



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

VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • WINTER 2014-2015



MEASURE AA



Roadmap to the Future of Open Space

On Wednesday, October 29, the Board of Directors discussed and approved the initial 5-year implementation plan for Measure AA projects prioritized using the criteria adopted by the Board on September 10. Over 50 public access, restoration and land conservation projects are on the list. This meeting was held in the District Administrative Office in Los Altos and was well attended despite taking place during game 7 of the World Series.

During this transition year 2014-15, Midpen is focused on preparing for the first bond issue and implementing Measure AA projects that are already underway as part of the current fiscal year action plan. As staff prepares the Measure AA implementation schedule, we will continue to share the information via our newsletter and website: www.openspace.org/MeasureAA

Midpen is already working on a number of Measure AA projects as part of the current fiscal year work plan. These capital projects include: public access to Mt. Umunhum at Sierra Azul and new trail connections, such as Ancient Oaks Trail in Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve and the Bay Trail gap between East Palo Alto and Menlo Park. 🌿



Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Matthew Moritz

Annual Digital Photo Contest
See page 14 for more information.



William Siddle

FIELD NOTES



Crew Making Progress on Trail Construction

Coming Soon! – Trail to Mount Umunhum Summit

For years, residents have envisioned a trail allowing people to hike, ride bikes or horses, to the top of the peak, which at a 3,486-foot elevation will offer sweeping views of the valley below. This dream is coming to fruition as Midpen crews are making remarkable progress on construction of the 4-mile trail that will become part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

(continued on page 13)

Bald Mountain Parking Lot
Now Open—see page 13

“Take a Second Look”

I’ve had a lifelong fascination with butterflies that began when I was two, on the day my father had me watch an Anise Swallowtail emerge from a chrysalis. So I’ve studied butterflies over the years and have developed a good working knowledge of them. But something happened this summer that reminded me that there is always something new and interesting to learn about nature.

For years, I’ve observed butterflies in my yards and gardens and invariably they included the Cabbage Butterfly (*Pieris rapae*), an introduced “white” butterfly that often visits home gardens and which can be a pest of cabbage and related garden vegetables. I live near open space and over the decades I’ve seen white butterflies in the open grassland at various times of the year and just assumed they were cabbage butterflies from nearby gardens checking out the wild mustard – a relative of cabbage.

Recently, I have been poring over a variety of “Lepidoptera” field guides to study the finer points of this interesting taxon and to broaden knowledge of them in general to make my afternoon hikes more interesting. At one point, I noted that the flight of cabbage butterflies was described as “floating and fluttery”. An apt description I thought. Then, late in this past summer, I began seeing the white butterflies in the open grassland again and it occurred to me that their flight was anything but “floating and fluttery”, but rather was “quick and erratic”. So now I really got interested and dove back into my field guides. As I read, I discovered that there are three or more species of “white” butterflies in our area, but only one, other than the Cabbage White, that might be seen in grassland in late summer and that species was the Checkered White, (*Pontia protodice*). I looked at many photos of these two species and it was clear that the Checkered White had more dark markings and no solid yellow was on the wings. Since I cannot collect in open space preserves, I brought along my binoculars to try to make the identification. This wasn’t easy, but as I tried

to focus on the erratic flight the few individuals I’d see each day, I thought I saw dark markings on the wings. I had to know the answer.

Cabbage White Butterfly



With great excitement, I went into the field with my camera and 300mm lens to try to get a digital image. Photographing them on the wing was very frustrating, but I didn’t give up.

As one flew up next to me out of the trailside weeds, I kept my eyes on it and saw that it disappeared into the tall, dry grass 100 yards away. I approached the area where it had disappeared; carefully watching for rattlesnakes with each step, and to my surprise, there it was, partially hidden in grass with its wings folded. I immediately began taking digital photos, and could see from those photos that it was indeed, the Checkered White. A new discovery! After it flew away, I walked along and began to notice occasional white spots in the tall grass. As I approached, each spot became a resting Checkered White and so now one more of nature’s delightful mysteries was revealed to me.

My walks in the grassland will never be the same and I hope that those of you who read this think about your experience when you visit the preserves and consider how important it is to share these experiences with your children. For a child, such experiences are, more often than not, brand new, and so the journey of discovery is constant. For me, the discovery of a species that I had misidentified for years was a delightful reminder to be open to the unexpected discovery and take a second look.

Stephen E. Abbors
Stephen E. Abbors
General Manager



Checkered White Butterfly



Checkered White Butterfly

Stephen Abbors

Stephen Abbors

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors

Pete Siemens—Ward 1 (Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga) | **Yoriko Kishimoto—Ward 2** (Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto, Stanford, Sunnyvale)
Jed Cyr—Ward 3 (Sunnyvale) | **Curt Riffle—Ward 4** (Los Altos, Mountain View) | **Nonette G. Hanko—Ward 5** (East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Stanford)
Larry Hassett—Ward 6 (Atherton, Menlo Park, Pescadero, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Gregorio, Woodside)
Cecily Harris—Ward 7 (El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, Redwood City, San Carlos, Woodside)

Stephen E. Abbors—General Manager | **Peggy Koenig—Open Space Views Editor** | **Renée Fitzsimons—Outdoor Activities Editor (OA)** | **Jennifer Williams—OA Coordinator**

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



Winter 2014-2015
December 2014
January–February 2015

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

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

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

SPECIAL NOTE

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



Purisima Creek Redwoods
Open Space Preserve

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

www.openspace.org

WHERE TO MEET

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

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

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

EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK

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

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

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

Peters Creek Trailhead: Meet at 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).

