



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

VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • SUMMER 2016



Grand Opening Event at Cooley Landing Education Center

Photos by John Green

Grand Opening of the Cooley Landing Education Center

On April 16, Midpen and the City of East Palo Alto celebrated the Grand Opening of the Education Center at the City of East Palo Alto's Cooley Landing Nature Park adjacent to **Ravenswood**. Over 300 members of the public came and enjoyed free food, games, nature walks, kids' activities, and tours of the spectacular new Education Center.

The days' festivities were launched by honored speakers Congresswomen Jackie Speier and Anna Eshoo, State Senator Jerry Hill, Assemblymember Rich Gordon, County Supervisor

Warren Slocum, Mayor Donna Rutherford, Midpen Director Nonette Hanco, Councilwoman Lisa Gauthier, Sedrick Mitchell of Statewide Parks Foundation, Cole Wilbur of the Packard Foundation, and Lily Lee of the US Environmental Protection Agency.

The 3,000-square foot Cooley Landing Education Center will host partner-based educational programs and is available for rental by the public for certain uses. To learn more about the Education Center, visit: www.ci.east-palo-alto.ca.us/facilities/facility/details/Cooley-Landing-Park-6.

Teaming up with Acterra to Bring New Volunteers to Open Space

This year, Midpen launched an exciting partnership with Acterra, a local environmental nonprofit that offers a wide variety of environmental volunteer opportunities for adults and youth, including resource management and habitat restoration projects.

The first joint volunteer day took place on January 21, at the Hawthorns property at **Windy Hill**. A group of 25 students from Woodside Priory High School learned how to identify invasive species and the native flora and fauna. They then spent the day removing French broom from the surrounding area. Future projects include thistle removal and revegetation at the **Russian Ridge** parking lot. In addition, Acterra will host community work days for volunteers of all ages. This partnership brings greater diversity to Midpen's volunteer base and provides more opportunities for public engagement on our preserves. Learn more at: www.acterra.org/programs/stewardship/get_involved.html.



First partnership work day, Woodside Priory High School students pulling French broom at Windy Hill Open Space Preserve



Seventh Annual Photo Contest Winners

See page 13 for more information.



A Message from the General Manager

Midpen Staff

Giving Nature a Helping Hand

This past spring, we were honored to open Mindego Hill at **Russian Ridge** and to partner with the City of East Palo Alto to celebrate the opening of its Educational Center at Cooley Landing, adjacent to **Ravenswood**. We opened Mindego Hill on a beautifully clear March afternoon, with the sparkling San Mateo Coastside as our backdrop, and were joined by 120 nature lovers who came together to celebrate the opening of this jewel. Two weeks later, we joined with 300+ community members and the City of East Palo Alto to celebrate the grand opening of the Cooley Landing Educational Center, a truly extraordinary facility, with curved walls reminiscent of a whale's back and inspirational views of a clean bay. As different as the two locations are—one nestled in the mountains and the other, along the bay—I was struck by how much they have in common.

Both were important sites for the Ohlone peoples who planted gardens near Mindego Hill and who fished at Cooley Landing. Later, both sites were maximized and used as economically productive sites, either for cattle grazing or as a boatworks, and both had been used as a dump, though of vastly different sizes and scales.

In both cases, we were able to accelerate nature's healing process. Generally, we do that by limiting invasive species, removing unsafe and dilapidated structures or materials, replanting, and cleaning streams and waterways. Occasionally, in only the rarest of cases, do we need to take the dramatic additional step of reclaiming the land—that is, to create the land that once was, so we can then restore it. That is exactly what we're doing to open the summit of Mount Umunhum in **Sierra Azul**.

Starting in 1957, the summit was used as an Air Force station, when it served as part of an

extensive Cold War-era air defense strategy. The natural contours of the mountain were removed along with the mountaintop, and the habitat for many unique species disappeared.

