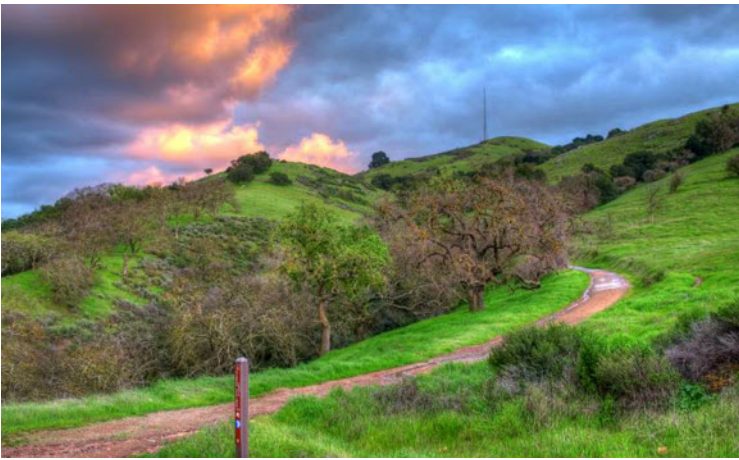


FRIENDS OF SANTA TERESA PARK



The Hidden Springs Trail leading to Coyote Peak

The New Trail Has a New Name

By Ron Horii

After being dedicated on December 11, 2021, the newest trail in Santa Teresa County Park, temporarily called the Curie Drive Trail, finally has a new official name: The Gulnac Trail. It runs from Santa Teresa Spring to the Bear Tree Lot, follows Curie Drive, and ends at the corner of Curie Drive and San Ignacio Avenue, across from Bernal Intermediate School. The naming process was delayed by the pandemic. The naming committee was unable to meet during that time. They were finally able to meet this year and approved the name, which was subsequently approved by the Parks Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

The trail is named after the Gulnac Family. They are the middle name of the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch. Rancho Santa Teresa was founded in 1826 by Jose Joaquin Bernal. In 1849, William Gulnac acquired part of the ranch from Joaquin's widow, Josefa Sanchez Bernal. In 1858, Josefa's granddaughter Rufina Bernal inherited part of the ranch. She married Charles Gulnac, who built the ranch house that stands today. Their daughter Susan married Patrick Joice. The Bernal and Joice families have trails named after them. Finally, the Gulnacs have a trail with their name.

Our Mission

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) is a volunteer and neighborhood association, founded in 1992 and based in San Jose. Our mission is to help protect, enhance, maintain, and restore Santa Teresa Park and the surrounding neighborhood through education, volunteer involvement, coordination, and communications with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department Staff, the City of San Jose, and the greater community. We are a diverse group with a wide range of interests. We report on problems and concerns in the park and adjoining neighborhood and recommend changes and improvements. 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: www.stpfriends.org. You are welcome to visit our Facebook page (STPFriends).

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

Zoom meetings since shutdown

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

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

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/STPFriends/>

Email: fostp@stpfriends.org (email us to request Zoom meeting link)

Officers:

- Mike Boulland, President
- Steve Crockett, Vice President & Treasurer
- Ronald Horii, Secretary, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor

Do You Care a Lot About Your Community Park?

By Mike Boulland

“Unless someone like you cares a whole, awful lot, things aren’t going to get better, they’re NOT!” ~ Dr. Seuss. Who’s doing the outdoor beautification at the Rancho Santa Teresa ranch house and grounds? Why, it is the FOSTP First Friday of the Month Volunteers helping us between 9:00 a.m. and 12 p.m.

I don’t know if you have noticed the difference in the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Interpretive Site. My friend said that she does not. So, I sat her down to point out what a fantastic job our FOSTP volunteers and park staff, who care a whole, awful lot, have done to keep up with the invasive Bermuda grass out of the planter boxes, the paths around the Joice house, the barns, corral, picnic areas, Santa Teresa Spring, and the new Gulnac Trail.

During the Pandemic, weeds, invasive blackberries, star thistle, and brush on the ranch grounds overgrew the paths, springs, and picnic areas. With the monthly volunteer group helping to maintain the grounds, the park site is improving and is more inviting. I see more families enjoying cool morning and evening walks, using the picnic areas, and park interpretive events without tripping over blackberry runners or feeling the thorns of the star thistle. Next time you are in the interpretive area and see the volunteers and the park staff, give them a big shout-out of “Thank you for a job well done.” See our website if you want to help out.

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See <http://www.stpfriends.org/#newsletters> for this and past newsletters.

