

Volunteer

A Publication for, and About, Santa Clara County Parks Volunteers.

"Volunteer Here!"

Volume 1, Issue 2

Volunteer Program Staff



Gloria Gill



John George



Edie Hanson



Robin Bravo

Announcement

Send volunteer hours by
email or fax:

volunteer@prk.sccgov.org

(408) 356-2025

or

online at:

www.parkhere.org

"Volunteer Here"

"Enter Hours Served"

For help please call

(408) 355-2254

Thank You
for Volunteering!

Gloria Gill, Program Manager: (408) 355-2275, gloria.gill@prk.sccgov.org

As 2009 concluded and I ruminates back on so many successful Volunteer events and accomplishments this past year, I am so very grateful to have you as part of our Volunteer Program. **Thank you, for all that you do!** County Executive, Board of Supervisors and Park Commissioners have applauded your commitment and accomplishments.

For those looking for new volunteer events in 2010, I happy to announce the volunteer work plan for calendar year 2010 is now complete. The Volunteer Program has an increase in scheduled events over last year, plenty of events to select from. We have a wide variety of planned events to meet your needs, from a Park Beautification Day to an exciting Trail Day where you will have the opportunity to meet new people. For those wanting to join a group, please contact the Volunteer Program at 408 355-2254 for details.

While the County Parks Volunteer Program has made some changes over the last year, we intend to continue to identify new and innovated ways to support the growing demands and increasing budget constraints without sacrificing our service. The Volunteer Program intends to identify, purchase and implement new software to allow on-line volunteer resource management.

Speaking of changes in the Volunteer Program, I am very pleased to announce **John George** as our new Volunteer Program Coordinator. John's background as a Park Ranger and his experience in the High-Tech field make him a great asset to the Program. Additionally, **Edie Hanson** will be supporting the Volunteer Program as our new Office Specialist. **Robin Bravo** remains the Volunteer Program Assistant. This group joins me in a common Mission and Vision for the Program.

Our **Mission** is to provide you with Excellent Service. Our **Vision** is to provide excellent support to County Parks in maintaining and preserving its natural resources with the help of our Community, our Volunteers.

A special thanks to our Volunteering Coordinating Council, Friends of Parks and County Park Staff for your endless support! I look forward to a mutually rewarding and successful 2010.

John George, Coordinator: (408) 355-2299, john.george@prk.sccgov.org

Hi folks – Thanks for your service to County Parks in 2009. Combined you donated 50,000 hours to our program; our staff would have had to work an additional 6,250 days to equal your efforts! More importantly much of what you do simply cannot be duplicated: some tasks are too large for us to tackle all at once, others require a level of undivided attention and devotion that, due to multiple and ever changing commitments we simply do not have the capacity to provide. Finally, your spirit inspires others to serve their community in a variety of ways, and whether it is for parks or any cause that helps others each of you is a hero to those who you serve. We look forward to seeing all of you in 2010, and once again, thanks for all you do.

Edie Hanson, Office Specialist: (408) 355-2278, edith.hanson@prk.sccgov.org

Greetings Volunteers. I am happy to be a part of the New Volunteer Program Team. Although I have big shoes to fill, I look forward to getting to know many of you better and working together in 2010. Please let me know if I can be of assistance as we settle into the New Year. My best to you all!

Robin Bravo, Assistant: (408) 355-2275, robin.bravo@prk.sccgov.org

Hello All. It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Barbeque. Although I've been with the program for a while now, I am still meeting many of you for the first time. I look forward to meeting those of you I still have yet to meet at our Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner in April. Until then, keep up the good work and enjoy 2010!

Special Recognition:

Kitty Monahan



Kitty Monahan has been involved with the Volunteer Program since its inception. Kitty's dedication to volunteering and passion for County Parks drove her to aid in establishing the Volunteer Program. She has been volunteering for many years and is involved in several different volunteer groups, including: Volunteer Coordinating Council, Friends of Parks New Almaden Quicksilver County Parks Association, Friends of Santa Teresa Park, and many other groups. Kitty's support of the program and willingness to roll up her sleeves and help out even in the office contributes to the Program's success. Additionally, her kind heart and compassion for others extend to visiting with the sick and delivering milkshakes to not only boost morale, but to sooth a sore throat and a grumbling stomach. Her love of people, animals, volunteering, and Parks makes her an irreplaceable member of the Parks Family.

