



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

VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • FALL 2018



Volunteer Naturalists in training on Midpen open space preserves

Edge of the Nest...New Docent Naturalists Fledge

How do curiosity and passion mix together to support open space? Why in the training, mentoring, and nurturing of docent naturalists of course. Twenty-five trainees completed the District's in-depth training course for new Outdoor Activity Docents (aka volunteer naturalists) in August. The training course is offered every two years for a 14-week duration and prepares new docent naturalists to lead interpretive walks, hikes, mountain bike and horseback rides for the public on District preserves year round.

The District's docent program began in 1977 as a way to engage visitors with open space lands and provide enriched experiences free of charge that connect people to the natural and cultural history of the area. This foundation continues to guide the depth and breadth of docent-led activities today. The training course involves lecture and field sessions on topics including ecology, plant communities, birds, fungi and lichen, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, Ohlone culture and pre-history. Instructors are District staff and expert guest lecturers.

"The class has been a truly wonderful and enriching experience—I've so enjoyed learning from staff, as well as our guest speakers. I realize that I've only just grazed the surface of knowledge that will enable me to be an effective docent—I've got a long way to go!"

— Docent trainee

New for the 2018 training was a partnership with University of California's—California Naturalist (CalNat) certification program (calnat.ucanr.edu). The participants in this enhanced training opportunity were required to meet a few additional

requirements in addition to the District's well-established curriculum in order to receive their CalNat certification. The additional instruction covered climate change, natural resource management, and water resources—important elements to understanding California's unique environmental challenges.

The wonderful docents already serving as District naturalists are eager to work together to begin sharing wild places with the public, and to keep learning and discovering together what makes the preserves so special.

To find out about our Docent led activities see page three of this newsletter, or the Midpen website at www.openspace.org/activities.

To find out more about volunteering for the District visit www.openspace.org/volunteer. 🐦

Midpen Welcomes New General Manager



In June, the Midpen Board of Directors appointed Ana María Ruiz as the new general manager. She's the organization's fourth general manager, and has been rising

through the ranks of the organization for 20 years.

Ruiz began her career with Midpen as a planning technician in 1998, working her way up to planning department manager in 2009 and becoming assistant general manager in 2013. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in geological and environmental sciences from Stanford University and a Master's Degree in urban and regional planning from San Jose State University. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners, and recently completed the Santa Clara County Leadership Academy and California Local Governance Summer Institute at Stanford University.

Ana's understanding of the organization, keen analytical mind, and passion for stewarding public open space and connecting diverse communities to nature, provides the stability and focus needed to ensure a balanced delivery of our mission. 🌿

Photo Contest Winners Youth Winner Profile

See page 13 for more information.



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 María Ruiz—General Manager

Peggy Gibbons—*Open Space Views* Editor

Renée Fitzsimons—*Outdoor Activities* Editor



Accessibility at Midpen – Plan Update

Early this year, Midpen began the process of updating our Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) plan.

The draft ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan update is now available online and we're looking for your feedback—Let us know your thoughts at

www.openspace.org/adaplanupdate.

A Message from the General Manager Building Community

Growing up east of Los Angeles with little open space and few neighborhood trees, my deep appreciation for nature was sparked by my first camping trip with the Girl Scouts. I credit such childhood community connections with helping me understand and appreciate how a healthy natural environment enriches our lives and connects us to our surroundings and each other. Today, as the new general manager at Midpen, I am excited to help achieve our community's vision for its protected public lands. Because we do this work for the benefit of everyone, one of my main priorities is building deeper community connections to open space through outreach, partnerships, and public programs.

Outreach

We are working to reach out and connect people of all backgrounds, ages and abilities to their public open space. By sharing the natural beauty, inspiration, clean air and water, unique biodiversity and tranquility these lands provide we are building community around shared values and outdoor experiences. This focus on connecting people to nature is also one reason we are in the midst of updating our ADA transition plan, striving to ensure people of all abilities have opportunities to enjoy Midpen preserves and participate in our environmental education programs.

Partnerships

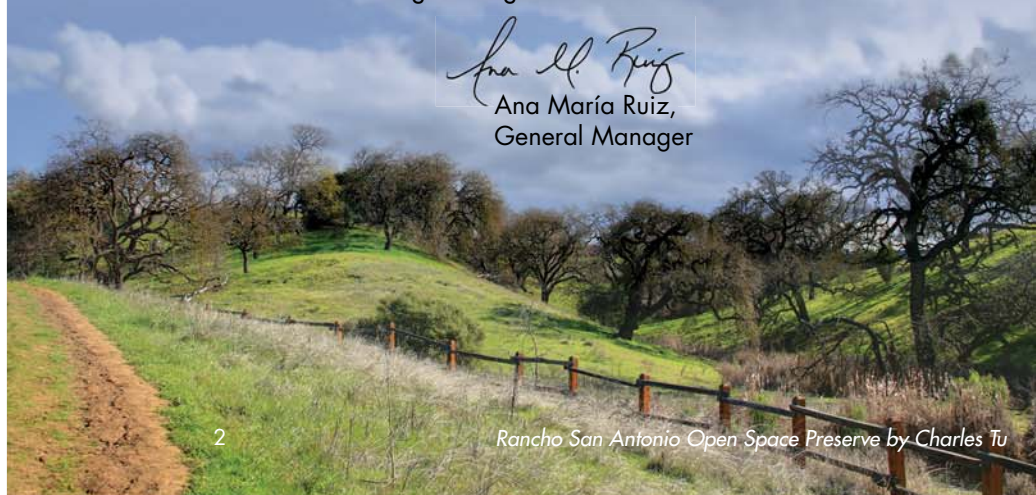
We are also building community by strengthening and diversifying Midpen's partnerships. That is why local teenagers working with the Student Conservation Association are earning school credit and a stipend while gaining meaningful introductions to environmental conservation work in Midpen preserves. Our partnership with Latino Outdoors is providing first-time camping experiences under the stars in Monte Bello Open Space Preserve and mobilizing new environmental stewards who are helping to remove invasive weeds in Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. And by partnering with Save the Redwoods League, Midpen preserves are providing living outdoor laboratories teaching high school students about climate change.

