

FRIENDS OF SANTA TERESA PARK



The Hidden Springs Trail leading to Coyote Peak

Park-Community Meeting

This March, FOSTP hosted an updated Community/ Park meeting for the Santa Teresa County Park and Manila Drive Neighbors. Residents were updated with presentations from Santa Clara County Senior Ranger, Phillip Hearin. He told the attendees that he is aware of the illegal park activity issues, and his patrol staff has been increased by four rangers. He also said he is working on repairing the solar security lights at Santa Teresa Spring. The second presentation was from Sgt. Ken Owen of the Santa Clara County Sheriff Department. He spoke about how his officers will change their schedules to provide for more patrols in the area after hours. Stacie Shih from Councilmember Ash Kalra's Office, told about the city's community resources and contacts. Finally, San Jose Police Department Captain Schroder, told the group how all three agencies work together to provide coverage. Residents were reminded that the fine for vandalizing an historic park is between \$250 and \$450 per occurrence. FOSTP members thank *MoonBean's Coffee* at Plaza de Santa Teresa, for donating the coffee for the meeting. For more information, see: http://www.stpfriends.org/FOSTP_Minutes_03-03-16.html

About Us

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) is a volunteer organization, founded in 1992 and based in San Jose, whose purpose is to support Santa Teresa County Park. We are a diverse group with a wide range of interests. Our members include equestrians, hikers, runners, mountain bikers, historians, teachers, photographers, trail crew leaders, geocachers, 4H and scout leaders, and concerned members of the community. We serve as an interface between the community and the County Parks Department. We report on problems and concerns in the park and recommend changes and improvements to it. We help out with trail maintenance and park events. If you are interested in helping out at the park or just want to know what's going on, you are welcome to join us. See our website for more information. You are welcome to join our Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FoSTP/>



FOSTP Trail Connection Project: Santa Teresa Spring to Albertson Parkway

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park are developing a new trail project to submit to the County Parks' Department later this year. The plan is to extend the current trail from Santa Teresa Spring to Manila Way. This addition to the trail will connect the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch interpretive site with the city's Albertson Parkway Trail and allow guests to enter the park safely without using the narrow Manila Drive street and sidewalk. See our website for more information.

Family Fandango Returns!

Family Fandango has been an annual event at Santa Teresa Park's Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch since 2007, except for 2015, when it was canceled due to lack of staff resources. It is coming back in 2016 on August 13, from 5-8 pm. Here's a description of the event: "Celebrate the history of early California and its ties to the Anza Expedition and the Bernal family. The evening's focus is family fun through song, dance, demonstrations, and activities that highlight the many contributions of our early communities. Location is Camino Verde at Manila Drive. Food available for purchase. Questions? (408) 918-7770." See page 2 for more Fandango news. For pictures of the last Fandango, see: <http://www.stpfriends.org/Fandango-14/Fandango14.html>

Meetings: 7:00 pm, 1st Thursday of each month.

Upper Clubhouse/Banquet Facility, Santa Teresa Golf Club
260 Bernal Road, San Jose, CA

Website: <http://www.stpfriends.org>

Officers:

- Mike Boulland, President
- Kitty Monahan, Vice President
- Ronald Horii, Secretary, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor
- Greg Koopman: Treasurer

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Welcome County Park Interpreter Chris Carson Seals to Family Fandango

FOSTP members welcome Santa Clara County Park Interpreter and Family Fandango event manager, Chris Carson Seals, to Santa Teresa County Park's Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch and its Family Fandango. FOSTP is delighted with the return of the Fandango event this year after its one-year absence. Chris comes with an extensive background of experience for planning events with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department. She has planned and managed the Chitactac Family Day event in Gilroy. We have worked with her over the years and found her programs very creative and popular with the community.

FOSTP looks forward to seeing the Santa Teresa Family Fandango grow into one of the most popular annual community events in the Blossom Valley and Santa Teresa neighborhood.

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority Partners With Family Fandango Days

FOSTP is excited that the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority is participating this year in the Family Fandango event as part of their educational outreach program. Educational Programs Coordinator Teri Rogoway has taken the lead to help provide more educational activities support while partnering with the County Parks Department. This year we thank Teri for her goal in partnering with the Family Fandango Planning team to help make it a successful event for our neighborhood.

Friends Of Santa Teresa Park Booth – Stop By and Say Hi!

At the Friends of Santa Teresa Park's Family Fandango booth, you can ask questions about Santa Teresa Park activities, discuss neighborhood issues, pick up trail maps, and find out about how you can volunteer to help us make Santa Teresa Park one of the best gems in the County Park system and our neighborhood. Ask a member how you can help on our next project of building a connecting trail from Santa Teresa Spring to Manila Way or join us on one of our outreach field trips.



FOSTP Presents the "Herstory" of Maria Zacarias Bernal at Fandango

Barbara Brown will be giving a presentation in the 2nd Barn during Fandango. Barbara is an historian and archivist from the Monterey County Historical Museum. She has discovered in her family tree a link to the early pioneering Bernal family here at Rancho Santa Teresa. She is related to Dona Maria Zacarias Bernal and will be sharing stories about her.

Barbara is a preservationist who has restored Santa Rita Church and Cemetery (where many relatives of Maria Zacarias Bernal are buried) and several of the historical buildings on the Monterey County Historical Museum grounds. She is also responsible for maintaining the Monterey County archives, the Casa Boronda Adobe building and numerous historical records. FOSTP is proud to welcome Barbara to our 2016 Rancho Santa Teresa Family Fandango event.

"Herstory" means sharing the women's side of important life events and accomplishments. At this year's Rancho Santa Teresa Fandango event, FOSTP celebrates and brings to life the wife's side ("herstory") of the Bernal family as experienced by Maria Zacarias Bernal. Maria was born to Don Jose Joaquin Bernal on November 6, 1791. She was a strong woman who survived adversity and kept her dignity. In 1805 at the age of 14, Maria Bernal was married to Don Jose Reyes Berryessa. Join us at the 2nd Barn to hear some of the memorable (and sometimes tragic) events that happened to Maria and her family. We'll introduce you to some of the early opulent Californio rancho fandango courtship traditions and other events that Dona Maria Zacarias Bernal experienced.

Children's Storytelling at the 2nd Barn

Storyteller Dorene Boulland entertains the kids with a reading of "*Cactus Soup*", a delightful story set in Mexico where the San Miguel townspeople don't want to share their food with a group of hungry soldiers. Join Dorene for this humorous and "thorny" story that kids of all ages will love. Afterwards, each child will plant their own prickly pear cactus starter seed to take home.

Special "Dixie" Dog Toys for Children

Visit the 2nd Barn to see a western hay wagon and a fancy black surrey that were both used in the late 1800s/early 1900's. Look for the Bernal family's beloved dog Dixie on the surrey. While you are visiting, ask one of the adult hosts in the barn what happened when poor Dixie got lost on a hunting trip, and you might get to take home a small "Dixie Dog" toy. Docent Mike Boulland will tell the story of Dixie.

Dorothy Wuss 93rd Birthday Celebration and Bernal Zorros

by Mike Boulland

Dorothy Wuss, a Bernal family historian, turned 93 years young last month by celebrating her birthday with several Los Fundadores Y Amigos De Alta California Board Members at their office in the City of Santa Clara. I was impressed to see that her age does not stop her from staying active and keeping up with her hobby of researching and recording her family heritage. Using her family's oral history, city and county records and newspapers, Dorothy traces back her family lineage to the De Anza Party who were the first settlers in the valley from Mexico. Her ancestors link with the early Bernal, Castro, Sanchez, Sunol, Kottinger and Berryessa pioneer families who owned large ranchos in Northern California.

I first met Dorothy on the winding path leading up to the Santa Teresa Spring about twenty-five years ago. She wanted to see the Spring, a place where her relatives all spoke about playing in the water when they were kids. She said that's where they all learned to swim. Dorothy said that when she was young she never got a chance to see the spring.

Later, Dorothy was a member of the Friends of Santa Teresa Park for many years. She stopped coming to our meetings when it became harder for her to drive at night. Dorothy then volunteered at the San Jose Historical Museum archives. She wrote and published articles and made community presentations about the Bernal family history.

Dorothy's mind is very active and alert. She wants to attend our 2016 Family Fandango Event at the Spring. I am looking forward to seeing her at the event and reading more historical stories from her Bernal Family History binder.



