



Collaboration is the most important factor when working with others to achieve quality results with happy volunteers and stakeholders. Working together to focus our volunteer time and stewardship priorities defines the Trails Council. There is a relationship of the trail to the citizens as the land is theirs, because it belongs to them to be enjoyed in various aspects and with respect.

Collaboration builds understanding of complex problems through shared information. There is a richer understanding of the values at stake by enabling stakeholders to speak their concerns. It promotes problem solving by the parties rather than procedural decision making by agencies. Although it does take longer, the results are far more rewarding than a quick fix by one party.

Collaborating is an ongoing process. The TC is engaged in this activity all the time as we work with State Parks, MRCA and National Parks, as well as several local land agencies, to improve the trails and all that they encompass. Trails are facilities like buildings, kiosks, fences, hitching rails, and other changes to the land.

Trail volunteers work in many different ways. Some donate funds for purchasing materials and equipment. Some pick up shovels, loppers, McLeods or brush cutters and work on repairing the tread and cutting back the brush. Some give support with ideas and administrative involvement. Others are involved in our outreach and public relations activities by manning information booths, writing articles, distributing brochures, and interacting with the general public by visiting sporting goods stores, speaking at meetings, and giving their time toward major events that we sponsor.



You've heard these before -

- Don't let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do
- It's what you learn after you know it all that counts
- Volunteering is the beginning toward achieving
- Individuals in teams work toward achievable results
- Attitude gets you started in the right direction toward goals

Each of you is big enough to make a difference. Solo actions and team actions are both needed to make a difference. Taking responsibility, setting goals and revising them, listening to others, and acting with integrity are all part of making that difference.

Activism is volunteering above and beyond just caring because it is more defined through passionately caring and working to bring about goals.

-Ruth

INVITATION

Dinner & meeting are free and open to the trails community. RSVP at smmtc.org or 818.222.4531

Calamigos Ranch, 327 Latigo Cyn Rd, located at the intersection of Kanan Rd and Mulholland Hwy.

- 6:00PM Social Hour-Visit with NPS, State Parks, MRCA, local officials and representatives from other government & trail organizations
- 7:00PM Dinner
- 7:45PM Meeting

OCTOBER 27TH 2022 ANNUAL DINNER

Trail Maintenance Report - April to August 2022

- Trail Days was back after a two year hiatus. The event was a success in terms of number of volunteers and trail work performed on a half dozen trails.
- The 21/22 CSUCI Trail Corp - an investment towards attracting trail workers of the future - completed their service and was by all measures an outstanding success.
- The Santa Ynez Trail was re-fitted with wooden steps (burned the previous year).
- Dave Edwards led several trips to the Santa Cruz Islands to work on the Eagle Ridge Trail.
- Barry Dydyk organized Boy Scout Troop 730's "Trail Saver" event on the Serrano Canyon Trail. Wooden steps installed 33 years ago by this troop were replaced along with some tread work and brush removal.
- These efforts below amounted to more than **1400 volunteer hours**.

Trail	Events	Hours	Vol#	Work Accomplished
Trail Days	1	633	102	Repaired tread and installed dozens of drains. Blue Canyon, Upper Sycamore Canyon and Guadalupe trails were worked. Winter storms caused major damage in Upper Sycamore. More than 3 dozen volunteers moved rocks and boulders to re-create the stream crossings obliterated by the large volume of water!
Serrano Canyon	6	258	43	Our primary efforts were directed at improving the steps just east of the quarry. These steps were initially installed by Boy Scout Troop 730 about 33 years ago! Troop 730 has held an annual event on this trail for more than 30 years!
Santa Ynez Trail	4	288	48	Eleven Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council volunteers worked alongside a dozen or more Santa Monica Mountains Task Force volunteers to repair steps that had been burned in 2021.
Eagle Ridge Trail	6	430	49	Six new tent camping pads were built at the Prisoners Harbor campground and nearly a mile of trail was cleared. Additional trail remains to be cleared before the trail is opened to the public.



Photo: Dave Edwards

Camp 13 Trail, Leo Carrillo State Park

Trail Crew News

Dr Dave Perlmutter
Twelve Years of Service
990+ Hours Volunteered
Countless Smiles & Laughs



The Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council has a long line of crew members that date back to the 1980's. As circumstances in life change, new members arrive and existing members eventually put down their picks for the last time. It is with some sadness that **Dr Dave Perlmutter** is retiring from trail work. Since his first appearance in 2011, Dr Dave has worked 160+ events and put in nearly 1,000 hours of volunteer work. Dr Dave added so much to our crew: humor, medical advice, tales of backpacking trips and so many adventures. Dr Dave set a great example that most of us are hoping we can emulate.

A pleasant surprise for the trail crew this year was the arrival of **Ruth Feldon**. Hard working, a quick learner and someone who has fit in so seamlessly that it seems like she has always been here. She forms an impressive trail working duo with her husband Jon. The two of them are masters of positivity and quite capable of taking the brief instructions from the crew leader and repairing a segment of trail. They join a core group (Dave, Jerry, Norm, Sharon, Barry & Greg) each with a minimum of 15 years experience leading volunteers and repairing trails.