LONG RIDGE (continued)

Hickory Oaks trailhead: The trailhead pullout is 5.1 miles south of Page Mill Road or 1.3 miles north of Highway 9 on the west side of Skyline Boulevard.



Russian Ridge 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.

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

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

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

RUSSIAN RIDGE

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

SARATOGA GAP

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

SIERRA AZUL

Meet at the Jaques 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

Northside Lot – Free Limited Parking: 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: "Northside Lot – Free Unlimited Parking." 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.

ST. JOSEPH'S HILL (continued)

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

STEVENS CREEK SHORELINE

Meet in the "Kite Area" parking lot at Shoreline-at-Mountain View Park.

From Highway 101, take Shoreline Boulevard east to the Shoreline Park entrance. After passing the entrance kiosk, turn right into the parking lot.

**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 a 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 Londa, take Highway 84/La Honda Road north 1.9 miles and turn right at the brick wall marked 895-897. 🌿

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.

DECEMBER

Explorer Hike: Wintertime Traditions

Wednesday • December 3

Long Ridge-Skyline Ridge

Meet: Long Ridge/Peters Creek trailhead

10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Enjoy a leisurely, leg stretching 4.8-mile hike with docents Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Dennis Smith. You'll follow the Chestnut Trail along the ridge from Long Ridge Preserve to Skyline Ridge Preserve on this out and back trek. See chestnut trees and evergreen trees and hear how these lovely trees have brought cheer to many a cold winter's day.

Trees for all Reasons and Seasons

Saturday • December 6

Skyline Ridge

Meet: Equestrian parking lot

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Vivian Neou and Kim Borick, and District resource management staff Cindy Roessler to discover the life of cultivated trees grown as Christmas trees and learn about the restoration efforts needed to reclaim land no longer used for tree production. The Preserve's unique setting of active tree farm adjacent to a restoration project provides a wonderful opportunity to learn, and get in the holiday spirit. This 3- to 4-mile hike will be leisurely and include a loop around Horseshoe Lake. Optional: harvest your own holiday tree after the hike concludes.

Bear Creek Redwoods History Hike

Sunday • December 7

Bear Creek Redwoods

Meet: See text below

10:00 am – 12:00 noon



Step back in time and explore the history of this Preserve. Docents Jenny Whitman and Lyndall Erb will take you on a 2-mile hike around the former Alma College campus and surrounding area. You'll hear stories and see an amazing collection of photographs and maps dating back to the 1880's of the three lavish estates that once graced the property. Among the photographs are pictures of the campus when it was being used as a finishing school for Jesuit Priests. (Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead. Directions will be mailed.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after November 20.

New Shoots, Fungi, and Berries

Sunday • December 7

Long Ridge

Meet: Peters Creek trailhead

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



The route for this 4.5-mile loop hike with docents Chris Macintosh and Susan Bernhard will be somewhat weather dependent. Who knows what highlights will be seen along the trail? You'll hike out on Peters Creek Trail, past Jikoji Pond, and take in sweeping views at Stegner's Bench on the Long Ridge Trail. This hike hopes to find California native plants poised for new growth in anticipation of a cool wet winter. You'll look for signs of seasonal change in new shoots, berries and fungi.

Earthquake Walk

Sunday • December 7

Los Trancos

2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



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

Workout at ECdMC

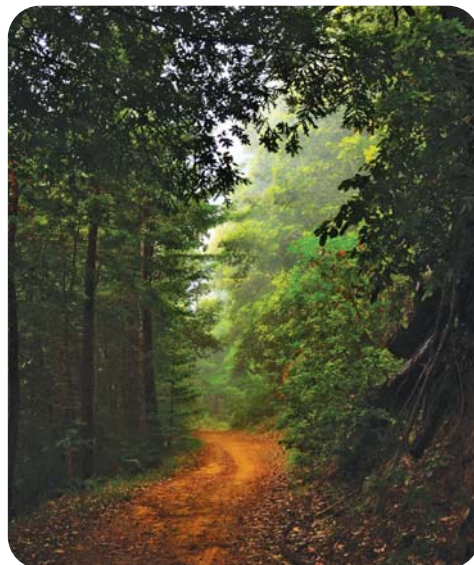
Tuesday • December 9

El Corte de Madera Creek

10:00 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan, Bruce Hartsough, Dick Opsahl, and Vivian Neou to explore this beautiful and heavily-forested Preserve along the Gordon Mill, Timberview, Giant Salamander, and Fir Trails. After visiting an old-growth redwood tree and a 30%-50% grade climb along the Fir Trail, you'll enjoy lunch at a scenic spot with a picnic table. This is a fast-paced, 8-mile workout with 2,000 feet of elevation gain.