La Fuente Returns September 23, 2023

The La Fuente celebration will be returning to Santa Teresa Park's Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch on Saturday September 23, 2023 from 4 to 7 pm. It is being organized by Park Interpreter Rob McDonnell. It will have folklorico dancing, traditional music by Los Arribenos, a horse, roping steers, arts and crafts, ice cream, park information, storytelling, and hikes in English and Spanish. FOSTP will have an information booth with historic displays, newsletters, and games.

After a 2-year absence due to the pandemic, the last La Fuente was held on 7/30/22. It celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Bernal Ranch's opening, FOSTP's 30th anniversary, and Santa Teresa Park's 60th anniversary. Mike Boulland gave a history talk about FOSTP and the park. Here are pictures from last year's La Fuente:

<https://tinyurl.com/musk4z3p>



Folklorico dancing, La Fuente 7/30/22

FOSTP Leads History/Nature Hike

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) led a hike in Santa Teresa County Park on 5/13/23, the day before Mother's Day. It was called "Where Nature & History Collide." The hike was on the Fortini, Mine, and Stile Ranch Trails and included stories about the history of the area, along with the natural history of the park. FOSTP members Mike Boulland, Dorene Boulland, Sam Drake, Joan Murphy, and Ron Horii came to help with the event. Mike and Joan portrayed historical figures. Here are pictures from the hike:

<https://tinyurl.com/4ssnsamw>



Dogs in County Parks

By Kim Gardner

What better way to bond with your canine bestie than sharing a walk with them through one of our beautiful county parks? Whether you're looking for shadow-covered flat paths or for aerobically-challenging steep climbs, our parks have something for everyone. Go to Santa Clara County Parks - Parks and Recreation - County of Santa Clara (parkhere.org) to put together the perfect hike for you and your dog.

Dogs are welcome in most Santa Clara County Parks but are not allowed at historic sites including Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch, Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum, Chitactac-Adams, and the Joseph D. Grant Ranch House. Before heading out on a trail, always check the Santa Clara Valley Parks website for the latest information and updates.

While you are mapping out your hike, take a look at the website of the park you wish to hike in for complete details and updates on dog handling regulations. These regulations will help keep you, your dog and other park visitors safe. On park trails, dogs must be controlled on a 6-foot (or less) leash at all times. Never allow your dog to chase wildlife or other dogs.

Bring plenty of water for your dog (and you) since not all county parks have potable water sources on the trails. Clean up and pack out any waste from your dog or drop it in a trash can if available.

Enjoy your hike!



Dog walker on the Joice Trail

Dog Regulations in County Parks

Dogs are allowed in most County Parks, but they must be on a 6-foot leash. Off-leash facilities are at Hellyer, Ed Levin, and Los Gatos Creek. Here's more information about dogs in the parks and the off-leash parks:

<https://parks.sccgov.org/plan-your-visit/activities/dog-parks>

Mexican Independence Day—El 16 De Septiembre

By Joan Murphy

Mexico's Revolution against Spain began with small groups of "Criollos." The Criollos were the descendants of the Conquistadores, (and other Spaniards who had immigrated to "New Spain"). They were born in Mexico rather than Spain. Many Criollos were holders of large pieces of land (Land Grants of thousands of acres), mines, ranches, farms, plantations. Some were high ranking military officers in the Spanish army, or Catholic Bishops. Wealthy Criollos often raised cattle and fine horses on immense ranches and sported silver studded saddles, buttons, and belt buckles. Some were absentee owners of lands or mines, who lived in the beautiful towns and cities of Mexico. They enjoyed fiestas and parades and lived lives of luxury.

Absentee owners hired foremen, who oversaw their Native American and "Mestizo" workers, who, in some cases, were treated more like slaves than workers. A few Criollos had a paternalistic attitude towards their workers and attempted to educate them and provide them with decent wages and working conditions.

Criollos with great personal wealth formed the propertied upper class of Mexico. Criollos with less wealth often were public officials, doctors, lawyers, teachers, churchmen, or served as lower ranking officers in the military. Criollos with less wealth still held privilege through their supposed racial superiority. Criollos were "White," and of "European Descent." (Or, at least they claimed to be "White," with little or no Native American, Asian, or Black blood). Persons who had small amounts of mixed blood, and could pass as "White," tried to obtain certificates of "purity of blood," through the bribery ("la mordida"— "the bite") of government officials in Spain and Mexico.

The Criollos had wealth but no political power. Political power, both in the Government and in the Church, belonged to persons born in Spain—the "Gachupines," or "Men with spurs," sent by the Spanish Crown to rule over Mexico. The Criollos were jealous of the power of the Gachupines (to which class they could never aspire, because they had been born in Mexico, not Spain).

