

June 2012
ISSUE 11

FRIENDS *of* VILLA GRANDE NEWSLETTER

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OUR MISSION:

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to invite everyone to our town meeting on Sunday, July 1 at one o'clock in the plaza next to the old firehouse. We have a variety of interesting things to discuss. The Board of Directors has been working on a strategic plan for Friends of Villa Grande that will set out our goals and objectives for the future. We value your input and would like you all to comment on the plan.

We will also have a presentation on the restoration of Patterson Point Preserve. A lot of work has been done in the Preserve but there is still much to do. We'll share a map we have developed that shows what areas have been worked on so far and what is planned for next year. We look forward to your input. The election of Board members will also take place at the town meeting; please renew your membership for 2012-2013 so that you can vote.

I want to remind everyone that the Preserve is now operating under a Land Management Plan that has been approved by the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District. This plan was required by SCAPOSD as a condition to their financial participation in the acquisition of the Preserve. In addition to the restoration activities spelled out in the plan, a Recreation Covenant requires public access and limited recreational opportunities in the Preserve.

We will be testing several new features this summer, including a portable toilet and limited boat storage. Details of both programs are in other articles in this newsletter. Please let me know what you think of these programs as they develop.

Rich Holmer

President of the Board of Directors
Friends of Villa Grande

VILLA GRANDE POST OFFICE SURVIVES!

You may have heard that the United States Postal Service has decided not to close 3,700 rural post offices, at least for the next two years.

Instead, there will be cut backs in the hours of service, and it appears



the Villa Grande post office will be open only four hours per day, five days a week. Thanks to all who contacted USPS and lobbied to keep our post office open.

For the latest news, check the Villa Grande Facebook page.

INVITATION TO RUN FOR THE FOVG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The election for FoVG Board of Directors will take place Sunday, July 1 at the Town Hall meeting, starting at 1:00 p.m. in the Firehouse Plaza.

There are two open Board seats, one for a 2 year term and another for a 1 year term. There are also four current directors seek-

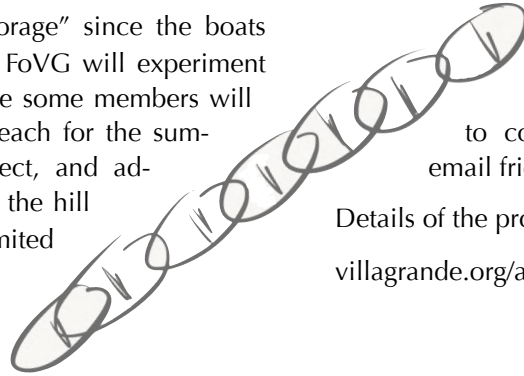
ing re-election: Greg Sampson, Victoria Wikle, Ken Wikle and Tom Wackerman.

Any FoVG members interested in serving on the Board of Directors should contact the FoVG office by June 15 at:

707-865-9558 or friends@villagrande.org

BOAT ANCHORAGE PROGRAM LAUNCHED

Technically it's not a "boat anchorage" since the boats won't be stored in the water, but FoVG will experiment with a boat storage program where some members will be keeping boats on the gravel beach for the summer. This is a fundraising project, and addresses requests from residents on the hill and also members who have limited mobility.



A committee formed from participants and FoVG members will monitor and evaluate this program. If you would like to comment or join the committee, please email friends@villagrande.org.

Details of the program are on the website at: villagrande.org/anchorage.

PORTABLE TOILET AND FOLLY

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, FoVG will be making a portable toilet available at the head of the trail. The primary reason for providing this service is to encourage boaters and beach users of the Preserve to patronize the toilet rather than blazing paths through the underbrush, disturbing the birds' habitat and generally defiling the landscape.

At the suggestion of FoVG member Lon Shapiro, and under Natalie Robb-Wilder's artistic direction, Jon Box and Rich Holmer will build an enclosure or "folly" that will help reduce the visual impact of the portable toilet on the neighbors and users of the path. Let us know what you think of this pilot program.



TREASURE CHEST 2012 : QUALITY DONATIONS NEEDED

The next FoVG Treasure Chest will be held at the Villa Grande Firehouse Plaza on August 11 and 12 from 9:00 am to noon. We are seeking donation of quality items that are clean, unbroken and in good working condition. If you have items that you think would be perfect for

someone else to purchase, please consider donating to the sale. We cannot accept computer equipment, bedding, used clothing or damaged items. Please contact Roberto at 707-865-9558 for review and pricing. All donations are tax-deductible.

FOVG ANNUAL SEMPER VIRENS AWARD

At its annual winter dinner, FoVG honored two outstanding volunteers - the team of Jim and Marcy Beck. In addition to their sweat equity contributions towards ivy removal and restoration, Marcy has been assisting in grant writing and public releases that go out under the FoVG name.

Jim is the brains behind this newsletter, the website, and all things technical, as well as a member of the new RAMPPP (Restoration and Management of Patterson Point Preserve) committee. Without the dynamic intelligence and help of these two stalwart members, FoVG would not be the classy little organization that it is.

Thanks on behalf of all the members, Jim & Marcy!



PPP RESTORATION UPDATE

On May 5, FoVG volunteers sheet-mulched half of the 3rd Street right-of-way at the entrance to the preserve. The mulching is expected to eliminate weeds for 2-3 years. If you want to control your own "volunteer" foxtails, exotic grasses and other nasty weeds, follow these simple steps:



Linda Fisher and Victoria Wikle at Mulching Day.

First, clear the area of any non-organic materials, but leave the weeds.

Second, lay down newsprint, in sheafs of 5-10 pages thick, but don't use slick or colored advertising pages. The newsprint should be overlapped 1/4 of the way on each edge with another sheaf of newsprint.

Third, remove all sealing tape, staples and plastic labels from brown cardboard boxes

and flatten them. White and colored cardboard shouldn't be used - recycle them in

your blue bin. Lay down a layer of cardboard on top of the newsprint, again overlapping on all sides to prevent seedlings from growing through the gaps.

wood mulch or redwood chips - several inches at least. Until it's gone, you're free to take a supply of mulch from the pile on 3rd Street next to the Preserve entrance. Tree trimming companies can also supply you a load of chips for large jobs.

Happy mulching!

Finally, cover the cardboard with a thick layer of red-

PLANTS IN THE PRESERVE: DUTCHMAN'S PIPEVINE

Dutchman's Pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*) is an interesting vine native to river, stream side and woodland habitats. Soft heart-shaped leaves and unusual purplish pipe-shaped flowers bloom in early spring. This deciduous twining plant will need some support if you wish it to grow upwards.



Adaptable, but best with a little shade and moderate water.

Slow to establish, we offer this adage to encourage patience: "The first year it sleeps, the second year it creeps and the third year it leaps". Once established it will put on ample growth, easily covering a trellis or chain link fence. THE larval food source for the pipevine swallowtail butterfly and it is also deer resistant.

Article courtesy of:
califloranursery.com.

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW!

Yes, it's time to renew your membership for 2012-13. Your renewal will run from July 1 through June 30 next year. The membership form is on the back page of this newsletter. You can also contact us through friends@villagrande.org or renew and pay online at: <http://www.villagrande.org/FOVG/Membership>. Thank you for your continued support.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Town Hall & Membership Meeting

July 1st 1:00 p.m.

Firehouse Plaza
(Bring a chair!)

Independence Day Celebration

July 4th 4:30 p.m.

Town Square

Treasure Chest Sale

August 11th & 12th

9:00 a.m. - Noon
Firehouse Plaza

Second Annual Hawaiian Shirt Invitational & Luau

September 15th

2:00 p.m. Tee Time
Northwood Golf Club

Online at:
villagrande.org/calendar

Follow FoVG on Facebook at villagrande.org/Facebook

ON THE WEB AT
VILLAGRANDE.ORG

FOVG MEMBERSHIP FORM

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

RENEWAL NEW

BENEFACTOR	\$ 1,000	TWO FREE TICKETS TO ALL EVENTS
PATRON	\$500	ONE FREE TICKET TO ALL EVENTS
FAMILY MEMBERSHIP	\$100	LIST NAMES BELOW
CONTRIBUTING MEMBER	\$50	SINGLE MEMBERSHIP
DISCOUNT MEMBER	\$25	LOW INCOME

ADDITIONAL PATTERSON POINT PRESERVE DONATION (\$1-\$1 MATCH) \$ _____

TOTAL PAID: Cash/Ck/PayPal \$ _____

Name of member/family members:

Mail Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Local Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please send check and form to FoVG
 PO Box 28, Villa Grande, CA 95486
 or online through Paypal at
villagrande.org/FOVG/Membership