

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

September 6, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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www.mareislandpreserve.org

SECOND SATURDAY ACCESS DAY

MARE ISLAND SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE

FREE ICE CREAM SOCIAL CELEBRATES LAST

SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE ACCESS DAY OF THE SUMMER

[VALLEJO}, CA – During the next Second Saturday Access Day, September 11, 2010, 9am-7pm, Preserve volunteers will host a free Ice Cream Social at 2pm. Bring your own picnic. Cold sodas and waters will be for sale to benefit the Preserve. “We had a crowd at last year’s September ice cream social, so we are bringing it back as a fun way to celebrate the last Preserve access day of the summer. Our volunteers continue to come up with ways to welcome the public to the Preserve after it’s been off-limits to the public for more than 150 years”, notes Myrna Hayes, volunteer organizer of the Second Saturday Access Day hosted by Arc Ecology and the Mare Island Heritage Trust. Sierra Club hiker leader Kenn Browne guides a U.S. Navy escorted 4-mile roundtrip morning hike to the Historic Southshore. Meet at the “Palmer Hut” for a 9:30am departure. The hike is approximately 2 hours.

The Preserve is open rain or shine. Dress in layers. Dogs are allowed on leash. In a reminder to dog owners, Preserve Volunteer Naturalist Brian Collett said, “Especially during the hot days of fall, it is critical for dog owners to keep their dogs on a leash at all times in the Preserve to prevent an encounter with rattlesnakes and ticks and to reduce the risk of getting foxtails and other thorns in their coat.”

3-4pm Guided Walk in the Preserve

Preserve volunteer Myrna Hayes leads a history and nature hike beginning at 3pm that includes a stop at the Naval Cemetery and will end at the Rowser Historic Garden, a 75-year old garden which Preserve volunteers have been recovering as they remove the invasive non-native plant species, French broom from the approximately 5 acre site with sweeping vistas of the Carquinez and Mare Island Straits. Meet

at the “Bob Palmer hut” at the entrance to the Preserve Visitors Center through the gate at the south end of Railroad Ave. on Mare Island.

The 3-mile roundtrip main road trail to the highest point on Mare Island and beyond affords scenic vistas of 7 counties, Mt. Tamalpais, Mt. Diablo and the San Pablo Bay. A geological marker placed in 1852 by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey is a triangulation point used for surveying, along with markers located on Mt. Tamalpais and Mt. Diablo.

COST: Free. Donations help to keep the Preserve open regularly on the Second Saturday of each month, the only day that the Preserve is currently open except for special events, and underwrite the accessible portable restroom. Donations will also make possible the Preserve volunteer’s ability to increase the number of open days in the future.

DIRECTIONS: The Preserve is located at the southern end of Railroad Ave. on Mare Island in Vallejo, CA. From Interstate 80 take the Tennessee St./Mare Island exit. Follow Tennessee St. westbound across the blue Causeway and follow direction signs. From Hwy 37, take the Mare Island exit and continue southbound on Walnut Ave. to directions signs. Visit www.mareislandpreserve.org for detailed directions to the Preserve.

OCTOBER PUBLIC ACCESS: During the October 9, 9am-7pm Preserve visitors may hike the Historic Southshore at 9:30am and paint and decorate gourds, an October 2nd Saturday tradition, as well as hike, bike, explore and picnic. Saturday, October 30, 9am-6pm Preserve volunteers will host “Be Wary of Scary”, our popular Halloween themed Access Day at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve. Halloween fun includes pumpkin carving and gourd mask painting and an evening cemetery tour by flashlight and explore a bunker that might be a little scary or even haunted. Come to the Preserve dressed in costume. A Halloween bake sale along with hot dogs, sodas and water will be available for sale and benefit the Preserve. Of course, walk, hike, bike, read, bring the dog.

VOLUNTEER!! It’s fun! Volunteers are needed as gate greeters and docents, to prepare and serve food, decorate and help with pumpkin and gourd carving and tours. Fall garden and Preserve cleanup is ongoing and can be scheduled on days other than the open days or even during open access days.

The first 98-acres 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 volunteers have hosted free public access on the second Saturday of each month since April 2008 through a use agreement with the City of Vallejo.

INFO. Call 707-249-9633 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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