



# OSA OUTLOOK

Summer 2011 • Vol. 5 No. 2

## INSIDE

- **New!** Docent-led bike rides on OSA trails.
- **Free!** Fun and educational activities for families.
- **Special!** Cultural and historical programs at Ulistac Nature Area in Santa Clara.
- Summer bird-watching and spectacular stargazing.
- OSA all the way - get involved with your community.



photo by Dana Litwin

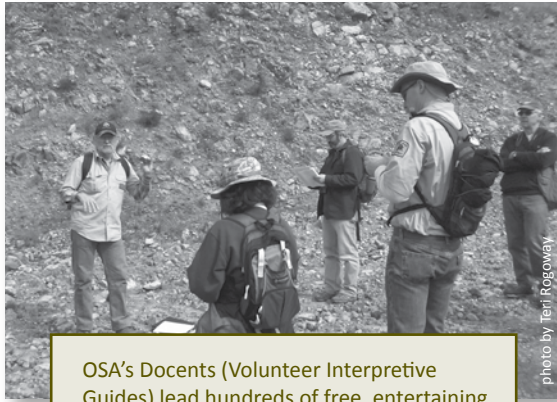
OSA is pleased to welcome our new General Manager, Andrea Mackenzie.

Ms. Mackenzie has a long history in the protection and preservation of open space. Uniquely qualified to head the Open Space Authority, she is the former General Manager of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (2000-2009) and has also worked for the National Park Service, the City and County of San Francisco and the East Bay Regional Park District. Most recently, she served as project director to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County to develop a blueprint for conserving the county's most important biological and water resources, farmlands and recreational areas. She is the current President of the Bay Area Open Space Council and a past fellow of the National Conservation Leadership Institute in Shepherdstown, W. VA.

Ms. Mackenzie has a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from U.C. Santa Barbara and a master's degree in Urban Planning and Natural Resources from U.C.L.A.

# OSA All the Way

Volunteering with OSA is a fun and rewarding way to enjoy, protect, and preserve the beauty of our Santa Clara Valley. Opportunities for volunteers include Trail Patrol, Land Stewards (habitat restoration), Community Outreach, and the Docent Program. For more information please contact Dana Litwin, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, at (408) 224-7476, or [volunteer@openspaceauthority.org](mailto:volunteer@openspaceauthority.org).



OSA's Docents (Volunteer Interpretive Guides) lead hundreds of free, entertaining and informative activities all year long.

photo by Teri Rogoway

## TRAIL PATROL SPRING CLASS

4 new members of OSA VTP:

**Russell V., Veronica Z., Mike P. and Mike C.** Next training session for Trail Patrol will be in autumn 2011.



Community Outreach: Busy Booths!

photo by Vince Ores

## OSA at Community Events

OSA Community Outreach Volunteers had a fun and busy spring season including 4 Earth Day events, Spring in Guadalupe Gardens, Bay Area Open Space Council conference and the Wildlife Education and Rescue Center's Celebration. Come by and say "Hi" to OSA staff and volunteers at these summer community celebrations:

**6/25/11** Wellness Fair in Hellyer Park

**8/21/11** Celebrate Cambrian

## Ulistac Nature Area in Santa Clara has summer fun for you!

### Walking After Work

June 9 and July 7, 2011 6:00pm

Looking for a way to unwind after work and work up an appetite for dinner? Why not walk at Ulistac with our Docents and enjoy the wildlife? Meet Docent Michelle at the south entrance to the Ulistac Nature Area on Lick Mill Blvd. Bring the family and enjoy an evening walk through this hidden treasure spot. Pets on leash welcome. Please bring water to drink and a hat for the sun.

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## If You Plant it, They Will Come

June 25, 2011 9:00am to 12:00pm

Tour the native plant butterfly garden at the Ulistac Nature Area with Docents Dennis and Rick as they show you all the ways they entice butterflies into the garden. Learn all about the 11 years of restoration that has gone into creating this family friendly nature area just for you. Families welcome!

## 10,000 Years of Santa Clara Valley Natural History

July 2, 2011 9:00am to 12:00pm

Over the years, Ulistac Nature Area has undergone an amazing evolution. Come learn all about the past lives and future prospects for this beautiful natural setting. This walk is 1-2 miles and all flat and easy. Strollers, families and pets are welcome.



photo by Teri Rogoway

## Sensing Open Space

August 19, 2011 9:00am

How often do we explore nature with our eyes? Join us for a fun and engaging exploration of nature with our other senses. Learn to experience the outdoors in a new way as we focus on our other senses. Families welcome. Please bring water and a light snack. This interpretive activity will take about 1.5 to 2 hours and takes place on a flat, compact surface.

