



TRAIL NEWS

A publication of the

Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Association

...building...maintaining...hiking...riding

the trails of Santa Cruz Mountains parks

Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Association • P.O. Box 1141 • Los Altos, CA 94023 •

Featured Activity: Springtime Flowers

Another Spring blooming all around us! This is a great time of the year for hiking. The plants around us are all waking up, the sun is up longer, its warmer. Imagine all the wildflowers you will see walking through the woods. To name a few; Blue Witch, Wild Cucumber, Indian Paint Brush, Chinese Houses, Sticky Monkey, California Poppies, Cream Cups, Redmaids, Shooting Stars, Johnny Jump Ups, Blue Dicks, Golden Buttercup, Elegant Clarkia, Goldfields, Douglas Iris, Checkerbloom, Star Zygadine, Fushia-flowered Gooseberry, Trillium, Tidy Tips, Footsteps of Spring, Bush Lupine, Seaside Painted Cups, Coyote Brush, Lizard Tail Yarrow, Mock Heather and Poppies, White Milkmaids, Blue Hounds Tongue, or Yellow Buttercups, Goldfields, Owls Clover, Butter and Eggs, Columbine, Delphinium, Purple Mouse Ears, Pussy Paws. I'm sure you can think of many that I've forgotten.

Just listing them gets me all excited to

hurry outside. There is nothing better than going around a bend and finding Shooting Stars (or whichever flowers) just where they were last year and the year before. It's just like running into an old friend the same time every year. Even if you are new to hiking, with our group, you will learn the names of many flowers. Most of the regulars are incredibly well versed in the local flora.

I tell you what; let's have a friendly contest... Send me a list of flowers that you've seen and where before June 1st and on our annual picnic (June 10th) I'll announce the winner, give you a prize and put your name in the next newsletter as the winner! No cheating though, you can't just list the flowers that you KNOW are in a certain park but you actually have to see them. So get out there and hike up a storm, I can't wait to hear of everyone's experiences!

Happy hunting! epeterson4@gmail.com

Support Our Trail Maintenance Groups

If you enjoy hiking our trails, please help maintain them

Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail:	Apr. 7, May 5 and June 2	leader Al Lisin -	(408) 252-8106
Big Basin:	Apr. 14, May 12 and June 9	leader Jeff Bleam -	(831) 338-0774
Castle Rock:	Apr. 21, May 19 and June 16	leader Martin Donald -	(650) 966-1984

Our web site is <http://www.scmta-trails.org>

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For all hikes: Bring lunch, liquid and clothing appropriate for the season (summer fog, winter rain).

Some hikes may be canceled or changed due to the weather; please see statement in each hike description. Call the hike leader if you are not sure.

For trail maintenance: Wear long pants, boots, and long sleeved shirt and bring gloves, lunch and liquid.

April 1, Sunday: Pinnacles National Monument—

Our annual outing to the Pinnacles is always spectacular. Camping on Sat. night 3/31/12 is for the first 12 who sign up(our two sites have room for 2 cars each).— Hike is moderate 10-12 miles starting at 9:30 4/1/10 from parking lot. — For camping and carpool info call Hike Leader Steve Braley (408) 981-9753.

April 7, Saturday: Trail Maintenance - Skyline to the Sea Trail—

Al Lisin, (408) 252-8106, leads a group that maintains the Skyline to the Sea Trail. This group now meets on the first Saturday of the month. The group meets at 9:00 AM. Please call Al for meeting place (which changes).

April 8, Sunday: Spring Splash at Henry Coe State Park—

Celebrate spring by wading in water sandals (or, better yet, water shoes) through The Narrows and China Hole. Start from Park Headquarters at 9:30am and take the Poverty Flat Road as far as Schafer Corral Trail, returning via Coyote Creek Narrows, China Hole Trail and Springs Trail. Heavy rain cancels. You may boulder hop if the water flow is too low. If water flow is too high (not likely) we'll go to Manzanita Point. Meet at Cottle/Hwy 85 at 8:30 for carpooling. Call Rich Rowland (650) 965-0938.

