



VOLUNTEER TODAY

Dedicate Yourself to Caring for the Land and Serving the People
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/angeles/volunteering/>



Los Angeles River Ranger District Volunteer Newsletter MARCH 2005 Vol. 3 Issue 3

GREETINGS

VOLUNTEERS ARE THE HEARTBEAT OF THE FOREST SERVICE

THANK YOU, for your assistance in conducting storm damage assessment of our trail system. Based upon your input, we were able to complete an initial storm damage assessment report within a month, submit a request for additional funds and start scheduling personnel to repair some of the storm damage. Again, thank you for your effort in accomplishing this monumental task.



On February 12, Junior Aztec Fire Crew and Student Conservation Association personnel spent the day conducting minor trail maintenance work on the Sunset Ridge Trail. The Jr. Aztec Fire Crew is composed of 13 – 17 year old young adults from the communities of El Sereno, Lincoln Heights and Boyle Heights. The program is designed to expose these young adults to the forest environment along with developing work skills.

Our hazard tree removal contractor for the Charlton-Chilao area is starting his operation on February 28. He's planning on hauling loads of logs down the Angeles Crest Highway, Upper Big Tujunga Canyon Road and Angeles Forest Highway so drive defensively.

District Ranger Don Cosby is on an 89-day detail to the Supervisor Office to work on a Forest Manpower Program project. Marty Dumpis, District Ranger on San Gabriel River Ranger District is detailed into Don's position.

California Trails Day is scheduled for April 16 at Wildwood Picnic Area. Last year's event was a huge success with you folks accomplishing trail maintenance and feeding 100 individuals. Hope to see you there.

Since the rains have subsided, you need to remember that although the ground may appear dry and stable, areas affected by a series of heavy rainstorms and flooding can remain unstable for up to twelve weeks after the rain. It is important that you use extreme caution when venturing into the Forest to work on your projects.

If you've contributed 100 hrs of volunteer service from October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2004, please notify Julie Smith at 818-899-1900 ext 237 for your free Adventure Pass.

The volunteer program is open to all individuals and/or groups that are interested in assisting the Angeles NF in accomplishing natural resource management objectives. If you're interested in assisting us in managing your National Forest or have questions about the Volunteer Program, please contact me at 818-899-1900 ext 229 or e-mail hokamoto@fs.fed.us
Again **THANK YOU** for your dedication to Caring for the Land and Serving the People.

/s/ Howard S. Okamoto
Angeles National Forest
Los Angeles River Ranger District
Recreation Officer

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If you would like to help the volunteers shown on page 6 Please fill out volunteer form and send to Howard!

MARCH CALENDAR

- 1 .MARCH 16th 7:00 PM
VOLUNTEER GROUP MEETING
Meetings are held on the third
Wednesday of each month at
the Wildwood Volunteer House.

- 2. MARCH 26th
Take a walk and learn more about the
Angeles Forest. Meet at the San
Gabriel Canyon Environmental
Education Center on Highway 39.
Donation is \$5.00 per person.
No Adventure Pass needed.
You must RSVP with Steve Segreto at
626-335-1251, ext. 225 or 909-982-2829.
This tour is limited to 35 people.

- 4. MARCH 26th
No Adventure pass needed in
Angeles Forest.

- 5 MARCH 26th - 27th
Chain saw class
Upcoming events:
CA Trails Day, April 16
National Trails Day, June 4
Helicopter awareness
Dispatch field trip

Take Pride in America

This program is based on the idea that there are thousands of people who would like to help out and volunteer but need direction, counsel and instruction on how to proceed.

Some of the projects planned include: trail maintenance, cleaning up trash and litter, painting and restoring signs, weed removal, wildlife habitat restoration, safety patrol, erosion control, and shoreline clean up.

For more information, the Web address is www.takepride.info – home of volunteers on line.

Please send news or corrections to guykuhn@earthlink.net or bring them to the Wildwood Volunteer House meeting. Send your E-mail address if you want an E-mail newsletter..

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

Send news to

GUYKUHN@EARTHLINK.NET

ANGELES MOUNTAIN BIKE PATROL

mmcguirepoolspace@cs.com

Our mission is to provide educational and a responsible image to all trail users. To encourage rider's to obey forest regulations and working to preserve and protect trails. A.M.B.P is here to serve and inform the public.

• March 26th
TBA

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST FIRE LOOKOUT ASSOCIATION (ANFFLA)

<http://www.anffla.org>

<http://www.angeleslookouts.org>

George & Pam Morey 909-338-3923

Applicants from the community willing to volunteer as a Fire Lookout for the 2005 fire season can apply for training with ANFFLA.

