



SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

[www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org)

APRIL 2016

## SSA GENERAL MEETING

PLACE: Thomas Fogarty Winery 19501 Skyline Blvd. (2.7 miles north of Page Mill Rd.)

DATE: Thursday, *(yes, Thursday, NOT Friday)* April 28, 7:00 pm – Premier Fogarty wines will be available.. We request a donation of \$5.00 per glass. Light hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks will be provided. 7:30 - 9:00 pm – Presentation

TOPIC: Learning from Experience about Wildfire Preparations SPEAKER: Cal Fire Battalion Chief Ari Delay

Last year's Valley Fire was one of the worst in California history, destroying nearly 1300 homes, killing 4 people and burning 76,000 acres. We have a lot to learn from that particular fire because our conditions here are so similar. Winds spread the fire and embers at a ferocious rate but some people didn't believe it and refused to evacuate. When they did, many were unprepared and had to leave with nothing but the clothes on their backs. And then they found the evacuation routes already jammed. When they returned many found their homes gone. But some homes survived, seemingly miraculously. Why?

**This program will be an opportunity for us to learn what it feels like to actually go through the kind of fire we would likely have here -- and to learn what preparations people should have made both to evacuate and to improve the chance that their home might have survived.**

We have invited one of the chiefs who fought the Valley Fire to share his experience and insights learned there with us. Chief Ari Delay was one of the fire fighters Cal Fire assigned to fight the Valley Fire as a Division supervisor trainee. He spent 7 days assigned to the Valley Fire and was responsible for a team of approximately 100 firefighters fighting the fire. Crews conducted structure defense and perimeter control in the Hidden Valley Lakes area.

Chief Delay began his fire service career with the La Honda Fire Brigade in August of 1991 and has served as Fire Chief for the past 5 years. He has worked as a seasonal firefighter for the U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. In 1997 he joined the Half Moon Bay Fire Protection District full time where he served in the capacity of Firefighter Paramedic, Fire Captain Paramedic and Battalion Chief over a span of 19 years. During the past eight years, Chief Delay has worked as an Operations Battalion chief of the Coastside Fire Protection District/CAL FIRE where he is responsible for all aspects of mobile technology. Chief Delay served as the safety officer for the San Mateo/Santa Cruz Unit, Chair of the Coastside Fire Protection District apparatus committee and is a qualified strike team leader. Chief Delay also serves on a County wide mobile technology group that is currently working on command and control software for San Mateo County. Chief Delay resides in La Honda with his wife Julie and two children.

This program is sponsored by the South Skyline Fire Safe Council and the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization. Each will provide a brief update on their current activities and will have display tables staffed to discuss programs and provide handout materials.



## HOW TOASTY DO YOU LIKE YOUR MARSHMALLOW?

*Brian Smartt, South Skyline Fire Safe Council*

Do you remember roasting marshmallows as a kid? Learning how to find that perfect distance between the marshmallow and the fire, with just enough radiant heat to brown the outside while melting the middle. Hold the marshmallow too far away, and the outside merely gets warm and the middle stays cool. Hold the marshmallow too close, and the outside gets black and bubbly. Closer still and it touches the fire, causing the marshmallow to catch fire, quickly creating a charred ruin (though I admit to doing this on purpose more than once).

Similar lessons apply to protecting your home from wildfire. We have all heard the idea of creating a “defensible space” - a 100 ft radius around all structures that is clear of dense brush, low hanging tree branches, dry grass and other easily burned materials. There are several reasons to do this: first, you want to put some distance between your house and the intense, but relatively brief firestorm that occurs when the fire first reaches the forest or chaparral adjacent to your home. Your house may get warm or even a little toasty on the outside, but the inside will stay cool (enough) and nothing will catch fire from the intense radiating heat.

A second, somewhat obvious reason for your defensible space to keep the fire itself from directly spreading to your house. This is why it is important to keep space between trees and between shrubs and to keep any vegetation near your home well watered. You want to breakup all fuel pathways that could bring the fire to your home. An isolated tree or shrub can burn, but given enough distance, its neighbors will stay safe.

A less obvious reason is the fact that when wildfires burn, they loft clouds of burning leaves, needles, twigs and small branches that fall back to the ground as embers - small red-hot coals that when they land on combustible material can (eventually, sometimes hours later) start a fire. This is how fires “jump” across fire lines. You don’t want the fire jumping across your defensible space to your house. Therefore, during fire season, you need to keep all the areas next to your house free of material that can easily burn. This includes everything from piles of accumulated leaves and needles (hidden in corners, under your deck, piled on your roof, filling your gutters), stacks of lumber, firewood or cardboard boxes, and even the cushions of your patio furniture. And that shake roof has got to go, or it will go (up).

An important thing to remember about your defensible space is that there is a chance that there will be no one there actively defending it. There may not be enough fire crews to protect every house, or enough time for them to get there, or the fire may be too dangerous; you may have chosen to evacuate, or if you happen to be away, you may not be allowed to return home even if you want to. Therefore, your defensible space really needs to be set up to defend itself. Regular maintenance and attention to detail, particularly during fire season, could be the difference between a lightly toasted home and a charred ruin. If you want to start, check out our Chipping Program.



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## BLACK ROAD FUEL REDUCTION PROJECT

*Ken MacLean*

The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council is undertaking a fuel reduction project on Black Road from Skyline Blvd. to Lakeside School. Black Road is a major access and evacuation route for over 200 residents along Skyline Blvd. between Hwy. 9 and Bear Creek Road. The goal is to increase safe ingress and egress in the event of a wildfire. The project will start in April or early May once all appropriate permits are in place.

The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council will work in coordination with the Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation, Cal Fire, and PG&E as well as the South Skyline Fire Safe Council. The plan is to start at the top of Black Road working down to the school creating a shaded fuel break up to 30 feet on either side of Black Road. The work will be performed by a combination of private contractors and the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation fire crews managed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The South Skyline Fire Safe Council will be assisting the project by providing communication with local residents, the use of equipment and coordination of “sponsors” for the management of the Cal Fire crews. Many of you are familiar with the Cal Fire sponsor program and have volunteered to act as sponsors for the program and have completed the safety course associated with the program. If you would like to learn more about the Cal Fire fire crew program and would like to volunteer for this project or future projects, please contact the South Skyline Fire Safe Council at [www.southskylinefiresafe.org](http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org).

# SOUTH SKYLINE FIRE & RESCUE NEWS

Andy Seigel, Captain, SSF&R

We've had fairly typical call volume in the last quarter. A Christmas week vegetation fire in southern California moved Cal Fire resources around the state, and we covered Saratoga Summit for an overnight shift.

## PANCAKES

Mark your calendars for our annual Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, May 29, at the Saratoga Summit Fire Station. This fun event helps us raise money to buy needed equipment, fund a tuition assistance program for our volunteers' fire-related classes, and support our remote water supply program. Join us for our traditional from-scratch buttermilk pancakes.

You can donate to the South Skyline Firefighters anytime; we are a 501(c)(3) organization. Our official address is 12900 Skyline Blvd.

## RECRUITING

The 2016 volunteer academy is in progress and we have one candidate attending. We are already looking for 3 to 5 new volunteers for 2017. If you are interested, please contact us. You can find a complete description of the process of becoming a volunteer on our website at <http://southskylinefire.org/join.php>

## NEW ENGINE!

Just a few years ago, we were cycling through reserve engines every few weeks, working with equipment that was subject to frequent breakdowns because it had exceeded its useful lifespan. We obtained our current engine in April, 2013. Although generally reliable, at 23 years old, it is starting to show signs of age.

For the last 22 years, I have been quietly working on a project to replace Santa Cruz County Fire's aging fleet. Our initial team of three (myself, a Cal Fire captain, and our Deputy Chief) researched options, visited other fire departments as far away as Marin County, and visited a fire engine builder in the central valley. Fast forward to 2015. This was a busy year, during which we worked on the buildup of two fire engines. The first was delivered to Loma Prieta at the end of the year. The second will be the replacement for our current Engine 2911 and we are expecting it in April. This is the first new engine to be assigned here in 22 years.

