



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

# VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • SPRING 2018



Frances Freyburg



Sheryl Schaffner



Frances Freyburg

## Restoration of Nature and Culture atop Mount Umunhum

Spring is unfolding at Mount Umunhum's recently restored summit. Native plants are taking root and wildlife are reappearing. People too are returning to Mount Umunhum, in many different and meaningful ways. A cultural conservation easement approved by Midpen in December grants the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band permanent rights to help steward Mount Umunhum's summit, a sacred site to the tribe and their Native Californian ancestors. Umunhum means hummingbird in local native languages, and the mountain and its namesake animal are central to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's creation story.

"We have an opportunity and a responsibility to help reconnect the Amah Mutsun with their cultural heritage," Midpen's Acting General Manager Ana Ruiz said about the easement. "It also supports Midpen's mission by enhancing our ability to restore Mount Umunhum and provide a richer experience to visitors."

The easement allows the tribe to perform hands-on indigenous plant management techniques and share centuries of cultural knowledge with the public through activities like the traditional

ceremony held in January with public participation. The public was first welcomed to Mount Umunhum last September after Midpen completed a \$15 million project to restore the summit and provide public access, which is not affected by the easement.

"Restoring our relationship to Mount Umunhum and having a place to pray helps our members heal from our historic trauma," said Amah Mutsun Tribal Band Chairman Valentin Lopez. "It allows us to take care of that mountaintop, the wildlife and plants there, and it's a great opportunity to educate the public."

Native wildflowers are blooming atop Mount Umunhum, and so is the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band's renewed relationship to the peak, creating opportunities for people from all walks of life to connect with nature and culture at Mount Umunhum. 🌱

Limited ADA access at Mount Umunhum beginning in March 2018. Full details at [openspace.org/mtum](https://openspace.org/mtum)

## Lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve – Now Open!

La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve is rich with history. During the past two centuries it has been a Mexican land grant, dairy farm, oil field, redwood logging mill, cattle ranch and retreat for heirs to the Weyerhaeuser lumber and Folgers coffee fortunes. Now, it has transitioned into something more — a nature preserve offering the public stunning coastal views, colorful spring wildflowers, and immersion into a historic San Mateo County landscape.

The lower portion of this 6,142-acre preserve, accessible from Sears Ranch Road in La Honda, opened to the public for the first time late last year. It offers new parking with restroom facilities and six miles of trail through working ranchlands. Upper La Honda Creek, offering 3.5 miles of trail, is accessible from Allen Road, and requires a permit for access. The area around the historic red barn visible from Highway 84 is slated to open in the next three to four years, eventually linking the upper and lower trail systems.



Frances Freyburg

Ribbon cutting at La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve.  
Midpen Board members and partners

(continued on page 13)





## A Message from the Board President

# Charting a Steady Course Forward

In my experience with Midpen, from voter to preserve user to longtime board member, I've seen the organization transition through several major phases. First, the land had to be acquired while it was still possible. Then, the community needed access to their public open spaces. Finally, the sensitive ecology of these landscapes needed caring for.

**"The focus on each of the three pillars of our mission has balanced out into a harmonious three-part chord of land preservation, environmental restoration and public access."**

As we continue on a steady course forward, we're transitioning once again into a new phase that I am incredibly optimistic about. The focus on each of the three pillars of our mission has balanced out into a harmonious three-part chord of land preservation, environmental restoration, and public access.

We're buoyed by a strong foundation, thanks to your continued support. The Vision Plan, completed with significant public input

in 2014, charts a clear path forward. The resources needed to complete this journey were approved by local voters who passed Measure AA in 2014. And the necessary staff and organizational structure are in place to get the public's priority projects done efficiently and to Midpen's standard of quality.

We're working on connecting trails and habitats, restoring waterways for rare species, and preparing Bear Creek Redwoods for public access. These are just some of the new projects we're excited to be implementing on your behalf. Stop by a board meeting and let us know what you think. We're listening.

Sincerely,

Jed Cyr  
Board President  
Representing Sunnyvale, Ward 3

Top photo: La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve by Frances Freyburg



### 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



Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

Charles Tu

## Keep an eye out for Prop 68, the Parks and Water Bond!

This June, California voters will decide whether the state should continue investing in natural resource and wildlife conservation, drought and flood protection, coastal preservation, clean water, and parks for disadvantaged neighborhoods. Funds from the \$4 billion bond would also help Midpen accomplish numerous preservation, restoration and public access projects identified in its Vision Plan. For more information visit [www.openspace.org/parkbond](http://www.openspace.org/parkbond).



# Outdoor Activities

SPRING 2018 | March – April – May

## MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

### GENERAL INFORMATION

With this newsletter in hand and a sense of exploration in mind, we invite you to enjoy the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves. These 26 extraordinary preserves include over 63,000 acres of permanently protected open space, from redwood forests to bay shoreline. We encourage you to participate in the wide variety of adventures offered inside *Outdoor Activities*.

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

All activities are developed and led by docents who have completed a District training program. These docents volunteer their time to share their knowledge of nature with you. For more information about the volunteer docent program, visit the District's website at [www.openspace.org](http://www.openspace.org), or phone the District at 650-691-1200 weekdays, 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. 🦋

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve



Rosalina Calderon

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve



Stacey Ryder

### 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.

Thornewood Open Space Preserve



Stretcher Smith

#### 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](mailto: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.