Need assistance on the Slide Mountain Lookout fuel hazard reduction and trail maintenance project. If interested, please contact Robert Moore, 760-249-1925

MT HAWKINS LOOKOUT FUNDRAISER

MAR 20 AT 2PM

AMF - FRIENDLY HILLS LANES

15545 E. WHITTIER BLVD

WHITTIER

(562) 947-3815

California Trail Users Coalition (CTUC)

To provide a forum for all trail users to discuss trail related issues, problems and alternative solutions; to assist in the planning, development, maintenance and patrolling of trails to enforce rules of the road; and to develop and maintain programs designed to educate users on proper use of trails and trail etiquette.

Looking for interested hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians to be a part of this Coalition. If interested come to our next meeting or check out www.ctuc.info

CTUC's Annual BBQ
North Fork Trailhead
May 21 & 22, 2005
BBQ at 1PM.

Join One Today

VOLUNTEER GROUP NEWS

Monrovia Canyon Park

http://www.ci.monrovia.ca.us/city_hall/public_works/canyon_park/canyon_park.htm

Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA) <http://www.corbamtb.com>

- March 5th 09:00 A.M.
Palos Verdes - Forrestal Nature Preserve
- March 13th 08:00 A.M.
La Tuna SingleTrack

Hathaway Children & Family Service (HCFS)

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

HCFS Trails has been busy designing and constructing a 45 ft retaining wall as a community service project for our Highland Park location. Work will continue on the lower Gold Canyon Trail on Wednesdays and Thursdays in early spring. Since we have long hike to the work site (almost an hour), we're planning on adding full Saturday work projects shortly after spring break.

Full Saturday work projects scheduled for the following dates:

- Bear Canyon with SMAS, Saturday
March 19th 8am – 3pm (possible over
night at Bear Canyon Trail Camp)
- Lower or Upper Gold Canyon,
March 21st -25th 8am – 3pm.

If interested in helping out with these events. Contact Kevin Sarkissian at ksarkissian@hathawaychildren.org

High Country Riders

Forest wide equestrian volunteer group that patrols trails and can pack equipment, supplies etc to your worksite.

Jonathan Schultz
951-830-3400 maujds@earthlink.net

JPL TRAILBUILDERS

Kathie Reilly 818-354-8321 (JPL)
626-798-7256 (home)

Jack Russell 562-861-3187

<http://www.jplreclclubs.caltech.edu/hiking/>

- March 12 8:30
Mt Lowe East or San Gabriel Peak

Need volunteers and trail maintenance work on Ben Overturff and Waterfall Trails
626-256-8282

Pacific Crest Trail Association

(PCTA) <http://www.pcta.org>

Need volunteer individuals or groups to work on PCT Contact Howard Okamoto if interested.

SCENIC MT. LOWE RAILWAY

Conserving and maintaining remnants of Mt Lowe Railway, Echo Mountain Resort, Mt Lowe/Alpine Tavern Campground and Inspiration Point."

To help in preserving the historical railroad contact:

Brian Marcroft
562-868-8919

John Harrigan
626-968-5092

emworks@pacbell.net

jnsharrigan@earthlink.net

SIERRA MADRE AREA SINGLES

(SMAS) <http://www.outdoorsclub.org/>

Richard 626-285-0962

- Lower Sam Merrill
March 5 08:00 A.M.
- Bear Canyon Trail Camp
March 19 08:00 A.M.

The Natural Trails and Waters Coalition works to protect and restore all public lands and waters from the damage caused by dirt bikes, jet skis and all other off-road vehicles.

Our website is designed to be a resource for the media, activists, and others wanting to know more about the impacts of off-road vehicles on natural resources, wildlife, and public health and safety. <http://naturaltrails.org/>

VOLUNTEER GROUP/EVENT NEWS

Need someone to safely remove downed trees on your trail?

Congratulation the following people are ready and certified to safely operate chainsaws in the Angeles Forest:

Brian Marcroft	Mike McGuire
Scott Crawford	Gary Hillyard
Glen Abram	Karon Williams
Scott Cline	Gary Hilliard



Angeles National Forest Trivia

The adaptations of chaparral plants to conserve water make them more flammable. The small leaves and branches, and waxes and resins, conserve water, but increase the flammability. The plants concentrate on growing new branches, cutting off nutrients to older foliage. By age 50, half of the plant is dead brush.

Deborah Kure

Winter Fires by Christopher P Fabbro

In a perfect world, “winter fires” would be confined to the fireplace. (Actually, as I get older, in a “perfect world” winter would never get below 70 degrees. But anyway...) Believe it or not, the Angeles has wildfires throughout the winter—half a dozen in December 2004. Granted, they aren’t large, but the fact that they were all human-caused makes fire prevention a year-round priority, even in the snow-choked High Country. For example, just before Christmas the Waterman Fire near the 6000’ marker started late one night as an abandoned campfire. It burned hot enough to scorch a large pine, which then had to be felled. Nobody was on duty because of the late hour, when many illegal campfires happen...when all firefighters—in fact, all Forest personnel except a lone staffer in Dispatch—are off duty.

