



**MARE ISLAND
SHORELINE
HERITAGE
PRESERVE**

EVENT ADVISORY

September 28, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND CELEBRATION AT THE MARE ISLAND SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE AFTERNOON GUIDED NATURE AND HISTORY WALKS SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

[VALLEJO], CA – The upcoming weekend of Saturday, October 1 and Sunday October 2 marks the 1st anniversary of the expanded public access program at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve. One year ago, volunteer Preserve Manager Myrna Hayes, announced plans to open the Preserve every weekend Friday through Sunday, 10am to sunset. The public is invited to the First Anniversary **Open Every Weekend Celebration!** Hike, bike, picnic, explore the Preserve's bunkers and cemetery and learn at the Visitors Center. A BBQ and ice cream will be served Sunday afternoon. Visitors may sample fennel pollen seasonings at the Visitors Center, join a nature and history walk that includes a tour of the historic Rowser Garden and even swing on a tree swing in the Garden.

The Preserve will be open 10am to sunset Friday, Saturday and Sunday September 30 to October 2 10:00am to sunset. An afternoon docent-led nature and history walk in the Shoreline Heritage Preserve starts Saturday and Sunday 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.

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.

The Preserve trailhead is located at the southern end of Railroad Ave. on Mare Island 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.

The daily afternoon 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:

October 8 Second Saturday Access Day, Sierra Club hike in the Preserve 9:30am-11:30am.

October 15 Saturday 9am-3pm LCS 102 WWII Gunboat open for tours. (Berth 6 A St. and Nimitz Ave)

October 16, Sunday 11am-4pm LCS 102 WWII Gunboat open for tours. (Berth 6 A St. and Nimitz Ave)

Lost Boats of Mare Island Memorial

1:30pm Flag-raising Morton Field (Railroad Ave. at G St.) with Travis AFB honor guard and California Maritime Academy Merchant Marine Detachment

2:15pm Berth 6 (Nimitz Ave at A St.)

- ★ **Refreshments**
- ★ **Memorial Service**
- ★ **Wreath-laying**

Honor the seven submarines built on Mare Island and lost at sea during WWII featuring a presentation entitled: "Richard Heatherington O'Kane and the Lost Boats" by Larry Maggini, author "The Lost Boats of Mare Island". Book available at the Memorial.

October 23 Sunday, **Historic Naval Ammunition Depot, Russian American Navy at Mare Island and Shipyard Boat Tour** with Dolphin Charters, Mare Island Heritage Trust and John Middleton, Russian Historian 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.

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

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.

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