

FRIENDS OF SANTA TERESA PARK



The Hidden Springs Trail leading to Coyote Peak

FOSTP News by Ron Horii

The Old Barn at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch: The Old Barn has been due for restoration for several years. Ultimately, it will be used for housing small animals, such as goats. The barn is falling apart and is in a very precarious state. There is a large coast live oak growing in one corner of the barn. Several plans were proposed for its restoration. The latest study by restoration contractors showed that 90% of the support beams are not sound and not salvageable. The foundation needs to be redone. The barn will be dismantled, rebuilt, and moved away from the oak tree. It is going out to bid. They will accept bids at a future supervisors meeting, and construction will start right after the bid is approved.

2010 Family Fandango: The fifth annual Fandango was held on Saturday August 21 at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch. The budget to pay for entertainment was cut, so the Friends of Santa Teresa Park stepped in to help by requesting money to pay for entertainment as part of our CAP Grant application from the City of San Jose. The 2010-11 Grant was approved, so we were able to hire entertainers. Entertainment was provided by Brian and Marianne Steeger of the Alta California Orchestra. They played traditional early California music, using acoustic instruments. FOSTP had an adobe brick-making activity. Kids could mix up adobe mud and pour them into molds to make adobe bricks. 4H'ers showed their chickens, rabbits, honey, and garden. The Muwekma Ohlone tribe had an information booth, a native plant activity, and served Indian tacos and beans. Ruben Reyes demonstrated pottery-making, and visitors could make their own pottery. Elena Robles and her El Grito de la Cultura dancers performed traditional Mexican folk dancers. Guests were invited to join in on the dancing. Park interpreters and volunteers led activities in cattle roping, branding, and rancho bingo. SJSU lecturer Alan Lavanthal gave a talk and slideshow on the history of the Ohlones. Justice Paul Bernal, descendant of the Bernals that founded Rancho Santa Teresa, showed pictures of his family and had costumes so kids could dress up as Spanish soldiers. For pictures of Fandango, see: <http://www.stpfriends.org/Fandango-10/Fandango10.html>

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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
- Mario Blaum, Treasurer

About Us

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP) is a volunteer organization 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 parks department. We report on problems and concerns in the park and recommend changes and improvements to the park. 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.



Neighbors, 4th graders from Baldwin School, and their parents spent 2 weeks cleaning up the Bear Tree Lot on Curie Drive.

FOSTP Reflections by Mike Boulland

Yesterday, I was looking through some of the old FOSTP pictures and archive binders and realized that about twenty-four years ago, I was invited by Karen Foss, the 1989 Santa Clara County Park's Director, to attend a County Parks area-wide meeting to represent Santa Teresa Park. The meeting was called to create new "Friends" groups for each county park. A week later after the meeting, Dave Hildebrandt, a parent from my Baldwin Elementary School classroom, spoke to me about his concerns regarding the historic Buck Norred property being abandoned. He was very troubled about many buildings being tagged and vandalized, and many under-aged drinking parties held in the late evenings in the park.



Historic buildings at the Joice-Bernal Ranch were tagged and vandalized before they were restored and turned into an interpretive center at the Santa Teresa Historic Area.

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FOSTP Reflections, cont'd.

I explained that the County Director just asked me to create a new "Friends Group" that could help get volunteers to help do improvement projects and address some of the vandalism issues in Santa Teresa Park. I explained I too had an interest in creating a new group. I was concerned our community would lose the valuable Rancho Santa Teresa Bear Tree on Lot #9, located near Bernal School, to vandalism. I told him many of the neighbors and I believed the Lot #9 property should not be sold to a developer who wanted to build a new multi-unit home subdivision.

Both Dave Hildebrandt and I agreed we would work to save the historic areas. Dave and I envisioned the county building a community interpretive museum to tell the story of Rancho Santa Teresa. We created a goal to make Santa Teresa Park a shiny gem in the county park system where community members could volunteer to help support the park.

Yesterday, I began to realize all the time we all spent working together to get organized actually paid off since both the Buck Norred and the Bear Tree Lot #9 properties have been added to the park system due to our support. Most importantly, last year, the Santa Clara County Parks Department finished and approved its Site Plan for the construction of the Rancho Santa Teresa Historic Site. It is a project that FOSTP members have been encouraging for twenty years. Hopefully, in the next few years with our continued support, the project will be completed, and the community will have access to a wonderful historical interpretive building.

