



VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • SPRING 2019

Engaging Tomorrow's Open Space Stewards

Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders, tasked with protecting our natural environment in this challenging time of climate change. Midpen introduces local youth to nature, provides job training and opens doors to conservation careers by partnering with several nonprofit organizations.



Installing native plants in Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

San Jose Conservation Corps & Charter School helps young adults, aged 18-27, earn their high school diploma while receiving paid environmental job training. Recently, Corps members worked alongside Midpen staff to create a fuel break for improved wildfire safety in Windy Hill Open Space Preserve. During lunch, Midpen staff provided environmental education and shared stories about their paths to conservation careers. Corps members camped, many for the first time in their lives, at Midpen's Black Mountain Backpack Camp.

The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a national organization providing teens and young adults with hands-on outdoor work



Carmen Lau

Working alongside Midpen staff to create a fuel break for fire safety in Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

experience aimed at building conservation leadership and inspiring lifelong environmental stewardship. SCA students spent last summer in Midpen's open space preserves learning technical skills by using digital devices to collect data for restoration projects and public maps.

It's important to bring young voices, and their passion and energy, to the conservation table. They are the future of open space. 🍂



Photo courtesy SCA

Local youth with the Student Conservation Association spent their summer learning technical skills in Midpen preserves



Brian Melrose

Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

History Unfolds at Bear Creek Redwoods Opening Soon!

Take a journey through time as you experience a classic California story and beautiful redwood forests at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.

Shaped by the San Andreas Fault, the resources and beauty of this landscape first attracted native peoples, then loggers, socialites and scholars.

In the 1990s, developers drew up plans for a golf course and luxury homes. But thanks to the help of many partners, including

significant funding from Peninsula Open Space Trust and the state, Midpen was able to protect it as public open space.

This spring, the preserve will be open for the public to explore and enjoy. Along with six miles of hiking and equestrian trails traversing the redwoods, new public access amenities include a self-guided interpretive walk along an ADA-accessible path around a historic pond. This short walk will take you on a journey to better understand how humans have both shaped this land and been shaped by it.

For the most up-to-date information including the grand opening date, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter *Plug into Nature* at: www.openspace.org/enewsletter 🍂

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors

The Board holds its regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m., at the District 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 María Ruiz—General Manager

Peggy Gibbons—Open Space Views Editor

Renée Fitzsimons—Outdoor Activities Editor

A Message from the General Manager Realizing Your Vision for Open Space with Measure AA



It has been almost five years since local voters reaffirmed their support for Midpen by passing Measure AA, a \$300 million bond funding the community's vision for public open space over 30 years.

To date, Midpen has invested approximately \$48 million in Measure AA funds in 20 projects throughout the preserves. These include land purchases, trails, public access facilities, environmental restoration and agricultural infrastructure. Together, these projects improve the greenbelt's ability to support life in our region.

More than 1,500 Measure AA-funded acres have been added to your public open space. They protect drinking water, create safe wildlife corridors and provide opportunities to expand and connect trail systems.

New public access areas include lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve and a soon-to-be-constructed section of the San Francisco Bay Trail in Ravenswood Open Space Preserve. These projects promote healthy living by connecting more people to open space and building community through a shared appreciation for nature.

Environmental restoration projects strengthen our region's resilience to the effects of climate change by providing habitat for native plants and animals, sequestering carbon from the atmosphere and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

Improved grazing infrastructure on the San Mateo County coast sustains a long and proud ranching heritage. Well-managed grazing systems restore species-rich native grasslands and support spectacular wildflower blooms, providing an important food source for wildlife and native pollinators.

I invite you to visit our website and learn more about the incredible progress we have made in the nearly five years since you passed Measure AA; and see what is planned for the next 25 years. Better yet, visit the preserves and experience how your Measure AA contributions to public open space help make our region a remarkable place to live.

Ana M. Ruiz
Ana María Ruiz,
General Manager



Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve by Charles Tu

The Art and Science of Stream Channel Restoration

Creating high-quality trails that enable people to explore open space is one of the things Midpen does best. Staff recently honed their skills at building a new type of path for nature: One that guides the flow of water. Stream channel restoration is the art and science of returning altered waterways to their natural course and function.

Recently, a perennial creek within Midpen's vast Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve was reconnected to its many tributaries and now flows in its original channel for the first time in decades. Part of the headwaters of Los Gatos Creek, it had been dammed, forced into culverts and crisscrossed by dirt roads. The Santa Clara Valley Water District and Peninsula Open Space Trust partnered to preserve the creek's steep, 117-acre canyon and transferred the property to Midpen in 2015.

Restoring the creek at the heart of the property's diverse ecosystem was made possible through several partnerships. Santa Clara Valley Water District provided a \$485,000 mitigation grant to enhance

wildlife habitat and water quality. Midpen staff carefully removed sediment and man-made impediments from the creek channel, returning natural curves to its cobble bed and rebuilding its banks. The nonprofit Grassroots Ecology and local youth from the San Jose

Conservation Corps removed acres of invasive weeds, revegetated the area with more than 1,100 native plants and planted acorns, buckeyes and grass seed.

Today, the creek winds among stately white-barked sycamore and fragrant bay trees, giving life to a unique web of plants and animals. Rare Santa

Cruz black and Pacific giant salamanders breed in its waters. Deer, bobcats, grey foxes and mountain lions visit to drink. At dusk, bats feast on insects above its surface.

Though the area is inaccessible to visitors, our community reaps many benefits. The preserved canyon and its restored creek provide scenic beauty, clean air and water, and the knowledge that within our urbanized midst there exist wild places returned to nature. 🍂

Outdoor Activities

SPRING 2019 | March – April – May

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 over 63,000 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*.

