

Volunteer News

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

Quarterly Update

of

All District Volunteer Programs

Earth Day 2007 Events Cover Entire District Globe

Many individuals and organizations acknowledge Earth Day. Here at the District, we celebrate Earth Week. Following are a few of the highlights from what was a very productive and enjoyable week.

Volunteers and field staff kicked off their Earth Day outdoor service projects by doing what they do so well together... pulling broom! On hand to help out on day one of this two-day project were the District's Public Affairs Manager Rudy Jurgensen and the most recently appointed Board member Curt Riffle whose lunchtime talk was a noted highlight of the day.

Following the project, Curt reiterated how much the Board and staff appreciate the work being done by volunteers and had this to say, "It was a good opportunity for me... to learn more about the challenges and opportunities of resource management, all while doing some useful work."

On April 22nd (the calendar holiday), Resource Management

staff Cindy Roessler and Lisa Infante worked alongside field staff and volunteers on a special wildflower monitoring project. This was the first effort to collect information on flower locations and bloom times to be kept in a District database. As usual, there was a good mix of regulars and 'newbie' volunteers who attended these events, and they were all very positive and thankful to have the opportunity to be a part of these important projects.

The District also participated in the annual Westwind Community Barn Earth Day event where Rudy and Community Programs Aide Jennifer Williams were able to join with similarly like-minded organizations to meet, greet, and share the District's mission with the public.

Over on the docent side of the District's volunteer program, docents experienced a full and successful week with a total of 14 hikes and mountain bike rides. Four of the April 22nd activities were all-day events which started at 8:00 a.m. and ended at 4:00 p.m.



"Earth Week 2007" was a great week with the activities alone, but as an added bonus, members of the public and volunteers who attended these designated events (as well as visitors to the Nature Center), received tasty Clif Bars, a commemorative "Open Space Preserves 2007 Greenbelt Tour" t-shirt, and/or a mini first-aid kit.

As always, we thank everybody for his or her hard work during that week, and remind you that EVERY day is Earth Day when we're working together!

And a big earthy thanks to the kind folks at **Clif Bar** for their generous donation of energy bars and to Volunteer Programs Coordinator Paul McKowan for his *original - yet somewhat familiar* shirt design.

Summer 2007 Outdoor Service Projects

JUNE

6/02/07	9:30 - 2:30	Rancho San Antonio	National Trail Days
6/09/07	9:30 - 2:30	Los Trancos	Trail Work
6/16/07	9:30 - 2:30	El Corte de Madera Creek	Trail Work

JULY

7/14/07	8:30 - 1:30	South Skyline Area	Habitat Restoration
7/21/07	9:30 - 2:30	Rancho San Antonio	Fence Construction
7/28/07	9:30 - 2:30	El Corte de Madera Creek	Trail Work

AUGUST

8/04/07	8:30 - 1:30	South Skyline Area	Habitat Restoration
8/11/07	10:00 - 2:30	Sierra Azul	Fence Restoration
8/11/07	9:30 - 2:30	El Corte de Madera Creek	Trail Work
8/25/07	10:00 - 2:30	Bear Creek Redwoods	Fence Restoration

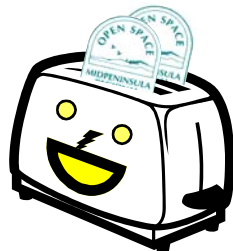
To sign up or receive more information, contact:

Paul McKowan, Volunteer Programs Coordinator
(650) 691-1200
volunteer@openspace.org

DISTRICT TOASTMASTERS 'Voices of Open Space'

Did you know that the District has its very own chartered Toastmasters Club?

Toastmasters <www.toastmasters.org> is a worldwide organization which helps its members to improve their public speaking abilities and boost their self-confidence. By participating in a fun and supportive Toastmasters group, you'll become a better speaker and leader, and gain confidence to succeed in whatever path you've chosen in life.



The District's "Voices of Open Space" Toastmasters Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the District's Administrative Office in Los Altos. Membership is open to District staff and volunteers, and fees are paid for by the District, so this wonderful opportunity is available to you free of charge!

The Voices of Open Space Toastmasters Club members invite you to attend and observe an upcoming meeting. Don't worry - you will not be asked to speak unless you prefer to jump right in. We hope to see you at the next meeting!

To sign up or receive more information, please contact:

Gordon Baillie, District Mgmt Analyst & Club President
(650) 625-6538 gbaillie@openspace.org

Trail Patrol Graduates

30 New Volunteers!

The District's Volunteer Trail Patrol program continues to grow! In early April, 30 new members completed the annual orientation and training program and are already hitting the trails.

The energetic group of mountain bicyclists, hikers, equestrians, runners, and dog walkers learned about the many facets of the District, participated in visitor contact scenarios, and mastered the on-line reporting procedures. They were very attentive throughout the sessions, and the training program feedback was very positive.

The entire group shared the feeling that helping other preserve visitors and reporting trail conditions was a productive and rewarding way to 'give something back' to the wonderful open space trails they enjoy so much!

Special thanks and congratulations to the "Class of 2007" and to the District staff and volunteers who helped lead the spring training program.

Congratulations!



Class of 2007

Donna Abelson	Joane Anderson
Bruce Bailey	Jon Bianchi
Carla Bowen	Bill Clark
David Downing	Lyndall Erb
Craig Forte	Chuck Fry
Earl Girbovan	Doug Hembry
Anne Henmi	Lynn Jackson
Ann Johnson	Roger Johnson
Eric Knudstrup	David Margiott
Daniela Mielke	Michael Murray
John Prior	Amelia Schultz
Wendy Shafir	Matthew Stanek
Kirt Stuepfert	Sigal Tzoore
Elizabeth Van Dyke	Jenny Whitman
Anne-Marie Wiggers	Hans Wiggers

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES Annual Fremont Older House and Garden Tour

Every year, during the annual tours of the “Woodhills” home and garden, another figurative piece is added to the vibrant mosaic of history that surrounds it. The stories brought by participants combine with the information shared by docents to reinforce the connections between the landscape and the people who lived at or visited the historic property on Fremont Older Preserve.

On April 29, 2007, this year’s nine tours were held throughout the day and just over 100 participants enjoyed beautiful weather and the enthusiasm of the following docent guides: Chris Braley, Colleen Gray, Michael Kahl, Jan Murphy, Dea Smith, Strether Smith, and Paul Vadopalas.

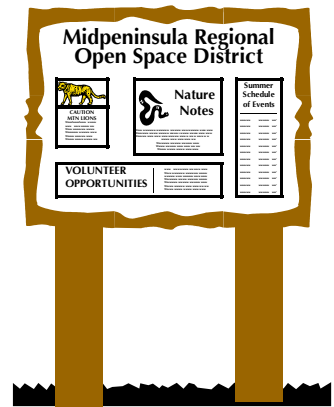
It is not uncommon for someone on a tour to share a story about a parent or grandparent who had spent time at “Woodhills,” or who worked with Fremont Older, or tended roses with Cora. Sometimes a story shared is about the Levines, the current residents and restorers of the property. Ordinary elements are made extraordinary when voices from the past echo amid the hills.

Reaching Out with *Nature Notes*

Interpretive Element Featured in District Sign Boards

Most volunteers and docents who spend time out on the preserves are aware of the District’s sign boards located at each preserve parking lot and some additional trailheads. Primarily serving to provide visitors with maps, and general and safety-related information, there is also an interpretive outreach element found in each sign board – *Nature Notes*.

Intended to briefly share useful and provocative natural history information that can connect visitors to something they may experience on a preserve, *Nature Notes* emphasizes seasonal happenings of the natural sort. Little known “facts” can become great trail tales and entice visitors to learn more, or answer questions they didn’t know they had. Docent Programs Coordinator Renée Fitzsimons prepares these one page laminated flyers and is always interested in new themes and topics to cover.



Next time you venture out on to a preserve – stop and read a bit at the sign boards, find *Nature Notes*, and consider something that you might be interested in learning more about, whether it is lizard behavior, or rare plants, or migrating birds...share your ideas with Renée!

Renée Fitzsimons
Docent Programs Coordinator
(650) 691-1200
docent@openspace.org

District Welcomes New Community Affairs Supervisor

Some of you may have already met our new Community Affairs Supervisor Pamela Hall. She has been getting her feet wet on the trails, helping with our public affairs projects, and participating in our volunteer and docent events. Pamela has been impressed by all of our volunteer/docent efforts and has been learning something new about the open space preserves and the District every day.

Pamela, a California native, joins us from the Virginia Aviation Foundation where she served as President and CEO. Having worked in the not-for-profit sector for over 20 years, she brings her skills as a community liaison, public relations, and volunteer manager to the District.

“Being a part of the Community Outreach Team has been an incredible experience so far,” says Pamela. “I am very pleased to be back in California and very grateful to be part of an organization that protects the beautiful spaces that have been such an important part of my childhood.”

We welcome Pamela to the District and look forward to ways we can together continue to promote the District and its valuable programs. If you would like to contact her, please call or email the address below.

Pamela Hall, Community Affairs Supervisor
(650) 691-1200 phall@openspace.org

MROSD WORD SEARCH

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Alpine Lake
Banana Slug
Companion Dog Patrol
Daniels Nature Center
Deer
Docent
Fremont Older
Geocaching
Habitat
Horseshoe
La Honda Creek
Leash
Madrone
Mtn Bike
Outreach
Pulgas Ridge
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