



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

# VIEWS

QUARTERLY NEWS ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION AND PROGRAMS • SUMMER 2019



Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Mabel Chow

## Creating Fire-Resilient Communities



Midpen Staff

Midpen Rangers Partner with Fire Agencies for Annual Fire Training

California's fire season is now longer and more intense. Dense regrowth of historic logging areas, more than a century of fire suppression, a changing climate and population growth create these conditions. Today, we can all play a role in living safely with wildland fire in California by restoring a fire-resilient environment.

Wildland fire preparedness is central to Midpen's work, and we're focused on increasing fuels reduction in high-priority preserves closest to residential areas.

We're also working to add prescribed fire to our land management toolbox by 2022, as another way to improve the ecological health of fire-adapted native plant communities while also reducing fuels.

### Reducing Fuels

Maintaining fire breaks and fire roads throughout Midpen preserves is an ongoing year-round job. This year, Midpen is completing environmentally sensitive fuels reduction projects, including work at Pulgas Ridge, Windy Hill, El Corte de Madera Creek and Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserves and others.

### Preventing Ignitions

Midpen rules against camp fires, fire arms and smoking in the preserves are diligently enforced. Midpen field staff also completes annual fire training each spring so, should fire occur, we're prepared to act swiftly and safely as first responders until a fire suppression agency arrives on scene.

To learn more about what you can do to live safely with fire, visit [www.openspace.org/fire](http://www.openspace.org/fire). 🦋



Midpen Staff

Midpen Staff

Midpen Maintains Hundreds of Miles of Fire Breaks

## Youth Experience the Forest as Citizen Scientists

Midpen interpretation and education staff and docents have partnered with Save the Redwoods League (SRL) to offer high school students field trip excursions at Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve. SRL is a San Francisco-based nonprofit whose mission is to protect and restore coastal redwood forests and connect people with nature. With guidance, students work together to measure the height and diameter of redwood trees, calculate the carbon storage of trees and study the effects of climate change on sword ferns. Students also participate in a Bioblitz, a citizen science activity that documents as many different plant and animal species as possible with the iNaturalist app. Midpen provides transportation reimbursement for these field trips. More than 120 students participated in these field trips during the 2017-18 school year. 🦋



Visit Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve this Summer

see page 12 for more information.

FUNDED BY

MEASURE AA

2014 OPEN SPACE BOND

## Five Years of Accomplishments

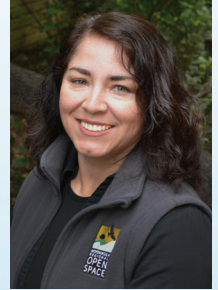
- Preserved an additional 1,515 acres
- Restored and opened the Mount Umunhum Summit with visitor amenities
- Built and opened the award-winning Mt. Umunhum Trail
- Completed the Bald Mountain parking area — the gateway to Mount Umunhum
- Improved the 5.4-mile Mt. Umunhum Road
- Restored and constructed public access for Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve for June 2019 opening
- Completed plans and permit submittals to complete critical 0.6-mile gap to create 80 miles of continuous Bay Trail
- Opened lower La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve, the Sears Ranch Road parking area and visitor amenities
- Continuing to plan for expanding La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve trail network
- Opened Mindego Hill and the new 2.5-mile Mindego Hill Trail
- Made improvements to the water system and corrals to reintroduce 315 acres of land to conservation grazing 🐄

## A Message from the General Manager

# Midpen's Measure AA: An Investment in Your Community

Midpen's public open space lands are preserved in perpetuity by and for the people. Forty years after a successful grassroots effort created Midpen, community members came together again and established a vision guiding Midpen's next 40 years of land preservation, environmental stewardship and public enjoyment and education. Voters funded much of that vision by passing Measure AA in 2014.

We are now celebrating five years of voter-approved Measure AA accomplishments, which is a perfect opportunity to reflect on why this community investment in public open space matters.



### Public lands contribute to healthy communities.

Midpen preserves provide clean air, water and local food to surrounding communities. They are also free and open daily providing the public with refuge from urban areas where they can decompress, reenergize and find "room to breathe". Study after study shows that spending time in nature provides physical, emotional and mental benefits.

### Public lands enhance our region's resiliency to climate change.

Preserved forests are the earth's lungs, pulling carbon out of the atmosphere while simultaneously creating a cooling effect. Open space lands also allow native plants and wildlife to seek livable habitats in response to changing conditions, and buffer surrounding communities from floods and wildland fires.

### Public lands allow plants and wildlife to thrive.

The Santa Cruz Mountains are a biodiversity hotspot, meaning they are home to some of the most diverse and abundant native plants and animals in the world — many of which live nowhere else on earth. They thrive in our region's preserved open spaces including redwood forests shrouded in summer fog, coastal grasslands, marshy baylands, chaparral-covered ridgelines and mountain peaks.

Your Measure AA investment is more than the sum of its parts. Taken as a whole, these preservation, restoration, public access and agricultural vision plan projects strengthen the fabric and health of our community for everyone. Thank you for your continued support.

*Ana M. Ruiz*  
Ana María Ruiz,  
General Manager



Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve by Conie Soerjanti

## Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors

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

**Pete Siemens** — Ward 1 (Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga)

**Yoriko Kishimoto** — Ward 2 (Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Palo Alto, Stanford, Sunnyvale)

**Jed Cyr** — Ward 3 (Sunnyvale) | **Curt Riffle** — Ward 4 (Los Altos, Mountain View)

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

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

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

Ana María Ruiz — General Manager

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



# Outdoor Activities

SUMMER 2019 | June – July – August

## MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

### GENERAL INFORMATION



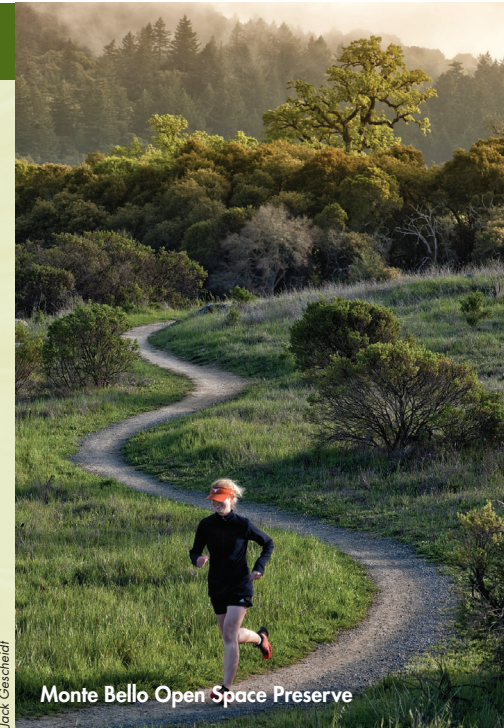
Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Jack Gescheidt

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, 8:30am to 5:00pm. 🦋

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*.



Jack Gescheidt

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

### ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

#### To Ensure Your Experience is Enjoyable, Please Review this Information

- Please be courteous, stay alert, and make your presence known to other trail users well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind.
- Heavy rain cancels hike activities unless otherwise noted in the description. If there is light rain or the threat of rain, go to the meeting place. Docents will plan to meet participants – hike route or duration may be altered due to weather and trail conditions.
- Participants are encouraged to make personal decisions on comfort, safety, and willingness to drive or hike in stormy or threatening weather conditions.
- For a mountain bike or horseback ride, heavy rain within two days prior to the activity will cancel it.
- 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 available at all preserves; please plan accordingly.
- Please carpool if possible. Parking is limited in some locations.



Robin Goldfthwaite

Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

#### Special Note

If you have a group of 8 or more people who would like to attend a docent-led activity listed here, please contact the Interpretation and Education Program Manager to discuss in advance at 650-625-6536 or [docent@openspace.org](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.**

### BEAR CREEK REDWOODS

From Highway 17 take the Bear Creek Road exit, opposite Lexington Reservoir. (From southbound Hwy. 17, exit the highway and go under an overpass; road will curve right to a stop sign at Bear Creek Rd., turn left. From northbound Hwy. 17 exit highway and cross the highway via the overpass on to Bear Creek Rd.) Travel 1.0 mile from Hwy. 17 on Bear Creek Rd., as road curves left there will be a pedestrian crosswalk, turn left into the parking lot immediately after the crosswalk.

### COAL CREEK

Meet at the Caltrans vista point pull-out area opposite Russian Ridge Preserve gate RR01, located on Skyline Boulevard, 1.2 miles north of Page Mill Road and 6 miles south of Highway 84. Those traveling from I-280 on Page Mill Rd. should allow approximately 40 minutes travel time.

### 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.



Fremont Older OSP by Michelle Yau

### EL CORTE DE MADERA CREEK (continued)

**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.

### LA HONDA CREEK

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

### LONG RIDGE

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

### LOS TRANCOS

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



Skyline Ridge OSP by Liv Ames

### 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.

### 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.

**RUSSIAN RIDGE (continued)**

**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, go past the main preserve entrance. Continue on Alpine Rd. for 1.5 miles to the Mindego Gateway parking area on the right. Allow 45 minutes travel time from I-280.

**SARATOGA GAP**

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

**SIERRA AZUL**

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

**SKYLINE RIDGE**

**Equestrian parking lot:** Located on Skyline Boulevard one mile south of the Skyline Blvd. (Highway 35) and Page Mill/Alpine Road intersection. 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.

**THORNEWOOD**

From I-280, take the Highway 84/Woodside Road exit. Follow Hwy. 84/Woodside Rd. through Woodside and then to a junction with Portola Road at 3.3 miles. Bear right to stay on Hwy. 84, now La Honda Road. At 4.9 miles from I-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.

**THORNEWOOD (continued)**

Alternatively, from the junction of Highway 35 (Skyline Boulevard) and Hwy. 84 in Sky Londa, take Hwy. 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. 🌿



Chris Tracey

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

**KEY TO SYMBOLS**



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



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



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



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



**Wheelchair accessible.**



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



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



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



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



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

# JUNE

## Wildflowers and Wild Birds

Saturday • June 1  
 Picchetti Ranch • 4.5mi  
 9:00am to 12:30pm



You'll meander through farm and woodland habitats on an out-and-back trip along the Zinfandel Trail. Your docents, Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel, and Farhana Kazi, will point out some special late-flowering wildflower species, like red ribbons clarkia and wind poppy. You are encouraged to bring binoculars as this Preserve attracts many migrating and resident birds, which your docents will help you identify by sight and sound. A lunch stop will be at picnic tables in view of Stevens Creek.

## Ohlone Medicine

Saturday • June 1  
 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.

## In the Glow of the Night

Saturday • June 1  
 Monte Bello • 4.5mi  
 5:45pm to 11:00pm



Discover night's natural wonders with docents Debby Brusco, Paul Billig, Katherine Greene, and Jack Owicki. You'll hike at a leisurely to moderate pace along the Canyon and Indian Creek Trails with extended stops for interesting sights and sounds. Bring a flashlight with a red filter/cellophane covering if you have it, your meal, and something to sit on. Capable, attentive children 10 years and older are welcome. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 24.**



Karl Gohl

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
 June 1 and 2  
 Daniels Nature Center  
 12:00noon to 5:00pm



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

## Diversity in Nature

Sunday • June 2  
 Windy Hill • 4mi  
 9:00am to 12:00pm



How many habitats abound in this area, and how do they co-exist in an intricate mosaic? Discover this Preserve's diversity with docents Jayita Bhojwani and Gerri Tiernan on a moderately-paced hike with about 450 feet of elevation change. You'll make stops to observe changes in vegetation as you explore different ecological communities. Along the way, you'll learn about the common flora and fauna that call these habitats home, and how they have adapted to thrive independently together!

## Rambling Ridge Ride

Sunday • June 2  
 Long Ridge • 7mi  
 10:00am to 1:00pm



Join docents Dave Kocsis and Patty Lovelace for an intermediate-level bike excursion exploring this beautiful Preserve. You'll ride the cool riparian Peters Creek Trail, then climb to the Long Ridge Trail for sweeping views of grassy rolling hills with wooded creek areas below. After pausing at Turtle Rock, you'll return by a different route. Participants are expected to be experienced and able to ride on fairly steep, narrow dirt trails, and ready to climb more than 1,000 feet. Experienced youth cyclists are welcome.

## Earthquake Hike

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



Join docents Paul Billig and Collin Lim for a fun and educational hike along the San Andreas Fault. You'll stop to discuss the wonder of plate tectonics, examine remnants left by thousands of major earthquakes, and learn how to prepare for future earthquakes. Families with engaged children (who are attentive listeners and capable of hiking several miles) are welcome on this leisurely-paced outing with minimal elevation change. **(Note: This popular hike is not suitable for large groups – thank you.)**

## Health and Wellness Hike

Wednesday • June 5  
 Monte Bello • 4mi  
 9:30am to 12:30pm



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

## Explorer Hike: The Wild Side

Wednesday • June 5  
 Coal Creek • 4-5mi  
 10:30am to 2:30pm



Join docents Dennis Smith, Kate Gudmunson, Laura Levin, and Mary Brunkhorst as you explore the varied habitats of this less-often-visited preserve. Thanks to the ample rain this year, you should enjoy a proliferation of wildflowers – in both number and variety – despite the relatively late season timing for "usual" best displays. Many birds have been observed here as well, so bring your binoculars, cameras, identification skills, and whatever else you need to enjoy a day in the sun in search of wild things!

## Signs of Summer

Thursday • June 6  
Pulgas Ridge • 4.25mi  
9:00am to 12:00pm



Enjoy a hike while viewing of a variety of oak trees, summer wildflowers, and bushes with berries. Join docents Liz Foreman and Toni Gooch to explore the plants and trees in this Preserve as you hike along the Blue Oak, Hassler Loop, Dick Bishop, Dusky-footed Woodrat and Cordilleras Trails. Take in the scenic view as you hike along the top of the ridge. This moderately-paced hike includes climbing hills and hiking on uneven terrain.

## All Creatures Great and Small

Thursday • June 6  
Thornewood • 3mi  
9:30am to 12:30pm



Who lives in the meadow? Or in a stretch of oak woodland, or around the edges of Shilling Lake? This short hike passes through five different plant communities. Do the same animals inhabit all of the communities? Who might you expect to find sheltering under a manzanita bush but never under a redwood? Why? With docents Frances Reneau and Debbie Mytels you'll be looking for scat, tracks, scrapes, and nests as well as for the critters themselves, and recording your findings. Children are welcome.

## The (Sometimes) Green Green Grass of Home

Saturday • June 8  
Monte Bello • 2mi  
9:00am to 12:00pm



Do you know that California has a state grass? Join docents Karen DeMello, Cathy Brown, and Katherine Greene on a leisurely-paced walk in two adjacent Preserves where you'll explore the importance and diversity – past and present – of grasses in open spaces and everyday lives.

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
June 8 and 9  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 1.



Jack Geschwind

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

## Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • June 12  
El Corte de Madera Creek • 4-6mi  
Meet: Skeggs Point  
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.

## Horses, History, and Views

Thursday • June 13  
Russian Ridge • 9mi  
Meet: Skyline Ridge 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. Docent Teri Baron with assistance from an equestrian trail patrol volunteer, will provide historical information about the ranchers in the area as you enjoy nature and history on your horse. Trails on this leisurely-paced ride with moderate elevation gain include Sunny Jim and Ancient Oaks Trails. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after May 30.**

## Black Mountain History Ride

Saturday • June 15  
Monte Bello • 22mi  
Meet: Picchetti Ranch  
9:00am to 1:00pm



Join docent Linda Wegner and trail patrol volunteer Glen Wegner to ride up paved Montebello Road and then onto the fire roads and single-track trails of Monte Bello Preserve, including the Bella Vista and White Oaks Trails before heading back via the Stevens Canyon Trail. Experience with longer rides and single-track trails is required. Bring a power snack and water. Faster riders/climbers can start the ride with Glenn at 9:25am instead of 9:00am. **(Note: A portion of this ride will be on a public roadway with vehicle traffic.)**

## Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the activity listing for June 1.

## Explorer Hike: A Four Park Loop

Wednesday • June 19  
Saratoga Gap • 5mi  
10:30am to 2:30pm



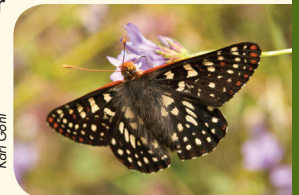
Enjoy a moderately-paced hike through two open space preserves, a county park, and a state park with docents Mary Brunkhorst, Kate Gudmundson, and Laura Levin. You'll walk through forest and woodlands along the Saratoga Gap Trail and a portion of the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Crossing over to the sunnier side of the ridge, you'll return along the Hickory Oaks and Achistaca Trails through grasslands. You'll finish your day by way of the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail and reflect on the wonder of connected open space lands.

## Butterflies of Sierra Azul

Friday • June 21  
Sierra Azul • 4mi  
Meet: Mount Umunhum Summit parking lot  
10:00am to 2:00pm



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



Karl Gohl

Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
June 22 and 23  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 1.

## Historic Ranches

Sunday • June 23  
La Honda Creek • 6mi  
Meet: Sears Ranch Road parking lot  
11:00am to 3:00pm



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



Karl Gehl

Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

### Transitions: Exploring Life Cycles

**Saturday • June 29**  
**El Corte de Madera Creek • 5.5mi**  
**9:30am to 1:30pm**



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

### Stop In and Explore

**Saturday and Sunday**  
**June 29 and 30**  
**Daniels Nature Center**  
**12:00noon to 5:00pm**



Please see the activity listing for June 1.

### Search for the Everlasting

**Sunday • June 30**  
**Picchetti Ranch • 4mi**  
**10:00am to 3:00pm**



Join docents Bob Segalla, Paul Billig and Steve Brugler to enjoy this Preserve close to home. You'll discover if the everlasting plant smells like maple syrup and find a lovely view along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails. Listen to the sound of Stevens Creek and eat your lunch at a County Park picnic area. Capable children welcome on this moderately-paced, 4-mile hike with a couple of 200-foot climbs. A visit to the Picchetti Winery is optional (on your own) at the hike's end.

### Ohlone Past and Present

**Sunday • June 30**  
**Skyline Ridge • 1mi**  
**Meet: Russian Ridge**  
**1:00pm to 3:30pm**



The Ohlone lived in this area for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans. Experience a glimpse into the Ohlone way of life with docents Marie Faust Evitt, Ann McCarty, and Chris Christensen through fun activities, stories, and a leisurely-paced hike along the Alpine Loop and Old Page Mill Road trails. Discover how modern-day Ohlone descendants are working to rebuild their culture, knowledge, and traditions. Capable, attentive children are welcome. Bring a snack to enjoy at Alpine Pond.



Pamela Dudzik

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

## JULY

### Explorer Hike: Redwood Rambles

**Wednesday • July 3**  
**Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5mi**  
**Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance**  
**10:30am to 2:30pm**



Visit the beautiful redwoods and lush creekside vegetation of the lower portion of the Purisima Creek Trail with docents Laura Levin, Mary Brunkhorst, and Kate Gudmundson. You'll enjoy a moderately-paced hike with a gentle climb of 500 feet while observing second growth redwoods and learning about the logging history of the area. Your lunch stop will be creekside along the Craig Britton Trail. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 19.**

### Stop In and Explore

**Saturday and Sunday**  
**July 6 and 7**  
**Daniels Nature Center**  
**12:00noon to 5:00pm**



Please see the activity listing for June 1.

### Earthquake Hike

**Sunday • July 7**  
**Los Trancos • 2.5mi**  
**2:00pm to 4:30pm**



Join docents Strether Smith, Lyle Rice, and Nina Bell, and please see the activity description for June 2.

### Morning Serendipity

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



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

### Scenic Aerobic Hike

**Wednesday • July 10**  
**Saratoga Gap • 4-6mi**  
**10:00am to 1:00pm**



Please see the activity description for June 12.

### Relics of Ranching

**Thursday • July 11**  
**Long Ridge • 11mi**  
**Meet: Skyline Ridge equestrian parking lot**  
**10:00am to 3:00pm**



Discover history on horseback! Docent Teri Baron with assistance from an equestrian trail patrol volunteer, 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. Most of the ride will be in Long Ridge Preserve. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 27.**



## Shade and Water

Friday • July 12

Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5mi

Meet: Purisima Creek

Road entrance

10:30am to 2:30pm



Enjoy the shade of redwood trees and the soothing sound of water in Purisima Creek on this out-and-back hike with docents Marie-Anne Neimat and Judy Sencenbaugh. You'll hike at a moderate pace on beautiful Purisima Creek Trail and stop for lunch at a scenic spot along the Craig Britton Trail. You'll hear about the area's logging history and why the unique *Sequoia sempervirens* (coast redwood) is protected now and considered the most perfect tree on earth. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after June 28.**



Duke Pinegold

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

## Introductory Geocaching Hike

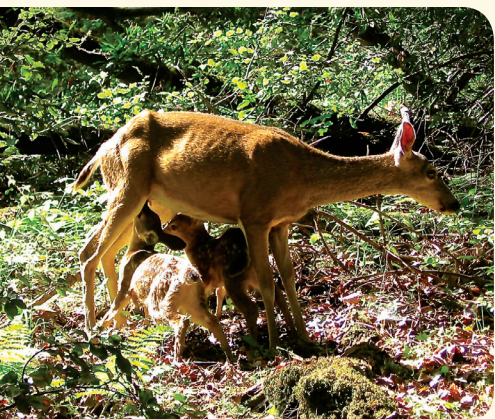
Saturday • July 13

Los Trancos • 2.5mi

10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents Sarah Schoen, Ping Li, 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 April 13.**



Cerri Tarran

Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

## Literature, Lore, and Life Sciences

Saturday • July 13

Rancho San Antonio • 5mi

8:00am to 11:30am



Would a rose by any other name smell as sweet? Unpack the diverse symbolic and scientific meanings behind this and other literary quotes from across centuries and continents on a moderate hike along many of this Preserve's popular trails. Docents Anna Lee and Naureen Moon will guide you on an exploration of the ways nature has inspired literature and lore throughout history, and the ways that humans make sense and meaning of nature.

**(Note: Arrive early to find parking.)**



## Exploring the Baylands

Saturday • July 13

Ravenswood • 3mi

4:00pm to 6:00pm



Join docents Debbie Mytels and Naureen Moon for a late afternoon hike along trails at the edge of the Bay. You'll discover how tides help specially adapted plants survive in a salty environment, and you may see some little-known creatures that make wetlands among the most productive ecosystems on Earth. You'll also learn some colorful history of this Preserve and adjacent Cooley Landing Park. Bring or wear layered clothing as it may be windy and cool here, even when it's warm and calm further inland!

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday

July 13 and 14

Daniels Nature Center

12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 1.

## Beat the Summer Heat

Sunday • July 14

Pulgas Ridge • 3mi

9:15am to 11:15am



Keep summer heat at bay by taking your canine companion out for a cool morning adventure on this moderately-paced hike. Dogs will enjoy the smells and owners the sights along the Blue Oak, Hassler, and Polly Geraci Trails as docents Patty Lovelace and Dave Kocsis interpret the Preserve's natural surroundings and "flea-ish" history of people and place. All dogs must be on leash; please be prepared carry out dog waste. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 1.**

## Wandering and Writing in Nature

Sunday • July 14

Long Ridge • 4.6mi

2:30pm to 6:00pm



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

## Signs of Summer

Thursday • July 18

Pulgas Ridge • 4.25mi

9:00am to 12:00pm



Join docents Liz Foreman and Helena Cohen, and please see the activity description for June 6.

## Morning Serendipity

Saturday • July 20

Monte Bello • 4mi

9:00am to 12:00pm



Join docents John Seyfarth and Catherine Crawford-Swent, and please see the activity description for July 9.

Los Trancos  
Open Space  
Preserve



### Moth Night I

July 20 • 2019  
 Monte Bello  
 8:30pm to 11:30pm



The 8th annual National Moth Week is July 20-28. Join docents Debbi Brusco, Jack Owicki, Sara Witt, and friends to discover nocturnal moths and other insects. You'll observe beautiful and interesting critters attracted to a special light. Photography is encouraged, as is submission of photo observations to iNaturalist (a biodiversity community science repository). Bring a flashlight with red filter/cellophane covering, your camera, and close-focus binoculars if you have them. **(Note: This activity is restricted to the parking lot – no hiking; participants have the option to leave earlier than scheduled end time. See [www.nationalmothweek.org](http://www.nationalmothweek.org).) Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 6.**

### Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the activity listing for June 1.

### Birds-of-the-Bayside CANCELED\*

Saturday • July 27  
 Ravenswood • 2.4mi  
 9:30am to 11:45am



"Snow birds," also known as winter visitors, have departed for northern breeding grounds leaving local, non-migratory dabblers and waders. With docents Frances Reneau, Helena Cohen, and Lyle Rice you'll learn to identify some aquatically inclined avian neighbors – herons, grebes, coots, and ducks, as well as terrestrial birds that enjoy salt air as much as humans. All are welcome, from neophyte birders to experienced birders ready to mentor. Please bring binoculars and/or spotting scopes. The path is wide and flat offering fantastic views on a clear day.



Yomif Seenz

Ravenswood Open Space Preserve



Yomif Seenz



Yomif Seenz

### Moth Night II

July 27 • 2019  
 Monte Bello  
 8:30pm to 11:30pm



See the activity description for Moth Night I on July 20. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 13.**

### Stop In and Explore

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



Please see the activity listing for June 1.

### Hiking and Mindfulness

Sunday • July 28  
 Purisima Creek Redwoods • 4.8mi  
 Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance  
 10:00am to 2:00pm



Escape in to the forest on a moderately-paced hike where you'll be taught valuable mindfulness strategies while tapping in to the healing and calming powers of nature. Join docents, Diane Maez, Ann McCarty, and Marie Faust Evitt on an incredible day of exercise and relaxation. Please bring your lunch and something to sit on. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or before July 14.**

### View from the Ridge

Sunday • July 28  
 Long Ridge • 5mi  
 10:00am to 3:00pm



Join docents Bob Segalla and Helena Cohen to explore what this beautiful Preserve has to offer. You may observe newts along the lush Peters Creek Trail and enjoy a tranquil pond, green forests, ridges, and grasslands. You'll also stop for an ocean view at the Wallace Stegner Bench on the Long Ridge Trail. This moderately-paced, 5-mile, 600-foot elevation change is suitable for capable children.

## AUGUST

### Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
 August 3 and 4  
 Daniels Nature Center  
 12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 1.

### Redwood Oxygen

Sunday • August 4  
 Purisima Creek Redwoods • 5.3mi  
 Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance  
 10:30am to 2:30pm



Experience how the redwoods surround you with serenity on a fine day and you'll breathe in some of the cleanest air in the world with docents Bob Segalla, Sam Berry, and Catherine Crawford-Swent while hiking on the Purisima Creek and Craig Britton Trails. This moderately-paced, 5.3-mile, 500-foot elevation change hike is suitable for capable children and has a downhill return. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after July 21.**

### Earthquake Hike

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



Join docents John Seyfarth and Lindsay Joye, and please see the activity description for June 2.

### Explorer Hike: New Horizons

Wednesday • August 7  
 Bear Creek Redwoods • 5mi  
 10:30am to 2:30pm



Come satisfy your curiosity about a recently opened area of this Preserve nestled in the Santa Cruz Mountains. You'll enjoy exploring some of the new trails with docents Kate Gudmundson, Mary Brunkhorst, Dennis Smith, and Laura Levin, and walk among towering redwoods and along babbling brooks on this leisurely-paced hike. You'll learn about regional geology, an important local watershed, logging history, historic cultural uses, and more. You'll also see first hand some of the interpretive elements and access amenities that have been added to this beautiful setting.

### Signs of Summer

Thursday • August 8  
 Pulgas Ridge • 4.25mi  
 9:00am to 12:00pm



Join docents Liz Foreman and Toni Gooch, and please see the activity description for June 6.

\* CANCELED – Due to construction work.

## Jaunting with Giants

Saturday • August 10  
Bear Creek Redwoods • 4-5mi  
2:00pm to 5:00pm



Enjoy a moderately-paced hiking adventure and make new discoveries. Surrounded by venerable redwood trees and guided by docents Chris MacIntosh and Maureen Draper you'll learn about the natural and cultural history significance of this Preserve as you explore a recently opened section and the new Alma Trail. The route includes several steep intervals and gradual climbs.

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
August 10 and 11  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 1.

## Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday • August 14  
Bear Creek Redwoods • 4-6mi  
10:00am to 1:00pm



Please see the activity description for June 12.

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
August 17 and 18  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 1.

## Hiking and Mindfulness

Sunday • August 18  
Monte Bello • 4.5mi  
10:00am to 2:00pm



Join docents, Diane Maez, Ann McCarty and Marie Faust Evitt, and please see the activity description for July 28.



Daniel Frank

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

## Three Preserve Tour

Thursday • August 22  
Skyline Ridge • 14mi  
Meet: Equestrian parking lot  
9:30am to 3:30pm



Travel the trails with docent Teri Baron (and assistance from an equestrian trail patrol volunteer) on a ride to explore three amazing open spaces preserves – Skyline Ridge, Monte Bello, and Long Ridge, with an additional county park visit along the way. You'll ride through almost every habitat type found in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Trails on this moderately-paced ride (with lots of up and down sections) include White Oak, Canyon, and Chestnut Trails. **Reservations are required and will be accepted on or after August 8.**

## Enchanting Purisima

Friday • August 23  
Purisima Creek Redwoods • 4.6mi  
Meet: Purisima Creek Road entrance  
9:30am to 1:30pm



Come and enjoy this beautiful, serene preserve in the heat of summer. Unwind amongst the magnificent redwoods, lush green ferns, and late summer wildflowers with your welcoming docents Farhana Kazi, and Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel. You'll be graced with a meandering creek accompanying you along the Purisima Creek Trail up to the Craig Britton Trail, and may be joined by banana slugs still active in late season and sheltering in the shade. This hike route will have a 400-foot elevation gain.

## Arachnophilia!

Saturday • August 24  
Monte Bello • 4mi  
5:00pm to 10:30pm



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

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
August 24 and 25  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 1.



Jack Gracich

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

## Bats of Alpine Pond

Sunday • August 25  
Skyline Ridge • 1.5mi  
Meet: Russian Ridge  
6:15pm to 8:45pm



Join docents Karen DeMello and Jan Hintermeister to dispel some myths and learn some facts about the world's most misunderstood mammal: the bat. As the sun goes down, you'll linger near the Daniels Nature Center to see whether bats appear over Alpine Pond, returning to your car before darkness sets in. Bring binoculars if you have them.

## Sweet Smells of Summer

Friday • August 30  
Picchetti Ranch • 4.5mi  
10:00am to 2:00pm



Many of late summer's drying plants are delightfully aromatic. Open your olfactory senses while exploring the wonders of nature with docents Gerri Tiernan, and Bill and Marilyn Bauriedel on this moderately-paced hike along the Orchard Loop and Zinfandel Trails. You'll hike to adjoining Stevens Creek County Park for a brief lunch break at picnic tables before returning on the Zinfandel Trail. A visit to historic Picchetti Winery is optional (on your own) at hikes's end.

## Stop In and Explore

Saturday and Sunday  
August 31 and September 1  
Daniels Nature Center  
12:00noon to 5:00pm



Please see the activity listing for June 1. 🦋

# BEAR CREEK REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

## Preservation 30 Years in the Making

### Saving Open Space

People have been drawn to Bear Creek Redwoods for centuries. Its expansive views and cool shaded forests made it a desirable South Bay property that was once slated to become a golf course and luxury estates. Formed by earthquakes and forest streams, and inhabited by Native Americans, loggers, wealthy estate owners, and even a religious institution, the property has been shaped by many forces and many hands throughout its history. Its beautiful and biologically rich ecosystem is home to hundreds of acres of redwoods, providing the perfect habitat for many protected species.

Instead of expansive homes and putting greens, local conservationists saw room to breathe for plants, wildlife and people. Midpen, in partnership with POST, Committee for Green Foothills and passionate citizens worked together to protect it as open space.

FUNDED BY

**MEASURE AA**

2014 OPEN SPACE BOND

20-year plan to restore Bear Creek Redwoods' natural environment, providing a unique opportunity for the public to connect with nature and discover local history.

### Your Measure AA Dollars at Work

Thanks to the public's support and passage of Measure AA, Midpen has completed the first of several phased public access projects in Midpen's

### Did You Know?

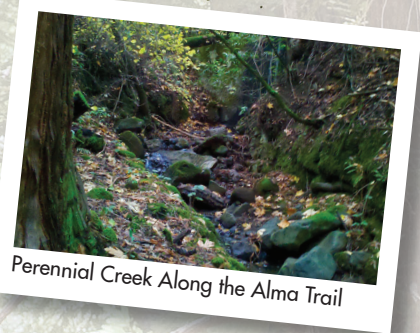
Redwoods help keep our air clean, removing carbon dioxide and mitigating the harmful effects of climate change.

### Restoring the Land and Ongoing Stewardship

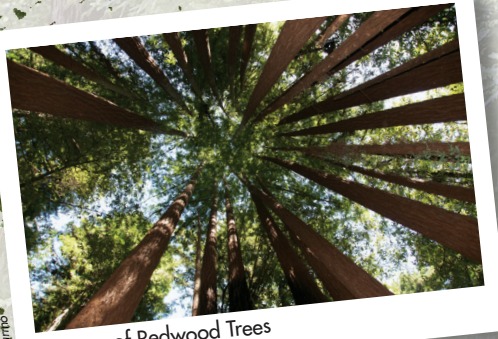
One of the biggest impacts of human activity is the displacement and degradation of native habitats and ecosystems. When Midpen acquired this land, it was far from pristine. Over 100 years of development and logging altered the original redwood and foothill habitats. Some of the physical changes are important to keep for telling the land's story. Others, like the introduction of invasive species, are problems that Midpen has already started to resolve. And a few, like the loss of fire-resistant, old-growth redwoods, will take generations of active resource management to undo. Midpen is working to bring back the native landscapes and biodiversity that once thrived on the land. Midpen volunteers, in partnership with the Santa Clara Valley Water District, removed harmful invasive plants along Bear Creek Redwoods' creeks to improve habitat for rare wildlife. Trail crews converted old logging roads to trails to reduce erosion and improve water quality, and botanists are partnering with researchers to protect the area's forests from sudden oak death.

### Those Handy Boot Brushes

Sudden oak death, or SOD, is an exotic, introduced disease that has killed hundreds of thousands of native oak and tanoak trees in California. Avoid spreading this disease to other areas by cleaning soil and mud off shoes, tires and horse hooves when leaving or entering the preserves. Look for the handy boot brushes installed at the trailheads!



Perennial Creek Along the Alma Trail



Canopy of Redwood Trees



Youth Volunteers Clearing Nonnative Brush



Special Project Volunteers Removing Invasive Weeds

## Visit this Summer

Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve is located three miles south of Los Gatos and features an easy-access interpretive trail around Upper Lake and **six miles of new trail** west of Bear Creek Road. Trails pass through shaded redwood and fir forests and along cool perennial creeks with views of the Sierra Azul range.



Mildren Staff

Belted Kingfisher



Karl Gehl

Visitors explore the Upper Lake Loop Trail



Mildren Staff

Hikers Under the Cool Shade of the Redwoods

## Learn More: Upper Lake Interpretive Walk

During your visit, make sure you check out the Upper Lake Interpretive Walk. It takes visitors on a tour through the Preserve's layered history. At the nine stops along the Upper Lake Loop Trail, visitors can see habitat restoration sites and artifacts, such as Ohlone bedrock mortars. The walk is an accessible pathway that accommodates mobility devices, strollers and users of all ages and abilities.

Learn more through our innovative story map: [www.openspace.org/bcr](http://www.openspace.org/bcr)



Alfina Alonzo

Interpretive Walk Map



Mildren Staff

Bear Creek Redwoods Upper Lake

The phase one public access improvements to the western area of the Preserve will be open daily, beginning June 8, 2019.

**Please note:** Due to the rugged and rural location of this Preserve, there is no off-site parking nearby or along the two-lane, winding Bear Creek Road. On-site parking may fill up quickly on weekends. Please consider carpooling or visiting on a weekday.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT**  
[www.openspace.org/bcr](http://www.openspace.org/bcr)

## Leave No Trace in Open Space

Each of us play a vital role in protecting our open space preserves. As we spend time outdoors, it's important to be conscious of the effects our actions may have on plants, animals, other people and even entire ecosystems. Please pack it in and pack it out.



## Releasing Unwanted Pets

Releasing domestic animals into the wild is a bad plan and often has disastrous results. Typically, domestic animals depend on humans for food and are ill-equipped to take care of themselves in the wild. Many end up starving to death or falling prey to any number of predators. Anyone looking to find a home for their pet should contact their local animal shelter for assistance.



## Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

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



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

Connect with Us



# Dogs on Midpen Trails: Heat Exhaustion

Be aware that dogs can overheat in open space preserves, particularly on strenuous trails and warm days. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include heavy panting, dry gums, weakness, confusion and inattention. The best approach is prevention:

- Avoid hiking with your dog on hot days, especially in direct sun.
- Bring plenty of water for yourself and your dog. Midpen preserves do not have water fountains.
- Retreat to a cool area, rest and provide water if your dog shows symptoms.

To find out where to hike with your dog, visit: [www.openspace.org/dogs](http://www.openspace.org/dogs).



Jack Gescheidt

Fremont Older Open Space Preserve



## Coastal Corner



Photo provided by Coastsides Farmers' Market

# Coastsides Farmers' Market



Midpen Staff

Midpen staff, volunteers and board member Larry Hassett engage with the coastsides community during the opening day of the Coastsides Farmers' Market in Half Moon Bay.