

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



SUMMER 2015
June – July – August

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

To Ensure That Your Experience is Enjoyable, Please Review This Important Information

- Please be courteous to other trail users. Stay alert and make your presence known to other trail users well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind.
- Hikers yield to horses; bicyclists yield to hikers and horses. Observe trail speed limits (15 mph max; 5 mph when passing).
- Equestrians must provide their own horses (no stallions or rental horses). Lead lines are required and breast collars are recommended for all horses, and helmets must be worn by all riders under age 18.
- Heavy rain within two days prior to a mountain bike or horseback ride cancels the activity.
- For all hikes, wear boots or sturdy walking shoes appropriate for rugged trails.
- Dress in layers (T-shirt, long-sleeved shirt, sweater, and/or jacket). The weather can be unpredictable. No matter what season it is, be prepared for rain, wind, fog, or sun!
- Carry ample water with you to drink. Water is not available on preserves.
- Bring sun protection (hat, sunscreen) and insect repellent.
- Restrooms are not always available; please plan accordingly.
- Please carpool if possible. Parking is limited in some locations. 🌿

SPECIAL NOTE

If you have a group of 8 or more people who would like to attend a docent-led activity listed here, please contact the Docent Program Manager to discuss in advance at 650-691-1200 or docent@openspace.org. Other arrangements may need to be considered for your group.



Rancho San Antonio
Open Space Preserve

Jack Geschmidt

GENERAL INFORMATION

With this newsletter in hand and a sense of exploration in mind, we invite you to enjoy the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves. These 26 extraordinary preserves include over 62,000 acres of permanently protected open space, from redwood forests to bay shoreline. We encourage you to participate in the wide variety of adventures offered inside Outdoor Activities.

The activity durations listed are averages based on our experience. However, always allow extra time in your schedule for unusual circumstances, or the slower pace of some groups.

You can help by arriving a little early to ensure a prompt start for each activity.

The activities are free, though some require reservations. Heavy rain cancels the activity unless otherwise noted in the description. If there is light rain or the threat of rain, go to the meeting place.

All activities are developed and led by docents who have completed a District training program. These docents volunteer their time to share their knowledge of nature with you. For more information about the volunteer docent program, visit the District's Web site at www.openspace.org, or phone the District at 650-691-1200 weekdays, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. 🌿



Picchetti Ranch
Open Space Preserve

Jack Geschmidt

Header photos above, left to right: Strether Smith; staff; Amanda Louria; and Liv Ames.

www.openspace.org

WHERE TO MEET

Directions to preserves featured in this season's schedule of *Outdoor Activities* are listed below. Some preserves have more than one access point. Some activities meet at different locations than where the activity will actually occur. If an activity does not meet at the preserve listed, or if there is more than one preserve access point, the alternate meeting location will be indicated in italics on a separate line following the preserve name as part of the activity header. (For example: **Skyline Ridge Meet: Russian Ridge** or **Russian Ridge Meet: Caltrans vista point**). If no information follows the preserve name, then refer to the detailed directions for the preserve or alternate meeting location listed below.

Note: Restrooms are not always available; please plan accordingly.

PLEASE CHECK THE LISTED DESCRIPTION TO MAKE SURE YOU MEET YOUR ACTIVITY LEADER AT THE CORRECT LOCATION.



Jack Gershefeld

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

COAL CREEK

Meet at the Caltrans vista point pull-out area opposite Russian Ridge Preserve gate RR01, located on Skyline Boulevard, 1.2 miles north of Page Mill Road and 6 miles south of Highway 84. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 40 minutes travel time.

DANIELS NATURE CENTER

Park at the Russian Ridge Preserve parking lot on the northwest corner of the Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35) and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection (across Skyline Blvd. on the right). Walk to Alpine Pond at Skyline Ridge Preserve by going through the tunnel under Alpine Rd. The Nature Center is a small gray building on the east shore of Alpine Pond.

EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK

Meet at the Preserve parking lot located on the west side of Highway 35 (Skyline Boulevard), about 1-mile south of the Caltrans Skeggs Point parking area and 2.7 miles north of the intersection of Highway 35 and Highway 84.

Skeggs Point: Meet at the Caltrans vista point on the east side of Skyline Boulevard, about 4 miles north of La Honda Road (Highway 84) and 1.5 miles south of Kings Mountain Road. Please note that Caltrans prohibits a left turn into the parking lot when approaching from the north along Skyline Blvd.

