

## Friends of Santa Teresa Park Newsletter, June 2009

Meetings: first Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm, Santa Teresa Golf Course Upper Clubhouse.

Website: [www.stpfriends.org](http://www.stpfriends.org)

### About FOSTP by Mike Boulland



The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) organization was founded in 1992 and incorporated with the State of California in 1995 as a state nonprofit group. This year we are celebrating sixteen years of service to the Santa Teresa community, the City of San Jose, and Santa Clara County. We organized to help protect, enhance, maintain and restore Santa Teresa Park through education, volunteer involvement, coordination and communication between local governmental agencies and the community. The founding members, Mike Boulland, Mario Blaum (both at the Bernal Ranch, left), Dave Hildebrandt, Elaine Baker, and Kitty Monahan, wrote our original mission statement. It states that we are dedicated to generating community support and involvement in the wildlife corridor, historic preservation, restoration, and building new park trails for the benefit of the public. At that time, many of the historic areas near Curie and

Manila Drive in Santa Teresa Park were closed or off-limits to the neighboring community and park visitors or were being left to decay. The members of FOSTP organized to plan activities that involved the generous support of park staff, neighbors, community business sponsors, and school volunteers to change the blighted decaying buildings along Curie and Manila Drive into the vibrant Rancho Santa Teresa Historical site. The saved site has become a beautiful historic community asset and a destination point that adds to the important cultural history of the neighborhood. Our success in this process helped our group pave the way to open other closed areas of the park to the public that provided a valuable local walkable community recreational resource.

Our organization has taken an active role to encourage residents to participate in our active Neighborhood Park Watch Patrol, new park trail construction, and educational community programs. Recently, we were very involved in helping to address the wild boar issues and encouraging the city to produce an information flyer. FOSTP has taken the approach to help support the security and safety of the park. Our members believe by helping become the eyes and ears of the park, through the use of the Neighborhood Park Watch Program helps protect our community park. We have brought to the attention to our government agencies to provide more ranger, police, sheriff, and mounted patrol resources to help patrol our neighborhood.

Our main goal is to support the completion of the new site master plan for Rancho Santa Teresa. We are very excited that the project will help add to the story of the early pioneers who settled in the Santa Teresa Valley. The plan includes a new museum, restoration of the two historic homes and most of all it will provide for parking and new access trails to the park. We are delighted that new programs will be open for the whole community to participate and enjoy. Specifically, Family Fandango Day, Wash Days, Star Nights, Wildflower hikes, Movie Nights, Heritage gardening, history PowerPoint presentations and other nature programs will be expanded to encourage our community to “Go out and Play” in the park. We take pride in that our organization encourages all of these programs to enhance the public’s enjoyment of the park without disturbing the local neighborhood.

### Trails of Santa Teresa Park: Hidden Springs, Ridge, Ohlone Loop by Mario Blaum

Santa Teresa County Park offers spectacular views of the Valley. Last time we described the Norred Trail, the newest addition to the park. Now I want to suggest a moderate loop, but you need to be in good shape; there are some steep slopes.

Start from the Buck Norred Ranch, where unfortunately the Mounted Patrol is about to leave due to budgetary constraints. We start going up the Mine Trail, which immediately above the Buck Norred Ranch joins the Norred Trail (so this hike can be combined with the one described in the previous newsletter). The first 200 yards of the trail are on asphalt, but then it becomes a regular trail. Another 200 yards or so and the Mine

Trail meets the Hidden Springs Trail. Move left at the fork and continue on the Hidden Springs Trail. Then cross Bernal Road. Be very careful here, there are stop signs and cars are supposed to stop, but many don't. Another hazard are bicycles coming downhill at full speed, so watch in all directions before crossing Bernal Road. Once you cross, the Hidden Springs Trail meets the Ohlone Trail.

Keep on your right on the Hidden Springs Trail. You will cross a beautiful shaded area. Shaded areas are not very common in Santa Teresa Park. Then you have a steep slope, and you will cross Old Bernal Road. As you continue hiking, the Muriel Wright detention facility will be on your right and on your left, you will have great views of the south towards the Coyote Valley. Eventually, you arrive to the Pueblo Area, where there is parking and picnic tables, but you continue on the trail.

Shortly after leaving the Pueblo Area, the trail starts being steep uphill, and the Hidden Springs Trail meets the Ridge Trail. Time to say goodbye to the Hidden Springs Trail. We will retake it in the next newsletter to go up to Coyote Peak. We make a left at the Ridge Trail, one of my favorite trails in the park. We have a steep to moderate uphill for some 300 yards, but from then on, the Ridge Trail is either flat or downhill. Be careful because some of the downhills are steep. On your left you will have some great views of the golf course and the valley. The Ridge Trail is roughly .6 miles long. At the end of it we encounter another shaded area with picnic tables. Then we take a left to the Coyote Peak Trail. Be careful with the downhill. It is steep, but enjoy it because it is another shaded area, and you start seeing the golf course as you come down.

Pay attention to the intersection with the Ohlone Trail, it appears suddenly and it is easy to miss. Make a left at the Ohlone trail, you have roughly a mile on it. It starts going down and then up, but then it is roughly flat with gentle undulations. The Ohlone trail is at the lower part of the park. On your right, you will have the golf course. Be careful with poison oak here. You will hit a short trail, the Nature Trail, that goes for 200 yards but it is a dead end. When there are heavy rains in winter, waterfalls form at the end of the Nature Trail, but I have never seen them. Continuing on the Ohlone Trail, it eventually forks, if we go right we end at Bernal Road, so take a left and go on the Ohlone Trail, which starts ascending.

This portion of the Ohlone Trail is my favorite one. It is a narrow trail, with parts in the shade, and it runs parallel to Bernal Road but slightly above it. At a certain moment you have to cross the Old Bernal Road, which has been invaded by vegetation. Eventually, you meet the Hidden Springs Trail. You make a right, and you cross Bernal Road, then you go down towards the Mine Trail, and from there you come down to the Buck Norred Ranch, completing the loop.



Left: View of the Santa Teresa Golf Course and Ohlone Trail from the Hidden Springs Trail. Center: Hidden Springs Trailhead to Coyote Peak at the Pueblo Area. Right: view of the golf course pond from the Ohlone Trail.

### **SCC 4H News & Events by Jenel Vincze**

The SCC 4H Youth Development Program has just finished up its 08-09 program year, but Coyote Crest 4H Club participates in club and county as well as community events through the summer months. The Gardening Project and the Poultry Project will continue to care for their respective areas at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Historic Ranch. The SCC Domestic Exchange Project has 4H Members from Niagara, NY arriving on July 4th, with a fun-filled week of sightseeing before departing on July 11th. Summer Camp begins on July 13th for Staff, and July 14th for the youth attending for the week. 4H Clovers, youth ages 5-8, get their day at Camp on Friday July 17th. Members will have one full week off before the 2009 SCC Youth Fair begins at the



Fairgrounds on Monday July 27th with Livestock weigh-in and ends August 2nd with the annual Lonnie Toensfeldt Memorial Junior Livestock Auction. A full Fair Events schedule can be found at [thefair.org](http://thefair.org). The State Leadership Conference is the first weekend in August at UC Merced, and most clubs will have an Open Enrollment Night event in September. More information about the 4H YDP can be found at [scc4h.org](http://scc4h.org)

### **Santa Clara County Mounted Ranger Unit by Kitty Monahan**

As members of the Friends of Santa Teresa Park, we are sorry to see the Mounted Ranger Unit be disbanded. The Unit has been of great value to the Parks Department and countywide as representative of Santa Clara County. When Buck Norred left the property near Santa Teresa Park, vandalism was constant at the area. The Friends of Santa Teresa County Park requested the Mounted Unit come to the site to protect the environment there. It has been a welcomed site ever since.

This Unit was been regarded highly and represented the County and the State of California in the U.S Presidential Inaugural Parade. It has been argued and proven again and again worldwide that one officer on horseback is more visible and therefore more effective than several on foot.

We hope the Santa Clara County Parks Department will continue to protect the area for the safeguard of the neighbors and that as the economy improves, the Mounted Ranger Unit can be restored.



Left: ranger Julie Cooper at Festival in the Park at Hellyer, 2009. Center: training arenas behind the MRU. Right: tour of the stables at the MRU's dedication in 2003.

### **Santa Teresa Park Spring 2009 Events by Ron Horii**

On Saturday April 4, Ron Horii taught his annual outdoor photography class and wildflower walk. He showed a slideshow on outdoor photographs in the Bernal Ranch Barn, then gave a demonstration of cameras and photography techniques outdoors by the Bernal Ranch House. Later, Mike Boulland led a walk to Santa Teresa Spring, describing the history of the site. Afterwards, Ron Horii led a hike up the Joice Trail to the spectacular spring wildflowers and views on Bernal Hill. Webpage:

<http://www.stpfriends.org/PhotoClass0409/ClassWalk.html>

On Saturday, April 11, Sam Drake taught a geocaching class. Sam has taught geocaching classes before in other parks, like Almaden Quicksilver. He started the class with a demonstration of the types geocaches and how to locate them with a GPS receiver. The class then split into groups to look for geocaches on the Stile Ranch, Mine, and Fortini Trail loop. One went clockwise, the other counter-clockwise. This was at the peak of the wildflower season, so the geocaching was highlighted by wildflower-viewing.

<http://www.stpfriends.org/Geoclass041109/ClassWalk.html>

On Sunday May 3, Mike Boulland led a pre-Mother's Day Healthy Trails hike. His hike also followed the Fortini-Mine-Stile Ranch Trail loop, but was historically-oriented. He gave a presentation about the history of Rancho Santa Teresa, Rancho San Vicente, and the Bernal and Berryessa families. As the group hiked down the trail, Mike pointed out historical sites. At one spot, Shari Sullivan portrayed Zacharias Berryessa, whose family once owned Rancho San Vicente and were murdered in land disputes. While rain threatened during the hike, it held off until the hike was almost over.

<http://www.stpfriends.org/Stilewalk-050309/Walk.html>

On Saturday May 9, 2009, Cait Hutnik led a Healthy Trails hike on a sunny, clear day. She led a group of hikers with a wide range of ages and abilities. While it was late in the season, there were still lots of wildflowers out. Cait pointed out the different types of flowers, as well as the trees and animals that inhabit the park: [http://www.stpfriends.org/HealthyTrails\\_05-09-09/Walk.html](http://www.stpfriends.org/HealthyTrails_05-09-09/Walk.html)



Top left: Ron Horii on the Joice Trail pointing out the Santa Teresa Hills. Top right: Sam Drake giving a geocaching talk. Bottom left: Mike Boulland talking about the history of the area’s ranchos. Bottom right: Cait Hutnik leading a hike on the Stile Ranch Trail.

### Upcoming Events

- Saturday, July 11, August 8. Scrub-A-Dub & Old Time Games, Santa Teresa County Park’s Historic Bernal Ranch, 1:00 - 3:30pm.
- Saturday, July 11. Lost in Space Night, Santa Teresa County Park’s Historic Bernal Ranch, 7:30pm-10:30pm. View the heavens through powerful telescopes and learn about our solar system. Laugh while watching the 1960s sci-fi television series “Lost in Space.” Reservations required. Call (408) 226-5453.
- Saturday, August 1. Family Fandango, Santa Teresa County Park’s Historic Bernal Ranch, 5:00-8:00pm. Come celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area who originally settled here over 10,000 years ago, early Spanish-speaking colonists of 200 years ago, and English-speaking ranch families who arrived more recently. The evening’s focus is family fun through demonstrations and activities that highlight 1770-1870 California.
- Saturday, August 8. Bugged-Out Movie Night, Santa Teresa County Park’s Historic Bernal Ranch, 7:30-10:30pm. Explore the fascinating life of grasshoppers in our world. Hang on to your seats while watching the 1950s thriller “The Beginning of the End,” followed by some safe close encounters with the real-life creatures!