

**January 5** Martin hiked the Skyline and Loughry Woods Trails in search of fallen trees. He trimmed limbs and branches off 3 fallen trees to make passage easy and generally cleaned up on both outward and return journeys.

The only evidence of November's "widening" of the Skyline Trail was removal of some trees and limbs on the inside of the trail. (To widen for horses?)

There are now 3 easy step-overs on the Skyline Trail and 4 step-overs and one duck-under on the Loughry Woods Trail.

See <http://picasaweb.google.com/martindonal/110105CastleRockTrailSurvey#>

**January 15** Frank had to work again all weekend and was unable to help us with trail maintenance.

We first parked by the CDF repeater station at Loughry State Forest and took out the logs on Skyline Trail, three to the north and one to the south.

We then went to the main parking lot and parked. We took out a log close to the parking lot on our way to the falls. We removed various pieces of debris that had washed down onto the trail. We built one rock retaining wall to strengthen the trail edge before beginning brushing on the Saratoga Gap Trail.

**February 19** A snowy day. We parked at the main parking lot and trimmed brush (that the snow had brought down), also one small tree, on our way to where we left off last month on the Saratoga Gap Trail. We continued brushing there but left early since the snow was heavy even down at that elevation. We had to dig our way out of the parking lot.

**March 19** A very rainy day, Martin and Frank were both unable to come so work was left to Kevin, Ken and two new volunteers, Kathleen Gregg and Kimberly Shiveley. It was a short day due to the inclement weather.

The crew removed one fallen tree on the Castle Rock Loop and three more on the way to The Falls, one tree being quite large. They continued on the trail to Goat Rock, encountering a very large fallen tree that was beyond the means that they had with them. They continued to the Interpretive shelter and made some new water-bars.

**April 3** Martin scouted trails at Castle Rock state Park to look for damage after the storm that happened on March 24. He parked at the main lot and hiked past The Falls by way of the Castle Rock Trail. There were no fresh tree falls. He met some hikers who assured him that there was only one tree down on the Saratoga Gap/Ridge Trail loop and that was the one that we knew about close to the start of the trail up to Goat Rock.

Martin returned to the parking lot after a brief excursion to view that tree on the trail to Goat Rock then parked at Saratoga Gap prior to scouting the Skyline Trail. There is a madrone down just before the first road access and another just after. there is also another madrone and an oak just before the cutoff to the CDF repeater. The Skyline trail is otherwise clear.

Photos at <https://picasaweb.google.com/martindonal/110403CastleRockTM#>

**April 16** A fine day at last. We parked at the main lot and worked on the Saratoga Gap Trail. On our way to The Falls we removed one high log, repaired a rock wall then cleared some upper

branches of a tree that had fallen on the trail almost blocking it. We then brushed the Saratoga Gap Trail, from where we left off last month, as far as the Connector Trail.

There is a section, just before the Connector, that needs tread-work to stop and fix erosion. We need to return there and fix it.

**April 23** TRAIL DAYS. We were lucky to get the perfect day to work Travertine Springs Trail, not rainy, not too hot, not too cold. We had the usual crew of four plus four SCMTA hikers, Cathy, Mary Ellen, Carolyn and Ed. We cleared vast amounts of brush to get from where we left off last year (just below the “waterworks”) to the magnetometer site. Well done everyone.

It is boring for the hikers to come back to this same trail year after year to do the maintenance but it does get this very important job done.

**May 21** We worked Travertine Springs Trail again this month and completed the brush clearing down to the Magnetometer Site including clearing the brush way back at the “waterworks”.

**June 18** We worked the Loughry Woods Trail. Kevin and Martin were dropped off at the Skyline end to work down the trail and Ken and Frank drove to the campground to work up. We took out 7 fallen trees, two at Skyline end and five more by the dead tanoaks and lower down. We brushed and scraped in places, especially by the switchback.

**July 16** We carried on from last month. Kevin and Martin worked from Skyline to the switchback before lunch then worked down to the big tree-fall where they met Ken and Frank.

Ken and Frank had taken out the remaining tanoak and two smaller (recently fallen) trees and scraped a good section of trail.

One more trail-work session should finish work on the Loughry Woods trail.

**August 20** Martin was absent for family reasons but Ed La Pointe was there to make up the usual number of 4 workers. The following work was reported by Frank.

We continued work on the Loughry Woods trail. It is done now from the top down to about 50 yards above Lihua’s wall. (There were some stretches to fill in Ken and I had skipped over working our way up clearing trees)

We estimate there is at least another day’s work left to finish the rest, including an area of brushing near the bottom.

**September 17** We first parked at Saratoga Gap and went looking for the 3 madrone and 3 tanoak logs that were noted in April to be in need of attention. We found that the first 2 madrones had already been taken care of by someone so we returned to the parking lot.

We went down the Service Road and parked as usual then finished off the work that needed doing on the Loughry Woods Trail. We brushed the lower end and scraped the trail as needed. We built one small retaining wall.

**October 15** We went down the Travertine Springs Trail again, parking at the campground and at Twin Bridges. We immediately found a large awkward multi-trunked oak that took us until 11:00 to remove. We then proceeded on to the San Lorenzo where Frank, Ken and Kevin turned around and scraped the trail tread. Martin walked the trail as far as Travertine Springs noting work that needed doing along the way. There is one duck-under log about 9-10 inches just past the meadow. Brush is particularly thick just past the splayed oak but is also thick in two other places.

Even though we brushed the road section this spring there is still one place where the brush is thick.

**November 19** We parked at Partridge Farm and went down the Ridge and Connector trails to finish off on the SE section of the Face Trail where we left off last April. We worked on the tread just south of the Connector trail where it was eroding, built steps on the steepest part and added more drainage.

**December 17** We parked at Partridge again and started brushing the “Face Trail” from the Connector Trail north toward the campground. On the way down we removed a fallen log on the side trail to the Emily Smith overlook.

**December 31** Ken and Martin parked by the campground and cleared fallen trees on the Loughry Woods Trail. We cleared 11 logs of varying sizes as we walked up to just beyond the area of the dead and dying tanoaks. The big crosscut saw had a lot of use.