

APRIL 2005

# Expanding the Circle

The Newsletter of the Southern California National Forests Volunteer Program



## Time to Plan for Special Events!

**National Trails Day: June 4th**

National Trails Day (June 4<sup>th</sup>) is right around the corner. Now is your chance to plan a volunteer project and invite people to take part in forest stewardship. Diane Harris, Program Manager for the Southern California Volunteer Program, will be forwarding a communication plan throughout the province, complete with sample press releases, flyers, and up-to-date information on the planning that is taking place throughout the four Southern California National Forests. Preparing a well-organized event and getting the word out is an important service to the people of Southern California, giving them the opportunity to give something back to their public lands. To host a project, contact your forest's Volunteer Program Manager or call Diane at (909) 790-3912, email: [dianeharris@fs.fed.us](mailto:dianeharris@fs.fed.us).

## How Can Special Events Help Our Forests Grow?

The Southern California National Forests chose National Trails Day (June) and National Public Lands Day (September) as our annual province-wide volunteer events. Although these events do not train people to perform a specialized job, they are a great opportunity to get labor-intensive projects, like tree planting, trail repair, and building water bars and fences, off the wish list and on the way to completion. In addition, these types of volunteer events can educate, recruit, and inspire untapped members of the public to support the valuable and often overlooked needs of our national forests in Southern California. The specific benefits of one-day volunteer events

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Volunteers pitch in at a Public Lands Day event.

## Scouts Turn Trash to Treasure

By Ryan Reynolds, SCA Intern

I saw it in their eyes the moment they stepped out of the truck. These kids were here to have fun. I had invited Pack 43 out to



Bautista Canyon for a trash clean-up and

Ryan is eager to help.

I was excited to see they had arrived in full force. Two boys in the pack were particularly enthusiastic. Sure, they may have only been 4 feet tall and probably weighed less than most of the trash we were hauling out that day, but I could tell that these two Webelos were going to be my star workers of the day.

"We Be Loyal Scouts!" they shouted when I asked them where the name Webelos came from. Mike, the taller of the two and slightly less hyper than his friend Ryan, was quickly reminded of his poor grammar from pack leader, Cathy.

"That's We'll Be, not We Be," she said.

And so the day began! With a song in our hearts and the wind in our hair we marched into

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## Calendar of Upcoming Volunteer Events

### Angeles National Forest

**ALL RANGER DISTRICTS:  
MICRO TRASH CLEANUP**  
Rosann Smith, Supervisor's Office  
(626) 574-5236  
rmsmith@fs.fed.us

**May 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**June 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**SAN GABRIEL RIVER RANGER DISTRICT**  
Lois Pickens (626) 335-1251  
lpickens@fs.fed.us

**May:** Watershed Restoration Project Phase #2

### Los Padres National Forest

**MONTEREY RANGER DISTRICT**  
Manny Madrigal  
(831) 385-5434 Ext 228; mmadrigal@fs.fed.us

**May:** Two-day tool workshop for volunteers; Trail surveys (ongoing)  
**June:** Trail surveys (ongoing)

**OJAI RANGER DISTRICT**  
Heidi Anderson  
(805) 646-4348 Ext. 309; handerson@fs.fed.us

**May 7<sup>th</sup>** Saturday trail projects  
**May 21<sup>st</sup>** TPIA and Webelos Trail Maintenance Day  
**June 4<sup>th</sup>** Saturday trail projects; National Trails Day  
**June 18<sup>th</sup>** Lions Canyon plant, hike and weed pull

### Cleveland National Forest

**TRABUCO RANGER DISTRICT**  
Debra Clarke, (951) 736-1811  
drclarke@fs.fed.us

**May:** Trail surveys  
**June:** Trail surveys

**DESCANSO RANGER DISTRICT**  
Dave Volgarino, (619) 445-6235  
djvolgarino@fs.fed.us

**May 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>** Saturday trail work  
**June 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>** Saturday trail work

### San Bernardino National Forest

**ALL RANGER DISTRICTS:**  
Contact Paula Cote (909) 382-2620  
pcote@fs.fed.us

Contact the SCA  
interns NOW for  
support on  
upcoming events!

## Special Events Help Forests

include:

- One-day special events can provide an opportunity for large numbers of people to learn about national forest ecosystems and the Forest Service and create outspoken supporters for both the land and the agency.
- Special events can attract people who are new to volunteering; these people may be inspired to join our ongoing volunteer programs.
- For those who have busy schedules, special events provide predictable opportunities to contribute to public lands.
- Parents can bring their kids to a one-day event to instill in them a sense of giving back to the land.
- Special events are a time to celebrate volunteer accomplishments and recognize dedicated individuals for their work throughout the year.
- Our current volunteers can use a one-day event to introduce their friends and neighbors to the value and satisfaction of volunteering.
- Finally, special events usually have a specific focus and can be used to attract media attention. Because of this, they can serve to educate the public about key resource issues and volunteer opportunities.

## SCA Interns Bring in New Volunteers

### Accomplishments: February

SCA interns recruited more than a hundred volunteers for project work and contacted 53 volunteer groups. Other SCA work included:

#### Recreation:

- Sunset Ridge Trail work with Junior Aztecs and Fire and Fuels program, Angeles NF.

#### Botany:

- Edited database for scientific plant misprints in the Los Padres NF.
- Dug out saplings from fire damaged areas, collected clippings of chamise for future restoration projects, San Bernardino NF.
- Prepared for Casa de San Bernardino project, San Bernardino NF.

#### Fire:

- Alta Dena trail work.
- Bautista Canyon Cleanup, San Bernardino NF.
- Wrote a history of Inaja and wildland urban interface, submitted articles to newspapers for Inaja trail work in the Cleveland NF.

#### Wildlife:

- Trout in the Classroom project, San Bernardino NF.
- Santa Barbara Zoo was recruited to work at Chicken Pond on Red Legged Frog enclosures for the Los Padres NF.
- Developed protocol for volunteers working on Red Legged Frog enclosures.

### Planned Projects: April & May

#### Fire

- Inaja project plantings, interpretive sign coordination, Cleveland NF.
- Defensible Space projects with communities near Los Padres NF.

#### Botany

- Casa de San Bernardino will be working on the Lytle Creek Green Thumbs Program, San Bernardino NF.
- Invasive plant surveys, Angeles NF.
- Watershed restoration, Angeles NF.

#### Wildlife

- Egg mass enclosure, Los Padres NF.
- Tamarisk removal, San Bernardino NF.

#### Recreation

- Bautista Canyon Cleanup, San Bernardino NF.
- Agua Tibeia trail maintenance, Cleveland NF.
- Eco-Team event on Memorial Day weekend, Los Padres NF.



The SCA crew takes a break from trail work.

- Recruit PCTA volunteers for future events on all four forests.
- Children's Forest Exploration Trail maintenance, San Bernardino NF.
- Work with PAO to photograph trails, campgrounds, and picnic areas for forest records and the Cleveland NF website.
- Trail projects, Los Padres NF.
- Cedar Creek Trail maintenance, Cleveland NF.

### SCA Intern Contact Information

| Field      | Name               | Email                      |
|------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Wildlife   | Alyssa Boinay      | sca_fs_alyssa@yahoo.com    |
| Wildlife   | Bradley O'Neal     | sca_fs_brad@yahoo.com      |
| Fire       | Elizabeth Ellison  | sca_fs_elizabeth@yahoo.com |
| Fire       | Carol Baganzi      | sca_fs_carol@yahoo.com     |
| Botany     | Yvette Granados    | sca_fs_yvette@yahoo.com    |
| Botany     | Jeff Killingsworth | sca_fs_jeff@yahoo.com      |
| Recreation | Ryan Reynolds      | sca_fs_ryan@yahoo.com      |
| Recreation | John Ahern         | sca_fs_john@yahoo.com      |

## Scouts' Enthusiasm Turns Trash to Treasure in Batista Canyon Cleanup

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the dense brush that lined both sides of Bautista Canyon Road. Mike and Ryan were quite the sight after we equipped them with their safety gear. With their hardhats hovering just above

their oversize safety goggles, they began their task like lion hunters on an African safari. "I see something!" Ryan would shout, immediately joined by Mike as they raced to be the first to find the next surprise.



Cub Scout Pack 43 at the Batista Canyon Cleanup

We had quite an adventure that morning, but it wasn't until after lunch that the truly great discoveries were unearthed. Many years before at a sharp bend in the road, someone had dumped a front fender of a pickup truck, an old metal gas can, and what appeared to be a driveshaft. When the boys saw this pile their imaginations went wild!

"I know what happened here!"

Ryan said. "Someone was out here shooting their gun and accidentally shot their truck and it exploded!"

"Where's the rest of it?" I asked them.

"Oh, it got burned up in the fire," Mike explained to me.

It didn't matter that we never found any other pieces of that unfortunate truck; they were convinced that they had missed out on a fireworks show of volcanic proportions.

Even to this day, some two months after our cleanup, Cathy tells me the boys are still talking about the things they found in the canyon. If only we could all capture and hold tight the boundless enthusiasm of those two Scouts, wouldn't every day, no matter what the task, be a great adventure?

## Upcoming Volunteer Workshop

May 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 to 3:00 on the San Bernardino National Forest.

The morning session includes a tour of the Wildlands Conservancy. The afternoon session focuses on the Six R's of a successful volunteer program: Realization, Recruitment, Retention, Recognition, Room to Grow, and Reporting.

Workshops are conducted by the Southern California National Forest Volunteer Program and the SCA. For information, contact Diane Harris, (909) 790-3912 E-mail: [dianeharris@fs.fed.us](mailto:dianeharris@fs.fed.us)

### Southern California Volunteer Program Contacts

| Location       | Name           | Phone          | Email                   |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Province       | Diane Harris   | (909) 790-3912 | dianeharris@fs.fed.us   |
| San Bernardino | Paula Cote     | (909) 382-2620 | pcote@fs.fed.us         |
| Angeles        | Roseann Smith  | (626) 574-5236 | rmsmith@fs.fed.us       |
| Cleveland      | Geoffrey Smith | (858) 442-1425 | geoffreysmith@fs.fed.us |
| Los Padres     | Jeff Saley     | (805) 961-5771 | jsaley@fs.fed.us        |
| SCA            | Amanda Wendt   | (951) 296-7278 | AWendt@thesca.org       |