We strongly felt the City of San Jose needed a new museum to interpret Santa Teresa's community history in our neighborhood. Our early conversation led us to ask neighbors, businesses, children, and other neighborhood supporters to help us rally the public to purchase and save these important Santa Teresa landmarks sites. Joining us during this early organizational time were Kitty Monahan, Mario Blaum, Elaine Baker, and other community members. This early group worked hard to raise funds to encourage the county to purchase several properties. The Santa Teresa Golf Club allowed us to use their facilities to formally meet and create our present organization, "The Friends of Santa Teresa Park". I am delighted to say many of the same original members are still on our board of directors.

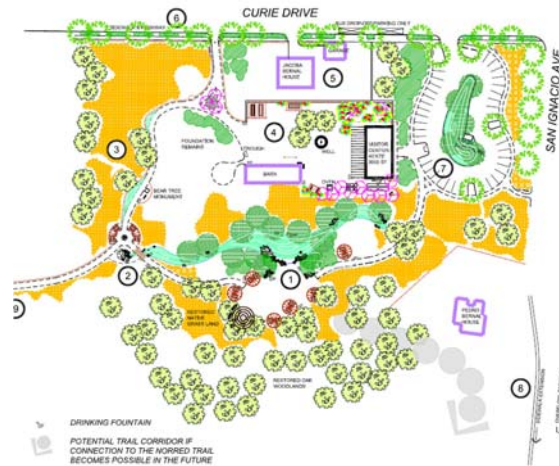
As an elementary teacher at Baldwin Elementary School in the Oak Grove School District, I envisioned a goal to get more families and children to use Santa Teresa Park, appreciate its history and trails, and most of all enjoy the outdoors. Often in class I would ask them if they ever went with their parents to the park? The children always answered, "No!", and then said, "Where is that park?" They were often surprised when I told them to look out the window at the rolling western hills two blocks from the school and that the hills were a park! This is now changed because at that time Santa Teresa Park



Trail work day on the Stile Ranch Trail

did not have many trails built, but had lots of "Keep Out" signs, barbed wire fences, and no interpretive programs. I felt the reason the children had no interest in using the outdoor park was because it was not a user-friendly park.

Every year, we see the same lack of familiarity with the park when we have our FOSTP booth at the Santa Teresa Community Fest at George Page Park. We always ask the same question to passing residents, "Do you know where Santa Teresa Park is located?" Many times, we get the same answer the children gave. We hear, "No?" as an answer from many visitors. After we tell them where it is, many residents reply, "I have lived here for many years, and I never knew those hills are a park!"



Santa Teresa Historic Site Plan on Curie Drive and San Ignacio Ave.

Last month, Santa Teresa Park's user status has changed. I was delighted and surprised to hear at the June Santa Clara County Parks' Commission meeting that Santa Teresa Park now holds the title as the second most popular park for users in the county park system. I felt proud that all the work FOSTP volunteers donated in monitoring the buildings for vandals, and in helping to plan and build various trails in the park (Ohlone, Stile Ranch, Laurel Canyon, Fortini, Rocky Ridge, and the new Norred Trail) in the last twenty-two years has paid off. The new county statistics showed more adults and children appreciated the access trails we built to the parks' wonderful back-country wildflower trails. The report is all the proof I need to show to my FOSTP members that their work has made a difference, the community appreciates their volunteer work, and has met our goal to make Santa Teresa a bright shiny gem in the county park system. Therefore, I take this time to recognize and thank all the park staff, community members, and volunteers who helped and continue to help us achieve our goal over the last twenty -two years.



Signs by Santa Teresa Spring before the area was opened to the public.

Trails of Santa Teresa Park: The Bernal Hill Loop by Mario Blaum

Today's loop will start at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch at the corner of Manila Drive and Camino Verde Drive. There is normally enough parking on Manila Drive. As usual, it is better to follow directions using a map of the park. You can download it from <http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/parks/> and then search for Santa Teresa County Park (or just make a Google search). The Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch deserves a visit on its own. It used to be the home of the families that owned the land until well after the second half of the 20th century, before it was developed across the street. The ancient family home is now a small museum, where you can find some interesting pieces from the past. It is open on Saturdays, as well as the barn, which was reconstructed a few years ago. A second barn is nearly in ruins, but the county plans to reconstruct it as well in the near future. At the ranch, there are restrooms and maps of the park.

