

Proudly Serving



Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks

1995-2015

Wild Times

hikes • history • horses

650.851.2660 P.O. Box 6270767 Woodside, CA 94062 www.huddartwunderlichfriends.org Fall 2015

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From the Board President

Dear Friends,

It is with great pride that I announce that the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year! Since 1995, The Friends has funded park improvement projects, developed environmental and educational programs for all ages, and undertaken massive historic preservation efforts—all for the sake of our two spectacular local parks and the people who love them.

The Friends got their start when two park lovers discovered a host of unfunded needs in the parks and decided to support rangers' requests for necessary maintenance items. That commitment and their love of the environment led them to create early education programs for children in Huddart Park.

In 2001, the focus shifted to Wunderlich Park when the Friends recognized a dire need to take on the historic Folger Stable's renovation project. A \$3 million fundraising effort for the renovation succeeded, and a \$1 million endowment fund to support future maintenance was completed in 2008.

Complying with a mandate from San Mateo County Parks Department to provide increased public access to the stable, the Friends developed the Folger Stable Carriage Room Museum. Since then thousands of park visitors have enjoyed the displays showcasing the history of the property and the region. Historical education programs for third and fourth grade students began in 2010 when the Friends partnered with the San Mateo County Historical Association to provide scholastic field trips at the Folger Stable Historic District in Wunderlich. Extending the scope of the Friends educational mission, an adult-focused program was added this year—The Folger Stable Speaker Series.

The Huddart Park Nature Hikes Program continues to grow. A generous grant offering assistance to schools that would otherwise be unable to participate in this early outdoor science lesson has allowed expansion of the program to more schools in San Mateo County and beyond.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without the generosity of our dedicated volunteers, loyal donors, and strong partnerships with the San Mateo County Parks Department. For this we are extremely grateful. As great an achievement as it is to celebrate our 20 years of service, we look forward to continuing our mission to promote enjoyment of our parks through the environmental and historical programs we provide.

A milestone like this deserves a big celebration, which we are already planning for Fall 2016. Watch for details on our website and in future newsletters.

Many thanks and congratulations on 20 great years!



Board President Jill Daly



Thank you for adding
The Friends to your eScrip
and AmazonSmile accounts.



Looking for info? It's all here

www.huddartwunderlichfriends.org

What's Been Happening

Wunderlich and Huddart Park Projects Updates



Example of the modern restroom that will replace the Port-a-Potty currently the sole public facility at Wunderlich Park.

Remember last year's Carts to Cars fundraising event hosted by the Friends? It inspired terrific support for two parks projects: the installation of an ADA restroom and upgrade of the picnic area at Wunderlich, and the installation of a new playground at Huddart. Here's the status of those projects: In Wunderlich the plan is to install the bathroom sometime this fall pending an official bid from the

CXT company. If the projected El Niño rains are too intense, though, the installation will wait until spring. As for Huddart, the county is currently getting revised bids for the playground, which will be installed Spring 2016.

It's Been a Very Good Year

Thanks to the strong support of so many donors and volunteers, the Friends are growing bigger and better than ever. Here's how:

Silicon Valley Gives. This year was the Friends' first time participating in the one-day fundraising event. It yielded \$2642; 57 percent of the donors were first-time contributors.

Huddart Park Nature Hikes Program. During the 2014-2015 school year 809 children hiked in the park, double the number served last year. Thanks to grants, 253 students received tuition waivers, and 80 students received free transportation via a bus waiver. Volunteers donated 271 hours.

Folger Stable Field Trip Program. For the 2014-2015 school year, 34 field trips with 927 schoolchildren visited the historic district. Volunteers donated 155 hours.

Board Members. The Friends' board grew significantly. Now 14 members serve plus an additional member to the advisory board.

Docents. Seven more docents have signed on to staff the museum, assist at the Folger Stable field trip, and lead nature hikes.

Website. The beautiful, comprehensive new website was officially launched six months ago.

Friends Host Welcome for Stable Managers



Stable staff (from left) Kristina Chancholo and Mike O'Neill with new Folger managers Sue Pennell and Shawn Mott of Chaparral Ranch attended a recent meet-and-greet hosted

by The Friends. For information about new equestrian activities, visit www.chaparralcorporation.com.

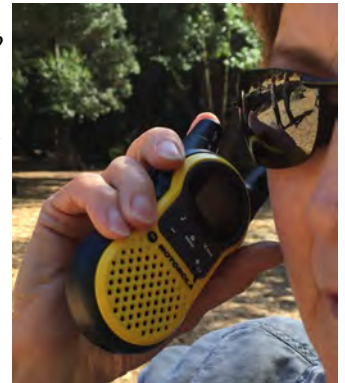
Victorian Days Walking Tour Steps Back in Time at Folger Stable



This summer, the Friends hosted a group participating in the San Mateo County Historical Association's Victorian Days Walking Tours. Led by Folger docents Susan Lang and Jill Daly, the visitors toured the structures in the Folger Stable Historic District as well as the Carriage Room Museum. If you have a group that would enjoy a special tour of the Folger Stable Historic District, call the Friends Program Manager at 650.851.2660 or e-mail info@huddartwunderlichfriends.org.

Grants Help Fill Backpacks for Huddart Hikes

What does a Huddart Park Nature Hike docent carry on the trail? Until recently, not so much. Now each hike leader will tote a backpack full of enrichment items such as visual aids, trail activities, first-aid packets, walkie talkies, and more. Visiting school children have already begun to enjoy the new collections of skulls and spoor of local animals as well as birds' nests and eggs. These educational improvements were made possible with a grant from The Hurlbut-Johnson Charitable Trust.



Huddart Park Nature Hikes Docents Spend Day in Training



In preparation for the nature hikes season starting in September, some 15 Huddart Park docents spent the day with Carol Preston of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary along with Park Rangers Veronica Zermani and Katherine Wright to hone their skills interpreting information for school children. One of the activities (above) was a demonstration of how all life forms are connected. Some 450 children are already signed up to visit the park this fall with more to come.

20 Years Later, the First Friends Look Back at the Beginning

When Robert Levenson and Susan Lang moved to Woodside in 1991, the trails of Huddart Park lured Robert to explore the forests and ravines. He met Supervising Park Ranger Dave Moore there, and their chance encounter was the seed for what would become The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks.

Their conversations along the trails inspired Robert to offer Dave help from the grant-giving organization he and Susan had started, the If Not Now When (INNW) Foundation. “Our fund wanted to solve problems, not just throw money at them,” Robert says. INNW helped get park roads paved at the best possible price, and went on to replace gas-guzzling four-wheel drive trucks with lightweight Gators and an electric Cushman, saving the park \$40,000 in one year. Dave then broached the idea of starting a volunteer program of friends to benefit the park.

Three staff members, Joan Libman, Celia Harnett, and Ellen Schutte—who worked for INNW variously between 1995 and 2000—were instrumental in this effort and were the first to coin the term “Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks.” They spearheaded numerous volunteer programs such as: Water Babies that invited small children to Huddart to water saplings, Eagle Scouts to build signs and other improvements, school field trips to learn about natural history, the building of the AIDS Memorial Grove, and the first typewritten newsletters about The Friends.

Around 2001, the state of the Folger Stable in Wunderlich was dire, and The Friends’ decided to take on the challenge of restoring the architectural gem, which pleased Dave enormously. “Folger was one of my wish list items,” he says. Tackling this Herculean project “took the Friends to a whole other level,” he adds. In order to raise \$3 million for the renovation, the Friends incorporated as a 501(c) nonprofit. Not only was the stable returned to its former grandeur, there’s also an endowment to preserve it.

These days the Friends are recognized as an effective resource that continues to fund park projects, teach hundreds of children about the environment, and build community. “Big projects start small, like with two friends just talking,” says Susan. “We didn’t just decide to start The Friends one day. But look at what amazing things happened from a few conversations between a hiker and a ranger 20 years ago.”



Robert Levenson (left) and Dave Moore stand by the Chickadee Trail trailhead, which they worked to make accessible to park visitors with disabilities, one of several projects they undertook together.

Donor Spotlight: Susan and Rob Flint



Susan and Rob Flint are long-time supporters of The Folger Stable programs and of The Friends.

Moving from the flats of Palo Alto in 1975, Rob and Susan Flint found the foothills in Woodside to be another world, and enjoyed hiking the red-wood-shaded trails of both Huddart and Wunderlich Parks. Wunderlich, which is adjacent to their home, had been donated to the county about a year before their arrival, so it was especially intriguing. “My introduction was as a hiker and observer,” Rob says. “I had started exploring the park, came across the Folger Stable and was impressed with what a gorgeous building it is.”

Even then, though, the stable was clearly in a sorry state. Several years later when Rob met Susan Lang, who was spearheading the renovation efforts by The Friends, it was badly in need of help. “Susan’s enthusiasm for the restoration was infectious,” Rob says. “In retrospect we were probably just in time. After looking into the structure of the stable, the renovation contractor said that we probably had only a few more years until the building would have started to collapse on its own.”

Not only was the stable beautifully restored but it and the surrounding structures were designated a Historic District. Rob’s role as the project manager, on behalf of The Friends, meeting every week with the architect and the contractor, was especially important to the outcome. “The stable remodeling campaign was a success,” Rob says. “It was a doable amount, it was a local cause, and it was very tangible.”

Rob’s interest extended beyond the restoration, as the development of The Carriage Room Museum became part of the project. The county had stipulated that there be a public use of the building beyond private horse boarding, so the museum was created to satisfy this need. “The stable had to have public access, which I agree with,” Rob says. “It seemed like a good idea, and it still seems like one.” The museum is such a good idea that Rob docents there. “It’s fun to get the feedback on the project that we spent so much time working on and to see the people’s enthusiasm for what we’ve done.”

Over many years, the Flints have done much to help preserve and protect Wunderlich and Huddart Parks. By demonstrating their own enthusiasm for rewarding local good works, they continue to benefit countless others.

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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.

Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks Presents
THE FOLGER STABLE SPEAKER SERIES
“Protecting the Most Biologically
Productive Place in North America”
Carol Preston
NOAA's Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Education Coordinator
Sunday, October 11, 2015 • 4:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.
Wunderlich County Park • 4040 Woodside Rd. • Woodside CA 94062
Free tickets at <http://folgerspeaker.eventbrite.com>

