

Trail Times



www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org



Official Publication of the Gold Country Trails Council

GCTC is an organization committed to develop, maintain and advocate for safe integrated trails for equestrians and other non-motorized users.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is obviously not a normal year. We are conducting ongoing GCTC business via conference call, phone calls, and emails. Currently, all our large group events have been postponed until it is safe to gather. We are sending emails informing GCTC members of the cancelations of specific events.

However, our trail work continues. Mary Johnson has done an amazing job of finding a whole new way to ensure trail work is accomplished and organizing the trail work parties. Individual members have walked the trails using GPS to locate problems. At a later time, small family groups will perform the needed trail work on a particular part of a trail. This method is being used very successfully at Lone Grave, and will be used at Skillman as soon as the snow melts. There will be further emails to members asking for help to ensure our trails are usable. The response from members to clear trails at Lone Grave has been fantastic.

Jeff Foltz is continuing to organize our support of the Hidden Falls expansion. Jeff's article in this newsletter asks for member assistance with letters

supporting the expansion. GCTC is also sending a response to the environmental impact report (EIR) advocating for the full expansion to occur.

By now, you should have seen an email stating that the lawsuit has been resolved and e-bikes are now prohibited on non-motorized trails in Tahoe National Forest. A notice on the Tahoe National website contains the information: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/tahoe/recreation/?cid=FSEPRD719803>. Press releases have been delayed due to COVID-19.

~ Helen Harvey, Past President

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for their generous donations!

- Kris Van Roo
- Everyone who uses Amazon Smile to benefit GCTC



MEMBERSHIP CHAIR WANTED

GCTC board is looking for a new Membership Chair to manage our member database. This important position keeps track of current members. The information is currently maintained in Excel spreadsheet. Being familiar with Excel is important, since it's used for the membership spreadsheet. Contact Helen Harvey helenthharvey@icloud.com

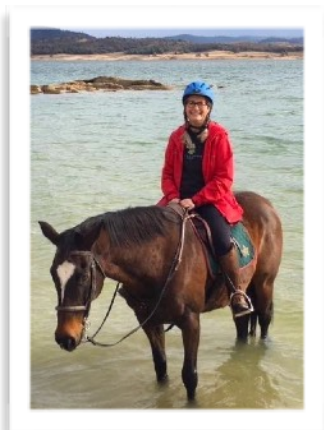
**SUNSHINE POSITION OPEN**

The purpose of this position is to share some sunshine with members who are experiencing some challenges in their life. This would include extended illness, accident, loss of spouse, etc. The Sunshine person sends a cheery card out after receiving notification from members that believe would benefit from this kindness. Purchase of cards and postage covered by GCTC. Contact Susan Donnelly susanfdonnelly@gmail.com



THANK YOU

GCTC thanks former Membership Chair, **Heidi Hansen**, and former Sunshine person, **Charlotte Chapman**, for their volunteer time and efforts. It is only through members stepping up and taking on responsibilities that we are able to be the best trail organization in the area. Please remember to thank Heidi and Charlotte for their work.



Heidi Hansen

<http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org>

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Members are Invited to Advertise their Business in the GCTC Newsletter & Phonebook

Place your business card size advertisement in the GCTC publications for just \$5 per issue, or \$25 for the entire calendar year (6 issues). The Newsletter is distributed to all GCTC members, affiliate members, and appears on the GCTC website.

To place your ad, contact GCTC Newsletter Editor: Pamela Warmack @ cows2horses@gmail.com



In the interest of keeping everyone safe, it is the GCTC Board's decision to cancel or postpone these GCTC events for May. Note all events say "cancelled," but if there is improvement, some of these events will be rescheduled, and we will let you know via email.

