

October 2010  
ISSUE 7

# FRIENDS *of* VILLA GRANDE NEWSLETTER

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## OUR MISSION:

- ❖ PRESERVE THE NATURAL RESOURCE, THE NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE BEACH
- ❖ BE FINANCIALLY PRUDENT IN THE BEACH ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT
- ❖ KEEP THE BEACH OPEN AND ACCESSIBLE TO MEMBERS OF THE VILLA GRANDE COMMUNITY, THEIR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND THE PUBLIC

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are at a very exciting time in the work on Patterson Point Preserve. The draft Restoration and Land Management Plan has been reviewed by the Board of Directors and was the subject of a community meeting on Oct. 23. The plan was partially prepared by the Center for Social and Environmental Stewardship (the Center). The remainder of the plan was put together by the Board of Directors with the bulk of the work done by Roberto Esteves. It is well worth your time to sit down and read from cover to cover.

The statement from the Center that I found both enlightening and heartwarming is:

*Considering the small size of the parcel, one would be hard pressed to find an example of greater native woody plant diversity in a comparably sized area anywhere in Sonoma County.*

We have always treasured this property, but it is wonderful to hear it described in such terms by an independent biologist who has worked in Sonoma County for years. It illustrates that our restoration work is important not only to the scenic qualities of our community, but also as a resource for the preservation of biotic diversity. We are truly fortunate to own such a unique piece of property.

The dedicated efforts of the volunteer work crews, under the supervision of Victoria



Wikle, have resulted in the removal and disposal of all of the ivy that was infesting the trees. In addition, each tree now has a cleared area around it to prevent re-infestation. You will also notice that the trails are starting to be outlined with redwood limbs to help define the paths. Thanks to all of the volunteers and especially to Victoria for her diligent work. If you haven't yet volunteered, this is an excellent opportunity for a free physical workout that will match any gym you have ever been to. Dates for upcoming work parties are on page 3 of this newsletter.

Rich Holmer

President of the Board of Directors  
Friends of Villa Grande

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## PATTERSON POINT PRESERVE MASTER PLAN

We celebrate a year of owning the Patterson Point Preserve by releasing a draft of the Land Management and Restoration Master Plan. A year in development, this plan includes the basic concepts, uses and

rules for the land, its restoration and preservation. The Plan can be downloaded directly from [villagrande.org/plan](http://villagrande.org/plan) and please send your comments to: [friends@villagrande.org](mailto:friends@villagrande.org).

## RETIRE THE DEBT CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

Thanks to a lead gift from an anonymous donor, the Board of Directors of FoVG has allocated \$20,000 for a matching fund to help pay off the \$60,000 in acquisition loans. The fund will match one-for-one each donation or bequest dollar from anyone wishing to help retire the debt. The seven individuals and couples who generously stepped up last

fall to make the purchase of Patterson Point Preserve possible will be repaid at an accelerated rate, allowing more of the long term budget to go towards preservation activities. Please contact Roberto Esteves at (415) 282-1800 or any member of the Board if you can help out in this important effort.

## SUCCESSFUL 2010 TREASURE CHEST!

Anchored by the estate of the late artist and FoVG member John Pollard, the second annual Treasure Chest (Garage Sale) grossed more than \$3,500. Held this year in the meadow behind the Blue Heron Restaurant, the event started with a members-only cocktail party and preview on Friday night (July 23rd) and was open to the public all day Saturday. The location this year in Duncans Mills attracted many more bargain hunters than in the past.

Thanks to all the members who helped make this event such a success: Erin McKinney, Jay Smith, Kate Goodman, Nancy Lopes, Peter O'Sullivan, Jane Saunders, Rich & Wanda Holmer, Marcy & Jim Beck, Pat Clarkson, Kyla Brooke, Jon Box and many many others! If you or someone you know is interested in donating to next summer's Treasure Chest, please call Erin McKinney at (707) 865-9346 to arrange for storage. We have already received our first estate donation for 2011 (thanks, Susan Packer!) Remember, your donations are tax deductible.



## WILD WILDE WEST DININ' & DANCIN' PARTY

Upon returning from a tour of America in 1882, Oscar Wilde reported to his British audience:

*Perhaps the most beautiful part of America is the West, to reach which, however, involves a journey by rail of six days, racing along tied to an ugly tin-kettle of a steam engine.*

Since he helped create the Myth of the West, we honor Wilde along with the Wild West at FoVG's annual winter

party, this time celebrating all the West County aesthetes, studs, fops, cowboys and ladies of some repute.

No rail journey is required, but please join us Saturday, January 29th at 6 p.m. at the Blue Heron Restaurant in Duncans Mills for dinner, dancing and a silent auction. Tickets are \$75/\$125 (individual/couple) for members and \$100 each for non-members of FoVG. For reservations, call Roberto Esteves at (415) 282-1800 or email [friends@villagrande.org](mailto:friends@villagrande.org).

**The Perfect Holiday Gift** Villa Grande tee shirts are available for \$16.50. Specify size: small, medium or large. Send your check to FoVG, POB 28, Villa Grande, CA 95486 or email [friends@villagrande.org](mailto:friends@villagrande.org) to order.

## RESTORATION WORK PARTIES SCHEDULED



*Rich Holmer and Roberto Esteves crowbar ivy off of a bay tree and then demonstrate the proper technique for filling the debris bin.*



Now that most of the ivy has been removed from the trees - another 20 cubic yards was hauled away last month - volunteer work parties are focusing on the flat areas. The 2010 bird nesting season has ended, so we can begin a more aggressive removal of the exotic invasive plants in Patterson Point Preserve.

Our strategy is to remove weeds from stands of native plants and trees as well as heavily infested areas. After an area is cleared, we

will mark the perimeter and then wait two years, continuing to weed as needed. The expectation is that the native plants will return naturally without our having to re-plant.

Please come join us, and bring along your empty green recycle bin. Work parties are on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays of every month, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, when it isn't raining.

Note the January 1<sup>st</sup> party - to help you get started with your New Year's Resolutions!

### **SAVE THE DATE:** Historical Archive Project, Sunday May 29, 2011

On Sunday, May 29, Friends of Villa Grande will be launching the Villa Grande Historical Archive project with a demonstration of illustrated podcasts and a progressive tour of historic homes, including the Windmill House and the Villa Grande Hotel. If you would like to have your old photos preserved in the Villa Grande Digital Archive or have your home featured on the Memorial Day tour, please contact Roberto Esteves (415) 282-1800 or email [friends@villagrande.org](mailto:friends@villagrande.org).

**Videographer Seeks Villa Grande History** Paul Donatelli, grandson of a long-time Villa Grande family and a film student at Stanford, is making a documentary about Villa Grande. He would like to meet and interview anyone with a perspective of life here "back in the day". If your family has a history in Villa Grande for 50 or more years, please contact Paul at [pauljdon@stanford.edu](mailto:pauljdon@stanford.edu) or at (415) 652-8624. Alternatively, email [friends@villagrande.org](mailto:friends@villagrande.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### Restoration Work Parties

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

Saturdays

9:00-Noon

November 6 & 20

December 4 & 18

January 1 & 15

February 4 & 19

Wilde West  
Dinin' & Dancin'  
at the Blue Heron

January 29<sup>th</sup>

6:00 p.m.

Villa Grande  
Historical  
Archive Project  
May 29<sup>th</sup>

Upcoming Events are  
also available online:

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

ON THE WEB AT:

[WWW.VILLAGRANDE.ORG](http://WWW.VILLAGRANDE.ORG)

PO Box 28, Villa Grande, CA 95486  
[friends.villagrande@gmail.com](mailto:friends.villagrande@gmail.com)  
[www.villagrande.org](http://www.villagrande.org)

**FRIENDS of VILLA GRANDE**



Friends of Villa Grande, a 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to the preservation of Patterson Point Preserve in Villa Grande for use by residents, neighbors and friends.

Your tax-deductible contribution will also enable Friends of Villa Grande to preserve the history and culture of this unique village.

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

July 2010 through June 2011

## MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS (CIRCLE RATE)

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	STANDARD MEMBERSHIP
LOW INCOME/ SENIOR	\$25	

ADDITIONAL PATTERSON POINT PRESERVE DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names of family members:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

[www.villagrande.org/FOVG/membership](http://www.villagrande.org/FOVG/membership)