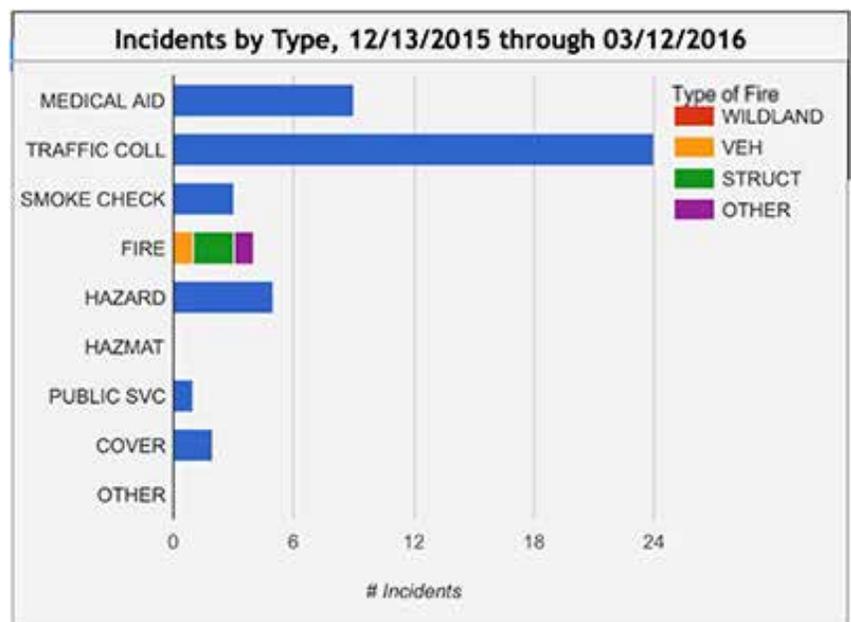
And we're not done. There are many other overdue replacements in the fleet which we will be addressing in the next few years.

Watch for an announcement of an event to welcome this modern piece of firefighting equipment to the South Skyline response area!

## AND MORE GOOD NEWS

I am honored to report that I have received the 2015 Volunteer Firefighter of the Year award for Santa Cruz County Fire (South Skyline, Loma Prieta, Corralitos, Bonny Doon, and Davenport). It's very gratifying to know that the work we all do for our response area and for our fire department is recognized.

Saratoga Summit Fire Apparatus Engineer Scott Kenney is the recipient of our career Firefighter of the Year award. FAE Kenney has taken on the role of unit EMS coordinator and is a great asset to Cal Fire – we are lucky to have him in our response area!



## PORTOLA AND CASTLE ROCK FOUNDATION - PARK RANGER TYLER KNAPP

*Barbara Harriman*

Peace Officer, Law Enforcer, Educator, First Responder, Land Manager, Employee Manager, Field Accountant, Search and Rescue, Campfire Conductor, interpreter, resource manager, volunteer coordinator, minor maintenance person – These are just some of the job duties of one of our newer Local State Park Rangers – Tyler Knapp.

I recently had the pleasure of talking with Tyler about how and why he chose to become a ranger for Castle Rock, Portola Redwoods, and Big Basin.

It all started when Tyler was a child. Tyler began his love of the outdoors, growing up in Newhall, California, one of the oldest communities of Santa Clarita. His parents often took him to National Parks, State Parks and County Parks. As a Boy Scout he also gravitated towards the outdoors.

When Tyler reached college age, he decided political science would be a practical and interesting major. But while pursuing his studies he found

himself frequently hiking and learning about the near-by open spaces. Upon graduation he decided to follow his passion and do a little research on what it would take to become involved with the State Park system. Much to his surprise he found that rangers did a whole lot more than write parking tickets and direct visitors to trails.

Tyler decided to take the plunge and apply for a Parks Ranger position, not thinking it would go anywhere. At first he could have said to himself that he was right, for it took 3 attempts before he was admitted to the State Park Ranger Academy. As Tyler continued to educate himself on the State Parks organization, he met an LA County Superintendent, who was a prior State Ranger. The friendship between the two grew and this important figure in Tyler's life became his mentor guiding him towards becoming an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) and becoming a Park Aid for a year and a half. Then in 2013 Tyler was accepted into the California State Park's Ranger Academy. In 2014 Tyler graduated and became the Park Ranger he is today. He ended our interview by saying "This is the coolest job in the world!"

For those interested in becoming future State Park Rangers, Tyler recommends taking college related courses such as Wildlife Management, Recreation and Parks Management, Forestry, Environmental Science or Biology. Tyler also recommends becoming involved with the Parks at any level to get your feet wet, ask lots of questions and meet others who work in the Parks.

Tyler continues to be amazed that these three gorgeous wild parks, with their incredible eco systems are located so close to the heart of the Country's technology industry. They are home to many rare, threatened, and endangered species of plants and animals making them ecologically significant. Portola Redwoods State Park gives refuge to the endangered Marbled Murrelet, a seabird who nests in old growth conifers. Coho Salmon have been spotted in the creeks of Portola and Steelhead trout in Castle Rock. Peregrine Falcons screech for the hikers along the ridge of Castle Rock and Dusky-footed Wood Rats create large nests of sticks and duff which several other creatures in nature use as homes. Tyler has also been active with Park Volunteers and has participated in the on-going Portola and Castle Rock Foundation sponsored graffiti removal efforts at Castle Rock.

Tyler knows that when people connect to nature their lives become richer and they become more willing to support and protect these cherished parks.



He invites you to experience this wonder of nature and encourages you to do a little research prior to your visit – know the parking fees / whether dogs are allowed on trails / whether you should bring your own water / educate yourself on the rules and location of the trails. Planning your trip will help you to have an enjoyable visit. To get you started visit these websites:

Castle Rock State Park- [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=538](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=538)

Portola Redwoods State Park - [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=539](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=539)

Big Basin Redwoods State Park - [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=540](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=540)

Portola and Castle Rock Foundation - <http://www.portolaandcastlerockfound.org>

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## PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP US ALL GET READY FOR FIRE

*Eric Isacson*

A number of people have asked how they might help with the work the Fire Safe Council is doing to prepare for a likely wildfire here - perhaps as early as this summer.

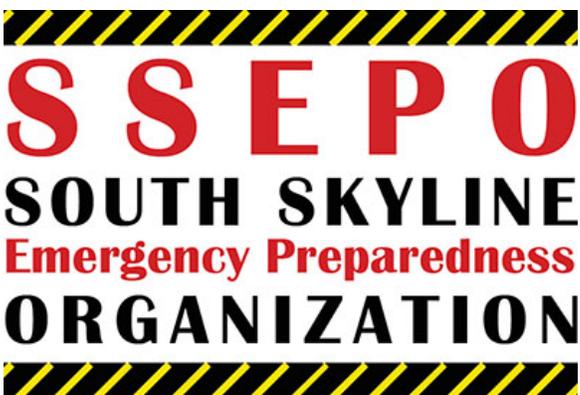
After careful consideration the SSFSC has adopted a policy listing the most important projects we feel we should try to do in the near future. These are in addition to what we are doing already: we need new volunteers to help.

Most of the projects involve researching a topic and communicating the results to our community members, while some require field work. In brief they are:

- Grab & Go Emergency kits
- Personal property inventories
- Stay and defend decision making
- Fight, flee, freeze or faint behavior when wildfire threatens
- Publicity & communications
- Fire Preparedness; Organize a 1/2 Day Workshop
- Home Survival Evaluation promotion
- County & other agency relationship management
- Hwy 35 in San Mateo Co.; organize roadside vegetation reduction
- Maintenance of prior vegetation reduction projects; organize as needed:  
Upper KCTT, Lower KCTT, Hwy 35 from Black Rd to Hwy 9, Hwy 35 from Hwy 9 to Page Mill Rd, Alpine Rd, Ward Rd.