LONG RIDGE

Meet at the Peters Creek trailhead/roadside pullout area on the west side of Skyline Boulevard, 3.6 miles north of Highway 9 or 3.3 miles south of Page Mill Road. If you are coming from the north on Skyline Blvd., the pullout is just past Portola Heights Road on the right. From the south, the pullout is near the Palo Alto city limits sign on the right. There is additional parking across Skyline Blvd. at the Grizzly Flat trailhead (Santa Clara County Park).

LOS TRANCOS

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Page Mill Road (across from Monte Bello Preserve), 7 miles west of I-280 or 1.5 miles east of Skyline Boulevard. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 35 minutes travel time.

MONTE BELLO

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Page Mill Road (across from Los Trancos Preserve), 7 miles west of I-280 or 1.5 miles east of Skyline Boulevard. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 35 minutes travel time.



Greg Lewis

Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

PICCHETTI RANCH

From the intersection of I-280 and Foothill Expressway, go 3.5 miles southwest (toward the mountains) on Foothill Boulevard/Stevens Canyon Road. Turn right on Montebello Road. The Preserve is 0.5 miles up Montebello Rd. on the left.

PULGAS RIDGE

From I-280, exit Edgewood Road. Drive 0.75 miles on Edgewood Rd. toward San Carlos/Redwood City. Turn left (north) on Crestview Drive, then immediately turn left on Edmonds Road. Follow Edmonds Rd. to the Preserve parking lot entrance on the right.

PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS

North Ridge parking lot: This entrance is on Skyline Boulevard next to the now closed Kings Mountain Country Store. The parking lot is 4.5 miles south of Highway 92, and 8.1 miles north of Highway 84.



Ellie Van Houtte

Ravenswood Open Space Preserve

Purisima Creek Road entrance: From the Highway 92 and Highway 1 intersection in Half Moon Bay, travel south on Highway 1 approximately 4.3 miles. Turn left on Verde Road. After turning on Verde Rd. and traveling 0.25 miles, continue straight to remain on what becomes Purisima Creek Road. (Verde Rd. splits off to the right.) Travel approximately 3.7 miles on Purisima Creek Rd. to reach the Preserve.



Deanne Little

Gray Hairstreak Butterfly on Mariposa Lily,
Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

From I-280, take Foothill Boulevard south and turn right almost immediately onto Cristo Rey Drive. Continue about 1 mile, veer right around the traffic circle, and turn left into the park. Go to the lot farthest to the right and meet near the restroom at the bottom of the hill.

RUSSIAN RIDGE

Meet at the main Preserve parking lot on the northwest corner of the Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35) and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection (across Skyline Blvd. on the right). Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 40 minutes travel time.

SARATOGA GAP

Meet at the Caltrans vista point on the southeast corner of the Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35) and Highway 9 intersection.

SIERRA AZUL

Meet at the Jacques Ridge parking lot located near the intersection of Hicks Road and Mt. Umunhum Road in San Jose. Exit Highway 85 at Camden Avenue. (From northbound Hwy. 85 turn left on Branham Avenue and then turn left on Camden Ave. and from southbound Hwy. 85 turn left on Camden Ave.) Travel on Camden Ave. 1.6 miles. Turn right on Hicks Rd. and travel for about 6.3 miles. Turn right on Mt. Umunhum Rd. The Preserve parking lot will be on the right.

SKYLINE RIDGE

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Skyline Boulevard located one mile south of the Skyline Blvd. (Highway 35) and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection. After entering the Preserve, turn right and go to the farthest parking lot. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 45 minutes travel time.

WINDY HILL

From I-280, exit Alpine Road in Portola Valley. Go south on Alpine Rd. about 2.9 miles to Portola Road (the first stop sign). Turn right on Portola Rd. and travel 0.8 miles to the parking lot on the left side of the road.



KEY TO SYMBOLS



Easy Hike: Flat to gently rolling hills. Total elevation gain less than 200 feet. Leisurely pace.



Moderate Hike: Steeper or more frequent uphill grades. Total elevation gain 200 to 600 feet. Leisurely to moderate pace.



Strenuous Hike: Steep hills and/or long distances. Total elevation gain greater than 600 feet. Moderate to vigorous pace.



Suitable for children; must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. See the activity descriptions for any age recommendations.



Wheelchair accessible.



