



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

VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • SUMMER 2014

PRESERVE SPOTLIGHT

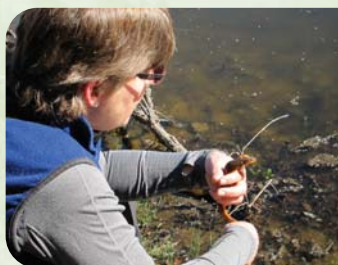
Monte Bello Grows by 148 Acres Spectacular Views, Rare Species, Possible Future Connections to County Parks

On February 28, the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (Midpen) closed escrow on a 148-acre former working farm known as the INE Ranch located on Skyline Boulevard in Palo Alto, where Monte Bello Open Space Preserve meets the Upper Stevens Creek County Park. The property is located across Skyline Boulevard from the Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve and 0.8 miles north of the Long Ridge Open Space Preserve. The INE Ranch was purchased for \$3.6 million, and represents the largest property addition to the Monte Bello Preserve in over 20 years.

The land is an important addition to open space and the local environment because it protects the Stevens Creek watershed, creates opportunities for new trail connections, has spectacular ridgeline views, and provides great habitat for wildlife including five special-status species: the California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk and San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat.

"We are honored that the owners, who have been our neighbors for the last 40 years, wanted this unique property to be protected by Midpen in perpetuity," said Steve Abbots, General Manager.

Formerly one of the largest private land holdings on that scenic corridor, the property's natural vistas from three preserves and the county park will now be protected for generations to come. 🌿



Staff Surveying California Newt Found in Pond



Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Lanore Jones



MEASURE AA

Access, Preservation and Restoration Bond

Measure AA will be on the June 3 ballot in areas of Santa Clara, San Mateo and a small portion of Santa Cruz counties. Based on a year of public input, Midpen was asked by residents to improve access to open space and trails, preserve additional open space lands, and manage restoration projects throughout its 26 preserves. To help fund these high priority projects, Midpen developed a ballot initiative to authorize the sale of \$300 million in bonds over the next 20-30 years at a cost of no more than \$3.18 per \$100,000 of assessed property value.

Key projects include opening Bear Creek Redwoods and La Honda Open Space Preserves and Mt. Umunhum at Sierra Azul, completing major trail connections including the Purisima-to-Sea Trail, and preserving of key watershed land and redwood forests. More information can be found at www.openspace.org/MeasureAA. 🌿

ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST

Winners Announced

Thanks to all who participated in the District's Fifth Annual Digital Photo Contest! We received nearly 150 entries in five categories. See this year's top photos on page 13. 🌿



From Rancho San Antonio to Sacramento: The Effort to Protect our Bobcats

In 1962, I read a book that changed my world, Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, and it has informed my personal and professional decisions ever since. It changed my world because it changed THE world by bringing clarity to our relationship with life around us. She wrote, "In nature, nothing exists alone." These simple words held the scientific reasoning, the moral imperative and the marching orders to spark an international environmental movement.

Things seemed so different at the time of *Silent Spring's* writing, a time when DDT was being mixed with fuel oil and dropped on communities to control ant infestations, and the sale of cranberries was halted due to their high levels of carcinogenic herbicides.

Fifty years ago, we had to fight for laws to protect our air, water, land and food and we still do!

Last October, Midpen contacted the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to request a limitation on the availability of Second Generation Anti-Coagulant Rodenticides (SGARs), which we suspected were closely linked to the decline of our bobcat population. The proposed mechanism, where the chemicals build up or "biomagnify" as they move through the food chain was eerily reminiscent of that described by Carson over a half century ago.

From March 2009 to June 2013, twelve bobcats at Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve died from notoedric mange and dozens of sick bobcats were reported. This rare disease lowers the immune system in felines and causes them to become weak and emaciated. Unable to groom themselves, mite infestations cause hair loss, cracked and bleeding skin, dehydration and eventually, death. The suffering of these animals was incredibly sad and distressing for preserve visitors, volunteers and our staff. I personally observed these emaciated animals on a number of occasions not far from the parking area and it was clear we had to try to find a solution. We began tracking bobcat deaths and collected reports of notoedric mange along an 18-mile stretch from Fremont Older to Edgewood Park.