We start our hike by taking the Joice trail, which is steep uphill. After 0.1 miles, we intersect the Norred trail, which was built a few years ago and connects the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice and Norred ranches. But today we continue uphill on the Joice trail. This trail gets very muddy after heavy rains in winter. At a certain moment, the trail turns right, and there we have some of the best views of the Silicon Valley. Especially in the evening, when the sun is setting, those views



View of the Joice Trail from the Bernal Hill Trail.

are gorgeous. We continue on the Joice Trail until we reach the Bernal Hill trail, some half-mile after leaving the Norred trail. At the fork, we make a right and continue uphill on the Joice trail, which is very steep for a while, but then it turns left and gets more flat. Be careful with loose stones here, I am speaking by (painful) experience. After .4 miles, we reach the next intersection, and there we make a right towards the Vista Loop. We reach the Vista Loop shortly, and there we make a right. The loop is around 0.6 miles long, at the beginning it is flat, and again we have great views from there. Then there are some steep hills (but short), and the trail flattens again, as we pass close to the IBM Almaden Research Center property (there is barbed wire; don't trespass there). You can see from above at your right Bernal Road and the entrance to the IBM facility.

When we join again the Joice trail, we turn to the right, and there is a very steep downhill 0.1 miles long (again, be careful there), then we reach the Bernal Hill trail. There we make a left (an alternative is making a right, joining the Mine trail parallel to Bernal Road, and then the Norred trail to rejoin the Joice trail, for a longer loop). The Bernal Hill trail is mostly flat, but there is a steep and short hill; at the end of it we are rewarded by one of those magnificent views of the valley. From then on it is mostly flat or with very moderate hills, always with

great views. We continue until we reach again the Joice trail, and then we descend to get back at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch, completing our hike.



Wildflower Presentation at the Santa Teresa Library by Maureen Kluska

On Saturday, April 30th the Friends of Santa Teresa Park, FOSTP, hosted a Pre-Mother's Day Wildflower slideshow and presentation at the Santa Teresa Library. Mike Boulland, president of FOSTP, identified and described the wildflowers growing in the Santa Teresa Park, showing a vast collection of slides taken by Ron Horii, FOSTP secretary and resident photographer. Mike also entertained the group of parents and children with a few short tales and legends of the Santa Teresa Hills area.

During the slide show, children had the opportunity to design Mother's Day cards using pictures of wildflowers, making crepe paper flowers or using cut lavender spears to decorate their creative cards. The children were so enthusiastic making these cards that many made more than one to give to their mom on Mother's Day. Dot Wilson and Maureen Kluska, members of FOSTP, assisted the children as they cut, glued, and fastened lavender spears to cards.

All attendees were given a Nature Guide with colorful pictures of some of the local wildflowers found in the Santa Teresa hills. Many children learned that the hills in Santa Teresa Park could be seen from the large picture windows in the Santa Teresa Library. All were encouraged to hike in Santa Teresa Park and locate some of the wildflowers they could now identify using their Nature Guide.



Kids making wildflower Mother's Day cards.

**Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation
Adopt-A-Trail Program by Kitty Monahan**

This program started in 2006 has just gone through a renovation and final approval and was completed in May of 2010. This program is for a group, a family, or a single individual. Adopt-a-Trail volunteers take care of a trail or section of a trail within a County Park. They conduct trail brushing/pruning, litter/debris removal, routine trail tread/drainage clearing, and major trail problem reporting.

There is a formal Adopt-a-Trail Application and initial training. The requirements for this program are quite simple. A group, after completing the application and training, will assign a liaison to the Department. This lead person will plan the dates for checking trails and dates for doing work. The department has asked 20 hours a year of trail work and a sign signifying the Adopt-A-Trail Group will be placed at the entrances to the park where the Trail has been adopted.

Some Santa Clara County Parks have Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers working in the Parks. These are: Almaden Quicksilver, Santa Teresa, Hellyer, Mt. Madonna, Villa Montalvo, Penitencia, and Stevens Creek.

