



Communities connected to nature through a system of trails

TRAIL CONNECTIONS

THE FUTURE IS NOW!

Volunteer trail maintenance is a critical need

By Anne Thomas with Mary Erba

Mary Erba stops at a large, rectangular rock resting alongside the trail. "Oh, here's the bench! We had to move it somewhere, but then I thought, why not make it a bench?" It's a crisp October morning, and we're hiking up the Genoa Canyon Trail to "the sign" warning to those coming downhill to proceed with great caution, and only if they have the skills and safety equipment – officially, the lower trail is not recommended for bikers and equestrians.

Mary stops to point out portions that were particularly challenging to the small team of trail builders who hauled tools, lumber and metal rebar up the steep slope just above Carson Street. They used picks, and at one point a rented demolition hammer, to chip away rock, carving switchbacks into the steep slope.

Mary now sees needed maintenance, pausing often to kick a rock or three aside. "This just needs some work with a McCloud (a heavy-duty rake/hoe)," she says.

Mary is one of CVTA's most devoted trail builders. She began as a novice, learning on the job and eventually was convinced to take a Tahoe Rim Trail volunteer trail building course. To hike with Mary is a lesson in appreciating not just the trail, but the people who make it all happen. And to be inspired to get involved.

Describe a typical day of trail building or trail maintenance for you. (The good, and the bad!)

The good part is just being out there and working hard. It's exciting to see how a trail is laid out and then created. As for the maintenance, making the trail safer and more usable is rewarding. Being out there away from noise and other distractions is wonderful. Sometimes the work is hard and you go ugh, but in the end, seeing what you have accomplished is good. As for the bad part, getting up to make the 0700 meeting time can be a challenge. But once you are up and going, it is OK. And sometimes we have to work in the heat and wearing long sleeves and long pants is hot. Those are the days you drink lots of water and take necessary breaks.

What advice would you give someone who is considering becoming involved in trail building and maintenance with CVTA?

Talk with anyone who has been out there working. There are many

different jobs that help with trail building or doing the maintenance. I really like the statement that if you use the trails, then help build or maintain the trails. One of the disappointing things is how many people say they want to help but never come out. I really wish more people would come out even just once in a while. When we have several people to work, we can cover so much more territory and get it done quicker. There are some jobs that are very hard but there are other jobs that don't require as much strength that are just as useful.

What do you think CVTA can do to encourage younger people to become involved in trail building and maintenance? What would they gain from the experience?

We have very few bikers out helping on the trails and I would really like to see more participation from them. If we could get just a few bikers out, maybe they would encourage other bikers to come and help. Even getting some high school or college kids to come out to do a community project might encourage more young people to participate. As for what they would gain from the experience, muscle building, accomplishment of a job well done, interaction with other people, and perhaps a new activity to add to their lives.

Mary's message is clear: ***The trails need more help from the communities that use them!***

Fewer people are turning out for trail maintenance days, while more users are enjoying the trails. If you benefit from the trails, please consider spending just a few days each season helping out – you might even make an interesting new friend!

To find out how to volunteer, visit the CVTA website carsonvalleytrails.org or contact info@carsonvalleytrails.org.



“The Carson Valley Trails Association honors and celebrates our volunteers, who are the heart and soul of our organization.”

By Barbara Wilson, 2015 CVTA President

This quote is one of four values set forth in the Carson Valley Trails Association’s 2009-2019 Strategic Plan. Volunteers truly are the heart and soul of CVTA – it’s “lifeflood”. **Without our exceptional, dedicated, hardworking volunteers, there would be no Carson Valley Trails Association.**

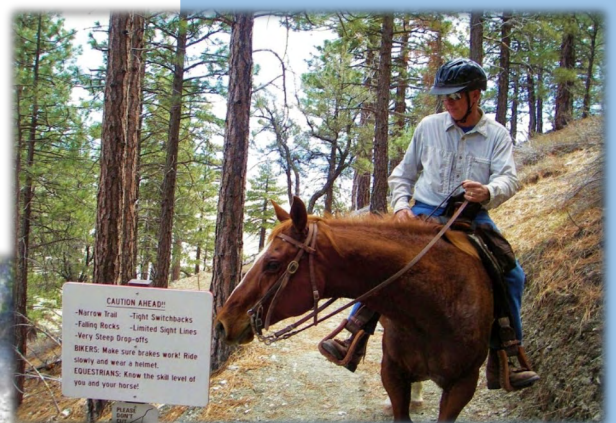
Here are just some of the ways volunteers support CVTA:

