volunteerism Award, and Hank Grateful Award 2011.
- Appointed to SMM Conservancy Advisory Committee by LA Co Board of Supervisors for 1979-1981 and re-appointed in 1988.
- Chair of Trails sub-committee for Advisory Committee of the SMM Comprehensive Planning Commission
- Coordinated 1984 feasibility study for LA County portion of Juan Bautista de Anza National Historical Trail
- 1993-94 co-chaired Anza Trail Plan Task force for NPS.
- Member of Mounted Assistant Unit (MAU) patrolling at Malibu Creek SP (today's MVP)
- Trail coordinator for Equestrian Trails Inc.- ETI Corral 63
- Designed trail plan for Leona Valley & advisor to Antelope Valley Trails Assoc
- Member Public Advisory Committee of Ventura Freeway Area Plan for L.A. Co., 1993-94
- Advisor on trail issues in SM Mountains for LA & Ventura Counties and CA Coastal Commission
- Member of California Trail Days Committee for 21 years

“The diversity and beauty of the natural world is our heritage, the network of life that supports and nurtures us. It is our responsibility to preserve it for future generations,” by Linda Palmer. 

Two NPS agencies Give Thanks for Trails Council's Efforts

Work by the Trails Council was officially recognized by two National Park agencies.


National Park Volunteer Program Manager Mike Malone sent a letter to SMMTC thanking them for donating \$300 to the National Public Lands Day which was held on September 24th, 2011. The donation assisted in providing lunches to over 140 trail work volunteers at Leo Carrillo and Pt. Mugu State Parks.

Trails Council volunteers also work on the Channel Islands, off the coast of Oxnard-Ventura. The islands may be considered a westward extension of the Santa Monica Mountains. A letter has been received from Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau, Jr. thanking Trails Council for “. . . your incredible contribution to improving the trail in the native plant garden.” Galipeau further stated that Trails Council volunteers had widened and leveled for ADA accessibility the trail which is used by nearly 350,000 annual visitors. 

New SMMNRA Visitor Center Opens at King Gillette

With the grand opening on Saturday, June 9th, the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area will have a visitor center located within the park. Also, for the first time, it will be a multi-agency visitor center, representing all major park stewards: National Park Service (NPS), California State Parks (CSP) and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC)/MRCA.

All volunteers at the visitor center will wear t-shirts with the same Santa Monica Mountains identity regardless for which agency they volunteer. The visitor center opening will serve as the launch of a uniform identity across all park agencies which will result in greater awareness of the park and its partners.

This will be the Park Service's first net zero visitor center in alignment with Department of Interior sustainability goals, exceeding Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum status. 

Annual BBT Trek begins May 5

The 11th annual seven-day trek along the Santa Monica Mountains' Backbone Trail will begin on May 5, 2012, providing a 65-mile guided back country experience within sight of the metropolis of Los Angeles. Event coordinator, Jerry Mitcham, reported that the event quickly sold out this year.

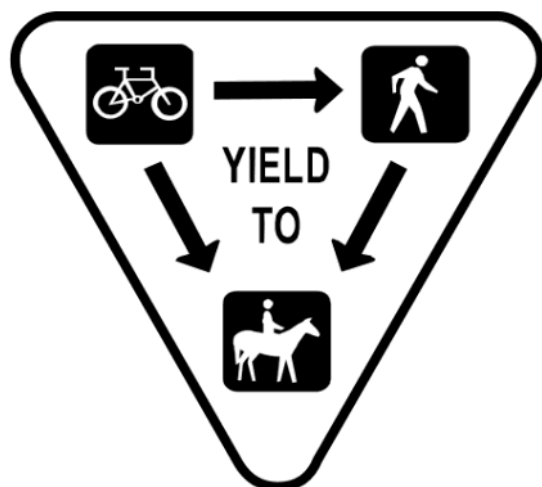
Hikers will assemble at the western end of the trail just off Pacific Coast Highway in Ventura County and hike about 10 miles daily until arriving on May 12 at Will Rogers State Historic Park in Pacific Palisades. The Backbone Trek 2012, organized by the Trails Council, provides an opportunity for people to have all their gear transported so they are better able to enjoy the Backbone Trail hike that travels along ridges, canyons and valleys.



