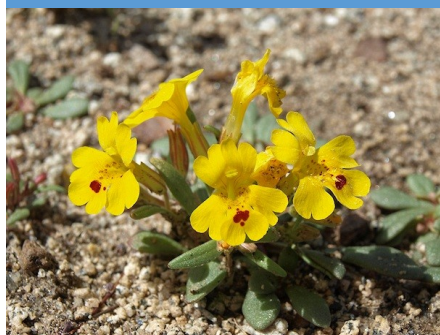


Spring/Summer 2017



Communities connected
to nature
through a system
of trails



Carson Valley monkeyflower



Lavin eggvetch



Steamboat monkeyflower

Photos: Jim Morefield



Photo: Anne Thomas

Wildflower Season on the Trails

By Jim Morefield

The growing network of Carson Valley trails provides gateways to many different wonders and this year our native backcountry wildflowers promise to be top among them. Over the years, CVTA trails have given my family (kids and dogs included!) the enjoyment of exercise, valley views, and access to higher country. As a botanist by profession and avocation, my eyes can't help scanning the plant life constantly along the way. I always pack a camera for those irresistible flower moments. If you see a guy on his belly with a camera in his face, don't worry, I'm still breathing! In my job I work with the rarest species, so I'm especially excited by the obscure or unusual flowers, but I also try to capture the more common and showy ones. For an online collection of identified images, search for my name on flickr.com, and an album named Carson Valley Trails Wildflowers.

Trails in the CVTA network pass through a diversity of biological zones, from sagebrush semi-desert and pinyon-juniper woodlands, through interior chaparral and Jeffrey pine forests, into subalpine fir forests and across wetland and floodplain areas. Each of these zones harbors its own diversity of plant life, with different species showing up at different times of year during the growing season.

With their sandy granite soils and higher annual rainfall, the areas around the westside trails (Fay-Luther, Jobs Peak Ranch, Genoa, Clear Creek) present a mix of Great Basin and Sierra Nevada species. On the east side, the Pinyon Trail traverses limestone and clay soils in a drier climate, which support a much different but still exciting diversity of wildflowers. On River Fork and Bently Heritage trails you encounter floodplain and wetland species that bloom later in the year, well after peak runoff.

With a keen eye, you can spot some of our local rare wildflowers near our trails. The sandy slopes and flats of Carson Valley and Washoe Valley are the only places in the world where Carson Valley monkeyflowers (*Erythranthe carsonensis*) live, including spots near the Fay-Luther and Clear Creek trailheads. This tiny annual species produces bright yellow, red-spotted flowers after wet winters. In dry years, seeds remain dormant, camouflaged in the sand, awaiting the next drought-buster. Lavin eggvetch (*Astragalus oophorus lavinii*, in the Pea Family) is found only in the Pine Nut and Sweetwater mountains and the Wellington, Pine Grove, and Bodie hills. If you happen across either of these species, you can help maintain up-to-date conservation information by reporting sightings to my office at the Nevada Natural Heritage Program (<http://heritage.nv.gov>).

President's Message

By Sheryl Gonzales



snowplant
Fay-Luther/Jobs Peak trail

This 2016-17 winter weather brought a tremendous end to the drought throughout the Sierra Nevada! At press time, the snowpack was reportedly at 200% above normal with more to come. It is wonderful to hike the trails near creeks and lakes and to see them completely full. Spring flowers this year are expected to be spectacular – and while it may be some time before the snow clears in the mountains, our trails in the lower-elevation foothills are virtually snow-free and ready for outdoor hiking enthusiasts to enjoy spring in all its glory now.



New rock crossing at Genoa Canyon creek

Of course, the weather also brought a lot of damage to the CVTA trails. Our Trail Operations Vice President Jeremy Vlcan has been out in force with volunteers mitigating the damage sustained on the trails. As you will see in the photos in the **Trail Operations** report, there was quite a bit of damage from cascading water throughout the trail system, creating ruts of all sizes, bringing down rocks and trees, and lifting up benches and walkways. Fourteen trees fell on the Genoa Trail alone! Many thanks to those who came out to clean up and rebuild some of our trails this season. This work definitely made the trails safer for all!

