

Happy Trails eNewsletter



The Humboldt Trails Council serves as a unified voice to support development, maintenance, connection to, and use of trails for recreation and transportation throughout Humboldt County, California.

Help STOP Camping Along Eureka Waterfront Trail – Contact your Eureka City Council Member by March 18



Photo by Karen Underwood

Please see article [here](#)

Phil Lescano: One of the Many Amazing Delta Force Volunteers

Since the inception of the 'Delta Force' of the Volunteer Trail Stewards, Phil Lescano has been a regular at both the weekly Tuesday and Wednesday work days in the McKay Community Forest. This is a commitment that has now spanned nearly two and a half years.

My rough calculation suggests that Phil has devoted nearly 1,000 hours to building the McKay Community Forest trails. Dennis Houghton, who is the McKay Crew leader, told me that Phil is “unflappable. Nothing seems to phase him. I trust Phil to take on any project. He knows what we are trying to do and how to do it and maintains super high standards. And, if he doesn’t know, he is willing to learn.”

I thought that I might drill a little deeper to find out just why Phil has made such a commitment. It is unlikely that the delicious lunches or the sore muscles or coming home from a workday with dirty clothes is that inspiring.

Phil had been a road cyclist, a mountain biker, a runner, a hiker, and a bike commuter for many years. But it wasn’t until he retired that he had the energy or the time to volunteer. Phil retired after overseeing a route for Rendezvous (a vending company) for decades. As we talked, it became clear that trail work brought together his love of the outdoors and physical activity, the opportunity to work with a variety of people, and to be involved in a meaningful project that is being built to last.

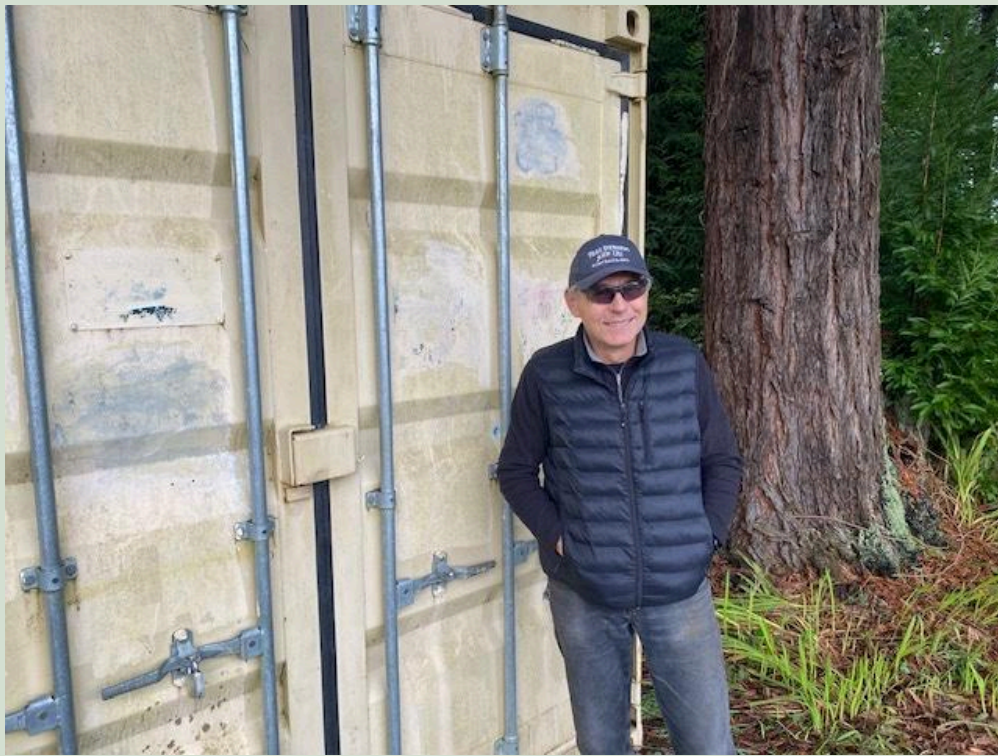
I was really struck by the importance to Phil of building trails of quality. “I love the work that is often concealed . . . that trail users never know about but makes all the difference,” Phil noted. It may be the crib logs that are sometimes below the trail surface or the layers of rock and matting that allow for trails to drain. Phil highlighted the Bob Hill Gulch trail as such an example. I added a reroute we had done on the Redwood Acres loop trail paralleling Ryan Creek as my example.

“I’ve learned a lot from Dennis,” Phil noted. “And it is amazing to see what many hands can accomplish. And, you don’t have to kill yourself. You can set your own limits.”

It is gratifying to walk or ride the four miles of trail that we have built over the past two and a half years and realize just how much all of us were a part of the resulting trails. And these are trails that will last.