More information about each project is available on the SSFSC website, [www.southskylinefiresafe.org](http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org) under “Projects.” Or contact me or any SSFSC board member. Each of these projects is similar in size and complexity to others we have already accomplished. Each requires individual initiative and research and will be supported by experienced board members. Some fund-raising may be involved. Please look over this list and pick a project you might be interested in taking on. Then call me or another board member to discuss and hopefully get you started. Board members are listed on our website above under “Board Members” near the top of the home page.

Eric Isacson, SSFSC President, 408-395-6543, [Eric@Isacson.com](mailto:Eric@Isacson.com)



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### NEWS FROM SOUTH SKYLINE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ORGANIZATION (SSEPO)

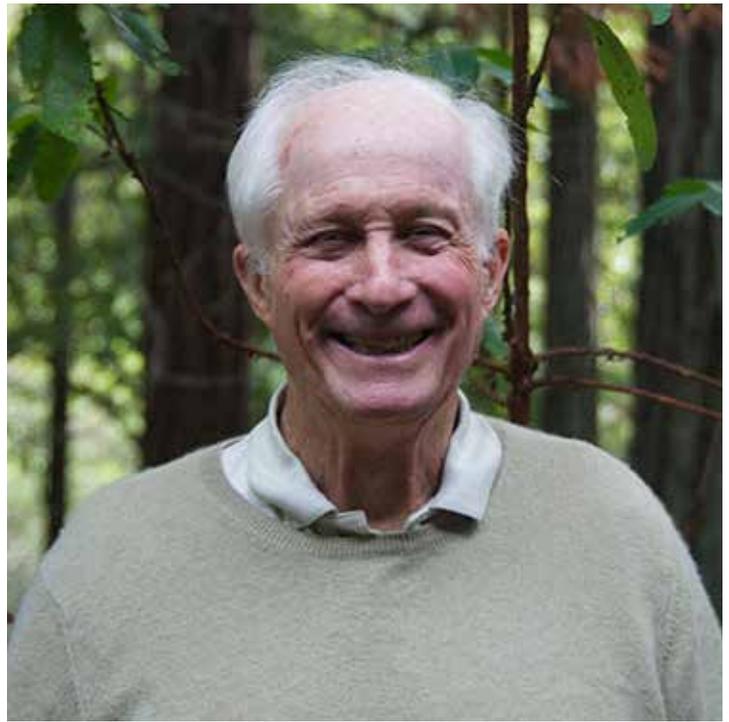
*Pat O’Coffey*

SSEPO is pleased to announce that we have received our non-profit 501c3 status and our website is now available at [www.SSEPO.org](http://www.SSEPO.org). The website has lots of information about preparing for a disaster or emergency. Check it out! Your tax-deductible donations can now be sent to South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Organization, PO Box 201, Los Gatos, CA 95031-0201. Thank you for your support.

# STU LANGDOC REMEMBERED

We lost friend and colleague Stu Langdoc, who passed away in January. Stu was a passionate supporter of Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State Parks. He generously gave much of his time to lead numerous initiatives to keep the Parks open and vibrant. He coordinated volunteer programs in the Parks, led the production of interpretive panels for the parks, patrolled the trails, and developed many hiking recommendations for visitors of all abilities. He served as a Vice President and as a Director of the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation. Stu's dedication to the Parks was an inspiration for all of the Foundation's Directors and I speak for all of us when I say that we will miss him.

Stu started his association with Castle Rock as a climber in the 1960's. In the 1990's he joined the Castle Rock Advisory Committee where he worked on a climbing plan for the Parks to identify existing climbs and develop best practices to protect the unique rock features of the Park. As part of this effort, every climbing bolt in Castle Rock was catalogued!

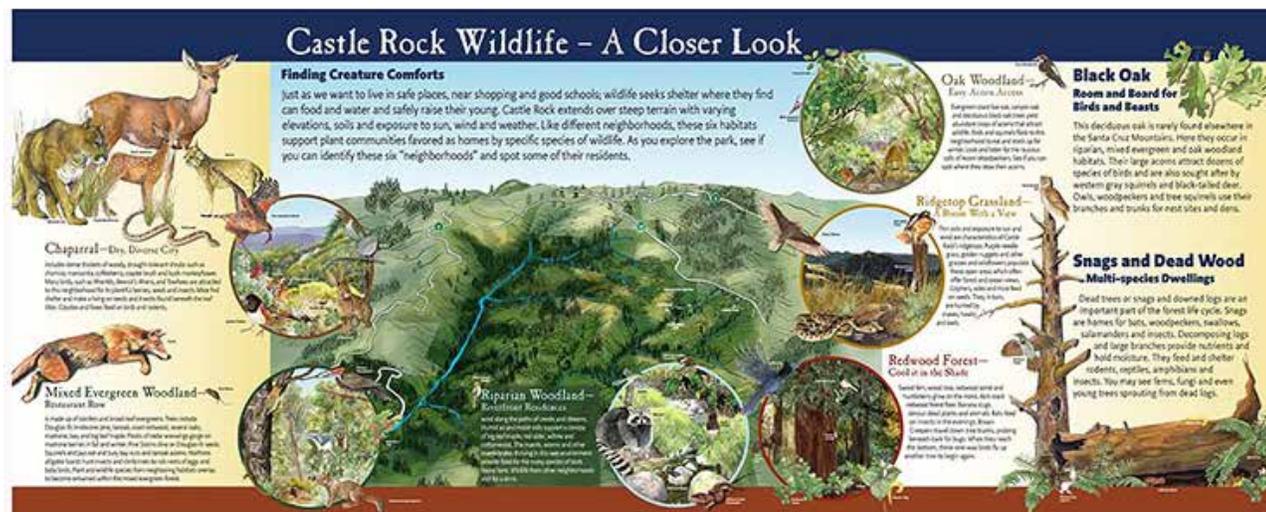


In the early 2000's, Stu joined the Portola and Castle Rock Foundation where he continued his support of the Parks. He initiated a successful Volunteer Program and spearheaded the development of educational Panels for the Parks. In 2012 when the Castle Rock and Portola Redwoods State parks were placed on the State's list for closure due to budgetary restraints, it was Stu who presented a check for \$50,000 to Reed Holderman, Executive Director of Sempervirens Fund. Together we saved the parks from closure that year.

Stu remained a pillar for these two parks throughout the years and in 2015 he was awarded the prestigious Superior Achievement Award by California State Parks!

Stu will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing and working with him.

Portola and Castle Rock Foundation is planning to install new interpretive panels at Goat Rock overlook and a redwood bench to both honor and memorialize Stu and his love of Castle Rock, climbing and education. If you would like to make a donation to support this memorial, please visit our website at [www.PortolaAndCastleRockFound.org](http://www.PortolaAndCastleRockFound.org) or mail a check payable to Portola and Castle Rock Foundation at 59 Washington St #107, Santa Clara, CA 95050.



*Educational Panel at Castle Rock Interpretive shelter.*

# SUDDEN OAK DEATH BLITZ MEETING

Jane Manning

Have kids who want to learn more about nature? Need to escape national politics? Or need an excuse to take a spring stroll outside? Participation in the SOD blitz is relaxing and easy!

Please join the Saturday April 30, 10 AM training meeting for our local SOD blitz. The presenter will be from UC Berkeley's Forest Pathology lab. It is called a 'blitz' because intensive sampling takes place everywhere in a short time. Only 1 hour long, free, snacks!

