

MARE ISLAND SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE

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HERITAGE
PRESERVE



SECOND SATURDAY ACCESS DAYS

A PROJECT OF ARC ECOLOGY P O BOX 1573 VALLEJO, CA 94590

EVENT ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2ND ANNUAL GOLF BALL HUNT AND EASTER EGG EXCHANGE AND 2ND ANNIVERSARY OF SECOND SATURDAY ACCESS DAY MARE ISLAND SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE

2ND ON 2ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FREE AND FUN AT THE PRESERVE

[VALLEJO}, CA – April 3, 2010 the 2nd Annual Golf Ball Hunt and Easter Egg Exchange will take place at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Visitors Center at 2pm. Children may exchange up to 20 found golf balls for easter egg candy. Some specially marked balls will be good for prizes. Myrna Hayes, hunt organizer says, “Preserve volunteer Sue Wilson’s [Youtube video](#) of last year’s first ever golf ball hunt shows just how much fun a golf ball and egg hunt at our former bomb storage magazine really is.” The Preserve will be open 9am-7pm with self-guided access throughout the Preserve. The Visitors Center will be open throughout the day.

The following Saturday an anniversary celebration called “*2nd on 2nd*” from 9am-7pm will mark the second year the public has had access to the Shoreline Heritage Preserve through Second Saturday Access Days hosted by Arc Ecology. Both the Easter Egg hunt and the 2nd Saturday event are free of charge, although donations help ensure continued free access to the 98-acres of the planned 215 acre Preserve. There will be guided hikes and a naturalist led wildlife walk and visitors may walk and bike at their own pace along a 3 mile roundtrip paved trail to the scenic hilltop and beyond with 14 learning guideposts along the route. Bring a picnic or purchase hot dogs, drinks and bake sale items. A detailed schedule is available on the website. Features of the anniversary event include a Sierra Club Solano Group led 4-mile roundtrip hike along the historic Southshore not normally open to the public from 9:30am to 11:30am, a naturalist led off-road wildflower and native plant walk at 12noon and cake-

cutting at 2pm. Volunteer work parties scheduled at 10am will refurbish a large picnic table and continue restoration efforts at the Bob and Alma Rowser Historic Gardens.

The Preserve is open rain or shine. Dress in layers. During the Access Day the public can walk or ride bicycles on a self-guided trail with 14 interpretive stops along the paved road to the hilltop and continue on the roadway to explore bunkers beyond the hill. Dogs are allowed on leash.

SCHEDULE for April 10

9am-7pm Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Self-guided Walk

Plan to check in with volunteers at the “Palmer hut” and head out on the paved road trail with 14 points of interest. Walk or bike at your own pace as far as you like on the 1.2 mile paved road to the hilltop scenic vista. Continue another 1/2 mile to explore two small bunkers on the west-facing roadway that forms a warmer “bench” protected from the wind and overlooking San Pablo Bay.

9:30am-11:30am Sierra Club Led Hike

Sierra Club-Solano Group hike leader Kenn Browne often guides hikes that coincide with the Second Saturdays along the south shore following the Napa River/Mare Island Strait to its convergence with San Pablo Bay and the Carquinez Strait at Pier 35. Walk near nests of great blue herons (5 confirmed as of March 5, 2010) and ospreys (2 confirmed as of March 5, 2010) perched high above on abandoned light poles and pass by the oldest munitions storage magazines on the Island, which celebrated their 150th anniversary in 2007. The 4-mile roundtrip hike is on level paved and dirt roads in an area slated for expanded regional parklands but not yet open to the the public. For more information call Kenn at 707-319-1846. Meet at the “Palmer Hut” at the Visitor Center entrance past the gate at the south end of Railroad Ave.

10am Refurbish a giant picnic table volunteer work party

Meet at the picnic grounds on the old tennis court at Guidepost 2 near the naval cemetery. A volunteer will help you sand and seal the 12 foot long picnic table of solid and very old wood from somewhere on Mare Island.

10am Historic Gardens restoration and invasive plant removal

Meet at Guidepost 6 at the Bob and Alma Rowser Historic Gardens for a couple of hours of scotch broom pulling and clearing, sweeping, raking, trimming and dreaming of what this 5 acre garden must once have looked like, the families who lived in the duplex home for 30 years and what the garden might become. Bring gloves, rakes, shovels, brooms, saws, pruners and tarps or use ours.

12noon-1:30pm Search for wildflowers and native plants on easy off-road route

This is the prime time of year for discovery of California native plants. After 150 years of Navy presence and use of the original Mare Island and earlier by the Spanish for horse grazing, with reports of up to 3,000 tule elk grazing on the site, it is a wide world of possibilities for the discovery of natives and even the distinct possibility of finding rare plants here. Start out on a popular trail which is a remnant of the historic Mare Island lighthouse closed in 1917, that leads to a “secret garden” of natives on the bluff overlooking the Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay. Not suitable for young children or pets. Meet at the Palmer hut. Bring water and snacks. Rain or shine.

12noon-2pm hot dogs, gardenburgers, sodas, drinks and a bake sale at the Visitors Center

2pm anniversary cake cutting at the Visitors Center

2:30pm-3:30pm Guided walk in the Preserve

Join Preserve volunteer Myrna Hayes for a fact and fable filled leisurely walk and talk on the first 6 stops of the trail to the top of Mare Island's highest point. Go as far as you like along the remainder of the trail. The entire 2-mile roundtrip paved route winds from sea level to 284 ft. which doesn't sound like much until you arrive at the hilltop with stupendous views of 7 Bay Area counties, Mt. Diablo, Mt. Tamalpais, Mt. St. Helena, the Coast Range, East Bay Hills, the Carquinez Bridges and the Sonoma and Napa Valleys. Meet at the "Palmer hut" at the entrance to the Preserve Visitors Center through the gate at the south end of Railroad Ave.

4pm-4:45pm Slide show of the history, current uses and future plans for the Preserve

Learn about the Navy's oldest ammunition depot in the Pacific founded on the property in 1857 and its oldest cemetery in the West founded in 1858. A great visit to the Preserve even for those who can't hike and walk.

5-6:30pm Music jam session in the bunkers and magazines

Only if people who play music bring their music and do it! The acoustics are fabulous. Come out and see how you sound.

COST: Free. Donations help to both keep the Preserve open the one day per month and lead to Preserve volunteer's ability to increase the number of open days and underwrite the portable accessible restroom facilities. Visit www.mareislandpreserve.org for directions to the Preserve.

At the next Second Saturday Access Day, May 8th, Preserve volunteers will serve a Mother's Day "cream tea" in the Bob and Alma Rowser Historic Gardens overlooking the Carquinez Strait at 2pm. The Preserve will be open 9am-8pm. A hike on the Historic Southshore will begin at 9:30am.

The first parcels of the property in which the Access Day takes place, 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. Both areas are not normally open to the public. Arc Ecology has hosted free public access on the second Saturday of each month for 2 years through a use agreement with the City of Vallejo.

INFO. Call 707-649-9464 or 707-557-9816.

Visit our website: 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.

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