April 14, Saturday: Big Basin Trail Maintenance—

Meet Jeff Bleam at park headquarters at 9:00 AM for some hands-on trail work. This group meets the second Saturday of each month. Call (831) 338-0774.

April 15, Sunday: Alum Rock City Park – Sierra Vista OSP—

The Sierra Vista and Calaveras Fault trails are part of a new trail system that opened up in the Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve only last September. The hike is about 12 miles with some tough climbing mostly at the start to get to the top of Baccardo Trail. Carpool from Meridian and Parkmoor at 9.00, a northern no-host carpool could be at Rengstorff and Middlefield at 8:45. Or meet inside the park at 9.30 at the Parking lot for Quail Hollow and Eagle Rock picnic areas, which is about half a mile past the pay booth on the right side of the road. Ranjana Sharma (408) 252-0393.

April 21, Saturday: Castle Rock State Park Trail Maintenance—

The third Saturday of every month Martin Donald leads trail work in the Castle Rock area. Meet at Saratoga Gap parking lot at 9:00 AM. Call Martin at (650) 966-1984. Bring boots and gloves, lunch and liquid. Tools are supplied but bring your own favorites if you prefer.

April 22, Sunday: Henry Cowell State Park – Fall Creek—

A 10-mile hike at Fall Creek unit of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park near Felton. Meet in the Fall Creek parking lot at 9:30 or car-pool from municipal parking lot in Los Gatos (formally VTA lot) at 8:45 For more information, call Toni Bassett at (650) 948-7344.

April 28, Saturday: TRAIL DAYS—

Reserve this date for the annual Trail Days. Each year on the fourth Saturday in April Trail Association members give a little back by helping with trail building or trail maintenance. Please, let's have a good turnout today. Meet at Saratoga Gap parking at 9 AM.

April, 29 Sunday: SF Golden Gate Park to Fisherman's Wharf—

Meet at 9:30am in front of the Beach Chalet or carpool from Page Mill lot at 8:45am. We will walk towards the Cliff House along the Beach and take the Coastal Trail to the Bridge and on towards Crissy Field and Marina Green and take bus #43 back. We can have lunch at Crissy Field area where there's also a small cafe. If time permits, we can do an extra loop towards Fisherman's Wharf or a stroll through the Golden Gate Park after the bus drop off at Masonic and Haight. Please bring some change for bus fare. Contact Peter Tsui 650-838-9333.

May 5, Saturday: Trail Maintenance - Skyline to the Sea Trail—

Call Al Lisin at (408) 252-8106 for more information.

May 6, Sunday: Rancho Cañada del Oro—

A 9.5 mile hike into the territory of the Santa Clara Open Space Authority. This park is located south of the Almaden Valley area. Meet at Cottle/85 Park and Ride at 9:00 or at the staging area on Casa Loma Road at 9:30, or call

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leader, Martin Donald at (650) 966-1984 for further carpool information. Directions to park at <http://www.openspaceauthority.org/trails/rancho.html>.

May 12, Saturday: Big Basin Trail Maintenance— Join Jeff Blean again for some more enjoyable trail maintenance at Big Basin. *See April 14 entry for details.*

May 13, Sunday: Windy Hill Open Space Preserve— Hike a 9-mile loop up Razorback Ridge and down Hamm's Gulch. Carpool from Page Mill Road & 280 at 9:15 or meet at the lower parking lot for Windy Hill on Portola Road, at 9:30. Leader: Cathy Howard (650) 966-1850. Please carpool if you can, parking is always limited at Windy Hill. Nancy-Davidson (650) 365-6774 will act as backup for Cathy.

We will lunch at top of the hill and plan for the summer hikes, so please bring your calendar for July/August/September and your ideas for hikes you would like to lead.

