



South Skyline Association

<http://www.southskyline.org>

July / August 2019

South Skyline Association Turns 50!

**Join the Celebration at the Annual Potluck Picnic
(and hum along with the bluegrass band)**

New Location and New Times

Sunday, August 25 - At the home of Guy Lalonde and
Rosemary Broome, 100 Rocky Creek Rd.

4:00 pm-7:00 pm - music, meet and greet, view displays

4:45 pm - Potluck dinner with birthday cake

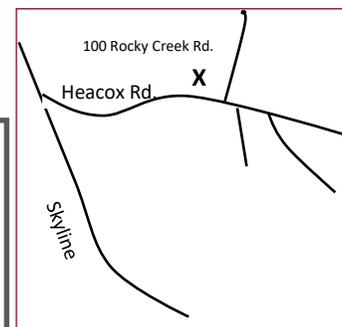
5:15 pm - History presentation (45 minutes)



*Please bring a generous entrée, salad or dessert to share.
(we are also feeding the band) SSA will provide plates, utensils,
lemonade and soft drinks.*

Three of the founding mothers and fathers of the South Skyline Association will describe its beginning along with the many accomplishments throughout the years and its considerable influence on the mountain environment. Past presidents and super volunteers will be honored, as well as the service organizations (South Skyline: Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Emergency Preparedness Organization, and the Fire Safe Council) that the SSA spawned and have made the area a better, safer place to live. Live music will be provided by Ami and Dick Jaqua's son, Aaron, and a new acoustic bluegrass band called Reckless William.

A history booklet will be available for all attendees. A look at the past may help guide the future of the association.



Directions to 100 Rocky Creek Rd. (It's listed as Redwood City on google maps)

From Skyline Blvd. turn east on Heacox Rd. between Page Mill and Thomas Fogarty Winery.

Located:

1.7 miles north of Skyline and Page Mill Rd. (a very sharp right turn on to Heacox), or

1 mile south of Thomas Fogarty Winery. It is just south of Cray Pete's road and long row of mail boxes.

The house is ~ 1/10th of a mile on the left, behind the brown barn with the solar array.

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What the SSA Board is Doing

By Evan Dellor

We've just now made it past the solstice, and I suppose spring started as a wet lamb, and summer is shaping up as a dry lamb. I'm sure our wells and springs are happy for the extra water this last season. I know the squirrels and rabbits are, as there seems to be an explosion of them this year.

Following on from Dave Anderson's update in the last issue of Skylines, the board is taking turns composing the quarterly update for the membership. I've volunteered to put the digits to the keyboard this time around.

General Meetings

A reminder to please reserve Sunday, August 25 for the SSA 50th anniversary party at a new location at Guy Lalonde's home. It's shaping up to be a fun-filled afternoon, complete with a local bluegrass band. There will be a presentation on the history of the organization.

The last general meeting was quite entertaining and

informative. Todd Spanier, a local culinary superstar, gave us a talk about the history and current state of truffle production around the world. He answered a lot of questions and it seemed we shut the place down. The weather was outstanding that day as well, which complemented the views from the Fogarty winery.

Recent Projects

The board is considering investigating the state of property insurance in the South Skyline area. Of particular concern is the spate of cancellations and rate increases in the area. We are particularly interested to know if the membership thinks this is a general concern, and if the board might look into it a bit further. Most of the information we've had is third person, and we want to have a better sampling of the statistics. See Dick Schwind's article, **Survey - Homeowners Insurance**, on page 4.

We've sent our letter to the California State Parks regarding the Castle Rock State Park Road and Trail

(Continued on page 3.)



SPUG QUARTERLY REPORT

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 email propane@southskyline.org. Information is also available on our website: www.SouthSkyline.org/spug/

SSA has agreements with Amerigas, Kamps, Suburban Propane Scotts Valley, and FerrellGas. The open market price is more than \$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.

Those whose SSA membership has lapsed will be disqualified from receiving the benefit of the SPUG price for propane. Membership can be renewed online at www.southskyline.org/membership/. January is renewal month.

