



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

# VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • SPRING 2014



## PHOTO CONTEST

### Last Call for Entries: Annual Photo Contest!

Submit your photos at [www.openspace.org/contest](http://www.openspace.org/contest), by midnight on March 14, 2014. There will be winners in five categories, and you'll have the chance to win prizes!

All photo submissions must be taken in Midpen open space preserves that are open to the public. Please read the complete rules, terms, and conditions before submitting your photos.

**Snap to it!**

### New Stock— 100% Recycled

The stock for our Views newsletter and trail brochures is now 100% post consumer waste, chlorine free, and Ancient Forest friendly—the highest environmental standard in North America, manufactured with 100% Green-e certified renewable wind energy, and FSC certified.

## VISION PLAN UPDATE

### Vision Plan Wraps Up

At its January 29, 2014 meeting, Midpen's Board of Directors approved a substantial list of Priority Actions as part of Midpen's comprehensive vision plan process. Staff finalized the recommended list for Board consideration based on more than a year of public input, recommendations from the Community Advisory Committee, and scientific analysis of open space lands and features within Midpen's 550-square mile area. Throughout the public engagement process, Midpen heard from more than 2,000 participants, many of whom voiced a particular interest in opening preserves that were currently closed or where access is limited, such as La Honda Creek and Bear Creek Redwoods, and adding additional trails and connections throughout Midpen's 26 preserves. There was also strong support for continued environmental stewardship, preservation, and acquisition of open



Jack Gescheldt

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

space lands, including redwood forests, farmland and watershed areas. Additionally, enhanced interpretive education was highly valued as indicated by many respondents at public meetings, through in-person surveys, and online participation. A complete Priority Actions list can be found online at [www.openspace.org/imagine](http://www.openspace.org/imagine). Board and staff are looking at funding opportunities to begin implementing the Vision Plan.

## POTENTIAL FUNDING MEASURE



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Randy Weber

*Protected and well-managed open space lands and forests provide clean air and water by feeding our lakes, streams, and waterways and naturally removing greenhouse gases.*

healthy habitat for wildlife, preserving biodiversity and reducing the risk of wildfire. This would be the first bond measure in Midpen's 40-year history. More information about the proposed bond measure can be found at [www.openspace.org/bondmeasure](http://www.openspace.org/bondmeasure).





Deane Little

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

## Learning From Our Ecological Community

One of the great privileges of my job is being a part of a community of people that cares deeply about the environment. It was very personally satisfying to see so many members of the public join in thought-provoking conversations about the district's Vision Plan over the last year, and I was reminded at every single meeting that we are all inextricably linked in an ecological community.

We saw communities of hikers, environmentalists, neighbors, bicyclists, parents, newcomers and long-time residents as well as people who represented multiple communities. They contributed their feedback, learned of new projects and registered their vision for the next generation of open space planning. Over 1,000 people participated in workshops and community interviews, 600 more participated in the interactive web site and another 600 were surveyed by telephone using scientific research methods.

Through these avenues of communication, we learned that local communities, including the general public, strongly value the protection of open space, environmental stewardship and the enjoyment and use of nature preserves. From our random sample, we learned that nine out of ten local residents believe that open space preserves improve the quality of life for urban and suburban residents and contribute to their overall health and wellness.

An even higher percentage (96%) view Midpen's preserves as an important public resource and have a profound appreciation for its extensive redwood forests. These views are representative of our region's local communities, with their great cultural and ethnic diversity and their exceptionally talented workforces, all of whom value open space land.

Open space is one of the defining features of Silicon Valley and the Peninsula. The vast majority of local residents live and work in cities and towns, but they play and stay healthy in nearby open space preserves. Every year, nearly two million visits are made to Midpen preserves and millions more benefit from the scenic beauty and

active lifestyles promoted through open space. These lands directly contribute to community health by providing scenic beauty, free recreational activities, a respite from daily stressors, and ecosystem services. Critically important to human survival, these ecological services are our life support system. Midpen owns and manages nearly 100 square miles of densely vegetated watersheds which pull enormous quantities of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, produce even greater quantities of oxygen, purify and store both surface and groundwater, moderate our temperatures, and produce locally sustainable food.

I'd like to thank every single person who participated in the Vision Plan for your unique and important role in helping the District protect the ecosystem that supports us all in so many ways. We've heard from thousands that while we've accomplished much, there's more they want done. People want more trails and greater access; they want to preserve critical land as it becomes available, especially sensitive redwood

forests, and ask that we enhance stewardship of the land to restore biodiversity and reduce the risk of wildfire. These are all important and worthy goals and we must, as we always have, find creative and strategic ways to meet these shared community objectives.

For the first time in our 40-year history, Midpen's Board of Directors is considering a modest bond measure which would allow us to accomplish the public's priority goals as set forth through our Vision Plan within the next 20-30 years. I hope you will become familiar with this proposed measure by visiting our website at [www.openspace.org/bondmeasure](http://www.openspace.org/bondmeasure) or attending a future Board meeting and being a part of the discussion.



Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Stephen E. Abbors  
General Manager

### Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors

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Stephen E. Abbors — General Manager | Peggy Koenig — Open Space Views Editor | Renée Fitzsimons — Outdoor Activities Editor | Jennifer Williams — Contributing Writer



# OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



SPRING 2014  
MARCH – APRIL – MAY

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?

