

Spring/Summer 2018



Communities
connected
to nature
through a system
of trails



River Fork Ranch

A Trail System for Everyone



Trailhead kiosk at West Fork Trail



Exploring the Brockliss Loop



Nesting Bald Eagles near River Fork Ranch

When CVTA began strategic planning ten years ago, the first task was to create a vision of our future. The concepts of community and nature kept coming up, and before long we had our Vision Statement: *COMMUNITIES CONNECTED TO NATURE THROUGH A SYSTEM OF TRAILS*. At the same time, The Nature Conservancy was planning habitat restoration and public access trails at the River Fork Ranch Preserve with the same goal: to connect people with nature. The trails at River Fork Ranch are the perfect opportunity for CVTA and TNC, working together, to provide a unique venue for recreation, conservation, and education in the Carson Valley.

River Fork Ranch is one mile east of the Town of Genoa on Genoa Lane. The 840-acre nature preserve and working cattle ranch, owned by TNC, demonstrates the benefits of nature-based solutions such as floodplain conservation, sustainable agriculture practices, and surface and groundwater water protection. It's a unique opportunity for the community to interact with nature and see a cattle operation up close. The preserve's natural serenity and panoramic beauty are available to the public in all seasons for self-guided walking and hiking, bird watching, nature photography, trail running, biking, or horseback riding. Its accessibility makes it especially good for small children, people with limited mobility, and those who prefer to walk short distances on flat terrain. Kids will love exploring the trails using our Trail Treasures Guide for Kids.

There are two trails at River Fork Ranch—the 0.75 mile East Brockliss Loop and the 2.0 mile West Fork Trail. Both trails are flat. The West Fork Trail parallels the West Fork Carson River, connecting Genoa Lane to Muller Lane with panoramic views. Except during wet periods, this trail is relatively easy to access by wheelchair users as it follows a dirt ranch road. There are also interpretive signs at the ranch house where visitors can learn about the area. To protect the native animals, including nesting birds, turtles and frogs, dogs are not permitted on the trails. Hikers, bikers and equestrians are permitted.

Learn more about the River Fork Ranch trails in this issue and on our website.

Find printable maps and the Trail Treasures Guide for Kids at

<https://carsonvalleytrails.org/river-fork-ranch-trail-system/>

President's Message

By Norah Gastelum

The trails are looking beautiful right now. In the past week, I've had the opportunity to follow trails at Fay Luther, Jobs Peak Ranch, Genoa Canyon, Sierra Canyon and Eagle Ridge. The winter has been a bit kinder than 2017 and there seems to be just minor maintenance compared to a year ago. If you want to see all the work that was completed in 2017, be sure to check out the Trail Operations report on our website at <https://carsonvalleytrails.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2017-Trails-Report-and-2018-Work-Plan.pdf>. You'll be exhausted just reading it. Feel proud, however, knowing your membership supports the purchase of tools the CVTA volunteers use for trail building and maintenance.

Our VP of Trail Operations, Jeremy Vican, shared the information from this report at the 2018 CVTA Annual Meeting and Member Celebration held at the Carson Valley Community and Senior Center on April 3rd. In addition, the evening featured food, drink, a raffle and a Q&A session. Questions seemed to focus around three main areas: new trails, more amenities on trails, and etiquette or respect amongst users. Our Annual Meeting is great time to connect and get a shared perspective of the desires of the users coupled with the restraints of an all volunteer board. We are grateful to the people who signed up that evening to support our efforts.

A big shout out to our event volunteers who spent many hours preparing, serving and informing. Thank you, Mary Swisher, Debbi Waldear, Michelle Robertson, Elise Erickson, Peggy McKie, Mary Boykin, Mike Kuckenmeister, Regina Littlebeaver, Frank Jackson, and Kerstin and Charles Wolle. A special thanks to Mary Erba and Pat Lashier, for bringing along "Duffer" to teach us what a day of trail building is like. One very special volunteer was recognized that evening, Dominic Hastings-Molyneux. He received a certificate of appreciation for the trail work he has done in the past few years, leading youth in completing community hours in a meaningful and educational way that connects them to the outdoors.

