



# MONTHLY UPDATE

EBATC Announcements, Meeting Minutes, News: May 2006

EBATC website: <http://www.ebtrails.org>

East  
Bay Area  
Trails  
Council  
2950  
Peralta  
Oaks  
Court  
Oakland,  
California  
94605

The EBATC is composed of public agencies, equestrians, hikers, bicyclists, and conservation-ists who are committed to furthering the protection of the scenic and recreational resources of the East Bay.

## Honoring a Trail Advocate

Barbara Weitz was only a 12 year old girl when she was riding her horse up a trail near Mt. Tamalpais when she saw something, and felt something she had never experienced before while doing her most cherished activity. Her heart sank. She saw a "no horses" sign on one of her favorite trails. Well, I guess something good can come of something bad when you have the heart and determination of Barbara Weitz. An incredible trail advocate was born. While agencies still unfairly exclude horses and bikes from many, many worthy multi-use trails around our beautiful public lands, a 500-mile ridge trail encircling the bay is over 60% complete, and all user groups have found common ground and now work together for the common good, preserving trail access, preserving public open space. These are the things that Barbara Weitz has donated countless hours accomplishing.

At this year's CA Trails and Greenways Conference, Barbara was honored. Barbara was bestowed with the Conference's Lifetime Achievement Award. "Barbara was recognized for her service as a trail advocate and volunteer for over 25 years. Her leadership, focus, and perseverance have brought hikers, equestrians and bicyclists together for the common goal of safe, peaceful and continuous public trails" (BART website).

I got to meet Barbara this weekend at the Conference. It was a true pleasure and honor. She received her award in front of a packed room of parks and trails professionals from State, County, City, and Regional agencies, and trail advocates. She truly shined as she graciously spoke and charmed the crowd as she undoubtedly has charmed land managers over the years. . . helping to open trails and create trails in open spaces throughout Marin County. In her speech, Barbara admired the accolades and accomplishments of previous lifetime achievement award winners, and mused, "gosh, I feel like I should be wearing a crown ; -)". She went on to describe the fateful day when she came across the "no horses" sign. A feeling I certainly

## EBATC MAY MEETING

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

7:15 to 9:15 pm

East Bay Regional Park District  
Headquarters: Board Room  
2950 Peralta Court, Oakland  
Telephone (510) 635-0135

## Agenda: March 17, 2005 Meeting

1. Call to order: 7:15 p.m.  
Approval of Agenda: Action  
Approval of Mar. 2006 Minutes: Action
2. CA Trails and Greenways Conference Report - Michael Kelley and Chris Towles
3. Geo-Caching presentation and discussion - Steve Wood
4. EBRPD grading policy and procedures, Road to Trail conversions - Chris Towles  
Terry Noonan, EBRPD Trails Coordinator
5. Bay Area Ridge Trail Update - Bob Power
6. Announcements-Reports  
June 3<sup>rd</sup> Trails Day, EBRPD Crockett Hills Reg. Park and new Bay Area Ridge Trail dedication, grand opening, and hikes April 22<sup>nd</sup> - California Trails Day / Earth Day Round Robin
7. Increasing EBATC participation, involvement, activity, scope

sympathize with as a bicyclist. She lent her usual support to all user groups, and finished her speech by pointing out that she is no longer able to go horse-back riding, but she is looking for a new activity. . . perhaps, skateboarding! The crowd ate it up. It was a heart-warming ceremony honoring a great Bay Area trail advocate. A wise trail advocate kidded Barbara afterwards, "Just because you earned a lifetime achievement award, it doesn't mean you can stop. . . you gotta keep going even *continued on inside right page*

Minutes of EBATC March meeting, Mar. 15, 2006

Attendees:

Howard Hornig Hayward Hiking Club  
Judy Etheridge TWHA, SRVHA, BARTC  
Morris Older TWMK, BWR  
Jim Townsend EBRPD  
Bob Power BARTC  
Chris Towles BTCEB

Chris Towles called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. The minutes of the January meeting were read and amended as follows. Amend under EBRPD Trail Use Change Checklist Trails considered for nomination,

1. Pine Tree Trail: It was moved, seconded, and passed that this trail be recommended for consideration under the checklist, **remove the words** *but in that process, staff be encouraged to look into ways to mitigate the possible problem at the curve in question* replace with the words *with reservations*.

2. Towhee Trail: It was moved, seconded, and passed that this trail be recommended for consideration under the checklist procedure **add words** *with reservations*.

The minutes as amended were approved.

Morris Older gave a slide show presentation "Connecting Equestrian Communities on Ridge Trail". He reviewed early horse trips with photos beginning in 1975, before the Bay Area Ridge Trail existed. Equestrians held numerous fund raising rides over the years and contributed many thousands of dollars to build sections of the Ridge Trail. Rides were typically nearly a week long with well planned camps along the way.