### Burgeoning Bloomers ~ Adaptations of Early Spring Flowers

By Sarah Schoen (MROSD Docent)

Much anticipated toward the end of winter, early blooming wildflowers are harbingers of spring. These early season flowers take advantage of limited competition from other plants in attracting pollinators and getting a jump on early seed production. The seasonal advantage does exact some cost though – in typical years the flowers need to survive in more difficult seasonal conditions of wet, wind, cold, and dark.

A useful adaptation to wet conditions is found in lovely milkmaids (*Cardamine californica*). These 4-petaled, white to lavender flowers bloom on forest floors from January to April. Like many flowers, they contain nectar to attract

pollinators. When rain falls on the upturned milkmaid blooms, the water can dilute the nectar, reducing its attractiveness and nutritional value. However, when wet, the blooms nod downward protecting the nectar, and also look a bit like an old-fashioned milk maid's bonnet.

Most years, high winds accompany seasonal storms. Taking advantage of blustery days are two shrubs growing in chaparral habitat – coast silk tassel (*Garrya elliptica*) and Fremont silk tassel (*Garrya fremontii*). Cuplike clusters of flowers bloom from December

to April during the height of Pacific storms. The winds carry the pollen from plants with male flowers to plants with female flowers. No pollinators needed!

The main climatic condition early bloomers have to adapt to is cold. Cooler temperatures are not favorable to many insect pollinators. How many honeybees do you see in winter? Early bloomers have a number of adaptations to winter's chill.

One adaptation to cold is to create a locally warm and bright environment. California



Karl Gohl

Milkmaids,  
Purissima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*) grows in relatively wet and sunny locations and blooms from February to May. Flowers have 7- to 22-shiny yellow petals. The shiny petals focus and reflect sunrays to increase warmth and brightness. This environment is sought by insect pollinators such as flower beetles, who then tend to stay at the flower longer.

Some insect pollinators are better adapted to cold than others, including several members of the fly order. Hounds tongue (*Cynoglossum grande*) with its small bluish-purple flowers grows in the forest. The 5-petaled flowers have white circles around tiny holes in their centers that lead to the nectaries. The flower's design is a perfect fit for the needle-like proboscis of bee flies – fuzzy brown insects that hover like bees, but are actually flies. Blue is an attractive color to many flies. From February to May, the flowers emerge pink, turn blue when ready to be pollinated, then back to pink after pollination.

Some flowers use warm-blooded pollinators, creatures better able to deal with the cold than insects. In this region, hummingbirds take on the role – Anna's hummingbirds in particular.

(continued on page 12)



Karl Gohl

Hounds Tongue,  
Rancho San Antonio  
Open Space Preserve

## 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.

### EDGEWOOD COUNTY PARK

Exit I-280 at Edgewood Road. Head east on Edgewood Rd. about 1 mile to the park entrance on the right (at Old Stagecoach Road).

### EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK

Meet at Skeggs Point, a 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 adjacent to the 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).



Columbine,  
Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve



Douglas Iris,  
Thornewood Open Space Preserve

### 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

**Whitemore Gulch entrance/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.

**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.

### 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 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.

**Caltrans vista point:** Meet at the 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.

### 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 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.

**Equestrian parking lot:** After entering the Preserve, proceed to the farthest parking lot on the left. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 40 minutes travel time.

### ST. JOSEPH'S HILL

**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.



**ST. JOSEPH'S HILL (continued)****Northside - Free Unlimited parking lot:**

Meet at the parking lot located at the northeast corner of Highway 9 and Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos. The sign at the lot says: "Free Unlimited Parking – Northside Lot." Take Highway 17 south toward Los Gatos. Exit at Hwy. 9-Los Gatos/Saratoga and continue west on Hwy 9. (approximately 0.33 miles) to the parking lot, located on your right just before Santa Cruz Ave. Carpool to the activity location.

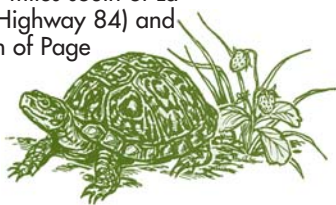
**THORNEWOOD**

From Highway 280 in Woodside, take the Highway 84/Woodside Road exit. Follow Highway 84/Woodside Road through Woodside and then to a junction with Portola Road at 3.3. miles. Bear right to stay on Highway 84, now La Honda Road. At 4.9 miles from Highway 280, turn left at a brick wall marked 895-897; look for the District sign just inside this gate. The small parking area is on the right about 500 feet from the entrance gate. Please do not drive beyond this lot toward the private residences.

Alternatively, from the junction of Highway 35 (Skyline Boulevard) and Highway 84 in Sky Linda, take Highway 84/La Honda Road north 1.9 miles and turn right at the brick wall marked 895-897.

**WINDY HILL**

Meet at the parking area on Skyline Boulevard, 2.3 miles south of La Honda Road (Highway 84) and 4.9 miles north of Page Mill 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 Programs 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.

# MARCH

## Earthquake Walk

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



Join docents Dave and Judy Boore “where worlds collide” at the junction of the Pacific and North American plates. On this 2- to 3-mile stroll, you’ll discover remnants of the effects of the 1906 earthquake, and discuss plate tectonics and how to prepare for future earthquakes.

## Explorer Hike: Find Your Zen

Wednesday • March 5  
Long Ridge  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Be in the moment with docents Laura Levin, Lynn Jackson, and Kate Gudmundson as you experience nature through sight, sound, smell and touch at a leisurely pace along 4.6 miles of the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails. You’ll descend into dense forest and ascend to the ridge top, where you’ll enjoy sublime views across forested ridges west to the ocean where you’ll feel your spirits lift and every day cares recede.



Jack Geachrid

El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve

## Wildflowers on the Hill

Saturday • March 8  
St. Joseph’s Hill  
Meet: Los Gatos Little League parking lot  
9:30 am – 12:30 pm



Join docents Susan Bernhard and Ann Reisenauer this 5-mile aerobic hike to enjoy local wildflowers, scenic views, and local history. You’ll enter the Preserve via the Jones Trail then travel up and around the hill on the switchbacks of the Manzanita and Novitiate Trails. (Note: Please arrive early to find parking).

## Spring Ride at ECdMC

Saturday • March 8  
El Corte de Madera Creek  
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 will take you through mixed evergreen and redwood forests, and past lush riparian areas before climbing to a vista point with sweeping views of the Pacific before returning you 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 February 20.

## Introductory Geocaching Family Hike

Saturday • March 8  
Los Trancos  
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 Sarah Schoen, Judy Fenerty, and an REI Outdoor School instructor 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 February 20.

## The Hills are Alive

Saturday • March 8  
Pulgas Ridge  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Pulgas Ridge Preserve is known for a large variety of different wildflowers and this is an especially good time of year to locate and identify them. Docents Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel, and Strether and Tommi Smith will help you identify the distinguishing characteristics of the wildflowers encountered on this moderate hike. Some wildflowers may be relatively uncommon so you may want to bring a camera. You’ll hike about 4 miles on the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails. Capable and interested children are welcome.

Illustration by  
Shelly Monfort



Yamill Soenz

Native Bee (Family Megachilidae),  
Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

## Interior Explorations

Tuesday • March 11  
Purisima Creek Redwoods  
Meet: Whittemore Gulch/North Ridge  
parking lot  
10:00 am – 3:30 pm



Explore the cool interior of this Preserve with docents Ed North and Kate Gudmundson. You’ll descend about 1,600 feet on the Harkins Ridge Trail nearly to Higgins Canyon Road then hike back up through the redwoods on the Purisima Creek and Craig Britton Trails. This will be a fast paced 9.5-mile hike with about 1,800 feet of elevation gain.

## To the Bench

Wednesday • March 12  
Rancho San Antonio  
9:30 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Stella Yang and Stephen Buckhout for an invigorating early spring loop hike up to the bench and back. You’ll go up on the PG&E Trail and come down on High Meadow Trail with a distance of 8+ miles and total elevation gain of about 2,000 feet. The pace is moderate to strenuous with infrequent stops. There will not be a lunch break. (Note: Arrive early to find parking.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after February 26.

## WWW – Wildflowers, Wandering, and Wine

Saturday • March 15  
Picchetti Ranch  
10:00 am – 1:30 pm



It’s spring-time! Join docents Martin Manley and Linda Smith for a moderately-paced, 4.5-mile hike through Picchetti Ranch to check out the wildflowers that were nourished by the winter rains. En route you’ll discuss the many varieties of plant communities that can be found in this relatively small Preserve and see what creatures might be lurking in the pond. Bring a lunch to enjoy at the picnic tables down by Stevens Creek. At the end of the trip you’ll have the option for a little wine tasting (on your own) at Picchetti Winery.



### Night Under the Redwoods

Saturday • March 15  
Purissima Creek Redwoods  
Meet: Purissima Creek Road entrance  
5:15 pm – 10:30 pm



Explore under the redwoods at night, five days before spring, with docents Debbi Brusco, Lynn Jackson, and Paul Billig. Who knows what you'll discover? This easy but possibly muddy hike will cover 5 miles. Bring a flashlight with a red cellophane covering or filter, your meal, and plastic to sit on. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after February 27.**

### Tracks and Scat

Sunday • March 16  
Russian Ridge  
Meet: Russian Ridge – Caltrans vista point  
10:00 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Paul Vadopalas, Lyndall Erb, and Tanya Clausius on a 3-mile, leisurely-paced hike along the Alder Spring and Ancient Oaks Trails to search for tracks and scat of larger mammals that call this Preserve their home. You'll identify the animals from their tracks, understand their feeding habits from the scat they leave behind, and discuss their life and behavior in more detail. You'll also stop for lunch and an opportunity for more discussion about these mammals.

### Lost Creek Spring

Sunday • March 16  
Los Trancos  
12:00 noon – 2:30 pm



Docents Keith Johnsgård and Jenny Whitman will lead this 3-mile loop beneath the towering forest canopies of the Franciscan and Lost Creek Trails, a wonderfully silent space filled only with fresh forest fragrances and occasional bird songs. You'll stop at the low halfway point for a rest and snacks with water music before visiting the reclusive trailside Buddha on your ascending return trip.

### Explorer Hike: Spring Searching

Wednesday • March 19  
Pulgas Ridge  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin on a 3.5-mile hike to explore the trails of this Preserve in search of spring wildflowers. This moderately-paced hike will take you along the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, and Polly Geraci Trails.

### Third Thursday: Pulgas Ridge

Thursday • March 20  
Pulgas Ridge  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Join docents Tommi and Strether Smith on this moderately-paced, 4.5-mile hike searching for the signs of spring. You'll witness nature's dramatic effects in this wonderful Preserve as you hike along the Blue Oak, Cordilleras, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails and hunt for the beautiful and infamous fetid adder's tongue. Bring a lunch/snack to enjoy at a lookout.



Pretty Face,  
Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

### Signs of Spring

Friday • March 21  
Pulgas Ridge  
9:30 am – 12:15 pm



Enjoy an early spring hike viewing of wildflowers, blooming bushes, and a variety of oak trees. Join docents Liz Foreman and Lina Mesa to explore the variety of plants and trees in this popular Preserve as you hike along the Blue Oak, Cordilleras, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails. This moderately-paced hike will cover 4.5 to 5 miles with some hilly and uneven terrain.

### Search for the Everlasting

Saturday • March 22  
Picchetti Ranch  
10:30 am – 3:30 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. 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.

### Celebrating the Spring Flowering

Sunday • March 23  
Monte Bello  
Meet: Picchetti Ranch  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Maureen Draper and Kate Gudmundson and celebrate the spring flowering on Monte Bello Ridge with its unique limestone outcroppings and sweeping views over Skyline Ridge to the ocean. There will be occasional stops on this 3-mile hike for readings from Mary Oliver and other nature writers. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)**

### Grasslands and Vistas

Saturday • March 29  
Russian Ridge  
10:00 am – 12:30 pm



The open grasslands of this Preserve are best visited in the spring or fall when the weather is not hot and trails are not muddy. Docents Kandis Scott and Sam Berry will lead you on a walk along the open hillside hoping for ocean vistas and sprouted grasses. This short 2.5-mile hike with little elevation gain is a good place to begin enjoying the Open Spaces.

### Living with Lions

Sunday • March 30  
Skyline Ridge  
Meet: Russian Ridge  
12:00 noon – 2:30 pm



The primary focus of this educational outing is a luncheon lecture on a landmark analysis of 185 mountain lion attacks in America. You'll learn science-based guidelines about how you should and should not behave for safe visits to lion territory. Docents Keith Johnsgård and Noa Doitel will lead an informative 2-mile natural history stroll in the Alpine Pond vicinity before lunch. **(Note: This activity is not suitable for children.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 13.**



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

**Explorer Hike: Little Apples, Big Views**

Wednesday • April 2  
St. Joseph's Hill

Meet: Northside – Free Unlimited parking lot  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Enjoy your climb to the hilltop at a leisurely pace in the cool season with docents Laura Levin, Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, and Kate Gudmundson. While hiking 4 miles along Jones, Novitiate, Manzanita, and Serpentine Trails, you'll stop frequently to appreciate spring wildflowers and splendid manzanita forests. At the top, where 19th-century Jesuits labored in their vineyards, you'll have lunch with a panoramic view. (Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)

**Spring in the Watershed**

Thursday • April 3  
Picchetti Ranch

10:00 am – 12:00 noon



Join docents Kate Gudmundson, Greg Hughes, and Maureen Draper for a leisurely 3-mile hike within the Stevens Creek Watershed. You'll walk the Zinfandel Trail past a pond, over creeks, and on for a view of the Stevens Creek Reservoir. You'll see for yourself the current water levels and the many intriguing ways the plants, animals, fungi, and landscape are responding.

**Birds on the Move**

Friday • April 4  
Picchetti Ranch

8:00 am – 10:30 am



Where do the birds at this Preserve come from, where do they go, and what attracts them to this special place in spring? Docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Strether and Tommi Smith will discuss bird migration patterns while guiding you through the Preserve along the Zinfandel, Orchard Loop and Vista Trails for about 2 miles. This leisurely walk is intended for bird-watchers of all abilities. If you have binoculars please bring them with you. Your docents will have a spotting scope to bring far away birds into view.



Turret Spider,  
Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

**Hooves and Wheels**

Saturday • April 5

Skyline Ridge – Long Ridge

Meet: Skyline Ridge Equestrian parking lot  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Ride with the other guys on this special joint outing with bikes and horses! Here is a chance to get your horse desensitized to bikes and for the bike riders to learn about horses on the trail. Have fun learning about how to use the trails together while enjoying a fun ride. Led by docents Lyndall Erb, Dave Kocsis, Jenny Whitman, Patty Lovelace, and Earl Girbovan, this ride will explore trails in two preserves. Trail terrain is appropriate for both groups. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 20.**

**Redwood Oxygen**

Saturday • April 5

Purisima Creek Redwoods

Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance  
10:30 am – 3:00 pm



Find out why you'll be breathing some of the cleanest air in the world with docents Bob Segalla, Sam Berry, and Greg Azevedo 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 March 20.**

**Spineless Wonders**

Saturday • April 5

Windy Hill

5:15 pm – 10:00 pm



Docents Debbi Brusco, Jack Owicki, and Jan Hintermeister will guide you on a 3-mile invertebrate treasure hunt. You'll meander along the Spring Ridge and Betsy Crowder Trails with extended stops. After dinner you'll listen for night creatures. This hike is geared towards adults, but attentive kids 10 years and older are welcome. Bring dinner, ground cover to sit on, and a flashlight with a red filter or cellophane covering (if you have them available).



**Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 20.**



Golden Yarrow,  
Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

**Stop In and Explore**

Saturday and Sunday

April 5 and April 6

Daniels Nature Center

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



Spring weekends are here and so should you be...as the living is easy, especially on the edge of Alpine Pond. Bring family and friends to visit any Saturday or Sunday this spring between 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm. You can enjoy displays about natural communities, view larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, take a pond prow, and perhaps have an opportunity to study live aquatic organisms "borrowed" from Alpine Pond with guidance from a docent. These adventures and more await you!

**Daniels Nature Center Season Begins!**

The David C. Daniels Nature Center, located on the edge of Alpine Pond at Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, will open for the season on Saturday, April 5, 2014. Come by on opening weekend to take part in an annual celebration. Refreshments will be provided. The Nature Center will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 noon until 5:00 pm during spring and summer, and 11:00 am to 4:00 pm in the fall.

**Learning the Landscape**

Sunday • April 6

Monte Bello

10:00 am – 3:30 pm



Join docents Dave Kocsis and Sarah Schoen to see how the motion of the San Andreas Fault has shaped the Santa Cruz Mountains while helping to create numerous natural communities in close proximity. You'll descend into Stevens Canyon, meander along Stevens Creek through mixed evergreen forests and riparian areas, and then ascend Black Mountain for a commanding view of the entire South Bay and the Santa Cruz Mountains. This is a 7-mile, moderately-paced excursion with approximately 2,000 feet of elevation gain.



**Earthquake Walk**

Sunday • April 6  
Los Trancos  
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



(Please see the activity description for March 2.)

**Spring Wildflower Adventure**

Thursday • April 10  
Long Ridge  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm



Join docent Kay Rodriques on this 4.5-mile, moderately-paced hike, to discover spring wildflowers and pollinating insects. If the flowers cooperate, you may see a lovely carpet of golden California poppies along the ridge.



Judy Kramer

California Poppy,  
Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

**Russian Ridge End-to-End**

Friday • April 11  
Russian Ridge  
10:00 am – 2:30 pm



Enjoy the wildflowers of the season as you hike from one end of this Preserve to the other and back with docents Ed North and Emma Finter. Weather permitting you'll have a wonderful view of the Bay from the top of Borel Hill. Who was Borel? This will be a fast paced 8-mile hike with about 800-feet of elevation gain.

**Not So Long Bloomin' Hike**

Saturday • April 12  
Long Ridge  
9:30 am – 2:00 pm



Join docents Rich and Toni Gooch, on this annual 6.5-mile loop hike through the Preserve to see the annuals. You'll walk through a variety of plant communities and should find many flowering plants on this (not so) long "bloomin'" hike. Bring lunch to enjoy with a view from the highest point along the ridge.

**Move with the Animals**

Saturday • April 12  
Skyline Ridge  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm



Join docents Grace Yuan and Johnny Zweig for a 1-mile, leisurely-paced stroll around Horseshoe Lake. You'll discuss how birds, snakes, deer, mountain lions, and other animals move about in their habitats. You'll also experience animal-inspired gentle movements with coordinated breathing, and learn how to come up with your own movements based on Tai Chi/Chinese martial arts/Qigong and their healthful elements — mindfulness, calmness and balance. This activity welcomes children 7 years and older. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 27.**

**Stop In and Explore**

Saturday and Sunday  
April 12 and 13  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for April 5.)

**Nature Trail Walk**

Sunday • April 13  
Monte Bello  
9:30 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Kandis Scott and Steve Brugler will guide you along one of the District's most popular hikes. On this moderately-paced, 3.5-mile excursion, you'll look for evidence of spring along the Stevens Creek Nature Trail which follows the creek and is marked with information.

**Silent Forest – Still Waters**

Sunday • April 13  
Skyline Ridge  
12:00 noon – 2:30 pm



Join docents Keith Johnsgård and Jenny Whitman for a mostly shaded 2.5-mile leisurely hike at Horseshoe Lake. After skirting the lake, you'll climb the Fir Knoll Trail up the ridge (a 250-foot elevation gain) to visit a breathtaking grove of enormous Douglas fir trees before looping back down to the lake's interior picnic area for snacks beneath lovely canyon oaks.

**Explorer Hike: Let a Thousand Flowers Bloom**

Wednesday • April 16  
Russian Ridge  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



If the rains come, you'll find even more! Join docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Kate Gudmundson on this leisurely 5-mile hike along the Bay, Hawk Ridge and Ancient Oaks Trails. You'll have many chances to observe and identify the mid-spring wildflowers and lift your eyes to enjoy spectacular ocean and bay views.

**Third Thursday: Skyline Ridge**

Thursday • April 17  
Skyline Ridge  
Meet: Russian Ridge  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Docents Tommi and Strether Smith will lead you on a 4.5-mile exploration of the high and low points of this Preserve. Spectacular views, spring flowers, and nature-filled ponds will be featured. Bring a lunch to enjoy at a great stopping point.

**Springtime Diversity**

Saturday • April 19  
Long Ridge  
9:30 am – 3:30 pm



Enjoy the diverse plant communities this spring while hiking along most of the trails of this Preserve. From the grasslands to the shady woodlands a large array of wildflowers will be in bloom. Docent Paul Billig will guide you through the range of habitats of this beautiful preserve and discuss why so many different communities are found here. This moderately-strenuous hike will cover 8 miles and have an elevation gain of about 1,000 feet. Bring a lunch to enjoy at an old ranch site with a view to the ocean.

**Stop In and Explore**

Saturday and Sunday  
April 19 and 20  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for April 5.)

## Celebrate Earth Day!

Participate in docent-led activities scheduled April 19-22, or visit the Nature Center (open Saturday and Sunday).

## "Esence" of Light

Friday • April 25  
Skyline Ridge  
6:00 pm – 10:15 pm



Watch the light change from daylight to starlight as you hike with docents Jack Owicki, Debbi Brusco and Jan Hintermeister. 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 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 April 10.**

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
April 26 and 27  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for April 5.)

## Primavera en las Montañas – Español

Sunday • April 27  
Long Ridge  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Ven y únete a las docentes Ann Reisenauer, Lina Mesa, and Susan Bernhard para una caminata en Español en las laderas de la reserva Long Ridge. En esta caminata moderada de 4.6 millas disfrutaras vistas espectaculares y experimentarás la primavera en la cima de las montañas. Aprenderás acerca de la historia natural de esta hermosa reserva, sus variadas comunidades naturales y podrás ver algunas flores primaverales silvestres, pájaros y todo lo que esté pasando por el camino. Tendremos un tiempo de almuerzo mientras disfrutamos la vista. Este circuito usa los senderos Ridge, Peters Creek y Long Ridge.

Join docents Ann Reisenauer, Lina Mesa, and Susan Bernhard for a Spanish hike along the slopes of Long Ridge Preserve. On this 4.6-mile moderate hike, you'll enjoy superb views and experience spring on the ridge of the mountains while learning about the natural history of this beautiful Preserve – including different natural communities with spring wildflowers, birds, and whatever else is happening in your path. You'll have a stop for lunch to enjoy the view. This loop hike uses the Ridge, Peters Creek, and Long Ridge Trails.



## California Newts

Sunday • April 27  
Monte Bello  
10:00 am – 2:30 pm



Hike the Canyon Trail with docent Paul Vadopalas to a hidden pond where California newts mate. You'll learn about the species, including what is unique about them among native amphibians. On the return hike along Stevens Creek Nature Trail, there will be opportunities to search for more newts and observe closely. This will be a 4-mile outing.



Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

## Geology 101: The San Andreas Fault

Sunday • April 27  
Los Trancos  
12:00 noon – 2:30 pm



Hear how California emerged from the sea during America's 200 million year westward voyage, how the San Andreas Fault was formed, how subsequent earthquakes have shaped the landscape you'll traverse, and how a chunk of California may one day become a coastal island on a journey northward to eventually dive beneath Alaska. Docent Keith Johnsgård 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 April 10.

## Enjoying Spring Wildflowers

Sunday • April 27  
Pulgas Ridge  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm



Discover wildflowers, manzanita, and oak trees on this springtime hike. Join docents Liz Foreman and Tanya Clausius to explore the variety of plants and trees in this popular Preserve as you hike along the Blue Oak, Cordilleras, Dick Bishop and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails. This moderately-paced hike will cover 4.5 to 5 miles with some hilly and uneven terrain.

## Explorer Hike: Wildflowers and Bluebirds

Wednesday • April 30  
Fremont Older  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Kate Gudmundson, Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson and Laura Levin for a leisurely-paced, 4-mile hike to enjoy and discuss the spring wildflowers along the Hayfield, Toyon and Bayview Trails. You'll also watch for signs of nesting bluebirds and learn about the challenges they face raising a brood of hungry nestlings.

## MAY

## World-Class Wildflower Walk

Saturday • May 3  
Russian Ridge  
10:00 am – 1:30 pm



Russian Ridge has been described as a world-class location for wildflowers. Docents Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel will introduce you to the spectacular grassland, oak woodland, and chaparral wildflowers in this Preserve. This will be a leisurely walk allowing time to examine wildflowers in detail. Bring a camera or a sketchpad to capture your favorite images. You'll walk approximately 3.5 miles along the Ridge, Alder Spring and Ancient Oaks Trails.

## In Full Bloom

Saturday • May 3  
Sierra Azul  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Spring wildflowers are in full bloom. Join docents Sarah Schoen and Kathryn Strachota to enjoy a 6-mile out and back hike on the Woods and Barlow Road Trails. You'll learn about this botanically diverse area, including several locally unusual common plants.

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
May 3 and 4  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for April 5.)





## Earthquake Walk

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



(Join docents John Wertzler and Sam Berry and please see the activity description for March 2.)



Erin Alvarez

Coastal Silverpuffs,  
Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

## Explorer Hike: South Route to Black Mountain

Wednesday • May 7  
Monte Bello  
Meet: Picchetti Ranch  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



You'll enjoy the views and wildflowers of the Waterwheel Creek area of Monte Bello Preserve as you take the southern approach to the summit of Black Mountain on this 4.5-mile hike. Docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Kate Gudmundson will help you identify flora and fauna you'll observe along the way. (Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)

## Banana Slug Redwood Ride

Saturday • May 10  
Purisima Creek Redwoods  
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Docents Dave Kocsis and Patty Lovelace will meet you near the coast for an invigorating climb up to Skyline Boulevard, observing the many facets of life in the redwoods as you go. After a rest at the top and a cruise on Skyline Boulevard, you'll ride back down some of the best single-track around, through the fog or sun depending on the weather, with fantastic coastal views as you return nearly to sea level. This will be a high-intermediate ride with a total distance of about 11 miles and 1,800 feet of climbing. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 24.

## Wingding Family Fest

Saturday, May 10, 2014  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Skyline Ridge Preserve

For more information see page 14 or visit: [www.openspace.org/wingding](http://www.openspace.org/wingding).

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
May 10 and 11  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for April 5.)

## Water Music and The Buddha

Sunday • May 11  
Los Trancos  
11:00 am – 2:00 pm



Docents Keith Johnsgård and Harry Cornbleet will lead this shaded 3-mile loop hike beneath the towering forest canopies of the Franciscan and Lost Creek Trails, a wonderfully silent space filled only with fresh forest fragrances and occasional bird songs. You'll stop at the low halfway point for creek side snacks, and pass by the reclusive trailside Buddha on your ascending return trip.

## Wildflower Bouquet for Mother's Day

Sunday • May 11  
Russian Ridge  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm



What floral display will Mother Nature put on for Bay Area moms this year? Join docents Richard and Toni Gooch for this leisurely-paced 3.5-mile walk to Borel Hill and (time permitting) back through Ancient Oaks Trail to find out!

## The Redwood That Got Away

Tuesday • May 13  
El Corte de Madera Creek  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm



You'll explore the interior of this Preserve including the Tafoni sandstone formation and the old growth redwood tree, and hike the Resolution Trail named in honor of those who lost their lives in the 1953 DC-6 plane crash. This fast paced 9-mile hike with docents Ed North and Kate Gudmundson will include the Tafoni, Fir, Resolution, Methuselah, and Timberview Trails. The elevation loss and gain about 800- to 1,000-feet of elevation.

## Third Thursday: Long Ridge

Thursday • May 15  
Long Ridge  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Peters Creek Trail should be at its best and the views from the ridge should be spectacular for this 4.5-mile, moderately-paced hike led by docents Tommi and Strether Smith. Bring a lunch to enjoy at the Wallace Stegner Bench where you'll take part in tales about the famous author and environmentalist.

## Introductory Geocaching Family Hike

Saturday • May 17  
Los Trancos  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



(Join docent Lyndall Erb and please see activity description for March 15.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 24.

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
May 17 and 18  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for April 5.)

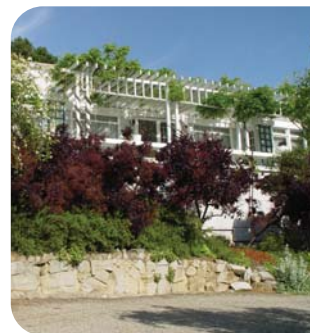


## Annual Fremont Older House and Garden Tours

Sunday • May 18  
Fremont Older  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm



Tours led by District docents are offered on a "first come first serve" call-in reservation basis. If you are interested, please call the District office at 650-691-2153 on Friday April 18, 2014 beginning at 10:00 am. Reservations for the May 18 tours will not be accepted before the scheduled reservation call-in date and time (Friday, April 18 – 10:00 am). Group size limit is four (4) people. A waiting list will be established. Please do not call the regular District office or activity reservation phone numbers for these tours.



Fremont Older  
Open Space Preserve



## Burgeoning Bloomers ~ Adaptations of Early Spring Flowers

Currant shrubs have tubular pink flowers with a nectary at the base. Narrow hummingbird beaks and their long tongues make a perfect siphon. Chaparral currant (*Ribes malvaceum*) blooms in sunny shrubby areas from December to March, and red flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum* var. *glutinosum*) blooms in moist canyons and along creeks from March to April. Together these two plants provide nectar during the hummingbirds' breeding season when the birds need extra calories the most.

Early bloomers also have to deal with lower amounts of sunlight during late winter and early spring. A common strategy used by

herbaceous perennials is to die back in fall and winter, storing energy produced from the summer sun in their roots and underground stems. In late winter and early spring most plants re-emerge, usually with stems and leaves first. Western coltsfoot (*Petasites frigidus* var. *pallmatus*) takes this a step further with feathery white flowers growing on leafless stalks that emerge from February to April. Hand-shaped bright green leaves later emerge as the flowers begin to wither and set seed.

As you venture out to the District preserve trails in early spring, how many early bloomers and adaptations can you observe? 🌱

### Spring Flowers

Sunday • May 18  
Thornewood  
10:00 am – 1:30 pm



Docent Paul Vadopalas will lead a 4-mile hike to look for various spring flowers emerging in woodland, chaparral and redwood grove environments of this small and special Preserve.

### Under the Fir Trees

Sunday • May 18  
El Corte de Madera Creek  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm



Enjoy firs, redwoods, wildflowers, and the tafoni sandstone formation on this springtime hike. Join docents Liz Foreman and Paul Billig to explore the variety of plants and trees in this popular Preserve as you hike along the Fir, Tafoni, and Resolution Trails. This moderately-paced hike will cover 5 to 5.5 miles with some steep hills and uneven terrain.

### Explorer Hike: Wildflowers of Woods Trail

Wednesday • May 21  
Sierra Azul  
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



The Woods Trail section of this Preserve is a favorite location for a spring hike. It has a wide variety of common and not so common wildflowers for you to discover. Join docents Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, Dennis Smith, and Kate Gudmunson to explore this wonderful trail on a 5-mile hike.



### The Butterflies of Picchetti Ranch

Saturday • May 24  
Picchetti Ranch  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Jan Hintermeister and Karen DeMello in exploring the wonderful and strange world of insects that taste with their feet and smell with their antennae. Learn to identify common butterfly species in their natural environment and understand why humans from the Stone Age to the Space Age have been fascinated with these delicate winged creatures. Many facts and flutters await you on this easy 2.5-mile walk along the Zinfandel and Orchard Loop Trails! Bring binoculars if you have them.

### Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
May 24 and 25  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for April 5.)

### Ethnobotany 101: The Ohlone Way

Sunday • May 25  
Skyline Ridge  
Meet: Russian Ridge  
11:00 am – 2:30 pm



Docents Keith Johnsgård and Noa Doitel will lead this leisurely two-hour stroll in the Alpine Pond vicinity acquainting you with the Ohlone Indian way of life by pointing out plants they used for hunting, fishing, basketry, food, medicine, music, magic, and mischief. Lunch features a talk on the amazing unfolding history of humans in America. (Note: This activity is not suitable for children.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 8.