Back out on the trails, the one exception for minor maintenance this spring might be The Nature Conservancy's River Fork Ranch. At the time of this writing, the trail system was under flowing water. The land at RFR functioned as planned with ecologically beneficial flooding into the ponds, wetlands and wet meadows. Although the parking area flooded, the water stopped short of the Whit Hall Interpretive Center building. A big thank you to Duane Petite for all his work there, and for giving the Carson Valley Trails Association a place to store materials and hold our monthly board meetings.

Looking ahead to the next few months, I am excited about our opportunities to grow in understanding and in miles. June 2nd is National Trails Day when CVTA will be hosting educational hikes out on the trails. Later in the year, we will gather and summarize input from the community to update our strategic plan. Most importantly, we hope to complete 6.5 miles of the upper Clear Creek Trail connecting to Spooner Summit and the Tahoe Rim Trail this fall. I've hiked some of it and can say that we are all in for a treat for our feet and eyes. It is beautiful! To come out and help us build the new trail, go to the calendar at carsonvalleytrails.org/about and click on the work days to see all the information.

Miles of smiles, fresh air and trails,
Norah



West Fork Trail



River Fork Ranch trails flooded in 2017



West Fork Trail

2017 Year-End Campaign

By Vicki Kieffer, Treasurer

We are pleased to announce that the Annual Year-end Campaign was a big success, raising more than \$7,200. These donations make it possible for our volunteer-based organization to continue ongoing trail maintenance, community outreach activities, and planning for future trails. Every donation makes an important contribution to the financial strength of CVTA. Thank you. We could not do it without you!

East Brockliss Loop and West Fork Trail at River Fork Ranch

Through the Eyes of a Trail User

By Axel Drehfal from his blog trailingahead.blogspot.com



River Fork Ranch is located at the biologically diverse Great Basin/Sierra Nevada transition zone in the Carson Valley, where the West Fork Carson River and the East Fork Carson River merge and continue their meandering north-northeast flow as the Carson River. The 805-acre working cattle ranch and nature preserve, owned by The Nature Conservancy, is home to the Whit Hall Interpretive Center. The preserve includes interpretive displays and hiking and bicycling trails through ranch land—an alternative to the many slope and canyon trails of the Genoa Trail System.



Common yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*, Asteraceae)

The 0.7-mile-long **East Brockliss Loop** trail starts and ends at the Whit Hall building, next to which selected native plants, such as common yarrow are featured. The interpretive panels around the building showcase a multitude of interesting topics: geoexchange systems, photovoltaics (solar panels) Carson Valley floodplain, ranching heritage, and wildlife protections. Walking southwest from the Interpretive Center and enjoying the view of the Carson Range, you come to the *Partners in Conservation* panel, which says:

Conservation of the important wetlands, meadows and stream-side habitat that make up The Nature Conservancy's River Fork Ranch owes much to the vision and determination of Carson Valley ranchers Judy and Bill Sturgis and the support of the Timken-Sturgis Foundation. Our shared goal is to ensure the health and survival of the natural world that sustains us all.

The path leads over a raised berm, where you can stop and enjoy views. You'll find benches along the loop, including a bench donated by the family of Charles and Kerstin Wolle on their 50th anniversary. (*Kerstin Wolle was president of CVTA during years of intense fundraising, trail planning, and trails construction.*) The path leads over boardwalks in places of seasonally wet soil. At its junction with the West Fork Trail, you may continue south along the West Fork Trail or turn left to return to the parking lot and Whit Hall.

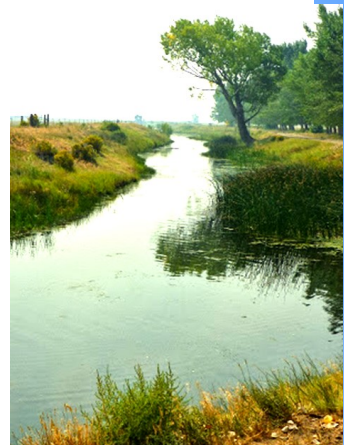
The West Fork Trail—open to foot, bicycle, and equestrian travel—follows the West Fork Carson River for two miles from the Whit Hall Interpretive Center at Genoa Lane to south Muller Lane, where there is an access gate. The level trail leads through streamside habitat and ranch land. The river and patchwork of wetlands sustain residential and visiting birds such as marsh wrens, egrets, herons, hawks, and eagles, just to name a few. The western pond turtle and the northern leopard frog also call the Carson River home, as illustrated on interpretive panels.