In doing our research we learned that similar effects were being studied in Southern California and that commonly-available rat poisons could be linked to our bobcats' illnesses. When a

rodent eats the poison, it doesn't die immediately, instead it wanders around in a weakened state, easy prey for a bobcat, badger, fox, eagle, owl or even a household dog or cat, which also dies. Ironically, in the absence of these natural predators, the rodent population can explode. A healthy bobcat eats hundreds of rats and mice, among other prey during the course of a year and are essential to the balance of nature. Their presence has been a highlight of many Midpen preserves as well as local parks.

On March 18, the Department of Pesticide Regulation limited SGAR access to individuals with pest control licenses, effective July 1. It's possible that previously purchased rodent control products may still be in people's homes and businesses. If you have questions about these products, please visit www.epa.gov/pesticides/mice-and-rats.

Over the next two decades, we anticipate rapid population growth in Silicon Valley, and with that growth, Midpen's role safeguarding the balance between people and nature will become even more important.

Carson famously wrote, "We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost's familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road —

the one less traveled by — offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth."

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We're grateful to our volunteers who helped us identify and report sick bobcats, our staff whose deep concern and curiosity led us to the source of this rare illness, our partners who worked with us to conduct research and our preserve visitors who asked, "Where did the bobcats go?"

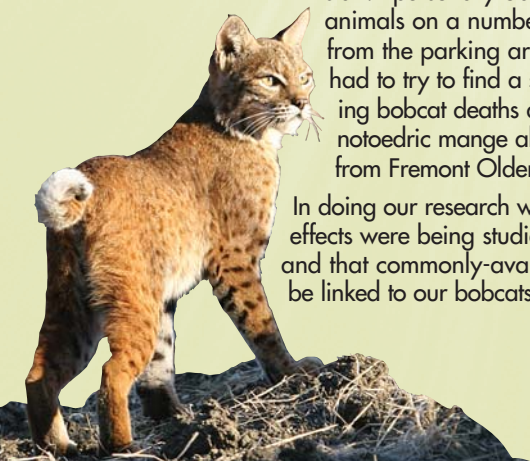
Today, we have a small population of bobcats in Rancho San Antonio, we invite you to keep an eye out for them and watch their numbers grow. You will most likely find them in meadows, doing what they do best, hunting rodents.



Stephen E. Abbors
General Manager



Rancho San Antonio 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 Board of Directors

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OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



SUMMER 2014
JUNE–JULY–AUGUST

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, 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?

An Eye for an i (iNaturalist)

What does it take to be a keen observer of the natural world? – start with patience, attention to detail, engaging the senses, enthusiasm, and curiosity. Add in a desire to learn and share the observations

made, and you have the essence of a naturalist. The last few years have seen an abundance of smart phone apps become available that make traditional field guides obsolete for some naturalists and scientists. iNaturalist is just one of many apps now available. Here in the Bay Area, iNaturalist is generating good buzz and connecting many organizations and institutions around the benefits of citizen science as well as the simple enjoyment of recording flora and fauna observations.

That's the vision behind iNaturalist.org. So if you like recording your findings from the outdoors, or if you just like learning about life, join us! www.inaturalist.org.

Nerds for Nature www.nerdsfornature.org is another relatively new Bay Area group "bringing together environmental professionals with technologists and designers, first in dialogue and then to collaboratively create awesome new tools to help people discover, protect, and understand the world around them". iNaturalist and Nerds for Nature are partnering along with many other organizations, agencies, and volunteers to develop a greater understanding of the region's biodiversity by gathering observational data and furthering the field of citizen science. These collaborative efforts are increasingly resulting in the occurrence of bioblitzes.



Greg Phillips, NPS

March 2014 Bioblitz-
Volunteers using
iNaturalist, Rancho
Corral de Tierra,
GGNRA

In 2008, several graduate students at UC Berkeley in the School of Information created iNaturalist.org as an interface of traditional observation tools and techniques with the "wired" world of technology and mobile apps. To quote from the iNaturalist website:

*iNaturalist is a place where you can **record** what you see in nature, **meet** other nature lovers, and **learn** about the natural world.*

From hikers to hunters, birders to beach-combers, the world is filled with naturalists, and many of us record what we find. What if all those observations could be shared online? You might discover someone who finds beautiful wildflowers at your favorite birding spot, or learn about the birds you see on the way to work. If enough people recorded their observations, it would be like a living record of life on Earth that scientists and land managers could use to monitor changes in biodiversity, and that anyone could use to learn more about nature.



