

PERSONALIZED PICNIC TABLE PROGRAM

by Jerry Emory, Director of Communities, California State Parks Foundation (CSPF)

With an ever-increasing number of visitors each year, California's State Parks need hundreds of picnic tables. Personalizing and placing a picnic table is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or something special like a child's or grandchild's birth. Or, as Rodrigo and Rebecca Santamarina did at Tomales Bay State Park, to celebrate their marriage! For a tax-deductible gift of \$1,500 you can donate a personalized redwood picnic table to one of our state parks. CSPF works with the Sonoma County Probation Camp (SCPC) to produce the tables. SCPC has been making State Parks' products for more than 25 years. Established in 1955, the SCPC is a short-term correctional and vocational treatment facility for 16 to 18 year old males.



Rebecca & Rodrigo -- used with permission

By participating in the Personalized Park Table Program, you will help three worthy entities: California State Parks, the SCPC, and CSPF! For more information, please contact Bonnie Davis at (415) 262-4409 or bonnie@calparks.org.

Like most organizations, MDIA does some communication via email--it is not only timely but cost-effective. Nancy Topp maintains the MDIA email directory. If you would like to add or update your email in this directory, please provide it to Nancy at mnvtopp@pacbell.net. Please be assured that your email will not be shared with any other organization or company without your permission.

Events /hikes about Mount Diablo are described in the MDIA website <http://www.mdia.org/events.htm>. We encourage you to look at this site, and join in on these activities. Thanks!

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MOUNTAIN NEWS

Fall/Winter 2009

MOUNT DIABLO INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

The Bi-Annual Membership Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....

Thank you for your membership with the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA). MDIA members are the lifeblood of Mount Diablo State Park. Your membership dollars and MDIA volunteer work sustain many of the Park programs, e.g., creating interpretive publications and initiatives; staffing visitor centers, maintaining trails, removing debris, etc. It is important to emphasize that this work is done only by volunteers--there is no paid MDIA staff. I invite you to recruit at least one new member.

Why does MDIA need new members?

- To compensate for natural attrition.
- To have more people-power for Park and MDIA initiatives.
- For new ideas, new enthusiasm and new leadership.

What benefits can MDIA membership offer?

- Fellowship and new friendships.
- Personal growth and networking.
- Discounts on products.
- A growing body of research has shown that altruistic people are healthier, happier and live longer than those who do not give back.
- But most importantly, the satisfaction of knowing that you have done something worthwhile for Mount Diablo State Park and the current and future visitors to the Park.

Who do you invite to join?

---The list is endless--a friend, relative, neighbor, coworker, business contact, fellow church member, empty nesters, teachers, your lawyer, doctor, dentist, financial advisor, to name a few.

Remember, an organization is only as strong as its membership.

Let me close with three salient quotations that are germane to this discussion;

"People who serve often say, 'Thank you for the opportunity to be of service.' They understand that their service to you benefits themselves."

Nipun Mehta
Founder of
CharityFocus.org

"There is no greater feeling in life than when you have done something to make a difference in the world."

Jody Bagno
JAZZ Business Consulting
and Breast Cancer Survivor



Rich McDrew, MDIA President

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Dr. Seuss

MDIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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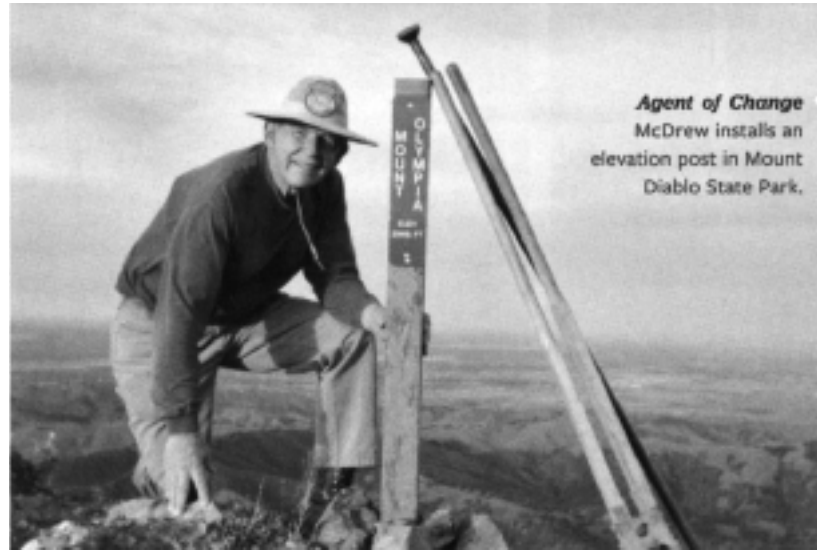
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Burt Bogardus, Dave Caniglia, Leslie Contreras, Helene Crowley,
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If you wish to submit articles or photographs for the **MOUNTAIN NEWS**, contact Rich McDrew at 925-932-7511 or via e-mail at mcdrewrich@astound.net. Submission deadline for the Spring/Summer edition is February 1, and for the Fall/Winter edition is August 1.

Heroes of Conservation

A state park protector > By Rick Bach



Agent of Change
McDrew installs an
elevation post in Mount
Diablo State Park.

Banishing Barbed Wire

Richard McDrew, Walnut Creek, Calif.