Our vision for Mount Umunhum is to restore the summit as much as possible to its natural condition. To do that, we have studied the pre-military appearance of the mountain and are using heavy equipment to retrieve the soil and rock material that was pushed down slope to flatten the ridge. This first step, known as landform restoration, will establish a new ridgeline and more natural drainage contours, but initially leaves a barren landscape. The next step is to ensure that the soil material is appropriate for native plants to thrive. Generally speaking, it takes 100-500 years for nature to produce one inch of topsoil. So, in the space of two short years, we seek to achieve that same result and to restore the mountain to much more closely resemble



Landform restoration at Mount Umunhum

Midpen Staff

its natural condition. Our partners in the restoration are members of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, the original stewards of Mount Umunhum and the people who named it.

By accelerating those time scales, we can enjoy a place like Cooley Landing, which was once a city dump and is today, a healthy marshland where the endangered Ridgway's (née California Clapper) rail is staging a comeback. We can picnic at Mindego Hill, and enjoy a pristine natural environment where livestock contribute to the health of the land, and we will all have the once-in-a-lifetime experience of seeing a mountain, our great Mount Umunhum come to life once again.

Stephen E. Abbors

Stephen E. Abbors
General Manager

Mindego Hill Grand Opening,
Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

120 Attend Grand Opening of Mindego Hill

On March 30, over 120 volunteers, hikers and nature enthusiasts joined the Midpen Board of Directors, and San Mateo County Supervisor Don Horsley, for the wonderful grand opening of Mindego Hill and the Mindego Hill Trail in **Russian Ridge**. On a sparkling sunny afternoon, it was clear to see why Mindego Hill, with its emerald green flanks and panoramic vistas, has been called the "crown jewel of the San Mateo Coastside".

To learn more about Mindego Hill, visit www.openspace.org/preserves/russian-ridge.



Dale Grogan

Grand Opening of Mindego Hill

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 | Amanda Kim—Open Space Views Editor | Renée Fitzsimons—Outdoor Activities Editor

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



SUMMER 2016
June – July – August

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.

Richard Mindigo

Russian Ridge
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. 🌿



Ravenswood
Open Space Preserve

John Green

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.

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

Meet at the Whittemore 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.

COAL CREEK

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

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

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).



Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

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.



Coal Creek Open Space 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. Go to the lot farthest to the right and meet near the restroom at the bottom of the hill.

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.



SARATOGA GAP

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

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.



David Henry

Russian Ridge Space Preserve

WINDY HILL

From I-280, exit Alpine Road in Portola Valley. Go south on Alpine Rd. about 2.9 miles to Portola Road (the first stop sign). Turn right on Portola Rd. and travel 0.8 miles to the parking lot on the left side of the road. 🌿

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 description for any additional information.



Wheelchair accessible.



Stroller accessible: Jogger-type suggested.



Meal/snack break: Bring a lunch, dinner, or snack as appropriate.



Dogs on leash: 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 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.

Note: 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.

JUNE

Explorer Hike: Harbingers of Summer

Wednesday • June 1
Los Trancos • 3-4 mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Summer is almost here! You'll enjoy exploring the headwaters of Los Trancos Creek with docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin as you search for signs of spring's end and summer's beginning along the Franciscan Loop, Lost Creek Loop, and Page Mill Trails. On this leisurely-paced hike through forest and meadow you'll learn how local plants adjust to the changing of the seasons in addition to enjoying a good walk in a lovely preserve.