For updated monthly prices go to www.SouthSkyline.org/spug/

Month/Year	Amerigas	FerrellGas	Kamps	Suburban/
July 2019	2.750	2.126	1.950	3.730
June 2019	2.750	2.106	1.950	3.730
May 2019	2.750	2.2111	2.200	3.730
April 2019	2.750	2.550	2.520	3.490
March 2019	2.750	2.510	2.730	3.490
February 2019	2.750	2.344	2.650	3.490
January 2019	2.750	2.365	2.590	3.390
December 2018	2.750	2.186	2.335	3.470
November 2018	2.650	2.296	2.275	3.250
October 2018	2.650	2.100	2.265	3.250
September 2018	2.650	2.040	2.000	3.250
August 2018	2.650	1.943	2.030	3.250
July 2018	2.650	1.940	1.950	3.250

Management Plan for mountain bikes. SSA's suggestion was to allow bikes on a portion of the Skyline-to-the-Sea Trail, but only on designated days.

Grants

The membership levels look very healthy and we should be able to fund the usual yearly grants to local organizations in the coming year.

We most recently approved a matching grant of \$2,050 for the Castle Rock Foundation's request for a radio system that allows for communication with the park dispatch and with other members of the volunteer service. The group is often in remote locations within the park and communications are an important part of safety in such scenarios.

SSA July 2019 – Membership Report

By Debra Born, Membership Committee Chair

Welcome All New Members!

We've seen many new members again this year and want to give a warm welcome to all of you new to the area. Living in the Santa Cruz mountains is unlike living anywhere else in the Bay Area so we hope you enjoy this magical experience. And if you attend our quarterly general meetings or get involved as a volunteer either on the board or simply by helping on one of our committees, we guarantee you'll meet some of the best people you've ever met. There is nothing else like our community of mountain folk anywhere around!

To our existing members you may have received a notice that your membership has lapsed or your propane provider tells you are not on their list of current SSA members. Never fear, you can still renew, however your \$20 fee will only apply to the balance of 2019 and you'll need to renew again in January for 2020. You can easily renew via our website www.southskyline.org. Or if paying by check, send your \$20 check to SSA Membership at 400 Skyline Blvd., La Honda, 94020.

And if any of you know people who have recently moved to our area, please encourage them to join the South Skyline Association as a way to meet and get involved with our community members. There's always room for more at our meetings. Again, they can easily join via our website.

Speaking of meetings, be sure not to miss the Annual General Meeting on Sunday August 25th. This year we are celebrating our **Association's 50th anniversary** so this will be an extra special event. Look for more details in this newsletter issue or on our website.

South Skyline Fire & Rescue News

by Andy Seigel, Captain, SSF&R

We had a good turnout for our pancake breakfast on Sunday, May 19th - despite rain, thunder, and hail! We served a mountain of pancakes to 150 hungry guests. Thanks to everyone who joined us!

Award!

I am delighted to report that Volunteer Engineer Doug Aumack has received the 2018 Volunteer Firefighter of the Year award for Santa Cruz County Fire (South Skyline, Loma Prieta, Corralitos, Bonny Doon, Davenport) at a recent board of supervisors meeting. Doug has been recognized for being a consummate volunteer with South Skyline, as well as serving as a member of the Fire Department Advisory Commission (FDAC) for 3 years (so far), as well as representing County Fire at the California State Firefighters' Association (CSFA) conference. Doug spends several days every year proctoring new cadets at the volunteer fire academy. These qualities make Doug a huge asset to the team. Congratulations!



Chief Larkin presents the award to Doug Aumack and Cal Fire Captain Mike Urbani, career firefighter of the year.

New Volunteers and Recruiting

We have 3 new volunteer firefighters on the team. These new firefighters are joining as three others are moving on. We always need more volunteers, so we are planning several recruiting events in the next few months. Watch our website for details.

Visit us at <http://southskylinefire.org>

Survey - Homeowners Insurance - Afraid of Cancellation?

By Dick Schwind

The South Skyline Association (SSA) is collecting data on cancellation/non-renewal of homeowner's insurance. We'd like to know if you or any of your neighbors are struggling with finding and keeping insurance coverage for your home. With so many Northern California homes being lost to out-of-control wildfires in the last several years, it is not surprising that home insurance companies are taking steps to reduce their risks. However, insurance companies need to factor in the South Skyline area's high percentage of homes with well-maintained defensible space (thanks, in part, to the South Skyline Fire Safe Council's free chipping campaigns) and a fire hydrant within a few feet of the driveway for easy hookup. Also, without the strong autumn 'Diablo' winds in our area, are underwriters taking in to account this reduced risk? We aim to proactively collect evidence for use in an appeal to insurance companies and hope you'll support this effort.

