

MARE ISLAND SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE

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SECOND SATURDAY ACCESS DAYS HOSTED BY MARE ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

EVENT ADVISORY

September 20, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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October Second Saturday Access Day **Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve**

Hike the Historic Southshore, paint gourd masks, and take an evening cemetery tour

[VALLEJO}, CA – October 9, 2010 is Second Saturday Access Day at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve, 9am-7pm hosted by Mare Island Heritage Trust during which the public will have free access to 98-acres of the planned 215 acre Preserve. Preserve volunteers have planned fun for all ages throughout the day with a Sierra Club led hike to the Historic Southshore with a Navy escort, gourd mask painting, and an evening cemetery tour by flashlight beginning at 6:15pm at the Visitors Center. During the Access Day the public can walk or ride bicycles on a self-guided trail with 14 interpretive stops along the 2-mile roundtrip route to the top of the hill and beyond. Sierra Club hike 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. Barbecued food will be available from 12noon-2pm. Snacks and drinks will be for sale. The Preserve is open rain or shine. Dress in layers. A picnic area is located next to the Cemetery.

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 information about the operations of the former Naval Ammunition Depot, the Navy’s first in the Pacific

and plans for a Bomb Museum, a stop at the Naval Cemetery and ending 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.

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.

November Public Access: During the November 13, 9am-5pm Preserve visitors may hike the Historic Southshore at 9:30am, hike and bike, explore and picnic with an evening marshmallow roast at the Rowser Garden at 4pm. A service to honor the eight Russian sailors buried at the cemetery in 1863-1864 and in 1904-05 that will include representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian Consulate will be held at the Naval Cemetery at a time yet to be announced.

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. For 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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