

April 2011  
ISSUE 8

# 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

It's official, we now have an approved "Patterson Point Land Management and Restoration Plan". The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District has approved our plan, as required by the terms of our agreement. <http://villagrande.org/Plan>

We will be ready for the next phase of restoration when the bird nesting season is over come September, starting on the 24th with a big volunteer day to make a significant dent in the removal of invasive species.

We are inviting everyone, and if you have not been to a volunteer day before, this is

your chance to join the fun. In the meantime, volunteers are welcome to join the Restoration Committee as it clears the Firehouse Plaza of ivy and trains volunteer supervisors for the work crews we plan to hire to help in September.

We'll discuss some of the improvements to Patterson Point at a special Town Hall Meeting on May 28. See you there!

Rich Holmer

President of the Board of Directors  
Friends of Villa Grande



## MAKING HISTORY: A DAY IN VILLA GRANDE MEMORIAL DAY

On Sunday, May 29, FoVG will launch the Villa Grande Historical Archive with a demonstration of its new oral history project, plans for a historic and photographic database, followed by a self-guided tour of local homes. The tour will include the Windmill House, the General Store, and will end at the Old Hotel with a no-host cocktail reception and silent auction.

Archive please bring them along to the History Center and we'll scan them right there. If you would be willing to have your home featured on the Tour, or have an item to donate to the auction, please contact Roberto Esteves at [esteves@comcast.net](mailto:esteves@comcast.net).

The day includes three events:

**History Center (free): 1-3 p.m.** at 21865 Russian River Avenue. See old photos of Villa Grande and scan your historic photos.

**Home & Town Tour: 3-5 p.m.** Self-guided, with owners and docents at each house.

**Cocktails and silent auction: 4-7 p.m.** at the Old Hotel, 21849 East Street.

Tickets for the Tour and Old Hotel Event are \$15.00 each in advance or \$20 at the door. Purchase online at:

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



If you would like to have your old photos digitized and preserved in the Villa Grande

## BIRDS OF PATTERSON POINT

One spring, I was canoeing past a gravel beach on the Russian River that was drying out after being under the winter waters. A movement caught my eye, and I could see these fluffy little tennis-ball sized things scurrying around. Before the beach was out of sight as I floated past, I was able to identify the moving objects as baby Killdeer—a bird that's a member of the Plover family. Mom and Dad were nearby supervising their chicks.

While Killdeer nest on rocky or gravelly ground, other birds prefer to nest in the dense tangles of bushes or in a hollow log. Some birds burrow into the banks of the Russian River to nest, some excavate a cavity in a tree trunk, and yet others build nests by slapping sticky mud against a rock face (or even your house) and molding it into a domed home. Many song birds build the quintessential nest in a tree, shaped like a cup and built from grasses, bark and twigs. We've all enjoyed the large Osprey nest on top of a dead snag across from Patterson Point Preserve. If the Ospreys continue to nest there, they'll probably add onto it, like a yearly remodel.



Photo: Mike Lascut, [mikephoto.com](http://mikephoto.com)

As a place for birds to nest, Patterson Point Reserve provides excellent habitat for a large variety of species. There are 70

different species that nest in the Villa Grande area. How many of these birds nest on the Preserve itself, we're not sure, but for the next five years, we will be participating in the Sonoma County breeding bird survey and will develop a list of birds that nest specifically on our land. Over the past ten years, I've documented 108 bird species around Villa Grande.

Since birds can nest anywhere from the ground to high up in a redwood tree, we have to set limits on the time we spend removing invasive plants in Patterson Point Preserve so that we do not disturb nesting birds. We create enough of a ruckus on the paths and the beaches as it is. Be aware that as we remove the ivy and blackberries, we are changing the habitat. And as the native plants return, this is another habitat change making it difficult for bird species that are less flexible. You can do your part by staying on the paths and being alert to the fact that we are sharing this wonderful place with birds and other critters.

When you're on the Preserve this spring and summer, listen for the woodpeckers drumming for mates; watch for the birds that nest under a slab of loose tree bark or those that affix their nest to the trunk of a tree. Keep your eyes peeled, and perhaps you'll spot a hummingbird nest usually made of spider webbing so it will stretch to accommodate the nestlings. And if you're really lucky, maybe you'll see baby Killdeer on our gravel beach. For an up to date log of bird happenings go to [villagrande.org/Bird\\_Report](http://villagrande.org/Bird_Report)

Leah Norwood

### WILD WILDE

The Blue Heron Restaurant in Duncans Mills was the site of our annual winter dress-up party honoring Oscar Wilde and/or the Wild West. Costumes ran the gamut, spirits were high and the dancing energetic. FoVG earned \$950 at this wild and crazy event.



Joanne McCabe, Victoria Wikle and Terry Matsik-Getchell at the Wilde Wild West Party.

### WEST PARTY

Oscar was there, dazzling the merrymakers with wit and outfit. Sin Soracco and Andrew Ahn were honored and presented with a handsome plaque with FoVG's first Semper Virens Award for their generosity and support of the Friends of Villa Grande in 2010.

## PATTERSON POINT TOWN HALL - MAY 28, 11 AM

Join us Saturday, May 28, from 11:00 to noon in front of the General Store, for a discussion of the PPP Management Plan. We need the community's advice regarding several proposed services at Patterson Point, including

trash pick-up, boat storage and a porta potty. Come and share your thoughts, and also send your comments to:

[friends@villagrande.org](mailto:friends@villagrande.org). You can see the plan online at [villagrande.org/Plan](http://villagrande.org/Plan).

### INVITATION TO RUN FOR THE FOVG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following members of the Board will be up for re-election in July: Rich Holmer, Kyla Brooke, Roberto Esteves and Leah Norwood. If you are interested in running for a seat on the Board of Directors, please submit your name and contact information to the Nominat-

ing Committee, Ken Wikle and Tom Wackerman at [friends@villagrande.org](mailto:friends@villagrande.org) by June 1st.

Elections will be held at the FoVG Membership Meeting on July 2, 10:00 am in the Town Square.

### TREASURE CHEST RUMMAGE SALE BENEFIT SET FOR AUGUST 13

SAVE THE DATE AND DONATE YOUR TREASURES

On Saturday August 13, Friends of Villa Grande will host our third annual "Treasure Chest" rummage sale featuring unique and special household items. We are currently accepting donations of gently used treasures for inclusion in the sale. So get your Spring Cleaning on, lighten your load and do a good deed!

WE NEED: furniture, tools, books, art, garden items, sports equipment, housewares, jewelry, collectables, nicknacks and antiques we will sell at bargain prices. Sorry, we cannot accept car seats or cribs, computers (though accessories are ok), clothing, chemicals, paint, household cleaning products, mattresses, or tube TVs (we will take your flat screens!).

Are your friends considering a major move or house sale? Ask us about helping you in exchange for some excellent household goods. We even have some transport capability all the way to San Francisco! To donate items, please contact Erin McKinney or Jay Smith at: (707) 865-9346 or [erinjaysmith@yahoo.com](mailto:erinjaysmith@yahoo.com).

All donations are tax deductible, so please ask for a receipt. All proceeds from this benefit sale will go directly to Friends of Villa Grande and its ongoing restoration of Patterson Point Preserve.



### FOVG IS NOW ON FACEBOOK!

Keep current on what's happening in Villa Grande by "liking" us on Facebook, just like we like you. Go to [villagrande.org/Facebook](http://villagrande.org/Facebook) or search for "Villa Grande" in your Facebook search box.

Membership Renewals now available for 2011-12. Renew online at [villagrande.org/Membership](http://villagrande.org/Membership)

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### Firehouse Plaza Restoration

May 21<sup>st</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup>  
July 16<sup>th</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m. - Noon

#### Patterson Point Town Hall

May 28<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m.

#### Historic Homes Tour & Silent Auction

May 29<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m.

#### FoVG Town Hall & Board Election

July 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 a.m.

#### Fourth of July Parade

July 4<sup>th</sup> 4:30 p.m.

#### Treasure Chest Sale Duncans Mills

August 13<sup>th</sup>

#### PPP Restoration Work Party

September 24<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m. - Noon

#### Hawaiian Golf Tournament / Party

September 17<sup>th</sup>  
Stay Tuned!

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

ON THE WEB AT:  
**VILLAGRANDE.ORG**

PO Box 28, Villa Grande, CA 95486  
[friends@villagrande.org](mailto:friends@villagrande.org)  
[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 also enables Friends of Villa Grande to preserve the history and culture of this unique village.

Federal Tax ID No: 64-0964108

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012

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/ SENIOR
ADDITIONAL PATTERSON POINT PRESERVE DONATION (\$1 → \$1 MATCH)	\$ _____	

Names of 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/Membership](http://villagrande.org/Membership)