

Summary of the year's trail work, 2010

Another very pleasant and successful year on the trails of Castle Rock State Park but there was one scheduled session (December) that we had to abandon for a variety of reasons.

The year started with the usual fallen trees. We spent some time on trees on every regular session through the entire year. We had got a start on brushing the north side of the Saratoga Gap Trail at the end of 2009 so we finished this in only two more sessions. We had two sessions (including Trail Days) on the Travertine Springs Trail. There is much more work to be done here as the brush is again thick on the road section.

We had three work sessions on the north end of the Ridge Trail. We also worked down to the falls, around Goat Rock and one session on the Skyline Trail north of the connector.

For Trails Day We had 10 workers total. We brushed the Travertine Springs Trail below "The Waterworks". The brush is very bad there and we need to get back there as soon as convenient.

For most of the time we just had the core four workers, myself, Frank Turner, Ken Margiott and Kevin McDevitt. For Trail Days we had a total of 10 workers.

We had fewer hours worked in 2010 (even by the hard core) falling to 369.5 hours from the 474.5 in 2009. I hope that we do better in 2011.

The hours of the "hard-core" crew are shown in the table below

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Martin Donald	88	117	94	98.5	120.5	122	96.5
Frank Turner	63	81	60.5	68.5	76	83	79.5
Ken Margiott	75	93	91.5	103	92.5	90	71
Kevin McDevitt	58.5	68.5	74.5	69.5	75	64	52

Apart from this summary of the work done during the year (4 pages) I attach a spreadsheet detailing the hours worked.

January 16 Martin was unable to come today due to having a bad cold and not wanting to jeopardize his upcoming vacation trip.

Kevin, Ken and Frank removed fallen trees close to Russell Point then continued brushing the Saratoga Gap trail. They also built one rock retaining wall.

January 30 Martin did trail inspection on small loop around Castle Rock Loop, Saratoga Gap Trail, Connector Trail, Ridge Trail.

Castle Rock Loop is clear. Took out small log going toward the falls. Found partially cleared mess just past Ridge Trail junction. Cleaned up some more (it needs bigger saw). Found another log on Ridge Trail soon past Connector trail. Found damage to rock wall by the "camel rock".

February 13 Martin scouted the Skyline and Loghry Woods trails, clearing small logs and other debris. The horse-trail bypass by Loghry State Forest had been completely blocked but is now clear.

The Skyline trail is clear but needs brushing in the fallen tan-oak area. There are several logs across the Loghry Woods Trail. One of these—in the fallen tan-oak area—is a

little harder to get over and another of them needs to be ducked under but nothing requires urgent work.

February 20 The Usual Four parked at The Campground and removed fallen trees on the Loghry Woods trail. We removed a total of 7 logs and the trail is now clear of fallen trees.

We then drove to the main parking lot and walked down toward The Falls to remove the log just past the junction to Goat Rock. On the way we removed some smaller branches close to the parking lot. There are now only two known logs remaining, both between The Connector Trail and Emily Smith.

March 20 Parked at Campground. Cleared fallen tan-oak just past Ridge Trail junction on our way past Russell Point on way to Saratoga Gap Trail. Brushed from where we left off in January and built one set of steps on a steep part. It will take one more day to finish this section.

April 9 Ed La Pointe and Vivian Jung kindly accompanied me on a hike to scout the Travertine Springs Trail loop in order to check for damage from the winter storms. Pictures may be found on the web at

<http://picasaweb.google.com/martindonal/100409CastleRockTm#>

We hiked the Toll Road from Saratoga Gap down to Tin Can Creek finding just three places where fallen trees and limbs needed to be removed, no place was impassable. Bicycle tracks were seen on the Toll Road.

The Travertine Springs Trail was passable but several fallen trees need to be removed. Brush was bad, noticeably bad, just below "The Waterworks". Somebody has cut out a section of the huge log by the bridge over the San Lorenzo to allow easier passage. The trail is now accessible by horse and BICYCLE!

The Fog Flat Trail is clear.

We removed just one small log on the Loghry Woods Trail. That trail is in excellent condition.

The Skyline Trail has had several tan-oaks fall since being cleared on February 13.

April 17 The usual four finished brushing the Saratoga Gap Trail to the campground. We also removed one small fallen tree on the Nature Trail and made some steps on the Saratoga gap Trail.

