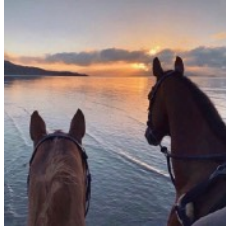


Trail Times



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

Dear GCTC membership and friends,

Today I would like to talk to you about three topics: volunteering for GCTC, the fires and forest closures, and the effect of the ongoing COVID virus on GCTC.

Volunteers are vital to the GCTC in its efforts to complete its mission of maintaining and protecting the trails as stated in our mission statement. Whether it is showing up on workdays, appearing at important political meetings to help voice the position of the GCTC, or volunteering for a board or chairman positions to help guide the GCTC.

As of this date, forest closures have put a screeching halt to our trail work (and trail enjoyment) for a while. The closures have impacted the GCTC and its members in many ways. We cannot enjoy the trails, survey areas that may need work, or even perform the repairs, maintenance, and planned improvements they need. We will have to be patient until nature allows the forests to re-open.

Yet, there is a category of volunteer positions where you can still help. With the new year, we will be installing a new president, secretary, and two board members. These positions are ways members can help GCTC by assisting in decision making.

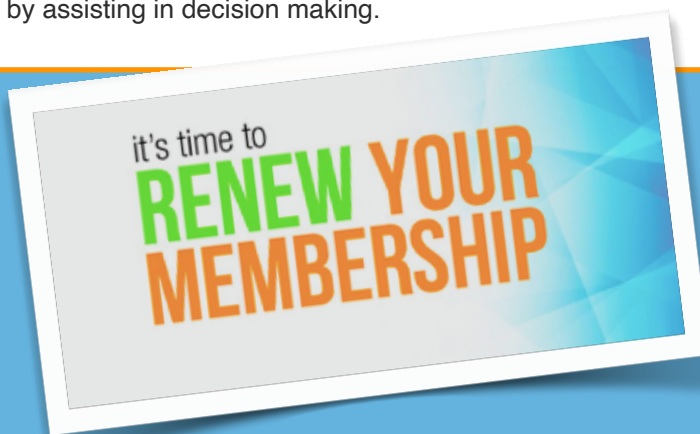
If you have interest in a board member position or secretary, here is your chance to make a difference. Please submit your name, or the name of someone you know who might be interested, to the selection committee via Laura Duncan at ldhorses@sbbmail.com.

My sincere thanks to who took the time to play a part in its success. The response from GCTC membership in contacting, writing letters, and appearing at the Placer County Supervisors' meeting for the Pines to Mines trail was inspiring, to say the least.

Finally, I want to talk about COVID. At this point we will still be holding meetings, using distancing and masks as mandated by the Nevada County Health Department. The Thanksgiving potluck dinner, however, is in limbo at this point. We have once again reserved the Higgins Community Center for it, but that is subject to change based on the COVID restrictions in place at the time leading up to it. Please stay tuned.

Finally, I would like to speak to you as a private person, not as President of GCTC. If you have not been vaccinated against COVID, I personally urge you to help stop the spread, and get your vaccination.

~ **Bernie Molloy, President**
530-802-4089
imarangemaster@gmail.com



Don't delay.
Renew today!
(see pg. 3)

Howdy and Welcome to our newest members!!

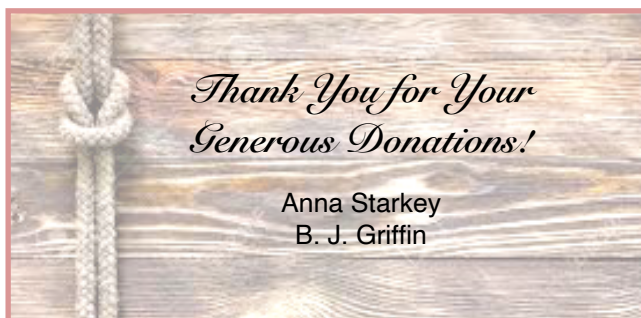


Michelle Bernal & Mike Ackerey
 Constance Barker
 Debbie Beth-Halachmy
 Hardy Bullock
 Lisa & Abbi Cundall
 Meredith Doerr & Cotton Tichy
 Karan Eriksson
 Bonnie Forslin
 Tina Jackson
 Deanna & Jonathan Marsh
 Tamara Martin
 Julie Ann McManus
 Terri Pencovic & Sharlene Mcleod
 Ceslie Rossi & Gavin Darrow
 Ann Russell
 Irene Streeter
 Julia Urcis
 Nicole & Josh Wertz