Some of the best workers with the Delta Force are also the quieter volunteers. Phil just gets in there and works (I do a lot more talking). It reminds me of Marge Piercy's classic line, "I love people who harness themselves, an ox to a heavy cart . . . who strain in the mud and the muck to move things forward, who do what has to be done, again and again." Here's to Phil, Scott, Jean, Pat, Jessica, Carl, Robin, Josh, Dayna, Mark, Elaine, Larry, and others who have worked with the Delta Force.

Consider attending a Saturday or Sunday work day at any of the ten locations or try out the Delta Force on a Tuesday or Wednesday.



Phil in front of the CTS Storage Units at Redwood Fields

Author Rees Hughes walked his way through some of the most stunning regions on Earth — from the top of Kilimanjaro to the arid interior of Australia, from the pilgrimage route up Sri Pada in Sri Lanka to the picturesque Cornish coast, from the Himalayas to the Andes — but has found little that compares with the magic of the Klamath Knot. Co-editor of the Pacific Crest Trailside Readers and author of a guide to Humboldt County walks, Rees serves as a volunteer trail steward coordinator and an advocate for the Humboldt Bay

Trail. Rees retired from a career in higher education after more than three decades at Humboldt State University, Seattle University, and the University of Kansas.

Thank You Rachael



It is with much sadness that we will be bidding Rachael Garcia, Ely, and Luke goodbye at the end of March. Rachael has served as the VTS Coordinator for nearly four years now and has been a wonderful source of support for the entire VTS program. Although much of her energy is devoted to behind the scenes efforts, she and her kids are a regular presence at workdays often bringing homemade treats and always bringing a smile to the faces of

volunteers. I cannot fully express just how much she will be missed. So I asked crew leaders to send me a few sentences:

Stacy Becker – Hammond Trail. When Rachael took the reins as lead coordinator for the Volunteer Trail Stewards, there was a sea change. As the Hammond Coordinator, I felt better connected to the other VTS projects with timely updates and announcements, and well-supported with supplies, materials and treats for the volunteers. Not only did she provide excellent professional support, but she also brought meaningful personal touches to all efforts, too. She had a real flair for volunteer recognition, in coordination with Humboldt Trails Council -- thanking the Stewards; providing wonderful activities, and those memorable and beautiful gift baskets to each of the coordinators at the recent BBQ; going out of her way to make sure we were all taken care of; and just being an all-around sweet and helpful presence. I am going to miss Ely's hilarious stories, and seeing her and baby Luke grow. I will miss you three so much, but wish you all the best on your future path!

Carl Klarner – RISE. Rachael was instrumental in getting volunteers to events with her friendliness, organization and charm. She was instrumental in helping me as a trail steward crew leader with her detailed email responses to involved questions. Thank you, Rachael.

Rees Hughes – Arcata Trails. Michael Proulx and I served as Rachael's supervisors meeting regularly with her. This role was not just a job to Rachael. She really cares about the work that the VTS program does and all of the people who are part of it. She is smart and articulate but, most importantly, it is her emotional intelligence that sets her apart. Volunteers and crew leaders love Rachael. I know that I will miss her deeply.

Pam and Ted Halstead – Waterfront North emeritus. Rachael is a kind, intelligent, forward-thinking, outdoor-loving and personable; perfect traits for the VTS Coordinator. Rachael was receptive to new ideas and supportive of individual VTS crew leaders. We are grateful for her presence on the trail and exceptional representation as the VTS Coordinator. We do appreciate Rachael and her wonderful kids.

Dennis Houghton – McKay Trails. Rachael was always a great VTS representative, whether talking personally with volunteers, putting out trail event emails, or conducting crew leader meetings. She had a great ability to see the “big picture”. She’s going to be missed.

Julie Neander – McKinleyville Land Trust. Rachael has been very instrumental in making sure the VTS was able to effectively support and coordinate so many volunteers working on so many different community trails. She is an excellent organizer and communicator. More importantly she made sure both VTS crew leaders and other volunteers knew they were appreciated through her support and personal attention to each group. It was always wonderful when she and Ely and Luke were able to make it to MLT’s workdays. She will be missed by us!

Vicki Ozaki – McKinleyville Land Trust. Always smiling, super efficient, thoughtful and organized, Rachael has been amazing to work with and we are grateful for her wonderful support of the MLT VTS.

Michael Proulx – Bay Trail North. Rachael has provided an immense spark throughout the VTS program with her positive demeanor, friendly communication style, and careful attention to the needs of all the Trail Crew Leaders. Her dedication to the trails and the VTS volunteers has created an excellent program resulting in well-maintained local trails and engaged volunteers. I also will miss the entire Garcia family (Rachael, Elynoir, Lucas) and wish them well wherever they relocate.

