

November 2016
ISSUE 20

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

This has been a busy year for Friends of Villa Grande. We completed our seven-year Sonoma County Agricultural and Open Space Grant Project, which provided funds for the acquisition of Patterson Point Preserve, the creation of rules and educational signage, and most importantly, the first phase of restoration on the Preserve.

The FoVG Recreation and Membership Committees have been working to strengthen a sense of community between the residents of the Villa Grande "flats" and their neighbors in the original "Mesa Grande Addition", now known as the Terraces. More community-building events are being planned, as described in this newsletter.

Also in the past year, the Firehouse Task Force and FoVG Riverwatch committees have been hard at work in their efforts to restore the firehouse and keep our river safe and clean.

I thank everyone who has volunteered to work on these committees, and invite FoVG members to sign up by the end of the year and serve during 2017. For more information or any questions about volunteering, please email friends@villa-grande.org or contact me directly.

Ken Wikle
President, FoVG

LOW FLOW AND YOU

The Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) has released a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the "Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project," available at:

www.scwa.ca.gov/fish-flow. This project would dramatically reduce summertime water flows in the Russian River to levels comparable to recent drought years. It will result in more frequent closures of the river mouth and flooding of local beaches.

The DEIR states that there will be "significant and unavoidable" impacts that "could result in a violation of water quality standards ... relating to biostimulatory substances" from this project. These pollutants contribute to the toxic algae blooms that we have experienced in the river the past two years. Toxic algae can poison dogs, cause adverse health effects for children as well as sicken anyone who eats fish from the river. The DEIR lists 15 significant negative impacts, and we believe there are many more that need to be addressed. This project adversely affects any citizen of Sonoma County who enjoys the beauty and recreational aspects of the river.

There is a public hearing scheduled, on November 17 at the Guerneville Veterans Memorial Building, 16255 Church Street, at 6:00 p.m. You are encouraged to attend to learn more and express your feelings about the project. Additionally, you can send comments to SCWA at the address on the web page listed to the left, before February 14, 2017.

The FoVG Board sent a detailed letter with our concerns, (villagrande.org/fish-flow) but the more letters SCWA receives, the better. I encourage you to also contact your representatives on the Board of Supervisors and ask them to send this project back to SCWA for revisions that will protect the water quality and recreational values of the river.

Once the DEIR is certified by the Board of Directors of the Water Agency, the project will go to the State Water Resources Control Board for approval or denial. This process is expected to take about a year. We will keep you apprised of the progress of this project.

Rich Holmer
FoVG Riverwatch Committee



PARTIES THAT POP (UP)

Three informal Pop-Up parties are planned for this winter, and y'all are invited. These will be casual fun events that you're welcome to help organize as well. Our traditional winter fundraising party has moved to March 25 this year; watch the e-newsletters for more information. Hint: you can get that bridesmaid dress out of the back of your closet.

Holiday Cookie Decorating December 17, 3-5 p.m.
Fabulous "Fabino" cake and cookie decorator Jeff Goshe will be offering a Holiday Cookie Decorating workshop at FoVG's first Pop-Up party. Jeff will bake gingerbread men as well as Christmas tree, candle, wreath, sweater and Santa Claus cookies, all ready for decorating. A materials charge of \$15 covers the cookies and supplies, and you'll be working in teams of two. Eggnog, mulled wine and other holiday libations will help hone your decorating skills, and you can take your creations home or consume them on site! There's only room for 20, so register soon to reserve your spot and get the details. Email friends@villagrande.org or call 707 865-9558 to register.

Winter White Potluck January 21, 5 p.m.
We're not expecting snow, but wear white anyway and share a "white" dish with your neighbors at this informal dinner party. Suggestions: roasted cauliflower with cheese sauce, chicken risotto or (white) chocolate with anything. Utensils will be provided but BYOB. Let us know you're coming and what you're bringing at: friends@villagrande.org or call 707 865-9558.

Game Night February 11, 8 p.m.
To liven up a (likely) cold, wet winter night, we're looking for hosts to organize game parties. It could be cards (bridge, whist, pinochle), boards (Monopoly, Scrabble, Risk,) or something more lively (Charades, Twister, Pictionary). FoVG will help with the logistics, so please contact Roberto at 707 865-9558 if you'd be willing to host a game night party.



Jeff Goshe shows off his Firehouse Cake

FIREHOUSE FUNDRAISING GOAL ACHIEVED

Over a two month period this summer, FoVG raised more than \$7,000 in donations for improving the Villa Grande firehouse. The money was matched by FoVG general funds and a Russian River Community Grant, which brought the total to more than \$14,000. In the first phase of improvements, we electrified the firehouse with generous help from Chai Electric - thanks!

This year, the "Ham it Up" talent show at the firehouse on Labor Day weekend took advantage of the new wiring for

the lights and sound system. Now it's time to complete the next phase to stabilize the building's foundation and come up with a replacement for the temporary stage.

Special thanks to Andrea Buffa who got the ball rolling with a web crowdfunding page and to Tom Cocuzzi and Chris Resler, who hosted the fundraising party that put us over our goal. A silent auction at the party featured the amazing firehouse cake created by FoVG member Jeff Goshe.

RESTORATION WORKER SOUGHT

Friends of Villa Grande is hiring a restoration contractor for Patterson Point Preserve. We follow the Bradley ecological method, with appropriate modifications for the Preserve.

Duties include: identify and remove invasive weeds and other non-native plants, as well as plant and care for native

plants. This is a part-time contract position with flexible hours, at 10 hours per week. Contractor to provide own tools and equipment.

To apply, send email with your qualifications and work experience to VictoriaWikle@usa.net.

STAYING IN TOUCH

Updates on the Pop-Up parties, the Low Flow issue and restoration progress will be sent in the FoVG e-newsletter periodically. Members are automatically included in the mailing, but anyone can receive the updates by sending a note to friends.villagrande@gmail.com. Make sure your spam filter isn't blocking emails from friends@villagrande.com.

CAPTAIN SCHULTZE'S HOUSE

AKA: GRANDMA PATSY'S CABIN

Grandma Patsy's Cabin, a post-Victorian jewel at 21891 Russian River avenue, was built in 1907 by Albert Schultze, a former ship's captain. His family owned a shipyard in Hunters Point, San Francisco. So, like a ship, the rooms are compact and the staircase to the second floor "dormitory" is steep. Eventually, the Schultzes owned four properties on Russian River Avenue and several generations of the Schultze and Danielson families used them as their family compound each summer.

Tom McFarland (b.1934) came to Villa Grande with his father year after year, renting various homes in the area. After his father died in 1941, Tom's grandmother continued to bring Tom to Villa Grande and would rent Captain Schultze's house.

After marrying his wife Patsy, Tom would visit Villa Grande with her and in 1962 on a coincidental trip, they saw a listing for the Captain's house in a Guerneville real estate office. With fond memories of summers in Villa Grande, Tom immediately purchased it. Since Tom and Patsy had been renting in San Francisco, this was the first house they owned.



They raised their six children part-time in Villa Grande. In 1990, while they were out of town, a fire broke out, but a neighbor saved the house by using a hose to douse the flames until the Fire Department arrived. Most of the damaged redwood paneling in the living room was beautifully restored and the remaining slightly fire-darkened paneling above one living room doorway is a reminder of this almost calamitous event.

"Villa Grande is part of our blood" says Patsy's daughter, Kate McFarland, who remembers the annual ritual of kids getting poison oak in the area now known as Patterson Point Preserve. She also remembers climbing the

redwood stump in the Town Square and the great times at the General Store buying hard candy root beer barrels, candy grab-bags, and RC Colas, which are still a family favorite. Grandma Patsy continues to oversee the use of the house by her children and grandchildren. You can frequently see them on the porch drinking RC Colas and playing games.

- Roberto Esteves

RESTORATION FUNDING STATUS

Up to now, funding for restoration work on PPP has come from both FoVG memberships and our original grant from Sonoma County Open Space and Agricultural District in 2008. We are sorry to report that despite our major effort to create a next-phase grant proposal, we were denied addition funds.

Restoration will continue with funding from membership fees, plus volunteer labor on Saturdays, from 1-4 p.m. throughout the winter. Please join us - weather permitting - as we continue the fight against invasive weeds to restore our beautiful Preserve.

VG BESPOKE FASHION

Looking for a holiday gift for that person who has (almost) everything? How about a special edition of the FoVG tee shirt or hoodie? Get your orders in, along with payment, by November 30 for Christmas delivery.

Available styles: men's tee shirt in black or navy blue and women's tee shirt in black or aqua-blue, at \$10 each.

Also, unisex hooded zipper sweat shirts in black only, for \$25. Available sizes for all: S to XXXL. Pick-up in Villa Grande or we'll ship to you for \$5 per order.

Send your check, shirt type, size, color and shipping preference to: FoVG, PO Box 28, Villa Grande 95486

And thanks to our model, Maria Esteves!



CALENDAR

Low Flow Meeting

Thursday, November 17

Guerneville Veterans Building

16255 First Street

6:00 p.m.

Low Flow Comment Deadline

Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Cookie Decorating Pop-Up

Saturday, December 17

3:00-5:00 p.m.

Winter White Pop-Up

Saturday, January 14

5:00 p.m.

Game Night Pop-Up(s)

Saturday, February 11

Annual Winter Fun/d-Raiser Party

Save the Date

Saturday, March 25

PPP Restoration Work Days

Saturdays 1:00-4:00

Weather Permitting

Online at:

villagrander.org/calendar

ON THE WEB AT
VILLAGRANDE.ORG

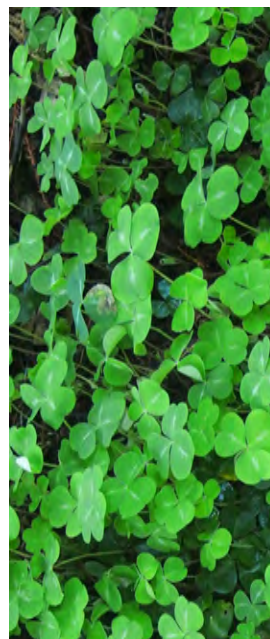
BIRD SIGN

Have you seen the new Birds of Patterson Point sign on the trail? With our local ornithologists Linda Fisher and Leah Norwood providing the expertise and photographs, plus artwork by Natalie Robb-Wilder, and engineering by Jim Beck, the new sign highlights over 30 species known to inhabit the Preserve. Stop by!



REDWOOD SORREL (OXALIS OREGANO)

A creeping low-growing native perennial with shamrock-shaped leaves and cup-shaped flowers, oxalis oregano grows in cool, moist coastal redwood forests. At Patterson Point Preserve, redwood sorrel has been overrun by invasive ivy, but is now making a comeback, thanks to weeding, replanting and initial watering to reestablish the carpet.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017

Renewal New

Circle one member category below:

BENEFACTOR	\$1,000	2 TICKETS TO FOGV EVENTS; UP TO 2 VOTING MEMBERS
PATRON	\$500	1 TICKET TO FOGV EVENTS; UP TO 2 VOTING MEMBERS
HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP	\$100	UP TO 2 VOTING MEMBERS; LIST NAMES BELOW
CONTRIBUTING MEMBER	\$50	SINGLE MEMBERSHIP
LOW INCOME	\$25	LOW INCOME

FIX FIREHOUSE DONATION \$ _____

TOTAL PAID: Cash/Ck/PayPal: \$ _____

Last/First Name of member/family members: _____

Mail Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Local Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Propane Discount: (circle) Yes No

Email: _____

Phone: _____

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