The potential for warming or cooking fires to creep into surrounding vegetation certainly is not as high in winter as it is during the dry months, but there is still risk. Flammables are still flammable, after all. Part of our job (both paid and unpaid Forest staff) is to continually educate visitors—in this case, that we indeed have year-round fire hazard on the Angeles. We’re in Fire Restrictions 365 days/year to protect all resources, animal, vegetable and mineral. No matter how wet the plants are, no matter how cold it is outside, no matter what the reason, there are still no fires or barbecues permitted outside open developed sites. The scorched remains of this winter’s Waterman Fire are a reminder that fire can always find its way despite the other elements working against it.

That said, keep warm—winter’s not giving up on us! Thanks for volunteering.

Wednesday Evenings with the Condors Even Wednesdays in April, May and June, 4:30 – 7:30 pm Micro-Trash Clean Up, Angeles National Forest

We will be working again this year in the known play areas of the endangered California Condor, collecting microtrash before adult condors get to it. We hope there will be many wild nestlings this year growing up on the Sespe Wilderness without the threat of ingesting microtrash, which is inadvertently regurgitated by their parents. We meet at 4:30 pm for some condor talk, updates and nestling gossip, and then collect micro-trash until around 7:30 pm. There have been some significant condor sightings at These clean ups, so bring your binoculars and camera!

Good news/bad news about all the rain in the Angeles Forest! From the Daily News By Patricia Farrell Aidem January 09, 2005

The Good News

Laura Merrill, an entomologist for the U.S. Forest Service, said engraver bark beetles that have infested pines and the white fir trees in the Santa Clara-Mojave Rivers District of the Angeles — particularly in the Castaic area — likely won't survive a year so wet. More than 20 inches of rain has fallen in some areas of the forest since Oct. 1, well more than the average for an entire year. "Some of the bark beetles will be very much affected by rain, mostly the engraver beetles," Merrill said. "They don't do well in plants that have any level of hydration. I would expect to see a lot less mortality next year. That's good news."

Pests including various species of bark beetles have infested trees throughout the Angeles and other Southern California forests and were blamed in part for the devastating fires of 2003 that swept through San Bernardino and San Diego counties. Towering stands of pines, weakened by drought, had been attacked by various bark beetles that thrive on trees weakened by drought and disease. These dying trees were the fuel that drove flames across hundreds of thousands of acres of forest land. Hearty, more aggressive bark beetle species are found in California's southeastern forests and could hold up through a stormy winter, Merrill said. But it's a "wimpy" species of bark beetles — the engraver — that has been found on the western side of the Angeles, Merrill said.

The Bad News (THE DAMAGE!)

Photo by Stanton Florea



Habitat Works of Southern California

3436 Foothill Blvd. #130
La Crescenta, CA 91214

Habitat Works is to foster stewardship of our precious natural areas by providing people with opportunities to learn about Southern California's threatened and endangered species and to be directly involved in enhancing the habitats where they live.

Kim Clark
818-353-4653 or 818-395-9114
Tom Persons
310-402-6700 or 310-412-4986

**Los Angeles River Ranger District
12371 North Little Tujunga Canyon Road
San Fernando, CA 91342**

**Cooking breakfast for
hungry helpers**



**Volunteer Today
Send this in Right Away to
Howard S. Okamoto—12371 N. Little Tujunga Canyon Rd
San Fernando, CA 91342**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # (hm) _____

e-mail _____

Interests

Indicate what you would like to do. Circle area or enter your interests.

Campground Host/ Visitor Information/ Smokey Bear - Fire Prevention/

Recreation Aid / Forest Patrol /Resource Management / Computers/

Research-Librarian / Office Clerical / Tour guide/ Fire Lookout/

Conservation Education

Other: _____



Jim Spence BY Lyle Whited

Jim Spencer died in February, ending a long and storied association with the Boy Scouts here in Southern California. From the day that he joined Troop 10, Los Angeles, in 1939, he received just about every award that the BSA confers upon its members. Jim achieved the Eagle rank in 1943. He stayed with the Troop, taking seriously the charge to assist his fellow Scouts along the Scouting Trail. He became an Assistant Scoutmaster in 1944, then Scoutmaster of Troop 10 for many years.

In the mid-fifties, Jim's experience working with his Scouts convinced him that they could build and maintain the trails in the local mountains to the standards of the U.S. Forest Service. He contacted its local representatives and began working with them to demonstrate to that a properly led group of Scouts could perform these valuable services. From these efforts came the innovative Trail Boss program. Its initial purpose was to train Scouters in the techniques of trail conservation, with the expectation that they would supervise members of their Units in performing trail projects without oversight by Forest Service personnel. After a few years, this training was made available to everyone who desired to help develop and maintain these recreational resources. Its success may be measured by the over a quarter of a million hours of conservation work that has been performed in the local mountains since then, under the supervision of Trail Bosses.

