



GREEN FOOTNOTES

COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS www.GreenFoothills.org

SPRING 2003

California's coast: Worth fighting for!

BY LENNIE ROBERTS

At a celebration of the coast held February 1 at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, activists from throughout California marked the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Coastal Initiative, Proposition 20.

Despite the successes we celebrated, Herculean struggles over development of California's coast are still with us, as evidenced by the recent Court of Appeals decision that the Coastal Commission is unconstitutional, citing the "4-4-4" appointment structure of Commissioners by the Senate Rules Committee, Speaker of the Assembly, and the Governor.

The Commission has appealed this decision, and the Legislature has passed a surgical "fix" which the Governor has signed. The central issue identified by the Court is that of Commissioners serving entirely at the will of their appointing bodies, since this places the Commission at risk of undue influence over votes. Historically, some Commissioners have been replaced in the middle of meetings by their appointing authority, which has a chilling effect on their independence. Changing the law to require four-year fixed terms for Commissioners will reduce this kind of manipulation.

An ironic example of undue influence was the swift replacement of two Commissioners who voted against the Devil's Slide Bypass back in 1985. Caltrans and development-minded allies exerted raw political muscle to overcome the Commission's unfavorable staff recommendation. An initial vote of 7-5 to

deny the coastal permit for the Bypass was overturned three months later, after the offending two Commissioners were replaced. But this story turns out better than most, as in the end, the passage of Measure T trumped everything else, and in the spring of 2004, construction will finally begin on the tunnel.

Looking back over the past 30 years, I feel incredibly privileged to have been involved in this historic struggle. Proposition 20 and the 1976 California Coastal Act, crafted by the Legislature, embody landmark concepts for this country, and for California in particular.

European countries for years have recognized the importance of creating livable cities and preserving their countryside. But our country's frontier mentality drove the sprawling development that postwar America found irresistible. If development patterns had continued as envisioned in the 1960 San Mateo County Master Plan, there would literally be no "coast" as we know it left today.

Indeed, Henry Doelger's vision for the Half Moon Bay area was to extend Daly City and Pacifica's postwar housing patterns



Ken Adelman

Developers hastily vested their rights to build in 1972 by erecting a never-used concrete foundation on the bluff where the Ritz Carlton now stands – just as the Coastal Initiative was being signed. Thanks to this aerial photo, image no. 13294 from Ken Adelman's website (see related story on page 11), we can now easily see these pillars emerging from the eroding cliffs and the illegal blufftop rip-rap installed in efforts to prevent such erosion from continuing.

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COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS

Committee for Green Foothills is a regional grassroots organization working to establish and maintain land-use policies that protect the environment throughout San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties.

The mission of the Committee for Green Foothills is to protect and preserve the hills, forests, creeks, wetlands, and coastal lands of the San Francisco Peninsula through grassroots education, planning, and legislative advocacy. Founded in 1962, the Committee is a Bay Area leader in the continuing effort to protect open space and the natural environment of the Peninsula.

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From the *Executive Director...*

With the Committee for Green Foothills' 40th anniversary well celebrated from start to finish, we turn now to a year of program expansion and strengthening partnerships, all with the goal of sharpening our focus on the protection of open lands, ranchlands, agricultural lands and hillside on the Coast and Peninsula. If we have learned anything in the last 40 years, it is that the land can not defend itself from ill-conceived development — such protections require a community of dedicated citizens and the Committee for Green Foothills!

We continue our vigilance to protect open space in the face of a few organizational changes. At the end of December, we bid a fond farewell to Denice Dade, who had served as the Committee's Santa Clara County Legislative Advocate since 1998. During her tenure with the Committee, Denice forged a reputation for being courageous, tenacious and smart. In 2000, she assumed a key leadership role in the campaign to build a strong Community Plan for Stanford University and as a result, for the first time in the history of Santa Clara County, we now have a set of documents that hold Stanford accountable to the surrounding community for their development plans. This was one of the most challenging battles the Committee ever faced and we owe much of its success to Denice Dade. We'll miss her and wish her the very best in her new ventures!

We will be transitioning to our new Santa Clara County Advocate over the next several months. At the same time, we are thrilled to announce that thanks to several very special benefactors who have chosen to make generous gifts in support of organizational development, we will also bring on two brand new staff members.

In San Mateo County, we will bring on a new part-time Legislative Advocate who will help address increased development pressure along the Coast and also assist in the expansion of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to the Coast. Our new Advocate will work alongside the legendary Lennie Roberts, who has devoted herself as a volunteer to coastal protection on behalf of the Committee for Green Foothills for the last 27 years. We are quite confident that these two San Mateo County advocates will form a formidable team.

As you will recall, our 40th anniversary year

was devoted to you — our wonderful members and partners in environmental action. During that year we hosted a series of special events ranging from hikes, bike rides, and environmental forums to our gala event at Ridge Vineyards. Our goal was to help connect you to each other, to us and to the work for which we share a commitment. After all, it is our partnerships with our members and the community that permit us to be strong and effective advocates for open space protection. Last year was such a wonderful success that we want to increase the opportunities for our partnerships to blossom in the years to come.

So, in the coming months we will also add to our team an Associate Development Director whose job it will be to develop and expand opportunities to connect with you and to connect you to the land we love.

We are very excited by these opportunities for organizational growth and are confident that they will permit us to be even more effective in our advocacy for open space preservation. As always, we feel extremely blessed to have such an outpouring of support from you, especially during these challenging times. With the specter of war on the horizon, perhaps now more than ever we need to return to the land often to renew our courage and replenish our spirits. In the words of the Committee's Founding President, Wallace Stegner, "We simply need that wild country available to us, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in. For it can be a means of reassuring ourselves of our sanity as creatures, a part of the geography of hope."

—Wallace Stegner, *the Wilderness Letter*, 1960
(The full text of Stegner's inspiring letter can be found on our website at www.GreenFoothills.org/wildletter).

We look forward to introducing the new members of our staff in our next issue of *Green Footnotes*. In the meantime, know that we are working hard to create a sustainable Committee for Green Foothills — one which we will be around to work with you in protecting the lands we love for at least another 40 years.

Peace to you and all in your families.