POSITIONS OPEN

GCTC does great things because of dedicated people — like **YOU!**

We'd love for you to contribute your talents! please contact President Bernie Molloy to learn more about one of the **OPEN** positions.



<http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org>

Leaders

Camp Cook: Debbie Molloy
 Communications, Web Site and Social Media:
 Jaede Miloslavich jaede@sbbmail.com
 Forest Service Liaison: Mary Johnson mjshasta@aol.com
 GCTC Apparel Manager: **OPEN**
 Historian: Anna Starkey
 Membership: Cathy Chase (530) 205-0900 chasehc@gmail.com
 Newsletter Editor: Pamela Warmack (510) 697-6625 cows2horses@gmail.com
 Parades: Linda Lanzoni
 Poker Ride Fundraiser: **OPEN**
 Program Director: Helen Crawford
 Publicity: Teresa Dietrich
 Refreshment Manager: Phyllis Fanning
 Skillman Water Manager: Barry Vaccaro
 Skillman Campground: Elicia Kamberg
 Sunshine: Andrea Duncan sendmailtoandi@gmail.com (510) 295-7600
 Tool Cache Manager: Suzanne & Barry Vaccaro
 Trail Rides: Jamie Canon

Gold Country Trails Council Officers

President: Bernie Molloy 530-802-4089 imarangemaster@gmail.com
 V.P.: Jamie Canon 530-265-8326 tra.jamiej@sbcglobal.net
 Secretary: Andi Duncan ((510) 295-7600 sendmailtoandi@gmail.com
 Treasurer: Cathy Scott 530-305-1982 ccharlie@suddenlink.net
 Past President: Helen Harvey 530-265-4086 helenthharvey@icloud.com
 Board Member: Helen McDermott 530-478-0545 sugarpine1996@sbcglobal.net
 Board Member: Karen Hayden 530-575-5808 karenhayden@att.net
 Board Member: **OPEN**

Minutes of the GCTC Board Meetings and the current 2021 GCTC Events Calendar can be accessed on the GCTC Website www.GoldCountryTrailsCouncil.org



SEPTEMBER IS RENEWAL MONTH FOR GCTC MEMBERS

GCTC was organized as a nonprofit public benefit corporation in the month of August. As a result, **the membership period runs from September 1 to August 31.**

GCTC's mission is to build and maintain safe trails for equestrians and other non-motorized users. Membership in **GCTC has many benefits.**

Although this year we have had to restrict events and gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to provide information to our members through an informative newsletter and postings via email of trail updates, activities, and items for sale. Still, we have been able to continue our mission of maintaining, promoting, and advocating for, trails.

All this and the membership fee is only \$25 for an individual, or a household/family membership which is defined as: "One or two persons over the age of 18 and children up to the age of 18 sharing one address."

"If you joined GCTC in 2021 on or after June 1, your membership extends through August 31, 2022, and you do not need to renew now.

Renew now!

Everyone else, please go online and submit your renewal as soon as possible.

It's easy! Go to <http://www.goldcountrytrailsCouncil.org/join-us.html>

Payment can be by credit card or PayPal.

Non-renewal as of December 31, 2021 means you will no longer receive GCTC benefits—among them the member-only email notifications that provide soooo much information, since you will be removed from the list. :-)

If you have questions about the status of your membership or anything else related to membership, do not hesitate to contact Cathy Chase at 530-205-0900 or chasehc@gmail.com.

Don't delay!
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!





SEPTEMBER

- Sept. Membership Renewal - **DO IT TODAY!**
- 7 Tue. General Meeting 7 pm - Golden Empire Grange
- 11 Sat. Trail Work Day - **CANCELLED DUE TO NATIONAL FOREST CLOSURE**
- 17-21 Fri.-Sun. Draft Horse Classic - (non GCTC event) - **CANCELLED**
- 25 Sat. Royal Gorge Day Ride

OCTOBER

- 9 Sat. United Trails Day/Work Day - Tahoe National Forest - **TBD**
- 12 Tue. Board Meeting 7 pm - Golden Empire Grange
- 16 Sat. GCTC Member Appreciation Ride/BBQ Lone Grave - **TBD**
- 23 Sat. Rain date Ride/BBQ Lone Grave - **TBD**

PLEASE NOTE: Dates and times may change. Please check your email for the latest updates, or check out the GCTC calendar at:

<http://www.goldcountrytrailscouncil.org/calendar--events.html>



Alexis Brasier
Trail Horse Trainer, Western Riding Instructor,
Facility Manager

Auburn, California
530.401.6900

www.abequestrianca.com
abequestrian.ca@gmail.com

AB Equestrian



Dear Gold Country Trails Council,

It's been an honor and privilege for Tanner and me to be a part of such a great group of folks. Our lives have changed, and we are moving to Billings, Montana.

We will greatly miss the United Trails workdays, GCTC poker rides, trail patrol, and camping at Skillman with our horses and with new friends. As a trainer, it's been a privilege to help those with their horses on our California trails. Even more, I will miss everyone at our home barn who have joined GCTC.

Best wishes to all, and I hope all works out well for everyone in this amazing group.

~ Alexis Brasier, AB Equestrian

NEW GCTC BOARD MEMBER NEEDED

GCTC Board Member Greg Sherr is now in school full-time with evening classes, which no longer allows him the time and flexibility to give GCTC the attention he feels it deserves.

We are very appreciative of Greg's efforts on the GCTC board, and wish him the best of luck with his classes.

The GCTC board needs a member to take over Greg's position on the Board.

Responsibilities include:

- Attend board and general meetings on 2nd Tuesday of the month.
- Come up to speed on issues facing GCTC (you will get a lot of help with any questions).
- Participate in discussions of issues.
- Respond to emails asking for board input within 48 hours or so if you're in cell phone/email range.
- Take on small projects as needed within your area of interest.

Positions are also **OPEN** for Secretary of the Board, GCTC Apparel Manager, and Poker Ride Manager.

If you are interested in serving, please contact Laura Duncan at ldhorses@sbbmail.com.

Thank you,

Board of Directors
Gold Country Trails Council

Welcome to our newest member advertiser!
Feather and Bone
Acupuncture Herbs Wellness





ROYAL GORGE DAY RIDE Saturday, September 25th

Plans for our Royal Gorge Day Ride are continuing (so far). Watch for up-to-date announcements through your email as the date gets closer.

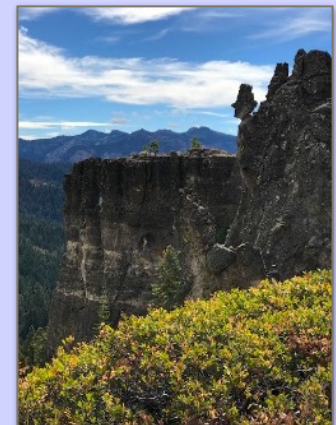
We had to postpone the July date due to excessive heat and have rescheduled the ride for September 25th. Considering the current fire conditions we may, once again, have to cancel. We are hopeful

that the fires will be out and the skies will be clear by then as the vistas from the top of "Razor Back" are fantastic, as are the 365-degree views from the top of Lola's lookout.

The ride is for intermediate riders and up. There are steep steep climbs with lots of rocks, and there are many other rocky sections of trail. Horse shoes or boots are recommended. There are also sections of beautiful single track with nice footing. The climb to the top is an approximately 1300-foot gain in elevation. Horse and rider need to be in good condition. It is close to 7,500-feet in elevation at the top.

