

Summer 2026 Docent Naturalist Guided Activities

Greg Hughes

Are you ready to explore and enjoy the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District preserves? We invite you to discover these extraordinary places that include many thousands of acres of permanently protected open space, from redwood forest to bay shoreline. All guided activities are developed and provided by docent naturalists who have completed an extensive training program. These docents volunteer their time to enrich your experiences and share knowledge with you about natural and cultural history.

To pique your interest, take a look here at the list of guided activities and then refer to our website openspace.org/guided-activities for all additional needed details. The activities are FREE and only some require reservations. Please note that some preserves have more than one access point and some activities meet at a preserve or location other than where the guided activity will occur. If there is no special "where to meet" information then the activity meets at the preserve's main parking area. For accessibility inquiries, reach out to adacoordinator@openspace.org or by phone at (650) 691-1200 or by dialing the California Relay Service at 711.

June

Explorer Hike: Nutmegs and Ferns of Red Mountain

Wednesday, June 3
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Long Ridge Preserve
Meet: Saratoga Gap Vista Point Parking Area
5 miles [M](#) [L](#)

Water Wonders

Friday, June 5
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve
Meet: Skeggs Point Parking Area
6.5 miles [S](#) [L](#)

Hike to Black Mountain

Saturday, June 6
10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Monte Bello Preserve
7 miles [S](#) [L](#)

Tectonic Bike Ride

Sunday, June 7
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Monte Bello Preserve
8 miles [R](#) [B](#)

Earthquake Trivia

Sunday, June 7
2 – 4:30 p.m.

Los Trancos Preserve
2 miles [E](#) [F](#)

Redwood Ramble

Monday, June 8
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve
5.5 miles [S](#)

Spectacular Seeds

Tuesday, June 9
10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Willowbrook-Alpine Roadside Parking
3 miles [E](#)

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday, June 10
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Lower Windy Hill Parking Area
5 miles [S](#)

History Hike: Martin & Schilling

Thursday, June 11
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Thornwood Preserve
4 miles [R](#) [M](#)

Signs of Summer

Thursday, June 11
9 – 11:30 a.m.

Pulgas Ridge Preserve
2.75 miles [M](#)

From Sawmill to Seminary to Open Space

Friday, June 12
9 a.m. – Noon

Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve
3.5 miles [M](#)

A Cool Summer Retreat

Friday, June 12
10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Long Ridge Preserve
4.5 miles [M](#) [L](#)

Butterflies of Sierra Azul

Friday, June 12
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

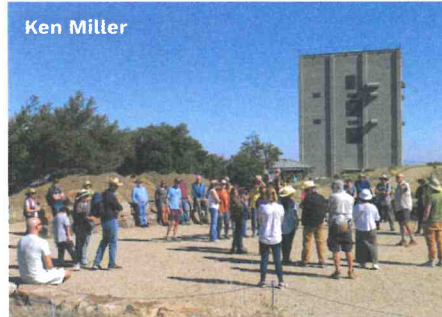
Sierra Azul Preserve
Meet: Bald Mountain Parking Area
5 miles [M](#) [L](#)

Try Your Hand at Nature Journaling

Sunday, June 14
9:30 a.m. – Noon

Skyline Ridge Preserve
Meet: Russian Ridge Parking Area
0.5 mile [E](#) [W](#)

Ken Miller



Sentinel in the Sky

Sunday, June 14
1 – 3 p.m.

Sierra Azul Preserve
Meet: Mount Umunhum Summit Parking Area
0.25 mile [M](#)

Flowers: Up Close and Personal

Tuesday, June 16
9 a.m. – Noon

Ravenswood Preserve
3 miles [E](#) [W](#)

Explorer Hike: Chestnut Blooms Abuzzing

Wednesday, June 17
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Long Ridge Preserve
3.5 miles [R](#) [M](#) [L](#)

Don't Look Up – Summer Edition

Friday, June 19
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve
Meet: Skeggs Point Parking Area
5 miles [S](#) [L](#)

History on Two Wheels

Saturday, June 20
9:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Fremont Older Preserve
10 miles [B](#)

Summer Solstice at Audrey's Way

Sunday, June 21

5 – 9 p.m.