More specifically, the SSA is starting a fact-finding survey to learn what is happening to insurance and, if there is enough interest as indicated by responses, share the survey results in future *Skylines* issues. Names, exact locations, and anything else you share will be kept confidential. From our early responses, we may develop a formal set of questions, but we need input to get started.

Please respond by email with answers to these questions and related information:

- Your name(s), email address, and geographical location (For example: 4 1/2 miles down Alpine Rd from Skyline Blvd), and distance from your nearest (and what) fire station.
- List your homeowners insurance company(s), how many years you have been insured, and any past claims of note. Tell us about your homeowner's insurance problems and date(s) you were notified. Have the issues been resolved, and if so, how? Was there a large jump in premiums?
- Has your insurance company sent inspectors to do an outside evaluation, and about when (you probably got a letter stating they were would be sending them). Was there a resulting letter of items to be fixed? What was the resolution?
- Have there been difficulties getting new insurance? Was there an increase in premium and was the coverage reduced? How would you evaluate the

wildland fire risk to your home - defensible space, availability of water for a fire engine, and road and driveway access?'

Please respond to Dick Schwind, <schwindr@yahoo.com>. If questions you can call me, 408-867-9422. I'll try to respond also by phone.

Midpen Open Space Celebrates Opening Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve to the Public

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and local environmental leaders held a ribbon-cutting on June 7 at Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve near Los Gatos to celebrate opening the preserve to the public for the first time.

The event recognized conservation partnerships that protected this desirable property, restoration work being done to return its redwood forests to health and completion of the preserve's first public access project. Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve opened to the public daily beginning June 8. Visitors are able to enjoy redwood forests close to home and discover local history.

"Thanks to local voters who approved Measure AA in 2014, Midpen has been able to move forward with this project, restoring the land and opening this first phase of public access," Midpen General Manager Ana María Ruiz said. "Bear Creek Redwoods is one of our truly special places, and now the public can connect with nature in its cool redwood forests and discover its rich history."

People have been drawn to Bear Creek Redwoods for centuries including native Ohlone, gold rush-era loggers, wealthy estate owners and Jesuit seminarians. The 1,432-acre property was slated to become a golf course and luxury homes during Silicon Valley's first tech boom until a public-private partnership, led by Midpen and the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST), protected it in 1999.

Now that Bear Creek Redwoods is preserved forever as public open space, Midpen is restoring its creeks and once clear-cut redwood forests to health for wildlife, plants and people. In partnership with Valley Water, Midpen is removing harmful invasive plants like English ivy and French broom so that spring wildflowers, rare salamanders and many other native species can thrive.

(Continued on page 5.)



SSFSC Training a Success

By John DeLong

On March 16, 2019, The South Skyline FireSafe Council held a half-day training program to teach individuals how to assess defensible space around private properties. The program, known as Wildland Fire Assessment Program, is conducted by the National Volunteer Fire Council with a grant from the US Forest Service.



About 42 people attended, one of the largest groups to receive this training. Attendees came from various locations within Santa Cruz, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties. Some were homeowners; others were representatives from a variety of institutions and organizations.

Trainees learned all aspects of defensible space around properties, some components of fire behavior, and several suggestions for hardening home structures against fire and blowing embers. The class instructor was Steve McClintock, Chief of the Mi Wuk-Sugar Pine Fire District with help from a retired CalFire Chief.

The community center venue was donated by Las Cumbres and food and beverages were provided by the SSFSC.

The South Skyline FireSafe Council is now registered with the Amazon Smile program. With the Amazon Smile Charitable Giving program, 1/2% of all of your Amazon purchases will be donated to the charity of your choice - and we hope you choose our non-profit organization.

Help support the FireSafe Council with no effort on your part except to click the link below:
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4280449>

Follow SSFSC on Facebook

By John DeLong

On March 16, the South Skyline FireSafe Council conducted a workshop training people how to assess properties for both defensible space and home hardening. This session fulfilled our education and outreach objective #9 in the Santa Clara County CWPP (Community Wildfire Prevention Plan).

The attendance at that event far exceeded our expectations. We learned later the reason why. Our initial e-mail announcement had been reposted by Santa Clara County FireSafe Council on their Facebook page, thus reaching hundreds more people and doubling the number of attendees.

As a result, SSFSC has now created a Facebook page of our own! If you are on Facebook, please enter in the search box - [south skyline firesafe council](#), and then “like” our page to receive notifications. We will post occasional information related to fires, fire preparedness, defensible space, our chipping program and our grants and projects.

Please remember that our fire season is earlier and longer nowadays. Be sure that you have:

- completed your defensible space around all structures on your property (<http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org/links/ready-for-wildfire/>),
- that you have hardened your home against embers (<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Hardening-Your-Home/>),
- and have your evacuation go-bags packed and ready to leave (<http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Emergency-Supply-Kit/>) & (<http://www.livingwithfire.info/blog/prepare-for-wildfire-pack-a-to-go-bag>)

MidPen - Bear Creek Redwoods (continued from pg. 4)

Midpen is also improving water quality in the preserve’s many creeks, streams and ponds by converting old and eroding logging roads into recreational trails. And, with the help of researchers and citizen scientists, Midpen is working to protect the area’s forests from sudden oak death.

New visitor amenities include an ADA-accessible path around the historic Upper Lake, interpretive information about the site’s natural and cultural history and 6 miles of new hiking and equestrian trails through the forested slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains. For more information visit www.openspace.org/bcr.

Huckleberry Wild

By Sarah Schoen

Summer is a time for berries, and huckleberries always come to mind. California huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) is an evergreen shrub, growing up to 9' tall. Leaves are thick, leathery, dark green and shining, up to 2" long. The margins are finely serrated, and the leaves grow alternately from the gray or red twigs in spirals. Because they never lose all their leaves at once, the plants are also known as evergreen huckleberries.

The flowers are white to pinkish, and urn shaped, about ¼" long. They grow in small clusters of 1 to 5 from the leaf axils from March to June. They are pollinated by long-tongued bees, like bumblebees.

Fruits are round and purplish black, ripening from July to October. They look similar to their blueberry cousins and are full of tiny, dark orange-brown seeds.

Many California Indian tribes used huckleberries for food. Ohlones ate them fresh. Others also dried or cooked them. Many would travel several hours to harvest them. The berries are high in Vitamin C. Medicinally, the Pomo, Kashaya tribe made a decoction of the California huckleberry leaves to treat diabetes.

Several animals eat California huckleberries. Deer browse the foliage. The seeds are distributed by many species of birds and mammals which eat the fruit. California huckleberries are the larval food plant of a tiny, shining white moth, *Eucalantica polita*. The caterpillars eat the foliage and flowers externally inside protective webs.

A relative, red huckleberry (*Vaccinium parvifolium*), grows in damper areas a bit to our west. It is a deciduous shrub up to 12' tall. Leaves are thin, lighter green, and grow alternately from green, sharply angled twigs. The leaves turn paler green in the fall, then drop in midwinter. Flowers are solitary, yellow green to pinkish green, growing from the leaf axils. They also bloom from March to June. Fruits are red, again ripening from July to October.

California huckleberry is found in dry, open, coniferous forests – especially coast redwood and mixed evergreen. Because of its thick, leathery leaves, it can also grow in chaparral, but there the plants are smaller. It requires acidic and well-drained soil and is tolerant of low nitrogen. The plants can grow on stumps and logs, and even in the tops of old growth redwoods when a large amount of decaying wood is present. California huckleberries are

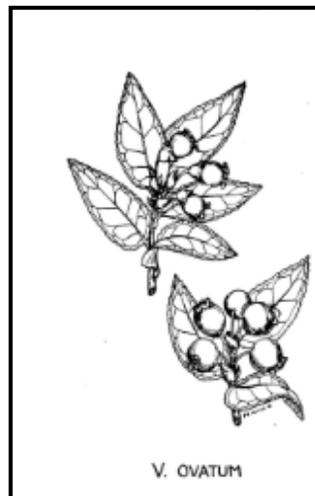
found below 2600' from western British Columbia, south through California to San Diego County.



California Huckleberry leaves by Kim Borick



E. polita moth by David Schoen



California Huckleberry



Red Huckleberry

Chemeketa Park Is Now a Recognized FirewiseUSA Site!

Eugenia Rendler- Santa Clara County FireSafe Council, Communications, Outreach and Education Program Manager

In June 2019, Chemeketa Park in Santa Clara County, CA achieved its national Firewise USA recognized site status. The community demonstrated through education, organization and significant brush cleanup, they can reduce wildfire threat in their Santa Cruz Mountains neighborhood.