Dorothy Wuss, with her 93rd birthday cake

The infamous Bernal "Zorro"

At our FOSTP meetings, Dorothy would always have a story about her family to share. One of my favorites was when one night Dorothy came to the meeting with an article about a Bernal relative who sent her a story he wrote about a Bernal family member who stole from rich landowners and gave to the poor, a bandit character whose actions mimic Robin Hood or Zorro. As a young child, I was captivated by the Disney Zorro character, a superhero and Californio Hispanic man who wore a black cape and used his quick sword to sign his name with his infamous "Z". So when Dorothy handed me a copy of the story, we both analyzed it for mistakes that would identify it as a made-up tall tale. That summer, I traveled to Mazatlán, Mexico on vacation. While on a tour of Mazatlan, I asked the tour guide if she had ever heard of a Mexican bandit who stole from the rich and gave to the poor, called "Bernal?" She answered, "No," but then to my surprise she remembered stories from her school days about a Bernal bandito.

When I returned home, I asked my friend Juan Francisco, who was raised in Mexico, if he had heard of any stories about a Bernal bandit. I was surprised when he replied that yes he did, and he said he could bring me a book about this famous character. He said this story is very popular in Tepic, near Mazatlán, Mexico, where he was born.

Heraclio Bernal -Last year on *Netflix*, I saw a documentary about famous historical bandits from old Mexico, where one of the main stories they told was about the man, *Heraclio Bernal*, who stole from the rich and gave to the poor and was called "Bernal".

"As a bandit and as a political rebel for a decade, he evaded capture repeatedly due to his good relations with the lower class and important people of the region he operated within. It is also believed police and soldiers would sell Bernal, and other bandits, weapons and ammunition. While the stories are in doubt, they led to Bernal being viewed as a hero by the people of the surrounding villages."

Gael Garcia Bernal a real modern day Zorro Gael Garcia Bernal, a Mexican actor, will play the superhero swordsman Zorro for an upcoming reboot of the movie. Garcia Bernal is the 'blessed one' who is set to portray the role of the masked hero, "Zorro" in the new musical movie "Z". This iconic character was previously brought to life on the big screen by Antonio Banderas in *The Mask of Zorro* and its sequel, *The Legend of Zorro*.

It amazes me how Dorothy's old oral legends and folklore tales may have some truth to them to make the story believable, and over time, how these old tales eventually may be telling the true facts hidden between the lines of the storyteller imagination and fantasy. Most importantly,
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Dorothy Wuss

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when modern twist unfolds more information to the legend and facts become known, we want to thank people like Dorothy who persist in their research to discover history's mysterious true sides and record them for future generations. When I see Dorothy again, I want to tell her how much her work really means to me by allowing me to believe in my childhood superhero fantasy and that there really was/is a real "Zorro" hero.

Santa Teresa Wildflower Hikes, Spring 2016

By Ron Horii

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park led two wildflower hikes in the park in spring 2016. The first was held on April 16. I led the hike, with help from Kim Gardner. It started at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch. Park Interpreter John Dorrance gave a tour and talked about the history of the ranch and Santa Teresa Spring. Afterwards, Kim and I led the group up the steep Joice Trail to the Bernal Hill Trail. Bernal Hill is a wildflower hotspot because it is covered with serpentine soil, which supports native wildflowers. The grasses were high, but we saw lots of wildflowers, like winter vetch, poppies, creamcups, owl's clover, tidytips, Santa Clara Valley dudleya, ithuriel's spears, Chinese houses, California gilia, and spring beauty. Afterwards, most of the group backtracked down the hill, while one person continued on the Bernal Hill Trail to the Mine Trail and Norred Trail. He hiked fast, because we met him coming back on the Norred Trail.



Hikers viewing wildflowers on Bernal Hill

The second hike was on April 30. Mike Boulland and I led the hike, starting at the Stile Ranch Trailhead in the Almaden Valley. The Stile Ranch Trail, which runs over serpentine-covered hills, is famous as one of the best wildflower trails in the County Parks. We had scheduled the hike in 2015, not knowing when the wildflowers would peak, but April is usually a good time. This year, the wildflowers came early due to the warm and wet winter. They peaked in mid-March. We were afraid they might be gone in

late April. Fortunately, while the grasses were starting to turn brown, and many of the wildflowers were past their peak, there were plenty of them still blooming. The switchbacks on the Stile Ranch Trail are usually lined with poppies. While they weren't as thick as they were in March, there were still lots of poppies, along with the rare Mt. Hamilton thistle, black sage, chia, and most beautiful jewelflowers. The Stile Ranch Trail is also a popular mountain biking destination. It was just our luck that there was a bike demo day at the same time, with hundreds of mountain bikers riding all over the park. They didn't bump into us, but we had to frequently step out of the way to let them pass, which slowed down our hike. As we ascended the slopes, with views of the Almaden Valley, Mike talked about the historical sites in the valley, like Rancho San Vicente, the New Almaden Mines, and Mt. Umunhum. We returned on the Mine and Fortini Trails, where we saw lupines, phacelia, Santa Clara Valley dudleya, farewell-to-spring clarkia, and mariposa lilies. Mike was happy to see his favorite flower, cream sacs (see his article on page 6).



Mike Boulland talking about historic sites in the Almaden Valley

In Memory of Lisa Killough

By Ron Horii

In February of 2016, we heard the very sad news that former Santa Clara County Parks director Lisa Killough passed away from cancer. She was only 60 years old. Her career with the County Parks spanned 25 years. She became the director in 2002. We saw her speak at many events, such as volunteer recognition dinners, the dedication of the Bernal Ranch, the first Fandango at the ranch, and the closing ceremony for the Mounted Ranger Unit. She also spoke at Festival in the Park in Hellyer and Pioneer Days at Almaden Quicksilver. She was a dynamic and visionary leader that oversaw the expansion of the park system. She was instrumental in acquiring the Rancho San Vicente addition to Calero County Park. A new trail being built there will be named in her honor. There was a memorial service for her at the Casa Grande in Almaden Quicksilver on April 30. Hundreds of people attended to remember her and celebrate her life. She will be missed.

Measures Q and A: What They Mean

By Ron Horii

Two important ballot measures passed recently and may have benefits for the Santa Teresa Park community. Measure Q, which was approved in 2014, provides additional parcel tax funding for the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority (OSA). Part of those funds will be used for a new urban open space grant program. Public agencies, schools, and non-profits can apply for grants to support environmental stewardship, parks, trails, public access, environmental education, and urban agriculture/food system projects. OSA money has already been used to help pay for the Albertson Parkway and the Pyzak Ranch addition to Santa Teresa Park on Curie Drive near San Ignacio Avenue. FOSTP is looking at this grant program as a possible source of funding to build trails in and around the Pyzak Ranch.

Measure A, which passed in 2016 with 78% approval, renews and slightly increases the Park Charter Fund for the Santa Clara County Parks. It is not a tax, but an earmark that guarantees a small, but fixed percentage of the County's general fund be set aside for the parks. It also doubles the amount of money set aside for park development and improvement projects, by shifting it from property acquisition.

FOSTP is hoping that the passage of these measures will mean that the planned, approved, but long-deferred Santa Teresa Historic Site project can proceed. That project, which was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2009, includes the development of trails and interpretive features in the corner of the park at San Ignacio Avenue and Curie Drive. We will be working with the parks department to see how we can get the plan implemented. We feel it will provide great benefits for the Santa Teresa Park community by providing additional trail access and more educational and cultural resources. For details on the Santa Teresa County Park Historic Area Site Plan, see:

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/PlansProjects/Pages/Santa-Teresa-Cnty-Prk-Hist-Area-Site-Pln.aspx>



Santa Teresa Historic Site at Curie Drive and San Ignacio Avenue, including the Bear Tree Lot, Pyzak Ranch, and Bonetti Ranch, with the Jacoba Bernal and Pedro Bernal Houses.

Old Fashioned Games and Wash Days

On Saturday, August 20, 2016, Old-fashioned Games and Wash Days will be held at Santa Teresa's Historic Bernal Ranch 12:00 pm-3:00 pm. Play old-fashioned games from the past. Learn how clothes were washed with scrub boards and lye soap. Try your hand at roping a wooden bull and make an animation wheel similar to those made over 100 years ago. The Bernal Ranch is located at the corner of Camino Verde and Manila Dr. in San Jose. Call (408)226-5453 for more information.

Cleanup of Santa Teresa Spring

By Ron Horii

On Sept. 26, 2015, the Friends of Santa Teresa Park had a work day cleaning up Santa Teresa Spring. The problem was that the spring had not been cleaned up in years, and it was gradually becoming buried in mud and covered by blackberry vines. Cub Scouts cleared away some of the mud in front of Santa Teresa Spring's stone font, but more work was still needed to completely clear the mud away so all of the font was visible. Also, the stone shrine next to the spring had become completely covered with vines and was no longer visible. FOSTP members, with help from a high school volunteer, spent all morning cutting back the vines and digging away the mud. When they were done, the spring looked like it did when it opened in 2002.



Top: Santa Teresa Spring before the cleanup (top). Bottom: The Friends of Santa Teresa Park, with student volunteer Kurt, after cleaning up Santa Teresa Spring (picture by John Dorrance)

Cream Sacs

by Mike Boulland

Have you ever seen a flower with four different colors? I have, about five years ago, while walking the Stile Ranch Trail in Santa Teresa Park during the annual spring wildflower bloom. I discovered a huge patch of pink-purple owl's clover on the hillside hairpin turn above the wooden bridge that crosses the dry creek meadow. Walking further down the trail I spotted a flower that surprised me with its multicolored blooms. The sight of a wildflower blooming with one bud blue, a second yellow, a third white, and the fourth red made quite an impression. I thought this one observation might just be a freak occurrence of nature, but looking further down the trail, I could see more colorful blooms on the hill ahead covered with patches of these multicolored plants, called *cream sacs* (*Castilleja Rubicundula*). The plants dried up within the next few hot spring weeks, allowing their seeds to blow in the wind for the next year's bloom.

The following year I couldn't wait to lead group hikers on wildflower hikes up the Stile Ranch Trail. I was excited to tell them of the beautiful mother nature wildflower show of orange poppies and my new discovery patch of the *cream sacs* with different-colored blooms on a single stalk. It was disappointing when I arrived at the cream sac's patch. I found the trail was devoid of the colorful plant, and after my big group buildup for the flower bloom, it only led to a huge letdown for my fellow hikers and me.

It wasn't until this year, 2016, on Ron Horii's April 30 wildflower hike, did I get a chance to view this spectacular plant again on the Stile Ranch Trail. The plant bloom returned with a greater showcase of cream sacs showering the hillside with colorful multicolored stalks. So the next time you walk the Stile Ranch Trail in the spring, I encourage you to look for the wild-looking flowers with the four different colors and realize to me that it is one of Mother Nature's most unique blooms.



Cream sacs on the Stile Ranch Trail.

This newsletter is funded by the City of San Jose's Community Action and Pride (CAP) Grant. FOSTP is a member of the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County, which administers this grant.

FOSTP Photographer, Ron Horii Interviewed by NBC's Doug McConnell of the Open Road Television Show

In June of this year, Doug McConnell of NBC Bay Area's "Open Road" TV show interviewed volunteer photographer Ron Horii about his photography work taking beautiful landscape pictures of Santa Teresa Park and other Santa Clara County park sites. Ron's photography has been honored by the County Parks, who feature his photography in their quarterly "Play Here" event booklets. Doug McConnell asked Ron about his favorite parks. Ron said, "The closest one to me is Santa Teresa Park, Santa Teresa County Park. I can walk there from my house, and I can go out to the hills, and I'll just be surrounded by hills and wildflowers and endangered species, and I can get away from the city. When you're out there, you don't see the city."

FOSTP has been fortunate for over fifteen years to have Ron as a board member and webmaster, where his wonderful pictures record our FOSTP events posted on our website.

Visit the Open Roads website below to view Ron's interview and to see some of his gorgeous photography.

<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Ron-Horii-Santa-Clara-County-Parks-Photography-384385321.html>

Phillip Hearin, Senior Park Ranger

By Kitty Monahan

Phil started with SCC Parks in 2001 at Hellyer. He also worked at Anderson Lake County Park, developing the Inland Boating Operators Course, which has received statewide recognition. He came back to Hellyer/Santa Teresa two years ago and was promoted to Senior Park Ranger. Prior to his SCC Parks career, Phil worked at MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District as a park ranger from 1988 to 2001. Additional WOW jobs included USFS fire engine crew, US Park Service Yosemite Heli-tack, and for Army Corps of Engineers at Pine Flat Lake. Yup, all of that and a full military career with the US Marine Corps. He is also a certified diver. We have been lucky to have this fine gentleman. Phil has recently been appointed to be the senior ranger at Calero and Almaden Quicksilver County Parks. He will transfer there in September. We will miss him at Santa Teresa.



Senior Park Ranger Phil Hearin (right) with County Parks Interpretive Programs Manager Robin Schaut (left) at Festival in the Park at Hellyer.