



# The Trail Companion

Fall 2000

## Theme: Parks With a Past

### A Brief History of Bay Area Parks and Open Space

Part 1. From the 1840s  
through the 1950s  
by Brian Kunde

In an increasingly overcrowded Bay Area, privately held open space is disappearing at an alarming pace. Yet our region also boasts an unrivaled green-belt preserve, unmatched in any other major metropolitan area and seemingly immune to the pressures of the Silicon Valley economy. This did not come about by chance, but much of the story behind it is invisible. Go to any park and you will easily ascertain its name, elevation, something of the natural history, some idea of where the good trails are. You may discover something of its cultural history such as early set-

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*The field party of 1864 - James T. Gardiner, Richard Cotter, William Brewer, Clarence King*

*From the cover of Up and Down California in 1860-1864*

### Up and Down The Peninsula and South Bay

William Brewer, professor of Agriculture in the Sheffield Scientific School (Yale) from 1864 to 1903, was picked by Josiah Whitney, to join in the first geological survey of the new state of California in 1860, which was to include "a full and scientific description of its rocks, fossils, soils, and minerals, and of its botanical and zoological productions, together with specimens of the same." For the next four years, Whitney's party traveled from the desert to the northwest forests, and from the Sierra Nevada to the coast, and Brewer kept a detailed journal throughout, in addition to his duties as a naturalist.

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# The Trail Companion

## The Trail Center

The Trail Center is a non-profit volunteer organization formed in 1983 to provide and promote quality non-motorized trail opportunities for all people in San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Alameda and San Francisco counties. The Trail Center works with government agencies, outdoor enthusiasts and other interested parties to create and manage an interconnected network of trails for the five-county region. The Trail Center publishes The Trail Companion and organizes trail building, repair and mapping projects.

The Board of Directors meets every month on the third Thursday at 6:30 at the Peninsula Conservation Center

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The Trail Companion (ISSN 1528-0241 (print); 1094-222X (online)) is the quarterly newsletter of the Trail Center.

## Editor Notes

Our theme for this quarter is the history of the parks in our area, and we've got three articles which cover that topic. Geoffrey Skinner found so much information that we may continue seeing historical tidbits in issues to come.

As usual, we've got updates on our activities and news from the parks in our area. In addition, Bob Kelly has written a good article on the problem plaguing several types of oak trees in the area. He includes several great tips on keeping your trees healthy, too.

Our hike for this issue goes into detail about Geoffrey's love for the huckleberry. And the accompanying picture? Trust me, as long as you don't come between Geoffrey and trail-side berries, you're safe.

Unfortunately, I have some sad news to report this issue. Betsy Crowder, a founding member of the Trail Center, recently died in a freak car accident in Portola Valley. A car had knocked a telephone pole to the ground. Betsy's car hit the pole and got a flat tire. While Betsy was standing outside her car, another car hit the pole and a cable that had come down with the pole whipped through the air and struck her, killing her instantly.

I was stunned when I heard the news. I didn't know her very well, but rather knew of her. Everyone who knows about trails on the Peninsula knows of her. She's served as a director with the Midpeninsular Regional Open Space District. She's co-authored the Peninsula Trails guidebook. She's a member of the San Mateo County Trails Advisory Group. For her 1998 election for MROSD Ward 6, she described herself as a "grandmother of 4-year-old twin hikers". In other words, she loved hiking and the outdoors.

All my interactions with Betsy have been via written word. The first was after I wrote an article for this newsletter describing the excitement of discovering new trails to explore on my mountain bike. She wrote a letter back to the Trail Center admonishing us for promoting reckless mountain biking.

Sandy Nichols, our Executive Director at the time, reread the article, and, interpreting it differently, called Betsy to explain how he saw it. He's often mentioned how he enjoyed talking with her that day, primarily for the chance to learn where she was coming from - from a concern about nature and the trails. I regret not calling her to explain the purpose behind my article myself. I feel I missed out on a chance to get to know a wonderful woman.

The most recent letter we received from Betsy was in response to our Winter 2000 issue where we listed our trailwork projects through the years. She had some corrections, and mentioned how she was glad to see us continue on with our mission after the massive changes over the prior year.

She will be missed.

Scott Heeschen

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We're always looking for contributions to the newsletter - trail and park issues, hike/bike/ride descriptions, book reviews, volunteer opportunities, and literary works (poetry or prose) on wilderness, the outdoors and human-powered outdoor recreation. Articles may be up to 250 words in length (feature articles may be longer). We may also be interested in reprinting or adapting articles published elsewhere in print or linking to articles published electronically. See our website or inquire for full guidelines.

Deadlines for upcoming issues:  
Winter 2001: Friday, Dec. 9  
Spring 2001: Friday, March 9.

Submit literary works or questions to Geoffrey Skinner, Literary Editor, c/o of the Trail Center or by email, [info@trailcenter.org](mailto:info@trailcenter.org); all others, to Scott Heeschen, Trail Companion Editor, c/o the Trail Center or by email, [sheesh@alum.mit.edu](mailto:sheesh@alum.mit.edu).

## Trail Center Notes

### Trail Construction and Maintenance

#### Portola Redwoods State Park, July 15 and Aug. 19

We worked in Portola this summer for the first time since 1994, when we put finishing touches on the Upper Coyote Ridge Trail, which was built by the Trail Center and the California Conservation Corps between 1992 and 1994 to connect Portola and Pescadero County Park. Like other state parks, Portola's trail budget has been largely non-existent for many years and during that time, El Nino, wild pigs and normal wear and tear have taken their toll. Many of the trails are steep and narrow, compounding any new problems. El Nino hit the Iverson Trail particularly hard when several large redwoods came down on the trail and closed it; reopening it will take heavy machinery and major chainsaw work.

On our first day, we headed up Coyote Ridge Trail. We were a small crew of five, but by the end of the day, we had widened several problem spots, including one stretch midway along Upper Coyote Ridge Trail. One crew member met the infamous pigs near the junction of the two trails where seven piglets were rooting on either side of the trail. Their mother was down the hill and grunted loudly when she saw the interloper. Piglets squealed as they scattered and Mama crashed downhill through brush. All but one piglet, that is, that tried to make itself invisible; when it realized it was face to face with a human, it squealed and leapt into the air

in a frantic effort to run away. We didn't meet any more pigs, but both sides of the trail had been rototilled. The park's head maintenance man was very interested in the account because Portola will be participating in regional pig control next year [see "Pigs, pigs and more pigs" in the Spring 2000 issue].

Although we had offered camping both days, no one took advantage of the offer in July. For August, however, we had a small group of campers, including photographer Alan Justice, who discovered just how aggressive the Portola raccoons can be when he put a bag of chips on the table, turned his back for a second, and lost the bag to a big raccoon. He chased



*Scott Heeschen surveys new Ridge Trail in Sanborn-Skyline County Park*  
Photo by Geoffrey Skinner

it and tried to retrieve the chips, but the raccoon won when the bag burst, sending chips all over the place. Alan gave up and made lemonade by grabbing his camera for some great pictures. Adding further insult, a park aide admonished him for feeding the wildlife and didn't believe the story at first.

