

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

Put 'Em in the Ground: Mesquite Tree

Date: Saturday, April 5

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Audience: Must be at least 12 years old. If volunteer is under 18, they must be accompanied by a parent.

Location: Desert National Wildlife Refuge; Corn Creek Station

Agency: Desert National Wildlife Refuge

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration

Join a team of volunteers to plant native mesquite trees at Corn Creek. Native plants help prevent erosion, reduce dust, help to thwart invasive plants and provide important habitat for wildlife. Some of the trees are quiet large and heavy and will be planted in an old horse pasture and planted. Children can help, however, but must be chaperoned at all times by an adult. Individuals need to be in fairly good physical condition as planting 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. Adult work gloves, water, snacks, and a good time will be provided. Registration starts at 8:30am at the visitor contact station parking lot. For more information or to register, call Harry Konwin at (702) 515-5494 or Harry_Konwin@fws.gov.

Gardening Gone Wild II: Back To The Plants

Date: Saturday, April 6

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Audience: Must be at least 8 years old. If volunteer is under 18, they must be accompanied by a parent.

Location: Desert National Wildlife refuge; Corn Creek Station

Agency: Desert National Wildlife refuge

Volunteer Work Type: Restoration

Join a team of volunteers to plant native riparian plants and Corn Creek. Native plants help prevent erosion, reduce dust, help to thwart invasive and provide important habitat for wildlife. The plant roots from this planting will help stabilize soil along the new wetland stream channel. The plants are small and will be easily planted, as such this is a good project for smaller children assuming they are properly chaperoned by adults. Individuals need to be in fairly good physical condition as planting 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. Adult work gloves, water, snacks, and a good time will be provided. Registration starts at 8:30am at the visitor contact station parking lot. For more information or to register, call Harry

Konwin at (702) 515-5494 or Harry_Konwin@fws.gov.

Celebrate Earth Day at Lake Mead

Date: Saturday, April 20

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Audience: Individuals and Families welcome! Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and have a signed Parental Consent

Volunteer Spotlight



**Christa Ward – USDA Forest Service
Volunteer**

Written by Justin Ebert

Las Vegas is often thought of as a dry, desert climate with no greenery to be found. However, just 30 minutes to the northwest, you'll find yourself immersed in a majestic, mountainous oasis that is no different than any of the great mountain ranges of Colorado with lush Aspen groves, steep limestone cliffs, and abundant wildlife. For USDA Forest Service volunteer (and Colorado native) Christa Ward, the Spring Mountains have been the closest thing to home here in the Las Vegas area.

For the past year, Christa has played a significant role with the Forest Service's volunteer and education program called Go Mt. Charleston. Christa started as part of the Trail Host program, which focuses on providing information and promoting safety to hikers in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area.

"(Volunteering) was a no-brainer. I'm from Colorado, and I love the outdoors." Says Ward "Being in the mountains and on the trails is a lot of fun, so any volunteer opportunity for me

to get out in nature and talk to people with similar interests was fulfilling."

In addition to the Trail Host program, Christa has volunteered with countless educational programs and played a key role in assisting with the National Public Lands Day Trail

form.

Location: TBD

Agency: NPS

Volunteer Work Type: Clean Up, Restoration

Come and help Park Rangers by keeping Lake Mead Clean for Earth Day! Volunteers are needed to remove litter along the shoreline and desert to help protect wildlife and for visitors to enjoy. Park Rangers recommend that volunteers wear long pants and closed toed shoes while helping. Get outdoors and enjoy a spring day while lending a hand. Please register by contacting Chris Pietrafeso at 702-293-8711 or Christopher_pietrafeso@nps.gov.

Red Rock Day

Date: Saturday, April 20

Time: 7:30am – 12:00pm

Audience: Public volunteers

Location: Red Springs Picnic Area. From the north, take Charleston Boulevard West out of the city which turns into highway 159 to Calico Basin road. Turn right on Calico Basin road, drive until you see Red Springs picnic area.

Agency: BLM

Volunteer Work Type: Clean Up, Restoration

Volunteers are needed to removal of Russian olive trees; do trail restoration; install board walk signs; do trail marking work; and do a cleanup in the picnic area. Lunch will be served to all volunteers. Water and gloves will be provided. To sign up and for more information please contact Jim Sudduth at 702-515-5366 or jim@friendsofredrockcanyon.org.

Trail Host Orientation

Date: Tuesday, April 30th

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Audience: Adults, active seniors. If volunteer is under 18, they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and have a signed Parental Consent form.

