



MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
Celebrating Over 45 Years of Open Space Preservation

VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • SUMMER 2018

Bear Creek Redwoods Update

Grant from Santa Clara Valley Water District Bridges Visitors and Nature

A \$149,500 grant from the voter-approved Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection Program through the Santa Clara Valley Water District is helping Midpen open new trails by supporting construction of a bridge across Webb Creek in Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. The bridge will connect visitors to nature and their local watershed lands by providing access through redwood forests. The bridge will also facilitate future regional trail connections between Lexington Basin and the Skyline area, and ensure emergency vehicle access throughout the Preserve. A previously awarded grant from Santa Clara Valley Water District, also through the Safe, Clean Water Program, is supporting the removal of invasive plants along creeks and waterways in this new Preserve, which is scheduled to open to the public in spring of 2019.

ATTENTION NEIGHBORS: The Bear Creek Redwoods Public Access Project may cause delays on Bear Creek Road through spring 2019. For more information visit: www.openspace.org/BCR. 



Board members and partners celebrated a groundbreaking May 1 marking a major milestone towards public access at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. Once completed, this project will provide public access to 6 miles of new trail through cool, towering redwoods. To welcome visitors, the completed trailhead will include a restroom and a 50-space parking lot.

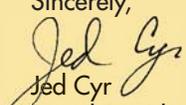
Planting Seeds for the Future of Open Space

When you recall childhood summers, did they include unstructured time outside? I know for me, and many of my colleagues, a lifelong love of nature grew from the seeds of childhood experiences outdoors.

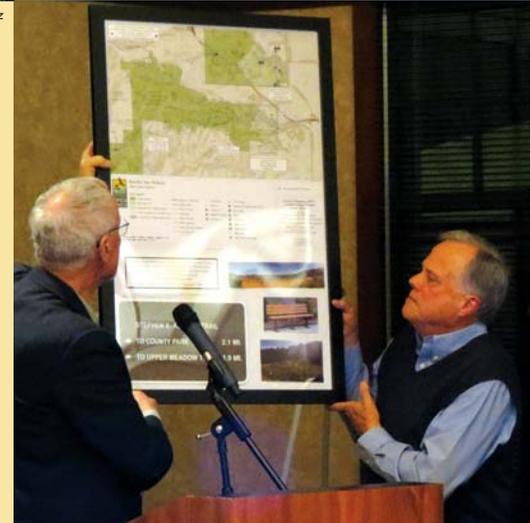
Studies show visitation to nature preserves is rising, but young people and diverse cultures are not always equally represented. Similar findings are emerging in the results of a preserve-use survey Midpen is compiling. We embarked on the year-long survey to learn who is using Midpen preserves and what their experiences are, and who is not visiting public open space, and why.

Early results show visitors are overwhelmingly happy with their experience, but we have work to do connecting younger and more diverse communities to open space. And we are not alone. Local, state, and national efforts are underway to make parks and open space more accessible, equitable, and therefore more viable into the future.

This fall, my fellow board members and I will host soon-to-be-planned study sessions where we'll dive deeper into Midpen's survey results, and use them to shape our work going forward. In the meantime, I hope your summer includes time enjoying public parks and open spaces. Maybe even introduce a young friend or family member to these special places, and join us in the important work of planting seeds that can grow into lifelong connections with nature.

Sincerely,

Jed Cyr
Board President

Stephen E. Abbors Trail: A Well Deserved Honor



PG&E Trail in Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve has been renamed the Stephen E. Abbors Trail in honor of the District's third general manager who retired in December 2017 after serving nearly 10 years.



Midpen Staff

Accessibility at Midpen – Plan Update

Early this year, Midpen began the process of updating our Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) plan. To make our preserves more accessible, public feedback and participation are key. We are interested in hearing about your experience with accessibility at Midpen; what works and what needs improving. Learn more about upcoming public workshops and let us know your thoughts at www.openspace.org/adaplanupdate.



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors

The Board holds its regular meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 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)

Nonette G. Hanko—Ward 5 (East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, Stanford)

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

Cecily Harris—Ward 7 (El Granada, Half Moon Bay, Montara, Moss Beach, Redwood City, San Carlos, Woodside)

Ana Ruiz—Acting General Manager
Peggy Gibbons—Open Space Views Editor
Renée Fitzsimons—Outdoor Activities Editor

Q&A with Midpen’s Climate Resiliency Fellow, Hayley Edmonston



Hayley Edmonston, Climate Resiliency Fellow

What is a Climate Resiliency Fellow?

An unfortunate silver lining of climate change is that the exciting new profession of climate change response is emerging. I am thrilled to be Midpen’s first Climate Resiliency Fellow tasked with building Midpen’s Climate Change Program over the next two years to address how Midpen operates and manages public open space for people, plants, and wildlife in response to this important global issue.

How is your work being used?

To limit the severity of climate change we must radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, which come mainly from burning fossil fuels for energy and transportation. Midpen is developing a Climate Action Plan as a roadmap to guide our organization in reducing greenhouse gas emissions on

everything from operating our preserves to powering our offices and commuting to work. The plan is expected to be adopted by Midpen’s board in fall 2018.

Why is Midpen focusing on climate change?

Climate change touches everything we do here at Midpen, including how we care for plants and wildlife. It is vitally important that we prepare for the impacts of climate change on the public lands we manage, while also doing our part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Any other thoughts for our readers?

Thousands of small changes made by individuals and organizations are part the solution. I challenge you to join us in taking steps to reduce our collective contributions to climate change. The future of the open space we love depends on it. For more information visit www.openspace.org/climatechange.

Keep forests “Crumb Clean” and help the mysterious marbled murrelet



Local redwood forests, and the people who visit them, are intertwined with the fate of the marbled murrelet (MER-let). These mysterious seabirds spend most of their life on the ocean, however, mated pairs journey inland each spring to nest in ancient forests. This July, biologists begin a two-year study in Midpen preserves to determine what areas they nest in.

Marbled murrelets lay a single egg on wide, mossy limbs high up in old-growth trees. The unconventional location of their nests remained North America’s last great ornithological mystery, despite more than a century of searching by scientists. It was finally solved in 1974 by a tree worker named Hoyt Foster at nearby Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Foster made history when he encountered a strange chick with webbed feet while cutting limbs high up in a Douglas fir after a freak snow storm.

We know that food and garbage left behind by visitors attracts ravens and jays that eat marbled murrelet eggs and chicks. You can help by keeping it “crumb clean” while out enjoying your local forests this summer. Please remember there are no trash cans on Midpen preserves. Clean up all food waste and trash, and never feed wildlife.



Outdoor Activities

SUMMER 2018 | June – July – August

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, 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 🦋

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve



Midpen Staff

El Corte de Madera Creek Open Space Preserve



Karl Gohl

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.



Ellie Van Haute

Ravenswood 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.

EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK

Meet at the Preserve parking lot located on the west side of Highway 35 (Skyline Boulevard), about 1-mile south of the Caltrans Skeggs Point parking area and 2.7 miles north of the intersection of Highway 35 and Highway 84.

Skeggs Point: Meet at the Caltrans vista point on the east side of Skyline Boulevard, about 4 miles north of La Honda Road (Highway 84) and 1.5 miles south of Kings Mountain Road. Please note that Caltrans prohibits a left turn into the parking lot when approaching from the north along Skyline Blvd.



Jan Crazenbeek

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

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).

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.

Kent Stiebel



Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

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

Purisima Creek Road entrance: From the Highway 92 and Highway 1 intersection in Half Moon Bay, travel south on Highway 1 approximately 4.3 miles. Turn left on Verde Road. After turning on Verde Rd. and traveling 0.25 miles, continue straight to remain on what becomes Purisima Creek Road. (Verde Rd. splits off to the right.) Travel approximately 3.7 miles on Purisima Creek Rd. to reach the Preserve.

RUSSIAN RIDGE

Meet at the main Preserve parking lot on the northwest corner of the Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35) and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection (across Skyline Blvd. on the right). Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 40 minutes travel time.

SARATOGA GAP

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

SIERRA AZUL

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.





Anda Corlan

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

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.

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. 🌿



Marli McLean

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

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.



Healthy Parks, Healthy People – Bay Area: Introductory level and easy to moderate activities for people of various ages. Some activities have a health and wellness focus. Visit www.hphpbayarea.org.

Stop In and Explore

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



A summer outing awaits you...bring family and friends to visit the Daniels Nature Center on Saturdays and Sundays this summer between 12:00 noon and 5:00 pm. You can enjoy an audio nature tour hike (listening devices are available to "check out"), view displays about natural communities and larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, observe live aquatic organisms "borrowed" from Alpine Pond with the assistance of a docent, or enjoy a picnic with your companions on nearby tables (pack out your own trash please).

Ohlone Medicine

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



Native Americans, including California Indians, had a great number of uses for the plants growing on their lands, an important use being medicinal. Join docents Sarah Schoen and Kim Borick 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 starts and stops as you learn how selected native plants were used to treat ailments before the introduction of modern medicine.

In the Glow of the Night

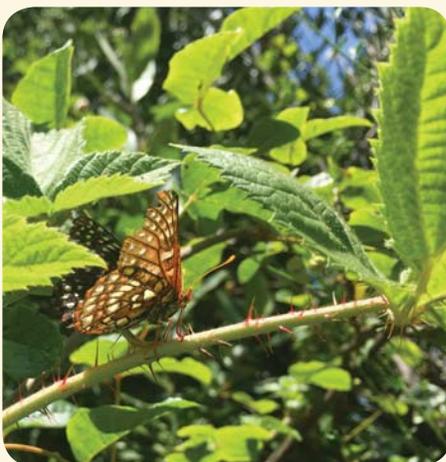
**Saturday • June 2
Monte Bello • 4.5 mi
5:45pm to 11:00pm**



Discover night's natural wonders with docents Debbi Brusco, Paul Billig, Katherine Greene, and Jack Owicki. You'll hike at a

slow pace along the Canyon and Indian Creek Trails with extended stops for

interesting sights, sounds, and discussions. Bring a flashlight with a red filter/cellophane covering if you have it, your meal, and plastic to sit on. Capable, attentive children 10 years and older are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 19.**



Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

Heather Werner

Earthquake Hike

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



Join docents John Seyfarth and Strether Smith for a fun and educational hike along the San Andreas Fault. On this leisurely stroll, you'll stop to discuss the wonder of plate tectonics, examine remnants left by thousands of major earthquakes, and learn how to prepare for future earthquakes. This easy hike with minimal elevation change is well suited for actively engaged children (who are capable of hiking 2-3 miles and attentive listening) and those needing a less physically challenging outing.

Explorer Hike: Late Spring with Turtle

**Wednesday • June 6
Long Ridge • 4-5 mi
Meet: Saratoga Gap
10:30am to 2:30pm**



Come enjoy the anticipation of summer's approach on this leisurely-paced stroll (minimal elevation gain) along the Achistaca Trail with docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, and Mary Brunkhorst. You'll identify late-blooming wildflowers along the trail and perhaps see hawks looking for their brunch. You'll stop for lunch at the storied "turtle rock" with wonderful views across the mountains to the coast, and maybe even figure out which of the rocks resembles a turtle!

Your Brain on a Hike

**Thursday • June 7
Pulgas Ridge • 4 mi
8:00am to 10:30am**



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; you'll hear about brain anatomy and physiology, and consider the brain chemicals released during a typical hike as you enjoy a relaxed pace along the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails. Does this spark your curiosity? Join docents Greg Hughes, Susan Bernhard, and Jayita Bhojwani to exercise your body and mind, and leave with serotonin and dopamine levels surging!

Let's Go Summer Birding

**Friday • June 8
Picchetti Ranch • 3 mi
8:30am to 12:00pm**



What was that bird you just saw flying across the trail ahead? What is that bird doing in the underbrush? Docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi will cover some of the tried and true ways to help identify birds that tend to frequent this Preserve in late spring and summer. Birding by habitat and behavior are good methods. You'll explore grassland, oak woodland, chaparral, creekside, and up in the thermals. Bring binoculars if you have them. A spotting scope will be available to view perched birds. You'll walk along the Zinfandel and Orchard Loop Trails on this leisurely-paced hike with minimal elevation gain.



Jack Owicki



Jack Owicki

Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the activity description for June 3.

El Corte de Madera Creek Tour

Monday • June 11
El Corte de Madera Creek • 10 mi
10:00am to 3:00pm



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

Signs of Summer

Tuesday • June 12
Pulgas Ridge • 4 mi
9:00am to 12:00pm



Enjoy a morning hike with docents Liz Foreman, Padma Satish, and Nina Bell to explore signs of summer. You'll see a variety of oak trees, and late blooming plants along the Blue Oak and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails, and enjoy a scenic view of the peninsula and surrounding hills from the top of the ridge. This will be a moderately-paced hike climbing to an elevation of about 670 feet, with several hills and uneven terrain. (Please leave dogs at home for this hike.)

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • June 13
Long Ridge • 4-6 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan, Mary Brunkhorst, and Vivian Neou 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.



Jim Mosher

Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Introductory Geocaching Hike

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



Join docents Sarah Schoen and Nina Bell, 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 June 2.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
June 16 and 17
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 3.

Morning Serendipity

Sunday • June 17
Monte Bello • 3.5 mi
9:30am to 12:30pm



Join docents John Seyfarth, Paul Billig, and Gerri Tiernan for a leisurely-paced morning hike high above the valley. You'll stop and explore the many delights that nature has to offer along the Stevens Creek Nature and Canyon Trails. You'll learn a little bit about local history, earthquake geology, and look for signs of resident animals and plants in their natural habitats. You might see wildflowers and birds, or a newt, or banana slug crawling across the trail. Engaged children who can handle a moderate hike with gentle hills are welcome.

Cool Creek, Peaceful Pond, and Open Views

Tuesday • June 19
Long Ridge • 5 mi
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Marie-Anne Neimat and Judy Sencenbaugh to explore the various habitats of this Preserve. You'll follow lush Peters Creek downhill through a shady forest abundant with Douglas-firs until you reach the peaceful pond of the Jikoji Zen Center. Rolling hills and open views await you on the Hickory Oaks and Long Ridge Trails where you'll stop for lunch at the Wallace Stegner Bench.



John Trewin

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

Explorer Hike: Late Bloomers

Wednesday • June 20
Windy Hill • 4.5 mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Enjoy a search for late spring wildflowers and other natural wonders with docents Laura Levin, Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, and Mary Brunkhorst. You'll hike at a leisurely pace 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.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
June 23 and 24
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 3.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
June 30 and July 1
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 3.



Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

Kurt Gohl

JULY

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • July 1
Los Trancos • 2 mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



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

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
July 7 and 8
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 3.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • July 11
Los Trancos • 4-6 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 13.

Stop In and Explore

Sa July 14 and 15
Daniels Nature Center
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 3.

Among the Trees, Bushes, and Flowers

Monday • July 16
Thornewood • 4 mi
9:00am to 11:30am



Enjoy a morning hike with docents Liz Foreman and Padma Satish where you'll explore a variety of trees and flowers. Descending through chaparral into 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. There are no restrooms and parking is limited at this Preserve.

Morning Serendipity

Tuesday • July 17
Monte Bello • 3.5 mi
9:30am to 12:30pm



Join docents John Seyfarth, Nina Bell, and Gerri Tiernan, and please see the activity description for June 17.



Kate Pittman

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Explorer Hike: Redwood Rambles

Wednesday • July 18
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5 mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Visit the beautiful redwoods and lush creekside vegetation of the lower portion of the Purisima Creek Trail with docents Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, Laura Levin, and Mary Brunkhorst. You'll enjoy a moderately-paced hike with a gentle climb of 500 feet while observing second growth redwoods and learning about the logging history of the area. Your lunch stop will be creekside along the Craig Britton Trail. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 4.**

Shade and Views

Saturday • July 21
El Corte de Madera Creek • 5 mi
Meet: Skeggs Point
10:00am to 2:00pm



Cool off in the shade of fir and redwood trees on this summer day. Join docents Marie-Anne Neimat and Mary Bernstein on a moderately-paced hike along the El Corte de Madera Creek, Resolution, and Fir Trails. You'll stop at the vista point where you'll enjoy a lovely view with your lunch. On the way back via the Fir Trail you'll visit an impressive tafoni sandstone formation.

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the activity description for June 3.

Moth Night

Saturday • July 28
Monte Bello • 0 mi
8:30pm to 11:45pm



The 7th annual National Moth Week is July 21-29. Join docents Debbi Brusco, Jack Owicki, Sara Witt, and Jan Hintermeister to discover nocturnal moths and other insects flying in July. You'll observe surprisingly beautiful and interesting critters attracted to a special light, photograph them if you like, and document your observations as a citizen scientist with iNaturalist or another moth week partner data repository. See www.nationalmothweek.org for additional information. Bring snacks, a flashlight with red filter/cellophane covering, your camera, and close-focus binoculars if you have them. This activity takes place at the parking lot; participants will have the option to leave earlier than the scheduled end time. This easy activity is well suited for those needing a less physically challenging outing. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 14.**

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the activity description for June 3.

**Mount Umunhum:
Past and Present**

Saturday • August 4
Sierra Azul • 1 mi
8:30am to 9:30am



Join this casual walking tour around the Summit of Mount Umunhum. You'll enjoy unparalleled vistas as you hear stories about the history, and discuss current status of the site. Docents Greg Azevedo and Maureen Draper will guide you and share information and stories about Mount Umunhum's varied history. Afterwards, you'll have the option to meander the summit at your leisure.



Erin Ashford

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the activity description for June 3.

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • August 5
Los Trancos • 2-3 mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents Paul Billig and Huey-Shin Yuan, and please see the activity description for June 3.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • August 8
El Corte de Madera Creek • 4-6 mi
Meet: Skeggs Point
10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 13.

Arachnophilia!

Saturday • August 11
Monte Bello • 4 mi
5:00pm to 10:30pm



Explore the world of arachnids with spider-loving docents Debbi Brusco, Jack Owicki, and Sara Witt. With luck, a tarantula may cross your path as you search for sometimes timid creatures that you might usually be inclined to avoid. You'll hike at a slow pace and stop frequently along the Canyon Trail in addition to other trails, with an elevation gain of up to 600 feet. Capable, attentive children 10 years and older are welcome. Bring a flashlight (with a red filter or cellophane cover if you have it), plastic to sit on, and your meal. **Reservations are required and will be acceptable on or after July 28.**

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the activity description for June 3.

Signs of Summer

Monday • August 13
Pulgas Ridge • 4 mi
9:00am to 12:00pm



Join docents Liz Foreman and Ann Reisenauer, and please see the activity description for June 12.



Mark Prusznowski

Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Explorer Hike: Nutmegs of Red Mountain

Wednesday • August 15
Long Ridge • 5 mi
Meet: Saratoga Gap
10:30am to 2:30pm



Come look for California nutmeg trees with docents Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, Laura Levin, and Mary Brunkhorst. You'll enjoy a mostly shaded route along the Nutmeg and Red Mountain Trails on this leisurely-paced hike with approximately 600 feet of elevation gain. You'll have time to observe and learn about some of the flora and fauna at this beautiful, quiet southern portion of the Preserve.

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the activity description for June 3.



Karl Gahl

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Outdoor Activities Summer 2018



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve by Donna Scheifler



Jack Geschickler

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

Cool Summer Workout

Monday • August 20
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 10 mi
10:00am to 3:00pm



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

Sweet Smells of Summer

Friday • August 24
Picchetti Ranch • 4.5 mi
10:00am to 1:30pm



Many of late summer's drying plants release delightful aromas. Open your olfactory senses while exploring the wonders of nature with docents Gerri Tiernan and Susan Bernhard on this moderately-paced hike along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails. You'll hike into adjoining Stevens Creek County Park for a brief lunch stop at picnic tables before returning on the Zinfandel Trail. A visit to historic Picchetti Winery is optional (on your own) at the hike's end.

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the activity description for June 3.

Notable Landmarks

Friday • August 31
Skyline Ridge • 3.5 mi
9:00am to 12:30pm



On this pond-to-pond hike with sweeping vistas of grassland, dense stands of conifers, and deep canyons, you'll be on the lookout for prominent features in the landscape. At different times Butano Ridge, the summit of Black Mountain, Horseshoe Lake dam, and the outlines of a natural spring will come into view. You'll walk along the shore at Horseshoe Lake and then proceed at a moderate pace on the Lambert Creek, Sunny Jim, and Ipiwa Trails over to Alpine Pond for a loop around it's shore and a snack stop with docents Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi. The return trip on this 400-foot elevation gain hike will take you along the Butano View, Sunny Jim, and Ipiwa Trails. 🍂

Lizards – Summertime Sunbathers

Lizards are reptiles. They are cold-blooded vertebrates with lungs and scales or horned plates. Because they can't regulate their own body heat, lizards depend on the outside environment for temperature control. Look for these critters where they can best soak up the sun – on fences, rocks, and in open areas.



Karl Gohl

Western Fence Lizard

Sceloporus occidentalis
 5-7" nose to tail tip

Natural History: The most common reptile in California. Active during the day, seeking basking and perching sites. Feeds on beetles, flies, spiders caterpillars, and ants. Also

called "Blue Bellies" because mature males have blue patches on the underside.

Blainville's Horned Lizard

Phrynosoma blainvillii
 3.5-5" nose to tail tip

Natural History: Typically found in areas with sandy soil and scattered shrubs. Ants are a large portion of its diet; also eats other insect prey such as wasps, flies, beetles, grasshoppers, and caterpillars.



Amanda Mills



© Gary Nafis

Skilton's Skink

Plestiodon skiltonianus
 6-7.5" nose to tail tip

Natural History: Found mostly in open disturbed areas. Secretive by nature though fairly active under cover. Diet includes a variety of insects. Juveniles

have a bright cobalt blue tail. A small, delicate species with smooth scales.

California Whiptail

Aspidoscelis tigris munda
 11-13" nose to tail tip

Natural History: Has a forked tongue that it flicks continually. Rarely sits still and has a distinctive jerky gait. Eats insects, spiders, scorpions, and other lizards. Usually found in areas with sparse vegetation. 🍂



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2017 Donation Acknowledgments

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve by Sheva Carr

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Robin Lovel



Doug Sheaffer

Cast your vote for the 2018 Photo Contest winners!

Each year hundreds of photos are entered into the Midpen Digital Photo Contest. Stunning landscapes, multitudes of flowers and plants, a wide variety of wildlife, and people enjoying open space are all captured in the many submissions received.

Winners will once again be chosen by popular vote on the Midpen Facebook page. One album for each category of finalists will be posted each day June 11–15, and voters will have 7 days to choose their favorites.

Follow us at facebook.com/midpenopenspace to vote for your favorite photos and to keep up-to-date with the latest Midpen information. 🍂



Coastal Corner

Following the successful opening of lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve in Winter 2017, Midpen is currently working on conceptual designs for the Red Barn area of the Preserve. This second phase of public access will include new trails, parking area, and amenities such as a restroom, a trailhead, and interpretive information.

Update on the Red Barn Area at La Honda Creek Preserve

Central to the design plan are the goals to reflect the rural character of the area, protect scenic views to and from the site, and develop a new destination to support educational opportunities for visitors. In preparation for the design and implementation of the next phase, Midpen has completed technical studies, developed conceptual design alternatives, met with stakeholders, held an open house in 2017, and additional public meetings will be held in 2018.



Randy Weber

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Join Us! A public meeting is planned to provide the public an additional opportunity for input and suggestions.

When: Tuesday, June 12 | Where: La Honda Elementary School

Midpen greatly values public engagement and encourages feedback and comments from all Midpen residents on this project.

Stay informed!

Visit the La Honda Creek planning page at www.openspace.org/LHC to see the latest conceptual design and find out about upcoming public meetings. 🌿

Coastal Wildflower Day



Midpen Staff

Eight-year-old June Bennett of Half Moon Bay, with her face painted as a fox, meets Midpen's gray fox during Coastal Wildflower Day at Half Moon Bay State Beach in April.