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*Don't forget to renew
your SSA membership!
Send a check for \$15
to:
SSA Membership
22400 Skyline Blvd.
Box 35
La Honda, CA 94020*

SSA General Meeting

Vegetable and Fruit Gardening In the South Skyline Area

April 16, 2004

at

Thomas Fogarty Winery
Refreshments 7:00 pm
Program 7:30 pm



Panel: Bill Fowkes, Shelly Monfort, Bryan Osborne, Helen Shapiro, and Larry Watson
Moderator: Patrick Congdon (SSA President)

Do you have a garden but wonder about the best way to efficiently increase your yields?
Thinking of starting a garden? Do you wonder about:

- What seeds work best for us in this region?
- What fruit canes/bushes/trees grow well here?
- How to improve the soil?
- How to extend the season?
- A winter garden?
- Dealing with pests?

Come ask our panel members, all avid *local* gardeners who have experienced the vagaries of our soil, weather, etc. They probably total a hundred years of Skyline area gardening experience!

We could not invite all of our local great vegetable and fruit gardeners to be on the panel, but you know who you are; so come out of your woods, join us, and add your expertise to the discussion. If you would like to set up a display on your own gardening, contact Pat Congdon (eves. 650-941-9842, email Rxfirec@aol.com).

This event will be held at beautiful Thomas Fogarty Winery. Fine Fogarty wines will be available. We request a donation of \$4.00 per glass. Soft drinks will be provided, and delicious hors d'oeuvres from Alice's Restaurant.

Thomas Fogarty Winery

19501 Skyline Boulevard
(2.7 miles north of Page Mill Road, across
from the entrance to Yerba Buena Nursery)

Many thanks to the friendly folks at Thomas Fogarty Winery for once again hosting our spring meeting. The Winery is open for tasting Thursday through Sunday from 11am to 5pm. The facilities are available for private parties, weddings, and corporate events.



What is Your SSA Board Doing?

In the past quarter, in addition to hearing reports from the standing committees, the Board of Directors of the South Skyline Association has taken action on the following items:

- Written, distributed, collected, and tabulated a survey of members to help the Board in deciding what directions to take in the future.
- Investigated possible sites for a Community Center, worked up an estimate for one site to upgrade it for community use. This item was abandoned when the survey showed that members do not support a community center at this time.
- Updated and distributed a roster of members.
- Reviewed the Association By-Laws and came up with suggestions for changes to be voted on at the April General Meeting.
- Entered negotiations with Amerigas to renew the contract for the Skyline Propane Users Group.
- Heard visiting members' complaints about motorcycle safety issues, decided to devote the May Board meeting to a meeting with CHP representatives to encourage better patrolling of mountain roads.
- Will look into state regulations for Scenic Corridors in regards to CalTrans dumping of debris off roadways.
- Made arrangements for venue and program for the April General Meeting at Fogarty Winery.

Visitors are welcome to all board meetings; please check the website for meeting dates. Meeting minutes and agendas are also on www.southskyline.org.

~Kristen Smith, SSA Secretary

SPUG Quarterly Report

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed as a benefit for SSA members in 1994. The contract with Amerigas was renewed in April 1999. Jay E. Stephens, market manager for Amerigas, has assured us that he will renew the five-year contract in April 2004. For information about joining the SPUG, or for members wishing to have current information on the Amerigas contract with SPUG, please send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your request to Ruth Waldhauer, SSA Membership Chairperson, 22400 Skyline Boulevard, Box 35, La Honda, CA 94020.

SPUG prices are subject to change as frequently as wholesale prices change. Reported here are prices for the first week of the month. See www.southskyline.org for recent updates.

Recent SPUG prices for members served by the San Jose Amerigas are:

January	\$1.319/gallon
February	1.469
March	1.469

In mid-March the price dropped to \$1.369/gallon. Welcome to spring!

Members who are served out of the Scotts Valley Amerigas are charged five cents/gallon more than the prices listed above due to the additional cost of transporting the propane from the refinery to Scotts Valley.

Members 55 years of age or older qualify for a 5 cent/gallon discount on the SPUG group price. Our SPUG rate is based on automatic regular route deliveries on a keep-full basis, not "will call" service.

~Ruth Waldhauer

Eat on the Wild Side

Dandelions are madly "springing" up everywhere and are *free* for the picking. Here's a recipe that might be fun to try. (*The "Dandies" should be free from insecticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers.*)

Dandelion Jelly

1 qt. Fresh Dandelion flowers
2 qt. Water
2 tbsp Lemon juice
5 ½ Cups of sugar
1 ¾ oz powdered pectin
paraffin

- Cook flowers and water together for 3-5 minutes
- Cool, strain and press out the liquid
- Add lemon juice and pectin to 3 cups of the liquid
- Bring to a boil, then add sugar and stir to mix well for 2 ½ minutes, or until mixture sheets from a wooden spoon.
- Pour into jelly glasses and seal with melted paraffin when cool.



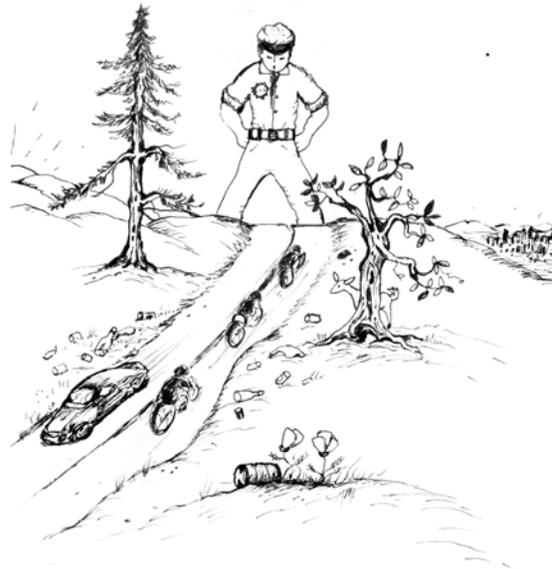
Speeding Motorcycles Are a Danger to Everyone on the Road

Tired of reckless, noisy, speeding motorcycles? We are too! The SSA is actively working with the CHP to improve patrols and enforcement along the entire South Skyline area with special attention given to problem areas and weekends.

Our goal is to get consistent, uniform, organized, and proactive patrolling on our roads by the CHP with a firm no-nonsense attitude. Speeding, racing, tail-gating, and crossing double yellow lines are unsafe and a danger to everyone on the road including bicyclists and hikers. In the past, patrolling has been spotty and on an as needed basis producing only limited short-term results, until a major accident occurs involving loss of life. Only then does the CHP really crack down in true "blitzkrieg" fashion and put a stop to the antics of motorcyclists. We want to permanently change this pattern and we'll all benefit with safer roads and a lot more peace and quiet. We are encouraged by the responsiveness of the CHP to our concerns; however, more needs to be done, and you can help too. The value of active participation by everyone concerned or bothered by excessive motorcycle activity cannot be overstated. You have a right to safe roads and to enjoy your homes in peace and quiet.

Here's what you can do:

1. Report all incidents of speeding or reckless motorcycle activity to the CHP no matter how small or used to it you may be. The numbers to call are shown below.



2. Make your voice heard! Call the CHP and demand enforcement of the posted speed limits and the rules of the road. It's your community; so let's make it better.
3. Keep a diary of incidents and the calls you make. If it becomes necessary for the SSA to organize a citizens petition to get it done, your records will be an invaluable source of information.

Main CPH Dispatcher (weekends): (707) 551-4100
San Jose CHP office: (408) 467-5400
Santa Cruz CHP office: (831) 662-0511
Redwood City CHP office: (650) 369-6261
Sheriff's office Saratoga: (408) 868-6600 or (408) 299-3233

~ John Connally and Noelle Cosentino

Prepare for an Abundant Thistle Crop

Yellow Star Thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis Linnaeus*) is a threat to livestock and to horses in which it causes chewing disease (*nigropallidal encephalomalacia*), a neurological disorder that leads to eventual death if the weed is ingested over an extended period of time. At least 42 insect species are known to be associated with yellow star thistle in the Mediterranean region where it originated, of which at least four have been imported and released in the United States for biological control.

The thistles must be sprayed, mowed or pulled before they go to seed, or it will be too late. In San Joaquin County the Agricultural Commission is taking proactive steps to encourage property owners to control this noxious, invasive pest. Landowners in that county may call in a professional weed control business to qualify for the \$50 to \$100 rebates offered to help with eradication costs.