Past President Joni Jackson and her committee did a fantastic job organizing the **CVTA Annual Meeting and Social** on March 7th. We are very appreciative of the Douglas County Community Services Department staff for allowing the use of the large dining room and kitchen at the beautiful Douglas County Community and Senior Center! Over 160 people attended CVTA's 2017 meeting where trail updates were given, volunteers were

recognized, and the community heard about the progress CVTA continues to make in providing the 46 miles of trails for our community and visitors. Thanks Joni and to your committee for a wonderful evening and meeting!

If you haven't heard, CVTA has a new website! Chief Information Officer Mike Hartstein has worked the majority of 2016 and continues in 2017 developing the new website with the goal of creating greater ease for members and others to be involved with CVTA. If you haven't checked out the new website, take some time, create your membership account and take the opportunity to access trail information and continuous updates on the status of trails at carsonvalleytrails.org.

CVTA is in great shape because of our members, the volunteer involvement, and donations received throughout the year. The CVTA trails are a reflection of the wonderful community in which we live – a community that cares and involves itself by volunteering and supporting CVTA and the many organizations that make Carson Valley a vibrant place to live and work. I am proud to be a part of the CVTA Board that volunteers to manage, maintain and look for opportunities to bring public access to our beautiful outdoors through our trails. We have much to be thankful for.

Many thanks to you all – see you on the Trails!

Sheryl



Fay-Luther kiosk refurbish
by Eagle Scout Cody Jackson



Friends and family of Cody Jackson clear brush at
Fay-Luther



Congratulations, Juan Guzman!

THE CARSON WATER SUBCONSERVANCY DISTRICT (CWSD) has selected CVTA Outreach VP, Juan Guzman, to receive the 2017 Andy Aldax Carson River Watershed Award for Exemplary Service in Conservation and Protection of the Carson River Watershed. The award, created in 2007, recognizes individuals or organizations that actively demonstrate a 10+ year commitment and accomplish plans and projects to improve and sustain the Carson River Watershed. Read more about Juan and this award on the Carson Valley Trails Association Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CarsonValleyTrails/> or on our website at carsonvalleytrails.org.



GENOA PEAK MADATHON IS BACK!

24 MILE EVENT & 8 MILE EVENT
SATURDAY, JUNE 10TH, 2017

DETAILS AT:

[HTTP://ASCENTRUNS.COM/EVENTS/TAHOE-DIRTVERT-SERIES/GENOA-PEAK-MADATHON/](http://ascentruns.com/events/tahoe-dirtvert-series/genoa-peak-madathon/)



Knights of Columbus



BINGO

Benefit Night for CVTA!

Friday, May 12, 2017, 7 p.m.*

At the St. Gall Pastoral Center

1343 Centerville Lane, Gardnerville

(Must be age 21 or over to be admitted)

Cost to play: \$21 (additional bingo sheets are \$5)

CVTA will receive a minimum of \$1000!

*Free coffee and popcorn provided. Hamburgers, chili dogs, soda, wine and beer are available for purchase. *Doors and snack bar open at 6 p.m.; bingo begins at 7 p.m. If you plan to eat dinner, we suggest that you arrive no later than 6:30 p.m.*

PONY EXPRESS TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED

CVTA congratulates Douglas County on receiving a grant from the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) for non-monetary technical assistance related to potential multi-use trail improvements to a section of the **Pony Express National Historic Trail in the upper Kingsbury Grade area, east of Dagget Summit**. We look forward to participating as a stakeholder group.

The primary objectives are:

- * Develop consensus on trail access, routing, and future development
- * Collaboratively develop trail planning goals / objectives and design concepts
- * Build and strengthen the partnership team to support ongoing plan implementation



Photo: National Pony Express Association

TRAIL OPERATIONS—A BUSY SPRING

By Jeremy Vican

This has been a very busy spring for our crews because in addition to regular maintenance, winter storms meant that some of our trails saw damage like never before. CVTA extends a big THANK YOU to the dedicated volunteers who work to ensure that our trails are in the best condition possible.

