

November 2004

Expanding the Circle

The Newsletter of the Southern California National Forests Volunteer Program



Welcome to our first issue of *Expanding the Circle*, the newsletter of the Southern California National Forests Volunteer Program. *Expanding the Circle* will keep you up-to-date on what's going on with this program so you can be more effective in using volunteers to get your projects done.

Forest Service Develops New SoCal Volunteer Program

Take Pride in America (TPIA) launched its nation-wide program in Southern California in January 2004, to recruit volunteers for restoration projects after the 2003 fires. In order to prepare ourselves for an influx of volunteers, the Forest Service established the Southern California Volunteer Program.

Of course, volunteering is not new to Southern Californians and the Forest Service. This program is just helping us be more effective with it on the National Forest by increasing the infrastructure and capacity for planning projects and recruiting and managing volunteers, supporting existing volunteer groups, and providing support to Forest Service employees as they change their day-to-day activities to involve more volunteers.

Do you need volunteers for your project? One major component of this program is increasing our ability to recruit volunteers and promoting projects that need volunteers. Recruitment



These NPLD volunteers assisted with trail maintenance and trash removal on the Los Padres National Forest.

efforts are focused on a variety of groups including community, corporate, youth, recreation users, and conservation. Since we are focused on all of Southern California, we can be more effective at working with groups that cover the entire area. Once groups show some interest, program staff is available to work with them to

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National Public Lands Day Brings Forests Together

On September 18, our four Southern California Forests came together to host a variety of volunteer events in celebration of National Public Lands Day. The Cleveland, Angeles, San Bernardino, and Los Padres National Forests hosted a wide range of projects, from fire restoration projects to invasive species eradication and general site clean-ups. Key partners in the National Public Lands Day events included the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation, Girl Scouts of America, Bureau of Land Management, Student Conservation Association and Take Pride in America.

Diane Harris, Southern California National Forests Volunteer Program Manager, felt the National Public Lands Day celebration, though drawing smaller crowds than expected, achieved many goals. "It was successful at accomplishing the majority of the work that was slated for the day," Diane stated, "but more importantly, it raised the public's awareness of volunteer opportunities and increased unity among our four forests."

For a list of projects, see page 4.

SCA Interns Nurture Volunteer Program's Growth and Development



Pictured from left: Yvette Granados, Elizabeth Ellison, Jeff Killingsworth, John Ahern, Carol Baganzi, Bradley O'Neal, Emily Sluzas, Ryan Reynolds, and Amanda Wendt.

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is playing a unique role in Southern California. This organization, which provides young people with opportunities to engage in service to the land, is providing a team of interns from July 2004 - 2005 to help to recruit, manage, and lead community volunteers. They are concentrating on developing projects for four focus areas: fire, recreation, botany and wildlife. They are recruiting volunteers by contacting youth groups, corporations, community groups, recreation user groups and conservation groups.

Project Update

From July 7 through September 8 of this year, all of the SCA interns participated in training. The interns visited each national forest for orientation to the landscape, issues and projects. From September 13 - 18, they prepared and led National Public Lands Day projects. Since then, they have been assisting with the following:

Fire: Coordinating the "On Fire!" play, securing venues for 20 performances on the San Bernardino and Cleveland National Forests.

Wildlife: Recruiting volunteers to build bird boxes. They are also participating in bald eagle monitoring, flying squirrel transect data collection, a frog ambassador program, canyon clean-ups, and Big Horn Sheep habitat monitoring.

Botany: Supervising volunteers and planning new events for the Green Thumbs Nursery program, developing a recruitment database for the Front Country Ranger District and assisting with maintenance at the Crystal Lake Nursery.

Recreation: Recruiting community groups, coordinating work crews from Heart Bar and Crafton Hills Community College, and hosting the youth volunteer work party for the construction of the Children's Forest Exploration Trail.

Meet the Interns

John Ahern recently received a degree in Business Administration from the University of Georgia. **Carol Baganzi**, who is studying organizational management at the School for International Training, was raised in East Africa. **Elizabeth Ellison** holds a degree in Psychology and Criminal Law. She has worked with the California Conservation Corps, the California Department of Forestry and SCA. **Yvette Granados** is from Atlanta, Georgia and is exploring her options for college and career. **Jeff Killingsworth** holds a B.S. in Anthropology from Florida State University. He attended archaeological field school in San Venanzo, Italy. **Bradley O'Neal** is from Atlanta, Georgia and has an Associates Degree in computer-assisted drafting. **Ryan Reynolds** is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin with a B.A. in Geography and Spanish. **Emily Sluzas** studied biology and neurobiology at Cornell University.

SCA Intern Contact Information

Field	Name	Email
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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

National Public Lands Day Projects

Forest/Project	# of Volunteers	Accomplishments
<u>San Bernardino NF</u> Devils Slide Trail Miller Peak Fire Restoration/Fence Riparian Habitat Clean-up	0 15 38	1200 Pounds of rock were removed and 6 water bars were cleaned 1,000 feet of new fence was constructed Tree planting, native plant restoration, and mulching were conducted
<u>Angeles NF</u> Recreation Facility Restoration	50	4,500 pounds of trash were removed. One sign was created.
<u>Cleveland NF</u> San Luis Rey Clean-up	10	4 benches, 4 grills, 2 fire rings, and 6 steps were removed. Two picnic sites were removed to expand habitat for the willow flycatcher.
<u>Los Padres NF</u> Devil's Canyon Kings Campground	15 43	1½ Miles of trail work was completed, including 44 grade reversals, 7920 feet of tread widening, and 7920 feet of brush removal More than one ton of trash was removed



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Continued from page 1. figure out how to get them involved. Additionally, we are working to involve diverse communities in volunteering.

Do you need help preparing for and managing volunteers on the ground? Program staff are working on projects in four focus areas – botany, fire, recreation, and wildlife. Staff are available to work with project managers to assist with project planning and provide volunteer management services.

The steering committee includes Southern California Province Board of Directors Representative Max Copenhagen (Deputy Forest Supervisor, San Bernardino NF), Regional Office representative Laurie Fenwood (Reinvention Lab Director), Program Leader Bob Loudon (FS Grant Strategists), as well as SCA Project Manager Amanda Wendt, (Student Conservation Association), and Province Volunteer Program Manager Diane Harris (FS Grant Strategists). Feel free to contact our steering committee members with questions or suggestions.

Southern California Volunteer Program Contacts

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Los Padres	Jeff Saley	(805) 961-5771	jsaley@fs.fed.us
SCA	Amanda Wendt	(951) 296-7278	AWendt@thesca.org



Program Leader Bob Loudon helps out at a Public Lands Day event (above). Volunteers remove steps on the Cleveland NF (below).