Beyond recognition and a reduced risk of devastating wildfire, benefits include Firewise USA's outreach, education and risk reduction activities. Participating communities receive free, online training, research fact sheets, and access to webinars from Firewise USA.

Chemeketa Park's journey began with one neighbor, Mara Milinic. Mara saw the devastation of the Santa Rosa and Camp fires decided that we needed to do something. Mara searched for information on what could be done to minimize the threat of a wildfire locally. She found the National Fire Protection Association Firewise USA (R) program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action now to prevent losses. Firewise USA has four main elements.

First, the community formed a committee to organize and lead the efforts. In November 2018, Mara invited a few neighbors to explore how to get the community involved.

The next element is a community risk assessment and a plan. In March 2019, Jon Black, Battalion Chief, Santa Clara County Fire Department provided the community risk assessment. Chemeketa Park used it to build their multi-year plan detailing the specific steps addressing our highest risks of fire and support qualifying for the Firewise program.

Our plan includes: reduce forest brush, ladder fuels, and dead trees, increase water storage, improve signage for evacuation and first responders, improve road access, create a fire fighter staging area, increase fire safety of homes, and increase wildfire threat understanding. Some action items were addressed immediately while others will take time and collaborative efforts to achieve. The committee is also opening discussions with bordering neighbors.

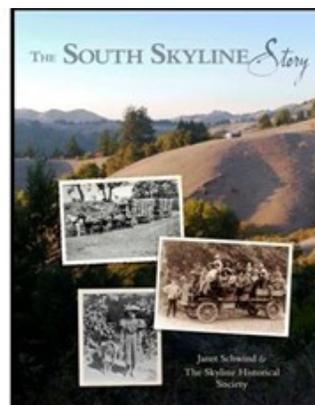
Community education is an important required element. In conjunction with Eugenia Rendler from Santa Clara

The Firewise USA® program teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action now to prevent losses.

County FireSafe Council, SCCFSC, the team organized an education day attended by dozens of community members. The presentation from Chief Jon Black and Eugenia Rendler included information about the Firewise program, fire history, local wildfire threats and specific steps individuals should take to reduce wildfire risk.

To accomplish the large goal of reducing years of built up brush and dead forest litter, the committee promoted brush clearing days in collaboration with the SCCFSC annual brush chipping program. Using word of mouth, NextDoor and Facebook we organized crews and lent a hand to neighbors needing help. On our busiest cleanup day, 22 community members spent a Saturday clearing and stacking brush. In 8 weeks the community cleared and chipped 1586 cubic yards for Chemeketa during two events.

The final step was to submit an application to Firewise USA. Mara submitted our application and we were approved within a short time. It took one person to get the community started. Now the majority of the Chemeketa Park is working together to make significant progress toward reducing the risk of a wildfire destroying the mountain homes. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at chemeketapark.org. Additional information can also be found at Sccfiresafe.org or nfpa.org/Public-Education/Fire-causes-and-risks/Wildfire/Firewise-USA.



“The South Skyline Story” – a fascinating biography

In this book the reader will follow the paths of the native Ohlone people and experience the rugged life in logging camps, mills and ranches. The book introduces the waves of people who left the comfort of the “flatlands” to succumb to the lore of the

mountains. The book is complete with detailed maps and many vintage photographs.

Your cost is \$27.07 incl. tax for local pickup or \$34.27 by two-day priority mail to you or your recipient. For information email chuck_sch@hotmail.com or phone 408-867-9229.

In honor of the SSA 50th celebration, the following pages are “flashback” articles from the last several years. Some articles are still of interest today, and a couple articles are reminders of what our association was able to accomplish when the community pulled together to resolve a common issue or concern.

Take a Hike...

Tarwater Trail

By Ruth Waldhauer (published in 2009)

A good choice for a summer day is a hike on the Tarwater Trail. During the dry season when water flow is lessened, one can see tar globs bubbling up in the creek, and globs of tar accumulating on rocks and vegetation for a distance downstream from the emerging tar globs. The flora and historic points of interest add to the pleasure of this hike.