Along the trail you will find benches such as the one with the inscription, "In Loving Memory of William T. Downey—Signed and sealed to nature. Be it so." A nice place to relax and scan the mountain range with Freel, Jobs, Silver, and Highland Peaks. While you are bird watching, you may be watched by cows—"happy cows of Nevada" privileged to live on a preserve.

When you reach Muller Lane you can turn around or exit through the gate onto Muller Lane.

Getting to River Fork Ranch trails: From Genoa's Mormon Station State Park, drive east on Genoa Lane for about one mile and turn right at the River Fork Ranch sign. The Whit Hall building is west of the parking area and the trailhead for the West Fork Trail is at its south side next to the river. To get to the Muller Lane access point by car or bicycle, drive south from Genoa on Foothill Road for about three miles, turn left onto Muller Lane and find the trailhead gate and kiosk one mile east, on the left side of the road. (Note: road work on Muller Lane may affect access.)



Muller Lane access

For more information on the trails at River Fork Ranch, go to <https://carsonvalleytrails.org/river-fork-ranch-trail-system/>

For information on The Nature Conservancy and River Fork Ranch, go to <https://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/nevada/placesweprotect/carson-river-project.xml>

Bitterbrush Mysteries

By Jim Morefield



antelope bitterbrush in flower



desert bitterbrush in flower

The profuse yellow flowers of antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) are a familiar springtime sight along our trails, as are the pink displays of desert peach (*Prunus andersonii*), both Rose Family members. Flowers on these large native shrubs are indicators that spring has finally arrived in the Carson Valley. In my work, they also indicate that it's time to get out and start surveying some of our rare spring flowers, like Carson Valley monkeyflower (*Erythranthe carsonensis*). April 14, 2014, near the Clear Creek trailhead was no exception, as I happily counted monkeyflowers among the bitterbrush and desert peach displays. Back near my car, I noticed a few especially tall and healthy looking bitterbrushes that hadn't started flowering yet, and thought no more of them at the time.

Fast-forward to April 30, and a return trip to expand the monkeyflower search. As I walked through the gate to head up Clear Creek Trail, those big healthy bitterbrushes from 16 days before were now covered with masses of fresh yellowish-white flowers, while all the other bitterbrush shrubs in the area had dropped their petals and started setting fruit. Hmmm. A closer look at the newly flowering shrubs revealed something both strange and very familiar.

This was a different bitterbrush, and one that I immediately recognized, but not from anywhere near this part of Nevada! I was now envisioning the hot granite foothills of mountain ranges bordering the Mojave Desert in southern Nevada and California, where desert bitterbrush (*Purshia glandulosa*) is a familiar spring-flowering shrub.

Though they have similar flowers, the two bitterbrush species are easily distinguished by their leaves. Antelope bitterbrush has thin, flat leaves with sparse to abundant hairs above, and only slightly rolled edges that keep the hairy undersides mostly exposed. Desert bitterbrush, on the other hand, has thick leaves that are shiny and sticky above, with strongly curled edges that nearly cover the hairy underside. I was sure it was not cliffrose (*Purshia stansburyana*), because its otherwise similar leaves were only 3-lobed, and each flower had only a single ovary. (The nearest cliffrose is in eastern and southern Nevada.) Continuing up the trail, it became clear that there was a well-established population of desert bitterbrush here that covered dozens of acres on the elevated bench overlooking the Indian Hills area. There were some pure stands, but mostly it was mixed in with antelope bitterbrush.

