



# MONTE NIDO VALLEY



## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



*A Dark Sky Community*

**E-NEWSLETTER**

**APRIL 2006**

### **Annual Membership Appeal**

The annual membership drive is on! Won't you join us? Our association works hard to maintain the sense of community that is often lost in today's hectic world. We do it by organizing events, publishing this newsletter to keep you informed, and by staying in touch with our local officials and the happenings around us. Our community can and has made a difference. Appeal letters should have reached your mailboxes this month. If you didn't receive one, and would like to join, annual dues are only \$50 per family and \$25 for new members. Send your check payable to MNVCA to PO Box 8054, Calabasas, 91372.

### **Speeding in Monte Nido- What you can do!**

For those of you who want to do something about the reckless drivers and speeding vehicles that plague our rural community, here's good news for you. In response to recent letters reporting dangerous traffic situations in Monte Nido the Lost Hills Sheriff and Highway Patrol have responded with an increased presence.

California Highway Patrol has jurisdiction in our area. The Highway Patrol has pledged to continue its vigilance and welcomes our reports of traffic violations. While it's impossible for their officers to respond immediately to each incident, their office logs every complaint and follows through, investigating all reported grievances. The more detailed the traffic complaint information, the better. Important information to include: time, date, vehicle description, and if possible, the license plate.

Call or mail your complaints to:

Officer Mike Nibarger  
California Highway Patrol  
West Valley Station  
5825 De Soto Ave.  
Woodland Hills, CA 91367  
818-888-0980

*-contributed by a local resident*

### **A Word of Appreciation**

Organizing events, keeping on top of local issues, maintaining our network of trails, safeguarding our environment and wildlife are but a few of the things people do in Monte Nido to keep this such a nice place to live. (See related articles in this newsletter) I have personally witnessed the countless hours our (past and present) board members have put in on all of these issues. All of this is done on a volunteer basis. Those that volunteer are busy with their own lives but find the time to participate in some way. Please recognize the contributions of others and realize we are all doing the best we can do. And a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you who now and have in the past contributed to our community in so many ways.

### **Winter Banquet**

A successful annual winter banquet and installation dinner was held last month at the home of Rosemary Alden. We tried something a little different this year- a pot-luck. An enjoyable evening was had by all as we honored our past president, John Low. Thanks to Rosemary for hosting this event at her home.

## Monte Nido 4th of July Celebration in Jeopardy This Year

Yes, that's right. We need a chairperson to lead the organization of the Parade and Picnic. We just don't have anyone on the board that is available to do it this year. If we do not get someone from the community to volunteer, this annual event just won't happen. We have lots of advice to offer anyone who will take on this task. We know just what needs to be done and it is really appreciated by the community. Think of the great time that everyone has at this event. If you are willing (or perhaps you and a friend) please contact one of your Board members immediately. We must have someone volunteer by mid-May or there will not be enough time to get the event organized.

The tentative theme this year is "Mountain Nests."



## The Newsletter Needs Help Again!

Putting out this newsletter involves several people. Once articles are written and assembled, the newsletter is approved by the Board President and sent to the printer. Once printed, it has to be picked up and brought to the Canoga Park post-office for processing, and then over to the Woodland Hills post-office for delivery. It needs to be done in short order, usually with a few days notice. Since I don't work in the area, it is impossible for me to get the newsletter to the post-office. Several people have been helping out for the last few months, including Lynn Benjamin and Randi Goodman (Thanks Ladies!) but can't take it anymore. So I need someone to take their place. If you are available and willing, please give me a call at 876-3019 or email me at [mnvcanews@charter.net](mailto:mnvcanews@charter.net). Thanks a lot.

-Your editor, Marianne Cilluffo

## MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting March 14, 2006

The regular meeting of the MNVCA was called to order at 7:10pm in the home of Joan Slimocosky. In attendance were Rosemary Alden, Marianne Cilluffo, Joan Kay, Jocelyn Mackay, Yehuda Netanel, Joan Slimocosky and Heidi Stompe.

Correspondence: mail delivery problems in Calabasas revealed in copy of city letter to US Postal Service; letter from LVUSD on proposed bond before voters on June primary.

Federation Report: Julia Brownsley, candidate for State Assembly seat being vacated by Fran Pavley spoke at February Federation meeting. Barry Groveman to attend March meeting. Discussion of acquisition of Sweney property next to Malibu Creek State Park

Old Business: Winter banquet 7pm March 24 at home of Rosemary Alden. Bring hearty hors d'oeuvres and \$10 for party expenses. Welcome packets prepared and Rosemary to let us know when ready for delivery. Unleashed dog issue continues to elicit concern. Animal Control recently called to issue citation to resident in violation. Trail access to Dark Canyon at corner of Wonder View and Cold Canyon an ongoing concern. At length discussion of options for continuing access to trail by community hikers and equestrian. Likewise, discussion continued re: access from Backbone Trail to Cold Canyon via trail behind Mackay residence. Concern by property owner regarding involvement of Coastal Commission in getting pertinent facts addressed. Approval of letter from Association to Rep. Waxman urging Federal funds to buy the 207.5 acre Brian Sweney parcel connecting Backbone and Peter Strauss Ranch. Letter to be drafted.

New Business: Proposed school bond to be researched and info brought to next meeting. Yehuda and Joan S. to cover this for Association. Sale of public lands by Federal government discussed. Marianne volunteered to contact Sierra Club and follow up with newsletter article.

- Joan Kay (minutes are not approved, subject to change)

## Courtesy in the Parks and on the Trails

Tuesday, April 11th in the morning we had a light rain. Tuesday afternoon when stopping by the ballfield at Tapia Park, my heart nearly stopped. The day before we had spent a lot of time – whole day - leveling the ball field to make it a better playable surface. Tuesday afternoon, the ground was all churned up into muddy chunks with human and horse footprints. It was no longer a nice playing surface. The perpetrators managed to gouge and wreck the entire field.

It should have been obvious to the rider and the other persons wearing cleats on their footwear gallivanting and sliding all over the field that they were damaging it. If we don't respect the work of others, how can we expect to enjoy areas like Tapia Park? By Wednesday, less than 24 hours after the rain, the playing field was dry enough to use. This consideration should extend to the trails in our immediate surroundings. It is appropriate to wait the short period of time it takes to allow the ground to dry out before traversing it and leaving deep footprints causing erosion, or in this case the destruction of a playing surface.

It is a great deal of effort to clear trails and make a comfortable trail bed. So it is with the playing field at Tapia Park. Please be respectful of the needs of all the users and leave the land with kinder, gentler footprints.

For more on trail etiquette visit:

<http://eternational.com/trail etiquette.html>

*-Stephanie Abronson*

## Want to be in the Know?

Send your email address to Lisa Lehman, the devoted MNVCA secretary at [mnvca@charter.net](mailto:mnvca@charter.net), to receive announcements of meetings, community activities and the time and location of our Board meetings.

**Contributions to the newsletter** including nonprofit events to be listed in the calendar can be made by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month to me (the editor) at 856 Wonder View Dr. or by email to [mnvcanews@charter.net](mailto:mnvcanews@charter.net). *-Marianne Cilluffo*

## Equestrian Trails, Inc., Corral 36

### National Trails Day - In our own back yard!!!

Trail site – Backbone Trail between Piuma Road and Saddle Peak.

Volunteers are invited to help maintain and improve a four-mile section of the Backbone Trail between Piuma Road and Saddle Peak during National Trails Day, Saturday June 3, 2006. The lead agency, National Park Service, has partnered with California State Parks to organize the annual trails day.

NPS Volunteer Manager Mike Malone says volunteers should park in the upper lot at Malibu Creek State Park just off Las Virgenes Road. The entrance fee will be waived for National Trails Day volunteers. Beginning at 8:30 am, an NPS van will ferry volunteers to work sites. Malone suggests volunteers bring their own lunch or snack food and water. Also recommended are hat, sunscreen and gloves. Trail-working tools will be provided. Children under 18 are not permitted unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. No reservation is necessary. For any questions call 805-370 2317.

To contribute to the ETI Corral 36 Trail Maintenance Fund, send your checks to: Jeanne Wallace, 1710 N. Cold Canyon Road, Calabasas, CA 91302. (818) 222-2560 for information.

For more opportunities to volunteer for trail maintenance see the Santa Monica Mountains Trail Website at [www.smmtc.org](http://www.smmtc.org).

*-Jeanne Wallace*

## Lost Cat- Have you seen her?

" Annabelle "

Black/White with four white paws and white cheeks. 10 years old; needs special diet. Very Friendly. Last seen Sat. evening April 15. Please Call Dixie @ 222-8263 or 310- 228 -8675

## Calendar of Events

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### **MNVCA Board Meeting**

Tuesday May 9th at 7 PM.  
at the home of Les Hardie  
471 Cold Canyon Road 222-5485

### **Equestrian Trails, Inc., Corral 36**

Tuesday May 9th at 7 PM  
Ann & Saul Berman, 551 Mountain Green Dr.,  
Monte Nido 591 5920



### **Trail Maintenance**

5/20/06 8:30am Saturday

Secret Trail/Calabasas Cold Creek

Leader: Linda Palmer 818-222-4531

5/27/06 8:30am Saturday

Backbone Trail-Middel Saddle Peak Trail

Leader: Greg Sweel 310-452-4443



### **Rattlesnake Avoidance Training for Dogs**

Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 5, 6 and 7

with Patrick Callaghan,

Call the MRT for information.

818-591-1701 ext. 189

### **Universal Worship Service:**

First Sunday of each month, 10:00AM

Marilyn Browning

222-6363



### **A Course in Miracles Study Group.**

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00AM

Marilyn Browning

222-6362

### **Zen Meditation**

Thursday evenings at 7:30pm

Rosemary Taylor Alden

222-2936