To reach the parking lot for the Tarwater Trail in upper Pescadero Creek County Park, take Alpine Road south from the Alpine/Page Mill intersection with Skyline Boulevard. Follow Alpine Road south for 3.1 miles and bear right on Alpine past the Portola State Park Road intersection. Continue 0.4 mile to Camp Pomponio Road. Turn left onto it and continue 1 mile to a small unpaved parking area on the left side of the road. There you can find a map posted on the bulletin board. Just across the road from the parking lot, take the west leg of the Tarwater Trail. It first leads across a meadow, then descends to the remains of a small building with a corrugated tin roof under a cluster of eucalyptus trees. Peek inside, but do not enter. Not safe. It may collapse. Here an early settler raised goats and made cheese that he sold.

Continuing on, contour around the building's south side into a swale where the early settler planted a double row of pear trees, now quite aged, but still producing pears, then the trail switchbacks downhill into the shade of big redwoods. The trail zigzags downhill past horsetails and ferns. At its junction with the Canyon Trail, go right a short distance where you will meet Tarwater Creek, and discover the meaning of its name. Observe its surface for globs of thick, shiny, iridescent material.

Retrace your steps and continue on the now wide Tarwater Trail Loop above the east side of Tarwater Creek. Huckleberries, ferns, and clintonia with bright dark blue seeds at this time of the year, line the trail. At the next junction, go through a gate in a split rail fence onto Camp Pomponio Road. Turn left following the road for about 200 feet, then veer right onto the narrow Pomponio/Tarwater Trail Loop. The trail crosses Wally's

Creek and very shortly Shingle Mill Creek. Turn uphill on the Tarwater Trail.

Walking through the deep redwood forest, you will come to a former mill site. The last operation in the 1960s produced redwood railroad ties. Abandoned there is a donkey engine used to power the mill and saw pit structures. Don't walk on these structures. They are old and very weak. This area has regrown tall and dense since then. Huge stumps encircled by new growth attest to the size and tenacity of the ancient trees.

Continue uphill to the parking lot to complete a very satisfying five-mile hike.

There's History in Our Place Names

By Janet Schwind (published in 2009)

Have you ever hiked on the Windy Hill Open Space Preserve and wondered how Damiana Creek got its name? My curiosity led me down an interesting path, full of irony.

According to Wikipedia, damiana (*Tumera diffusa*) is a flowering shrub found in Central America which was used as a cure for many conditions. A liqueur from the plant was a common ingredient in margaritas, and the leaves were smoked to achieve a marijuana-like buzz. An alternate name is *Tumera aphrodisiaca*, because a tea made from its leaves was used to enhance love making, especially for women. Did the parents of little Damiana Padilla, whose families had come from Mexico in the 1770s, have this in mind when they named her?

Well, if they did, their wishes were fulfilled. Damiana married Maximo Martinez when she was 15 years old. In 1834 the couple moved onto his rancho (Rancho el Corte de Madera) which stretched from present day Portola Valley up to the skyline. She gave birth to 15 children, only eight of whom survived into adulthood. In spite of this toll on her body, Damiana lived to the ripe old age of 87, outlasting her husband by 14 years.

The creek which bears her name is said to be a boundary of the land she maintained after her husband's estate was divided.

Vegetable Gardening in the Mountains

By Bill Fowkes (*published in 2000*)

"If you want to be happy for a day, get married. If you want to be happy for a weekend, barbecue a pig. If you want to be happy for the rest of your life, become a vegetable gardener."

I have been vegetable gardening in the hills for over 25 years and have learned a lot during that period of time. One thing is certain, there are many microclimates up here, and there are tremendous differences in one's ability to achieve yield from one year to the next.

Our house is at 2350 feet, and we are on the east side of the ridge, so we do not get sun exposure in late afternoon. For a variety of reasons, I use cold frames for much of my crop. This extends the growing season, protects against predators, and conserves water. I have a garden going year-round in spite of the climate. The summer garden is no problem; however, I start my winter garden in September and hope to have enough growing to get through January and February when I am unable to germinate anything. If there is a hard freeze, I can lose everything, even though I do some passive solar in the cold frames. My approach to solar is to keep the plastic milk containers, fill them with water, paint them black, and place them strategically under the cold frames. If there is any sun, even on a cold day, you would be surprised at how warm these bottles get.

Because of relatively cool nights, even in the summer, I can grow lettuce year-round, and I grow eight different varieties. The cold frames seem to prevent the lettuce from bolting. Tomatoes and squash are my main crops in the summer. I haven't had good luck with cucumbers, though I grow a few. The winter garden includes lettuce, spinach, broccoli, cabbage, chard, and cauliflower. Things like carrots, onions, and bok choy seem to cross seasons. My neighbor grows a great quantity of corn. I don't usually grow corn because it requires more space and lots of water. I have done potatoes but not recently.

