

Holiday Greetings!

Welcome to the Winter 2017 issue of *The Conejo Open Space Foundation News*!

We hope you will find this newsletter informative, interesting, and helpful, and we welcome article ideas, submissions, photos, and queries from all of our readers. You can contact us with your comments here: newsletter@cosf.org

Year-End Round-Up

It has been a momentous year for the Conejo Open Space. Here some of the many notable accomplishments from 2017:

- The Conejo Open Space Foundation fiscal year income from membership, donations, and grants exceeded expenditures by over \$20,000.
- In June, the Foundation received a generous donation of \$2000 from the Conejo Valley Cyclists. Many thanks to [CVC](#)!
- The Foundation purchased a trailer and donated it to COSCA to help COSCA, CRPD, COSTAC, and the Foundation at trail work events, trail outreach events, Trails Education Days, and other educational events.
- The Foundation joined the [Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce](#) in order to emphasize the value of open space to local businesses and to seek strategic partnerships with them.
- Our *profound thanks* goes out to all of our volunteers listed below. The Foundation annually funds many of these programs:
 - In all, 564 volunteers donated 4,633 hours of their time to COSCA projects, equal to a value of over \$109,000.
 - 104 volunteers volunteered 1828 hours to the Trail Watch, Adopt-a-Trail, and Trail Ambassador (formerly Trail Patrol) programs, providing valuable assistance to trail users and extra coverage for COSCA rangers.
 - At the 26th annual Trails Education Days, 88 volunteers hosted 1177 students this year. The Foundation oversees, helps staff, and funds this annual event, which has educated nearly 40,000 CVUSD students since 1992.

- At the Spring and Fall Trail Work Days, 239 volunteers donated 1290 hours building new trails and planting and doing resource management work in Conejo Canyons and in the new Sapwi Trails Community Park.
- 133 volunteers donated 458 hours to help with resource management, working to eliminate fennel and other invasive non-native plants on COSCA lands.
- Foundation board member Steve Clark created a new Geocaching brochure, which is available [here](#).
- Foundation board members Janna Williams and Jerry Westby created a ‘maps to hotels’ program, distributing maps to local hotels to help them inform their guests about open space.
- Janna Williams organized a successful spin class fund-raiser at CycleBar, a new local indoor cycling center. Our thanks to [CycleBar](#)!
- Several Foundation board members organized and coordinated small-group volunteer trail work days with [JRA Bikes & Brew](#) and [SAGE Publications](#). Our thanks to both of these companies!
- Foundation board members exhibited at many corporate ‘Green’ and ‘Health Day’ events throughout the year, and spoke about the value of open space to these businesses.
- And, finally, the Foundation launched a new e-Newsletter - the 2nd issue of which you are reading right now! You can go [here](#) for past issues. The Foundation News is intended to provide our members, donors, and volunteers with timely information about Conejo Open Space issues. If you have story ideas or questions, you can directly contact Craig Percy or Kira Krukowski or you can email us at: newsletter@cosf.org.

Donate

Volunteer

Fall Trail Work Day

On October 21, 2017 many volunteers came together to help out with the Fall Trail Work Day & COSCA's 40th Anniversary Celebration. This year, it



was located at the soon to be completed Sapwi Trails adjacent to Lang Ranch. Thank you to all of those who attended and helped in the activities and festivities. Please plan on attending our spring trail work day. DATE: To be decided...

Trail Trivia

The Conejo Canyons used to be almost a secret, but then the 145-foot bridge on Hill Canyon road that spans the Arroyo Conejo was installed. The celebration for the completion of the Conejo Canyons Bridge took place on Saturday, February 11, 2012.



The success of this bridge was immediate. It gave folks from Camarillo and Moorpark as well as the equestrian communities along Santa Rosa road easy access to the Conejo Canyons. Once over the bridge and into the Conejo Canyons, the views that reward the visitor are truly fabulous.

The network of trails in this area is still work in progress. Among the more recent trails, built in 2015, is the Elliott Mountain trail, which leads up to Elliott Peak. Named after outdoor enthusiast and selfless volunteer Burt Elliott, this geographic feature is a peak in the Western Plateau that offers spectacular views of the Santa Rosa and Conejo Valleys. It's a deserving tribute to Burt Elliott that this trail and this peak should



Bridge entering Hill Canyon towards Elliott Mountain and the Western Plateau

Reminder: It's Holiday Party Time!

The annual Conejo Open Space Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 3rd from 5 pm to 7:30 pm in the Community Room at [403 W. Hillcrest Dr.](#) This is our time to recognize and honor our members, donors, and volunteers. Food and drink will be plentiful, and it's a great time to mingle with your open space friends! As usual, we will have a silent auction to help raise funds to support open space trails, projects, and programs. Come celebrate the

holidays with us! But you MUST RSVP by November 20th to Janna Williams via either text to 818-620-3637 or email to janna_williams@msn.com.

Happy Holidays! Go take a Hike!

With the holiday season here, most of us take time off from work and other responsibilities. What a great opportunity to spend time with family and friends while hiking! Group hiking offers undistracted conversations with kids, parents, family, and friends - all while celebrating the beautiful open space that surrounds us here in Conejo Valley. Not sure where to go, or are you looking to try a new trail? If so, visit the Foundation website for [maps](#) and [route suggestions](#)!

Quiz

Q: What's the most underrated form of *endurance* workout?

A: According to recent studies, it's - hiking! Read an interesting article about this [here](#).

Did You Know?

- We have over 15,000 acres (40% of Conejo Valley) as protected open space.
- We have over 150 miles of trails.
- All trails are all-access: hikers, runners, cyclists, and equestrians.
- A brief set of [rules](#) makes everyone happy. Please read, know, and follow these simple rules.
- All Foundation board members are volunteers. We have no paid staff.

The Conejo Open Space Foundation (COSF) is the only 501 (c) (3) non-profit that accepts donations to support and maintain open space in Conejo Valley. *We'd appreciate any donation amount you can provide [here](#).*

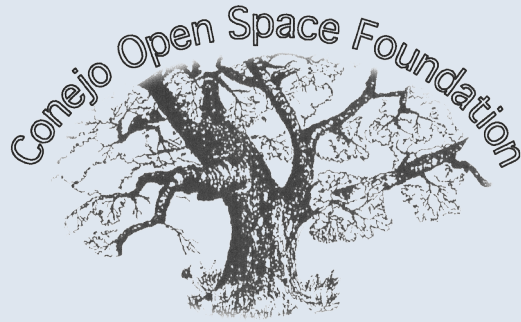
Want to Volunteer? Here's How!

The COSCA Volunteer Corps has many ways for residents to help maintain and preserve the open space that surrounds our beautiful Conejo Valley. By joining with others, we can make sure that the trails, canyons, and ridgelines will be enjoyed by visitors for generations to come. You can read about the specific volunteer opportunities below, and you can submit a request to volunteer, noting your specific interests, [here](#).

- [Adopt-a-Trail Program](#)
- [Trail Watch Program](#)
- [Trail Ambassador Program](#)
- [Trail Work Days](#)



- Trails Education Days



The Conejo Open Space Foundation was formed in 1995 to promote and maintain the open space and trail system of the Conejo Valley and to educate residents as to their roles as custodians and protectors of the open space and the environment. Our [web site](#) illustrates ongoing Conejo Open Space programs supported by the Foundation that help preserve and protect our precious open space.

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