



Friends of Huddart
& Wunderlich Parks

Wild Times

hikes • history • horses

650.851.2660 P.O. Box 6270767 Woodside CA 94062 www.huddartwunderlichfriends.org Spring 2014

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Wild Douglas iris are in bloom now. Visit the parks to see them.

Presidents' Report

The Friends board is growing its capabilities to serve those who share our passion for Huddart and Wunderlich Parks. We are happy to announce the creation of a new, dynamic and easy-to-navigate website, thanks to generous donations from a group of our dedicated supporters. Be sure to visit the new and improved website, which will be up and running by this summer.

We are also currently recruiting a new program manager to continue the vitality Carrie Davis brought to the Friends during her tenure. We thank Carrie for providing fresh ideas to the Friends, docents and community.

Our next exciting endeavor is the "Carts to Cars" fall fundraiser celebrating horsepower through the ages. The September 28th event features a new carriage exhibit at the Folger Stable Museum as well as various modes of transportation throughout a century. See additional information in this newsletter.

The future direction of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks is under new leadership with Marlene Finley, San Mateo County Parks Director, and Ramona Arechiga, Natural Resource Manager. The Parks Department staff has identified several projects that the Friends will work to support. In Wunderlich these include enhancing the picnic area along with replacing the restroom, and upgrading the equestrian arena. In Huddart, projects include improving playground structures and the horse trailer parking area.

The Friends are dedicated to helping fund and manage projects and programs in both parks. But we cannot accomplish all we plan to do without you. We greatly appreciate your support in helping us successfully reach our goals. Please consider a tax deductible donation to the Friends and return the enclosed envelope with your contribution. *Many thanks!*



Presidents Lisa Raskin and Lea Goldstein

Meet the New County Parks Leaders

Two veteran park service professionals have joined the San Mateo County Parks, setting their sights on resource management, interpretive education, and open space conservation. Marlene Finley is now Director of San Mateo County Parks, following a 35-year career with the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service, which included Muir Woods. Ramona Arechiga joins San Mateo County as Manager of Natural Resources after a ten-year career in natural resource conservation both in the U.S. and abroad. Marlene and Ramona have their work cut out for them. San Mateo has added hundreds of acres of parkland recently, from the newly opened Devil's Slide Trail in Pacifica to 174 acres in Loma Mar. Two immediate concerns they're focusing on are developing drought strategies with park rangers and stabilizing the county park finances.

Teacher Daran Reinholm on Huddart's Nature Hike Program

“Slow down and experience nature with your children,” says Daran Reinholm of Woodside Parents Nursery School. Every year, Daran takes her class of preschoolers, ages three and four, hiking in Huddart Park with docents from the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks. Daran herself has been a docent since 2004.

Daran says that experiencing nature is important for children for several important reasons. First, they need to feel safe in natural surroundings and be able to play outdoors with no fences. When children feel safe, it builds their confidence for engaging with the outer world.

Second, children need to know what's real. “We see so many toddlers playing with their parents' cell phones, and they do not know what is real and what is not real,” says Daran. Recently Daran brought her pet chicken to school for the kids to see, and they kept asking, “Is it real?” Many young children are afraid of the woods, because they do not know the difference between the real world and fantastic creatures such as dinosaurs that they see on screen.

Third, it builds confidence if children are allowed to take the lead. “When hiking with young children,” says Daran, “don't do too much talking. Just experience the woods with them; look at what they see, and listen to what they hear.”



Woodside Parents Nursery School teacher, and long-time Huddart Nature Hikes docent, Daran Reinholm, brings her preschoolers to Huddart to experience nature.

Teacher Harlin Hansen on the Folger Stable Program

How the past connects to the present; that's what school kids who visit The Folger Stable in Wunderlich Park learn. To Harlin Hansen, third grade teacher at Woodside Elementary School, the field trip to the barn brings history to life for his own students.

“I've taken my class every year for three years,” he says. “It's great because it's part of our community and is a valuable connection for us. One nice thing is the kids hear about what we learn in the classroom, like the Native Americans, from someone else. Our curriculum isn't tied to Woodside, but the field trip makes it more specific.”

One lesson Hansen's students get is the relation between the Folger family and the Gold Rush. He likes that his students realize there were more ways to make a living than mining the actual gold; the people who supplied goods to the miners—like the Folgers--did very well for themselves. “It puts a little more perspective into what was happening in the 1850s and beyond,” he says.

The hands-on aspect of the stable program is particularly worthwhile, Hansen says. Not only do the kids learn local history in relation to the bigger story, they can experience what life was like before today's conveniences—like transportation. “They [the docents] bring out a horse and talk about them. Some students don't usually see horses, so they get to see how to saddle one. They get a lot out of it.”

Will Hansen bring back next year's crop of third graders? “We'll be there,” he says.

If you're a teacher and would like more information about bringing students on a field trip to either park, or if you'd like to find out about becoming a volunteer, please call 650.851.2660.



Woodside Elementary School third grade teacher Harlin Hansen brings his classes to connect to history at the Folger Stable.



Sunday, September 28, 2014, 3:30 P.M.-7:00 P.M.
Folger Stable, Woodside

Individual tickets \$150. Proceeds will benefit projects in Huddart and Wunderlich Parks

Event highlights

- Horsepower demonstration—by horses!
- Display of many carriages and cars from an 1890 side spring wagon to a 2013 Tesla
- Silent auction of horsepower-related items
- Wine, beer, appetizers
- Delicious catered buffet

Sponsorship opportunities available from \$500 (includes seating for 2) to \$5000 or more (includes named table for 8). Sponsors will be acknowledged on the invitation (if received by July 7), on signage, in event booklets, during the program, and on the Friends' website. For more information call 650.851.2660

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!!! PLEASE VOLUNTEER !!!

The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks depend greatly upon volunteers. We welcome your support and would sincerely appreciate your help in any of the following areas:

Carriage Museum Docent:

One Saturday per month 10-1 or 1-4

Folger Stable School Group Docent:

Wednesdays or Fridays 10-12

Huddart Park Nature Hikes Docent :

Tuesdays or Thursdays 9:30-11:30

Please contact The Friends' Program Manager for more information:
650.851.2660

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Mission Statement

The Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks promote enjoyment of our parks through environmental and historic preservation and education.

Through community volunteer efforts we raise funds for park improvements and educational programs.