### FREMONT OLDER

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

### LA HONDA CREEK

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

### LONG RIDGE

**Peters Creek Trailhead:** Meet at the roadside pullout area on the west side of Skyline Boulevard, 3.6 miles north of Highway 9 or 3.3 miles south of Page Mill Road. If you are coming from the north on Skyline Blvd., the pullout is just past Portola Heights Road on the right. From the south, the pullout is near the Palo Alto city limits sign on the right. There is additional parking across Skyline Blvd. at the Grizzly Flat trailhead (Santa Clara County Park).

### LOS TRANCOS

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

### MONTE BELLO

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

### PICCHETTI RANCH

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

### PULGAS RIDGE

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

### PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS

**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.

### RUSSIAN RIDGE

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

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

### SIERRA AZUL

**Jacques Ridge parking lot:** Meet at the parking lot located near the intersection of Hicks Road and Mt. Umunhum Road in San Jose. Exit Highway 85 at Camden Avenue. (From northbound Hwy. 85 turn left on Branham Avenue and then turn left on Camden Ave. and from southbound Hwy. 85 turn left on Camden Ave.) Travel on Camden Ave. about 1.6 miles. Turn right on Hicks Rd. and travel for about 6.3 miles. Turn right on Mt. Umunhum Rd. The Preserve parking lot will be on the right.

**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.



Greg Hughes

Pulgass Ridge Open Space Preserve

**SIERRA AZUL (continued)**

**Mount Umunhum 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.

**Northside lot – Free Limited Parking:**

Meet at the parking lot located at the northeast corner of Highway 9 and Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos. The sign at the lot says: "Northside lot – Free Limited Parking." Take Highway 17 south toward Los Gatos. Exit at Hwy. 9—Los Gatos/Saratoga and continue west on Hwy. 9 (approximately 0.33 miles) to the parking lot, located on your right just before Santa Cruz Ave. Carpool to the activity location.



**ST. JOSEPH'S HILL**

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

**Northside lot – Free Limited Parking:**

Meet at the parking lot located at the northeast corner of Highway 9 and Santa Cruz Avenue in Los Gatos. The sign at the lot says: "Northside lot – Free Limited Parking." Take Highway 17 south toward Los Gatos.

Exit at Hwy. 9—Los Gatos/Saratoga and continue west on Hwy. 9 (approximately 0.33 miles) to the parking lot, located on your right just before Santa Cruz Ave.

Carpool to the activity location.

**THORNEWOOD**

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

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

**WINDY HILL**

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

KEY TO SYMBOLS



**Easy Hike:** Flat to gently rolling hills. Total elevation gain less than 200 feet. Leisurely pace.



**Moderate Hike:** Steeper or more frequent uphill grades. Total elevation gain 200 to 600 feet. Leisurely to moderate pace.



**Strenuous Hike:** Steep hills and/or long distances. Total elevation gain greater than 600 feet. Moderate to vigorous pace.



**Suitable for children:** must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. See the activity description for any additional information.



**Wheelchair accessible.**



**Stroller accessible:** Jogger-type suggested.



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



**Dogs on leash:** Well-behaved and socialized dogs are allowed, and must be controlled on a maximum six-foot leash.



**Equestrian Ride:** Riders under age 18 must wear a helmet. Lead lines are required and breast collars are recommended for horses. Equestrians must provide their own horses (no stallions).



**Reservations required:** Reservations for activities requiring them will only be accepted within the two (2)-week period just before the activity date. To make a reservation or a cancellation, visit the District's Web site [www.openspace.org/reservations](http://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](http://www.hphpbayarea.org).



MARCH

**Stalking the Wild Banana Slug**

Sunday • March 4  
Windy Hill • 4mi  
9:30am to 12:00pm



What's bright yellow, has only one foot, and more teeth than a shark? Learn the answer to this riddle as you hike along the Betsy Crowder and Meadow Trails. Docents Ann Reisenauer and Mary Bernstein will help you spot milkmaids, hound's tongue, and other early spring wildflowers. Perhaps a newt or banana slug will cross your path as you climb a short way up the Hamms Gulch Trail before returning to your car on the Spring Ridge Trail. Children who are capable of hiking 4 miles of gentle hills are welcome.

**WWW – Wildflowers, Wandering, and Wine**

Sunday • March 4  
Picchetti Ranch • 4.5mi  
10:00am to 2:00pm



It's springtime! Join docents Martin Manley and Linda Smith for a moderately-paced hike to check out wildflowers nourished by winter rains. En route you'll see the varieties of plant communities found in this relatively small Preserve. Bring a lunch or snack to enjoy at picnic tables down by Stevens Creek. After the hike you'll have

the option for a little wine tasting at Picchetti Winery on your own. Please note that a shortened version of this hike will go ahead in light or moderate rain – it can be a wonderful time to see this Preserve if you have good raingear.



Robert Gorman

Picchetti Ranch  
Open Space Preserve

**Earthquake Hike**

Sunday • March 4  
Los Trancos • 2mi  
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.

**Explorer Hike: Bushes and Blooms**

Wednesday • March 7  
St. Joseph's Hill • 5mi  
Meet: Northside lot – Free  
Limited Parking  
10:30am to 2:30pm



Join docents Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, and Mary Brunkhorst on a moderately-paced hike to observe and learn about a variety of interesting shrubs and early blooming wildflowers. You'll hike along the Jones and Manzanita Trails and after a 600-foot elevation gain reach the top of St. Joseph's Hill where you'll have time to enjoy your lunch while taking in the view. You'll finish your hike by way of the Novitiate Trail.