El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • December 10

Rancho San Antonio

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



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

Sunrise Hike

Thursday • December 11

Pulgas Ridge

7:00 am – 9:15 am



Greet the sun and start your day with a hike! Docents Greg Hughes and Padma Satish 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.

Winter Fungus Walk

Saturday • December 13

Skyline Ridge

Meet: Russian Ridge

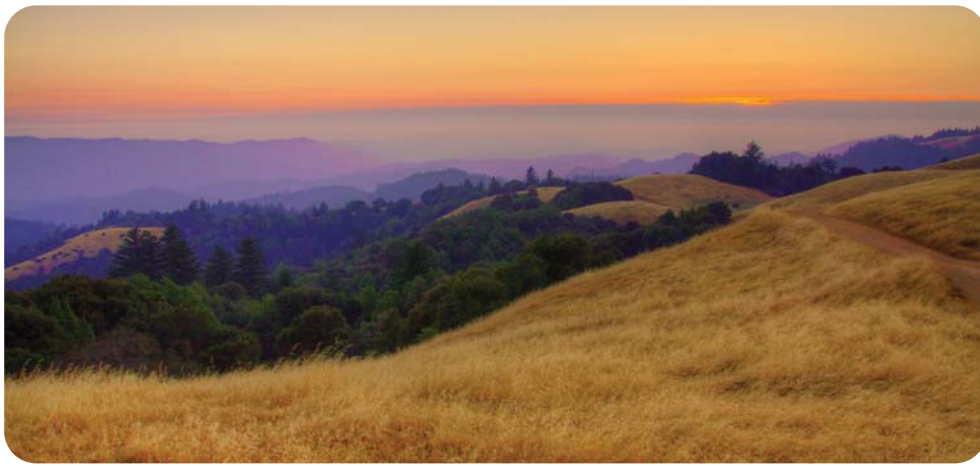
9:45 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Steve Warner and Steve Brugler to follow various trails at select preserves this season and discover winter fungus along the way. Discussion on these

5-mile hikes will include all aspects of the importance of fungus in a healthy ecosystem. Docent Steve will share his prepared/collected mushrooms for additional learning and to provide examples of some of the different kinds of spore delivery systems. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after November 20.**

Chow Hong Liu



Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Introductory Geocaching for Families

Saturday • December 13
Los Trancos
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



This fun and interactive outing is great for families and children (who can hike for 2-to 3-miles). Join docents Lyndall Erb and Debbie Mytels, and REI Outdoor School instructor Steve Wood to search for geocaches (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 November 20.



Fleas Navidad Dog Hike

Sunday • December 14
Pulgas Ridge
9:00 am – 11:00 am



Let's compare tails! Bring your human companions on a moderately-paced, 3-mile hike where you'll enjoy smells along the Blue Oak, Hassler, and Polly Geraci Trails as docents Ann Reisenauer and Patty Lovelace describe the natural surroundings. All owners 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 November 20.

Historical Skyline Ridge

Sunday • December 14
Skyline Ridge
Meet: Russian Ridge
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Take a break from shopping and take a walk to Horseshoe Lake for lunch with docents Ed Lange, Kay Rodrigues, and Farhana Kazi. You'll discuss the area's significant history – from Native Americans to Governors to Open Space – on this 6-mile, moderately-paced winter outing along the Ipiwa and Sunny Jim Trails.



Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Explorer Hike: Holiday Turkey Trot

Wednesday • December 17
Rancho San Antonio
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Kate Gudmundson to search for a wild turkey. You'll enjoy late fall as you traverse woodlands, chaparral, and meadows on this moderately strenuous 5-to 6-mile hike along the Lower Meadow, Rogue Valley, High Meadow, and Coyote Trails with a break for lunch at a lovely vista point. **(Note: Arrive early to find parking.)**

Winter Fungus Walk

Saturday • December 20
Purisima Creek Redwoods
Meet: See text below
9:45 am – 1:00 pm



(Join docents Steve Warner, Debbie Mytels, and Bruce Hartsough and please see the activity description for December 13.) **(Note: Participants will carpool to a trailhead. Directions will be mailed)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after December 4.



Tour de Open Space

Sunday • December 21
Skyline Ridge–Russian Ridge–
Coal Creek–Monte Bello
Meet: Skyline Ridge
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Join docents Patty Lovelace, Dave Kocsis, and Collin Lim for a ride encompassing a four preserve circuit of Skyline Ridge, Russian Ridge, Coal Creek, and Monte Bello Open Space Preserves. Get a taste of what each of the preserves has to offer while meandering up and down along trails (approximately 2,000 feet of total climbing; depending on the group's wishes) through all. The ride will be a high-intermediate ride about 12 miles total distance on fire roads and single track trails, with a small bit of pavement riding. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after December 4.**

