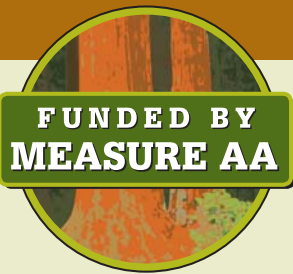




MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
Celebrating Over 40 Years of Open Space Preservation

VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • FALL 2015



MEASURE AA

Midpen Receives Highest Bond Rating

In July, Midpen received the highest possible bond rating from both Fitch and Standard & Poor's, reflecting the district's strong financial operations, solid debt service coverage and stability, and its location in a large and diverse economy. This high rating means bonds Midpen issues will carry a lower interest rate, and your tax dollars will go much further! 🌿



Karl Gohl

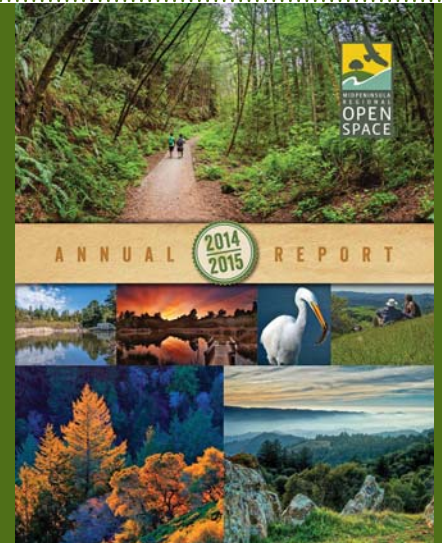
Bear Creek Redwoods Update

The public access planning and environmental review process for Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve is well underway. This fall, the final draft of the Preserve plan and the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will both be released for public comment and Board review. Midpen welcomes public input on the plan and EIR to help inform the Board's decision making. The Board is scheduled to consider approval of the Preserve plan and certification of the EIR at a public hearing in early 2016. Soon after, design and engineering for new public access facilities will begin. For more information, or to sign up for project updates, visit www.openspace.org/our-work/projects/bcr-plan. 🌿

New Bridge Crossings at El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve



Construction of the two new Methuselah Trail bridge crossings in El Corte de Madera Creek is complete! Construction began fall of 2014, and is a culmination of many years of hard work from staff, which included planning, engineering, and permitting. The two completed bridges are a big step in allowing for ecologically sensitive public access in an area heavily impacted by watershed sedimentation.



Coming Soon – 2014-15 Annual Report

This past year has been one of the most exciting ever for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. From the passage of Measure AA to the continued protection and restoration of our region's greenbelt, the District has realized many successes. The 2014-15 annual report will be available online later this fall. Check www.openspace.org/reports for more details on when it will be available. 🌿



Cruz along the Bay Area
Ridge Trail in the Santa Cruz
Mountains on foot, bike, or hoof
SAT. OCT. 3, 2015
www.ridgetrail.org to register



Mt. Umunhum – Viewing the Full Arc of History

Midpen purchased the 44-acre, former Almaden Air Force Station atop Mt. Umunhum in 1986 for \$260,000. The District's first general manager, Herb Grench, recommended the acquisition because he thought the mountain-top would make a scenic open space preserve some day. I am pleased to report that 29 years and nearly \$6 million later, we are about a year away from opening the summit to the public for the first time.

Our big breakthrough came in 2009 when we received a \$3.2 million Congressional appropriation to clean up the decommissioned base by demolishing and recycling 80 structures, eliminating all lead and asbestos and beginning the process to open the site to the general public. Our vision has been for Mt. Umunhum to join the ranks of the Bay Area's other great publicly-accessible peaks: Mt. Tamalpais, Mt. Diablo, and Mt. Hamilton. We spent the next three years exploring this possibility by visiting similar sites, listening to the public, and thoughtfully distilling all of that information into a plan that includes widening and repaving the 5-mile road to the summit, new staging and parking areas, trails with breathtaking views, a Native American ceremonial space, a spectacular overlook, and three options for the summit area which, for many, will be the "destination."

In the meantime, staff used all of the congressional funding to complete the cleanup of the summit with one exception – the massive concrete foundation that once supported a 150-foot radar antenna that was designed to detect Soviet bombers at a range of 250 miles, and is locally known as the radar tower or "the cube." From many locations in the valley, the cube can appear as a small, featureless rectangle on the ridgeline. We have heard some residents passionately describe it as giving them a sense of place, or as a lasting reminder of the Cold War period. Up close, the empty 60-by-60-by-80-foot cube is a massive structure that dwarfs the observer and blocks a substantial part of the 2,000-square mile, 360-degree view, no matter where you stand around its base. The stark contrast between the perception at a distance and the reality up close caused Midpen to stop and consider how to incorporate this remnant of the Cold War, now lacking the context of its original purpose, into the "restored" landscape.