Next week will be Trail Days and we will do brushing on the Travertine Springs Trail (weather permitting).

April 24 – TRAILS DAY We had a total of 10 workers. Frank and Ken removed fallen trees, three on the way to the work site and two beyond including the large tangle by the Magnetometer Site. The remainder of the work-crew removed brush and weeds starting at "The Waterworks" and continuing downhill. A very good day's work.

May 15 We worked the Travertine Springs Trail (west end).

We parked inside at Tin Can Ranch and bushwhacked down to the Toll Road. We removed 6 fallen trees, one of them on the Toll Road between Tin Can Creek and Travertine Trail junction. We also did some brushing on Travertine Springs trail and the trail over the slide on the Toll Road, which was very brushy.

Note: We had trouble opening the gate at Tin Can Ranch, the padlock had been put on backwards. We eventually managed to get the padlock off and then replaced it the correct way.

June 19 Frank had a bad back but came out nevertheless. Thanks.

We parked at the Main Parking Lot and took out three fallen trees on the way to the falls. Two of these trees had been bypassed on the down-hill side and the damaged tread needed reconstruction with rock retaining walls.

We then drove to Partridge Farm and proceeded down the Ridge Trail to take out two more fallen trees. One was close to the connector on the SE side and the other, a large decomposing log, on the NW side of the connector.

July 3 Ken and Martin went to take out a downed tree close to Castle Rock. We found that it had already been removed. We did brush removal on the remainder of the Castle Rock Loop and cleaned out one water-bar.

We then parked at Partridge Farm and brushed the small loop to Goat Rock, Ridge Trail and back. We put in 3 new water-bars just below the interpretive shelter. We need to repair a rock wall just by the “camel rock” when there will be more moisture in the dirt.

July 9 Martin helped the State Park’s Trail Crew at Portola State Park. The crew took out many downed trees, including two very large ones, going up the Slate Creek Trail.

July 17 This was our regular July session and we had the usual crew of four. We parked at Loughry State Forest and worked northward on the Skyline Trail. We took out 7 downed trees and brushed and scraped as far as the slide.

August 21 Since the Skyline Trail will be widened by a large crew in November we chose to work the north end of the Ridge Trail instead. Kevin was not able to help this month but we had two newcomers Jonathan Peters and Stephanie Sick.

We started at the campground end and brushed about 2/3 mile up the trail, maintaining drainage structures on the way.

September 18 Martin was unable to participate this time so the crew consisted of just Ken, Frank and Kevin. The crew continued work on the Ridge trail from where we finished last month. Work consisted of cleaning water-bars, tread-work and brushing. There was lots of poison oak.

October 16 We worked on the north section of the Ridge Trail almost to the Connector Trail. The work was mainly brushing and light scraping of the tread. We also built one rock water-bar and put in three steps just above it.

October 26 Martin took an afternoon walk down from the main parking lot on rumors of a tree down near the falls. Nothing was found as far as the beginning of the chaparral on the Face Trail. The Castle Rock Loop and the Whole Access Trail were also checked and found to be clear. Some light brushing was done coming back up from the falls. The real brush begins after the falls.

November 20 A rainy day. It was much too wet to go down to Travertine Springs Trail. We worked down from the main parking lot toward The Falls. We took out a fallen double trunked tree that was partially blocking the trail near the parking lot, built a rock retaining wall then brushed much of the way to the chaparral on the Saratoga Gap Trail. We were getting cold and wet so we quit work at lunchtime.

November 24 Martin scouted the main loop at Castle Rock State Park (Saratoga Gap Trail - Ridge Trail) to check if there were any trees or branches blocking the trails after the pre-Thanksgiving storm. It was a wonderful day for a hike and I had very little work to do, just one log by Russell Point and a few branches and minor debris on the Ridge Trail.

December 23 For various reasons (illness, work, weather) we were unable to perform our usual third Saturday in December work session. However Ken and Martin were able to go out just before Christmas to check out the main trail loop. We parked at the main lot, took out one fallen tree on the Castle Rock Loop, one more going down toward the falls and another on the Saratoga Gap Trail just past the connector after going up past Goat Rock. We finished clearing a log by Russell Point that Martin had started on November 24 then hiked the Nature Trail, taking out a log on the road part. We returned along the Ridge Trail up to the Interpretive shelter and hiked the road back to the parking lot.