Mark Freitas – Hikshari’. I can’t think of a way to express how much Rachael will be missed. Having recently become a grandpa, I totally get wanting to be closer to family when you have young children, but it is indeed sad for us!

Gail Popham – Wharf Trail. I agree with everything that has been said! I’ll miss her.

Thank you for everything, Rachael. We hope that someday your path will bring you back here.

Bay Trail South Celebration in the Works!!!!

The trail community has been waiting decades to travel along a bay trail on the eastern shore of Humboldt Bay. For months we have watched the construction of the section that will join the Eureka Waterfront Trail to the Bay Trail North along the Arcata shoreline. When that section is completed the community wants to celebrate, and we hope you'll join us!

We're planning organized bike rides, trail runs, food, music, possibly a mutt strut, and more; a big blowout party! We're still in the early stages, so everything's subject to change; what we do know for sure is that it will be a family-friendly event and a ton of fun, celebrating the completion of our trail! We'd love for you to come join us!

We are confident that the trail will be completed this year, and we have a tentative celebration date at the end of June, but much could happen that would delay the opening date. Please know that a party day is definitely coming; we will keep you informed. If your organization would like to be a part of this planning process please contact Colin Fiske colin@transportationpriorities.org or Carol Vander Meer at cvandermeer@rcaa.org.

Article from Bay Trail Celebration Coordinating Committee



City of Eureka – Bay to Zoo Trail Update



In the not-too-distant future trail users will be able to experience the beauty of Eureka's natural landscape on a new trail connecting the Waterfront Trail at the north end of Eureka to the Sequoia Park Zoo via two miles of Class 1 Trail. The city has been awarded almost eleven million dollars in grant funding for the project. The trail will typically be 10' wide and comprised of asphalt pavement with an additional 2' of gravel shoulder on either side for a

total of 14' in width at most locations.



Sketch provided by the City of Eureka staff

The trail alignment is still in the preliminary stage (30% design). City staff are currently working on the design, permitting, and right-of-way phase of the trail. In the right of way phase, the city will meet with individual property owners to discuss, appraise, and purchase easements for trail access from willing property owners.

Visit this exciting [Story Map](#) to explore this ongoing process.

Visit [Bay to Zoo Trail FAQ](#) for more answers to your questions. Please email or call Project Manager, Brittany Powell for further question or discussion items at bpowell@eurekaca.gov or (707) 441-4127.



Photo of Second Gulch provided by City of Eureka staff

Article by Karen Underwood, HTC board member

Reviewed by Brittany Powell, Project Manager, City of Eureka

VTS Coordinator – Job Announcement

Applying for the VTS Coordinator position: The position of VTS Coordinator will be opening soon and we are inviting qualified candidates to submit your resume and a letter expressing your interest in and qualifications for the position.

We will be interviewing candidates for this position during late March and the position will commence in April. For information about the position, see the accompanying job description [here](#).

The VTS Coordinator position: The position involves working 8 - 10 hours weekly as an independent contractor earning \$25 hourly. Attendance at weekly trail workdays (which are mostly Saturday and Sunday mornings) is an essential part of the VTS Coordinator schedule. The remainder of the work tasks are performed on a schedule determined by the VTS Coordinator. Humboldt Trails Council does not have office space and the VTS Coordinator must work remotely for the hours outside of the trail workdays.

Submit application materials to michaelt47@aol.com and use "VTS Coordinator" as the title of the email.

Ted Humphry's Trail Notes From Redwood National and State Parks; Pure and Unfiltered Observations from the Trail

3/9/2025- Redwood Creek Trail

Good Morning,

In the afternoon, I parked at the Redwood Creek Trailhead and walked to the Redwood Creek crossing site and back to the vehicle. I wanted to see the giant trillium.

This section of Redwood Creek Trail is passable with several step-over or through stems on the trail.

Regarding the giant trillium, I was not disappointed.







There are a few giant trilliums along the trail on the way out to the creek crossing site, but the biggest concentration is just before the trail goes onto the gravel bar.



Ted is a retired pediatrician who volunteers at Redwood National and State Parks.

OUR MISSION

The Humboldt Trails Council serves as a unified voice to support development, maintenance, connection to, and use of trails for recreation and transportation throughout Humboldt County, California.

OUR VISION

The Humboldt Trails Council envisions a well-maintained network of accessible community pathways traveled by walkers and riders of all abilities, ages and means in the pursuit of unfettered kinetic joy. We are advocates, educators, and coordinators working to enhance the county's active transportation and recreation options, community wellbeing, economic vitality, visitor captivation and appreciation of open spaces.