

# Friends of Santa Teresa Park Newsletter, Summer-Fall 2010

**Editor: Ron Horii. Website: <http://www.stpfriends.org>.** Pictures by Ron Horii, except where noted.

Meetings: first Thursday of the month, Santa Teresa Golf Club, 260 Bernal Road, San Jose, upper clubhouse/banquet facility, 7 pm. (<http://www.santateresagolf.com>)

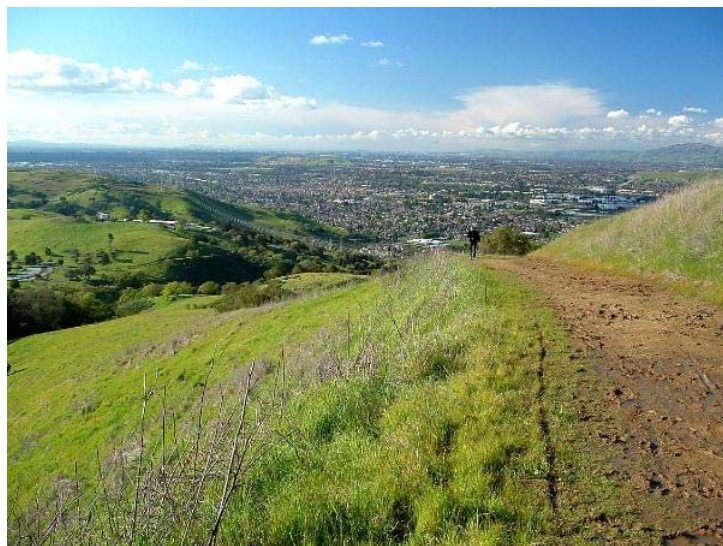
**The Friends of Santa Teresa Park (FOSTP)** is a volunteer organization based in San Jose whose purpose is to support Santa Teresa County Park. We are a diverse group with a wide range of interests. Our members include equestrians, hikers, runners, mountain bikers, historians, teachers, photographers, trail crew leaders, geocachers, 4H and scout leaders, and concerned members of the community. We serve as an interface between the community and the parks department. We report on problems and concerns in the park and recommend changes and improvements to the park. We help out with trail maintenance and park events. If you are interested in helping out at the park or just want to know what's going on, you are welcome to join us. See our website for more information.

## Coyote Peak, Rocky Ridge Loop by Mario Blaum



Today's loop will start at the Pueblo Parking Area. When you drive up Bernal Road, you make a left and the road takes you to several (paid) parking areas. This one is the official entry to the park. We go first to Coyote Peak. Try to follow these directions using a map of the park. For instance, you can download it from <http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/parks/> and then search for Santa Teresa County Park (or just make a Google search). We take the Hidden Springs Trail up towards Coyote Peak (left). After 0.2 miles of mostly flat trail, the trail becomes steep and meets the Ridge Trail, an alternative route with great views of the valley and the golf course below. But we continue on the Hidden Springs Trail, which is a wide trail

that allows for emergency vehicles. There is a short shaded area, and at your right there is a creek. After a while, the trail becomes flat again, and at your right you will have a small pond that is normally dry in summer. Shortly after, the trail forks. Take the trail to the right, the Coyote Peak Trail. You are .4 miles away from the top. Those .4 miles are steep. The trail winds and curves (right). At your right, you will encounter a great view of the IBM Almaden Research Center, with its characteristic green buildings. Before the top, you have the alternative of making a right and continuing on the Coyote Peak Trail. We'll take it in a while, but first let's get the reward for our efforts, make a left and after a few yards you are at the top of Coyote Peak, which is an area that has been artificially flattened (for use as a listening post during WWII). Next to the top there is a water tank, transmitter station, and an antenna tower (from the distance, the tower looks as if it was on top of Coyote Peak, but it is really next to the top). Take some time to walk around the top and enjoy the views. There are three benches where you can enjoy your lunch. Towards the north, you see clearly Downtown San Jose and the Pruneyard at Campbell. On a clear day, you can even see San Francisco. Towards the south, you see the open fields connecting San



Jose with Morgan Hill. In particular, you can see the characteristic El Toro peak in Morgan Hill. Coyote Peak in my opinion provides some of the best views of the valley. Don't miss it!

Let's go back now. We come down from the top, and we have three options: Make a right and go back the same way we came, make a left and take the Boundary Trail (another great trail), or follow straight and continue on the Coyote Peak Trail. Today we take this last option. We keep walking on this wide trail for .3 miles until we reach the Rocky Ridge Trail (see picture, right). This one is a narrow trail, challenging for mountain bikers, and as its name indicates, rocky, so watch where you put your foot, it is easy here to sprain an ankle. This trail is pretty long, 1.8 miles until it hits the Mine Trail. You will have great views of the western part of the park. Another thing to beware of on this trail: it has no shade at all, so you have to be careful on hot days, make sure you have enough water with you, and if possible, hike with a group. Unfortunately, an experienced hiker collapsed and died on this trail last year, possibly from heat exhaustion. The trail winds several times. At a certain point you will cross a wooden foot bridge. Just continue straight. You will find all kinds of wildflowers in the early spring. Once you reach the Mine Trail, make a right there, and after less than a quarter of a mile, you are back at the Pueblo Area, completing the loop. Another good alternative is to make the described loop in reverse order, that is, counterclockwise. The Rocky Ridge Trail, though longer, is not as steep as the Hidden Springs Trail to reach Coyote Peak. (See <http://www.stpfriends.org/CoyotePk-08/CoyotePk-08.html>)



### **Pre Mother's Day Wildflower Event by Mike Boulland**

FOSTP members celebrated Mother's Day with their May 2, 2010 Annual Healthy Trails and Community Event Pre-Mother's Day Wildflower Hike held at the Stile Ranch Trailhead in Santa Teresa Park. The event has become a favorite activity with community members to celebrate Santa Teresa Park's fantastic wildflower bloom and to recognize several of the historical women who fought adversity to settle in the area. The goal of the event was to get mothers and their families outside to participate in healthy exercise by playing in our parks. The event was open to all city and county residents.



The FOSTP Pre-Mother's Day Event had many family activities. For example, the picture on the left shows Mike Boulland preparing for the wildflower hike, portraying Jose de Los Santos Berryessa, son of the original owner of Rancho San Vicente. Also, Faith Schmidt, from the Native Gardeners, and Robbie Lamons are shown organizing Mother's Day cards and seed packet gifts. All the mothers who participated were given a flower, a packet of wildflower seed, and a card to recognize them.

FOSTP members sponsored

several different activities that mothers and their families could participate on their own. One activity was to try to find various flowers on a wildflower scavenger hunt. A second activity was to observe and match pictures of the various wild birds sighted along the trail. Both activities awarded participants with prizes if they completed the task. The most popular children's activity was to make handmade wildflower Mother's Day Cards to give to their moms. On the right, Robbie Lamons is shown helping a tiny pre-school child create her own card.





FOSTP members sponsored several different cultural historical presentations about various pioneer Berryessa family members who originally settled at Rancho San Vicente. At the shady spot along Santa Teresa Creek, students portrayed two Bernal sisters and their father (right). Their skit introduced how Maria Zacarias Bernal, one of the Bernal sisters, met and married Jose de los Reyes Berryessa, who later became the owner of Rancho San Vicente.

FOSTP is delighted to have the following agencies and community support groups working with us to help create this wonderful community event. We thank the following: Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department, Healthy Trails Program, Calero Maintenance Staff, City of San Jose CAP Grant program and the many community volunteers who made this community program a success. See ([http://www.stpfriends.org/Stiles\\_05-02-10/Walk.html](http://www.stpfriends.org/Stiles_05-02-10/Walk.html))



### FOSTP News by Ron Horii

**The Santa Teresa Historic Site Plan** has been moving through the design and approval process. The plan began in 2007 and covers 9 acres of the undeveloped part of Santa Teresa Park at the corner of Curie and San Ignacio. It includes the Bear Tree Lot, the Pyzak Ranch, and the Bonetti Ranch (left). The plan is to develop this into an interpretive site, with outdoor displays, signs, pathways, gardens, a fountain, parking lot, street improvements, and a visitors center. The plan will incorporate interpretive themes covering the Ohlone, settlement, and California Rancho periods of the park's history. It will connect with the currently developed areas at Santa Teresa Spring and the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch. There was a CEQA review for the site plan in August of last year to address environmental and other issues.



There were public concerns about access by bicyclists and dog walkers, traffic, entrances, street widening, traffic, and security. Those concerns were addressed in the plan. The plan went through approvals by several commissions. On December 15, 2009, the County Board of Supervisors approved the final documents. This allows the plan to go forward, but it still requires funding.

**The Old Barn at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch** is slated for restoration. It will be restored and used for housing animals, such as goats. Contractors put in bids for the restoration work, but work halted because of concerns about how to handle the large oak tree at the corner of the barn. Alternatives included moving the whole barn, moving a wall of the barn, moving the tree, or removing the tree. There was also some discussion about the roof of the barn, whether to use sheet metal or shingles. The new barn has a sheet metal roof. The old barn has shingles and sheet metal. Because of fire concerns, they want to use sheet metal, but there are fireproof shingles that could be used.

**The Pyzak House**, located on Curie next to the Bear Tree Lot, is an historic house, owned by Jacoba Bernal, one of the descendants of the original Bernal Family that owned Rancho Santa Teresa. The house was undergoing roof repair when it was discovered that the walls had heavy water damage and could not support a new roof. Because of costs, restoration of the house is on hold, but a temporary roof cover has been put in place.

**The Albertson Parkway** runs under power lines between Curie Drive at Manila Way and Dondero Way at Cresta Vista Way. For years, it was an ugly, straight path, surrounded by bare dirt, weeds, and litter. The city redeveloped the parkway, installing winding, landscaped paths, with interpretive signs. One of those signs talks about Rancho Santa Teresa and Santa Teresa Park (right). FOSTP



members helped gather information for that sign. The parkway opened in July 2009. There was a dedication ceremony on August 29, 2009. FOSTP attended the ceremony, passed out information, and answered questions.

**Family Fandango**, was held on August 1, 2009 at the Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch. It was the fourth fandango event at Santa Teresa Park. It celebrated the history of the park from the Muwekma Native Americans, the Spanish settlers and their descendants, and the American ranchers. The El Grito de la Cultura dancers provided entertainment. Several groups had display tables and activities. FOSTP had an activity on adobe brick-making. The ingredients for the bricks were mixed in cups and poured into molds made of wooden popsicle sticks. The bricks were left out in the sun to dry. Expert brick maker Juan Cisneros demonstrated how to make full-size adobe bricks. Kids helped mix up the mud in wading pools and shoveled it into large wooden forms. See: <http://www.stpfriends.org/Fandango09/Fandango09.html>

**The 10th annual Santa Teresa Community Fest** was held on 9/19/09 at George Page Park at Santa Teresa Blvd. and Miyuki Drive. Many groups had booths. FOSTP had a booth next to the Santa Teresa Foothills Neighborhood Association, which had an animal bones guessing game to match bones with the animals. Next door was Justice Paul Bernal's booth on Rancho Santa Teresa and the Bernal Family history (right). He showed historic pictures, artifacts, and had clothes to dress up like a Spanish soldier. In the opposite corner was Coyote Crest 4H, which had a live chicken to play chicken poop bingo. At the FOSTP booth, we had pictures of Santa Teresa Park, examples of geocaching containers, our newsletters, park maps, and plans for the Santa Teresa Historic Site. We passed out literature and answered questions about Santa Teresa Park.



There was a **trail work day on 3/13/10 on the Norred Trail** by members of the Geocachers of the Bay Area, led by trail crew leaders Woody Collins and Sam Drake, with help from FOSTP members Mike Boulland, Roland LeBrun, Kurt Hutchings, Elaine Drake, and Ron Horii. Volunteers improved the drainage at the Norred-Joice Trail junction, cleared vegetation from the trail edge, and filled in wet muddy spots with rocks. See: [http://www.stpfriends.org/NorredTrailDay/TrailDay\\_03-13-10.html](http://www.stpfriends.org/NorredTrailDay/TrailDay_03-13-10.html)

### **Pueblo Picnic Area Nest Boxes by Lee Pauser, <http://www.birdsfly.info/>**

In 2002 I became involved in the Audubon's Cavity Nesters Recovery Program. As such, I build, install, maintain, and monitor nest boxes. I currently have over 200 boxes installed in numerous locations including city parks, county parks, open space parks, and business property. The majority of the boxes are for the smaller cavity nesting species, but since last year, I have been branching out into boxes for the larger species such as Barn Owls.

In 2007, I expanded into Santa Teresa County Park after receiving permission from then Sr. Ranger Julie Lee. I initially placed nine passerine nest boxes near the Pueblo Picnic Area. In preparation for the 2010



nesting season, existing Barn Owl boxes were replaced with better designed boxes, and Kestrel boxes were added. Sr. Ranger Lee and Ranger Gina Ellis were instrumental in the execution of this effort.

As a result, I am delighted to state that there are currently four species of birds nesting in these boxes— American Kestrel, Barn Owl, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Western Bluebird. This success is driving my plans for expanding the number of boxes into other areas of the park.

For information on the Audubon's Cavity Nesters Recovery Program, visit <http://www.scvas.org> on the web.

### **Lee Pauser, Bird Man of Santa Teresa Park, article and pictures by Mike Boulland**

Last month, I had a wonderful time walking with Lee Pauser, whose hobby is birdwatching. I met Lee when he took me on his rounds to check on all the bird and owl boxes that



he has placed in the Pueblo Picnic Area of the park. Lee loves wild birds, and his passion is to keep an eye on and protect the native birds that make Santa Teresa Park and Los Alamitos Creek their habitat. His goal is to encourage the wild birds to naturally propagate back to their habitats, so they return to the levels before modern man arrived.

Lee started his hobby by trying to identify the various birds in the park. Since that time, his hobby has grown to photographing different species of birds, building and caring for the bird boxes, and tracking the nesting habits of the wild birds that use his boxes on his Blackberry phone data base.

You might say Lee is a bird counter. He and his wife Janna annually volunteer to help tally and count the various species of birds for the Audubon Society. His accurate monitoring of the birds' nesting habitat for the rest of the bird season is also reported to the bird society on a regular basis. His records show, due to his bird box project, more wild birds have survived and added to the total Santa Teresa bird population. For over ten years, he has been making bird boxes placing them in the park for the wild bird species to have safe nesting spots. Working with Senior Ranger Julie Lee, he has managed to place over twenty in the upper meadow around the Pueblo Picnic Area in Santa Teresa Park. Lee has even designed his own special owl boxes that better protect the nesting owls.



You may have wondered why the bird boxes have been placed in the trees surrounding the picnic areas. Lee says our local wild birds need help to protect the nest from being destroyed by their natural enemies. Although he places warning signs on each box, some predators haven't learned to read. He often finds that raccoons, rats, and other predators, have climbed down the line to break into the boxes and grab the eggs for a tasty meal.



Lee not only takes care of the nesting boxes, but also volunteers to walk over fifteen miles a week monitoring and caring for the nests. He says "Since I am retired, it's great exercise, and I love it.

Lee's wife, Janna Pauser, is also an avid birdwatcher. Janna and her friend, Jim Thomas, have provided us with a list of wild birds

that they have spotted and counted in the annual Christmas Bird Count at Santa Teresa Park. The list also includes birds seen on the Santa Teresa Golf Course. For more information, see: <http://www.birdsfly.info/>.

## **Rancho San Vicente by Ronald Horii**

Last year, Santa Teresa Park gained a new neighboring future park, Rancho San Vicente. The ranch is located west of McKean Road, less than a mile from Santa Teresa Park's Stile Ranch/Fortini Trail entrance. The 966-acre ranch was purchased by the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) in June 2009 for \$16 million, who sold it to the Santa Clara County Parks for the same amount later that year. POST purchased the property from Rancho San Vicente Associates LLC, a subsidiary of New Cities Development Group, a development company, who bought the land in 1998 with the intent of developing it. There were various development plans over the years, which included up to 900 residential units in the flatlands, 16 large estates in the hills, and a golf course. When those plans fell through, they sold the property to POST at their original price. The County Parks bought the ranch with money from the Park Charter Fund.

The history of Rancho San Vicente begins with the Berryessa family (originally spelled Berrelleza, but also spelled Berreyesa, and Berryesa). Jose de los Reyes Berreyesa was born in Mission Santa Clara in 1785. His father, Nocolas Antonio Berrelleza, had come to California from Mexico with the De Anza Party in 1776. Jose served as an army sergeant at the Presidio of San Francisco. In 1805, Jose married Maria Zacarias Bernal, whose family would later own Rancho Santa Teresa. Jose and Maria had 13 children. They moved to what would become the Almaden Valley in 1834. 4438 acres of the land Jose had been farming was granted

to him by Governor Alvarado of Mexico in 1842. That land included the hills where mercury was discovered in 1844 and became part of the Almaden Quicksilver Mines. In 1846, Jose and his nephew were killed by Kit Carson, under orders from Gen. John C. Fremont during the Bear Flag Revolt. A land patent was filed in 1868 for 4,438 acres to the heirs of Maria Zacarias Bernal de Berryessa for Rancho San Vicente. In later years, parts of the ranch were sold off and developed. Thousands of homes in the Almaden Valley sit on land that was part of Rancho San Vicente. One of the last remaining tracts of undeveloped land is what is now owned by the County Parks.

Rancho San Vicente is located along McKean in the South Almaden Valley. A large part of the property adjoins Calero County Park, and the land may become an extension of Calero. It backs up to many properties in New Almaden. Part of it touches Almaden Road. It provides a possible connection between Calero and Almaden Quicksilver County Parks. It can connect these parks to Santa Teresa Park via a short on-street connection on Fortini Road and San Vicente Avenue, where mostly undeveloped open fields separates the two parks. That brings it close to start of the Calero Creek Trail, which leads to the Los Alamitos, Guadalupe Creek, and Guadalupe River Trails. Not only can the land provide recreational trail connections, it can protect wildlife migration corridors between the huge surrounding areas of contiguous open space.

One of the reasons the County Parks bought Rancho San Vicente was because of its value for the county's Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). The goal of the plan is to protect the endangered and threatened species in the county. Rancho San Vicente several plant and animal species covered by the plan. It has 506 acres of serpentine soil. Serpentine supports native plant species, including rare and endangered species. One of these is the Santa Clara Valley dudleya, a member of the stonecrop family, found only in the Southern Santa Clara Valley. It grows on rock outcroppings. Plants covered by the HCP include the Mt. Hamilton thistle, the most beautiful jewelflower, and the smooth lessingia. Other native plants include California plantain, which the threatened Bay checkerspot butterfly needs to breed. Other wildlife species on the ranch covered by the HCP include the California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, western burrowing owl, and golden eagle.

The large amount of serpentine soil, along with active cattle grazing that reduces non-native grasses, result in spectacular displays of colorful spring wildflowers. Hillsides are covered with golden California poppies, golden yarrow, johnny jump-ups, and goldfields. Yellow seep spring monkeyflowers and California buttercups grow along wet areas. Splashes of color are provided by pink owl's clover, checker mallow, jeweled onion, and winecup clarkia; white tidytops, creamcups, flax-flowered linanthus, mariposa lilies, globe lilies, and common yarrow; purple-blue ithuriel's spears, elegant brodiaea, blue dicks, bird's eye gilia, and blue-eyed grass.



While Rancho San Vicente is closed to regular public access, there have been and will be guided hikes led by POST and the County Parks. The first County Parks photography/wildflower hike was held at Rancho San Vicente on April 17, 2010, led by docents Ron Horii and Cait Hutnik, with help from FOSTP president Mike Boulland and plant enthusiast Tom Cochrane. (See the picture to the left and [http://www.stpfriends.org/RSV\\_04-17-10/Hike.html](http://www.stpfriends.org/RSV_04-17-10/Hike.html)) The hike started at the corral near McKean Road, crossed over the Almaden-Calero Canal, and wrapped around and gradually ascended the serpentine-covered hill to the 1050-foot peak at the highest point in the site. Wildflowers lined the trail and covered the hillsides.

Walking up the hill, the views took in more of the surrounding area, starting with the Santa Teresa Hills, Almaden Road, the South Almaden Valley, the South Bay, New Almaden, Almaden Quicksilver Park, the Sierra Azuls, Canada Del Oro Open Space Preserve, Calero County Park, and the hills above Morgan Hill. Other County Parks guided hikes will cover birds, wildlife, and the history of the Berryessa family. There will be 2-mile ranger-led hikes to explore the future park.

## **Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Adopt a-Trail Program by Kitty Monahan**

This program started in 2006 has just gone through a renovation and final approval was completed in May of 2010. This program is for a group, a family or a single individual. Adopt-a-Trail volunteers take care of a trail, or section of a trail, within a County Park. They conduct trail brushing/pruning, litter/debris removal, routine trail tread/ drainage clearing and major trail problem reporting.