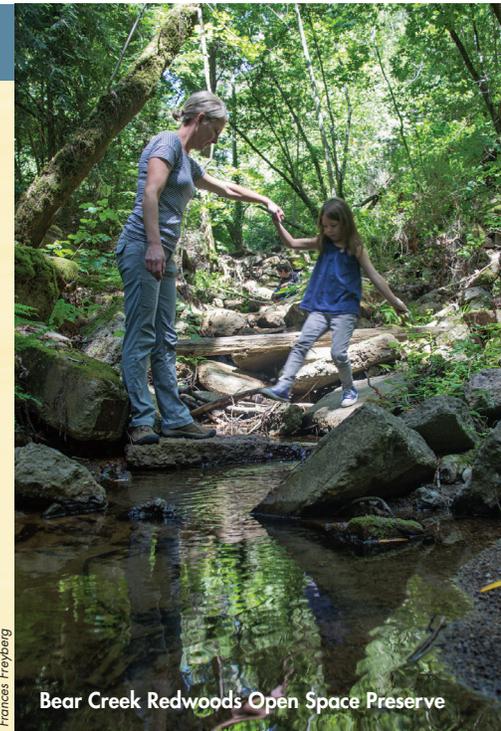
The activity durations listed are averages based on our experience. However, always allow extra time in your schedule for unusual circumstances, or the slower pace of some groups. You can help by arriving a little early to ensure a prompt start for each activity. The activities are FREE; some require reservations.

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 website at www.openspace.org, or phone the District at 650-691-1200 weekdays, 8:30am to 5:00pm. 🦋



Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

Chris Wilms



Frances Freyberg

Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

To Ensure Your Experience is Enjoyable, Please Review this Information

- Please be courteous, stay alert, and make your presence known to other trail users well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind.
- 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 – hike route or duration may be altered due to weather and trail conditions.
- Participants are encouraged to make personal decisions on comfort 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.
- 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). Lead lines are required and breast collars are recommended for all horses, and helmets must be worn by all riders under age 18.
- 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 drinking water with you. Water is not available on preserves.
- Bring sun protection (hat, sunscreen) and consider insect repellent.
- Restrooms are not always available; please plan accordingly.
- Please carpool if possible. Parking is limited in some locations.



John Green

Skyline Ridge 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 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. 🦋

Header photo: Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve by Jack Gescheidt

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.

EDGEWOOD COUNTY PARK

Exit I-280 at Edgewood Road. Head east on Edgewood Rd. about 1 mile to the park entrance on the right (at Old Stagecoach Road).

EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK

Meet at the 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.

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

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

LONG RIDGE

Peters Creek trailhead: 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).



Ravenswood Open Space Preserve

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

Purissima 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 Purissima Creek Road. (Verde Rd. splits off to the right.) Travel approximately 3.7 miles on Purissima Creek Rd. to reach the Preserve.

RANCHO SAN ANTONIO

From I-280, take Foothill Boulevard south and turn right almost immediately onto Cristo Rey Drive. Continue about 1 mile, veer right around the traffic circle, and turn left into the park. 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.

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

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.

SIERRA AZUL (continued)

Bald Mountain parking lot: 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 to Hicks Road and turn right, and travel for about 6.3 miles. Turn right on Mt. Umunhum Rd. and continue for about 1.7 miles. The parking lot will be 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

Little League Field parking lot: Take Highway 17 south toward Los Gatos. Exit at Highway 9-Los Gatos/Saratoga and continue west on Hwy. 9 (approximately 0.33 miles) to University Avenue. Turn left on University Ave. toward downtown Los Gatos. Turn left on Miles Avenue and proceed two blocks to the parking lot on the left for the Little League field.



St. Joseph's Hill Open Space Preserve

THORNEWOOD

From I-280, take the Highway 84/Woodside Road exit. Follow Highway 84/Woodside Road through Woodside and then to a junction with Portola Road at 3.3 miles. Bear right to stay on Highway 84, now La Honda Road. At 4.9 miles from Highway 280, turn left at a brick wall marked 895-897; look for the District sign just inside this gate. The small parking area is on the right about 500 feet from the entrance gate. Please do not drive beyond this lot toward the private residences.

Alternatively, from the junction of Highway 35 (Skyline Boulevard) and Highway 84 in Sky Londa, take Highway 84/ La Honda Road north 1.9 miles and turn right at the brick wall marked 895-897

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).
- 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.

March

WWW – Wildflowers, Wandering and Wine

Saturday • March 2
Picchetti Ranch • 4.5 mi
10:00am to 1:30pm



It's spring-time! Join docents Martin Manley, Linda Smith, and Naureen Moon for a hike through this Preserve to discover wildflowers that were nourished by winter rains. En route you'll see the many varieties of plant communities that can be found in this relatively small preserve and discover what creatures might be lurking in the pond. Bring a lunch to enjoy at the picnic tables down by Stevens Creek. At the end of the outing you'll have the option for a little wine tasting on your own at the Picchetti Winery. **(Note: a shortened version of 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.)**

Earthquake Hike

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



Join docents Paul Billig and Collin Lim 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. Engaged children (who are capable of hiking 2-3 miles and attentive listening) are welcome on this leisurely-paced outing with minimal elevation change.

Signs of Spring

Tuesday • March 5
Pulgas Ridge • 4mi
12:30pm to 3:30pm



Enjoy an afternoon hike with docents Liz Foreman and Lina Mesa as you explore for signs of spring. You'll see an array of wildflowers and native trees and a spectacular view from the top of the ridge. This moderately-paced hike along the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails will include several hills and uneven terrain. Please leave your dogs at home for this hike.



Judy Kenner

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Explorer Hike: Stephens Creek?