It makes sense that desert bitterbrush starts flowering so much later than antelope bitterbrush when they grow together. In their typical habitats, both species start flowering around the same time of year. But typical habitat for desert bitterbrush is lower, warmer, and drier than typical habitat for antelope bitterbrush. When desert bitterbrush comes up to our cooler and wetter Carson Valley, it stays bundled up a bit longer, the better to avoid being frostbitten. The different flowering times are good for another reason. If both species flowered at the same time around Clear Creek Trailhead, the same pollinators would probably visit flowers of both species and cause them to hybridize. The much more abundant antelope bitterbrush would eventually swamp out the genes of the desert bitterbrush.

So what is a Mojave Desert species doing in Carson Valley, and how is it surviving here? Those are mysteries we may never solve, but my suspicion is that it got left behind here several thousand years ago at the end of a warmer climatic period, and has survived by being on a southern aspect elevated shortly above the valley floor, where it can avoid the coldest winter temperature inversions -- and of course, by flowering later!



desert (L) & antelope (R) bitterbrush



desert bitterbrush in fruit



cliffrose in fruit (Janel Johnson)

Geology, Geography and Art on River Fork Ranch Trails

As you walk the trails, you will notice these unique features.

Genoa Fault



Genoa Fault seen from River Fork Ranch

Looking southwest from the Whit Hall Center, you will see a large scar (or scarp) on the hillside. About 1.2 miles south of the town of Genoa, near Walley's Hot Springs Resort, the Genoa fault is exposed in a gravel quarry. The Genoa fault is responsible for the steep mountain front along Foothill Road on the west side of Carson Valley, and is one of the most active faults in western Nevada. The most recent earthquake on this fault is believed to have occurred within the past few hundred years and probably had a magnitude of about 7.5.

A polished and grooved bedrock fault surface called slickensides forms the western wall of the gravel pit. The grooves were formed as the rocks on either side of the fault moved past one another. Immediately south of the gravel quarry, the fault has uplifted deposits from ancient glaciers located higher in the Carson Range at the mouth of a moderate-size drainage. The very large scarp, more than 50 feet high at this location, is the combined effects of several earthquakes.

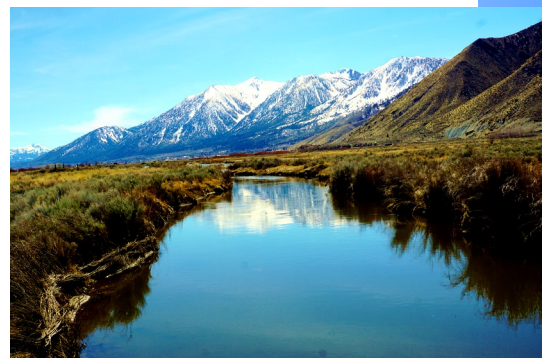
Source: <http://www.nbmng.unr.edu/docs/Newsletters/nl14a.htm>

Brockliss Slough

The Brockliss Slough was named for a prominent Genoa resident, Judge Brockliss. Who was he?

"Hon. Frank E. Brockliss is one of Douglas County's highly respected citizens. He is a native of Nevada and was born at Sheridan, October 30, 1867. He received his education in this State, after which he read law in Judge Murphy's office in Carson City for two years. He was admitted to the Bar on March 7, 1902. He opened an office in Genoa, where he has since resided. In his chosen profession he has been eminently successful. He has served Douglas County as District Attorney for several years. In 1894 he was elected a member of the State Assembly for one term. Judge Brockliss was united in marriage to Annie Johnson, June 1, 1902. Mrs. Brockliss is a daughter of the late Chris Johnson, one of Nevada's highly respected and representative agriculturalists, who was a large land-owner in the Carson Valley. To this union were born Frances and Grace."

Excerpted from: *History of Nevada*, edited by Sam Post Davis
The Elms Publishing Co., Inc., Reno, NV - Los Angeles, Cal. 1913



Brockliss Slough

Art of Nature



Sections of woven branch along the Brockliss Slough

In 2014, artists from the Watershed Sculpture Studio created a 360-foot-long willow branch sculpture at River Fork Ranch. The woven branch structure was designed to integrate into the environment, prevent erosion, and help restore the delicate habitat. "It truly is a living piece made out of living plant material," said Duane Petite, The Nature Conservancy's Carson River Project director. "But it's going to change."

