



# Conejo Open Space Newsletter

Spring of 2015 [www.cosf.org](http://www.cosf.org)

## Trails Education Days

A significant goal for the Conejo Open Space Foundation is education. To that end, the Foundation supports the Conejo Open Space Trails Advisory Committee (COSTAC) in coordinating an annual environmental education program for Conejo Valley fifth graders. Nearly 40,000 students have taken part in Trails Education Days since its inception in 1992.

The 24th annual Trails Education Days event will take place from April 20 to April 24, 2015. Fifth grade students from 16 CVUSD Elementary Schools will attend.

Please join us and help CVUSD 5th Graders experience the wonders of nature in their local open space. If you would like to help, please contact one of the T.E.D. coordinators below or [sign up here](#).

- John Holroyd - (805) 495-6391 - [backpacker2@earthlink.net](mailto:backpacker2@earthlink.net)
- Julie Osborn - (805) 492-6000 - [conejoopenspacefdn@gmail.com](mailto:conejoopenspacefdn@gmail.com)
- Rob Remedi - (805) 499-2924 - [robremedi@hotmail.com](mailto:robremedi@hotmail.com)

## Conejo Open Space Challenge

From March 1st through May 31st we are challenging mountain bikers, hikers, trail runners and equestrians of all ages to experience ten of the best and most beautiful multi-use trails in the Conejo Open Space. This is a "virtual" event, where you take photos along trails and tweet or e-mail them in for validation to show you have completed trail segments.

Alternatively, you can e-mail links to GPS tracks indicating completion. For more Information, [click here](#).

Photo by: Paul  
Blakelock



## Seed Ball Project

Volunteers met and got their hands dirty with a common goal; they were trying to bring native plants back to our open space. They did this by getting together and making seed balls.



Seed balls are a mixture of plant seeds native to our open space plus a blend of clay and potting soil. They're a great low-tech way of reintroducing native plants to areas in need of a little help.

For the botanists out there, the seed ball mix consists of: yarrow, golden yarrow, arroyo lupine, California poppy, deerweed, caterpillar phacelia, and purple needlegrass - All native to our area. This mix was designed to be attractive and used in a variety of locations.

More than 1000 seed balls have been placed in several test areas. You may have seen them outlined with orange marking paint. Germination can range from a few days to a week or two. Check out [our facebook page](#) for updates on these plots.

We'd like to thank the CRPD for allowing us to use their facility, and Ranger Randy for his assistance. If you'd like to volunteer for events like this in the future, please sign up at our website. If you'd like to buy some for your own yard, the Conejo Open Space Foundation is selling seed ball bags for \$5, please contact Julie Osborn at [conejoopenspacefdn@gmail.com](mailto:conejoopenspacefdn@gmail.com) for more information.

## Conejo Open Space Trails on Google Maps

Thanks to the help of a CLU intern, you can now find the trails in our local open space on google maps. To view the maps, you can go to [cosf.org/trails/](http://cosf.org/trails/) and click the link the says, "Find our trails on google maps here." For ease of access, you can also [click this link here!](#)

## Bell Boxes

Shared use is a primary goal on the trail, that's why COSF and CORBA joined together with the CRPD, COSCA, and COSTAC to create bells for mountain biking use. These bells help alert hikers and equestrians of a bikers presence around corners. If you are a mountain biker and don't already have a bell installed, please make sure to sport our new complimentary gear, found in newly installed bell boxes.



There are currently 4 bell boxes along the Los Robles Trail, and one at the beginning of the Rosewood Trail. The 4 along Los Robles are at the Moorpark Road Trail Head, the saddle overlooking the 101 freeway and the Conejo Grade, the intersection of Los Robles and Rosewood trails, and the eastern terminus of the Los Robles Trail at Potrero Road.

The bell box program was initiated by CORBA, is sponsored by CORBA and the Conejo Open Space Foundation, and is in conjunction with the Conejo Recreation and Park District, Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency, and Conejo Open Space Trails Advisory Committee. The boxes were designed, constructed, and installed by a local Eagle Scout, and were paid for by CRPD.

### **COSF Annual Newsletter**

2015 marks 20 years since COSF was formed, and more than 40 years since COSCA became the agency responsible for open space. After all these years, many Conejo Valley residents really don't know about either the Foundation (COSF) or the open space Agency (COSCA). We're hoping to change that.

This month we'll begin an "awareness campaign" by mailing informative newsletters to approximately 2,000 residents who live near a COSCA trailhead. Some of you could receive the mailing, even though you are already involved with COSF. To view the newsletter, please go [here](#). Please let us know how you like it!

### **Wildwood Park Water Main Break**

In case you hadn't heard, a huge water main break occurred on December 15th. It took nearly an hour for the water flow to be turned off. As you can see, it washed a good portion of the hill side away. We hope that your time on the trail wasn't cut short because of this!





## Spring Trail Work Day

Keep an eye out for upcoming information on Spring Trail Work Day, which will take place on March 21st.

Thanks for reading our newsletter!

[Donate](#)

[Volunteer](#)

## 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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