

# NOTICIAS DE ANZA

Number 21

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

July 2003

## Volunteers-The Backbone of the Anza Trail

From day one, volunteers provided the stamina that created the Anza Trail. In the beginning, it was the willing recruits that Anza lined up 228 years ago to trek across the desert for a new way of life on the Spanish frontier. Twenty years ago it was the hundreds of hikers and equestrians that helped create the movement that led to the legislation establishing the National Trail. Without volunteers, the expedition would not have happened and the trail would not exist today.

The challenges facing today's volunteers may be less dangerous than those faced by the Anza Expedition in 1776 but they can be daunting all the same. Trying to organize a trail ride in a congested urban setting; working with local hikers and riders to patrol pristine trail segments to keep vehicles out; testifying at late night local planning meetings to keep the Anza Trail from being neglected.

Volunteers have labored on countless projects during the 13 years that have passed since Congress



*Equestrians from around California volunteered their time, energy, and horses for a day long commemoration at Presidio Pasados in San Francisco this June, making the trail come alive for spectators and riders alike.*

created the Anza Trail. Many have worked with landowners to develop easements across property. Others have gone into classrooms to give living history programs on the expedition. Volunteers have installed trail markers, removed vegetation, built bridges and established functional trail. Many others have operated information booths at fairs and festivals to inform the public about this story.

This issue of Noticias highlights a few of the projects that volunteers are working on. In each case, working with other concerned citizens, they are making a difference on the Anza Trail.

### **Presidio Pasados - San Francisco, California**

The anniversary of the arrival of the Anza Expedition in 1776 marked

the official birthday of San Francisco for its citizens. Two centuries ago, this meant the firing of canons and a volley of musket fire. Although today's celebrations are short on gunpowder, Anza Trail volunteers have made this ceremony one of the most colorful and exciting events along the Anza Trail.

Horses, the Presidio, and the Anza Trail have a long, common, shared history. When looking for a way to mark this year's celebration, volunteers knew that horses would have to be part of it. The original expedition depended on horses to take the families and soldiers from their homes in Mexico to Alta California. First under the Spanish, then under the Mexicans and finally under the US Army, the Presidio used horses

*(Continued on page 2, Volunteers)*

### Inside This Issue...

Ways to Help Out	4
News From Arizona	5
From the Superintendent	7
Delta de Anza	8
Along the Trail	9



**Volunteers with the Salinas River Watch-Anza Trail began their first patrols of the Atascadero segment of the Anza Trail in order to cut down on off road vehicle traffic. They also have been answering visitor questions, from hikers like Annie Cline and daughter Kathleen.**

*(Volunteers, continued from page 1)*

to patrol the fort, during the Spanish-American War, and even to watch over the first National Parks in Yosemite and at Sequoia. Planners for this year's celebration knew that using horses would be a fitting way to acknowledge this legacy. The challenge came in how to find and transport a sufficient number of mounted riders to one of the most urban cities along the entire trail route.

*Amigos de Anza* Trail founder George Cardinet and president Nancy Dupont put out the call earlier this spring to riders from around the state to come to the Presidio to help mark the annual celebration. Equestrians who were active during the 1976 and 1996 reenactments as well as two dozen riders who are new to the trail navigated their horse trailers through downtown San Francisco and made their way to the Presidio to reenact the ride through the former military base.

Wearing the uniforms of soldiers from the Spanish period, the riders provided an entourage for the arrival of Juan Bautista de Anza. Following the ceremony in which Anza addressed the assembled descendants of the original expedition, the riders spent the rest of the day riding the Anza Trail through the Presidio. They gave a living representation to hundreds of park visitors of what the expedition might have looked like when they arrived at the then sandy hillsides above the Golden Gate two centuries ago.

Volunteers like George Cardinet, Nancy Dupont, and the dozens of equestrians who answered the call made this day a memorable event for the more than one hundred descendants and the hundreds of children that were able to participate in the activities.

The United States Park Police added to the success of the event by providing escorts for the riders, a place to set up camp, and a corral

to board the animals. Their support allowed the riders to arrive the day before the event and to feel rested and safe as they traveled along the route.