And change it has. The sculpture was submerged in the 2017 flood, but portions remain and can be seen along the banks of the Brockliss Slough. This "earth art" project continues to shape and protect the fragile riparian habitat.

Learn more at:

www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/nevada/placesweprotect/the-nature-of-art.xml?src=r.nevadaart

A study of western pond turtles in Nevada's Carson River

By Mark Enders, Nevada Department of Wildlife



NDOW biologists and TNC volunteers processing western pond turtles at TNC's River Fork Ranch in June 2016 (photo: John Humphrey).

The western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) is the only native freshwater turtle in Nevada. In this part of its range, it occurs primarily west of the Sierra Nevada, but isolated populations are known to occur in short stretches of the Carson and Truckee Rivers in western Nevada, including at River Fork Ranch, an 800-acre preserve owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Despite decades of turtle observations in the area, Nevada's pond turtles remained largely unstudied until 2016, when Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) teamed up with TNC to learn more about pond turtles at River Fork Ranch.

NDOW biologists and several volunteers spent two weeks surveying turtles at River Fork Ranch during summer 2016. We handled 118 different turtles during that time, and were able to learn a lot about their population

demographics. For instance, we learned that there are a high percentage of males in this population, as we captured 81 males, 23 females, and 14 juveniles. Many of those were older turtles, but we also know that reproduction is occurring because we captured females carrying eggs, and also observed two hatchlings during the study.

We also affixed small radio transmitters to 15 pond turtles, and tracked their movements for four months. Among the most interesting things that we learned is that the Carson River pond turtle population is capable of long-distance movements (up to 4.3 km). Males moved greater distances (mean = 2.3 km) than females (mean = 1.1 km) or juveniles (mean = 1.4 km), and while some individuals were capable of using both rivers and ponds, some were found only using one type of waterbody.

In 2017, NDOW continued its collaboration with TNC by expanding our study into new places. In addition to resurveying River Fork Ranch, we also surveyed four downstream locations on the Carson River, a TNC-held conservation easement on the West Walker River, and TNC's McCarran Ranch on the Truckee River. Despite the expanded survey effort in 2017, the only turtles found on the Carson River were near River Fork Ranch, where 40 turtles were captured and marked, including eight recaptures from 2016. No turtles were caught on the West Walker River, and two turtles were caught in ponds at McCarran Ranch. All three rivers were flowing very high in 2017, and it is possible that high flows affected our capture success.

A very important component of this study will be a genetic analysis to learn more about the origin of Nevada's pond turtles, as well as dispersal within and between rivers. We currently have genetic samples from 51 turtles from the Carson River population and two turtles from the Truckee River population. In 2018, NDOW will focus on building our genetic sample size, with a focus on the Truckee River and downstream portions of the Carson River. We have much more work to do, but this collaborative study with TNC has already been a great first step toward learning more about an isolated turtle population in a variable desert environment.



Western pond turtle basking on the East Fork of the Carson River in June 2016 (photo: Mark Enders).



Seven western pond turtles captured in one trap at River Fork Ranch during July 2017 (photo: Mark Enders).

TRAIL OPERATIONS REPORT

By Jeremy Vican

Clearing brush, fallen trees, and rocks from the trails is standard maintenance. However, 2017 saw many storms with heavy rains and high winds. Thanks to volunteers, our trails were cleared and made safe for hikers, bikers, and equestrians.

Below are some highlights of the many repairs. You can read the entire report and view the photos on our website at

<https://carsonvalleytrails.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/2017-Trails-Report-and-2018-Work-Plan.pdf>

Bently Heritage Trail



Sections of the trail flooded multiple times between January and June. Public access was restricted by mud and water, and the trail became overgrown with forbs and grasses. Vegetation was cleared and the trail reopened in September. A 100-foot section of trail on the middle loop was realigned around a low spot that holds water after heavy rains. Saturated soils and multiple wind events caused dozens of willows to fall on the trail. These were cut out. On the west side of the middle loop, two separate trail sections washed away by the flooded Carson River were realigned. Flood debris was cleared off. Five new boardwalks and one extended boardwalk were built across short trail sections that are sometimes wet or muddy. Trail maps were installed at six different trails. A Boy Scout is planning to build one additional boardwalk in May.

