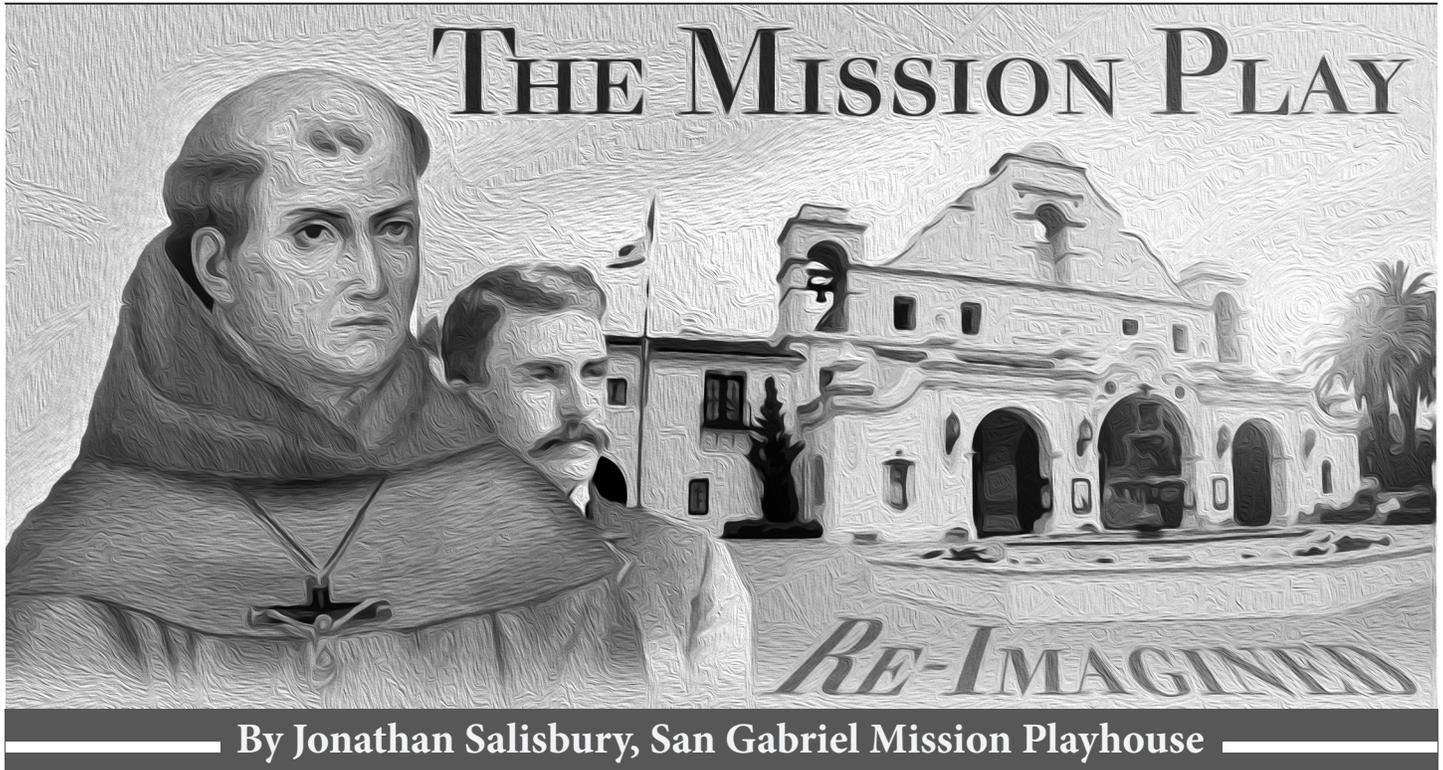


NOTICIAS DE ANZA

Number 54

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

January 2013



Between 1769 and 1823, the Holy Franciscan Friars established 21 Missions along the coast of California, from San Diego to San Francisco.

The *Mission Play*, charting the journey of Father Junipero Serra and his band of faithful followers as they struggled to bring their faith to the indigenous population of California, is a story full of passion and pride, faith and belonging, filled with color and song, tears, and laughter.

Written by journalist, congressman, and California poet laureate John Steven-McGroarty, the *Mission Play* was originally staged in 1911 outside the San Gabriel Mission where it ran for 16 years, drawing huge crowds from across the county.

