

July 5, 2003

Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve

This ridgetop preserve on the inner crest of the Santa Cruz mountains affords fine views, excellent trails that are not too steep, and finally takes us down an old road (now washed out) that led to the old Page Mill site, now in Portola Redwoods State Park at the canyon's bottom. We won't go that far today (some people may want to arrange a car shuttle and go for it), but the canyon's shade could be welcome as we ease into July. Take Hwy 9 through Saratoga, up the hill to Skyline Blvd. and go right for about 7-8 miles. The parking lot sign is on the left. 4 miles, 400 vertical feet, Level 1½, drive time is 40 minutes.

July 12, 2003

Full Moon Hike, 7:00 PM

Our most popular hike last year, the moonlight hike in this wilderness park in the Diablo Range has become legendary. Meet at the Visitor Center at Henry Coe State Park's main entrance. We'll enjoy a sunset hike through the woods and fields, have a bonfire meeting at Manzanita Point, and return on the undulating Manzanita Point Road under the dazzling, milky radiance of the full moon, carressed by the warm, mid-summer air. Camping is available (and recommended), see the website for full particulars. 7 miles, 700 vertical feet, Level 3, 50 travel minutes. Take 101 south, go east (left) on East Dunne Ave., follow the signs.

July 26, 2003

Elkhorn Slough

This estuary preserve is a refuge for all kinds of tidal wetlands plant and animal species, and offers a nice change of texture in our summer meeting list--- as does the drive over the mountains and by the ocean. It is also flat, and if you rent a kayak you can paddle out to the meeting and not walk at all. Take Hwy 1 south to Moss Landing and turn left into the well-signed preserve entrance. 4 miles, 0 vertical feet, Level 1, parking is \$4.00, 60 minutes drive time. Abundant water birds, crabs, mollusks, salt marsh plants, and the beach is right across the street.

www.wildrecovery.org has pictures, maps, much more information, and any needed updates and corrections to our printed schedule.

Contact Us

Secretary	Anna J (408) 806-7675	annaj@wildrecovery.org
Treasurer	Tom R. (408) 307-6649	tomr@wildrecovery.org
GSR	Maria V. (408) 364-0116	mariav@wildrecovery.org
Website	Victor B. (408) 971-3555	info@wildrecovery.org
	Joe E. (408) 396-2296	joe@wildrecovery.org
	Liz H. (408) 365-8623	lizh@wildrecovery.org

Wild Recovery

March - July 2003
Saturdays, 10:00 AM

www.wildrecovery.org



March 1, 2003

Uvas Canyon Waterfalls

For a change, we'll be praying for rain for our Wild Recovery season kickoff meeting. Well, maybe not right on that day, but a nice storm just before our visit to Uvas Canyon County Park would make Swanson Creek's waterfalls and rapids especially satisfying. The 50-minute drive through the South County backcountry is charming, and the hike is easy at 4 miles, 500 vertical feet, and Level 1½. Take 101 south, go west on Bernal, left on Santa Teresa, right on Bailey, pass IBM and turn left on McKean. Pass by Calero Park (well worth its own springtime visit). McKean will become Uvas Road, keep going until you see the big sign announcing the turnoff. Take the right on Croy, go slow through Sveadol (kids playing), park in the Uvas lot. Parking is \$4.00, bring dollar bills or quarters for the machine. Bring fast film if you want pictures of the falls.

March 15, 2003

Fall Creek

Fall Creek Unit is part of Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park in Felton, though it's detached from the main part of the park, and twice as big. It may remind you of Forest of Nisene Marks except that it's a bit easier to hike, not being quite as steep. Deep second-growth forest, many creeks and streams, colorful fungi and mushrooms, very pretty and quiet. The whole forest was clear-cut 150 years ago to fire the old stone kilns we'll pass, where lime was slaked at a toasty 1700°. Ferns grow between its stones, now moist and cool. Take Hwy 17 south, exit at Mt. Hermon Rd and take the right. At the tee (Covered Bridge Park), jog right on Graham Hill, left onto Felton-Empire, and continue straight (don't turn onto Hwy 9 toward the main entrance). The park turn-out is about ½ mile on the right. Four miles, 400 vertical feet (most encountered at the beginning), Level 2, drive time 40 minutes, free parking.

March 29, 2003
Morgan Territory

New on the Wild Recovery list, this preserve offers a generous wildflower display in good years, excellent birdwatching, and a fine view of nearby Mt. Diablo, without having to actually climb the mountain. Drive time 75 minutes, 6 miles, 600 vertical ft, Level 3, steeply down at first, gently up at the end. Take 680 north to 580 west, exit at N. Livermore and go north on it, then west on its extension, Manning Ave. Turn right on Morgan Territory Road, and six miles later, right into the Volvon Staging Area parking lot.