For the purposes of the Site Plan and required Environmental Impact Report, Midpen's Board decided to consider three options: seal the cube and leave it in place; return the summit to its natural state by removing the cube and re-vegetating the original footprint; or remove the upper levels and leave the first level in place, repurposing it as an

interpretive public gathering place. The decision to consider these three options has been a particularly difficult one for an open space district. The public created the District to protect land, to restore it, and to provide ecologically sensitive public access, not to maintain obsolete military structures.

The maintenance of built structures is truly beyond Midpen's mission. However, a few historical structures, such as Picchetti Winery and the Fremont Older House, have been restored and put back into operation, but only after viable partners stepped forward who were able to fund a significant part of the repairs and take responsibility for long-term maintenance and operations. These partnerships have worked well over the years and have allowed the scale of these facilities to be manageable. The cube is orders of magnitude more difficult to manage because of its remote location, massive size, expense of maintenance, absence of utilities, and proximity to the San Andreas Fault. The summit of Mt. Umunhum is importantly the exact location where the Amah Mutsun band of the Ohlone Indians believe they were created, hence the Ohlone word "Umunhum," which means the "resting place of the hummingbird."

The hummingbird is an essential figure in their creation story – a story that will be shared at the summit.

From the outset, the District has been aware that the great arc of history for Mt. Umunhum began with the Ohlones and extends for millennia to modern times when the U.S. Air Force, in 1958, performed extensive site improvements on the peak to install the massive radar antenna and the many supporting structures. We are now on course to open the mountain to the public in October 2016, and later this year, the Board will consider which of the three options makes the most sense for the site and the greater public should insufficient outside funds be generated to fully preserve the entire structure.

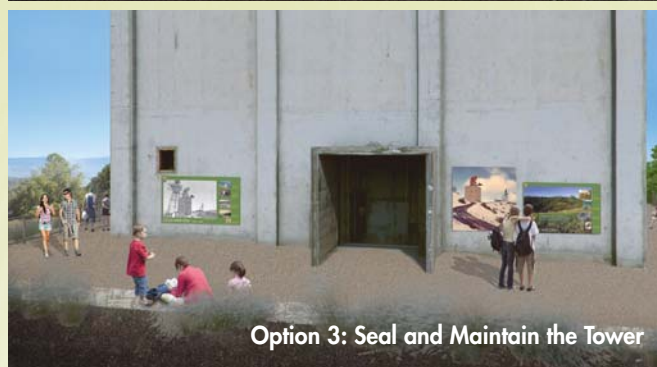
(continued on page 14)



Option 1: Restore the Mountaintop



Option 2: Open Air Gathering Place



Option 3: Seal and Maintain the Tower

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



FALL 2015 September
October – November

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.

Picchetti Ranch
Open Space Preserve

Jack Geschmidt

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. 🌿



Miramontes Ridge
Open Space Preserve

Karl Gohl

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.

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.

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 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.

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. After entering the park, go to the farthest lot on the left – equestrian parking lot.

RUSSIAN RIDGE

Meet at the main 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.



Olson Burrell

Coyote, Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

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 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.



Jing Liu

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve



Mark Fuller

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

RUSSIAN RIDGE (continued)

Mindego Gateway parking lot: From I-280, exit Page Mill Road and head west. Drive about 9 miles to the junction with Skyline Boulevard, cross over Skyline Boulevard and on to Alpine Road. Continue on Alpine Rd. for 1.5 miles. Parking area is on the right. Allow 45 minutes travel time from I-280.

SARATOGA GAP

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

SIERRA AZUL

Jacques Ridge: Meet at the Preserve 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.


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 Limited 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.

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 45 minutes travel time.

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 Preserve parking lot on the left side of the road. 

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. Some activities have a health and wellness focus.

SEPTEMBER

Explorer Hike: Shaded Creek, Sun-Drenched Grassland

Wednesday • September 2
Long Ridge
 10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Head for the shade along verdant Peters Creek with docents Laura Levin, Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, and Dennis Smith at the height of summer. You'll appreciate the refreshingly cool riparian forest habitat as you continue into open grassland on the Long Ridge Trail. Hiking at a moderate pace, you'll cover nearly 5 miles, stopping at intervals to observe flora and fauna. You'll pause at the bench that honors the memory of author and environmentalist Wallace Stegner as you enjoy views west to the Pacific Ocean.

Search for the Everlasting

Saturday • September 5
Picchetti Ranch
 9:30 am – 3:00 pm



Join docents Bob Segalla and Greg Azevedo to enjoy the excitement of this Preserve so close to home. You'll discover if the everlasting plant smells like maple syrup to you. A lovely view also awaits you along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails. You can listen to the sound of Stevens Creek as you enjoy lunch at a Santa Clara County Park picnic area. Capable children can handle this moderately-paced, 4-mile hike with a couple of 200-foot climbs. A visit to the Picchetti Winery for tasting is optional (on your own) at the hike's end.

