



Celebrating Over 45 Years of Open Space Preservation
And Five Years of Measure AA Accomplishments

VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • FALL 2019

Building a Bat "Cave" at Bear Creek Redwoods

When we acquired the newly opened Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve property we were thrilled to discover a large bat colony. Many of the bats roost in the rundown abandoned buildings of Alma College, which closed in 1969. Supported by Measure AA funding, the second phase of public access that will open in the coming years at the preserve includes the Alma College site where unsafe buildings need to be removed or shored up.

"These bats are extremely beneficial to the environment," said Matt Chaney, a Resource Management Specialist in Midpen's Natural Resources department. "If you don't like mosquitos, you should really like bats. Bats eat insects — lots for them!"

To care for the bats, we are turning an old carport into a new bat "cave" and will lure them to their new home with recordings of bat calls. You'll be able to watch bats flying in and out at dawn and dusk! Learn more:

openspace.org/BCRBats 

New Oljon Trail Connection: A Watershed Moment

Passing through mixed redwood and tanoak forest, the new 1.3-mile section of the Oljon Trail promises to be a delight for mountain bikers, hikers and equestrians alike at El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve. The Oljon Trail is named to honor the indigenous tribe that inhabited this area of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

The Oljon Trail addition connects to the Spring Board Trail and allows visitors to enjoy new loop routes without having to use Skyline Boulevard/CA 35 or Bear Gulch Road, making the experience safer. As part of this project, the steep eastern portion of the Steam Donkey Trail that connected to Skyline Boulevard has been removed and restored to natural habitat.

The Measure AA-funded Oljon Trail project is the last piece of an 18-year El Corte de Madera Creek watershed protection program designed to protect sensitive fish habitat, improve overall watershed health and enhance the trail experience for visitors.

This comprehensive watershed protection program was developed in coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

After more than a century of historic activities and human impacts resulting in significant

erosion, restoration work was critical to bring the watershed back to health. The Spanish phrase "el corte de madera" roughly translates to "the wood cut," referring to the clear-cut logging that took place here, starting in the 1860s.



Midpen volunteers enjoying a trail work day

The property was logged as recently as 1988, and was also used as a motorcycle park when Midpen purchased the property.

The watershed protection program removed overly steep trails, replaced culverts with bridges, added drainage features, made road improvements to reduce sediment from flowing into the streams, and returned old roads to a more natural state.

"Undertaking technically challenging projects like this allows Midpen's crew of expert trail builders to further refine

their craft and pass knowledge down to the next generation," said Capital Projects Field Manager Bryan Apple.

Midpen Natural Resources scientists are in the midst of a multiyear sediment study to measure the watershed protection program's benefits. Learn more: openspace.org/ECDMwater 



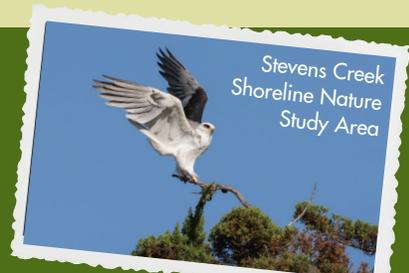
Watershed restoration work improves habitat for coho salmon and steelhead



© Paolo Vesadi, courtesy Peninsula Open Space Trust

2019 Photo Contest Winners

See page 13 for more information.



A Message from the General Manager A Changing Landscape

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve by Francis Freyberg

Bay Area landscapes have been shaped over millennia by people, animals and fire. We use science and history to learn the tools, practices and occurrences that have affected our changing natural world. Science and history teach us how to be good stewards, caring for the land that, in turn, cares for all of us with clean air and water, local food and respite from urban life.

California was once populated by vast herds of elk and other grazers, now mostly extinct. Native Americans tended plants by hand and managed vast acreages with fire for thousands of years to ensure plentiful food, fiber and medicine. They understood that many California native plant communities rely on periodic disturbances from people, animals and fire to survive and thrive.

The gold rush brought a new wave of inhabitants and disturbances that focused on immediate gains versus long term stability and sustainability. These historic clear-cutting, overgrazing, mining and fire suppression activities impacted the quality, resiliency and health of our local ecosystems. We see second-growth forests that are more dense and uniform in age. Once open areas flourishing with native grasslands are slowly vanishing due to encroachment by invasive weeds and brush. And dense forests and brushlands raise concerns about heightened fire risks given our changing climate and increasing development pressures in wildland-urban boundaries.

Here at Midpen, we are working towards a future where old-growth forests and healthy native grasslands are more resistant to fire. Where our natural lands support thriving habitats for local plants and animals, healthy watersheds with clean water, and resilient landscapes with clear air and high biodiversity for people to enjoy. We are using science and historically beneficial tools to heal the landscape through:

- **People:** An innovative new forestry pilot program is being planned for La Honda Creek Preserve to help Midpen and others in the conservation community learn how to bring formerly logged forests back to old-growth conditions.
- **Animals:** More than 11,000 acres on the San Mateo County coast are managed under Midpen's conservation grazing program to restore native grasslands while supporting local agriculture, using cattle to replicate the beneficial foraging and fuel management work once accomplished by California's historic wildlife herds.
- **Fire:** We are in the process of reintroducing prescribed fire to our land management toolbox in 2022, using controlled fires to reduce fuel loads while promoting the growth of fire-dependent and resilient landscapes in our region.

Read through this newsletter to learn about some of the other ways your ongoing support for Midpen is helping to return health and balance to the grasslands, forests, watersheds and baylands across your 26 local open space preserves.