Solstice Evening at Turtle Rock

Sunday • December 21
Long Ridge
Meet: Hickory Oaks trailhead
4:00 pm – 5:30 pm



Sunset on the winter solstice often produces a spectacular display of clouds and a shadow pattern on Turtle Rock that is the basis of a dubious human creation legend. Join docents Tommi and Strether Smith, Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Earl Girbovan for a 3-mile hike that will arrive at Turtle Rock in time for the sundown show and a discussion of the legend. **(Note: Parking is limited.)**

Under the Fir Trees

Monday • December 29
El Corte de Madera Creek
Meet: Skeggs Point
9:30 am – 12:30 pm



Explore the 50-foot high tafoni sandstone formation and tree-lined trails of this Preserve with docents Liz Foreman and Huey-Shin Yuan. On this moderately-paced, 6-mile hike you'll travel the Fir and Resolution Trails, and make a side trip to the Tafoni Trail. You'll walk along shaded trails much of the time and enjoy viewing a variety of trees.

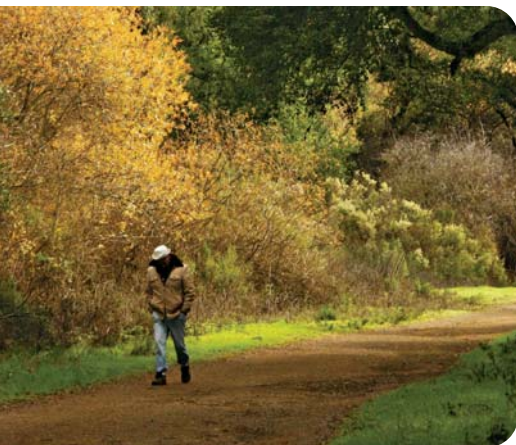
JANUARY

Earthquake Walk

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



(Join docents Paul Billig and June Cancell, and please see the activity description for December 7.)



Karl Gohl

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Discover the Interior

Wednesday • January 7
Rancho San Antonio
10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Join Docents Ed North and Huey-Shin Yuan for a journey into the interior of this Preserve. You'll ascend the Coyote and Wildcat Trails into Wildcat Canyon and to the Upper High Meadow Trail for a brief glimpse of the Bay. You'll descend the Upper Rogue Valley Trail and then climb back up the Wildcat Loop Trail for a view of the Santa Clara Valley. You'll return via the High and Lower Meadow Trails. This fast paced hike is about 9 miles and you'll climb about 1,600 feet. **(Note: Arrive early to find parking.)**



Bryan Mureshi

Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature Study Area

Explorer Hike: Big Berry Blooms

Wednesday • January 7
St. Joseph's Hill
Meet: Northside Lot – Free Limited Parking
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



You may know the big berries on the big berry manzanita, but have you ever seen the plant in bloom? You'll search for the manzanita's blossoms and other early-blooming wildflowers with docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Kate Gudmundson. You'll enjoy the chaparral, meadows, and vistas of this Preserve on a leisurely-paced, 3-mile hike with a break for lunch. **(Note: Participants will carpool to trailhead.)**

Sunrise Hike

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



(Please see the activity description for December 11.)

Explorations in Fungi

Saturday • January 10
Purissima Creek Redwoods
Meet: Whittemore Gulch entrance/
North Ridge parking lot
9:00 am – 4:00 pm



Will it rain enough for fungi this winter? Join docents Chris MacIntosh and Lynn Jackson on this 7-mile hike along North Ridge, Whittemore Gulch, and Harkins Ridge Trails to find out. You'll walk through several different habitat types to look for different fungi in each, and explore the variety of forms, colors and function of fungi. Attentive, capable children are welcome on this strenuous 1,200-foot elevation gain hike.

'Shorebirding' by the Bay

Saturday • January 10
Stevens Creek Shoreline Nature
Study Area
10:00 am – 1:30 pm



Walking in early winter alongside Crittenden Marsh and several former salt ponds next to the Bay, you can expect to see flocks of shorebirds, gulls, and ducks, and among them maybe some less common species. Bring binoculars if you have them on this 3-mile walk. Docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi will bring a spotting scope for your enjoyment and will help you learn to identify some of the "look-alike" bird species. Beginning birders are welcome.

Search for the Everlasting

Saturday • January 10
Picchetti Ranch
10:30 am – 3:30 pm



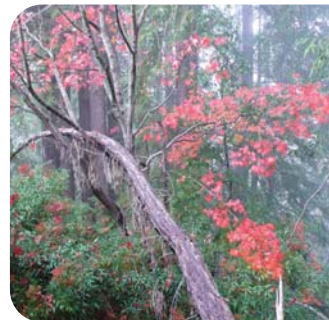
Join docents Bob Segalla and Greg Azevedo to enjoy the excitement of this Preserve so close to home and discover whether the everlasting plant smells like maple syrup to you. A lovely view awaits you along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails, and you'll listen to the sounds of Stevens Creek as you 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.