Rebates are not available in our counties, but Skyliners can call their Agricultural Commissioner to receive the latest recommendations for control and, with luck, also obtain the Star Thistle gourmet insects. It may help mentioning to the Commissioner the exemplary program initiated by San Joaquin County. Who knows, perhaps we too shall receive a subsidy to help us rid the land of this invader.

San Mateo Agricultural Commissioner 415-363-4700
Santa Clara 408-299 2171
Santa Cruz 831-763-8080.

~Eva Blum

Bush Poppies Soak Up The Sun Along Skyline

Bush poppies, *Dendromecon rigida*, soak up the sun along Skyline. The woody shrubs grow 2 to 10 feet tall in chaparral and woodlands. Branches are gray to white with shredding bark. Bare branches from previous years are often mixed with green foliage.

Lance-shaped leaves grow alternate from the stem. They are evergreen, 1 to 4 inches long, and gray-, blue-, or yellow-green. There are very fine teeth along the margins. The short leaf stalks are twisted so that flat sides face sideways away from the sun and water loss is minimized.

Individual bright yellow flowers grow at ends of branches with 1 to 3 inch long flower stems. The $\frac{3}{4}$ to 2-inch blooms have 4 (rarely 5) petals, many stamen, and, except for the yellow color, resemble California poppies. The plants bloom primarily from April to July, but a few flowers can appear in all seasons.



Fruits are grooved, oblong capsules, ripening from May to July. They explode open from bottom to top in shreds, dispersing 2 to 3 mm seeds as far as 10 feet away. Native harvester ants also disperse seeds both above and below ground.

Bush poppies grow below 5500 feet in the Coast Ranges and western Sierra Nevada foothills from Northern California to Northern Baja California. They prefer a hot, dry climate with well-drained soil. Bush poppies are more noticeable in the years after a fire, sprouting from seed. They also appear in road or bulldozer cuts, sprouting from roots growing along cracks in rock.

The name poppy comes from the old English *popaeg*, Latin *papaver* and possibly Sumerian *pa pa*, for the noise from chewing poppy seeds.

~Sarah Schoen

Regulations To Prevent the Spread of Sudden Oak Death

The plant disease known as Sudden Oak Death has been written about in previous SKYLINES. Sudden Oak Death, *Phytophthora ramorum*, is threatening coastal forests in California and Oregon. *Phytophthora ramorum* has been identified in twelve counties in California. To date, tens of thousands of tanoak and oak have been killed by this disease. In addition, more than 25 other native tree and shrub species are susceptible to the organism, yet most of these species suffer only minor damage, limited to leaf spots or twig dieback.

Areas that have confirmed *Phytophthora ramorum* findings are under State and Federal quarantine. Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and San Mateo counties are all subject to the quarantine regulations.

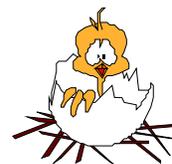
Firewood may not be moved out of the regulated area unless the bark is removed, however, one may sell or give firewood to anyone within the regulated area. For example, someone here in the SSA area may give firewood to friends in Palo Alto, Redwood City, Santa Cruz, but not in Sacramento.

California Oak Mortality Task Force provides a map of all of the California counties in which the disease has been identified, and information on the latest research on their web site at www.suddenoakdeath.org

County Agricultural Commissioners are responsible for enforcement of both California and Federal regulations. Phone your county agricultural commissioner should you want an expert to determine whether you have a diseased tree on your property. County contacts are:

San Mateo	650-363-4700
Santa Clara	408-918-4600
Santa Cruz	831-454-2383

~Ruth Waldhauer



Happy Spring!

The Grosbeaks Are Here - Summer Is Just Around The Corner

When you first see a Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), the first thing that strikes you is the HUGE beak. Even though they are in the same family as finches (*Fringillidae*), and house finches have sturdy, seed cracking beaks, they are tiny compared with these large triangular vise-like appendages. Once you get over how huge its beak is, (the French word “*gros*” means “large”) you realize how stunning the whole bird is. The male is a bright rusty orange with a black head and wings. There are great splashes of white on the black wings and tail, not in orderly bars like orioles but in random patches. However, most of the identification books don't mention the best part – the male has a bright, lemon yellow underbelly. Like most females, the Black-headed Grosbeak is paler than her mate, but in her case not at all dull. She is butterscotch in color and she doesn't have the rusty or orangey hue. Her breast is speckled, especially on the side, and she has these wonderful butterscotch eyebrows and crown stripes on her brown face that help in immediate identification. Her sunny yellow underbelly is there too, just not quite as brilliant.