National Trails Day, June 2

Volunteer trail workers are invited to the annual National Trails Day on June 2 at Rancho Sierra Vista, from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Volunteers are asked to bring their own lunch or snack and water. Also recommended are hat, sunscreen, long pants and gloves. Trail tools will be provided. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. No reservation is necessary. Call Mike Malone, 805-370-2317, for location and other information.

This event is held at many parks across the nation and is coordinated by the American Hiking Society.



Woody Smeck to Move to Yosemite

Woody Smeck, Superintendent of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area for over a decade,



has been appointed as deputy superintendent of Yosemite National Park, effective in April, according to an announcement by Yosemite Superintendent Don Neubacher.

During his assignment here, Smeck has presided over the recreation area as it added thousands of acres of public open space. Working with partners from every level of government as well as those from community and non-profit groups, Smeck has helped shape everything from fire-fighting practices to educational outreach to preservation guidelines for sensitive wildlife habitats.

Smeck said Neubacher first reached out to him about joining the Yosemite team about 1½ years ago. With his youngest daughter still in high school, the timing wasn't right. Now that she's graduating at the end of this school year, Smeck decided to accept the offer. He'll head to Yosemite in early April and live in park service housing until his wife, Karen, can join him. They plan to buy a home in Mariposa.

He said he'll miss his Santa Monica Mountains stomping grounds, where he got his professional start in 1991 as a young landscape architect with degrees from Cal Poly Pomona. Smeck reached the recreation area's top job in 2001.

As he prepares to venture north to Yosemite, he acknowledged that he'll miss the lesser known but equally beloved natural treasures in the Santa Monica Mountains. "Oh wow, there are so many incredible places. If I had to pick one, the place that's the closest manifestation of heaven for me is the Old Boney Trail in Point Mugu State Park," he said. "It is just such a pristine, wild, raw, natural environment. It is spectacular."



Quick Access to Trail Maintenance Calendar

Type "SMMTC" into Google and our website will be first on the list. Click on "Trail Maintenance" and you will find a calendar with links to all work days on the current month. Near the top, left of the calendar is a set of left and right arrowheads. Click the right arrowhead to go to the next month.

Need to locate a trailhead? In the top paragraph of the calendar page click on "Google Map of Trailheads in the Santa Monicas." Thanks to our webmaster Liz Baumann.



Stay Connected to the Trails Council

Forward your email address to mail@smmtc.org for updates of SMMTC events after publication of our newsletter. You may also request that your newsletter be delivered by email rather than USPS.



WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU?

- ◆ A paper copy of this newsletter delivered by mail

OR

- ◆ An electronic copy that comes to your computer

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SMMTC Website Features Trail Maintenance Calendar

Trails Council has an interactive calendar for the important volunteer effort of helping to keep trails in the Santa Monica Mountains in good condition. Take a look at www.smmtc.org/trailwork/



PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2012

Dues are on a calendar year basis. Payments in October and later will be credited to 2013. Please make your check payable to SMMTC and mail it to P.O. Box 345, Agoura Hills, CA 91376 or you may use your credit card with PayPal, www.paypal.com

Thank you for your continued and loyal support.

Name: _____

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Check to have newsletter sent by e-mail

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual Memberships

Annual Membership — \$35

Life Membership — \$360*

Business Memberships

Supporter — \$100

Patron — \$250

Benefactor — \$500

Donation \$_____

* Life membership may be paid in three annual payments of \$120.

SMMTC is a tax exempt, non-profit organization under IRS code 501(c)(3).

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