Bear Creek Redwoods History Hike

Sunday • January 11
Bear Creek Redwoods
Meet: See text below
10:00 am – 12:00 noon



(Please see the activity description for December 7.) **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead. Directions will be mailed.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after December 18.**



Bear Creek Redwoods
Open Space Preserve

The Anza Expedition of 1775

Sunday • January 11
Skyline Ridge
Meet: Russian Ridge
11:00 am – 3:00 pm



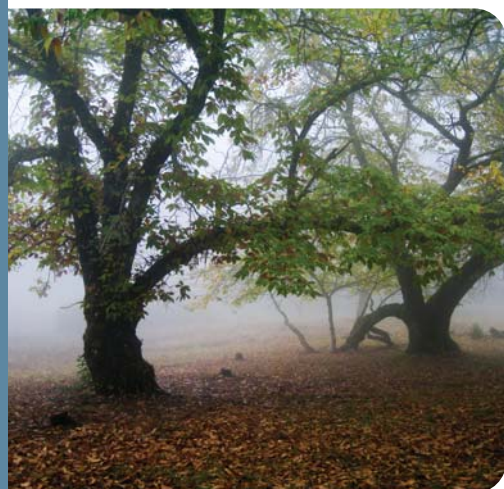
You'll walk approximately 5-miles along various trails at this Preserve with docents Ed Lang and Kandis Scott and discuss the Anza Expedition of 1775. The history and intention of the expedition, as well as local Native American culture, and changes to the natural community will be explored.

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • January 14
Saratoga Gap
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for December 10.)



Maurice Hamilton

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Third Thursday: Fremont Older

Thursday • January 15
Fremont Older
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Join docents Tommi and Strether Smith on this 5-mile exploration of the history and trails of this beautiful Preserve. You'll pass by historic "Woodhills", the former home of Fremont Older, and discuss its history, including the builders and restorers, on your way to several of the most spectacular viewpoints overlooking the Santa Clara Valley. Bring a lunch to enjoy at one of the great vistas.



Craig Kuziel

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

Umunhum Barlow Explorer

Saturday • January 17
Sierra Azul
8:30 am – 12:30 pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo, David Schwaderer, and Huey-Shin Yuan for an uncommon, strenuous at times, hike around Mt. Umunhum via Barlow and Woods Roads. You'll begin hiking along Mt. Umunhum Road near Bald Mountain trailhead and continue to Barlow Road to hike back to the Jacques Ridge parking lot. This strenuous 5-mile hike includes trails that are quite steep in places and surfaces can be difficult and varied. The hike will include many breaks where you'll enjoy wonderful views of the valley and hills and also look upward at the Mt. Umunhum peak. (Note: participants will carpool to the trailhead.)



Brian Bucher

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

Thinking About Trees

Saturday • January 17
Picchetti Ranch
10:00 am – 12:00 noon



Walking along the gentle Zinfandel Trail among bay laurel, coast live oak, madrone, valley oak, and numerous plants of the woodland and chaparral, you'll experience the many benefits of trees and learn more about the ways trees communicate with you and one another. Docents Maureen Draper, Johnny Zweig and Grace Yuan will lead you on this easy 2-mile hike.

Long Ridge Secrets - Eagle Rock

Sunday • January 18
Long Ridge
Meet: Peter's Creek trailhead
9:00 am – 12:00 noon



Join docents David Schwaderer and Bruce Hartsough to visit one of the Bay Area's best kept secrets on this 5-mile, moderately-paced hike. Nestled away from heavily-traveled trails, Eagle Rock is known to rock climbers but little visited. Enjoy wonderful views from the Santa Cruz Mountains ridgeline where, on clear days, you might see ships at sea. Hiking boots are recommended for a few scrambles and approximate 700-foot total elevation gain.

Introductory Geocaching for Families

Sunday • January 18
Picchetti Ranch
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



(Join docents Bill Overall and Paul Billig, and REI Outdoor School instructor Steve Wood and please see the activity description for December 13.) **NOTE: This activity includes some off trail hiking; long pants are recommended. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after January 1.**

Explorer Hike: Floral Harbingers of Spring

Wednesday • January 21
Thornewood
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Eager for spring? Search for early spring wildflowers of chaparral and forest with docents Laura Levin, Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, and Dennis Smith. Along the Shilling Lake and Bridle Trails, it's down and up, out and back for 3 to 4 miles at a leisurely pace. After lunching in redwood shade, you'll enjoy exploring an adjacent hillside for the ephemeral fetid adder's tongue. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after January 7.** (Note: Parking is limited.)



Rob Cheney

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Climate Change in the Winter Landscape

Saturday • January 24
Skyline Ridge
Meet: Russian Ridge
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Can you see signs of climate change in the winter landscape? Join docents Julie Amato, Vivian Neou, and Bruce Hartsough to explore how the climate is changing and how local plants and animals are responding to these changes. You'll enjoy a 4- to 5-mile walk on the Ipiwa and Sunny Jim Trails as you discuss the local effects of climate change and what you can do in response.