In the past decade, Richard McDrew has battled oppressive heat, poison oak, and the occasional rattlesnake to pull 150 miles of barbed-wire fencing from California's Mount Diablo State Park. The barbed wire was not just an eyesore. It had proved deadly for the park's population of blacktail deer, red foxes, coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions. As president of the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association, McDrew worked with volunteers to clean up the 20,000-acre park, removing scrap metal and abandoned cars, left over from ranching days, that threatened to contaminate the park's groundwater. Formerly the head of San Francisco's Secret Service office, McDrew says he is still driven to serve the public.

CRYSTAL ANN DAVIS DIES

by Rich McDrew

Longtime dedicated Mount Diablo State Park Administrative Assistant/Secretary, Crystal Ann Davis (1949-2009), died on Sunday, July 19th, after a ten-month battle with cancer. She leaves behind her 90-year-old father, two daughters, Jamie and Lisa, several grandchildren, and countless relatives and friends. Jamie wrote: "I was by her side, holding her hand when she took her last breath. I know that's the way she wanted it to be and I wouldn't have had it any other way. I will miss her greatly as I'm sure all of you will."

Crystal had been an employee in the Park for almost 30 years. Her work place was in the Sector Office in Mitchell Canyon, and thus she came into contact with members of MDIA. She was always pleasant and helpful. She will be missed. The Park staff is planning an event in memory of Crystal in Mitchell Canyon in about a month. An email notice will be sent to MDIA members when a date and time are confirmed. In addition, the Park staff raised funds to acquire a memorial picnic table from the California State Parks Foundation in Crystal's honor.



Crystal Ann Davis

TRAIL ADOPTION PROGRAM

by Rich McDrew



Photo by Mike Nelson

People enjoy the trails of Mount Diablo State Park for a variety of reasons. Foremost among these is the access that those trails provide to the beauty of the mountain and to the fantastic views of the surrounding topography. It is not until a trail becomes blocked by a downed tree, overgrown with vegetation, or the tread becomes difficult to negotiate, that one thinks about trail maintenance.

To help with the challenge of winter storms and annual spring growth of vegetation, a few years ago the Park initiated the "Trail Adoption Program" (TAP). Family members, friends, groups, organizations, and businesses are encouraged to form a team that will agree to maintain a trail or a portion of a trail for one or more years. In most cases, the team can choose their trail. The Park will supply the trail tools needed to accomplish the work. Trail training will also be provided by the Park or an experienced trail crew leader. The adopting group will work at their own pace and schedule work within a recommended time frame.

Each team will appoint a crew leader for every ten members. The crew leader will act as a liaison between the team and the Park Trails Coordinator. The crew leader must demonstrate the ability to lead a trail crew in a safe and responsible manner, and be familiar with trail maintenance guidelines and operations regarding volunteers. Training for crew leaders will be provided by the Park.

The Park requires that the adopted trail be inspected at least two times a year--once after winter to evaluate storm damage, and once in late spring to monitor vegetation growth. The inspections will be followed up with a written log of findings to the Park's Trails Coordinator. This log will help with scheduling work, and deciding what tools will be needed.

Some of those who have formally adopted trails are as follows:

- Athenian School = Summit Trail (lower portion).
- Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay = Buckeye & Diablo Ranch Trails.
- Burt Bogardus & Rich McDrew = Devils Slide Trail.
- Dave Caniglia = Vicinity of Mitchell Canyon Parking Lot.
- East Bay Trail Dogs = Tassajara Creek Trail.
- MDIA = Globe Lily & Black Point Trails.
- Pacific Coast Trail Runners = Zippe & North Peak Trails.

For more information on the Park's "Trail Adoption Program", call the Park's Maintenance Supervisor Sue Schwartz, at (925) 837-6819. Thank you for considering helping the Park maintain the hiking trails.

SUPPORT MDIA THROUGH WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS

MDIA members who are, or were, employees of the County, State, or Federal Government are no doubt familiar with workplace giving/donation campaigns. These annual employee campaigns provide current employees and retirees with the opportunity to designate pre-tax monetary support to eligible non-profit organizations. Application for inclusion into these campaigns is rigorous, and non-profit organizations must comply with qualitative and quantitative guidelines before they are to be considered. MDIA is pleased to announce that it will again be included in this year's campaigns. If you are participating this year, consider donating to MDIA to help support MDIA activities, publications, and specific events geared to enhancing and enriching one's experience in Mount Diablo State Park. These workplace giving/donation programs usually run September through December. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Rich McDrew at 925-932-7511, or email him at <mcdrewrich@astound.net>. Thank you for your consideration!

CONGRATULATIONS TO MDIA BOARD DIRECTOR NANCY TOPP



Nancy Topp

The Greenbelt Alliance 2009 May Volunteer of the Month is outings leader Nancy Topp. A resident of Clayton, Nancy is a CPA by profession. She comes to Greenbelt Alliance with a long history of volunteerism

in open space causes, including serving on the

board of directors of the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association.

Nancy enjoys sharing her appreciation of the natural areas and farms Greenbelt Alliance is striving to protect from sprawl development. From scorpions to snakes, from tarantulas to mountain lions, you never know what you might see on a hike with Nancy Topp.