Stroller accessible. Jogger-type suggested.



Bring a lunch, dinner, or snack as appropriate.



Well-behaved and socialized dogs are allowed, and must be controlled on a maximum six-foot leash.



Equestrian Ride: Riders under age 18 must wear a helmet. Lead lines are required and breast collars are recommended for horses. Equestrians must provide their own horses (no stallions or rental horses).



Reservations Required: Reservations for activities requiring them will only be accepted within the two (2)-week period just before the activity date. To make a reservation or a cancellation, visit the District's Web site www.openspace.org/reservations or call 650-691-2150 (enter Option 2). If you provide information prior to the reservation acceptance period, it will not be processed. Please limit your reservation to a maximum of four (4) people.



Easy Nature Ride: Slow, leisurely pace, minimal climbing, and multiple stops to observe nature.



Introductory Mountain Bike Ride: Outings include demonstration and practice emphasizing trail etiquette and techniques required for dirt riding followed by a 5- to 7-mile ride on fire roads and single-track trails, with occasional natural history stops. Riders should be in good physical condition to perform climbs and descents.



Intermediate Mountain Bike Ride: Intended for participants with dirt single-track riding experience; able to climb and descend steep and moderately-rough trails. Recreational ride at a moderate/brisk pace, 8+ miles on a wide range of fire roads and single-track trails. For experienced riders in very good physical condition with good endurance.



Advanced Mountain Bike Ride: Intended for participants with dirt single-track riding experience; competent at climbing and descending steep and rough trails. Moderate to fast pace, 10+ mile ride on a wide variety of trail conditions. For experienced riders with a high level of physical fitness and excellent endurance.



For all rides, bicyclists must wear helmets and bikes must be in good condition, and the participants must be very familiar with the operation of gears and brakes. Mountain bikes are strongly recommended for all except the Easy Nature Rides. Easy Nature, Introductory, and Intermediate Rides include a natural history component that is provided by the docents during the rest stops. Advanced rides develop and improve mountain bike skills – any natural history discussion stops are secondary to the overall riding experience.



Healthy Parks, Healthy People – Bay Area: Introductory level and easy to moderate activities for people of various ages. Some activities have a health and wellness focus.

Nature's Garden in Spring

Tuesday • June 2

Monte Bello

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Docents Vivian Neou, Bruce Hartsough, and Debbie Mytels will lead this leisurely-paced, 4-mile hike along the White Oak and Stevens Creek Nature Trails as you look at nature's garden in summer. You'll see what's flowering as well as "sleeping" and discuss how various native plants can fit into your own garden plan.

Explorer Hike: Lower Windy Hill

Wednesday • June 3

Windy Hill

10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Enjoy searching for late spring wildflowers and other natural wonders with docents Laura Levin and Lynn Jackson. You'll hike

at a leisurely pace for 4.5 miles along the Spring Ridge, Meadow, Betsy Crowder, and Eagle Trails. Along the way, you'll view Sausal Pond and follow a portion of lovely Corte Madera Creek.



Giant Trillium,
Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

From Pond to Pond

Saturday • June 6

Skyline Ridge

9:00 am – 1:00 pm



Explore the changing habitats of the Skyline Ridge area from mixed evergreen forest of Fir Knoll Trail to the riparian habitats of Horseshoe Lake and Alpine Pond, to the meadows of the Sunny Jim Trail and the oak woodland of the Ipiwa Trail. You'll look up close at plants and wildflowers and try to spot wildlife on this 4-mile hike with docents Noa Doitel and Susan Bernhard, while enjoying vast views of the hills rolling down to the ocean.

**Summer Nature Days 2015
Day Camp Adventures****Amazing fun for children entering grades 2 - 6**

Adventures await you... discover bugs, birds, plants, creeks, and more through science, games, crafts, and other activities!

Co-sponsored by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, City of Mountain View – Shoreline Park, and Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society.

Participate all week or for a mini-week

(Monday-Wednesday, or Wednesday-Friday)

Monday July 20 @ Picchetti Ranch Preserve, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 21 and 22 @ McClellan Ranch Preserve Park, Thursday July 23 @ Shoreline Park, and Friday July 24 @ *Skyline Ridge Preserve (transportation provided*)

Registration fee applies. **Deadline to sign-up: June 15th**

For registration and detailed information, visit www.scvas.org or call 408-252-3740.