**Umunhum Vistas**

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



Join in this walk along the popular and highly regarded Mt. Umunhum Trail. You'll enjoy unparalleled vistas with docents Greg Azevedo, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Gordon Ferguson. Along the way, you'll hear stories about Mount Umunhum's past, and current place in history. Prior to the formal trail walk, you'll be given time to meander around the summit and enjoy all that it has to offer. **(Note: Participants will carpool/shuttle to the summit parking lot from Bald Mountain. Hike route subject to change depending on parking availability at area trailhead parking lots.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after February 24.**

**Hidden in the Woods**

Saturday • March 10  
El Corte de Madera Creek • 4mi  
Meet: Skeggs Point  
9:30am to 2:00pm



Join docents Susan Bernhard and Noa Doitel on a moderately-paced, investigative hike in the mixed evergreen forest of this Preserve. You'll hike along the Tafoni Trail and take a side trail to visit a tafoni sandstone formation. An offshoot from the Fir Trail will take you to a scenic overlook where you can admire spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and the western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. From there, the hike will continue on the Resolution Trail where you'll see evidence of a 1953 plane crash. You'll hear the birds of the forest as you discuss the historical significance of this Preserve and some of its unique features. This hike includes approximately 400-600 feet of elevation change.

**Introduction to Open Space**

Saturday • March 10  
Skyline Ridge • 0.5mi  
Meet: Daniels Nature Center  
11:00am to 11:30am



Take a walk with docent Kandis Scott around Alpine Pond to learn about the Santa Cruz Mountains environment. This short, easy, flat path offers a good start for those new to open space as well as those who might choose to continue on a longer hike on their own. This easy walk is well suited for children and those needing a less physically challenging outing.

**Scenic Aerobic Hike I**

Wednesday • March 14  
La Honda Creek • 4-6mi  
Meet: Sears Ranch Road parking lot  
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Mary Brunkhorst 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.

**Introduction to Geocaching**

Saturday • March 17  
Skyline Ridge • 2.5mi  
Meet: Russian Ridge  
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Sarah Schoen and Maureen Draper, and an REI Outdoor School Instructor to search for geocaches, or hidden treasures, using GPS units supplied by REI. This fun and interactive outing is great for all ages. You are encouraged to bring small trinkets (inexpensive children's toys, less than 2 inches in length are ideal) to use as trade items for the cache. This activity is an introduction to geocaching and is geared toward the first-time geocacher, but all are welcome. **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended and closed-toe shoes are required.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 3.**



Jack Geachnid

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve



Los Trancos Open Space Preserve

Kathryn Carpenter

### Signs of Spring

Sunday • March 18  
Pulgas Ridge • 4mi  
12:30pm to 3:30pm



Enjoy a spring hike with docents Liz Foreman and Debbie Mytels where you'll see a variety of oak trees, spring wildflowers, and a creek. You'll hike along the Blue Oak, Dick Hassler, and Dusky-footed Woodrat Trails in this popular Preserve and take in the scenic view from the top of the ridge. This moderately-paced hike includes hills and uneven terrain.

### Astride the Sleeping Giant

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



Join docents Dave and Judy Boore for an afternoon discussing 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 March 4.**

### Awe Hike

Tuesday • March 20  
Russian Ridge • 4mi  
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.

### Explorer Hike: Water, Trees, and Flowers

Wednesday • March 21  
Long Ridge • 6mi  
10:30am to 2:30pm



Join docents Kate Gudmundson, Lynn Jackson, and Mary Brunkhorst as you explore the varied landscapes along the Peter's Creek and Hickory Oaks Trails. This moderately-paced hike with a 500-foot elevation gain will take you through riparian, woodland, and meadow environments to scout for early blooming wildflowers. You'll reach a vista point where you can enjoy a wonderful view along with your lunch before returning via the Long Ridge Trail.

### Spring at Black Mountain

Friday • March 23  
Rancho San Antonio • 11mi  
9:30am to 2:30pm



Do you wonder what spring flowers look like this year along the trails leading to Black Mountain? Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou for an aerobic fast-paced hike where you'll enjoy wildflowers and the view along the way. You'll get a good workout with 2,500 feet of elevation gain along the Hill, PG&E, Quarry, Black Mountain, Upper High Meadow, High Meadow, and Coyote Trails. You'll appreciate your well-deserved lunch after a heart-pumping climb to the summit.

### A Special Landscape

Friday • March 23  
St. Joseph's Hill • 3.5mi  
Meet: Lexington Reservoir Dam  
10:00am to 1:30pm



This Preserve is rich in early California history including a known stagecoach route from San Jose to Santa Cruz that stopped in the town of Alma which is now under water. Docents Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel will recount local history during this hike, and the view from the top will be well worth the 600-foot elevation climb. Along the way you'll learn about the two varieties of manzanita that are found in this Preserve and how the plants compete and thrive in their ecosystem niche. You'll hike along the Jones, Novitiate, Brothers, and Manzanita Trails.

### Umunhum Barlow Explorer

Saturday • March 24  
Sierra Azul • 5mi  
Meet: Jacques Ridge parking lot  
7:45am to 1:00pm



Join in on this wonderful outing below the summit of Mount Umunhum where you'll enjoy many unique and unparalleled vistas with docents Greg Azevedo, Huey-Shin Yuan, Emma Finter, and Gordon Ferguson. Stories will be shared along the way about Mount Umunhum's past and current place in history. This hike does NOT include the summit area; hike route will either be from the trailhead near Bald Mountain parking lot to Barlow Road and on to the Woods Trail to return to Jacques Ridge parking lot, or an out and back hike starting from the Jacques Ridge parking lot, depending on trailhead parking availability. There is a steep trail section — proper footwear is important. **(Note: Participants will carpool/shuttle to a trailhead. Hike route subject to change depending on parking availability at area trailhead parking lots.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 10.**

### Search for the Everlasting

Sunday • March 25  
Picchetti Ranch • 4mi  
10:30am to 3:00pm



Join docents Bob Segalla and Greg Azevedo to enjoy this wonderful Preserve so close to home. You'll discover if the cudweed plant (sometimes called everlasting) smells like maple syrup to you. A lovely view awaits you along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails, and you can listen to the sound of Stevens Creek as you enjoy lunch at a Santa Clara County Park picnic area. Capable children can handle this moderately-paced hike with a couple of 200-foot climbs. A visit to Picchetti Winery is optional (on your own) at the hike's end.