In the Glow of the Night

Saturday • June 4
Monte Bello • 4.5mi
5:45pm to 11:00pm



Discover night's natural wonders with docents Debby Brusco, Jack Owicki, Katherine Greene, and Paul Billig. You'll hike at a leisurely to moderate pace along the Canyon and Indian Creek Trails with extended stops for interesting sights and sounds. Bring a flashlight with a red filter/cellophane covering if you have it, your meal, and plastic to sit on. Capable, attentive children 10 years and older are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 21.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
June 4 and 5
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



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

Pond-to-Pond on a Summer Morning

Sunday • June 5
Skyline Ridge • 6mi
Meet: Equestrian parking lot
9:00am to 12:30pm



In January, fungi were abundant along the trail. What will you see in June? Bees buzzing, wildflowers waving, dragonflies shimmering, butterflies hilltopping, and salamanders waggling in shady shallows? Explore the changing habitats of this Preserve, from mixed evergreen forest along Fir Knoll Trail to the watery edge of Horseshoe Lake. You'll climb up Sunny Jim Trail, learn some turn of the last century history, and observe evidence of native people's land use. There'll be a lunch stop either near Alpine Pond or under the last pines overlook. Engaged, curious, and capable children are welcome on this moderately-paced loop hike with docents Susan Bernhard and Noa Doitel.



Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

Ohlone Medicine

Sunday • June 5
Long Ridge • 5mi
10:00am to 2:00pm



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, Kim Borick, and Huey-Shin Yuan as you explore 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.

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • June 5
Los Trancos • 2mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents David and Judy Boore for a fun and educational hike along the San Andreas Fault. On this leisurely 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. This easy hike with minimal elevation change is well suited for children and those needing a less physically challenging outing.

A Sense of Community at Pulgas Ridge

Tuesday • June 7
Pulgas Ridge • 4.5mi
9:30am to 11:30am



Enjoy the heat and serenity of summer at this Preserve. Join docents Lina Mesa and Ann Reisenuaer on this moderately-paced hike with hills (800-foot elevation) and uneven terrain. You'll explore a variety of natural communities including oak woodland, grassland, chaparral, and riparian habitats. You'll observe and learn about the plants, trees, and animals found in these communities along the Blue Oak, Dusky-footed Woodrat, and Cordilleras Creek Trails.

Nature's Garden - Late Spring

Tuesday • June 7
Monte Bello • 4mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Docents Debbie Mytels and Vivian Neou will lead this leisurely-paced hike along the White Oak and Stevens Creek Nature Trails to look at nature's garden in late spring. You'll see which wildflowers span the season going into summer, search for newts in the creek, and discuss how various plants might fit into your own garden landscape.



Monte Bello Open Space Preserve



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Karl Gohl

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • June 8
Saratoga Gap • 5mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Katherine Jen, Fran Keeler, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Louise Casey for a moderately-paced, exercise-focused hike. Scenic Aerobic hikes are offered at different preserves every second and fourth Wednesday. 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 the difficulty rating to choose a hike suitable for you.)**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
June 11 and 12
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 4.

A Long and Beautiful Hike

Tuesday • June 14
El Corte de Madera Creek • 11mi
Meet: Skeggs Point
11:00am to 4:00pm



Join docents Steve Warner and Huey-Shin Yuan on a mid-week, uncrowded, long distance hike. You'll travel along the El Corte de Madera Creek, North Leaf, Methuselah, Giant Salamander, Timber View, Manzanita, and Fir Trails. This moderately-strenuous hike with considerable elevation gain is appropriate for seasoned hikers. This hike will proceed rain or shine, but will cancel in the case of strong winds. Bring 2 to 3 liters of water and a lunch. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 31.**

Explorer Hike: Redwood Ramble

Wednesday • June 15
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5mi
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance
10:30am to 2:30pm



Enjoy the beautiful redwoods and lush creekside vegetation of the lower portion of Purisima Creek Trail with docents Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin. You'll enjoy a moderately-paced hike observing second growth redwoods and learning about the logging history of the area. Your lunch stop will be creekside along the Craig Britton Trail. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 1.**

Early Bird Special

Friday • June 17
Picchetti Ranch • 3mi
8:00am to 11:00am



Bring your binoculars and your enthusiasm, and join docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel on this early morning birding walk. Beginning in the Preserve parking lot, you'll scan the poplars for woodpeckers, hummingbirds, jays, and perhaps a northern flicker or two. You'll look for California thrasher, wren, flycatchers, blue-gray gnatcatcher and warblers enroute to the Zinfandel Trail. The pond will have turned to a grass and sedge filled depression, but the stately valley oaks nearby will be a good place to listen and look for chestnut-backed chickadee, bushtit, and oak titmouse as well as woodpeckers, vireos and warblers. Your docents will bring a spotting scope to help bring the birds into closer view for you. Beginning birders are welcome.