The Friends of Santa Teresa County Park have adopted the Norred Trail. Woody Collins is the liaison.

For further information or to adopt a trail contact; Volunteer program 298 Garden Hill Dr., Los Gatos, Ca. 95032 (408) 355-2254 or sign up on www.parkhere.org.



Working on the Norred Trail

Coyote Peak Interpretive Panel by Mike Boulland

This year, FOSTP members are designing a new interpretive panel to be placed on top of Coyote Peak. The panel will be designed to identify various local landmarks visitors can see from the summit. Photographers Ron Horii and Sam Drake's fantastic vista photos will be used, and the display will be designed to have small pictures taken by a telephoto lens showing spectacular closeup views of Mt Tamalpais, the Transamerica Pyramid, and the Golden Gate Bridge towers. Next year, FOSTP members are planning to have a celebration when the design and installation of the panel is completed in the late fall of 2012.



This telephoto view from Coyote Peak includes Palmia, the Martial Cottle Ranch, Communications Hill, downtown San Jose, Mineta San Jose Airport, Mt. Tamalpais, downtown San Francisco, Angel Island, and the Coyote Hills.

FOSTP News Cont'd.

The 11th annual Santa Teresa Community Fest: The 11th annual Santa Teresa Community Fest was held at George Page Park on 9/18/10. FOSTP had a booth there, next to the Santa Teresa foothills Neighborhood Association (STFNA) and the Santa Clara County Open Space Authority (SCCOSA). At the FOSTP booth, we had pictures of Santa Teresa Park, a display model of Rancho Santa Teresa, and a model of a bull and bear fight. For kids, we had a beanbag toss game. We passed out park maps, park information, Healthy Trails flyers, and our newsletter. We talked to visitors about Santa Teresa Park and our organization. For pictures from Community Fest, see: http://www.stpfriends.org/ST-Comm-Fest_9-18-10/Fest-2010-FOSTP.html

Santa Teresa Library Birthday Celebration: On February 5, 2011, the Santa Teresa Branch Library celebrated its first birthday since it was rebuilt from the ground up in 2010. FOSTP was invited to give presentations about Santa Teresa Park. We had several tables setup similar to what we did for Community Fest. We had the models, newsletters, maps, and literature, as well as posters with pictures of the park. Sam Drake had displays on geocaching and a panoramic picture taken from Bernal Hill. Paul Bernal came and showed his historic



family pictures and had the costumes for dressing up as a Spanish soldier. Mike Boulland, along with teacher and illustrator Katy Tyler, presented stories and drawings on Santa Teresa's legends. Ron Horii gave a slideshow presentation showing pictures of Santa Teresa Park. Sam Drake gave a presentation on geocaching, then led a group on a geocache hunt at the library. See here for pictures: http://www.stpfriends.org/ST-Library-Anniv_02-05-11/Birthday.html

Santa Teresa Cattle Grazing Plan: On June 8, 2011, the County Parks gave a presentation on grazing plans for Santa Teresa Park. Don Rocha, Natural Resources Manager for the County Parks gave an overview of the plan, while consultants provided the details. The reason for re-introducing grazing to Santa Teresa Park is to control non-native vegetation, which has been crowding out rare native plants, reducing the habitat for endangered and threatened species which depend on them, especially the bay checkerspot butterfly. The bay checkerspot used to be found in Santa Teresa, but disappeared when grazing was curtailed. The butterfly now thrives on Coyote Ridge on the other side of the Coyote Valley, where grazing is used to manage the habitat. Experts in grazing management, sensitive habitats, plants, wildlife, invertebrates, hydrology, and soils studied different aspects of the park. Their goals were to improve habitats for endangered species, reduce fire hazards, control pest plants, maintain recreation, and establish a sustainable cattle operation. They looked to see what areas of the park were suitable for grazing and excluded areas that were not. They determined that out of Santa Teresa's 1700 acres, 790 were grazeable. They will need to put in fences, gates, wells, and water troughs for cattle. To see the presentations and maps on the plan, go to parkhere.org and click on "Future Plans Here," "Santa Teresa County Park Grazing Management Plan."

See www.stpfriends.org for more news and pictures.