Three Trees, a Rock, and a Shrub

Sunday • January 25
El Corte de Madera Creek
Meet: Skeggs Point
10:00 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Cathy Brown and John Wertzler on this invigorating and enlightening 5-mile hike through the beautifully dense mixed evergreen forest of El Corte de Madera Creek. You'll do a deep dive into the dominant trees in the forest and visit an incredible geological structure that used to be off the coast of Los Angeles beneath the sea some 30-million years ago. Be prepared for damp, cool weather and bring your lunch and a sit-upon.

Nature's Garden in Winter

Tuesday • January 27
Monte Bello
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Docents Vivian Neou, Bruce Hartsough, and Debbie Mytels will lead this leisurely 3- to 4- mile hike along the White Oak and Stevens Creek Nature Trails as you look at nature's garden in winter. You'll look to see what's flowering as well as sleeping and discuss how various plants can fit into your own garden.

FEBRUARY

Earthquake Walk

Sunday • February 1
Los Trancos
2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



(Join docents John Wertzler, Kathryn Strachota, and Huey-Shin Yuan, and please see the activity description for December 7.)

Explorer Hike: Lost and Found

Wednesday • February 4
Los Trancos
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin as you explore the oak woodland and grasslands of this Preserve. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the winter season along the Franciscan, Lost Creek, and Page Mill Trails at a moderate pace, and cover 4 miles.



Karl Gohl

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Search for the Dusky-footed Woodrat and Friends

Saturday • February 7
Pulgas Ridge
4:00 pm – 8:00 pm



Join docents Vivian Neou, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Padma Satish on a search for the dusky-footed woodrat under the full moon. On this 4.5- mile hike, you'll traverse the Preserve on the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails as you look for signs of the dusky-footed woodrat and other creatures of the night. There will be a stop to enjoy your packed meal and take in the views. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after January 22.**

Finding Fungi, Flora, and Fauna

Saturday • February 7
Monte Bello
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Search together for fungi and other interesting winter sightings with docents Chris MacIntosh and Susan Bernhard on this 4-mile, moderately-paced hike along a route that will be determined by current weather and trail conditions. Come along with your curiosity open to discover whatever turns up along the way!



Renee Fitzsimons

Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

Happy Birthday John Steinbeck

Sunday • February 8
Skyline Ridge
Meet: Russian Ridge
11:00 am – 2:00 pm



Celebrate John Steinbeck's upcoming 112th birthday with a moderately-paced, 4-mile walk around Alpine Pond and along the Ipiwa and Sunny Jim Trails. Enjoy a discussion of Steinbeck's "Tortilla Flat" with docents Ed Lange and Gerri Tiernan that will include the concepts and meaning of the novel interspersed with area natural history.

Under the Redwoods

Sunday • February 8
Purisima Creek Redwoods
Meet: Redwood Trail entrance
12:30 pm – 5:00 pm



Enjoy hiking down and then back up the old redwood tree logging roads with docents Liz Foreman and Huey-Shin Yuan. The hike provides scenic views of redwoods along the Harkins Ridge Trail and lovely ferns and a creek alongside the Whittmore Gulch Trail. This is a moderately-paced, 7-mile hike with uneven terrain, and steep inclines on the return route.

Explorations in Fungi

Sunday • February 8
Purisima Creek Redwoods
Meet: Whittmore Gulch entrance/
North Ridge parking lot
9:00 am – 4:00 pm



Join docents Chris MacIntosh, Paul Billig, and Cathy Brown, and please see the activity description for January 10.)

Early Bird Slow Ride

Sunday • February 8
Monte Bello
9:30 am – 12:00 noon



Be an early bird and join docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Kocsis for a slower paced ride at this Preserve. This 7-mile ride is an intermediate level ride due to climbing and single track trails, but will be paced to suit those who like to enjoy nature while cycling, or who prefer the slower pace. You'll climb Black Mountain, do the Waterwheel Creek Trail loop, and perhaps (depending on rider preferences and trail availability) ride on to White Oak Trail to climb out. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after January 22.**

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • February 11
St. Joseph's Hill
Meet: Little League Parking Lot
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for December 10.)

Sunrise Hike

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



(Join docents Greg Hughes and Padma Satish and please see the activity description for December 11.)

Redwood Oxygen

Saturday • February 14
Purisima Creek Redwoods
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance
10:30 am – 3:30 pm



Find out why there is love in the redwoods this Valentine's Day! ... you'll be breathing some of the cleanest air in the world with docents Bob Segalla 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 January 29.**



Introductory Geocaching for Families

Sunday • February 15
Skyline Ridge
Meet: Russian Ridge
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



(Join docents Lyndall Erb and Jenny Whitman, and REI Outdoor School instructor Steve Wood and please see the activity description for December 13.)

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

Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after January 29.



Photo by Jack Owicki

Discovering What's Special

Monday • February 16
Long Ridge
Meet: Peters Creek trailhead
10:00 am – 1:30 pm



Did you know that this Preserve is one of only four where wild ginger grows and one of three where red alder can be found? Along the trail California newt and turret spider holes are likely sightings and the view at the top of the Peters Creek Trail is unsurpassed in quiet beauty. The open meadow may have hunting kestrels in search of voles. This is a 4.5-mile hike on the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails with a stop for lunch near the Wallace Stegner bench. Docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi will reflect on Stegner's life and his vision for open spaces. Capable children over 5 years old are welcome on this moderate hike.



