



OSA OUTLOOK

Fall 2011 • Vol. 5 No. 3

INSIDE

- **New!** Sierra Vista Trails Celebration Oct. 22
- **Free!** Fun and educational activities like Stargazing and Tarantula Treks
- **Special!** “Open Space in a Quiet Place” library presentations
- Training for new Trail Patrol Volunteers
- OSA at fall festivals near you



photo by Steven Joseph

FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ON TOP OF THE WORLD!

Join us Saturday, October 22nd, and be among the first to see and celebrate breathtaking views from brand new trails at Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve. The Sierra Vista Trail Celebration will feature games and activities for all ages, special guest speakers, and guided tours. To RSVP and save your spot at this once-in-a-lifetime event call Dana at (408) 224-7476 or for more details visit www.openspaceauthority.org.

Nestled in the Eastern foothills of Santa Clara County and perched atop Alum Rock Park is the Open Space Authority's Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve. The Open Space Authority is proud to add approximately six miles of new trail in Sierra Vista as an integral part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail connecting to our already popular Boccardo Trail. Sierra Vista offers grand views and cool canyons and a singular back country experience within minutes for Silicon Valley's two million residents. The State Coastal Conservancy along with the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council have generously partnered with the Open Space Authority to fund this fresh expanse of trail.

FREE Training Session

for new OSA Trail Patrol Volunteers

Saturday Oct. 1 | 1:00pm – 4:00pm
Trail Patrol, Rancho Cañada del Oro

Volunteering with OSA is a fun and rewarding way to enjoy, protect, and preserve the beauty of Santa Clara Valley. For more information about the variety of volunteer opportunities at OSA, contact Dana Litwin, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, at (408) 224-7476 or volunteer@openspaceauthority.org.

OSA Hosted Special Events at Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve

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Sierra Vista is a crucial part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail and you are invited to two very special events dedicated to this amazing place.
Call Dana to RSVP: (408) 224-7476

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Saturday 10/22

Sierra Vista Trail Opening Celebration
Featuring special tours of the new trails, fun games and prizes, VIP speakers and more.

Saturday 11/5

Sierra Vista REI/Bay Area Ridge Trail Service Day
Join REI employees in putting the finishing touches on brand new trail sections. Lunch provided courtesy of Chipotle restaurant.

OSA at Fall Festivals Near You

Come by the OSA booth and say "Hi" to OSA, play educational games, win fun prizes and learn about OSA lands at these autumnal events:



Saturday 9/17 Santa Teresa Community Fest
George Page Park, SJ

Sunday 9/25 Chinese Moon Festival
Overfelt Gardens, SJ

Sunday 10/2 Youth Science Institute
Wildlife Day
Alum Rock Park, SJ

Saturday 10/8 Pumpkins in the Park
Guadalupe River Park, SJ

Saturday 10/22 Audubon Wildlife Day
McClellan Ranch Park, Cupertino



FALL ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

What will you do at
the OSA today?

ULISTAC NATURE AREA

Returning the Flood to the “Flood” Plain

- **September 3 9:00am**

All waterways in Santa Clara Valley have been “channeled”. There is a plan afoot at Ulistac Nature Area to return a vernal pool and a 240 foot seasonal creek to a piece of land that hasn’t flooded in 60 years! Come learn all this with Docent Dennis and discover the wonder of nature’s flood plains. Meet at the south gate nearest Hope Road.

Fire Ecology – How and Why to Burn

- **September 17 9:00am**

In the past, fire was a regular part of ecological restoration. Fire was once used by Native Americans to encourage the growth of desired plants for food and materials and as a tool to restore nutrients to the soil. Come learn about modern day techniques with Docent Dennis and discover the value of controlled burns in shaping a healthy landscape. Meet at the Ulistac Nature Area south gate nearest Hope Road.



photo courtesy of CAL FIRE

Design a Native Riparian Ecosystem

- **October 1 9:00am**

Are you curious about how the areas near creeks get to be so healthy and lush? Would you like to do this near your home? Bring your ideas and come walk with us as we learn all about seasonal water and how the flow of it will allow native shrubs in the Ulistac Nature Area to out-compete invasive weeds. Meet at the south gate nearest Hope Road.

SIERRA VISTA

Nature Explorations

- **September 10 10:00am**
- **October 8 10:00am**

Do you like to hike but need someone friendly to hike with? Are you curious about nature and want to learn more? Are you looking for exercise and a beautiful view from the top of a hill? Then these are the hikes for you. Join Docent Vince for a friendly and energetic walk up to the top of the Sierra Vista trails and see breathtaking views of the Valley. Bring water and a snack and your sense of adventure. Meet in the innermost parking lot of Alum Rock Park. Bring \$6 for parking.

RANCHO CAÑADA DEL ORO

Nurture Your Knowledge of Native Plants

- **September 3 10:00am**
- **October 2 10:00am**

Fall is here, the kids are back in school, and it’s time to come enjoy an engaging hike through the hills of Rancho Cañada del Oro. Walk the trails with Docents and learn all about the plants and animals that live in our park. See how the park begins to get ready for fall. Bring water and a light snack. Wear layers and bring your sense of adventure and appreciation for the outdoors. Rain cancels. Meet at the picnic table in the parking lot.

Starry Nights at Rancho Cañada del Oro

- **September 17 8:00pm**
- **October 1 7:00pm**
- **November 19 6:00pm**



photo courtesy of Yosemite National Park

Have you ever seen Jupiter’s Moons? Would you like to? Come on out and join Docent Chris Kelly in his exploration of the night sky. Have a telescope you don’t

remember how to use? Bring it with you, come early, and we will help you set up and get started. This is a family friendly event where everyone is welcome. Meet in the parking lot. Bring warm clothes, blankets, beach chairs and some binoculars and we will guide you through an adventure in the night sky. No astronomy experience required. Rain and cloudy skies cancel.

Tarantula Trek

- September 18 3:00pm
- September 25 3:00pm

Are you an afternoon hiker or a tarantula enthusiast? Come hike with Docent Paul and look for these fascinating creatures that live wild in our grassy meadows and rolling hills. Learn how spiders sense their environment. Discover how they defend themselves. Come search for the real thing with us as we hike the trails in search of tarantulas. Meet at the picnic table in the parking lot of Rancho Cañada del Oro.



photo by Cait Hurtnik

Fall Colors

- September 25 9:00am
- October 23 9:00am
- November 20 9:00am

Do you love being outside in the morning? Join our Docents for a gently paced exploration of Rancho Cañada del Oro as it winds down the year to get ready for winter. Take a peek at which plants are staying late and which are changing with the season. Take advantage of the photography expertise of Docent Cait and capture some amazing nature shots on this hike. Bring some water and wear layers for this peaceful 4-5 mile hike along the Mayfair Trail. Rain cancels. Meet at the picnic table in the parking lot.



photo by Dennis McWilliams

OPEN SPACE

{ IN A QUIET PLACE }

outreach to the outdoors

Do you love to take the kids to your local library? Now's your chance to meet us there and learn all about open space and the wonderful treasures we have in store for you on our lands. Come see these programs and get a sneak peek at what you could experience in our preserves.

Willow Glen Library, September 14 6:30pm

BUGS BUGS BUGS!

Did you know that ants can carry several times their body weight? Did you know they have a secret handshake? Have you ever seen the fancy dancing GPS that bees use to give directions? Come join us in the library as we learn all about the fascinating bugs and creepy crawlies that live right here in your open space. Meet at the Willow Glen Library at 1157 Minnesota Ave in Willow Glen.

King Library, September 23 4:00pm

Animal Cookies and Precious Plants

Come learn all about the mysterious and beautiful plants and animals that live right here in your open spaces. See what we have in store for fall hikes and adventures for you, your friends and your family. Come meet the people who would love to show you the nature in your own back yard. Meet in the Martin Luther King Library on the corner of 3rd and Santa Clara in downtown San Jose.

Rose Garden Library, September 29 3:30pm

Whoooo Lives in your Open Space?

Do you love nature? Do you love wildlife? Did you know that if you live in San Jose you have already done your part to help preserve it? Our open spaces are filled with fun and fascinating animals. Come learn all about them with enthusiastic Open Space Authority Staff as we share stories that will make you laugh and smile at the beauty we have right here in our area. Meet at the Rose Garden Library at 1580 Naglee Avenue, across from the Rose Garden.