Amigos de Anza will continue to include horse ride in the annual event. Persons interested in attending next year's event should contact George Cardinet or Nancy Dupont at Amigos de Anza at (925) 937-7431.

### **The Salinas River Watch – Central California**

The Atascadero segment of the Salinas River in central California is a peaceful contrast to nearby US 101. It is one of the many natural areas along the Anza Trail where hikers and riders can explore the natural environment as well the area's history. It is also struggling with the effects of off-road vehicle use on trails.

The roar of motorcycle traffic on the Anza Trail in Atascadero has become a daily event for equestrians, birders, and bikers. Aside from the noise, the well-maintained trails have begun to erode away from the single-track ruts caused by motorcycles. The local police department has been unable to respond to citizen complaints due to a lack of sufficient staff to patrol the river corridor.

Realizing that the police needed help, Amigos de Anza Lydia Francis and Leanne Brown began recruiting other people interested in protecting this segment of the river. Almost two-dozen citizens volunteered to become active in the preservation of their town's stretch of the Anza Trail. *The Salinas River Watch – Anza Trail* group formed to protect the resource that they cared about.

Working in cooperation with the Atascadero police department, the

*(Continued on next page)*

(from previous page)

trail volunteers patrol the route regularly during daylight hours. During this initial phase, they are primarily responsible for creating a log of all illegal activities that occur in the area. This log will give the local police a better idea of when they need to be present to deal with illegal off road vehicle users.

Aside from patrolling the route, the River Watch group also provides interpretive materials and information about hiking along the trail and the natural history of the area. They designed and printed a pamphlet explaining the history of the Anza Trail and the rules and regulations along the river corridor.

Leanne Brown has been able to fill almost the entire schedule with dedicated volunteer patrol members. As the patrol continues to evolve, they may expand to other portions of the trail along the Salinas River in areas managed by the local water district. Until then, they will continue to concentrate on the stretch of Anza Trail nearest the Wranglerette Arena.

Although equestrians played a large role in getting this portion of the trail certified, hikers and mountain bikers have also been drawn to the patrol.

“One day we patrol on horse, the next we patrol by foot. Either way, I see things from a different perspective each time,” said Brown of the patrol during its first week in early July.

If you are interested in helping out with the patrol, please give Leanne Brown a call at (805) 460-0724.

### **Santa Cruz River Cleanup - Arizona**

The section of trail running from Tumacácori National Historical Park to Tubac Presidio State Historic Park in southern Arizona is

one of the most-used segments of the Anza Trail. Great bird watching, coupled with a year around water supply and a heavy canopy of cottonwoods, mesquite, and willows makes for enjoyable walks anytime of year. A cadre of dedicated volunteers made this trail a reality and continue its betterment today.

One of the major challenges to maintaining this stretch of trail has been the influx of trash that makes its way into the Santa Cruz River. Each monsoon season, thousands of pounds of trash are washed into the river channel, polluting and littering the stream for miles. Anza Trail volunteers in Santa Cruz County have taken on this challenge as they have attempted to collect the trash.

In June 2003, working in cooperation with rangers from Tubac, park staff from Santa Cruz County, and students from the Youth Conservation Corps, trail volunteers

removed over 70 tires and 400 bags of trash from the river corridor along the trail.

“We have these ‘Jam Sessions’ every now and then when we really concentrate on cleaning a section of the trail,” said Dennis Jex. “I’m always trying to find new people that are excited about protecting this area. It’s such a great area for wildlife and birding.”

Trail foreman Mike Burns is also looking for ways to clean the river farther upstream on the Santa Cruz and in the Nogales Wash on the Mexican side of the Anza Trail. He is working on a proposal to get young people on both sides of the border excited about the trail and helping clean their environment.

Anyone interested in helping with the Santa Cruz River clean-ups should give Mike a call at (520) 398-9829 to get involved in their next jam session. ❖



**Volunteers joined forces in Hayward, California over Earth Day weekend to clean up a historic campsite used by Anza in 1776.**

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# 15 Ways That You Can Volunteer to Help the Anza Trail

Many people want to help the Anza Trail. With a 1,200-mile trail, there is plenty of work to go around. As the trail continues to develop, it will need people in each county along the route working in a variety of positions. While working for the Anza Trail, volunteers are part of the Volunteers in Park program and are covered by Workmen's Comp insurance. Contact trail headquarters at (510) 817-1323 if you are interested in helping out with one of these jobs.

**Hike Leaders** – Takes a group of hikers/riders on a segment of the Anza Trail. The volunteer will need basic hiking/riding equipment such as a daypack, water bottle, and hiking shoes. These hikes should be offered on a regular basis and can be as long as the volunteer thinks appropriate.

**Researchers** – Provides valuable insight into various aspects of the Anza Trail in a community or county. The volunteer can work out of the home, using the internet, telephone, or reference materials to discover more about the Anza Trail, which could include historical and recreational components along the trail.

**Advocates** – Serves as the eyes and ears of the Anza Trail and attends public planning meetings that would be pertinent to the Anza Trail.

**Auto Route Monitors** – Patrol a particular segment of the Anza Driving Route. They report on the status of the driving signs. Volunteers will need to have access to a car. Monitors will need to travel their assigned segment of road two to four times a year, telling the trail administration of any signs that need to be replaced. At present, only the 14 counties along the California segment are marked.

**GPS Trailblazers** – Travel a segment of the recreation trail while using a portable GPS unit to survey the route. There are currently about 300 miles of trail open to recreational use, with hundreds of miles of potential recreational segments in need of surveying. Trailblazers can travel as many segments as they want.

**Public Events Representative** – Answer questions at public events such as fairs and special events. If s/he feels qualified, s/he may also speak to groups or at events about the trail.

**Visitor Center Volunteers** – Represents the trail at one of the two-dozen state and national parks along the trail. Although they will work primarily for the site they are at, they are a source of information for staff at those sites about the Anza Trail.

**Writers and Photographers** – Writes articles or records trail events for the trail newsletter and for the local press.

**Classroom Presenters** – Offers curriculum-based programs to students in classrooms or along a trail segment. Volunteers should have experience working with children in an educational setting.

**Volunteer Patrol** – Monitor segments of the Anza Trail. They patrol trail when there is an increased need for vigilance due to resource destruction, safety, or education.

**Trail Markers** – Install trail signage along certified portions of the trail. The volunteer should be able bodied and capable of hiking/riding, carrying various tools and sign materials, and installing them. The NPS and local land managers will help provide any equipment necessary for their installation.

**Webmaster** – Improve and create new web pages that deal with the Anza Trail. The volunteer can work out of his/her home or out of the regional office in Oakland

**Photo Scanner** – Scan the trail's photo collection and put it in a digital format. The volunteer does not need skill in this area but will need to live near the trail headquarters in Oakland.

**Amtrak Docents** – Ride aboard the Coast Starlight and provide interpretation about California history and the Anza Trail. The staff of the South Coast Railroad Museum trains the volunteers.

**Trail Builders** – Maintain and build hiking and riding segments along the recreational route for the Anza Trail. They need to be in good physical condition and capable of carrying in various building materials as well as be skilled in the use of various tools. ❖

## Volunteers In Parks Merit Awards

Anza Trail volunteers are part of a National Park Service community known as Volunteers in Parks. This program recognizes volunteers for their commitment to parks and offers them achievement awards each year. Anza Trail VIPs can earn these awards each year through their efforts to help the trail.

♦ 10 to 50 hours of service during any given year will earn an award certificate and a trail pin

♦ 50 to 100 hours of service during any given year earns an Anza Trail Shirt - designs will change annually

♦ More than 100 hours of service or two consecutive years as a trail volunteer earns an Anza Trail coffee mug

♦ 250 hours of service or three consecutive years as a trail volunteer an Anza Trail earns a polo shirt

## News from Arizona



By G. Donald Kucera  
President of the  
Anza Trail Coalition  
of Arizona

Every summer in Southern Arizona everyone waits for the summer rains to start about the first of July. We refer to these rains as the Monsoons which officially start when the dew point is 54 degrees or higher for three consecutive days. Even if this condition exists, it does not mean it will rain. When the anvil topped cumulonimbus clouds appear we know it has arrived.

Even though the rain may be miles away, you can smell it. When the raindrops touch the creosote bush it transforms the desert into this wonderful ether. With the disastrous fires in the Santa Catalina Mountains, just north of Tucson, the

rain will be very welcome by everyone, to put the fires completely out. When one reads the journals of the Anza Expedition there is not much written on the weather. But, most likely Anza must have considered the summer rains, the growth of forage for the animals and available surface and ground water in planning the start time for the entrada.

At the writing of these notes in July, the afternoon temperatures are in the 100's in Tucson and in Gila Bend and Yuma over 110 degrees. This time of the year is best spent indoors, planning, sorting out paperwork stacked up from last summer and putting out of mind working on the trail.

Now to the trail. In Santa Cruz County Dennis Jex has been active in extending the trail from Tubac Presidio State Historic Park to the Tubac Golf Resort. Richard Williams has proposed plans to establish trailheads in the Rio Rico Segment. The Santa Cruz Group is

still in the process of obtaining easements and certification for the trail segments in Santa Cruz County. Monthly meetings are being held at the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park planning the ANZA DAYS event for the 18th and 19th of October.

A contract has been let to the WLB Group to study the Tucson Origins Cultural Park, part of the Rio Nuevo project. It includes part of the Tucson Presidio, Mission San Agustin, the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and other cultural features. A series of private and public meetings have been held for group and individual input. The draft plan is scheduled to be available in October or November. For those interested in making comments, contact Ms. Freda Johnson at the Rillito Consulting Group, in Tucson, at (520) 622-1933. The city of Tucson continues to work on the plan to develop the Christopher Columbus Park. This includes a 1.5 mile segment of the trail. ❖

## New Road Opens an Easy Door to Arizpe Conference and Sonora

From Anita Badertscher  
Tumacácori National Historical Park

The new road from *Cucurpe* to *Arizpe* is an engineering and scenic wonder. The government of the State of *Sonora* completed it in 13 months. The scenery over and through the mountains is spectacular. It allowed the Anza Conference to visit the ancient *Real de Minas* called *Saracachi*. Abandoned by the 1780's, *Saracachi* is one of those completely pristine archaeological sites that any archaeologist would give his right arm to visit. Jack Williams said it looked like heaven to him! We also visited the pre-revolution hacienda of *Agua Fria* which is a true historic site itself.

In *Arizpe*, Don Garate presented the conference goers with two letters

written by Anza brother-in-law, Juan Bernal, at *Saracachi* in 1767, telling of a terrible plague that was devastating *Sonora* and making mention that Anza's wife was pregnant and getting heavier daily.

The road also allowed for six of the more hardy members to hike a couple of miles up the *Cajón de Piedra Lisa* (Slick Rock Canyon), where Anza and a half dozen soldiers, a pack string of mules, and several mule packers headed for Tubac managed to escape some attacking Apaches under a full moon on the night of May 8, 1768.

Conference goers were also treated to a visit of what was probably the original *Opata* village that constituted *Arizpe* at the time of Spanish contact in the mid-1600's - another pris-

tine archaeological site with a spectacular view of the *Sonora* River Valley.

Seven living history performers gave a program to hundreds of school children between the ages of nine and twelve. It went over remarkably well and the interaction with the students lasted for over two hours. Papers presented on Friday were excellent. *Folkloricos* from *Hermosillo* put on an outstanding program and a *Rondaya* and *Callejondeara* on Friday evening were enjoyed by all. Also visited by the group were the *Arizpe* cemetery, Carmen Pellat's museum, the missions at *Banámichi*, *Aconchi*, and *Huepac*, the old flour mill at *Bamori*, and a *Bacanora* still below *Sinoquipe*. ❖

# ATCA Adds New Trail Segment North of Tubac

The Anza Trail has gained another mile of recreational route for equestrians, hikers, and bird watchers in southern Arizona. Trail volunteers from the Santa Cruz chapter of the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona are working in partnership with the Tubac Resort to continue the existing trail from the Presidio north to the Tubac Resort golf course.

This new recreational trail segment follows the historic corridor used by the members of the Anza expedition in 1775. Still in the general flood zone of the Santa Cruz River, the



*Cottonwoods and willows line the new trail north of Tubac Presidio.*



**Anza Trail marker**

route north of Tubac is a continuation of the dense, riparian plant community that exists farther south. The river at this point surfaces at a few points, but there is sufficient water underground to sustain a dense canopy from the cottonwoods. As one of the few sources of water in the area, this segment is especially attractive to bird life.

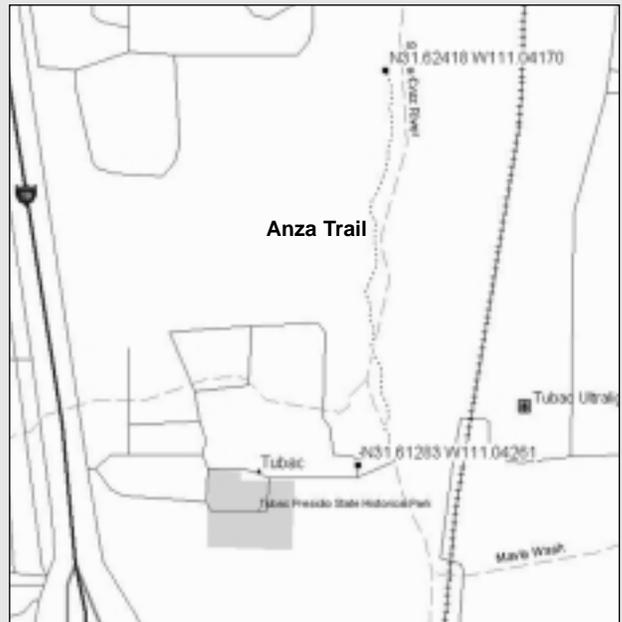
The new one-mile segment begins just north of the Tubac Presidio.

Following the river channel, it weaves its way through mesquite bosques and dense groves of cottonwoods. The trail currently stops at the boundary of the golf course which is still under construction. The Tubac Resort will be routing the trail directly through the course when construction is completed. Hikers on the trail will be able to use the restroom facilities as well as visit the snack bar and restaurant located on the grounds.

Land owners in Santa Cruz County have been in the forefront in incorporating the Anza Trail into both existing and planned developments. North of Nogales, Rio Rico Properties has worked with the Santa Cruz County chapter of ATCA to build and establish trail along the entire length of the Santa Cruz River within their property boundaries. Other private landowners

have granted access to their land to help establish the 4.5-mile trail between the mission and the presidio.

Hikers interested in exploring this trail segment access it by hiking north on the Anza Trail from the Presidio. White *Carsonite* posts labeled "Anza Trail" help define the route. ❖



**Hikers can access the trail just north of the Tubac Presidio on River Avenue by following the Anza Trail signs at the trailhead near the river.**

## From the Superintendent



By Meredith Kaplan

Many of you will know what I mean when I say that the Anza Trail has changed and enriched my life. Just knowing about the Anza expedition motivates me to imagine what the landscape may have been in 1776 and what the settlers may have experienced, marching an average of 15 miles nearly every day on horseback or on foot, in good weather or bad. Over the years, I have come to appreciate the complexity of the effect on the landscape and on the indigenous peoples of this movement of a culture from Mexico to California.

This September, when I walk the *Camino de Santiago* in northern Spain, I will have a chance to better understand this pace of travel and experience some of the complexity Spanish culture brought to the New World years before Anza's birth. I will walk 700 kilometers or so (about 420 miles or roughly 15 miles a day for 28 days) from Roncesvalles in the Basque country to Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. The full route extends from Paris and other points in France.

While begun as a religious trek, over the centuries the *Camino* has generated an extraordinary level of cultural, social, and economic energy, which makes it a place for cultural encounters between various peoples. For this reason, the

entire Route of St. James ("Santiago" in Spanish) from Paris to Santiago de Compostela was proclaimed the first European Cultural Itinerary by the Council of Europe in 1987. Santiago de Compostela, the final destination, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Some 1,800 buildings along the route, both religious and secular, are of great historic interest. First followed in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, it was not until the 11<sup>th</sup> century that the route used today became established. This route played a fundamental role in encouraging cultural exchanges between the Iberian peninsula and the rest of Europe during the Middle Ages.

This pilgrimage route has similarities and differences from the Anza Trail. Both can be followed by car, bicycle, horse, or on foot. Both travel through towns and rural areas. Both are marked with a symbol: for the *Camino*, it's the cockle shell; for the Anza Trail, it's the logo. Both have a specific destination: Santiago de Compostela and the Presidio of San Francisco.

But the centuries old *Camino* provides a continuous infrastructure of support for the traveler. It has pilgrim's refuges (*refugios*) as well as a range of hotels and eating establishments in the many towns it travels through. It has an official passport, the *compostela*, with stamps for every stop along the way. It has guidebooks and websites galore. Thousands of people have walked it over the centuries and received their final passport stamp in Santiago de Compostela.

As I walk this ancient way, I will note how the trail is laid out and marked, as it meanders through

the countryside and travels through towns. I will assess the facilities provided and the preservation measures taken. I will imagine the 1200-mile Anza Trail centuries hence, its 100 or so historic sites preserved and interpreted, and the amenities it may have when it is a continuous route of travel for anyone who wants to better understand the movement of the complex culture that Anza brought. I hope to return with many ideas for the Anza Trail.

I will be gone from August 22 to October 1. David Smith will be the Acting Superintendent. He can be reached at 510-817-1323 or at david\_smith@nps.gov. ❖

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*Noticias de Anza is a publication of the National Park Service through the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. It is a quarterly newsletter provided free of charge to those interested in learning more about the trail's history, culture, and recreational opportunities. Articles from the public are welcome. David Smith provides layout and writing for the newsletter. The editor is Meredith Kaplan, Trail Superintendent. Comments and articles can be sent to: Meredith Kaplan c/o The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, 1111 Jackson #600, Oakland, CA 94607, or to meredith\_kaplan@nps.gov.*

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## Along The Trail ...

❖ In mid-February, the **Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza Riders** captured a second place trophy and plaque in the historical Category in the 78<sup>th</sup> annual Tucson Rodeo Parade. Fifteen uniformed *soldados de cuera* and eight civilians in period cos-

**Obispo County** hosted an Anza Trail display at the popular third Annual Family Day along the Bob Jones Bike Trail on May 17. They distributed brochures and answered questions.

❖ On May 3, **Olga Loya**, a storyteller, and **Calicanto**, a musical group, blended their talents to

**Hardwick** portrayed Governor Felipe de Neve.

❖ The ninth annual Salinas River School event on May 22 included a hike along the Anza Trail. For four hours, 40 elementary school and 20 high school students learned about aquatic biology, Atascadero's water supply, and botany along the river trail. Participating teachers were **Mr. Zachary**, **Mr. Neely**, and **Mrs. Gulassa**.

❖ On May 31, a crowd gathered to dedicate Phase I of the Sepulveda Adobe renovation in Malibu Creek State Park. The program, planned by **Robin Mitchell**, included remarks by **Lindsay Templeton** and **Hayden Sohm** of California State Parks, **Meredith Kaplan** and greetings from assembly-



**San Luis Obispo Amigos de Anza Lydia Francis, Dorothy Jennings, and Dan Woodson at Family Days.**

tume rode on horseback along with one padre on a mule. Riders came from Tucson, Green Valley, Arivaca, Amado, Rio Rico, and Nogales. **Luis Bracamonte** appeared as Juan Anza. The group plans to participate in parades and other events around the state to promote awareness of the historical significance of the Anza expedition.

❖ On April 19, the City of Orange, California, dedicated Grijalva Park, named for the Anza expedition Sergeant **Juan Pablo Grijalva**, the area's first non-native settler.

❖ **Amigos de Anza of San Luis**

tell the story of the Anza expedition in words and music at the Cinco de Mayo festivities at the Mexican Heritage Plaza in San Jose, California.

❖ On May 18, the New World Baroque Orchestra presented *A musical Day of Times Past at Old Mission San Miguel Archangel* featuring *La Misa en Sol*, 1795 and traditional dance by the Salinan Tribe. **Dorothy Jennings** introduced the Anza Trail to the crowd and the Amigos de Anza of San Luis Obispo County offered a display of trail information. **Paul Trujillo** portrayed Anza and **Michael**



**Eagle Scout Andrew Sisolak is hard at work installing signs on the new Anza Trail segment in the Cheeseboro Hills section of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.**

woman **Fran Pavley**, of the 41<sup>st</sup> Assembly District. **Ana Lupe Morado** and **Ralph Lee Moss** provided music and dance of the period, after which tours of the adobe were offered and refreshments served.

❖The **City of Concord** incorporated its new Master Trails Plan into its general plan. It envisions a network of trails, chief among them a safe connection between the Iron Horse Trail and the Delta-de Anza Trail.

❖**G. Donald Kucera**, Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona President, represented the Anza Trail in developing a master plan for the Tucson origins Cultural Park. It includes the Mission San Agustín (6 acres), the Mission Gardens (4.8 acres), the Tucson Presidio sites (2 acres), the banks of the Santa Cruz River near the park, and a connecting path between



**Runners taking off from the starting line at the Third Annual Anza Trail Run 8K in San Juan Bautista, California in May.**

the three separate sections of the park.

❖The Headlands Institute of Marin County, led by Advisory Council member **Hilda Castillo**, celebrates National Trails Day

annually. This year on June 7, a group of Latino students from the Canal Ministry Youth Program of San Rafael, were offered an overnight experience. They had a night hike with an introduction about the Anza Trail.



**Palo Alto city planner Greg Betts shows off a recently completed trailhead and bridge as part of a Challenge Cost Share project. The 1.25 mile segment of the Anza Trail runs through the Arastradero Preserve in Palo Alto. The 30-minute walk passes by a lake and through oak shrouded hills. Eventually, the city hopes to hook into trails in the Los Altos Hills.**

❖The City of Nogales, Arizona has been awarded a transportation enhancement grant by the Federal Department of Transportation for \$840,000 to create a two mile pedestrian and bicycle walkway along the Anza Trail on Grand Ave. The ten-foot wide path will provide a safe way for bikers and pedestrians to navigate. **Mayor Marco Lopez** is looking for ways to work with Anza Trail staff to provide interpretation along the route.

❖The bicycle station at the Los Angeles River Gardens Center is completed and has a fixed lighting system that frames an Anza Trail interpretive exhibit developed by North East Trees through the Challenge Cost Share Program. ❖

# A Day on the Trail - Exploring the Delta de Anza



By Suzanne Brinkley,  
National Park Service  
Planner and Hiker

After hearing the Anza Trail staff speak so enthusiastically about the trail, I decided to see for myself what all the excitement was about. One April morning, I headed off to the well-marked Delta De Anza Regional Trail in Antioch, California, where it was suggested that some of the most scenic vistas on the trail could be found.

I was pleasantly surprised at what I found. Not only did I discover a little bit of history in my own backyard, but I found a multi-use trail that provided access to a number of



**Dog walker on the Delta de Anza Trail**

recreation areas, such as Contra Loma Regional Park, Antioch Community Park, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve and Lone Tree Golf Course. The Delta de Anza trail also serves as a transit route for many, including students who attend Los Medanos Community College. In addition to these amenities, the trail provides the perfect opportunity to slow down, relax and appreciate the beauty of the surrounding area.

The trail was empty at the time of my visit except for a few recreational bikers and dog walkers willing to brave the cold. Recent rains had left

the Contra Costa Water District's canal, which runs adjacent to the trail, flowing at full capacity. The slight breeze and the water breaking against the canal banks created such a soothing environment that even the most harried person would be put at ease. But it was the scenic aspects of the trail that caught my attention. To the south were impressive views of California oaks that dotted the rolling hills. Lupine, poppies and mustard plants were in full bloom and found along the length of the trail.