Stop In and Explore

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



As seasons change so do the interactions of life at the edge of Alpine Pond...bring family and friends to discover the Daniels Nature Center on Saturdays and Sundays this fall between 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm. You can enjoy an audio nature tour (loaner listening devices available to "check out"), view displays about natural communities and larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, take a pond prow, 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!). Autumn is an amazing season for a visit. **(NOTE: The Nature Center hours change on November 1 to 11:00 am – 4:00 pm for the remainder of the season.)**

Earthquake Walk

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



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



Anthony Patane

Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

Nature's Garden in Summer

Tuesday • September 8
Monte Bello
 10:00 am – 1:30 pm



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

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • September 9
Saratoga Gap
 10:00 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Katherine Jen, Louise Casey, Vivian Neou, and Fran Keeler for a 4- to 6-mile, moderately-paced exercise focused hike. Each quarter, "Scenic Aerobic" hikes will be offered at different preserves. The route of each hike will be determined by the docents based on current trail and weather conditions. **(Note: These hikes will vary in difficulty from moderate to strenuous; please refer to difficulty rating.)**

**Step Back in Time and Explore the History**

Saturday • September 12
Bear Creek Redwoods
Meet: See text below
 10:00 am – 12:00 noon



Docents Jenny Whitman and Lyndall Erb will take you and your family on a 1- to 2-mile, easy hike around the former Alma College site and surrounding Preserve. You'll hear stories and be shown an amazing collection of photographs and maps dating back to the 1880's of the three lavish estates that once stood on the property. Among the photographs are pictures of the Alma College campus when it was being used as a finishing school for Jesuit Priests. **(Note: Directions will be sent). Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 27.**

Fremont Older Hills Ride

Saturday • September 12
Fremont Older
 10:00 am – 12:30 pm



Ride the Seven Springs, Hayfield, Coyote Ridge and other trails of this popular Preserve with docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Kocsis for great views from vantage points high above the valley floor. You'll ride 8 miles on smooth single-track trails and fire roads, with moderate ascents and descents.

Arachnophilia!

Saturday • September 12
Monte Bello
 5:00 pm – 10:30 pm



Explore the world of arachnids with spider-loving docents Debby Brusco, Jack Owicki, and Sara Witt. With luck, a tarantula may cross your path as you search for sometimes-timid creatures that you might usually be inclined to avoid. This hike will cover about 4 miles at a leisurely pace on the Canyon Trail, in addition to other trails. Capable, attentive children, age 10 years or older are welcome. Bring a flashlight with a red filter or cellophane covering, plastic to sit on, and your meal. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 27.**



Photo above by Jack Owicki

Dark Skies at Night

Saturday • September 12

Russian Ridge

Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm



Join docents Chris MacIntosh, Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi on the darker west side of the Preserve and, weather permitting, enjoy the Milky Way and summer constellations. A local amateur astronomy club will provide telescopes and guidance to explore the night sky with the group. You may bring a bag dinner to eat before sunset or while on an optional 2-mile hike, after which everyone will gather for stargazing and listening for the night sounds. A paved path and viewing area make the sky viewing (although not the hike) handicap-accessible. Bring a flashlight, and docents will provide a red-cellophane covering/filter. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 27.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
September 12 and 13

Daniels Nature Center
12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 5.)

Two Ponds and Three Hills

Sunday • September 13

Skyline Ridge

Meet: Equestrian parking lot
9:30 am – 2:00 pm



On this 6-mile hike you'll explore diverse terrain, look for mushrooms on Fir Knoll Trail, loop around Horseshoe Lake, and climb uphill on the Sunny Jim Trail seeking still blooming wildflowers with docents Susan Bernhard and Ann Reisenauer. Fortified by your lunch near Alpine Pond and the Daniels Nature Center, you'll hike back via the Ipiwa Trail and take in scenic views of west-facing evergreen slopes.



Alpine Pond, Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Greg Halkinen

Explore the Interior

Tuesday • September 15

Long Ridge

10:00 am – 3:00 pm



On this fast-paced 8-mile hike with docents Ed North, Vivian Neou, and Huey-Shin Yuan you'll explore the interior of this Preserve. Hiking on the Peters Creek, Hickory Oaks, Ranch Spring, and Long Ridge Trails you'll visit mixed evergreen forests and, if lucky, see views of the Pacific Ocean.

Best of Purisima

Wednesday • September 16

Purisima Creek Redwoods

9:30 am – 5:00 pm



Redwoods, mixed evergreen forest, chaparral then redwoods again; this hike will use Whittemore Gulch Trail to climb about 1,400-feet then return via the Bay Area Ridge Trail through Soda Gulch to connect with the Purisima Creek Trail. Docents Sam Berry and Theresa Walterskirchen will lead this leisurely-paced, but strenuous hike of about 9-miles. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 2.**

Explorer Hike: Nob Hill Ho!