In 1927, McGroarty's stunning vision and ambition saw the completion of the Mission Playhouse, built

specifically to house his astoundingly popular epic *Mission Play*. The play ran until 1932, attracting over 2.5 million people during the length of its run.

To celebrate the City of San Gabriel's Centennial in April 2013 and the 300th anniversary of Father Serra's birth, the Mission Playhouse is re-staging the *Mission Play* in a re-imagined form that reflects the perspective of modern-day audiences.

A group of young friends are drawn into the mists of time, back into the late 1700s, as they hang out together outside the Mission. They experience first-hand the trials and tribulations of the Holy Fathers as they fight for moral supremacy over the military, striving to bring their faith to the indigenous people of California. The young people become witnesses to this struggle, and the whole experience is framed by the perspective of a Native American forefather as he reflects on the scenes un-



The Mission Play, Re-Imagined

Continued -

folding before him.

The Mission Playhouse is a beautiful historic building, featuring many wonderful architectural details including a vast painted ceiling reflecting both Spanish and Native American influences, huge Spanish galleon lanterns, and tapestries given by the king of Spain. The building has been beautifully preserved and restored and houses many modern technological facilities to help create exciting and authentic experiences for over 100,000 visitors each year.

The Playhouse is committed to promoting access to audiences and producers through a program of work that reflects the rich diversity of the San Gabriel and wider California community. This production will both incorporate and promote that commitment.



Actors rehearse the re-imagined Mission Play (credit: San Gabriel Mission Playhouse)

In addition, the Playhouse will be launching a dedicated website which will not only sell tickets, but serve as a living archive for photographs, writings, testimonials and videos of the *Mission Play*, both old and new.

The Playhouse is assembling a wonderful creative team, some of whom are direct descendants of original *Mission Play* cast members and relatives of some of California's early settlers. They share a unique vision that will bring this classic work to life. Revel in history, ponder the past and future, and celebrate the present in this colorful, vibrant play—complete with music and dance.

For more information on the *Mission Play*, or to buy tickets, visit www.missionplay.org.



**See the Mission Play during its run at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse,
April 5-7, 2013**

**For tickets and more information:
www.missionplay.org or 626-308-2868**

Anza Trail Volunteer Appreciation Night is Friday, April 5!
Contact Hale Sargent for details: 415-623-2344 or hale_sargent@nps.gov



Jim Sleznick, retired National Park Service Superintendent, has served for years as an advocate and steward for the Anza Trail in San Benito County. He and a cadre of local volunteers donated more than 1,300 hours to trail maintenance and interpretation in 2012!

tional town signage have been helpful. Eagle Scout projects and assistance from the Rotary Club of San Juan Bautista have given our four-mile trail segment greater visibility.

Jim Sleznick

Of San Juan Bautista
Anza Trail VIP

questions and answers

Q What is special about the Anza Trail in San Benito County? Local trail users enjoy the very rural surroundings — a taste of Old California between settlements.

Q Why have you personally gotten involved with the trail? The trail was given little attention after its establishment. Now, trailhead signage and some direc-



Anza Trail Volunteer Jim Sleznick speaks at an event at the trailhead in San Juan Bautista, Calif.

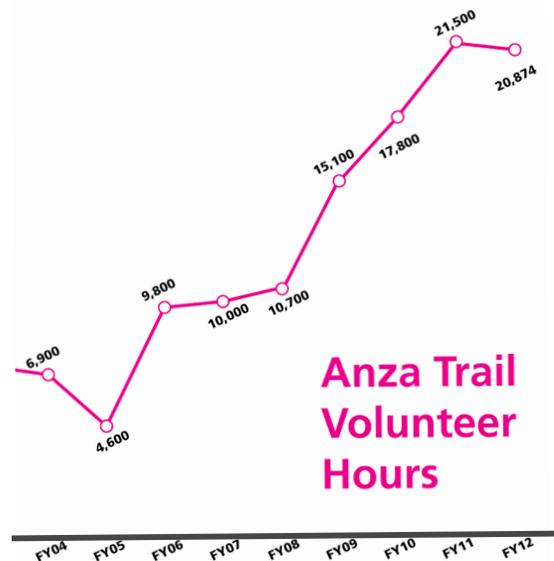
Q What are some of the reactions you see or hear as people learn about the trail in your community? I hear comments on how nice it is: quiet, scenic, and free of litter.

Q What would you like to see for the trail in the future? I'd like to see some Caltrans signage on Route 156 as it passes through San Juan Bautista to direct potential hikers and other users to this part of the historic fabric of our mission town.

Thank You Volunteers!

Over the past year, **358** volunteers logged **20,874** volunteer hours in Anza Trail interpretation, maintenance, resource management, and more (equal to nearly 2.5 years of round-the-clock work!)

We thank you for a wonderful year of contributions and look forward to even more projects, partnerships, and friendships in 2013!





RENEWABLE ENERGY SUCCESSES

By Steven Ross,
Outdoor Recreation Planner, NPS

Renewable energy planning efforts by federal and state governments have recently resulted in protection of the landscape seen from the historic Anza Trail. This is a dramatic turn-around from 2010, when the Imperial Valley Solar Project, a 6,000-acre solar field, threatened the Anza Trail's historic corridor with potential impacts to historic resources and dramatic views of the desert landscape.

A lot has changed since 2010. The Imperial Valley Solar Project has been abandoned, and the site is no longer eligible for solar development. Awareness of national historic trails and their significance has increased within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS) as a result of extensive discussions regarding renewable energy concerns.

Following the initial rush of "fast-track" renewable energy projects vying for tax credits, federal and state governments have focused their attention on long-range planning efforts to direct utility-scale renewable energy development to areas with the highest potential for energy generation and fewest conflicts with natural and cultural resources.

The **Solar Energy Development Programmatic Environmental Impact Report** (Solar PEIS), approved October 2012, identifies areas where solar energy development would be encouraged, prohibited, or discouraged on federal land in six southwestern states, including Arizona and California.

Through the Solar PEIS, all national scenic and historic trails are now specifically excluded from solar



energy development. In addition, much of the land adjacent to the Anza Trail historic corridor is designated as Exclusion Areas where solar development is also prohibited. California's **Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan** (still underway) and the **Arizona Restoration Design Energy Project** (decision January 2013) should translate to protections similar to the Solar PEIS.

Despite all the positive progress in the last few years, the Anza Trail still faces some threats from renewable energy projects. The **Ocotillo Wind Energy Project** was approved in June 2012 and is currently under construction on 10,000 acres at the southeastern boundary of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The project will install 112 turbines up to 428 feet tall, permanently altering dramatic views from the Yuha Desert. NPS and BLM staff are now collaborating on a mitigation plan that will benefit Anza Trail visitors with both local and trail-wide interpretative elements.

In Arizona, the proposed **Hyder Valley Solar Project** and the **Agua Caliente Solar Energy Zone** are within close proximity to the Anza Trail. NPS is attempting to influence the outcome of these projects to minimize impacts to views along the Anza Trail.

Awareness and protection of the Anza Trail—and national trails in general—has improved significantly since the renewable energy rush began in 2009. However, renewable energy projects continue to impact the trail. Therefore, national trails staff and supporters must remain vigilant to ensure that recent victories with programmatic documents are not negated by specific projects that are not subject to those regulations or somehow slip through the cracks.

PROTECTING THE ANZA TRAIL



Anza Trail Intern Krystal Ayala Creates Mexico Pen Pal Project



This winter, the Anza Trail welcomes Krystal Ayala, an intern of the California Historical Society, who is working to develop a pen pal program between youth in San Francisco and Mexico. Krystal writes:

“Saludos! I am currently in my last year at the University of San Francisco, majoring in Environmental Science and Latin American Studies. I am working as an intern with the California Historical Society on a project that highlights the Anza Trail.

“My project connects schoolchildren in Sonora, Mexico, to those in San Francisco. I hope to build a bridge from ‘start to finish’ of the expedition and establish a sustainable platform for a strong relationship of understanding between youth on both ends of the trail.

“As a first generation Mexican-American, I hold dearly the stories of the trials and tribulations that my parents and grandparents endured in order to establish a life in the United States. Intrigued by

the complex relationship that we hold with our physical environment to create cultures and traditions, I hope to transmit my passion for my heritage to younger generations.”

Krystal is in search of teachers in Sonora, Mexico, interested in participating. Contact her at Krystal_Ayala@partner.nps.gov or 415-623-2342.

Peralta Hacienda Introduces Spanish-Language Docents

By Chris Hambrick, Peralta Hacienda

Oakland’s Peralta Hacienda Historical Park introduced a Spanish-speaking Community Tour Leaders program this past fall. Fifteen community members completed a history “boot camp” last summer with historians, including Alex Zaragoza of UC Berkeley.

