SSA Spring Quarterly General Meeting

The Mystery of Fiction
Guest Speaker – Willard Wyman

Friday, April 20 at 7:00pm
Thomas Fogarty Winery

Award winning author and Skyline resident Willard Wyman will speak about writing fiction, and how he drew from his own personal experiences as a genesis for his fictional novel, High Country. This first novel won two Spur Awards in 2006 for Best First Novel, and Best Novel of the West. (Winners in other years include Tony Hillerman, Larry McMurtry, Jane Smiley, Glendon Swarthout.)

Willard Wyman has been a wrangler, guide, and mule packer in Montana’s Bob Marshall Wilderness and the Sierra Nevada High Country for over forty years. He has taught literature and been a dean of students at both Stanford University and Colby College. He is Headmaster Emeritus of The Thacher School.

Author Richard S. Wheeler writes about High Country: “It is a breathtaking novel about a packer and follows his life from the 1930s to the 1980s. I rank it as one of the greatest of all westerns, and believe it will eventually make the all-time-best-western lists, once it has been widely read.”

This event will be held at beautiful Thomas Fogarty Winery. Premiere Fogarty wines will be available. We request a donation of $5.00 per glass. Light hors d’œuvres and soft drinks will be provided.

Many thanks to the friendly folks at Thomas Fogarty Winery for once again hosting our spring meeting.
Quarterly Report
By Ruth Waldhauer

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed to benefit SSA members. For information about joining, or for members wishing to current information on the agreement with Amerigas, please contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com, or 650-948-1466. Information is also available on our website at www.southskyline.org.

Recent SPUG prices are:

- January $1.84/gallon
- February $1.90
- March $1.90

The open market price is up to about $1.00/gallon more than our SPUG price.

Prices are subject to change as frequently as wholesale prices change. Members 55 years of age or older qualify for a 2 cent/gallon discount in addition to the SPUG group price. Our SPUG rate is based on automatic regular route deliveries on a keep-full basis, not “will-call” service.

The current SSA Board is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Board Responsibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patti Begley</td>
<td>Highway 9</td>
<td>Communications Committee; Skylines Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barby Bergman</td>
<td>Crazy Pete’s, Rocky Creek</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ken Broome</td>
<td>Crazy Pete’s, Rocky Creek</td>
<td>Vice President; Program Committee Chair; SSEPO President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noelle Cosentino</td>
<td>Indian Rock Ranch</td>
<td>Board Member; interest in CHP managing the Motorcycle problem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bo Gimbal</td>
<td>Highway 9</td>
<td>Treasurer; interest in Parks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fred Glover</td>
<td>Southern part of Skyline</td>
<td>Board Member; interest in Land Use policies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judy Grote</td>
<td>Alpine-Portola</td>
<td>Secretary; interest in Parks, Land Use policies</td>
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<td>Hertha Harrington</td>
<td>Skylonda</td>
<td>Board Member; interest in Highway 84 traffic issues</td>
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<td>Larry Myers</td>
<td>Las Cumbres</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ivy Iverson</td>
<td>Las Cumbres</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Prince</td>
<td>Portola Heights</td>
<td>President; Web Master</td>
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<td>Marianne Rose</td>
<td>Longridge Area</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruth Waldhauer</td>
<td>Portola Heights</td>
<td>Membership; SPUG; Communications; Adopt-a-Highway program</td>
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What Is Your SSA Board Doing?
By Secretary, Judy Grote

**Actions Completed**

- At the January General Meeting, SSA reelected new Board members Fred Glover, Patti Begley, Judy Grote, Barby Bergman, and a new Board member Ivy Iverson. The topic of the January meeting was Land Use across the 3 counties—Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and San Mateo. Each county sent Sr. Planners to the meeting for a presentation and discussion with the General Membership with questions answered during the discussion. Please see the more detailed write-up on this by Ken Broome in this newsletter.
- The SSA Board voted to retain the same officers: Bill Prince, President; Ken Broome, Vice-President; Bo Gimbal, Treasurer; Judy Grote, Secretary.
- Published the January Skylines newsletter
- Adopt-a-Highway program continues to be successful.
- Produced and mailed new SSA membership roster.

**Work in Progress**

- Publish the April Skylines newsletter
- Plan for the April and Summer General Meetings. The April General meeting will focus on local authors, the local author being featured is Will Wyman. The Summer Picnic topic will be about energy alternatives and be done much the same way the Safety Fair was done with exhibits in the field and presentations in the picnic area on the Jaqua Ranch porch.
- SSEPO Draft agreement with MROSD to use a meeting room for First Aid.
- SSEPO renewal of grant application to the Peninsula Community Foundation
- Traffic Safety: The Board continues to make progress in this area. A representative from CALTRANS is coming to the April 12th Board meeting at Alice’s restaurant to talk about possible options for better addressing traffic safety in the community. SSA members wanting to hear what CALTRANS has to say with regard to traffic safety, with a focus on Hwy 84, are welcome to attend this meeting.
- SSEPO (South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization) is trying to transition itself to fresh faces. See the write-up by Ken Broome in this Skylines newsletter for more information.