Climbing the Flanks of Mt. Umunhum

Saturday • June 6

Sierra Azul

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Dave Kocsis and Patty Lovelace on a steep ascent up the flanks of Mt. Umunhum on the remote Barlow Road, followed by lunch at Bald Mountain with a grand view of the Coyote Valley, and an easy descent back to the starting point. This is an 8-mile, moderately-paced ride with about 1,400-feet of climbing.

Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 21.

Ohlone Medicine

Saturday • June 6

Long Ridge

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm



Native Americans, including California Indians, had a great number of uses for the plants growing on their lands. A primary use was medicinal. Join docents Sarah Schoen and Kim Borick on this 5-mile hike exploring the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails, with a lunch stop overlooking the western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Learn ways that select native plants were used to treat a number of ailments before the introduction of modern medicine.

**In the Glow of the Night**

Saturday • June 6

Monte Bello

5:45 pm – 10:30 pm



Discover night's natural wonders with docents Debbi Brusco, Katherine Greene, Jack Owicki, and Paul Billig. You'll hike about 4.5 miles at a leisurely to moderate pace on the Canyon and Indian Creek Trails, with extended stops for interesting sights and sounds. Bring a flashlight with a red covering or filter if you have it, your meal, and plastic to sit on. Capable, attentive children age 10 years and older are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 21.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

June 6 and 7

Daniels Nature Center

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



A summer outing awaits you... bring family and friends to visit the Daniels Nature Center on Saturdays and Sundays this summer between 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm. You can enjoy an audio nature tour hike (listening devices are available to "check out"), view displays about natural communities and larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, observe live aquatic organisms "borrowed" from Alpine Pond with the assistance of a docent, or enjoy a picnic with your companions on nearby tables (pack out your own trash please). The living is easy – come and see!

Jonathan Livingston Seagull

Sunday • June 7

Skyline Ridge

Meet: Russian Ridge

10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Enjoy a walk from the David C. Daniels Nature Center at Alpine Pond to Horseshoe Lake and back with docent Ed Lange. You'll enjoy a short lunch break and discussion of Richard Bach's novel, "Jonathan Livingston Seagull" on this 5-mile hike. There's more to this bird than first meets the eye.

Earthquake Walk

Sunday • June 7

Los Trancos

2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



Join docents John Wertzler and Alisa Stutzbach for a fun and educational hike along the San Andreas Fault. On this 2- to 3-mile stroll, you'll discuss the wonder of plate tectonics, examine remnants left by thousands of major earthquakes, and learn how to prepare for future earthquakes.

A Sense of Community at ECdMC

Tuesday • June 9

El Corte de Madera Creek

Meet: Skeggs Point

9:30 am – 1:30 pm



Join docents Lina Mesa and Liz Foreman and enjoy a summer hike under the fir trees. Explore the variety of natural communities and the plants and animals found in them as you hike along the Tafari, Resolution, and Fir Trails. This moderately-paced hike will cover 6 miles with steep and uneven terrain, including several hills.

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • June 10

Pulgas Ridge

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Katherine Jen, Huey-Shin Yuan, Louise Casey, and Vivian Neou for a 4-to-6-mile, moderately-paced, exercise focused hike. Each quarter, "Scenic Aerobic" hikes will be offered in different Preserves. The route of each hike will be determined by the docents based on trail and weather conditions.



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Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

Insect Exploration Hike

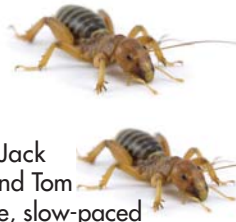
Saturday • June 13

Monte Bello

10:00 am – 12:00 noon



Join docents Sara Witt, Jack Owicki, Gerri Tiernan, and Tom Schoderbek on a 2.5-mile, slow-paced exploration hike along the Canyon Trail as you search for insect pollinators, ground-dwelling insects, and many others. Along the way you'll learn a little bit about the different insects encountered and the species of plants that they feed on and pollinate.



Search for the Everlasting

Saturday • June 13

Picchetti Ranch

10:30 am – 3:00 pm



Join docents Bob Segalla and Greg Azevedo to enjoy the excitement of this Preserve so close to home. You'll discover if the everlasting plant smells like maple syrup to you. A lovely view also awaits you along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails and you can listen to the sound of Stevens Creek as you enjoy lunch at a Santa Clara County Park picnic area. Capable children can handle this moderately-paced, 4-mile hike with a couple of 200-foot climbs. A visit to the Picchetti Winery for tasting is optional (on your own) at the hike's end.

Dusky-footed Woodrat and Friends

Saturday • June 13

Pulgas Ridge

5:45 pm – 10:00 pm



Join docents Vivian Neou, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Greg Hughes on a search for the dusky-footed woodrat. On this 5-mile hike, you'll traverse the Preserve on the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails as you look for signs of the dusky-footed woodrat and other creatures of the night. There will be a stop to enjoy a meal and take in the views. Bring a flashlight with a red cellophane covering (if you have it), your meal, and plastic to sit on. Capable, attentive children age 10 years and older are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 28.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

June 13 and 14

Daniels Nature Center

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 6.)

Waterwheel Downhill Mountain Bike Ride

Sunday • June 14

Monte Bello

Meet: Picchetti Ranch

10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Join docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Kocsis for a high-intermediate, 18-mile mountain bike ride. From the beautiful Waterwheel Creek Trail you'll ride most of the single track and fire roads in Monte Bello Preserve before heading out to Stevens Canyon Road and back to your carpool location. The route is mostly downhill (about a 2,200-foot net descent), but riders will climb more than 1,700 feet along the way. **(Note: Participants will carpool from the meeting location to the trailhead). Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 28.**

What Makes it Chaparral?

Sunday • June 14

Pulgas Ridge

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm



Chaparral characterizes much of the local landscape. This 2.4-hike will examine what chaparral is and why you'll find it locally. Docents Kandis Scott and Sam Berry will help you compare chaparral to other natural communities during this leisurely-paced outing.

El Corte de Madera Creek Tour

Wednesday • June 17

El Corte de Madera Creek

10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou to explore this beautiful and heavily-forested Preserve along the Sierra Morena, Gordon Mill, Steam Donkey, Springboard, Lawrence Creek, Timberview, Manzanita, and Methuselah Trails. You'll take a side trip and visit an old growth redwood tree. This vigorous hike is a fast-paced 10-mile workout with 2,000-feet of elevation gain.

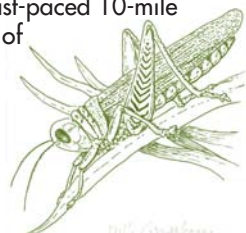


Illustration by
Robert Moncrieff

Explorer Hike: Late Bloomers

Wednesday • June 17

Coal Creek

10:30 am – 2:30 pm



You'll be surprised at what late-blooming flowers can be found at this Preserve even in this era of drought and high temperatures. You'll search for wildflowers with docents Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, and Lynn Jackson as your guides on this 5-mile excursion.

Monte Bello Hills Ride

Saturday • June 20

Monte Bello

Meet: Picchetti Ranch

9:00 am – 12:30 pm



Join docents Linda and Glenn Wegner to ride 5 miles up the mainly paved Monte-bello Road and then onto fire roads and single-track trails of Monte Bello Preserve, including the Bella Vista and White Oaks Trails before heading back via the Stevens Canyon Trail. Experience with longer rides and single-track trails is required. This advanced ride covers 22 miles with approximately 2,000-feet of climbing. Bring a power snack and water. Faster riders/climbers can start the ride with Glenn at 9:30 am instead of 9:00 am.

Nature at Night

Saturday • June 20

Pulgas Ridge

5:00 pm – 10:30 pm



Discover what creatures are active at night in the lower hills with docents Debbi Brusco, Katherine Greene, and Lynn Jackson. You'll hike 4.5 miles with approximately 700-feet of elevation gain at a moderate pace, traveling slower on steep sections. After dinner along the trail, you'll hike quietly; perhaps a mammal will make itself known. Bring a flashlight with a red cellophane covering (if you have it), your meal, and plastic to sit on. Close-focus binoculars may be helpful. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 4.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

June 20 and 21

Daniels Nature Center

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 6.)

Morning on the Mountain

Wednesday • June 24

Purisima Creek Redwoods

Meet: North Ridge parking lot

9:00 am – 12:45 pm



You'll enjoy walking down and then back up the old redwood tree logging roads with docents Liz Foreman and Dick Opsahl. This 7-mile hike provides scenic views of the redwoods along the Harkins Ridge Trail, and lovely ferns and a creek alongside the Whittemore Gulch Trail. This is a moderately-paced hike with uneven terrain and steep inclines climbing the trails back to the parking lot on Skyline Boulevard.

Hide and Seek

Friday • June 26

Los Trancos

9:30 am – 12:30 pm



Experience beautiful views of San Francisco, and possibly Mount Diablo, from the top of the hill with docents Farhana Kazi, and Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel. On this 3-mile hike, you'll lose yourself to the whispers of the Lost Creek Loop Trail. Enjoy the trickling sounds of a creek, and find yourself in the presence of a hidden Buddha. The tranquil surroundings will rejuvenate your heart and soul. Those interested in learning about the San Andreas Fault are welcome to stay at the hike's end and do some self-guided exploration.

Exploring Teague Hill

Saturday • June 27

Teague Hill

Meet: See text below

9:00 am – 1:45 pm



Join docent Steve Warner, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Theresa Walterskirchen for a 9-mile hike through this little known treasure along the San Francisco Peninsula. You should be in excellent physical condition and able to move at a relatively brisk pace. Due to the little developed trail system at this hilly Preserve, with mostly uneven surfaces, this hike is suitable for participants who are in excellent condition. The pace will be vigorous with 2,000-foot elevation gains over a relatively short distance so participants must stay with the group. **(Note: Directions to the meeting location will be mailed and participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 11.**



Karl Gohl

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

June 27 and 28

Daniels Nature Center

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 6.)

Introductory Geocaching for Families

Sunday • June 28

Skyline Ridge

Meet: Russian Ridge

10:00 am – 2:00 pm



This fun and interactive outing is great for families and children (who can hike for 3 miles). Join docents Bill Overall and Lyndall Erb, and REI Outdoor School Instructor Steve Wood to search for geocaches, or hidden treasures, using GPS units supplied by REI (or you can bring your own units). Bring small trinkets to trade for objects you'll find in the caches. This activity is an introduction to geocaching and is geared toward the first-time geocacher. **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 11.**



JULY

Explorer Hike: Going South

Wednesday • July 1

Saratoga Gap-Long Ridge

Meet: Saratoga Gap

10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Start this excursion at Saratoga Gap Preserve with docents Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, and Laura Levin to explore the southern reaches of Long Ridge Preserve. You'll hike both the Nutmeg and Red Mountain Trails on this moderately paced 5.5-mile exploration.

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • July 18

Los Trancos

10:00 am – 2:00 pm



(Join docents Sarah Schoen and Kim Borick, and REI Outdoor Instructor Steve Wood, and please see the activity description for June 28.)

(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended.)

Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 2.



Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Moth Night at Monte Bello

Saturday • July 18

Monte Bello

8:15 pm – 12:00 midnight



The fourth annual National Moth Week is July 19-27. Join docents Debby Brusco, Jack Owicki, Jan Hintermeister and additional docents to discover nocturnal moths and other night flying insects. You'll observe critters attracted to a special light, and photograph them if you like. See nationalmothweek.org for more information. There will be an optional short trek to the sag pond for a sense of a night hike. Bring a chair or ground cover to sit on, snacks, flashlight with a red cellophane cover, a camera, and close-focus binoculars if you have them. The main activity takes place at the parking lot, so you may leave the lot before the end time. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 2.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

July 18 and 19

Daniels Nature Center

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 6.)

Ferns and Other Ancient Plants

Sunday • July 19

Monte Bello

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



As you walk down into Stevens Creek Canyon, docents Debbie Mytels and Sara Witt will help you learn to identify various ferns and other plants that evolved before flowers graced the Earth and you'll see what flowers still exist in mid-summer as well! You'll travel down the Stevens Creek Trail and return via the Canyon Trail, passing a sag pond and an old orchard on this 3.5-mile hike.

Three Trees, a Rock, and a Shrub

Sunday • July 19

El Corte de Madera Creek

Meet: Skeggs Point

10:00 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Cathy Brown and John Wertzler on this invigorating and enlightening 5-mile hike through the beautifully dense mixed evergreen forest of this Preserve along the Tafoni, Fir, and other trails. You'll do a deep dive on the dominant trees in the forest and visit an incredible geological structure that used to be off the coast of Los Angeles beneath the sea some 30 million years ago. Dress in layers and be prepared for possibly warm weather. Bring a lunch and plenty of water.

Under the Firs and Sandstone Views

Wednesday • July 22

El Corte de Madera Creek

Meet: Skeggs Point

9:00 am – 12:45 pm



Enjoy a shaded hike with viewing of a tafoni sandstone formation, redwood and fir trees, and ferns. Join docents Liz Foreman and Toni Gooch to explore the variety of plants and trees in this popular Preserve as you hike along the Tafoni, Resolution, and Fir Trails. The hike will cover 6 miles with steep and uneven terrain, including several hill climbs. This will be a moderately-paced hike.

Walk with a Doc

Saturday • July 25

Windy Hill

Meet: See text below

10:00 am – 11:00 am



(Please see the activity and program description for July 11.) (Note: this activity will meet at an offsite location – directions will be provided when you sign-up). Sign-up at smcma.org/calendar/smcma-events/walk-with-a-doc-signup or by phone (650) 312-1623.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

July 25 and 26

Daniels Nature Center

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 6.)



AUGUST

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

August 1 and August 2

Daniels Nature Center

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 6.)

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • August 2

Los Trancos

2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



(Join docents John Wertzler and Strether Smith, and please see the activity description for June 7.)

Explorer Hike: Summer under the Redwoods

Wednesday • August 5

Purisima Creek Redwoods

Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance

10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Escape the heat and join docents Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin for a 5-mile hike up the lovely Purisima Creek Trail. You'll enjoy the natural beauty, learn a bit about the Preserve history, and have time for some quiet reflection as you ascend to a lunch spot on the Craig Britton Trail. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 22.**

Walk with a Doc

Saturday • August 8
Pulgas Ridge
Meet: See text below
10:00 am – 11:00 am



(Please see the activity and program description for July 11.) **Sign-up at smcma.org/calendar/smcma-events/walk-with-a-doc-signup or by phone (650) 312-1623.**

Girls' Night Out

Saturday • August 8
Russian Ridge
5:00 pm – 10:30 pm



Join docents Debbi Brusco, Katherine Greene, Lynn Jackson, and Vivian Neou for an evening out in open space. You'll hike up and down Ridge Trail and other trails at a moderate, sometimes leisurely pace. Bring your favorite treat to share! On the return portion of the hike, you'll quietly keep an eye out for wildlife and take occasional peeks at the stars. This hike will cover about 6 miles. Bring your dinner, a flashlight with red covering if you have it, and ground cover to sit on. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 23.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
August 8 and August 9
Daniels Nature Center
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 6.)

Summer Ride at ECdMC

Sunday • August 9
El Corte de Madera Creek
Meet: Skeggs Point
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Explore the shaded forests and challenging single-track trails of this beautiful Preserve on your mountain bike with docents Dave Kocsis and Patty Lovelace. This intermediate/advanced level ride takes you through mixed evergreen and redwood forests, passes lush riparian habitats, then climbs back to a vista point with a sweeping view of the Pacific Ocean before returning to your starting point. The total distance will be about 13 miles with more than 2,000-feet of climbing. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 23.**



P. Murgai

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • August 12
El Corte de Madera Creek
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 10.)

No-Guilt Hike

Thursday • August 13
Pulgas Ridge
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



After completing your morning errands, you can enjoy a stroll through several natural communities at this lovely Preserve. Docents Kandis Scott and Mike Alexander will lead you through a varied California landscape during a short 2.6-mile hike along the Cordilleras, Polly Geraci, Dick Bishop, and Blue Oak Trails.

Umunhum Barlow Explorer

Saturday • August 15
Sierra Azul
8:30 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo, David Schwaderer, and Huey-Shin Yuan for an uncommon hike around Mt. Umunhum via Barlow and Woods Roads. This 5-mile hike with many short breaks and wonderful views includes trail sections that are steep with varied surfaces. You'll begin your hike along Mt. Umunhum Road near the Bald Mountain trailhead and continue to Barlow Road to hike down to the parking lot. Participants are advised to carry ample drinking water. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the hike's starting point.)**

Insect Exploration Hike

Saturday • August 15
Picchetti Ranch
10:00 am – 12:00 noon



(Join docents Sara Witt, Paul Billig, Gerri Tiernan, and Debby Mytels and please see the activity for June 13.)

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • August 15
Skyline Ridge
Meet: Russian Ridge
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



(Join docents Lyndall Erb and June Cancell, and REI Outdoor Instructor Steve Wood, and please see the activity description for June 28.) **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 30.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
August 15 and August 16
Daniels Nature Center
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 6.)

A Sense of Community – Purisima Creek Redwoods

Tuesday • August 18
Purisima Creek Redwoods
Meet: North Ridge parking lot
9:30 am – 1:30 pm



Enjoy some shade and the serenity of summer at Purisima Creek Redwoods. Join docents Lina Mesa and Liz Foreman on this 7.2-mile, strenuous-paced hike with big changes in elevation and uneven terrain. You'll explore a variety of natural communities including redwood forest. You'll observe and learn about the plants, trees, and animals in these various communities. You'll hike the North Ridge, Harkins Ridge, and Whittemore Gulch Trails.



Karl Gohl

Purisima Creek Redwoods
Open Space Preserve



David Foote

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Hotel California**Saturday • August 22****Long Ridge****9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

You'll walk the Peter's Creek Trail Loop with a stop at the Wallace Stegner memorial bench with docents Ed Lange and Theresa Walterskirchen. This 5-mile hike will include a lunch break and discussion of the California missions established as a result of the Portola Expedition of 1769.

Cool Summer Workout**Tuesday • August 25****Purisima Creek Redwoods****Meet: North Ridge parking lot****10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou for a fast-paced exploration of giant redwoods and enjoy cool air on a hot summer day. This is a 10-mile, 1,500-foot elevation gain workout along Whittemore Gulch, Purisima Creek, Craig Britton, Harkins Ridge, and North Ridge Trails with a refreshing lunch break among the redwoods.

Stop In and Explore**Saturday and Sunday****August 22 and August 23****12:00 noon – 5:00 pm**

(Please see the activity description for June 6.)

Quiet Solitude**Friday • August 28****La Honda Creek****Meet: See text below****9:30 am – 1:00 pm**

Come experience this peaceful and serene Preserve. You and fellow hikers will likely be the only people visiting. Docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi will take you on a 4-mile hike to a few of the special features of this property including old farm buildings, rolling hills, and a vista point with one of the best views of the San Gregorio Creek watershed. You'll also visit an old growth giant redwood. Be prepared to be impressed when you measure its circumference. **(Note: Directions to meeting location will be mailed.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 13.

Redwood Oxygen**Saturday • August 29****Purisima Creek Redwoods****Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance****10:30 am – 3:30 pm**

Find out why you'll be breathing some of the cleanest air in the world on this hike with docents Bob Segalla, Sam Berry, and Theresa Walterskirchen on the Purisima and Craig Britton Trails. This moderately-paced, 5.3-mile, 500-foot elevation change hike is suitable for capable children and has a downhill return. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 13.**

The Bats at Alpine Pond**Saturday • August 29****Russian Ridge****6:00 pm – 8:30 pm**

Join docents Karen DeMello and Jan Hintermeister to learn some facts and dispel some myths about the world's most misunderstood mammal: the bat. As the sun goes down, you'll hang out near the David C. Daniels Nature Center to see whether bats appear over Alpine Pond, returning to your car before darkness sets in. Bring binoculars if you have them.

**Moonlight Ramble****Saturday • August 29****Monte Bello****7:00 pm – 10:00 pm**

Join docents Linda and Glenn Wegner, Dave Kocsis, and Patty Lovelace on this 5-mile hike to Black Mountain with approximately 600-feet of climbing. Bring water, a flashlight with a red cellophane cover (no headlamps please), and dress in layers for late evening chills. You'll enjoy beautiful vistas and the silent surroundings as the moon rises on this hike along fire roads and single track trails. Suitable for capable children 12 years and older. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 13.**

Stop In and Explore**Saturday and Sunday****August 29 and August 30****12:00 noon – 5:00 pm**

(Please see the activity description for June 6.)

Nighttime Photography Hike**Sunday • August 30****Monte Bello****5:30 pm – 10:30 pm**

Join docents Vivian Neou, Jack Owicki, and Greg Hughes for a photography night hike. Want to photograph a simultaneous sunset/moonrise from the Black Mountain summit? There may also be fluorescing insects and other interesting photo subjects. If the skies cooperate, you'll end the evening with some astrophotography. This 4-mile round trip hike is intended for novice and experienced photographers – all levels are welcome. Be sure you are able to hike with your tripod/lenses, etc., and bring your camera's instruction manual for reference if needed. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 13.**



R. Goldthwaite

Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Photo in upper right: Sticky Monkeyflower,
Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve by Tom Cochrane