Wednesday • March 6
Monte Bello • 4mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Join docents Mary Brunkhorst, Kate Gudmundson, Laura Levin, and Dennis Smith for a leisurely hike along the Canyon, Stevens Creek Nature, and White Oak Trails. While discovering the flora and fauna of this oak woodland, you'll learn about the early settler Elisha Stephens and his link to the incorrectly spelled Stevens Creek.

Umunhum Vistas

Sunday • March 10
Sierra Azul • 4mi
Meet: Bald Mountain parking lot
7:45am to 12:30pm



Join in on this downhill walk along the popular and highly regarded Mt. Umunhum Trail. You'll enjoy unparalleled vistas and hear stories about Mount Umunhum's past, and current place in history with docents Greg Azevedo, Huey-Shin Yuan, Emma Finter, and Gordon Ferguson. Prior to the formal trail walk, you'll be given time to meander around the summit and discover all that it has to offer. **(Note: Participants will carpool/shuttle to the summit). Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 1.**

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • March 13
Fremont Older • 4-6mi
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.

All Things Wise and Wonderful

Thursday • March 14
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 2.2mi
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance
9:30am to 11:30am



California's coast redwoods are certainly wonderful. Ancient, massive, and venerated – the tallest trees in the world – *Sequoia sempervirens*. These trees form their own distinctive micro-climate – dark, damp, and devoid of significant understory. What wisdom can be found here if you look and listen closely? You'll appreciate all things redwood, from fairy rings to fire resistance on this leisurely-paced hike with docents Frances Reneau, Helena Cohen, and Kandis Scott. This outing will explore only the canyon bottom under the forest canopy, however those who wish to might continue on their own up the Purisima Creek Trail for a longer hike.

Really Hoofing It

Thursday • March 14
La Honda Creek • 10mi
Meet: See text below
10:00am to 3:00pm



Bring your very own horse and join equestrian docent Teri Baron (with assistance from an equestrian trail patrol volunteer) for a guided tour of newly opened trails. Lots of wildflowers should be starting to peek out from the hillsides. You'll be traversing on old ranch roads and meeting other "hooved" friends – cattle, along the way. The route has numerous ups and downs and amazing views of the Pacific. Depending on participants' interest and experience, the ride pace may be leisurely or moderate. Horses should be fit and in good shape. **(Note: Directions will be sent to participants.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 1.**



Frances Freyberg

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Hiking and Mindfulness

Sunday • March 17
Monte Bello • 4.5mi
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Diane Maez, Marie Faust Evitt, and Ann McCarty on a moderately-paced, invigorating, and relaxing hike on the Canyon, Skid Road, and Stevens Creek Nature Trails. You'll learn and practice mindfulness strategies by tapping into the healing and calming powers of nature.

Literature, Lore, and Life Sciences

Sunday • March 17
Rancho San Antonio • 5mi
12:30pm to 4:00pm



Would a rose by any other name smell as sweet? Unpack the diverse symbolic and scientific meanings behind familiar quotes from literature across the centuries and continents on a moderately-paced hike along many of this Preserve's popular trails including the Coyote, Wildcat Loop and High Meadow Trails. Docents Anna Lee and Ping Li will guide you on an exploration of the many ways nature has inspired literature and lore throughout history, and how humans have made sense and meaning of the environment in their lives. **(Note: Arrive early to find parking.)**



Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

Karl Gohl

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • March 23
Skyline Ridge • 2.5mi
Meet: Russian Ridge
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Sarah Schoen and Jayita Bhojwani, 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 March 8.**

Umunhum Barlow Explorer

Sunday • March 24
Sierra Azul • 5mi
Meet: Jacques Ridge parking lot
7:45am to 1:15pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo, Huey-Shin Yuan, Emma Finter, and Gordon Ferguson for an uncommon hike 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/shuttle from the meeting location to the trailhead). Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 10.**

Redwood Oxygen

Sunday • March 24
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5.3mi
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance
10:30am to 3:00pm



Find out why you'll be breathing some of the cleanest air in the world with docents Bob Segalla, Helena Cohen, and Sam Berry on the mystical Purisima Creek and Craig Britton Trails. You'll also experience and learn why redwoods are like no other trees in the world. 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 March 10.**



Transitions: Exploring Life Cycles

Wednesday • March 27
El Corte de Madera Creek • 5.0mi
9:30am to 1:30pm



Join docents Catherine Crawford-Swent, Helena Cohen, and Debbie Mytels on a moderately-paced hike to explore transitions within nature's lifecycles. You'll discover how new plant life forms, how strategies help very young plants survive, and how mature plants evolve and change in their environment. On your route along the Sierra Morena, Oljon, Steam Donkey, Springboard, Timberview, and Methuselah Trails you'll encounter ferns, fungi, wildflowers, and large trees like Douglas fir and redwoods. From a health and wellness perspective you'll discuss and consider corollaries in the forest with transitions in your own lives. Come and find out how you are attuned with the life cycles around you in nature!

Historic Ranches

Saturday • March 30
La Honda Creek • 6mi
Meet: Sears Ranch Road parking lot
10:00am to 2:00pm



Explore the rich history of ranching that took place in this beautiful Preserve and that still continues today. Travel the Harrington Creek Trail with docents Chris Christensen and Sabra Abraham, traversing the sites of the Ray, Zaroni, Wool, Folger, and Driscoll ranches that operated in these hills then climb to a distant ridge offering spectacular views of the San Gregorio watershed and the Pacific Ocean. Wildflowers and cows are expected along your route.

Explorer Hike: Early Bloomers

Wednesday • March 20
Pulgas Ridge • 4-5mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Welcome the spring equinox with a special wildflower hike! You'll join docents Dennis Smith, Mary Brunkhorst, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin to explore for early blooming flowers as you ascend the Cordilleras Trail along Cordilleras Creek. On the Polly Geraci Trail, you'll climb to a lunch stop with a view, then continue to the Dick Bishop and Blue Oak Trails on your return descent. This Preserve is noted for beautiful display of wildflowers throughout its varied habitats, so keep your eyes (and cameras) open!

Spring into Beauty

Friday • March 22
Pulgas Ridge • 4.5mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



It's early spring and the sparkling views from the ridge tops and cool canyons are beckoning you. Come hike with docents Farhana Kazi, and Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel, to discover this beautiful Preserve with its bountiful offerings of wildflowers, including fetid adder's tongue, giant trillium, and mission bells. You'll also be on the lookout for dusky-footed woodrat nests while you meander along the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, Hassler, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails.

Pond to Pond

Saturday • March 23
Skyline Ridge • 4mi
Meet: Equestrian parking lot
10:00am to 2:00pm



Explore the changing habitats of this Preserve, from mixed evergreen forest on the Fir Knoll Trail to the riparian environments of Horseshoe Lake and Alpine Pond, and to the chaparral along the Sunny Jim Trail. Docents Noa Doitel and Susan Bernhard will guide your hike and discovery of plants and wildflowers. You'll also try to spot wildlife, while enjoying the vast views of the hills rolling down to the ocean.

Daniels Nature Center Season Begins!!

The **David C. Daniels Nature Center**, located on the edge of Alpine Pond at **Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve**, will open for the season on Saturday, March 30, 2019. Come by on opening weekend to take part in our annual celebration. The Nature Center will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00pm until 5:00pm during spring and summer, and 11:00am to 4:00pm in the fall.



History Hike with the Dogs

Saturday • March 30
Fremont Older • 4mi
10:00am to 12:30pm



Bring your well-behaved dog and enjoy a leisurely stroll through this Preserve with docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Kocsis to learn the history of the area and it's former owners, Fremont and Cora Older. You'll begin the hike climbing the Creekside Trail (which passes close to "Woodhills" the historic Older house and the "pet cemetery") and continue on up the Hayfield Trail to Hunter's Point for some excellent views of the valley. The hike route will then complete the Seven Springs Loop Trail to finish on the Cora Older Trail. Please bring proper clean-up supplies for your canine companion. **(Note: Arrive early to find parking.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 16.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
March 30 and 31
Daniels Nature Center
12:00pm to 5:00pm



Spring weekends are here and so should you be...as the living is easy, especially on the edge of Alpine Pond. Bring family and friends to visit any Saturday or Sunday this spring between 12:00pm and 5:00pm. You can enjoy displays about natural communities, view larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, take a pond prow, and perhaps have an opportunity to study live aquatic organisms "borrowed" from Alpine Pond with guidance from a docent. These adventures and more await you!

April

Explorer Hike: Let 1,000 Flowers Bloom

Wednesday • April 3
Russian Ridge • 5-6mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Take advantage of spring and indulge in glorious blooms of wildflowers! You'll join docents Dennis Smith, Mary Brunkhorst, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin to explore the meadows and woodlands of this ridgetop Preserve. On this moderately strenuous-paced outing, you'll hike the Ridge Trail, visit the summit of Borel Hill, lunch at a comfortable platform, and return via the Hawk Ridge and Ancient Oak Trails. Along the way you'll work together to identify the many flowers seen and enjoy their beauty even for those blooms whose names elude! This leisurely-paced hike has an elevation gain of 400 to 500 feet over ascending and descending trails.

Wildflowers and Vistas

Saturday • April 6
Monte Bello • 3mi
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
9:30am to 12:30pm



"Earth laughs in flowers," wrote one poet. On this leisurely hike along the Waterwheel Creek Trail and fire road approach to Black Mountain you'll see wildflowers and hear memorable lines from poets and even enjoy a little music to celebrate spring. Learn about the unique geology of Monte Bello Ridge and the trees and plantlife it supports. Appropriate for capable children 8 years and older. Maureen Draper and Susan Bernhard will be your docent guides. **(Note: Participants will carpool/caravan to the trailhead.)**

Music in the Air

Saturday • April 6
La Honda Creek • 2.7mi
Meet: See text below
10:00am to 1:00pm



Contemplate spring while listening to excerpts from various classical music pieces as you walk leisurely through forest then meadow with docents Karen DeMello and Alisa Rata Stuzbach. Bring binoculars if you have them. **(Note: Directions will be sent to participants.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 23.

WWW - Wildflowers, Wandering, and Wine

Saturday • April 6
Picchetti Ranch • 4.5mi
10:00am to 1:30pm



Join docents Martin Manley, Linda Smith and Ping Li, and please see the activity description for March 2.

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the description for March 30.

Variety and Views

Sunday • April 7
Los Trancos • 4 mi
10:00am to 2:00pm



Discover and explore the forest, chaparral, and grasslands of this Preserve with docents Mary Bernstein and Marie-Anne Neimat. You'll learn about the diversity of trees found in the forest and depending on the weather, will have grand views of the San Francisco Bay. Wildflowers will be blooming in the grassland and you may spot a variety of local birds and other wildlife too. This Preserve has some interesting history and is one of the oldest Mid-Pen preserves. This hike will traverse all the preserve's trails except the Fault Trail.

Springtime Exploration

Sunday • April 7
Russian Ridge • 4mi
Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot
1:00pm to 4:00pm



You'll explore the diverse plant communities of this Preserve in the springtime, as you enjoy a leisurely-paced hike along the Ancient Oak, Charquin, and Ridge Trails. Learn about local flora and fauna discovered along your route and find out who Charquin (of the above named trail) was. Expect spectacular views (weather permitting) and wildflowers too! 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.

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • April 7
Los Trancos • 2-3mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents John Seyfarth and Lyle Rice, and please see the activity description for March 3.



Kan Ntiz

Thornewood Open Space Preserve

Among the Trees, Bushes, and Flowers

Monday • April 8
Thornewood • 4mi
9:00am to 12:00pm



Enjoy a morning hike with docents Liz Foreman and Marie Faust Evitt as you explore a variety of trees and wildflowers. Descending through chaparral into a redwood forest (with one steep hill and some uneven terrain), you'll travel along the Schilling Lake and Bridle Trails on this moderately-paced out and back hike. **(Note: There are no restrooms at this Preserve.)**

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • April 10
La Honda Creek • 4-6mi
Meet: Sears Ranch Road parking lot
10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for March 13.

Wonders of Edgewood

Thursday • April 11

Edgewood County Park • 4mi
10:00am to 1:30pm



The extraordinary native wildflowers of Edgewood County Park (a nature preserve that MROSD helped to save in the 1970s and 80s) awaits your exploration on this walk. You'll learn how the serpentine soils underlying the preserve to create a spectacular show of colorful wildflowers every spring. Your docents Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi will guide you on several trails to view, identify, and learn about wildflowers. Capable, attentive children 8 years and older are welcome.

Views from the Saddle

Thursday • April 11

Rancho San Antonio • 10mi

Meet: See text below

10:00am to 3:00pm



Bring your trusty steed and enjoy early wildflowers and Bay Area views of and from this Preserve guided by equestrian docent Teri Baron, with assistance from an equestrian trail patrol volunteer. Some of the trails explored on this leisurely-paced ride include PG&E, Upper High Meadow, and High Meadow Trails. The route has significant elevation change – many ups and downs, and horses should be fit and in moderately-good shape. (Note: Directions will be sent to participants.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 28.



Debbi Brusco

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

Spineless Wonders

Friday • April 12

Windy Hill • 3mi

6:00pm to 10:15pm



Join docents Debbi Brusco, Jack Owicki, and Jan Hintermeister on a nocturnal invertebrate treasure hunt. You'll meander along the Spring Ridge and Betsy Crowder Trails with extended stops. After dinner, you'll listen for night creatures. This moderately-paced hike with 200-600 feet elevation gains is geared toward adults, though attentive children 10 years and older are welcome. Bring dinner, ground cover to sit on, and a flashlight with a red filter/cellophane covering if you have it. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 29.

Wandering and Writing in Nature

Saturday • April 13

Long Ridge • 4.6mi

9:00am to 12:30pm



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, Aristotle, and other friends and mentors, old and new. Discuss meanings and philosophies with fellow hikers and docents Anna Lee and Jayita Bhojwani, then discover your own insights through journaling or quiet contemplation during an extended break at the Wallace Stegner bench. You are invited (and encouraged!) to bring a journal, a writing implement, and/or your favorite nature quotes to kindle reflection and share discussion.

Ohlone Footsteps

Saturday • April 13

Skyline Ridge • 2mi

Meet: Russian Ridge

10:00am to 1:00pm



Prior to European settlement, the Bay Area was home to a mosaic of Native American tribal communities and many frequented the Santa Cruz Mountains. Join docents Kim Borick and Sarah Schoen 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 materials used by tribal groups and their practices in managing this landscape's natural resources. You'll discover what drew the Ohlone people time and again to these mountains. Appropriate for children aged 12 and older. Bring lunch to enjoy at Alpine Pond following the hike!

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

April 13 and 14

Daniels Nature Center

12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the description for March 30.

Spring at Black Mountain

Monday • April 15

Rancho San Antonio • 11mi

10:00am to 3:00pm



Wonder what spring blooms will look like this year on the way to Black Mountain? Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou to find out on this aerobic fast-paced hike, enjoying the wildflowers and spectacular views of the Bay Area along the way. You'll get a good workout with a 2,500-foot elevation gain traveling Hill, PG&E, Quarry, Black Mountain, Upper High Meadow, High Meadow and Coyote Trails. You'll enjoy your well-deserved lunch after a heart-pumping climb to the summit!

Celebrate Earth Day

Participate in docent-led activities scheduled April 14-22 or visit the Daniels Nature Center (open Saturdays and Sundays).

Explorer Hike: Hill and Dale

Wednesday • April 17

St. Joseph's Hill • 5mi

10:30am to 2:30pm



Enjoy a leisurely-paced hike starting on the Los Gatos Creek Trail and continuing up to the Flume and Jones Trails with docents Kate Gudmundson, Laura Levin, and Paul Billig. An approximately 800-foot elevation gain will bring you from a lower riparian habitat area up to woodland and chaparral habitats. You'll have time to observe and learn about what influences both flora and fauna as you move from one habitat to another.

Exploring and Birding

Thursday • April 18

Skyline Ridge • 2mi

9:00am to 12:00pm



Bring your binoculars and join docents Sabra Abraham and Lyle Rice to explore different habitats at this Preserve and see what birds you can discover. You'll be walking around Horseshoe Lake and observing chaparral, grassland, forest, and riparian habitats for avian inhabitants or visitors. This outing is open to anybody with an interest in birds! For beginners, you'll be guided to learn the basics of using your binoculars, observing bird behaviors, and identifying common birds. Advanced birders are also very welcome – join the group to share your enthusiasm and enrich others!

Slopes, Canyons, and Peaks

Thursday • April 18

Fremont Older • 5.5mi

10:30am to 2:30pm



This Preserve offers a variety of habitats and experiences – open slopes of grassland, forested canyons, wonderful peaks with sweeping views, remnants of early 20th century history, and weather permitting – gorgeous wildflowers. Join docents Marie-Anne Neimat and Clive Merredew for a loop around the Preserve. Starting at the Cora Older Trail, you'll hike along the Seven Springs Loop, Woodhills Loop, Hayfield, Coyote, and Toyon Trails before returning via the Creekside Trail.

Health and Wellness Hike

Saturday • April 20
Monte Bello • 4mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join Catherine Crawford-Swent and Marie Faust Evitt on a wellness hike to explore the interconnectedness of the natural world, while investigating your individual connection with nature. Learn how spending time outdoors results in health benefits related to reduction in cortisol level and blood pressure, and provides improved immune response, memory and concentration, and creativity. You'll explore basic mindfulness practices and discuss stress release methods while enjoying the peaceful beauty along the White Oaks, Skid Road, and Canyon Trails.

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the description for March 30.

Who Named the Flowers?

Thursday • April 25
Pulgas Ridge • 4mi
9:00am to 11:30am



Commonly known as poppies, buttercups, blue-eyed grass and fiddlenecks – these wildflowers also have scientific (Latin) names with interesting origins. With docents Frances Reneau and Teri Baron you'll learn about etymology (the study of words and meanings), and the scientific system of binomial naming and classifying of organisms. You'll be hiking the Dusky-footed Woodrat, Dick Bishop, and Blue Oak Trails



John Nelson

Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

through oak woodlands and chaparral while learning a few names and discussing the challenges of trying to classify living organisms.

Introduction to Geocaching

Saturday • April 27
Los Trancos • 2.5mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Debbie Mytels and a REI Outdoor School Instructor and please see the activity description for March 23. **(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 April 13.**

WWW – Wildflowers, Wandering and Wine

Saturday • April 27
Picchetti Ranch • 4.5mi
10:00am to 1:30pm



Join docents Martin Manley, Linda Smith, and Naureen Moon, and please see the activity description for March 2.

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the description for March 30.

Annual Fremont Older House and Garden Tours

Sunday • April 28
Fremont Older
9:00am to 4:00pm

Once a year tours of Fremont and Cora Older's historic home (led by District docents) are offered by advance online reservation. There are nine (9) tours scheduled throughout the day, participants meet an offsite location and are shuttled to the tour site. Please visit www.openspace.org/FOTours for complete information including registration details. **Online registration will open Thursday, March 28 at 10:00am.** Group size limit is four (4) people. Please do not call the "Outdoor Activity" reservation phone number for these tours.

Sunset and Reflection

Sunday • April 28
Russian Ridge • 3.7mi
Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot
5:00pm to 8:30pm



Join docents Ann Reisenauer and Susan Bernhard for a moderately-paced hike along the Mindego Hill, Charquin, and Ancient Oaks Trails. You'll enjoy the approaching dusk and twilight changes surrounding you – listening to, observing for, and reflecting on nature's rhythms. On return to your Mindego Gateway starting location, you'll walk out a short distance to a stunning vista overlook and sitting area. Bring a snack to enjoy while you relax and watch the sun set over the distant Pacific Ocean.



Yolshov Tripodki

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

May

Explorer Hike: From the Top

Wednesday • May 1
Sierra Azul • 4mi



Meet: Bald Mountain parking lot
10:30am to 3:00pm



Start your hike at the summit of Mount Umunhum, the highest point on the Bay Area Ridge Trail, with docents Laura Levin, Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, and Mary Brunkhorst. After exploring inspiring mountain-top features, you'll begin a moderately-paced 1,150-foot descent on the beautiful Mt. Umunhum Trail. Along the way, you'll enjoy unparalleled views and discuss the natural and human histories of this iconic mountain. **(Note: Participants will carpool/shuttle to the summit from the meeting location.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 17.**

A Most Special Place

Saturday • May 4
La Honda Creek • 3mi
Meet: See text below
11:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Chris Christensen and Joyce Tang for a moderately-paced walk through the less-visited upper portion of this Preserve. Learn the history of the Dyer Ranch that occupied these magnificent hills while enjoying the inspiring combination of open grasslands, redwood forest, and dramatic views that make this area so special. You'll explore the Coho Vista Loop Trail with a 400-foot elevation gain, traversing a ridge out to the spectacular Vista Point affording distant views of Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean, before continuing on a short loop along the Cielo Trail to an enormous old-growth redwood that survived the axes of loggers. **(Note: Directions will be sent to participants.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 20.**

Beauty Everywhere You Look

Saturday • May 4
Russian Ridge • 3.5mi
11:00am to 2:30pm



This Preserve has been described as a world class location for wildflowers – it also has some of the most spectacular views of the Bay Area. A late morning start for this hike will allow time for some of the wildflowers to wake-up and show you their beauty. Your docents Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel, and June Cancell will introduce you to the amazing grassland, oak woodland, and chaparral wildflowers found in this Preserve. This will be a leisurely walk along the Ridge, Alder Spring, and Ancient Oaks Trails allowing time to discover and explore wildflowers in detail. Capable and attentive children over the age of 8 are welcome.

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the description for March 30.

Wonders of Cherry Springs

Sunday • May 5
Sierra Azul • 3mi
Meet: See text below
8:30am to 12:45pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo, Gordon Ferguson, Helena Cohen and District staff Ellen Gartside 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 steep uphill segment. **(Note: Directions will be sent. Participants will carpool/shuttle to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 21.**

Hiking and Mindfulness

Sunday • May 5
Monte Bello • 4.5mi
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Diane Maez, Marie Faust Evitt, and Ann McCarty on a moderately-paced, invigorating, and relaxing hike on the Canyon, Skid Road, and Stevens Creek Nature Trail. You'll learn and practice mindfulness strategies by tapping into the healing and calming powers of nature.

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • May 5
Los Trancos • 2.5mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents Strether Smith and Nina Bell, and please see the activity description for March 3.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • May 8
Russian Ridge • 4-6mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for March 13.

Your Brain On A Hike

Thursday • May 9
Pulgas Ridge • 4mi
8:00am to 11:30am



Have you ever wondered why you suddenly feel calm, relaxed, or happy once you're on a hike? You'll explore the topics of brain chemistry, sensory input, and the neurochemicals of hiking on this leisurely-paced hike with about 500 feet of elevation gain. The morning conversation will be a casual and broad survey of this vast subject as you enjoy a relaxed nature outing along the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails. Does this spark your curiosity? Join docents Greg Hughes, Jumana Latif, and Steve Brugler, and get ignited.

Ferns and Other Ancient Plants

Saturday • May 11
Monte Bello • 3.5mi
10:00am to 1:30pm



On this walk down into Stevens Creek Canyon, docents Debbie Mytels and Ping Li will help you identify various ferns and other plants that evolved before flowers graced the Earth – you'll see a lot of wildflowers too! Along the way you'll stop to look for newts after crossing over Stevens Creek, and you may see deer and soap root "whiskers" along the White Oak Trail on the return hike. Bring a snack for a short rest stop.

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the description for March 30.

Butterflies of Picchetti Ranch

Sunday • May 12
Picchetti Ranch • 2.5mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Jan Hintermeister and Karen DeMello to explore the wonderful and strange world of insects that taste with their feet and smell with their antennae. Learn to identify common butterfly species in their natural environment and understand why humans from the Stone Age to the Space Age have been fascinated with these delicate winged creatures. Many facts and flutters await you on this leisurely walk along the Zinfandel and Orchard Loop Trails. Bring binoculars if you have them. Attentive children with an interest in nature are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 28.**

Climb Black Mountain Ride

Sunday • May 12
Monte Bello • 10mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Kocsis will guide you on an intermediate-level bike excursion exploring this beautiful Preserve. You'll climb Black Mountain for the views and explore the Waterwheel Creek area before descending the Bella Vista Trail into Stevens Creek Canyon and then take on a final climb out to your starting location. Participants are expected to be experienced and able to ride on fairly steep, narrow dirt trails, and ready to climb more than 1,000 feet. Experienced youth cyclists are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 28.**

Turtle Rock Out 'n Back

Monday • May 13
Long Ridge • 5.6mi
10:00am to 2:30pm



Explore the beauty of this area with an out-and-back hike along the eastern side of the Preserve. With docents Marie-Anne Neimat and Judy Sencenbaugh, you will follow lush Peters Creek Trail in the shade of Douglas-firs until you reach a peaceful pond. You'll then hike along Hickory Oaks Trail through grasslands studded with wildflowers until you reach Turtle Rock – where you'll stop for lunch, experience the awe of open vistas, and hear the tale of Turtle Rock's significance in local lore.

Explorer Hike: Flower Foray

Wednesday • May 15
Sierra Azul • 5-6mi
Meet: Jacques Ridge parking lot
10:30am to 2:30pm



At a leisurely pace on this hike, past the headwaters of Guadalupe Creek, you'll help find and identify spring wildflowers, and learn about flower form and function, in the mixed habitats along the Woods Trail with docents Laura Levin, Kate Gudmundson, Mary Brunkhorst, and Dennis Smith. As you walk along, you'll enjoy views of Mount Umunhum above and the Santa Clara Valley below.

Among the Trees, Bushes, and Flowers

Thursday • May 16
Thornewood • 4mi
9:00am to 12:00pm



Join docents Liz Foreman and Nina Bell, and please see the activity description for April 8.



Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

Byron Bucher

Aerobics For Your Horse

Thursday • May 16
Sierra Azul • 16mi
Meet: See text below
9:30am to 4:30pm



So you want a challenging ride? This is for you! Join equestrian docent Teri Baron, assisted by an equestrian trail patrol volunteer, and ride up Mount Umunhum to just below the summit – a hitching rack and water trough are located there to greet you and your horse. You can rest your mount, enjoy lunch, and walk up to the summit (docents will attend to horses at hitching rack) to see the wonderful interpretive displays and views. The ride route is up and back on Woods Trail to Barlow Road Trail to Mt. Umunhum Trail. This will be a moderately-paced ride with portions of trotting, and a 1,500 foot elevation gain. Horses should

be fit and in good shape – remember its all downhill on the way back! **(Note: Directions will be sent to participants.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 2.**



Live Arose

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

Ohlone Master Gardeners

Saturday • May 18
Skyline Ridge • 1.2mi
1:00pm to 3:30pm



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, Sarah Schoen, and Sabra Abraham for a leisurely-paced hike and fun activities along the Horseshoe Lake Trail to discover some surprising “gardening” strategies. Engaged children who can comfortably hike more than 1.0 mile are welcome. Bring a snack to enjoy lakeside.

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the description for March 30.

Listening to Nature

Wednesday • May 22
Skyline Ridge • 4mi
10:00am to 2:00pm



Open your ears and embark on an auditory journey through this beautiful preserve. From birdsong to windsong, biophony to geophony, the hills are alive with the sound of nature. Learn how species compete for their niche in the sonic landscape and how they are constantly challenged to adapt to the modern, ever-changing world of sound. Join docents Chris Christensen and Marie Faust Evitt and explore the wonderful world of sound around Horseshoe Lake, then climb the Sunny Jim and Ipiwa Trails to bask in the ambiance of the distant hills.

Who Stole the Meadow?

Saturday • May 25
Windy Hill • 6.5mi
9:00am to 1:00pm



It's nearly summertime and the livin' is easy. Grass is growing and the hills are all green – for now ... at least that's how it works in California. Nearly all the grasses you'll see and learn to identify on this hike, or any other hike you take on District lands, are annuals that are native to Europe. What happened to all of California's native perennial grasses and the meadows of wildflowers they supported? Which, if any, of these non-native invasive grasses are being managed or controlled and why? Bring your curiosity and join docents Frances Reneau, Lyle Rice, and Marie Faust Evitt along the Betsy Crowder and Spring Ridge Trails to discover the mystery of the meadow.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
May 25 and 26
Daniels Nature Center
12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the description for March 30.

Dinner on the Deck

Sunday • May 26
Russian Ridge • 5 mi
6:00pm to 10:30pm



Enjoy a moderately-paced evening hike with docents Paul Billig, Ophir Maor, and Huey-Shin Yuan. Enjoy views along the Ridge Trail and at Borel Hill, and dine on a redwood deck. After the sun sets you'll do a return hike through ancient oak trees. Be prepared for fog with layered clothing for warmth. Bring water, dinner, and a flashlight with a red filter or cellophane covering if possible. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 12.**

33rd Annual Hike the Open Spaces

Monday • May 27
Monte Bello • 3 mi
Meet: Picchetti Ranch
8:15am to 12:30pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo and Bob Segalla for a leisurely-paced walk through a less traveled section of this Preserve on the Waterwheel Creek Trail. If the weather is clear, expect to see some spectacular views of the Santa Clara Valley and portions of the Santa Cruz Mountains. This walk with occasional stops will include the history of the Preserve and the District, and you'll learn about the plants, animals, and geology of the area. A short snack break is planned midway. This minimal elevation gain hike is well suited for children and those needing a less physically challenging outing. **(Note: Participants will carpool/shuttle to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 13.**

Outdoor Activities Spring 2019

Fremont Older House Tours
Sunday, April 28, 2019
Fremont Older Preserve

Each spring, Woodhills, the historic home of Fremont and Cora Older, is opened for public tours, providing local history enthusiasts an opportunity to learn more about the legacy of Fremont Older and tour the house and gardens. Tours require advance reservations. **See page 10 for more information.**



Photos by Midpen staff



Grounded in Facts: Wildfire and Forest Ecology

Fire is a fact of life in California and plays a critical role in forest ecology. The combined effects of climate change and more than 150 years of extreme logging and fire suppression are creating a longer and more intense wildfire season. Midpen is expanding its efforts to meet these challenges.

This year, we're embarking on new projects aimed at better managing second-growth forests to increase their health and resilience and to reduce fuel loads. Work will begin in La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve and expand to other preserves.

We're also working to reintroduce periodic prescribed fire to the Peninsula's land management toolbox. Prescribed fire is one of the

most effective tools for fuel reduction and has been a part of local ecology for thousands of years. We invite you to join us at several upcoming community meetings to learn more and provide your input. Get the details at www.openspace.org/fire.

We continue coordinating with local fire agencies, training staff as first responders, maintaining hundreds of miles of fire roads and fuel breaks and expanding our conservation grazing program.

You play a critical role, too, by avoiding activities that could cause fires and making sure your home has adequate defensible space.

5-25 years

Frequency at which most California forests burned, before the arrival of Europeans, from lightning-caused wildfires or Native American burning practices.

(Source: University of California, Berkeley)

Dozens of native plants

Local species are adapted to periodic fire for seed dispersal or germination including redwoods, most manzanita, many California lilacs and others.

20 households

Participated in Midpen's Defensible Space Program by clearing vegetation around their homes and into neighboring preserves for fire safety. 🦋

12,000 acres

Grassland grazed to restore native plants and reduce fuel loads, brush and forest encroachment.

3 tons

Carbon removed from the atmosphere annually by one acre of old-growth redwoods, more carbon than any other known tree. *(Source: Muir Woods National Monument)*





Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, California 94022-1404
Phone: 650-691-1200 • Fax: 650-691-0485
E-mail: info@openspace.org
Web site: www.openspace.org



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



2019 Digital Photo Contest — Shoot, Share and Vote!

Continuing a long tradition of showcasing some of the Bay Area’s most beautiful subjects, our 10th annual photo contest is now open for entries! This year, fans can again vote for their favorite image on Facebook.

Categories: Landscapes, People in Nature, Plant Life, Wildlife, and Youth Submissions* (*6-12 grades).

Prize: One winner in each category will receive a \$100 REI gift card and a Midpen swag bag.

Photo Submission Deadline: Contest begins Friday, March 1, 2019. All photo submissions must be taken in areas of Midpen preserves that are **open to the public**.



Kristen Robison



Asha Kulkarni



Richard Kumaishi

Please read the complete rules, terms and conditions before submitting your photos at: www.openspace.org/contest.



Instagram Photo Contest — Youth can also submit their photos on Instagram. Use #midpencontest — and tag us @midpen.

Midpen Purchases Office Space

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District closed escrow on a larger office building February 1 for \$31.5 million using general fund reserves. The 39,000-square-foot building is located near Midpen’s current Los Altos office, which was purchased in 1990.

Since voters created Midpen in 1972, the organization’s focus has grown from primarily acquiring land for preservation to a more balanced delivery of the mission that also includes environmental restoration, opening land for public enjoyment and education and supporting sustainable agriculture on the San Mateo County coast. Midpen has been leasing additional office space since 2013 to accommodate this growth.

As a forward-thinking and fiscally prudent public agency, Midpen has been planning for its long-term office space needs by setting aside general fund reserves over time for this purpose. After exploring alternatives, purchasing and remodeling a larger office building and selling the current building emerged as the most cost-efficient

and environmentally sound, long-term solution. Measure AA bond funds are restricted for open space land and agricultural preservation, restoration and public access, and were not used to purchase the building. The cost of the building will be offset by selling the current office, no longer leasing additional space and renting space in the newly purchased building not needed in the near term.

The public is invited to an informational open house at Midpen’s current office to learn more about the newly purchased building and participate in a study session with Midpen’s Board of Directors to review preliminary plans for necessary building code upgrades and space reconfigurations.

Informational Open House
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 6 p.m.
330 Distel Circle, Los Altos CA

For more information visit www.openspace.org/office 🌿