



## EVENT ADVISORY

March 9, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **THREE DAY ACCESS WEEKEND AT THE MARE ISLAND SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE FREE GUIDED HISTORIC SHORELINE AND WILDFLOWER HIKES ON SATURDAY**

[VALLEJO], CA – March 12, 9am to 6pm 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-sunset 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. 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 Palmer's Hut at the Visitors Center at 9:30am with a first of the season naturalist-led wildflower hike beginning at 1:30pm. The Preserve is located at 1595 Railroad Ave. on Mare Island

During the Access Day the public can walk or ride bicycles on a self-guided paved roadway trail with 14 interpretive stops along the 3-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. The Preserve is open rain or shine. Dress in layers. A picnic area is available. Dogs are allowed on leash.

Although entrance to the Preserve is free, donations help to keep the Preserve open regularly. Donations will also make possible Preserve volunteer's ability to increase the number of open days in the future and provide funds for purchase of tools and supplies for work parties, nature club activities and special events.

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.

### **Upcoming Events at the Preserve:**

**March 18- October 28      Friday evening Wine and Walks in the Preserve.** 4:30-7pm. Share cheap, good wine or bring your own and appetizers at the Visitors Center and other locations in the Preserve, followed by a docent led Preserve walk to view sunsets and visit sites such as the naval cemetery, Rowser Garden and bunkers.

**April 9      3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Access Day** Sierra Club led hike to the Historic Southshore, 9:30am, Anniversary cake-cutting 2pm, wildflower display at Visitors Center and Native Plant ID class, 2:30pm, followed by naturalist-led wildflower and nature walk 3:30pm

**April 16      Sierra Club led Birdwatching and Naval Ordnance Worker Housing Grounds Wildflower Walk** 9:30am. Meet at Palmer's Hut.

**April 23      Saturday, Earth Day Preserve the Preserve and the Planet Work Party** 9:00am-1:00pm. Meet at the Visitors Center for 9:30am orientation, safety talk and volunteer sign-in. Project site tour and start work 10:00am.

**April 23      Saturday, Earth Day Preserve the Preserve and the Planet Family Nature Club Outing** 10:00am-12noon. Meet at Visitors Center for short orientation and safety talk and sign-up. No preregistration needed. All ages welcome.

**April 23      Saturday, Easter Golf Ball Hunt and Egg Exchange** Visitors Center, Mare Island Heritage Preserve south end of Railroad Ave. All ages.

**April 29      Friday, Historic Naval Ammunition Depot and Shipyard Boat Tour with Dolphin Charters and Mare Island Heritage Trust.** 10:00am-3:00pm. \$60 per person. Bring lunch. Leave from Vallejo Marina Guest Dock. Reservations: call 510-527-9622 or 1-800-472-9942.

**May 1      Sunday, May Day on Mare island Springtime Tours and Tea** Self-guided and guided wildflower walks, birdwatching walks, horse-drawn carriage rides, history tours and the Daffodil Tea, two seatings at 12noon and 3pm.

**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 these events. Call Myrna Hayes, 707-557-9816 or 707-249-9633 (cell) to schedule.

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