Jon Morin

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Richard Kumoiishi



Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

Explorer Hike: Winter in the Forest

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



Join docents Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, Laura Levin, and Dennis Smith as you explore trails from the new parking lot. The route will be determined based on prevailing trail and weather conditions. Be an explorer and join us on a moderate 3- to 4-mile hike!

Where's the Water?

Wednesday • February 18
Fremont Older
10:00 am – 3:30 pm



Join Docents Ed North and Huey-Shin Yuan for a tour of this Preserve including a close look at Stevens Creek Reservoir – will winter rains have filled the nearly empty reservoir that was at less than 10% of capacity at the end of last summer? You'll explore via the Seven Springs, Hayfield Lookout, Coyote Ridge, and Tony Look Trails. This fast paced 10-mile hike will include an elevation gain of about 1,500 feet.

Third Thursday: Picchetti Ranch

Thursday • February 19
Picchetti Ranch
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Join docents Tommi and Strether Smith for a moderately-paced, 4.5-mile hike along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails with nature exploration around the (hopefully) new-filled seasonal pond. You'll discuss the area's rich local history and interesting lore. Bring a lunch to enjoy along the banks of Stevens Creek. After the hike, wine tasting on your own is an option at Picchetti Winery.

Tafoni Trek

Saturday • February 21
El Corte de Madera Creek
Meet: Skeggs Point
9:30 am – 1:30 pm



Take a break from seasonal activities and get outside with docents Sarah Schoen and Gerri Tiernan to explore this wooded preserve along the El Corte de Madera Creek, Fir, and Tafoni Trails. You'll enjoy learning about tafoni sandstone formations and a variety of other natural wonders on this moderately-paced, 5-mile hike.

Winter Fungus Walk

Saturday • February 21
Purisima Creek Redwoods
Meet: See text below
9:45 am – 1:00 pm



(Join docents Steve Warner, Dick Ophsal, and Bruce Hartsough, and please see the activity description for December 13.)
(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead. Directions will be mailed.)
Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after February 5.



Karl Colloffier

Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

The Other Side of Purisima Creek Redwoods

Sunday • February 22
Purisima Creek Redwoods
Meet: El Corte de Madera Creek/
Skeggs Point
10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Along with docents Paul Billig and Mary Bernstein, you'll explore a variety of forest habitats on a 6.5-mile hike with a bit of history on the side. You'll stand on the site of the 19th century Graptown metropolis before walking over the ridge to expansive coastal views (depending on visibility). You'll then head downhill to a few ancient redwoods and experience what Japanese call 'shinrin-yoku', translated as "bathing in forest air." With luck, you may find fungi and very early wildflowers on the way back up and over the ridge. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)**
Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after February 5.

Mt. Sombroso Romp

Sunday • February 22
Sierra Azul
9:00 am – 2:00 pm



Join docents David Schwaderer and Bruce Hartsough on a journey rich in history and adventure on an 11.5-mile hike out and back along the Woods Trail. You'll ascend Mt. Sombroso in winter's cool air and relish a panoramic vista spanning from Mt. Umunhum to Mt. Thayer, the fourth and fifth highest peaks in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and beyond. With a little luck, the creeks will be rushing to Guadalupe Reservoir.

History of Fremont Older Ride

Saturday • February 28
Fremont Older
10:00 am – 12:15 pm



Bring water and dress in layers for this intermediate mountain bike ride led by docents Linda and Glenn Wegner. During the "re-group" stops along the ride, you'll enjoy discussions about the rich history of the area. Single track and fire road cycling experience is required for this 10- to 12-mile ride that includes 2,000 feet of climbing. Rain 24 hours in advance of the ride will cancel the activity. 🌿



Volunteers Recognized at Annual Event

Midpen held its annual Volunteer Recognition Event on September 13, 2014, to show appreciation to its volunteers for their generous commitment to open space.

Approximately 230 volunteers and guests joined board members and staff on the summit of Mount Umunhum. The event is held annually at various open space preserves, and this year was certainly a special one as volunteers were able to visit the summit for the first time and get a preview of what the area will offer when it is open to the general public.

Self-guided tours of the area were followed by lunch and a celebration of the outstanding achievements of these dedicated volunteers. Over a dozen local businesses and individuals donated items for the event.

Did You Know?

In 2014, Midpen's **500+** volunteers donated over **19,000 hours**; and volunteers and docents achieved an outstanding high-water mark, donating over 200,000 hours since the inception of the docent program in 1977 and the volunteer program in 1989.

For more information about volunteering with Midpen visit: www.openspace.org/volunteer



VRE Event, Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

Photo by Wildlife Researcher Ken Hickman



Band-tailed pigeon,
La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Unlike Any Bird in the World

The passenger pigeon was once the most abundant bird in North America with numbers reaching in the billions. In literally decades, hunting by humans caused the species to become extinct in 1914. It is said that some flocks were a mile wide and 300 miles long, and darkened skies in the towns they flew over for as many as three days.