Karl Gohl

Anna's Hummingbird,  
Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

### 28TH Annual Hike the Open Spaces

Monday • May 28  
Monte Bello  
Meet: Picchetti Ranch  
8:45 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo and Bob Segalla for a 3-mile, leisurely-paced walk through this less-traveled section of this Preserve on the Waterwheel Creek Trail. If the weather is clear, expect to see some spectacular views of the Santa Clara Valley and portions of the Santa Cruz Mountains! This walk will include the history of the Preserve and the Open Space District, and information about some of the plants, animals, and geology of the area. Pace will vary with occasional stops. No lunch stop, but a short snack break is planned midway. (Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 14.

### Move with the Animals

Saturday • May 31  
Skyline Ridge  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for April 12.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 15. 🌱





## PLUG INTO NATURE

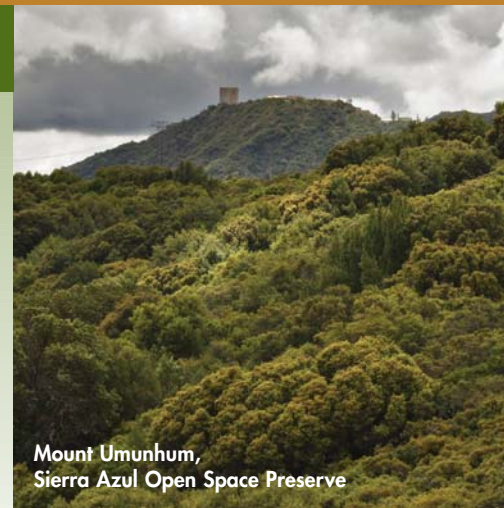


**P**lug Into Nature features a quick look at the latest Midpen news and gives a brief overview of upcoming activities and public events. Sign up today at [www.openspace.org/news/newsletter.asp](http://www.openspace.org/news/newsletter.asp).

### FIELD NOTES

## The Mount Umunhum Demolition Project

January marked the completion of the demolition project for all structures except the radar tower, sidewalks, utilities, and internal roads atop Mount Umunhum. Many former roads and building pads were graded to match the surrounding natural topography so that in time, visitors will not be able to tell where buildings and infrastructure once stood. "It's amazing what views have been opened up with the removal of the structures," says Gina Coony, project manager. With completion of the demolition work, Midpen will now begin restoring and improving the site to facilitate public access, which is anticipated to be completed in 2017. For more information, visit the project page at: [www.openspace.org/plans\\_projects/mt\\_umunhum.asp](http://www.openspace.org/plans_projects/mt_umunhum.asp).



Mount Umunhum,  
Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve



Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

cycle at a pygmy size. Perennial plants may stay in their dry season dormancy with very few leaves and not even bloom this year, but store their energy in underground root reserves. Frogs and newts may stay in their dry-season retreats underground, especially as some of their breeding ponds are completely dry. With less vegetation to eat in the winter, there will probably be fewer rodents and the foxes may have one pup instead of several in their spring litter.

"Will the strategies of the native California plants and animals help them through these tough years even better than the non-native plants and animals? Perhaps California's human residents can learn something from the strategies of these original California neighbors," says Cindy Roessler, Midpen Natural Resources biologist.

Mike Alexander

## Wildlife Strategies in a Drought

While many parts of the country were getting pummeled by blizzards, parts of California recorded their driest year on the books. As water levels in reservoirs and rivers get lower and California's humans are looking at water use restrictions, how might a prolonged drought affect the state's plants and animals? Some will stay dormant, some might die, but droughts are not uncommon here and the native California plants and animals have evolved strategies to deal with them.

The seeds of annual plants may not get soaked enough to germinate, instead they will stay inactive in the soil until a better rain year occurs. Other annual plants will speed through their leaf-flower-seed



Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

*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.*



## Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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Los Altos, California 94022-1404  
Phone: 650-691-1200 • Fax: 650-691-0485  
E-mail: [info@openspace.org](mailto:info@openspace.org)  
Web site: [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org)



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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: @mrosc  
Find us on Facebook | Watch us on YouTube

Photo on front, Monte Bello Open Space Preserve by  
Efren Alvarez, from 4th Annual Photo Contest.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS AND INVOLVEMENT

Midpen plans to host and attend a wide variety of community events this spring and summer!  
To see where else we're headed, visit our website at [www.openspace.org/events](http://www.openspace.org/events).



2013 Wingding Family Fest


### Wingding Family Fest

**Saturday, May 10, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm**  
**Skyline Ridge Preserve – Equestrian parking lot**

Join the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society to enjoy spring in a beautiful setting for a bird-themed, family event with fun for everyone! A special feature this year will be a focus on birds significant in Asian and Pacific cultures to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage month. Activities include: guided bird walks and geocaching hikes, arts and crafts, hands-on science stations, and live bird presentations. For more information, visit: [www.openspace.org/wingding](http://www.openspace.org/wingding).

### Fremont Older House and Garden Tours

**Sunday, May 18, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm**  
**Fremont Older Preserve**

Each spring, "Woodhills," the historic home of Fremont and Cora Older, is opened for public tours providing local history enthusiasts an opportunity to learn more about the legacy of Fremont Older and tour the historic home and gardens. **Tours require advanced reservations. See page 11 for more information.** 

### Regular Board Meetings

Community participation is an essential part of the planning process for the use and management of the preserves. Midpen's Board of Directors holds public meetings on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at 330 Distel Circle in Los Altos.



## New Video Online: "The Art of Trail Building"

### The Art of Trail Building



Ever wonder what it takes to build a trail? Midpen's dedicated team of planners and trail builders know it's an art and a science. Take a look behind the scenes in "The Art of Trail Building" video on our website at: [www.openspace.org/videos](http://www.openspace.org/videos). 