Visitors are welcome at Board meetings. Please check the website for meeting dates. Meeting minutes and agendas are also on the website. www.southskyline.org
Report On Land-Use Planning
Meeting, January 26, 2007
By Kenneth R. Broome

The South Skyline Association was fortunate to have Senior Planners from all three counties present their current General Plan coverage of the South Skyline Association membership area, together with projections of what changes, if any, they expect might occur in the future. In summary, with respect to future plans, neither Lisa Grote, Director of Community Planning in San Mateo County, Bill Shoe, Principal Planner of Santa Clara County nor Mark Deming, Assistant Panning Director of Santa Cruz County expect the present Resource Management or Hillside Zoning to change to any significant extent. The recent Measure “A” in Santa Clara County that would have increased the minimum size of a new residential parcel from 40 acres to 160 acres was marginally defeated in the recent election but did indicate a trend to even lower rather than higher density housing.

Questions from the audience included the need for notification of requests for permission to develop to be sent to neighboring property owners even if they were in a different county. Other issues discussed included concern about the possible effects of logging and wineries on neighboring residents such as increased noise and traffic from logging, pollution of surface water by fertilizers and pesticides and drawdown of groundwater due to withdrawals for irrigation for new vineyards.

The planning officials were requested to keep the South Skyline Association Board of Directors informed of public meetings to consider any proposed changes to their County’s General Plan that might affect portions of our membership area in the future. Also present at the meeting were Santa Cruz County Supervisor Mark Stone, Paul Garcia, Policy Analyst Santa Clara County from Supervisor Liz Kniss’ office, and Jeremy Dennis, Assistant to Supervisor Rich Gordon of San Mateo County.

SSA is responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour. A crew of 4 people is ideal, two for each side of the highway. The next scheduled dates are May 5 and July 7. Please volunteer by contacting me at ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com or 650-948-1466.

Skyline is our front yard!!! Let’s keep it beautiful.

SSA Adopt-a-Highway Volunteers

Skyline Adopt-A-Highway
By Ruth Waldhauer

Volunteers continue to help pick up litter along the section of Skyline Boulevard that SSA has adopted San Mateo County mile markers 2 to 4 both northbound and southbound lanes. So far there are 31 names on the Honor Role listing those who have participated; a few have been out more than once. We love to get new recruits. Please join us. You will find that it is very rewarding, perhaps even habit forming.

On January 6, photo shy volunteers took on the task. In lieu of their photos, we offer the “$1000 Fine For Littering” sign. On March 10, Janice Chainey, John DeLong and Robert Bradford formed the crew.


$1000 Fine For Littering
Yerba Santa Graces Skyline
By Sarah Schoen

Named by the early Spanish for its medicinal qualities, “Yerba Santa” (*Eriodictyon californicum*) translates as sacred or holy herb. Also known as mountain balm, the plant has been used by native Californians, Spanish and Americans alike to treat a number of ills.

Yerba Santa is a perennial evergreen bush, approximately two to six feet tall. A number of erect stalks grow openly from short small trunks. Twigs are sticky and hairless, brown or gray.

Most apparent year round are the leathery leaves – three to six inches long, thick, sticky and lance-shaped, growing alternate from the stalks. They are dark green and shiny above, light colored and fuzzy below (*Eriodictyon* means woolly net). The underside also has a prominent midvein. The margins may or may not be serrated.

Flowers grow in terminal branched clusters, blooming from April or May to July. They may be tubular or horn-shaped, pale lavender to white. The flowers have 5 fused sepals, 5 fused petals, and 5 stamen. They are pollinated by butterflies and bees.

Small seed capsules, up to 3 mm wide contain 2 to 20 seeds and ripen in September to October. Yerba Santa also reproduces vegetatively, the roots sending up new shoots to form colonies.

Leaves are sticky and lightly fragrant because they contain a resin the plant uses to discourage herbivores and retain moisture. As the new spring leaves mature, they build up more resin. In summer and fall, a sooty fungus (*Heterosporium* sp.) infects the leaves, living off the resin while its spores turn the leaves black. However it’s not thought to cause any harm to the plant.

Native Californians and early Spanish used Yerba Santa to treat a number of ailments. Fresh or dried leaves were boiled or steeped to make a tea, taken as a cure for colds, coughs, sore throats, upset stomachs and urethral irritations. Leaves were also prepared into a liniment or wash to reduce fever, ease sore and tired limbs, or used as an eye balm. Fresh leaves were pounded into a poultice and bound onto sores of both people and animals. The poultice was used to reduce inflammation, relieve pain, and aid in the healing process. Leaves could be heated and stuck to the forehead for headaches, or used as a compress to relieve rheumatism. Leaves were also smoked to treat asthma or chewed to temporarily relieve thirst along the trail. Frequent use of a weak tea was believed to purify the blood.

Yerba Santa is found along chaparral edges and disturbed areas in the California coastal mountains from Siskiyou to San Luis Obispo counties and on the western edge of the Sierra Nevada foothills.

As fate would have it, I came down with a cold in the middle of researching this article and could not resist the chance to heal myself. Although results with Yerba Santa tea were inconclusive, the good and bad news is I’ll get a chance to try again.

