



**MARE ISLAND
SHORELINE
HERITAGE
PRESERVE**

EVENT ADVISORY

May 26, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FREE MEMORIAL DAY SHUTTLE TO CEMETERY SERVICE AT THE MARE ISLAND SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE AFTERNOON GUIDED WILDFLOWER, NATURE AND HISTORY WALKS DAILY

[VALLEJO], CA – Monday, May 30, beginning at 8:45am, a free shuttle will be offered from the Visitors Center to the Mare Island Naval Cemetery those not wishing to walk the short distance to the Cemetery for the 9am Memorial Day ceremony. The shuttle is provided by the Mare Island Heritage Trust and Michael's Transportation. The Preserve will be open 10am to 8pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday May 27-29 and 9am to 8pm Monday, May 30 Memorial Day. An afternoon docent-led wildflower, nature and history walk in the Shoreline Heritage Preserve starts daily at 3:30pm from the Visitors Center. Picnic grounds are located on a former tennis court adjacent to the cemetery with nearby ammunition bunkers to explore. Friday May 27, Preserve volunteers continue their weekly Friday evening *Wine and Walks in the Preserve* 4:30-7pm. Share appetizers and cheap, good wine or bring your own 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 former ammunition bunkers.

The Preserve will continue to open three days a week every Friday through Sunday 10am-sunset staffed by volunteers of the Mare Island Heritage Trust. The public is welcome to visit the Preserve free of charge. 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.

Preserve users will have the opportunity to view nesting osprey and great blue herons on their walk on the paved road trail leading to the oldest U.S. Naval cemetery in the Pacific and winding 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.

The daily afternoon wildflower, nature and history walks will be 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.

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. 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, historic preservation, native plant restoration and special events.

Key features of the Preserve are spectacular scenic vistas encompassing seven 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 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. 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 Fri-Sun beginning in October 2010 through a use agreement with the City of Vallejo.

Upcoming Events at the Preserve:

May 30 Memorial Day in the Preserve. 9:00am-8:00pm. The Preserve will be open for regular public access throughout the Memorial Day weekend including Monday, Memorial Day. The Mare Island Historic Park Foundation conducts its traditional Memorial Day service at the Mare Island Naval Cemetery at 9:00am. Arrive in time to park and walk to the cemetery. Only cars displaying a handicapped placard will be allowed vehicle access.

June 11 Second Saturday Access Day 9:00am-8:00pm. Sierra Club naturalist led hike at 9:30am. A 2pm Naval Cemetery service of history and music will honor 15 members of the crew of the USS Boston killed in an explosion at the Mare Island Naval Ammunition Depot, one hundred and nineteen years ago on June 13, 1892. Nature and history docent led walk at 3:30pm.

June 24 Friday, Historic Naval Ammunition Depot and Shipyard Boat Tour with Dolphin Charters, Mare Island Heritage Trust and The Society for the History of Navy Medicine. 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. (this is an expected date, call to confirm)

August 12-14 4th Annual Mare Faire 10:00am-8:00pm. Naturalist and docent-led hikes throughout the Island, exhibits, music, food and a silent auction at the Preserve Visitors Center.

Info. Call 707-557-9816 or 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.