Russian Ridge Preserve
Meet: Mindego Gateway Parking Area
6 miles [S](#) [L](#)

Trail Trek Thursday

Thursday, June 25

9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Monte Bello Preserve
Meet: Picchetti Ranch Parking Area
4.75 miles [R](#) [M](#) [L](#)

Surviving Paradise

Friday, June 26

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Monte Bello Preserve
3.5 miles [M](#)

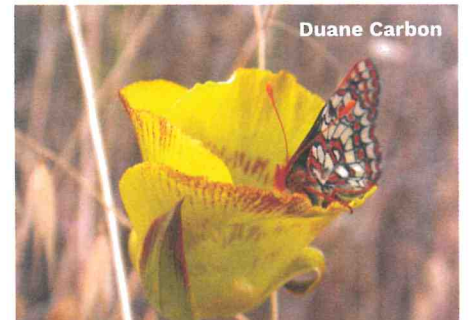
The Very Hungry Butterfly!

Saturday, June 27

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Skyline Ridge Preserve
Meet: Russian Ridge Parking Area
2 miles [E](#) [F](#) [L](#)

Duane Carbon



Ramble at Rancho

Monday, June 29

9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Rancho San Antonio Preserve
Meet: Lot 6
7 miles [S](#) [L](#)

Full Moon on Black Mountain

Monday, June 29

6:30 – 11 p.m.

Monte Bello Preserve
6 miles [R](#) [S](#) [L](#)

July

Explorer Hike: Law of the Land

Wednesday, July 1

10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Lower Windy Hill Parking Area
3.5 miles [M](#) [L](#)

Faultlines and History

Sunday, July 5
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Monte Bello Preserve
2 miles **E F**

Early Morning Meanderings

Monday, July 6
8 – 10:30 a.m.
Thornewood Preserve
3 miles **M L**

Flowers: Up Close and Personal

Tuesday, July 7
9 a.m. – Noon
Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Picnic Tables Roadside Parking
4 miles **M**



Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday, July 8
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Long Ridge Preserve
Meet: Saratoga Gap Vista Point Parking Area
5 miles **M**

Literature & Lore

Thursday, July 9
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Skyline Ridge Preserve
Meet: Skyline Ridge Equestrian Parking Area
4.75 miles **M**

Looking for Lizards

Saturday, July 11
9 a.m. – Noon
Edgewood County Park
Meet: Clarkia Trailhead on Cañada Rd.
2 miles **E F L**

Tectonic Bike Ride

Saturday, July 11
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Monte Bello Preserve
8 miles **R B**

Big History, Small Preserve

Saturday, July 11
4 – 6:30 p.m.
Thornewood Preserve
4 miles **R M**

Sentinel in the Sky

Sunday, July 12
1 – 3 p.m.
Sierra Azul Preserve
Meet: Mount Umunhum Summit Parking Area
0.25 mile **M**

Explorer Hike: Leopard Lily & More!

Wednesday, July 15
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve
Meet: Skeggs Point Parking Area
5 miles **S L**

Signs of Summer

Thursday, July 16
9 a.m. – Noon
Pulgas Ridge Preserve
4.25 miles **M**

Adaptations at the Marsh

Friday, July 17
10 a.m. – Noon
Ravenswood Preserve
2 miles **E F W**

Moth Night

Sunday, July 19
8:30 – 11:30 p.m.
Monte Bello Preserve
0 miles **R E F L W**

Ramble at Rancho

Monday, July 20
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Rancho San Antonio Preserve
Meet: Lot 6
5.5 miles **S**