April 12, 2003
Henry Coe State Park, Hunting Hollow Entrance

Dappled shade, wildflowers, views both distant and intimate, rock outcrops, a very pretty small pond, and finally a green meadow with a creek. We had a much more challenging hike in mind, but discovered this beautiful (and much easier) trail that seemed too perfect to pass up, especially in wildflower season. Take 101 south to Gilroy, exit at Leavesley and turn east. Left on New, right on Roop, follow the signs first to Coyote Lake County Park and then to Gilroy Hot Springs. Drive time is 50 minutes, parking in the Hunting Hollow lot is \$4. Follow the ranch road across the creek, take the left on Lyman Willson Trail, but as soon as you go through the gate take the small trail to the right. 4½ miles, 100 vertical feet, Level 1½. An easy backpack camping trip (no car camping at this entrance), worth considering, as you won't want to leave.

April 26, 2003
Sunol Regional Wilderness

Little Yosemite's cascading falls and rock pools, lush spring greenery (unfortunately with cows), that backcountry feeling, and a favorite spot for a meeting all come together on this trip. It is also an easy hike: Level 1, 100 vertical feet, 4½ miles. If that's not challenging enough for you, there are plenty of hikes here that will be; it is worth a return visit. Take 680 North, exit at the second Calaveras exit, which is in Sunol (not Milpitas), and turn right onto Sunol Road. Go down to Geary Road and take the left into the park. Parking is \$4.00, get a map, meet at the Visitor Center.

May 10, 2003
Windy Hill Open Space Preserve

Windy Hill is an excellent mid-spring trip that will quiet the complaining about how the hikes are too easy this year. Level 3, 800 vertical feet, 6½ miles, all through beautiful woods on the District's well-maintained trails, which are designed to a grade of 10% or less. If the weather is clear, the view from the benches atop the hill is worth the climb... and it's all downhill going back. Take 280 North, exit at Alpine Road and go south. Go right on Portola to the parking lot. No fee, maps and restrooms at the entrance.

May 24-25, 2003
Sequoia National Park

Our Memorial Day retreat weekend will take place high on the Sierra crest. Sequoia is only a little further than Yosemite, just as beautiful or more so, and far more manageable for a retreat. Drive time is about 5 hours. Tent camping is available, as are motel accommodations, but reserve them in advance. The retreat is \$15, sign up with our Treasurer, Tom R. Bring your own camping gear, firewood, and food for yourself and the potluck dinner. We'll have a hike and a meeting Saturday and Sunday, (one of them to a hot springs) with time to relax and get home Monday. You can arrive on Friday if you want. See wildrecovery.org for the complete details.

June 7, 2003
Memorial Park

It won the Secretary's Choice award last season, and it's hard to argue with the fact that this redwood-forested canyon on the banks of Pescadero Creek affords a very nice hike. It is also not too difficult, at Level 2½, 500 vertical feet, and 5 miles. There is said to be a nice view from the ridgetop, but the air has been misty and opaque every time we have visited, so far. We'll have a campfire and a picnic, so bring food. Take 280 north to Sand Hill, go west (left). Right on Portola, not far, left onto La Honda Road (Hwy 84), left again onto Pescadero Road. Shortly past the YMCA camp turn left into the park and left again into the Tan Oak picnic area. Parking is \$4.00, camping is available but come early, as even this huge campground sells out. The hour's drive offers charms of its own as the road winds through the forested hills of the peninsula.

June 21, 2003
Mt. Tamalpais State Park

Prominent from San Francisco and anywhere in Marin County, this is a very special place that is well worth the two-hour drive. The views alone would justify the trip, but Mt. Tam has beauties of its own, as well as an unusually powerful energy of place. Take 280 south, then 19th Ave., across the Golden Gate Bridge. From 101 in Marin take the Hwy 1 turnoff and follow the signs for Mt. Tam. Watch for surprise turns. Right on Panoramic Hwy, right on Pan Toll, right on Ridgecrest to the lot at East Peak, which we'll explore while people arrive. Parking is \$5.00. Abundant photo ops. The picnic meeting will be on the knoll across from Rock Springs parking area (which you'll pass on the way), with the hike into the backcountry following it. We like to start on Cataract Trail and work our way through to Music Stand Trail, not our easiest hike at Level 3½, 900 vertical feet, 7½ miles, but the views and variety of environments on the mountain are hard to beat anywhere.