Stanford continues to drag its feet on establishment of two required public trails

BY PETER DREKMEIER

The location of the two trails required under Stanford's General Use Permit and Community Plan continues to spark controversy. Stanford's maneuvering on this issue is indicative of the University's reluctance to fully comply with the conditions specified in the agreement it signed more than two years ago.

When the Santa Clara County Supervisors approved Stanford's General Use Permit (GUP) and Community Plan in December 2000, they granted the University approximately 5 million square feet of development over the next ten years. In exchange for this huge development entitlement, Stanford agreed to meet all the conditions of the GUP as set by the County. One condition reads: "Stanford shall dedicate easements for, develop, and maintain the portions of the two trail alignments which cross Stanford lands shown in the 1995 Santa Clara Countywide Trails Master Plan (Routes S1 and C1)..."

Master Plan includes requirements and flexibility

From the outset, the locations of these trails were controversial. Language in the Countywide Trails Master Plan is vague, with alignments essentially running along creeks and meant to be general locations. Stanford quickly attempted to site the trails along busy roads on the edges of its land, while environmentalists and hikers supported scenic routes that would connect with other trails in the area.

However, some of the language in the Countywide Trails Master Plan is very clear. The Plan clearly requires these — like all County trails — to be safe and recreational. The Plan also requires the two trails required of Stanford to be in Santa Clara County, and to connect to Palo Alto's Arastradero Preserve.

The Plan specifies that the required S1 trail — also known as the southern trail — is in the Matadero Creek area near Page Mill Road. The required C1 trail — also known as the western trail — is in the area of San Francisquito and Los

PLACING THE WESTERN TRAIL: A COMPARISON OF TWO POTENTIAL ALIGNMENTS

Two potential alignments for the western trail required by Stanford's General Use Permit differ significantly. The route endorsed by the community and Committee for Green Foothills (C1-B) meets the environmental and recreational requirements of the County Trails Master Plan. The route proposed by Stanford (C1-C) does not.

COMMUNITY ENDORSED TRAIL (C1-B)	STANFORD ROADSIDE ROUTE (C1-C)
<i>Runs along the inside edge of the Stanford golf course, on the Dish side of San Francisquito Creek; passes through tunnel under 280 to Arastradero Road.</i>	<i>Runs largely along and adjacent to Sand Hill and Alpine Roads to Arastradero Road.</i>
<i>Provides "Medium to High" recreational value, as assessed by County staff.</i>	<i>Provides minimal recreational value due to its close proximity to busy roadways for the entire length of the trail.</i>
<i>Has low environmental impact as determined by County staff; doesn't pose threat to creek habitat.</i>	<i>Has significant environmental impacts: requires removal of more than 40 trees, including some heritage oaks, and requires creek bank fortification.</i>
<i>Requires no negotiation with San Mateo County or other landholders; has no impact on property owners in the Stanford Weekend Acres neighborhood.</i>	<i>Is contentious: homeowners in the Weekend Acres neighborhood have sued San Mateo County over the easement required for the trail right-of-way.</i>
<i>Avoids unsafe crossings with roadways and driveways; avoids the entrance and exit ramps of I-280 by utilizing a service tunnel under the freeway.</i>	<i>Creates "Medium to High risks to public safety" as evaluated by County staff, from heavy traffic on Sand Hill and Alpine Roads and cross traffic from numerous driveways and roads in the Stanford Weekend Acres neighborhood.</i>
<i>Is entirely in Santa Clara County.</i>	<i>Is mostly in San Mateo County.</i>

Trancos Creeks near Alpine Road.

Because Stanford's proposed trails do not meet a number of requirements of the Master Plan, the environmental community — including Stanford Open Space Alliance, Committee for Green Foothills, and others — have been opposing these alignments, and supporting instead community-endorsed options.

Stanford puts halt to progress on trails

As a result of the controversy, the December 2001 deadline for trail dedications passed with little forward movement.

In June 2002, the Supervisors directed County staff to move forward with an environmental review for the trail alternatives with the most potential. It looked like progress was being made until Stanford officials announced they would not pay for — or allow access to — any trail alignments they didn't support. The trails were put on hold once again.

Supervisors give in on southern trail

In an attempt to break the stalemate,

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Kate Robertson, Courtesy Palo Alto Weekly

Goodbye, Denice!

The Committee has bid a fond farewell to **Denice Dade**, who served as the Committee's Santa Clara County Legislative Advocate since 1998. This was a job that called for her to take strong stands to protect Stanford's open space, ranchlands in the south County, and foothills and ridgelines throughout the Peninsula. We'll miss Denice, and her trusty companion Shasta.

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the Supervisors voted in December to bifurcate (separate) the two trails, postponing a decision on the more controversial western (C1) trail, which could be affected by a pending lawsuit between homeowners and the County of San Mateo.

We were shocked at their next vote: the Supervisors voted to eliminate from consideration those trails the University didn't like. They voted to study only three of the five proposed S1 trail alignments — the three Stanford could support — and ruled out the two alignments supported by environmentalists and hikers. We're thoroughly disappointed in the Supervisors, who buckled under the threats of a lawsuit and let Stanford call the shots.

Environmentalists and hikers weren't surprised when the Supervisors ruled out the best trail, which Stanford had argued was too intrusive, but we were very disappointed that they also voted against studying the compromise S1-E (Cherry Stem) route. Now we're left with three options that are neither safe nor recreational, and only one that would connect to the Arastradero Preserve.

The S1 Trail decision was the first real test of the GUP and Community Plan, and it didn't go very well. The message is that we must step up our involvement and hold the County accountable for the gains we made under the GUP. We have to remember that the trails aren't a handout: they are mitigation for five million square feet of development, which will have a huge impact on Stanford residents and surrounding communities.

Western trail creeps into San Mateo County

As attention turns to the C1 trail on the northwest side of campus (in the area of San Francisquito Creek and Alpine Road), environmentalists, hikers, neighbors and community associations are vocalizing their support for the C1-B alignment (Community Endorsed Trail).

The roadside route proposed by Stanford for this trail (the C1-C alignment) is unacceptable because of its documented risk to public safety, environmental impacts, and minimal recreational value. Other proposed alignments alongside the eastern banks of San Francisquito Creek are unacceptable because of negative impacts on the environment and irreconcilable use conflicts with the Stanford Golf Course and the Native American sweat lodge.

For a map of the various proposed trail routes, visit www.StanfordTrails.com/boardapr2002.html.