Programs

As happened in my childhood, direct experiences are often the catalyst connecting people to nature and each other. In this issue, you will read about our enriched interpretive naturalist docent program. This year, we will hire for a new education position dedicated to enhancing existing programming and developing new experiences that connect more youth, families, and people from diverse backgrounds to nature.

Each one of us can play a lasting role in protecting our natural environment, stewarding our local resources and sharing outdoor experiences. I am honored to lead Midpen in building a strong and inclusive community around our shared conservation values. Together, we can realize our vision of a protected greenbelt that sustains and enriches our region for generations to come.

Ana María Ruiz,
General Manager



Outdoor Activities

FALL 2018 | September – October + November

MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

GENERAL INFORMATION

With this newsletter in hand and a sense of exploration in mind, we invite you to enjoy the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves. These 26 extraordinary preserves include 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. 🦋



Russian Ridge 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.



Rendie Fitzsimons

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve



Jack Geschel

Picchetti Ranch 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: Monte Bello Open Space Preserve by Frank Crossman

WHERE TO MEET

Directions to preserves featured in this season's schedule of *Outdoor Activities* are listed below. Some preserves have more than one access point. Some activities meet at different locations than where the activity will actually occur. If an activity does not meet at the preserve listed, or if there is more than one preserve access point, the alternate meeting location will be indicated in italics on a separate line following the preserve name as part of the activity header. (For example: **Skyline Ridge Meet: Russian Ridge** or **Russian Ridge Meet: Caltrans vista point**). If no information follows the preserve name, then refer to the detailed directions for the preserve or alternate meeting location listed below.

Note: Restrooms are not always available; please plan accordingly.

PLEASE CHECK THE LISTED DESCRIPTION TO MAKE SURE YOU MEET YOUR ACTIVITY LEADER AT THE CORRECT LOCATION.

DANIELS NATURE CENTER

Park at the Russian Ridge Preserve parking lot on the northwest corner of the Skyline Boulevard (Highway 35) and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection (across Skyline Blvd. on the right). Walk to Alpine Pond at Skyline Ridge Preserve by going through the tunnel under Alpine Rd. The Nature Center is a small gray building on the east shore of Alpine Pond.

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).

FREMONT OLDER

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Prospect Road in Cupertino. Exit Highway 85 at De Anza Boulevard. (From northbound 85 turn left on De Anza Blvd. and from southbound 85 turn right on De Anza Blvd.) Travel on De Anza Blvd. (toward the mountains) for about 0.5 miles. Turn right on Prospect Rd. At the first stop sign, turn left and cross the railroad tracks to remain on Prospect Rd. Follow Prospect Rd. for 1.3 miles, turning left after the Saratoga Country Club, until you reach the Preserve parking lot.

LONG RIDGE

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.



Renee Fitzsimons

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

MONTE BELLO

Meet at the Preserve parking lot on Page Mill Road (across from Los Trancos Preserve), 7 miles west of I-280 or 1.5 miles east of Skyline Boulevard. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 35 minutes travel time.

PICCHETTI RANCH

From the intersection of I-280 and Foothill Expressway, go 3.5 miles southwest (toward the mountains) on Foothill Boulevard/Stevens Canyon Road. Turn right on Montebello Road. The Preserve is 0.5 miles up Montebello Rd. on the left.

PULGAS RIDGE

From I-280, exit Edgewood Road. Drive 0.75 miles on Edgewood Rd. toward San Carlos/Redwood City. Turn left (north) on Crestview Drive, then immediately turn left on Edmonds Road. Follow Edmonds Rd. to the Preserve parking lot entrance on the right.

PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS

North Ridge parking lot: This entrance is on Skyline Boulevard next to the now closed Kings Mountain Country Store. The parking lot is 4.5 miles south of Highway 92, and 8.1 miles north of Highway 84.

PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS (continued)

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.

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.

RAVENSWOOD

From Highway 101, exit on University Avenue. Follow University Ave. north (about four long blocks) to Bay Road. Turn right on Bay Rd. and follow it to the very end (about 1.2 miles). The Preserve entrance and parking lot are marked with large signs.

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

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.