There are many predators to deal with. Young sprouting veggies must be protected from the birds, which will eat everything. Until the last 2 years, gophers were a real menace, and I was battling one or two in the garden all the time. For some reason, I guess ecological, the gopher population in my area has been decimated. I have found that poisons are ineffective and use the MacCabee trap, which must be placed in a tunnel. Gophers are quite smart and will detect the trap and push dirt against it regularly. However, keep trying and you will usually succeed. A kinder gentler approach is to dig out all burrows and

New Robert C. Kirkwood Entrance at Castle Rock State Park Opening

At the publishing of this newsletter, we received word that the new entrance at Castle Rock would be open to the public on **August 1, 2019**. With this announcement there was a tentative schedule for the **grand opening celebration on Friday September 27th**, starting mid-morning. This date was not 100% confirmed at the time of this publication so please check sempervirens.org/get-outdoors/castle-rock-state-park/ for updated details and dates of other activities.

follow them to the edge of the garden. If you keep this up, the gopher will usually move to better accommodations, although this approach can be devastating to your plantings.

Deer are a problem of course. Even though they can vault the fence, my German Shepherd is enough of a deterrent. Rabbits are so cute and so destructive. I regularly trap them and relocate them. Cold frames and chicken wire fencing will prevent rabbit damage. Last year I had an attack of voles, small rodents who dig holes that are not closed like those of gophers. The holes are also about half the size of a gopher hole. The infestation was at the end of winter when my garden was the only edible thing in town. They ate until things started to grow again in the environment. My approaches were ineffective in controlling them. I think a good mouser cat would be the best solution.

Earwigs are the biggest insect problem. Since I do not use pesticides, I depend on the lizards to manage them. Earwigs will congregate under cardboard boxes and newspaper that allows one to do away with a bunch at a time.

Rich and Janet Lee have a horse and allow me to collect their stable sweepings for garden compost. Since this contains a lot of sawdust and straw in addition to the manure, I confess that I do add some 10-10-10 to this. Thus, I am not a pure organic gardener.

One cannot underestimate the pleasure derived from picking something fresh from the garden and serving it at your next meal.

South Skyline Emergency Preparedness 2001

In the January 2002 issue of *Skylines* Eva Blum wrote an article titled **South Skyline Has New Community Emergency Response Team** “On November 17, 2001 the first class of 23 proud and enthusiastic South Skyliners qualified as a Federal Emergency Management (FEMA)-endorsed Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Applause from family and a potluck barbecue concluded the three-day training, sponsored by the San Mateo/Santa Cruz CDF. “ Here are photos from that 2001 event.



Eva Blum



Sherry & Bridget



Dr. Rich Lee supervises demo evacuation of unconscious victim Mildred Chou on an improvised blanket-stretcher.



Editor's Note: For those residents not around before 2001, you missed the experience of seeing herds of wild boar browsing acorns on your property or digging up miles of private and public land. This is an account of the very successful trapping program carried out by South Skyline residents and local agencies.

MROSD and State Parks Are Aggressively Trapping Wild Pigs

By Dick Schwind (published in 2001)

As of mid-June Mr. Dick Seever, the trapper for MidPeninsula Regional Open Space District, has trapped 67 wild boars since April 1 (start of their new fiscal year) on his contract for 150 through next March. This is in addition to the 81 he trapped in the half year before. Nearly all the take has been on the Long Ridge Open Space Preserve. Pig sightings by locals appear to have fallen way off (please keep reporting significant sightings and kills to me, see below).

Now, State Parks of Portola Redwoods, Big Basin, and Wilder are trapping wild pigs; more than 42 in Big Basin, and about 100 in Wilder (north of Santa Cruz). San Mateo Parks (Memorial Park) continues their efforts towards a trapping program. THANK YOU parks and open space districts, for your good work!

We locals have fallen behind, I believe, in our part of the regional pig control program. Keep hunting those pigs and borrow a community trap from me. I also have bait.

Classified Ads

Community

SC4 Amateur Radio Club Welcomes those interested in amateur radio for emergency communications and neighborly talk. License is free. Simple exam: No Morse code. We offer classes. Visit www.sc4arc.org or write: SC4ARC, PO Box 237, La Honda, CA 94020

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. Please visit <http://southskylinefire.org/> for more information under the "Help us help you" section.

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Dog Days- Award Winning Dog Training Group Classes- Monday evenings in Portola Valley/Ladera. GIFT CERTIFICATES – great for any dog owner! Private Lessons Please call 650- 851-5500 (best) or Email: Dog.days@comcast.net

For a free, no obligation solar consultation from your mountain neighbor, please contact David Morgan dmorgan@simplysolarcalifornia.com (408) 348-5781. Simply Solar is a local Northern California company installing North American made panels.

Services

Hunner Associates General Contractors Local family owned and operated general construction and project management firm specializing in new and remodel residential projects in the San Francisco Mid-Peninsula area. Licensed since 1979, visit our website to learn more: www.hunnerassociates.com or connect by email: info@hunnerassociates.com

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 or email victoriaskinner@creative-learning-strategies.com or call 650-747-9651 for a free phone consultation.

Pineda Tree Service Inc. A local and reliable business that specializes in crown thinning & cleaning, hazardous tree removal, poison oak removal, and property cleanup, 24/7 emergency. Free estimate Insured and bonded. CSL#991767. Phone: 650-208-2734 Email: pinedatreeserviceinc@gmail.com

Portola Valley Farmers' Market Every Thursday, year-round 2-6pm (2-5pm winter) Weekly farmers' market brings local fruits & veggies, eggs, meat, fish, bakery & specialty foods, crafts and ready-to-eats. 765 Portola Road, PV at town center in front of the Historic Schoolhouse. www.pvfarmersmarket.com

Residential Design: Country and urban custom houses, remodel and additions. 20+ years experience in California. See some of my work at: www.tsvresidential.com - Taruno S. Vega Phone 650-747-0654, email: taruno@coastside.net

Russian Ridge Winery 919 Washington Street, San Carlos. Award winning wines, many Santa Cruz Mountains varietals. Tasting room opens Fridays 5-9 pm and Saturdays/Sundays 12-5 pm.

Skyline Broadband Service Offering high-speed wireless Internet with speeds up to 50 Mbps in much of our 500-square-mile coverage area. Phone: 650-712-5900 <http://skylinebroadbandservice.com>

If you have a need for debris boxes (20 yd), gravel and/or dirt boxes just let me know. Good to shop locally and we offer quick delivery and pickup. email: rob.skinner@gmail.com

When placing an ad: Please limit each ad to 45 words.

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, make a request to "run until canceled". It is best to resubmit ads for each issue. **Next deadline: September 15, 2019**

Classified Ads are free to SSA members. Membership is \$20 per year. The online SSA membership application is at www.southskyline.org.

Email ads to: skylineseditor@yahoo.com

SOUTH SKYLINE ASSOCIATION
 400 Skyline Blvd.
 La Honda, CA 94020

SSA 2019 CALENDAR

SSA General Meeting - Sunday August 25, 4:00-7:00pm
 at the home of Guy Lalonde - 100 Rocky Creek Rd.

Board Meetings will be held on:

September 12

October 10

November 14

For locations and more information contact

Michael Rowe rowe517@icloud.com • 408-872-1775

Current SSA Board Members

Dave Anderson	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County	Website, Public Safety
Kristen Anderson	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County	Treasurer
Patti Begley	Highway 9 - Santa Cruz County	Skylines, Website Committee
Barbara Bekins	Highway 35 - Rocky Creek	Secretary, Website Committee
Debra Born	Alpine Road	Membership Chair, SSFC, Web Comm.
Evan Dellor	Rosemary Lane	Vice-President
Rich Lee	Portola Heights	SSEPO
Maura McNamara	Waterman Gap	Board Insurance , Chief Fun Officer
Jerry Parsons	Las Cumbres	SSEPO
Michael Rowe	Highway 9 – Santa Cruz County	President
Ruth Van Sciver	South of Black Rd.	SCMEPA
Guy Lalonde	Highway 35 - Rocky Creek	Host of 50th Anniversary Event
Dick Schwind	Highway 35—North of Hwy 9	50th Anniversary Event

Skylines Ads and News Articles: **The deadline for submitting ads and articles for the next issue is September 15, 2019.**

Skylines is published once a quarter: January/April/July/October.

Skylines invites individuals to submit articles and artwork.

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

Send all ads and articles to: SkylinesEditor@yahoo.com