Stay Cool! Discover the Redwoods

Friday, July 24
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve
5.5 miles **S L**

Moonrise from Borel Hill

Tuesday, July 28
6 – 9 p.m.
Russian Ridge Preserve
4 miles **R S L**

Trail Trek Thursday

Thursday, July 30
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Willowbrook-Alpine Roadside Parking
8 miles **S L**

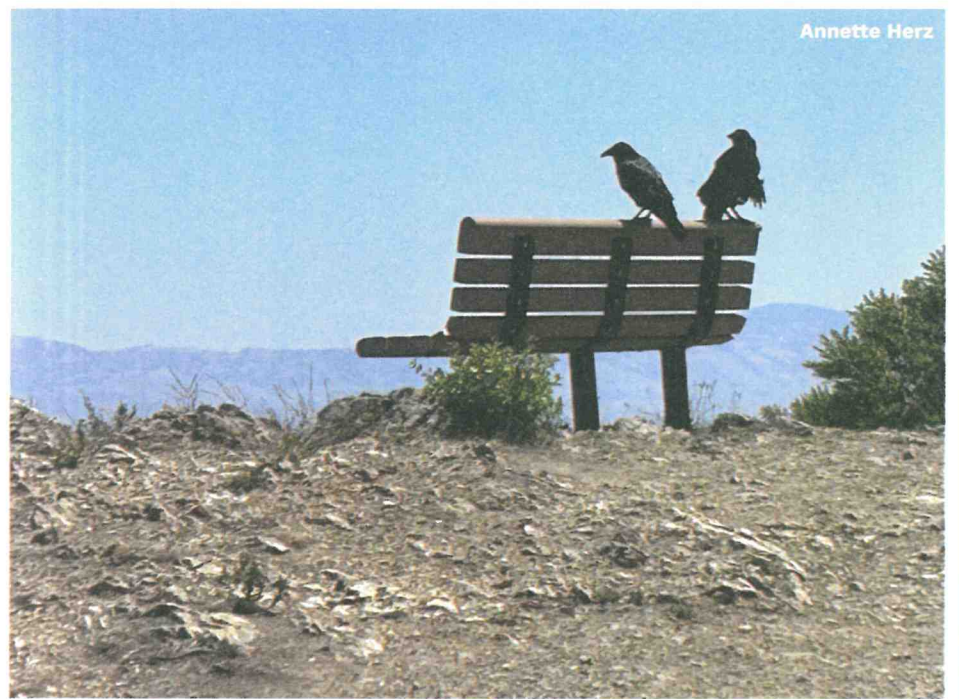


Stumps and Survivors

Friday, July 31
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve
Meet: El Corte de Madera Creek Parking Area
4.75 miles **R S L**

Sunset at Mindego Hill

Friday, July 31
5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Russian Ridge Preserve
Meet: Mindego Gateway Parking Area
3.5 miles **M L**



August

Explorer Hike: Upper Purisima Creek Sampler

Wednesday, August 5
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Purisima Creek Redwoods Preserve
4.5 miles **S L**

Nature & The Gift Economy

Friday, August 7
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Long Ridge Preserve
4.75 miles **M L**

Bat-tastic Evening

Friday, August 7
7 – 9:30 p.m.
Skyline Ridge Preserve
Meet: Russian Ridge Parking Area
1.5 miles **R E F**

Flowers: Up Close and Personal

Saturday, August 8
9 a.m. – Noon
Long Ridge Preserve
Meet: Sempervirens Point Parking Area
3 miles **E**

Tectonic Bike Ride

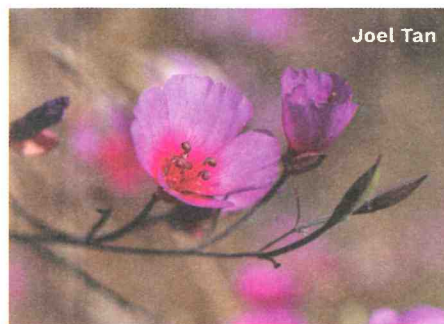
Saturday, August 8
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Monte Bello Preserve
8 miles **R B**