California Coastal Cleanup Day

September 19, 2009



For volunteers who like environmental work, California Coastal Cleanup Day has become a very popular event.

This year's Coastal Cleanup Day drew 1,500 volunteers who collected over 23,173 pounds of trash and 7,499 pounds of recyclables at over 30 cleanup sites throughout the County. County Parks hosted 8 cleanup sights: Chesbro Reservoir, Coyote Creek (at Anderson), Lexington Reservoir, Vasona Lake Park, Los Gatos Creek, Los Alamitos Creek, Coyote Creek (at Hellyer), and Stevens Creek.



We had 448 participants who cleaned 27.75 miles, collecting 6,185 pounds of trash and 5,545 pounds of recyclables.

We would like to give special thanks to our site coordinators for ensuring a successful event. Our site coordinators are: John Heenan, Brent Biafore, Jordan Stuhlmueler, Rich Carlson, Dave Lane, Mike Bouldland, Anthony Sanchez, and Leroy Rodriguez.

Our volunteers found some unusual items, which include: a car fender, hula hoop, t-fencing posts, bowling ball, car tire, socks, turtle shell, propane torch, grocery cart, Power Wheels car, stroller, and car batteries.



Thank you, volunteers, for picking up everything from candy wrappers and cigarette butts to winching out furniture from the creeks. Your contribution is not only to County Parks, but also to the citizens and animals of the Bay Area; cleaning our

creeks and lakes ensure that the debris and trash in these areas does not flow to other water sources, such as the ocean. Preventing trash flow to the ocean protects our marine life and makes our environment cleaner for all of us to enjoy. Please consider the enormous impact you have made by donating just a few hours of your time and please consider joining us for our cleanup events in 2010. Thank you again for all your hard work!



Annual Volunteer Recognition BBQ

October 24, 2009

The Annual Volunteer Recognition BBQ was held at Vasona Lake Park at the Creekside and Meadowbrook picnic areas on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. The Firefighters, Inc. came out and barbecued some delicious Tri-Tip and chicken and they served generous portions with all the fixings. We are so glad many of you were able to join us in feasting on the great food and to celebrate your season of hard work. Thank you to each and every one of you for your commitment to volunteering.



A special thanks to Kitty Monahan. Kitty, thank you for your unwavering support of the Volunteer Program and your kind words at the barbeque.



Even though this was an event for you to relax and enjoy yourself, many of you volunteered to help set up before the BBQ and clean up afterwards. Now that's the volunteer spirit! Thank you for maintaining that willingness to help in any situation.

Now that another season has come to a close, we look forward to beginning the new year and working with all of you to continue to keep County Parks beautiful.



Upcoming Event Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet

This year's Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet is rapidly approaching. It will be held in April to recognize volunteers who donated their services to County Parks in 2009. Details will be included in an invitation to be sent out in February. Please submit your 2009 volunteer hours to the Volunteer Program by Friday, January 22, 2010, so you may be recognized for your contributions. Thank you for making 2009 a successful year and we look forward to seeing you in the Parks and at the Banquet in 2010.

Special Recognition:

Mike Boulland



Mike Boulland has been volunteering with County Parks for many years. He is very supportive of the Volunteer Program and is very hands-on with staff and in the community. He is an active member of the Volunteer Coordinating Council, and he heads Friends of Los Alamitos Watershed (FOLAW) and Friends of Santa Theresa Park (FOSTP) groups. Mike is incredibly passionate about volunteering and making fellow volunteers experiences meaningful. He does so by turning routing projects into educational experiences. Mike made September's Coastal Cleanup Day an educational experience at Almaden Quicksilver Park. He combined his love of teaching with the importance of keeping our waterways clean by setting up information booths and inviting a guest speaker to educate volunteers on the magnitude of their contribution in participating in this event. When Mike is not out in the parks, he is only a phone call away and he makes time for everyone and everything and always lends a helping hand. Thank you, Mike!

Special Recognition:

Roy Ichinaga



Roy Ichinaga is a long-time Parks Volunteer. He is a Trail Crew Lead, a Hellyer Park partner, a core member of South Bay Fishing in the City, and a go-to man when in need of support. Roy has been known to go all events, offering his services wherever they are needed. Staff can depend on him to act as a lead during any type of event. He is also very familiar with the Program's policies and procedures and is an extension, and a member, of our Volunteer Program.

Roy's love and knowledge of Parks and volunteering transfers to fellow volunteers when he happily passes on his knowledge to them while they work. Thanks for always smiling, and for always being there, Roy!

Halloween Haunt, October 31, 2009



Trails by Greg Bringelson

On behalf of County Parks and the Trails Crew, I hope you all had a safe and happy Holiday season. Thanks to everyone who has participated in our trail projects over the past year. I speak for the entire crew when I say the best days of our year are the volunteer trail events. We look forward to another year of great projects at Coyote Lake – Harvey Bear Ranch.

We still have a fair amount of work left on the Mummy Mountain trail and we anticipate opening on Earth Day, which we will celebrate on Saturday, April 24th.

Some of the highlights from the past year; we hosted National Trail Day in June. Lee Hickenbotham and the SCC Sheriff's cadets class of 2009 helped build over ½ mile of trail by hand. This particular section was not accessible with our equipment and quite honestly, we didn't think it would be done in five hours by hand. They proved us wrong. Thankfully!

Also, on July 18th & 19th at Coyote – Bear, over 90 volunteers from Volunteers for Outdoor California helped construct a switchback/rock retaining wall. We also rocked the surface of over one mile of trail. This was in 100+ degree heat! We drank so much water that we could've drained Coyote Lake. V-O-Cal events are always a sight to behold. I can't say enough about the VERY dedicated volunteers. A little blood, a lot of sweat and tears of joy when the dinner bell sounded!! Everyone had a great time. We hope to work them again in the coming year.

The November 7th Trail Day at Coyote-Bear went very well. Dan Hill and Zach Holcomb were outstanding in preplanning the event. The group from "One Brick" was great. We had 18 participants and everyone had a good time. Another success!!

We welcome John George and Edie Hanson to the Volunteer program. We're excited they're going to be a part of the bright future for volunteer trail programs. Their energy is contagious.

And a shout out to Robin Bravo...she saw the program through a year like no other. Thanks for making our trail events smooth and successful!!



Bay Area Ridge Trail Event, November 7, 2009

by John George

On Saturday November 7, over 300 volunteers worked at 11 different sites on the Bay Area Ridge Trail, including Sanborn County Park, as part of the 2nd annual REI Service Day. Highlighting the regional focus of the Ridge Trail, each Bay Area REI store partnered with a local park agency to host a volunteer work party on a nearby section of the Trail. The weather cooperated, with rain earlier in the week softening the soil, and November 7th was a cool, crisp autumn day, nearly perfect for trail work.

Nearly 50 volunteers worked on the Ridge Trail section in Sanborn Park, including 20 student athletes from the Pac-10 Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. The Sanborn work was led by Eric McFarland of our County Parks' Trail Crew, and many of our dedicated Trail Crew Leads assisted with volunteer teams from other event partners such as the Trail Center and the Saratoga REI.

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council Volunteer Coordinator Joel Gartland was impressed with Eric and the County Parks' volunteers. "Eric did an amazing job planning the work, and flagging work locations ahead of time. Eric's orientation-introduction talk was great, explaining why the work to be done by the volunteers was important, and what they would accomplish."

Kudos to Eric and Greg Bringelson, who did the bulk of the on-site pre-planning, and to our Trail Crew Leads who assisted: Sam Drake, Hank Magnuski and Roy Ichinaga.

The Bay Area Ridge Trail system follows the ridges and mountains that circle San Francisco Bay. Currently 320 miles of the planned 550+ miles trail are dedicated, and there are completed sections of the trail in all nine counties around the Bay, including 33 miles that pass through a number of our County Parks. Today, no one in the Bay Area lives more than one-half hour away from a completed section of the trail. For more information on the Trail, visit <http://www.ridgetrail.org/>.

South Bay Fishing in the City



For the schedule of 2010 South Bay Fishing in the City Events, please see page 8.



Special Recognition:

Jamie Day



Nominated By: John McClendon

Jamie has been the camp host at Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park since late 2007. To say the park staff at Madonna is pleased with her job performance would be an understatement. Operations and maintenance are both very happy with her level of knowledge and her commitment to applying it. We feel very fortunate to have her working in our unit.

Jamie's experience includes working for the City of San Jose Parks Department in maintenance.

Her duties include daily maintenance of restrooms and trails, garbage and litter patrol, pruning, watching over the park, tracking the water system, and helping with school interpretive programs on a weekly basis during the school year. She does all this while holding a job at Orchard Supply Hardware in Gilroy.

Jamie has 2 dogs, Wags and Aniko. They make for good watch dogs as well as companions.

Jamie does a great job and is to be commended for her efforts.
-John Heenan



New VCC Member

John Nast



The Volunteer Program is pleased to announce the addition of John Nast to our Volunteer Coordinating Council. John is a longtime volunteer and a familiar face to many in our South County Parks. In addition to his service as a Trail Watch patroler, John offers a variety of talents to our program. John will be the Committee Liaison to Mt. Madonna and Uvas Canyon County Parks. John, welcome aboard!



Junior Ranger Campout, November 7 & 8, 2009

by Lynda Will and John George

Volunteers play an important role in the Junior Ranger Program. In 2004 the Department's Interpretive Program created its Jr. Ranger 2 program to provide Jr. Ranger 1 graduates a path towards becoming future leaders as stewards and advocates for parks and open space. This year, our Junior Ranger II leaders gave back to County Parks as volunteers: they facilitated many of Jr. Ranger field activities and assisted park staff with the Jr. Ranger 1 campout at Grant Park on November 7-8.



During the campout Jr. Ranger 2 leaders played games with the younger children, helped with meals, set up tents, and willingly assisted staff with making this sometimes hectic event a successful one. Park Interpreter Jan Shriner, who coordinated the campout, recognized that these responsible young people were "offering a kind of ambassadorship that no adult can. The younger Jr. Rangers looked to the leaders as role models. Everything ran extremely smooth, partly due to the mentoring and stewardship of the young leaders."



The Jr. Ranger 2 leaders enjoyed the campout themselves and also gave them an insight into their own growth. In 2003 as a Jr. Ranger 1, Jeremiah McLeod could barely sit still at his first campout. After the 2009 campout, he realized that "when I was little... I was making it hard for the staff when I didn't listen." Jeremiah's reflection into his past demonstrates his growth and maturity, and today Jeremiah is among the first to respond to a need or assignment.

Martin Wong, another Jr. Ranger 2 leader at the campout discovered that "I value...working with kids and the outdoors, both of which I don't usually get enough of." Martin is now looking to increase his volunteer work with children and the outdoors.

As Jr. Ranger 2 program coordinator, Park Interpreter Lynda Will is extremely gratified to see these young people find comfort in the environment as they blossom into young leaders. Lynda has great hopes for the future of the Jr. Ranger 2 program and the future of these confident and capable young people.

The Volunteer Program extends its thanks to the Interpretive Program and to the extraordinary Jr. Ranger 2 participants for taking such a great interest in our parks, in mentoring our Jr. Rangers, and in serving their community. Thank you for volunteering!



Please Don't Forget to Submit Your 2009

Star Parties by Ron Bricmont

For those of us living in the city, under a light-polluted night sky, we typically see only the brightest stars and planets. The Milky Way is lost in the skyglow. The beauty of a dark night sky that our grandparents and great-grandparents enjoyed every clear night is denied to us. A drive up Mount Hamilton Road to Grant Ranch Park can bring a dark night sky back into our lives.

The Friends of the Grant Ranch Park (through its astronomical division, the Halls Valley Astronomical Group) has provided a public astronomy program at Grant Ranch each month throughout the year for the past 27 years. On one Saturday night each month, our volunteers set up telescopes and welcome the public to look through them and talk about the wide range of astronomical objects visible under the dark skies of Halls Valley. The rings of Saturn, the moons of Jupiter, star clusters, and distant galaxies are some of the fascinating sights that may be seen.

Over more than a quarter century, thousands of visitors have taken advantage of the more than 350 starparties that we've scheduled to enjoy a pleasant and exciting evening and learn a little about astronomy. We invite all the park volunteers to mingle with the public through the months ahead and enjoy the darkest night sky that's readily available to the people of this county.

We hold the star parties at two locations in the park, depending on the season. For more details, go to our volunteer website, www.hallsvalley.org. You'll find a link to it in the Joseph D. Grant County Park section of www.parkhere.org.

You'll also find the starparty schedule in the Play Here section of www.parkhere.org, as well in the seasonal Play Here Brochure.

We hope to see all of you during the months ahead. And tell your friends.

National River Cleanup Day, May 15, 2010



Clean a Creek Action Group (CCAG), a partnership comprised of local agencies including County Parks, will host its annual National River Cleanup Day event on Saturday, May 15, 2010, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, at various Santa Clara County locations. County Parks will host a number of sites.

By volunteering at this cleanup event, volunteers are not only preserving and beautifying our parks, they are also preventing pollutants from reaching our major water sources. Since 80% of trash found on the beach originates from inland sources, we encourage you to volunteer at inland sites and help where help is needed.

Last year's National River Cleanup Day drew 967 volunteers to all 31 cleanup sites. Volunteers covered 47.1 miles of ground and collected over 27,935 pounds of garbage and 22,633 pounds of recyclables from our waterways.

Details regarding specific County Parks cleanup sites will be announced as we approach the event date. For more information on CCAG cleanup events, please visit <http://www.cleanacreek.org>.

Special Thanks: Volunteer Coordinating Council (VCC)



Garnetta Annable

Chere Bargar

Mike Boulland

Woody Collins

Steven Crockett

Sam Drake

Mike Flaughter

Janice Frazier

John Nast

Donna Gillette

Kitty Monahan

Bruce Newhall

Steve Schmidt

Jack Wilson

Volunteer Hours by Friday, January 22, 2010

Upcoming Events 2010

Future Training Dates

First Aid and CPR future training dates will be announced early 2010.

Please check the expiration dates on your certification. If your certification has expired, or will expire soon, please call us to schedule a renewal session once 2010 training dates are available.

County Driver Permits

If you have a County issued Driver Permit, please check the expiration date on it. If your Permit has expired, or will expire within the next 2 months, please contact us to schedule recertification for one of the following dates:

Weds, Jan. 20th, 2010
10:00am - 12:00pm
Parks Admin. Annex

Mon, Jan. 25th, 2010
1:00pm - 3:00pm
Parks Admin. Annex

If you cannot attend one of these sessions, please contact us for to set up an appointment to renew your permit.

January

Saturday, Jan. 16: Star Party (Grant: Telescope Row)

February

Saturday, Feb. 6: Beautification Day (Vasona)

Saturday, Feb. 6: Trail Day (Coyote/Bear: Mummy Mtn)

Sunday, Feb. 7: South Bay Fishing in the City (Ed Levin)

Saturday, Feb. 13: Star Party (Grant: Telescope Row)

Saturday, Feb. 13: Weed Abatement (Almaden Quicksilver)

March

Saturday, March 6: Beautification Day (Vasona)

Saturday, March 6: Trail Day (Coyote/Bear: Mummy Mtn)

Saturday, March 13: Star Party (Grant: Telescope Row)

Saturday, March 13: Weed Abatement (Almaden Quicksilver)

Sunday, March 14: South Bay Fishing in the City (Los Gatos Creek)

Saturday, March 27: Beautification Day (Hellyer)

April

Saturday, April 10: Trail Day (Sanborn/Skyline: Sanborn)

Saturday, April 10: Weed Abatement (Almaden Quicksilver)

Saturday, April 10: Star Party (Grant: Halley Hill Observatory)

Saturday, April 24: Earth Day Trail Day (Coyote/Bear: Mummy Mtn)

Sunday, April 25: South Bay Fishing in the City (Ed Levin)

May

Saturday, May 1: Trail Day (Coyote/Bear: Gaviota)

Saturday, May 15: National River Cleanup Day (Various Parks)

Saturday, May 15: Star Party (Grant: Halley Hill Observatory)

Saturday, May 15: South Bay Fishing in the City (Lake Cunningham)

Saturday, May 22: Arrundo Removal (Vasona)

June

Saturday, June 5: National Trail Day (Coyote/Bear: Gaviota)

Saturday, June 12: Weed Abatement (Almaden Quicksilver)

*Other Volunteer Opportunities: Adopt-A-Trail, Camp Hosts, Docents, Parks Friends Groups, Trail Crew Lead Volunteers, Trail Watch, Individual Volunteer Projects.

** Event dates and locations subject to change.

***For more information visit www.parkhere.org