In the 19th Century, Mexico had a caste system based on race. There were 16 official racial castes in Mexico, depending on racial purity and mixtures. "Whites" of European ancestry formed the topmost racial caste. Mestizos (those with mixed "White" and Native American Ancestry), were of a higher caste than persons of "White" and "Black" ancestry. Mestizo and "Black" ancestry was lower still. Those of purely Native American ancestry were of higher caste than those of purely "Black," slave ancestry. Members of lower racial castes were not given opportunities for social advancement or employment. They were prohibited from taking jobs reserved for persons reserved of higher racial caste and had to be satisfied with miserable pay and manual labor.

They were denied education. They were also prohibited from bettering themselves by growing orchards, grape vines, or commercial crops on tiny bits of land, or by starting little businesses. They lived in squalid conditions in the cities and towns and countryside, as "leperos." Lower castes, who had no prospects of bettering their lives, often turned thievery in the cities, and to banditry in the countryside.

The Mexican Inquisition banned a number of books in the late 18th and early 19th Centuries. Among the banned books were not only works of fiction depicting immoral sexual acts, but also the writings of French philosophers, the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution of the United States. Educated Criollos began forming small secret literary clubs which read and discussed these banned books. These literary clubs also served to hide their revolutionary discussions and plans.

However, many Mexican Criollos were not nearly as concerned with human rights, liberty, or with trying to form a democracy or a republic, as with achieving their own political power. The Criollos wanted to overthrow the Gachupines, and take over political power in Mexico themselves. Although they dreamed of governing Mexico, most of them still wished to remain loyal to the King of Spain and to the Catholic Church. They were not attempting to form an Independent Mexico, free of the Spanish Throne or Church.

The organizer of one of these secret, revolutionary literary clubs, called ("The Queretaro Literary Society"), was a wealthy land owner who came from the town of San Miguel, and served in the military. His name was Capitan Don Ignacio Allende.

Allende invited a parish priest from the nearby town of Dolores, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a Spaniard, to join the the secret club he had organized. Hidalgo had been educated in a Jesuit College and was familiar with the writings of the French philosophers on the "Rights of Man." He was sympathetic to the hundreds of thousands of down-trodden lower classes of Mexico, many of whom were his parishioners. Hidalgo did not share the view of the Criollos—that power could be wrested from the Gachupines and given to the Criollos, by means of a bloodless coup by the Mexican Army; and that all of Mexico would then be better off. Hidalgo was convinced that only a violent, bloody revolution by the lower classes of Mexico would successfully overthrow the unjust 19th Century political system in Mexico, and improve the lot of the poorest of the poor. Hidalgo also believed that the ends would justify the means.

Allende had secretly planned to enlist the help of the army to overthrow the Gachupines, in a bloodless coup, and to install the Criollos in their place. The Criollos would then govern Mexico, and report directly to the Spanish King. Before Allende's conspiratorial plans could be put into action, they were disclosed to the authorities by members of the army whom Allende had unsuccessfully tried to recruit.

Warrants for the arrest of Allende, Hidalgo, and others were issued. On the night of September 15th, 1810, a pan-

icked Allende and a fellow conspirator rode to Dolores to warn Father Hidalgo of the impending imminent arrest of them all. The Priest picked up a pistol, and with the aid of a few followers, rounded up all the Gachupines in Dolores, locked them in the town's jail, and released the other prisoners. In the early morning of September 16th, Hidalgo went to his Church and began ringing the Bells to summon his parishioners.

From the steps of the Church, Hidalgo gave an oration that ignited the crowd to a fury against their oppressors. He ended his speech with shouts of "Viva El Rey Felipe!" "Viva America!" "Viva Mexico!" The crowd shouted back over and over. Seizing whatever weapons they could find, the enraged parish followed their priest on a march to San Miguel. Allende watched, horrified at what had been unleashed, as the mob looted the shops and homes of the wealthy. This was never what he had wanted to happen. The mob grew to thousands as they marched on to Celaya and Guanajuato, a rich silver mining town. On the way, the Priest tore a painting of the miraculous Virgin of Guadalupe from the wall of a shrine, and lifted it up as his Standard. The mob knelt in the dirt, weeping, and wailing before the image of their Virgencita—La Morenita. At Guanajuato, the Gachupines took refuge in a granary and began to fire their guns and canon on Hidalgo's thousands of followers. In retaliation, the mob broke into the granary and butchered the terrorized Gachupines—beginning the horrendous blood letting of Mexico's 11-year-long Revolution. The Revolution resulted in the deaths of thousands.

