

Volunteer News

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

December 2004 - February 2005

Record Number Gather for Annual Recognition Event



From Paul's Desk...

On October 15, District volunteers, Board members, and staff gathered at Saratoga Springs to celebrate another great season and recognize the incredible efforts of District volunteers. Over 170 people (the largest crowd ever) filed into the picnic area and enjoyed a beautiful evening under the stars.

The celebration began with an educational program presented by Wildlife Associates, a local non-profit agency that cares for non-releasable, abused, abandoned, and injured wildlife. They conduct a variety of educational programs geared for both adults and children. The 'wildlife runway' showcased everything from birds of prey to a Canadian lynx. The volunteers thoroughly enjoyed being face-to-face with these magnificent animals as well as the educational

aspect provided by Wildlife Associates' founder Steve Karlin.

As the animals finished showing off their feathers, fur, and quills, the crowd lined up and filled their plates with plenty of old-fashioned barbecue grub. Everyone gulped down the tasty food while trading stories about leading school groups, helping preserve visitors, checking bluebird boxes, archiving files, constructing trail, and wrestling with French broom. There were even war stories about battles with Volunteer Nemesis #1-poison oak.

As the meal concluded, Board President Mary Davey awed the crowd with an inspirational message of appreciation for the many contributions made by District volunteers and docents. District staff members followed Mary's lead, and gave short speeches on the many accomplishments of the season; each reiterating how important these programs are to the

day-to-day and long-term success of the District's mission.

Special achievement awards, service pins, and graduate certificates were presented (see page 3), as digital cameras captured the fun-filled awards program.

The only glitch of the evening occurred when the volunteer coordinator (who is normally shy and rarely has much to say) rambled a bit too long and exhausted the battery on the sound system. Some seemed to view this *silencing of the ham* as a true recognition highlight; however, the audio problem was quickly repaired and the show went on.

The night was capped off with the always-popular door prize drawing and a final round of s'mores.

Congratulations and many thanks to everyone who attended. We hope you enjoyed this well-deserved event!

Paul

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District Web Site Dons New Look!

www.openspace.org

This spring, the District's Web site was overhauled, re-designed, enhanced, tested--overhauled, re-designed, enhanced, tested--overhauled... You know the routine! Yes, a challenging project indeed, but well worth the effort. The District is happy to announce the launch of the new and improved site, and we invite you to take it for a spin.

Our goal was to increase efficiency and provide information to the public in a more 'user-friendly,' visually appealing, and effective manner. We've also added a new *Visitor Satisfaction Survey* on the home page which allows constituents to provide feedback to the District on a number of different topics.

We hope you enjoy browsing through the new site and look forward to receiving your feedback. Good surfing!



Preserve Partners Winter 2004 - 05 Outdoor Service Projects

December

Coal
Creek
Saturday, December 4
9:30 – 3:30
Trail Restoration
Project

Sierra Azul
Jacques Ridge
Saturday, December 11
9:30 – 3:30
Habitat Restoration
Project

January

St. Joseph's
Hill
Thursday, January 6
9:30 – 3:30
Habitat Restoration
Project

Thornewood
Saturday, January 8
9:30 – 3:30
Habitat Restoration
Project

Bear Creek
Redwoods
Saturday, January 15
9:30 – 3:30
Habitat Restoration
Project

La Honda
Creek
Saturday, January 22
9:30 – 3:30
Habitat Restoration
Project

February

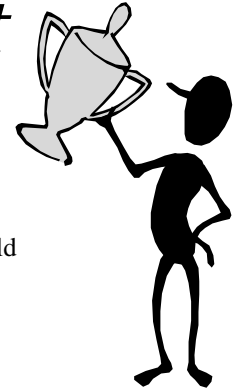
El Corte de
Madera Creek
Thursday, February 10
9:30 – 3:30
Habitat Restoration
Project

El Sereno
Saturday, February 19
9:30 – 3:30
Habitat Restoration
Project

How Do I Sign Up?

To volunteer, or for more information, please contact
Paul McKowan, Volunteer Programs Coordinator
(650) 691-1200 or volunteer@openspace.org

2003-4 Special Achievement Awards & Service Pins



Special Achievement Awards

Crew Leader: Leighton Nakata
Preserve Partners (Individual): Gayle Jarvinen
Preserve Partners (Group): Responsible Organized Mountain Pedalers
Special Projects Field: Ulf Stauber
Special Projects Office: Angela Owen
Barbara Simpson
Trail Patrol: Claudia Newbold, Arthur Deex
Frank Crossman, Dennis Smith
Honorary Award: Rodger & Rainey Alleman
(2,500+ Hours)

250-hour Service Pins

Chris Braley, Jim Citta, Claudia Newbold

500-hour Service Pins

Sue Hanrahan

750-hour Service Pins

Sue & Wilson Cooper, Arthur Deex, Fran Rappaport

1,000-hour Service Pins

Barbara Simpson

50-hour Service Pins

Barbara Arnoldussen, Bart Balocki, David Berkstresser, Gerry Brown, Tom Cochrane, Harlan Crowder, Pat Dallam, Paul Hammer, Mike Harper, Gayle Jarvinen, Kathleen Jones, Don Lorenzen, Joan Meehan, Leighton Nakata, Mary Oronte, Shannon Perryman, Ted Raczek, Karl Rowley, Gerry Ryan, Dave Tharp, Liang Tue, Susan Woita

Prizes and Awards Donated by:

Santa Clara Players Theater, Cooper-Garrod Estate Vineyards, Cindy Roessler, Cinnabar Vineyards and Winery, Melissa McKowan, Judy McGuire, The Gaslighter Theater, Picchetti Winery

2003-4 Volunteer Program Graduates

Volunteer Crew Leaders October 2003

Jim Citta Paul Hammer
Aparna Kapur Raj Krishnan
Howard Levitan Larry Levine
Leighton Nakata

Trail Patrol Volunteers April 2004

Bernard Aboussouan Greg Ayres
Pam Brands Gerry Brown
Steve Brugler Joe Eandi
Colleen Gray Lindamarie Guardado
Tom Metcalf Marie Somma

Visit the Natural Resources DataBase

www.nrdb.org

The Natural Resources DataBase is a compilation of observations of flora and fauna made at open space and nature preserves in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. This database, created by District volunteers, can be searched for available data on flora, mammals, birds, and reptiles-amphibians-fishes seen at one or more preserves.

As geographical coverage expands, new data are continually entered into the database. Reports of observations are collected from a variety of contributors, including several docents. Additional eyes (and ears) report the latest sightings which are then included in periodic updates so that the database is always current.

Recently, geographical coverage has been expanded to 150 parks and preserves covering not just Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, but also extending to the south, east, and north around the Bay. In addition, new search techniques make it easier to ask your questions and get useful results, and hardcopy reports can easily be generated to produce checklists that can be taken into the field.

Bulletin Board

District's *First* Trail Guide Book Hits the Stands



Peninsula Tales & Trails
by
David Weintraub



The District's first trail guide book, produced in commemoration of our 30th anniversary, is now available!

The comprehensive guide features 38 selected trail routes in 22 of the open space preserves and also offers fascinating facts about subjects such as trail building, mountain lions, and coast redwoods.

Peninsula Tales & Trails is \$19.95 per book (not including tax) and is available at the District office, online, and through selected bookstores nationwide.

Volunteer News is a quarterly newsletter containing information about the District's volunteer programs. Please direct all questions or comments to Volunteer Programs Coordinator Paul McKowan.

Thanks and good reading.

"Limited-capacity, sound system batteries--so that's how you shut him up."

- Anonymous (Happy) Volunteer
October 15, 2004