Speak up for a good western trail

We may have lost ground on the southern trail route, but efforts to support a good western trail are stepping up. Please take a moment to write a letter to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors encouraging them to stand up to Stanford and support the C1-B Trail alignment.

Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
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*Peter Drekmeier, a long-time local open space activist, is Director of the Stanford Open Space Alliance, and has been working on Stanford land use issues since 1996. He has also served as a co-Director of Acterra and as Conservation Chair of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club. **CGF***

WWW.GREENFOOTHILLS.ORG

- TAKE ACTION!
- LEARN ABOUT CURRENT ISSUES AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED
- READ THE LATEST CGF NEWS
- RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE
- PERUSE OUR GLOSSARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL TERMS
- SIGN UP FOR E-MAIL ACTION ALERTS

...and much more.



Regional planning in south San Jose: The HCP/NCCP process

BY JUDY FENERTY

The widening of Highway 101 and other development projects in south San Jose have triggered a complex regional planning process which will result in a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) as required by the federal Endangered Species Act and a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) in accordance with state law. In 2001, the County of Santa Clara, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the Valley Transportation Authority and the City of San Jose agreed to participate in this planning process and have been working with other agencies and consultants to create a strategy for developing these plans.

When Habitat Conservation Plans were added to the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1982, the intent was to minimize and mitigate impacts to threatened and endangered plant and animal species while allowing development to proceed through the issuance of "incidental take" permits to developers and landowners. Although some HCPs can be



The threatened Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*), their food source, Tidy Tips (*Layia platyglossa*), and the endangered California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) will be considered in the Santa Clara County HCP/NCCP.



very small, covering only a few acres, many cover entire counties or other large areas.

By contrast, the NCCP process was passed into law in 1991 and seeks to develop plans for natural communities based on an ecosystem approach. Although the federal ESA targets plants and animals already

considered threatened or endangered, the NCCP process can encourage more proactive conservation planning for species not yet formally listed.

The scope and size of the HCP for Santa Clara County have not yet been determined, but the HCP will almost certainly address multiple species and a significant portion of the County. Some of the threatened and endangered species that might be affected by the HCP/NCCP process include the bay checkerspot butterfly, the California red-legged frog, the California tiger salamander and a number of plants unique to serpentine grassland habitats.

Santa Clara County's HCP/NCCP process is expected to take four to five more years to complete, and offers us an opportunity to ensure protections for sensitive species, habitats, and communities in this special region. Environmental organizations — including the Committee for Green Foothills, the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society — are already working with local agencies to ensure that these plans are developed with the best environmental science available to provide the greatest benefit to rare plants and animals. **CGF**

Judy Fenerty is the Vice President of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.



Los Altos Hills enacts protections for Town-owned open space

New open space committee being formed

BY NANCY COUPERUS

The history of open space owned by the Town of Los Altos Hills is a story that includes personal generosity, public risk-taking, and enthusiastic support and hard work by citizens. The latest chapter in this story involves a core of dedicated residents led by Nancy Couperus, who describes here a recent success and new efforts to protect the Town's open space. — Editor

Byrne Preserve established through private generosity and public foresight

Back in the mid-sixties, Dr. Albert Byrne generously donated a beautiful and scenic 55-acre parcel of open grassland in the town of Los Altos Hills to The Nature Conservancy.

This land was eventually dedicated as permanent open space thanks to an extraordinary partnership between the Town of Los Altos Hills and the Committee for Green Foothills. Led by forward-looking Councilmember Mary Davey and Town Manager Lowell Morse, the Town negotiated to purchase from the Nature Conservancy this land — now known as the Albert Byrne Preserve. The cost to the Town was \$99,500, to be paid over a period of several years, and the land was dedicated as permanent open space.

After an extraordinary fundraising effort and generous contributions from local residents Lucille Packard, Jack Melchor, and others, the Town was also able to purchase a portion of the Byrne corridor, linking the Preserve to Hidden Villa, thus protecting the Preserve's edge and providing important connections between these areas. Thanks to this foresight, Byrne Preserve today comprises nearly 90 acres of beautiful grassland and thick woodlands.

Open space legacy threatened by potential sale of lands

Over the next 35 years, residents enjoyed the natural beauty of this preserve with its



Saul Chelkin

After working to help bring Byrne Preserve into public open space in the late 1960's, CGF Founding President Wallace Stegner said, "This corridor will be of inestimable value to the whole community, for it will provide open space, erosion control, walking and horse trails, and that intangible but indispensable benefit we call 'visual amenity' — the pure pleasure of seen beauty." Today, that value is seen clearly in this aerial photograph, in which the upper part of Byrne Preserve appears, center, surrounded by development.

quiet glens and scenic views. But in early 2002, residents in Los Altos Hills began hearing rumors about Town-owned properties being considered for possible sale. Mayor Toni Casey had requested an inventory of properties to evaluate whether they were being put to their "highest and best use."

Two properties were singled out initially — the O'Keefe Property, an eight-acre parcel of open space originally acquired as a result of Highway 280 construction, and Westwind Barn, a 14-acre parcel also owned by the town and adjacent to Byrne Preserve. Discussion by certain members of the Town Council suggesting that Westwind Barn be relocated to Byrne Preserve to enable sale of the land on which it sat, galvanized the community into organizing a grassroots movement — Los Altos Hills Open Space.

Citizens develop initiative to protect lands

Town residents met with others concerned about open space, and we quickly agreed that we should try to protect the Town's open spaces by means of an initiative. The initiative would prevent the sale of Town-owned properties without a vote of the residents, and would define appropriate land-use designations for these properties — also subject to change only by a vote of the residents.

With the November elections also looming, the open space initiative became a central issue in the campaigns for two seats on the Town Council. Two candidates positioned themselves squarely behind the Citizens' Initiative, while two opposing can-

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didates refused to endorse it — while nevertheless claiming to spearhead the movement to preserve the open space.

Thanks to the hard work of many working on the campaign and to the generosity of over 125 individuals who contributed financially to the campaign, we had the initiative finalized and officially filed by the end of October 2002. The enormous outpouring of community support surprised everyone, and told us we were on the right track.