The closest living relative to the extinct passenger pigeon in our region is the band-tailed pigeon which can be found living on Midpen Preserves. A sociable bird with a mellow coo, it forms large flocks in mountain forests where it feeds on seeds and fruits.

FIELD NOTES *(continued from page 1)*



Bald Mountain Parking Area—Before



Bald Mountain Parking Area—After

Coming Soon! – Trail to Mount Umunhum Summit

The Mount Umunhum Trail marks another major success in a multiyear project to allow the public onto the upper reaches of the mountain, which formerly housed the Almaden Air Force Station.

The new trail is expected to open for public use in spring 2017 or as soon as possible once construction and facilities at the summit have been completed. Mount Umunhum and its areas remain closed to the public.

Bald Mountain Parking Area Now Open

Serving as the future gateway to Mount Umunhum, the new Bald Mountain parking area is an important and the newest addition to the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve.

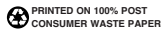
Funded by a grant from the Coastal Conservancy, the new parking area offers parking for 24 vehicles, a restroom, and will provide visitors an access point for hiking, bicycling, or horseback riding the future four-mile trail to the Mount Umunhum summit.

Until the trail opens, visitors can enjoy a short 0.75-mile hike out to Bald Mountain, a grassy knoll where on a clear day visitors have incredible views, from Mount Tamalpais in the north, east to Mount Diablo and Mount Hamilton, all the way south to the mountains of Henry Coe State Park.



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, California 94022-1404
Phone: 650-691-1200 • Fax: 650-691-0485
E-mail: info@openspace.org
Web site: www.openspace.org



PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #39
San Jose, CA

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

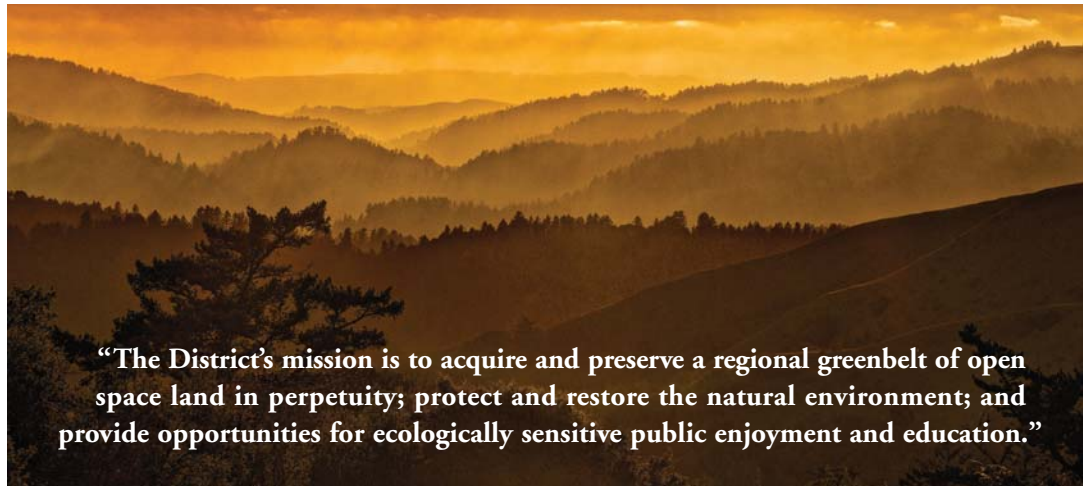
www.openspace.org | Twitter: @mrosd
Find us on Facebook | Watch us on YouTube

Photo below, Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve, by Fifth Annual
Photo Contest Finalist, Greg Hughes; Photo on front page,
Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve by Jack Gescheidt



Celebrate African- American History Month with Midpen

The Midpen community came
together for a fun day of
learning and outdoor activities at
our 2014 event at Ravenswood
Open Space Preserve. Details
about the 2015 celebration are
coming soon! Keep your eye
on your e-mail and check our
Web site. 🌿



**"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."**

DIGITAL PHOTO CONTEST

Submit Your Best Photos and You Could Win!

Open call for professional and amateur photographers alike!
Midpen is seeking compelling digital images of wildlife,
plant life, natural landscapes, weather, or people interacting with
nature or enjoying our open space lands. Top selections will be
featured in the summer 2015 issue of *Open Space Views*.

Winners will be selected in each of the five categories:

- People
- Wildlife
- Plant Life
- Natural Landscapes
- New Media (taken with a mobile device)

So, grab your camera or your smartphone and visit the preserves
this season. Winter and early spring can provide some amazing
and unique shots. Remember to check trail conditions and be
prepared for all kinds of weather before venturing out.



Long Ridge Open Space Preserve, Fifth Annual Photo Contest Finalist

Please remember: all photo submissions must be taken in areas
of District preserves that are open to the public.

Photo Submission Deadline:

Contest begins Monday, December 1, 2014; the deadline for
submissions is 11:59 p.m. PDT on Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

Please read the complete rules, terms, and conditions before
submitting your photos at: www.openspace.org/contest 🌿