



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 Spring 2017

Huddart and Wunderlich Trails

Welcome Winter Rains Leave Their Mark

Californians everywhere could breathe a sigh of relief this year when heavy winter storms finally quenched the parched state. As much as we have needed the rain, we may have had too much of a good thing, though. The snowpack is healthy and the reservoirs are replenished, but floods, washouts, and mudslides have beset areas of the state, including in Huddart and Wunderlich. As a result there are trail closures in both county parks until further notice while the condition of the ground and the engineering of the repairs are researched.

According to Head County Park Ranger Stephen Kraemer, Wunderlich’s Alambique Trail has been hit the hardest, with fissures and complete trail failures between Bear Gulch Trail and The Crossroads near Skyline Trail. The trail closure there has essentially divided the park in two since Alambique Trail connects the upper and lower portions of the park. Ranger Kraemer encourages both hikers and equestrians to adjust their routes accordingly.

In Huddart, he says the rangers measured 56.38 inches of rain this season. “With that much water, it’s a miracle we didn’t have more damage,” he says. Landslides and fallen trees have caused trail closures in two locations there—Dean Trail between McGarvey Flat and Archery Fire Rd. as well as a portion of Crystal Springs Trail between Toyon Group Camps and Canyon Trail. Though there are sections of the park that are inaccessible for the time being, there is still much to see. Hounds tongue and sticky monkey are in full bloom now, with Indian Paint and Fairy Lanterns not far behind.

For updates about trail closures, consult County Parks Advisories at <http://parks.smcgov.org/san-mateo-county-park-advisories>.

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The red line on the map of Wunderlich Park shows where the trail closure is between the Bear Gulch Trail junction and the Skyline Trail. The photo inset shows how the Alambique Trail has collapsed down a ravine, making the route impassible for both hikers and equestrians.



Increasing Support Helps Friends Programs Serve More

The data below show the growing success of our annual appeal and how the donations you gave made a difference for so many in 2016:

- 1,000 kids hiked in Huddart Park, 30% of whom were low income, receiving \$4,600 in waived fees and grants for buses
- 120 homeless and disadvantaged youth hiked in Huddart Park during the summer led by volunteer docents
- 1,400 students attended the Folger Stable Field Trip
- 3,400 guests visited the Carriage Room Museum
- 170 people attended the free Folger Stable Speaker Series
- 50 hikers joined the new family hikes program Hikes with Friends
- 850 recipients read the Friends free newsletter



Huddart Park Nature Hikes Begin

After taking a break to allow the trails to dry out from the winter rains, the Huddart Park Nature Hikes Program has begun its spring hiking season.



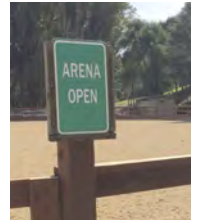
The hikes are designed for Kindergarten through fourth grade to learn about the redwood and oak woodlands as well as the meadow and chaparral ecosystems in Huddart. Led by volunteer naturalists, the hikers discover local wonders such as turret spider and woodrat nests, Western Fence Lizards (pictured above) as well as the properties of plants such as sticky monkey, bay laurel, and soap root. Some schools opt to include an activities table component, which gives the kids hands-on experience with animal skulls, bird nests, and a Native American game with staves.

In preparation for the new season, the Huddart docents gathered recently to hike the trails to see how the flora and fauna have changed since the fall season and to marvel at the lush effect so much rain had on the park. For the 2016-2017 school year, demand for the hikes has been stronger than ever. More than 1,000 students from 18 schools will be hiking, 50 percent of whom take part in the free lunch program.

New hike leaders are welcome. No prior experience is necessary, and all training is provided free. For more information, e-mail info@huddartwunderlichfriends.org.

Folger Stable Riding Arena Restored

Local equestrians have something to celebrate: a newly restored riding arena in Wunderlich Park, thanks to a partnership of organizations and individuals. The arena now has state-of-the-art footing and is open to the public with an annual membership of \$120.



The project, which cost \$69,000, was primarily funded by San Mateo County Supervisor Don Horsley and The Woodside-Area Horse Owner's Association (WHOA!). Each donated \$30,000. The remaining \$9000 was provided by individual community members and Bay Area Barns and Trails. The San Mateo County Parks Foundation donated an additional \$6000 for the equipment to maintain the arena. The Friends coordinated with all donors and managed the contractor, at no cost. The footing replacement work was done by Olympia Footing Equestrian Services this past winter between rain storms. The arena will be harrowed, rolled, and watered daily by Chaparral Corporation, which operates the Folger Stable.

A ribbon cutting and membership drive will occur, Sunday, April 23, 2 P.M. to 4 P.M.

For membership information, call Shawn Mott or Susan Pennell of Chaparral Corporation at 408-726-8453.

New Director Leads County Parks

After three years as Director of the San Mateo County Parks Department, Marlene Finley has retired. A stalwart supporter of the Friends among other county groups, all the county parks benefited from advancements under her guidance, including the Stewardship Corp, a volunteer program that fosters public involvement in caring for the parks.



Director Sarah Birkeland

Now Sarah Birkeland has stepped into the role after working with Marlene as Assistant Director. With academic and professional achievements in botany, landscape architecture, and law, Sarah brings a host of skills and experience to her new position. She begins her tenure by guiding existing programs while preparing for the challenges—combating invasive species, reducing fire hazards, and managing tree mortality.

“We have such a diverse array of park property,” she says. “It’s really amazing not only in geography—from the coastside to the bay—but also in terms of the types of amenities the properties provide.”

Meet the Friends Board Members



You’ve seen them around the stable, on the trails, and at events. Here are the names that go with the faces (left to right): Janet Galen, Nancy Ridgway, Lea Goldstein, Jill Daly, Don DeFranco, Flo Anne Moles, Lisa Raskin, Tom Larsen, Ann Cripps, Barbara Calbert, Lisa Putnam. (Not pictured: Tommy Geary, Greg Daly, Ginna Arnold-Lazar)

Folger Stable Field Trip

Making Local History Come to Life

“Der?” a fourth-grader answers when Folger Stable Field Trip instructor Ed Collins asks what the Native Americans hunted in Wunderlich Park before the Europeans arrived. “Yes. What else?” he probes. “Buffalo?” another student answers.

Mrs. Sue Pallari, fourth-grade teacher and assistant vice principal of Millbrae’s St. Dunstan School, chuckles softly in the back row. She had brought her class of 25, along with several chaperones, to Wunderlich for the field trip that the Friends sponsors with the San Mateo County Historical Association. The veteran educator has been bringing her fourth graders for five years, and still their wonder and enthusiasm tickle her. “I get the joy of seeing them see this beautiful area and learning about who lived here,” she says.

Mrs. Pallari used to take her classes to the Sanchez Adobe for their history field trip. When a flyer arrived at the school describing the Folger Stable Field Trip program, she decided to try it and has returned every year since. Impressed at first by the beautiful stable itself, Mrs. Pallari immediately saw the historic site’s underlying importance. “The old buildings brought us back to California history, that there was a reason for them being in the park,” she says.

Among the reasons she has returned every year is how the program dovetails perfectly with the fourth-grade history curriculum. “The kids get the feeling that history is all around us, not just in a book,” she says. “By being at the stable, they’re living it. The displays and the slideshows make the connection real—the coffee story, the gold miners’ story, the Levis story. And they learn from the hands-on experiences so they remember the trip.”

Clearly, the students at this visit are eager for the activities Ed has in store for them, oohing as he tells them what they’ll be doing—making apple juice with an old press, stamping designs in leather strips, and saddling up a life-size plastic horse, among others.

“We’re very pleased that our partnership with the Friends has resulted in this popular and enriching field trip,” San Mateo County Historical Association President Mitch Postel says. “The number of visits grows each year, giving children around the Peninsula a taste of our past that is impossible to match any other way.”

Mrs. Pallari seems to agree, saying she encourages other teachers to consider taking their students on the Folger Stable field trip. “It will give kids a real connection to history and the past, and to the future. Plus it’s beautiful!” she smiles.



Fourth-grade teacher from St. Dunstan School, Sue Pallari, has been bringing students to the Folger Stable field trip for five years.

Letter from the President

Dear Friends . . .

The success of most organizations depends on strong partnerships. This is especially true for a community nonprofit like the Friends. Twenty years ago we began partnering with San Mateo County park rangers in Huddart Park, funding items for park maintenance and coordinating volunteer events. Then together we undertook the Folger Stable renovation project, the first public-private partnership between San Mateo County and a private group. Our relationship with the county has endured for two decades by working together to achieve mutual goals of enhancing the park users’ experience in these two beloved county parks.

The successful Friends programs in both parks are the result of many partnerships with other non-profit and community groups. For example, the history field trips for third and fourth graders at the Folger Stable depends on our partnership with the San Mateo County Historical Association. The Chinese Historical Society of America and their historians partnered with us to develop the rich historical content of the Simon Jones-era exhibit in the Carriage House Museum.

The Friends also serves as a nexus for partnerships with equestrian groups to protect the legacy and equestrian presence in both parks. The most recent joint project, the Folger Stable arena renovation, brought the resources of Supervisor Don Horsely’s office together with WHOA!, Chaparral Ranch, San Mateo Parks Foundation, Bay Area Barns and Trails, and private donors to restore the community riding arena.

Our hiking and environmental education programs have expanded by partnering with other nonprofits such as Life Moves, scouting groups, and POST. In addition, we have begun to partner with local corporations to facilitate volunteer activities. Recently Merck Biosciences volunteered its service to rebuild park fencing.

Our most valuable partnership of all is the one we have with you—the loyal donors and volunteers who fund and staff our programs. The Friends relies on your generosity of time, talent, and financial resources, which we hope you find a fulfilling part of our mutually beneficial relationship. To all who visit and support Huddart and Wunderlich Parks, we say Thanks, Partners!



*Jill Daly
Friends Board President*

Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks Presents
The Folger Stable Speaker Series

Living with Mountain Lions



Speaker
Zara McDonald
Founder, Bay Area Puma Project & Felidae Conservation Fund

Sunday, April 30, 2017, 3:00 P.M.
Wunderlich Park, 4040 Woodside Rd., Woodside, CA 94062

Free tickets: https://folger_puma.eventbrite.com

Speakers, Hikes, and Much More

For information on all our events and activities,
visit www.huddartwunderlichfriends.org



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