



An Interagency Volunteer Program

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Thank you for your continued support of the Southern Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program. The following newsletter contains information about upcoming events, current positions, highlights of your volunteer community and interesting information on our desert ecosystem.



Upcoming Events

Stewardship Saturday: Endangered Species Habitat Improvement

Date: Saturday, March 17

Time: 8:00am – 12pm

Audience: Adults, Seniors, Groups, must be at least 12. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Ash Meadows

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration

Jump in the stream at Ash Meadows NWR and help cut overgrown cattails. The removal of cattails is an important part of endangered species habitat improvement. Cattails slow stream flow and promote the existence of exotic crayfish. These crayfish, among other exotic species, eat and compete with the endangered Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish. Overgrown cattails and reeds will be cut along the King's Pool outflow stream channel at Point-of-Rocks. All participants should be comfortable swimming or wading in water up to four feet deep. Warning: you WILL get wet, but the water is warm! It is recommended to bring shoes and clothes that can get wet and dirty, as well as a change of clothes for afterwards. No bare feet! The channel bottom is mucky. Water, snacks, gloves, tools, and a good time will be provided for everyone! After the event will be a short educational tour and briefing about this unique endangered species.

[Click here to register](#)

Spring Break on Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Date: Saturday, March 19-23

Time: 8:00am – 5pm

Audience: Spring Break on Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Location: Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration

Enjoy a week of pleasant desert mountainous back-country and have a blast while improving the environment!!! Help the Fish and Wildlife Service & the Friends of Nevada Wilderness with efforts toward wilderness protection and restoration on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. Under the supervision of experienced wilderness professionals, volunteer activity is primarily road decommissioning, but will also include a day of tree planting and trail restoration. This will be strenuous and rewarding work; participants must be in good

Volunteer Spotlight

interagency volunteers



Thomas Curtis

When visiting the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA), you might wonder how the area always manages to look so clean and litter free. One major reason is due in large part to the help and dedication from USDA Forest Service volunteer, Thomas (Tom) Curtis. Tom has been volunteering with the SMNRA Litter Program for over a year and has played a large part in helping the program remove over 18,000 pounds of litter during that time. A lot of the work that is completed is difficult and requires a lot of physical exertion, but that never stops Tom from helping. In the litter program regular tasks include; helping to remove graffiti, clearing stones and fallen branches from roadways, as well as

providing directions and answering questions for the public.

"Tom drives up to the mountain on his own, he is always polite, he is easy to work with, and he is continually willing to learn more about the mountain", says Litter

health. Additional interpretive or educational components will be included during the week. Participants will provide their own gear for over-night camping near Corn Creek. A light breakfast and supper will be provided for campers.

[Click here to register](#)

Great American Cleanup

Date: Saturday, March 24

Time: 9 am – 12 pm

Audience: Adults, Seniors, Groups, youth. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: TBA

Agency: National Park Service

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Come take part in Great American Cleanup 2012 at Lake Mead National Recreation Area by participating in a litter cleanup. In 2011 over 4 million volunteers and participants in 30,000+ communities from coast to coast participated in Great American Cleanup volunteer events. Join people across America in cleaning, beautifying and improving our quality of life! Contact Nancy Bernard at 702-293-8714 or Nancy_Bernard@nps.gov for more information. Registration through Get Outdoors Nevada. Volunteers will receive a code for free park entrance on the day of the event.

From Road to Wild: Lovell Canyon Road Restoration

Date: Saturday, March 31

Time: 8:00am – 3pm

Audience: All welcome, 18 and under must be accompanied by adults

Location: Mt. Charleston Wilderness

Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Volunteer Work Type: Road restoration, vertical mulching, raking and moving rocks

We will be restoring a decommissioned road so that it blends into the natural environment. There are many different tasks to be done to accomplish this task. Beginners are welcomed. Come out for a day of fun, doing some good for local wildlife and helping keep Nevada wild! Participants should wear pants and a long sleeve shirt and sturdy closed toe shoes. They should also bring sunscreen, snacks and water.

[Click here to register](#)

Pahranagat Planting

Date: Saturday, March 31

Time: 9 am – 1 pm

Audience: Adults, Seniors, Groups, must be at least 8 years old. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge

Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Volunteer Work Type: Planting

Planting native vegetation is an important part of the restoration process as native plants compete against exotic species, stabilize disturbed soils, and provide habitat for wildlife. Be a valuable volunteer and come help refuge staff plant trees and understory to expand habitat for an endangered species. With this planting event, the refuge will increase the forested canopy habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Enjoy planting small containers of trees; come back in a few years to see the forest you created! Individuals need to be in fairly good physical condition as planting requires participants to bend, kneel, get a little dirty and lift one

Program Coordinator, Patty Conant. She also added, "The fact that he is bilingual really helps communicate with visitors."

Whenever you see Tom on the mountain, don't be surprised to see him holding a camera or camcorder. Tom regularly takes photos and videos of clean-up events that are then used to help promote future projects.

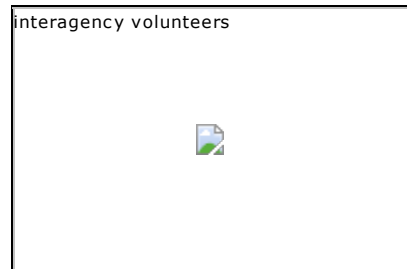
In addition to the litter program, Tom regularly volunteers with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department and has also spent time helping the SMNRA Snow Host Program that provides snow play information to visitors. If that is not enough, Tom makes delicious tuna sandwiches that he regularly brings and shares with other volunteers!

The Forest Service is entrusted with taking care of the mountains so that visitors can enjoy them. Tom helps the Forest Service make that possible. So we want to express our appreciation for all of the work Thomas has done. We know that the visitors who come up to the mountains and the residents on the mountain appreciate all of his work too.

Thank you, Tom.

Written by Justin Ebert

Upcoming Trainings



Please note: Training sessions are open to those who have volunteered in the last year.

[Click here to view the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area training schedule](#)

gallon containers of baby trees. Plan to be outside in cool, but sunny conditions with no shade - a hat and sunscreen are recommended. Work gloves, water, snacks, and a good time will be provided!

[Click here to register](#)

Shine the Silver State Clean-up

Date: Saturday, March 31

Time: 9am – 12pm

Audience: All welcome, 18 and under must be accompanied by adults

Location: Hollywood and Vegas Valley

Agency: BLM

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Come and join AmeriCorps members as they Shine the Silver State! The event will be March 31st from 9am-12pm at Hollywood and Vegas Valley. Support your community and participate in this cleanup volunteer to remove litter, clean, beautify and improve the quality of life in Nevada.

[Click here to register](#)

From Road to Wild: Lovell Canyon Road Restoration

Date: Thursday, April 5

Time: 8:00am – 3pm

Audience: All welcome, 18 and under must be accompanied by adults

Location: Mt. Charleston Wilderness

Agency: U.S. Forest Service

Volunteer Work Type: Road restoration, vertical mulching, raking and moving rocks

We will be restoring a decommissioned road so that it blends into the natural environment. There are many different tasks to be done to accomplish this task. Beginners are welcomed. Come out for a day of fun, doing some good for local wildlife and helping keep Nevada wild! Participants should wear pants and a long sleeve shirt and sturdy closed toe shoes. They should also bring sunscreen, snacks and water.

[Click here to register](#)

Red Rock Day 2012

Date: Saturday, April 14

Time: 8:00am – 12pm

Audience: 16 years of age and older. Anyone 18 and under must be accompanied by an adult

Location: Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area

Agency: BLM

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration

This event is great way to get some heart-healthy exercise and make new friends, all-the-while promoting a healthy environment for residents of Southern Nevada. On Saturday, April 14, in celebration of Red Rock Days, join the Bureau of Land Management in trimming the scenic drive. We will have fun and the environment will benefit from our efforts. Join us as we celebrate Red Rock Days and help return this portion of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area to its pristine condition.