Much of the **Bently Heritage Trail System** flooded in January and February. Trail maintenance is completed on three of the five miles of trail. One day was spent clearing debris including dozens of fallen willows and brush. A



Boardwalk at Bently Heritage Trail

50-foot section of trail washed away by the river has been realigned. The main boardwalk, which flooded, froze, and upheaved a foot, is being reinstalled.

The **Clear Creek Trail** was realigned along the upper emergency access road due to erosion which created deep channels, undercut the trail, and created a steep drop. The developer is planning to build a retention basin to mitigate drainage problems. Repairs were made on the lower portion near the trailhead, where runoff caused deep ruts where the trail crosses old roads.



Rock work on Clear Creek Trails



Repairs on lower Clear Creek Trail



Rutted road near trailhead on Jacks Valley

The **Fay-Luther/Jobs Peak Ranch Trail System** required repair of damage and washouts in several places. Both protective water bars above the **Fay-Luther Trailhead** were rebuilt to prevent sand from washing into the parking lot. A portion of the **Interpretive Trail** that is usually dry year-round was rebuilt due to storm water damage. A short realignment was needed on the north portion of the **Grand View Loop** to improve a drainage crossing. Three fallen trees were removed, and brush was removed from a section of trail at the **Jobs Peak Ranch Trailhead**.

(continued on next page)



Interpretive Loop rebuild and armoring



Grandview Loop realigned



Fallen tree on Fay-Luther/Jobs Peak Trail



Tree removal, Sierra Canyon



Razor Ridge washout



Tree fall, Pinyon Trail



Replacing railroad ties at River Fork Ranch

Trail Operations (cont'd)

Fourteen fallen trees were removed on the **Genoa Trail System**. Repairs have been made on the **Adams Canyon Trail** in eight places. They included:

- A berm in the area directly above the **Adams Canyon Trailhead** to prevent water from a normally dry gully from creating ruts down the old road section of the trail and onto the paved parking lot.
- Rebuilt a section of trail before the canyon that was blown out by water coming down the old road.
- Rebuilt the drainage crossing which was severely damaged by water.
- Cleaned up the first drainage after the canyon crossing which had water damage across the trail.
- Rebuilt the second drainage crossing after the canyon which was completely blown out.
- Cleaned up the third drainage crossing after the canyon which had water damage across the trail.
- Cleaned up the fourth drainage crossing after Adams Canyon which completely channeled the draw above the trail to bare rock.
- Cleaned up the fifth and final drainage crossing after Adams Canyon.

Rock falls were cleared from the **Eagle Ridge Trailhead** to the **Sierra Canyon Trailhead**. A section of trail was washed out above Razor Ridge, and another section succumbed to a landslide. These were both rebuilt. The first two miles of the **Genoa Canyon Trail** between the trailhead and the uppermost switchback were cleared of winter rockfall. The mileage signs at the three trailheads and at two trail junctions were updated to reflect accurate distances after four years of realignments and trail improvements.

The **Pinyon Trail** had two fallen trees, which have been cleared.

On the **River Fork Ranch Trail System**, where the river overbanked into the floodplain on the nature preserve, volunteer maintenance crews moved railroad ties and benches that had been swept away by the water and put them back in place.

Without volunteers, none of this work would be accomplished and our trails would be dangerous for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. We need help to maintain the trails and keep them safe and fun for everyone.

Check the calendar on our new website at

Carsonvalleytrails.org for scheduled trail maintenance days
and contact CVTA at info@carsonvalleytrails.org to volunteer.

New and Improved CVTA Website Now Available

We are pleased to announce the new CVTA website, now available at <https://carsonvalleytrails.org>. Like the previous website, the new site provides comprehensive information about the Carson Valley hiking trails, including maps you can download, photos, and trail descriptions. The new site also tells the history of the Carson Valley hiking trails and the CVTA organization, bios of the Board members, newspaper articles, and key accomplishments.