Black Mountain History Ride

Saturday • June 18
Monte Bello • 25mi
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
9:00am to 12:30pm



Join docents Linda and Glenn Wegner for an advanced 3,000-foot elevation climbing (paved road and off road) mountain bike ride and learn the history of the Black Mountain area. The ride leaves the Picchetti Ranch Preserve parking lot at 9:00am with Linda; faster riders have the option to leave at 9:30am with Glenn. Each group will start out with a 5-mile climb up the paved Montebello Road and then regroup at the top to enter the Preserve. Experience with longer rides, fire roads, and single-track trails is required. You'll enjoy riding along the Bella Vista, White Oaks, and Stevens Canyon Trails with great views. Bring power snacks and ample drinking water. **(Note: A portion of this ride will be on public roadways with vehicle traffic.)**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
June 18 and 19
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 4.

Hiking for Health and Happiness

Sunday • June 19
Monte Bello • 3mi
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
9:30am to 12:30pm



Hiking brings benefits to mind, body, and spirit. Join docents Maureen Draper and Kandis Scott along the beautiful Waterwheel Creek Trail, one of the highest within the District trail system, where the air is fresh and the views are stunning. You'll be reminded about the oxygen exchange between humans, animals, and trees, and also learn how trees communicate with one another and other species using aerosols and mycorrhizal fungi in the soil. This moderate hike is suitable for capable children 10 years and older.



Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • June 22

El Corte de Madera Creek • 5mi

Meet: Skeggs Point

10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Fran Keeler, Katherine Jen, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Louise Casey for a moderately-paced, exercise-focused hike on trails with beautiful scenery. Scenic Aerobic hikes are offered at different preserves every second and fourth Wednesday. The route of each hike will be determined by the docents based on current trail and weather conditions. (Note: Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike.)

Introduction to Geocaching

Saturday • June 25

Bear Creek Redwoods • 1-2mi

Meet: See text below

10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docent Jenny Whitman and an REI Outdoor School Instructor to search for geocaches, or hidden treasures, using GPS units supplied by REI. This fun and interactive outing is great for families and children (who can hike 3 miles). You are welcome to 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: 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 June 11.

Search for the Everlasting

Saturday • June 25

Picchetti Ranch • 4mi

10:00am to 3:00pm



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

June 25 and 26

Daniels Nature Center

12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 4.



El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve

Qigong Under the Oaks

Sunday • June 26

Picchetti Ranch • 2mi

10:00am to 12:00pm



Experience the healing benefits of the simple movements and breathing of the ancient Chinese practice of Qigong, now used in medical and spiritual settings. You'll be supported by the fresh air and beauty of a natural oak grove. You'll walk along the Zinfandel Trail with attention to the principals of Qigong. Docent and certified qigong teacher Maureen Draper will be your guide along with docent Gerri Tiernan. This easy hike with minimal elevation change is well suited for those needing a less physically challenging outing.



Michelle You

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

El Corte de Madera Creek Tour

Tuesday • June 28

El Corte de Madera Creek • 10mi

10:00am to 3:00pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou to explore the south side of this beautiful and heavily forested Preserve. You'll travel along the Sierra Morena, Gorden Mill, Steam Donkey, Blue Blossom, Lawrence Creek, Timberview, Manzanita, and Methuselah Trails. You'll take a side trip to visit an old growth redwood tree on this fast-paced aerobic workout that includes stops along the way to learn the history and plants of this Preserve.