### Ordinance 38 Checklist

The status of the Zeile Creek Trail use change was announced, and there was a discussion of the Towee Trail. The proposed change of use of the Zeile Creek Trail in Garin Park to allow bicycle use was approved by the Board Operations Committee and will be submitted to the Board of Directors for final action.

Howard Hornig reopened the discussion of the proposed change of use of the Towee Trail in Anthony Chabot Park to allow bicycle use. At the last EBATC meeting this proposed change was voted on and approved to recommend that EBRPD staff evaluate the proposed change with the Checklist process. Hornig had abstained on the vote because of insufficient familiarity with the trail. After a careful inspection of the trail, he observed six signifi-

cant problems with the proposal, five related to safety and one to the availability of nearby alternate loop routes for cyclists. As a member of the Volunteer Trail Safety Patrol he has some experience with trail safety problems. He felt that the trail was not suitable for biking use. No action was taken because the matter was voted on at the last meeting.

### New Business/Updates

Morris Older reported on a letter he sent and a discussion with the Tilden Park Supervisor concerning a safety problem with the trail around the back of Lake Anza. The park map shows the trail as open for equestrian use, but the supervisor agreed that the trail is very dangerous for horse use and that the map is probably in error. The supervisor will carry out the procedure to have the designation on the map changed.

The California Trails/Greenway Conference to be held in May at Agura Hills was discussed. Michael Kelly intends to attend. It was moved, seconded and passed that EBATC will pay half of the conference fee up to \$150 to sponsor Michael Kelly to represent EBATC at the conference. He should submit a written report of the conference to EBATC. Jim Townsend presented some new and ongoing matters involving EBRPD.

There will be a workshop on the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project Tues., April 18, 2006, 10 am. to 4 PM. Participants will include the Coastal Conservancy and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Discussions will focus on social dimensions of restoration, especially important discussion of public use of the 15,000 acres. Much of the land is to be flooded.

Plans are in progress for the extension of the Iron Horse Trail in Pleasanton.

Design is underway by a private developer and the City of Albany for a large waterfront development in Albany. Although the San Francisco Bay Trail will be affected, the Bay Trail is guaranteed a right of way in whatever evolves.

Geo-Caching was described and briefly discussed. It is a "treasure hunt" of hidden sites by the use of GPS. The District has some concerns about disturbance of natural terrain at the off trail sites. It was requested that a geo-caching representative be invited to give a presentation on the sport.

There was no new report on the proposed expansion of Las Vaqueros Reservoir. Michael Kelley is writing a letter on behalf of EBATC to CCWD in

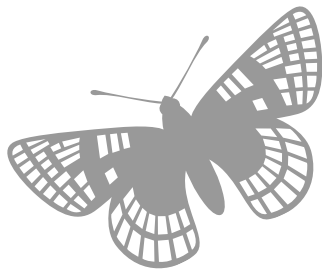
support of trails.

### **Round Robin**

Bob Powers announced that a new segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail will be dedicated in a ceremony Apr. 22, California Trails Day, in Crocket Hills Regional Park.

The next meeting of EBATC will be held in May. The meeting was adjourned about 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Howard Hornig,*  
temporary scribe.



*continued from front page*

stronger!'. More about Barbara's history can be found in the May 1<sup>st</sup> Bay Area Ridge Trail article, [www.ridgetrail.org/about/news\\_detail.cfm?id=43](http://www.ridgetrail.org/about/news_detail.cfm?id=43)

Along the lines of trail advocacy excellence. Please consider attending this month's meeting. EBATC participation has slacked lately, and we're looking for new ways to spark more activity, interest, and trail and open space advocacy. Got some good ideas? . . . brainstorming new ideas is on the agenda. There are a couple of other hot issues to discuss such as geo-caching, and what EBRPD is doing to improve it's trail grading policy, and convert some roads to trails. Learn about it. . . give your input. More information about the incredible CA Trails Conference will be given also. See you at the meeting.

*Chris Towles*  
EBATC  
Bicycle Trails Council - Outreach



# East Bay Area Trails Council: Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2006

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With the blooming of spring wildflowers, it's time to renew your membership in the East Bay Area Trails Council. Your participation is important in our ongoing efforts to preserve and expand the East Bay trail system.

Membership Dues for 2006:      Check enclosed:  
Individuals      \$15        
Organizations      \$30        
Make checks payable to:  
East Bay Area Trails Council

Please list below your name, address, phone number and if applicable, the name of the organization that you represent on the Trails Council.

Send check and completed form below to:  
East Bay Area Trails Council  
P.O. Box 5381  
Oakland, CA 94605-0381

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*Please print*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Represented: \_\_\_\_\_ *(if applicable)*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Area(s) of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(hiker, cyclist, equestrian, skater, etc.)*

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