### Hoofing It

Saturday • March 31  
La Honda Creek • 6mi  
Meet: Sears Ranch Road parking lot  
10:00am to 3:00pm



Dust off your boots and kick up your spring heels with a hike on newly opened trails with docents Kim Borick and Judy Sencenbaugh. Hiking through a working cattle ranch along the Harrington Creek Trail (ranch road), you'll traverse grassland and wooded habitats, discover area history, and learn about grazing management on District lands. Your hike includes bonus stops to examine early wildflowers and appreciate the many pastoral vistas of this beautiful preserve — bring a lunch! A few sections of the road/trail are steep; closed toe shoes are required and trekking poles, if used, are advised.



**Stop In and Explore**

Saturday and Sunday  
 March 31 and April 1  
 Daniels Nature Center  
 12:00noon to 5:00pm



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



**Daniels Nature Center Season Begins!!**

The **David C. Daniels Nature Center**, located on the edge of Alpine Pond at **Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve**, will open for the season on Saturday, March 31, 2018. Come by on opening weekend to take part in our annual celebration. Refreshments will be provided. The Nature Center will be open Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 noon until 5:00 pm during spring and summer, and 11:00 am to 4:00 pm in the fall.

APRIL

**WWW – Wildflowers, Wandering, and Wine**

Sunday • April 1  
 Picchetti Ranch • 4.5mi  
 10:00am to 2:00pm



Please see the activity description for March 4.

**Earthquake Hike**

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



Join docents John Seyfarth and Paul Billig, and please see the activity description for March 4.

**Explorer Hike: Ranch Rambles**

Wednesday • April 4  
 La Honda Creek • 4mi  
 Meet: **Sears Ranch Road parking lot**  
 10:30am to 2:30pm



Explore the newly opened Harrington Creek Trail with docents Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, Mary Brunkhorst, and Kate Gudmundson. You'll experience a working cattle ranch while hiking through open grasslands to the lovely riparian area around Harrington Creek. There will be stops to enjoy beautiful views, observe flora and fauna, and learn a bit about area history.

**Spring Flower Saunter**

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



Did you know that one-third of California plants are found nowhere else? April is the month of John Muir's birth and prime time for wildflowers. Conservationist Muir disliked the word "hike" and said "people ought to saunter in the woods—not hike." Join docents Maureen Draper and Susan Bernhard on this leisurely-paced discovery saunter. Bring your curiosity, camera, hand lens, and binoculars if you like and enjoy a quiet, varied trail through mixed woodland and chaparral habitats, with stunning views over Skyline Ridge and to the south, Mount Umunhum. Capable, interested children 8 years and older are welcome. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)**

**Spineless Wonders**

Saturday • April 7  
 Windy Hill • 3mi  
 6:00pm to 10:15pm



Join docents Debbi Brusco, Jack Owicki, and Jan Hintermeister on a nocturnal invertebrate treasure hunt. You'll meander along the Spring Ridge and Betsy Crowder Trails with extended stops. After dinner, you'll listen for night creatures. This hike is geared toward adults, though attentive children 10 years and older are welcome. Bring dinner, ground cover to sit on, and a flashlight with a red filter/cellophane covering if you have it. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after March 24.**



Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

**Stop In and Explore**

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



Please see the description for March 31.



Elaina Kyrzouz

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve

**Ohlone Footsteps**

Sunday • April 8  
 Skyline Ridge • 2mi  
 Meet: **Russian Ridge**  
 10:00am to 1:00pm



Prior to European settlement, the Bay Area was home to a mosaic of Native American tribal communities and many frequented the Santa Cruz Mountains. Join docents Kim Borick and Sarah Schoen for a leisurely-paced hike with frequent stops along the Ipiwa and Sunny Jim Trails. Historical perspective, including California native people's 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.

**Signs of Spring**

Tuesday • April 10  
 Pulgas Ridge • 4mi  
 1:00pm to 4:00pm



Join docents Liz Foreman and Toni Gooch, and please see the activity description for March 18.

**Scenic Aerobic Hike I**

Wednesday • April 11  
 Fremont Older • 4-6mi  
 10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for March 14.

**Stop In and Explore**

Saturday and Sunday  
 April 14 and 15  
 Daniels Nature Center  
 12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the description for March 31.



## Amazing "Beautiful Mountain"

Sunday • April 15  
Monte Bello • 5.5mi  
10:00am to 2:00pm



This hike follows the clockwise loop along Bella Vista, Indian Creek, and Stevens Creek Nature Trails. Join docents Clive Merredew and Marie-Anne Neimat on this moderately-paced hike with an invigorating 1,000-foot elevation gain. You'll start with a dramatic vista all the way to Mount Umunhum and Loma Prieta Peaks from this beautiful Preserve's perspective. You'll then trace the San Andreas Fault as you descend into the lushly forested headwaters of Stevens Creek where you'll pause to enjoy your trailside lunch before heading back.

## Introduction to Open Space

Sunday • April 15  
Skyline Ridge • 0.5mi



Meet: Daniels Nature Center  
1:00pm to 1:30pm



Please see the activity description for March 10.

