

# FRIENDS OF SANTA TERESA PARK



*The Hidden Springs Trail leading to Coyote Peak*

## Santa Teresa Historic Site Plan Ready to Go

By Mike Boulland

Good news! The Santa Clara County Parks Commission approved the Santa Teresa Historic Site Plan implementation during its May 2013 meeting. This is a major step in providing funding to the master plan of the area. FOSTP members are excited that the corner lot by Curie Drive and San Ignacio Way will someday be redeveloped into a wonderful neighborhood history center that tells the story of our early Native Americans and European settlers.

The plan includes completion of new access trails, Native American center, interpretive museum, staff offices and Californio rancho displays. With this new historic site, our local school children will have a first-hand opportunity to appreciate the historical importance of this site. The site dates early man's presence back to his occupation 6,000 years ago to early prehistory man, the Native American period, Spanish settlers, Californio Rancho era, California's statehood and to today's modern man.

We look forward to the ground-breaking, as the completion of the project will be a wonderful and excellent asset for our community.

### 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 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. You are welcome to join our Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FoSTP/>

**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

## Cattle Return to Santa Teresa

By Mike Boulland

After careful review, education, and discussion, the members of FOSTP support the SCCP&R Grazing Management Plan (GMP) for Santa Teresa County Park. This plan is designed to reintroduce managed cattle grazing to the park. It plans to improve management of annual grassland, oak woodland, and serpentine grassland habitats, with an emphasis on promoting serpentine-based plant species that provide potential habitat for the federally-listed threatened Bay checkerspot butterfly (BCB). Also, the GMP will provide a guide for managing habitat for other sensitive species, vegetation fuel loads, and pest plant encroachment, balanced with recreational access and enjoyment.

Funding from outside grant sources will help with the design of the project, and then construction improvement would include livestock infrastructure elements, such as perimeter and internal fencing, three types of gates (cattle movement gates, general vehicle access gates, and recreational access gates), and watering facilities to complement existing stock ponds, including water tanks, pumps, troughs, and pipelines to provide supplemental water and improve cattle distribution. The proposed project includes the rerouting of a section of the Rocky Ridge Trail, which includes the installation of a new bridge and restoration of the site crossing over Santa Teresa Creek, to reduce impacts to the tributary of Santa Teresa Creek. A few trails may be slightly rerouted but none will be closed because of reintroduction of cattle to the park. For more information, see: <http://www.sccgov.org/sites/parks/Future%20Plans%20Here/Documents/SantaTeresaGMPFinalDraft041213.pdf>

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## County Parks Volunteer Program Comes to the Muriel Wright Center

by Mike Boulland

This year, the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation Department's Volunteer Program moved from trailers at park headquarters in Vasona County Park to the Muriel Wright Center in Santa Teresa Park. The move allows the expanding Volunteer Program room to grow. It took over one half of the building complex. The building was remodeled, using Americorps crews.

Americorps is a US Government program, similar to the Peace Corps. It is made up of college-age adults from all over the country who spend time in various locations doing community service work. The Muriel Wright center provided the Americorps teams an ideal place to live for six weeks. In return for their housing, they helped remodel the old Muriel Wright detention center into a modern facility for park staff and the Sheriff's Department. They also did construction and maintenance work all around the county.

We are delighted that both the Volunteer Staff and the Americorps programs are located at Santa Teresa Park. We feel their addition to our community will help keep Santa Teresa Park as the best-kept secret gem in the county.

## Santa Teresa is Going to the Dogs, or Vice Versa

By Ellen Finch

Once again, I've been working at the computer for hours upon hours, maybe even days. Tika, my Australian Shepherd mix, has begun nudging my elbows and pacing. Nudge, pace, nudge nudge, pace, nudge, pace, REALLY BIG NUDGE. Boost, the usually perfectly-behaved Border Collie, is out in the yard barking at nothing, then blasts back inside, tips over her toy basket, and dismantles the dog beds. Something tells me that it's time to get all three of us out of the house for some exercise and a change of scenery. Could walk around the same old neighborhood block again, but noooo--today, Santa Teresa calls!