Bandidos roamed the countryside, looting was everywhere, enemies were deliberately tortured and murdered, men were buried alive in quicklime, fields rotted, and mining equipment was destroyed. Mexico's silver mines were deliberately flooded, the currency was debased when there was no silver, and a worthless paper money was issued after the Revolution. Both rich and poor starved.

The Revolution ended in 1821 with Mexico gaining Independence from Spain. This was not the "Bloodless Coup," and continuing loyalty by Mexico to the King of Spain, of which Allende had dreamed. Both Hidalgo and Allende died in the war.

Every 15th and 16th of September, Mexico celebrates Mexican Independence Day and the Mexican Revolution with music, dancing, fiestas, and fireworks. Mexican Police refrain from arresting people for infractions of the law on the 15th and 16th of September, as those are "free days," when the people of Mexico can do whatever they please.

On the night of the 15th of September, large crowds gather in town centers and in the Zocalo of Mexico City. At 11:00 P.M. they shout "Viva Mexico!"— "El Grito de Dolores," and shoot their guns into the air in celebratory gun fire.

Sources:

Fehrenbach, T.H., Fire and Blood. Macmillan, 1979.

NYTimes.com 2010/09/15.

Wikipedia, "Mexican War of Independence."

Santa Teresa County Park is a Wonderful place for Mountain Bike Riders!

By Greg Koopman

Santa Teresa County Park has many wonderful opportunities for anyone wanting to ride a bicycle. Even though commuter road bikes are often seen going to and from IBM at the top of Bernal Road, the park is a haven for mountain bikers! Did you know that the trails in Santa Teresa County Park, except for the historic area, are multi-use? Riders of horses and bikes can go side-by-side anywhere the hikers go!

From the beginner trails of the Pueblo Area to the more extreme rock gardens of Rocky Ridge, there are wonderful riding experiences to be had by all! There especially are a lot of technical sections for the advanced mountain bikers at Santa Teresa County Park. These special trails offer a variety of steep climbs and thrilling single-tracks. A couple times a year, Trailhead Cyclery in San Jose puts on its Demo Days festival in the park for anyone who wants to use these great trails to try out the latest technology in high-end mountain bikes.

Remember helmets are required for all bicyclists in the Santa Clara County Park system. It's also courteous to call out around blind corners or to any hikers as to prepare for passing without scaring anyone. Calling out "One bike!" or "Two bikes are on the right!" can become much appreciated notification. When passing someone in your same direction, you can begin early to repeat slowly, "I'm on the left! I'm on the left!" Always completely stop around equestrians and ask them if their horse is ok with you passing slowly. Some say your voice makes the horses less nervous. Watch for trail closure signs during the rainy season, and make sure to bring enough sunscreen and water during the hot months. Please stay on the marked trails to keep the beautiful ecosystem of Santa Teresa County Park safe!

The main thing about Santa Teresa County Park is that it's right at the base of South San Jose. To many, the trails feel like they are right in your own backyard. I can hear them calling now!



Tree Plantings in Santa Teresa Park

By Steve Cassidy, County Parks Land Steward

I have been planting native trees and shrubs at Santa Teresa for 2 1/2 years. I did the same at Don Edwards NWR until the pandemic shut that program down. I have been concentrating my efforts on the Pueblo Day Use Area, the Mine Trail near Mine Hill, the Mine Trail at the junction with the Stile Ranch Trail, and along Bernal Rd where the Mine Trail crosses.

I have planted approx. 250 tree seedlings and about 60 shrubs. I also plant several types of wildflowers that seed readily and profusely. I protect the tree seedlings with Tubex brand plastic tree tubes. The tree tubes provide an ideal habitat to promote growth (increased humidity, protection from wind desiccation, etc) and also protect them from predation by insects, rodents, and deer. I also use metal fencing/cages to protect from rutting deer, feral pigs and cattle where necessary. I protect most of the shrubs with metal cages made from mesh.

I choose the planting areas based on the habitat map developed by Parks as well as my own observation of the area. I look at the lay of the land to see where groundwater and seasonal runoff might be available, the type of soil, solar exposure and slope, and the type of trees or other vegetation already present. I also look at whether invasive plants are present. I combine my planting with invasive plant removal—get rid of the invasives and plant something better in their place. Since I maintain the area around the tubes and cages by mowing and removing invasives (to reduce water competition, fire risk, and rodent control), it's a win-win situation.

So far my planting survival rate is about 85 percent. I plant the following trees: Valley oak, live oak, leather oak, buckeye, elderberry, red willow, arroyo willow, Fremont cottonwood, and western sycamore. I also plant the following shrubs and wildflowers: coyote brush, buckwheat, black sage, California sage, California poppy, elegant clarkia, mugwort, gumplant, purple needle grass, and arroyo lupine. I grow the majority of my trees and shrubs in my backyard from seed obtained at the park and nearby. I also get some from restoration nurseries that also source their plants near-

by and grow for Valley Water and other agencies. I test the plants I grow for disease, namely sudden oak death, before planting since I don't want to bring disease to my restoration areas.

To make it easier on the riparian trees I plant (like sycamore, willow and cottonwood), I have also been improving the habitat at the 2 true wetland areas in the park—the one at the junction of Mine Trail and Rocky Ridge Trail and the one at the junction of Mine Trail and Stile Ranch Trail. Using well-placed rocks and brush, I slow the water down, spread it out, and allow it to soak into the ground and stay wetter longer into the summer.

I water all my tree and shrub plantings every 2 weeks or so throughout the summer to keep them alive and growing. I haul the water up hills and across the fields in 5 gallon buckets. A typical day of watering involves moving 30 buckets/1500 lbs of water. On watering days, I also monitor the health of the seedlings and remove any weeds.

The other trees you see in the Pueblo Day Use Area have been planted over the years by Felipe Velazquez, the head maintenance worker at Santa Teresa for I think the past 15 years. He has protected his oaks, buckeyes, elderberries, and shrubs with wooden posts and metal cages. He also waters regularly during the summer and has had great success in adding trees where there once were none.

New Sycamore Forest in the Pueblo Area

In May of 2022, over 100 native western sycamore trees appeared in containers in the corral area of Santa Teresa County Park's Pueblo Day Use Area. They were surplus trees from Devil Mountain Nursery that were slated to be chipped. County Parks rescued them and planted them in November in a linear forest along a seasonal creek in the Pueblo. They installed an irrigation system to water them until they got established. (<https://tinyurl.com/55tmpyuv>) The heavy winter rains of 2023 gave them plenty of water. The health of the trees is being monitored by Climate Steward volunteers (<https://tinyurl.com/59aw2e5m>).



Steve Cassidy with his truck, weeding in the Pueblo Area



Sycamore trees in the Pueblo Area, April 2023

Remembering Ken Podgorsek



Ken Podgorsek, executive director of the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County, passed away unexpectedly on Christmas day 2022 at the age of 62. We at FOSTP were shocked and saddened to hear of his passing. For many years, he had been a friend and advisor to us. We have been a member of his United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County for many years, which provides us with insurance for our meetings and events. Ken was the fiscal administrator for the City of San Jose Grants that we have depended on to fund our operations: the Community Action and Pride (CAP) Grant, which became the Beautify San Jose Grant. Ken helped us by giving advice and answering questions about the grants. We invited Ken to speak at the dedication of the Gulnac Trail on 12/11/21

(<https://tinyurl.com/ycx6a74n>). He praised us for our neighborhood involvement over the years and encouraged others to get involved in their neighborhoods. Here is the video of his talk:

<https://www.stpfriends.org/Documents/KenPodgorsek.mp4>

Ken lived in Naglee Park and was a major part of the Campus Community Association, San Jose's first neighborhood association. It produces the huge Bark in the Park event downtown, which Ken helped to organize. A celebration of life was held for Ken at the Mexican Heritage Plaza on February 26, 2023. It was well attended by community members and city officials, including Mayor Sam Liccardo and Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren. They played the video of Ken's talk at the Gulnac Trail dedication.

Kitty Monahan Remembered



On 7/25/22, just after midnight, FOSTP co-founder and Vice President Kitty Monahan passed away. She had suffered a broken hip from a fall. It was inoperable, and she was under hospice care at home. Prior to that, she was frequently hospitalized with bouts of pneumonia. Many friends and community members visited her before she passed quietly. A celebration of life was held for her on September 4, 2022 at the Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association, where she was a member for many years. Here are pictures of the event: <https://tinyurl.com/6ur66usj>

Since then, Kitty has been memorialized in many ways. The New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association, which she co-founded and led for almost 40 years, purchased a memorial picnic table for her, which will be installed at the viewpoint of the Catherine Tunnel Trail. The Yellow Kid Trail in Almaden Quicksilver County Park will be renamed in her honor. There's a new memorial bench in the Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association that was dedicated to her. It was built by Girl Scout Troop 61229 under the direction of Rob Sarringhaus.



Kitty's Memorial Bench at the SCC Horsemen's Association

This newsletter is funded by the City of San Jose's Beautify San Jose Grant. FOSTP is a member of the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County (UNSCC), which is the financial agent for this grant.