JULY**Step Back in Time to Discover the History**

Saturday • July 2

Bear Creek Redwoods • 1-2mi

Meet: See text below

10:00am to 12:00pm



Docents Jenny Whitman and Lyndall Erb will take you and your family on an easy hike around the former Alma College site and surrounding Preserve. You'll explore history through 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 June 18.



Jack Goodrich

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
July 2 and 3
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 4.

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • July 3
Los Trancos • 2mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents Strether Smith and Huey-Shin Yuan, and please see the activity description for June 5.

Explorer Hike: Shade, Views and Flowers

Wednesday • July 6
Coal Creek • 4mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Seek relief from summer heat along east-facing, forested slopes with docents Laura Levin, Kate Gudmundson, and Lynn Jackson. You'll enjoy stretches of leafy shade and inspiring views while hiking at a leisurely pace on Cloud's Rest Trail, Crazy Pete's Road, and Coal Road. Along the way, you'll search your surroundings for summer wildflowers and other wonders of nature.

California Buckeye in Summer

Saturday • July 9
Monte Bello • 5mi
9:30am to 12:30pm



Explore the buckeye trees of Black Mountain with docents Mike Alexander and Kandis Scott on a moderately-paced hike along, and adjacent to, the Bella Vista and Old Ranch Trails. You'll learn about this remarkable species – history, uses, and unique adaptations to California's climate. The buckeye begins dormancy in mid-summer, shedding its leaves even as the fruit is developing, and you'll observe this peculiar display in a variety of inspiring and photogenic settings, returning to the same trees you visited in May. This is the third in a series of seasonal hikes, each highlighting one of the buckeye's annual phases. Capable and engaged children 12 years and older are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 25.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
July 9 and 10
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 4.

A Sense of Community at Purisima Creek Redwoods

Tuesday • July 12
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 7.2mi
10:00am to 2:00pm



Enjoy some shade and the serenity of summer at this beautiful Preserve. Join docents Lina Mesa and Ed North on this strenuous-paced hike with big changes in elevation and uneven terrain. You'll explore a variety of natural communities including redwood forest. You'll observe and learn about the plants, trees, and animals in these various communities. You'll hike the North Ridge, Harkins Ridge, and Whittemore Gulch Trails.



Strether Smith

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • July 13
Rancho San Antonio • 5mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Katherine Jen, Fran Keeler, Louise Casey, and Vivian Neon, and please see the activity description for June 8. **(Note: These hikes will vary in difficulty from moderate to strenuous; please refer to the difficulty rating to choose a hike suitable for you.)**

Redwoods and Ferns

Thursday • July 14
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5.5mi
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance
9:00am to 1:00pm



If it is hot where you live, this hike through a landscape of redwoods and dappled shade will help cool you down. Docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel will talk about the redwood logging history of this Preserve and guide you on this out and back hike along the Purisima Creek Trail and a portion of the Craig Britton Trail. You'll also spend some time closely observing several of the 14 varieties of ferns that make this Preserve their home. With the use of a hand lens and illustrations from a book, you'll learn about the typical life cycle of ferns and their relatives, including horsetail and scouring rush that never produce seeds.

Introductory Geocaching Hike for Families

Saturday • July 16
Skyline Ridge • 2.5mi
Meet: Russian Ridge
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docent Lyndall Erb and an REI Outdoor School Instructor, and please see the activity description for June 25. **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail**

hiking; long pants are recommended.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 2.



Geri Tannen

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

July 16 and 17

Daniels Nature Center

12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 4.