[Click here to register](#)

[Area Training Schedule](#)

First Aid/CPR Training Saturday, March, 17th 9 AM – 1 PM

Audience: all volunteers

Location: Lake Mead

[Register for this training](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

National Wildlife Week: Habitat Restoration Weed Pull**Date:** Saturday, April 14**Time:** 8am –12pm**Audience:** Adults, Seniors, Groups, must be at least 8. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.**Location:** Desert National Wildlife Refuge**Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**Volunteer Work Type:** Restoration

Celebrate Earth Day early by making a difference in your community! Native plants help prevent erosion, keep down dust, and provide important habitat for wildlife. Invasive plants choke out natives and destroy natural species habitat. Join a team of volunteers to remove these invasive species at Corn Creek Station. Individuals need to be in fairly good physical condition as weeding requires the ability to bend, kneel, and get a little dirty. Plan to be outside in warm, sunny conditions with no shade – a hat and sunscreen are recommended. Work gloves, water, snacks, and a good time will be provided.

[Click here to register](#)

Celebrate Earth Day in the Wild**Date:** Saturday, April 21 and Sunday, April 22**Time:** 8:00am – 3pm**Audience:** All welcome, 18 and under must be accompanied by adults**Location:** Mt. Charleston Wilderness**Agency:** U.S. Forest Service**Volunteer Work Type:** Road restoration, vertical mulching, raking and moving rocks

On day 1 we will be doing litter removal in the area. Day 2 we will be restoring a decommissioned road so that it blends into the natural environment. There are many different tasks to be done to accomplish this task. Beginners are welcomed. We will be having a BBQ Saturday and camping in the area. Come out for a day or weekend of fun, doing some good for local wildlife and helping keep Nevada wild! Participants should wear pants and a long sleeve shirt and sturdy closed toe shoes. They should also bring sunscreen, snacks and water.

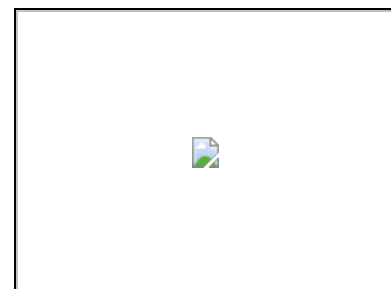
[Click here to register](#)

 **Current volunteer positions****Bureau of Land Management****Landscaping Team** -Red Rock Canyon NCA (Las Vegas, NV)**Time Commitment & Duration:** 2 days (12 to 14 hours total) per month. This is an ongoing position.

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Loop Ambassador -Red Rock Canyon NCA (Las Vegas, NV)**Time Commitment & Duration:** 9/10/2011–9/30/2012

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Natural Resource Team -Red Rock Canyon NCA (Las Vegas, NV) **Volunteer Accomplishments**

NV)

Time Commitment & Duration: One or two days per month, generally weekends. This is an ongoing position.

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Trail Monitor -Red Rock Canyon NCA (Las Vegas, NV)

Time Commitment & Duration: 4 hours per month preferred. This is an ongoing position.

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

USFWS

Resident Campground Host / Light Maintenance -

Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration - 8/9/2012 – 6/28/2013; 3 month minimum; RV pad and hook-up available.

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Maintenance Assistant - Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration: 3/1/2012 – 5/9/2013, Ongoing need, No housing available, 1 – 2 days per week, 2 month minimum commitment

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Resident Volunteer Couple - Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration:4/9/2012 – 5/19/2013; 3 month minimum commitment; RV pad and hook-up available.

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Naturalist/Interpreter - Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration:- 6/4/2012 – 6/4/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Burrowing Owl Monitor and/or Artificial Burrow Install

Crew: Got a passion for urban wildlife species or scientific data collection? We're looking for a few good Monitors to be assigned in the Floyd Lamb Park, Nellis AFB and Pahrump Valley areas. Training provided. We also need installation crew members in May & June to install several artificial burrows.

Time Commitment & Duration – Mid-March to August 2012.

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Resident Volunteer Couple – Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration: 1/2/2012 4/9/12 – 5/19/2013; RV pad and hook-up available.

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

RV Couple Interpretive / Maintenance Couple –Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration: 9/1/12 – 5/27/2013; RV pad and hook-up available.

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Administrative Assistant -Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge

Time Commitment & Duration: 2/1/12 – 6/28/201.

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

NPS

Water Safety Volunteer - Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Time Commitment & Duration: 3/5/2012–5/25/2012

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Katherine Landing Information Center Volunteer - Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Time Commitment & Duration: 3/5/2012--3/5/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Save the Desert Eco-Walk

March 10, 2012

Volunteers removed litter from 1.5 linear miles along each side of the road to the Cottonwood Cove marina, as well as, cleaning 1 mile in each direction of the marina of beach area. Approximately 20 cubic yards of litter was removed which included several feet of sheet metal along the road.

Cottonwood Cove Forever Resorts, the NPS concessioner, provided the volunteers with a continental breakfast, refreshments throughout the event, and BBQ lunch. They funded the t-shirts and roll-off for the event and assist with event coordination and logistics.

Van Allen and Eldora Clean-up

February 25, 2012- Van Allen and Eldora- BLM

8 volunteers removed 20 cubic yards of trash

National Wildlife Week: Habitat Planting

64 volunteers planted 470 plants

Administrative Assistant - Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Time Commitment & Duration: 3/5/2012--12/31/2012

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Trail Watch Volunteers - Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Time Commitment & Duration: 3/5/2012--12/31/2012

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Cactus Garden Volunteer - Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Time Commitment & Duration: 3/5/2012--3/5/2013

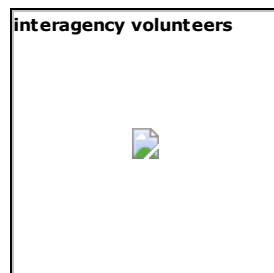
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Visitor Center Volunteer - Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Time Commitment & Duration: 3/5/2012--3/5/2013

[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

USFS



Snow Hosts

Would you like to help others have a fun snow play experience at Mt Charleston this winter?

- Promote fun and safe snow play practices
- Provide an appreciated service to the public
- Enjoy the beautiful snow covered mountains
- Earn volunteer service hours

For more information call 702.839.5566 or visit www.GoMtCharleston.com

Please contact Suzanne Hicks at smhicks@fs.fed.us or 702-839-5566 for information on how to apply.

[Click for a complete job description](#)



Conservation Project Spotlight

If you have driven up to the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA) on a weekend this winter, you may have seen or received snow play information from a group of volunteers called "Snow Hosts". Snow Hosts are volunteers from the USDA Forest Service that help provide safe snow play practices, guide visitors to proper parking and snow play locations, encourage proper disposal of trash, facilitate a positive snow play environment by engaging visitors in creative activities, and encourage respect for the forest environment.

Visitors coming to the SMNRA are often unfamiliar with the area and may have limited experience with snow play which can lead to potentially harmful situations for both visitors as well as for the forest environment. Snow Hosts focus on providing the important information necessary so that visitors can make the best and safest decision on where to play in the snow. Volunteer Coordinator, Justin Ebert, says "Snow Hosts want visitors to have fun and to be safe but we also want visitors to help take care of the forest."

How can activities like sledding be harmful to the environment? One of the biggest problems with sledding is that people will use objects like cardboard, trash bags, or cheap plastic sleds that get wet,

tear, or break and are then left behind instead of thrown away. Pieces of plastic end up getting buried underneath new snow and won't be seen again until spring as the snow begins to melt. Additionally, if there is less than 12 inches of snow on the ground sledding can permanently damage plants and soil. Snow Hosts can help visitors understand how their actions may impact the environment and help mitigate some of these impacts. While making sure visitors are respectful of the environment, fun is always a focus. When people are having an enjoyable snow play experience they are more likely to care about the place and take better care of it as a result.

Snow Hosts work from information stations in Middle Kyle Canyon and the SMNRA Visitor Center by providing maps, children's books, trail maps, and other materials to visitors. Snow Hosts also go to snow play areas such as Lee Meadows and the Foxtail Picnic Area to communicate with visitors about safety and to provide fun snow play activities for families. So far this winter season, Snow Hosts have communicated with over 2,000 people. If you would like to volunteer as a Snow Host, Contact Suzanne Hicks at 702-839-5566 or get information at www.GoMtCharleston.com. "

Written by Justin Ebert



Desert Ecosystem Spotlight

We visited Three Springs on August 20, 2011, where five species and at least one hybrid were identified in 2002.

On August 6 and August 20, 2011, members of the Nevada Native Plant Society visited two spring sites in the Spring Mountains, Clark County, Nevada, to search for and, hopefully, learn how to identify *Botrychium* species. *Botrychiums*, also known as moonworts, belong to the Ophioglossaceae, an ancient family of plants distantly related to modern ferns. Moonworts produce a single leaf per year that is divided into a sterile segment, the trophophore and a fertile, spore-bearing segment, the sporophore. While size may vary, moonworts range from a few millimeters to several centimeters in height, making them difficult to find in taller spring vegetation.

Botanists have located and identified at least six species and several hybrids of moonworts in the Spring Mountains at high elevation springs. Dr. Donald Farrar, professor emeritus at Iowa State University and a leading moonwort expert, visited the Spring Mountains several times in the early 2000s to better understand the speciation of moonworts in the Spring Mountains. For our treasure hunts, we visited two springs reported by Dr. Farrar to have the highest diversity of moonworts in the Spring Mountains. We visited Mummy Spring on August 6th where three species and one hybrid were identified in 2002, and Three Springs on August 20th where five species and at least one hybrid were identified in 2002.

On August 6th, five native plant enthusiasts joined me on a hike to Mummy Spring. Our hike to Mummy Spring took roughly twice as long as it normally would take as we botanized the entire 3 miles to the spring. The trail we hiked traverses ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, and bristlecone pine forests, and we

saw many Spring Mountains and southern Nevada endemics in flower. Some of the more memorable plants included *Arenaria kingii rosea* (also known as, *Eremogone kingii glabrescens*), *Pedicularis semibarbata charlestonensis*, *Ericameria compacta*, *Penstemon thompsoniae jonesii*, *Oxytropis oreophila*, *Abronia nana*, and *Tetranneuris acaulis*, to name a few. We may also have seen *Opuntia charlestonensis* near the trailhead.



Synthyris ranunculina.

Once we reached the spring, we searched the vegetation for about 10 minutes before we found the first moonwort. After the first, we found many moonworts within a roughly 10-meter by 10-meter area. On a follow-up trip, I counted over 150 individuals in the small area. The moonworts at Mummy Spring appear to associate closely with *Dodecatheon redolens*. We felt fairly confident that several of the moonworts observed were *Botrychium ascendens*. We may also have observed *B. tunux* and a hybrid of *B. ascendens* and *B. lineare*. We took a few minutes to break away from the moonworts to look at a population of *Synthyris ranunculina*, a Spring Mountains endemic, located directly above the spring, before members of our group had to turn around to return to town.



Looking for *Botrychium* at Three Springs.

On August 20th, 10 native plant enthusiasts joined me on the scramble to Three Springs. Three Springs is actually a collection of more than three seeps and springs at the base of a series of cliff faces above the Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard Resort. We were able to visit six seeps during our visit. Of those six, we located moonworts at five of the seeps, all of which also had *Dodecatheon redolens*. Similar to Mummy Spring, moonworts occupied a very small area compared to the total area of each seep. Once we located one moonwort in a seep, though, we found many more hidden in the vegetation. We felt fairly confident that we observed *B. crenulatum* and *B. pallidum* while at Three Springs. We were less confident in our identifications of *B. ascendens*, *B. minganense*, and *B. tunux*. Some time in upcoming years, it would be useful to visit the remainder of the seeps and springs at Three Springs to determine how many are occupied by moonworts.

Many thanks to everyone who joined us for our *Botrychium* treasure hunts this summer. We succeeded in locating moonworts both days and learned a lot about the trickiness of identifying these plants to species.

Written by Jennifer Brickey

Images courtesy of Cayenne Engel and Jennifer Brickey

Thank you again for supporting our public lands.