- Planning, building and maintaining trails
- Writing and administering grants for new trails
- Meeting with public and private landowners
- Writing, editing and taking photographs for the CVTA newsletter, website and Facebook page
- Creating and maintaining an excellent CVTA website
- Planning and presenting events and fundraisers
- Representing CVTA at community events
- Serving as a CVTA officer or board member



What will it take for CVTA to continue to succeed as a “nonprofit, volunteer-based organization working with partners to provide access to public lands through a recreational trail system for present and future generations to enjoy?” The answer is volunteers. CVTA members who value and enjoy the trails and support CVTA’s vision – “Communities connected to nature through a system of trails”. We have a critical need for volunteers in all areas – people who will contribute to the leadership of the organization as board members and officers. People who will come and help out on trail work days, both for trail building and ongoing maintenance projects to keep 43 miles of heavily-used trails in good condition. People who will help out when volunteers are needed for special projects and events. We currently have an extremely small group of individuals who do most of the work and we need your help!

How can you get involved? If you’re interested in joining the CVTA board, download and review the CVTA Board Member Application: <http://www.carsonvalleytrails.org/docs/CVTABoardApplication.pdf>. Nominations are ongoing. If you want to sign up for the trail work email list or volunteer when help is needed for projects and events, send an email to info@carsonvalleytrail.org. We look forward to hearing from you!



The National Trails Training Partnership estimates trail maintenance costs can be as much as \$1,500 per mile.

Year-End Fundraising —Trail Expansion, Repair & Maintenance

By Sheryl Gonzales, CVTA Fund Development VP

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Carson Valley Trails Association.

Over the last 10 years, CVTA has been successful in the completion of **43 miles of scenic, non-motorized, public trails throughout the Carson Valley.** This includes Clear Creek Trail, the Genoa Trail System, Bently-Kirman Tract Trail, Fay-Luther Trail, and the recently completed Pinyon Trail. This was made possible because of the generosity of donors, the support of 27 partnering agencies, the CVTA membership (now totaling over 300 members), and the hundreds of volunteers that helped with events and to build the trails.

Recently, CVTA completed most of the new trail construction on the Sierra Canyon Trail, rebuilding over one mile of trail to remove over twenty areas of steep, rocky trail and several unsafe turns. Additional areas on this trail need to be completed over several months, along with other locations on the Genoa Loop, mostly above the Eagle Ridge Trailhead vicinity. CVTA continues to also work closely with Douglas County to plan and implement the **Douglas County Comprehensive Trails Plan.**

In addition to the building and expansion of trails, CVTA has begun shifting resources and efforts toward the ongoing repair and maintenance of the 43 miles of trails. This becomes increasingly more important as trail use increases. CVTA is continually focusing on ensuring trail user safety as well as enhancing their experience. **The National Trails Training Partnership estimates trail maintenance costs can be as much as \$1,500 per mile.** CVTA is fortunate to have volunteers assist with keeping our costs low, however as we look to the future, it is important to plan for these costs with our existing and future trails.

This month CVTA is launching a Year End Fundraising Campaign. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 by December 31, 2015. Funds received as a part of this campaign will keep CVTA in a strong financial position to continue our mission: "Providing access to public lands through a recreational trail system for present and future generations to enjoy."

CVTA prides itself on the accomplishments made possible because of the generosity of yourself and others. We appreciate your consideration of a special year-end gift of \$10, \$25, \$100 or more. **Please help us reach our \$10,000 goal! Mail your contribution to: CVTA, P.O. Box 222, Minden, NV 89423.**



There is no "Poop Fairy"

Please use the bags provided to clean up after your dog.

If you leave a bag along the trail, please "retrieve!"



Hike for Health Report

By Brenda Hunt

The 2015 Hike for Health was held on June 6 at The Nature Conservancy's River Fork Ranch. Over 45 people attended this annual event, participating in Bird Watching, Geocaching, Basic Compass, Washoe History and a river education presentation. Other attendees enjoyed the pleasant sunny weather and partook in self-guided hikes and mountain bike rides around the 400+ acre ranch. Participants were given the opportunity to make a smoothie on a bike-powered blender, and to take a test ride on mountain bikes provided by Bike Habitat. The event wrapped up with a hearty BBQ lunch featuring Bently Ranch meat provided by Carlo Luri. The annual family-friendly event promotes hiking, biking, and/or horseback riding on amazing local trails maintained by CVTA as healthy activities to enjoy within close proximity to home. Thank you to The Nature Conservancy for allowing the use of the River Fork Ranch facility, as well as all of the CVTA volunteers that assisted with activities, setup and clean up! You all are truly amazing. We hope more CVTA members and others will join us at next year's event!