There is a formal Adopt-a-Trail Application and initial training. The requirements for this program are quite simple. A group, after completing the application and training, will assign a liaison to the Department. This lead person will plan the dates for checking trails and dates for doing work. The department has asked 20 hours a year of trail work and a sign signifying the Adopt-A-Trail Group will be placed at the entrances to the park where the Trail has been adopted.

Some Santa Clara County Parks have Adopt-A-Trail Volunteers working in the Parks. These are: Almaden Quicksilver, Santa Teresa, Hellyer, Mt. Madonna, Villa Montalvo, Penitencia, and Stevens Creek. The Friends of Santa Teresa County Park have adopted the Norred Trail. Woody Collins is the liaison. Woody himself has adopted the Ohlone Trail. For further information or to adopt a trail contact: Volunteer Program, 298 Garden Hill Dr., Los Gatos, Ca. 95032 (408) 355-2254 or sign up on [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org).

## **Park Trails by Woody Collins**

Our Santa Clara County parks serve a population of over 1.7 million Santa Clara County residents as well as several thousand regular visitors from neighboring counties. They provide a wide variety of educational and recreational activities. County parks include facilities for camping, boating and fishing, disc golf, picnicking, archery, hang gliding, golfing, and flying model airplanes as well as a motorcycle park, a velodrome and a shooting range, but the facilities most used by park visitors are our park trails.

Santa Clara County Parks encompass over 44,000 acres and provide nearly 300 miles of trails that have to safely accommodate hikers, joggers, bicyclists, geocachers and equestrians. Meeting the needs of such a diverse group of users while protecting and preserving the natural landscape is difficult and involves many trade-offs.

Factors that have to be considered include: Visitor Experience, Visitor Safety, Environmental Impact, and Sustainability. These factors are complex topics that often present conflicting goals. Trail designers attempt to arrive at compromises that meet the needs of park visitors while still protecting and preserving the park environment.

**Visitor Experience:** Providing a pleasant, safe and satisfying user experience is an important goal for all trail design. Trails provide a mechanism by which park visitors can enjoy the beauty and enormous natural diversity that is an essential element of life in the San Francisco Bay area while also participating in some of their favorite activities, be they walking, hiking, geocaching, jogging, bicycling, horseback riding or just absorbing the sights and sounds of the natural world around us.

Some of these activities have unique requirements that may conflict with other user groups, compromise safety, or conflict environmental concerns. Trails are constructed to meet the needs of as many visitors as possible but due to the Park Department's limited resources, most trails in the system are designated as multi-use. A multi-use trail must be designed and maintained to accommodate all visitors, including hikers, joggers, bicyclists and equestrians and it is often impossible to fully meet all the expectations of all park users.

**Visitor Safety:** To meet safety requirements, most multi-use trails require a minimum trail bed of at least 4 feet. A 4 foot trail bed provides adequate space for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians to safely pass one another without forcing anyone off the trail. It also allows maintenance and safety personnel to access the trail with an ATV. This can be critical in an emergency situation, especially in the case of a visitor injury which might otherwise require an expensive and time-consuming helicopter extraction.





Note that a trail bed of 4 feet does not mean that the trail tread, that portion of the trail that is normally walked or ridden on, need be a full 4 feet. Most trails will fill in with vegetation leaving a 1 to 2 foot tread but will still have room for passing.

Trail surfaces also have to be relatively flat and free of tripping hazards and excessively long, steep grades must be avoided, even though some users may find them challenging. Trails built on contour with natural curves and undulations blend into the landscape without detracting from them and are much safer for all visitors.

Many of our trails also have to act as access roads for emergency use to accommodate fire and medical vehicles. While these one-lane roads are not as attractive as smaller, more intimate trails, they are nevertheless necessary for park maintenance and safety.

**Environmental Impact:** Our regional parks are as much preserve as playground. An important part of the County Parks Department charter is to protect and preserve the natural environment and cultural history of Santa Clara County.

Trails have to be designed and maintained to minimize damage to the environment while providing access to it. Of particular concern is erosion, both from rainfall and from visitor traffic. Trails are designed to shed water rather than concentrating it. This requires proper alignment, out-sloping and drainage structures, all of which can breakdown over time and require periodic maintenance. Fall-line trails, which run straight down a hill are particularly problematic and are avoided at all costs as are excessively steep trail segments, even though they may be enjoyable for some park visitors.

Some parks, Santa Teresa in particular, contain especially sensitive areas that are very fragile and easily damaged. It is particularly important that visitors remain on the trails in these areas, principally along the Stile Ranch and Rocky Ridge trails, as they have thin soils that can be easily damaged and take a long time to recover.

Off-trail areas also provide important habitat for native plants and animals. Santa Teresa hosts a wonderful variety of plants, including several critically endangered species found in few other places. Numerous birds (including golden eagles), animals (including deer, bobcat, coyote and probably the occasional mountain lion) and reptiles are also endemic to the park and need room, apart from humans, to rest and reproduce.



**Sustainability:** All trails require periodic maintenance.

Given the limited resources available, trails must be designed to minimize maintenance while holding up to heavy visitor use. Trails are aligned to avoid problem situations such as slide prone areas, wetlands and unstable soils. When maintenance is performed, it often has to be done with the long-term in mind. Just keeping the trails free of bothersome plants such as poison oak and thistle is a constant struggle. Brushing and tread maintenance are often performed to last for at least three years. While this may result in what looks like drastic changes to the trail, they are usually short lasting and the trail will return to its normal, rustic appearance in a year or so.

**Tradeoffs:** Meeting all these requirements is difficult, especially since many of our park trails are old ranch, mine or fire roads that were not designed specifically for trail use and many of our older trails were built to standards that have now become outdated or inappropriate for an urbane interface area like Santa Clara County. With unlimited resources, it might be possible to develop special trails to cater to the particular needs of specific user communities: technical trails for advanced mountain bicyclists, steep trails for fans of advanced physical fitness, equestrian only trails to prevent conflicts between equestrians and other users, hiker-only single track; etc.

But resources are not unlimited and currently the only viable solution is multi-users trails that can serve, but may not fully please, all park visitors. In spite of these limitations, our park trails can provide a rich, rewarding experience for all users as long as we are considerate of other users and respectful of the park's natural resources. See <http://www.stpfriends.org/TrailWork/Trails.html>.



## **Ron Horii takes Second and Third Place in San Jose Historical Landmarks Photography Contest by Mike Boulland**

Last month, FOSTP member and photographer Ron Horii received two distinguished awards from the City of San Jose's Historical Landmarks Commission for two of his historic photographs from San Jose Councilmember, Nancy Pyle at the San Jose City Hall Rotunda (right). Ron Horii has been taking pictures of Santa Teresa Park and other County Parks for over ten years. His photography has earned him many awards by capturing the unique vista scenes from atop of Coyote Peak, Bernal Hill, and other county hill tops. His pictures are often used in several of the Santa Clara County Park publications, Bay Nature Magazine, Santa Clara Open Space Authority, and other South Bay publications.

In the article above on Rancho San Vicente is his picture which took third place in the Adult Landscape division. The photograph shows a rare vista view of the Coast Mountain Range and Sierra Azuls and one of the first County Parks-led hiking groups to be allowed to hike the new Rancho San Vicente trail.

I call him the Ansel Adams of Santa Teresa Park because of his use of various photographic techniques and his ability of photographing the County Parks unique hidden treasure sites. Recently, Ron has used a High Dynamic Range (HDR) program to merge several shots of the same picture that are taken at different exposure settings. Specifically, he takes the high range, mid ranges, and low range of light and blends them into one picture. The result produces a striking beautiful photograph with vivid shades of colors contrasting each other.



Ron's photograph of the old Bernal Joice Gulnac Barn on the left took second place in the historical Adult Landscape division. The picture above shows the results of his HDR technique to capture the photograph for his entry in the City of San Jose's Historic Landmarks contest. The photo description states, "The Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Ranch preserves one of the most significant historic areas in Santa Clara County. It traces its origin to Jose Joaquin Bernal, who came with his family with the De Anza Party 1776 and later founded Rancho Santa Teresa in 1826. The ranch was handed down through his descendants, the Gulnacs and the Joices, until it eventually

became protected as a County Park. Many streets, businesses, and institutions in this part of San Jose bear his family name and the name of his ranch. At the ranch site are the family's ranch house, caretaker's house, and two barns, one of which has been restored and houses historic displays and a 4H rabbit project. The old barn will be restored in the near future, but now bears the worn, rustic look of decades as a working ranch building. In the yard are examples of farm equipment and an old grist stone. Across the street is a typical suburban neighborhood. The neighbors can simply cross the street and step back in time more than a century."

The members of the Friends of Santa Teresa Park are very proud of Ron's award as he is one individual who is helping to capture the beauty of our neighborhood and our park. We are very appreciative to see Ron at our activities volunteering to photo-record our events. You may enjoy and view Ron's latest pictures on our [stpfriends.org](http://stpfriends.org) website.

### **Coyote Crest 4H Club**

The 4-H's stand for: Head, Heart, Hands & Health

Contact information: Jenel Vincze, email [jenelv@pacbell.net](mailto:jenelv@pacbell.net)

Holly Davis, email: [DavisFamilyFarm@sbcglobal.net](mailto:DavisFamilyFarm@sbcglobal.net)

Monthly Meetings



When: 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm September through June



Where: Coyote Grange Hall 8140 Monterey Hwy, San Jose, 95013  
Current Projects Offered: cooking, beef, dairy cattle, dairy goat, market goat, market lamb, market rabbit, market swine, poultry, rabbits, record books, shooting sports, sketching, vegetable gardening.

Cost: \$30.00 per youth member, \$20.00 per adult volunteer, \$50.00 non volunteer. Fee covers membership and club costs. Additional costs may be incurred through enrollment in specific projects.

More Information:

Coyote Crest 4-H website: <http://clubs.ca4h.org/santaclara/coyotecrest/>

Santa Clara County 4-H website: <http://clubs.ca4h.org/santaclara/>

### **Park Events, Spring-Summer 2010 (See [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org) for more details)**

Saturday, June 26, Festival in the Park – Where Wellness Meets FUN! Hellyer County Park, 11:00am – 4:00pm.

Saturday, July 10, Bug Out Night -Ants, Santa Teresa County Park's Historic Bernal Ranch, 7:30pm-10:30pm.

Saturday, July 10, Chitactac Family Day, Chitactac-Adams Heritage County Park, 10:00am-2:00pm. Families and friends are invited to a special day of hands-on activities, demonstrations, traditional crafts at this celebration of the native Ohlone People who once lived at this ancient village site. (408) 323-0107.

Saturday, July 17, Ranger-led Hike, Rancho San Vicente, 9:00am-11:00am.

Saturday, July 17, Raptors in the Wind Hike, Santa Teresa County Park, 10:00am-12:00pm.

Saturday, August 14, Lost in Space Night, Santa Teresa County Park's Historic Bernal Ranch, 7:30pm-10:30pm. Saturday, August 21, Family Fandango, Santa Teresa County Park's Historic Bernal Ranch, 5:00pm-8:00pm. Friday, August 27, Tragedy of the Berryessas Hike, Rancho San Vicente, 6:00pm-8:00pm.

### **2010 Family Fandango Event**



August 21, 5:00 – 8:00 pm, Santa Teresa County Park's Historic Bernal Ranch, 372 Manila Dr., San Jose, 95119. Come celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area who originally settled here over 10,000 years ago, early Spanish-speaking colonists of 200 years ago, and English-speaking ranch families who arrived more recently. The evening's focus is on family fun through demonstrations and activities that highlight 1770-1870 California. The event will have performances of stories, dances, exhibits and hands-on activities that honor the tradition of the cultures and historic time period.

**Grand Re-Dedication -- Casa Grande and Pioneer Day:** Saturday October 9th, 2010, Open House from 11 am to 3 pm, Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum 21350 Almaden Road New Almaden, CA 95042 (408) 323-1107. Festivities begin at noon. Activities, children's games, entertainment, speeches, and special recognition of descendents of those who lived in the Casa Grande will be part of celebration. See the "Original Wells Fargo Stage Coach" and take rides on horse driven wagons from the parking lot to the Casa Grande.

### **CAP Grant**

We would like to thank the City of San Jose for their Community Action and Pride (CAP) Grant. We have been getting a CAP Grant since 2008. It has paid for our UNSCC (United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County) membership dues, which include meeting insurance. It has also paid for our website and materials for events. This year, our grant also included funds to pay for entertainment for the next Family Fandango.