Seeking Artists for Community Mural
By Patti Begley

A beautiful mural has been designed for the front of the Lakeside Community Center, the newest building at Lakeside Elementary School. Mountain resident Bonnie Peterson is the designer and art director for this community project. This mural will be accomplished with the help of many hands. Staff, students, parents and community members will all be helping to create this work of art.

But, many more helping hands are needed! Part of the mural will be painted by the Lakeside kids, and part by adults. Adults with some artistic talents would be greatly appreciated, as well as those who can lend a hand with set up, clean up and other odd jobs. The primer is scheduled to go on in April, and then the fun painting begins. The project team is not limited to mountain residents, all artists and art students are welcome. A number of painting days will be scheduled depending on the response. If you would like to help, contact Bonnie Peterson at 408-741-4978 or rpeter6982@aol.com.
Emergency Preparedness in the South Skyline Area: 
Status Report and Request for Volunteers
By Kenneth R. Broome, P.E.

Even before the extraordinary event of 9/11/01 the South Skyline Association has been concerned that residents in our relatively isolated area would need special arrangements in the event of an earthquake, wildfire, or a terrorist attack using weapons of mass destruction in the San Francisco Bay area. At first a few concerned people such as Irene Long and Eva Blum thought that alerting local residents to the need for stock piling of food, fuel and water would be enough. County Sheriffs’ Departments told us we would need to be self-sufficient for as much as 12 days before regular police and ambulance services could be expected to attend to emergencies in our mountain ridge community.

It was not long before it became evident that simple stock-piling responses by individual residents would not be enough. What about people who might be injured, or even trapped under collapsed buildings? With the probable failure of both regular telephone and cell phone services, how could First Aid service be summoned, even if it were organized and available? Furthermore, what could be done to help people to protect their homes ahead of time from damage due to earthquakes and wildfires?

When the full significance of the overall need for Emergency Preparedness in the South Skyline area became apparent, the SSA Board realized that the scope of activities and magnitude of the tasks justified the establishment of a separate organization. With its own Board of Directors, that organization could concentrate its efforts solely on such a task, while coordinating its efforts with SSA by having at least one Director serving on both Boards. Such an organization was formed.

For the last five years, the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization (SSEPO) Board has been most fortunate in benefiting from the services of the following dedicated individuals who deserve recognition for their service to the community:

Irene Long – Founding President
Sherry Niswander – Successor President and current Secretary
Tom Anderson – Communications Director
Bill Fowkes, M.D. – Medical Director
Rich Lee, M.D. – Assoc. Medical Director
Chuck Schoppe – Fire Prevention Director
Barclay Slade – Operations Director
Heather Broome – Treasurer
Ken Broome - Civil/Structural Engineering Consultant and current President

There is a term limit of three years of service included in the SSEPO Bylaws. Most of these volunteers listed (except Irene Long and Eva Blum who have relocated) are approaching the end of their second term and their replacements are needed.

I feel sure that there are other people in our South Skyline Community who are equally dedicated to public service who would be willing to take a turn at one of these activities and enjoy the opportunity of working with other like-minded people. Training is available in order to pick up from where the founding directors have brought the effort so far. Most of the arduous work is completed and we expect to reach the point where each area of activity will be fully operational by the end of 2007. If we could recruit a replacement Director for each activity by the middle of this year, this would allow an overlap of six months before the second term of the present Board members is complete.

Obligations of Board members are very straightforward: attendance at quarterly Board meetings; becoming certified under Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) regulations by attending 16 hours of County-authorized training sessions (evenings or weekends); and maintaining a readiness to respond to emergencies in the type of activity for which you have volunteered.

Please let me know (650-529-1810) or Sherry Niswander (650-559-0677) if you are interested in learning more. Current SSEPO Board members will be available at the next SSA General Membership Meeting at Fogarty Winery on Friday, April 20 in order to answer any questions you might have. We will be located at the SSEPO table on the left as you enter the meeting room.

Lakeside School 125th Reunion

Graduates, parents and friends of Lakeside School! Mark your calendar for the gala celebration of Lakeside School’s 125th birthday.

May 5th, 2007 at Lakeside School
11 am to 4 pm
19621 Black Road, Los Gatos
www.sealisoftware.com/lakeside/

Events include music, dancing (old time folk dances), historic games, a museum, a slide show, photos, awards, and lots and lots of old friends. Period costume (you choose the era) is encouraged! See all the details at the website listed above.

Also available is a book, Lakeside Legends: The First 125 Years. If you have photos or stories to contribute (as soon as possible), please contact Karen Fishback at jfishback@earthlink.net.
Did you know that in 1886, while the schoolhouse was being built nearby, Miss Ida M. Jones, the first teacher, actually lived inside the big cave at Castle Rock for six-weeks? By the early 1900’s, Castle Rock had become quite a tourist attraction for the flatlanders. It is mainly through the efforts of Russell Varian, a pioneer in the South Bay electronics industry, that Castle Rock became a State Park in 1968. Today the park encompasses over 4000 acres and provides some of the best hiking experiences in our area because it offers a wide variety of plant and animal communities, interesting geologic formations and sweeping vistas of the San Lorenzo river watershed.

The Castle Rock State Park entrance is located on Skyline Blvd. about 2.5- miles south of Hwy 9. You can park in the State Park lot for $6 or along the boulevard for free. I will describe some of the hikes that can be started from the parking lot in increasing order of difficulty.

1. Castle Rock Loop: (This short hike was discussed in an earlier article.) Take the first trail on the left as you enter the parking lot and proceed up the hill to Castle Rock. After about a half-mile of walking you will also climbed about 300- feet in elevation. The very large sandstone formation is most impressive, and at an elevation of 3214-feet it is the second highest point within the park. The official trail goes around the rock and down into the canyon where it intersects the Saratoga Gap Trail about 1/3-mile below the parking lot. This trail is hard to follow. There is another trail (unofficial) that goes past the east side of the rock and continues back to the lower edge of the parking lot. The official trail loop distance is around 1 1/2-miles with a 500-foot elevation gain. The unofficial trail loop distance is around 1-mile with 300-feet in elevation gain.

2. Saratoga Gap Trail/Ridge Trail Loop: This is probably the most popular route for hikers and visitors to the park. It can be done with only a bottle of water but I suggest bringing lunch and eating at the Castle Rock Trail Camp. The camp provides many comfortable places to sit and eat as well as an opportunity to explore the many unique features of the camp. The presence of a large Knobcone Pine forest in the camp area indicates that there was a fire here in the past. My preferred loop is to go down the Saratoga Gap Trail and return on the Ridge trail, but there are several factors to consider. The Saratoga Gap Trail is more exposed, slightly more difficult to walk and has a spectacular lower section on the edge of the cliff which should be avoided by anyone with vertigo. Start by going down the Saratoga Gap Trail for 1/2-mile to the junction of the Ridge Trail. After another 0.2-mile you will reach Castle Rock Falls on Kings Creek. After viewing the cascade, continue on the Saratoga Gap Trail past the falls and the overlook platform. Enjoy the views and look for the rare yellow bush lupine. Next, you come to a connector trail to the Ridge Trail which can be used to avoid the scariest lower section of the Saratoga Gap Trail along the rocks. After about 2 1/2-miles you meet the second junction of these parallel trails. Follow the signs to the main Trail Camp. My personal preference is to go a little further down the hill to the Frog Flat Camp. Also, there is a little-used (but very enjoyable) connector trail between this camp and the Saratoga Gap Trail which can be used to add another 1/2-mile and 200-feet of elevation to this hike (but you will have to climb a fairly steep hill to get back to the main camp). When you return to the parking lot via the shadier Ridge Trail, you will pass Goat Rock, several paths to scenic overlooks and can take a short detour to a structure that features an Interpretive Exhibit. Completing this hike you will have done slightly over 5-miles with a 1000-foot elevation gain.

3. Saratoga Gap Trail/Loughry Woods Trail/Skyline Trail Loop: This is one of my favorite hikes in the park and it gives you even more variety because you will also walk on the west side of Skyline Blvd. in Sanborn-Skyline County Park. Follow the instructions above to get to the main Trail Camp. Walk up the Service Road Trail for about 300-yards and you will see a sign for the Loughry Woods Trail on the left side of the road. Take this route which goes back up to Skyline Blvd. This trail is nicely graded and takes you past several small creeks as you ascend to the top of the ridge. Cross the highway and take the Skyline Trail to the south. Enjoy the Douglas fir forest as well as the non-native trees planted in the Loughry arboretum. Follow the signs to the Castle Rock parking. There are some confusing junctions near Summit Rock. Take the side trip to Summit Rock if you are not too tired. Don't miss the last sign to the parking lot. If you get to the Indian Rock Trail, you have gone too far. This hike is between 7-to -8 miles in distance and will provide a 1700-foot cumulative elevation gain.

**Update on Portola Emergency/Fire Exit Road**

By Judy Grote

Last fall we reported that Old Hall Road was the only emergency/fire exit road out for those residents living along Portola State Park Rd. or in the Middleton Tract. Mary Hazel, the head ranger who manages Portola Redwoods State Park, said that two engineers have looked at the bridge to Old Haul Road, and it should be fixed by this coming spring according to Maintenance.

The latest update is that the environmental part of the process is done and now the project will be up for contract bid. The earliest that the project could be done is September and hopefully before the end of the year.
Well Pump and Pump Savers
By Dick Schwind

It looks like we are headed for a pretty dry year. Currently (mid March) we are at about 60% of normal rainfall. Well water levels and pumping capacity will be lower by the end of October than in the last few years. This is a good year, then, to give your well water supply system a checkup. By October the well service companies will be very busy! In this article we will only consider a submersible well pump and piping to the pressure or storage tank. A later article will consider the rest of the water system.

First, when the well pump is started after opening the outlet nearest the pump and shutting off the supply to the tank or house, does water immediately pump up out of the well or is there a delay? If there is a delay water is leaking out of the plumbing or pump foot valve and this is only going to get worse. Time the delay and convert to gallons of water that is leaking out per hour (1, 1.25, and 1.5 inch pipes hold approximately 4, 7.5, and 10 gallons per 100 ft, plus/minus 10% for schedule 40 or 80 pipe). A major leak that needs attention is probably when the water draining down is around a quart or gallon an hour.

If the water is draining down only below the check valve at the top of the well, the check valve(s) at the pump is leaking and the one at the top of the well is okay. If you pump some sand with your water you probably already know how this can cause the pump foot valve to leak. Since the sand fingers in the piping and washes back into the pump, the pump has the opportunity to pump the same sand two or more times, wearing out the pump faster. If the water can drain all the way down to the water level in the well, the check valve at the top of the well is also leaking. If it is leaking only above the well, look for the leak in the plumbing.

Recently, I looked at a neighbor's well plumbing that was losing water. I found that the galvanized pipe nipples just above the well seal had holes in the exposed threaded area! This pipe was only 16 years old. Besides losing water out these holes, they were a source of water pollution. There had to be a piece of the same kind of galvanized pipe also rotting away in the well before the transition to PVC pipe. I recommended they have a well service outfit pick up the well head and replace all the galvanized pipes at the same time (they did). Besides carrying the weight of the pipe with its water plus the weight of the wire and the pump, the pipe in the well can get a torque jolt every time the pump turns on (if the torque arrestor(s) are inadequate). It makes sense that the pipe just inside the wellhead will fail first, dropping the pump onto its wires!

Spring on the Wild Side
By Freddy Howell

What a treat to see Painted Lady butterflies flitting in the sunshine; two, three, six, and even more, flying up the hill. Sometimes two would do a mating dance. So beautiful to see in the afternoon sunshine. AHHHH, Spring – and hearts turn to love!

Chickadees are investigating nest boxes. Titmice are singing their “Sweep it, Sweep it” calls. Spotted Towhees are high on the tree “buzzing” their territory call. Even the dark-eyed juncos are moving from the ground to the tree tops to trill their mating songs. Their call is not so fast as the spotted towhee but very similar. A top-notch birding-by-ear specialist told me that if you can count the trill, it’s a junco, if you can’t, it’s a towhee. So it’s the difference between buzz and trill.

There are still a lot of Robins around and they are starting their “Cheeryup-Cherriro” with the “whinny” on the side. Now is the time to be listening intently for the jazzy Robin sound of the Black-headed Grosbeak. We have had two reports of scouts, first in south San Jose and the second, about three days later on Black Road. I am keeping my ears and eyes open and black-oiled sunflower in the feeders. This year we have added a four-sided feeder filled with “Songbird” blend that should be quite a magnet if the purple finches don’t hog it all. Ten of them were on it this morning.

It’s not too late to put out nesting boxes for our local cavity nesters like chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, Downy woodpeckers, some swallows and, if you are really lucky, Western Bluebirds. Hole size is important (1-1/4” for the first three listed, 1-1/2” for the Downys and the swallows and 1-9/16” for the bluebirds). Other important aspects that make a good nest box are ventilation, drainage and a way of cleaning the box out at the end of the season. One extra trick with cavity nesters is to put some wood shavings in the bottom of the box. They love to excavate before putting new nesting material in.

Well Pump and Pump Savers (cont.)
If you have a limited amount of water available from your well you may have installed and use a well water level monitoring device -- a probe you drop into the well, or a sensing tube going to the bottom of the well that you pressurize to determine water height. Unless you monitor your water level closely on dry years, you should have a 'pump saver' in your circuit for peace of mind. This electrical/electronic device is contained in an electrical box that you install between your pump shutoff switch and the pump controller box -- where the wires from the pump terminate.

(Well Pump and Pump Savers continued on Page 10)
Local Authors: Part 1
By Ruth Waldhauer

In addition to Willard Wyman, featured speaker for the SSA meeting (see page 1), the SSA area is fortunate to have other authors among us. Here are some.

Crossing the Sauer by Charles Reis Felix, Buford books, Inc., 2002

Crossing the Sauer is a tough, vivid, honest memoir of advancing through Germany with Patton’s Third Army. Felix is not writing a history of battles, dates, or heroism, but of war at a personal level and the human factor. Although the memoir tells largely of fear, death, mud, and other vicissitudes, it is laced with ribald soldier humor, and poignant glimpses of war. Given our troubled international situation, this book is most relevant today. Think about our soldiers in Iraq. I strongly recommend it. Applause to Felix.

Charles Reis Felix returned home in 1945, graduated from Stanford, married and raised a family, and became a high-school teacher. He lives in Skylonda.


Reviewer Robin Marantz Henig writes: “I do love good writing, and I love to spend time with a curious and clever narrator who travels from point A to point B in the most discursive, meandering, and ultimately enlightening way possible. That is why I found Cats Are Not Peas so much fun to read.”

Gould undertook the writing of this book when she came into possession of George, one of two cats she picked up at a local animal shelter. Both cats, George and Max, were quite beautiful, but George was more than just beautiful; he was, according to cat lore, an impossibility. He was a calico and male, while calico cats are supposed to be always female.

To try to figure out how George came to be, Gould set out on a scientific quest for which she was only modestly prepared. Her professional background is in computational linguistics, but now she immersed herself in a full-fledged investigation of genetics. She began in the nineteenth century with Gregor Mendel, a shadowy figure she remembered only vaguely from high school biology. She cogently describes Mendel’s work with pea plants (hence the book’s title), which he grew for seven years in the garden of his monastery, and explains how “his round and wrinkled peas were to lay the foundation on which modern genetics rests comfortably to this very day.”

Gould’s book, now out of print, will be reprinted later this year by A K Peters, Wellesley, MA. The 2nd edition will include a lengthy update on the sequencing of genomes and the production of clones, two major areas of genetics that have blossomed since 1992, when all research for the 1st edition had been completed.

Computing in the Middle Ages: A View From the Trenches - 1955-1983 by Severo Ornstein, 2002

Computing in the Middle Ages is designed for the lay reader who wishes to understand some of the background of the computer revolution. It provides an easily understood and amusing account of what took place in computer research between the 1950s and the 1980s. The achievements of those days were later exploited by companies like Apple and Microsoft, which brought personal computers to the consciousness of the general public.

During that era, when both the design of computers and expectations about the ways in which they could be used were undergoing dramatic change, the author was “in the trenches” where seminal experiments were taking place, first at MIT and later at other universities and research centers. His unassuming story, a breezy and irreverent memoir enlivened by amusing anecdotes from his professional and personal experience, gives a human dimension to the otherwise dry and often obscure process of scientific and engineering innovation. Developments are brought to life and explained in terms that can be understood by anyone. Along the way you meet a number of memorable characters who, although overshadowed in the public mind by entrepreneurs, are widely recognized as pioneers in the field of computer research.

Does Darpanet, or Arpanet ring a bell with you? Ornstein tells of the beginning of the internet. One does not need to be a computer scientist to understand and enjoy Ornstein’s book.


A member of the mint family, sage (Salvia) offers a lot of opportunity for gardeners to add texture, flowers and sometimes fragrance to the garden. With over 900 species and even more hybrids, it's easy to fall in love with salvia. Salvia expert Betsy Clebsch discusses what makes these flowers so extraordinary. She refers to her Northern California garden, high in the Santa Cruz Mountains, as her laboratory. For 30 years, her interest in plant study has centered on these mystical, medicinal and medieval salvias. In fact, she has been so instrumental in the world of salvias that one—Salvia clevelandii ‘Betsy Clebsch’—has been named in her honor. The cultivar has varying color flowers from bluish lavender to everything in between and even bi-colored petals.

Loosely translated from its Latin origin, salvia means to heal. "Salvias have been reputed to cure everything from snakebite to a broken heart. Now that's pretty big business," she says. Salvias are also found in the wild on every continent except Australia and some of its surrounding islands.

Betsy Clebsch spoke about Salvias at the SSA April 2000 meeting at Fogarty Winery.

(Continued Page 9)


**Local Authors: (Continued from Page 8)**

**Treasure Forest** by Cat Bordhi, Namaste Publishing, Canada, 2003. Winner of the 2004 Nautilus Award for Young Adult Fiction.

How can you retrieve a treasure from the bottom of a pond without disturbing the water? This is the challenge left for Ben by his Grandma Daphne, who has just died in the mysterious forest near her home. Ben and his sister Sara convince their reluctant parents to move there, in spite of the fierce hermit who lives across the swamp.

Ben and Sara learn the deepest truths of the forest while their parents’ worst fears seem to be realized. A wheelchair-bound private eye wit a three-legged bloodhound, a Zen-master-like woman, an acorn flute homing device, Grandma Daphne’s invisible presence, a tree house knit right into a tree, and a golden thread will guide you, as well as Ben and Sara, to discover the life-changing answer to the mysterious riddle of the pond.

Cat Bordhi, daughter of Helen and Glen Haydon, spent her early childhood in a small village on the edge of the Black Forest in Germany when her father’s career brought the family there. She became utterly enchanted with nature. When her family came to live in the Santa Cruz Mountains, she continued to cherish, explore, and learn from her natural surroundings. Treasure Forest is the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Cat Bordhi is also the author of six wildly popular knitting books. One of her knitting examples is a scarf made in the form of a magical Mobius band. The Mobius band is a surface with only one side and only one boundary component. Bordhi now lives in the Pacific Northwest.

**One Life, Mine by Emma S. Garrod, Saratoga, CA: 1972.**

History buffs in the South Skyline area have been fascinated by the down to earth detailed account of life at the end of the 19th Century and early years of the 20th Century. Emma Stolte grew up on a ranch on Skyline near the top of Black Road. In 1972 she self-published this memoir which spans almost her entire life. She writes about the ranch animals, the fruit harvests, her quirky and helpful neighbors, the one-room school houses, the teachers who boarded at her house and family relationships. She included a few priceless photos taken with her little Kodak camera. When she married R.V. Garrod of Saratoga, Emma transferred her ranching skills to his family farm on Mt. Eden Road. Today, we know their place as Garrod Farms and Riding Stables and the Cooper/Garrod winery.

Although Emma’s book is currently available only in local libraries, the Saratoga Historical Association is hoping to reprint it in the near future. They are currently assessing the level of interest in this project. At the April General meeting, there will be a sign-up sheet for those interested in having a copy of the book.

Janet Schwind provided the information about this book.

**West Coast River Touring: Rogue River Canyon & South** by Dick Schwind, Touchstone Press, 1974.

Local river runner Bonnie Peterson writes: “We began kayaking and rafting in 1974, the same year Dick Schwind’s pioneering book was published. It was our companion on many trips and, given some of our river mishaps, it is a small miracle that we still have that much-used copy today. It was our reliable guide to scores of trips down the Mokelumne, American, Eel, Klamath, Rogue, and the ill fated (its marble canyon now buried under a hideous dam) Stanislaus. Although the book does not cover the Grand Canyon, the confidence we gained touring the rivers he reviewed led us to lead our own 18 day trip through that wonder. I expect there are many others who owe a similar debt to Dick’s research and advice on running rivers. It was the right book at the right time – just when this sport was gaining a following.”

Although Dick’s book is out of print, copies can still be found for sale on the internet.

**Breakfast at Bucks: Tales from the Pancake Guy by Jamis MacNiven, 2004**

Reviewer Meryl Selig writes: “Neither Jamis-the-person nor the story-of-his-life-to-date fit neatly into categories, boxes, bowls or baggies. This book illuminates Jamis’ unique ability to explore and exploit and expand on his myriad adventures in a wonderfully personal and articulate way. I’m sure he’d loathe being tagged as “inspirational”, but who cares? Anyone who does what he’s done, and has the artifacts and scars and sparkle and a real life to prove it... well, that’s sort-of inspiring, right?

This book is a fun read, a terrific peek at the world from Jamis’ eyeballs and the fertile, creative mind behind them. It isn’t a cookbook; pancakes are irrelevant. It’s mainly personal ethnography, social observation, and cultural history. It’s set in the place that has probably had more impact on peoples’ lives world-wide, over the past two decades, than any other spot on the map. So – for those of us who miss David Sedaris (did he have to move to Paris just to smoke legally?), there’s Jamis. Much closer, no passports required, and he usually speaks our language. And THIS book has terrific, scandalous, humorous photos, too.”

Jamis and Margaret MacNiven who live in the SSA area, are owners of Bucks Restaurant in Woodside.

**Local Authors: Part 2** will report on local authors I have missed in this issue. Please let me know who I missed!!!

My words are taken from review and book jackets with a few personal comments thrown in. Enjoy these books!!!

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*Image byte*
Coyotes on the Prowl
By Patti Begley

The other day I looked out my front window and within 20 yards of the house there was a young coyote scampering about. He leaped at a low flying bird, rolled across the grass, and hopped around a gopher hole. I’ve never seen such a cute coyote. (“Awww, can we keep him?”) We watched him for several minutes before chasing him off. As much as I enjoy watching wildlife, I think it’s a bad idea to encourage coyotes to use our property as a playground, or worse – a hunting ground. Coyotes are not healthy for small pets and children.

We seem to be on a main thoroughfare for the local Canis latrans (barking dog). I’ve seen them at all times of the day running alone or in packs of four. When I’m driving down Skyline early on Sunday mornings I almost always see one trotting down the road just south of Las Cumbres. One afternoon we found one standing at my dog’s kennel, obviously having some sort of conversation with him. I’d like to think it was friendly but I don’t want to be too naïve about that.

I’ve had neighbors say they think the coyotes are getting bolder in their behavior toward humans. That may be. They have found that coyotes in suburban areas are losing their wariness of humans. It’s wilder up here and they don’t need to depend on our scraps and pets to live, but being the adaptable animals they are they will probably go for the easiest food source. There are some things we can and should do to keep them at a distance.

- Chase them away. Make noise, spray them with a hose. Make them afraid!
- Don’t feed them. Secure trash, remove pet food at night, and don’t put meat scraps in compost heaps.
- Be careful of bird seed that may attract rodents.
- Clear brush and dense weeds that provide cover for rodents.
- Keep chickens and other livestock secure. (There’s nothing like a free chicken bar to keep the coyotes coming.)

It’s springtime and it’s mating season for the coyotes. In a couple of months the females will give birth to litters of 1 to 19 pups; the average litter is 6. The pups will come out of their den in 3 or 4 weeks. When they are about 6 months old the males will leave their mothers to find their own territory, and the females will stay with the mother’s pack.

Coyotes are a good thing. They keep down the rodent population and clean up the carrion. And what other mammal provides such a symphony of howls and yips than can be heard for miles on a clear night?

A friend of mine told me how he was practicing his saxophone one summer evening when he realized the coyotes were howling along with his music. He grinned and said, “How cool is that?”

Spring Events at Hidden Villa

Check out Hidden Villa in the Los Altos hills for some very interesting programs this spring. Hidden Villa is a non-profit organization featuring a working farm, youth hostel and many community programs at 26780 Moody Rd., Los Altos Hills. More information can be found at www.hiddenvilla.org, or call (650) 949-8650.

Wildflower Hike - Sunday, April 15, 10:00 am to 12 noon
For ages 10 and up. Enjoy the wildflowers in bloom on this leisurely hike led by the California Native Plant Society. Bring snacks and bottles of water. $10.00 per Person

Bird Hike with the Audubon Society - Sunday, April 15, 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Ages 12 and up. Explore the bird life of the oak woodlands at a time of year when bird song is at its peak. Beginners welcome. Wear your hiking shoes and bring binoculars if you have them. Carpooling encouraged (parking fee of $5/car is required at the gate). Led by the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society. Free program, but advance registration required.

Sustainable Building Tour - Sunday, April 22, 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm . Adult program. Tour our sustainable buildings, featuring solar electric generation, rammed earth and strawbale construction, recycled materials and more. Includes resource information. $10.00 per person

Gardens of the South Coast Garden Tour on May 19

The La Honda Educational Foundation and the Pescadero Education Foundation are holding a joint fundraiser. The Gardens of the South Coast Garden Tour will be May 19th. The event will b from 10am - 4 pm and will feature many gardens of the south coast located mainly around Pescadero this year. Tickets will be available in advance or the day of the event. Come see what beautiful gardens exist in this wonderful climate. For more information contact Maile Springer at mspringer@velocity-ventures.com
Well Pump and Pump Savers
(Continued from Page 7)

A pump saver turns off the pump when it senses an electric current change when the pump is either: 1) Out of water, so trying to pump air instead of water; 2) Low (or high) voltage, such as when PG&E delivers 115 volts instead of 230; 3) If the water is ‘dead headed’ -- delivery valves are accidentally all turned off; or 4) The pump (or wiring) is failing and drawing too much current. You select the time delay on the pump saver before the pump is turned back on to see if the condition is corrected. The pump savers have improved over the years, and they are able to calibrate to your pump when they are installed. This good investment in your water system is available (with good advice) at any well pump supply shop (Bruce Barton Pumps, Halstead and Capitola Pump all service our area), and of course, on the web. Just Google 'pump saver'. Most people probably have the 'PumpSaver', a registered trade name.

If your well pump quits, first check that power is getting to the pump, or check to see if the controls are the problem (pressure switch?, or 24 volt float switch and relay?). Next, check the pump circuit breaker, then any fuse at the pump shutoff box.

Have an extra fuse or two (if 220 volt) on hand. Are all the wiring connections good? Does the pump saver indicate there is a problem? Check the pump capacitor(s) by isolating and discharging each, and touching the terminals with a multimeter on resistance setting. The reading should jump, and then settle down. If the capacitor is open or shorted, it will be indicated by a steady reading. Unpowered, measure the resistance readings between the pump wires and also to ground, and call the pump service people with the info.

Dick Schwind, amateur handyman Comments?
dschwindr@yahoo.com

WANTED

Labor in exchange for rent and utilities. Located in Boulder Creek on beautiful acreage, peace and quiet. Like new large trailer with 3 popouts situated on private site.
Call Max at 831-338-2058 – 8am to 9:30am or
Pat at 831-338-9610 – 7pm to 9pm.

Medium sized wood stove, cast iron, large potbellied or similar variety ok (need to struggle it upstairs)
Lynne Penek-Holden
Lpenek@hotmail.com 408-867-3653

Faux Painting: We need someone to help us with faux painting, not a big project. Call Joe Davis 650-948-6424.

FOR SALE

1971 premier two horse trailer equipped with ramp. $500/offer. call 650.851.1061

SERVICES

ElectroWorks
Licensed, bonded & insured electrical contractor right on the mountain.
Generator transfer switches, Panel upgrades, Lighting, Spa/Jacuzzi wiring, Troubleshooting and repairs, Remodels...
Everything electrical!
Contact Werner Glinka at 851 5909 or info@electroworksonline.com.
References available upon request.

Georgia’s Homesewns
Grocery/garden/utility bags & more.
Go to www.CoastalSeams.com or 650-941-1068

Handyman, roofing, roofing repair, carpentry. 20 years experience. $25.+/_ per hour. References available. I’m on Skyline. Chris 408-867-2784

Realtor: Despite what the papers say, the real estate market on the hill is still going strong. I have several buyers that are looking for property up here, but there isn’t much to choose from. If you are contemplating selling your home please give me a call, or shoot me an email. Scott Hayes, RE/MAX Pioneer @ Skywood. 650-747-0857 or Scott@Scott-Hayes.net

FREE

Free fire fitting. This fitting will allow the connection of a fire hose to your water supply and can be utilized by the fire department to access the water necessary for fire suppression. South Skyline Fire and Rescue, George 408-354-1401

Free Firewood-needs splitting-fresh Oak. Call Joe Davis 650-948-6424

1 Mbps symmetrical broadband is now available in the South Skyline area.
http://SkylineBroadbandService.com  
650-917-9279

The Mountain Terrace
Charming and rustic atmosphere, uniquely suited to your special occasion. Now available for private events and Sunday brunch (650) 851-1606

Classified Ads

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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.

**Skylines News Articles:** The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is June 17, 2007.

**Send all ads and articles to:** Patti Begley c/o 22400 Skyline Blvd #35, La Honda CA 94020, or SkylinesEditor@earthlink.net, 408-867-3973

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