The new CVTA website also includes many improvements. You can manage your CVTA membership online, pay by credit card, PayPal, or check, and make donations (available April 2017). You can also send messages to the CVTA organization, offer to volunteer, view our Facebook postings, view the CVTA calendar of upcoming events and trail work days, locate trailheads with Google Maps, exchange information with other hikers through Forums, and access the new site with your smartphone as well as your computer. See the comparison chart below, and we'll see you on the website!

	Old Website	New Website
Find information about CVTA hiking trails	yes	yes
Read current and archived CVTA Newsletters and documents	yes	yes
View photos of CVTA trails	yes	yes
Learn about the CVTA History, Mission, Strategic Plan, Board Members	yes	yes
Find out about upcoming CVTA events and activities	yes	yes
Use Google Map to find locations of CVTA trailheads	no	yes
Read a live feed of the latest CVTA Facebook postings	no	yes
Exchange information with other trail users through Forums	no	yes
Sign up and renew your CVTA membership online	no	yes
Receive renewal reminder emails before your membership expires	no	yes
Receive membership Thank You emails for your tax records	no	yes
Pay your CVTA membership fees by credit card, PayPal, or check	no	yes
Change your address, email, phone number, and password online	no	yes
Make donations online by credit card, PayPal, or check	no	yes
Receive donation Thank You emails for your tax records	no	yes
Make a request to volunteer to help CVTA		yes
Send a comment or ask a question to CVTA		yes
Use the search box to find information on the CVTA website		yes
Use the CVTA website on your smartphone or tablet		yes

The Carson Valley Trails Association needs your input to help us make your trail experiences better and to provide information for Strategic Planning

Please complete the [Online Survey](#) on our website carsonvalleytrails.org. Click on "2017 Community Questionnaire" under the "Volunteer" option. It will only take a few minutes and the information you provide will be kept confidential.

Already completed the survey at the annual meeting? You don't need to complete it again—and thank you!

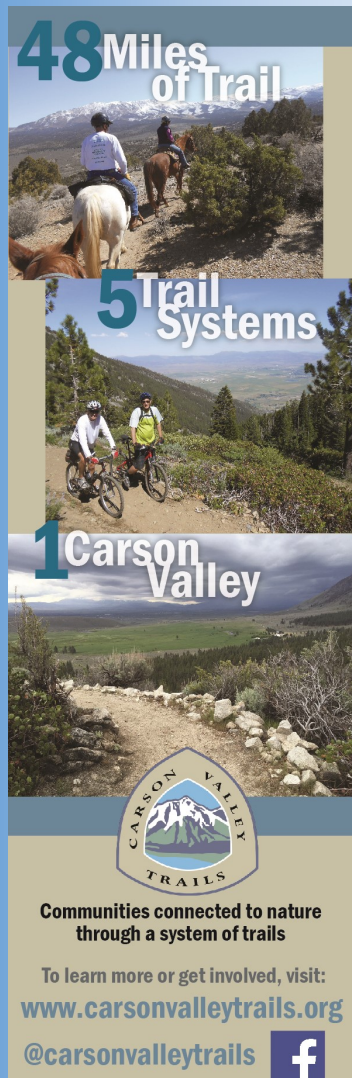


OUR MISSION

The Carson Valley Trails Association is 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.

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!

2017 CVTA Officers & Board

President Sheryl Gonzales

VP/President Elect Norah Gastelum

Past President Joni Jackson

Secretary Deby O'Gorman

Treasurer Marcia Kerl

CVTA Board

VP Trail Operations Jeremy Vican

VP Fund Development
Vickie Kieffer

VP Outreach Juan Guzman

VP Marketing & Publicity
Barb Wilson

VP Membership Lee Elson

VP Chief Information Officer
Michael Hartstein

VP Volunteer Coordinator
Matt Savage

Member-at-Large 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 support trail construction and maintenance, project planning, community events and trail access in the Carson Valley.



Purple sage on the Pinyon Trail



Western peony on the Clear Creek Trail

There is no poop fairy.



Please clean up after your dog.

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

CVTA is NOW on Instagram!

<https://www.instagram.com/carsonvalleytrailsassociation/>

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

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/CARSONVALLEYTRAILS/