Competing initiative designed to confuse voters

Within three days of the Citizens' Initiative being filed, however, three members of the Council, led by Toni Casey, offered up their own competing initiative. The latter, it was claimed was simpler to understand — mainly because it covered all 168 acres of Town-owned properties rather than the 157 specified in the Citizens' Initiative. Less apparent to the casual reader was that this Council-sponsored Initiative locked into place incorrect land-use designations (i.e. residential instead of open space) on a number of the properties, because the Land Use Map hadn't been updated since its adoption in 1975. The Citizens' Initiative, by contrast, had carefully examined each land use designation — changing incorrect designations to open space or public recreation to reflect current use.

Public education campaign helped defuse political maneuvers

This attempt to co-opt the Citizens' Initiative could have achieved its objective of confusing the voters, except that help was at hand to educate the public. The Committee for Green Foothills, in association with the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, offered to send out a town-wide mailer explaining the differences between the Citizens' Initiative and the Council-sponsored Initiative. This mailer, along with local publicity, informed residents about the two initiatives and clarified the differences.

Nearly twenty-five open space coffees were held during the Council campaign, which gave the organizers an opportunity to further clarify the initiative and clear up misinformation that was being spread by the opposition. A website — which is still in operation (www.LAHOpenSpace.com) — and an e-mail bulletin list further helped to keep residents abreast of events and the war of words



Los Altos Hills Town Clerk Karen Jost accepts petitions signed by more than 1200 Town residents in support of the Citizen's Initiative for Open Space. Handed in by residents (L to R) Elaine Nelson, Jean Mordo, Barbara Mordo, and Nancy Couperus, these petitions led the new Town Council to adopt the Initiative in December.

as they unfolded. The internet was extremely important in this effort — not only by helping to counter opposition mailers almost immediately and at minimal expense, but also as the vehicle by which funds were raised to pay the legal fees.

Election brings in open space candidates — Citizen's Initiative adopted!

The good news — the November election brought about a change in Council direction with the two open space candidates winning in a landslide! This win assured that once the required numbers of signatures were gathered for the Citizen's Open Space Initiative, the new majority would be able to adopt the initiative directly, thereby saving the cost of an expensive special election.

Within 30 days of our having presented the initiative to residents, it had already qualified for a ballot by receiving 1240 signatures — over 50% more than the 822 signatures required to be collected within 180 days, an overwhelming and gratifying show of community support.

On December 19, 2002, the new Council voted to adopt the Citizens' Open Space Initiative directly, and at the following meeting the new Council also voted unanimously to rescind the former Council-sponsored Initiative.

Next steps: Citizens form open space committee

Does this win signal the culmination of

work to protect open space in Los Altos Hills? No — it merely marks the transition from one phase to the next. Now that the Town-owned properties are legally secure, there remain many more issues to consider.

Residents are now hard at work defining the objectives of a permanent Los Altos Hills Open Space Committee, similar to that just created in the Town of Woodside. We expect this committee to take on environmental aspects (erosion, infestation by noxious weeds, etc.), public awareness (where lands are and how best to enjoy them), potential avenues for enhancement (tax benefits that encourage donation of open space through conservation easements) and similar issues. This is an exciting venture, and we hope to involve as many residents as possible and foster a sense of ownership of these priceless public assets.

The fight for Los Altos Hills Open Space awakened residents to the value they place on open space and public recreation lands. In time, people will forget the battle to save these valuable resources. However, our hope is that they will nevertheless understand their responsibility as stewards of these lands for future generations. As Huey Johnson so eloquently stated: "We must defend the integrity of place." **CGF**

Nancy Couperus is a Board Member and Founding Member of the Friends of Westwind, Inc., a nonprofit corporation that helps operate Westwind Community Barn in Los Altos Hills.



Michael Kahn

Land use planning on the Peninsula: Embracing new possibilities

BY JOE SIMITIAN

These excerpts are from remarks State Assemblyman Joe Simitian presented in November 2002 at the San Mateo County Economic Development Association/ Peninsula Policy Partnership conference entitled "New Housing... Revitalized Downtowns... Improved Transportation." As a former Santa Clara County Supervisor, Joe knows well the demands of housing, transportation, and open space protection on the Peninsula. Here he asks some tough questions in order to start a new conversation about the future of our region. — Editor



Joe Simitian

All of us are frustrated by the high-cost-housing and too-long-commute that seem to be our lot in life. But what I personally find most frustrating is that we act as if this is surprising. From 1992 to 2001, Silicon Valley created six times as many jobs as housing units, and then we found ourselves asking: Why is there a shortage of housing? Why does the housing we have cost so much? Why does it take so long to get from one place to another? And how do we fix this mess?

To start, we have to acknowledge the obvious. If you create six times as many jobs as housing units, you're going to have a shortage of housing, expensive housing, and a lot of people driving every day from where they live to where they work. This wasn't an acci-

dent — just local city councils and County Boards of Supervisors approving general plans, zoning ordinances and individual project applications to accommodate six more jobs for every single unit of housing.

So the mess we're in comes as no surprise. It's the obvious result of a jobs-housing imbalance, which was the obvious result of the decisions we made as a cluster of communities. And as long as we're acknowledging the obvious, there's a rather obvious reason that cities and counties made these decisions in spite of their predictable adverse consequences — because the State of California has created a system of public finance that rewards cities and counties for commercial development (retail in particular) and punishes cities and counties for residential development. Simply put, "That which gets rewarded gets done."

I'd also like to acknowledge the fact that after you've priced people out of the County and forced them to live some god awful distance from their place of employment, you aren't going to be able to nag them out of their cars and onto mass transit simply because it's politically correct, socially beneficial, or even less expensive.

By now it should be obvious that if we're going to get people out of their cars and on to mass transit we're going to have to provide a system which is cheap, safe, reliable, and which takes them from where they already are to where they really want to go. Particularly in an area like ours where so many of our potential transit users are relatively prosperous "riders of choice."

Having acknowledged the obvious, let's take the next step and

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ask the uncomfortable questions. Let's start with this one: What is the ultimate carrying capacity of our region? The question is uncomfortable because it suggests that our region's resources are finite, and perhaps even worse, that our opportunities are limited.

Nevertheless, it's an important question to ask if we're going to adapt successfully as we approach some of our limits. What are the limits? For example, are we prepared to expand Highway 101 to ten lanes (bulldozing everything in our path up and down the Bayshore freeway from San Francisco to Gilroy)? Doubtful. Would we prefer to double deck the entire length of the highway? Probably not.