When it came time for the trail work, the day was raccoon and pig free. We teamed up with Community Impact to work on Summit Trail and a portion of Slate Creek Trail. We had over 30 volunteers, so we were able to improve numerous sections over nearly 3 miles of trail. One crew worked on Summit most of the day, while the others widened the tread on Slate Creek above the junction with Summit. Only a few of the CI volunteers had repaired a trail before; by the quitting time, they were pros. The park staff was very grateful for our efforts and looked forward to our return.

Thank you, Portola Volunteers! Ed Alderman, Rich Allsop, Shirly Arington, Peter Corsius, Dave Croker, Cam Daley, Jasper Dickenson, Alex Fabrikant, Scott Heeschen, Linda Herrera, Francis Hsu, Alan Justice, Hanah Kim, Youngha Kim, Justin Knowles, Lisa Laird, Leslie MacMillan, Stephen E. Muther, Tim Oren, Pat Oren, Susan Pasnick, Joe Phillips, Taylor Ray, Megan Richards, Ron Rogowski, Alan Shieh, Geoffrey Skinner, Gilrico A. Sobrepeña, Gerico Sobrepeña, Katherine Thomas, Greg Werner, Darcy Wright, and Robert Yang.

#### Skyline Trail, Sanborn-Skyline County Park

On September 23rd, a small but productive crew performed maintenance on Skyline Trail (part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail). Most of the work involved brushing out large patches of blackberry vines, repairing the trail tread and helping prepare drainage for the coming winter. Our timing was fortunate, as a large tree branch had recently fallen across the trail beyond where we had planned on working. If it were not for two passing hikers mentioning it to us, it may still be there. As it was, we had a chance to use our Pulaski and loppers to open up the trail again.

Thank you Sanborn Volunteers! Richard Allsop, Jeff Birdge, Peter Corsius, David Croker, Alex Fabrikant, Alice Gutman, Scott Heeschen, Francis Hsu and Alan Shieh.

#### Bay Area Ridge Trail, Sanborn-Skyline County Park

In late July, members of the Projects Committee met with Santa Clara County Parks staff met with SC County Parks staff and Bob Powers, Bay Area Ridge Trail Council's South and East Bay Trails Director, to determine the rough route for the Ridge Trail between the current end of the Skyline Trail two miles south of Summit Rock and the Lake Ranch Reservoir. One surprise of the trip was seeing the multitude of flags

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from earlier attempts, including some distinctive flags left by Geoffrey Skinner in 1988 or 1989.

We returned in September to fine-tune the route, which incorporates an old road that passes through an old walnut orchard halfway down before entering private property. The steep canyons and ridges made finding a good route difficult, but we believe we have chosen a reasonable one. Final approval awaits environmental assessment, which we expect to be complete by the end of the year. If the route is approved, we hope to begin construction early in 2001.

Thank you surveyors: Scott Heesch, Justin Knowles, Tim Oren, and Geoffrey Skinner.



*End of the trail at Sunnyvale Mountain... but not for too much longer  
Photo by Geoffrey Skinner*

## Upcoming Trail Center Events

### Trail Construction and Maintenance

#### Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve

Although we had earlier announced that we would celebrate Community Impact Day with a project in the Peninsula Open Space Trust's Cloverdale Coastal Ranch, POST decided the project should be fully ADA-compliant, which meant further permits were needed that wouldn't be approved until the beginning of next year. Instead, we'll celebrate CI Day at Stanford University's Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve on Saturday, Oct. 21 as we join Community Impact in constructing a 300 ft.-long boardwalk over marshland above Searsville Lake. This ADA-compliant walkway will allow researchers and visitors to access the wetlands above the lake in winter months; rising water levels have regularly flooded the area in recent winters, making travel to major portion of the Preserve difficult or impossible. We will also construct a retaining wall and raise the tread level on a nearby trail also affected by flooding, as well as trim back overhanging brush.

If you are interested in the CI Day project, please register with Community Impact ([www.communityimpact.org](http://www.communityimpact.org)).

#### Portola State Park

We will make one final trip to Portola this year on Saturday, Nov. 18, to build a puncheon on Slate Creek Trail near the trail camp. The trail crosses an area that is boggy all winter and most of the spring. We'll install a raised walkway to make the crossing easier and to reduce hikers' tendency to widen the trail as they try to avoid the mud. If we have time, we'll also do a bit more tread maintenance nearby, including repairing a stretch damaged by pigs.

The final project for the year had not yet been finalized by press time, but will

take place on Dec. 2. In the event of rain on Nov. 18, we will try again on Dec. 2. Please check the Trail Center website for updates.

#### Tool Party

Time to give our tools a little TLC after a season of hard work on the trail and time to reflect on our accomplishments over the past year! This year's tool party takes place on Sunday, Nov. 5. See inside back cover for details.

If you would like to get involved with any of our projects, email us at [info@trailcenter.org](mailto:info@trailcenter.org) or call us at 650-968-7065. See the Trail Building Calendar for dates of upcoming trail events.

## Park News

### California State Parks

#### Castle Rock State Park

##### CRSP Trail Management Plan

The Castle Rock Trails Committee (CRTC) is making headway in assessing the current trails and possible additions to the trail system. Committee members, including Dave Croker and Geoffrey Skinner, have made several field trips throughout the park to look at potential new trails, particularly near the proposed Partridge Farm campground and in the northwestern corner of the park. Once the trail assessment is complete, the Committee will draw up a plan and submit it to the State for approval.

##### Waterman Gap Purchase

The Sempervirens Fund has signed a contract to purchase Waterman Gap, a 1,340 acre parcel, from the San Lorenzo Valley Water District for \$10.9 million. The property is located on the southwestern border of Castle Rock State Park and will bring the total acreage of the park to just under 5,000 acres.

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## Sudden Oak Death by Bob Kelly

You may have heard about the sudden death of Bay Area tanoaks (*Lithocarpus densiflora*) and coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*). This problem has become so serious that a state of emergency may be declared in Marin County. Deaths of tanoaks and coast live oaks have reached epidemic proportions. Researchers have dubbed the syndrome Sudden Oak Death, or S.O.D.

In 1995 the first mysterious death of tanoaks was reported in Mill Valley, but are now occurring from Big Sur to Santa Rosa. If you hike in the Coast Ranges, you are likely to see infected tanoaks with all or most leaves brown and dead on the branches. Tanoaks and coast live oaks grow together in native settings and now coast live oaks are dying with similar symptoms. Black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) can be affected as well.

### Fungi and Beetles

Recent research has implicated a newly identified species of *Phytophthora* fungi in causing this dieback- a genus that has caused a great deal of trouble, including the Irish Potato Famine and die-offs among other tree species worldwide. Exactly how the fungus infects trees isn't fully understood and a variety of environmental factors may predispose the trees to the onset of this problem.

The symptoms first appear as wilting of leaves, especially in new shoots. Approximately 2 - 3 weeks later the foliage turns brown but remains on the branches. At this point *Hypoxylon* spp. fruiting bodies, commonly called charcoal mushrooms, appear in patches on the trunk and or lower branches. These look like dark brown to black granules and stains on the bark. Sometimes before all symptoms are visible, the trees also become vulnerable to several wood boring insects, principally the

western oak bark beetle (*Pseudopityophthorus pubipennis*), then the ambrosia beetle (*Monarthrum* spp.). These beetles attack the lower trunks of susceptible trees but may advance 20 feet or more up the trunk and into the lower branches. These are native insects, long associated with these trees, and are not known to have caused mortality previously.

So which comes first, disease or insect? It is not clear if the insects are vectors or



the trees become sick and are predisposed to attack. It could be a combination of the two.

### Protecting Our Trees

What treatments are available to protect our trees? As a practicing arborist, I can tell you the best recommendation for healthy trees is proper. It is not always feasible to protect trees in a forest setting, though it is done in some cases. Trees of importance should receive proper care, which includes:

- \* Proper pruning, removing dead, dying and damaged branches.
- \* Discouraging other insect defoliators, which are on the rise.
- \* Irrigating drought stressed oaks and seedlings during summer to maintain vigor (during normal rainfall years, established oaks do not generally need extra water) Slow water

away from the trunks inside the dripline once every 3-6 weeks for about an hour. Do not overwater and keep water off the trunk of the tree.

- \* Avoid soil compaction or grade change around the base of the tree.
- \* Regularly checking tanoaks and other oaks from March to October for bleeding from the bark and boring dust (frass) from beetles.
- \* If trees show symptoms, measures should be taken to protect still healthy trees, including proper handling of infected wood:
- \* Promptly cut down trees showing advanced symptoms. They are breeding grounds for future beetle attacks on additional trees. Chip the brush and immediately cover firewood for six months to prevent further beetle emergence. Stump grinding is recommended, as beetles are attracted to stumps as well.

\* Do not remove infected wood and brush from the site! The pathogen can be transported to a previously unaffected area through firewood, chipped wood, or even soil on equipment, tires or boots.

Proper care is the only option now available to maintain susceptible trees. Spraying the trunks of individual trees to eight feet above the ground with the insecticide Astro(tm) (permethrin) may slow decline of infected oaks by preventing beetle attacks, but will not prevent death. The syndrome is not fully understood and there is no remedy once a tree has advanced symptoms. Often trees are beyond saving even at the earliest stages. Hopefully the mystery of Sudden Oak Death will be solved, or like most plant disease/insect epidemics, this one will run its course and recede in time.

For additional information, see the CAMFER (UC Berkeley's Center for the Assessment and Monitoring of Environmental Resources) website at [camfer.cnr.berkeley.edu/oaks/](http://camfer.cnr.berkeley.edu/oaks/) and the UC Cooperative Extension Sudden Oak Death website at [cemar.in.ucdavis.edu](http://cemar.in.ucdavis.edu).

# Wild Literature

## Blacksmith Fork

I find fish for you,  
like a dowser, and the line and your  
hand feel the fish choose the fly.  
Browns, Rainbows and the Cutthroat.  
The last fish like you,  
native, beautiful . . . rare.  
You hold them in your palm and free  
the hook,  
watch them shimmer red back into the water.

## Fox

I think I saw you when the sun went down,  
dancing through the sagebrush and mesquite.  
You held your arms out, but not to me,  
and I watched you spin in the moonlight with the stars.

-- Megan Hansen

Megan E. Hansen is a poet and dreamer newly wed and newly transplanted from Ogden, Utah. She and her husband Brian make their home in Palo Alto, California.

## Down Harkins Fire Road (El Mar de la Purissima)

A pale tide  
floods the redwoods,  
swirls over chaparral ridges.  
The mountains sink  
below a white sea;  
we ride the waves  
a thousand feet  
above the coast.

Una pleamar pálida  
inunda las secoyas,  
remolina alrededor  
de las arrugas de chaparral.  
Las montañas desaparecen  
debajo de un mar blanco;  
montamos las olas  
trescientos metros  
por encima de la costa.

-- Greg Dunn

Greg Dunn is an avid cyclist, hiker and poet. He writes, "Purissima Creek Redwoods one of my favorite places in the Santa Cruz Mountains. I wrote this poem after an early morning visit when only the summit was above the fog."

## Names on the Land

### Part 1: San Mateo County

The names of features on the SF Peninsula and Santa Cruz Mountains reveal a rich and sometimes surprising history. The following are largely from Dr. Alan K. Brown's Place Names of San Mateo County (San Mateo County Historical Society, 1975).

**Alambique Creek** (Huddart CP): Tom Bowen of San Jose built an illegal still on the creek in 1842; the original name was Arroyo del Alambique, Stillhouse Creek.

**Alpine Road:** Despite the lofty connotations, the road was named for the ridge district bounded by Mindego Creek (Russian Ridge OSP) and Peters Creek (Skyline Ridge OSP), which in turn had been named by the early Californios as El Pino, from a large pine near the junction of present day Alpine and Portola Park roads. The section now closed to cars and a mountain bike favorite was built in 1894-95, and for many years called the Fitzhugh Grade or Martinez road, from the local landowners.

**Butano State Park:** Named for the creek and surrounding area, known as The Butano, which is Californian Spanish for a drinking cup made from cow's horn. No convincing reason for the name has been found, although some suggest a bûtano may have been found in the creek that bears the name. The area has been so called since at least 1816. Although many place the accent on the second syllable, the stress is properly on the first, and has been variously pronounced byut'-(e)-no and bu'-te-no; sometimes ending in -n(e).

**Coal Mine Ridge:** A small low-grade coal mine opened near the top of the ridge in 1855 and worked sporadically until the early 1860s, lending its name to both the ridge and the nearby creek. A small seam is exposed near in the road

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cut at the present dead end of Alpine Rd. above Joaquin Rd.

**Crazy Petes Road** (Coal Creek Preserve): Named after “Crazy Pete” Martinez, who owned the land in the 1890s and built the road in 1895. The reason for the nickname is unknown.

**Devils Canyon** (Skyline Ridge OSP): So named in 1863 by the Calif. Geological Survey. In the early 1890s, a realtor attempted to rename the canyon “Glen Gloaming; “The Dropoff (the waterfall on Peters Creek), “The North Brae;” and Peters Creek (formerly known as Devils Canyon Creek), “Afton Water.”

**Grabtown Gulch** (Purissima Redwoods OSP): Gulch below the site of the trading center and lumber camp of Grabtown on Tunitas Rd., originally called Gilbert’s Camp in the 1880s. The origin of the name is attributed to the tendency of its inhabitants to lay claim to land and/or anything of value that wasn’t nailed down.

**Mindego Hill** (near Russian Ridge OSP): Juan Mendico, a Basque, settled on the hill in 1859. The name has been variously spelled Mendico or Mindego, and sometimes pronounced mendigo; both are attempts to turn the name into

the regular Spanish word mendigo, beggar. According to Brown, the accent is on the first syllable and he points out that Juan Mendico’s name in his own Basque dialect means “John of the Mountain.”

**Oil Creek** (Long Ridge OSP): Oil seeps into the creek at numerous places (likewise in Tarwater Creek (Pescadero County Park). In the 1860s, Pescadero Creek and its tributaries were the center of petroleum-mining excitement in the “Neblina Mining District.”

**Page Mill Road** (Skyline Ridge OSP): The road was built to provide access to the logging operations in Peters Creek basin and was called Peers’ Mill Rd. and Rogers’ Mill Rd. before Page took over in 1868. The portion of Alpine Rd. west of Skyline and the northern half Portola Park Rd. were originally called Upper Page Mill Rd.; the abandoned portion within Skyline Ridge OSP was sometimes called State Coach Rd. because it was built as part of a projected Menlo Park-Santa Cruz turnpike, but was most often known as Lower Page Mill Rd.

**Peters Creek** (Skyline Ridge OSP and Portola Redwoods SP): Jean Peter settled near the upper end in 1860. In 1955, the USGS extended the name to include

the former Devils Canyon Creek.

**Pomponio Trail** (Pescadero and Sam McDonald County Parks): Named for José Pomponio Lupugeym was a Coast Miwok from Bolinas, captain of a group of outlaws who

called themselves Los Insurgentes and fought against Mexican rule. In the summer of 1823, his headquarters were somewhere in the upper Alpine area (tradition says in the Devils Canyon falls - one account says the large cave at the head of the falls was “once called Pomponio’s Cave.” Santa Clara News, 11/12/1869). He died before a firing squad in 1824 and remained a hero to the native Californians long afterward. Old maps show the divide between Pescadero and San Gregorio creeks as Cuchilla de Pomponio (Pomponio’s Ridge); the headwaters of Pomponio creek are located on this ridge.

**Pulgas Ridge** (Pulgas Ridge OSP): Government geologists named the ridge in 1892, referring to the nearby Alameda de las Pulgas, although the name had no local currency until recently. A native settlement near the present San Carlos called Cachinigtác, was translated as Las Pulgas (the fleas) by the Spanish. The name later applied to the land grant, Rancho de las Pulgas.

**Slate Creek** (Portola Redwoods SP): The slate-like rock (actually shale) prominently exposed along the creek caused a small gold rush in the middle 1860s.

A note on use of the possessive in geographical names: The policy of the U.S. Board of Geographical Names is to drop apostrophes “suggesting possession or association...within the body of a proper geographic name” (Peters Creek: not Peter’s Creek). The word or words that form a geographic name change their connotative function and together become a single denotative unit. They change from words having specific dictionary meaning to fixed labels used to refer to geographic entities. The need to imply possession or association no longer exists.” (Orth, Donald J. and Roger L. Payne. Principles, policies and procedures: domestic geographic names. 3rd. ed. USGS Office of Geographic Names, 1997; [mapping.usgs.gov/www/gnis/pppdgn.html](http://mapping.usgs.gov/www/gnis/pppdgn.html))



*Mindego Ridge, Russian Ridge OSP Photo by Geoffrey Skinner*

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### Grazing through Huckleberry Heaven

I consider the California huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) one of the great treats of autumn. I have fond memories of walking the Woodward Valley Trail in Point Reyes National Seashore one September when my hiking companion and I noticed thousands of succulent, dark red berries hanging from the bushes lining both sides of the trail under the towering Douglas firs. We grazed our way toward the coast, taking a couple of hours to travel less than two miles. Years later, I discovered new pleasures in visiting the Sierra Nevada in the fall when I discovered tasty berries on the California huckleberry's relatives, western blueberry (*V. uliginosum ssp. occidentale*) and dwarf bilberry (*V. caespitosum*).

The huckleberry belongs to the Ericaceae (Heath) family - a family that also includes madrone and manzanita. It is a California native (though also found elsewhere in western North America) which prefers redwood, closed-cone pine and mixed evergreen forests between nine and 2600 feet in

elevation. All of these habitats are abundant in the Santa Cruz Mountains and so are the California huckleberry and its close relative, the red huckleberry (*V. parviflorum*), particularly on the western slopes. While one finds a poison oak-filled understory on the eastern slopes, it is the huckleberries that often form an impenetrable thicket under the redwoods.

My wife, Joan, and I hiked through the huckleberry region as we made a circuit of Sam McDonald and Pescadero Creek County Parks on our honeymoon. We began our trip at the Sierra Club Hikers' Hut located in Sam McDonald, after an easy walk from the Sam McDonald Ranger Station. We stayed at the Hut for two days, which allowed us to explore much of the park. On the first day, we had hiked down into the Pescadero Creek canyon on Brook Trail Loop and I was excited to discover a huckleberry bush with a few berries still attached. I offered them to Joan and she tried two or three, but she couldn't understand the



A crazed huckleberry eater  
Photo by Joan Schwan

attraction because they were so dried that they were nearly flavorless. I'd argued that my memory of earlier feasts was strong enough that the present specimens were still a treat. She was very skeptical.

On our second day, we retraced our steps for about a mile, following Brook Trail Loop, then the upper portion of Bear Ridge Trail, paralleling Bravo Fire Road until the Canyon Trail junction.

We were happy to take the more scenic and gentle trail rather than the fire road, which drops steeply toward Pescadero Creek. We hiked down Canyon Trail, descending into deep second-growth redwood forest. Then, as we wandered along the unnamed tributary of Tarwater Creek at the bottom of the canyon, we entered paradise. Joan spotted the multitude of luscious berries first and we came to an abrupt halt. When she tasted her first berry, she was an immediate convert. We moved slowly down the trail, harvesting berries by the handful and devouring them with glee.

We could barely tear ourselves away from our path of temptation, but the sun was already low and we had some distance to cover before returning to

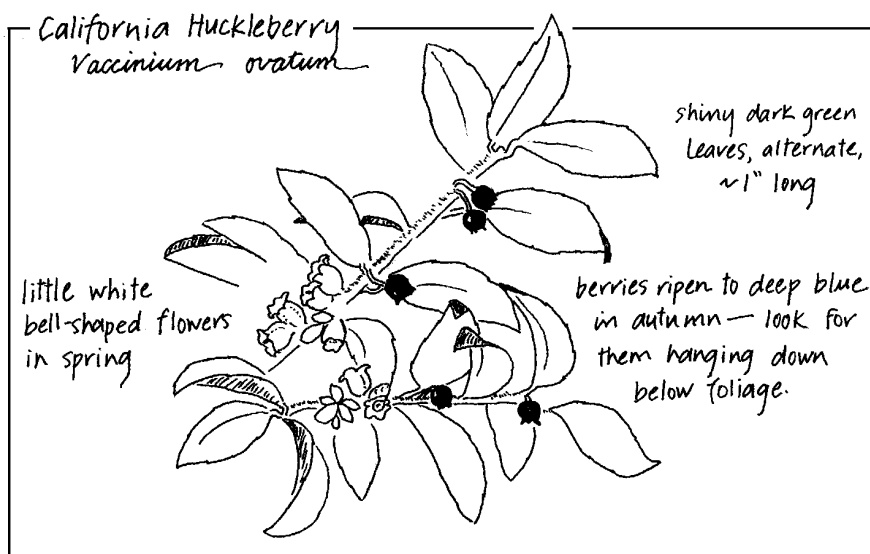


Illustration by Joan Schwan



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the Hikers' Hut. The hike back from Tarwater Creek was sadly lacking in huckleberries, although we saw plenty of bushes that suggested there had been riches earlier in the season. We turned right when we met Tarwater Trail Loop and followed Tarwater Creek down to Camp Pomponio Rd. and Pomponio Trail. The road continued to the San Mateo County Jail; we crossed the bridge over Tarwater Creek and climbed to skirt the jail to the north. About 3/4 mile up the hill, the lower end of Bear Ridge Trail meets Pomponio Trail. We took Bear Ridge Trail back to Brook Trail Loop and home, still bearing stains of our bounty on our hands and faces.

### If you're going...

The trails are most easily reached from La Honda, on Hwy 84. From La Honda, travel west, then turn left on Pescadero Road and continue 1.5 miles to the Sam McDonald RS. Take the Heritage Grove Trail or climb the Town Rd. to the ridge and bear left at the Jack Brook Horse Camp. The two routes can be used to make a pleasant, longer loop with only a short doubling along Town Fire Rd.

For a slightly shorter trip, you can also begin at Heritage Grove. From Hwy 84, travel about a mile and turn left on Alpine Road; continue another 1.5 mile up Alpine to the Grove parking area. Heritage Grove Trail climbs a mile to the top of the ridge where it meets the Town Fire Rd. and Brook Trail Loop, just beyond.

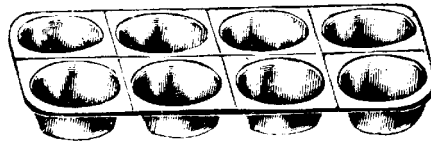
The Hikers' Hut is managed by the Sierra Club and can accommodate up to fourteen people. Call the Club at (650) 327-8111 for reservations.

Total distance: 5.5 miles (from the Hikers' Hut) + 2 mi. (from Heritage Grove or Sam McDonald via Town Rd.); + 4 mi. (from Sam McDonald via Heritage Grove Trail); or + 5 miles (from Sam McDonald via Heritage Grove Trail/Town Rd. loop)

Time: 5-6 hours (with lunch and huckleberry stops)

Elevation Gain: 650' (from Hikers' Hut) + 550' (from either trailhead)

Maps: Pescadero Creek County Park; USGS 7.5 minute quads La Honda and Mindego Hill. Trail maps are available at the Sam McDonald Ranger Station.



Western huckleberries, along with currants, chokecherries, bilberries and others, were favorites of the Native Americans, who ate them fresh, added them to pemmican, or dried them. Early European settlers also feasted on them, as did bears and other animals. They can be used in any recipe calling for blueberries or blackberries, such as pies, muffins and jams.

### Old-Fashioned Huckleberry Muffins

1 egg, beaten  
3/4 cup brown sugar  
1/2 cup milk  
1 Tbsp melted butter or margarine  
1 1/2 cups flour  
1/4 tsp salt  
1 Tbsp baking powder  
1 1/2 cups huckleberries (or blueberries)  
2 Tbsp flour

Preheat oven to 425( hot). Combine egg with brown sugar and milk. Stir in melted butter or margarine, Sift together 1 1/2 cups flour, salt, and baking powder. Quickly combine wet and dry ingredients. Toss huckleberries (or blueberries) with 2 Tbsp flour and fold into batter. Fill well-greased and floured muffin cups 2/3 full and bake 12 minutes. Makes 12.

(Recipe adapted from Charlotte Bringle Clarke's Edible and Useful Plants of California (University of California Press, 1977)).

(Park New - cont'd from page 4)

The Waterman Gap property, also known as the San Lorenzo River Redwoods, was heavily logged at the turn of the century, but has remained relatively untouched since then.

The Sempervirens Fund is seeking funding to help pay purchase costs and can be reached at [redwoods@sempervirens.org](mailto:redwoods@sempervirens.org) or (650) 968-4509.

## Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

### Bike Closures Ahead

As reported earlier, MRSOD plans to close seven preserves to bikes this fall(Foothills, La Honda Creek, Los Trancos, Picchetti Ranch, Pulgas Ridge, Teague Hill, and Thornewood Open Space Preserves). The closures will take place in conjunction with other seasonal trail closures after the first major rains.

### Russian Ridge

Fires around the state caused cancellation of the proscribed burn at Russian Ridge this summer. The burn had been scheduled for the beginning of August; crews had already built firebreaks and had burned a few small areas in preparation, but the California Dept. of Forestry personnel were needed to fight the fires in Los Padres and Sequoia National Forests. MROSD has rescheduled the burn for late September to mid-October, depending on weather conditions.

## Stanford University's Dish Area

Stanford University's Dish area has been reopened, with new restrictions in place. Visitors must stay on paved paths leading from the four gates and dogs are now prohibited. For more information, see [www.stanford.edu/news/dish](http://www.stanford.edu/news/dish) or call (650) 926-0275.

# The Trail Companion

(History - cont'd from page 1)

tlement, logging and mining, or importance in local events. But you will probably learn only a little of the park's own stories - why, when and how it was established - and those stories, as well as the larger story of how the greenbelt came to be, are well worth knowing.

## Exploitation and Unintentional Conservation

The concept of resources existing and being treasured for their own sake is a relatively recent one in American culture. Far more basic seems to be the idea that they should be made property, exploited for whatever can be gotten from them. And for much of our history the proper use of public lands was held to be that they should be converted to private ownership as soon as humanly possible.

So it was in California. Prior to European settlement, nearly all the native Californian tribes considered the land as being held in common, but once the Spanish, and then the Americans expelled them from their lands, ownership and economic exploitation came first, and preservation as an afterthought. Land was good for its minerals, its lumber, its pasturage, its water, its potential for farming and real estate. So it was mined, logged, grazed, drunk from, grown on and lived on. Only when those activities had been going on for some time was much thought given to saving it for recreation, or "future generations." In the beginning, the vastness of the land and the scantiness of the population did more to preserve it than any positive impulse in that direction.

The impulse started small, when the residents of San Francisco and Oakland began to think that it might be good to have public parks around the time of statehood in the early 1850s. The thought was immediately contested - real estate was real estate, and the public

benefit of a city park was a tough sell to men more interested in immediate private profit. Parks on a grander scale were an even tougher sell. The dream of Golden Gate Park did not even begin to be realized until 1870, and then took a state act to push it past opposing interests. Oakland's park at Lake Merritt only took shape in the early years of the twentieth century.

Meanwhile, less altruistic interests were shaping the future of the area's open lands. The need for water in San Francisco and the hope of a water monopoly lay behind the formation of the Spring Valley Water Company in 1860, but its stealthy buying up of the San Andreas valley watershed for reservoirs proved crucial in saving it from later development. Across the bay the East Bay Water Company played a similar role. Several competing companies, meanwhile, gradually diked off the wetlands ringing the bay, as salt ponds. While their activities drastically reduced the area's natural marshes, they also helped save them from filling and development, leaving open the possibility of later restoration.

The early millionaires who built up vast personal estates on the Peninsula were another factor in limiting development, though in most instances they merely delayed the inevitable. A spectacular exception was the Stanford estate. Leland Stanford's inalienable bequest of his land to the university bearing his son's name in 1885 maintained a vast area of the Peninsula's foothills in their natural state right into the present. Only the recent emergence of the university itself as a major developer threatens its status.

## Money-Making Scenery and the Yosemite Effect

Early appreciation of scenic attractions was reflected primarily in efforts to exploit them as such commercially. In the Bay Area, Mount Diablo was a particular target of such efforts, beginning with the building of a private toll road to

the summit in 1874. New auto toll roads were constructed between 1912 and 1915 as part of a speculative resort development. Its subsequent bankruptcy provided openings both for preservation and further development efforts later on.

It was the spectacular beauty of Yosemite Valley and its endangerment by similar speculative interests that prompted the idea of setting aside scenic lands simply to protect them for the enjoyment of all people. Appeals to Senator John Conness in the early 1860s resulted in a federal bill to that purpose, signed into law by President Lincoln on June 30, 1864. This date marks the practical beginning of both the national and state park systems. As the federal government had as yet no notion of getting into the park business, the responsibility for Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias was granted to the State of California. Still, a precedent had been established. In 1872 the federal government did get into the park business by making Yellowstone in Wyoming the first official national park. In California, the Yosemite bill acted more as a precedent for delegation. Rather than imitate the nation by initiating a state park system, the state lent its authority to local parks. Mention has already been made of the 1870 act that established Golden Gate Park. Two years later, as the federal government created a national park, California made another municipal one, this time for San Jose - Alum Rock Park in Penitencia Canyon. In 1893, in an early instance of coastal protection, the state legislature intervened in a dispute between the citizens of Pescadero and a local landowner over access to Pebble Beach, setting aside beach lands from Pescadero Creek to Bean Hollow Lagoon for public use.

Local parks and national parks - small in area and small in number - that was the picture as the nineteenth century drew to a close. That picture started to change with the growth of an organized conservation movement, or rather, movements.

## The Trail Companion

Early preservation efforts were local causes, galvanized by local threats. The most prominent once again involved Yosemite, and its most important spokesman was John Muir. In 1890 his struggle for broader protection of the region resulted in the establishment of Yosemite National Park surrounding the existing state park, as well as Sequoia and General Grant National Parks to the south. (General Grant was expanded and renamed Kings Canyon National Park in 1940.) The dual federal-state control of Yosemite finally ended in 1906, when the state receded the valley and the Mariposa Grove to the nation and they were absorbed into the national park. As for Muir, two years after his success in Yosemite he founded the Sierra Club, which went on to embrace regional and

even national causes. One of the former, a futile attempt from 1907 to 1913 to prevent San Francisco from damming Yosemite's Hetch Hetchy Valley for drinking water, showed that the success of a conservation drive could by no means be taken for granted, even within the boundaries of a supposedly protected national park.

### Conservation Goes Mainstream

More typical of the early conservation movement were three smaller scale attempts to save the Bay Area's remaining old-growth redwoods. Like Muir's crusade, Andrew P. Hill's effort in the Santa Cruz Mountains spawned an organization and paid off in a park. The organization was the Sempervirens Club

(today's Sempervirens Fund), and the park California Redwood State Park (now Big Basin), established in 1902 as California's second (and oldest existing) state park.

Unlike Muir's group, the Sempervirens Fund's activities have remained local. The efforts of Col. James B. Armstrong and the William Kent family were somewhat different. Possessed of more resources than hill, they simply bought the forestlands they wanted to preserve. Armstrong's interest lay in the 400

acres of big trees north of Guerneville later known as the Armstrong Grove. He intended to leave the grove to the state, but as no state agency then existed to administer it, his gift went unclaimed for a number of years after his death in 1900, its fate uncertain. Seventeen years later the grove was finally purchased by Sonoma County for a county park. It did not become a state park until 1934. Congressman William Kent and his wife Elizabeth had better luck, or perhaps better connections. In 1905 they bought 295 acres of old-growth trees along Redwood Creek in the north bay, which they afterwards donated to the federal government. When Theodore Roosevelt declared the stand a national monument in 1908 he proposed naming it after Kent. The congressman preferred to memorialize John Muir, and it became Muir Woods National Monument.

As interest in conservation and recreational use of the wilderness grew, people began to think regionally. In 1905 Oakland's Robinson Plan, which contained the recommendation to acquire Lake Merritt and other areas as parklands, also proposed a county park system for Alameda County. The proposal proved premature, but fed into later efforts.

The mainstreaming of the movement began to be reflected in institutional structures. The 1906 Antiquities Act, which gave the President the power to declare national monuments, provided conservationists with a powerful tool - if they could get the right ear. Early instances of projects that did were Muir Woods, previously mentioned, and Pinnacles National Monument, both in 1908. The National Park Service Organic Act of 1916 created a professional, system-wide administration for the national parks then existing and later created, and specified they be run "in such manner and by such means as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." Sierra Club member Stephan Mather became the park service's first director.



*The "Dog Tree", Arastradero Preserve  
Photo by Darwin Pulos*

## The Trail Companion

Shortly afterwards a state park movement arose out of what was initially another local preservation effort. In 1917 prominent conservationists connected with the University of California began a drive to preserve the redwoods along the northern coast, where destructive logging was widespread and protection nonexistent. They organized the Save-the-Redwoods League in 1918 with the goal of rescuing representative areas of old-growth forest and cooperating with state and federal authorities in establishing redwood parks. Its campaign galvanized efforts to create a true state park system in the 1920s.

### The Establishment of the State Park System

The Sierra Club advocated establishment of a state park commission and a statewide survey of lands suitable for parks as early as 1924. A state park bill was actually passed by the legislature in 1925 but was pocket-vetoed by the governor. Finally, in 1927, three measures were enacted. The first created a Division of Parks in the Department of Natural Resources and a State Park Commission to administer, protect and develop the system. Seven state parks were already in existence by this time, Mount Diablo State Park (1921) being the most recent created in the Bay Area. The second funded the statewide survey advocated by the Sierra Club, and the third put a state park bond issue before the electorate to be voted on in the November 1928 election. Additional laws enacted in the same session of the legislature authorized formation of local park, recreation and acquired Mount Tamalpais in Marin County for a state park (the project of another local movement, this one the Tamalpais Conservation Club).

Landscape architect and city planner Frederick Law Olmsted, son and namesake of the initial planner of New York's Central Park, San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, Stanford University and the

University of California at Berkeley directed the California State Park Survey or Olmsted Plan. Completed late in 1928, it recommended over 150 areas



*Frederick Law Olmsted*

for state acquisition throughout California. Those in the Bay Area included the headwaters of Harrington Creek in San Mateo County, additions to the existing Mount Diablo State Park in Contra Costa County, Mount Saint Helena in Napa County, Petrified Forest in Sonoma County, the Sonoma coastline from Bodega Bay to the Russian River, and a number of historical sites. Considered but not included were the broad, undeveloped hill regions surrounding the bayside cities that would soon be the object of other plans. The Olmsted Plan was assured of becoming more than just a plan by the state electorate's passage of the state park bonds by a 3-1 vote.