Jim was actively involved in providing this training and arranging projects until about 1998, when his health began to limit his activities. Over the years, he caused the creation of the High Adventure award programs for conservation work that LAAC sponsors to recognize the services of Scouts and their leaders. He is certainly the godfather to the trail conservation activities and numerous awards now offered by the other local Scout Councils. It was in recognition of this selfless dedication to conservation that Jim was awarded the Hornaday Gold Medal in 2000.

Jim's other interest was railroading, particularly the Mount Lowe railway. He took every opportunity to initiate projects that involved some part of its right-of-way, and other of works of Thaddeus S.C. Lowe. The Dawn Mine Trail, which links the railway to the bottom of Millard Canyon, was Jim's particular passion - and nemesis. He was determined that this storied trail should be maintained, although nature had a way of overriding the many projects that he caused to be done on it. It is certainly having its way with it, and the other trails in the San Gabriel Mountains, this winter.

Happy trails, Jim. You did your best; exactly what is expected of every Boy Scout.

Published in the Los Angeles Times on 2/24/2005.

SPENCER, James T. (1925 - 2005)

Forest and Trail Conservationist In 2001, James T. "Jim" Spencer was awarded the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor for his lifelong service and exceptional contributions to wildlife preservation and conservation - the BSA National Gold Medal William T. Hornaday Award. The award was given in recognition of his more than 30 years of conservation leadership on a national and regional level. Jim founded the BSA's "Trail Boss" program in 1971. His vision and tireless efforts built the program into a national model for volunteer cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. The program trains Scoutmasters to supervise youth in volunteer conservation projects which improve the forests. Jim's 30 years of Trail Boss service resulted in hundreds of thousands of person-hours of contributed volunteer labor on trail and conservation projects, more than 400 Eagle Scout projects relating to forest and trail conservation, and over 6,000 Trail Saver and Forest Saver Awards earned by Scouts. In addition, Jim served as a full-time volunteer ranger in the Angeles National Forest beginning in 1987. Jim was an active volunteer, not only with the Boy Scouts and U.S. Forest Service, but also with St. James' Episcopal Church in Los Angeles, the Pacific Railroad Society and the Orange Empire Railway Museum. He credited his childhood Boy Scout experience with teaching him leadership and "hands on" electrical engineering skills that stood him in good stead as a young engineer. Having benefitted from the Troop 10 Boy Scout program at St. James', Jim served as an Assistant Scoutmaster and Scoutmaster of Troop 10. Jim was an "Eagle" scout, he was given the BSA's "Silver Beaver" award for distinguished service, and he had over 67 years of continuous Scouting experience. After retiring as Scoutmaster he joined the BSA Los Angeles Area Council High Adventure Team heading the Forest and Trail Conservation program. Combining his love of railroad history and forest trails, Jim designed, installed and maintained the Mt. Lowe Railway interpretive trail in the San Gabriel Mountains in cooperation with the Boy Scouts and U.S. Forest Service. A proud graduate of "Cal"- University of California at Berkeley- Jim worked over 38 years for Southern California Edison as an Electrical Engineer and Planner during a period of unprecedented growth in population and demand for electricity in Southern California. As the population quadrupled in size, he was part of the team building the infrastructure of substations and transmission lines, as well as generation facilities from hydroelectric and steam stations burning oil, to natural gas and nuclear and alternative energy. Jim is survived by his sister Jane Catherine Spencer Baird of Manhattan Beach, California, and nieces and nephews Catherine Wieder of Scott Bar, CA, Richard Baird of Panama City, Florida, Virginia Humphries of Columbia, Mississippi, Ellen Anderson of Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, Erin Anderson of Hericy, France and Philip C. Anderson II of Singapore. He was preceded in death by his brother Eugene Ord Spencer and sister Marymercer Spencer Anderson. Visitation will be Friday February 25, 2005 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Callanan Mortuary, 1301 N. Western Ave., Los Angeles. A Funeral Mass will be held Saturday February 26, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at St. James' Episcopal Church, 3903 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA, (213) 388-3417. Burial will be at Mountain View Cemetery, 2400 N. Fair Oaks Ave., Altadena, CA (626) 794-7133 at approximately 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 26, 2005, Founders Lawn Section. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Jim's memory to "BSA-LAAC-Trail Boss Program" and sent to: BSA/LAAC, Attn: Devin Daugherty, 2333 Scout Way, Los Angeles, CA 90026. An online guestbook is available at www.eulogycast.com. Callanan Mortuary Directors (323) 462-2266