It's a great place for the dogs and for me, too. It's usually not very crowded, and the dogs can sniff their little noses off. Bikers? No problem: in my experience, if I make an effort to move out of their way, they make an effort to respect my dogs' space as well and often stop to chat about them. I like Fortini Road to the Pueblo area and back for days when a fairly easy stroll seems best, or we'll climb from the archery range entrance straight up to the top of Coyote Peak for a strenuous workout followed by lovely views. So many trails, so many options.

It can be warm on the exposed slopes of the park, and there's not much shade, so I carry water for myself and for the dog beasts. Of course I always have a couple of plastic bags for a quick scoop-and-carry if the pups decide to leave a little doggie deposit alongside the trail. You probably

know that the tall grasses can harbor ticks, so I try to keep my fur-girls out of the tall vegetation, and I check them frequently and at the end of the hike. On most hikes, I find none of the little critters, but it's good to be sure.

After a couple or five miles of walking and sniffing (dogs) and perhaps some geocaching (me), I'm stretched out and comfortable and ready to go back to my computer. And, thank goodness, the dog girls are ready for a nap and are once again content to be good, well-behaved, happy and peaceful household companions.



## 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 all of the open trails in Santa Teresa County Park 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-track. A couple times a year, Trailhead Cyclery in San Jose puts on its Demo Days show in the park for anyone who wants to use these great trails to try out the latest technology in high-end mountain bikes.

Remember that helmets are required for all bicyclists on unpaved trails in the Santa Clara County Park system. It's also courteous to call out around blind corners or to any hikers 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 and to many, it feels like it's right in your own backyard. I can hear it calling now!

## **Rancho Santa Teresa History: Antonio Maria Sunol**

by Mike Boulland

Last month, the California Pioneers of Santa Clara reported their celebrated move to a new office space in the Roberto-Sunol adobe in Willow Glen. It was once the home of Antonio Maria Sunol, who married Maria Dolores Bernal.

Antonio Maria Sunol was one of our most important early San Jose pioneers. He also had a large rancho in Alameda County where the town of Sunol is named after him. His wife, Maria Dolores Bernal, was one of Joaquin Bernal's daughters. Joaquin Bernal was one of the original settlers of Rancho Santa Teresa.

In this edition of our newsletter, I have included a letter from Paul Bernal, whose family was the pioneering settlers of Rancho Santa Teresa, and because of the important historical connection that Rancho Santa Teresa has with Antonio Maria Sunol and his wife Maria Dolores Bernal.

One interesting fact is that Antonio Maria Sunol lived at Rancho Santa Teresa around 1823 with his wife Maria Dolores Bernal during the Golden Age of the California Rancho era. The time was just before the Gold Rush. He was the mayor of Pueblo San Jose, and Rancho Santa Teresa was in its prime. Rancho Santa Teresa's fertile fields of fruit, vegetables, and grain always gave an abundant surplus of crops during this era. Much of Santa Teresa's extra beef, hides, and crops were sold to various local ranchos or exported to other parts of the colony, making the Bernal family extremely wealthy. Later, beef and fresh vegetables were also in high demand during the Gold Rush period and added to the Bernal family's large profits.

An interesting connection between Antonio Sunol and Rancho Santa Teresa was with his friend, John Sutter from Sacramento, the builder of Sutter's Fort. Since both Sunol and Sutter spoke French, they became good friends in politics and business. Due to the high cost of the Sutter's Fort construction, John Sutter came to Antonio Sunol to replenish his supplies needed to complete the fort. Sunol generously allowed Sutter to purchase on credit many of the needed supplies and resources. Over the years, Sutter created a huge debt owed to the Bernal family. The debt was made up of funds borrowed for purchasing Rancho Santa Teresa's resources. Specifically, Sutter purchased large stocks of horses, cattle, grain, wine, native workers, etc. to supply and construct Sutter's Fort. Sutter over-expanded and eventually went broke when the 49ers arrived and squatted on or stole his land.<sup>1</sup>

Sunol, feeling sorry for his friend, allowed Sutter more time to pay back the loans. Finally, Sunol had to call in the repayment of the loans. Sunol was one of the last creditors to call in the loans to settle the debt on his French-speaking friend. John Sutter, not much later, went bankrupt, lost his fort, fortune, and was left penniless.

It is connections like those in the above story that make Rancho Santa Teresa one of the most historically important sites in the Santa Clara County Park System. Therefore, FOSTP members congratulate the California Pioneers for acquiring the Roberto-Sunol Adobe. We are impressed that they are joining us to help keep the mission to preserve the history of the valley local pioneers alive so our children can have an understanding of the past. Paul Bernal's letter is below, reprinted with permission and courtesy from the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County and Paul Bernal:

*"Dear members of the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, It is with great excitement that I share with you that the Pioneers has acquired the Roberto-Sunol Adobe, located at 770 Lincoln Avenue in Willow Glen, San Jose, California. On May 31, 2013, the owners – siblings John Bruzzone Jr., Jeanette Bruzzone, and Joyce Lo Franco -- donated the adobe, as well as the Laura Ville two-story historic landmark and grounds to our organization. The California Pioneers of Santa Clara County will create a museum for the benefit of the public. The adobe is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

*Adding the Roberto-Sunol Adobe to our menu of educational resources is squarely within the mission of the Pioneers. It is a unique opportunity for our community to enjoy a museum that will showcase the stories of pioneers across many eras of our valley's history. We are of course thrilled to have received this gift from the Bruzzone family.*

*This is a monumental donation not only to the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County but also to the community.*

*I look forward to inviting you to our open house when the museum is up and running. If any of you have an interest in being a docent at either of our museums, please let me know.*

*Thanks for all you do!*

*Paul Bernal, President, California Pioneers of Santa Clara County*

*Background of the Adobe property:*

*The indigenous people known as the Tamien lived in what was later called Willow Glen for thousands of years.*

*In 1775-1776 Spaniard Captain Juan Bautista de Anza led a settlement expedition that resulted in the founding of Pueblo San Jose de Guadalupe. San Jose was the first civil settlement in California, and would later be California's first state Capital.*

*Mission Santa Clara was founded in 1777, and what became Willow Glen was part of the mission lands, used for grazing sheep and raising pigs.*

*An indigenous Indian named Roberto Balermino was born c1782 and grew up on this part of the valley in a rancheria called San Juan Bautista, where the Guadalupe and Los Gatos Rivers came together in Willow Glen. His adult occupation was that of a cook, probably serving food to the army of Indian workers on the vast mission lands.*

*Around 1836, Roberto Balermino built the Roberto Adobe, which still stands today. He petitioned the Mexican governor for a land grant called Rancho de los Cochinos (Ranch of the Pigs). He was granted the 2,219 acres in 1844.*

*By 1844, Spaniard Antonio Maria Sunol was living upon Rancho los Cochinos with his wife Maria Dolores Bernal and their children. Sunol was among the most educated citizens of San Jose,*



having been schooled in France. In 1847, Sunol acquired Rancho los Cochés, and built a brick house adjoining the Roberto Adobe. It was the first brick house to be completed in Alta California. At this residence, which still exists on the historic site, Sunol entertained members of the first California Legislature.

In 1853, an Italian sea captain named Stefano Splivalo purchased the Sunol home, and the surrounding ranch. Splivalo added a second story and encased the brick walls in wood siding. This is how the home looks today.

John Bruzzone Sr., owned the Pied Piper Exterminators business in Willow Glen. He owned the land behind the adobe site. In 1973, Bruzzone first laid eyes on the adobe and Splivalo's home, which carried the name "Laura Ville." When Bruzzone learned how unique the buildings were, he spent much time and money restoring them to their earlier glory. He hired adobe expert Gilbert Sanchez, an architect and contractor, to reinforce and rebuild the Roberto-Sunol Adobe and the Sunol-Splivalo House. It took three years and \$300,000. The buildings were reopened in 1977. Laura Ville was rented as law offices until 2012.

On May 31, 2013, the three children of the late Julia and John Bruzzone Sr., sought a reliable historic organization to take possession of the property. Their wish was in line with John Bruzzone Sr.'s love of local history. They chose the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County."

1 - Delgado, James P.: *Witness to Empire, The Life of Antonio Maria Sunol*; San Jose State University, Soursisseau Academy for California State and Local History, pgs. 29-33

## Join the Fun and Entertainment at a Free Family Event on Sat. Aug. 24

Family Fandango at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm, 372 Manila Drive, San Jose, CA 95119. This is a public community event sponsored by the Santa Clara County Parks Department. "Family Fandango is a family-oriented evening highlighting 1770-1870 California. Learn about life in long ago times with members of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. There will be Folklorico dancing. Come dress like Alta California colonists, create pottery, investigate Meson del Minero/Trading Post, and participate in pretend branding, roping, crafts, and more!"



## CAP Grant Program

The Friends of Santa Teresa Park received a \$400 Community Action and Pride (CAP) Grant from the City of San Jose. We want to thank the city for awarding us this grant, which pays for our membership to the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County, our website, and for expenses producing this newsletter.

## Group Organizes to Save Mt. Umunhum

By Mike Boulland

FOSTP members support the new Umunhum Conservancy. This nonprofit corporation is dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Mt. Umunhum and its historic Radar Tower.

Mt. Umunhum and the Radar Tower are owned by the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD). MROSD is in the process of opening the summit of Mt. Umunhum to the public. However, MROSD does not have the funding to preserve and operate the Radar Tower alone. In October 2012 MROSD announced that they are interested in working with other organizations to preserve the Radar Tower.

The Umunhum Conservancy was founded in October 2012 to help answer that call. The Conservancy promotes the cause of protecting, preserving, and operating Mt. Umunhum and the Tower, raises funds for those purposes, and will issue grants to MROSD and others to implement those objectives. For more information and to help out, see <http://umunhumconservancy.org/>

## County Parks and Volunteers Webpages

County Parks docent, photographer, FOSTP secretary and webmaster Ron Horii has created a webpage with collections of his favorite pictures of all the County Parks: <http://www.stpfriends.org/SCCP/Pictures.html> Ron has another webpage showing examples of County Park volunteer activities and events:

<http://www.stpfriends.org/SCCP/Vols.html>

These are ongoing projects and will be updated continuously in the future as Ron gets more pictures. Ron also has his own website on San Francisco Bay Area Recreation and Travel, which has information about parks, hiking, biking, photography, and places to visit: <http://www.rhorii.com>

## Santa Teresa Park Spring-Summer 2013 events

For details about these events, see the Online Calendar at [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org).

- Saturday, July 6: Healthy Trails Walk, Santa Teresa Park's Historic Bernal Ranch, 9am-11am.
- Saturday, July 13: Micro-Zoology Night, Santa Teresa Park's Historic Bernal Ranch, 7:30pm-10pm.
- Saturday, July 27: Water, Wildlife and Working Lands Series, Santa Teresa/Bernal Ranch, 12pm-2pm.
- Saturday, August 10: Meteor Shower Campout, Santa Teresa, 7pm.
- Saturday, August 24: Family Fandango, Santa Teresa Park's Historic Bernal Ranch, 5pm-8pm.
- Saturday, August 31: Water, Wildlife and Working Lands Series - Wildlife, Santa Teresa, 7pm-8:30pm.
- Saturday, August 31: In the Park After Dark Movie Night, Santa Teresa, 8pm-11pm.