The entire ride will be at a walk but on some of the steep uphill climbs horses tend to like to lope or lunge as the case may be. Breast collars are advisable and if you use a crupper, be sure to have it on.

To-date, the plans are to arrive by 9:30 or earlier and be ready to ride out by 10:00. The ride will be +/- 4.5 hours, including a lunch stop at another amazing vista point. It is a beautiful ride but there are some challenging sections Pack a lunch and lots of water for yourself. We will have lunch on the trail approximately 3 hours into the ride. By this time in September, water on the trail will likely be minimal to nonexistent, so it is a good idea to have water at your trailer for your horse.



Again, be sure to watch for emails regarding the ride as it gets closer to September 25th. For any questions, contact Trail Coordinator: Jamie Canon at tra.jamiej@sbcglobal.net or 530 265-8326.




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A LOVELY TIME AT LONEY MEADOW



Thanks to our new and returning GCTC trail clearing members, the Bowman Lake Trail is clear of brush and trees. We headed out of camp and rode two miles in through beautiful, lush green meadows strewn with wildflowers, then on along beautiful tree-studded trails past the old Dairy Barn to arrive at our destination.

Prior to our workday, the Forest Service had taken our work tools in on their motorcycles, equipped with baskets to carry tools. The tools were cached along Bowman Lake Trail right where we planned on working. When we were done clearing the trail of overhanging trees and brush, we cached the tools back in the same spot. The Forest Service picked them up Monday morning and brought them back to us. This worked perfectly. We managed to trim back the entire overgrown parts of the trail!

Thanks to our brush and tree clearing crew on the Bowman Lake Trail: Willie and Sue Brusin, Jeff Harter, Tom Fletcher, Vern and Karrie Dunham, Jamie Canon, Laurie Sweeney and Michael Peckham.

Laurie Sweeney and Michael Peckham went out on a mission to clear some very nasty trees down on the Crooked Lakes Trail past Upper Rock Lake on the way to Penner Lake. They had a grand adventure on their first attempt at clearing the trail. The next day they went out on their second and successful attempt and clearing logs. They were in bad locations that made that section of the trail nearly impassable on horseback. (Laurie posted some great pictures on the GCTC Facebook page and told their story.)


Many thanks to our hardworking trail crews!

We had our fabulous GCTC Saturday night BBQ and potluck. Thanks to Barry and Suzanne Vaccaro who came all the way up to Loney Meadows just to BBQ for us!

The weather was perfect, and riding was spectacular. There were no bees, no biting flies, and no mosquitos. It was a perfect weekend.

Thank YOU to everyone!

~ Jamie Canon





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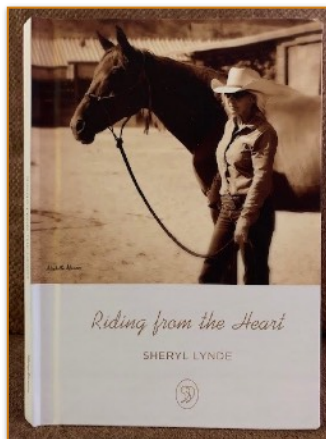
Sheryl Linde has been a dedicated professional trainer of horses and their people for 17 years. She has been a contributing columnist for *California Horsetrader* magazine for nine years and just completed her first book, *Riding from the Heart*.

Her book highlights the most challenging horses she has worked with in her career, and how they came through to a much better place. Her book will be available through Amazon in January 2022.



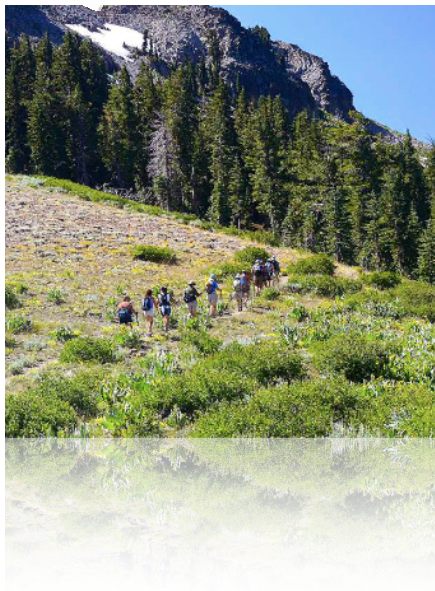
Sheryl began her career after graduating from the John and Josh Lyons certification program in 2004 and has used her knowledge and skills to build a strong and solid foundation with horses and their humans from the ground up, whether she is starting colts or working with troubled horses. As a monthly columnist for *California Horsetrader* magazine, she authors articles to engage and inform equine enthusiasts in a variety of successful training techniques.

In the quest to continuously improve her skills and better assist her clientele, Sheryl frequently hones her skills with acclaimed trainers and mentors. Having just moved to our area, she looks forward to meeting and serving GCTC members and their horses. She can be reached at (760) 285-0160 or find more information about Sheryl on her website or Facebook page. www.sheryllyndeclinics.com <https://www.facebook.com/sheryl.lynde>





HOORAY, THE PINES TO MINES TRAIL PROJECT FUNDS WERE APPROVED BY NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS!



Thanks to EVERYONE who had a hand in supporting, writing, showing up, and calling so that we could reach this point. It was your hard work that made the difference!

On August 10, 2021, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved \$100,000 to fund the Pines to Mines trail project Environmental Assessment (EA), a major move forward for this spectacular non-motorized trail that has been in the works for over six years. The Pines to Mines trail is a non-motorized, single track, multi-use trail for hikers, mountain bicyclists and equestrians. The Tahoe National Forest will process the Environmental Assessment for the project with funding provided by Nevada County for the non-motorized trail project.

Gold Country Trails Council (GCTC), who represents over 450 members, has supported the Pines to Mines non-motorized trail plan and applauds the Board of Supervisors' unanimous vote to fund \$100,000 for the trail's Environmental Assessment.


In 1981, the Gold Country Trails Council was the lead group who created the multi-use Pioneer Trail for hikers, equestrians, families, cross country skiers, and mountain bicyclists, and the Council has donated funds and maintained the trail since. In the new plan, the Pioneer Trail will be part of the 80+ mile Pines to Mines trail.

Gold Country Trails Council has been an integral part of the Pines to Mines diverse alliance of trail users who have met regularly to get the non-motorized Pines to Mines' trail plan to this point. The committed constituency, made up of the Bear Yuba Land Trust, Bicyclists of Nevada County, Truckee Trails Foundation, and Gold Country Trails Council, formed around the project to seek support, fund raise, create a sustainable trail alignment on the ground, provide trail building expertise, and perform ongoing trail maintenance and support going forward.

If all goes to plan, the non-motorized multi use trail may begin construction as early as 2023, across lands owned and managed by the Tahoe National Forest, PG&E, Caltrans, and private landowners. At its completion, it will connect the communities of Truckee and Nevada City while traversing **some of the most breathtakingly beautiful back country in the world.**

Well done!

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THE GCTC HISTORY OF THE PIONEER TRAIL IN NEVADA COUNTY

Submitted by long-standing members of the Gold Country Trails Council

The Gold Country Trails Council was started in the early 1980's due to a lack of equestrian and hiking trails in our area.

The grand plan at the time, was to build a trail from above Nevada City to Grouse Ridge and Lake Spaulding to the base of the Pacific Crest Trail. Our knowledge of trail building was limited, as was our understanding of how to navigate the bureaucratic maze of Federal, State, and large corporate land holdings.

In 1981, a group of like-minded families, led by Ray Sherman, formed a trail council, which was a new concept at the time. We created the first in our area, a nonprofit trails council, and called ourselves the Gold Country Trails Council. Initially, we worked with Nevada County to create a trail map.

We and other volunteers set out on our own to find partners and build safe non-motorized trails for hikers, backpackers, cross country skiers, and equestrians. But first we needed to acquire the rights of way from Caltrans, the Tahoe National Forest (USFS), and PG&E. The odds seemed insurmountable for a group of family volunteers. Initially, the Forest Service wasn't sure about allowing volunteers to build trails. However, a few understanding Forest Service rangers saw potential and provided design, training, and tools.