## Astride the Sleeping Giant

Sunday • April 15  
Los Trancos • 2mi  
2:00pm to 4:30pm



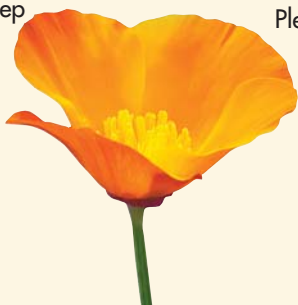
Please see the activity description for March 18. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 1.**

## A Not So "Taxing" Jaunt

Tuesday • April 17  
Long Ridge • 6.5mi  
10:00am to 2:00pm



After filing your tax return, join docents Mark Prusinowski and Denise Lawrence for a rejuvenating hike through cool forests and enjoy the scenic vistas. Your personal gains and losses will be from the 800-foot elevation gained while enjoying the hills and valleys along Peters Creek and Long Ridge Trails. This loop will be extended with an out-and-back hike on the Hickory Oaks Trail to Turtle Rock for a lunch break and to admire views of Big Basin State Park, Butano Ridge, and the Pacific Ocean. This moderately-paced hike will have several short but steep climbs, and will include frequent stops to investigate interesting plants and animals that you encounter.



Participate in docent-led activities scheduled April 17-22 or visit the Daniels Nature Center (open Saturdays and Sundays).

## Explorer Hike: Wildflowers I

Wednesday • April 18  
Sierra Azul • 5-6mi



Meet: Jacques Ridge parking kit  
10:30am to 2:00pm



What better way to spend a spring day than to see the explosion of wildflowers along the headwaters of Guadalupe Creek! Join docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, and Mary Brunkhorst for a leisurely walk along the Woods Trail with a view of Mount Umunhum. You'll help find and identify the many species of early-spring bloomers including possible rare and endangered plants. Bring cameras, nature guides, lunch, water, and your own curiosity... whatever it takes for you to enjoy this beautiful Preserve.

## Wildflowers and History Ride

Saturday • April 21  
Fremont Older • 11mi  
9:15am to 11:30am



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

## Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the description for March 31.

## Redwood Oxygen

Sunday • April 22  
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5.3mi  
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance  
10:30am to 3:00pm



Find out why you'll be breathing some of the cleanest air in the world with docents Bob Segalla, Paul Billig, and Sam Berry on the Purisima Creek and Craig Britton Trails. You'll learn why area redwood trees are unique. This moderately-paced, 500-foot elevation change hike is suitable for capable children and has a downhill return. Look forward to being greeted by hundreds of picture worthy forget-me-not flowers. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 8.**

## Road Less Traveled

Monday • April 23  
Sierra Azul • 11mi

Meet: Northside lot - Free  
Limited Parking  
9:30am to 3:00pm



Join docents Huey-Shin Yuan and Vivian Neou to experience the lesser known Lexington Reservoir side of the District's largest Preserve. You'll hike through rugged terrain, and enjoy panoramic views and wildflowers along the Priest Rock, Kennedy, and Limekiln Trails. This is a fast-paced workout hike with 2,300 feet of elevation gain. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.)**



Karl Gehl

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

## Wildflowers and Environmental Change

Friday • April 27  
Russian Ridge • 3.1mi  
11:00am to 2:00pm



Open space land is not static; it is constantly evolving. Even if you have been to this Preserve dozens of times there is always something new to discover. Docents Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel have observed landscape changes over the years which have resulted from invasive vegetation, fire, plant disease, and more. You'll enjoy native wildflowers on the Ridge, Charquin, and Ancient Oaks Trails as your docents share their knowledge of these changes. Capable, attentive children 6 years and older are welcome.

**Ferns and Other Ancient Plants**

**Saturday • April 28**  
**Monte Bello • 3.5mi**  
**10:00am to 1:30pm**



Walking down into Stevens Creek Canyon, docents Debbie Mytels and Jayita Bhojwani will help you identify various ferns and other plants that evolved before flowers graced the Earth. You may also see wildflowers and stop to look for newts after crossing Stevens Creek on stepping stones. You'll return via the Canyon Trail, passing a sag pond (created along an earthquake fault) where other ancient plants are growing.

**Stop In and Explore**

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



Please see the description for March 31.



Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

Janie Keog

**MAY**

**Explorer Hike: Mount Umunhum**

**Wednesday • May 2**  
**Sierra Azul • 4mi**

**Meet: Jacques Ridge parking lot**  
**10:30am to 3:00pm**



Join docents Lynn Jackson, Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmundson, Laura Levin, and Mary Brunkhorst for their first 'Explorer Hike' to the top of Mount Umunhum. You'll enjoy stunning vistas from the summit as well hiking at a moderate pace along the newly opened trail. Along the way, you'll hear stories about Mount Umunhum's past, more recent, and current place in history. **(Please note: The end time for this 'Explorer Hike' has been extended due to additional time needed for carpooling; participants will carpool/shuttle to a trailhead. Hike route subject to change depending on parking availability at area trailhead parking lots.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 18.

**Where is Grabtown?**

**Friday • May 4**  
**Purisima Creek Redwoods • 8.5mi**  
**Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance**  
**10:00am to 4:00pm**



You probably won't find Grabtown but you'll be close to where the lumber camp once existed. To reach the area you'll climb about 1,400 feet from Purisima Creek up the Borden-Hatch Trail and return on the Grabtown Gulch Trail with a side trip to Bald Knob on this moderately-paced hike. Going through the redwoods and mixed forest, docents Sam Berry, Huey-Shin Yuan, and Theresa Walterskirchen will share stories about the history of logging in the area.

