



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 2018

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Ready for Restoration: Wunderlich's Native Habitat

We see them every day—eucalyptus trees soaring over the landscape all along the Peninsula. But these nonnative trees, planted more than a century ago, have presented ecological challenges, ones that will soon be resolved—at least in Wunderlich Park.

Beginning spring 2019 until the summer heat creates fire conditions, Pacific Gas and Electric along with the Parks Department will collaborate to restore 16 acres in Wunderlich near the Alambique, Loop, and Meadow trails. Originally a mix of oak woodland and redwood forest before the area was logged in the 1850s, the fast-growing nonnative blue gum eucalyptus were later planted as replacements. Since then, these trees have aggressively spread, disrupting the natural ecology by crowding out and shading native vegetation, and threatening adjacent native habitats. In addition, with their broad-leaf evergreen canopy and shallow root systems, eucalyptuses are prone to being wind-thrown or damaged during winter storms and have highly flammable bark resin that increases the intensity and spread of wildfire hazards.

The overall goal of the joint project is to restore the native habitat to its historic conditions for native plants and wildlife that thrive in oak woodlands, a dwindling ecosystem in California. The process during the multi-phase project includes: removing nonnative eucalyptus and acacia trees, controlling the resprout of nonnatives, and selectively planting native trees. During this restoration, care will be taken to avoid impacts to existing native vegetation and wildlife, as well as to ensure public safety. In addition, the restoration will be maintained and monitored for seven years, while Bio Monitors will continue to monitor the progress of the restoration.

Since 2006, this project has been in the Wunderlich and Huddart Parks Master Plan but was not implemented due to lack of funding. Three years ago, PG&E partnered with San Mateo County Parks to identify tree mitigation opportunities for PG&E's nearby Natural Gas Line 109 Replacement Project, which necessitated the removal of 833 native and nonnative trees. "Because of the serpentine soil in that area and the grassland restoration projects already underway by San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the required planting of replacement trees had to be reconsidered," says County Parks Arborist Dan Krug. Sites in Huddart and Edgewood Parks were explored, but due to habitat conservation restrictions at Edgewood and incompatible vegetation communities at Huddart, the best location for this restoration was Wunderlich.

The operation will be active Mondays through Fridays only, when some trail closures will be in effect. The work will suspend during weekends and holidays. Stay tuned for other public announcements. For trail updates this spring, visit <https://parks.smcgov.org>.



A shaggy eucalyptus, one example of the invasive trees displacing native habitat in Wunderlich.

Expanded Programming Emphasizes Health and Wellness

The Friends are deeply committed to getting as many children as possible into nature and to awakening their hearts and minds to the science that surrounds them. Recently that mission has expanded into the adult world and the growing emphasis on the health and wellness aspect of being in nature. A few years ago the Friends launched Hikes with Friends, primarily for adults, featuring free docent-led hikes in various areas of Huddart and Wunderlich. The expansion of the Friends' programming is in part what convinced Merck Foundation to provide a very generous grant to support the work of the Friends. In fulfilling the grant, the Friends have further expanded the health and wellness offerings in the parks by adding two more free health-related outings with experienced and highly trained leaders. One is a series of Mindfulness Hikes and one is an upcoming Writing in the Woods program, both of which aim to help alleviate the effects of stress associated with life in the Bay Area. In the new year, the Friends is planning other health and wellness programs, including one with the San Mateo County's Parks Rx Program for patients with chronic health problems.

For information about all the Friends hike offerings and about the new writing workshop, visit www.huddartwunderlichfriends.org or subscribe to e-news at <http://eepurl.com/blcjch>.

Who Doesn't Love Owls

Clearly Biology, Zoology, and Ecology Professor Hans Peeters (below) does. The featured speaker at the fall Folger Stable Speaker Series, he delighted the audience with descriptions not only of the physiology and habits of these birds of prey but also of his personal experiences hand raising them. *To learn about upcoming speakers, subscribe to e-news at <http://eepurl.com/blcjch>.*



More Partnerships, More Community

It keeps getting longer. The roster of organizations the Friends partners with continues to grow as more joint efforts are added to the list. Partnerships during the past several months have resulted in cosponsored events that have brought more visitors and supporters to the parks.

LifeMoves, a county program for families in transition, bused children to Wunderlich for a summer day with Friends docents to hike, learn leather crafts, explore the Folger Stable museum, and get up close and personal with a real horse.

The Big Lift, a county program aiming to transform early learning in communities with below-average reading scores, bused children to Huddart for a summer day to learn about nature and to hike the trails with docents.

Vista, a center for the blind and visually impaired, brought groups of adults with limited sight to hike the Wunderlich trails with Friends docents.

POST (Peninsula Open Space Trust), a nonprofit that buys land to add to the Bay Area greenbelt, invited families to Huddart for Family Nature Day where Friends docents led hikes and staffed an activity table for kids.

San Mateo County Historical Association, sponsor of Victorian Walking Days, invited visitors to Wunderlich where Friends docents gave tours of the Folger Stable museum and the Historic District.

KEEN, a Palo Alto outdoor store, hosted a shopping day where 20 percent of the day's sales were donated to the Friends, which staffed a table in the store with information about the parks.



Children in the LifeMoves program helped each other with leather crafting during their visit.

Carriage House Being Renovated

Visitors to Wunderlich during the past few months may have noticed a cyclone fence encasing the Carriage House. The 100-year-old structure is undergoing an extensive renovation so that it complies with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) laws as well as with local fire safety requirements.

The remodel includes the addition of an ADA restroom, an additional exit door, an exterior deck, ADA parking, and a fire sprinkler system. As with many projects entailing old structures, the completion schedule was affected by the discovery of termite damage and other complications, according to Parks Superintendent Scott Lombardi. Funding via Measure K has been earmarked for this renovation for several years. The Department of Public Works is managing the project with the contractor Gonsalves and Stronck through the Parks Department, which expects to unveil the remodeled Carriage House early 2019. Once the construction is complete, The Parks Department will assess what the best uses for the building will be within the park system. In recent years, it has been used for school field trips, meetings, and public events.

Big Bad Barn Dance

Big Bad Fun!

If you were there, you know what we mean. If you didn't make it, check out the photos below and see what the fun was. A big *Thank You* to all who came out to support the work of the Friends. An extra *Thank You* to the generous sponsors who made this special event possible.



Clockwise from top left: Gen-u-ine Friends Jeffrey Chambers, Nat Chambers, Dillon Chambers, Andi Okamura, Carla Guerard, and Nicole Chambers; Becky Witter with her ever-popular miniature therapy horse Shiloh; Auctioneer extraordinaire John Glines helped raise a record amount; Bandmembers Ray Bierl and Markie Sanders kept everyone on their feet; FloAnne Moles and Steve Geist strutted their stuff; Western gals Susan Lang, Donna Poy, and Faye Brophy drank in the fun; square dancers filled the floor as Caller Andy Wilson (not pictured) guided them through a routine.



Donate online or mail your donation
with the enclosed envelope by Dec. 31st
<https://www.huddartwunderlichfriends.org>



Thanks for a successful 2018!

- Provided more than 1,000 kids with outdoor science field trips. 1/3 were low income students who hiked for free.
- Partnered with the San Mateo County Historical Association to provide 1,400 students with CA history field trips.
- Hosted community events in the parks like Family Nature Day, Junior Rangers, and the Big Bad Barn Dance.
- Hosted speakers on redwood tree ecology, combatting Lyme disease and ornithology.
- “Logging the Redwoods” exhibit in the free Carriage Room Museum.

Dear Friends,

You might notice a sense of well being and calm after your hikes among the forested hills of Wunderlich and Huddart Parks. You are far from alone. Immersing yourself in nature, or, “forest bathing,” as it is called in some cultures, is being embraced by doctors and other health care professionals as a way to quell stress and improve health.

Recent studies of the effects of exercising outdoors in nature found improvements in overall health and self esteem, particularly among younger participants. For years, The Friends has been dedicated to the idea that being in the beauty of our local parks is a great benefit to the education of children and a treasured resource for adults. Now, with proof that being in nature is important to our wellbeing, the Friends has been focusing even more on making the parks accessible to the broadest swath possible of our community.

For instance, a local initiative called Park Rx aims to improve access to nature for low-income families with risk factors for chronic conditions associated with unhealthy lifestyles. To this end, The Friends will be collaborating with San Mateo County Public Health and Nutrition Clinics to host healthy lifestyle family outings in the parks. With the help of support like yours, we will provide transportation, docent guides, and educational programming. This healthy lifestyle-focused program complements another addition to our health and wellness focus with clients from The Vista Center for the Visually Impaired, who hike the park trails with our docents.

The Friends existing programs--outdoor education, history field trips, Carriage Museum programs, and Folger Stable Speaker Series--continue to grow. Your help has been critical for us to develop these programs. Now your help will fund our expanding Health and Wellness initiatives.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Advisory Board, dedicated volunteers, and staff, we thank you very much and wish you health and happiness in the new year.

Sincerely,
Jill Daly, President



Thank you to our generous donors in 2018!

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Friends of Huddart
& Wunderlich Parks



VOLUNTEER

Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks

Why Volunteer With Us?

- Join an organization doing important work in local parks & our community
- Meet new people & have fun
- Learn about a unique historic & environmental site
- Give back to the parks you love!



- Huddart Park Nature Hikes
- Folger Carriage Room Museum Docent
 - Hikes with the Friends
 - Board of Directors

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www.HuddartWunderlichFriends.org



Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks
HIKES • HISTORY • HORSES

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- Donate

www.HuddartWunderlichFriends.org

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