

**MARE ISLAND
SHORELINE
HERITAGE
PRESERVE**



EVENT ADVISORY

October 26, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Myrna Hayes, Executive Director and President, Mare Island Heritage Trust and Volunteer Preserve Manager

CELL PH: 707-249-9633

EEmail: myrnahay@pacbell.net

www.mareislandpreserve.org

HAUNTED TRAILS AND TALES AT THE MARE ISLAND SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE

PUBLIC INVITED TO GET SPOOKED FOR A GOOD CAUSE

[VALLEJO], CA –Saturday evening October 29, 2011, 6:00pm-10:00pm the public is invited to “**Haunted Trails and Tales**” at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve located at the southern end of Railroad Ave. on Mare Island. The cost for adults is \$5.00 each and children 14 and under are free for the Halloween-themed fundraising event. Children 14 and younger must be accompanied by an adult.

Plenty of scary moments await along the decorated and spooky self-guided half-mile trail marked with landscape lights that begins near the Preserve entrance gate following a route that includes a stop at an abandoned bomb storage magazine, through “fennel forests to the Preserve Visitors Center. The Visitors Center, also a former bomb storage magazine, will be decorated for Halloween, where volunteers will serve resuscitating refreshments. The Haunted Trail continues along an old railroad line to a small arms storage bunker situated on a hillside near the final stop at the Navy’s oldest cemetery in the Pacific, founded in 1858. Upon return to the Visitors Center, visitors may gather around a campfire for a few ghost stories and make s’mores and sip hot drinks available for purchase at the Visitors Center.

The public may come dressed in costume, although costumes are not required. Comfortable shoes for trail walking are highly recommended. Bring flashlights.

The following day, Sunday, October 30, 2011, the Preserve is open regular hours 10am to sunset. From 2:00pm to 6:00pm Preserve volunteers hold the *4th Annual “Be Wary of Scary” Halloween/Harvest Party*, with pumpkin carving, evening guided hikes in bunkers and the cemetery and a campfire with s’mores making.

The Preserve will be open regular hours during the weekend, 10am to sunset Friday, Saturday and Sunday October 28-30. An afternoon docent-led nature and history walk in the Shoreline Heritage Preserve

starts Saturday and Sunday at 3:30pm from the Visitors Center.

The Preserve is located at 1595 Railroad Ave. at the southern end of Railroad Ave. south of Touro University and the Army Reserve on Mare Island. The Preserve trailhead is located at the southern end of Railroad Ave. where visitors may walk on the paved road trail leading to the oldest U.S. Naval cemetery in the Pacific, continuing their ascent through portions of the Naval Ammunition Depot National Register Historic District to the scenic lookout at the top of Mare Island Hill with panoramic views of seven counties, Mt. Tamalpais, Mt. Diablo and the Napa and Sonoma Valleys. Picnic grounds are located on a former tennis court adjacent to the cemetery with nearby ammunition bunkers to explore. During the open days 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 Preserve is open rain or shine. Dress in layers. Dogs are allowed on leash.

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. The daily afternoon nature and history walks leave from the Visitors Center and are guided by Myrna Hayes, Preserve Manager and long-time Mare Island volunteer. This walk is about 1.5 miles and leisurely and will leave from the Preserve Visitors Center at 3:30pm. Wear comfortable shoes and a hat and bring water and snacks, sunscreen, binoculars and cameras.

Although entrance to the Preserve is free, donations help to keep the all-volunteer run 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, historic preservation, native plant restoration and special events, such as *Haunted Trails and Tales* and *Be Wary of Scary*.

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. Additional parcels were transferred in the Fall of 2010. 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 Friday-Sunday beginning in October 2010 through a use agreement with the City of Vallejo.

Other Upcoming Events at the Preserve:

October 29 Saturday evening **Haunted Trails and Tales in Bunkers and the Cemetery** fundraiser/hair-raiser for the Preserve. \$5.00 per person. Get spooked and scared along a trail in the Preserve with scary surprises along the journey. Ghost tales with refreshments in the Visitors Center following.

October 30, Sunday, 2:00-6:00pm **“Be Wary of Scary” Halloween/Harvest Party**, pumpkin carving,

evening guided hikes in bunkers and the cemetery.

November 11, open Friday **Veterans Day** 9:00am and November 12, Second Saturday Access, Sierra Club hike 9:30am.

November 24-January 1, 5:00pm-8:00pm “**Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk**” six weekends Friday through Sunday with a sneak preview Thanksgiving Day evening.

December 10, 2:00pm-8:00pm “**4th Annual Carols in a Bunker Festival**” Music, Mare Island Aglow Lighted Trail Walk with docent guided full moon walk at 6:00pm, refreshments, holiday items for sale, a silent auction and s’mores at the campfire.

December 21, Wednesday, 5:00pm-10:00pm **3rd Annual Winter Solstice Party** at the Visitors Center, potluck, campfire, Mare Island Aglow Holiday Lighted Trail Walk

Info. Call 707-249-9633.

Visit our website: www.mareislandpreserve.org

Please note: High resolution photos of the Historic Shoreline available. 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.

###