So what are our other options? Flexitime? Incentives for telecommuting? A world-class transit system so compelling in its virtues that eight lanes of highway is more than enough?

I don't know. But I do know that we won't ask and answer these questions until we ask ourselves: "What are the limits of the system given the way we currently use that system?"

Same thing with land. It's a finite resource. If we force ourselves to ask what the carrying capacity of the land is, we'll have to answer first within the framework of existing use — and that will suggest real limits. And asking that question will help us tease out some other interesting opportunities. The carrying capacity of the land will of course be greater if we make 10 stories our norm, or decide that untouchable hills and open space are no longer untouchable. As it happens, I neither advocate nor anticipate either of those options.

Now: here's a more awkward, and much less abstract question. If the problem is that we're producing six times as many jobs as housing units, should we require commercial development to mitigate the housing demand that it generates? Or, alternatively, should we limit the rate of commercial development to a level that is no greater than our increase in housing supply can sustain?

Again, I neither advocate nor anticipate either one of these options. And I suspect that to many local residents this is not just an uncomfortable question, but a radical one. But I think it's a question worth asking — because the very employers who would panic at such a question are the same ones (until the recent recession) who

were laboring mightily to attract and retain a quality workforce in the face of a high cost/low availability housing market.

These problems are largely of our own making. We made them, and we can fix them. What we lack is the political will, and part of the challenge in marshalling the necessary political will is the mistaken notion that these problems are insoluble.

The conventional wisdom is that dramatic results require large-scale dramatic action, but we would do well to remember that our housing and transportation problems developed gradually and incrementally, and that they can be solved that way as well — if we have the discipline to stay on task over the long haul. The notion that big problems require big solutions too easily and too often becomes the rationale for taking no action at all.

Reject too the all too common misconception that the term "sustainability" is code language for "no growth." Sustainability doesn't mean no growth. Sustainability means...sustainability. Indeed, smart businesses know that sustainable growth is the key to sustainable profits. Smart counties and smart businesses know that whatever it is they're doing is more likely to be sustainable if it's done better and not just more. If both prosperity and profits can be made sustainable, then sustainability ought to be embraced, not eschewed.

Which leads me finally to the conclusion that if we're going to get out of this mess, we are going to have to embrace a world of new possibilities. For instance, we

may have to rethink the notion that suburban California consists exclusively of ranch-style homes carpeting the landscape and that density equates with a deteriorated quality of life. If we say yes to good projects, and no to bad ones, we might just discover that some people actually like living in close proximity to shops, services, and transit.

For many, the "new urbanism" might even be their first choice. I'll grant you that it's not everyone's first choice. I'll even grant you that it's not most people's first choice. But I'll bet that for an awful lot of people it beats commuting from Tracy!

Maybe we ought to consider the possibility that other regions in California could be our partners in prosperity rather than our competitors. Other regions in California can help us balance our housing and jobs on a statewide basis, they provide affordable venues for jobs we may not be able to sustain; and provide expanded markets for our goods and services right next door.

And as long as we're going to dream a little, why don't we open ourselves up to the possibility that local communities can work together regionally — and effectively — without surrendering their sovereignty. It's even possible that at some point the State will start worrying more about real results on the housing front and focus less on outdated command and control approaches.

Because I really do believe that if we acknowledge the obvious, ask the uncomfortable questions, resist the conventional wisdom, and embrace new possibilities, we can and we will fix this mess. **CGF**





COAST, from page 1

down the coast. The coastsides gently rolling coastal terraces and fertile valley bottoms were slated to be subsumed by housing, golf courses, and freeways. The one “concrete” legacy of the Doelger Plan is the Ritz Carlton Hotel at Ocean Colony in Half Moon Bay. This monstrous edifice can be seen from miles away.

Despite the untiring efforts of people like Ollie Mayer, who travelled to Florida in the early 1970s to dissuade Westinghouse Corporation officials from building the golf courses and hotel, the Ritz Carlton is now a constant reminder of what the coast would surely have become. The original hotel foundation, erected hastily and too close to the crumbling bluffs in 1972 in order to “vest” the rights to build, is now emerging as the cliffs erode. Whenever I see the slick color photo ads for the hotel featuring the newly-exposed pillars of concrete as well as the illegal blufftop rip-rap, I hear the strains of Debussy’s “Sunken Cathedral.”

If I had clairvoyance, I could imagine a future in which the Ritz Carlton is slowly reclaimed by the victorious ocean. Fast forward a few decades (or perhaps centuries), bring on a few El Nino storms coupled with perigeon tides, and this monstrous mistake will likely become a famous ruin.

It’s ironic, but I have to thank the Ritz Carlton for waking people up to the continuing need for vigilance and involvement to protect the coast.

We’re already seeing the results of this increased vigilance. The

old plans of Doelger and Half Moon Bay Properties (the successor owners of some 5,000 acres outside the urban boundary of the Mid-Coast and Half Moon Bay) have been sunken by plans for open space.

What was once a series of large ranches — proposed in the early 1970’s to become 2200 condos, homes, and a golf course — is now McNee Ranch State Park. Today’s Montara State Beach would have been the private beach for the clubhouse near where today’s Outrigger (the former Chart House Restaurant) sits on the bluff.

Further south and to the east of Half Moon Bay is what HMB Properties called Cassinelli Ranch, now known by its more historic name, the Johnston Ranch. These 862 acres were the battleground of Measure D, placed on the ballot by its offshore developer-owners. Measure D sought to eliminate the voter-approved protections for this property, so this prime farmland could be covered with condos, a conference center, and a golf course. In 1992, the San Mateo County voters rejected Measure D by an astounding 82% “no” vote.

And in environmentalists’ most recent success in this region, the 4,000 acres known as Rancho Corral de Tierra are now slated for permanent protection, thanks to private philanthropy and the untiring efforts of the Peninsula Open Space Trust.

Thanks to 30 years of work to protect the coast, we can enjoy these and other successes every day. The next time you look across those sweeping views of natural open space, take a moment to visualize what would have been there without the Coastal Act. But don’t become complacent. This place is worth fighting for, and the fight for the coast is never finished! **CGF**

*‘If I had clairvoyance, I
could imagine a future in
which the Ritz Carlton is
slowly reclaimed by the
victorious ocean.’*

Coastal photos on web create powerful conservation tool

BY LENNIE ROBERTS

Last fall, coastal activists were handed a wonderful new tool by Ken and Gabrielle Adelman, a couple who live in the tiny community of Corralitos in Monterey County and who have a great passion for the coast.

Ken's success in dot-com startups has given him the time and resources to devote his photography talents to coastal protection. His early efforts involved taking aerial photographs that were used by environmental groups to defeat the Hearst Corporation's proposal to build a golf course and hotels on their oceanfront property near Hearst Castle in San Luis Obispo County.

Building on this success, Ken purchased a four-seat Robinson R-44 helicopter and set out — with Gabrielle at the controls — to photograph the entire length of California's coast.

The results are spectacular. Since October, they have made more than 12,000 color photos of the California coast available on their website: www.CaliforniaCoastline.org.

Navigating from a map or with latitude and longitude, users can select any area of the state's coastline and — presto — a series of photos along that section are displayed.

The website is a powerful tool that documents conditions along the coast at a given point in time. Scientists are using the site to measure erosional forces, beach conditions, vegetation changes, and development patterns. Photo documentation from the website has already been used in several enforcement actions by the Coastal Commission, including the illegal riprap at the Ritz Carlton/Ocean Colony golf course.

Committee for Green Foothills is one of the many groups whose coastal protection efforts have already benefited incredibly from Ken's website. Because many areas along the shoreline are not visible or easily accessible from inland areas, every photograph is worth its weight in gold as we work to protect coastal resources, improve land stewardship, and ensure that our public trust resources — beaches and waterways — are accessible to all. **CGF**

Screenshot from
Adelman's website,
www.CaliforniaCoastline.org



Volunteer spotlight: Chris Vogel



Velma Gentzsch

Chris Vogel is a long time environmental activist and volunteer for the Committee for Green Foothills. She has volunteered in the CGF office since 1999, helping out with mailings, proofreading, letter writing and data entry. Chris recently spoke with CGF's Office Coordinator Velma Gentzsch about her commitment to our local environment.

What first sparked your interest and concern for the environment?

In the 70s, I became aware of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) properties and was blown away by the beautiful space and wildlife. I began donating to MROSD and enjoying "my land" more and more.

After I retired, in 1991, I attended a presentation at the Phleger Estate at the time of acquisition. Audrey Rust, then CEO and President of Peninsula Open Space District, spoke and I was putty in her hands. I began volunteering at POST doing indexing and historical research on Cowell Ranch Beach for the signage. A few years later, I began volunteering at Greenbelt Alliance, writing three brochures on 'A Perfect Day in the Greenbelt' and doing various jobs in the office.

Why did you come to CGF?

Because it is local! I don't want to see the world paved over any more than it is. The more we can save, the better off we all are — breathing fresh air and enjoying the quiet. Which is how I started off the new year, with a seven-mile loop hike in Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve.

Why do you volunteer?

Because it's good for the soul and because of the organizations where I volunteer. It is satisfying to pursue something on a volunteer basis that supports all of my ideals and spaces that I live in.

What else are you involved in?

I am concerned with first amendment issues. I am on the board of Midcoast Park Lands, which works to manage and maintain 40-acre Quarry Park in El Granada. I still volunteer at POST as an Open Space Guardian (at Tunitas Creek) and help restore habitat (remove Pampas grass) at Cloverdale Coastal Ranch. And, of course, I still help Greenbelt Alliance.

What is your greatest contribution?

Helping to save open space in my own little way.

Chris' contribution is hardly little. Her dedication to CGF and the open space we all love is deeply appreciated. Her smiling face, sense of humor and passion for life are worth more than all the envelopes she's ever mailed for us. Thank you, Chris, for being one of our stellar Green Feet! **CGF**

Ta-da: New coastal access opened!

BY LENNIE ROBERTS

A sweet prelude to the coastal celebration on February 1 was a small ribbon cutting ceremony to open San Mateo County's newest coastal access. This access was required as a condition of approval of a coastal development permit for the house built on a small point of land about halfway between Bean Hollow Beach and Bolsa Point back in 1985.

Development permit required Offer to Dedicate

The permit issued to the landowners, Drs. Arnold and Miller, required dedication of a ten-foot wide vertical access easement running from the old Highway One roadbed in front of the property to the mean high tide line, plus a 25 foot wide easement that runs along the ocean front of the parcel from the mean high tide line to a line 25 feet inland from the edge of the ocean bluff.

In addition to the access dedication requirements, the permit also required a Deed Restriction to permanently protect historic public access that had accrued on the property. This property had been open and used by fishermen and other beachgoers for many years before the house was built.

Recently San Mateo County accepted several Offers to Dedicate, including the Arnold/Miller Offer. But the County, responding to pressure from the owners, had indicated it was not going to move forward on improving this access until the Coastal Trail is completed in this area, which is not expected in the foreseeable future.

Coastal Commission steps in to restore public access

Enter the Coastal Commission, Stage Left! Citing the Deed Restriction, which requires the owners to keep the access easements open and free of impediments to pedestrian use at all times, the Commission initiated an enforcement action to require removal of a solid wood fence that had been installed to block public access.

The Arnolds and the Millers have now complied with the access requirements.



The Coastal Commission's Sheila Ryan (L) and Linda Locklin, Chief of Statewide Access joined John Hernandez, Chair of the San Mateo County Trails Advisory Committee, to open the new coastal access, south of Pescadero. This is one of only two new accesses opened in San Mateo County south of Half Moon Bay since 1980.

They have removed the fence and cleared a ten-foot wide footpath through the low coastal scrub to the top of the bluff. The owners will be keeping this access open until the County follows through on its plans for improvements and maintenance of the access whenever this stretch of the coastal trail is improved.

Next steps: Public easement across the adjacent property?

The neighbor to the south is now erecting a fence that blocks access across his property to the beach, along with numerous "No Trespassing" signs. The Coastal Commission staff is investigating the historic use of this beach, which was primarily used for obtaining bait.

The California Constitution guarantees the public the right to cross private property to gain access to waters of the state — including the Pacific Ocean. The public can obtain these rights through long-term use of a trail across private property, which can in some cases establish a permanent public easement. The Coastal Commission is investigating historic use of access to this beach to determine whether it qualifies for contin-

ued public access.