Banana Slug Redwood Ride

Sunday • July 17

Purisima Creek Redwoods • 11mi

Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance

10:00am to 1:00pm



Docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Kocsis will meet you at the coast for a leisurely climb up to the Skyline Boulevard area observing life in the redwoods as you go. After a rest you'll ride back down some of the best single track around, through the fog or sun, with fantastic coastal views. This will be an intermediate ride with about 1,800 feet of climbing. Experienced youth cyclists are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 3.**

Fremont Older History Ride

Saturday • July 23

Fremont Older • 12mi

9:15am to 11:30am



Learn the history of this Preserve on an intermediate mountain bike ride with a 2,000-foot elevation gain led by docents Linda and Glenn Wegner. Riders must have experience with single-track trails, fire roads, and climbing hills. The ride leaves promptly. Bring ample drinking water and power snacks. **(Note: Arrive early to find parking; additional parking may be available on Prospect Road).**

Moth Night at Monte Bello

Saturday • July 23

Monte Bello • 1mi

8:15pm to 11:45pm



The 5th annual National Moth Week is July 23-31. Join docents Debby Brusco, Jack Owicki, Sara Witt, Jan Hintermeister, and Katherine Greene to discover nocturnal moths and other insects flying in July. You'll observe surprisingly beautiful and interesting critters attracted to a special light, photograph them if you like, and submit them as a citizen scientist to iNaturalist or another moth week partner. See nationalmothweek.org for additional information. There will be an optional short trek to the sag pond for a sense of a night hike. Bring snacks, a flashlight with red filter/cellophane covering, your camera, and close-focus binoculars if you have them. The main activity takes place at the parking lot; participants will have the option to leave earlier than the scheduled end time. This easy activity is well suited for those needing a less physically challenging outing.

Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 9.



Karl Dahl

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

July 23 and 24

Daniels Nature Center

12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 4.



Jack Gerschbach

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • July 27

Monte Bello • 5.5mi

10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Fran Keeler, Katherine Jen, Huey-Shin Yuan, Louise Casey, and Vivian Neou, and please see the activity description for June 22. **(Note: Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike.)**

View From the Ridge

Saturday • July 30

Long Ridge • 5mi

10:30am to 3:15pm



Join docents Bob Segalla and Paul Billig 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 Stegner bench on the Long Ridge Trail. This moderately-paced, 5-mile, 600-foot elevation change is suitable for capable children.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

July 30 and 31

Daniels Nature Center

12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 4.

AUGUST

A Sense of Community at El Corte de Madera Creek

Tuesday • August 2

El Corte de Madera Creek • 6mi

Meet: Skeggs Point

10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Lina Mesa, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Vivian Neou to enjoy a summer hike under the fir trees. You'll explore a variety of natural communities, plants, and trees at this Preserve as you hike along the Tafari, Resolution, and Fir Trails. This moderately-paced hike will cover steep and uneven terrain, including several hills.



Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Explorer Hike: Nutmegs of Red Mountain

Wednesday • August 3
Long Ridge • 5mi
Meet: Saratoga Gap
10:30am to 2:30pm



Set off from the Saratoga Gap vista point to look for California nutmeg trees with docents Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, and Laura Levin. You'll enjoy a mostly shaded route along the Nutmeg and Red Mountain Trails on this leisurely-paced hike. You'll have time to observe and learn about some of the flora and fauna of this beautiful, quiet southern portion of the Preserve.

Step Back in Time and Explore the History

Saturday • August 6
Bear Creek Redwoods • 1-2mi
Meet: See text below
10:00am to 12:00pm



Please see the activity description for July 2. (Note: Directions will be sent.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 25.

Redwood Oxygen

Saturday • August 6
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5.3mi
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance
10:30am to 3:15pm



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, 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 July 23.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
August 6 and 7
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 4.

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • August 7
Los Trancos • 2mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents Paul Billig and Mike Alexander, and please see the activity description for June 5.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • August 10
El Corte de Madera Creek • 5mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join Docents Katherine Jen, Fran Keeler, Huey-Shin Yuan, Louise Casey, and Vivian Neon, and please see the activity description for June 8. (Note: These hikes will vary in difficulty from moderate to strenuous; please refer to the difficulty rating to choose a hike suitable for you.)

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
August 13 and 14
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 4.

Summer Ride at ECdMC

Sunday • August 14
El Corte de Madera Creek • 13mi
Meet: Skeggs Point
10:00am to 3:00pm



Ride through 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 takes you through mixed evergreen and redwood forests, passes lush riparian habitats, then climbs back to a vista point with a sweeping view of the Pacific Ocean before returning to your starting point. This ride includes more than 2,000 feet of climbing. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 31.



Elle Baurichter

Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

Cool Summer Workout

Tuesday • August 16
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 10mi
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance
10:00am to 3:00pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou for a face-paced aerobic workout among the giant redwood trees and enjoy the cool air on what might be a hot summer day. You'll explore various plant communities along the Purisima Creek, Borden Hatch Mill, Bald Knob, Iris Ridge, and Graptown Gulch Trails and learn what's behind the names of these trails.





John Green

Ravenswood Open Space Preserve

Walk with a Doc

Saturday • August 20
Ravenswood • 1mi
10:00am to 11:00am



Midpen is partnering with the San Mateo County Medical Association to offer a series of "Walk with a Doc" events in 2016. Enjoy a leisurely walk with physician volunteers and chat about health and wellness topics along the way. People of all ages and fitness levels are invited to join this free community health program. Walkers receive complimentary bottled water and a healthy snack. Take a step toward better health! **Sign up online at www.smcma.org/calendar/smcma-events or call (650) 312-1623.**

The Planets in Words and Music

Saturday • August 20
Monte Bello • 5mi
4:30pm to 10:30pm



A decade after Pluto's demotion, explore your planetary neighbors with docents Karen DeMello and Jan Hintermeister. This strenuous hike to the top of Black Mountain will include stops to rhapsodize with composer Gustav Holst and muse on the varied balls of gas and dust that make up our Solar System. You'll watch the sunset while having dinner, and during the descent you'll stop to look at the night sky. Bring a flashlight (with red filter/cellophane covering if possible) and binoculars (if you have them). **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 6.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
August 20 and 21
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 4.

Scenic Aerobic Hike II

Wednesday • August 24
Saratoga Gap • 5.5 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Fran Keeler, Katherine Jen, Huey-Shin Yuan, Louise Casey, and Vivian Neou, and please see the activity description for June 22. **(Note: Scenic Aerobic Hike II is a strenuous hike.)**

Walk with a Doc

Saturday • August 27
Russian Ridge • 1mi
10:00am to 11:00am



Please see the activity description for August 20. **Sign up online at www.smcma.org/calendar/smcma-events or call (650) 312-1623.**

Introductory Geocaching Hike for Families

Saturday • August 27
Los Trancos • 3mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Kim Borick, Debbie Mytels, and an REI Outdoor School Instructor, and please see the activity description for June 25. **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 13.**



John Trewin

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

Horseshoe Lake All Access Walk

Saturday • August 27
Skyline Ridge • 1.3mi
11:00am to 12:30pm



Visit this Preserve on an all access jaunt to Horseshoe Lake; this activity is wheelchair accessible. You'll learn about the native flora and fauna, and enjoy an area that is accessible to all. This leisurely "stroll and roll" will be led by docent and local biology professor Carina Anttila-Suarez and docents Gerri Tiernan and Liz Farnsworth. **(Note: Please meet at the disabled person's parking lot near the start of Horseshoe Loop Trail. Any vehicles parked in the disabled persons lot must display an appropriate placard; all other participants must park in the main lot and arrive at the meeting location by 11:00 am.)**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
August 27 and 28
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 4.

Cool Breezes Over The Hill

Tuesday • August 30
Windy Hill • 9mi
10:00am to 3:30pm



Join docents Ed North and Huey-Shin Yuan for a fast-paced hike circumnavigating this Preserve. Hope for cool Pacific breezes at the top to help moderate a possibly warm August day. You'll climb Razorback Ridge up to Lost Trail and enjoy a lunch break at the top of the ridge. You'll take the Anniversary Trail, with its spectacular views of the Bay, down to Spring Ridge Trail, and finish this strenuous hike on the Betsy Crowder Trail. 🌿

Seventh Annual Photo Contest Winners

Mobile Device Photography



Ladybug by Donna Eck
Rancho San Antonio
Open Space Preserve

Thanks to all who participated in the photo contest this year! We received over 240 submissions in five categories. With so many beautiful photos to choose from, it was difficult to pick just one! We'd like to congratulate the following winners. View these photos, along with the honorable mentions, at www.openspace.org/contest.

Plant Life



Shelter by Ingrid Hegerberg
Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

People



Exuberance by Kevin Neilson
Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Wildlife



Eastern Fox Squirrel with Acorn by John Kesseling
Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Landscapes



Trail Less Traveled by Charles Tu
Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve



Introducing Our New Bond Oversight Committee!

When the public approved Measure AA, they also approved an ongoing Bond Measure Oversight Committee.

Many members of the public came forward with interest to serve in this important role. Seven were selected by the Board of Directors to serve a one-year term. They will convene in February 2017 to oversee the utilization of Measure AA funds and ensure full accountability and transparency. The selected members for the Oversight Committee are: Paul Betlem, Carla Dorow, Biz Eischen, Denise Gilbert, John Melton, Tom Scannell and Jo Zientek. We thank them for their service and dedication to both the public and the natural environment.

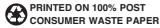
Rancho San Antonio Construction Project on the Horizon

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is getting ready to build a flood detention basin at Rancho San Antonio County Park, fall 2016. This project will help store floodwater and includes a larger parking area, new restroom and expanded wetlands habitat. Subscribe for updates at www.valleywater.org/services/PermanentCreek.aspx.



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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Web site: www.openspace.org



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

Visit Us Online



Purisima Creek Redwood Open Space Preserve photos below:
background by Karl Gohl, photo in circle by Randy Weber



Learn About the Health Benefits of Nature

Healthy Parks Healthy People (HPHP) is an international initiative to promote healthy lands and people. Midpen is a proud member of HPHP Bay Area. Check out the new web site at: www.hphpbayarea.org.

Partnering with Save the Redwoods League to Bring Young People to the Forest

This past fall, Midpen and Save the Redwoods League started a new field trip program for high school students in an effort to connect more young people to the preserves. So far, we have brought over 100 students from Menlo-Atherton, Woodside, and Half Moon Bay high schools out to **Purisima Creek Redwoods** for a day of forest exploration. Our staff, along with the dedicated docents and staff from Save the Redwoods, led the students through various scientific field activities centered on studying redwood forests and their role in climate resiliency. Students measured the height and diameter of trees, conducted scientific measurements on sword ferns, and used smartphones to document the biodiversity of the preserve. All of these activities are a way to monitor the forest and see how forest plants are impacted by the large changes in our climate. Additionally, we wanted to give students a chance to explore the forest as scientists and encourage teachers to use open space as an educational resource.

This exciting new partnership was developed as both organizations work toward a shared goal of making natural spaces more accessible and educating people on the work that goes into protecting these amazing areas.



Forest Bathing for Good Health

Forest bathing is a health practice enjoyed throughout East Asia. Often referred to by the Japanese translation "Shinrin-yoku", this practice encourages people to relax in nature and engage the senses to soak up the forest's sounds, smells and scenery. The emphasis is less on physical activity and more on relaxation and enjoyment.

Practitioners are encouraged to walk at a leisurely pace, stopping frequently to enjoy the sights, sounds and smells of the healing forest. Early studies have shown that forest bathing can help strengthen the immune system, reduce stress, lower blood sugar levels, increase concentration, and improve overall well-being. For your next spa day, head to an aromatic forest in a local preserve!