Greg Phillips, NPS

March 2014 Bioblitz-Students and Scientists,
Rancho Corral de Tierra, GGNRA

Bioblitzes are events where scientists, naturalists, and members of the public come together in a defined location (park, preserve, neighborhood, etc.) to observe and record as many plant and animal species as

(continued on page 12)

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.

COAL CREEK

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

DANIELS NATURE CENTER

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

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 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.

EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK (continued)

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



Variable Checkerspot Butterfly on Golden Yarrow, Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area

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

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.

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.

SARATOGA GAP

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



Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

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.

THORNEWOOD

From I-280, 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

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.

Skyline Boulevard parking area: 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 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. 🌿

JUNE

Stop In and Explore

Sunday • June 1

Daniels Nature Center

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



A summer outing awaits you...bring family and friends to visit the Daniels Nature Center on Saturdays and Sundays this summer between 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm. You can enjoy an audio nature tour hike (listening devices are available to "check out"), view displays about natural communities and larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, 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). The living is easy – come and see!

Earthquake Walk

Sunday • June 1

Los Trancos

2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



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



Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

Explorer Hike: Late Bloomers at Edgewood

Wednesday • June 4

Edgewood County Park

10:30 am – 2:00 pm



Late rains may bring late flowers! Join docents Dennis Smith, Laura Levin, Lynn Jackson, and Kate Gudmundson as you search for late bloomers along several trails through varied habitats at this special San Mateo County Park and natural preserve.



Morning on the Mountain

Saturday • June 7

El Corte de Madera Creek

8:00 am – 11:00 am



Start your day with 3 miles of birdsong, butterflies, ferns, poetry, redwoods, and stunning steep slopes. Docents Karen DeMello and Jan Hintermeister will point out flora and fauna along the flat Sierra Morena Trail, down the wide Gordon Mill Trail, and up the narrow Steam Donkey Trail. Bring binoculars if you have them. You will meet the docents and begin your hike at the new Preserve parking area.

Three Habitat Dog Hike

Saturday • June 7

Windy Hill

10:00 am – 12:00 pm



The wet riparian, dry chaparral, and mixed evergreen forest habitats await you. Join docents Bob Segalla and Susan Bernhard 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 May 22.

Summer Nature Days 2014 Day Camp Adventures



Amazing fun for children entering grades 2 - 6

Adventures await you...

Discover bugs, birds, plants, creeks, and more through science, games, crafts, and other activities!

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

Participate all week or for a mini-week

(Monday-Wednesday, or Wednesday-Friday)

Monday July 21 @Picchetti Ranch Preserve, Tuesday July 22 @ Shoreline Park, Wednesday and Thursday July 23 and 24 @ McClellan Ranch Preserve Park, and Friday July 25 @ *Skyline Ridge Preserve (*transportation provided)

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

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



Hike to Black Mountain

Saturday • June 7

Monte Bello

10:00 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Martin Manley and Linda Smith on a moderately-paced, 7-mile hike to escape the valley heat and experience the interesting geology and plants of this beautiful Preserve. While hiking along the Canyon, Old Ranch, Bella Vista, and Stevens Creek Nature Trails you'll enjoy the following: a great view of the San Andreas Fault and discussing the effects it's had on the landscape; descending the shaded canyon next to Stevens Creek to see wildflowers and check out the California newt in its local habitat; and climbing to the summit of Black mountain for a fabulous view over a wide swath of the peninsula and take a lunch break at the top.



Jack Geschwind

Visitors to the Methuselah Tree, California Water Service Company land, near El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve

In the Glow of the Night

Saturday • June 7
Monte Bello
5:45 pm – 10:30 pm



Discover night's natural wonders with docents Debbi Brusco, Paul Billig, Katherine Greene, and Jack Owicki. You'll hike about 4.5 miles at a leisurely to moderate pace on the Canyon and Indian Creek Trails, with extended stops for interesting sights and sounds. Bring a flashlight with a red cellophane covering (if you have it), your meal, and plastic to sit on. Capable, attentive children 10 years and older are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 22.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
June 7 and 8
Daniels Nature Center
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 1.)

Waterwheel Downhill

Sunday • June 8
Monte Bello
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Join docents Dave Kocsis and Patty Lovelace for a high-intermediate, 18-mile mountain bike ride. This excursion will start at the beautiful Waterwheel Creek Trail and then ride most of the single-track and fire roads in the Preserve before riding out to Stevens Canyon Road and back to the meeting/carpool location. The route is mostly downhill (about a 2,200-foot descent), but riders will climb more than 1,700 feet along the way. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 22.**

Water Music and The Buddha

Sunday • June 8
Los Trancos
11:00 am – 2:00 pm



Docents Keith Johnsgård and Steve Brugler 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 creek side low halfway point for a rest and snacks with water music and visit the reclusive trailside Buddha on your ascending return trip.

Two Ponds, a Hill, and a Farm

Tuesday • June 10
Skyline Ridge-Russian Ridge
Meet: Skyline Ridge
10:00 am – 3:30 pm



Join docents Ed North and Kate Gudmundson for a hike in two preserves, exploring from Horseshoe Lake to Alpine Pond, through the Christmas tree farm in Skyline Ridge Preserve and on to sample Russian Ridge Preserve with a quick view of the Bay from Borel Hill. This is a fast-paced, 9.5-mile hike along the Ipiwa, Butano View, Sunny Jim, Fir Knoll, and Ridge Trails with about 1,200 feet of elevation gain.



Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

Sunrise Hike

Thursday • June 12
Pulgas Ridge
7:00 am – 9:15 am



Greet the sun and start your day with a hike! Docents Greg Hughes and Elaine Rossignol 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.

Fremont Older History Ride

Saturday • June 14
Fremont Older
9:30 am – 11:45 am



Docent Linda Wegner will introduce you to the history of the Preserve on an intermediate mountain bike ride that includes approximately 10-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.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
June 14 and 15
Daniels Nature Center
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 1.)

A Sense of Community

Tuesday • June 17
Pulgas Ridge
9:30 am – 12:30 pm



Join docents Lina Mesa and Liz Foreman to learn about a variety of plant communities. Enjoy mixed evergreen forest, grassland, chaparral, and riparian habitats along the Blue Oak, Dusky-footed Woodrat, and Cordilleras Creek Trails. This 4.5-mile hike will have a moderate pace with some hills to traverse (an 800-foot elevation gain) and uneven terrain in places.

Explorer Hike: New to Old

Wednesday • June 18
El Corte de Madera Creek
10:30 am – 2:00 pm



Join docents Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Dennis Smith and explore hiking possibilities from the new Preserve parking lot. You'll enjoy a new section of the Sierra Morena Trail and visit an old growth redwood on this 3-mile, moderately-paced hike.

Third Thursday Hike: Waterwheel Creek and Black Mountain

Thursday • June 19
Monte Bello
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Join docents Tommi and Strether Smith for a 5-mile, moderately-paced hike to Black Mountain along the Waterwheel Creek Trail. This Preserve normally puts on a beautiful display of early-summer wildflowers just waiting to be enjoyed and, on a clear day, you'll be able to see major landmarks in the South Bay. You may want to bring binoculars for the views and to sight soaring birds in action. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 5.**



Introductory Geocaching Family Hike

Saturday • June 21
Picchetti Ranch
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



This fun and interactive outing is great for families and children (who can hike for 3 miles). Join docents Bill Overall, Mike Bradshaw, 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. **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 5.

Summer Solstice Celebration Ride

Saturday • June 21
Fremont Older
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm



Celebrate the first day of summer with a 7-mile, moderately-paced ride through the hills of this Preserve with docents Dave Kocsis, Earl Girbovan, and Strether Smith. The ride is appropriate for riders who are comfortable with moderately-steep, single-track trails and enjoy 1,000 feet of climbing. Plan to come to the optional post-ride "recovery" session (no-host) at a local pizza parlor.

Summer Solstice – Night Hike

Saturday • June 21
Monte Bello
6:00 pm – 10:15 pm



Celebrate the end of the longest day of the year, the summer solstice, with docents Greg Hughes, Kay Rodrigues, and David Bergman on this 4-mile, moderately-paced hike. You'll find a spot on the ridge to enjoy the picnic you bring and the sunset. Shooting stars are also a possibility too on this night hike. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 5.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
June 21 and 22
Daniels Nature Center
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 1.)