Location: REI in Henderson, 2220 Village Walk Dr #150, Henderson, NV

Agency: Forest Service

Volunteer Work Type: Outreach

Enjoy getting out on the trails? Like talking to folks about their hiking experiences and forest resources? Then think about becoming a trail host this summer! Trail Hosts provide information and resources to fellow hikers in the Spring Mountains and monitor trail conditions. If you are interested in helping out this summer, then come attend one of our orientation sessions later this spring. For more information about volunteering or to register, call Cody Dix at (702) 515-5408 or volunteer@gomtcharleston.com.

Trail Host Orientation

Date: Tuesday, May 7th

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Audience: Adults, active seniors. If volunteer is under 18, they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian and have a signed Parental Consent form.

Location: REI in Boca Park, 710 S Rampart Blvd, Las Vegas, NV

Agency: Forest Service

Volunteer Work Type: Outreach

Enjoy getting out on the trails? Like talking to folks about their hiking

experiences and forest resources? Then think about becoming a trail host this summer! Trail Hosts provide information and resources to fellow hikers in the Spring Mountains and monitor trail conditions. If you are interested in helping out this summer, then come attend one of our orientation sessions later this spring. For more information about volunteering or to register, call Cody Dix at (702) 515-5408 or volunteer@gomtcharleston.com.

Spring Cleaning 2013

Date: Saturday, May 11

Time: 10 am – 3 pm

Audience: Adults, Seniors, Groups, must be at least 5 years of age. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Location: Lee Meadow

Agency: Forest Service

Cleanup. "(National Public Lands Day) was a great opportunity to see people come together to share their passion for the preservation of the Spring Mountains environment" Says Ward. "We all enjoyed working as a team and were very productive in cleaning up the trails." With Christa's positive energy and leadership, the 29 volunteers from this event helped remove over 14 bags of litter from the Mary Jane Falls Trail!

Christa's volunteering carried over into the winter as she participated with the Snow Host Program (which provides information and promotes safety to the thousands of visitors who come to Mt. Charleston looking to play in the snow) and assisted in leading with interpretive snowshoe hikes. "I mostly just love helping and being available for people's needs and questions" says Ward.

Christa's passion for the outdoors and enjoyment for helping others has truly been invaluable towards the continued growth of Go Mt. Charleston volunteer programs. She has truly been a joy to work with and has provided the program with great amounts support and flexibility by donating her time, knowledge, and positive attitude!

On behalf of the USDA Forest Service and the Go Mt. Charleston team, we thank you, Christa Ward, for your service!

● Upcoming Trainings

No Training Opportunities this month

Volunteer Work Type: Clean-up

Litter clean-up events are a great way to get exercise and make new friends, while promoting a healthy environment for residents of Southern Nevada. Uncover the unique beauty of Mt. Charleston and its canyons by removing the trash that's accumulated this winter. A lunch for the Spring Cleaning volunteers immediately follows the litter pick up. For more information about volunteering or to register, call Cody Dix at (702) 515-5408 or volunteer@gomtcharleston.com.

Current volunteer positions

Bureau of Land Management

Information Desk Specialist – Red Rock Canyon NCA
Time Commitment & Duration: 4/01/2013 – 9/30/2015
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Interpretive Hike Leader/Hike Assistant – Red Rock Canyon NCA
Time Commitment & Duration: 4/01/2013 – 9/30/2015
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Landscaping Team – Red Rock Canyon NCA
Time Commitment & Duration: 4/01/2013 – 9/30/2015
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Natural Resource Team – Red Rock Canyon NCA
Time Commitment & Duration: 4/01/2013 – 9/30/2015
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Trail Monitor – Red Rock Canyon NCA
Time Commitment & Duration: 4/01/2013 – 9/30/2015
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

USFWS

Campground Host/Maintenance – Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration: 3/28/2013 – 12/31/2013
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

RV Resident Volunteer Couple – Desert National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration: 3/28/2013 – 12/27/2014
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Maintenance Assistant – Desert National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration: 3/28/2013 – 5/9/2013
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Trail Ambassador/Interpreter – Desert National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration: 3/28/2013 – 5-31/2013
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Naturalist/Interpreter – Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration: 3/28/2013 – 6/4/2013
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

Administrative Assistant – Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration: 3/28/2013 – 6/28/2013
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

RV Resident Volunteer Couple – Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge
Time Commitment & Duration: 4/15/2013 – 12/31/2013
[Click here for more information and to apply online.](#)

NBC

Volunteer Accomplishments

Cottonwood Cove Eco-Walk

On March 9th, 2013, 72 volunteers donated 360 hours at the 8th annual Cottonwood Cove "Save the Desert Ecology Walk." Volunteers removed approximately 9 cubic yards of litter along the 4 miles of the main road, in addition, to the marina and beach areas. This was a co-sponsored event with Forever Resorts.

Great American Clean-up

On March 23, 2013, 56 volunteers donated 224 hour at the 2013 Great American Clean-up held at Boulder Harbor. Volunteers picked up 8 cubic yards of litter (approximately 1200 pounds).

Alternative Spring Break

Students from University of Nevada Reno, members of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Backcountry Horsemen of Nevada and other local citizens spent a week camping at Pahrnagat NWR and working during the day at nearby Desert NWR. These Über-volunteers removed .7 miles of active road, decommissioned .9 miles of illegal roads, cleared a little over an acre of dumpsites, and tore down and removed 782 feet of t-posts and barbed wire fence.

NPS

Cactus Garden Volunteer – Lake Mead NRA

Time Commitment & Duration: 1/22/2013 – 1/24/2014

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

Visitor Center Volunteer

Time Commitment & Duration: 1/22/2013 – 1/24/2014

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

Deckhand – Boating and Water Safety Program

Time Commitment & Duration: 1/22/2013 – 5/22/2013

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

Lake Mead Native Plant Nursery

Time Commitment & Duration: 04/01/2013 – 10/1/2013

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

USFS

Trail Host – Humboldt-Toiyabe – NV

Time Commitment & Duration: 5/26/2013 – 9/30/2013

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

Get Outdoors Nevada – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Time Commitment & Duration: 1/1/2013 – 12/31/2013

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

Visitor Center Host – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Time Commitment & Duration: 1/1/2013 – 12/31/2013

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

Mt. Charleston Litter Pick Up – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Time Commitment & Duration: 1/1/2013 – 12/31/2013

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



Conservation Project Spotlight

Written by Justin Ebert & Cody Dix The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area has over 50 miles of hiking trails that attract thousands of visitors each year. This summer the Forest Service will be running the Trail Host volunteer program to act as the link between hikers and the Forest Service. This second year program helps to provide education about the mountain ecosystem, promote safety, and encourage respect for the forest environment. Information gathered along the trails by volunteers gets reported so that visitors can stay up to date on all trail matters such as current conditions, regulations, or even a nesting population of rare birds. Information that Trail Hosts report today may be used to help hikers, forest management, and even other Trail Hosts tomorrow. The Trail Host program is currently seeking volunteer interest for the upcoming summer season. Spring Trail Host training & orientations will be held in late April & early May. Trail Hosts then volunteer from late May to early September. Volunteers do not need to have much hiking experience but must be outgoing, physically fit, and willing to learn about the area.

Justin Ebert, volunteer coordinator for the SMNRA, will be running the program. When asked about what made this an enjoyable service opportunity for folks, Justin responded, "Last year's Trail Host volunteers enjoyed this program because it provided them with a great opportunity to learn and share information about Spring Mountains, help protect the forest, and keep visitors safe, all while doing something they really love to do: hike!"

For more information or to volunteer, visit www.gomtcharleston.com or call 702-515-5408. Volunteer Programs at the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area are made possible through a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service, the Great Basin Institute, and the Southern Nevada Conservancy.



Desert Ecosystem Spotlight

Written by Jennifer Ramirez & Cody Dix Spring is right around the corner, believe it or not. If you need a break from spring cleaning or watching March madness, then come watch some wildlife in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area! Wildlife activity that can be expected to occur in the spring include Palmer's chipmunk and Golden-mantled ground squirrels coming out of torpor and starting to forage after their long winter's nap. Migratory birds will begin arriving from the wintering grounds in Mexico, Central, and South America. Common migratory birds include broad-tailed hummingbirds, western tanagers, violet-green swallows, and ash-throated flycatchers. As the snow melts and recedes, deer will begin moving to higher elevations, as will their natural predator, mountain lions. With the blooming of flowers on their nectar plants, butterflies, too, will begin to emerge and start their annual cycle of foraging, mating, and laying eggs. Butterflies endemic to the Mt. Charleston area include the Mt. Charleston blue, Nevada admiral, and Morand's checkerspot butterfly to name a few. Areas in lower elevations of the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area will start to see these changes first and our alpine/subalpine areas will be the last to see spring arrivals and changes.

Thank you again for supporting our public lands.

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