**Aves de Mayo**

**Saturday • May 5**  
**Picchetti Ranch • 2mi**  
**8:30am to 11:00am**



Cinco de Mayo is for the birds! Listen to birdsong and observe springtime bird behavior on this relaxed bird walk with docents Karen DeMello and Lina Mesa. Bring binoculars if you have them. Beginner birders welcome. Principiantes observadores de aves bienvenidos.

**Wonders of Cherry Springs**

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



Join docents Greg Azedvedo, Huey-Shin Yuan, Emma Finter, Gordon Ferguson, and District staff Ellen Gartside for a moderately-paced hike 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. **(Note: Directions will be sent to participants.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 21.

**Ancient Oaks and Spring Flowers**

**Saturday • May 5**  
**Russian Ridge • 4mi**  
**Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot**  
**10:00am to 1:00pm**



Explore the newest trail at Russian Ridge on this moderately-paced hike with docents Ann Reisenauer and Mary Bernstein. You'll walk down an old ranch road, loop around on the Charquin Trail, and follow switchbacks up to a grove of ancient oaks. You'll return on the Ancient Oaks Trail where you'll look past Mindego Hill to the Pacific Ocean and glimpse a variety of spring wildflowers.

**Introduction to Open Space**

**Saturday • May 5**  
**Skyline Ridge • 0.5mi**  
**Meet: Daniels Nature Center**  
**1:00pm to 1:30pm**



Please see the activity description for March 10.

**Stop In and Explore**

**Saturday and Sunday**  
**May 5 and 6**  
**Daniels Nature Center**  
**12:00noon to 5:00pm**



Please see the description for March 31.



Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Mauria Tan

**Annual Fremont Older House Tours**

**Sunday • April 29**  
**Fremont Older**  
**9:00am to 4:00pm**

Once a year tours of Fremont and Cora Older's historic home (led by District docents) are offered by advance online reservation. There are nine (9) tours scheduled throughout the day; participants meet at an offsite location and are shuttled to the event site. Please visit [www.openspace.org/FOTours](http://www.openspace.org/FOTours) for complete information including registration details. **Online registration will open Thursday, March 22 at 10:00 am.** Group size limit is four (4) people. Please do not call the "Outdoor Activity" reservation phone number.



**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District celebrates**  
**National ParkRx Day | Sunday April 29, 2018**

Across the United States, agencies and organizations are collaborating to promote the health benefits of parks and open space. You're invited to visit a District preserve or check out other events and activities in the Bay Area at [www.hphpbayarea.org](http://www.hphpbayarea.org).



## Earthquake Hike

Sunday • May 6  
Los Trancos • 2-3mi  
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Join docents Stretcher Smith and Paul Billig, and please see the activity description for April 22.

## Scenic Aerobic Hike I

Wednesday • May 9  
Rancho San Antonio • 4-6mi  
10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for March 14.

## May Bouquets

Friday • May 11  
Windy Hill • 5mi  
10:00am to 1:30pm



If you enjoy looking at native wildflowers up close then this is the hike for you. This Preserve is host to a variety of habitats, landscapes, and elevation changes that all help determine the variety or absence of wildflowers. Docents Marilyn and Bill Bauriedel will point out some wildflowers that are special to this Preserve such as creek dogwood, and perhaps globe lilies and white trillium on this walk along the Betsy Crowder, Spring Ridge, and Hamms Gulch Trails.

## History and Wildflower Ride

Saturday • May 12  
Monte Bello • 23mi  
Meet: Picchetti Ranch  
9:15am to 12:30pm



Join docents Linda and Glenn Wegner for an advanced 3,000-foot elevation climbing (paved road and off road) mountain bike ride and learn the history of the Black Mountain area. The ride leaves Picchetti Ranch Preserve parking lot at 9:15am with Linda; faster riders have the option to leave at 9:30am with Glenn. Each group will start out with a 5-mile climb up the paved Montebello Road and then regroup at the top to enter the Preserve. Experience with longer rides, fire roads, and single-track trails is required. You'll enjoy riding along the Bella Vista, White Oaks, and Stevens Canyon Trails with great views. Bring power snacks and ample drinking water. **(Note: A portion of this ride will be on public roadways with vehicle traffic.)**



Karl Gochl

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

## Ancient Oaks and Views

Saturday • May 12  
Russian Ridge • 3.5mi  
Meet: Mindego Gateway parking lot  
10:00am to 12:15pm



Enjoy a relaxed-paced loop hike with about a 600-foot elevation gain, with docents Steve Brugler, Noa Doitel, and Susan Bernhard as you travel up the Charquin Trail and down the Ancient Oaks Trail. You'll learn about and admire some of the finest, venerable old oaks in all of the preserves plus enjoy sweeping ocean views and other sights of interest along the way.

## Introduction to Geocaching

Saturday • May 12  
Los Trancos • 2-3mi  
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Debbie Mytels and Mary Jo Colton, and an REI Outdoor School Instructor, and please see the activity description for March 17. **(Note: This activity includes some off-trail hiking; long pants are recommended and closed-toe shoes are required.)** Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 28.

## Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the description for March 31.

## Astride the Sleeping Giant

Sunday • May 13  
Los Trancos • 2mi  
2:00pm to 4:30pm



Please see the activity description for March 18. Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after April 29.

## Signs of Spring

Tuesday • May 15  
Pulgas Ridge • 4mi  
9:00am to 12:00pm



Join docents Liz Foreman and Toni Gooch, and please see the activity description for March 18.