May 19, Saturday: Castle Rock State Park Trail Maintenance— Meet at Saratoga Gap parking lot at 9:00 AM. Call Martin Donald at (650) 966-1984. *See April 21 entry.*

May 20, Sunday: San Bruno Mountain— Beautiful panoramas and (hopefully) exceptional late spring wildflowers highlight this 8-mile hike on the Summit Loop Trail and the Ridge Trail to the East Peak of San Bruno Mountain. Come prepared for wind, fog, or sun, and enjoy the views! Meet at Page Mill/280 at 8:45 AM to carpool, or at the parking lot on the south side of Guadalupe Canyon Parkway at 9:30. Mary Ellen Quinn (408) 885-0184.

May 27, Sunday: Portola Redwoods State Park— Meet at Park Headquarters at 9:30 AM for a 13-mile hike. We'll hike to the trail camp, then take off along the Bear Creek Trail to the Peters Creek Loop. Car-pooling from Page Mill Rd. & 280 at 8:30. Vivian Jung (408) 238-3388.

June 2, Saturday: Trail Maintenance - Skyline to the Sea Trail— Call Al Lysin (408) 252-8106 for more information.

June 3, Sunday: Mt Tamalpais State Park— Marin hike from Pantoll Ranger Station. Hike the Matt Davis

Trail down to Stinson Beach and return on Steep Ravine Trail with our lunch at the beach-about 8 miles. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Page Mill & 280 at 8:15 or Pantoll Ranger Station at 9:30. Mark Bowden (408) 735-8736.

June 9, Saturday: Big Basin Trail Maintenance— Meet Jeff Blean (831) 338-0774 at park headquarters at 9:00 AM. *See April 14 entry.*

June 10, Sunday: SCMTA Annual Picnic— The picnic will start at 12:30 and be held at Mark Bowden's house at 376 South Fernwood Circle in Sunnyvale. Please bring a salad or desert to share, your own beverage, and \$3.00. Please RSVP by email (markbowden10@gmail.com) or phone (408) 735-8736.

June 16, Saturday: Castle Rock State Park Trail Maintenance— Meet at Saratoga Gap parking lot at 9:00. Call Martin Donald at (650) 966-1984. *See January 21 entry.*

June 17, Sunday: Saratoga Gap/upper Stevens Creek county Park - 2B, 10:00AM— We will hike from Saratoga Gap to Table Mountain in Upper Stevens Creek County Park, via the Saratoga Gap trail, Charcoal Rd, Table Mountain Trail. Have lunch and hike back via the Hiking Trail. We will then cross Skyline Blvd. and take the Achistaca trail, cross Hwy 9 and back to the starting point, via the Saratoga Toll Rd. - a total of 10mi. Meet at 10:00AM at the Saratoga Gap parking lot - corner of Hwy 9 and Skyline Blvd. about 6.5mi. south on Hwy 35 from it's intersection with Page Mill Rd. No-host carpool from Hwy 280/Page Mill P&R at 9:15AM Leader: Mike Abeles 408-257-3783

June 24, Sunday: Long Ridge Open Space Preserve— A loop of about 10 miles through Stevens Creek Canyon, along Hickory Oak Ridge and Long Ridge with beautiful vistas to the West. Meet at Grizzly Flat parking area at 9:30 AM or at Page Mill & 280 at 8:45. Leader is Martin Donald (650) 966-1984.

Save these dates:

June 24-30: Car camping at Sugar Pine Point State Park at Lake Tahoe with Mark and Carolyn.

SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS TRAIL ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Regular member	\$10.00	_____	_____	_____
Couples at same address	\$15.50	_____	_____	_____
Sponsor	\$40.00	_____	_____	_____

Name: _____ Home phone: _____

Street Address: _____ Work phone: _____

City: _____ Organization: _____

State and zip: _____

Clip and mail to: Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Assn., P.O. Box 1141, Los Altos, CA 94023-1141

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FIRST CLASS

The SCMTA membership year runs from July 1 - June 30. The date above your name and address indicates when your dues need to be paid. Thank you!!

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

APRIL, MAY, JUNE, 2012

