SPRING 2022

THE PARK POST

Hikes • History • Horses



Friends of Huddart & Wunderlich Parks

THOUGHTS FROM

The Park Bench

Dear Friends,

Ah Spring is upon us! The season of blooms and rebirth is also a time for repairing, restoring, and repainting of the natural and historic assets that are such wonderful features of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks.

Many of you who frequent the parks have noticed the restorative work on the trails and forests. Removing invasive trees and overgrowth has cleared space for native species, as well as opening vistas, and reducing fire fuel. San Mateo County Parks have been working on this Healthy Forest Initiative to protect and ensure a safe natural environment for all of us to enjoy.

The Friends just repainted the historic Folger Stable. We can't believe it's been 12 years since its restoration in 2010! The Friends and County Parks will share the expense of painting the remaining buildings that make up the Folger Estate Stable Historic District of the National Registry of Historic Places.

Have you noticed the Dairy House situated to the right of the bridge as you enter Wunderlich? It is also part of the Historic District and is next on our list of restoration projects. (See article inside for details about this exciting project).

The upkeep of these historic structures is critical to preserve the history left here by early settlers, and to ensure we can pass their legacies on through our public programs offered to park visitors and school groups. Our partnership with County Parks Staff and Rangers combined with the generous donations we receive from you make our work in the Parks a possibility and a pleasure!

On behalf of the Friends Board, staff and volunteers, we wish you a wonderful summer season ahead and look forward to celebrating with you at our Big Bad Barn Dance and BBQ on Sunday August 28th.

Sincerely,

Till & Ann

Jill Daly & Ann Cripps Co-Presidents, Board of Directors



SAVING HISTORY

Friends is at it again. Twelve years after finishing the Folger Stable restoration project, volunteers are again attempting to preserve another slice of local history that is on the brink of collapse. The stone Dairy House at Wunderlich is a charming structure built in 1874 by farmer Simon Jones. Constructed near cooling spring waters and made of thick masonry walls with a gabled roof and central ventilating cupola, the structure kept goods fresh in an era before refrigeration. Restoration will be expensive but saving the structure for future generations will be priceless. There aren't many of these historic landmarks from this era left in the United States. We envision a future when field trip students, park visitors, and history buffs will be able to peek through the doorway and see hanging ham hocks, milk jugs, and bushels of vegetables and be transported to another era.



Preservation efforts are difficult and must be galvanized requiring mobilization, time, and resources. Friends is grateful to Gonsalves & Stronk who generously donated expensive carpentry expertise and materials to prevent winter storms from further deteriorating the unstable building. Architect Adolph Rosekrans has donated countless hours to this project and the Folger Stable restoration.

Help us save one of our local historic places. You can donate on our website and designate your gift to the Dairy House project, join us this summer for the Big Bad Barn Dance fundraiser, or contact us today about becoming a keystone donor to this project: www.huddartwunderlichfriends.org.

Fun Fact: The 7-Eleven convenience store chain originated as ice houses in Texas in the 1930s. They were first known as Tote'm stores.

MORE THAN SPRING CLEANING

Maintaining our historic site in good condition is an ongoing and expensive effort. You may have noticed a fresh coat of paint on the Folger Stable. With historic structures, the challenges are unique! To reach the gables, painters needed a special harness system. The 37' skylights that allow light and ventilation in the main barn required a heavy-duty lift to remove cobwebs.

Colorworks Painting has done an impressive job. The Carriage House and Blacksmith Barn will receive some TLC next. We hope you'll come by soon!

THE SECRET SAUCE



In the past five years we've hiked with 3,895 school kids, hosted 13,777 people in the Carriage Room Museum, provided historic tours for 3,566, and hosted free family fun events for 4,147 people. We've done all of that and more with a staff of 2 and a very small budget. What is our secret? PARTNERS!

All of our programs and events are supported by a fleet of dedicated volunteers and docents. Partners like County Parks, the SMC Parks Foundation, SMC Health, and Chaparral Ranch support our work. Funding from our longstanding grant partners like Merck, the Hurlbut Johnson Charitable Trust, the Bear Gulch Fund, Sonja & Bill Davidow, the Sorensen Foundation, and the Gordon & Betty Moore Fund provide support for supplies, training, buses, and staff. Individual donors give what they can to support our work. If you appreciate the Hikes, History, and Horses work that we are doing, find a way to partner with us! We love volunteers, donors, and partners with big ideas for our small nonprofit.

THANKS FROM THE TRAIL



Teachers and students alike are thrilled to be back out on the trails with our school program this year. One teacher commented, "Our trip was incredible! Nobody in my class had ever been out hiking in nature before, so it was such a unique and enriching opportunity for them. The docents were all so incredibly kind, knowledgeable, and patient. Thank you to those who made our trip possible through their kind donations and time. This field trip is one our students will remember for years to come, if not their whole lives."

KICK UP YOUR HEELS FOR A GOOD CAUSE!



For the first time in 4 years we are hosting the Big Bad Barn Dance and BBQ at the historic Folger Stable. This event, supporting projects and programs in these much-loved parks, will be held on August 28, 2022 at Wunderlich Park from 4:00 P.M. -7:00 P.M.

The barn dance will feature local musicians, a live dance caller, catered BBQ, local and craft beer and wine in a beautiful and historic setting. This fundraiser supports our Nature Hikes for Youth, Folger School History Program, Healthy Hikes, the Folger Stable Museum, and more. This year we are also raising funds to save the unique 1874 Dairy House in the historic district. Thank you for celebrating with and supporting the Friends!

Bring a table of friends to the fun for \$1,500 or purchase general admission tickets for \$150 each. Purchase online at www.HuddartWunderlichFriends.org

REFRESH, RECONNECT, REORIENT



From left: Ann Cripps, Kym Teppo (staff), Don DeFranco, Jill Daly, Jackie Nicholson. Seated: Patty Dewes, Kristen Yawitz,(Dakota), Lisa Putnam. Lisa Raskin, Alison Mark, Lorna Basso, Carmen Brun, Nancy Ridgway and Nicole Chambers.

The Friends Board of Directors recently hosted a retreat to refresh, reconnect and reorient. During the pandemic we welcomed several new members with a shared passion for connecting people to the parks. Our board is looking forward to paving the way for educational programs, events, and stewardship of our local treasures in 2022 and beyond. We are grateful for their many behind the scenes hours in providing leadership to the Friends!

A FOND FAREWELL

After more than 17 years, Friends Finance Manager Joe Geist has retired. Joe ushered the Friends from a tiny fledgling non-profit into an impactful organization with a stellar record for making a dollar stretch. His wit, charm and acuity with numbers will be missed. At his retirement party Joe noted that he spent 27 years in the corporate world, but he saved his best years devoted to the Friends. A big thanks and fond farewell, but not goodbye, to Joe!



From left: Executive Director Kym Teppo, retiring Finance Manager Joe Geist, Jackie Geist & Board President Jill Daly at Joe's retirement party.

IN THE PARKS NOW... WOODLAND WARRIOR

BY SIGAL WILNAI



"2020.02.22 - warrior's plume" by JBYoder is licensed under CC

Growing upright and proud with a base of thick, fern-like leaves, a warrior plume brigade sets up an early-spring camp in oak woodlands or chaparral. Dense spikes of deep purple-red flowers attract hummingbirds and bumblebees with their promise of nectar. Below the ground, a horizontal stem (called rhizome) penetrates a nearby plant's root structure. Warrior plumes are hemi-parasitic — they can photosynthesize but obtain water and nutrients from other plants, usually manzanitas. Don't confuse this plant with the more artistically-inclined and delicate paintbrush, which lacks the plume's armor of fern-like leaves.



Better TOGETHER

Individual donors, grant funders, and volunteers made all this possible.

Thank you!

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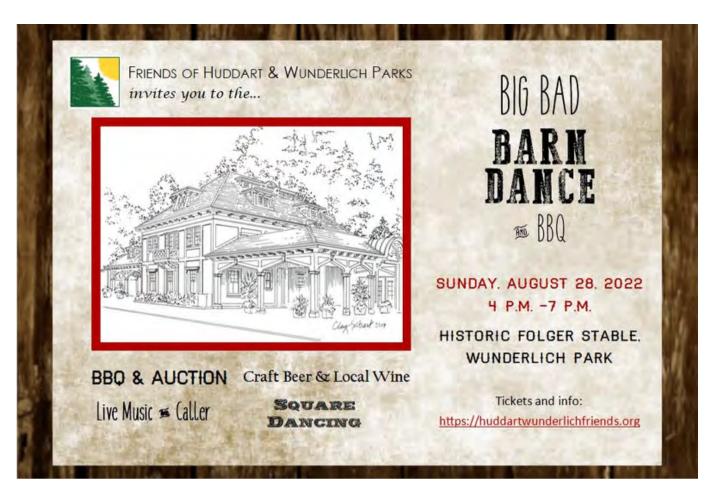
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