



## EVENT ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **THREE DAY ACCESS WEEKEND AT THE MARE ISLAND SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE FREE GUIDED HIKES AND A “SNOW DAY” ON SATURDAY**

[VALLEJO], CA – January 8, 9am to 5pm is the 2nd Saturday Access Day at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve hosted by Mare Island Heritage Trust. The Preserve is now open three days a week Friday through Sunday 10am-5pm staffed by volunteers. Once the only open day at the Preserve, the 2nd Saturday continues a special day of programming including guided hikes to areas of the Preserve normally off-limits still to the public, and free activities and refreshments at the Visitors Center. This weekend is expected to be generally sunny, advantageous for artists encouraged to paint in the Preserve for a regional “paintout” category in the art show for the upcoming 15th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, February 11-13, 2011. The public is welcome to visit the Preserve free of charge. A morning hike to the Historic Southshore led by Sierra Club hike leader Kenn Browne starts from the Visitors Center at 9:30am Saturday, January 8, with a naturalist led hike beginning at 3pm. The Preserve is located at 1595 Railroad Ave. on Mare Island

Beginning at 2pm in the Visitors Center Preserve volunteers will host the second annual “snow day”. All ages will enjoy cutting out paper snowflakes and making snow men and women with marshmallows to dunk in hot chocolate. Myrna Hayes, Volunteer Preserve Manager described her inspiration for a “snow day” at the Preserve: “When I thought about what would be fun for visitors to the Preserve in January last year, I remembered my late friend Linda’s little stuffed toy snowman and it inspired me to declare this a “snow day”. We won’t have real snow, but our volunteers will serve hot apple cider, hot chocolate and snowmen and snowwomen cookies. Why not save that long trip to snow country!”, she said.

Although the event is free, donations help to keep the Preserve open regularly. Donations will also make possible the Preserve volunteer’s ability to increase the number of open days in the future.

During the Access Day the public can walk or ride bicycles on a self-guided paved roadway trail with 14 interpretive stops along the 2-mile roundtrip route to the top of the hill and beyond. The hike to the Historic Southshore is scheduled from 9:30am to 11:30am. Snacks and drinks will be available for sale. The Preserve is open rain or shine. Dress in layers. A picnic area is available. Dogs are allowed on leash.

Key features of the Preserve are spectacular scenic vistas encompassing 7 Bay Area counties, Mt. Diablo, Mt. Tamalpais and Mt. St. Helena, the Carquinez Strait and Sonoma and Napa Valleys and the U.S. Navy's first cemetery in the Pacific, founded in 1858. Visitors may also view interpretive displays and an art show by members of the Benicia Plein Air Group portraying the Preserve at the Visitors Center in a former munitions storage magazine, Building A-167. Visit [www.mareislandpreserve.org](http://www.mareislandpreserve.org) for directions to the Preserve, located at 1595 Railroad Ave. on Mare Island.

The first parcels of the Preserve, were transferred to the City of Vallejo in a grant from the legislature through the California State Lands Commission in 2002 for public trust uses such as a park, for all Californians. The remainder of the 215-acre site is still undergoing environmental cleanup by the U.S. Navy. Volunteers have hosted free public access on the second Saturday of each month since April 2008 with expanded hours to every weekend Fri-Sun beginning in October 2010 through a use agreement with the City of Vallejo.

The Preserve will be open Friday, Saturday and Sunday February 11-13, 2011 from 10am to 5pm during the 15th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival.

**Info.** Call 707-557-9816 or 707-249-9633.

Visit our website: [www.mareislandpreserve.org](http://www.mareislandpreserve.org)



Please note: Tours of The Preserve are available to any reporter or photographer covering this event. Call Myrna Hayes, 707-557-9816 or 707-249-9633 (cell) to schedule. Other "snow day" photos and resolutions available.