## Birding for Beginners

August 20, 2011 9:00am



photo by John Scanlon

Veteran birders and beginners are all welcome to join Docent Jay as he explores the Ulistac Nature Area for Summer birds. Please bring binoculars and water to drink. Meet at the south entrance to the Ulistac Nature Area, nearest Hope Road.

## Boccardo Bike Ride

August 13, 2011 9:30am

If you enjoy biking in Alum Rock Park, you'll love the OSA trails above! Learn all about the natural and cultural history of the area with Docent Vince for a mountain bike ride up through Alum Rock Park to the Boccardo Loop Trail in OSA's Sierra Vista property. This is a very steep downhill and requires more experience to safely take this ride. 2-3 years of experience recommended.

# DOCENT ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

## Starry Nights

- Rancho Cañada del Oro
- Sat. June 4 8:30pm
- Sat. July 23 8:00pm
- Sat. August 6 8:00pm

Join Docent Chris Kelly for an evening under the stars. Explore galaxies, planets and constellations with the whole family in this fun, peaceful environment. Bring binoculars, warm clothes, water to drink and a flashlight. Beach chairs or blankets are highly recommended. If you have a telescope you'd like help setting up, come early and we will assist you. This is great fun for the whole family.

## Hikes at Rancho Cañada del Oro Ethnobotany Exploration

- June 4 5:00pm

Join OSA Docents for an exciting and educational walk through Rancho Cañada del Oro in search of plants that played an important role in our Valley's past. Learn about the Native American and folk uses of plants you see every day. See them through new eyes as we explore the cultural uses of plants on this 4-5 mile moderate afternoon hike. After the hike, feel free to join us for stargazing in the parking lot.



photo by Cait Hutnik

## Summer Singers

- June 5 9:00am

What's that sound? Most likely, you're hearing the summer song of a cicada. Come on a hike with Docent Cait and walk to the music of these summer singing insects. Learn about the other things that share their summer songs with us in Santa Clara County. This 4 - 5 mile hike is moderate and gently paced.



photo by Dennis McWilliams

## Wings and Blings

- **June 14 9:00am**

Do you like butterflies and beautiful views? Come on out to Rancho and join Cait for a hike in search of both! This hike through the rolling hills of open space will spark your love of nature with peaceful scenery and early summer warmth.

## Biking for Beauty

- **June 18 9:30am**



photo by Dana Litwin

Do you like to mountain bike? Do you like learning about nature? How about both at the same time? Join Docent Vince for a fun and scenic mountain bike interpretive ride. Climb the trails at Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve while learning about the nature all around you. This trail can be difficult so 1-2 years of experience biking is recommended. Reservations required. Go to Eventbrite.com and search for 'OSA Activities' or call (408) 224-7476.

## Mid-Summer Ramble

- **June 21 9:00am**

Roam the hillsides along our Audubon Bird Count route at Rancho Cañada del Oro. Docents will show you all the birds, the fascinating plants, and the beautiful scenery on this route that is not often indulged in. Be ready to cross creeks and climb one big hill for a fun meandering winding down at the end of the hike. Hike is about 4-5 miles and mostly moderate with one big hill.

## Summer Breeze

- **July 14 9:00am**
- **August 11 9:00am**

Are you tired of hearing, "I'm bored"? Come on out for a hike. Either bring the kids or escape on your own for some exercise out in open space. This moderate 4-5 mile hike along the Mayfair Trail is just the thing to brighten your day. Bring water and a snack and don't forget your sun hat. No reservations necessary.

## Catamount Bike Challenge

- **July 16 9:30am**

Do you like to mountain bike? Do you like learning about nature? How about both at the same time? Join Docent Vince for a fun and scenic mountain bike interpretive ride up the Catamount Trail. Climb the trails at Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve while learning about the nature all around you. This trail can be difficult so 1-2 years of experience biking is recommended. Reservations required. Go to Eventbrite.com and search for 'OSA Activities' or call (408) 224-7476.



photo by Cait Hutnik

## Summer Plant Stroll

- **July 17 10:00am**

Looking for something fun to do? Get out and go for a hike with our plant specialist Docents as they take you along the Mayfair Trail. This 4-5 mile hike is moderate in nature, gently paced, and goes along rolling foothills, down ranch roads and across creeks. Bring water and a light snack. Don't forget your sunscreen.

## Big Flying Bugs

- **August 20 10:00am to 1:00pm**

Was that a bird? Was it a plane? No! It's a humungous dragonfly! Come hike with us and learn all about these amazing big flying bugs. This hike is short (about 3 miles) but very steep in places so good knees and hiking poles are mandatory. Sorry, no kids under 12 years old please. This is in a closed area of the park so reservations are required. Please call now to save your spot. (408) 224-7476.