The grosbeak is approximately 2” larger than the common house finch. They both like black oil sunflower as part of their feeder diet. The grosbeak is a great insect eater. Spiders, beetles, snails, mistletoe and poison oak berries are all part of their expansive diet.

The Black-headed Grosbeak is really comfortable up here in the mountains where there is a good mix of oak and pine woodlands. Here they nest in trees or large bushes, building their loose, cup-like nests of twigs, weeds, rootlets and lining them with animal fur. Sounds cozy! The nest, built by the female, houses 3 to 4 light, blue-green/rust splashed eggs. Mom incubates the eggs with Dad coming into help feed her. Both parents feed the babies after they hatch 12 to 14 days later. Even though the nestlings are out of the nest 12 days later, they don't fly for another 2 weeks. I remember last year that the juveniles were pretty funny looking running after Mom and Dad crying to be fed with their adult sized beaks wide open.

The male Black-headed Grosbeak is also a great singer, especially in his song flight when he is trying to attract a mate. With wings outstretched and his tail fanned he sings and flies to show off his wonderful colors and skill. His song, a rising and falling melody, reminds me of a robin except with a jazzy trill in the middle of the “cheery up, cheerio.”

~Freddy Howell



Breeding male Black-headed Grosbeak
Stevens Creek Park, Santa Clara County, California
May 2002 © Peter LaTourrette
<http://www.birdphotography.com/>

California Native Plants

Thinking about a water-wise, low maintenance garden? Want to create habitat for birds and butterflies? The following events by the non-profit California Native Plant Society (CNPS) are related to native plants & gardening in our area.

Native Plant Sale, Saturday, April 17 at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum. General public hours are 12 to 4pm. The Arboretum is located on the UCSC campus on High Street, which is the western border of campus.

A free Wildflower Show on April 24 & 25 showcases the diversity and beauty of wildflowers of San Mateo & Santa Clara Counties. 10am – 4pm at Mission College, Hospitality Management Building, 3000 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara.

Native plant sale, Saturday May 8, 10am-4pm, at Hidden Villa Ranch, CNPS Nursery, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. 2 miles west of I-280. Bring boxes to carry your purchases home.

For more information: Georgia Stigall at gstigall@aol.com or 650-941-1068.

**Lakeside School's
19th Annual
Family Fun Day and Auction**

Join the Lakeside Community for a day of great food, great fun and great music on:

Saturday, May 22, 2004
12:30-7:30 p.m.

Lakeside Elementary School
19621 Black Road, Los Gatos



**Featuring music by:
Pacific Standard Time
5:30-7:30 p.m.**

Bring your blanket or lawn chair and dance to your favorite 70's music.

Other fun events include:

- Carnival Games 12:30-2:00
- Giant slide and bounce houses 12:30-5:00
- Silent Auction 12:30-5:00
- Live Auction 3:30-5:30
- Plant Shop and Children's store

Dinner from 5:30-7:30 by Nonno's

Place your dinner order by May 14th and enjoy Nonno's famous chicken/tri-tip dinner for just \$10.00 or purchase a children's hamburger meal for \$5.00. (Sorry, dinner reservations cannot be taken at the door & this is an alcohol free-event.)

Auction Preview - May 21 - 5 to 8 pm. Get an early view of auction items!

Make checks payable to Lakeside School Community Foundation and send order and payment to:

Lakeside School
19621 Black Road
Los Gatos, CA 95033

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # (in case we have questions) _____

Quantity

- _____ Chicken/Tri-tip Dinner (\$10.00 ea.)
- _____ Children's Hamburger Meal (\$5.00 ea)
- _____ Bounce House/Slide/Games (\$10.00 wristband for unlimited fun!)

Total enclosed: _____

Take a Hike ...



Achistaca Trail in Long Ridge Open Space

A new 1.7-mile trail is now open in the Long Ridge Open Space preserve for hikers. (Equestrians will be permitted at a later date.) This new trail establishes a connection between Castle Rock State Park and the trail network on the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District lands. It is called the "Achistaca Trail" after the name of a group of Ohlone Native Americans who once lived in the upper San Lorenzo watershed.

The Achistaca Trail begins at the same pullout along Highway 9 as the Skyline-to-the-Sea trail, about a mile west of the intersection with Skyline. It heads north along the old Summit Road, the road that preceded Skyline Boulevard. It passes below the Saratoga Summit CDF station. At some point the old Summit Road veers to the east and is lost. The trail was carved through Pawl's meadow and gained a beautiful vista to the west. Continuing on, the trail leads to the Hickory Oaks section of Long Ridge OPS. One beautiful and unique feature of this area is the manzanita colony one walks through. There are acres of healthy manzanita, almost a monoculture.

Skyliner and SSA board member Bo Gimbal built this trail using his tractor. Bo has been a volunteer for MROSD for many years.

According to Kathleen Hart, Operations Administrative Assistant at MROSD, the trail will not be open to horses until the end of May. The trail will serve as an alternate to the Bay Area Ridge Trail and will remain closed to bicycles.

There will be a dedication ceremony that is open to the public on May 27 from 9:30 to 11:30a.m., but it has not been decided which end of the trail for the location of the ceremony. Information will be posted on the MROSD website: www.openspace.org.

~Info Submitted by Ruth Waldhauer

Articles for Skylines are Requested

Local Skyline residents submit most of the articles printed in the *Skylines*. We would love to hear from more budding writers, and request residents to submit articles on any subjects or issues that would be of interest to the mountain community. We would also like to use your artwork or photographs. Send submissions to the editor; address on page 8.



Attention Artists: Submit Your Ideas for a New Skyline Logo

It's not too late to submit artwork for consideration for a new logo for the *Skylines* banner. *Skylines* readers are invited to submit one or more entries for our "Create a New Skyline Challenge". Entries should be in black and white, and at least 2" high by 7.5" wide. (Entries can be larger but will be reduced to this size to fit the newsletter.)

Send entries by mail or electronically to:

Patti Begley - 26160 Highway 9, Los Gatos, CA 95033 Email: skylineseditor@earthlink.net

CLASSIFIED ADS

SERVICES

Pet Care Co-op - In the January issue of *Skylines* a request to form a Pet Care Cooperative resulted in a list of 5 people interested in providing pet care. If you have a need for care please email Lynne Penek-Holden and she will forward this list of contacts. In addition to paying for pet care Lynne is interested in forming a cooperative with other pet owners who would exchange care (if there is a group that would like this less expensive option). For either option, or to have your name added to the existing Pet Caretaker list, please email Lynne at Lpenek@svpal.org or call 408-867-3653.

Yerba Buena Nursery Native Plant Teas
What better way to enjoy the beauty and serenity of Yerba Buena's gardens than by combining your visit with one of our Native Plant Teas? We offer a traditional Tea Service, which includes tea sandwiches, scones, & French pastry accompanied by steaming pots of hot tea. Price is \$20 per person all-inclusive. Tea times are 12:00, 1:30 & 3:00 by reservation only. Reservations should be made by telephone and a credit card prepayment must accompany your reservation.

Mothers Day Tea/Lunch
Sunday, May 9, 2004

Father's Day Tea/Lunch
Sunday, June 20, 2004

Open Tues-sun 9-5
19500 Skyline Blvd.
Woodside, CA 94062
(650) 851-1668

Skyline Broadband Service

Locally owned & operated high speed Internet access allows you to work from home! Fair prices with excellent service. Contact Bill at info@SkylineBroadbandService.com or phone 650-917-9279.

Personal Touch Cleaning & Outdoor Services: Specializing in: Move-ins, move-outs, window and carpet cleaning, spring cleaning upon request and regular upkeep service thereafter. Outdoor services: After winter yard & property clean up, high grass mowing, brush & tree removal, roof & gutter cleanouts. Power washing for decks walkways, brick, houses & retaining walls. Pricing customized to fit into your budget. Senior discounts. Free estimates. 408-353-3001 or 408-592-5439 cell.

Alice's Restaurant

Four Corners on Skyline
Come meet the new owners
(650) 851-0303
8:30AM-9:00PM daily;
7:00PM (Tuesday)
Gourmet dinners from our chef, Ruffino
Full breakfast and luncheon menu
Personable and knowledgeable Maitre D'

The Mountain Terrace

(formerly Skywood Chateau and Boulevard Bar and Grill) Charming and rustic atmosphere uniquely suited to your special occasion. Now available for private events, the Mountain Terrace is open to the public for Sunday brunch. For information, call (650) 851-1606

Residential Design: New houses, remodels & additions. 30 plus years experience (20 in California). Taruno Vega 650-747-0654 tarybi@pacbell.net

FOR SALE

Redwood Trees - I am a local resident of Woodside and I have a proposition to make for the benefit of a local landowner and the environment. I would like to reforest a plot of land where redwood trees once were, in effect, land west of Skyline or ridgeline, as an experiment to see what conditions it would take for redwoods to grow at an optimum rate. The land must have a road upslope from the site for access. The trees will be provided at a low price in order for the owner of the land to purchase 100-125 five to six feet locally seed-grown trees, which I will then plant to re-create a forest. The purpose of this experiment is to prove that my system of planting works. Then it would be possible for me to persuade others to allow similar projects to reforest land and benefit our local environment. The goal is to bring back, eventually with time, the forested condition of the land previous to the destructive logging and grazing practices of the past that lead to landslides and erosion, and the siltation and flooding of local creeks. If you would like to participate in this project and get 100-125 local redwoods planted on a prime part of your land at a steal of a price, call me. I will judge which property site will be best for the redwoods, and I encourage all offers. For preservation only; no logging. Mitch Matheu (650) 851-8935

South Skyline Association
Box 400, Star Route 2
La Honda, CA 94020

Skylines Is Published Once A Quarter

Skylines invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

Policy on Classified Ads: Ads are free to SSA members. No continuing ads will be accepted. They must be resubmitted for each issue.

Deadline date for ads for the July issue will be June 28, 2004.

Skylines News Articles: The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is June 18, 2004.

Send all ads and articles to: Patti Begley, 26160 Highway 9, Los Gatos, CA 95033, or skylineseditor@earthlink.net

We reserve the right to edit all submissions. We assume no responsibility for omissions, incorrect information or personal opinions.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

Bricks; red-common type, 3-4,000. Some fire & odd-size, too! 35 cents or trade for: audio-gear, PA equip., cabinets, power-amp, cords, mikes, snake? Details Steve: 650-851-3181

Small wood burning stove for sale, needs flue. \$250 obo.
Call Christine at 408-867-3673

Moving must sell. **17ft. ski boat**, 140 hp. Engine runs rough. Currently registered. Excellent condition. Must see.
\$2600 obo. Call 408-353-6726

FOR SALE

Moving must sell. **ATC Honda motorbike.** 250 cc. Low miles. Excellent condition. \$1700 obo 408-592-5440

Oak Barrel Halves - 1/2 used oak wine barrels for sale. Make good wooden planters. \$20 for 15-gallon size (2 available - halves of a 30 gallon barrel), \$25 for 30-gallon size (8 available - halves of 60 gallon barrels).
Call John at 408-867-3205

FOR RENT

Rent-Work X'Change

Private, one bedroom-cottage on Skyline + Highway 9

Approximately 1,000 square feet, living-room, extra study, kitchen, full bath, ocean views, security gate and utilities. Suitable for couple or single man, N.S., N.D. Country savvy, sense of humor, handy with chainsaw, likes woods, gardening, 25 hours a week. Salary for extra work. References, security deposit. Call 408-867-1722 (evenings best).

FOR RENT

Cabo San Lucas (San Jose del Cabo) Condo available for vacation rental. Sleeps six. Great, affordable family vacation! See link or call Neil or Christine for pricing and additional info. 408-867-3673
<http://www.vrbo.com/7873>

WANTED

Reliable local individual in search of a facility/space - five horses/fencing, preferably barn/pasture, comes with extensive background in animal care/training. Work or \$\$.
Contact Sue 650-723-0848.

SSA Calendar

General Meeting – April 16,

7:00 pm at Fogerty Winery

Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:

Thurs. Apr 15

Thurs. May 20

Thurs. June 17

(Call Pat Congdon for location and directions)

President Pat Congdon 650-941-9832

Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973

It is time to register kindergarteners for the next school year.
Contact Lakeside School at 354-2372