The docents then kicked off National Hispanic Heritage Month on September 15, by performing “El Grito” on the house steps before opening the house for the very first Spanish-language tours.

All exhibit text in the house museum has been translated into Spanish, giving proper homage to the Peraltas, the first Spanish-speaking family in what is now Oakland.

Learn more at www.peraltahacienda.org.

Farewell to Jonathan Hernandez!

At the close of 2012, the Anza Trail wished a fond farewell to San Francisco State University student **Jonathan Hernandez**, who had served as a friendly Anza Trail park guide in the Bay Area since 2011. We wish Jonathan all the best as he concludes his studies and pursues a career in telecommunications.



Along the Trail

Pinal County Approves Anza Recreation Trail Alignment

On October 17, 2012, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors approved a conceptual alignment for the Anza Recreational Trail, advancing the National Park Service’s goal of a *Recreational Retracement Route*—a continuous multi-use trail from Nogales, Ariz., to the San Francisco Bay Area.

Pinal County’s plan would connect existing trail segments to the south (along the Santa Cruz River in Pima County) to trail segments in Maricopa County and the Sonoran Desert National Monument. This alignment is generally south and west of the historic route of the Anza trail, which traverses tribal lands of the Gila River Indian Community.

The approved alignment builds on a trail feasibility study prepared by Joe Myers of the Anza Society & Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona and Joe Winfield of the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conversation Assistance Program. Myers and Winfield evaluated the potential of a recreational trail route from Pima County through Yuma County. The Pinal County alignment can be seen on the Anza Trail’s MapCollaborator: http://www.mapsportal.org/mapcollab_anza.

In other trail planning news, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is evaluating the feasibility of a recreational trail through Yuma and Maricopa counties. The earlier Myers and Winfield study has been an aide to this effort. BLM will prepare a public notice when the draft study is made available for public comment. Also, NPS and the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona are developing a comprehensive signage plan for the Anza Trail in Santa Cruz County that will improve public access and interpretation.

Anza Trail Traveling Trunk Now Available in Santa Barbara

Now available from the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP): “Following the Anza Trail,” a traveling trunk containing lesson plans and interactive objects to introduce school children to the significance of the Anza expedition.

Teachers may borrow the trunk free of charge. Included lesson plans, in English and Spanish, cover the people, landscape, and lifestyle of the Anza expedition.

“How often do elementary grade children get to think about the diversity of the population that founded the cities we live in today?” asks Torie Quiñonez, who coordinated the trunk’s development for the SBTHP.

“How many recognize that the elite of early California included people descended from Africans and indigenous people, at the same time that African and indigenous people were being enslaved on other parts of the continent? These are the reasons that I think the story of the 1775-1776 Anza Expedition is a unique one that we should all know more about in order to understand the place we call home today.”

The trunk and related curriculum were developed by the SBTHP through a Challenge Cost Share Program with the National Park Service.

The trunk must be reserved a minimum of two weeks in advance and picked up at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park located at 123 E. Canon Perdido Street in downtown Santa Barbara. For more information, contact Karen Anderson, SBTHP director of education, at 805-962-9504 or Karen@sbthp.org.



WHAT WOULD YOU PACK?

Create your own Anza Trail activity! Adapted from the **Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation's** Anza trunk, here are some items to create a hands-on display, along with questions to spark children's imagination.

Each member of the Anza Expedition was given a few sets of clothing and food rations by the Spanish military. With few places to resupply, the expedition had to carry enough supplies to last a long time. Families on the Anza expedition could bring only their most important possessions with them to Alta California. **Why do you think they chose the following items?**

BEANS:

In addition to cattle brought for meat, the expedition carried dry foods to feed all of the settlers. Beans are portable, resistant to spoilage, and could be cooked in large quantities to feed many people at once.

CHOCOLATE:

An important food item for the people of New Spain, chocolate was drunk the way coffee or tea is drunk today. It was prepared by heating tablets of chocolate with water and sometimes sugar, and blending them together with a kind of hand-held beater called a molinillo to give a foamy consistency.

Q: Do these sound like foods you would enjoy eating every day for 4 ½ months? What else would you need to prepare the food?

GOURD:

Gourds are perfect for carrying water once they are hollowed out and left to dry, similar to cleaning out a pumpkin for Halloween. Hard-shelled gourds are naturally strong, lightweight, water-resistant and require no complex manufacturing process.

WOMEN'S SCARF:

Women kept their heads covered to protect against the dust of the trail. With so many people and animals moving in a group, clouds of dust accompanied the colonists while they were on the move.

Q: What kind of supplies and clothes would you choose to take on a trip like this one? Too many clothes would have been bulky and made the mule packs too heavy. There were more important items to carry in the mule packs, like food or tools.

ROSARY:

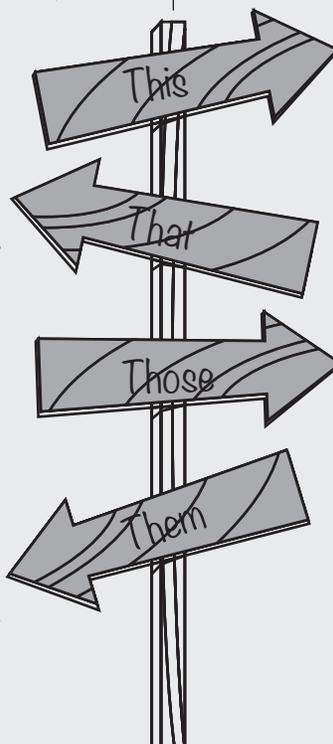
Rosaries are strings of beads used in the Catholic religion to count prayers; they are still used by many today. Unlike the U.S., where people practice many religions, Catholicism was the only religion allowed in New Spain. Religion was a major motivating factor in colonization; one of Spain's goals was to convert Native Americans to Catholicism. Faith in their god, expressed through prayer, gave the colonists motivation and strength.

Q: What would give you motivation and strength to take on a difficult challenge?

TRADE BEADS:

Many Native American tribes, like cultures all over the world, used beads to trade in exchange for goods. The Anza Expedition traveled with a large supply of beads to show goodwill toward native communities encountered along the trail.

Q: Have you ever given someone something that was very valuable to you? Why?





Arizona Field Notes

By Al Watson, Anza Trail Ranger

After spending the spring and summer at Mesa Verde National Park, interpreting history from other centuries of our American past, I am now fast-forwarding to another fascinating time in history, here on the Anza Trail in Arizona. Since returning for my second season (October 2012-March 2013), I have renewed friendships with the incredible volunteers who bring the Anza story to life, and have had the pleasure of attending the following inspiring events:

Living History and Education at the Presidio del Tucson

Spending a day with Rick Collins of the Tucson Presidio Trust and his band of volunteers to celebrate Tucson's colorful history is an educational smorgasbord.

Several times each year, schoolchildren spend a day interacting with Tucson's past. Jean Baxter and 27 volunteers guide the students through learning stations, and Rick Collins and Bill Islas lead them in military drills, costumed in the period's finest.

New at the Presidio this year is an exhibit of recently-acquired artifacts: "Symbols of Our Mexican Past."

Anza Days in Tubac and Tumacácori

Karol Stubbs of the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona, Shaw Kinsley of the Tubac Presidio, and the staff at Tumacácori National Historical Park deserve credit for coordinating a wonderful Anza Days in October,

complete with a 5K foot race, folklorico dancers, and mariachi music. This annual, day-long event has as its highlight a re-creation of Anza's historic ride.

Under blue October skies, when cooler temperatures grace the desert, it is easy to be transported back to imagining Anza's expedition itself, preparing in 1775 for their historic journey—with festivity, faith, courage,

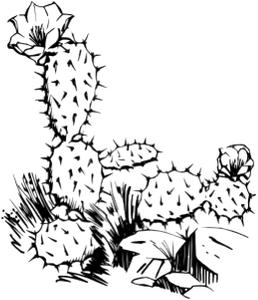
and spirit. Inspiring, indeed. No wonder our national parks are called "America's Best Idea."

Meet Me in Tucson this Winter

This season, my events will include presentations and hikes throughout Southern Arizona. If you would like me to present to your school or organization, please contact me through April 5 at 520-334-7729 or al_watson@partner.nps.gov.

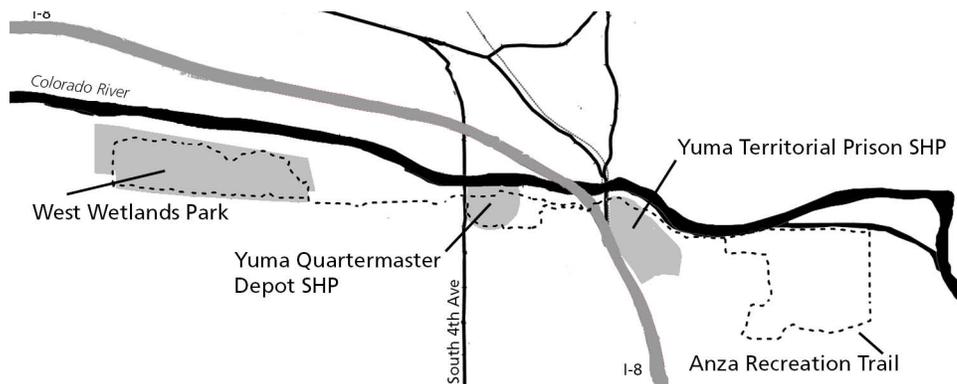


Students enjoy hands-on activities at the Presidio del Tucson



Hike the Anza Trail In YUMA ARIZONA!

Yuma, Ariz., is an important crossroads in the American West, where Anza and many others crossed the Colorado River at its convergence with the Gila River. Five miles of Anza Trail follow the Colorado to link three large, diverse parks along the riverfront: Gateway Park, East Wetlands and West Wetlands.



TRAILHEADS AND PARKS

Gateway Park, located at the end of Gila Street, is a very popular developed park, with picnic areas and grassy fields, and an active beach. The park is an excellent starting point for exploring the riverfront.

West Wetlands Park, formerly the town's dump, has been transformed into a wildlife habitat area and active recreation area, with a great kid's playground, pond, sports fields, and a monument dedicated to the Mormon Battalion. Access the park via 12th Avenue. Alternatively, walkers or bikers can begin their trek at Gateway Park and take the Anza Trail west, past the Quatermaster's Depot State Historic Park and along the Colorado River Aqueduct. It is a two mile walk along a paved, lighted path to the Mormon Battalion monument.

East Wetlands Park is part of an ambitious project to restore over 1,400 acres of cottonwood, willow, mesquite, and wetland habitats along the Lower Colorado River. A 2.5 mile trail loops through the

park on dirt, gravel, or mulch trails, starting at Gateway Park under the Ocean to Ocean Bridge. This trail is a day-use area only and is open from dawn to dusk

TRAIL CONDITIONS/HAZARDS:

Trail users should have a map of the trails to stay oriented, especially in the East Wetlands Park, which is more natural and has few landmarks. Prepare for sun exposure: bring water, hat, sunscreen, and watch for rattlesnakes. On hot days, explore the trails near dawn or dusk to avoid the heat of the day and to see more wildlife, and bring a pair of binoculars! Visit our online Anza Trail map to see the trail: http://www.mapsportal.org/mapcollab_anza

EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS:

The Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area is chock-full of attractions, including the Yuma Quatermaster's Depot and Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park. The Pivot Point Interpretive Plaza includes a 20-minute sound and laser show that brings to life a train engine to relive the historic 1877 railroad crossing of the Colorado River. Visitor information: www.yumaheritage.com.



The Anza Trail Foundation: Common Goals, Shared Passion and Growth

by Richard Rojas, Chair, Anza Trail Foundation

It was a sunny fall afternoon when I found myself hiking along the Ellwood Mesa Open Space looking for Monarch butterflies. The Anza Expedition had passed near this eucalyptus grove in February, 1776, probably in the fog.

A mystery of nature, the Monarch begins its life as an egg. It becomes a caterpillar, not the most beautiful of creatures, then magically transforms into a cocoon, before becoming a beautiful bright orange and black butterfly! These tiny creatures take generations to migrate to Canada and then back home to the forests of Central Mexico: they boggle the mind.

The Anza Trail Foundation (ATF) has more in common with the Monarchs than we might think. In 1999, following a request by Congress, the governors of Arizona and California nominated several of our group's original members to assist the National Park Service in rolling out the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail Management and Use Plan.

Our collective experience as trail enthusiasts, equestrians, historians, professors, park professionals, and educators was rich in diversity. We spent three years visiting Anza Trail sites, setting project priorities, and assisting the NPS in finalizing its plan. By 2004, our official appointment had ended, but we knew more work was needed to fund trail development, signage, education and interpretive programs, maps and guides.

Much like our friend the Monarch, our advisory council morphed in 2009 to form the Anza Trail Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to increasing knowledge about the epic Anza expeditions and preserving the Anza Trail through partnerships with organizations and individuals.

The last couple of years have been busy. In 2011, our board realized that in order for us to gain traction as an organization, we needed to focus our energy and grow. That fall, we signed a cooperative agreement

with the NPS to work with the Center for Advanced Technology in Education (CATE) at the University of Oregon to develop an update and upgrade plan for the *Web de Anza* database and website. Earlier this year, we signed an agreement with a consulting group to complete the upgrade plan, which will include recommendations for funding its implementation.

This past October, the board re-grouped at the L.A. River Center to formalize our strategic plan. We agreed to concentrate on board and membership development, website and social media communications, public relations and marketing, and developing a model partnership agreement for working with other Anza Trail partners. As the newly appointed chair for the Anza Trail Foundation, I am energized by the enthusiasm, excitement and commitment that our board members continue to display as we work together in promoting and sharing our mission and vision.

Like our friend the Monarch butterfly, it is time for the Anza Trail Foundation to reach for new heights and fly high!

Join the Anza Trail Foundation Board

The Anza Trail Foundation is looking for new board members to help its mission to support the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. Board members come from Arizona and California, have experience in working with non-profits, and are dedicated to all aspects of the Anza Trail—from putting trail on the ground to telling the Anza story.

The Board strives to raise visibility and promote knowledge of the epic expeditions of Juan Bautista de Anza and the Anza Trail by collaborating with other like-minded organizations and individuals.

If interested, please contact Richard Rojas, Chair, Anza Trail Foundation, ricro77@hotmail.com or 805-896-9083

Visit ATF online at www.anzatrailfoundation.com.



ANUNCIOS

Subscribe to the Anza Trail's e-News for a monthly update on trail news and events: www.nps.gov/JUBA

January

Anza Trail Traveling Exhibit at the Peralta Adobe in San Jose

- Sat 5 **Beyond Tucson:** Community-wide celebration of the Outdoors, including an Anza Trail hike*
- Sat 12 **Tucson Presidio: Living History Day** (Repeats on Second Saturdays), 520-837-8119
- Sun 13 **Campo de Cahuenga (North Hollywood) Articles of Capitulation Re-Enactment**, 818-762-3998
- Fri 25 **Tumacácori National Historical Park: Anza Trail Hike** (Repeats Last Fridays)*
- Sun 27 **Mission San Antonio de Padua: Spaghetti Dinner**, 11AM - 3PM, 831-385-4478
- Wed 30 **Saguaro National Park: Anza Expedition Talk** (Repeats on Last Wednesdays)*

February

Anza Trail Traveling Exhibit at Oakland City Hall

- 6 - 10 **Tubac Festival of the Arts**
- 9 - 10 **Casa Grande Ruins National Monument: American Indian Arts Festival**, 520-723-3172
- 15 - 17 **California Mission Studies Association Conference** (Santa Barbara), www.ca-missions.org

March

Anza Trail Traveling Exhibit in Monterey, Location TBD

- 7 - 10 **Anza Society International Conference** (Monterey), www.anzasociety.org
- 9 - 10 **Tucson Festival of Books & Western National Parks Assn 75th Anniversary**, www.wnpa.org
- Sat 9 **Marana (AZ) Founder's Day Celebration**, www.maranaheritage.org

* For information about the events of Anza Trail Ranger Al Watson, call Al at 520-334-7729

Noticias de Anza is a free quarterly publication of the National Park Service, sharing news along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. Additional copies and back-issues are available to download at www.nps.gov/JUBA. Unless otherwise noted, all articles and images are in the public domain and may be used by any interested party. Please email your article and photograph submissions to Hale_Sargent@nps.gov.

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail commemorates, protects, marks, and interprets the Anza Expedition of 1775-76, California's first overland, colonizing expedition. The trail extends 1,200 miles in the U.S. and 600 miles in Mexico.

Noticias de Anza

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



One of Thirty National Trails.
A Millennium Trail.

Printed on recycled paper



Find this newsletter online!
www.nps.gov/juba/parknews

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

View From the Trail



James Smith watercolors depicting the 1775-76 Anza Expedition were commissioned for the U.S. Bicentennial in 1976. See more of these beautiful images on the Anza Trail's Flickr page: <http://www.flickr.com/AnzaTrailNPS>