Over the next few years the State Park Commission did much to realize the plan. Parks established by the commission include Mount Tamalpais State Park north and west of Muir Woods in 1930, the expanded Mount Diablo State Park, designated a unit of the new state park system in 1931, Sonoma Coast State Park, established and built up through various purchases from 1931-35, Kruse Rhododendron Reserve north of Fort Ross in 1933, and the Armstrong Grove in 1934. The state's purchase of this park from Sonoma County, which converted it from a county park to a state park and incidentally fulfilled James B. Armstrong's original intent for the prop-

erty, established a precedent for later state acquisitions of county parks.

### Surplus Watershed Lands Become Regional Parks

Even as the state park system finally got off the ground in 1928, an opportunity for local regional park planning was created by the East Bay Municipal Utility District's purchase of the extensive land holdings of the East Bay Water Company. Much of this land was surplus to the new district's needs, and citizen groups soon arose to assess what portions might make good parks for recreational use of the hills. One such group, the East Bay Metropolitan Park Association, soon made a preliminary survey to that effect. This was followed up at the end of 1930 by a comprehensive one conducted by Olmsted and Ansel Hall of the National Park Service for the University of California's Bureau of Public Administration. The Olmsted-Hall Report recommended developing surplus watershed lands into a twenty-two mile chain of regional parks through the hills from Richmond to San Leandro as part of a larger Bay Area park and parkway system that would also include San Mateo County's watershed lands on the Peninsula, Golden Gate Park and the Presidio in San Francisco, and North Bay parks and watershed lands, all to be linked by the system of great bridges over the bay that was then just beginning to come into being. Aside from the East Bay parks this vision was never to be implemented in any systematic fashion, though subsequent decades were to see many of its proposals realized in a piecemeal basis. Even the prospects for the East Bay seemed bleak at first. The East Bay Municipal Utility District refused to support a proposal to include park functions among its powers. The way was only cleared for implementing the East Bay plan by the legislature's passage of the Regional Park District Act in 1933, which provided that two or more adjacent cities might form a park district within the boundaries of an existing utility district. Accordingly,

## The Trail Companion

voters in seven East Bay cities approved the formation of an East Bay Regional Park District in 1934. The new district started making land purchases in 1936, both from the East Bay Municipal Utility District and private owners. The first parks established under its authority were Redwood Regional Park, Round-top Regional Park, Lake Temescal Regional Park, and Charles Lee Tilden Regional Park.

The East Bay was not the only area in which an expiring water company created a windfall for conservation. On the Peninsula William Bourn II, longtime owner of the Spring Valley Water Company, sold both the company and its vast land holdings to the city of San Francisco in 1930. The transfer stipulated that the land be held in perpetuity as an ecological preserve devoted solely to water supply use. While the transaction brought no new parks or recreational areas with it, the long term ecological benefit of preserving a whole watershed by public ownership have been considerable.

### County Parks and Gradual Acquisitions

All told, the Bay Area gained as a region more public recreational space in the 1930s than in any prior period. The large scale efforts detailed above were only part of the story. On a smaller scale, Bay Area counties were also starting to create parks and project park systems, though their initiatives were somewhat spotty. San Mateo County had previously inaugurated its park system with the establishment of Memorial Park on upper Pescadero Creek in 1924. Subsequently, in 1932, a new county charter established a park and recreation department, master recreation plan and land acquisition fund. Under the master plan the county acquired several miles of coastal beaches, and later encouraged the State Park Commission's purchase of additional beaches included in the plan. Santa Clara County had established Stevens Creek Park in 1924 and

Mount Madonna Park in 1927, though it had no long-range program. A "save the beaches" campaign began in Marin County, though it was not to reach fruition until after World War II. No large tracts were set aside in Napa or Solano Counties.

After the excitement of the 1920s and 30s, the next two decades were relatively quiet on the park building front. The state and the East Bay Regional Park district both augmented their holdings - Henry W. Coe State Park and Año Nuevo State Reserve, both established in 1958, were notable additions to the state system. San Mateo County continued expansion of its park system with Huddart Park in Woodside, donated by the state in 1944, Junipero Serra Park in the hills behind San Bruno, purchased in 1956, and Sam MacDonald Park near La Honda, willed to Stanford University for use as a park by Sam MacDonald in 1957 and given to the county by the University in 1959. In Santa Clara County, the City of Palo Alto added to foothill region already preserved by Stanford University by acquiring the huge Foothills Park in two purchases from Dr. Russel V. A Lee.

All in all, the Bay Area in the middle decades of the century seemed to have come to a certain equilibrium or stasis, even complacency, in relation to open space issues. It was more apparent than real. The postwar prosperity brought an unprecedented building boom, as new housing filled up the unprotected north and bayside of the Peninsula, turned San Jose into a little Los Angeles, and began to encroach on previously little disturbed farmlands in the East Bay. Whole new cities were built on land reclaimed from the Bay, and proposals for additional communities built on fill reached epic proportions. Awareness of the environmental consequences of gung-ho development was about to hit home with a bang. There would be nothing quiet about the 1960s.

**To be Continued.**

Note: Information in the foregoing article was compiled from numerous sources, too many to cite in full here. I am particularly indebted to Mel Scott's *The San Francisco Bay Area: a Metropolis in Perspective* (2nd ed., 1985), Alan Hynding's *From Frontier to Suburb: the Story of the San Mateo Peninsula* (1982), Ken Paul and Alexandra Gautraud's *San Mateo! A Sketchbook Tour of the San Francisco Peninsula's Past* (1989), and Lawrence Kinnard's *History of the Greater San Francisco Bay Region* (1966). Also invaluable were Seth Adam's article "A History of Mt. Diablo," from *Mount Diablo Review* (fall 2000) and the websites of the National Park System, Sierra Club, and many of the organizations and parks described herein. A complete list of references and links accompanies the online version of this article.

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### Coming up...

#### Winter 2001

*Giving Back to the Parks: Trail building is only one of the many ways we can give back to the parks. We look at docent programs and other volunteer activities in Bay Area parks and open spaces. We're also continuing this month's theme with an additional look at history in the parks.*

#### Spring 2001

*Natural History: The Santa Cruz Mountains are home to a rich community of flora and fauna. Learn about our unusual plants, rare habitats and the geology underfoot*

*...as well as news of Trail Center events, park news, and new literary works.*

## The Trail Companion

(Up and Down - cont'd from pg. 1)

Although the survey was a disappointment in the eyes of the state government since it failed to discover any new mineral fields, it produced a wealth of knowledge about the state, served as a basis for subsequent surveys nationwide and for the establishment of the USGS as a civilian agency, and provided a vivid portrait of the region and time through Brewer's journal. Of particular interest for The Trail Companion's theme are his descriptions of the Peninsula and South Bay, which the party visited several times in the course of the survey.

