

FALL 2021

THE PARK POST

Hikes • History • Horses



Friends of Huddart
& Wunderlich Parks

THOUGHTS FROM

The Park Bench

Dear Friends,

It has been literally a “pivotal” year for the Friends as we have nimbly adapted our programs to a COVID-recovering world. Fortunately, we are uniquely situated to showcase the health and wellness benefits of time spent in the outdoors. We have been able to run activities safely while making a positive impact on reducing isolation, electronic overload, Zoom fatigue, learning loss, and nature deficit that are exacerbated during this pandemic period.

This experience is informing our plans for 2022. New approaches, strong partners, and greater community interest in parks will allow us to recapture program participation numbers as well as serve a broader, more diverse community as we emerge from the pandemic.

The Friends are so fortunate to have a remarkable team of over 50 volunteers who are managed deftly by our part time staff members cost effectively. Last year 84% of total expenses went directly to support community programs. Our biggest fundraiser, the Big Bad Barn Dance, had to be cancelled in 2020, making other sources of financial support like gifts from you all the more important this year.

Thank you again for your support in helping The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks to create welcoming, inclusive, and engaging programs that inform and encourage appreciation for the great outdoors, science, local history, and horses while improving the well-being of our community.

On behalf of the Friends' board of directors, staff, and volunteers, I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and new year.

Sincerely,

Jill

President, Board of Directors



SMALL BUT MIGHTY

BY HOLLY VAN HOUTEN & KYM TEPPA

What a year! 2021 presented unique challenges and opportunities to create new programs and engage with the public. Friends provided an impressive array of virtual and in-person programming for 3,747 community members, relying on our fabulous cadre of volunteers. Highlights include:

- We hiked with 376 elementary kids this fall enjoying the rain, banana slugs, and being off screens! Our trips were free, and we provided buses for underserved schools so we could get as many kids as possible in the parks.
- Over the summer we explored nature and the trails with 300 kids and families coming from summer camps for at-risk youth, homeschooling groups, and scouting troops.
- Our mini-horse Lightning worked with 379 young children to introduce them to horses, equine safety, and connecting children to animals.
- The Carriage Room Museum at the Folger Stable opened an extra day and entertained 1,670 masked visitors in small groups.

Most importantly, we strengthened our network of partnerships during the pandemic allowing us to serve hundreds of people. We worked with San Mateo County Health to provide Parks Rx outings, re-engaged in Family Nature Day with Peninsula Open Space Trust, hosted history scavenger hunts with Chaparral Ranch, and worked with San Mateo County Historical Association to create virtual field trips. Thanks especially to our most important partners, San Mateo County Parks. Rangers and staff supported us each step of the way so we could share these special places with you in a safe and accessible way.



Join our small but mighty mission!
We are asking you to consider supporting us with your end-of-year giving to make our work possible. We are a small but mighty non-profit engaging our community with programs and activities that focus on hikes, history, and horses in our parks. We are dedicated to stewarding these incredible places and sustaining them over the generations to come. Join us in these efforts with your donation of any size in the enclosed remit envelope or on our website:

www.huddartwunderlichfriends.org/donate.



THE FALL PALETTE

BY SHARON SAVATSKI

The rich colors of fall are starting to show up all around – what causes this? Is it just the temperature change alone? How does drought affect color change?

Chlorophyll is the chemical in leaves which makes them green most of the year. It allows for photosynthesis so plants can use sunlight to make sugars. Carotenoids are pigments that give leaves orange, yellow, and brown colors that are usually not visible due to the green chlorophylls. In response to less daylight and longer nights, plants' production of chlorophyll declines and eventually stops. This allows the colors produced by the carotenoids to show. Plants also ramp up production of anthocyanins. Anthocyanins are responsible for red leaf pigments and these are intensified when bright days and cool nights occur as chlorophyll production declines.

Leaf color is also driven by plant genetics. The Big Leaf Maples turn yellow, but many maples turn red, and some trees drop their leaves with little change in color.

Temperature and soil moisture can also affect the intensity of leaf colors. As the air cools leaf veins form a separation layer at the base of stems to block water and nutrients flowing from branches to leaves. The sealed veins trap sugars in the leaf and when connecting tissues are completely closed, the leaf drops.

One tree common to our area, the California Buckeye, is not affected by change in daylight hours or temperatures. It is drought deciduous, that is, it drops its leaves in response to lack of moisture in the soil.

We hope you enjoy the fall colors in our parks!

"Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree." Emily Bronte

Holidays with the Friends

at the Historic Folger Stable, Wunderlich Park
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1:00-4:00 P.M.



FREE FAMILY
EVENT!

PETTING ZOO
CRAFTS
PONIES
MUSIC
SANTA & MRS. CLAUS

Parking is limited - free shuttle from Woodside Elementary School 3195 Woodside Road

www.HuddartWunderlichFriends.org

**LOVE THE PARKS?
VOLUNTEER!**



JOIN OUR
HERD

HIKE LEADERS, MUSEUM DOCENTS, HORSE HANDLERS

www.HuddartWunderlichFriends.org

INSPIRED READING

BY ALISON MARKS & KYM TEPPA



We were recently inspired by a great idea that combines the love of reading and the environment with giving back to the community. We challenge you to come up with your own creative ways to gather and give to benefit groups like the Friends.

We recently spoke with Mary Vincent, Manager of AI Solutions at Lockheed Martin who is also a supporter of the Friends. She co-led a "Sustainability End-of-Summer Book Club Virtual Party" for an employee group at Lockheed. The event featured a discussion of three environmentally themed books: [Finding the Mother Tree](#) by Suzanne Simard, [Bicycling with Butterflies](#) by Sara Dykman, and [The Hidden Life of Trees](#) by Peter Wolleben. After the book club discussion, Lockheed Martin donated \$1 per participant to plant trees through One Tree Planted (<https://onetreepanted.org/>).

Mary was excited to turn a normally passive activity into an opportunity people could translate into action. "People came to connect, even if they had not read a book. We covered books that are making a difference and used this platform to share with each other and then do right for the world." What a fun and inspirational idea!



Consider starting your own Sustainability Book Club at your company or with friends and then act together to make a better world. We challenge your club to find creative ways that benefit non-profits like the Friends. We would be happy to host your group out for a park clean up event or another volunteer activity. Could your group pool resources to bring students out to the park for an outing? Let us know, we would love to connect with you and share your creative ideas! Ping us on Instagram or Facebook or drop us an email!

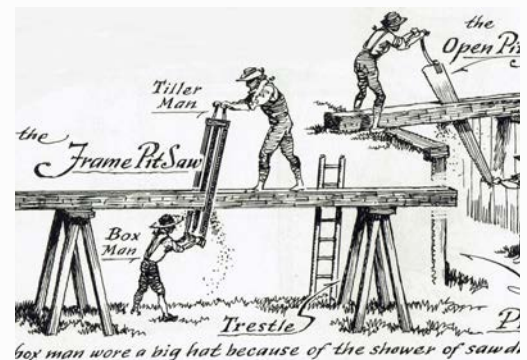
THAT'S THE PITS

BY RAY MARTIN & KYM TEPPA

In the early 1800's loggers working in the Santa Cruz mountains had many surprising problems. Sawyers milled with pitsaws and would occasionally come to work and find "marauding bears that raided supplies and became trapped in sawpits." Imagine that surprise!



The Folger Carriage Room Museum has a new addition to the logging exhibit – an early pit saw. In the times before mechanization, logging with pit saws was low budget and versatile. All it required were strong backs, a good hat for the Box man (see image), and good balance for the Tiller man. The pit was dug or the frame moved to the trees. This meant no Teamsters, Bullwackers, or bosses, as only 2 men needed to work together.



*Image from "A Museum of Early American Tools" by Eric Sloane. Colorful quote in the article from Logging the Redwoods by Lynwood Carranco.

The "up-and-down" mills were essentially powered pit saws, with gang saws being parallel saws making them more efficient. By the Gold Rush in the 1850s, the circular saw was invented, demand and investment in sawmills skyrocketed, and pit saws became history.

Come by the museum on weekends from 12-3PM to see a piece of this history made possible by a loan from the Ray Martin collection.

FRIENDS OF HUDDART & WUNDERLICH PARKS



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Our work is funded by generous donors like you and grants that make our programs and activities possible. Did you know that one school bus can cost as much as \$1,000 for a field trip? Our mini horse Lightning has glaucoma requiring expensive surgery. Our fabulous and experienced volunteers need ongoing expert training opportunities.

We have exciting plans for 2022 that you can help us with including preserving a decaying historic structure, curating a new exhibit for our history museum, and designing art in nature programs for the public.

Please consider the Friends in your end-of-year giving. You can return your donations in the enclosed envelope or donate online at:

www.HuddartWunderlichFriends.org/donate



Ice House used for cold storage built circa 1882 when Wunderlich Park was a farm. The building is in threat of collapse. Friends has initiated a campaign to restore the historic structure and preserve it for future generations..

OUR PROGRAMS & IMPACT 2021



NATURE HIKES WITH THE FRIENDS

Discovering sticky monkey flowers, turret spiders and other wonders of the forest on naturalist led hikes & field trips.

909 Hikers in 2021



CARRIAGE ROOM MUSEUM

Exploring the history of the local area, logging, horses in history, and the Folger coffee family. Tours, history scavenger hunts, and field trips.

2,700 visitors in 2021



MEET A MINI

Introducing children to horses in a safe and approachable way - meeting, grooming and walking a mini horse.

379 outings with children, families and groups in 2021



VOLUNTEERS

At the heart of the Friends is our amazing team of volunteers. Naturalists, museum docents, horse handlers, board members, and weed warriors.

Gave over 1,000 hours in 2021

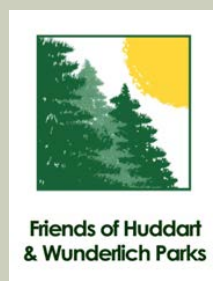
FUNDERS

Atkinson Foundation • Bear Gulch Foundation • Bay Area Barns & Trails
Sonja and Bill Davidow • Elizabeth J. Folger • Harvey L. and Maud C. Sorensen Foundation
The Hurlbut-Johnson Fund • Merck Foundation • The Red Husky Fund
San Mateo County Parks Foundation

Please consider joining these foundations and grantors in supporting our work. Your end-of-year giving is critical to our success.

MISSION DRIVEN

The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks are park enthusiasts and stewards who provide a wide range of programs and events in two historic redwood parks in the heart of the Bay Area. Our mission is to promote the positive health and community benefits provided by these parks and to support equitable and inclusive access for all park users. We lead hikes, provide environmental education, showcase local history and celebrate the unique horse heritage of San Mateo County.



www.HuddartWunderlichFriends.org
info@huddartwunderlichfriends.org or 650-851-2660
Sign up for ENews: <http://eepurl.com/blcjch>

