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Directions:

The Saratoga Summit Fire Station is located on the west side of Skyline Blvd. approximately 1 mile north of the intersection of Skyline and Highway 9.

South Skyline Association General Meeting



Large Skyline Area Wildfires How Will Firefighters Respond? Maximizing Chances Your Home Will Survive

Moderated by the South Skyline FireSafe Council

Saratoga Summit Fire Station

Saturday, October 22

1:30 – 4:30pm

Please bring a dessert to share. SSA will provide beverages.

- ❖ Introduction by our CAL FIRE Chief John Ferreira
- ❖ Panel with South Skyline area CAL FIRE Battalion Chief Ian Larkin, and Resource Management Division Chief Rich Sampson.
- ❖ Moderator Dick Schwind, South Skyline FireSafe Council President

You have done your required defensible space. Then, on a hot, dry, windy day it happens -- you don't see anything but you smell smoke, a strong smoke smell. You suspect the worst; a wildfire headed your way. Many questions -- where is the fire, how soon could it arrive here, what can I best do to save my place, how long before the power is cut off, how soon could I be ordered to evacuate, what are the chances a mutual aid fire engine crew will defend my house and how do they do it? Stepping back one step, how does a wildland fire attack your home? The South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) has arranged this special program to try to answer these questions.

See program details and schedule on page 2.

SSA General Meeting Program Schedule



'Large Skyline Area Wildfires' Panel Discussion

1:30 - 2:00
Gathering, refreshments

2:00 - 2:15
• Announcements and update on what the South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) is

accomplishing to make us safer.

- Eric Isacson: Status of grants for the Kings Creek Truck Trail - Skyline Blvd fuel break.

2:15 - 3:30

- Chief John Ferreira: Introduction - Example: Attacking Bonny Doon's Martin Fire and an update on the new state 'fire prevention tax'.
- Battalion Chief Ian Larkin: How small fires in several areas of the Skyline community could spread into major fires and the likely CAL FIRE responses (including our Volunteer Fire Company) as each fire grows.
- Q and A.

3:30 Break for refreshments

3:45 - 4:30

- Preparing your home in advance for the two great wildfire dangers -- firebrand attack and then radiation attack as the fire sweeps by.
- The pros and cons of investing in your own foam protection system.
- Q and A

Get this meeting date, Saturday, Oct 22 at 1:30pm on your calendar now, and bring your (hopefully) partner in mutual defense - your neighbor!



Q: Why are ghosts bad at telling lies?

A: Because you can see right through them!

OAK DEATH STUDY UPDATE

By Jane Manning

A note to Sudden Oak Death (SOD) study participants from Matteo Garbelotto, University of California Berkeley:

"...accept my heartfelt "Thank You !" for having become dedicated citizen scientists and having made the understanding of the distribution of SOD on a yearly basis a reality. I wish I had better news, but as we had predicted, infection levels almost doubled in 2011 compared to previous years. My prediction is that the 2012 Blitzes will yield even more disturbing results, and it is imperative we plan ahead and organize a new round of Blitzes. In the meanwhile though, let's see what we can do to slow down the epidemic. As you are all aware, there are management options to mitigate the spread of the disease."

The UCB team will return to our area in a combined Woodside/Portola Valley/South Skyline meeting to discuss the 2011 SOD Blitz results. The details are:

**October 21st at 7 pm,
Portola Valley Town Hall**

Bring a notebook and pen. Before attending, please take a look at the results and SOD treatment information on Matteo's excellent website:

<http://nature.berkeley.edu/garbelotto/english/treatment.php>

Goodbye to Ken Broome, Hello to Brian Beckey

By Judy Grote

The SSA community would like to thank Ken Broome for his many years of service on the SSA Board and for all the contributions he has made to the community. Ken has been involved with the Public Works (Hwy 84), Public Safety issues (SSEPO Emergency Preparedness), and lately Land Use. Ken recently moved from his 'old home' in the SSA community to a 'new home' in Woodside, outside of the SSA area, and thus needed to resign as a Board member.

We want to welcome Brian Beckey. Brian lives in the Crazy Pete's/ Rocky Creek neighborhood, and graciously agreed to serve out Ken's remaining term which expires in January. Welcome aboard, Brian.

What Is Your SSA Board Doing?

By Judy Grote

- The **SSA Summer General Meeting** was held at Jaqua Ranch on Saturday, August 6th and was attended by about 100 community members. The speaker, Garth Harwood, focused on the mammals most commonly found in the community area, many of which he's observed in his backyard. The attendees enthusiastically engaged Garth with their questions.
- The **SSA Fall General Meeting** will be held at the Saratoga Fire Station on Saturday, October 22nd. The meeting topic will focus on fire—how Cal Fire operates with small and large fires, what would happen in our community area, and what can be done by the owner to make a home survivable on its own (beyond defensible space).
- The summer **Skylines Newsletter** was published to the Community. The next newsletter is being developed for distribution 2 weeks prior to the October 22nd General Meeting.
- **SSA By-law changes:** The Board is working to streamline how we can work more productively as a Board. The first installment was approved by the Board and will be submitted for membership vote at our 10/22/11 General Meeting. An article with the proposed changes is included in this newsletter. Please glance over it in preparation for the vote.
- **SSA Survey:** The Board approved the SSA Survey which will be available online as well as via USPS. We hope you will take the time to take it once it becomes available. It should take about 5-10 minutes at most.
- **Public Safety:** The South Skyline Fire Safe Council received 2 grants and is preparing to make sure the projects are successfully planned, managed, and completed. The defensible space chipping day for the Alpine-Portola and Middleton areas was a resounding success.
- **Public Works and Public Safety:** The committee is focused on Hwy 35 and Hwy 84. There are 2 spots on Hwy 35 which were in serious need of repair. One has been fixed, and the other is in progress. Hwy 84 accident statistics have been revised so they are reported correctly. This should help with getting the Hwy 84 situation to move forward. The Adopt-a-Highway project is going great with new volunteers scheduled every other month to pick-up the trash and enjoy meeting other members of the community.
- **Land Use:** The land use committee has been focused on the One Bay Area plan, attending the visioning meetings, providing input, and will attend the Oct reviews. The One Bay Area plan wants to provide a structure to guide what permits will be given as well possible zoning law changes.

Visitors are welcome at board meetings. Please check the SSA Calendar on page 12 for meeting dates.

The current SSA Board is as follows:

Name	Neighborhood	Board Responsibility
Brian Beckey	Crazy Pete's, Rocky Creek	New Board Member replacing Ken Broome
Patti Begley	Highway 9	Membership Committee; Communications Committee; Skylines Editor
Janice Compton	Black Road et al	Public Safety
Bo Gimbal	Highway 9	Treasurer; Parks, Land Use policies
Fred Glover	Southern part of Skyline	Public Safety
Gary Gechlik	Highway 35	Vice President; Programs Chair; BAAQMD
Jer Granucci	Skylonda	Secretary; Membership Services
Judy Grote	Alpine-Portola	President; Parks, Land Use policies; SSFSC
Karim Khaldi	Highway 35	Public Works
Kim Hamilton	Oakridge	Public Works
Frances Mann-Craik	Highway 35	Public Works
Larry Myers	Las Cumbres	Public Safety
Ruth Waldhauer	Portola Heights	Membership; SPUG; Communications Committee; Hwy 35 Fire Safe Corridor



Quarterly Report

By Ruth Waldhauer

Skyline Propane Users Group (SPUG) was formed to benefit SSA members. For information about joining, or for members wishing current information on the agreement with Amerigas, Kamps Propane, or Suburban Propane, 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 with Amerigas/San Jose are:

January	\$2.499/gallon
February	2.529
March	2.529
April	2.539
May	2.399
June	2.399
July	2.399
August	2.509
September	2.569

Recent SPUG prices offered by Suburban Propane are:

January	\$2.63/gallon
February	2.65
March	2.65
April	2.93
May	2.65
June	2.49
July	2.49
August	2.41
September	2.49

Recent Kamps Propane SPUG prices are:

January	\$2.53/gallon
February	2.49
March	2.528
April	2.568
May	2.378
June	2.44
July	2.44
August	2.45
September	2.55

Do what you can to conserve! The open market price is about \$1.00/gallon higher than the SPUG price.

Prices are subject to change as frequently as wholesale prices change. The prices we post are for the first of the month. Our SPUG rate is based on automatic regular route deliveries on a keep-full basis, not "will-call" service. Some propane suppliers offer members 55 years of age or

older a 2 cent/gallon discount in addition to the SPUG group price.

Those whose membership in SSA has lapsed will be disqualified from receiving the benefit of SPUG price for propane.

Long Term Viability of Santa Cruz County Fire is Tenuous

By Arnie Wernick, Captain,
South Skyline Fire and Rescue

Hello Neighbors,

Many of you will remember participating in the failed CSA 48 parcel tax election of 2007. Matters concerning the long term viability of Santa Cruz County Fire have not improved and as the linked document (presented at the last Board of Supervisors meeting) indicates, we are approaching the end of our resources. It summarizes our dire situation and the various options being considered by the Board. Currently some proposals are being explored at the state level but we cannot count on these to save Santa Cruz County Fire.

The Board of Supervisors is considering five options, each of which has a different impact. Option 1 eliminates the Santa Cruz County Fire Department, resulting in the closure of the five Cal Fire stations in our area for 7 months of the year (the non-fire season). This will likely result in longer emergency response times and increased insurance rates. Option 5, increasing revenue through a special election for property owners in CSA 48 (similar to the failed 2007 parcel tax election), would provide a long term funding mechanism for County Fire. The remaining options are partial solutions which neither maintain the current level of service, nor provide a viable long term funding mechanism.

I would like to ask all of you to email our supervisor, Mark Stone (mark.stone@co.santa-cruz.ca.us) as soon as possible, preferably by early next week, supporting a strong Santa Cruz County Fire Department. I know Supervisor Stone would welcome your specific input and suggestions in addition, but at a minimum please convey that this is an issue of great concern to you as a resident and homeowner.

Also, keep in mind that anything that affects the operation of Saratoga Summit station will impact residents several miles north on Hwy 35 in San Mateo county even though they are outside the CSA 48 area. Please feel free to copy me on your correspondence and/or contact me directly with any questions you may have. arniew1@gte.net

To read about all the options proposed for changing the County Fire Level of Service, go to: http://lascumbres.org//document/attachments/consent_agenda_sept_20_2011_14500.pdf

SSFSC Roadside Fire Clearing Update

By Eric Isacson

Your South Skyline Fire Safe Council (SSFSC) is continuing to promote and organize a number of projects to improve emergency routes and provide defensible fire breaks.

In an effort to continue the fuels reduction work on Skyline Blvd, that had been started last year through grant funding, SSFSC and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District cooperated to fund Cal Fire's California Department of Corrections crew (Ben Lomond inmate crew) for 10 days of work with Caltrans. The additional crew time allowed Caltrans to go beyond its typical brushing standards and reduce fuels next to the road from the Grizzly Flat Trailhead to the Skyline Ridge Preserve parking lot along Hwy 35.

In November the Santa Clara County Parks and Roads Departments, and Cal Fire, with SSFSC support, will be clearing dead trees and other fuels build-up along the upper parts of Black Rd. We will be calling for volunteer sponsors to help monitor the inmate crews on this project.

In the past year Cal Fire has worked with Caltrans to complete a lot of fuels reduction work along Skyline Blvd. between Highway 9 and Black Rd. It has been so successful that Caltrans has committed another 25 days of tree crew time to extend the work. They will be working side-by-side with Ben Lomond Camp inmate crews. The inmate crews will be paid for partially from grants obtained by the SSFSC.

Finally, the SSFSC is expecting to receive funding from two fuels reduction grants soon. The money has been slow in coming, mainly due to delays in the Federal environmental review process. While these grants are primarily for the purpose of creating a defensible reduced fuels perimeter along the old Kings Creek Truck Trail, protecting homes in the Las Cumbres area, they also provide for additional fuels reduction along Skyline Blvd.

We will be hiring a contract project manager with either Cal Fire or professional forestry experience or both to help manage the grant projects. We will need in addition a lot of local volunteer assistance. One specific need will be for someone with photography skills to prepare a photographic record of the project showing the "before" condition, the fuels reduction process, and the "after" condition. Please contact Eric@Isacson.com if you have the skills and would be willing to take on this responsibility.

Mountain Lion Study

A study of mountain lions in the Santa Cruz Mountains was announced at an SSA General Meeting a year or so ago and is proceeding. Tracking collars are showing that they range over a wide territory. In addition, motion and heat activated cameras are taking video clips at a number of locations.



The photos above were taken near a home on the East side of Castle Rock State Park. Both cameras are trained on piles of wood chips left from clearing brush. The lions are especially attracted to the wood chip piles, mark their territory in them and seem to enjoy rolling sensuously in them. They mark by digging a shallow depression with their rear feet and do not necessarily leave defecation or urine.

The younger lion in the photo (left) is believed to be a young female in heat looking for a male who has marked in the wood chips. The other photo is an elderly male marking at another wood chip pile nearby.

Thanks to Max Allen at max-allen.artistwebsites.com for the information in this article. See also www.BAPP.org and www.FelidaeFund.org. Also, www.santacruzpumas.org is the official website for the mountain lion study in Santa Cruz County and has a lot of information for anyone interested in learning more.

Q: Why did the witch's mail rattle?
A: It was a chain letter.



Impact of Genetically Engineered (GE) Foods and New USDA GE Announcements on Your Organic Garden

By Judy Grote

The purpose of this article is to educate the community on a new USDA GE announcement and the potential impact of this on organic gardens as well as the food we eat from the grocery store or locally. It will provide links where the community can further educate themselves on GE foods so they can make the best decisions on what to do for their gardens and families. It also will show how to identify fresh produce by PLU codes when purchasing at a store as well as show how you can push for truth in labeling for all foods not identified as such—frozen, canned, etc.—should you wish to do so.

There is a lot of confusion over whether GE, or GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms), foods are safe. This article is not going to go into that because there is a lot of material on the internet as well as books on the topic. The best site for getting updated information on GM foods is <http://responsibletechnology.org>. It has a wealth of information on genetically engineered foods, and the latest new foods included on the USDA, FDA, and EPA lists. It also has a link to a list of non-GMO food, <http://responsibletechnology.org/buy-non-gmo>, which is regularly updated and can be downloaded as a brochure. Jeffrey M Smith, who wrote 'Seeds of Deception' and 'Genetic Roulette', founded the Responsible Technology organization. Both books have an extended bibliography of where more data can be reviewed as well as other articles in scientific journals.

The latest USDA announcement approved genetically engineered alfalfa. What this means is that if you have horses, goats, sheep, or other animals that eat alfalfa and use their manure to compost the garden, you will contaminate your organic garden if the animal eats GE alfalfa and you continue this practice. Because of this latest ruling, many that previously sold compost developed from manure and labeling it as organic will no longer be able to do so and will use grass clippings and other stuff that they will test, either themselves or via another company.

A county in CA that has committed to grow only non-GMO alfalfa is the Imperial Valley. This means all farmers in that county must grow non-GMO alfalfa if they grow alfalfa. The issue here is when counties adjacent to each other both grow alfalfa—one GMO and one non-GMO. The winds blow stuff around and the bees don't know county boundaries. These non-GMO farmers on the border will have issues because the GMO stuff will blow into their fields, contaminate them, and then potentially one of the big four biotech companies (Monsanto, Dow, Dupont, Syngenta, etc.) will sue them because the GMO seeds are

patented. Bottom-line, for any feed your animal ingests it would be wise to contact the producer to see if it is non-GMO or not. Feed sellers will not be able to tell you that. You have to go to the source.

Currently, fresh produce purchased in grocery stores is labeled as organic, 'conventional', and GMO through their PLU codes. For conventionally grown fruit, (grown with chemicals inputs), the PLU code on the sticker consists of four numbers.

Organically grown fruit has a five-numeral PLU prefaced by the number 9. Genetically engineered (GM) fruit has a five-numeral PLU prefaced by the number 8. For example:

- A conventionally grown banana would be: 4011
- An organic banana would be: 94011
- A genetically engineered (GE or GMO) banana would be: 84011

These tips are especially important now that over 80% of all processed foods in the US are genetically modified. Many countries in the European Union have banned GM products and produce (including Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary and Luxembourg).

The problem becomes identifying GMOs in frozen, canned, and processed foods. The most common GMO crops with the greatest % being GMO grown are corn (until recently GMO for animal feed only but now approved for sweet corn for human consumption), soy, canola (canola oil), and cotton (cottonseed oil). These especially are abundant in processed foods. Currently, there is no way of knowing if the ingredients come from any GE foods unless the product producer specifically states that the product is organic. Organic foods are made from non-GE ingredients.

The non-GMO Project <http://www.nongmoproject.org/> is trying to help address identifying non-GMO food products via 3rd party verification. Another venue for helping to surmount this problem, a 2012 California Ballot initiative for truth in labeling for the consumer, is trying to get sufficient signatures this Fall such that it can be voted on in November 2012. This is being driven by an organization focused on labeling GMO foods www.labelgmos.org. If you think truth in labeling for food (GMO/non-GMO) in North America is important, you can download a petition from the last link and sign it.

Q: How does a ghost start a letter?
A: Tomb it may concern.



Changes to SSA Bylaws

The SSA board has decided to amend the SSA bylaws for two reasons: We would like to have a formal means of making motions and voting on them by email; and to increase the maximum expenditure the Treasurer can make without an approved motion.

The SSA bylaws require the board to publish the revision in *Skylines* and then submit the revisions to the general membership at the next meeting.

From the current bylaws:

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS. An amendment must be first published in the newsletter and then approved by a majority of the regular members in attendance at a general meeting. The Board of Directors shall make a recommendation concerning the proposed amendment.

The Board of Directors recommends the following proposed amendments. Text that is ~~strike-out~~ is to be deleted. Text that is underlined is to be added.

Regarding the office of Treasurer:

~~_____ Treasurer. The treasurer shall present a budget to the board in November, collect dues, maintain membership records, and act as prudent custodian of the funds. The treasurer or appointee should be prepared to give a financial report at any meeting of the Association. At his/her discretion, the treasurer is authorized to issue a check of up to one hundred dollars (\$100) on any project previously approved by the Board of Directors. Any other expense over fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be specifically authorized by the board before payment.~~

Treasurer. The treasurer shall present a budget to the board in November, collect dues, maintain membership records, and act as prudent custodian of the funds. The treasurer or appointee should be prepared to give a financial report at any meeting of the Association. At his/her discretion, the treasurer is authorized to issue checks:

- a. Totaling up to the budgeted amount on a project previously approved by the Board of Directors.

OR

- b. For unexpected, non-budgeted expenses, the treasurer may pay an amount up to \$100 without prior Board approval and must so notify the board within 72 hours.

OR

- c. Any other expense over two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) shall be specifically authorized by the board before payment.

Regarding voting by email:

Voting at Board meetings: All decisions are made by majority vote of the Board of Directors with a quorum (7) present with the following exceptions:

1. Annual elections of board members by majority vote of those regular members present;
2. When the bylaws are being amended (VIII);

[Continued on page 8]

Changes to SSA Bylaws [continued from page 7]

3. When the Board of Directors votes to refer an item to the general membership by:
 - a. A majority vote of members present at a scheduled meeting, or
 - b. A majority vote by mail of the total number of members responding within ten (10) days;
4. When the Executive committee makes a necessary decision between business meetings.

E. Voting by email:

1. Initiating an email vote: Any Board member may submit a motion and request voting by email.
2. Sanction: The President or Vice-President must either reject or accept the motion within 5 days.
3. Debate: The President and/or Vice-President shall conduct email debates with all messages distributed to all Board members. The debate shall conclude within a limited timeframe set by the President and/or Vice-President.
4. Second: Another Board member shall second the motion at the end of the debate. The President and/or Vice-President shall then call for a vote.
5. Vote: All board members can cast their vote within a time limit as set by the President or Vice-President. The motion will pass when a majority of the Board members have voted for the motion.
6. Limitations: Expenses authorized by an email voting process may not exceed \$1000.

F. The Secretary shall record the persons who make and second any motion and shall record the number of votes for, against, and abstain for all board votes, including votes conducted by email.

End of Changes.

For a full version of the SSA Bylaws go to the SSA website at:
<http://www.southskyline.org/IssueInterests.html>

Aster Double Stars Shine Brightly Along Skyline

By Sarah Shoen

Some wildflower species, including asters, are welcome fall bloomers. We are fortunate to have two different species along Skyline.

California aster, *Symphoricarum chilense* (formerly *Aster chilensis*) is a perennial and grows 1 to 3 ½ feet tall. Leaves are narrow and short near the stem and usually without teeth. Stems are hairy or downy only on the upper portion. Flowers bloom July to November, in several small heads with yellow centers and violet, white, or pink petals. There are 15 to 40 petals per flower. Bracts at the base of the flower heads are tipped with green.



Roughleaved aster, *Euribia radulina* (formerly *Aster radulinus*) is also a perennial and grows 6 to 24 inches tall. Leaves are oval, 2-5 inches long, 2-3 times as long as wide, and toothed. Flowers bloom from July to November in small heads with yellow centers and 9-15 petals of white or pale violet. Some bracts at the base of the flowers are tipped with purple.

Asters, like many members of the aster family, Asteraceae, are composite flowers with central disk flowers (male and female) and outer ray flowers that look like petals (female only). When a bee lands on a flower, it brings pollen from another flower to the outer disk flowers and then works its way inward, picking up new pollen. This helps avoid self pollination of the flowers.

Asters are important late season sources of nectar for butterflies. Our asters also provide food for butterfly larvae. California aster is a larval host plant of the field crescent butterfly (*Phycodes campestris*). Roughleaved aster and other aster family members such as goldenrod are larval host plants of the northern checkerspot butterfly (*Chlosyne palia*).



Roughleaved Aster – Photo by David Schoen

SSA Survey

By Patti Begley

The South Skyline Association periodically surveys the members of the community to assess what we have been doing, and to help determine what we might be doing in the future. It has been a while since we last did this, so input from the community is greatly needed. Please consider taking this survey even if you are not a current member.

This year we have an online version as well as paper. Enclosed in this issue of *Skylines* is a copy of the survey. Responders can fill it out and mail it to the address on the last page.

A more convenient way to take the survey is to complete it online at: www.surveymonkey.com/s/southskyline2011

It will take approximately 5 minutes of your time. We welcome any comments or suggestions.

5th Annual Kings Mountain Benefit Dinner and Auction

Hoedown at the Autumn Affair

Saturday, November 5, 2011
Kings Mountain Community Center
13889 Skyline Blvd, Woodside
At 5:00 pm Tickets:
\$50 per person

The last day to purchase tickets is November 1st. Get your tickets online at: www.cabrillo.k12.ca.us/kingsmountain/kmap-2.html or call the Kings Mountain Elementary School office at: 650-712-7180

Tickets will not be available at the door.

Casual Attire Please. Western Attire Encouraged!

If you're a local business and would like to sponsor the event please give us a shout at: kmesauctions@gmail.com

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Adopt-A-Highway Volunteers

By Ruth Waldhauer

On June 18 volunteers Robert Bradford, Michael Snodgrass, Judy Yee, Hans Luemers, Armen Leonian, and Ruth Waldhauer gathered to help with the litter pick-up. See photo 1. We found less litter than usual, a hopeful sign. And we found two cents lying on the ground at the Vista Point!

On July 16 Karim Khaldi lead the Adopt-A-Highway volunteers. Shown in photo 2 are: Brent Walter, Doug Jacobson, Armen Leonian, Denis Naymark, and Ruth Waldhauer.

On September 18 The crew consisted of only five, but their enthusiasm to keep Skyline beautiful worked. Smiling in photo 3 are: Betsy Moore, Ruth Waldhauer, Pat O’Coffey, Cliff Jenkins, and Armen Leonian.

SSA volunteers are responsible for gathering liter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour and a half. Please contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com or 650-948-1466 to volunteer. So far there are 130 names on the honor role listing those who have participated. SSA loves to get new recruits. You will find that it is rewarding and fun.

Skyline is our paradise!!! Let’s keep it beautiful.



What is “Plan Bay Area” & How Might It Impact our Land Use?

By Judy Grote

The goal of this article is to try to provide an overview to community members on what Plan Bay Area is, how it came about, where it is on the timeline, the initial Phase 1 results and concerns, and where more information can be found so that members can become more informed and involved if they so wish.

Plan Bay Area came about as a result of Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg) which was enacted in 2008. Currently, it is a state law that requires that a Regional Transportation Plan contain a Sustainable Communities Strategy that integrates land-use planning and transportation planning. Plan Bay Area covers the next 25 years. Its intent is to identify areas within the 9 county Bay Area to house the region’s population, encompassing projected population and job growth data by county, and try to coordinate the resulting land-use pattern with the transportation network. The outcome of these sessions will be integrated and phase 2 review sessions are supposed to be held in October.

[Continued on page 9]

Residents Work with Caltrans on Road Improvements

Brock Winstead, of California State Senator Joe Simitan’s office, arranged for Skyline residents to take Caltrans staff on a driving tour of Skyline Blvd. Residents Bill Sorich, Cliff Jenkins, and Ruth Waldhauer lead the Caltrans Manger for District 4, Earl Sherman and his staff, from Skylonda south to Highway 9.

As a result, Caltrans now has completed cleaning overhanging trees and encroaching brush from these roadsides. This maintenance greatly improves the "line of sight" and traffic safety.

Caltrans also has begun work to repair the erosion spot on Skyline Blvd. which is about a half mile north of the intersection of Skyline Blvd. with Page Mill/Alpine Roads. They plan to complete the job by the end of November and before the heavy rains begin.

Plan Bay Area [continued from page 8]

There is a timeline at the website. The two most informative websites are below. You can go to the main site for each or the more detailed ones below.

- <http://www.mtc.ca.gov/funding/onebayarea/>
- <http://www.onebayarea.org/spotlight.htm> .

Phase 1 Visioning sessions were held in each county in the March-May 2011 timeframe. The author attended some of these and found participant results being quite different in some of the counties depending upon whether the county was largely urban or more agricultural and rural. When reviewing San Mateo County comments and who participated, it is of concern that 1) such a large number of the visioning session participants described themselves as advocates (social justice, health, environmental) rather than community members, 2) some of the attendees also were from other counties, not San Mateo County, which could skew the results, and 3) only 5% of the attendees were rural.

Comments ranged from 1) some attendees on the coast wanting more public transit on Hwy 1 as well as sidewalks and others wanting public transit on Hwy 84 from Woodside to the coast, and 2) "planning needed to be done of local residents, not government agencies. ABAG is not a government agency. It is a private corporation so it is not legal for ABAG to dictate housing numbers.", 3) the questioning of population growth data given the reality of our population and economy today, and 4) the questioning of the viability of expanding public transit given that it is not self-supporting today. Comments 2-4 were expressed in quite a few of the counties.

What can come out of this, and has been discussed in articles in the news, is possible zoning changes as a result of Land Use Planning in support of the growth data in the visioning document and its possible impact to property rights and fear of eminent domain. Land Use planning and resultant zoning would impact building permits and possibly the priority processing of the building permits. Of equal concern was that the financial inputs of decisions were not clearly understood.

Call to Action: It would be good for the community to get a more thorough understanding of Plan Bay Area and how it might impact our community in the future by 1) visiting the websites to get more educated on the land use maps and more detail on the proposed plan, and 2) attend the Phase 2 meetings, when scheduled for San Mateo County, and be prepared to provide input at the meetings.

Take a Hike...

Monte Bello Open Space Preserve

By Ruth Waldhauer

The name of this preserve speaks of a time in the nineteenth century when Italian farmers and winemakers settled on the flanks of a ridge they named Monte Bello or "beautiful mountain". In earlier times, the Spanish called these hills "Sierra Morena", meaning brown mountains.

What is described here is one challenging but supremely rewarding hike in fall, winter, or early spring, but not for hot weather.

From the parking lot take the Canyon Trail to the Bella Vista Trail then Monte Bello Road to the backpack camp. You ascend first past an old fruit orchard, then young madrones, and several gorgeous valley oaks with their twisted and outstretched limbs draped with lace lichen. Soon you are in coastal scrub, California sagebrush, coffeeberry, sticky monkey flower and poison oak. A stand of poplars indicates the Black Mountain backpack camp. Thus far you have traveled 1.5 mile and 500 feet of ascent. Here is a good place to stop for a coffee/tea break at one of the picnic tables.

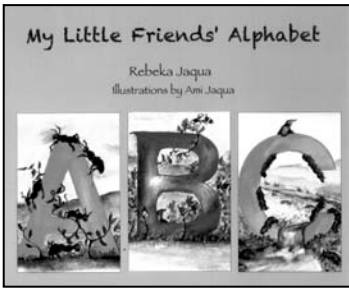
From the trail camp take Indian Creek Trail. Descending you will have magnificent views of Mt. Umunhum, Loma Prieta and along the ridge that is associated with the San Andreas Fault. When hiking this trail during the fall look for California fuchsia (*Epilobium* formerly *Zauschneria*), a brilliant little red blossom.

In a mile you will meet the Canyon Trail. Follow it past the Sag Pond and back to the parking lot. Total distance about 4 miles. Spectacular vistas.

There are many other interesting hikes in this preserve: Black Mountain, Stevens Canyon Nature Trail, or White Oak Trail.

BOOK REVIEWS~

Three members of the Skyline community have recently published new books. Each author offers a unique tale: a whimsical children's book, an adventurous American packer in the 1900's, and a historical fiction taking place in India in the 1300's.



A newly published book, **My Little Friends' Alphabet**, illustrated by Ami Jaqua with text by Rebeka Jaqua, is a treasure. The vibrant watercolor illustrations are detailed and fascinating.

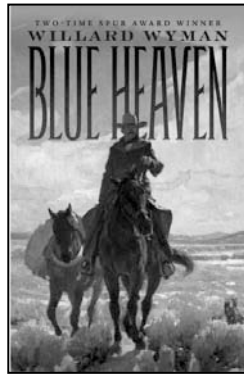
Ami and her daughter spent decades roaming the wild coastal hills right here in the SSA area. It was here they gathered their inspiration for this artistic expression.

Not A for apple, but ants; B for bees and blackberries; C for caterpillars.

This book will delight both young and old, as well as inspire those who read it to go outside, go to the trees, go to the creeks, go to the meadows, breathe in the fresh air and look for traces of My Little Friends. Copies may be ordered from www.Blurb.com. For more information contact Ruth Waldhauer at ruth_waldhauer@yahoo.com



Blue Heaven and **Dewdrop on the Lotus** are available for online purchase at Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com and local bookstores. **Dewdrop on the Lotus** is also available for the Kindle e-book reader through the Kindle bookstore.



Blue Heaven, by Willard Wyman

Award winning author Willard Wyman was one of our speakers at an SSA meeting a few years ago,

where he talked about his book *High Country*. *Blue Heaven* is a follow-up to that story about veteran packer Fenton Pardee, but this time Wyman takes us back in time to Pardee's early years.

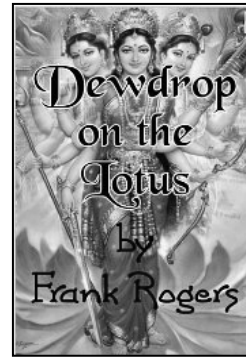
A review by Christene Meyers states: "Writer Willard Wyman's prose has the comfortable rhythm of a ride on a favorite horse, or a swing tune by the velvet-voiced crooner Gene Austin whose lyric inspired the book's title.

Wyman, a two-time Spur award winner, is back in the saddle with "Blue Heaven", a sweeping saga of man, critters, fate, love and nature's unpredictable realities.

Beginning in the early part of the 1900s, the tale features Fenton Pardee, the colorful, no-nonsense guide and packer introduced in Wyman's earlier novel, "High Country".

With down-home names like Sugar, Goose, Cody Jo, Buck and Rosie, the saga and its players -- both critter and human -- work their way into our heart, like a catchy country tune. Pardee's changing hair color signals the passage of time.

Wyman's keen eye for landscape and his knowledge of pack and ranch animals enhance his prose style. He's a good, solid writer, too, a man of welcome sparseness and few fillers. His pair of passions -- years of teaching literature and spending time as high country guide and wrangler -- serve him well."



Frank Rogers has announced his latest novel, a work entitled **Dewdrop on the Lotus**, called by one reviewer "compelling historical

fiction carefully researched, beautifully written."

A tale of love and lust, courage and cunning, the novel, Frank Rogers' third, tells the dramatic story of Padmavati Chauhan, a Rajput woman whose extraordinary beauty, courage, and intelligence, whose skills in the arts of women and warriors won from her fellow Rajputs the title *Padmini* ('lotus woman'). Early in 1303, Ala'ud-Din Khilji, Sultan of Delhi, marched his armies south from Delhi and laid siege to her home, Chittorgarh, the storied fortress-capital of Mewar, a major Rajput state at that time. Hearing of her beauty, the sultan wanted to make her his own, but no one told him of her courage or intelligence. The story weaves back and forth from present to past to explore those aspects of her beliefs, traditions, character, and experiences that shape her response, a response that has enshrined her forever in the legends of India.

Despite her legend and its popularity throughout India, Indian historians have long since concluded that Padmini never existed, this because of several internal errors and inconsistencies in the story and because no historical evidence remains to confirm the presence of such a woman at Chittorgarh at the time of Ala'ud-Din's siege or indeed at any other time in the history of Mewar. Rogers has worked to eliminate the internal errors and inconsistencies, basing his version on materials contemporary with the sultan's 1303 siege.

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Those members who live locally where we stuff mail boxes will continue to get a paper copy.

SSA Calendar

General Meeting – October 22
Saratoga Summit Fire Station 1:30pm

Business Meetings at 7:15 pm:

Thurs. October 13
Thurs. November 10
Thurs. December 14

(Call Judy Grote for location and directions)

President Judy Grote 650-949-1437
Editor Patti Begley 408-867-3973
SPUG & Membership Ruth Waldhauer
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For just \$15 a year, your membership dues to the South Skyline Association will provide the funds to publish the *Skylines* newsletter, offer free classified ads, allow membership in the South Skylines Propane User Group, and provide speakers for our general meetings. Send your dues to:

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22400 Skyline Blvd. Box 35
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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 Ads and News Articles: The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is December 11.

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.