Tuning in to Twilight

Saturday, August 8
6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Skyline Ridge Preserve
1.5 miles **R E**

Sentinel in the Sky

Sunday, August 9
1 – 3 p.m.
Sierra Azul Preserve
Meet: Mount Umunhum Summit Parking Area
0.25 mile **M**



A Botanical Scavenger Hunt

Monday, August 10
9 – 11 a.m.
Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Lower Windy Hill Parking Area
2 miles **E F**

Scenic Aerobic Hike

Wednesday, August 12
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve
5.5 miles **S**

Oaks of Portola Valley

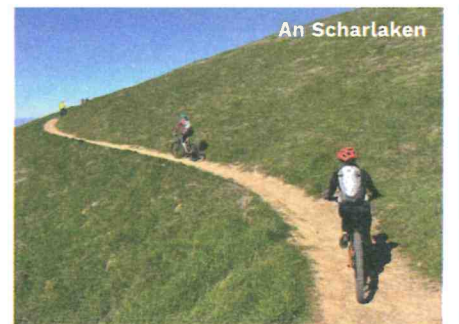
Thursday, August 13
9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Windy Hill Preserve
Meet: Lower Windy Hill Parking Area
5.5 miles **S**

Bat Night

Saturday, August 15
7 – 10 p.m.
Skyline Ridge Preserve
Meet: Russian Ridge Parking Area
2.5 miles **R E**

Wildcard Ramble at Rancho

Monday, August 17
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Rancho San Antonio Preserve
Meet: Lot 6
7.75 miles **S L**



Explorer Hike: Chilling With the Schillings

Wednesday, August 19
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Thornewood Preserve
4 miles **R M L**

Forest Bathing

Friday, August 21
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve
Meet: Skeggs Point Parking Area
4.5 miles **S L**

History on Two Wheels

Saturday, August 22
8:45 – 11:30 a.m.
Fremont Older Preserve
10 miles **B**

Sunset Summer Stroll

Saturday, August 22
4:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Russian Ridge Preserve
Meet: Silicon Valley Vista Point Roadside Parking
3.5 miles **R M**

Trail Trek Thursday

Thursday, August 27
9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
El Corte de Madera Creek Preserve
6 miles **S L**

Full Moon on Black Mountain

Thursday, August 27
5:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Monte Bello Preserve
6 miles **R S L**

Touch Grass! A Phone-Free Immersion

Sunday, August 30
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
La Honda Creek Preserve
7 miles **S L**

Legend

- E Easy Hike/Walk:** Flat to gently rolling hills. Total elevation gain less than 200 feet. Leisurely pace. Frequent stops. Usually less than 3 miles.
- M Moderate Hike:** Steeper or more frequent uphill grades. Total elevation gain 200 to 600 feet. Leisurely to moderate pace. Usually between 3 and 5 miles.
- S Strenuous Hike:** Steep hills and/or long distances. Total elevation gain greater than 600 feet. Moderate to vigorous pace. Usually more than 5 miles.
- B Bike Intermediate:** Intended for participants with dirt single-track riding experience; able to climb and descend steep and moderately rough trails. Recreational ride at a moderate/brisk pace; 8+ miles on a wide range of fire roads and single-track trails. For experienced riders in very good physical condition with good endurance.
- L Meal/Snack Break:** Bring a lunch, dinner or snack as appropriate.
- F Family Friendly:** Suitable for children; must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. See the activity description for any additional information.
- W Wheelchair Accessible**
- R Online Reservations Required:** [openspace.org/guided-activities](https://www.openspace.org/guided-activities) will accept reservations two weeks in advance of an activity date and allow a maximum of four people per reservation. No walk-up participation allowed. Please cancel your reservation if you can no longer attend.