The party made long visits to the mines at New Almaden, now Almaden Quick-silver County Park, where fortunes were being made in the mines that supplied mercury for gold extraction in the Mother Lode:

### **New Almaden Mines, August 17 [1861]**

*Tuesday, August 13, I went to the mines and collected specimens. The mines are about two miles from the furnaces, on the hill. We collected two or three boxes of specimens, then returned. The furnaces are complete, and about three thousand flasks (seventy-five pounds each) of quicksilver are made each month. More might be made if desired, but that is enough for the market. An old furnace has been taken down, and the soil beneath for twenty-five feet down (no one knows how much deeper) is so saturated with metallic quicksilver in the minutest state of division, that they are now digging it up and sluicing the dirt, and much quicksilver is obtained in that way. Thousands of pounds have already been taken out, and they are still at work.*

*No wonder that there has been such legal knavery to get this mine, when*

*we consider its value. Every rich mine is claimed by some ranch owner. These old Spanish grants were in the valleys; and when a mine is discovered, an attempt is made to float the claim to the hills. Two separate ranches, miles a part and miles from the mine, have claimed it, and immense sums expended to get possession. The company has probably spent nearly a million dollars in defending its claim - over half a million has been spent in lawyers' fees alone, I hear. The same at New Idria - it was claimed by a ranch, the nearest edge of which is fifteen miles off!*

While in the Bay Area, Brewer ascended most of the major peaks. He notes the hundreds of peaks in the Coast Ranges that Mount Tom (900 ft.) and Mount Holyoke (1,200 ft.) - the major mountains of his native Mass. - would scarcely be noticed if they were set in the Coast Range, and here, the peaks were "not only unknown to fame, but are even without names."



*Mt. Hamilton*

### **Camp 49, Mountain View [within current San Jose, not the site of the present Mountain View] Sunday, September 1 [1861]**

*Tuesday, Aug. 27, we went to examine a hill east of the head of the bay and north of San Jose [Mission Peak, Mission Peak Regional Park]. It was both farther (14 or 15 miles)*

*and higher (2,500 to 2,800 feet) than we expected, so it took us all day. The valley looked like a map, and the head of the bay, with its swamps intersected and cut up with winding streams and bayous crossing and winding in every direction, made by far the prettiest picture of the kind I have ever seen. It was wonderful.*

*Wednesday afternoon we took dinner with Mr. Hamilton [Laurentine Hamilton, Presbyterian preacher and namesake of Mt. Hamilton], then rode to some sulphur springs and rocks that produce alum, about eight or nine miles east of town [Alum Rock Park], returned and took tea with him.*

### **Tuesday, Sept. 8 [1861]**

*Yesterday was a most lovely day. We started early on foot to climb a high mountain that rises behind camp, over three thousand feet [Black Mountain, Monte Bello OSP]. It was hard to get at, and had no water. We had a canteen along to fill at a spring along the way, but we found it dry. We took it up moderately, however, and did not suffer much from thirst. We found tracks and traces of grizzlies, more abundant than we have seen them before - we were in paths where their fresh tracks covered the ground, but we did not meet any.*

Brewer's journal, edited by Francis P. Farquhar and published by University of California Press as *Up and Down California in 1860-1864*, is available from the UC Press ([www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/1246.html](http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/1246.html)) and from Books on Demand, Ann Arbor, MI.

A good (though fictionalized) account of New Almaden can be found in Wallace Stegner's *Angle of Repose*.

# The Trail Companion

## Don't Miss the First Volunteer Appreciation, Annual Meeting & Tool Party of the New Millennium!

**Nov. 5 - Sunday - 12 Noon-7:00 p.m.**

**Home of Scott Heeschen, 275 Carlyn Ave., Campbell, CA**

Come celebrate the Trail Center's 17th year of building and mapping trails. Our 2000 Annual Meeting will be combined with a tool maintenance party, which kicks off at noon. Our tools have taken a beating over the year and now it's time for some TLC. Come early and help sharpen and repair tools (no experience necessary - we train), or just arrive at 4:30 for a pizza/BBQ and a short business meeting, followed by spectacular photos by Dave Croker, Darwin Poulos and Alan Justice at 5:30.

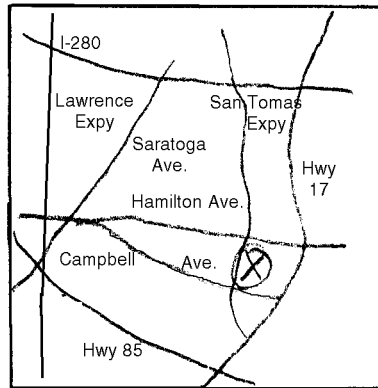
The Board of Directors currently has a number of vacancies. We are especially looking for candidates who have financial, publicity or organizational skills. The Board meets officially quarterly, with optional office work parties on the off-months. If you would like to be considered for a position on the Board

or would like to nominate someone, please contact us before the meeting.

Please bring the ballot to the meeting or mail it in. Write-ins encouraged.

Contact us to sign up, RSVP for the meeting or for further details.

**info@trailcenter.org**  
**(650)968-7065**

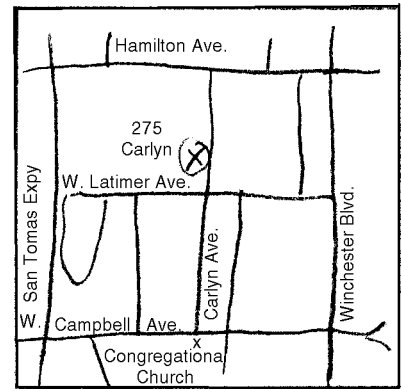


## Official Ballot for Trail Center 2000 Annual Meeting

**Geoffrey Skinner**

Write-in:

Write-in:



## Become a Member and Support Trails in the San Francisco Bay Area:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
email: \_\_\_\_\_

### I Would Like To Volunteer:

- Trail Building       Trail Advocacy
- Map Making       Newsletter
- Photography       Publicity
- Office Assistance       Fundraising
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

check if you want email notification of Trail Center events (1-3 times a month)

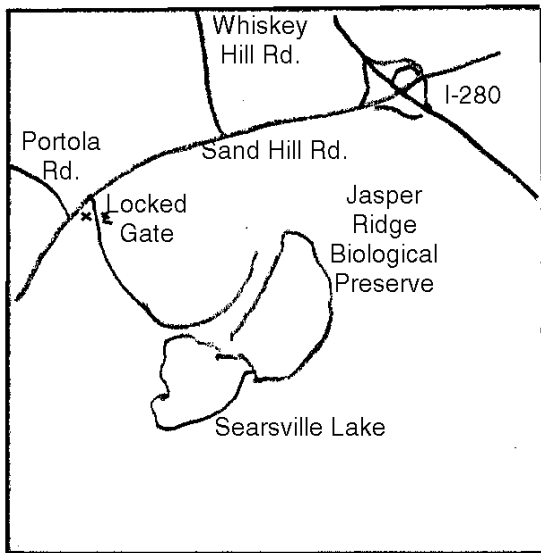
### Here is my Annual Membership Fee:

- \$25 Individual       \$100 Sustaining
- \$35 Family       \$250 Patron
- \$50 Contributing       \$1000 Benefactor

**Please return to:**  
**Trail Center**  
**3921 East Bayshore Road**  
**Palo Alto, CA 94303**

# Upcoming Trail Center Events

**Join us at Jasper Ridge for Community Impact Day - October 21**



Help us build a whole-access raised walkway with Community Impact - visit [www.communityimpact.org](http://www.communityimpact.org)

## **Annual Meeting and Tool Party - November 5**

Details on inside back cover

**Call (650) 968-7065 for more information or email [info@trailcenter.org](mailto:info@trailcenter.org)**



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