Wednesday • September 16

Fremont Older

10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Enjoy a moderate 5-mile hike through grassland, chaparral, and woodland habitats with docents Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, and Laura Levin. Your destination will be the summit of Nob Hill where you can take in the expansive views of the surrounding hills. Along the way, you'll travel Fremont Older, Creekside, Hayfield, Toyon, and Bay View Trails, and you'll have the chance to see how the landscape and its inhabitants have dealt with the hot, dry summer.

Farewell to Summer

Sunday • September 20

Saratoga Gap

10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Explore the subtle changing of the seasons with docents Gerri Tiernan, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Padma Satish on a moderately-paced, 5-mile loop hike through Saratoga and Long Ridge Preserves. On the Saratoga Gap Trail you'll hike under big leaf maple, oak, madrone, bay laurel, and Douglas fir trees and learn their historical uses. In Long Ridge Preserve, you'll experience unspoiled open space views from Turtle Rock, and return via the Achistaca Trail through a chaparral community with manzanita bushes, yerba santa, and chamise.

Stop In and Explore

Sunday • September 20

Daniels Nature Center

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 5.)

PLEASE NOTE: The Daniels Nature Center will be closed on Saturday September 19 to allow volunteers to attend the annual recognition event held in their honor.

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • September 23

Skyline Ridge

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



(Join docents Fran Keeler, Katherine Jen, Huey-Shin Yuan, Louise Casey, and Vivian Neou, and please see the activity description for September 9.)



Introductory Geocaching for Families

Saturday • September 26

Los Trancos

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



This fun and interactive outing is great for families and children (who can hike for 3 miles). Join docents Lyndall Erb, Bill Overall, and REI Outdoor School Instructor 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 September 10.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

September 26 and 27

Daniels Nature Center

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 5.)

Red Moon Rising

Sunday • September 27

Monte Bello

5:00 pm – 10:30 pm



Join docents Paul Billig, Katherine Greene, and Mary Bernstein to hike to Black Mountain for the “Red Moon Rising.” You’ll climb about 800 feet along the Bella Vista and Old Ranch Trails to the ridge top for your dinner stop. Within minutes after the near simultaneous sunset and moonrise, the full moon goes into total lunar eclipse. The moon will be coming out of eclipse as you hike back to your car. Bring a flashlight. Total distance is about 5 miles.

Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 10.

Lunar Eclipse Night Photography Hike

Sunday • September 27

Skyline Ridge

5:00 pm – 10:30 pm



Want to photograph a full lunar eclipse away from city lights? Join docents Vivian Neou, Greg Hughes, and Huey-Shin Yuan for a photography night hike. There may be fluorescing insects and other interesting photo subjects. If the skies cooperate, you’ll end the evening with some astrophotography. This 4- to 5-mile round trip hike is intended for novice and experienced photographers – all levels are welcome. Be sure you are able to hike with your tripod/lenses, etc., and bring your camera’s instruction manual for reference if needed. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 10.**

Explorer Hike: New Ancient Oak Extension

Wednesday • September 30

Russian Ridge

Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot

10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, and Kate Gudmundson to hike this Preserve’s newest trail. This moderately-paced 3.7-mile hike will follow the Ancient Oaks, Charquin, and Mindego Hill Road Trails with views of Mindego Hill.

**OCTOBER****Monte Bello Hills Ride**

Saturday • October 3

Monte Bello

Meet: Picchetti Ranch

9:00 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Linda and Glenn Wegner to ride 5 miles up Montebello Road and then onto fire roads and single-track trails of Monte Bello Preserve, including the Bella Vista and White Oaks Trails before heading back via the Stevens Canyon Trail. Experience with longer rides and single-track trails is required. This advanced ride covers 22 miles with over 2,000-feet of climbing. Bring a power snack and water. Faster riders/climbers can start the ride with Glenn at 9:30 am instead of 9:00 am. (Note: A portion of this ride will be on a public roadway with vehicle traffic.)

Introductory Geocaching Hikes for Families

Saturday • October 3

Bear Creek Redwoods

Meet: See text below

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



(Join docents Jenny Whitman, Debbie Mytels, and REI Outdoor School Instructor Steve Wood and please see the activity description for September 26. (Note: Directions will be sent. This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 17.)

Halloween Bat Hike for Families

Saturday • October 3

Skyline Ridge

Meet: Russian Ridge

5:30 pm – 8:00 pm



Join docents Mary Brunkhorst, Grace Yuan, and Johnny Zweig for an exciting evening of bat watching at Alpine Pond. You’ll learn about some of Halloween’s most interesting mascots and explore Alpine Pond during this leisurely 1-mile walk. After sunset, bats will hopefully fly out over the pond to hunt for dinner. This hike is intended for families with children. Please bring a flashlight and a jacket – it could get chilly. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 17.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

October 3 and 4

Daniels Nature Center

12:00 noon – 5:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 5.)

Earthquake Walk

Sunday • October 4

Los Trancos

2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



(Join docents Strether Smith and Judy Fenerty, and please see the activity description for September 6.)

Oaks of Monte Bello

Wednesday • October 7

Monte Bello

10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Join docents Steve Brugler and Noa Doitel on a leisurely oak tree-themed, 3.5-mile loop hike on the White Oak and Canyon Trails, with a lunch stop near Stevens Creek. You’ll look for the many different oak species found in the Preserve and learn their identifying characteristics. You’ll marvel at the diversity of oaks and their importance as a keystone species and learn about the threat of “Sudden Oak Death”.

Explorer Hike: Autumn in the Forest

Wednesday • October 7

El Corte de Madera Creek

10:30 am – 2:30 pm



You’ll enjoy exploring some of the various habitats of this Preserve with docents Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, Kate Gudmundson, and Dennis Smith. Your route will take you along the El Corte de Madera Creek, Resolution, and Tafari Trails for a moderately-paced 5-mile outing through the forest.



Ronda Fitzsimons

Bear Creek Open Space Preserve



Jack Oeschheid

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Dusky-footed Woodrat and Friends

Saturday • October 10
Pulgas Ridge
5:00 pm – 10:00 pm



Join docents Vivian Neou, Huey-Shin Yuan, Padma Satish, and Greg Hughes on a search for the San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat. On this 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 resident rodent and other creatures of the night. There will be a stop to enjoy your meal and take in the views. Bring a flashlight with red cellophane covering (if you have it), your meal, and plastic to sit on. Capable, attentive children age 10 years and older are welcome. **Reservations are required on or after September 24.**

Stop In and Explore

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



(Please see the activity description for September 5.)

Mountain Charlie and Redwoods

Sunday • October 11
Bear Creek Redwoods
Meet: See text below
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Explore redwoods in the fall with docents Mary Bernstein and Paul Billig. You'll stretch your legs on old ranch roads on this 5-mile hike as you make your way to a sunny hilltop facing "the sierra azul". You'll return by a different route, exploring a hidden canyon in the trees, eyes open for whatever the forest may bring. **(Note: Directions will be sent.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 24.**

Colores de Otoño para Mes de la Herencia Hispana – En Español

Sunday • October 11
Long Ridge
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Disfruta los colores del otoño en la reserva Long Ridge mientras celebramos como comunidad el Mes de la Herencia Hispana. Acompañen las docentes Lina Mesa y Ann Reisenauer en esta caminata-moderada de 4.5-millas para explorar una variedad de comunidades naturales – incluyendo pastizales, bosques de robles y hábitats ribereños. Veremos cómo las comunidades naturales y las comunidades humanas se parecen. Heremos un círculo por los senderos Peters Creek y Long Ridge Road. Aprenderán sobre algunos de los animales, flores y árboles más comunes que nos encontremos en la caminata.

Enjoy the fall colors at Long Ridge Preserve and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month as a community. Join docents Lina Mesa and Ann Reisenauer on this 4.5-mile, moderate hike, to explore a variety of natural communities including grassland, oak woodland, and riparian habitats. You'll do a loop on Peter's Creek Trail and Long Ridge Road. On the hike, you'll see how the natural communities and human communities are similar, and you'll learn some of the common animals, flowers, and trees.

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • October 14
Long Ridge
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



(Join docents Katherine Jen, Fran Keeler, Huey-Shin Yuan, Louise Casey, and Vivian Neou, and please see the activity description for September 9.)

Birds Heading South

Friday • October 16
Monte Bello
9:00 am – 1:00 pm



At this time of year many bird species are heading south to spend the winter. Join docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Tommi and Strether Smith on this bird watching outing to see fall migrants as well as year-round resident birds. You'll learn to identify species by their calls and also by their behavior. Bring binoculars and bird book if you have them; docents will provide a spotting scope. No birding experience necessary, all are welcome. This approximately 3-mile hike will take you along the Stevens Creek and Canyon Trails.



Sierra Azul Views Ride

Saturday • October 17
Sierra Azul
Meet: See text below
9:00 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Linda and Glenn Wegner to ride paved road up to the Kennedy Road entrance to the fire road trails of Sierra Azul Preserve and then return via paved Hicks and Kennedy Roads. Experience with longer rides and steep technical fire road trails is required. This advanced ride covers 30 miles with 3,500-feet of climbing. Approximately 40% of this ride is on paved road. Bring power snacks and water. Faster riders/climbers can start the ride with Glenn at 9:30 am instead of 9:00 am with Linda. **(Note: A portion of this ride will be on a public roadways with vehicle traffic. Directions will be sent.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 1.**

Redwood Oxygen

Saturday • October 17
Purisima Creek Redwoods
10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Find out why you'll be breathing some of the cleanest air in the world with docents Bob Segalla and Sam Berry on the Purisima Creek 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.

Stop In and Explore

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



(Please see the activity description for September 5.)

