



CVTA NEWS



Carson Valley Trails Association

April 2004

President's Message

Barbara Slade

Welcome to spring! Excitement and anticipation is in the air. There is a great deal to share with you since our last newsletter. We are excited about our upcoming projects in which all our members will be able to participate. This is what we all have been waiting for, a chance to build new trails! It is very rewarding to be involved in something of great value for the community and to be outdoors working in nature.

We have several projects in various stages of planning and development. These are discussed in more detail in the Trails Update section of this newsletter.

One of the most exciting is the **Job's Peak Ranch Trail Easement**. After seven and half years of letters, phone calls and meetings, the trail is going to happen! I want to thank all of you who participated in writing letters, calling the commissioners, and going to meetings to make this trail a reality! I would like to extend our thanks to the many others who supported us in the effort to gain this easement. Because of the willingness of the Job's Peak Ranch developer, Cole Smith, the enormous effort of County Manager Dan

See Message on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 1 Trails Update
- 2 Trail Operations - 2004
- 2 Question 1 Funding
- 3 Education Program
- 3 National Trails Day
- 4 Calendar of Events

Trails Update

Barbara Slade and Phil Brisack

Job's Peak Ranch Trail Easement

The trail agreement, with the Job's Peak Ranch development, that was about to expire was rewritten. The developer, Mr. Cole Smith, will deed the easement to the County, and the County Commissioners voted unanimously to accept it. The trailhead will accommodate six cars and will be located at the south gate of the development. The trail, which will be for pedestrians only, will meander south westerly through the lower section of the development and connect to public land at the southeast boundary of the property. This trail will provide access to Job's Canyon. It will be a steep, rocky climb, so be prepared! There will be no improved trail up Job's Canyon. This trail will also create a link to the Faye-Luther Trail System. Planning for this is in progress with the USFS. The building of this trail may begin later this year but will not be open to the public until it is completely constructed next year. We look forward to your help in building this trail! Douglas County applied for Question 1 funding for this project, and we are donating funds and in-kind services as a match.

Faye-Luther Trail System

In January we began discussions with the Forest Service and BLM to add new trails. The discussions also included improving existing trails and the removal of the unsustainable ones.

Proposed new trails have been flagged for the Forest Service and BLM to conduct required studies, which have already started. The new trails include one to the north to eventually reach Job's Canyon via a link with the Job's Peak Ranch Trail Easement, and a reroute of an existing social trail that is creating erosion problems. New construction on the reroute and rehab of the old

See Update on page 3

Message,

Holler, Community Development Manager Mimi Moss, and the County Commissioners, the public will enjoy another access into the beautiful Sierras. **A very important and special thank you goes to the Timken-Sturgis Foundation and the Fairweather Foundation whose financial donation to the Carson Valley Trails Association on behalf of this project allows us to participate in its creation. We can't thank you enough for believing in us and financially supporting our dream of a trail to Job's Canyon.**

I can't thank our members enough for financially and physically supporting the Carson Valley Trails Association. By renewing your membership and encouraging others to join, you will help CVTA succeed with our new projects and allow CVTA to continue to grow and respond to the ever increasing opportunities. Remember, CVTA is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), which allows your contributions to be a tax deduction. We are always in need of volunteers for technical support, grant writing, trail building, trail maintenance, public relations and to help with the Education Program. It is exciting to think about all the wonderful benefits the Trails Association can create for the community, now and for future generations. We expect a very busy year in 2005 for our members.

Barbara Slade, CVTA President

Trail Operations - 2004

Phil Brisack

Great progress has been made since the fall 2003 report!

Cooperation with the Tahoe Rim Trail continues to grow. Their annual Certified Trail Builders course will be conducted on the Faye/Luther trail. On May 14, a trail layout and design course will be conducted by Karl Knapp of California State Parks. He conducts sessions across the nation for the FS, BLM, NPS, and others. We are fortunate that he lives locally and enjoys giving these classes. The morning is devoted to class work with the afternoon spent in the field, where the new trail (a reroute of a social trail) will be laid out. On May 15, the TRT will conduct class sessions on leading crews and proper building techniques. On May 16, construction of the trail

designed on May 14 will begin. Last year a similar class was very successful and well received. Class participation will be limited, and registrations need to be made through the TRT at 775-298-0012.

We are currently working with the U.S. Forest Service on the Faye-Luther Trail System as discussed in the Trails Update Section. Several CVTA Board members spent a chilly day in January exploring potential routes with Steve Hale of the USFS from Faye-Luther to Job's Canyon.



This outing and others have led to the USFS adoption of the Faye-Luther Trail as a USFS system trail to be maintained and improved by the CVTA.

Since this trail is used by dog owners, the USFS has asked CVTA to address the dog poop problem. A plastic bag dispenser will soon be available at the trailhead with a sign asking dog owners to help the CVTA keep the trail clean. The Faye-Luther Trail is our chance to show the community that trails and associated trailheads are attractive additions to their neighborhood. This is the only way we are going to succeed!

Question 1 Funding: In November 2002, the voters of Nevada passed Question 1, which is a bond measure that will provide needed funding to further protect Nevada's land, air, and water. It will provide millions of dollars to preserve open space, protect rivers, lakes and wetlands; protect and create habitat, protect ground water quality, restore historic natural and cultural resources and will provide for parks and recreational trails. It will be available for approximately nine years. Douglas County has submitted four applications with two of those supporting trails and trailheads.

Update

trail should be completed this summer barring unforeseen complications. Rehab of the old trail will be done when the new trail is opened.

Future plans for this trail system include a loop trail on the south side of the Faye-Luther Canyon to join with the existing north side trail creating a 7.5-mile loop.

River Fork Ranch Interpretive Trail

CVTA has been invited by The Nature Conservancy to work on the River Fork Ranch. The River Fork Ranch, protected by a conservation easement, contains miles of the East and West forks of the Carson River, as well as two channels of the Brockliss Slough. The property is nestled south of Genoa and is located within the 100 year floodplain and is partially flooded annually. The ranch wetlands and riparian habitats are important for migratory and nesting water birds. There is the possibility of seeing such bird species as the Redhead, Cinnamon Teal, Long-billed Curlew, Willets, Bald and Golden Eagles, Sandhill Cranes and numerous others. In addition, the isolated stands of cottonwood-willow riparian zones provide important habitats for the wildlife on the ranch to migrate to and from the adjoining Sierra Nevada Mountains.

CVTA will be a partner in this program to help design and build interpretive trails and viewing areas on the edge of these incredible wetlands with its diverse and abundant wildlife. We need to apply for Question 1 funding for this project and will be looking for volunteers this summer to help us write this application. If you are interested call us at 265-0901 or email us at jtslade@msn.com.

Other Projects

The Douglas County Commissioners just approved a development in Genoa called **The Eagle Ridge at Genoa**. The County required an access and trail easement as part of the development conditions and Mr. Greg Painter, the developer, willingly dedicated an access and trail to Forest Service land. CVTA looks forward to working with Mr. Painter on this project as well as the County.

Douglas County is working with the Forest Service to establish a day use area in **Pine Basin**. This is going to be a wonderful benefit to the community. The area includes beautiful trees and great valley views. It will

have accommodations for special events, such as weddings, retirement parties, anniversary parties, and will be managed similarly to the Nevada Beach venue. You would secure a permit for your event from the County for that day. There will also be a trailhead and trails for hiking. It has potential to hook up to the Tahoe Rim Trail, which is the goal of all the groups involved. The county has asked CVTA to be partners in this project, so you'd better get in shape. We soon will have lots of trails to build and maintain!

National Trails Day

On June 5, 2004, the CVTA and TRT are co-sponsoring a National Trails Day Event at Tahoe Meadows. The event will feature guided hikes, health screening booths, children's educational hikes, and trail building and maintenance demos. We are very excited about the opportunity to educate the community on the importance of trails in relation to their health and well being. Additionally, National Trails Day will aim to provide an educational opportunity for those interested in trail building and maintenance. This annual event sponsored by the American Hiking Society is a fun way to bring people together to experience the outdoors and learn about trail opportunities in their community.

For more information about the event contact the Carson Valley Trails Association by calling 775-265-0901 or the Tahoe Rim Trail at 775-298-0012 or visit www.tahoerimtrail.org. Look for more information, closer to the date, in the local newspapers.

Education Program

The CVTA Board has recommended that the Association consider starting a program that would connect people to nature and to educate everyone in being better stewards to this wonderful area. CVTA could help children have more fun learning about geology, archaeology, biology, local wildlife, natural habitats, and indigenous plants. All around us is an outdoor classroom! We could also share our hiking skills, our love for being out in nature and the benefits of exercising. We appreciate the input of our members. Please contact us with your opinions, ideas and suggestions.

Membership in CVTA

If you would like to join our group and help Carson Valley achieve the goals as set out in the Trails Plan/Map, please return a completed membership form and check to Carson Valley Trails Association C/O Lorilyn Chitwood, P.O. Box 961, Minden, NV 89423.

Membership forms are available at 775-265-0901.

Annual dues are \$25. Other levels of membership are available as shown on the application.

Carson Valley Trails Association – 2004

Board of Directors

Mary Bennington	John Cobourn
Richard Bennington	Richard Morissette
Phil Brisack	Barbara Slade
Lorilyn Chitwood	Marilyn Vasey

Officers for 2004

President – Barbara Slade
Vice President – Phil Brisack
Secretary/Treasurer – Lorilyn Chitwood

2004 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 11 Native Plant Identification sponsored by UNR at Faye-Luther Trailhead 6:00 - 8:00 pm call for reservation at 782-9960

May 14 Trail Layout and Design sponsored by Tahoe Rim Trail, 775-298-0012

May 15 Crew leader and Trail Building Techniques by Tahoe Rim Trail, 775-298-0012

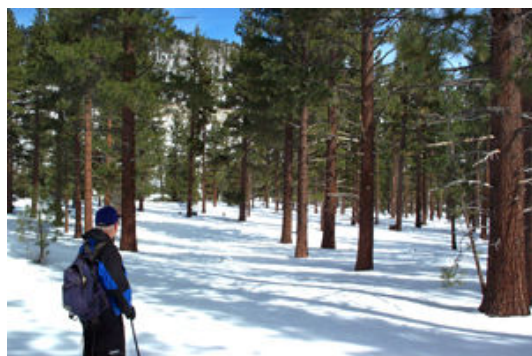
May 16 Trail Building Field Training by Tahoe Rim Trail, 775-298-0012

May 22-23 CVTA Booth at the Gardnerville “125” Year celebration

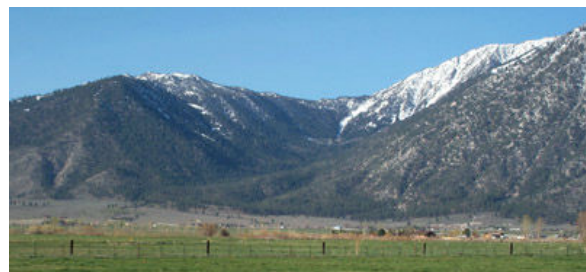
June 5 National Trails Day at Tahoe Meadows Co-sponsored Tahoe Rim Trail, 9 am to 3 pm

To e-mail recipients of the CVTA News from your newsletter editor:

Additional space is available in the electronic version of the CVTA News since the USPS address section is not needed. I will use this space to provide pictorial information as seen below. The text of the newsletter will be the same for both the printed and digital versions. Photos by *Richard Morissette, Editor CVTA News*



CVTA VP, Phil Brisack, explores Pine Basin



View of Faye Luther Canyon



East Carson & West Carson meet at River Fork Ranch