**WHEN:** Saturday April 30, 10:00am – 11:00am

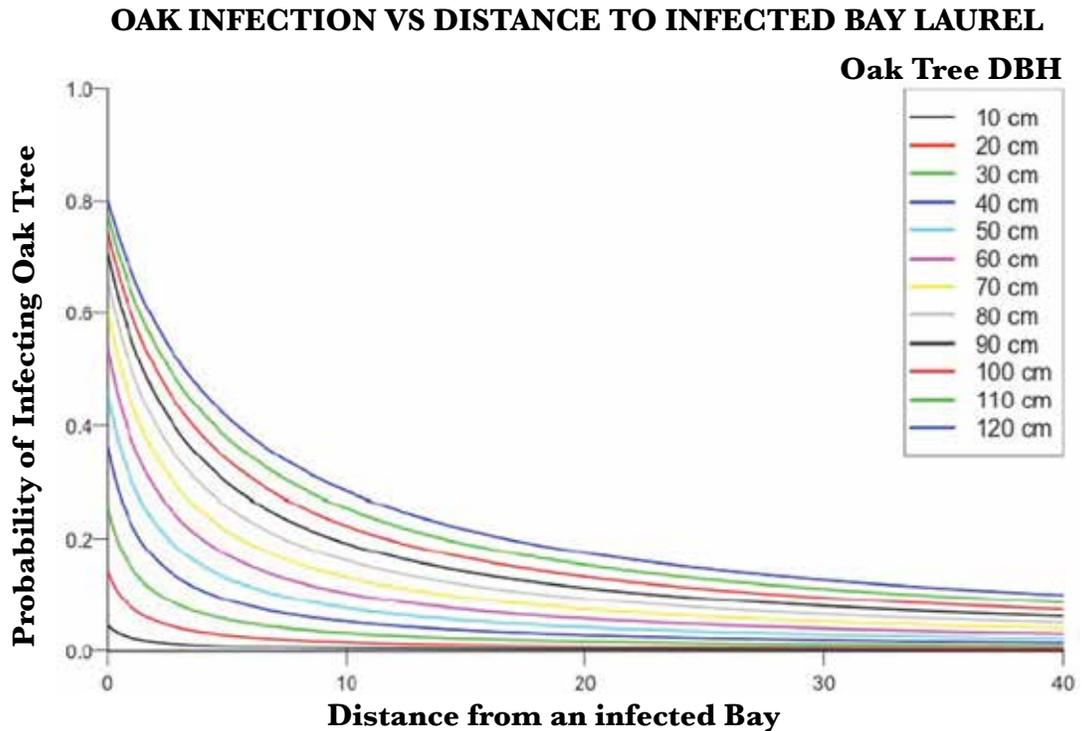
**WHERE:** Saratoga Summit Cal Fire Station  
12900 Skyline Blvd, about 1-mile north of Skyline-HWY 9 intersection.

Attending the 10 AM training session is necessary in order to ensure all blitzers everywhere follow the same instructions. You collect samples anytime the rest of that weekend in an area of your choice, then bring sample packets back to the Fire Station by 9 AM Monday May 2.

Infections last year were the lowest recorded in 10 years of Blitzes! Yet weather conditions have been unlike last year. The Santa Cruz Mountain area is a "canary in the coal mine" of SOD infection. There is a new genetic complex of the pathogen. Your participation along Skyline ensures that the full range of this lethal forest disease is monitored thoroughly. Moreover, it maintains researchers' focus on the plight of our precious Sant Cruz Mountain vistas!

One of the most effective management practices remains the removal of bay laurels located near oaks because bays are the primary SOD vector. Note that tree work should only take place once the dry season starts in June! Deciding which bays to remove is easier now using this chart of the probability of oak infection (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Oak infection probability as a function of oak diameter & distance from bay. Upper curve is for 120cm diameter at breast height. Lowest is for 10 cm DBH. (From [https://nature.berkeley.edu/garbelottowp/?page\\_id=2345](https://nature.berkeley.edu/garbelottowp/?page_id=2345), accessed on 3/07/16.)



Look for "New Management Recommendations" at [www.sodblitz.org](http://www.sodblitz.org). Also available there is the SODmap mobile app which calculates the risk of oak infection by the SOD pathogen in your physical location. Many landowners are preventatively treating their oaks to build defenses against pathogens. Mid-Pen is investing heavily in controlling outbreaks in various ways. These are examples of tools and techniques that incorporate your Blitz data. Blitz data drives progress in land management!

Finally, a very readable perspective on SOD, entitled "Tracks of an Oak Killer", produced by 3 creative UC Santa Cruz undergrads, is great for all ages! See <http://sciencenotes.ucsc.edu/2012/pages/oaks/oaks.html>.

Hope to see you on April 30th!!

# SPUG QUARTERLY REPORT

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, please contact Ruth Waldhauer at [ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com](mailto:ruth.waldhauer3@gmail.com) or 650-948-1466. Information is also available at: [www.SouthSkyline.org](http://www.SouthSkyline.org).

SSA has agreements with Amerigas, Kamps Propane, Suburban Propane, and FerrelGas. 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 SSA posts are for the first of the month. Our SPUG rate is based on a keep-full basis, not will-call service.

You are not required to pay sales tax on propane if you do not have natural gas available where you use propane. If you get your propane from Amerigas, you will need to submit a sales tax exemption form. Contact Amerigas for the form.

Recent SPUG prices (\$/gallon) are:

	Amerigas	Suburban San Jose	Suburban Scotts Valley	Kamps Propane	Ferrell gas
July.....	1.34	2.689	1.99	1.19	1.28
August .....	1.25	2.689	1.99	1.19	1.25
September .....	1.45	2.689	1.99	1.29	1.31
October .....	1.60	2.689	1.99	1.29	1.31
November.....	1.60	3.059	1.99	1.80	1.61
December.....	1.67	3.13	2.19	1.68	1.67
January 2016 .....	1.79	3.96	2.39	1.99	1.73
February .....	1.79	3.44	2.399	1.99	1.65
March.....	1.79	3.44	2.399	1.99	1.415

*Those whose SSA membership has lapsed will be disqualified from receiving the SPUG price for propane. It's time to renew your membership for 2016. A membership application is included in this newsletter.*

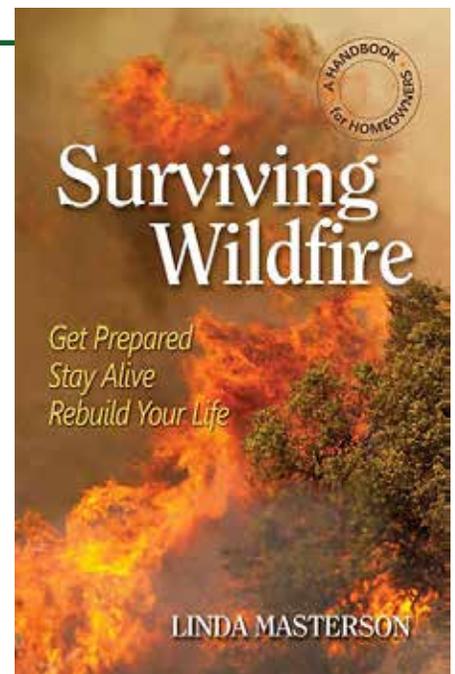


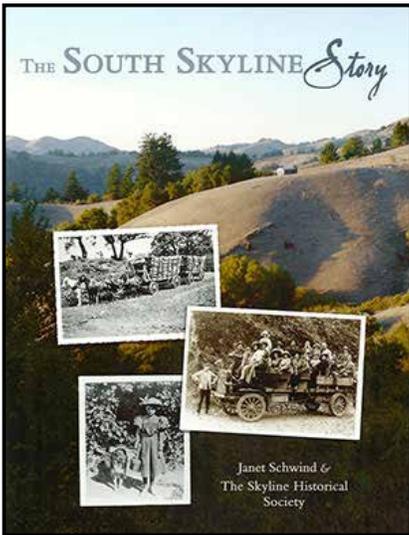
## SSFSC PREMIUM OFFER

John DeLong

The South Skyline FireSafe Council (SSFSC) has just received a limited number of the excellent book: *Surviving Wildfire* by Linda Masterson. This book, subtitled: *Get Prepared - Stay Alive - Rebuild Your Life*, is filled with lessons learned when the author lost her home to a wildfire in Colorado. We will be giving a copy of the book as a premium to all new donations of \$100 or more to the SSFSC. Make checks payable to SSFSC and mail to: 324 Skyline Blvd, La Honda, CA 94020; or click on the DONATE button on our website: [www.southskylinefiresafe.org](http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org) to use PayPal or credit cards.