Amy Stephenson

Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Learning the Landscape

Sunday • June 22
Monte Bello
10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Join docents Dave Kocsis and Judy Fenerty 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 forest 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 more than 2,000 feet of climbing.

Signs of Summer

Sunday • June 22
Pulgas Ridge
12:30 pm – 3:45 pm



Enjoy a summer hike with viewing of wildflowers, blooming bushes, and a variety of oak trees. Join docents Liz Foreman, Grace Yuan, and Johnny Zweig 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.



Lesley Obermeyer

Dragonfly,
Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Purisima in the Summer

Thursday • June 26
Purisima Creek Redwoods
10:00 am – 4:00 pm



Cool-hot-cool! This 7-mile, approximately 1,000-foot elevation gain hike with docents Sam Berry and Steve Brugler starts in the cooler shade of the redwoods along Purisima Creek and lower Craig Britton Trails, then opens into hot chaparral at the higher elevation. The return trip will take you down through the mixed evergreen forest of Harkin's Ridge Trail to the redwoods again. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 12.**

Birds and Butterflies

Friday • June 27
Windy Hill
Meet: Skyline Boulevard
parking lot
8:00 am – 10:30 am



This is a good time of year to see a variety of birds and butterflies. Docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel will take you on parts of the Anniversary, Spring Ridge, Hamm's Gulch and Lost Trails in the hope of seeing a few special species. Wouldn't it be nice if you could see a lazuli bunting, a house wren or warbling vireo? These birds and others have been found here in June in years past. Also possible to see are the common buckeye, variable checkerspot, and Mylitta crescent butterflies. Bring binoculars if you have them.



Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
June 28 and 29
Daniels Nature Center
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 1.)

Living with Lions

Sunday • June 29
Skyline Ridge
Meet: Russian Ridge
11:00 am – 2:00 pm



The primary focus of this educational outing is a luncheon lecture on a recent landmark analysis of 185 mountain lion attacks in America. You'll learn science-based guidelines for safe visits to lion country.

Docents Keith Johnsgård and Christina Fusco will lead an informative 1-mile natural history stroll in the Alpine Pond vicinity before lunch.

(Note: This activity is geared for adults and is not suitable for children.)

Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 12.



Amanda Sauer

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

JULY

Explorer Hike: Crazy Pete and the Shades of Coal Creek

Wednesday • July 2
Coal Creek
10:30 am – 2:00 pm



Weary of day after day of summer sunshine? Escape to east-facing forested slopes with docents Laura Levin, Lynn Jackson, and Kate Gudmundson. While covering 4 miles at a leisurely pace on Cloud's Rest Trail, Crazy Pete's and Coal Road, you'll enjoy stretches of leafy shade. You'll also explore the area's mysterious history, and ponder, "Who was Crazy Pete?"

Illustration above by Robert Moncrieff

Redwood Oxygen

Saturday • July 5
Purisima Creek Redwoods
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, Paul Billig, 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 June 19.**

Stop In and Explore

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



(Please see the activity description for June 1.)

Earthquake Walk

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



(Join docents Strether Smith and John Wertzler, and please see the activity description for June 1.)

Circumnavigate Windy Hill

Tuesday • July 8
Windy Hill
10:00 am – 3:30 pm



Join docent Ed North and Ranjana Sharma for a tour of this Preserve and to learn how it got its name. On this hike you'll climb the Razorback Ridge Trail, traverse to the northern end of the Preserve on the Lost Trail, and return on the Spring Ridge Trail. This vigorously-paced hike is about 9.5 miles with approximately 1,400 feet of elevation gain.

Sunrise Hike

Thursday • July 10
Pulgas Ridge
7:00 am – 9:15 am



(Join docents Greg Hughes and Steve Brugler, and please see the activity description for June 12).

Introductory Geocaching Family Hike

Saturday • July 12
Los Trancos
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



(Join docents Sarah Schoen, Steve Brugler, and REI guide Steve Wood, and please see the activity description for June 21.) (Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 26.

Moonlight Ramble

Saturday • July 12
Monte Bello
7:00 pm – 9:45 pm



Join docents Linda and Glenn Wegner, Earl Girbovan, and Patty Lovelace on this 5.5-mile hike to Black Mountain with approximately 1,500-feet of climbing. Bring water, a flashlight with a red cellophane cover (no headlamps please), and dress in layers for late evening chills. You'll enjoy beautiful vistas and the silent surroundings as the moon rises on this hike along fire roads and single track trails. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 26.**

Stop In and Explore

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



(Please see the activity description for June 1.)

Water Music and The Buddha

Sunday • July 13
Los Trancos
11:00 am – 2:00 pm



(Join docents Keith Johnsgård and Mary Brunkhorst and please see the activity description for June 8.)

Summer in the Watershed

Thursday • July 17
Picchetti Ranch
10:00 am – 12:00 noon



Join docents Kate Gudmundson, Laura Levin, and Greg Hughes for a leisurely-paced, 3-mile hike along the beautiful Zinfandel Trail. You'll peek into the toolboxes of the native plants and animals to see what they use to cope with the seasonally dry summer weather and periodic droughts.



Third Thursday Hike: Monte Bello

Thursday • July 17
Monte Bello
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



A variety of trails and natural communities will be the destination of this 5-mile, moderately-paced exploration of this spectacular Preserve led by docents Tommi and Strether Smith. Depending on temperature and participant interest, a route will be selected that features trails with great views or wonderful woodlands (or both!). Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy at a special stop.

Hike to Black Mountain

Saturday • July 19
Monte Bello
10:00 am – 2:30 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 7.)

Stop In and Explore

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



(Please see the activity description for June 1.)

Three Trees, a Rock, and a Shrub

Sunday • July 20
El Corte de Madera Creek
Meet: Skeggs Point
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Join docents Madeline Brane, Cathy Brown, and John Wertzler on this invigorating and enlightening hike through the beautiful and dense mixed evergreen forest of this Preserve. You'll do a deep dive on the dominant trees in the forest and visit an incredible geological feature that used to be off the coast of Los Angeles beneath the sea some 30 million years ago. Be prepared for warm summer weather and bring your lunch and a sit-upon. (Note: Restrooms are available at the main Preserve parking lot about 1-mile south of Skeggs Point).



Afternoon in the Redwoods

Thursday • July 24
Purisima Creek Redwoods
1:00 pm – 5:30 pm



Is it hot today? Come to the coast and spend a cool afternoon in the redwoods. The kids can search for and count banana slugs, and docents Sam Berry and Paul Billig will talk about various topics related to the Preserve and try to answer any questions you have. This leisurely-paced hike will cover about 5 miles along the Purisima Creek Trail.



Banana Slug, Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

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



(Please see the activity description for June 1.)

Summer Ride at ECdMC

Sunday • July 27
El Corte de Madera Creek
Meet: Skeggs Point
10:00 am – 3:00 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 14 miles with more than 2,500 feet of climbing. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 10.

Sunday Paleontology: A Walk and Talk

Sunday • July 27
Skyline Ridge
Meet: Russian Ridge
11:00 am – 2:00 pm



Docent Keith Johnsgård will lead this leisurely 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 amazing 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 July 10.

AUGUST

Hike to Black Mountain

Saturday • August 2
Monte Bello
10:00 am – 2:30 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 7.)

Three Habitat Dog Hike

Saturday • August 2
Thornewood
10:00 am – 12:00 pm



Riparian, redwood, and mixed evergreen forest habitats await you. Join docents Bob Segalla and Steve Brugler to explore this lesser-known and dog friendly Preserve. Enjoy an easy 1.5-mile, 200-foot elevation change round-trip walk to Schilling Lake 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 July 17.



Schilling Lake,
Thornewood Open Space Preserve



Daniels Nature Center,
Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Karl Gahl

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
August 2 and 3
Daniels Nature Center
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 1.)

Earthquake Walk

Sunday • August 3
Los Trancos
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



(Join docents Paul Billig and Collin Lim, and please see the activity description for June 1.)

Cool Forests and Beautiful Views

Tuesday • August 5
Monte Bello
10:00 am – 3:30 pm



Join docents Ed North and Kate Gudmundson for a brisk-paced, 10-mile hike through this beautiful Preserve, experiencing the cool forest of the Stevens Creek Trail and beautiful views from the top of Black Mountain and Bella Vista Trail.

Thornewood Before the Thorns

Friday • August 8
Thornewood
9:30 am – 12:30 pm



If you enjoy local history then you'll want to join docents Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel who will share stories about sawmills that operated at this Preserve in the 1840's and 1850's. You'll walk along the Schilling Lake and Bridle Trails passing by two redwood sawmill sites that were located on this property. You'll also enjoy a stop at Schilling Lake. Your docents will also tell the story of Dennis Martin for whom the creek at the bottom of the Bridle Trail is named.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
August 9 and 10
Daniels Nature Center
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 1.)

Banana Slug Redwood Ride

Sunday • August 10
Purissima Creek Redwoods
10:00 am – 2:00 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 July 24.**

California: Hola & Adios

Sunday • August 10
Los Trancos
11:00 am – 2:00 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. 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 July 24.**

Full Moonrise – Sunset Hike

Sunday • August 10
Monte Bello
6:00 pm – 10:15 pm



Join docents Greg Hughes and Paul Billig for a 4-mile hike up to Black Mountain to watch while the sun sets simultaneously with the full-moonrise and you enjoy the picnic dinner you have packed. You'll take note how the sights and sounds of the Preserve change from daylight to night. Dress in layers and bring a flashlight, with a red filter or cellophane covering. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 24.**

Sunrise Hike

Thursday • August 14
Pulgas Ridge
7:00 am – 9:15 am



(Join docents Greg Hughes and Kathryn Strachota, and please see the activity description for June 12).



Introductory Geocaching Family Hike

Saturday • August 16
Skyline Ridge
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



(Join docents Lyndall Erb, Collin Lim, and REI guide Steve Wood, and please see the activity description for June 21.) **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 31.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
August 16 and 17
Daniels Nature Center
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 1.)

A Sense of Community

Tuesday • August 19
Windy Hill
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Lina Mesa and Liz Farnsworth for a hike along the slopes of the lower Preserve. On this 4.5- to 5-mile leisurely hike, you'll learn about the natural history of this beautiful Preserve and the woodland, grassland, and riparian plant communities as you enjoy spotting some birds, and whatever else crosses your path along the Betsy Crowder, Hamms Gulch, Meadow, Spring Ridge, and Sausal Pond Trails. Come and breathe the fresh air!



Jack Geschel

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

An Eye for an i (iNaturalist)

possible – usually within a set time period, often 24 hours. The iNaturalist app is the most frequently used data collection tool found at Bay Area bioblitzes.

Last year a bioblitz occurred on a Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) property with District staff and consulting scientists. The value of the engaged and shared discovery was an exciting way for the District to add to its knowledge of the area's natural resources. The District's first foray into bioblitzing was a success, and established the interest in holding future bioblitzes on District lands and involving the community. In an effort to learn more about how to hold a citizen science bioblitz a handful of District staff, and some District docents and volunteers participated in the Golden Gate National Parks

Bioblitz co-sponsored with National Geographic in March. Amazing scientists, eager students, dedicated staff, and resilient volunteers pulled together to make 10,734 observations, and recorded over 2,300 species in a 2-day time frame on numerous national park properties in the San Francisco area and on the San Mateo Coast. WOW!!

Here's your charge: ready yourself to be a "blitzer" for a future District sponsored event – try out iNaturalist when you hike on the preserves, check out Nerds for Nature to find other local bioblitzes to hone your skills, and then stay in touch for an upcoming District bioblitz "call to apps!" 🌿



Greg Phillips, NPS

Bioblitz 2014-National Park Service (NPS) Ranger and Students, Rancho Corral de Tierra, GGNRA

Explorer Hike: Seeking the Shade

Wednesday • August 20
Purissima Creek Redwoods
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Enjoy a leisurely hike on the coastal side of the Santa Cruz Mountains with docents Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, and Laura Levin. You'll walk among the redwoods along the Purissima Creek Trail and have the chance to enjoy some shaded relief from the summer sun. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 6.**

Third Thursday Hike: Saratoga Gap

Thursday • August 21
Saratoga Gap
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Shady woodlands, spectacular views, and the telling of a dubious legend will be the high points of this summer excursion with docents Tommi and Strether Smith. The 4.5-mile hike will explore the Saratoga Gap and Achistaca Trails loop with a short detour to Turtle Rock for the views, the legend, and lunch.

Montebello Hill Ride

Saturday • August 23
Monte Bello
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
9:15 am – 12:45 pm



Join docent Linda Wegner to ride 5 miles up the mainly paved Montebello Road and then onto fire roads and the single-track Bella Vista and White Oaks Trails before heading back down via the Stevens Canyon Trail. Experience with longer rides and single-track trails required. This advanced ride covers 22 miles with approximately 2,000 feet of climbing.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
August 23 and 24
Daniels Nature Center
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 1.)

Before School Starts

Sunday • August 24
Skyline Ridge
Meet: Russian Ridge
11:00 am – 2:00 pm



Docents Keith Johnsgård, Grace Yuan, and Johnny Zweig invite you to bring the kids for a relaxed end-of-summer family outing. After a leisurely 1-mile natural history stroll in the Alpine Pond vicinity you'll visit the Daniels Nature Center where there are all sorts of interesting things for kids and adults to see and touch, plus a floating dock. Enjoy your pond-side picnic before returning to the world of concrete.

Purissima in the Summer

Thursday • August 28
Purissima Creek Redwoods
10:00 am – 4:00 pm



(Join docents Sam Berry, Susan Peterson, and Noa Doitel, and please see the activity description for June 26.) **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 14.**



Jack Geschmidt

Daniels Nature Center,
Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
August 30 and 31
Daniels Nature Center
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for June 1.) 🌿



FIFTH ANNUAL PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



New Media — Michael Housewright
"Sunset Color Spectrum"
 Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

We received numerous beautiful photos from preserve visitors and these "took the cake". Please join us in congratulating the following winners. View the winning photos, along with honorable mentions, in their full splendid glory at: www.openspace.org/contest.



Landscapes — Charles Tu
"Autumn"
 Long Ridge Open Space Preserve



Wildlife — Stacey Ryder
"Twin fawns in the Forest"
 Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve



Plant Life — Joe Petolino
"Ancient Oak"
 Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve



People — Kenny Chen
"Happy Jumps"
 Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Grand Opening of New Parking Area and Trail



The March Grand Opening event celebrated the new **El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve** parking area and trail. Board members Larry Hassett, Jed Cyr, Pete Siemens, and Curt Riffle along with General Manager Steve Abbors, welcomed special guests and partners to help celebrate yet another District public access success! Special guests included Assemblymember Rich Gordon, San Mateo County Supervisor Don Horsley, Fred Keeley from the Sempervirens Fund, Bern Smith from the Bay Area Ridge Trail, Deborah Hirst from the California Coastal Conservancy and Cory Wolbach, Staff from Senator Jerry Hill's office.

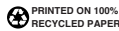


Board Member Larry Hassett thanks Supervising Ranger Dennis Danielson, who after 35 years of dedicated service, celebrated his last day before retirement at this momentous event.



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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Web site: 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 | Twitter: @mrosd
Like Us on Facebook | Watch us on YouTube

*Photo on front, Purisima Creek Redwoods
Open Space Preserve by Karl Gohl*

Note: The District is subject to the Public Records Act, which requires
all public records, including newsletter mailing lists, to be subject to
inspection and copying by the public, unless a legal exemption exists.

Cattle Grazing at the Red Barn

Belted Galloway cattle began grazing 2,060 acres at the Red Barn (also known
as the McDonald Ranch) this April. It has been more than 15 years since there
has been grazing at this part of La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.

Did you know?

Carefully managed cattle grazing helps reduce fire risk, controls growth of non-native
grasses, and increases the diversity of habitats available to wildlife species. 🌿



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT



Measure AA Access, Preservation and Restoration Bond June 3, 2014 Ballot

BOND MEASURE: To meet the growing demands of our public to expand and enhance their
regional trail and open space areas, the Midpeninsula Board of Directors voted to place a general
obligation bond on the June 3, 2014 ballot.

HIGHLIGHTS: Improve access to hiking, biking and equestrian opportunities, protect and preserve
redwood forests, natural open spaces, the scenic beauty of our region and coastline, critical wildlife habitat,
restore creeks to protect water quality, and reduce forest fire risk.

FUNDS: Up to \$300 million in bonds; additional tax rate not to exceed \$3.18 per \$100,000 of
assessed property value; expenditures verified by independent citizen oversight committee.

LEARN MORE: Info and complete project list at www.openspace.org/MeasureAA