Judy Kramer

Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve

## Explorer Hike: Wildflowers II

Wednesday • May 16  
Russian Ridge • 5-6mi  
10:30am to 2:30pm



It's later in the spring, providing opportunities for you to view a different collection of wildflowers at a Preserve notorious for excellent displays. Join docents Dennis Smith, Lynn Jackson, Kate Gudmundson, and Mary Brunkhorst for a leisurely walk along several trails (route will be chosen by current conditions). You'll help find and identify the many species of later-blooming flowers which will hopefully be blossoming in profusion if the rains have come. Bring your lunch, water, cameras, nature guides, and your own curiosity...whatever it takes for you to enjoy another beautiful Preserve.

## Springtime Among Redwoods and Firs

Saturday • May 19  
El Corte de Madera Creek • 5.5mi  
10:00am to 2:00pm



Enjoy a spring hike in the shade of old trees, admire old Methuselah, learn about a tafoni sandstone formation, and visit the site of the Resolution plane crash. Join docents Marie-Anne Neimat and Clive Merredew on a moderately-paced hike along the Sierra Morena, Fir, and Tafoni Trails with an elevation gain of 800 to 1,000 feet. You'll stop for lunch at the Vista Point with a lovely view before heading back along the same route.

# Outdoor Activities Spring 2018

## Fremont Older House Tours Sunday, April 29, 2018 Fremont Older Preserve

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



Photos by Midpen staff



John Siodomkors

Picchetti Ranch Open Space Preserve

**Butterflies of Picchetti Ranch**  
Saturday • May 19  
Picchetti Ranch • 2.5mi  
10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Jan Hintermeister and Karen DeMello to explore the wonderful and strange world of insects that taste with their feet and smell with their antennae. Learn to identify common butterfly species in their natural environment and understand why humans from the Stone Age to the Space Age have been fascinated with these delicate winged creatures. Many facts and flutters await you on this leisurely walk along the Zinfandel and Orchard Loop Trails. Bring binoculars if you have them. Attentive children with an interest in nature are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 5.**

**Stop In and Explore**  
Saturday and Sunday  
May 19 and 20  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the description for March 31.

**Among the Trees,  
Bushes, and Flowers**  
Monday • May 21  
Thornewood • 4mi  
9:00am to 11:30am



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

**Butterflies of Sierra Azul**  
Friday • May 25  
Sierra Azul • 4mi  
Meet: Mount Umunhum Summit  
parking lot  
10:00am to 2:00pm



Docents Jan Hintermeister, Katherine Greene, and Vivian Neou will be your traveling companions on this leisurely-paced out and back hike around the summit and down a portion of the Mt. Umunhum Trail. Although your focus is on butterflies, you'll see many other plant and animal species at Mount Umunhum. There will be a short lunch break along the way. Bring binoculars if you have them.



Ginger Mohrk

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

**Stop In and Explore**  
Saturday and Sunday  
May 26 and 27  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the description for March 31.

**32nd Annual Hike the  
Open Spaces**  
Monday • May 28  
Monte Bello • 2.5mi  
Meet: Picchetti Ranch  
8:15am to 1:00pm



Join docents Greg Azevedo and Bob Segalla for a leisurely-paced walk through a less traveled section of this Preserve on the Waterwheel Creek Trail. If the weather is clear, expect to see some spectacular views of the Santa Clara Valley and portions of the Santa Cruz Mountains. This walk with occasional stops will include the history of the Preserve and the District, and you'll learn about the plants, animals, and geology of the area. A short snack break is planned midway. This minimal elevation gain hike is well suited for children and those needing a less physically challenging outing. **(Note: Participants will carpool to the trailhead.) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 14.**



# Learning From Old Growth About Healthy Forests

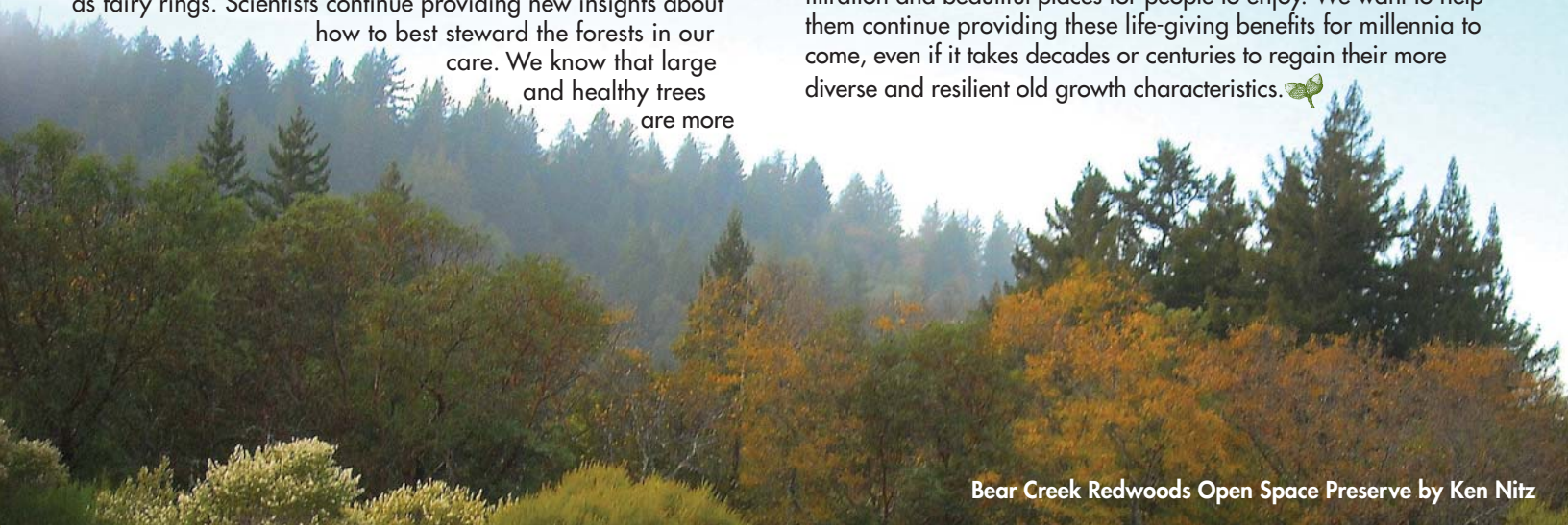
Old growth forests are complex ecosystems that have survived for millennia, and can teach us a lot about living with wildfire and climate change. Scientists studying the remaining old growth along the West Coast have found that diversity of age, species, size, and genetics of trees are key to forest health and survival. These mature forests are also spatially diverse, with trees standing both together and individually, interspersed with fallen logs and natural openings where sunlight reaches the forest floor. The Nature Conservancy is conducting a long-term experiment in Washington State to learn if forestry practices like limited selective thinning can beneficially accelerate the transformation of logged forests back to old growth conditions.