Ana Maria Ruiz,
General Manager



Improving Accessibility in the Preserves



In continued efforts to make open space more accessible, the Midpen Board approved the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan in May and staff is now implementing recommendations in priority order. Guided by federal and state accessibility requirements, Midpen is committed to programmatically making Midpen facilities, programs, services, information, employment and meaningful work opportunities accessible and usable by all people.

In addition to adding features such as accessible restrooms and designated parking spaces, Midpen recently opened two accessible outdoor nature experiences, including the 0.3-mile path around the summit of Mount Umunhum, and the 0.2-mile path around Upper Lake at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.

Midpen continues to evaluate opportunities to include accessible features in new and existing public access projects. For more information about accessibility in the preserves, or to download a brochure on easy-access opportunities in open space, visit openspace.org/access. 



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors

The board holds regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m., at the Midpen administrative office: 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA.

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)

Karen Holman — Ward 5 (East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Stanford)

Larry Hassett — Ward 6 (Atherton, La Honda, Menlo Park, Pescadero, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Gregorio, Woodside)

Zoe Kersteen-Tucker — Ward 7 (El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, Redwood City, San Carlos, Woodside)

Ana Maria Ruiz — General Manager

Peggy Gibbons — Open Space Views Editor | Renée Fitzsimons — Outdoor Activities Editor

Outdoor Activities

FALL 2019 | September - October + November

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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 nearly 65,000 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 – always allow extra time in your schedule for unusual circumstances, or the slower pace of some

groups. Please arrive a little early to ensure a prompt start for each activity. The activities are FREE; some require reservations.

All activities are developed and led by docents who have completed a District natural history 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 website at openspace.org, or phone the District at 650-691-1200 weekdays, 8:30am to 5:00pm. 🦋



Renee Fitzsimons

Picchetti Ranch
Open Space Preserve

ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

To Ensure Your Experience is Enjoyable, Please Review this Information

- For all hikes, wear boots or sturdy walking shoes appropriate for rugged trails. Dress in or bring 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 drinking water with you – water is not available on preserves. Bring sun protection (hat, sunscreen) and consider insect repellent.
- If you have internet access, you are advised to check the District website – Outdoor Activities and Trail Conditions – for possible notifications before heading out to a docent-led activity. Occasionally activities must be cancelled or trails closed with little notice.
- Heavy rain cancels hike activities unless otherwise noted in the description. If there is light rain or the threat of rain, go to the meeting place. Docents will plan to meet participants and discuss hike options – route or duration may be altered due to weather and trail conditions.
- Participants are encouraged to make personal decisions on comfort, safety, and willingness to drive or hike in stormy or threatening weather conditions.
- For a mountain bike or horseback ride, heavy rain within two days prior to the activity will cancel it.
- Equestrians must provide their own horses (no stallions). Lead lines are required and breast collars are recommended for all horses, and helmets must be worn by all riders under age 18.
- Hikers yield to horses; bicyclists yield to hikers and horses. Observe trail speed limits (15 mph max; 5 mph when passing).
- Please be courteous, stay alert, and make your presence known to other trail users well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind.
- Restrooms are not available at all preserves; please plan accordingly.
- Please carpool if possible. Parking is limited in many locations.



Karfi Gohi

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

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 Interpretation and Education Program Manager to discuss in advance at 650-625-6536 or docent@openspace.org. Other arrangements may need to be considered for your group. 🦋

Header photo: Monte Bello Open Space Preserve by Frank Crossman

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.

EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK

Meet at the Preserve parking lot located on the west side of Highway 35 (Skyline Boulevard), about 1.0 mile south of the Caltrans Skeggs Point parking area and 2.7 miles north of the intersection of Highway 35 and Highway 84.

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.

LA HONDA CREEK

Meet at the Sears Ranch Road parking lot off Highway 84 in La Honda. From I-280, exit Sand Hill Road and head west. Turn right onto Portola Road; make a sharp left onto Hwy. 84 West. Turn right onto Sears Ranch Road (13.6 miles). From Highway 1, take Hwy. 84 East/La Honda Road/San Gregorio Road and turn left on Sears Ranch Road (9.2 miles).

LONG RIDGE

Meet at the roadside pullout area for Peters Creek Trailhead on the west side of Skyline Boulevard, 3.6 miles north of Highway 9 or 3.3 miles south of Page Mill Road. Traveling 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

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 Hwy. 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 1.0 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), about 9 miles west of I-280. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 40 minutes travel time.

Mindego Gateway parking lot: Continue on Alpine Road past the main Preserve parking lot for another 1.5 miles. The Mindego Gateway parking lot 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.



Eric Cheng

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

SIERRA AZUL

Jacques Ridge parking lot: Meet at the 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.

Mount Umunhum Summit parking lot: Meet at the parking lot at the top of Mt. Umunhum Road. Exit Highway 85 at Camden Avenue. (From Southbound Hwy. 85 turn left on Camden Ave. From northbound Hwy. 85 turn left on Branham Avenue, then left on Camden Ave.) Travel on Camden Ave. about 1.6 miles. Turn right on Hicks Road and travel for about 6.3 miles. Turn right on Mt. Umunhum Road and travel for 5.3 miles to the Preserve parking lot on the left.

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.

ST. JOSEPH'S HILL

Lexington Reservoir Dam: Meet at the County boat launch parking lot next to the Lexington Reservoir Dam. From southbound Highway 17, take the Bear Creek Road exit, cross over the highway, and go 0.4 miles north on Highway 17 to Alma Bridge Road. Follow Alma Bridge Rd. over the top of the dam. Continue beyond the dam as the road jogs to the right. Turn right into the parking lot just before the road veers to the left. A Santa Clara County Park parking fee is in effect.

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. 🦉



Jim Lislovec

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Easy Hike/Walk:** Flat to gently rolling hills. Total elevation gain less than 200 feet. Leisurely pace. Frequent stops.
- 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).
- 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.

SEPTEMBER

Earthquake Walk

Sunday • September 1

Los Trancos • 3mi

2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents John Seyfarth and Lyle Rice for a fun and educational hike along the San Andreas Fault. 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.

Families with engaged children (who are attentive listeners and capable of hiking several miles) are welcome on this leisurely-paced outing with minimal elevation change. **(Note: This popular hike is not suitable for large groups, thank you.)**



Leo Bair

Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

Explorer Hike: Nutmegs of Red Mountain

Wednesday • September 4

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, Laura Levin, and Mary Brunkhorst. You'll enjoy a mostly shaded route along the Nutmeg and Red Mountain Trails on this moderately paced hike with an approximately 600 feet of elevation gain. You'll have time to observe and learn about some of the flora and fauna of this beautiful, quiet southern portion of the Preserve.

Strategies of the Chaparral

Friday • September 6

St. Joseph's Hill • 3.5mi

Meet: Lexington Reservoir Dam

8:00am to 11:00am



Have you ever wondered how the plants in the chaparral community survive during the hot, dry conditions of summer? Chaparral plants grow on thin rocky soil on south-facing slopes! Learn the adaptation strategies that allow these plants to thrive in harsh conditions with docents Jumana Latif and Lyle Rice on a moderately-paced hike. Expect an elevation gain between 600- to 1,200-feet and be rewarded with sweeping views of Lexington Reservoir and surrounding Santa Cruz Mountains.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

September 7 and 8

Daniels Nature Center

12:00noon to 5:00pm



As seasons change, so do the interactions of life at the edge of Alpine Pond. You are invited to bring family and friends to discover the David C. Daniels Nature Center on Saturdays and Sundays this fall between 12:00 pm 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 October 19 to 11:00 am – 4:00 pm for the remainder of the season.)**

Redwood Oxygen

Sunday • September 8

Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5.2mi

Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance

10:30am to 3:15pm



Find out why you'll be breathing some of the cleanest air in the world with docents Bob Segalla, Sam Berry and Sabra Abraham on the Purisima Creek and Craig Britton Trails. This is a leisurely-paced out and back hike through a cool mystical forest and is suitable for capable children. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or before August 25.**



Karl Cahill

St. Joseph's Hill Open Space Preserve

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • September 11

Los Trancos • 5mi

10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan, Mary Brunkhorst, and Fran Keeler for a moderately-paced, exercise focused hike on trails with beautiful scenery. Scenic Aerobic hikes are offered at different preserves every second Wednesday. The route of each hike will be determined by the docents based on current trail and weather conditions.



Karl Cahill

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Morning Serendipity

Thursday • September 12

Monte Bello • 4mi

9:30am to 12:30pm



Join docents John Seyfarth and Gerri Tiernan for a leisurely-paced morning hike high above the valley. You'll explore the many delights that nature has to offer along the Stevens Creek Nature and Canyon Trails below the slopes of Black Mountain. You'll learn a little bit about local history and earthquake geology, discover wildflowers, and look for animals or their signs – birds, mammals, salamanders, slugs. Capable, attentive children 10 years and older are welcome.

Moonlight on Black Mountain

Friday • September 13

Monte Bello • 5mi

6:15pm to 10:00pm



Docents Linda Wegner, Dave Kocsis, Lindsay Joye, and Alex Woo will guide you on this moderately-paced hike to Black Mountain starting in daylight and returning under full moonlight. You'll learn the history of this beautiful preserve and enjoy gorgeous dusk and nighttime views of the bay and out toward the coast. Bring a flashlight with a red cellophane cover for if you have one, as well as a snack and layered clothing for changeable weather. **(Note: Early departures are not possible on this hike; for safety you need to stay with the group for the planned duration.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 30.**

Stop In and Explore

Sunday • September 15

Daniels Nature Center

12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the description for September 7.

NOTE: The Daniels Nature Center will be closed on Saturday, September 14 to allow volunteers to attend the annual recognition event held in their honor.

Explorer Hike: Sounds of Late Summer

Wednesday • September 18
Skyline Ridge • 4mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Explore woodland, grassland, and riparian habitats for signs and sounds of late summer and early autumn with docents Mary Brunkhorst, Laura Levin, and Chris Christensen. Proceeding along the Ipiwa, Sunny Jim, and Horseshoe Loop Trails at a leisurely pace, you'll pause at intervals to listen to the sounds of nature and discuss seasonal changes in the plant and animal life around you. On a clear day, you'll enjoy views of the Pacific Ocean.

Reigning Riders Tour

Thursday • September 19
Russian Ridge • 13mi
Meet: Skyline Ridge equestrian parking lot
9:30am to 3:00pm



Join docent Teri Baron with assistance from an equestrian trail patrol volunteer and visit one of the Preserve's newer areas – Mindego Hill. You'll be traversing two preserves while keeping your reins reigning your very own trusty steed. This ride affords sweeping vistas and cool breezes from the coast. Horses should be fit and in good shape. Bring halters for a lunch stop. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 5.**

Nature at Night

Friday • September 20
Monte Bello • 4mi
5:45pm to 10:30pm



When the sun sets, not all of nature goes to sleep – some remain active in the cool darkness of night. Join docents Paul Billig, Debbi Brusco, and Katherine Greene as you witness the changes that occur along the Stevens Creek Nature Trail as day moves into night. The hike begins with a walk down to Stevens Creek where you'll stop to enjoy your dinner as darkness descends. On your return hike you'll be vigilant for the sights and sounds of nature at night. Bring a pad or plastic to sit on and a flashlight – red filters will be provided. The hike includes a 400-foot elevation gain. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 6.**



Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Ferns and Their Allies

Saturday • September 21
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 2.2mi
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance
9:30am to 12:00pm



In addition to the usual sword ferns, wood ferns, and giant chain ferns, the shady redwood canyon of lower Purisima Creek is home to the little-known Dudley's sword fern – don't know it? Then join docents Frances Reneau and Helena Cohen on a slow-paced discovery walk with frequent stops. You'll also look for horsetail and any mosses not completely dried up by the end of summer. Bring a magnifying lens if you have one. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 7.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
September 21 and 22
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the description for September 7.

Umunhum Vistas

Sunday • September 22
Sierra Azul • 4mi
Meet: Mt. Umunhum summit parking lot
8:45am to 1:30pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo and Gordon Ferguson for a visit to the Mount Umunhum summit and a leisurely hike on the upper slopes. Discover and learn local history, and the flora of the area while enjoying sweeping views of Santa Clara Valley and the surrounding Preserve landscape.

Ohlone Footsteps

Sunday • September 22
Skyline Ridge • 2mi
Meet: Russian Ridge
10:00am to 12:30pm



Prior to European settlement, the Bay Area was home to a mosaic of Native American tribal communities, many of the early inhabitants frequented the Santa Cruz Mountains. Join docents Kim Borick and Marie Faust Evitt for a leisurely-paced hike with frequent stops along the Ipiwa and Sunny Jim Trails. Historical and cultural background will be provided along with examples of indigenous material used by California Native people and of their practices in managing the local landscape. You'll walk where Native people walked and discover what drew the Ohlone people time and again to these mountains. Appropriate for children aged 9 years and older. Bring lunch to enjoy at Alpine Pond following the hike!

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Sunday • September 22
Skyline Ridge • 2mi
1:30pm to 4:00pm



Join docents Debbie Mytels and Joyce Tang, 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 all ages. You are encouraged to bring small trinkets (inexpensive children's toys, less than 2 inches in length are ideal) to use as trade items for the cache. This activity is an introduction to geocaching and is geared toward the first-time geocacher, though all are welcome. **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended and closed-toe shoes are required.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 8.**



Erin Ashford

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

Native Tree Expedition

Friday • September 27
Long Ridge • 4.5mi
9:00am to 1:00pm



On this scenic riparian and woodland hike your docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi will guide you in a tree identification exercise. You'll create your own personalized key to several species of native trees. Under the cool canopy along Peters Creek, you'll observe and document in brief phrases, sketches, and photos the characteristic shapes, colors, textures, and patterns of Douglas fir, big leaf maple, alder, madrone, oak, and other tree species. The leisurely hike route includes the Ridge, Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
September 28 and 29
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the description for September 7.

OCTOBER

Explorer Hike: Fall into Fall

Wednesday • October 2
Monte Bello • 4.5mi
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
10:30am to 2:30pm



You'll join docents Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, Laura Levin, and Mary Brunkhorst in exploring the changes in the landscape as you welcome fall to your Open Space Preserves. On this leisurely-paced hike on the Waterwheel Creek and Montebello Road Trails you'll observe the often subtle changes to fall colors. In addition to finding several late-blooming flowers, you'll enjoy the spectacular vistas of grasslands, woodlands, and mountains all the way to the ocean. If you wish, bring binoculars for the birds and a camera to record the beauty that surrounds you. Else, simply enjoy the hike! **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 18.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
October 5 and 6
Daniels Nature Center
12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the description for September 7.

Redwood Oxygen

Sunday • October 6
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5.2mi
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance
10:30am to 3:15pm



Join docents Bob Segalla and Sam Berry, and please see the activity description for September 8. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or before September 22.**



Purisima Creek Open Space Preserve

Jack Owicki



Join Midpen and other agencies and organizations around San Francisco Bay to acknowledge **Bay Day 2019 – Saturday, October 5**. Explore a District Preserve at the top of a watershed that flows into San Francisco Bay or check out fun regional events and activities offered at bayday.org, and have a great BAY DAY!

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • October 6
Los Trancos • 2mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents Paul Billig and Joyce Tang, and please see the activity description for September 1. **(Note: This popular hike is not suitable for large groups, thank you.)**

Signs of Fall

Tuesday • October 8
Pulgas Ridge • 4.25mi
9:30am to 12:30pm



Hike the trails of this Preserve with docents Liz Foreman, Lina Mesa and Lindsay Joye while exploring for signs that fall has arrived, including viewing of dusky-footed wood rat nests, and trees with berries and nuts. You'll travel the Blue Oak and Dick Bishop Trails, and also climb hills, with elevation gain over 600 feet. Then take in the views as you travel along the ridge top on this moderately-paced round trip outing with some uneven terrain.

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • October 9
Long Ridge • 5mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan, Mary Brunkhorst, and Fran Keeler, and please see the activity description for September 11.

Health and Wellness Hike

Saturday • October 12
Monte Bello • 4mi
9:30am to 1:00pm



Your health matters! Enjoy the benefits of being out in nature while learning how to improve your health. You'll explore interconnections within the natural world while deepening your own connection to the environment. Docents Catherine Crawford-Swent and Marie Faust Evitt will use simple mindfulness practices and discuss stress reduction. The first mindfulness exercise will be overlooking a canyon view where the North American and Pacific tectonic plates meet. Join in and take a step toward improving your health and wellbeing.

Ferns & Other Ancient Plants

Saturday • October 12
Monte Bello • 3.5mi
1:30pm to 5:00pm



Take a walk down into Stevens Creek Canyon, with docents Debbie Mytels and Ping Li who will help you identify various ferns and other plants that evolved before flowers graced the Earth. You'll learn about ferns commonly consumed by humans in different cultures around the world and you'll look for newts while crossing over the creek. Returning by the White Oak Trail, you'll stop to enjoy the snack you have packed, and maybe observe some deer browsing in the meadow.



Kevin Shaban

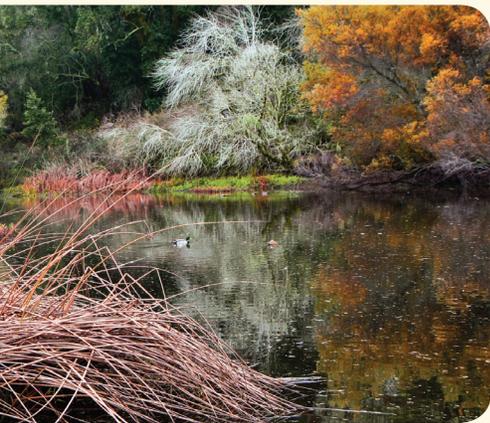
Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

East of the Sun and West of the Moon

Saturday • October 12
Monte Bello • 5mi
4:00pm to 10:30pm



Few views are as spectacular as a sunset and moon rise from the top of Black Mountain. Join docents Paul Billig, Debbi Brusco, and Katherine Greene, as you witness both rise and set happening just minutes apart. The hike begins with a moderate climb up the Bella Vista, Old Ranch, and Montebello Road Trails where you'll stop to enjoy the dinner you bring. Afterward as you descend, the moonlight will illuminate the distant hills. Bring a pad or plastic to sit on. Red filters for your flashlight will be provided for those who need them. The hike includes a 700-foot elevation gain. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 28.**



Robert Clark

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
October 12 and 13
Daniels Nature Center
12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the description for September 7.

Wonders of Cherry Springs

Sunday • October 13
Sierra Azul • 3mi
Meet: See text below
9:00am to 1:45pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo and Emma Finter at a special access area of this Preserve that will traverse mixed evergreen forest and grassland. You'll discuss local history and learn about the pond environment and flora of the area while enjoying views of Santa Clara Valley and the surrounding Preserve. This moderately-paced hike includes a 500-foot elevation gain uphill segment. **(Note: Directions will be sent and participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 29.**

Oak Trees and Acorn Maidens

Sunday • October 13
Monte Bello • 4mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Ann Reisenauer, Susan Bernhard, and Veronica Chouinard for a fall hike through mixed evergreen forest and riparian habitats. As you hike down the White Oak Trail towards the headwaters of Stevens Creek, you'll learn about the different California oaks, see oak galls, and listen for acorn woodpeckers. You'll also hear the Native American legend of the acorn maidens. Returning on the Stevens Creek Nature Trail, you'll pass reminders that this is also earthquake country. Capable, attentive children are welcome.



Drop from the Top Ride

Sunday • October 13
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 11mi
Meet: North Ridge parking lot
10:00am to 2:00pm



Ride the scenic single-track North Ridge and Whittemore Gulch Trails with docents Dave Kocsis and Patty Lovelace as you descend into the cool redwood forests shading Purisima Creek. You'll continue the loop with an invigorating fire road climb to Skyline Boulevard, observing many facets of life in the redwoods as you go, and complete your ride with a cruise on Skyline Boulevard. This is a high-intermediate, moderately-paced ride with about 1,800 feet of climbing. **(Note: a portion of this ride will be on a paved road with traffic.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 29th.**

Hike! Hike! Hike!

Wednesday • October 16
Long Ridge • 9mi
9:30am to 1:30pm



Join docents Wendy Crowder and Paula Maurano for an energetic-paced hike at one of the most beautiful District preserves. You'll start your hike along Peters Creek and then enjoy views of the coast and Pacific Ocean from Hickory Oaks and Achistaca Trails. Bring your lunch/snack for a stop part way through the outing.

Explorer Hike: Natural Wonders

Wednesday • October 16
Windy Hill • 4.5mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Enjoy searching for autumn-blooming wildflowers and other natural wonders with docents Laura Levin, Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, and Mary Brunkhorst. You'll hike at a leisurely pace with about 300 feet of elevation gain along the Spring Ridge, Meadow, Betsy Crowder, and Eagle Trails. Along the way, you'll view Sausal Pond and follow a portion of lovely Corte Madera Creek.

Who Named the Trees?

Thursday • October 17
Picchetti Ranch • 4mi
9:30am to 12:00pm



Have you ever wondered about the scientific names of local trees? Join docents Frances Reneau and Gerri Tiernan who will share meanings and stories behind the Greek and Latin terminology and the names of historical botanists. A special feature of this slow-paced discovery walk with frequent stops will be a visit to a small, over-looked grove of California nutmeg (*Torreya californica*) trees at the turnaround of your out-and-back excursion.

Epic Equus

Thursday • October 17
Rancho San Antonio • 14mi
Meet: See text below
9:30am to 3:30pm



View this Preserve from the outside in with docent Teri Baron and an assistant trail patrol volunteer on the spectacular trails that circumnavigate Rancho San Antonio. You will be riding your very own equus up, up and down, down, down, and all around for this epic ride. You know you have always wanted to do this! **(Note: Directions will be mailed.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 3.**

Literature, Lore, and Life Sciences

Saturday • October 19
Rancho San Antonio • 5mi
9:00am to 12:30pm



Would a rose by any other name smell as sweet? Unpack the diverse symbolic and scientific meanings behind this and other familiar quotes from literature across the centuries and continents on this moderate hike along many of this Preserve's popular trails. Docents Anna Lee and Chris MacIntosh will guide you on an exploration of the ways nature has inspired literature and lore throughout history, and the ways that humans have made sense and meaning of nature. **(Note: Arrive early and allow extra time to find parking.)**



Charlie Theodorovich

Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • October 19

Los Trancos • 2mi

10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Kim Borick and Alisa Stutzbach and an REI Outdoor School Instructor to search for geocaches using GPS units supplied by REI. This interactive outing around is great fun for children and adults. Parents are encouraged to bring small trade items (inexpensive children's trinkets, less than 2" in size) for your child to exchange with treasures found in cache containers. This activity is geared towards the first-time geocacher but all are welcome. Docents will highlight the physical evidence of earthquake geology found along the trail. **(Please Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants and close-toed shoes are required.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 28.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

October 19 and 20

Daniels Nature Center

11:00am to 4:00pm



Please see the description for September 7. **(Note: The Nature Center hours change this weekend to open and close an hour earlier.)**

Wandering and Writing in Nature

Sunday • October 20

Long Ridge • 4.5mi

1:30pm to 5:00pm



Writers and philosophers across the ages have found inspiration, wisdom, and peace through time spent in nature. Join their ranks on this moderate hike along Peter's Creek and Long Ridge Trails, accompanied by the words and spirits of John Muir, Alice Walker, and Aristotle. Share meanings and philosophies with fellow hikers and docents Anna Lee and Marie Faust Evitt, then discover your own insights during a quiet contemplation break at the Wallace Stegner bench. You are encouraged to bring a journal, a writing implement, and/or your favorite nature quotes to kindle reflection and discussion.

Ohlone Medicine

Saturday • October 26

Long Ridge • 5mi

10:00am to 2:00pm



Learn which plants local Native Americans used to treat a variety of ailments from loose teeth and thinning hair to headaches and chest congestion. Join docents Sarah Schoen and Marie Faust Evitt on this hike exploring the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails, with a lunch break overlooking the western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. There will be frequent stops as you begin to appreciate Ohlone cultural practices used before the introduction of modern medicine.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

October 26 and 27

Daniels Nature Center

11:00am to 4:00pm



Please see the description for September 7.

Umunhum Barlow Explorer

Sunday • October 27

Sierra Azul • 6mi

Meet: Jacques Ridge parking lot

7:45am to 1:30pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo and Gordon Ferguson for an uncommon outing around the lower area of Mount Umunhum via Barlow Road and the Woods Trail. This moderately-paced, mostly downhill hike will have many short breaks, wildflowers, and wonderful views. You'll begin your hike at a trailhead along Mt. Umunhum Road near the Bald Mountain parking lot. Several trail sections are steep with varied surfaces. Bring ample drinking water. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 13.**

Autumn Exploration

Sunday • October 27

Russian Ridge • 4mi

Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot

10:00am to 2:00pm



You'll explore the diverse plant communities of this Preserve in the fall, as you enjoy a leisurely-paced hike along the Ancient Oak, Charquin, and Ridge Trails. Learn about local flora and fauna discovered on your route and find out who Charquin (of the above-named trail) was. Expect spectacular views, weather permitting. Appropriate for capable children 10 years or older; the hike has moderate elevation changes. Docents Ann McCarty, Marie Faust Evitt, and Catherine Crawford-Swent will be your guides.

Looking for Clues in Nature

Sunday • October 27

Picchetti Ranch • 2.5mi

1:00pm to 4:00pm



On a leisurely walk along the Zinfandel Trail, docents Debbie Mytels and Farhana Kazi will show you clues that open the door to understanding more about the natural processes in this beautiful preserve. Why are some trees the same distance apart? Why is the air suddenly cooler in a certain location? In addition to exploring the behavior or attributes of water, rocks, and fungi during this hike, you'll also observe clues to human history as you enjoy the many views and vistas through sun and shade.

Galls of Fall

Wednesday • October 30

Monte Bello • 3.5mi

10:00am to 2:00pm



Search for fall galls with docents Kate Gudmundson and Steve Brugler along the White Oak and Stevens Creek Nature Trails. Examine the leaves and stems of oak trees, coyote bush, and other plants for signs of galls on this leisurely-paced hike with approximately 600 feet of elevation gain. Learn about the curious lifecycles of the insects that cause galls and how the galls benefit numerous other insects. Don't know what a gall is? Come discover and be awed!



Erica Simmons

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

NOVEMBER

Farm to Farm

Friday • November 1

Skyline Ridge • 5mi

Meet: Equestrian parking lot

10:00am to 1:30pm



On Skyline Ridge, the chestnuts are falling and the Christmas trees are pruned to perfection. Join docents Judy Sencenbaugh, Marie-Anne Neimat, and Helena Cohen on a moderately-paced out and back hike on the Horseshoe Loop, Tree Farm, and the Chestnut Trails. You'll enjoy a late fall walk through a family owned tree farm, and continue to the chestnut farm to learn how chestnuts are harvested from trees planted over 100 years ago. If you want to experience harvesting your own chestnuts, you can return to the farm after the hike. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 18.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

November 1 and 2

Daniels Nature Center

11:00am to 4:00pm



Please see the description for September 7.



Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Randy Walker

Hike! Hike! Hike!

Wednesday • November 6
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 10mi
Meet: North Ridge parking lot
9:30am to 2:30pm



Join docents Wendy Crowder, Paula Maurano, and Helena Cohen for an energetically-paced hike at this beautiful Preserve. This long distance hike has an elevation loss and gain of 1,200 feet! Your top to bottom adventure and return outing is graced by some of the Peninsula's most beautiful second growth redwoods. You'll descend the Harkins Ridge and Craig Britton Trails, and return up the Whittemore Gulch Trail. Get ready for a workout with scenery!

Explorer Hike: Autumn Amble

Wednesday • November 6
La Honda Creek • 4mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Stroll through the grasslands of a working cattle ranch on the Harrington Creek Trail with docents Laura Levin, Dennis Smith, and Mary Brunkhorst. Along the way, you'll pause to enjoy beautiful views, observe flora and fauna, and learn a bit about local area history. Before ascending about 400 feet to retrace your steps, you'll stop for lunch in the lovely riparian area near the creek.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
November 9 and 10
Daniels Nature Center
11:00am to 4:00pm



Please see the description for September 7.

Animal Architecture

Sunday • November 10
Picchetti Ranch • 3mi
9:30am to 12:30pm



Ordinarily, nests, burrows and many kinds of animal-made structures are not considered architecture. However, these structures are carefully constructed designs for specific purposes. Some have inspired human designs and construction methods. You'll discover master builders of the woodlands, and learn why the "architects" are successful; you'll also appreciate the importance of a healthy environment that provides life-sustaining food and materials. Docents Helena Cohen and Frances Reneau will lead this leisurely-paced nature walk following the Orchard Loop Trail to the Zinfandel Trail and back again.

Skyline Explorers

Monday • November 11
Skyline Ridge • 4.5mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Put on your explorer hat for this adventure, and kindle your curiosity to find revealing clues about animals that live in this Preserve. What are the sources of food available to the animals? How do the critters live as a community? Your docents Farhana Kazi, and Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel will lead you on a discovery route that includes an interactive game, and travels Lambert, Ipiwa, and Sunny Jim Trails with visits to Horseshoe Lake and Alpine Pond too. Capable children 7 years and older are welcome on this hike.

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • November 13
Skyline Ridge • 5mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan, Mary Brunkhorst, and Fran Keeler, and please see the activity description for September 11.

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • November 2
Skyline Ridge • 2mi
Meet: Russian Ridge
10:00am to 1:30pm



Join docents Sarah Schoen and Joyce Tang, 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 all ages. You are encouraged to bring small trinkets (inexpensive children's toys, less than 2 inches in length are ideal) to use as trade items for the cache. This activity is an introduction to geocaching and is geared toward the first-time geocacher, but all are welcome. **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended and closed-toe shoes are required.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 18.

The Wallace Stegner Special

Saturday • November 2
Long Ridge • 5mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Susan Bernhard, Ann Reisenauer, and Veronica Chouinard for a moderately-paced hike along the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails. You'll see evidence of the interesting human history of this Preserve and stop midway for a snack at the Wallace Stegner Bench to share a few inspiring words about the importance of preserving wild places. The bench marks one of Stegner's favorite overlooks and affords sweeping views of the Santa Cruz Mountains and Pacific Ocean.

Earthquake Hike

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



Join docents John Seyfarth and Nina Bell, and please see the activity description for September 1. **(Note: This popular hike is not suitable for large groups, thank you.)**

Signs of Fall

Tuesday • November 5
Pulgas Ridge • 4.25mi
9:30am to 12:30pm



Join docents Liz Foreman and Lyle Rice, and please see the activity description for October 8.



Renée Fitzsimons

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

Look Ma, No Reins

Thursday • November 14
Sierra Azul • 19mi
Meet: See text below
9:00am to 5:00pm



Join docent Teri Baron with assistance from a trail patrol volunteer and partake of the hues of late autumn and stunning views on a ride along the Woods, Limekiln, Priest Rock, and Kennedy Trails. Please do make sure you have reins, and hope for no rains! This will be a long ride and your horse needs to be in good shape. **(Note: Directions will be mailed.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 31.

Outdoor Activities Fall 2019



Richard Kuroshi

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
November 16 and 17
Daniels Nature Center
11:00am to 4:00pm



Please see the description for September 7.

NOTE: This is the last weekend of the season that the Nature Center will be open. The facility will re-open in April 2020 – see you then!

Search for the Everlasting

Sunday • November 17
Picchetti Ranch • 5mi
10:30am to 3:00pm



Join docents Bob Segalla and Greg Azevedo to share the enjoyment of this Preserve so close to home and take the opportunity to decide if a certain plant smells like maple syrup – many people think it does! A lovely view awaits you along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails as does the sound of Stevens Creek. Capable children are welcome on this moderately-paced hike. A visit to the Picchetti Winery for wine tasting is optional (on your own) at the hike's end.

Ohlone Wildland Wisdom

Sunday • November 17
Skyline Ridge • 1.2mi
1:00pm to 4:00pm



Explore how native people who lived in this area for thousands of years took care of the land before the arrival of Europeans. Join docents Marie Faust Evitt, Kim Borick, and Catherine Crawford-Swent for a leisurely-paced hike and fun activities along the beautiful Horseshoe Lake Trail. Discover how the Ohlone people used strategies like controlled burns and regular pruning to nurture plants and ensure abundant food and materials for homes, baskets and medicine. Engaged children who can comfortably hike more than 1.0 mile are welcome.

Transitions: Exploring Life Cycles

Wednesday • November 20
El Corte de Madera Creek • 5.5mi
9:30am to 2:00pm



Explore transitions in nature's life cycles with docents Catherine Crawford-Swent and Marie Faust Evitt. Hiking through the forest you'll encounter ferns, wildflowers, Douglas fir, and redwood trees along Sierra Morena, Oljon, Steam Donkey, and Methuselah Trails. You'll discover how new plants form, identify plant strategies for survival, and how mature plants evolve and change. You'll explore the profound impact that the history of this preserve had on area plant life. Perhaps you'll also discover corollaries with transitions in your own life.

Explorer Hike: Annual Turkey Trot

Wednesday • November 20
Rancho San Antonio • 5mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



It's that time of year again to join docents on a moderately-paced hike to search for wild turkeys. Docents Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, Laura Levin, and Mary Brunkhorst will guide you to use your eyes and ears to locate turkeys that will NOT be on anyone's table for dinner. Past Turkey Trots have found from zero to dozens of turkeys. You'll climb several hundred feet to a lunch stop with a wonderful viewpoint, exerting yourself to offset any holiday overindulgences. **(Note: Arrive early and allow extra time to find parking.)**

Autumn Pleasures

Friday • November 22
Long Ridge • 4.5mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Poet John Keats called autumn in England "the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness" – the same is true in California. Ripe berries and acorns attract animals, and bright yellow maple leaves brighten the forest. If it's clear, there'll be views of the Pacific Ocean from the Stegner Bench. This will be a moderately-paced hike with frequent stops guided by docents Susan Bernhard and Maureen Draper along the Peter's Creek and Long Ridge Trails. You'll hear too how other poets describe and revel in autumn. Engaged and capable children are welcome.

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve by Shailesh Sahasrabudde

Fremont Older History Ride

Saturday • November 23
Fremont Older • 11mi
9:45am to 12:15pm



Learn the history of this Preserve on an intermediate mountain bike ride (with a 2,000-foot elevation gain) led by docent Linda Wegner with assistance from District volunteer 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.)



Madhur Kulkarni

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Throw off that Turkey Torpor

Friday • November 29
Picchetti Ranch • 4.5mi
10:00am to 1:30pm



The weather is cooling and the rainy season is here. Join docents Martin Manley and Linda Smith for a moderately-paced hike and discover a variety of plant communities and their adaptations to unique environments. If weather allows, you'll take a lunch break at picnic tables down by Stevens Creek. Following the hike, you can opt for wine tasting on your own at Picchetti Winery. **(Note: This hike will go ahead in light or moderate rain it can be a wonderful time to see this preserve if you have good raingear.)**



2019 Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of Midpen's 2019 Photo Contest! We received over 270 submissions this year. After staff narrowed the field to five finalists in each category, winners were chosen by a public vote on Facebook.

Aspiring Photographer Category Winner



Ladybug in Maze

By Zoey Lim

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

People in Open Space Category Winner



Moving On

By Charles Tu

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Landscape Category Winner



Daybreak on Snow-Covered Mount Umunhum

By Basim Jaber

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

Wildlife Category Winner



White-Tailed Kite

By Kwon Chiu

Stevens Creek Shoreline
Nature Study Area

Plant Life Category Winner



Owl's Clover in Twilight

By Alex Song

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Read the full winner spotlights at openspace.org/photo-contest/2019-winners.

2018 Donation Acknowledgments

Thanks to our generous 2018 donors! To view a full list of donors visit openspace.org/donations.

Stevens Creek Shoreline
Nature Study Area by Niki Müller





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Visit our website for outdoor activities,
preserve maps, volunteer opportunities and more.

Connect with Us



Coastal Corner

Final Property Acquired to Connect Purisima-to-the-Sea

Midpen recently reached an important milestone in Coastside open space preservation by acquiring 240 acres south of Half Moon Bay, completing a protected landscape from Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve to the Pacific Ocean. This property is the final link in the long-term vision to connect Santa Cruz Mountain forests to the coast in support of agriculture, wildlife and people.

The property, encompassing steep hillsides and grassy ridgeline, transferred to Midpen in June from the Giustis, a prominent Coastside farming family. They retain the lower farm fields where Brussels sprouts, artichokes, beans, pumpkins, peas and hay are grown.

Midpen now has an opportunity to plan and build the Measure AA-funded Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail, linking the Bay Area Ridge Trail along Skyline with the California Coastal Trail. The next step is working with the public to plan the trail in a way that considers the needs of neighboring farmers and ranchers, local residents and open space visitors.

Staff will also remove abandoned oil wells, improve nearby waterways for wildlife and explore reintroducing cattle grazing to the property. These restoration, agricultural and public access projects are funded in part by Measure AA.

Since 2006, Midpen has added five properties totaling nearly 1,500 contiguous acres to Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve, supporting agriculture, protecting a corridor for wildlife and creating an opportunity to plan and build the Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail. 🍂



Haley Edmonston

Purisima-to-the-Sea, Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Red Flag Warnings: Know Before You Go

It's that high-fire-danger time of year, and the National Weather Service may issue red flag warnings, which mean extreme conditions exist that will lead to fire if fuel is ignited. More than 90% of wildland fires in California are started by people. One less spark means one less fire. Here's how you can help:

Stay informed: Sign up to receive red flag warnings and other alerts from San Mateo County at smalert.org and Santa Clara County at alertscc.org.

Reduce fire risk: Avoid activities that could produce a spark, such as using gas-powered equipment like mowers or trimmers; burning debris or a campfire; or driving a vehicle on or near dry grass.

Stay safe: Consider alternative plans on red flag days. If you venture out, seek shade, bring plenty of water for you and your pets and rest frequently. Not having to respond to distressed hikers ensures emergency responders are available should a fire start. 🍂



Jack Owicki

Controlled fire, Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve