



The Volunteer View

The Monthly Newsletter for Marin County Civic Center Volunteers and Student Interns

VOL 42 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2019

Patrolling County Open Space on Horseback

By Scott Harrop

Civic Center Volunteer **Linda Novy** had already spent five years volunteering with Marin County Parks when she moved her horse to Creekside Equestrian Center in Woodacre. Back then her nametag read: “ESP Leader” for Environmental Steward Program Leader. With the move to Woodacre came great access to trails for Linda and her horse, so 12 years ago she joined a volunteer patrol program for equestrians, hikers, and mountain bikers. This program is coordinated by the Parks Department’s Open Space division and includes 24 members.

Wearing their smart volunteer vests with the Marin County Parks logo, they strive to be diplomatic as they share information, give directions, and explain ordinances. But they are not enforcers, being as likely to introduce children to their horses as to remind hikers, equestrians, and bikers of regulations.

Recently, Linda explained to a young child the difference between parks, which are more for play and sports, and



PHOTO BY SCOTT HARROP

Linda Novy and Falco help patrol trails on county public lands.

nature preserves, places for conservation and appreciating plants and animals. Open Space preserves offer a balance between visiting nature and preserving nature, including respectfully observing wildlife such as snakes, frogs, coyotes, bobcats, foxes, spotted owls, salamanders and more. In addition to being the homes of animals, preserves have unique

native plant communities, including riparian corridors along creeks, a magnet for everyone.

“It’s a different mindset when you’re out on the trail. You can’t anticipate what you will encounter,” said Linda. She has encountered bikes speeding around

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VOLUNTEER NOTES

Resources, Info at Marin Wildfire Forum

Civic Center Volunteer **Frank Cox** invites fellow volunteers and interns to take part in the free Marin Wildfire Forum on Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Embassy Suites Hotel in San Rafael. Frank, who volunteers with the Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services, said attendees will learn practical tips for protecting homes and loved ones.

Because wildfire knows no boundaries, “it’s imperative that we work together to prevent wildfire and to be prepared for wildfire for the good of our entire community,” said Marin County Fire Chief **Jason Weber**. A wide range of information and resources will be available at the forum, which is sponsored by FIREsafe Marin.

Recognition for Interns and Volunteers

The Marin County Board of Supervisors is scheduled to proclaim April as Volunteer and Student Intern Recognition Month in Marin for the vital role that volunteers and interns play in supporting the quality of life in our community. Board President **Kate Sears** is the sponsor of the proclamation.

Happy Anniversary!

We congratulate these volunteers who celebrate their anniversaries this month and thank them for their involvement.

22 YEARS

Mary Bowles (Tiburon), **Roger Felton** (Belvedere), **Helen Lindqvist** (Tiburon), **Rosine Reynolds** (Larkspur), Stewards, Parks

19 YEARS

Grant Pritchard (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

18 YEARS

James Malaspina (Palm Springs), **Al Baumann** (Petaluma), Patrol Volunteers, Parks

13 YEARS

Barbara Levin (San Rafael), **Nora Martinis** (Corte Madera), Senior Peer Counselors, Health & Human Services (HHS)

12 YEARS

Robert Eichstaedt (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

10 YEARS

Sandra Walker (San Rafael), Chaplain, Sheriff's Office
Cara Wasden (Petaluma), Senior Access Reader, Novato Library

8 YEARS

Donald Johnson (Fairfax), Patrol Volunteer, Parks
Kathryn Mitchell-Ball (San Rafael), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS

7 YEARS

Andrew Pope (Sausalito), Maintenance Aide, Community Development Agency

6 YEARS

Susan Buster (Woodacre), Shelver, Fairfax Library

5 YEARS

Jen Bach (Tombales), Volunteer Firefighter, Tomales Station, Fire

Curt Simon (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

3 YEARS

David Ball (San Rafael), Consumer Mediator, District Attorney's Office

Jerry Kay (Novato), **Stephen Sarhad** (San Rafael), RACES/ACS Volunteers, Sheriff's Office

Earl McCowen (Novato), **Marty McCowen** (Novato), Patrol Volunteers, Parks

2 YEARS

Richard Gordon (Novato), English Tutor, Novato Library

Nicholas Koo (El Sobrante), **Marcia McEwen** (Novato), **Adam Vasquez** (Larkspur), **Celena Tanguay** (Oakland), **Michael Synyard** (Berkeley), **Chris Patella** (San Francisco), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteers, Sheriff's Office

Sydney Lundquist (Dublin), **Dalynn McEwen** (Novato), **Tessa Pares** (Muir Beach), **Maxwell Tripp** (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteers, Sheriff's Office

Robin Meisel (San Rafael), Ombudsman, HHS

Satvik Namburu (San Rafael), Teen Program Intern, Civic Center Library

1 YEAR

Rose Lupo (San Rafael), Steward, Parks

Rocket Williams (San Anselmo), **Max Duran** (San Anselmo), Student Service Interns, Fairfax Library

Bobby Wood (San Rafael), Volunteer View Layout Volunteer, Human Resources

Horseback Patrol

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blind corners, off-leash dogs on trails, and the occasional pop-up campsite. Volunteers don't approach campsites, but immediately call ranger headquarters. Sometimes, on mounted patrol, she'll meet a fellow equestrian with an off-leash dog where it's not allowed, or leaving a trail that is seasonally closed. Equestrians are easy for her to talk to: "We all speak the same 'language' and want to retain our horse-riding privileges. Obeying the rules is important."

Linda once encountered a woman in Cascade Canyon Preserve who appeared disoriented. The woman couldn't find her dog, whom she had tied to a tree. Linda helped her get water and feel safe, and then called rangers. She and a deputy sheriff searched unsuccessfully until nightfall, but next day neighbors and an Open Space ranger found the dog safe and sound in a canyon. A happy ending.

Mounted Patrol volunteers report information via an online system, logging numbers of hikers, equestrians, bikers, and dogs, property damage, road and

trail conditions, and more. They may note downed trees, what's in bloom, and information about invasive non-native plants. The latter ignite Linda's professional side as a landscape management consultant. "I can't help myself. I get off my horse and start pulling!"

Linda's staff supervisor is Parks Volunteer Coordinator **Greg Reza**. "Linda is one of our most consistent reporters in the volunteer Mounted Patrol program," he said. "Her reports are detailed, allowing rangers to quickly and efficiently handle issues. She often comes across property problems that she can handle without ranger assistance and will roll up her sleeves and take care of a downed limb or vegetation impeding the trail right on the spot. She is a great person to have on our patrol team."

Linda's horse, Falco, a 19-year-old Andalusian gelding, has been her trail partner for nearly 15 years. She gladly shares him with visitors, especially children. Dismounting, she introduces Falco to them. "It's important to keep the

horse tradition alive," she said. The volunteers' horses are rigorously tested to ensure that they remain calm in a variety of situations. Volunteers also attend refresher courses in first aid and CPR.

Linda has patrolled at the Roy's Redwoods, Maurice Thorner Memorial, Rush Creek, Mt. Burdell, Horse Hill, French Ranch, and Giacomini preserves. She hopes to visit the rest of the county's preserves, 34 in all, while on patrol with Falco.

As if volunteering in the parks four times a week in good weather weren't enough, Linda is president of the Marin Conservation League, whose mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural resources of Marin County for the community's benefit.

Would you like to volunteer in Marin's beautiful open spaces? Contact Parks Volunteer Coordinator Greg Reza at GReza@marincounty.org.

Who's New & Welcome!

Natalie Agnew (San Anselmo), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

Hannah Agren (Tiburon), Nutrition Wellness Program Intern, Health & Human Services (HHS)

Daniela Alvarado (San Rafael), School to Career High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Crystal Amezcua (San Rafael), Legal Support Intern, District Attorney's Office

Eryka Bactad (South San Francisco), Collaborative Academic Practice Alliance (CAPA) Nursing Student, HHS

Tramanh Bui (Santa Ana), Nutrition Wellness Program Intern, HHS

Paul Comesanas (Windsor), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS

Vanessa Comins (Kentfield), School to Career High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Leah Contardi (Sebastopol), WIC Dietetic Intern, HHS

James Cook (Rohnert Park), Veterans Remains Officer, HHS

Kelsea Critin (Rohnert Park), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS

Phil Danskin (Sonoma), California Room Map Archive Docent, Researcher, and Cataloger, Library

Natalia Davidson (San Rafael), School to Career High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Brittney Dominguez (Suisun City), Adult Probation Aide, Probation

John Donaghue (San Francisco), Design Consultant, Human Resources

Erin Edmunds (Berkeley), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS

Zachary Farnkopf (San Anselmo), District 2 Intern, Board of Supervisors

Ella Foskett (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Charles Fracchia (San Francisco), Financial Abuse Specialist Team (FAST) Volunteer, HHS

Madison Grove-Burke (Fairfax), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Trystan Gunn (Novato), Teen Shelver, Novato Library

Judith Hanks (Mill Valley), Post-Conviction Relief Attorney, Public Defender's Office

Steven Paul Huish (Corte Madera), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Jerry Kay (Novato), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service/Auxiliary Communications Services (RACES/ACS) Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Cassiopeia Kelly (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Kathy Le (Livermore), Nutrition Wellness Program Intern, HHS

Andrea Leffew (Santa Rosa), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS

Lauren Marckwordt (Novato), School to Career High School Intern, Public Defender's Office

Elizabeth McKee (Mill Valley), California Room Archivist and Caltrans Historian, Library

Jennifer Molline (Alameda), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS

Connor Mulcahy (San Rafael), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS

Sal Munoz (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Alec Murrer (San Rafael), Communicable Disease Student Intern, HHS

Akikta Murti (Novato), English Tutor, Novato Library

Mia Nguyen (San Rafael), Bridge Team Program Assistant, HHS

Adrienne Niedermann (San Rafael), Civic Center Tour Docent, Cultural Services

Amy Palmer (Mill Valley), California Room Archivist & Preservation Associate, Library

Tessa Pares (Muir Beach), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

John Pope (Novato), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Parker Pringle (Tiburon), California Room Research and Archive Aide, Library

Ed Remitz (Larkspur), Writing and Editing Coach, Human Resources

Brad Rippe (San Anselmo), California Room Researcher & Cataloguer, Library

Gary Robards (San Rafael), California Room Survey Archivist, Library

Sherry Rogers (Novato), FAST Volunteer, HHS

Rob Ruiz (San Rafael), Steward, Parks

Aya Shadan (Corte Madera), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Curt Simon (San Rafael), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Ashley Sims (Santa Rosa), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS

Samuel St. John (Mill Valley), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Devyn Stasiowski (Sebastopol), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS

Kairin Tadosa (Daly City), CAPA Nursing Student, HHS

Pearl Thompson (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Lucas Tress (Larkspur), Marin Search & Rescue Youth Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

John Van Hooser (Tiburon), Marin Search & Rescue Volunteer, Sheriff's Office

Rita Wengler (Novato), Senior Peer Counselor, HHS