Ironically, the historic trail must compete with 21<sup>st</sup> century realities, principally traffic and development. James Donlon Boulevard runs parallel to the trail at one point, and serves as a major thoroughfare between Antioch and Pittsburg. Depending on the time of the day, traffic, noise and

exhaust fumes can become intrusive for the trail user. Principle access points to a residential development are located directly across the street and add traffic. Although these aspects dramatically change the character of the trail, and the level of enjoyment for the user, they impact only a small portion of the trail. After a brief time, the trail meanders back behind residential development and links up again with the canal.

Now is the time to explore the trail, whether on foot, by bike or on horseback. Take advantage of the warm



**Canal along the trail**

summer weather for an early morning hike or bike ride, followed by a swim at Contra Loma Regional Park or a picnic at Antioch Community Park. Other options might include a hike up to the Black Diamond Regional Preserve for some exploring and a stop by their visitor center. All recreational facilities are adjacent to the trail and provide ample parking. But I would suggest biking or hiking over to these areas in order to gain a better understanding of the Anza legacy and appreciate first hand the multitude of resources this trail has to offer. ❖

## Trail Facts

**Location** - From Willow Pass Road in Concord to Marsh creek in Oakley, California

**Length** - 25 miles.

**Highlights** - Canal and flowers.

**For More Information** - Call (510) 562-PARK or visit the Est Bay Regional Park Website at <http://www.ebparcs.org/parks/deanza.htm>



# ANUNCIOS

## **Presidio, San Francisco, California**

July 21 through August 15, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. on weekdays. Explore an open archeological dig at the San Francisco Presidio. Free. Contact Will Elders at (415) 561-4323.

September 14, Sunday at 3 p.m. Anza Trail walk. Meet at the Crissy Field Visitor Center. Three miles-bring water and comfortable shoes. Contact David Smith at (510) 817-1323.

## **Anza Borrego Desert State Park, California**

November 2-4 Anza Trail Advisory Council meeting will be held in Borrego Springs adjacent to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The public is invited. Look for more information in our October newsletter.

November 14-17, Thursday to Sunday, Trail Cleanup and Camp-out. Contact Tom or Linda Marshall for more information 760-731-0444 or at [Traleman1@aol.com](mailto:Traleman1@aol.com).

## **Tubac Presidio, Arizona**

October 18-19 Anza Days at the Tubac Presidio. Contact the Tubac Chamber of Commerce at (520) 398-2704 or visit their website at [www.tubacaz.com](http://www.tubacaz.com).

## **San Gabriel, California**

September 1, 6:00 a.m. 222nd Annual Pobladores Walk from San Gabriel Mission to the Pueblo of Los Angeles. Leaves from the Mission at 428 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel, California. Call (626) 457-3035 for more information.

## **Skagit Valley, Washington**

August 21-25 Ninth National Conference on Scenic and Historic Trails. Organized by the partnership for the National Trails System. Contact Gary Werner at (608) 249-7870.

## **Los Angeles, California**

February 21, 2004. Fiesta de Anza as part of the 25th anniversary celebration of Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Contact David Smith at (510) 817-1323.

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# Noticias de Anza

*The Newsletter of the Juan Bautista  
de Anza National Historic Trail*

One of 22 National Trails  
A Millennium Trail

**National Park Service**  
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Oakland, California 94607  
Attention: Meredith Kaplan



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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



## ***Views from the Anza Trail - San Gabriel Mission, California***



***“The mission of San Gabriel is situated about eight leagues from the sea in a site of most beautiful qualities, with plentiful water and very fine lands. The site is level and open, and is about two leagues from the Sierra Nevada,” - Pedro Font, January 4, 1776. Aside from the sea and the Sierra Nevadas, virtually nothing remains of the scene that greeted Font. The small wooden church and farmed fields have been replaced by the adobe mission and manicured grounds that graces the property today.***