Renee Fitzsimons

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve



Panoramic View Towards Russian Ridge and Windy Hill Open Space Preserves

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.

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.

Skyline Boulevard parking area: Meet at the parking area on Skyline Boulevard, 2.3 miles south of La Honda Road (Highway 84) and 4.9 miles north of Page Mill 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.

September

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

September 1 and 2

Daniels Nature Center

12:00noon to 5:00pm



As seasons change, so do the interactions of life at the edge of Alpine Pond...bring family and friends to discover the David C. Daniels Nature Center on Saturdays and Sundays this fall between 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm. You can enjoy an audio nature tour (loaner listening devices available to "check out"), view displays about natural communities and larger-than-life pond strata mobiles, take a pond prowler, study live aquatic organisms "borrowed" from Alpine Pond with the assistance of a docent, or enjoy a picnic with your companions on nearby tables (pack out your own trash please!). Autumn is an amazing season for a visit. **(Note: The Nature Center hours change on October 13 — 11:00am to 4:00pm for the remainder of the season.)**

Explorer Hike: Skyline to Sempervirens

Wednesday • September 5

Saratoga Gap • 4.5 mi

10:30am to 2:30pm



Embark on a moderately-paced hike with docents Mary Brunkhorst, Kate Gudmundson, and Dennis Smith. You'll hike from the Saratoga Gap Vista Point to the Sempervirens Vista Point (located in Castle Rock State Park) along the Skyline-to-the Sea and Summit Meadow Trails. You'll enjoy a lunch break while taking in the views of the Santa Cruz Mountains descending toward the sea.

Meet the Neighbors

Saturday, • September 8

Skyline Ridge • 3 mi

Meet: Equestrian parking lot

10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Ophir Maor, Lyle Rice, Helena Cohen, and Grace Goldberger on this leisurely-paced one way hike from Horseshoe Lake to Alpine Pond. You'll encounter four natural communities along the way: wetland, grassland, chaparral, and mixed evergreen forest, and discuss the different animal and plant life found in each. You'll stop by the David C. Daniels Nature Center at the hike's end and visit with resident gopher snake, "Twix" before enjoying your lunch at the picnic tables by the pond. This is a family-focused easy hike with minimal elevation change, but is not stroller accessible. **(Note: Participants will be shuttled back to their cars at end of hike.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 25.**

Sunset on Black Mountain

Saturday • September 8

Monte Bello • 5 mi

5:00pm to 10:30pm



Few views are as spectacular as a sunset from the top of Black Mountain. Join docents Paul Billig and Huey-Shin Yuan and witness a late summer day changing into night. The hike begins with a moderate climb up the Bella Vista and Old Ranch Trails, and Monte Bello Road where you'll stop to watch the sunset while enjoying the dinner you brought. Following the break, you'll descend part way and stop again to stargaze into the moonless night sky. Bring a pad or plastic to sit on and a flashlight. Red filters for your flashlight will be available. The hike includes a 700-foot elevation gain. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 25.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

September 8 and 9

Daniels Nature Center

12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the description for September 1.

Signs of Fall

Tuesday • September 11

Pulgas Ridge • 4 mi

9:00am to 12:00pm



Enjoy seeing a variety of oak trees, plants with berries, and dusky-footed woodrat nests on this hike with docents Liz Foreman, Lina Mesa, and Lyle Rice. You'll hike along the Blue Oak, Dick Bishop, Dusky-footed Woodrat, and Cordilleras Trails, and take in the scenic views from the top of the ridge as you explore for signs that fall is approaching. This moderately-paced hike includes some hills and uneven terrain with an elevation gain of about 800 feet. Please leave dogs at home for this outing.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • September 12

Windy Hill • 4-6 mi

Meet: Skyline Boulevard parking area

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.

Ohlone Footsteps

Saturday • September 15

Skyline Ridge • 2 mi

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, Sarah Schoen, and Marie Faust Evitt for a leisurely-paced hike with frequent stops along the Ipiwa and Sunny Jim Trails. Historical perspective, including California native people's practices, management and use of indigenous plants, animals, and raw materials will be shared. You'll discover what brought the first people time and again to these mountains. Engaged children 12 years and older are welcome. Bring lunch to enjoy at Alpine Pond following the hike.



Strether Smith

Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • September 2

Los Trancos • 2 mi

2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents Strether Smith and Nina Bell 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. **Please refer to the Special Note on page 3 if you are a group.**

Ghosts of the Redwood Forest

Saturday • September 15
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5 mi
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Chris Christensen, Sam Berry, and Ann McCarty for a moderately-paced out and back hike along Purisima Creek Trail where you'll discover the surprising history of the sawmills that once operated in the canyon, and ponder the remnants of the ancient forest that haunt the canyon today. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 1.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
September 15 and 16
Daniels Nature Center
12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the description for September 1.

Explorer Hike: Late Summer

Wednesday • September 19
Skyline Ridge • 4 mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



Observe woodland, grassland, and riparian habitats for signs of late summer and early autumn with docents Laura Levin, Mary Brunkhorst, Dennis Smith, and Ann McCarty. Proceeding along the Ipiwa and Sunny Jim Trails at a leisurely pace, you'll pause at intervals to discuss seasonal changes in the plant and animal life around you. On a clear day, you'll be awed by views west, beyond Butano Ridge to the Pacific Ocean. The route includes an elevation gain of about 200 feet.