Hilly Hike with Furry Friends

Sunday • October 18
Windy Hill
9:00 am – 12:30 pm



Starting on the flat by Sausal Pond, you and your dog will traverse some chaparral, enter mixed oak woodland, cross a creek and head up Hamms Gulch in the shade of ancient Douglas fir and big leaf maple trees to an overlook, and then return. Docents Susan Bernhard and Ann Reisenauer will be your guides on this moderate 5-mile outing. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 1.**

Scary Creatures...How Scary Are They?

Sunday • October 18
Skyline Ridge
Meet: Russian Ridge
10:00 am – 1:30 pm



Join docents Kim Borick, Gerri Tiernan, and Alisa Stutzbach on a Halloween themed journey, seeking signs of the "scary creatures" who make this Preserve their home. You'll discover just how frightening (or not!) these creatures really are. Your 1.5-mile route includes a tour around Alpine Pond and concludes with hands-on exploration at the Daniels Nature Center. This activity is recommended for children between 5 and 10 years old.

**Explorer Hike:
On a Clear Day...**

Wednesday • October 21
Monte Bello
10:30 am – 2:30 pm



You'll enjoy lunch on top of Black Mountain, with incomparable views of San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Accompanied by docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin, you'll explore early fall flora and fauna on this 5-mile, moderately-paced hike with a good climb thrown in along the Bella Vista, Indian Creek, and Stevens Creek Nature Trails.

Ohlone Medicine

Saturday • October 24
Long Ridge
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



Native Americans, including California Indians, had a great number of uses for the plants growing on their lands. A primary use was medicinal. Join docents Sarah Schoen and Kim Borick on this 5-mile hike exploring the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails, with a lunch stop overlooking the western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. Learn ways that selected native plants were used to treat a number of ailments before the introduction of modern medicine.

**Introductory Geocaching
Hikes for Families**

Saturday • October 24
Picchetti Ranch
10:00 am – 2:00 pm



(Join docents Bill Overall, Kandis Scott, and REI Outdoor School Instructor Steve Wood and please see the activity description for September 26. **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 8.)**

Autumn Evening at Long Ridge

Saturday • October 24
Long Ridge
Meet: Skyline Ridge
4:45 pm – 10:30 pm



Docents Debbi Brusco and Jack Owicki will guide you on a 4- to 5-mile autumn evening excursion. You'll hike Peter's Creek Trail and other trails at a moderate, sometimes leisurely pace with occasional stops. The moon will light your return path. Bring a flashlight with a red cellophane covering/filter, your meal, and something to sit on. **(Note: Participants will caravan to the hike trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 8.**

Stop In and Explore

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



(Please see the activity description for September 5.)

From Pond to Pond

Sunday • October 25
Skyline Ridge
Meet: Equestrian parking lot
9:30 am – 2:00 pm



Explore the changing habitats of this Preserve, from mixed evergreen forest along the Fir Knoll Trail to the watery edge of Horseshoe Lake. You'll climb up Sunny Jim Trail through meadows, look for the season's late flowers, learn turn of the last century history, and observe evidence of native people's land use. There will be a lunch stop near Alpine Pond. This 6-mile, moderately-paced loop hike with docents Susan Bernhard and Noa Doittel will take you through varied terrain with views of the hills rolling down to the Pacific Ocean.

**Four Preserves, a Canyon,
and a Ridge**

Sunday • October 25
Skyline Ridge
Meet: Equestrian parking lot
10:00 am – 3:00 pm



On this ride through Skyline Ridge, Monte Bello, Saratoga Gap, and Long Ridge Preserves you'll explore the shaded forests of Stevens Canyon and the wide open views of ridgelines with docents Dave Kocsis and Patty Lovelace. This intermediate/advanced level ride will take you through forests, grasslands, and lush riparian areas before a climb up Table Mountain and Charcoal Road (in Stevens Creek County Park), where you'll be rewarded with sweeping views of the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. The total distance will be about 12 miles with more than 2,500 feet of climbing. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 8.**

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • October 28
Sierra Azul
Meet: Northside lot – Free Limited Parking
10:00 am – 1:00 pm



(Join docents Fran Keeler, Katherine Jen, Huey-Shin Yuan, Louise Casey, and Vivian Neou, and please see the activity description for September 9. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday • October 31

Daniels Nature Center

11:00 am – 4:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 5.) **(Note: The Nature Center hours change this weekend to open and close an hour earlier.)**

NOVEMBER**Stop In and Explore**

Sunday • November 1

Daniels Nature Center

11:00 am – 4:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 5.)

Earthquake Walk

Sunday • November 1

Los Trancos

2:00 pm – 4:30 pm



(Join docents Dave and Judy Boore, and please see the activity description for September 6.)

Road Less Traveled

Wednesday • November 4

Sierra Azul

Meet: Northside lot – Free Limited Parking

9:30 am – 3:00 pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou to experience the less known Lexington side of this Preserve, the District's largest. You'll go through rugged terrain and enjoy panoramic views along Priest Rock, Kennedy, and Limekiln Trails. This is a fast-paced 10.8-mile workout with 2,300-foot elevation gain. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 21.**

Under the Redwood and Fir Trees

Wednesday • November 4

El Corte de Madera Creek

10:00 am – 12:30 pm



Enjoy a fall hike with viewing of a sandstone formation, an old growth redwood tree, and numerous fir trees. Join docents Liz Foreman and Tony Gooch to explore the Tafoni, Fir, and Sierra Morena Trails in this popular Preserve. This moderately-paced hike will cover 3.5 miles with some hilly terrain.

Explorer Hike: Skyline in Early Autumn

Wednesday • November 4

Skyline Ridge

10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Observe woodland, grassland, and lakeside habitats for signs of autumn with docents Laura Levin, Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, and Kate Gudmundson. Proceeding along the Ipiwa and Sunny Jim Trails for 4 miles at a moderate pace, you'll pause at intervals for discussion of seasonal changes in the plant and animal life around you. If it's a clear day, you'll be awed by views west, beyond Butano Ridge to the ocean.

Step Back in Time and Explore the History

Saturday • November 7

Bear Creek Redwoods

Meet: See text below

10:00 am – 12:00 noon



(Please see the activity description for September 12. **Note: Directions will be sent.**) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 22.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

November 7 and 8

Daniels Nature Center

11:00 noon – 4:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 5.)

Beyond Earthquakes

Sunday • November 8

Los Trancos

9:00 am – 1:00 pm



Explore the many habitats of this Preserve with docents Mary Bernstein and Paul Billig. You'll walk 5 miles through varied forests, riparian edges, and grasslands with a unique view of Windy Hill Preserve as well as bay vistas. Look beyond fault zone features on this discovery hike to enjoy the fall weather and reap the benefits of open space. Trails include: Franciscan, Lost Creek, and Page Mill.

**Introduction Geocaching Hike for Families**

Sunday • November 8

Skyline Ridge

Meet: Russian Ridge

10:00 am – 2:00 pm



(Join docents Kim Borick and Debbie Mytels, and REI Outdoor Instructor, Steve Wood, and please see the activity description for September 26.) **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 22.**

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • November 11

Monte Bello

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



(Join docents Katherine Jen, Fran Keeler, Huey-Shin Yuan, Louise Casey, and Vivian Neou, and please see the activity description for September 9.)

Preparing for Winter

Friday • November 13

Monte Bello

Meet: Picchetti Ranch

10:00 am – 2:30 pm



Join docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Strether and Tommi Smith on a beautiful part of the Monte Bello Preserve. You'll walk about 5 miles on the Waterwheel Creek Trail and Monte Bello Road and along the way see some of the nuts and berries that ripen in fall. You'll also learn to identify a few signs of resident wildlife and be treated to spectacular views. At the top of Black Mountain you'll view uninterrupted nature as far as you can see. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 29.**

Umunhum Barlow Explorer

Saturday • November 14

Sierra Azul

Meet: Jacques Ridge

8:30 am – 1:00 pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo, David Schwaderer, and Huey-Shin Yuan for an uncommon, 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 moderately strenuous (downhill with varying surfaces) 5-mile hike includes trails that are steep. The hike will include many short breaks where you'll enjoy wonderful views of the valley and hills and also look upward at the Mt. Umunhum **(Note: Participants will carpool/shuttle to the trailhead.)**



False Turkey Tail, Coal Creek Open Space Preserve by Andrew Forster

Autumn on Waterwheel Creek

Saturday • November 14

Monte Bello

Meet: Picchetti Ranch

10:00 am – 12:30 pm



Longer nights, cooler days, and changing leaf colors announce the coming of autumn. Walk 2 miles on the Waterwheel Creek Trail with docents Maureen Draper, Sarah Schoen, and Kandis Scott on old ranch roads at the south end of Monte Bello Preserve, high above the San Andreas fault, with senses open to the changing season. **(Note: Hike is not suitable for children under 10 years of age. Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)**

View from the Ridge

Saturday • November 14

Long Ridge

10:30 am – 3:30 pm



Join docents Bob Segalla and Dick Opsahl to explore what this Preserve has to offer. You can expect newts along the lush Peters Creek Trail and enjoy a tranquil pond, green forests, ridges, and grasslands. You'll stop for an ocean view at the Wallace Stegner memorial bench. This moderately-paced, 5-mile, 600-foot elevation change is suitable for capable children.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

November 14 and 15

Daniels Nature Center

11:00 noon – 4:00 pm



(Please see the activity description for September 5.)

NOTE: This is the last weekend of the season that the Nature Center will be open. The facility will re-open in April 2016 – see you then!

Cool Forests and Beautiful Views

Tuesday • November 17

Monte Bello

10:00 am – 3:00 pm



Join docents Ed North, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Emma Finter for a brisk-paced 8-mile hike in this beautiful Preserve, experiencing the cool forest of the Stevens Creek Trail and beautiful views from the top of Black Mountain and the Bella Vista Trail.

Explorer Hike:**Annual Turkey Trot**

Wednesday • November 18

Rancho San Antonio

10:30 am – 2:30 pm



Why not prepare for the holidays by joining docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin to search for wild turkeys and other interesting plants and animals? You'll cover about 6 miles on a moderately-paced, strenuous hike, looping over the Lower Meadow, Rogue Valley, Wildcat Loop, and Coyote Trails.

Trees for All Reasons and Seasons

Saturday • November 21

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.

Just Add Water – Fungi at Long Ridge

Saturday • November 21

Long Ridge

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm



You'll hike out on Peter's Creek Trail and look for signs of the season as you pass an old apple orchard and a pond. This 2.5-mile, moderately-paced hike with docents Susan Bernhard and Chris MacIntosh will take in views from the coastal hills. You'll observe for raptors from the Wallace Stegner memorial bench where you'll stop for lunch. Bring your curiosity as you look for fog-supported native flowering plants and fungi, and evidence of the birds and animals that live here. Capable, attentive children, age 10 years or older are welcome.

Creature Feature

Sunday • November 22

Edgewood County Park

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



What do dusky-footed woodrats look like? What are their stick houses like inside? How many live in one house? What do they eat? Who wants to eat them? How do they find mates and raise pups? Why are they called packrats? Come learn about this keystone species with docents Kathryn Strachota, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Ann Reisenauer. Curious children are especially welcome on this activity! You'll walk a 2.5-mile loop on the Sylvan, Serpentine, Franciscan, and Baywood Glen Trails at a moderate pace. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after November 5.**

Autumn Ride at ECdMC

Sunday • November 22

El Corte de Madera Creek

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 Ocean before returning you to your starting point. The total distance will be about 14 miles with more than 2,500 feet of climbing.

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • November 25

Russian Ridge

Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot

10:00 am – 1:00 pm



(Join docents Fran Keeler, Katherine Jen, Huey-Shin Yuan, Louise Casey, and Vivian Neou, and please see the activity description for September 9.) 🍃



Charlie Theodorovich

Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

2014 DONATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Donations and gifts to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District help protect open space, preserve wildlife and natural habitats, enhance the positive experience of visitors to the District's public open space lands, and aid in our efforts to create an open space legacy for future generations. Below are the donations and gifts received in 2014. We are publishing the names of these generous individuals and organizations to publicly express our sincere thanks for their thoughtful contributions.

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Photos above from left to right: Long Ridge OSP by Charles Tu, Fremont OSP by Michelle Yau, Purisima Creek OSP by Randy Weber

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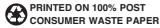
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A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER (continued from page 2)

Mt. Umunhum – Viewing the Full Arc of History

In the public discourse about the cube, the perception has been raised that the District intends to demolish the tower and all of its history with it. The fact is that we have worked extensively with both the Amah Mutsun and those interested in the mountain's recent military history to gather important information, pictures, sentiments, and anecdotes so we can tell the story of the mountain for generations to come, and we have invited participation from as many partners as we can find to be part of this storytelling. We have been creative in our planning. Rather than an "all or nothing" approach, where either the cube on the mountaintop was left in place or removed, we developed the third alternative, that repurposes the original first floor as an open-air visitor center where the public could get out of the weather, rest, and view the displays that describe all of the historical elements of the mountain

while minimizing safety and long-term maintenance issues by removing the upper levels of the tower. Renderings of all three alternatives can be found on these pages and on our website at www.openspace.org/our-work/projects/mount-umunhum-summit-project. Whatever the Board of Directors finally decides, that decision will include a comprehensive history of the mountain and input from you. From Mt. Umunhum's 3,488-foot summit, Midpen is determined to provide an incredible perspective, not only of history, but of our entire region as it unfolds before the viewer. I can't wait!

Stephen E. Abbors
General Manager

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Judy and David Daniels

The District says farewell to Judy and David Daniels as they announce their retirement from the docent program.

As Nature Center hosts and contributors to the District, Judy and David have felt honored to welcome countless weekend visitors to the David C. Daniels Nature Center. For over 24 years, they have shared their knowledge and love for the outdoors with people from all around the world.

Opened in 1996, the David C. Daniels Nature Center was presented in memory of the Daniels' son, David, and partially funded through the generosity of the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and the Daniels family.

In addition to volunteering as a Nature Center host, Judy was an original outdoor education leader for the District's school field trip program *Spaces & Species* from 1995-2003. David joined his wife as a Nature Center Host in 2002, and together their passion for open space preservation and outdoor education has made them ideal representatives of the District. An ambassador to the end, David noted in his farewell message "how much children enjoy the center." A favorite highlight of David's is the "Build a Pond Community" interactive display that brings children and adults together in learning.

The District would like to thank the Daniels for their contribution as they leave all visitors to the Nature Center "with hope for the future for all who pass this way."



Judy and David Daniels at the Daniels Nature Center,
Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve