

February 2012  
ISSUE 10

# FRIENDS *of* VILLA GRANDE NEWSLETTER

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## OUR MISSION:

- ❖ RESTORE AND MAINTAIN  
PATTERSON POINT AS A  
RIPARIAN PRESERVE FOR  
LIMITED PUBLIC RECREA-  
TION USE
- ❖ PRESERVE THE HISTORIC  
AND UNIQUE CHARACTER  
OF VILLA GRANDE
- ❖ ENHANCE THE QUALITY  
OF LIFE IN THE GREATER  
VILLA GRANDE  
COMMUNITY

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Welcome to 2012! On July 7th of this year we celebrate the fifth birthday of Friends of Villa Grande. During these five years we have accomplished great things: we now own Patterson Point Preserve and have reduced the acquisition debt from \$60,000 to \$22,755. These results are a tribute to the energy and commitment of our community, including all of your memberships, donations and support for our fundraising events.

We began the new year by establishing a Restoration and Management of Patterson Point Preserve Committee. RAMPPP will propose an annual restoration "plan of action" to the Board and review the implementation of the various recreational features specified in our Sonoma County-approved Patterson Point Preserve Land Management Plan. As part of the current plan, we have removed ivy from the trees and from large areas of the ground, and have replanted the flats above the beaches with native plants. The preserve is beginning to look more like a forest area and is alive with birds and other critters enjoying the return to natural conditions.



Our restoration efforts this year will focus on new areas for removal of ivy and other non-native species, with work to be done in stages so that the Preserve can recover, and we can replant as vegetation is removed. No vegetation removal will be done during the bird breeding season from March to September. We will be implementing our boat storage area at the gravel beach this summer and will provide a portable toilet for the busy summer months.

We continue to monitor issues of concern to the members and the community and will be holding a town hall meeting on Saturday March 3. Please feel free to contact Board members and to attend Board meetings.

Meeting times and agendas are available on the website at [villagrande.org](http://villagrande.org). Your input is welcomed as we strive to focus on the activities that the community feels are appropriate.

Thank you to FoVG for all your support over the past five years. Our success would not have been possible without it.

Rich Holmer

President of the Board of Directors  
Friends of Villa Grande

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## **TOWN HALL MEETING - MARCH 3**

On Saturday, March 3 at 10:30-11:30, FoVG will hold a Town Hall meeting to update members and hear their concerns. The meeting will be held in the Plaza, unless it rains, which would switch it to the Hotel.

The FoVG Board is considering establishing a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and would seek outside funding to cover expenses. A recent seminar at Pepperwood Preserve on climate change em-

phasized that one of the most important things a community can do is to prepare for all natural disasters, including earthquakes, fires and floods.

We propose working with the Monte Rio Fire Department to develop a model that can be replicated by other river communities. This idea will be discussed at the meeting, along with updates on PPP restoration and upcoming events.

# “ANYTHING GOES” WINTER DINNER AND DANCE

## SATURDAY MARCH 3 6:00 P.M.

The jazz era returns to Duncans Mills on Saturday night, March 3, when the Blue Heron is transformed into a one-night only speakeasy. The Friends of Villa Grande's fourth annual winter fundraiser starts with cocktails at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00.

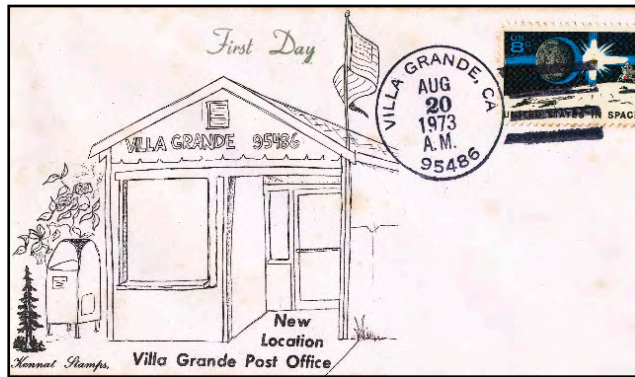
Prohibitionist or not, you're welcome to try the featured Dutch Bill Sidecar cocktail at the no-host bar and enjoy the buffet of Roarin' 20's Roast Beef, Al Capone Capon and Valentino Veggies. Dancing starts at 9:00 to the Stumptown Bootlegger Trio, featuring jazz vocalist Lauriee Brown.

Seating is limited to 50 guests, so don't delay. Dig out your spats and feather headbands and sign up now to get your secret password to enter. Tickets are \$75 each for FoVG members, \$85 for everybody else and the corkage fee is only five bucks for your wine with dinner. Buy your tickets online with PayPal: [villagrande.org/anygoes](http://villagrande.org/anygoes) or call the FoVG office at (707) 865-9558 and tell them Louie sent you.



Photo Courtesy of California Historical Society Collection at USC. Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, CHS-31222

## VILLA GRANDE POST OFFICE STILL UP IN THE AIR



The US Postal Service has delayed the decision on the closure of the Villa Grande post office until May. Greg Sampson investigated moving postal services back to the

Old General Store, but USPS requirements were too costly and impractical.

Please keep sending letters on how the closure of the Villa Grande Post Office will affect you. Complete information, including the USPS proposal and the letter that the FoVG board sent in support of our post office is available at [villagrande.org/postoffice](http://villagrande.org/postoffice).

Your letters should be sent to: Tony Carvelli, Manager, Post Office Operations, PO Box 882708, San Francisco CA 94188-2708. Also, be sure to copy Rep. Lynne Woolsey, 101 College Avenue, Suite 200, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. You can also contact her at (707) 542-7182 or through her staff assistant at: [George.Haralambopoulos@mail.house.gov](mailto:George.Haralambopoulos@mail.house.gov).

## PROPANE DISCOUNT PROGRAM

As of January 1st, FoVG has a new propane service agreement, now with Northern Energy. They are offering a substantial discount to FoVG members, with prices locked in for 3 years. Twenty-nine members have signed up in the first month, and the pricing is already better than that offered by the former vendor.

The maximum discount will be available when 40 tanks are signed up.

For more information, contact Denise Finley of Northern Energy at (707) 235-6176 or email her at [denise.finley@heritagepropane.com](mailto:denise.finley@heritagepropane.com). You can also contact [friends@villagrande.org](mailto:friends@villagrande.org) for details.

## PATTERSON POINT PRESERVE RESTORATION UPDATE

Have you seen the new demonstration native plant area halfway down the main trail to the river? Natalie Robb-Wilder created the wonderful identification guide naming the plants and showing them in flower. And special thanks to Katie Gibson who created the "Restoration Area" signs.

As of the end of January, volunteers and contractors have worked nearly 740 hours weeding and have removed approximately 144 cubic yards of ivy and debris.

In the Spring, we'll be keeping grasses near the entrance under control by putting down cardboard, newspaper and redwood duff. If you have uncolored cardboard shipping boxes to donate in February, please remove all tape and labels and bring them to the garage entrance at 21865 Russian River Avenue. For cardboard pick up, contact the FoVG office at (707) 865-9558.

Redwood duff will be used to cover the cardboard and improve the aesthetics. If you have clean duff to donate, please contact Victoria Wikle at (707) 865-2474.



You can also help out on Saturday mornings, with pulling weeds, providing refreshments or just moral support for our hard working crew. The fun starts at nine and we stop at noon. Hope to see you there.

We would especially like to thank Linda Fisher for her outstanding volunteer work at the Preserve. She has single-handedly cleared more land than entire teams of paid workers!

## BROKERAGE ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED

At the request of one of our members, Friends of Villa Grande has established a Schwab account to accept donations of stocks, equities or bonds. FoVG received a donation at Christmas of Schwab funds to honor one member's family. Funds transferred from an IRA or SEP are also tax-

exempt and fully deductible for individuals who are 70.5 years or older. If you would like to consider a donation of stocks or bonds, please contact Roberto at the FoVG office: (707) 865-9558

## PATTERSON POINT PRESERVE VIDEO PROJECT

Suzanne Girot, whose family has lived in Villa Grande since it was Mesa Grande, has volunteered to create a video that will detail the unique environment in Patterson

Point Preserve. The video will highlight the continuing restoration effort and filming will begin in the Spring.

## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW!

Annual FoVG memberships run from July 1st to the end of June the following year, so if you've delayed renewing for 2011-2012, please do so now. It's easy online at: [villagrande.org/Membership](http://villagrande.org/Membership) or call (707) 865-9558.

Follow FoVG on Facebook at [villagrande.org/Facebook](http://villagrande.org/Facebook)

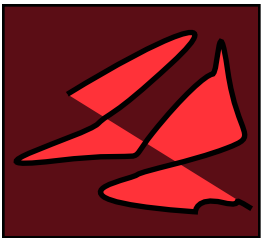
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ON THE WEB AT:

VILLAGRANDE.ORG

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## REMOVING REDWOOD STAINS



Ever get redwood stains on your clothes, outdoor furniture cushions or hot tub cover? FoVG members have been experimenting with various potions and have discovered some that work like magic. The cheapest is white vinegar - really! Just soak the item in a 50-50 mixture of water and white vinegar, or add 1/2 cup to your washer's pre-soak.

Simple Green is also a great way to cut through redwood stains on outdoor counter tops, stainless steel barbecues, and virtually any other surface. Feel free to contribute your home remedies for this red-stain menace!

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### PPP Restoration Work Parties

Every Saturday - if not too wet

9:00 a.m. to Noon

### Town Hall

March 3 10:30 a.m.

### Anything Goes - Winter Party

March 3 6:00 p.m.

Online at: [villagrande.org/calendar](http://villagrande.org/calendar)