Workout with Clean Air

Friday • September 21
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 10 mi
Meet: North Ridge parking lot
10:00am to 3:00pm



Do you get more energy with clean air during your workout? Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou for a fast-paced exploration surrounded by giant redwoods, which produce more oxygen than other trees. This is a 1,500-foot elevation gain workout along the North Ridge, Whittemore Gulch, Purisima Creek, Craig Britton, and Harkins Ridge Trails with a refreshing lunch break.



Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve



Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Stop In and Explore

Sunday
September 23
Daniels Nature Center
12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the description for September 1.

NOTE: The Daniels Nature Center will be closed on Saturday, September 22 to allow volunteers to attend the annual recognition event held in their honor.

Umunhum Barlow Explorer

Sunday • September 23
Sierra Azul • 5 mi
Meet: Jacques Ridge parking lot
7:45am to 1:30pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo, Huey-Shin Yuan, Emma Finter, Nina Bell, Gordon Ferguson, and Helena Cohen for an uncommon hike around the lower area of Mount Umunhum via Barlow and Woods Trails. This moderately-strenuous hike with many short breaks and wonderful views includes trail sections that are steep with varied surfaces. You'll begin your hike along Mt. Umunhum Road near the Bald Mountain trailhead and continue to Barlow Road to hike down to the parking lot. Participants are advised to carry ample drinking water. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 9.**

Oaks of Monte Bello

Sunday • September 23
Monte Bello • 3.5 mi
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Steve Brugler and Susan Bernhard to learn about the oak trees along the White Oak and Stevens Creek Nature Trails. You'll also meet oak enthusiast and guest presenter Al Keuter, who will help sort out the complexities of oak identification. This loop hike has 600 feet of elevation change and the pace will be leisurely, giving you time to study the characteristics of five species, including the lesser known Shreve oak. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 9.**

Literature, Lore, and Life Sciences

Sunday • September 23
Rancho San Antonio • 6 mi
2:00pm to 6:00pm



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 this moderate hike along many of this Preserve's popular trails including the Coyote, Rogue Valley, Upper High and Lower Meadow Trails. Docents Anna Lee, Bob Abrams, and Chris Christensen will guide you on an exploration of the many ways nature has inspired literature and lore throughout history, and the various paths through which humans have made sense and meaning of the environment in our lives.

Awe Hike

Tuesday • September 25
Russian Ridge • 4 mi
10:00am to 1:30pm



"Awe is the feeling of being in the presence of something vast or beyond human scale that transcends our current understanding of things" – Dr. Dacher Keltner. Join docents Judy Sencenbaugh and Marie-Anne Neimat as you enjoy a moderately-paced "Awe" inducing hike up the Ridge Trail to Borel Hill before descending the Bo Gimbal Trail and following the Ancient Oaks Trail to the Audrey Rust commemorative site. After enjoying your lunch, you'll hike back focusing on nature and fellow hikers. Elevation gain on this hike is approximately 500 feet.



Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

Oath of the Oaks

Friday • September 28
Monte Bello • 3.5 mi
9:00am to 1:00pm



The majestic oaks and bountiful acorns are calling you! You'll learn how both play an important role in forest ecology and discover the ways the Native Americans harvested and used them. Join docents Farhana Kazi, and Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel on this moderately-paced hike. You'll travel down the White Oak and Stevens Creek Trails, and return back on the Canyon Trail. One thing is sure – the oaks and acorns will find a place in your heart.

History Ride

Saturday • September 29

Fremont Older • 12 mi

9:15am to 11:30pm



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

Ohlone Storytelling

Saturday • September 29

Skyline Ridge • 2 mi

Meet: Russian Ridge

10:00am to 12:30pm



Bring your children and enjoy an Ohlone storytelling hike with docents June Cancell and Kathryn Strachota where you'll hear about cultural heroes like Coyote, Eagle, and Hummingbird. Learn how local Indians used oaks and other plants, and the underlying beliefs of native Californian tribes: that all living things—plants, animals, water, and rocks—are connected and respected. This leisurely-paced walk around Alpine Pond and to the Nature Center will include hands-on activities.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

September 29 and 30

Daniels Nature Center

12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the description for September 1.

October

Explorer Hike: Bushes and Birds

Wednesday • October 3

Monte Bello • 4 mi

Meet: Picchetti Ranch

10:30am to 2:30pm



Hike along the Waterwheel Creek Trail with docents Kate Gudmundson, Dennis Smith, Laura Levin, and Mary Brunkhorst on this leisurely-paced expedition with an approximately 600-foot elevation gain. Enjoy scouting for birds as you observe some of the marvelously well adapted native California shrubs. You'll stroll through grasslands and woodlands as you learn some helpful birding tips for beginners, as well as how to distinguish different common shrubs. **(Note: Participants will carpool to trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 19.**



Karl Gohl

Not My Fault

Saturday • October 6

Los Trancos • 3 mi

10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Ophir Maor and Joyce Tang at the place where earthquakes cut through nature and the landscape tells stories. This easy hike along the Fault Trail is geared toward families and will include fun activities along the trails. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 22.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

October 6 and 7

Daniels Nature Center

12:00pm to 5:00pm



Please see the description for September 1.

Umunhum Vistas

Sunday • October 7

Sierra Azul • 4 mi

Meet: Bald Mountain parking lot

7:45am to 1:45pm



Join in on this 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, Nina Bell, 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 parking lot. Walk route subject to change depending on parking availability at area trailhead parking lots.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after September 23.**



Karl Gohl

Join Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and other agencies and organizations around the San Francisco Bay to celebrate the 3rd annual **Bay Day – Saturday, October 6, 2018**. You're invited to go on a District docent-led hike and experience being at the top of a watershed that connects to San Francisco Bay or check out other events and activities offered in the region at bayday.org. Get outdoors and enjoy!



Plant Communities and Adaptation

Sunday • October 7

Picchetti Ranch • 4.5 mi

10:00am to 1:30pm



There are a wide variety of plant communities in the Bay Area, and many are found in this Preserve. Join docents Martin Manley, Linda Smith, Ping Li, and Helena Cohen for a moderately-paced hike to learn how the varieties of plant communities have adapted to their unique environments. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy at the picnic tables down by Stevens Creek. At the end of the trip you will have the option for a little wine tasting (on your own) at Picchetti Winery.

Earthquake Hike

Sunday • October 7

Los Trancos • 2 mi

2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents Paul Billig and Lyle Rice, and please see the activity description for September 2.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • October 10

Saratoga Gap • 4 mi

10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for September 12.



Monte Bello Open Space Preserve



Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

Greg Hughes

Your Brain on a Hike

Thursday • October 11

Pulgas Ridge • 4 mi

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; 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, Helena Cohen, and Chris Christensen to exercise your body and mind, and leave with serotonin and dopamine levels surging.

Fremont Older: 100 Years Ago

Friday • October 12

Fremont Older • 3.1 mi

9:30am to 12:30pm



Come traverse hayfields and old remnant orchards near the former home of progressive San Francisco newspaper journalist, Fremont Older, for whom this Preserve is named. Docents Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi will explore Older's adventurous life fighting corruption in the City as a crusading editor after the 1906 earthquake. You'll also learn about the home known as "Woodhills", built in 1914 by Fremont and his wife Cora. A snack stop at the top of Hunters Point will provide panoramic views of the Santa Clara Valley. Capable, attentive children 10 years and older are welcome.

Ferns and Other Ancient Plants

Saturday • October 13

Monte Bello • 3.2 mi

10:00am to 1:30pm



Walking down into Stevens Creek Canyon, docents Debbie Mytels, Jayita Bhojwani, and Steve Brugler will guide your discovery of various ferns and other plants that evolved before flowers graced the Earth. You'll see other interesting plants as well, and stop to look for newts after crossing Stevens Creek on stepping stones. You'll stop to enjoy your snack and return via the Canyon Trail, passing yet another ancient plant along the way.

A Place to Call Home

Saturday • October 13

Long Ridge • 6 mi

11:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Nora Sullivan, Diane Maez, Bob Abrams, and Sabra Abraham on a moderately-paced hike along the Peters Creek and Hickory Oaks Trails. You'll observe a number of biotic communities along the way and consider what creatures might call an oak, a pond, the grasslands, or a rock "home" and their specific reasons for doing so. Capable, attentive children 10 years and older are welcome.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

October 13 and 14

Daniels Nature Center

11:00am to 4:00pm



Please see the description for September 1. **(Note: The Nature Center hours change this weekend to open and close an hour earlier.)**

Autumn Wilderness Stories

Tuesday • October 16

Long Ridge • 3.4 mi

Meet: Saratoga Gap

9:00am to 12:00pm



Join docents Padma Satish, Maureen Draper, and Ann McCarty on this out and back moderately-paced hike checking out how the low, medium, and high rise plants are faring in the midst of fall season. You'll walk through woodland with patches of grasslands and peek at the Pacific Ocean from the Achistaca Trail.

Charles Tu



Long Ridge Open Space Preserve

Signs of Fall

Tuesday • October 16

Pulgas Ridge • 4 mi

1:00pm to 4:00pm



Join docents Liz Foreman and Bob Abrams, and please see the activity description for September 11.

Explorer Hike: Birding by the Bay

Wednesday • October 17

Ravenswood • 2 mi

10:30am to 2:00pm



Join docents Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, and Mary Brunkhorst for a leisurely-paced, level stroll along the levees of this small but important Preserve. You'll greet the first of the migratory birds as they return from their northern breeding grounds to their wintering headquarters along the Bay. Bring your lunch, binoculars and any guidebooks you have, and most importantly your desire to learn more about birds.

Relics of Ranching

Thursday • October 18

Skyline Ridge • 11 mi

Meet: Equestrian parking lot

10:00am to 3:00pm



Bring your trusty steed and explore how open space land was once used. An informal treasure hunt will encourage you to find relics of ranching days. Docent Teri Baron and volunteer trail patrol Karen Gregory will provide historical information about the ranchers in the area as you enjoy the wonderful outdoors on your horse. Some of the trails on this leisurely-paced ride with moderate elevation gain will include Chestnut and Long Ridge Trails. Horses should be in moderately-good shape. **(Note: The emphasis of this ride will be in Long Ridge Preserve.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 4.

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Saturday • October 20

Sierra Azul • 5 mi

Meet: Jacques Ridge parking lot
9:30am to 1:30pm



Imagine something beautiful. What came to mind? Perhaps a wild landscape with forested mountains and a gently flowing stream? What about the beautiful rustling of the tree leaves in the wind, or the pleasant gurgling of the creek? And don't forget about the lovely earthy smell of the forest after the first fall rains or the delightful cushiony spring of a mossy embankment under your hand. The sensory delights of autumn await your exploration along the Woods Trail down to the Guadalupe Creek crossing and back with docents Frances Reneau, Wendy Crowder, and Paula Maurano. Capable, attentive children 8 years and older are welcome.

Ohlone Medicine

Saturday • October 20

Long Ridge • 5 mi

9:45am 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.

Nature at Night

Saturday • October 20

Monte Bello • 3.2 mi

5:15pm to 10:30pm



When the sun sets, not all of nature goes to sleep. Some parts of nature are active in the cool darkness of night. Join docents Paul Billig, Debbi Brusco, and Katherine Greene to witness the changes that occur along the Stevens Creek Nature Trail as day moves into night. The hike begins with a walk down the Canyon Trail where you'll stop as darkness descends to enjoy the dinner you bring with you. Then using your flashlight, you will be looking as well as listening for the sights and sounds of nature at night. Bring a pad or plastic to sit on. Red filters for your flashlight will be available. The hike includes a 400-foot elevation gain. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 6.**



Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

October 20 and 21

Daniels Nature Center

11:00am to 4:00pm



Please see the description for September 1.

Wonders of Cherry Springs

Sunday • October 21

Sierra Azul • 3.1mi

Meet: Jacques Ridge parking lot

8:30am to 12:45pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo, Huey-Shin Yuan, Emma Finter, Gordon Ferguson, 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. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 7.**

Live Oaks and Acorn Maidens

Sunday • October 21

Monte Bello • 4 mi

9:30am to 12:30pm



Join docents Ann Reisenauer, Veronica Chouinard, and Bob Abrams for a fall hike through acorn country. You'll learn about oaks and hear the Native American legend of the acorn maidens as you descend the White Oak Trail towards Stevens Creek. Returning on the Canyon Trail, you'll pass reminders that this is also earthquake country.

Astride the Sleeping Giant

Sunday • October 21

Los Trancos • 2 mi

2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents Dave and Judy Boore for an afternoon exploring the causes and consequences of earthquakes, using as your stage the San Andreas Fault where it crosses Los Trancos and Monte Bello Preserves. Dave is an Emeritus Seismologist at the U.S. Geological Survey; you'll stop for discussion, sometimes extended (depending on weather and interest), with moderately-paced walking between stops. This easy hike with minimal elevation change is well suited for those needing a less physically challenging outing, and intended for interested teenagers as well as adults. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 7.**

Sweeping Views and Varied Landscape

Friday • October 26

Fremont Older • 5.5 mi

10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Marie-Anne Neimat and Clive Merredew for a loop around this Preserve where you'll stop at two peaks with far-reaching views and walk through a variety of habitats. Starting at the Cora Older Trail, you'll travel along the Seven Springs Loop, Woodhills Loop, Hayfield, Coyote, and Toyon Trails before returning via the Creekside Trail.



Karl Gohl

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

Windy Hill Exploration

Friday • October 26

Windy Hill • 10 mi

10:00am to 3:00pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou for a fast-paced exploration of this popular Preserve. After climbing the Spring Ridge Trail to the top, you may appreciate the cool breeze and view of the Pacific Ocean. You'll then hike among the giant ancient Douglas fir trees along the Lost Trail and enjoy a well deserved lunch break before returning via the Hamms Gulch Trail.

Wandering and Writing in Nature

Saturday • October 27

Long Ridge • 4.6 mi

1:00pm to 4:00pm



Writers and philosophers across the ages have found inspiration, wisdom, and peace through time spent in nature. Join their ranks on this moderately-paced hike along the Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails, accompanied by the words and spirits of John Muir, Alice Walker, Aristotle, and others. You'll discuss their meanings and philosophies with fellow hikers and docents Anna Lee and Nora Sullivan, then discover your own insights through journaling or quiet contemplation during an extended break at the Wallace Stegner Bench. You're encouraged to bring a journal, a writing implement, and/or your favorite nature quotes to kindle reflection and discussion.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
October 27 and 28
Daniels Nature Center
11:00am to 4:00pm



Please see the description for September 1.

November

Horses, History, and Views

Saturday • November 3
Skyline Ridge • 9 mi
Meet: Equestrian parking lot
10:00am to 3:00pm



Bring your trusty steed and explore how open space land was once used, and how horses were key to meeting transportation needs. An informal treasure hunt will encourage you to find relics of ranching days. Docent Teri Baron and volunteer trail patrol Curt Riffle will provide historical information about the ranchers in the area as you enjoy the wonderful outdoors on your horse. Some of the trails on this leisurely-paced ride with moderate elevation gain will include Sunny Jim and Ancient Oaks Trails. Horses should be in moderately-good shape. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 20.**

Introductory Geocaching Hike

Saturday • November 3
Los Trancos • 2.5 mi
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Sarah Schoen and Joyce Tang, and an REI Outdoor School Instructor to search for geocaches, or hidden treasures, using GPS units supplied by REI. This fun and interactive outing is great for all ages. You are encouraged to bring small trinkets (inexpensive children's toys, less than 2 inches in length are ideal) to use as trade items for the cache. This activity is an introduction to geocaching and is geared toward the first-time geocacher, but all are welcome. **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended and closed-toe shoes are required.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 20.**

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
November 3 and 4
Daniels Nature Center
11:00am to 4:00pm



Please see the description for September 1.

Earthquake Hike

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



Join docents John Seyfarth and Bob Abrams, and please see the activity description for September 2.

Signs of Fall

Tuesday • November 6
Pulgas Ridge • 4 mi
1:00pm to 4:00pm



Join docents Liz Foreman, Steve Brugler, and Ann McCarty, and please see the activity description for September 11.

Explorer Hike: Autumn in La Honda

Wednesday • November 7
La Honda Creek • 4 mi
Meet: See text below
10:30am to 2:30pm



Join docents Kate Gudmundson, Laura Levin, Mary Brunkhorst, and Dennis Smith as you take the high road into the redwoods. You'll experience an autumn day as you explore the grasslands and forests, including a visit to an old growth redwood tree. Bring a lunch and enjoy a picnic with an expansive view overlooking the Preserve toward the coast. This moderately-paced hike includes a 400-foot elevation change. **(Note: Directions will be sent.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after October 23.**

Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the description for September 1.

Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • November 14
Monte Bello • 4-6 mi
10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for September 12.



Jack Geschel

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve



Al Shamble

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

Clues to Local History

Saturday • November 17
Long Ridge • 4.6 mi
10:00am to 1:30pm



On this loop hike with docents Debbie Mytels and Gerri Tiernan you'll follow the shady Peters Creek Trail, pass by the green "carpet" at Jikoji Pond, and stop for a snack while taking in a terrific view from the Wallace Stegner Bench on the Long Ridge Trail. Along the way you'll seek out signs of this Preserve's colorful history and hear a few stories of local lore including why Stevens Creek County Park's parking area on Skyline Boulevard is called "Grizzly Flat".

Ohlone Master Gardeners

Saturday • November 17
Skyline Ridge • 1.2 mi
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, Kim Borick, 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 at Horseshoe Lake.

Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday
November 17 and 18
Daniels Nature Center
11:00am to 4:00 pm



Please see the description for September 1.

NOTE: This is the last weekend of the season that the Nature Center will be open. The facility will re-open in April 2019 – see you then!

Outdoor Activities Fall 2018

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve by Randy Weber

Creature Feature

Sunday • November 18
Edgewood County Park • 2.5 mi
9:00am to 12:30pm



What do dusky-footed woodrats look like? What are their stick houses like inside? How many live in one house? What do they eat? Who wants to eat them? How do they find mates and raise pups? Why are they called packrats? Come ask docents Kathryn Strachota and Jayita Bhojwani all your questions. Curious children are particularly welcome! This is a very interactive, illustrated, moderately-paced hike along the Sylvan, Serpentine, Franciscan, and Baywood Glen Trails. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after November 4.**

Astride the Sleeping Giant

Sunday • November 18
Los Trancos • 2 mi
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Please see the activity description for October 21. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after November 4.**

Pre-Thanksgiving Workout

Monday • November 19
Sierra Azul • 11 mi
Meet: Jacques Ridge parking lot
9:00am to 2:30pm



Want a good workout to get ready for your Thanksgiving feast? Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou for a fast-paced hike along Woods Trail, Barlow Road, and Mount Umunhum Trail. You'll enjoy a well deserved lunch at the top after a 2,500-foot elevation gain. It's then a nice easy stroll down the mountain to the Bald Mountain parking lot where you'll be shuttled back to the meeting location.

Explorer Hike: Annual Turkey Trot

Wednesday • November 21
Rancho San Antonio • 6 mi
10:30am to 2:30pm



It's that time of year again when your help is needed to search for the wild turkeys that inhabit open space. Docents Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, Mary Brunkhorst, and Laura Levin will guide you as you use your eyes and ears to locate the turkeys that will NOT be on your table for dinner. Past "Turkey Trots" have found from zero to dozens of turkeys, and here's hoping you'll be rewarded with the latter. Your pace will be moderate until we see some turkeys or other interesting plants or animals. You'll climb several hundred feet to a wonderful viewpoint, helping you to offset any overindulgences this holiday season.

Plant Communities and Native People

Saturday • November 24
Skyline Ridge • 4 mi
10:00am to 1:30pm



Shake off that Turkey Torpor! Join docents Martin Manley, Linda Smith, and Sabra Abraham for a moderately-paced hike with views down to the coast. You'll learn about the varieties of plant communities at this Preserve and the ways in which they have become adapted to their unique environments. You'll see evidence of native people's presence around Alpine Pond and learn how they used local plants to provide food, shelter, and tools. If the weather allows, there will be a lunch/snack break at the picnic tables by the pond.

