

Spring/Summer 2016



Communities connected
to nature
through a system
of trails



TRAIL CONNECTIONS

Family Friendly Hiking

Building a lifelong love of the trails



Molly Turner and her four “kiddos” have become regulars on Carson Valley trails in the two years since they moved back to this area where Molly grew up. “The trails weren’t here when I moved away, and I can’t get enough of them!” she says. “I always decide at the last minute that we are going on a hike, before any one of us has to rush off to sports, work, or other plans. Our favorite trail right now is Jobs Peak. It’s super easy on my knees, and offers gorgeous views of the valley!” They are currently training on Carson Valley trails for a summer Tahoe Rim Trail backpacking trip with friends, and frequently run into other hikers who are doing the same thing.

“I’ve taken a number of girlfriends out on the Fay-Luther/Jobs Peak trail,” Molly says. “They say they want to hike with their kids, but think they cannot do it alone. I get to pack their babies on my back and point out the few flowers and plants that I know the names of to their toddlers, and they fall in love with the trails. The moms realize for the first time that they have something close by that their little ones are capable of doing. The kids get excited that such amazing adventures are so close to home, and new lovers of the CVTA trails are born!”



Molly’s 11-year-old daughter Joscelyn hikes with her the most. “The bonding that happens between us during those hikes is priceless.” The older boys were more apt to hike before she finally broke down and allowed an Xbox in their home. “Anyone want to purchase an Xbox? I think ours will be for sale soon!” she laughs.

For Molly’s family, hiking is more than just exercise. Her three older kids are adopted siblings—Alexis, 18, Julian, 16, and Jordan, 15. “My kiddos have been through a lot in their young lives. Hiking and camping together is a way to step out of whatever is going on and enjoy the purity of God’s beauty, fresh air, and each other, without interruptions – it’s just so healing for all of us.”

In this issue, the Carson Valley Trails Association encourages children, parents and families of all ages to take a hike, explore the outdoors, and discover the natural beauty of Carson Valley.



President's Message

Joni Jackson, CVTA President

Carson Valley Trails are Fun for Families

The end of the school year is fast approaching, and families will be looking for ways to fill the long summer days, which is why we've devoted this issue of Trail Connections to **Family Hiking**. It's one of the healthiest ways to pass the time, building physical strength, learning about local history and nature, and strengthening family bonds. Young hikers don't need to put in lots of miles—just get them out onto the first few hundred yards, and let them make discoveries at their own pace. Bring along some trail mix or energy bars, plenty of water, and your sense of adventure. Our featured hiking families will inspire you, our Ready, Set Go! feature will get you started, and you can find everything you need to know about our trails at carsonvalleytrails.org. **Ready, set, GO HIKING!**

Volunteers are the heart and soul of CVTA. With no paid staff, every trail and every event is the result of thousands of volunteer hours. This year's **Annual Meeting and Social**, celebrating CVTA'S 20th anniversary, was a huge success due to an amazing group of volunteers. Thank you to Peggy Ristorcelli, Lyndsey Bednar, Linda Kleiner, Maydelin Griffith, John Drube, Linda McDougal and Elise Erickson. We had beer on tap thanks to Shane Harper of Capital Beverages and Ninkasi Brewery. Also, we had our name in lights! Traci Ferrante had our flyer put on the Fandango marquee the entire week before the event. Thanks also go to our social media promoters, Kevin Bigley and Jeff Prater. An event of this size requires not only time and energy but funding as well, so we want to thank Douglas County Parks & Recreation Director Scott Morgan, who donated a portion of the room rental fee. A special thank you to the East Fork Fire Protection District for bringing and displaying the litter wheel CVTA donated to the district for use with the Stokes rescue basket used by emergency responders for backcountry and trail rescues.

Many past leaders and founding members of CVTA were present to celebrate the work they began over 20 years ago. A big thank you to all who made this Annual Meeting and Social one of the best including those in attendance that jumped in to support CVTA'S efforts by signing up to volunteer, becoming members or purchasing CVTA merchandise. Thanks to you all! It's going to be hard to top it next year. Hope you'll join us in trying!

CVTA Thanks Our Retiring Board Members

Sue Moxley served on the board for 6 years starting in 2009. She worked on the committee that spearheaded the first CVTA Hike for Health event. With Sue serving on the committee for all 6 years of her tenure, this event is now celebrated annually. Sue was an active CVTA board member taking on the role of membership records coordinator for several years and the Vice President of Outreach for an additional year. Although Sue is leaving the CVTA board she still is involved with CVTA outreach activities.



Sue Knight was elected to the board in 2013, serving for 3 years. She acted as the CVTA volunteer coordinator, a key position given the organization relies solely on volunteers to complete its work. She has worked as a volunteer bartender at several CVTA events and has promoted CVTA through her many other volunteer activities including the Friends of Snowshoe Thompson, the Greater Genoa Business Association and the Genoa Visitors Booth.

Sanne Steele became a board member in 2011 offering her equestrian perspective to CVTA's work. For her over four year tenure she served as CVTA's Treasurer. Her financial and professional skills ensured CVTA's fiscal health remained robust and financial reporting was complete and of high caliber. Sanne's family business, Steele & Associates donated the preparation of the CVTA's 990 filing each year during her time as treasurer.



CVTA thanks each of our retiring board members for their unique contributions that benefitted CVTA's mission, its members, and the trails we all love.

Ready, Set, Go! Family Hiking

A Guide to Family Fun on the Trails



The **Bently-Kirman Tract Trail** on Heybourne Road off of Stephanie Lane is a hiking-only trail, and provides families with unique access to the Carson River and incredible views of the mountains. The trail leads to a willow and wetland habitat that supports animals and migratory birds. Two sandbars located just over a mile from the trailhead naturally call to children, with great opportunities to spy on ducks, make a boat from twigs, and get little feet wet. Two caveats: as this is conservation land on private property, no dogs are allowed. Also, in summer hikes can be hot and exposed. Fall through Spring is the best time to visit.



Although the **Sierra Canyon Trail** is one of CVTA's longest trails, it still has nice, shorter-hike destinations for families. Just 3/4 mile from the trailhead off of Centennial Drive in Genoa is a stream crossing with a bridge. The trail to the bridge travels uphill in the partial shade of pines until you arrive at the cool, shady crossing. Throughout spring, there are different flowers blooming near the crossing. In summer, monarch butterflies soar and lizards scamper the hillside above the bridge. Two miles from the trailhead is another stream crossing in the shade. As this would make a 4 mile roundtrip hike with kids, be sure to bring water and snacks. Dogs, horses and bikes are all welcome on this trail. After the hike, you'll find food, drink and ICE CREAM(!) as well as information about local history, in the historic Town of Genoa.

You have lots of options on the **Fay-Luther Trail**. The trailhead is at the large parking lot on Foothill Road across from the Fay Canyon Ranch. This trail system features interpretive signs where families can learn about the history, wildlife, and geology of the area, and it's a favorite trail for horses and dogs who enjoy the opportunity to lap up some water at Luther Creek, less than 2 miles from the trailhead, or at the stream crossings on the Valley View Loop. To get to Luther Creek via the Fay-Luther Interpretive Loop Trail, take the Sandy Trail to the Interpretive Loop and follow the signs. At just over a mile, before the trail takes a sharp turn right and heads uphill, you'll see the creek your left. Time to make boats out of twigs and have a race, balance on the rocks in the stream, or cool those hot summer toes in the water. This is a great all-season hike. To reach the Valley View Loop stream crossing, take the Fay-Luther/Jobs Peak Ranch Trail. At about 8/10 mile you'll see a giant house-sized boulder downhill to your right. Kids love to climb on this rock! After pondering how that boulder got there, continue on to the Valley View Trail at the next junction. After 1/2 mile, you'll see another sign marking the loop. Take the trail to the left or the right; there are stream crossings at about 1/4 mile in either direction.



The Nature Conservancy's **River Fork Ranch** along the Carson River and Brockliss Slough is a nature preserve that's also a working cattle ranch—the best of everything in Carson Valley! Start out from the large parking lot on Genoa Lane, a mile east of the Town of Genoa, and be sure to check out the interpretive signs at the Whit Hall Interpretive Center. Then, keep eyes and ears open for everything from blackbirds and bald eagles to frogs and turtles. You might even spot a cowboy or two!



Before you head out, visit our website at www.carsonvalleytrails.org for CVTA's trail maps, and our **Trail Treasures** guides with ideas and activities for hiking with children. While you're out, slow down and give the kids opportunities to explore the things they discover, and you will see the world through their eyes.

Fun Fundraising

Join in to benefit CVTA

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO

CVTA has been selected as the designated charity for the **Friday, June 24, 6:00 p.m. Knights of Columbus Bingo at St. Gall Catholic Church.** A \$500 donation is guaranteed, and \$10 will be added to this for each player over 130 that night. CVTA members and supporters are encouraged to “come out and play.” This is the 3rd time CVTA has been selected as the designated charity. Donations from previous events in 2011 and 2013 totaled \$2840! Many thanks to CVTA/Knights members, Dick Morissette and Ed Sutor, for advocating for CVTA! Doors open at 6:00 pm with a warm up game starting at 7:00 pm. The event is open to the public and cash prizes are awarded. Because of the cash awards, no one under the age of 21 can play. The \$21 minimum package includes a 3-card warm-up, a 10-card play package and a blackout/progressive card. Additional cards may be purchased and a progressive jackpot is awarded. Complimentary coffee and popcorn are available. Hot dogs, hamburgers, French fries, beer, wine, bottled water and soft drinks can be purchased.



CVTA is the designated charity on **Sunday, August 7, 1:00-4:00 p.m.** Buy a ticket, get a glass, and mosey around town visiting the local businesses and sipping their signature concoctions using the month's featured spirit. Then gather around at the Genoa Bar for live music and a prize drawing. More information at www.genoasweetsippinsundays.com

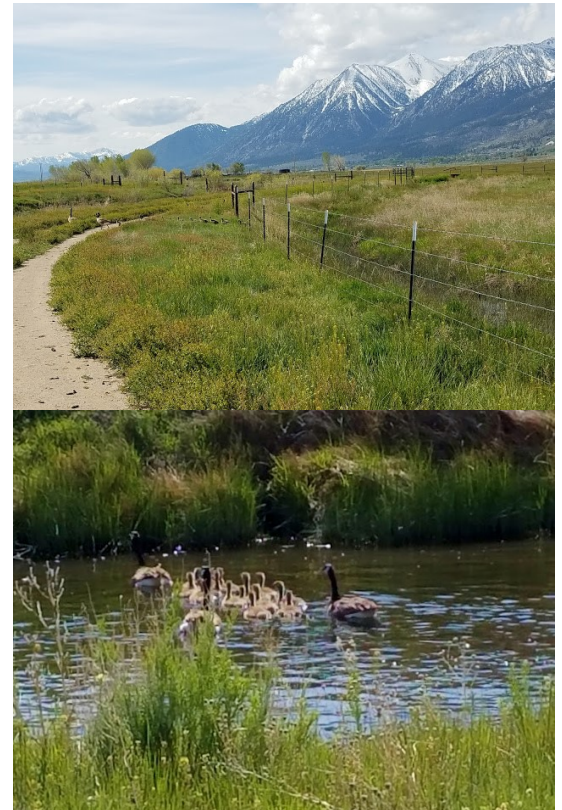
OUTDOOR LEARNING

Family Nature Hike at The Nature Conservancy's River Fork Ranch

Join the fun on **Friday, June 17 at 10:00 a.m.** as Nature Conservancy staff and CVTA volunteers take you on a tour of the nature preserve. You'll learn about the birds, bats, turtles, frogs, fish, beaver, deer and other critters that share the habitat with the cattle on this working ranch. It's part of the Summer Reading program at Douglas County Library. This year's theme is sports, fitness & health, and there is no better way to stay healthy than hiking and exploring nature. River Fork Ranch is on Genoa Lane, just a mile east of the Town of Genoa. We'll see you there!

Meanwhile, back at the Library ...

A CVTA display is at the Douglas County Library in Minden in May and moving to the Lake Tahoe branch in Zephyr Cove for June and July. The focus is on children, teens, and families enjoying Carson Valley trails. Stop by to see the display, and pick up copies of our three “Trail Treasures” brochures for Fay-Luther, Sierra Canyon, and River Fork Ranch trails.



"If a child is to keep his inborn sense of wonder, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in." - **Rachel Carson**

The Carson Valley Trails Association Story—A Vision, a Voice, a Victory for Carson Valley

1994 – Carson Valley equestrians Ame Hellman, Sue Ellen Wright, and Lorilyn Chitwood recognize that development of the ranch properties along Foothill Road will soon block public access to the National Forest lands in the Eastern Sierra. Carson Valley Access Committee (CVAC) is born.

1996 – CVAC incorporates as a non-profit and gathers 500 signatures on a petition for trails access on the proposed Jobs Peak Ranch subdivision, citing the 1996 Master Plan requirement that new development adjacent to public lands provide access. The issue of access at JPR remains in negotiations for the next ten years, but CVAC's work raises awareness in the community.

1999 – Opportunity knocks, and CVAC partners with the American Land Conservancy to secure funding to purchase a parcel on Foothill for a trailhead near Luther Creek. The land is deeded to the US Forest Service in 2000 as the Fay-Luther Trailhead.

2000-01 – Carson Valley Access Committee is renamed Carson Valley Trails Association (CVTA), and receives tax-exempt status from the IRS.

2002-03 – CVTA and other stakeholders work with Douglas County to develop the Douglas County Comprehensive Trails Plan to supplement the Master Plan. CVTA President Barbara Slade spends many hours attending county planning and commissioner meetings, advocating for trails access. CVTA membership grows to about 100.

2003 – Phase 1 of the Fay-Luther Trail, Carson Valley's first public access trail into the Eastern Sierra, is completed.

2004 – CVTA President Kerstin Wolle initiates the development of a Strategic Plan, and standing committees are formed to support and implement CVTA's Mission and Vision.

2007 – CVTA embarks on an ambitious, extended membership and fundraising drive through public events, private donations, and public funding sources. Public use of the Fay-Luther Trail grows steadily; more trails are added and it is renamed the Fay-Luther Trail System. The Jobs Peak Ranch Trail is built.

2008 – Fay-Luther Trail System and Jobs Peak Ranch Trail are connected. CVTA proposes the Genoa Trail System and the Clear Creek Trail, wins a major NV State Lands Q1 grant, and raises the required match to fund the Genoa Trail System. CVTA wins two smaller grants to fund interpretive signage at Fay-Luther.

2009 – CVTA works with stakeholders, aided by a National Park Service facilitation grant, to implement projects. CVTA updates the 5-year Strategic Plan, and a new 10-year plan is put in place. CVTA partners with Boy Scouts and The Nature Conservancy to open the Bently-Kirman Tract Trail.

2010—CVTA is honored as Service Club of the Year by the Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and The Record-Courier.

2011 – US Forest Service approves Clear Creek Trail and Genoa Trail System. CVTA wins a training grant to develop organizational capacity.

2012 – The Genoa Trail System opens, adding 16 miles of trails access from Carson Valley. CVTA wins a grant to help fund Clear Creek trail.

2013 – BLM approves Pinyon Trail.

2014 – The 10-mile Clear Creek Trail opens.

2015 – The 5-mile Pinyon Trail loop opens.

2016 – CVTA is a highly respected organization with over 300 members. New volunteers are needed to help maintain the many new trails, and to serve in leadership positions on the board.

To learn about leadership opportunities, contact us at:

info@carsonvalleytrails.org



Trail Operations Report

Jeremy Vlcan, VP Trails Operations

After several years of planning and studies, the **Fay-Luther Grandview Loop Extension** was completed on April 26, adding 0.5 mile of trail along the ridge to the south of the main trail, and it does indeed have grand views. The trail was constructed by an **American Conservation Experience** crew. ACE is a non-profit organization that offers “opportunities for both American and International volunteers to take



part in challenging outdoor projects.” They needed a training site for the new volunteers who were from many different states. Most were recent college graduates or still in college. The BLM approved the project just in time for this trail to be built. Since it was mostly basic construction, it was a great opportunity for ACE and CVTA to work together. Over 50 people participated in the project/training, led by Phil Brisack from CVTA and Patrick Parsel from ACE. Mary Erba and Donna Maher from CVTA provided expert trail finishing leadership on the last day. (Contributed by Phil Brisack)

The 16-mile **Genoa Trail System** has been cleared of winter rock fall. Three realignments and a turn adjustment will be completed this spring.

Annual maintenance of **Clear Creek Trail** is complete. Four significant improvements in February included a realignment 1/4 mile above the main upper Jacks Valley trailhead to improve trail flow for bikers and control erosion; widening the radius of a climbing turn for mountain bikes about 1/2 mile above the upper Jacks Valley trailhead; and a 150-foot realignment on the east side approach onto the road crossing just before the bridge to better align the east and west approaches. This removes the previous zig zag that crossed the road which for bikes, was annoying and broke up the momentum needed to climb the road bank. A 40-foot realignment about 1/2 mile below Knob Point was done primarily to improve sight line and increase the radius turn around a small ridge.



CVTA is working with the US Forest Service on a \$19,750 contract to complete analysis of the **Clear Creek Trail extension** up to Spooner Summit.

Unfortunately there has been no progress on the negotiations with State Lands regarding development of the **Clear Creek Trailhead** at the Hwy 50 interchange. Parking at the interchange continues to increase as more people use the trail. CVTA will continue to work toward a resolution. Meanwhile, Clear Creek officially remains an in-and-out trail.



Eagle Scout Lee Jongsma built a 30-foot section to complete a 100-foot boardwalk at **Bently-Kirman Tract Trail**. Spring projects include relocating the kiosk to the junction of Heybourne Road and the trailhead access road and installing a new kiosk at the trailhead; updating trail signs and maps; and constructing a one-mile trail for another loop option. Douglas County is installing signs on the Stephanie/Heybourne and Heybourne/Kirman access roads. Graveling of the access road will be done by A & A construction. The Nature Conservancy is helping coordinate these projects with volunteer groups from Starbucks Carson Valley Roasting Distribution Center, Nature's Bakery and Harley-Davidson Financial Group.

Annual maintenance of the entire **Pinyon Trail** was completed in February.

OUR MISSION

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.

OUR VISION

Communities connected to nature through a system of trails.

OUR VALUES

- ◆ We honor and celebrate our volunteers.
- ◆ We collaborate and work with many partners in our community.
- ◆ We work efficiently and act with integrity.
- ◆ We are committed to trail stewardship.



Please Join Us!

Annual Membership Levels:

- ☐ \$25 Individual
- ☐ \$35 Family
- ☐ \$15 Senior/Student
- ☐ \$45 Business

Annual Sponsorship Levels (Includes Membership):

- ☐ Carson River \$50 or more
- ☐ Pine Nut Mountains \$100 or more
- ☐ Carson Range \$500 or more
- ☐ Jobs Peak \$1000 or more

I want to volunteer! I am interested in:

- ☐ Trail building/maintenance
- ☐ Being a Trail Scout or Trailhead Guardian
- ☐ Fundraising
- ☐ Community outreach
- ☐ Marketing/Publicity
- ☐ Assisting with CVTA events/activities
- ☐ Serving on the CVTA board
- ☐ Other _____

Please print clearly:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone _____

*Email _____

*Members receive the CVTA Newsletter and periodic notifications about CVTA events and volunteer opportunities.
We will not sell or share your mailing or email address.

To join, complete and mail this form with check payable to:

**Carson Valley Trails Association
P.O. Box 222, Minden NV 89423**

Your donation to CVTA, a 501(c)(3) Nevada nonprofit 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.

Thank You!

CVTA Officers & Board

President

Joni Jackson

VP Fund Development/Pres. Elect

Sheryl Gonzales

Past President

Barb Wilson

Secretary

Michael Hartstein

Treasurer

Marcia Kerl

VP Trail Operations

Jeremy Vlcan

VP Outreach

Juan Guzman

Board

Margie Donaldson Steve Hale

Norah Gastelum Brenda Hunt

Carlo Luri

Newsletter

Anne Thomas

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, June 17 10:00 a.m.

Family Hike, River Fork Ranch

Friday, June 24 6:00 p.m.

BINGO at St. Gall Church
benefits CVTA

Sunday, August 7 1-4 p.m.

Genoa's Sweet Sippin' Sunday
benefits CVTA

Saturday, September 17

Annual Hike for Health event



Luis Caldera and family enjoy a stroll on the Pinyon Trail

There is no poop fairy.



Please clean up after your dog.

**Use the bags provided
and dispose of them
properly. Thank you!**

2015 Year-End Campaign

We're excited to announce our that in 2015, we raised more \$7700 during our inaugural year-end campaign! As a non-profit volunteer organization, CVTA is successful in the building and maintenance of the 43 miles of CVTA trails because of the financial support we receive from our donors and the work of our volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you—thank you!

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WWW.CARSONVALLEYTRAILS.ORG

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