

THE INSIDE SCOOP

Fay Luther adds interpretive signs

Staff Reports

Volunteers from the Carson Valley Trails Association recently installed 11 signs on the interpretive loop of the Fay Luther Trail system.

These signs provide trail users with information about flora and fauna, the Fay and Luther families, the Washoe Tribe, Snowshoe Thompson, surrounding natural forces, and the interaction of humans with the geography and ecosystems of the Carson Valley area. Sign fabrication was funded by the Nevada Recreational Trails Program, a grant program administered by the Nevada Division of State Parks.

More than 70 volunteers assisted with the planning, design, text, artwork, photographs, feedback and installation of these signs, which are designed to interest both adults and children.

To view the new signs, start at the Fay-Luther Trailhead and follow signs to the loop.

The round-trip distance from the trailhead to the loop is approximately 2.4 miles. The Fay-Luther Trailhead is located on Foothill Road, 4.5 miles



Carson Valley Trails Association volunteers Dick Morissette, Chuck Kelley and Kerstin Wolle, assisting with the installation of the new interpretive signs on the Fay-Luther Trail.

Special to The R-C

south of the Kingsbury Grade. "CVTA thanks everyone involved with creating these signs and helping to provide an enjoyable, valuable and educa-

tional resource within the Carson Valley," said CVTA President Kerstin Wolle. "These signs are a great addition to the Fay-Luther Trail."

More information about CVTA, including trail maps and additional projects, is available online at www.carsonvalley-trails.org

Volunteers work to link rim trail to new park

by Adam Jensen
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A small army of volunteers wielding sledgehammers and stout rakes are working on a segment of trail between the future Van Sickle Bi-State Park and the 165-mile Tahoe Rim Trail.

Facilities at the 416-acre Bi-State Park, which is located just behind Heavenly Village, are under construction.

The work is part of 13 miles of trail Tahoe Rim Trail Association crew leaders hope to complete by the end of summer 2011. Volunteers, bolstered by professional trail crews and conservation corps, constructed a little less than four miles of the new trail last summer.

The work also includes the construction of trail on both sides of Kingsbury Grade that will provide scenic day hikes and move three miles of the rim trail from pavement to forest.

Construction on the Van Sickle connector and Kingsbury trails is

guided by Clay Grubb, a South Shore resident and a former reconnaissance Marine whose accent reveals an Alabama upbringing. Grubb has led maintenance and construction on the rim trail for the past seven years.

But construction on new sections is truly a collective effort, Grubb said, noting volunteers have put in about 400,000 hours into building the rim trail since 1984.

The gradually sloping trail cuts through the heart of the area burned by the 2002 Gondola fire. And what the trail lacks in shade, it makes up for in stunning views of Lake Tahoe's South Shore. A small waterfall just over a mile from the trailhead will also make an enticing day trip.

The waterfall currently marks the end of the Van Sickle Connector trail, which has yet to open to the public.

While heavy lifting of granite boulders was going on at several locations of the connector on



Adam Jensen / Tahoe Daily Tribune

Crew Leader Bill Weik, supervises the removal of a granite slab from a trail that will connect the Van Sickle Bi-State Park to the Tahoe Rim Trail on June 29.

June 29, the Rim Trail Association has volunteer opportunities for just about every level of physical activity.

Work on the trail segments includes "everything from rock wall construction to gardening," Grubb said.

And each job is equally important, said Crew Leader Bill Weik.

"There's no job more important than any other out here," Weik said, supervising the clearing of a large granite slab from a section of trail.

A sense of responsibility moti-

vates many to give their time to the project, Weik said.

"For a lot of people, it's pay-back," Weik said. "They use the trail system and it's their way of giving back."

"We're down and dirty and sweaty, but it's really satisfying to see the work get done at the end of the day," Weik added.

The Rim Trail Association hosts twice weekly volunteer days through September.

For more information, visit www.tahoerimtrail.org.

YOU SAID IT!

What's your favorite ice cream?

Asked by Shannon Litz at Boys & Girls Club of Carson Valley



Gabe Wetzel
10-years-old

"Cookie dough because of the chocolate."



Ryan Henman
6-years-old

"Vanilla because it's white."



Tyler Cotton
13-years-old

"Cookies and cream because I really like cookies."



Keegan Bryce
11-years-old

"Mint chocolate chip because I just really like mint and chocolate chips."



Sierra Sullivan
10-years-old

"Strawberry because I like pink."

The Record-Courier

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