Second-growth and even younger forests, like those typically acquired by Midpen, are denser and more uniform in age. This is particularly the case for **coast redwoods** on Midpen lands that have regrown over the last century after intense logging and fire suppression. Redwoods often sprout multiple new trees from the roots of a single cut stump, resulting in tight groves known as fairy rings. Scientists continue providing new insights about how to best steward the forests in our care. We know that large and healthy trees are more

likely to survive wildfire, that forest openings slow fire and nurture seedlings, and less-dense understories reduce fire intensity.

We also know that forests are one of the best tools we have for climate change resilience. Redwoods capture and store more carbon per acre than any other tree or plant. Midpen recently assessed the **63,000 total acres of land** we steward and found that it permanently stores the equivalent of **23 million metric tons** of carbon dioxide. In addition, the **45,500 acres of forest** on Midpen lands remove an additional **61,000 metric tons** of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year. To put that in perspective, the stored carbon is roughly equivalent to avoiding the emissions of **5 million cars** driven for one year, while the carbon annually sequestered by forests is roughly equivalent to removing the emissions of an additional **13,000 cars**.

These preserved forests are not only actively cleaning the air and storing carbon, they're also providing wildlife habitat, water filtration and beautiful places for people to enjoy. We want to help them continue providing these life-giving benefits for millennia to come, even if it takes decades or centuries to regain their more diverse and resilient old growth characteristics. 🌿



Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve by Ken Nitz

## Lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve – Now Open!

(continued from page 1)

### Will I see Cattle when hiking in La Honda Creek?

It's possible! La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve includes conservation cattle grazing alongside public access. Midpen uses conservation grazing on approximately 10,800 acres as a beneficial tool for managing grasslands. Cattle grazing promotes the growth of native grasses and wildflowers, helps control invasive weeds, enhances habitat for sensitive species such as the California red-legged frog, and reduces fire fuels. Visitors can expect to see cattle and ranchers, interpretive signs, and of course a few cowpies along the way.



Cindy Roessler

### Tips for Hiking Among Grazing Animals

Cattle are large animals but are not aggressive by nature. However, if aggravated or threatened, cattle will defend calves or themselves. Refer to signs along trails and remember:

- If cattle are blocking the trail, approach slowly, speak normally and allow them to move away.
- Avoid getting between a calf and its mother; avoid corning cattle and give them room.
- Do not attempt to touch or pet cattle.
- Dogs and bicycles are not allowed in La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. 🌿



La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve



## Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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



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Connect with Us



## 2018 Digital Photo Contest – Shoot, Share, and Vote!



Sue Gale



Eric Colton



Kent Stietzel



Karl Gohl

Continuing a long tradition of showcasing some of the Bay Area's most beautiful subjects, our 9th annual contest is now open for entries! This year, fans can again vote for their favorite image on Facebook.

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

**Prize:** One winner in each category will receive a \$100 REI gift card and a Midpen Swag Bag.

**Photo Submission Deadline:** Contest begins Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. All photo submissions must be taken in areas of District preserves that are **open to the public**.

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



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

## Accessibility at Midpen

Midpen is committed to making all practicable efforts to make our facilities, programs, services, information, employment, and meaningful work opportunities accessible and usable by all people.

We are updating our Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan: a plan that identifies physical or policy barriers to accessibility in Midpen's services, programs and activities.

The Plan also provides recommendations for improving accessibility in outdoor preserve settings. Built elements that provide public access to Midpen preserves – such as parking areas and trailheads – should be designed to consider the abilities of all visitors without compromising natural or cultural resources.

Public outreach and participation are key to the success in updating the Plan. We anticipate holding a public workshop with the Midpen Board of Directors in late February 2018. Additional public workshops are planned for late summer and fall 2018.

We are interested to hear about your experience of accessibility at the District: what currently works and where can we improve upon accessibility in our preserves?

**There are a few ways to share comments:**

- Send us your thoughts at [ADAPlanUpdate@openspace.org](mailto:ADAPlanUpdate@openspace.org),
- attend upcoming public workshops, and
- provide comments on the draft Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan recommendations when published for review in late Summer.

If you are interested to learn more about this project, or sign up to receive updates by email, visit the ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan Update webpage at [www.openspace.org/ADAPlanUpdate](http://www.openspace.org/ADAPlanUpdate). 🌿



John Green

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve