



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 2019

ParksRx Program

Friends Tagged to Help Expand County Health Plan

The Family Nature Day at Huddart Park this past spring was a joint effort of San Mateo County Health, other county agencies, and the Friends to bring families with health risks to the Woodside county parks to experience the proven benefits of being in nature. The event was so well received, recently the county agencies were prompted to host another such event, this time in San Pedro Valley Park in Pacifica. Although San Pedro is not in the Friends' official purview, the County was eager for the Friends' to partner with them again. Several Huddart Nature Hikes docents volunteered to lead the way on hiking trails. Hike leader Cathy Fenn says of her experience, "Being able to lead a hike with a pediatrician and a park ranger was a great sign of community support for this program. I felt so rewarded by the enthusiasm and appreciation of the participants."



Friends volunteers joined park rangers and several county agencies for a day of play in San Pedro Valley Park in Pacifica during Family Nature Day. It was patterned after the successful event earlier this year at Wunderlich cohosted with the Friends.
Photos courtesy of Bing Huey.

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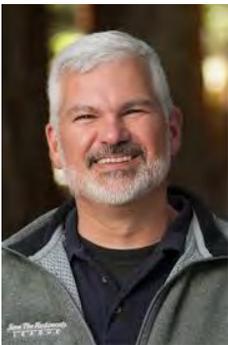
Wunderlich Restoration Nearly Complete

The PG&E Mitigation Project, eradicating 16 acres of non-native eucalyptus trees from Wunderlich Park, is coming to a close. While the landscape looks uncharacteristically bare where the eucalyptus once towered, more than 1,800 oak saplings raised from acorns gathered in the park, have been planted along with California buckeye seeds to restore the ecosystem to the native flora and fauna that once thrived there. Near Alambique Trail (below left) crews also built a fire road (below right) to improve access in case of an emergency. Until November 29, some trail closures will remain in effect. For more information visit parks.smcgov.org/press-release/wunderlich-oak-woodland-restoration-underway.



Power Outages, Weather Affect Friends Programs

Many in the Bay Area experienced the recent PG&E power shut down as the risk of California wildfires has been on the rise. Some effects have struck close to home. The Friends had to cancel two classes attending Huddart Park Nature hikes, a Folger Stable History field trip, and, ironically, a Folger Stable Speaker Series talk on managing wildfire risk in the redwood forests in light of the recent outages and severe weather. Some of the field trips have been able to re-schedule their park visits. The speaker series event has yet to be rescheduled. When it is, it will feature Paul Ringgold, Chief Program Officer at Save the Redwoods League. The talk will focus on efforts to thin crowded forests, clear underbrush and fuel, and fund science to understand the impact of wildfire on the redwood ecosystem. The talk will also feature Hannah Ormshaw, San Mateo County Parks Natural Resource Manager, to answer questions about the recent fuel reduction work in both Huddart and Wunderlich parks. To stay up to date on all Friends' programs and activities throughout the year, subscribe to <http://eepurl.com/blcjch>.



The Friends will re-schedule the talk by Paul Ringgold of Save the Redwoods League.

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August 30, 2020 The 10-Year Anniversary Of the Historic Folger Stable Restoration

Next August, we'll be celebrating a special milestone at our 3rd Big Bad Barn Dance. It's been 10 years since the Folger Stable's restoration was completed. Nearly torn down because of severe dilapidation, the stable is now a thriving public equestrian center with a popular history museum. Wunderlich Park now attracts thousands of visitors annually, making it one of the more frequented county parks.

Besides the usual fun of square dancing to a live band and caller, mouth watering BBQ, thirst quenching local brews and vintages, and a fast-paced auction for a very few extraordinary experiences in the parks, we'll be honoring the individuals who were the keystone donors who brought the beloved stable back to life.

Stay tuned!

What's in the Parks Now

At this time of year, it seems many plants in Huddart and Wunderlich are dormant, waiting to be refreshed by the winter rains or revived by the warmth of spring. Below is one plant, though, that never seems to rest, even though it turns from green to the deep red and gold of fall. Poison oak may change its colors according to the seasons, but it never changes its stripes. That is, it's just as much an allergen in the fall and winter as it is in the spring and summer. You can spot it in the undergrowth, as vines spiraling up trees, or as bushes as big as a car. No matter what color its leaves are, they still are covered in the oil that when touched can cause a bad rash that lasts about 10 days. Even the bare stems are oil-covered. So when hiking the trails, remember the warning: Leaves of three, let them be.

Fall and winter, poison oak can turn a vibrant red, making it easy to spot. It can also be green or yellow, so it's a good idea to recognize its three-leaf pattern.



Youngest Donors Today, Major Philanthropists Tomorrow

The small hands slide two envelopes, stuffed with carefully folded dollar bills, across the table to Friends Program Director Kym Teppo. The youngest donors ever to the Friends, Lin children Sophie, eight, and Alex, four, beam proudly.

"I wanted to give my allowance to help save the trees," Sophie says. Alex adds, "I like the trees because I like to pick up sticks and look for animals."

But their donation will have a much more concrete impact. The amount the siblings have donated will help fund a bus rental to bring to the park an entire classroom of students who otherwise wouldn't be able to.

The two receive allowance from their parents Albert and Jacqueline Lin, who have been guiding them to make philanthropy an integral part of their thinking since Sophie was three. Part of their allowance can be used however they wish, and part is for their charity funds saved in special envelopes. After a time, the envelopes bulge with bills, and Jacqueline discusses with her children what organizations they would like to support.

This year, they chose the Friends, a partner with the County Park's Junior Ranger Program, which Sophie attends for nine months at a time in various county parks. Though not yet old enough to participate fully, Alex gets to tag along. The culminating session this year was in Wunderlich Park, where the children said they learned how to stamp leather, decorated wooden horseshoes, and met Jack, an awe-inspiring draft horse.

Park Ranger Katherine Wright, who created the Junior Rangers program, says, "Sophie and Alex have been with the program since 2017. I'm so happy they feel so at home in our parks that they chose to donate their savings so other children can have similar outdoor experiences."

Their mom Jacqueline is also pleased with her kids' choice, saying, "They can see where their money is going."

So will a classroom of excited children waiting to board a big yellow bus to experience the outdoors in a way they may not have before Sophie and Alex made it possible.



The youngest donors to the Friends have already made philanthropy second nature.

History Field Trip

With Ed Collins at the Reins, Folger Stable Field Trips Will Soon Turn 10 Years Old

Since the fall of 2010, 8,543 third and fourth graders in San Mateo County have enjoyed an interactive visit to Wunderlich Park. The Folger Stable History Field Trip, a joint program of the San Mateo County Historical Association and the Friends, focuses on California history when horses provided most transportation. The field trip experience meshes the history of Native Americans, the California missions, and the Gold Rush, all part of the state curriculum for these grades. Since 2013, Ed Collins of the Historical Association has been the Program Interpreter and has guided the program development through its own history.

Ed first started working for the historical association in 2005 and since then has worked in numerous capacities at historic sites throughout the county, including Folger Stable for the past six years. He says the field trip has evolved from a talk on history to a focus on horses, with many more hands-on activities created over time. "The key to kids learning history," says Ed, "is to let them touch, and make their experience fun and quirky. This way they learn the story and own it."

The program was originally very structured but now has become more flexible, Ed says. The children view a slide show about the history of the Folger Stable before looking for historical artifacts in a scavenger hunt in the Carriage Room Museum. One of the most popular activities is meeting a live horse and learning how to saddle up a full-size model of one. In addition, they peel apples with a hand-cranked apple peeler and then crush the apples in a hand-turned press to make fresh juice to sample. They also make leather bookmarks with stamping tools, build rock walls with fiberglass boulders as Chinese laborers once did with real rocks, and hike around other historical landmarks on the property.

By the time the students board their bus and head back to school, they have learned some living history and had a lot of "quirky fun" doing it.



Program Interpreter Ed Collins with the recently rehabbed apple press.

Holidays with the Friends

at the Historic Folger Stable, WUNDERLICH PARK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 1:00-4:00 P.M.



FREE FAMILY EVENT!

- PONIES
- SANTA & MRS. CLAUS
- CRAFTS
- LEATHER STAMPING
- PETTING ZOO
- LIVE MUSIC

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