To see an aerial photo of this trail and beach, visit www.CaliforniaCoastline.org and enter Image Number 6291 (the Arnold-Miller is the home on the right).

If you or anyone you know may have used this access and beach (sometimes known as "the Gravel Quarry"), please contact Joy Chase in the Santa Cruz office of the Coastal Commission at (831) 427-4865. **CGF**

VISITING THE NEW COASTAL ACCESS

Currently there is no signage for this public access, but people who wish to visit this area can turn off Highway One just less than a mile south of Bean Hollow State Beach, at the small sign that says "10101 Cabrillo Highway." Turn right on the old paved section of Coast Highway and look for the gap in the wood fence about 100 yards down. If you visit, please respect the private property on either side of the access trail.

Open space users and managers discuss shared use at Environmental Forum

BY VELMA GENTZSCH

Bay Area residents are fortunate to have some of the most beautiful protected open space in the world. Our diverse population enjoys using this open space in different ways — cycling, hiking, birding, dog walking, horseback riding, among others — but all of these user groups share a love for the wildness and beauty around them.

Managing our public open space in a way that works to resolve conflicts that arise from different uses is key to sustaining our natural beauty and resources. To help focus on our common goals, and encourage the communication necessary to resolve these differences, the Committee hosted a public forum in February: “Managing Public Lands: Competing Priorities for Open Space.”

This environmental forum, is the third in a series, made possible in part by a grant from the Community Foundation Silicon Valley to the Green Foothills Foundation, and co-sponsored by Acterra, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, Greenbelt Alliance, the League of Women Voters of Los Altos/Mountain View, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter.

Moderated by Jane Turnbull, Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Los Altos/Mountain View, eight vibrant and engaging panelists gathered in the Palo Alto Art Center Auditorium to discuss their concerns and ideas for open space management and use.

Panelists included Rich Allen, representing the equestrian community; Craig Britton, General Manager of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District; mountain biker and hiker Rod Brown; Keith Demetrak, Planning Division Chief, California Department of Parks & Recreation; dog walking community representative Jeri Eaton Flinn; Dr. Bill Freedman, representing the hiking/walking community; Howard Levitt, Acting Assistant Superintendent for Operations, National Park Service/Golden Gate National Recreation Area; and Holly van Houten, Executive



MROSD General Manager Craig Britton and Bay Area Ridge Trail Council **Holly Van Houten** discussed resource protection and use of public open space at the Committee's environmental forum in February.



Director of the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council.

Not unexpectedly, panelists expressed different preferences and needs for open space use and management — but also respect for other groups' needs.

Importantly, those responsible for managing public lands made clear that their missions included resource protection as a primary mandate. Such protection, they pointed out, often means that user groups may not be able to use all open space at all times. Representatives from various user groups agreed that flexibility and openness were key, and that further communication with other user groups — and understanding of their needs and styles — would help promote more harmonious shared use of open space.

Because of decades of work by CGF and others, the open spaces of the Peninsula are ours to enjoy and protect. We are hopeful that this forum helped us take a step toward a future of shared enjoyment of these lands, and that our region can lead the rest of the nation by demonstrating shared use that keeps our open space beautiful for generations to come. **CGF**

A videotape of the forum is available in Acterra's Environmental Library, (650) 962-9876.

Coastal Champion Roberts inducted into Women's Hall of Fame

BY KATHY SWITKY

Our redoubtable San Mateo County Legislative Advocate Lennie Roberts has been in the news again recently: she has been heralded as a "coastal champion" by an assemblage of environmental organizations, and was selected as one of the newest members of the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

The statewide celebration of the Coastal Commission's 30th anniversary earlier this year included a bit of fanfare for Roberts and other coastal leaders, many of whom participated in the original voter initiative that in 1972 created the Coastal Act, the strongest coastal protection law in the United States.

Awardees included Coastal Commission Executive Director Peter Douglas; Coastal Commissioner (and former chair) Sara Wan; first Commission chair Mel Lane; Michael Fischer, the Commission's second Executive Director; Warner Chabot, a former Prop. 20 activist now with the Ocean Conservancy; early CGF member Ann Notthoff, now with the Natural Resources Defense Fund; Richard Charter with Environmental Defense; Bill Kortum, a former Prop. 20 staffer; Bill Yeates, a former lobbyist and Commission staffer; activists Lucille Vinyard and Phyllis Faber; and — of course — CGF's own Lennie Roberts.




Lennie's award commends her as "a coastal champion whose tireless, unwavering and energetic advocacy has inspired countless others to join the never-ending struggle to keep the coast clear." Hear, hear!

The awards were sponsored by the Sierra Club, Aquarium of the Pacific, California Coastal Protection Network, League for Coastal Protection, publisher Mel Lane, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and the Natural

Resources Defense Council, with support from Oceana and the Surfrider Laguna Beach Chapter.

Roberts was also honored for her involvement throughout San Mateo County as she was chosen for induction into the County's Women's Hall of Fame. Sponsored by the San Mateo County Supervisors and the Commission on the Status of Women, the Hall of Fame recognizes women of outstanding achievement who have made significant contributions to our community. We can't think of a woman whose contributions — protected open space throughout the County — are appreciated by more people.

Roberts, only the third environmentalist to be inducted since the Hall of Fame was established in 1984, was one of eight women and two students chosen from nominations in which their identities were kept anonymous. The secret's out now: congratulations, Lennie! 



Join the 2003 FMF!

The Foothills Millennium Fund (FMF) offers the Committee's most generous supporters a special way to participate in our work to protect open space. Donors who contribute \$1,000 or more per year are invited to participate in special FMF gatherings to discuss current projects of the Committee for Green Foothills. Members of the 2003 Foothills Millennium Fund also received a signed and numbered Gicleé color print by award-winning watercolor artist (and CGF Board member) Jane Gallagher: "Windy Hill — Fog and Flowers," pictured here.

It's not too late to join the 2003 Millennium Fund! Donors whose gifts are received by March 31, 2003 (the end of our fiscal year) will be included, and will receive a copy of this limited-edition print. For more information, or to view a color version of the print, visit www.GreenFoothills.org/millennium.

BOARD NOTES

The Committee's Board of Directors recently bid a fond adieu to **Mahlon Hubenthal**, who has served on the board since 1998. We will miss Mahlon's passion for open space, and thank him for his dedicated service over the last three years.

The board also enthusiastically welcomed two new Directors. Moss Beach resident **Holly Mitten** is an attorney specializing in Workers' Compensation defense, and is involved with a number of environmental organizations. She is Vice President of the San Mateo Coast Natural History Association, Past President of Midcoast Park Lands, and a former member of the Trail Center Executive Board.

Mountain View resident **Jeff Segall**, Chairman of the Stanford Open Space Alliance, is active in a number of local open space issues. With a Ph.D. in physical chemistry, Jeff designs scientific research equipment. As a child, he took many trips to the Rocky Mountains, where he developed a love for the outdoors and open space.

Finally, we're pleased to welcome **Elena Pernas-Giz**, our Board's first-ever fellow from the Stanford Business School.

Welcome, Holly, Jeff, and Elena!

WANT TO PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT GETTING DIRTY?

Volunteer in our office one day a week, so you can have open space to enjoy during the other six!

CGF needs people to file, organize, and help with mailings — i.e. fold, stuff, lick and stamp. It may not be glamorous, but it means a greener future for all of us.

PLEASE CONTACT VELMA AT
(650) 968-7243 OR
VOLUNTEER@GREENFOOTHILLS.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP KEEP
THE FOOTHILLS GREEN.

...the **Peninsula Watershed**, where CGF is asking the California Public Utilities Commission to underground PG&E's proposed new high voltage lines and eliminate up to 100 unsightly towers in this scenic area, rather than replacing the towers with even taller towers, which could damage sensitive habitats.

...the **Santa Clara County Open Space Authority**, which is investigating the draining of a pool along Sierra Road where a local breeding population of California Tiger Salamanders has disappeared.

...the **California Coastal Conservancy**,

which is considering making grants to help purchase and protect two important coastal properties: Rancho Corral de Tierra and Mirada Surf.

...**unauthorized grading** and other poor land management practices at the Horse Park on Sand Hill in Woodside, which threaten Bear Gulch Creek, the spawning grounds of the federally threatened steelhead trout, and native oaks; following complaints from CGF and local residents, park officials filed for the first-ever permits in the park's 22-year history.

...the **Planning Commission** in Santa Clara County, which has announced that due to budget cuts, it will not be replacing planners when the positions become empty.

...the **Cabrillo Unified School Board** and the **Half Moon Bay City Council**, which are considering alternative sites for a new middle school originally proposed for Wavecrest, where the development would bring significant environmental problems.

...February's **San Mateo County Agricultural Summit**, co-sponsored by CGF, which explored visions for sustaining agriculture in the County, focusing on securing dependable water supplies while protecting creek habitats and keeping land in agricultural production.

...longtime environmental leader **Ollie Mayer**, who has donated a number of historic photos, documents, and other archives to CGF.

...the **Peninsula Policy Partnership** (P3) and the San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA), which last fall held a panel discussion — including CGF's Zoe Kersteen-Tucker — on issues of economic health and quality of life on the Peninsula.

...the **Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors**, which voted in December to protect rural open space from large facilities by keeping urban-scale churches and schools

(so-called Large Group Assembly Facilities, or LGAFs) out of cities' "spheres of influence," and directed staff to work with cities (specifically San Jose and Morgan

Hill) to do more to accommodate LGAFs within their current and future urban areas.

...author **Phyllis Butler**, who recently donated a share of proceeds from sale of her new book, "The Valley of Santa Clara — A Guide to the Heart of Silicon Valley."

...the **Devil's Slide Tunnel**, which will receive its Coastal Development Permit sometime this year; construction is expected to begin in 2004.

...**Bay Nature Magazine**, whose January-March 2003 issue features the wildlife-friendly backyard of CGF Directors Sue and Pete LaTourrette, who designed their pond and native plant garden in Los Altos specifically to attract butterflies, birds, and other wildlife.

...the **Devil's Slide Tunnels Project Aesthetics Review Committee**, which is completing their work on the Phase II aesthetics elements of the project — including the support building, fill disposal area, trail connections at the northern and southern ends of the project, portal structures, and revegetation.

... **legislation now in Congress** to revise the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include Rancho Corral de Tierra and property in the area of Devil's Slide, and to restore and extend the term of the GGNRA Advisory Commission.

For more information on what the Committee is watching, call (650) 968-7243 or visit www.GreenFoothills.org.

The Committee is watching...



Peter LaTourrette

CGF Hike: Spring wildflowers at Coyote Ridge

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2003
9 AM — 1PM

You're invited to join the Committee for Green Foothills and friends for a springtime hike up to some very special lands in southern Santa Clara County: Coyote Ridge. This unprotected open space offers spectacular views of the valley, and is known for its stunning spring wildflower displays.

Coyote Ridge is home to some thirteen rare or endangered native plants, and the last healthy population of the endangered Bay checkerspot butterfly. Our group will be led by CGF Director and avid birder Peter LaTourrette, native plant expert Don Mayall from the California Native Plant Society, and ecologist Stuart Weiss, who has studied checkerspot butterflies and the effects of smog at Coyote Ridge for two decades.

In a reprise of last spring's very popular hike, Pete, Don, and Stu have generously volunteered to lead another intrepid team up the mountain where we will explore serpentine soil habitats and species. We'll hike a steep roadway with an 800-foot elevation gain, observing changes in the vegetation as we ascend. At the top of the ridge, we'll take time to enjoy the spring wildflowers and the views of Coyote Valley below.



Carl Humik

Hikers at last spring's outing to Coyote Ridge enjoyed spectacular wildflowers and views of the valley. Our repeat performance this April 5 will be popular — sign up soon!

Bring water, and a sack lunch to eat on top. This hike will be a great introduction to the work of CGF to protect open space — bring a friend!

The hike is limited to 25 people — sign up soon with the CGF office at (650) 968-7243 or Velma@GreenFoothills.org. If it's rainy or wet, the hike will be cancelled. Sorry, the hike is not appropriate for children under 12. **CGF**

DIRECTIONS

Meet at 9 am outside the Kirby Canyon facility office, 910 Coyote Creek Golf Drive, San Jose. Take 101 south to Coyote Creek Golf Club Drive exit, turn left under the freeway, drive through the gate and continue to the office parking lot. To carpool, meet at Page Mill/280 Park 'n' Ride at 8 am. Note: there are no restroom facilities at Kirby Canyon.



**COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS**

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