The relationship grew between the USFS and GCTC and became so strong that the USFS designated GCTC as the lead volunteer organization for trail management, including carrying liability insurance for us up until just a couple of years ago. This relationship and cooperation with the Forest Service and trail organizations is deeply rooted in our local heritage. The Pioneer Trail has a long and rich history in Nevada County. GCTC spent many years negotiating with Caltrans, the Tahoe National Forest and PG&E to obtain the necessary easements and permits to build the non-motorized Pioneer Trail. In fact, the original encroachment permit issued by Caltrans was for equestrian use.

("History" continued on the next page)

("History" continued on previous page)

Trail completion spanned 25 miles and 20 years, from just below Five Mile House to Bear Valley/Spaulding Lake. The project received financial and volunteer support from many notable people and organizations including the Robinson's, Carmens, Grass Valley Group, Grass Valley and Nevada City Kiwanis clubs, and Boy Scout Troop #506. On June 8, 2003, the completed trail was dedicated and officially named the Pioneer National Recreation Trail.

This "can do" attitude brought out the best of Nevada County's pioneer spirit, and the cooperation of the community. The original trail was always envisioned as non-motorized for hikers, backpackers, equestrians, and cross-country skiers.

Today, the proposed Pines to Mines project includes this original non-motorized Pioneer Trail. The original and constant intent of the Pines to Mines trail is as a non-motorized trail, as stated by a letter of support by the Nevada County Supervisors in February 2017, *"The Nevada County Board of Supervisors would like to express their support for the proposed Pines to Mines trail, a multiuse non-motorized trail connection between the Nevada County municipalities of Truckee and Nevada City. The trail will be suitable for hikers, equestrians, and mountain bikes."*

The Gold Country Trails Council supports the concept of the Pines to Mines trail, a third of it being the Pioneer Trail that we built, as long as it remains non-motorized.

GCTC believes motorized electric bikes have no place on the proposed Pines to Mines trail and our non-motorized Pioneer Trail that we have worked on so hard to build and maintain over the last forty years.

We have provided substantial financial support to a non-motorized Pines to Mines trail, but are deeply concerned the Forest Service is trying through an Environmental Assessment to change the Pioneer Trail and the Pines to Mines trail to accommodate E-bikes.

Should this happen, we believe the entire character and safety of the non-motorized Pioneer National Recreation Trail, built by the Gold Country Trails Council and other groups, will change forever.



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Desolation Wilderness – an Amazing Wilderness Area in our Backyard

As we watch our beloved West go up in flames, some of us and/or our friends losing so much, the destruction of wild lands and their inhabitants, we are incredulous at the continuing fires and their devastation.

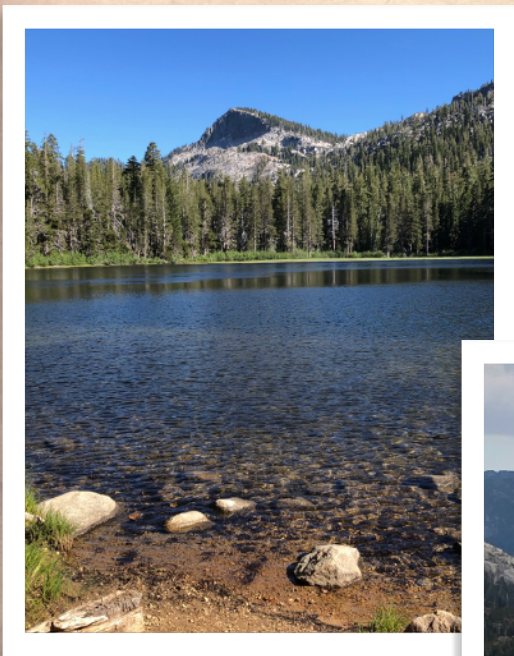
GCTC Past President Helen Harvey shares with us these thoughts and stunning photographs of Desolation Wilderness:

“Watching the Caldor Fire, I’m seeing it move into Desolation Wilderness. Last year in August, Stephanie Hensey and I spent a week hiking in there. This year, as yet unknown acreage is burning. I hope this iconic landscape remains largely untouched. It is an amazing High Sierra landscape, and a wonderful area in which to hike from lake to lake. We saw lots of families with kids, and hikers with their dogs. It’s a heavily used area but, incredibly, we didn’t see any trash.”

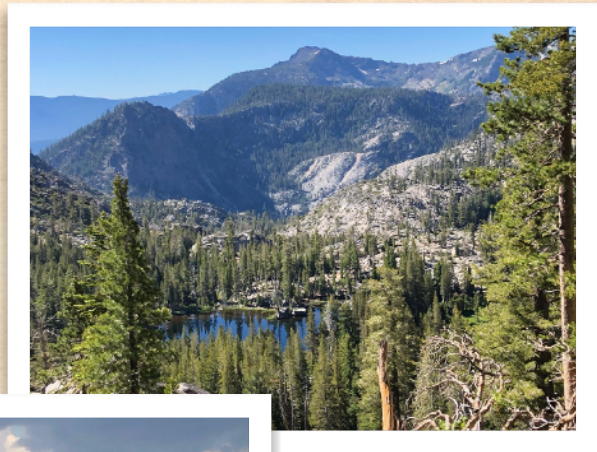
These pictures illustrate some of the truly remarkable landscape in Desolation Wilderness, right in our own backyard.”



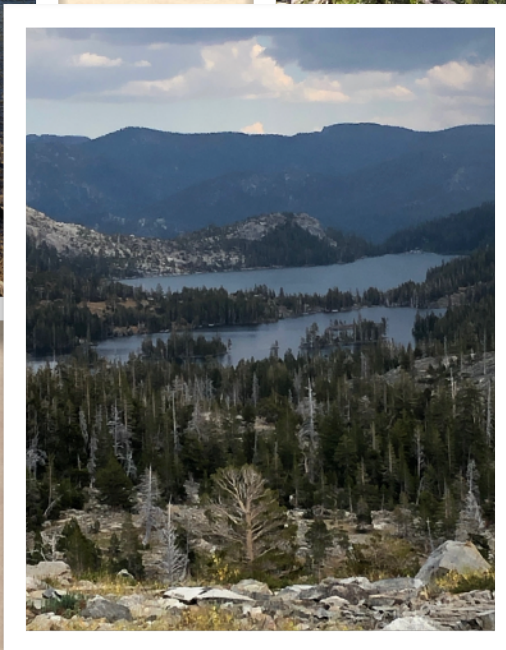
Wildflower season was in full bloom.



First night’s campsite at Lake Genevieve.



Grouse Lake below the trail up to Phipps Pass.




On their last night, Helen and Stephanie sat on a ridge watching a thunderstorm roll in over Echo Lake. They ran for their tent to wait out the storm as it grew closer.




DEADLINE!

Just a reminder: while you're raking your leaf piles, please keep in mind articles, letters, and photos are due by the 15th of the month before the newsletter issue to the editor!

The next newsletter deadline: October 15



**"SMILE" for the Holidays
and donate to GCTC!**



The season of giving is right around the corner! **Did you know if you purchase items from Amazon, you can also benefit GCTC?** Purchases made through Amazon Smile donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to your favorite charitable organization, which is GCTC, of course, with no fees to you, no extra cost!

It's super easy to set up your Amazon Smile account. Go to: <https://org.amazon.com>. You only have to sign up once and your purchase donations will automatically go to GCTC. Your receipt will say, "Because you placed this order at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will make a donation to Gold Country Trails Council."

Take a moment **today** to set up your "Smile" account. It's easy, and it helps GCTC achieve our mission of developing, maintaining and advocating for safe integrated trails for all non-motorized users!



goodbye
SUMMER
(It's been a doozy!)

hello
AUTUMN
(Hoping for rain!)



What do you need to do today? (Hint: page 3)