Music and Poetry of Nature

Sunday • November 25
Picchetti Ranch • 3 mi
9:30am to 12:30pm



All the arts derive inspiration from the natural world. Mozart based a theme on the song of his pet starling. Beethoven and Brahms said their music was inspired from extensive walking in the Vienna woods. Trees and flowers have been the subjects of countless poems. Are you also inspired by the patterns, sights, sounds, and scents of nature? Come indulge your creative spirit as you walk in the woods and learn how local plants and trees adapt to living several months without water. Docents Maureen Draper and Greg Hughes will be your guides along the Zinfandel Trail.



Bryan Lovegren



Yamil Saenz



Karl Gohl



Jack Gescheidt



Michael Housewright



Mike Asao



Caroline Lambert

Clockwise starting to left: Rancho San Antonio OSP; Russian Ridge OSP, Rancho San Antonio OSP; Russian Ridge OSP, Miramonte Ridge OSP; Picchetti Ranch OSP; and Ravenswood OSP

2018 Photo Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of our 2018 Photo Contest! We received almost 250 submissions this year. After narrowing the field down to five finalists in each category, winners were chosen by a public vote on Facebook.

Wildlife Category Winner



My Baby

by Serisha Nagothu
Thornwood Open Space Preserve

Youth Category Winner



Perched Woodpecker

by Sohumi Phadke
Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Landscape Category Winner



Silky Sunrise

by Jack Lucas
Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

Plant Life Category Winner



Thistle Firework

by Stephanie Richardson
Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

People Category Winner



Because in the end, you won't remember the time
you spent working in an office or mowing
the lawn — Jack Kerouac

by Vedya Konda
Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

2018 Youth Photographer Spotlight



Name: Sohumi Phadke
(Youth Category Winner)

School: Cupertino Middle School
(Sunnyvale, CA)

Photographer's Inspiration: The beauty of nature has always fascinated me. During a photography field trip with my class, I spotted a stunning acorn woodpecker a little off the trail. This photo made me realize how fun photography

really was, and I made it a weekly thing to go out and take photos of nature. My amazing photography teacher was really the person that inspired me to start photography. Her enthusiastic and creative personality and passion for photography really made me start this journey.

About the Photographer: I'm a middle schooler at Cupertino Middle School. I enjoy playing tennis, taking photos, and doing math. Traveling around the world, and exploring different cultures have always interested me. 🦋



Sohumi Phadke



Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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preserve maps, volunteer opportunities, and more.

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Coastal Corner

Ranchers whose families have worked on the Coastsides for generations recently signed new leases to continue cattle grazing at Tunitas Creek Open Space Preserve south of Half Moon Bay, Big Dipper Ranch in Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve and October Farm in Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.

"It's an opportunity for local families to continue the area's long ranching tradition while helping to restore native grasslands that benefit plants, people and wildlife," said Midpen's Senior Resource Specialist Coty Sifuentes-Winter.

Midpen's mission on the San Mateo County Coast includes preserving the natural environment, rural character and viable agricultural like ranching. Cattle grazing occurs on more than 10,000 acres at Midpen preserves.

California's native grasslands are one of the most species-rich ecosystems in the country, and one of the rarest. Over the last 250 years most have been lost due to introduced exotic

Coastside Ranchers Help Restore Native Grasslands

plants, development and fire suppression.

California's grasslands evolved along with frequent fires set by

Native Californians, and herds of grazing animals now mostly extinct. Carefully managed grazing is one of several tools Midpen uses in place of these natural historic disturbances to increase the abundance and diversity of native grassland plants, and prevent them from being overtaken by shrubs and forests. With help from the ranching tenants and volunteers, Midpen also removes invasive plants and disperses native plant seeds.

These efforts result in healthier grasslands that support ranching, protect watersheds, provide for wildlife, are more fire safe and put on spectacular wildflower displays each spring.

For more information visit www.openspace.org/grazing.



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve

Fire Safe in Open Space

Fire is a fact of life in California. Our challenge is to find ways to live safely with it. Many California native grasses, trees and wildflowers evolved to depend on periodic fire for their long-term survival. Without it, these plants and the animals that depend on them, are replaced and lost.

Midpen staff are developing a new program aimed at adding carefully managed prescribed fire to our land management toolbox with the goal of restoring native plants and reducing dense vegetation build-up, and therefore the risk and severity of wildfires. The program is expected to take three years to develop with many opportunities

for public input along the way, and an environmental review process required by the California Environmental Quality Act.

Stay informed about the 3-year development of a prescribed fire program and learn about opportunities for public input at openspace.org/fire.

Midpen prepares for fire season in many ways, including maintaining fire breaks and roads, outfitting ranger trucks with water pumps and using grazing and other tools to manage vegetation. Employees participate in annual fire training so they are ready to act as first responders to wildfires, and assist local fire departments as needed.

Please remember that fires and smoking are always prohibited in Midpen preserves. Thank you for helping us stay fire safe!