May 2, 2020 (Saturday) Cancelled!
Desensitization Clinic -Lone Grave

May 8 (8 am) - May 17 (8 pm)
Wild West Virtual Ride (due to cancelation of Wild Wild West Endurance Ride (non-GCTC event)

May 12, 2020 Cancelled!
General Meeting - 7 p.m. Golden Empire Grange

May 16, 2020 (Saturday) Cancelled!
Hallelujah Trail Work Day
Rain Date: May 23, 2020 Cancelled!

May 20, 2020 (Wednesday). Cancelled!
Skillman Horse Camp WORK DAY
Rain Date: May 27, 2020 Cancelled!

May 31, 2020 (Sunday). Cancelled!
Rices Crossing Day Ride

June 6, 2020 (Saturday) Cancelled!
GCTC Annual Poker Ride Fundraiser

June 13, 2020 (Saturday)
GCTC Guided Ride Skillman Horse Camp

June 18 - 21, 2020 Converted-see May 8-17 above
Wild Wild West endurance ride (non-GCTC event)

June 26 - 28, 2020
Little Lasier Meadow Camp/Work/Ride

To see the latest updates on the calendar:
www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org, click on the Calendar tab





PENN VALLEY PARADE



Susan Cole and her "Seahorse"

The Penn Valley Rodeo and Parade have been rescheduled from May 18th to August 21st and 22nd. The Rodeo will begin on Friday, the 21st, and the Parade will take place on Saturday, the 22nd.

The parade begins at 3:00 PM, and the rodeo folks really want GCTC to ride in the parade! So please, save the date, and join us in this incredibly fun parade. I will have more info when I receive the new application.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like more information, or would like to join us!

Happy Trails...and Happy Parades,

Linda Lanzoni
linda@StarshineRanch.org



WILD WEST VIRTUAL ENDURANCE RIDE

May 8 (8 am) to May 17 (8 pm)

Due to the cancellation of the organized Wild West Endurance Ride, originally scheduled for June, we are hosting a virtual endurance ride! Join us online for some fun riding our horses, cycling, running, or hiking at home while social distancing. Sign up by clicking the link below for the category you wish to enter. Multiple award choices are available which will help us cover the hard costs like fees and awards purchased for this years cancelled Wild West Ride.

Choose what distance you would like to do. To complete the ride you must complete that distance or further. Then email us your tracks / screen shot and a photo by 8pm Sun night, May 17 (8 pm).

Equine:

5 mile to be completed in 2 hrs

10 mile to be completed in 3 hrs

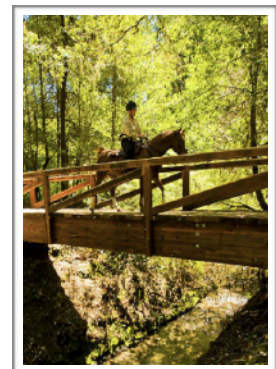
25 mile to be completed in 6 hrs

30+ mile you choose what mileage at or over 30 you do. 30 miles to be completed in 7:15, 35 in 8:30, 40 in 9:45, 45 in 11 and 50 in 12hrs.

Week long ride: You may enter both. Submit mileage on Sun May 17th.

Cycle and Run/Hike: You choose the mileage and the speed.

For more information and to enter, please click on the link below to go to our website.
www.wildwestendurance.com/virtual-endurance-ride/





Alexis Brasier
Trail Horse Trainer, Western Riding Instructor,
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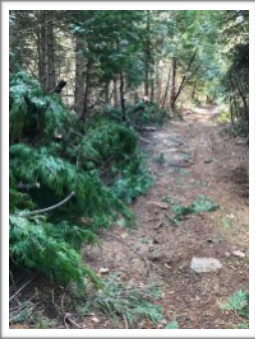
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LONE GRAVE IS LOOKIN' GOOD



The trails in the Lone Grave area are essentially cleared!!

Two weeks ago, with the snow finally melting away from the Lone Grave area trails, GCTC trail patrol members started getting out on-foot and horseback to check the trails. Members discovered that all of the trails had trees down across them to varying degrees. Some were impassible. Thanks to Helen Harvey, Stephanie Hensey, Sue and Willie Brusin, Vickie Testa, Gail Plakos and Mary Johnson, the inventory of trail needs took shape and a plan for clearing was developed. Because of COVID-19 concerns, the group workday was cancelled, but the request was made to GCTC members to work in groups of 2 to 4—at a 6-foot distance (one horse length) of course – to clear trails.



Sawyers and brush throwers and loppers worked together on different areas to accomplish the task! Thank you to Sue and Willie Brusin, Cathy and Mark Scott, Gail and Jim Plakos, Jeff Foltz, Mary Johnson, Adam Wilhite, Suzanne and Barry Vaccaro, Amy Umpleby, Gail Anderson, Rob Crockett, Pamela Swartz, Rod Garcia TNF and some unknown trail workers who cleared the downed and leaning trees. Jim and Cherryl Holbrook, Miriam Lytle, Laura Simmons, Vickey Epperly, and Samantha and Theresa (sorry, don't know their last names) then cleared the entire Harmony Trail.



On April 26th, Amy Umpleby, Tom Phillips, Gail Anderson, Barry Vaccaro and Suzanne Vaccaro cleared and cleaned up the section of the Dascombe from Rock Creek Road to the seasonal creek crossing, then up to the top of the next trail.

Additional GCTC volunteers, Sharon Miles, Cherryl and Jim Holbrook, Katie Guilliat and other GCTC members will be cutting the brush back in several places to finish the trail clearing work in the next couple of weeks.

GCTC VOLUNTARISM AT ITS BEST!



~ Mary Johnson



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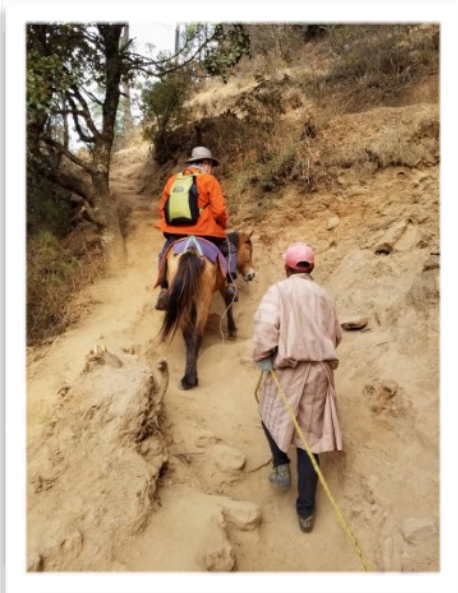
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Competitive Pricing!



Tiger's Nest, Bhutan at 10,000 feet

Photos courtesy of Susan Cole from her and her husband's trip to Tiger's Nest in Bhutan



Husband riding a Mongolian pony to Tiger's Nest

ALL ABOUT WELLS

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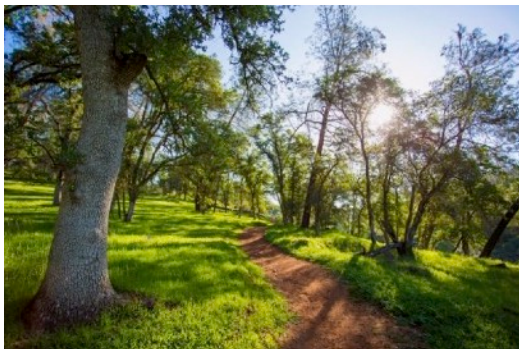
Almost there!



The Hidden Falls trail expansion draft supplemental environmental impact report (DSEIR) has been completed and is out for public review and comment. **Written comments can be submitted up until May 20th, 2020 at 5pm.** Comments should be sent to Placer County Community Development Resource Agency, Environmental Coordination Services, 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190, Auburn, Ca. 95603; or emailed to: cdraecs@placer.ca.gov

You can view the DSEIR online at <https://www.placer.ca.gov/2537/Hidden-Falls-Regional-Park-Trail-Network>

The public hearing before the Placer County Planning Commission on the DSEIR has been scheduled for May 14, 2020 at 5pm. Because of the shelter-in-place orders, the hearing may occur online with comments taken by phone on May 14, with no in-person public attendance at the meeting. GCTC will inform you by email on updates and changes. In the meantime, **sending a short comment letter on the DSEIR would be extremely impactful.** Sending an email or letter can be as simple as the following:



To: Placer County Planning Commission
Re: Response to Hidden Falls trail expansion DSEIR

I support the Hidden Falls Trail expansion project.
 I support the full buildout option, including 30

miles of trails, three additional parking areas including horse trailer parking and other park amenities as discussed in the DSEIR. Issues with traffic, for the most part, are less than significant and can be mitigated. The two intersections on Highway 49 were shown to be significant. However, these intersections will be improved over time whether or not Hidden Falls is expanded. The DSEIR adequately addresses the concerns about wildfire as being less than significant. Hidden Falls trail expansion is a beneficial and much-needed project. It provides preservation of open space and rangeland that will be maintained and accessible to the public for healthy outdoor recreation in perpetuity and fulfills "Placer's Legacy." The full buildout option should be the only option, no alternatives.

Sincerely,
 Name and Address

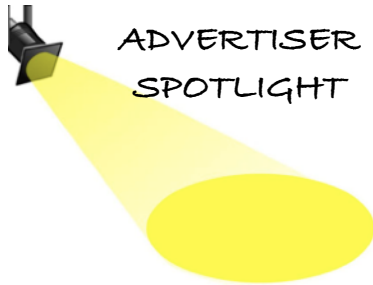
Here is a link to the letter above for you to copy, paste, and edit for yourself:
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxwHNCspNCSFhJMWprhWhdZNCgbf?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1.0>



GCTC's President is also submitting a more detailed response to the DSEIR and Placer Trails is also responding. This current

shelter-in-place order, if anything, should have shown us the importance of outdoor space and trails and the ability to recreate in them. Our mothers were right: being outdoors in the sun and fresh air is good for us. Be safe.

~ Jeff Foltz / GCTC's Hidden Falls coordinator



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Pamela Swartz, L.E.



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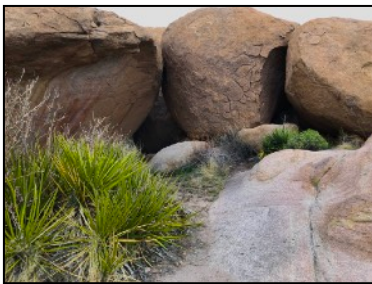
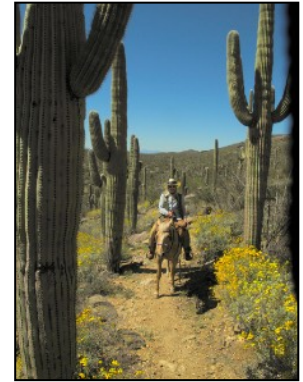
Call or Text: 916.792.3406



Arizona or Bust

Last November, good friends from Arizona invited me to come for a visit and bring my horse. With much anticipation, I was fortunate to be able to make this wonderful trip before COVID-19 shut everything down, leaving California on March 6, and returning home March 18.

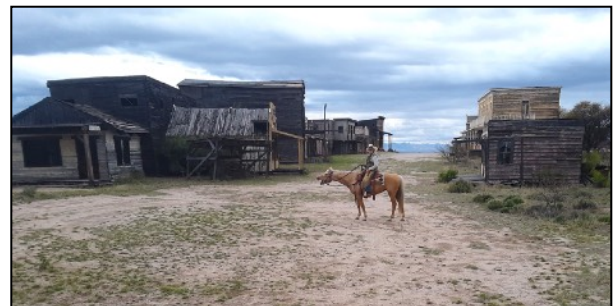
Upon arrival, our first ride was to the **Sweetwater Preserve** near Benson, Arizona. I saw a greater number and larger Saguaro cacti than I had ever seen before. It was like an obstacle course to wander in and around and through them. I was glad I had my leather chinks to protect my legs!



Day 2: Riding at **Council Rock**, the slopes jut upward in a snarl of rocky chaos. Granite spires, sheer cliffs and slashing chasms create both a maze and a fortress. **Cochise Stronghold**, Tombstone, AZ, is so named because it was virtually impregnable with 19th century technology, a fact you can now see for yourself. A small space made by the rocks is where Cochise, the great Chiricahua Apache chief, met with General Oliver Howard and negotiated a peace accord in 1872. While in there I saw petroglyphs in colors of red and brown. <https://cochisestronghold.com>

Day 3: We visited what's known as "**The Movie Set**," where apparently many old westerns were made. We weren't allowed to go into "town," so captured a photo of me right at the edge of town.

Day 4: Rain, so no riding, but went to **Tombstone** for some sightseeing. We went to **Boot Hill**, gazed over the valley below, then wandered through some of the famous graves before getting completely rained out. Got in lots of shopping even with the closure of some stores and the rain.



Then we had the good fortune to get in to **Kartchner Cavern**. Although it is by reservation only, we got in due to a last-minute cancelation. What a place! The outside looks like any other hill in Arizona with lots of sagebrush and cactus, but inside are huge rooms of stalactites and stalagmites. It is considered a "living" cavern as water still drips to continuously create these formations. There are stratus of soil and rock in colorful layers which show the geologic history of the area. No photography is allowed, but if you are interested in seeing photos of this wonder, check out <https://azstateparks.com/kartchner/>. It was absolutely

amazing, and I hope to go back someday to see it again.

Day 5: **Fish Canyon** and **Kentucky Camp** on the Arizona Trail <https://www.arizonahighways.com/explore/hiking/arizona-trail-kentucky-camp>. Kentucky Camp is an old mining camp, mostly in ruins now, but a few buildings with historic artifacts remain. I was surprised to see a water monitor and learned that it was copied from those used in California, but on a much smaller scale. Their mining success was dismal as they did not have the necessary water pressure needed to wash away the soil to reveal the gold. I guess that's a good thing, because the area remains beautifully untouched.

Arizona or Bust continued:

Day 6: Yes, there is **water in Arizona**. While we had our lunch break, my horse Lil enjoyed some grazing. I hadn't realized how many hills and mountains are in southern Arizona. We rode through more saguaro cacti and did lots of climbing. Cactus are everywhere, and everyone once in a while, there were tiny flowers. There were even a few agave plants, from which tequila is made. Even saw two Gila monsters. My friends tell me that is an unusual sighting. We also saw a road runner, but it was so fast I didn't have a chance to get a photo.



After leaving Arizona, I stopped in **Palm Springs**. I met a friend there who took me to into the Indian Canyons. I finally got to see cacti in bloom! I also didn't realize palm trees are native to California. There, they are as prolific as the cacti in Arizona. We actually rode through a forest of palm trees growing in a creek bed at the bottom of **Murray Canyon**. https://www.indian-canyons.com/indian_canyons

On returning home, Lil's first order of business was **a good roll in the mud**. Second, was to join her sister in the pasture for a good rest after a long trip. While it was a fairly quick trip, it was filled with lots of memories and memorable sites.

~ Teri Personeni and Lil

No horse shows, most trails are closed...met this guy sitting on my couch...says he's my husband. He seems nice.



Photo by Linda Lanzoni

Minutes of the GCTC Board Meetings and the current 2020 GCTC Events Calendar can be accessed on the GCTC Website www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org

**GOLD COUNTRY TRAILS COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 753
CEDAR RIDGE, CA 95924**