We have also ordered a large supply of a *Surviving Wildfire Pocket Guide* with great tips on preparing your home, assessing your insurance needs, creating a disaster plan and making a bug-out bag. These pocket guides will be available FREE at the SSFSC table at the April 28 SSA General Meeting. **Come pick one up!**





## THE SOUTH SKYLINE STORY

*Janet Schwind, Skyline Historical Society*

Our book, *The South Skyline Story* is selling well. A small group of locals produced a book about our great community's history. Included are family photos and stories, transcribed tapes, interviews, and lots of research. The book can be purchased at Alice's Restaurant and from Skyline Historical Society President Chuck Schoppe, email: [chuck\\_sch@hotmail.com](mailto:chuck_sch@hotmail.com) or phone: 408-867-9229 Your cost: \$27.01 including tax plus \$6.10 shipping priority mail.

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

*Debra Born*

2016 has been a busy year for the Membership Committee with a record number of new memberships as well as renewals received, even with the annual dues increase from \$15 to \$20. The number of members changes daily but by mid-March was approximately 1,800 with nearly 1,600 of those coming from outside regular member boundaries. Clearly word on our Association and especially the SPUG program is out! With our recent delinquent dues notice to members we expect many more renewals yet this year.

Another big success for the Membership Committee was sending the dues notice for the first time by email to those who use it. This is a big time and money saver for the Association and its volunteers.

Many of you have asked whether you can join and or renew and pay online, but unfortunately the online payment system thru the SSA website is still under development. We hoped to have it up running by the first of 2016, but with limited volunteer time we just didn't get it done in time for this year's renewals. The application and renewal form is on our website and may be downloaded.

Please be on the lookout for instructions for how to join and/or renew online later this year. Meanwhile remember to update us with any changes to your email address or propane provider and if you haven't already, if you prefer to receive your Skyline's newsletter and other announcements electronically.

As this was my first year as Membership Chair, I learned a tremendous amount about our organization simply by processing the applications and renewals. For example, I learned what a large geographic area we serve, how many small businesses and non-profits are members, and so many interesting names. We are truly a very diverse association. I also experienced the kindness and understanding expressed thru members' communications so thank you from all of us on the Membership Committee.

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## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

On Monday, February 1st, volunteers Eric Jewett, Armen Leonian and Jerry Peters met at the Vista Point at 10 am to gather litter. There was one no-show. The area was not badly trashed because I had been monitoring the area the previous two weeks since Cal Trans was not emptying the garbage cans. Ultimately, we filled 7 large bags, which is slightly over the norm. No photo was taken.

SSA & SHS volunteers are responsible for gathering litter every two months. The sweep takes about an hour and a half. So far over 175 names are on the honor role listing those who have participated. We love getting new recruits. Please volunteer once. You will find it both rewarding and fun.

Jerry Peters is the Coordinator of the Adopt-A-Highway project. Contact Jerry if you wish to volunteer. [JPontheridge@gmail.com](mailto:JPontheridge@gmail.com)

# WHAT IS YOUR SSA BOARD DOING?

*Michael Rowe, President*

## 1. GENERAL MEETING – JANUARY 22ND, SARATOGA SUMMIT FIRE STATION

- Bylaws amendment
  - i. Our last General Meeting was held at the Saratoga Summit Fire Station on January 22nd. It was a stormy-wet evening, but many of you braved the weather to hear the interesting guest speaker presentation. For those that attended, thank you for the nice assortment of snacks you brought and a special thanks to Sarah Hitchcock-Glover for coordinating/organizing the potluck and providing beverages. Before the speaker took the stage, we completed a bit of official business – annual board election and Bylaws amendment vote. I'm excited to announce our newest board member, Maura McNamara. Maura has already hit the ground running and was instrumental in researching and recommending an insurance policy for "Not-for-profit directors & officers" liability insurance. Maura's next project is to make a recommendation on insurance for our Adopt-A-Highway program.
  - ii. The attending members voted on and passed an amendment to modify the SSA Bylaws language to clarify the southern boundary for Regular Members (i.e. voting members as opposed to Associate Members). Previously the language described our boundary ending at Waterman Gap, which was difficult to interpret (where would that be, exactly?). The board devised a simple solution by adding "the" and "area" so that the description became "the Waterman Gap area". This new language is flexible enough to allow for a fuzzy boundary in that area and include residents interested in joining our community organization. In my humble opinion, the more neighbors we include in fire and safety programs, and community events, the better.
- Speaker Program
  - i. The guest speakers at our January meeting were Rosemary Broome and her daughter, Chloe Lalonde. It was a fantastic slide presentation about each of their experiences, 43 years apart, on the Pacific Crest Trail. If you were unfortunate enough to have missed it, be sure to read our newsletter for an overview and get the url to read the online blog of Chloe's adventure: [http://southskyline.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/Skylines\\_2016\\_01.pdf](http://southskyline.org/wp-content/uploads/newsletters/Skylines_2016_01.pdf)
  - ii. The next General Meeting is being organized for Thursday, April 28 and will have another outstanding speaker presentation that you won't want to miss. By the way, we always welcome your suggestions for future speakers and topics that interest you...please let us know.

## 2. VISION PLANNING

- The SSA Board is taking 2016 to step back and take a high-level view of our goals and vision for the future. My plan is to spend the first half of the year discussing and refining the vision at each board meeting, and then spend the second half of the year developing an action plan that we can start realizing in 2017. If you'd like to be part of this, you are welcome to attend board meetings or reach out to any of the board members through email, telephone, or in person at our General Meetings. As we all consider the SSA's future, what role can/should the SSA play in helping address local issues? Do we want the SSA to have greater influence with decision makers when legislative and commercial issues will affect our community? Do we want a louder voice when fire and public safety resources are being allocated? Maybe we just want the SSA to remain a low-key community organization with limited scope? Given that we don't have much representation for our specific community issues, I believe that the SSA could influence a lot more positive outcomes if we collectively decided to focus our efforts on items such as the following:
  - \* Deferred maintenance in area parks and public lands
  - \* Reckless driving & racing on public roads
  - \* Removal of abandoned vehicles/trash in public lands
  - \* Vehicle noise pollution
  - \* Reduction of flora over-growth bordering fire roads
  - \* Aircraft noise pollution

- \* Conversion of inefficient wood stoves to modern cleaner burning models
- \* Commercial & agricultural development issues
- \* Water use and management practices
- \* Illegal cannabis grows on public lands
- \* Illegal drug labs

...to name just a few of my hot buttons. What are yours? Obviously we cannot tackle every issue, and some issues may be simply too large/expensive/complex for SSA to ever consider, but this is the fun stage of brainstorming and dreaming. The next phase will be the reality check where we pare down the list to items we can realistically hope to solve (or at least influence).

### 3. SSA DONATIONS/GRANTS

- SSA has budgeted to again make donations to CAL Fire and the South Skyline FireSafe Council, this year. All told, we plan to spend \$10,000 in donations/grants this year. We are also working on formalizing the process of applying for SSA grants so that other community organizations know what is available and how to submit a proposal in time for our annual budget review and planning meeting.

### 4. SOUTHSKYLINE.ORG

- I know I'm starting to sound like a broken record on this topic, but the SSA website does continue to evolve, thanks in large part to the tireless efforts of Larry Watson and our Communication Committee. We didn't make the deadline to roll out the option for online membership renewals this year, but will have it completed this calendar year!

### 5. IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Other items the SSA Board is working on include:

- New Resident "Welcome to the Community" information and resource package
- SSA Region Map – the Bylaws define the SSA region in broad terms, but nothing beats a detailed map. This not as simple as it sounds and has been a big effort. Soon we will have a new map on our webpage.

## CURRENT SSA BOARD MEMBERS

Current Board Members	Neighborhood	Board Responsibility
Dave Anderson.....	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County.....	Public Safety
Kristen Anderson.....	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County.....	Treasurer
Patti Begley .....	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County .....	Vice President, Communications & Website Committees
Barbara Bekins .....	Highway 35 - Rocky Creek .....	Public Safety/Water, Website Committee
Debra Born .....	Alpine Road.....	Membership Committee, SSFC
John Harriman .....	Las Cumbres .....	Secretary
Eric Jewett .....	Saratoga Gap.....	Adopt-A-Highway
Maura McNamara .....	Waterman Gap .....	Board Insurance
Jerry Parsons .....	Las Cumbres.....	SSEPO
Marianne Rose .....	Highway 35 - Long Ridge .....	Communications & Website Committees
Michael Rowe .....	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County .....	President
Ruth Waldhauer .....	Portola Heights .....	Membership & Communications & SPUG & Website Committees
Larry Watson .....	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County .....	Website Committee, Public Safety

## IDENTIFYING WESTERN WILD-GINGER IS A SNAP

*Sarah Schoen*

Western wild-ginger (*Asarum caudatum*) loves to hug the ground. Horizontal rhizomes grow near the soil surface. They sprout alternate heart-shaped leaves, up to 4" long and solidly green, not mottled like some Sierra species.

Flowers, when you can find them, are very distinctive. Three petal-like sepals are fused at the base and grow in long tapering lobes. There are 12 stamens and the ovaries are 6-parted. The flowers are maroon-brown and 1-3" across. They are often hidden in the foliage. To find them, gently lift up some leaves during the blooming period, March to July.

Wild-ginger most commonly reproduces asexually, the spreading rhizomes forming loose clonal colonies in large mats. Sexual reproduction when it does occur is usually by self-pollination, the stamens transferring pollen directly to the stigmas. Cross pollination is rare, aided by flies, such as fungal gnats, or possibly beetles. However, flowers do not produce nectar and they have no scent.

One report observed that female fungal gnats can lay their eggs in the flowers. However, when the resulting larvae start to eat the blooms they quickly die from toxins. Where banana slugs are prevalent, some wild-ginger plants can produce an anti-herbivory substance to protect their leaves. However, because of the energy involved, these plants grow more slowly and produce fewer seeds than plants that do not produce the substance.

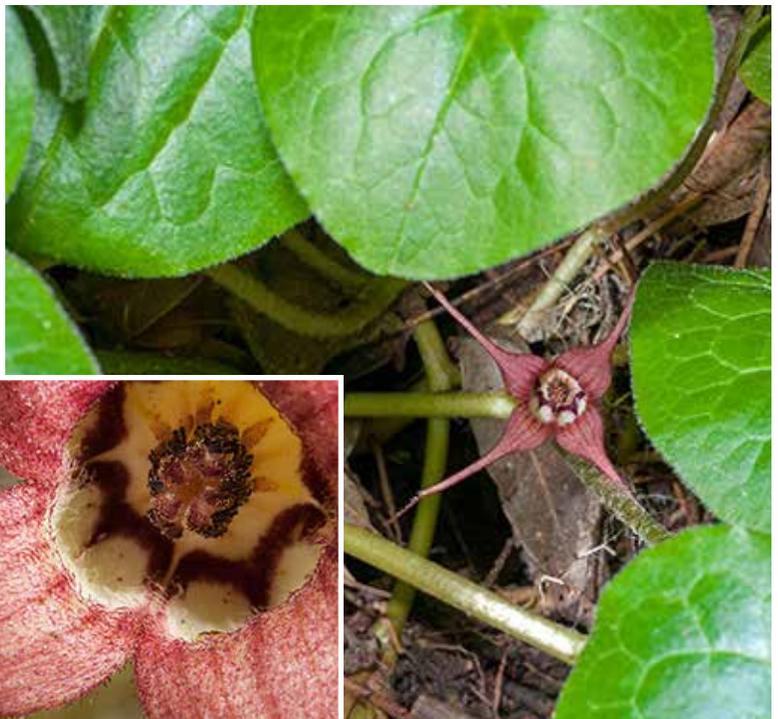
Fruits are fleshy capsules, containing many seeds and ripening May to November. The seeds are egg-shaped, 3-4 mm long, and olive green. To aid in dispersal, they contain a yellow gelatinous appendage, scented to attract ants. The ants carry the seeds back to their colonies, eat the oil and protein-rich appendage, and leave the still viable seeds intact in waste disposal piles. Rodents may also eat the seeds, but destroy them in the process.

Western wild-ginger was used medicinally by a number of native peoples. The Kashaya Pomo applied heated leaves to boils, used a decoction of leaves to treat sores, or a poultice of warmed leaves to treat toothache. Thompson Indians in British Columbia used a decoction for treatment of stomach aches. They also put the whole plant or stems in a baby's bed to quiet the infant and to treat illness.

Not related to culinary ginger, many say the leaves give off a gingery aroma when crushed. Early settlers of European decent used the plants as a substitute for ginger in cooking and candy. However, so far, sensory tests with our local plants detect only the smells of lemon and camphor and perhaps a little black pepper. Use of the plant as a ginger substitute is not recommended, because it's not that common around here. It also contains aristolochic acid, which may cause kidney damage and urinary tract cancer.

Western wild-ginger makes an attractive ground cover. It can be propagated from seed or by obtaining rooted sections of cultivated plants from a friend. Seeds require 1-4 weeks at 18oC before germination. Sow seeds in pots and transplant after 1 year. Rooted sections may be planted in pots, and then transplanted into the ground in 3-4 months. The plants prefer relatively moist silty or loamy soil that is high in organic matter and they are very shade tolerant.

In the wild, western wild-ginger is found in the coastal mountains from Santa Cruz County north to British Columbia and west into Montana. Locally, it prefers to grow in moist areas of mixed evergreen or redwood forests.



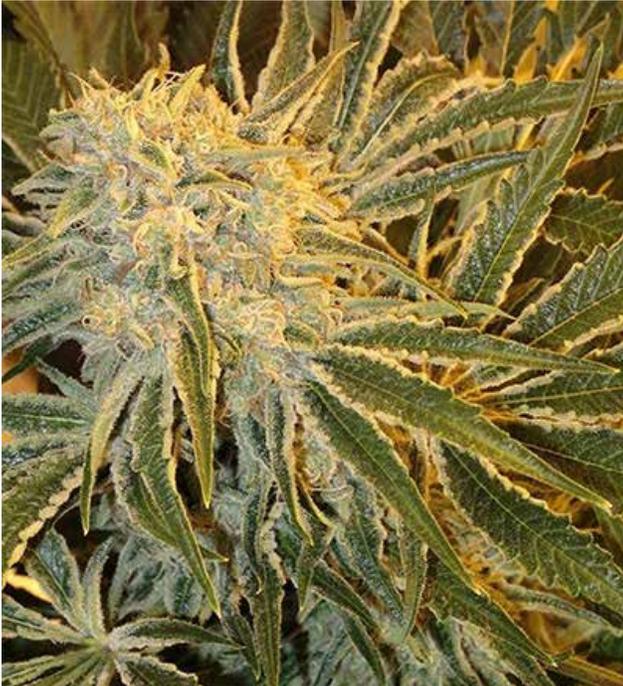
*Photos: David Schoen*

# THE FUTURE OF CANNABIS CULTIVATION IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SOUTH SKYLINE AREA

*John Harriman*

As with every other part of the United States, cultivation of cannabis for medical or recreational use in Santa Cruz County is in a state of flux. The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors has commissioned a “Cannabis Cultivation Choices Committee” (C4) to review existing county ordinances about cannabis cultivation. The Board of Supervisors, with the help of the C4, is attempting to codify regulations specific to Santa Cruz County otherwise California state cannabis laws will apply. The C4 has 13 members: representatives from each of the five supervisorial districts, five growers and three “at-large” members representing neighbors living near cannabis grows.

Las Cumbres, a South Skyline neighborhood of 120 homes, is potentially impacted by nearby cannabis grows in the Deer Creek watershed located to the west and a thousand feet lower. The main concern expressed by Las Cumbres residents is the threat of wildfire coming up the mountain from Deer Creek Valley. There have been three fires in recent years that threatened Las Cumbres, and cannabis farms were implicated in all of them (campfires getting out of control factored in two and a faulty generator in the third). On a positive note, a representative of the South Skyline Fire Safe Council and I met recently with Eric Hoffman (3rd district which includes Bonny Doon) and Eric Hammer (from our own 5th district), as well as Joe Christy (from the Bonny Doon Fire Safe Council) and members of the Cal Fire and Fire Marshal staff to discuss best practices for cannabis growers and determine practical staffing solutions for inspection and enforcement.



The C4 meetings are public and I attended one as a liaison representing both the South Skyline Association Board of Directors and my community of Las Cumbres. The meeting was focused on the potential negative impact of cannabis grows on neighbors including (a) wildfires associated with grows; (b) environmental damage (erosion of poorly engineered roads, clear-cutting of forested areas, obnoxious odors, and chemical runoff); and (c) the impact of cannabis cultivation on youth living nearby. Attendees felt that that the current legal growth of cannabis for medical purposes will inevitably expand in the future to legal growth for medical AND recreational use. Regardless of how well-conceived the final rules regulating cannabis growing in the county might be the neighbors expressed skepticism about the county’s ability to (1) inspect the performance of growers at following best practices and regulations and (2) enforce those practices and regulations. For example, Deer Creek went dry this fall in part from the drought but also due to water use by growers.

The committee has identified at least three types of growers: (1) illegal growers with little respect for the law, environment or their neighbors’ concerns; (2) small growers willing to obey the law and be licensed if regulations and taxes aren’t too burdensome; and (3) large corporate growers (e.g. Phillip Morris) who want to copy the business model of the beer, wine and liquor industries where over 70% of sales are brands owned by just two or three corporations. The growers on the committee and in the audience were entirely of the second type. They want to influence the regulations and fees that will apply to them in the future and are concerned about the threat of large corporations moving in and taking over. These smaller growers indicated an awareness of neighbors’ concerns, especially environmental and youth impacts. One of the growers present was held up as a model for how to treat the land (organic processes, water conservation, etc.). Interestingly, these growers were relieved by the recent defeat of a ballot measure to legalize cannabis in Ohio because the law would have allowed only 10 large firms to cultivate, package and distribute cannabis.

[http://ballotpedia.org/Ohio\\_Marijuana\\_Legalization\\_Initiative, Issue 3 \(2015\)](http://ballotpedia.org/Ohio_Marijuana_Legalization_Initiative,_Issue_3_(2015))

# SARATOGA QUARRY PARK – A LITTLE PIECE OF HISTORY

*Patti Begley*



The city of Saratoga opened the new Quarry Park on Highway 9 in October 2015. This new open space is referred to as the gateway to the Santa Cruz Mountains.

This 64-acre park, once a working quarry, is a small park but is a key piece of a plan to create a network of trails that may eventually connect with Sanborn Park. This tranquil parkland is the result of extensive rehabilitation and has an interesting history.

## **A BRIEF HISTORY**

1854 – A copper mine was established.

1856 – When the copper mine didn't produce as much as was expected, a lime kiln was established.

Early 1900's – The two lime quarries were converted to a gravel quarry.

1921 – The property was acquired by the county of Santa Clara.

1967 – The quarry operations declined and closed in 1967.

1967-1990's – Santa Clara County began the rehabilitation work and created a picnic area that was used by employees, families and friends.

Early 2000's – The property was acquired by the City of Saratoga. The city formed a partnership with the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District for the purpose of rehabilitating the area for public use.

2015 – Phase 1 of the master plan was completed and the park opened on October 31.

## IN THE PARK

More details of the history of this area are on display in informational kiosks around the parking lot. The most obvious evidence of the quarry is the loading structure on this ground floor of the property. The tunnels which the trucks once used for loading rock have been rehabilitated and historic photos of this operation are mounted inside.

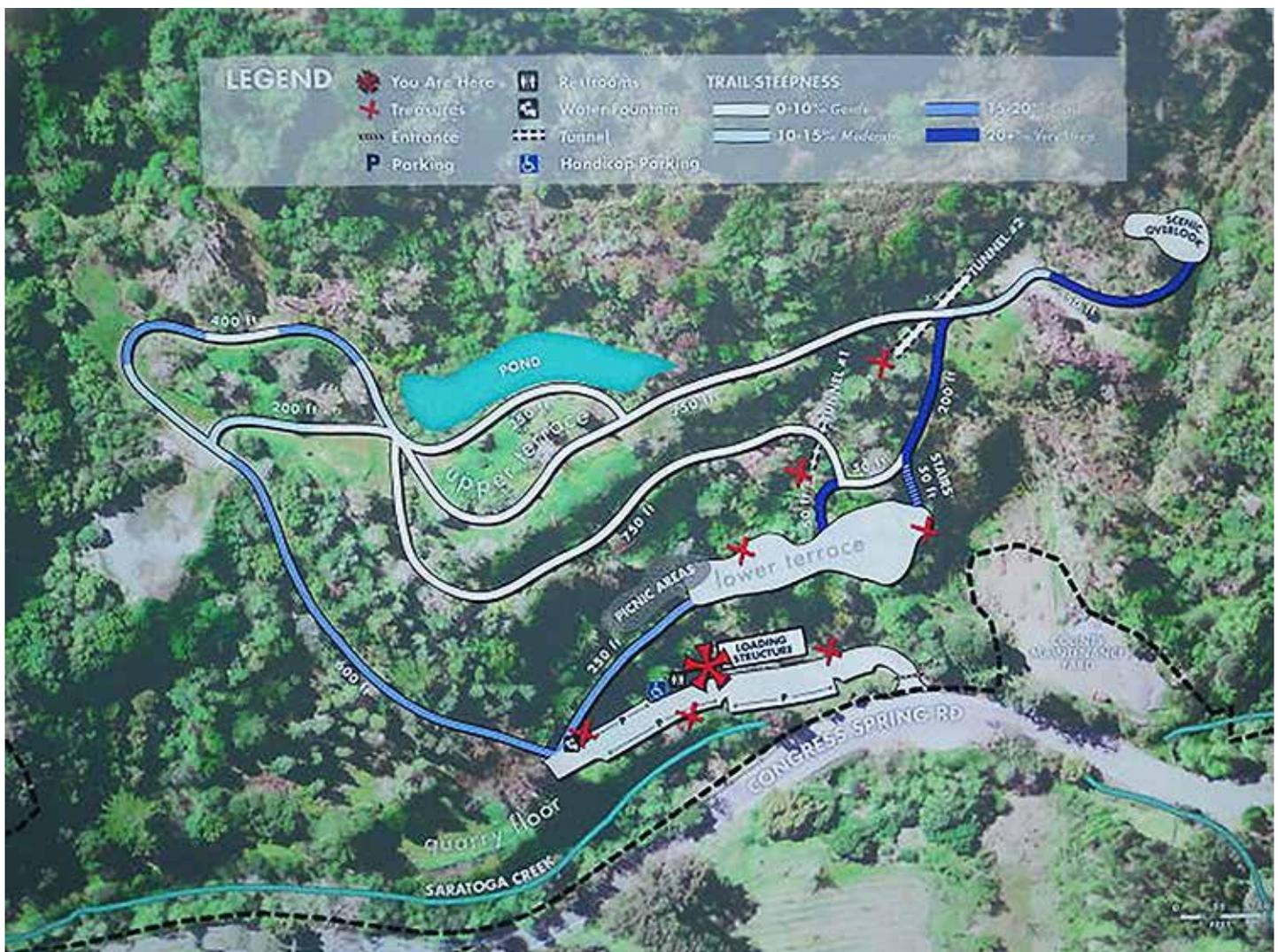
The lower terrace can be accessed from the ground level by a trail or steps up to a shady picnic area. There are some remains of the mines and a spring on this level. Stone steps and walls constructed by quarry employee volunteers are still standing. Eagle Scouts did much of the recent rehabilitation on this level.

The trail starts at the parking lot and climbs up the hill. Above the lower terrace picnic area is a small pond. On the day we visited the pond was teeming with newts. The trail continues up to the Upper Terrace overlook where there is a place to sit and enjoy the views. On one side are the forested areas of the Santa Cruz mountains and on the other are the scenic views of Saratoga and hillside vineyards. The trail is not long, at .8 of a mile, but leashed dogs are allowed and it's a pleasant walk.

A proposed plan for the future is to create a trail corridor from Hakone Gardens, to Quarry Park, to Sanborn-Skyline County park and connect to the Skyline-to-the-Sea trail.

## LOCATION AND PARK HOURS

Two miles from downtown Saratoga, just west of Hakone Gardens - 22000 Congress Springs Rd./Highway 9  
Open every day from dawn to dusk.



# LETTER TO THE EDITOR - Yes for Lakeside School and Students

*Sara Anderson and Maria Daane, Lakeside Parents and Volunteers, Yes for Lakeside Campaign*

Dear Mountain Neighbors:

## LAKESIDE NEEDS YOUR HELP.

While the overall budget picture for public education in California has improved the past few years due to the economic recovery and statewide initiatives, those improvements have not been uniform. Many districts, especially smaller ones, continue to face financial challenges. The Lakeside Joint School District is one of those: it faces a severe budget crunch in the near future.

Located on Black Road, Lakeside provides an excellent education for residents along the Summit/Skyline corridor, from Marty Road in the south to Highway 9 at the north, and surrounding areas including Zayante, Bear Creek, and Black Roads.

Despite the strength of its academic program, Lakeside is challenged financially because of unfunded mandates from our state and federal governments. Each year, Lakeside is required to provide increasingly more services to students without any or minimal additional funding – examples of this include the transitional kindergarten program, common core implementation, and specialized services for children. Two town hall meetings in February shared financial information about the Lakeside District; if you were unable to attend you can familiarize yourself by visiting the Lakeside website to learn more at [www.lakesidelosgatos.org](http://www.lakesidelosgatos.org).

On June 7th, those of your who live in the Lakeside Joint Union School District will have the opportunity to vote for a measure that invests in a strong future for our mountain school and protects our property values.

We volunteered to lead the campaign because mountain schools matter, and having a strong local school is good for our community. A strong school attracts new buyers to the community, enhancing our property values that provide important retirement assets for seniors. The Lakeside Joint School District provides a top-notch education for our children. Our elementary school is ranked 10/10 on [greatschools.org](http://greatschools.org) and in the top 5% statewide. Lakeside students in grades 6-8 attend Rolling Hills and CT English Middle schools, both also ranked 10/10. Lakeside, CT English, and Rolling Hills provide the magnet for new homebuyers on our mountain. Our mountain schools and students are excelling and we want to see that continue for years to come.

Lakeside's Board of Trustees passed a resolution in March to place a measure on the ballot to ensure Lakeside Joint School District is able to continue providing high quality education to our elementary and middle school students, and preserve property values. There is an exemption for senior citizens and for financial hardships.



*Lakeside has a long history in our mountain community.*



The measure protects the quality of academic programs for both elementary and middle school students, invests in specialized teacher training, provides comprehensive science programs, and updates classroom technology. All funds stay local and a citizen's oversight committee will ensure funds are spent as promised.

Please let us know if you want to help. The biggest thing you can do is vote Yes for a strong Lakeside School on the June 7th ballot.

We'd love to hear from you. Please connect with the campaign via the following:

[yesforlakeside@gmail.com](mailto:yesforlakeside@gmail.com)

[www.yesforlakeside.com](http://www.yesforlakeside.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/YesforLakeside/>

***Go Lakeside!***

## CLASSIFIED ADS

*Due to many requests, we will attempt to keep a list of ads that will run every issue. However, there is no guarantee that an ad won't be missed because of our changes in staff. If you want to be on the list, you must make a request to "run until canceled". It is best to resubmit ads for each issue. Send to: [skylineseditor@yahoo.com](mailto:skylineseditor@yahoo.com) Please keep ads to 45 words or less.*

**Skyline Broadband Service** Offering high-speed wireless Internet with speeds up to 25 Mbps in much of our 500-square-mile coverage area. <http://SkylineBroadbandService.com>  
phone: 650-712-5900

**Free Fire Fitting** for those in the South Skyline Fire & Rescue primary response area. This 2-1/2 inch 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. Visit <http://southskylinefire.org/> for more information under the "Help us help you" section.

**Learning Strategies** One-on-one tutoring in your home by qualified educators. K-12, all subject areas including test prep ISEE, HSPT, SSAT & SAT, Contact Learning Strategies, [www.creative-learning-strategies.com](http://www.creative-learning-strategies.com) or email [victoriaskinner@creative-learning-strategies.com](mailto:victoriaskinner@creative-learning-strategies.com) or call 650-747-9651 for a free phone consultation.

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**Award Winning Dog Training Classes!** Saturdays & Monday evenings in Portola Valley/Ladera. GIFT CERTIFICATES – a wonderful gift for any dog owner! New! AKC Urban Canine Class this spring! Private Lessons available Please call 650 851-5500 (preferred)

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**Help Wanted** - Las Cumbres Facilities Manager Position Reporting to the Las Cumbres Board areas of responsibility include the community center, pool, playing field, playground, tennis courts and surrounding areas. For additional information and the Full job description, please contact Holly Gentle [holly.nicole.gentle@gmail.com](mailto:holly.nicole.gentle@gmail.com)  
Karin Bird, Real Estate Broker - Alain-Pinel Realtors DRE# 0929166, 650-851-8100 ext. 2, Cell- 650-207-0940, [www.BirdHayes.com](http://www.BirdHayes.com)

### **Local Debris Box Services:**

20 yd boxes and concrete/dirt boxes.  
With all the new add-ons from the landfills and new rates, budget around \$450-500 (based on three tons). Green loads are less and dirt/concrete is pretty much based on weight.  
650-740-0809 Rob Skinner Pescadero

### **California FruitCrate**

Your Neighborhood Organic Market - Now Open!  
Located @ Saratoga Village Center - 14440 Big Basin Way. Come sample the variety of fresh fruits, delicious vegetables and organic products.  
California FruitCrate Hours Tues & Thurs 11am-6pm, Sat & Sun 11 am-5pm.

**Ads are free to SSA members. Membership is \$20 per year. Membership forms are available at [www.southskyline.org](http://www.southskyline.org) Please limit each ad to 45 words.**

**Email ads to: [Skylineseditor@yahoo.com](mailto:Skylineseditor@yahoo.com)**

# SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION

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La Honda, CA 94020

## Consider Getting Your *Skylines* by Email

For those members who receive the *Skylines* through the Post Office please consider the option to receive it on-line. This will save paper as well as postage. If you sign up for this option you will be notified by email when the next issues is released. Sign up and update your email address with Debra Born, 7405 Alpine Road, La Honda, CA 94020, Phone: 650-917-9648

Email: [debborn@gmail.com](mailto:debborn@gmail.com)

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

## SSA CALENDAR - General Meeting

April 28, 2016, Fogarty Winery

Board meetings will be held at 7:30pm

May 12, June 9

For location contact **Michael Rowe**  
[rowe517@gmail.com](mailto:rowe517@gmail.com) • 408-872-1775

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### ***Skylines* is Published Once A Quarter**

*Skylines* invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

**Policy on Classified Ads:** Ads are free to SSA members. They must be resubmitted for each issue unless a request is made for the ad to be “on-going”. Please keep ads to 45 words or less.

***Skylines* Ads and News Articles:** The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is **June 15, 2016**

**Send all ads and articles to:** [SkylinesEditor@yahoo.com](mailto:SkylinesEditor@yahoo.com)

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