Clear Creek Trail



Several major rain events rutted out old roads where the trail crosses and were filled back in. The trail was realigned east of Jacks Valley Road crossing where a retention basin was built to resolve water runoff issues. The trail realignment now skirts the base of the new catch basin and culvert. Two slickrock sections of trail were rebenched, meaning new tread was cut. Heavy trail use prompted a snow emergency crew to clear lingering April drifts. Flooding jammed a typically dry crossing with vegetation, forcing water to back up and cut away part of the trail. The trail was benched, debris cleared and temporary stepping stones installed. The upper 6.5 miles of the Clear Creek Trail was approved for construction to bypass private properties on the upper Old Clear Creek Road. Construction will be ongoing throughout 2018 on the upper 6.5 miles of the trail to Spooner Summit. Completion expected spring, 2019.

Fay-Luther/Jobs Peak Ranch Trail System

The first drainage crossing on the Interpretive Trail was rebuilt after winter floods. A short realignment was built on the north half of the Grand View Loop to improve crossing a drainage that was damaged from heavy winter rains. A spray-painted tree on the Sandy Trail was covered up with brown paint. A new and substantial spring developed on the Fay-Luther/Jobs Peak Ranch Trail and was flowing down the trail. Water was diverted directly across the trail. All revegetation signs on the old routes by the bridge and along the old Interpretive Trail route have been removed. Efforts to keep these areas closed for the reseeding efforts have been unsuccessful. A cost estimate of filling potholes or resurfacing the Fay-Luther Trailhead parking lot is forthcoming.



Genoa Trail System

To prevent eventual damage to the Sierra Canyon Trail bridge, two dead white alder forks hanging over it were cut down. Several sections of trail were damaged from multiple heavy rain events, a result of water coming down typically dry draws. All of these were repaired. A 175-foot realignment was done on a turn below the landslide to eliminate a steep section of trail. Mileage signs at trail junctions, and at the Genoa Canyon, Sierra Canyon and Eagle Ridge Trailheads were updated to reflect current distances after four years working on seventy-three realignment projects to complete the trail system. A rock causeway was built on the east side of the upper Sierra Canyon creek crossing to avoid water and mud, and to absorb any creek overflow. A new rock crossing was built across lower Genoa Creek for hikers to safely cross. A bike/equestrian lane was kept clear directly alongside the stepping rocks

River Fork Ranch Trail System

Railroad ties that were washed away by floodwaters at River Fork Ranch were gathered back up and reinstalled. Benches and boardwalks that floated away during floodwaters were relocated

Check the CVTA calendar for trail work days at <https://carsonvalleytrails.org/about/>

Sign up for a work day at <https://carsonvalleytrails.org/contact-cvta/>

A Tale from the Dusty Trail at River Fork Ranch

By Jim Woods
Photos by JT Humphrey

The female Bald Eagle sits on a nest in the southernmost cottonwood on Ranch One, near the Long Slough bordering River Fork Ranch. She gazes east, her tail feathers silhouetted against the western sky. Below, ground squirrel tracks lope north, then break into a run. Turning sharply, they end in a drying mud puddle in the grass, tussle marks scattered around.



She has nested here since taking the nest from its builder, the Red-tailed Hawk. Each January she and her mate return to this same nest tree that, the year before, sheltered their two fledgling eaglets. There will likely be two eggs again this year. The surrounding sagebrush, river, and riparian lands will be hunted for the nourishment of the parents and eaglets.



The Golden Eagles, who once dominated the ranch, have moved on up to Clear Creek and beyond. At that time the marks in the dust showed mostly black-tailed jackrabbit and cottontail tracks. The land was cut off from the water, and there were fewer tracks of bobcat, snake, quail, raccoon and California ground squirrels.

Bald Eagles are fish eaters, and their primary prey are carp, catfish, trout and bass with a few jackrabbit and cottontail thrown in. Balds are opportunist hunters and will take what is available, including carrion from mammals or fish. The tale told in the dust shows the changes in food sources. There are more jackrabbit and cottontail tracks, but now the tracks of quail, ground squirrel, weasel and rodents are also common. The northern part of the ranch has healed, the wetlands are reestablished, and bobcat and coyote tracks show the new order of dominance. Habitat is restored in small steps, like tracks on a dusty trail. With each wing beat, the sky above and the dusty trails below are changing.



JOIN US FOR GUIDED HIKES
ON
NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
JUNE 2, 2018
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM!

Check our website for details

www.carsonvalleytrails.org

Together we'll
Improve
2,802 MILES
of Trail

THE PLEDGE

Join this historic event and leave the trail better than you found it! In honor of the 50th anniversary of the National Trail System, pledge to pack out trash, join a trail work project, or clean up a park. In a single day, we'll collectively improve 2,802 miles of trail—the distance across the US.

CELEBRATING CVTA TRAILBLAZERS

We enjoy the trails we have today because of the vision, dedication, and passion of CVTA's volunteers, past and present. Past President **Barbara Slade** shares some memories and thoughts.

Trail Connections: What do you want people to know about the early days?

Barb: I was not there in the true beginning, but shortly after. Lori Chitwood, Amy Hellman, Sue Wright and Sue's mom were the founders. It was called Carson Valley Community Access. Several of us came a bit later, 2001 for me. Mary Bennington, Marilyn Vasey, Phil Brisack, and John Cobourn also became involved shortly after the start. They worked very hard for many of the early years.

TC: What were the early challenges?

Barb: No one believed in trails, or the need for access! There was actually lots of hostility toward the trails association in the beginning, but now it is beloved by all. So it was an uphill battle to demonstrate the need, the outcome for a healthier, happier community, and the financial benefit trails can bring into the community through tourism. How a trails system enhances the community in many ways.

TC: Early successes?

Barb: The first big success was purchasing the land from Chuck Paya to create the Fay Luther trailhead. Then its construction, and deeding it over to the US Forest Service. Another success was starting healthy, new relationships with the Forest Service and BLM. At that point they hadn't ever dealt directly with a non-profit that could help them achieve their goals. They loved working with us. Also, we got a conversation going on getting an easement at Jobs Peak Ranch. Quite a difficult and time consuming ordeal, and with only a few months before the agreement expired, we were able to meet the demands and the rest is history.

Our biggest accomplishment at that time was getting Douglas County to create a Trails Plan and Map that was required by the County Master Plan. It has driven trail development and funding by identifying more trail access points, and it also gave CVTA respect and expanded our relationships. Finally everyone was on board, seeing the importance and ease of having a great trail system.

TC: Who were some other important early partners?

Barb: The American Land Conservancy was instrumental in the purchasing of the land and creation of the Fay Luther trailhead. Judy Sturgis, JoAnn and Art Hall, and Ed and Sara Groenendyke were some early donors.

TC: How do you, personally, use the trails now?

Barb: I use the trails all the time because my dog takes me for a walk every morning. I live 1/2 mile from Fay Luther so that is her preference. I help keep the doggie bag box filled with dog poop bags. I also use the trails when guests come into town. My sister and I spend a great deal of time walking the trails as time to slow down and connect, since life seems to always be too busy.



Our new Trailblazers feature highlights the contributions of key volunteers.
Look for more stories about the people who make CVTA great in future issues of Trail Connections.

Become a CVTA Member and Help Support Our Trails!

Join online at

<https://carsonvalleytrails.org/membership-levels/>

Carson Valley Trails Association

P.O. Box 222

Minden NV 89423



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Newsletter Editor Anne Thomas

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.



PLEASE PRACTICE PROPER TRAIL ETIQUETTE!

CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Use the "poop bags" provided by CVTA
and place them in the receptacle before leaving the trail

Stop by and see the CVTA display
at the Douglas County Library in Minden
throughout May!

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/

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