



Friends of Huddart
& Wunderlich Parks
Serving Since 1995

Wild Times

hikes • history • horses

650.851.2660 P.O. Box 6270767 Woodside, CA, 94062 www.huddartwunderlichfriends.org Fall 2016

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So! Much! Fun!



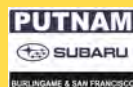
The Friends know how to throw a party (if we do say so ourselves). The August benefit did everything it was supposed to: raised money to support programming and projects, (we made our goal—thank you!), fed and watered our 150 guests deliciously, got the adventurous on their feet to square dance with the live band and caller, and maybe most importantly, raised a passel of new friends. Thank you, one and all.



Upper left: Guests heap their plates with barbecue. Middle: Board advisor and event sponsor Adolph Rosekrans chews the fat with Leo Keshian. Right: Alexia Moore, board advisor and sponsor Susan Lang and Susan Lombardi get a kick watching the square dancers. Lower left: Kate and Rick Holstrom promenade left. Right: Board member Lisa Raskin with special guests, miniature therapy horses brought by board advisor Becky Witter.



Thank you! To Our Generous Event Sponsors



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Loss of a True Friend Susan Crocker



Sadly, Friends board member Susan Crocker passed away suddenly October 12. Although she was on our board only a short time, her impact on the work of the Friends was profound. She spearheaded an effort to design an expansion of our Huddart Park Nature Hikes program to include third and fourth grade classes, recruited many new naturalist docents, and revised the entire training curriculum to implement the Next Generation Science Standards. Susan was an active member of the Woodside community as a whole, serving on the Town Council and as Mayor in 1993 as well as a volunteering at Filoli and the Academy of Sciences.

One effort that Susan felt passionately about was providing school bus funding for low-income children to experience Huddart Park Nature Hikes. We currently have four classes that want to hike in the spring, but they need funds for buses to get to the park. If you'd like to help continue Susan's legacy, maybe you'd consider making a donation to the Friends with the designation "Crocker Bus Fund" in the check memo line or comments section on the website donation page.

Merck Scientists Give Work Day to Wunderlich

On a beautiful June day, eighteen employees from Merck Research Labs in Palo Alto returned to what is now their annual Give A Work Day to support the Friends and the San Mateo County Parks. As part of a team-building experience and a company effort to donate service to the community, they spent a day replacing a 15-year old wooden fence. The manual labor entailed digging out the old posts and full fence running along the Carriage House, replacing it with new, deeper post holes and a two-tiered cross-rung fence. The fence protects visitors and equestrians as well as aesthetically maintains the area. It is worth a visit to Wunderlich to see the handiwork of what a few inexperienced and mostly first-time fence builders can do in a single day. *For inquiries about a service day in Huddart or Wunderlich for your company, call 650-851-2660.*



Scientists from Merck Research Labs pause by a piece of the extensive fence they spent the day building in Wunderlich.

Introducing Hikes with Friends

We take lots of kids on the trails for field trips, but you don't have to ride a school bus to get a great docent-led hiking experience! For the past six months docent Tom Davids has been leading Hikes with Friends for history buffs, nature lovers, families, and new hikers in Huddart and Wunderlich Parks on the weekends. Hike topics have included Logging the Redwoods, Flora and Fauna for the Family, Challenge Hiking, and History Hikes. *To learn about upcoming hikes, join the Friends' e-news list, <http://eepurl.com/bIcjcH>*



County Offering Free Shuttle Service to Wunderlich



It's now easier to enjoy hiking, picnicking, and nature exploration at Wunderlich and to attend scheduled nature walks, history programs and other events led by park rangers and Friends docents. In an effort to bring more residents from areas with little access to the parks, San Mateo County Parks' Park Shuttle now links East Palo Alto,

the Fair Oaks neighborhood in Redwood City, and Menlo Park residents to Wunderlich. The free shuttle service begins at 9 A.M. every Saturday and Sunday at Marketplace Park in Menlo Park. (A separate route to Edgewood County Park in Redwood City leaves from the East Palo Alto City Hall.). *For route maps and schedules, visit <http://parks.smcgov.org/ParkShuttle>*

POST and the Friends Partner for Family Hike Day in Huddart



Peninsula Open Space Trust invited POST supporters to a Family Day in Huddart Park this summer. The Friends collaborated with POST by providing and staffing a table with a hands-on exhibit of skulls, birds nests, and other educational items. In addition, Lisa Putnam (far right in hat) was one of the Friends docents who led POST visitors on hikes in the park. Along with POST, San Mateo County Parks sponsored the event.

Discovering the Great Outdoors

Offering programming for the first time beyond the school year in Huddart Park, The Friends partnered with two other non-profits this past summer, Girls to Women and LifeMoves, to provide outdoor and science experiences for 120 children from neighboring communities.

Girls to Women provides underserved girls in East Palo Alto with after-school and summer programs to boost self-confidence and encourage learning. Menlo Park-based LifeMoves helps homeless families become self-sufficient.

As with many low-income participants in the Huddart Park Nature Hikes Program visiting for the first time, for many it was their first encounter with the woods. The kids were awed by the height of the redwoods, the insect-repellent traits of the bay leaf, the beauty of a soaring red-tailed hawk. Humming with energy, the kids peppered the Friends hike leaders with questions as they discovered what was, for them, an unknown world.

One 11-year-old who attends a charter school in East Palo Alto, said she felt the hike helped her learn more about nature. She giggled as she described what she now knows about the scat of forest-dwelling mammals, always a popular topic among student visitors. Another participant said she was fascinated by the sheer height of the redwood trees and was in disbelief that the tallest living redwood of record in California really was 379 feet—taller than the length of a football field.

Perhaps one of the most powerful moments was when hike leader Dick Young led his group into a fairy ring of young redwoods to be encircled by nature in that unique way that only redwoods offer. Together, the group recited, “Respect your neighbor, respect yourself, and respect nature.” If the Huddart Park Nature Hikes Program has a hand in encouraging the upcoming generation to act this way, it will have accomplished a prime part of the Friends’ mission—fostering future stewardship of the parks.



Docent Dick Young prepares a group of summer visitors for their first hike in the woods.

Fall Speaker Series

Bats! Creepy or Cute?

Nearly 100 people who attended the recent Folger Stable Speaker Series event, “Bats!” agreed—they are definitely cute, hugely beneficial, and way more ubiquitous than we realize. Corky Quirk, founder and executive director of Northern California Bats, which rescues, rehabilitates and releases bats throughout northern California, dispelled myths, enlightened a rapt audience, and introduced some of her live furry charges during her talk. No matter what one’s attitude was toward bats before, afterward the crowd had a new-found appreciation and even affection for these very important animals.

For more information about bats as well as the work of Northern California Bats, visit www.norcalbats.org.



Left: Corky Quirk of Northern California Bats answers the questions of a young bat enthusiast at the Folger Stable Speaker Series.

Middle: A little brown bat cradled contentedly in Corky’s gloved hand. Right: Two pallid bats, the “blondes” of the bat world, snooze in the familiar upside-down position in their travel case.

Thank you! To these generous funders for grants supporting our environmental education programs



Save the Redwoods League



The Strong Foundation For Environmental Values



Friends of Huddart
& Wunderlich Parks

Serving since 1995

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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.

You know you want to . . .

. . . join us! The Friends has enriching and fun opportunities for volunteers. Some jobs are seasonal. All training is provided.

Carriage Museum Docent
One Saturday/month
10 a.m.-1 p.m. or 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Folger Stable School Group Docent
Wednesdays or Fridays 10 a.m.-noon

Huddart Park Nature Hike Docent
Tues. or Thurs. 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Give us a call!
650.851.2660 or e-mail
info@huddartwunderlichparks.org



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