



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT  
Celebrating Over 40 Years of Open Space Preservation

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • FALL 2014

## A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Greg Hughes

### Passage of Measure AA

This past June, when District voters approved Measure AA for Regional Open Space Access, Preservation and Restoration, people like you made a historic choice that will forever benefit the health of our environment and community.

Thank you for your support. With your voice, your vote, and your volunteer hours, you have preserved open space, saved redwood forests, protected rare native species, restored watersheds and increased access to these magnificent open space lands. Thanks to you, the Peninsula and Silicon Valley will remain one of the best places in the world to live, work, play and stay healthy. And thanks to

you, everyone who lives in the region will benefit from a reduction in greenhouse gasses and an increase in oxygen production from our greenbelt. This is your legacy and achievement.

Through the Vision Planning process and Measure AA's public education activities, we learned three important lessons that we will never forget.

1. We're incredibly fortunate to live in a region that is full of ideas and change, progress and innovation, stewardship and environmentalism. We learned that everything we do to engage the public helps us to improve our processes, outcomes and results.
2. We learned that the natural world that borders our high-tech region is enormously important to the people who live in cities and suburbs. We learned that the sense of connection that comes from walking among giant redwoods, bicycling with family along the bay, breathing in clean mountain air and listening to the birds is an integral part of life on the Peninsula and in the South Bay.
3. Most importantly, we learned that the public's expectations of their open space lands are greater than anything we could have imagined. And their support is overwhelming.

Now we begin the work to fulfill the community's 25 high-priority Vision Plan projects ([www.openspace.org/top25tour](http://www.openspace.org/top25tour)). As we move forward, we will continue to use a transparent process to implement projects, much as we did with the creation of the Vision Plan. This means that there will be many more opportunities for you to be involved as we fulfill the community's vision for open space. To receive email notifications about Measure AA project workshops and schedules, sign up at [www.openspace.org/MeasureAA](http://www.openspace.org/MeasureAA).

This fall, Midpen's Board will hear proposals for the implementation of the Vision Plan and the formation of an independent community oversight committee. We hope you can join us for these important discussions.

**Thank you for your support and your trust in us.** We look forward to the day in the near future when, together, we celebrate the completion of the first Measure AA-funded project!

With gratitude,

Steve Abbots  
General Manager

### FALL FOLIAGE

## Drought May Mean Vivid Fall Colors

Every autumn we marvel in the beauty of the fall colors, but have you ever wondered why fall foliage varies from year to year? There's a good reason. Like our moods, the color intensity of fall foliage changes with the weather.

While out on the preserves this summer you may have noticed that some trees are already showing color due to stress from the drought. Low rain levels may lead to an earlier retreat of chlorophyll, the green pigment that allows plants to harness the sun's energy, allowing bright colors to shine through.



Rancho San Antonio  
Open Space Preserve

Greg Lewis

(continued on page 15)

The District completed another year of successful financial management for fiscal year 2013-2014. Property tax revenues (the District's primary source of funding) ended the year 2% higher than projected due to the strong growth in the local economy. District expenditures were 16% below budgeted levels due largely to the need to redirect additional staffing resources to accomplish three District-wide key projects: the Vision Plan, Capital Finance Program, and development of the Expenditure Plan for the top 25 Priority Actions. This work together led to the placement of Measure AA on the June 3 ballot, which was successfully passed by the voters.

### Land Added to the Preserves in Fiscal Year 2013- 2014

Reaching a new milestone of owning or managing 62,315 acres of land, the District added 461 acres of newly protected open space this year. Valued at \$3.635 million, the additions were funded as follows:

District General Fund	\$3.600 million
Gifts	<u>\$0.035 million</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3.635 million</b>

#### ■ La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve:

The District entered into a lease and management agreement with Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) for the 308-acre Apple Orchard and Event Center located within the Driscoll Ranch area of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.

#### ■ Monte Bello Open Space Preserve:

The District purchased the 148-acre INE Ranch for \$3.6 million. This same year, the District received \$225,000 in partnership funds from Santa Clara County Parks for the FY2012-13 purchase of the 10.7-acre Lobner Trust property.

#### ■ El Sereno Open Space Preserve:

The District added 4.1 acres of conservation and patrol easements to El Sereno Open Space Preserve.

#### ■ Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve:

A total of 0.8 acres of Redwood Park parcels, valued at \$30,000, was added to Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, all gifted from various donors.

#### ■ El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve:

The District added 0.3 acres in the form of a trail easement over Molder Trail from the California Water Service Company.

#### ■ Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve:

The District continues its management agreement with Santa Clara County Parks for approximately 127.85 acres.

### District Revenues

Total District revenues for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 were \$36.1 million, a decrease of \$758,000 from the prior fiscal year. Excluding the \$3.9 million of land donations received in Fiscal Year 2012-13, total revenue increased by \$3.1 million over the prior fiscal year due to higher property tax revenues, as well as \$1.2 million in federal grant income for completion of the Mount Umunhum structures demolition (not including the radar tower) and site remediation work. Total property tax revenue was \$32.4 million, an increase of \$2.2 million or 7.1% over the previous fiscal year.

The District receives approximately two-thirds of its tax revenue from Santa Clara County and one-third from San Mateo County. Distributions from the dissolution of redevelopment agencies totaled \$1.0 million, of which \$430,000 is one-time revenue. Other sources of revenue include rental income, grants and donations, land and property gifts, and investment income.

The District received \$305,832 under its five-year agreement with Santa Clara County to manage the developed portion of Rancho San Antonio County Park, including \$50,000 to the City of Mountain View to help manage Deer Hollow Farm.

### District Expenditures

District expenditures remained within the budget approved by the District Board of Directors. Excluding land acquisition transactions and debt service, total District spending, \$21.9 million, was \$3.0 million or 12.0% below budget. This is primarily due to the deferral of several projects as staff was reallocated to complete the District's Vision Plan that includes the 25 Top Priority Actions to be completed over the next 30 years, and develop the Capital Finance Program and Expenditure Plan. Expenditures for land and debt service (used for payment of long-term debt principal and interest) were \$3.6 million and \$8.9 million, respectively, resulting in total expenditures of \$34.4 million for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

### District Assets and Liabilities

The District's net assets at the end of Fiscal Year 2013-2014 total \$311.1 million of which the majority consists of the District's over 62,300 acres of land in 26 open space preserves. The District's net assets increased by \$11.9 million over the prior year, and total long-term debt obligations ended the year at \$140.2 million.

### District's Future

On June 3, 2014, voters approved Measure AA, a general obligation bond measure authorizing the District to issue up to \$300 million in bonds, at a tax rate not to exceed \$3.18 per \$100,000 of assessed value of property owned, with expenditures verified by an independent citizen oversight committee. The bond funds will be utilized to fund the Vision Plan Top 25 Priority Actions to continue the District's mission and legacy of acquiring land, adding trails and trail connections, opening new preserves, protecting redwood forests, restoring wetlands and streams, and providing habitat connectivity. 🌿

\*Numbers in article are rounded.



Monte Bello Open Space Preserve



Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve



Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve



## 2013 DONATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Donations and gifts to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District help protect open space, preserve wildlife and natural habitats, and enhance the positive experience of visitors to the District's public open space lands, and aid in our efforts to create an open space legacy for future generations.

Below are the donations and gifts received in 2013. We are publishing the names of these generous individuals and organizations to publicly express our sincere thanks for their thoughtful contributions.

Stretcher Smith

Long Ridge  
Open Space Preserve

### GIFTS IN MEMORY OF:

In Memory of Greg Beno

*Brian Crosby*

*Tom Duffy*

*Kim Duncan*

*Debra Marks*

In Memory of Richard Coppernoll

*Mary Ann Coppernoll*

*Robert and Mary Coppernoll*

*Lois Clift-O'Grady*

*Clifford Miller*

In Memory of William Donald Eblen

*Leslie Kaplan*

In Memory of Ollie Mayer

*Shirley Davis*

In Memory of Robert F. Rice

*Family of Cecil M. Kortman*

In Memory of Howard F. Schopman

*Claudia Newbold*

### GIFTS IN HONOR OF:

In Honor of Lis Hammel

and Jonah Alben

*Erin Hammel*

In Honor of Ron Baldry

*Susan Dole*

In Honor of Zoe Begun

*Alvin Begun*

In Honor of Mike and

Barbara Collins

*Jennifer Collins*

In Honor of Brendan Dolan and

the MROSD trail crew and rangers

*Mark Moskowitz*

In Honor of Henry Donahue

*Jessica Hope*

In Honor of Mr. and

Mrs. Al Notowitz

*Marian Finkelstein*

In Honor of Mary Powell

*Jaynie Kind*

In Honor of Greg Schmid

*Cora Schmid*

In Honor of Tom Chambers,

c/o Michelle Turner

*Leigh Stevens*

### PRIVATE AND BUSINESS DONATIONS:

*Anonymous*

*David Aidi*

*David M. Arken*

*John Barbour*

*Julie W. Barney*

*Laurel Beecher*

*Jayita Bhojwani*

*Harold Black*

*Laura Bontrager*

*Jason Bradeen*

*Karen Brems*

*Louis Caputo*

*Lucy Cesar*

*Steven Chalmer*

*John Parissenti and Linda Chin*

*May Chou*

*Tim Collins*

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*Pat Cooksey*

*Robert and Judith Dahl*

*Lloyd and Eleanor Dickman*

*Mary Egan*

*Stephan Ellner*

*Marie Evitt*

*Gerald and Linda Feeney*

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*Tim and Martha Geraghty*

*Ed Glennon*

*Robert Goldberg*

*Benjamin Goldstein*

*Paul and Carole Goldstein*

*Google Matching Gifts Program*

*David E. Simon and Lynn Gordon*

*Annette Graff*

*Lorraine Hancock Family Fund,*

*an advised fund of the Silicon*

*Valley Community Foundation*

*Bob Hardy*

*Jeremy Harris*

*Edward Hattay*

*Kimberly Hayworth*

*Thomas Heim*

*Priscilla and Mark Higgins*

*Higgins-Trapnell Family Foundation*

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*Joshua Hutchins*

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*Beth and Peter Karpas*

*Mary Ellen Kaschub*

*KK Wealth Advisors*

*Rene Kunz*

*Paul Laeseke*

*Andrew Li*

*Chris and RJ Ligtenberg*

*Corinne Lipman*

*Mary A Lorey*

*Chris Ottenweller and*

*Barbara Lovero*

*Pat Martin*

*Ingrid Miller*

*Brian Minnie*

*Anne Morley*

*Tim and Tami Mulcahy*

*Steven Neebe*

*Frank and Patricia Nichols*

*Emily Nishihira*

*Brian Outland*

*Alexis Petru*

*PG&E Corporation Foundation*

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*Retirement Capital Strategies*

*Therese and Frank Rodrigues*

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*John M. Salzer*

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*Schwab Charitable Fund*

*Silicon Valley Community Foundation*

*Kevin Paskett and Tracie Stamp*

*Jayne and David Sungail*

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*The Fat Tire Foundation*

*Gayle and Guy Thompson*

*Vanguard Charitable*

*Aravind Vijayakirithi*

*Charles D. Shuey and*

*Victoria M. Wahl*

*Walton Family Foundation, Inc.*

*Marc Weibel*

*Wells Fargo Community*

*Support Campaign*

*Michael Weiss*

*Sarah Wilson*

*Roland Young*

*Kathleen Zaretsky*

### OTHER GIFTS RECEIVED:

Donation of Graphic Design Services: *Alexander Atkins*

The District will strive to inclusively list all donations received, but will not be liable for any errors in attribution other than to make reasonable efforts to correct such errors.

The District gratefully accepts gifts of time, money, land, or in-kind services, and donations can be made through the District's Web site: [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org). Donations to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District are tax deductible under IRS Code Section 170(c)(1). If you have any questions about the deductibility of your donation, please contact your tax advisor. 🌱

## Trail Named to Remember Bo Gimbal, Long Time District Volunteer

A 0.3-mile connector trail in Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve has been named the “Bo Gimbal Trail” to honor the late Bo Gimbal, a long time volunteer who worked on many trail projects for the District and throughout the Peninsula. This Trail, which helps visitors navigate between the Ridge Trail and the Ancient Oaks Trail, was built by Mr. Gimbal and was selected by family and friends because of its significance.

Mr. Gimbal helped construct and maintain many trails on District lands, as well as for the Town of Portola Valley, the Sempervirens Fund and California State Parks.

He worked on trails in each of the Skyline area preserves, constructed bridges in Long Ridge and El Corte de Madera Creek Preserves, installed gates at several preserves and was instrumental in the construction of the Achistaca and Ancient Oak Trails, as well as many other trail projects where he worked in conjunction with the District’s maintenance crews. With Mr. Gimbal’s help, the District became widely recognized as one of the best trail builders in the region. 🌿



*Ribbon Cutting at the Bo Gimbal Trail Dedication, Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve*



*Bo Working on Erosion Repair on the Ipiwa Trail, Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve*

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### Partnership Grants Help Support District’s Mission

The District encourages and supports applied academic research that is relevant to its preserves and supports its mission. One way the District supports this is with its Resource Management Grant Program (RMGP), approved by the Board in 2007.

#### Goal of the Program

With this program, the District fosters and strengthens partnerships with researchers from academic institutions and helps to advance the scientific understanding of natural processes.

#### Grant Team

The Grant team is made up of staff from various departments and awards up to \$5,000 per year for any single project and up to \$25,000 total annually. With help from the RMGP, projects such

as the UCSC mountain lion studies and the Bay Area Critical Linkages study are informing regional planning efforts to improve wildlife corridors and target important habitat for conservation. The grant program furthers the District’s mission by helping to fund important projects to better inform management of low-intensity public recreation, environmental education, and sound resource stewardship.

For more information about the Resource Management Grant Program visit: [www.openspace.org/plans\\_projects/grants.asp](http://www.openspace.org/plans_projects/grants.asp) 🌿



*Mountain Lion*

#### Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors

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# OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



FALL 2014 SEPTEMBER  
OCTOBER – NOVEMBER

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

## 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](http://www.openspace.org), or phone the District at 650-691-1200 weekdays, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 🌿

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

## WHAT'S THE DIRT?

### Enriched Experiences

What compels someone to become a docent for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) – to volunteer to plan, research, and lead others on a walk, hike, ride, or other outdoor activity in one of the District's amazing preserves? These elements do: a strong desire to share a love of nature with others, a commitment to lifelong learning on a variety of environmental topics, an enjoyment of the outdoors, and a willingness to get to know and understand a landscape – both natural features and human history.



2014 Outdoor Activity Docent Training Course Graduates

To become an Outdoor Activity Docent for the District, an interested individual must complete an application and interview process, and then participate in a 12-week training course. The course is offered every other year and each class has 20- to 24- docent trainees. Each year that the course is offered there are lecture sessions held every Thursday evening, and all-day field sessions provided on Saturdays. The content includes ecology, mammalogy, geology, Ohlone culture, biotic communities, birds, flower form and function, herpetology, interpretive techniques, District guidelines and

procedures, safety, and more. The trainees must also do practice presentations, and observe guided nature or museum activities offered by the District and other agencies or organizations. The course is taught by the District's Docent Program Manager in conjunction with outside instructors who are experts in a variety of fields.

Once the trainees have completed the 12-week course, they are ready to propose an activity on their own or partner with another "newbie" or a veteran docent to offer a hike or ride to the public. The District and its Outdoor Activity Docents provide a quarterly/seasonal schedule of opportunities to get out on the trails for learning and enjoyment. Engaging topics and themes are the foundation of what docents offer with their activities. The District does not assign or require any particular type of activity. The docents determine their activity theme, the preserve location where they want to offer the activity, as well as the date/time and duration of the activity, the difficulty, and what trails to use. The class of 2014 just recently completed their training in July and they are eager to get out on the trails.

During training, docents are encouraged and supported to be "barkers" of natural history discovery and curiosity rather than encyclopedic naturalists. Docents recognize that the time they spend with hike participants provides the framework for an enriched experience of nature, mutual enjoyment, and a deeper understanding of conservation values. The docent-led activities can also provide the public with a chance to learn about a new place, take on an aerobic trail challenge, and make new friends. For the docents, both newbies and veterans alike (a number of docents have been involved for over 30 years!), being an Outdoor Activity Docent is "all about sharing, learning, and then giving it away," Dick Gehrer – 15 year docent, now retired. 🌿

## 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.**

### 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.

### FREMONT OLDER

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Prospect Road in Cupertino. Exit Highway 85 at De Anza Boulevard. (From northbound 85 turn left on De Anza Blvd. and from southbound 85 turn right on De Anza Blvd.) Travel on De Anza Blvd. (toward the mountains) for about 0.5 miles. Turn right on Prospect Rd. At the first stop sign, turn left and cross the railroad tracks to remain on Prospect Rd. Follow Prospect Rd. for 1.3 miles, turning left after the Saratoga Country Club, until you reach the Preserve parking lot.

### 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.

### 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

**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.

### PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS (continued)

**Redwood Trail entrance:** Meet at the small turnout on the west side of Skyline Boulevard, 13.2 miles north of Page Mill Road and 6.5 miles south of Highway 92.

### 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.

**Mindego Gateway parking lot:** From I-280, exit Page Mill Road, and head west. Drive about 9 miles to the junction with Skyline Boulevard, cross Skyline and continue straight onto Alpine Road for 1.5 miles, parking area is on the right.



Dave Foote

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

### 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. about 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 1.0 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.

**ST. JOSEPH'S HILL**

Meet at the Los Gatos Little League Field parking lot. Take Highway 17 south toward Los Gatos. Exit at Highway 9-Los Gatos/Saratoga and continue west on Hwy. 9 (approximately 0.33 miles) to University Avenue. Turn left on University Ave. toward downtown Los Gatos. Turn left on Miles Avenue and proceed two blocks to the parking lot on the left for the Little League field.

**STEVENS CREEK SHORELINE**

Meet in the "Kite Area" parking lot at Shoreline-at-Mountain View Park. From Highway 101, take Shoreline Boulevard east to the Shoreline Park entrance. After passing the entrance kiosk, turn right into the parking lot.

**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.

**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.

**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](http://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 on the first Saturday of the month.

**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.

## SEPTEMBER

**Birding Before Breakfast**

Monday • September 1  
 Rancho San Antonio  
 6:00 am – 8:30 am



Enjoy brisk birding and the early morning serenity that this Preserve offers with docents Karen DeMello, Kay Partelow, and Cathy Brown. On this 3.5-mile walk the goal will be to combine birding with exercise (what a concept!). The route will take you past the farm and then on to the infrequently traveled Mora Trail; along the way you'll make brief stops to listen and look for birds, then continue moving. Beginning birders are welcome; bring binoculars if you have them.

**All Around Windy Hill**

Tuesday • September 2  
 Windy Hill  
 9:00 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Dick Opsahl and Huey-Shin Yuan for this moderate to fast-paced 8.5-mile hike. The hike's climb is about 1,500 feet to the summit of the Preserve where views to the Pacific are sometimes possible. Starting on the Betsy Crowder Trail you'll hike up to the summit on the Spring Ridge Trail with a brief stop at the top adjacent to Skyline Boulevard (restrooms are available). The return hike will be on Hamm's Gulch trail. No extended lunch stop but bring snack munchies and water.

**Explorer Hike: A Hike with a View**

Wednesday • September 3  
 Saratoga Gap  
 10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, Kate Gudmundson, and Dennis Smith as you explore early fall color along the Achistaca and Saratoga Gap Trails.

You'll cover about 4.5 miles at a moderate pace over undulating terrain with ample views of meadows and forests.



Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve

**Redwood Oxygen**

Saturday • September 6  
 Purisima Creek Redwoods  
 Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance  
 10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Find out why you'll be breathing some of the cleanest air in the world with docents Bob Segalla, Gerri Tiernan, and Sam Berry 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 21.**

**Stop In and Explore**

Saturday and Sunday  
 September 6 and 7  
 Daniels Nature Center  
 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



As seasons change so do the interactions of life at the edge of Alpine Pond...bring family and friends to discover the Daniels Nature Center on Saturdays and Sundays this fall between 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm.

**(NOTE: The Nature Center hours change on November 1 to 11:00 am – 4:00 pm for the remainder of the season.)** You can enjoy an audio nature tour (loaner listening devices available to "check out"), view displays about natural communities and larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, take a pond prow, study 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!). Autumn is an amazing season for a visit.

**Earthquake Walk**

Sunday • September 7  
 Los Trancos  
 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



Join docents Dave and Judy Boore, and David Schwaderer for a fun and educational hike along the San Andreas Fault. On this

2- to 3-mile stroll, you'll stop to discuss the wonder of plate tectonics, examine remnants left by thousands of major earthquakes, and learn how to prepare for future earthquakes.

**Sunrise Hike**

Thursday • September 11  
 Pulgas Ridge  
 7:00 am – 9:15 am



Greet the sun and start your day with a hike! Docents Greg Hughes and Kathryn Strachota will guide you on a loop hike through mixed evergreen and chaparral ecosystems along the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, Dusky-footed Woodrat, and Cordilleras Trails. You'll pass by a woodrat "subdivision" on this 4-mile, moderately-paced early morning hike.



Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

**Nature at Night**

Friday • September 12  
 Monte Bello  
 5:30 pm – 10:30 pm



When the sun sets, not all of nature goes to sleep. Some parts of nature are active in the cool darkness of night. Join docents Paul Billig, Debbi Brusco, and Katherine Greene to witness the changes that occur along the Stevens Creek Nature Trail as day moves into night. The hike begins with a walk down the Canyon Trail where you'll stop to enjoy the dinner you brought as darkness descends. Then using your flashlight, you'll be looking and listening for the sights and sounds of nature at night. Red filters for your flashlight will be provided. The hike will cover 3.5 miles with a 400-foot elevation gain. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 28.**





Michael Housewright

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

## Stop In and Explore

Sunday • September 14  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 6.)

**NOTE: The Daniels Nature Center will be closed on Saturday September 13 to allow volunteers to attend the annual recognition event held in their honor.**

## Sunday Paleontology: A Walk and Talk

Sunday • September 14  
Skyline Ridge  
Meet: Russian Ridge  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm



Docents Keith Johnsgård, Jenny Whitman, and Christina Fusco will lead this leisurely paced 1-mile stroll in the Alpine Pond vicinity acquainting you with the prehistoric Ohlone Indian way of life by identifying plants they used for hunting, fishing, basketry, food, medicine, music, and magic. Lunch features a talk on recent genographic and archeological findings that have rewritten the history of human immigration and habitation of North America. (Note: This activity is geared for adults and is not suitable for children.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 28.

## Explore the Interior

Tuesday • September 16  
Long Ridge  
10:00 am – 2:30 pm



On this quick paced 7-mile hike with docents Ed North, Huey-Shin Yuan, Farhana Kazi, and Debbie Mytels you'll explore the interior of this Preserve. Hiking on the Peters Creek, Hickory Oaks, Ranch Spring, and Long Ridge Trails you'll visit mixed evergreen forest and see, if you're lucky, views of the Pacific Ocean from grassland ridges.

## Explorer Hike: Lower Windy Hill

Wednesday • September 17  
Windy Hill  
10:30 am – 2:00 pm



You'll look for early fall color as you explore the lower reaches of this Preserve with docents Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin. This leisurely-paced relatively level hike will cover about 4.5 miles, provide views of Sausal Pond, and follow the Eagle Trail along lovely Corte Madera Creek.

## All About Oaks

Friday • September 19  
Monte Bello  
10:00 am – 1:30 pm



On this moderately-paced, 3.7-mile loop hike docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel will help you identify oak species along the Stevens Creek Nature and White Oak Trails – this Preserve is home to eight different California native oaks. While observing oaks and environs on the cusp of fall you may see: changing leaf color of black oaks from green to yellow; notice scrub jays, acorn woodpeckers, and squirrels busily harvesting and storing acorns for food; and observe band-tailed pigeons flying overhead also in search of acorns. You'll also look for signs of oak regeneration and notice how environmental stressors, such as drought and Sudden Oak Death, are affecting oaks. A place in the shade close to Stevens Creek will be your lunch stop.

## Happy Friday History Ride

Friday • September 19  
Fremont Older  
5:00 pm – 7:15 pm



Docents Linda and Glenn Wegner will introduce you to the history of this Preserve on an intermediate mountain bike ride that includes approximately 10 to 12 miles of riding with a 2,000-foot elevation gain. Participants must have experience riding single track trails and fire roads. Bring water and a power snack.

## Chaparral on the Hills

Saturday • September 20  
Skyline Ridge  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



On this short 2.5-mile stroll along the Ipiwa and Ridge Trails docents Kandis Scott and Padma Satish will show you how perfectly designed the chaparral biotic community is – plants, animals, soil, and sun.

## Dark Skies at Night

Saturday • September 20  
Skyline Ridge  
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm



Do you, in 2014, really know what a dark night sky is like? How many stars do you see, compared to those who lived here 100 years ago? Is people generated light a benefit or is it pollution? Join docents Chris MacIntosh and Marilyn Bauriedel on a 2-mile round trip walk to view neon lights to the east, and darker sky to the west. After returning to the parking lot, local astronomers/stargazers may meet the group and set up telescopes to explore the sky. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 4.

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
September 20 and 21  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 6.)



Eric Lew

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

## Enjoy the First Day of Autumn

Sunday • September 21  
Monte Bello  
9:30 am – 12:00 noon



Join docents Ann Reisenauer and Susan Bernhard as you explore the first signs of autumn in this beautiful Preserve. You'll hike approximately 4.5 miles through different plant communities along the White Oak and Stevens Creek Nature Trails.

**Grizzly Tales**

Sunday • September 21  
Long Ridge  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



The California grizzly bear has been extinct for a hundred years but lives forever on the California state flag and in your imagination. Come explore facts, legends, and folklore of this magnificent animal with docents Ed Lange and Huey-Shin Yuan on a moderately-paced, 6-mile hike along the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails. There will be a short snack break at the inspiring Wallace Stegner Bench.

**Introductory Geocaching Family Hike**

Sunday • September 21  
Los Trancos  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



This fun and interactive outing is great for families and children (who can hike for 3 to 4 miles). Join docents Bill Overall and Farhana Kazi, and REI guide 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. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 4.**

**Signs Fall is Approaching**

Sunday • September 21  
Pulgas Ridge  
12:30 pm – 3:30 pm



Enjoy a fall hike with a viewing of a variety of trees and bushes with berries. Join docents Liz Foreman and Vivian Neou to explore the plants and trees in this popular Preserve as you hike along the Blue Oak, Cordilleras, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails. You'll enjoy a scenic view on the top of the ridge. This moderately-paced hike will cover 4.5 to 5 miles with some hilly and uneven terrain.

**Meet the Oaks**

Tuesday • September 23  
Monte Bello  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Join docents Steve Brugler and Noa Doitel on a leisurely oak tree-themed 3.5-mile loop hike along the White Oak and Canyon Trails with a lunch stop near Stevens Creek. You'll look for the many different oak species found in the Preserve and learn their identifying characteristics. You'll marvel at the diversity of oaks and their importance as a "keystone species", and learn about the Sudden Oak Death threat some may face.

**Explore Black Mountain Trail**

Wednesday • September 24  
Rancho San Antonio  
Meet: Directions will be mailed  
9:00 am – 3:30 pm



Want to have a good workout while enjoying sweeping views of the Bay Area without traffic noise? Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan, Katherine Jen, and Vivian Neou to explore a popular Bay Area trail. This approximately 9.4-mile fast-paced out-and-back hike with over 2,300 feet elevation gain starts at a limited access location then connects with the Black Mountain Trail to the Black Mountain summit at 2,812 feet. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 10.**



Coal Creek Open Space Preserve

**Stop In and Explore**

Saturday and Sunday  
September 27 and 28  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



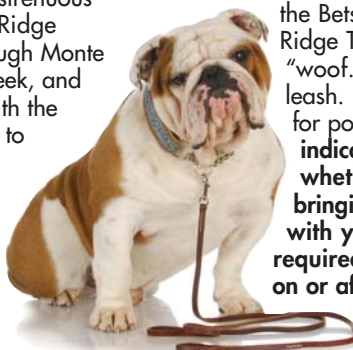
(Please see the activity description for September 6.)

**Five Preserve Ramble**

Tuesday • September 30  
Skyline Ridge – Monte Bello – Los Trancos – Coal Creek – Russian Ridge  
Meet: Skyline Ridge  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm



Docents Ranjana Sharma and Ed North will lead you on a 10-mile strenuous hike starting from Skyline Ridge Preserve and traveling through Monte Bello, Los Trancos, Coal Creek, and Russian Ridge Preserves, with the last leg of the hike "a pond to pond" section.

**OCTOBER****Explorer Hike: Back to the Land**

Wednesday • October 1  
Monte Bello  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Laura Levin, Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, and Kate Gudmundson on this moderately-paced 5-mile hike on the Canyon, Indian Creek, Old Ranch, and Bella Vista Trails. You'll venture uphill and down while observing an autumn version of the Preserve's natural surroundings.

**Following the Fall Birds**

Friday • October 3  
Picchetti Ranch  
8:00 am – 11:00 am



This Preserve has especially rich habitats that attract many different species of birds throughout the year. Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel will be your docents and together you'll seek some of the special birds that live or stop here in autumn such as the white-breasted nuthatch, ruby-crowned kinglet, California thrasher or perhaps a hermit thrush. All ages are welcome on this leisurely-paced, 3-mile hike. You'll walk along the Zinfandel, Orchard Loop, and Vista trails. If you have binoculars bring them. Your docents will have a spotting scope for up-close viewing.

**Three Habitat Dog Hike**

Saturday • October 4  
Windy Hill  
10:00 am – 12:00 noon



The wet riparian, dry chaparral, and mixed evergreen forest habitats await you. Join docents Bob Segalla and Patty Lovelace to explore this dog friendly Preserve. You'll enjoy an easy 2-mile, 200-foot elevation change loop hike around Sausal Pond using the Betsy Crowder and Spring Ridge Trails with or without a "woof." All dogs must be on leash. Please bring plastic bags for poop scooping. **(Note: Please indicate with your reservation whether or not you will be bringing a canine companion with you.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 18.**



## Changing the Landscape: Climate Change

Saturday • October 4  
Skyline Ridge  
Meet: Russian Ridge  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Do you wonder how climate change will affect the Bay Area's landscapes? Join docents Julie Amato, Bruce Hartsough, and Vivian Neou to explore how the climate is changing and how plants and animals are responding to these changes. You'll enjoy a 3- to 4-mile walk on the Ipiwa and Sunny Jim Trails as you discuss the local effects of climate change and what you can do in response.

## Arachnophilia

Saturday • October 4  
Monte Bello  
5:00 pm – 10:30 pm



Explore the world of arachnids with spider-loving docents Debbi Brusco, Jack Owicki, and Sara Witt. With luck, a tarantula may cross your path as you search for sometimes-timid creatures that you might usually be inclined to avoid. This hike will cover about 4 miles at a mostly leisurely pace on the Canyon Trail, in addition to other trails. Capable, attentive children age 10 years or older are welcome. Bring a flashlight with a red filter or cellophane covering, plastic to sit on, and your meal. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 18.**



## Halloween Bat Hike for Families

Saturday • October 4  
Skyline Ridge  
Meet: Russian Ridge  
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm



Join docents Mary Brunkhorst, Grace Yuan, Johnny Zweig, and Carina Anttila-Suarez for an exciting evening of bat watching at Alpine Pond. You'll learn about some of Halloween's most interesting mascots and explore Alpine Pond during this leisurely 1-mile walk. After sunset, bats will hopefully fly out over the pond hunting for dinner. This hike is intended for families with children. Please bring a flashlight and a jacket—it could get chilly. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 18.**



Photo of spider above by Jack Owicki.

## Stop In and Explore

October 4 and 5  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 6.)

## Earthquake Walk

Sunday • October 5  
Los Trancos  
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



(Join docents Harry Cornbleet, Johnny Zweig, and Grace Yuan, and see the activity description for September 7.)

## A Drought Tolerant Landscape

Sunday • October 5  
Skyline Ridge  
3:00 pm – 5:30 pm



Bay Area gardeners are just now catching up. Drought-tolerant landscaping? – the Santa Cruz Mountains had that figured out a long time ago. Join docents Zach Miller, Anna Miller, and Bruce Hartsough to discover the adaptations that let life go on when the water runs out. You'll walk the Bay Area Ridge Trail from Horseshoe Lake to Alpine Pond, and return via the Butano View and Sunny Jim Trails on this 3.5-mile, leisurely-paced hike.



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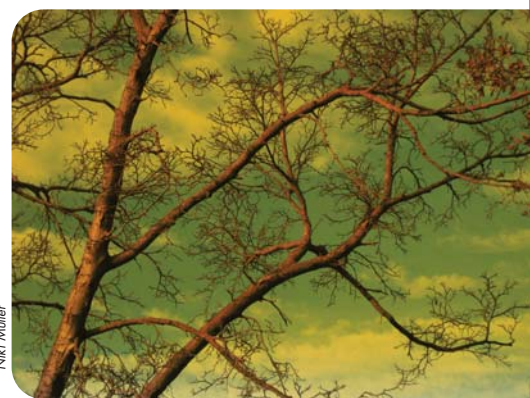
Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

## Hike to Bald Mountain

Tuesday • October 7  
Sierra Azul  
9:30 am – 3:30 pm



On this excursion, you'll hike the Woods Trail and Barlow Road in the shadow of Mount Umunhum. This quick paced, out and back hike with docents Ed North, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Bruce Hartsough will give you a chance to experience grassland, chaparral, and oak woodlands on the way to Bald Mountain on this strenuous 11-mile hike.



Niki Muller

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

## Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • October 8  
Picchetti Ranch  
10:00 am – 12:30 pm



Join docents Katherine Jen, Vivian Neou, Louise Casey, and Huey-Shin Yuan for a moderately-paced, 4.5-mile hike along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails. You'll learn the story of the Picchetti brothers and discover some local wildflowers. The focus of this excursion is aerobic movement!

## Sunrise Hike

Thursday • October 9  
Pulgas Ridge  
7:00 am – 9:15 am



(Please see the activity description for September 11.)

## Scary Creatures: How Scary Are They?

Saturday • October 11  
Russian Ridge  
10:00 am – 1:30 pm



Children and their families will join docents Gerri Tiernan and Kim Borick on this 1.3-mile Halloween hike to identify some "scary" creatures and find out just how scary the creatures really are. Your route includes the Ipiwa Trail, lunch at Alpine Pond, and will end with hands-on exploration at the Daniel's Nature Center. This activity is best suited for 6- to 9-year old children (and accompanying adults) though all ages are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 25.**

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
October 11 and 12  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 6.)

## Colores de Otoño para Mes de la Herencia Hispana – En Español

Sunday • October 12  
Windy Hill  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Disfruta de los colores del otoño en Windy Hill y ven celebremos como comunidad el Mes de la Herencia Hispana. Únete a las docentes Ann Reisenauer y Lina Mesa en esta caminata-moderada de 5-millas mientras exploramos una variedad de comunidades naturales – incluyendo pastizales, bosques de robles y hábitats ribereños. Veremos cómo las comunidades naturales y las comunidades humanas se parecen. Pasaremos por el estanque del Sausal, en el sendero Betsy Crowder, a través de bosques de robles en el sendero Meadow Trail y exploraremos la parte baja de la quebrada Hamm. Ustedes aprenderán algunos de los animales, flores y árboles más comunes que nos encontremos en el sendero. Trae almuerzo.

Enjoy the fall colors at Windy Hill Preserve and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month as a community. Join docents Lina Mesa, Ann Reisenauer, and Carina Anttila-Suarez on this 5-mile moderately-paced hike to explore a variety of natural communities including grassland, oak woodland, and riparian habitats. You'll see how the natural communities and human communities are similar. You'll hike past Sausal Pond on the Betsy Crowder Trail, through oak woodland on the Meadow Trail, and explore the lower reaches of Hamm's Gulch learning some of the common animals, flowers, and trees as you pass along the way.

## Geology 101: The San Andreas Fault

Sunday • October 12  
Los Trancos  
12:00 noon- 3:00 pm



Hear how California emerged from the sea during North America's 200 million year westward voyage, how the San Andreas Fault was formed, how subsequent earthquakes shaped the landscape you'll traverse, and how a slice of western California might become a long coastal island on a journey northward to eventually disappear beneath Alaska. Docents Keith Johnsgård and David Schwaderer will lead this 2-mile outdoor moving classroom. (Note: This activity is geared for adults and is not suitable for children.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 25.

## Quiet Reflections

Wednesday • October 15  
Picchetti Ranch  
10:00 am – 12:00 noon



Enjoy a leisurely 2.4-mile walk along the Zinfandel Trail with docents Padma Satish, Jenny Whitman, and Debbie Mytels into the heart of a beautifully secluded canyon that is lush and shaded with big leaf maple trees in fall color splendor. You'll enjoy time to reflect, observe, listen, and inhale fresh air.



Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

## Explorer Hike: Wonders of the Watershed

Wednesday • October 15  
Bear Creek Redwoods  
Meet: Directions will be mailed  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Dennis Smith for a moderate 5-mile hike through a diverse watershed that includes grasslands, ponds, creeks, and forest. You'll see firsthand some of the intriguing ways nature moves, stores, and conserves water. You'll also delve into the roles played by plants, soils, geology, humans, and other animals in keeping a watershed healthy. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 1.

## Monte Bello Hills Ride

Saturday • October 18  
Monte Bello  
Meet: Picchetti Ranch  
9:15 am – 12:45 pm



Join docents Linda and Glenn Wegner to ride 5 miles up the mainly paved Montebello 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 9:15 am.

## Ohlone Medicine

Saturday • October 18  
Long Ridge  
10:00 am – 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 selected native plants were used to treat a number of ailments before the introduction of modern medicine.

## Outlaws of La Honda

Saturday • October 18  
La Honda Creek  
Meet: Directions will be mailed  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Famous bandits and logging lore fill the history of La Honda Creek Preserve. Old growth redwoods, scenic overlooks, and local folktales will infuse this moderately-paced, 6-mile hike led by docents Ed Lange and Bruce Hartsough. The ghosts of the Jesse James gang may be in attendance. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 2.

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
October 18 and 19  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 6.)

## Fun Facts about Oaks

Sunday • October 19  
Los Trancos  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Did you know that there are over 20 species of oaks in California? Join docents Vivian Neou, Farhana Kazi, Julie Amato, and Debbie Mytels for a leisurely-paced 2.5-mile hike along the Franciscan and Lost Loop Trails. As you stroll through the chaparral and woodlands, you'll learn fun facts about oaks and their companions.





## Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • October 22  
St Joseph's Hill  
10:00 am – 12:00 noon



Join docents Stella Yang, Stephen Buckhout, and Katherine Jen for a 4- to 6-mile, moderately-paced, invigorating workout with infrequent stops. The route will be determined by the docents on the day of the hike based on weather and trail conditions.

## Morning at Rancho

Friday • October 24  
Rancho San Antonio  
9:00 am – 11:30 am



Start your day in nature with docents Anna Miller and Farhana Kazi on a flat 5-mile hike, ideal for the beginner hiker and all nature enthusiasts. You'll walk the Permanente Creek and Lower Meadow Trails to Deer Hollow Farm, continue along the Wildcat Loop Trail and the Upper Wildcat Canyon Trail passing through several natural communities, each rich with diverse plants and animals. There will be a stop at Deer Hollow Farm, and also at the extraordinary and stunning bay tree forest (the turn-around location). Approximately half of this hike is in the cool shade. Bring a snack to enjoy, if you wish! (Note: Arrive early to find parking.)

## Your Mind and Body on Nature

Saturday • October 25  
Monte Bello  
Meet: Picchetti Ranch  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Walking in the hills in a receptive mood invites the health and harmony of the natural world to flow into you. It's known that exercise invigorates the body and mind but you may underestimate the beneficial effects of just being in beautiful surroundings breathing the oxygen and aerosols produced by plants and trees. On this leisurely 3-mile hike with docents Maureen Draper, Susan Bernhard, and Padma Satish on one of the quietest trails, Waterwheel Creek, you'll have an opportunity to sit alone and listen for a few minutes, to yourself and to the world, and then, if you wish, to share your experience. (Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 9.

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
October 25 and 26  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 6.)



Photo by Jack Owicki

## Explorer Hike: Two Roads Diverged

Wednesday • October 29  
La Honda Creek  
Meet: Directions will be mailed  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Take the road less traveled to explore this limited access Preserve with docents Laura Levin, Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, and Kate Gudmundson. Hiking 4 miles at a leisurely pace, you'll traverse grassland and forest, observing flora and fauna along the way. Highlights will include an old growth redwood tree and views across coastal valleys to the Pacific Ocean. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 15.

## NOVEMBER

### Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
November 1 and 2  
Daniels Nature Center  
11:00 am – 4:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 6.) **NOTE: The Nature Center hours change this weekend to open and close an hour earlier.**

### Earthquake Walk

Sunday • November 2  
Los Trancos  
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



(Join docents John Wertzler, Bruce Hartsough, and Dave Kocsis, and please see the activity description for September 7.)

## Explorer Hike: Mindego Gateway

Wednesday • November 5  
Russian Ridge  
Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot  
10:30 am – 2:00 pm



You'll join docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Kate Gudmundson to explore a new access point to Russian Ridge Preserve. The Mindego Gateway provides ample parking and you'll have easy access to beautiful views from the Audrey C. Rust commemorative site. You'll then take a leisurely 3-mile hike along the Mindego Trail, watching for wildlife and early blooming plants.



Karl Gehl

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

## Hike for Health

Friday • November 7  
Rancho San Antonio  
9:00 am – 11:30 am



Join docents Anna Miller and Farhana Kazi on a moderately-paced, moderately strenuous 5-mile hike, to enhance physical fitness, stimulate the senses and experience the diverse wildlife of this Preserve. You'll walk the Permanente Creek and Lower Meadow Trails to Deer Hollow Farm, continue along the Rogue Valley Trail to the Wildcat Loop Trail, and up the "switch backs" to a vista point where you'll most certainly enjoy the panoramic view. You'll descend along the Wildcat Loop Trail, shaded by the beautiful madrone trees. Approximately half of this hike is in the cool shade. (Note: Arrive early to find parking.)

## Introductory Geocaching Family Hike

Saturday • November 8  
Skyline Ridge  
Meet: Russian Ridge  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



(Join docents Sarah Schoen, Kim Borick, and REI guide Steve Wood and please see the activity description for September 21.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 23.

## 'Escence' of Light

Saturday • November 8  
Skyline Ridge  
3:30 pm – 8:00 pm



Watch the light change from daylight to moonlight as you hike with docents Jack Owicki, Debbi Brusco, Jan Hintermeister, and Vivian Neou. You'll learn about various types of light, how it is produced, and how it affects plants and animals while you explore woods, grassland, and reflections on a lake. This hike will cover 3 to 4 miles at a moderate pace with stops. Bring a flashlight with a red filter or cellophane covering if you have it, ground cover to sit on, and your dinner. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 23.

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
November 8 and 9  
Daniels Nature Center  
11:00 am – 4:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 6.)

## Circumnavigate Rancho San Antonio

Tuesday • November 11  
Rancho San Antonio  
9:00 am – 3:30 pm



Join docents Ed North and Ranjana Sharma and circumnavigate this Preserve by hiking up the PG&E Trail to the new Quarry Trail where you'll see great views of the Bay and eastern foothills before descending down the Black Mountain and Chamise Trails. This is a fast paced 12-mile hike with over 2,000-feet of elevation gain.

## Sunrise Hike

Thursday • November 13  
Pulgas Ridge  
7:00 am – 9:15 am



(Please see the activity description for September 11.)

## Fall/Winter Along the Ridge

Saturday • November 15  
Purissima Creek Redwoods  
Meet: Redwood Trail entrance  
9:30 am – 12:30 pm



Join docents Steve Warner and Robin Wrigley for a moderately-paced, 5-mile walk to discover the fall/winter forest along the ridge in this Preserve. You'll look for fungi and learn about this integral part of the forest floor.

## A Wooded Habitat Dog Hike

Saturday • November 15  
Pulgas Ridge  
10:00 am – 12:00 noon



Join docents Bob Segalla and Kandis Scott to enjoy an easy 1.5-mile, 200-foot elevation change round-trip walk with or without a "woof." You'll travel up the shady Blue Oak Trail to the Hassler Trail then back down the Cordilleras Trail. This dog friendly Preserve offers a variety of plant life in its shaded woodlands and sunny chaparral areas. All dogs must be on leash. Please bring plastic bags for poop scooping. (Note: Please indicate with your reservation whether or not you will be bringing a canine companion with you.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 30.



Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
November 15 and 16  
Daniels Nature Center  
11:00 am – 4:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 6.)

## Across the Brown Mountain

Sunday • November 16  
El Corte de Madera Creek  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Explore a portion of the Sierra Morena Trail with docents Mary Bernstein and Chris MacIntosh. On this moderately-paced, 6-mile hike you'll walk the "top of the mountain" trail, make a side trip to visit the Methuselah tree, and then venture down slope to another old growth redwood before climbing back out to the trailhead. You'll be walking on shaded trails much of the time and may enjoy ocean views and a variety of forest birds.

## Signs of Approaching Winter

Sunday • November 16  
Pulgas Ridge  
12:30 pm – 3:30 pm



Enjoy a late fall hike viewing a variety of native oaks and bushes with berries and dusky-footed woodrat nests. Join docents Liz Foreman and Jenny Whitman to explore the plants and trees in this popular Preserve as you hike along the Blue Oak, Cordilleras, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails. A scenic view awaits you on the top of the ridge. This moderately-paced hike will cover 4.5 to 5 miles with some hilly and uneven terrain.



## Explorer Hike: Unlimited Ducks!

Wednesday • November 19  
Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



In addition to ducks you will also see several types of shorebirds and raptors. Join docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Kate Gudmundson for a leisurely 4-mile hike. You'll have the opportunity to identify the many waterfowl and other bird species you'll observe. Bring your binoculars and field guides if you have them!

## Pre-Thanksgiving Workout

Saturday • November 22  
Monte Bello  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm



Join docents Stella Yang and Stephen Buckhout for this 11-mile calorie-burning hike just before Thanksgiving. You'll be hiking on nearly all of the trails in the Preserve.

## Stop In and Explore

November 22 and 23  
Daniels Nature Center  
11:00 am – 4:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 6.)

**NOTE: This is the last weekend of the season that the Nature Center will be open. The facility will re-open in April 2015 – see you then!**

## Those Crazy Forty Niners

Sunday • November 23  
Skyline Ridge  
Meet: Russian Ridge  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



The discovery of gold in 1848 changed California forever. Hike with docents Ed Lange and Huey-Shin Yuan along the Ipiwa and Sunny Jim Trails to have lunch overlooking Horseshoe Lake where you'll talk about some of the more colorful characters of this era and discuss some of the changes the gold rush brought to the west. This moderately-paced hike will cover approximately 6 miles.



## Drought May Mean Vivid Fall Colors



Karl Gohl

Poison Oak, Monte Bello Open Space Preserve



Randy Weber

Purisma Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Other visible pigments in leaves include carotenes and xanthophyll pigments, which appear yellow to orange and are present during the growing season, but are disguised by the green. When a tree doesn't get enough water, it may quit producing chlorophyll earlier. This strategy allows it to prevent losing water and to wait out the winter.

### Colors in the Preserves

Although fall colors in our region tend to be more subtle and less intense as compared to our Eastern friends, there are some great trails on District preserves where vibrant fall colors can be found. Try exploring one of these trails and experience the contrast between the dark redwoods and bright red leaves of the poison oak. It's quite a sight!

- Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve, or join Docents for a *Following the Fall Birds* hike Friday, October 3 at 8:00 am.
- Purisma Creek Trail in Purisma Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.
- Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve, which offers a *Signs Fall is Approaching* hike Sunday, September 21 at 12:30 pm.
- Stevens Creek Nature Trail in Monte Bello Open Space Preserve.
- Saratoga Gap Trail in Saratoga Gap Open Space Preserve. 🌿



Jeffrey Dimco

Purisma Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

## BAY AREA RIDGE TRAIL

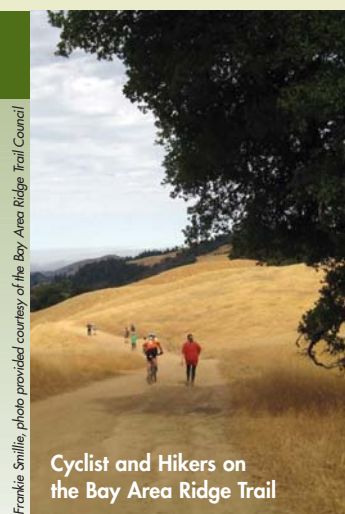
### Cheers to the Ridge Trail

This year marks The Bay Area Ridge Trail's 25th anniversary effort to create a continuous 550-mile Trail for hikers, mountain bicyclists, and equestrians on the ridgelines overlooking the Bay Area.

Today, over 345 miles are in place, with 40 miles through District lands. When completed, the Trail will connect 75 parks and open spaces—a stunning attraction for walkers, hikers, runners, cyclists and equestrians throughout the Bay Area.

The Ridge Trail will eventually extend more than 60 miles through District preserves. Once completed, Mount Umunhum in Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve will be the second highest peak in their trail network.

Midpen values its partnership with the Ridge Trail and in working together in support of development of the trail corridor, we are able to preserve and restore habitat, and open trail for responsible recreation and healthy exercise. 🌿



Frankie Smilie, photo provided courtesy of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

Cyclist and Hikers on the Bay Area Ridge Trail



Reggie

### "Reggie" – Our Resident Mountain Lion

If you have visited our staff and volunteers at local events this summer, you may have met "Reggie" our resident mountain lion. Reggie is a taxidermy mountain lion that the District purchased in 1997 for educational purposes. Staff uses Reggie to talk with the public about general District information and safety on the preserves. Although mountain lion sightings are extremely rare, it is important that visitors have a better understanding of these beautiful cats, and learn about how the District helps to protect their habitat.

#### Want to meet "Reggie"?

When he is not attending an event with staff, Reggie maintains a permanent residence in the administration office lobby in Los Altos. Stop by and say hi! 🌿





## MEASURE AA: YOUR LEGACY

Thank you for your incredible support for Measure AA for Open Space Access, Preservation and Restoration.

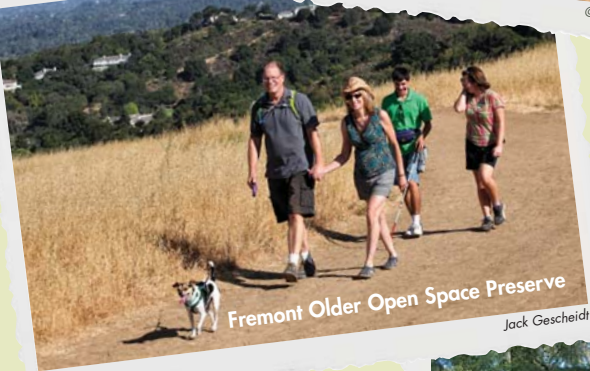
As we move forward, we will continue to use a transparent process to implement projects, and this special section in the *Open Space Views* Newsletter is one of the many ways we will continue to update our users and supporters as we work toward the completion of our first Measure AA-funded project!

### Goals of Measure AA

**Expand Public Access to Protected Lands**



©David Weintraub, 2002



Jack Gescheidt



Karl Gohl



"I am ecstatic that with the passage of AA the public will be able to enjoy more of these scenic places, which will provide a needed respite from the ever-growing density of the Bay Area."

—Gina Coony, District Planner



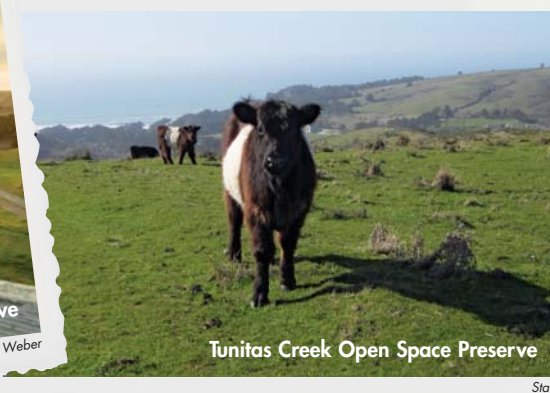
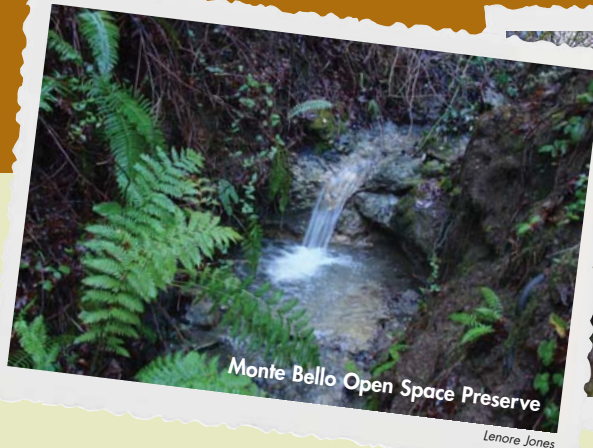
Karl Gohl

**Save Local Redwood Forests**



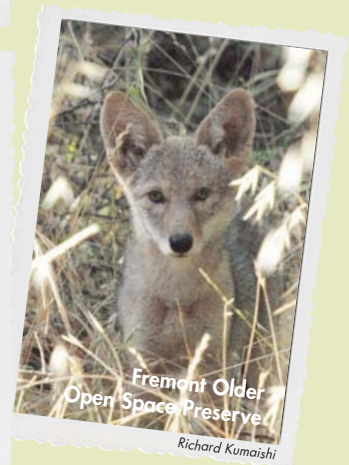
# IMAGINE *the Future of Open Space*

**Provide Clean Air and Water by Restoring Land that Feeds our Lakes, Streams, Ponds and Waterways**



**Preserve Agriculture Along the San Mateo Coast**

**Restore Native Vegetation to Create a Healthy Habitat for Wildlife and Preserve Biodiversity**



“I am thrilled that voters passed Measure AA! It means that MROSD can continue to implement the terrific ideas that came out of the many community meetings over the past several months. I’m so grateful that my neighbors understand how hard the people at Midpen work to keep these areas open, and the importance of preserving these ecosystems for other species to flourish.”

—Katherine Greene, Volunteer Docent

## Upcoming Board Study Session

The Board will be considering draft prioritization criteria to guide the selected order of which Measure AA Projects to implement at a Study Session this September. For details visit [www.openspace.org/MeasureAA](http://www.openspace.org/MeasureAA). Partner agencies and members of the public are encouraged to either attend and speak or to submit comments ahead of the meeting.

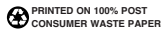
## Looking For Measure AA Updates?

If you would like to receive email notifications about Measure AA project workshops and schedules, please visit [www.openspace.org/MeasureAA](http://www.openspace.org/MeasureAA) to sign up. 🌱





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Visit us on our Web site for *Outdoor Activities*,  
 preserve maps, volunteer opportunities and more.

[www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org) | Twitter: @mrostd  
 Find us on Facebook | Watch us on YouTube

Photo below: Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve by Karl Gohl

## Connect with us through Social Media!

The District participates in many social media sites and uses these  
 sites to keep in touch with our community.

**Like** the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space  
 District Facebook page for trail and project  
 updates, upcoming events, even tips and stories  
 from the field. **Follow us** on Twitter for timely  
 news, and **add us** on Instagram for a fun way  
 to see what the District is up to!



## Go Electronic... Reduce Paper, Conserve Energy, and Save Trees

The District newsletter *Open Space Views*  
 is available online and can be delivered  
 straight to your email inbox.

To sign-up for the electronic version, go to:  
[www.openspace.org/news/enewsletter\\_signup.asp](http://www.openspace.org/news/enewsletter_signup.asp)

To stop receiving the printed version in the mail,  
 unsubscribe at: [www.openspace.org/news/enewsletter\\_signup.asp](http://www.openspace.org/news/enewsletter_signup.asp).



*The District's mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity; protect and  
 restore the natural environment; and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.*