Milt McCauley, Ron Webster, Hank Grateful, Burt Elliott and Linda Palmer worked together to form the volunteer trail crews in our mountains. Along the way we have also benefited from the labor of past crew leaders like Chris Morneau, Casey Gonzalez, Jon Van Gorder, Edward Reid, Virginia Grue and others. Some passed too soon: Al Bandel, Bill Dinino - all are fondly remembered for the hours of service maintaining our trails they have contributed.



Photo: Dave Edwards

L-R - Don, Jon & Ruth

Volunteers Needed:

Are you considering getting more exercise? How about working on the trails in our mountains?

We have trail crew leaders supervising Saturday work parties - they have First Aid training, they will show you how to use the tools that day, and you work at your own pace. It's a day of camaraderie and maintaining our trails, that's why we call it a party. Check out the schedule on our website and maybe help maintain your favorite trail or investigate a new trail.

Want to know more about native plants? We have resources on our website for you to learn more about the plants that provide, food, shelter and cover for insects, animals and birds. Need help identifying a plant you saw? Send an email with an image of a plant to mail@smmtc.org and we will do our best to help identify what you found.

SMMTC Native Plant Web Links

Plant Gallery - Images & Descriptions

Plant of the Month Archives

NPS Wildflowers Finder

www.smmflowers.org

Hallowed Ground of Point Mugu State Park

When you walk, run, or ride through the trails of La Jolla Valley and Sycamore Canyon, you are treading along hallowed ground. Chumash bone remains have been found during a 1967 archeological survey of La Jolla Valley dating to the Late Period of 200 - 400 A.D. In addition, human bones of multiple adult individuals were found at the village of Shuwalashu, in Big Sycamore Canyon. Artifacts collected or cataloged at burial and village sites in Point Mugu State Park have included a grizzly bear claw, beads, shells, pestles, flaked tools, hammerstones, scrapers, and more.

California State Parks employs an archeologist on staff, Barbara Tejada. If you think you have found an artifact, leave it in place, take a few pictures of it with your GPS turned on, and email them to Barbara Tejada at Barbara.Tejada@parks.ca.gov. The pictures should include a close-up and a couple of wider view pictures to understand the surroundings. It is against the law to remove artifacts from our parklands.

As you enjoy these lands, be respectful of the trails, rock formations, and plants these ancestors lived upon long ago.

-Mike Epler

Help Wanted:

The Trails Council needs a Secretary for the Board meetings. For almost 2 years we have been meeting by Zoom. We meet at 7 pm on the 4th Thursday of the month with 4 exceptions. There is no meeting in August. In November and December we meet on the first Thursday of the month. In April we meet the Thursday of the week prior to Trail Days. If anyone has some time to help us, it would be most appreciated. Please contact me at ruthgerson35@gmail.com or by text to 818-264-6501.



Ashy Leaf Buckwheat
Eriogonum latifolium

We Get Questions:

Q: How do I honor or memorialize someone on park lands?

A: Only Congress can do that on Federal land (NPS). For State Park lands, the person has to be deceased at least 5 years; and it's still an uphill battle with paperwork: [Donor And Sponsorship Recognition Guidelines](#)

Board of Directors

Ruth Gerson, President

Barb Thomas, Vice President

Sheryl Phelps, Treasurer

Directors

Don Brusselars

Mike Epler

John Kross

Jerry Mitcham

George Sherman

Individual Membership

Annual - \$35 Family - \$60

Lifetime - \$360 Can also be paid over 3 consecutive years @\$120 per year

Business Membership

Supporter - \$100

Patron - \$250

Benefactor - \$500

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ZIP _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

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to
Access
online

Dues are on a rolling 12-month basis. Membership dues are effective the first of the month following receipt of funds; membership will be effective for 12 months. Please make your check payable to SMMTC and mail it to P.O. Box 345, Agoura Hills, CA 91376. Memberships can also be purchased on our website using Paypal.

Donation

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

Thank you for
your continued
support!

Generous Supporter:

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OUR STORY

Since 1969, the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council has been the only organization devoted to representing all trail user groups in the Santa Monica Mountains.

We are a volunteer nonprofit organization, dedicated to establishing, preserving and maintaining the public trail system throughout the Santa Monica Mountains and adjacent areas through education, advocacy and partnership with public and private sectors.

We coordinate with various government agencies to enhance and preserve the trail system. We assist in negotiations with property owners regarding trail alignments. We promote public awareness and build, monitor and maintain trails.

Upcoming Events

40th Annual Trail Days — April 21st to April 23rd

Backbone Trek — May 6th - May 13th

Annual Dinner Meeting — October 27^h

Board Meetings (Currently held via Zoom)

Board Meetings are open to the public and are on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. They are held at Diamond X Ranch, 26412 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas, CA 91302. There are 4 exceptions: No meeting in August; April meet on the 2nd Thursday; Nov & Dec, meet on 1st Thursday.

CONTACT US

Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council

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REVISED:

JAN 18, 2023

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Our newsletter is published twice a year, in spring and fall.