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Barb Wilson

Vice President /President Elect

Joni Jackson

VP—Fund Development

Sheryl Gonzales

Past President

Carlo Luri

Secretary

Michael Hartstein

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Juan Guzman Sue Knight

Steve Hale Brenda Hunt

Marcia Kerl

Carson Valley Trails Association

P.O. Box 222

Minden NV 89423



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Your annual membership dues and donations to the Carson Valley Trails Association, a Nevada 501(c)(3) organization, may be tax deductible pursuant to the provisions of section 170.c. of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 26 U.S.C. 170.c. All proceeds go toward trail construction and maintenance, project planning, community events and trail access in the Carson Valley.

MY FAVORITE VIEW

By Anne Thomas

I love the portion of the Clear Creek Trail that begins on Jacks Valley Road and winds west up into the rocky terrain. Some might think it 's bleak, but to me this trail is magical! The rock formations get more and more interesting as you go along, and suddenly you are presented with an uninterrupted panoramic view of the Carson Range, featuring the majestic Jobs Peak! It's not a big uphill climb to get there. If you have an hour or two, you can enjoy a nice hike and take in the view. It's my favorite, and you'll probably see a mountain biker or two—the trail is a favorite of theirs as well!



Do you have a favorite view for the next newsletter? Send your description to info@carsonvalleytrails.org

CVTA Thanks

- **The Nature Conservancy** for use of the Whit Hall Interpretive Center and River Fork Ranch for meetings and events!
- **Pinyon Trail Opening volunteers** who made our trail opening a success!
- **Hike for Health volunteer expertise** and hard work, making this another successful event!
- Friends and former board members – **Deby O'Gorman's** thoughtful perspective on equestrian trail issues made a great contribution to the board. **Genie Littlebeaver** has always been willing to lend a hand with trail projects, and reminded us to include a Washoe blessing as part of the grand opening celebrations for new trails.

The Carson Valley Trails Association is a non-profit, volunteer based organization working with partners to provide access to public lands through a recreational trail system for present and future generations to enjoy.

WWW.CARSONVALLEYTRAILS.ORG

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CARSON VALLEY TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Accomplishments 2009-2015

Established 43 miles of public trails in the Carson Valley:

Clear Creek Trail – 10 miles
Genoa Trail System – 16 miles.
Bently-Kirman Tract Trail – 4 miles
Fay-Luther/Jobs Peak Ranch – 9 miles
Pinyon Trail – 4 miles

Partnered with 29 agencies:

Alliance for Nevada Nonprofits
Alpine County
American Hiking Society
US Bureau of Land Management
Carson City Parks and Recreation
Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce
Carson Valley Visitors Authority
Douglas County
Eagle Scouts
General Electric
Grace Christian Academy
Greater Genoa Business Association
Harley Davidson
Harrahs Lake Tahoe/Reno
Harveys
NPL Construction
National Environmental Education Foundation
Nevada Division of State Lands
Nevada Conservation Corps
NV Energy
Reno Tahoe Territory
Starbucks
Southwest Gas
Target
The Nature Conservancy
Tahoe Rim Trail Association
The Bingham Charitable Fund at the
Community Foundation of Western
Nevada
U.S. Forest Service
The Washoe Tribe of Nevada & California

Received \$905,378

from partners and donors including:

American Hiking Society
Carson Valley Visitors Authority
Carson Valley Medical Center
David and Betsy Lewis
Fairweather Foundation
GE Energy
Harley – Davidson Financial Services
Kerstin and Charles Wolle
Knights of Columbus
Nevada Division of State Lands- Question One Funds
Nevada Division of State Parks – Nevada Recreational Trails
National Environmental Education Foundation
National Park Service
Red Barn Ranch—Ed and Sarah Groenendyke
Reno Tahoe Territory
Sierra Pacific Foundation/NV Energy Foundation
The Bingham Charitable Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada
Timken-Sturgis Foundation



**Increased
membership by 300%**
from 100 in 2007 to 300 in
2015.

**Pinyon Trail built
with 1,800 volun-
teer hours**

Genoa Trail System built with 8,500 volunteer hours

360 – Target, Grace Christian Academy, NV Energy
8,140 - CVTA Volunteers

Created greater community awareness with
7 marketing and publicity programs
including:
Facebook page
CVTA Newsletter
Local Trails Guide
Genoa Trail System brochure
Comprehensive website
Annual Hike for Health Event
Annual Meeting and Social



**Over 4,200 volunteer hours of trail build-
ing to construct the Clear Creek Trail**

2,600 hours – CVTA volunteers
1,600 hours - The Nature Conservancy, Starbucks, Harrahs
Lake Tahoe/Reno, Harveys Lake Tahoe, Harley-Davidson,
GE, Southwest Gas, and NPL volunteers