



BAY AREA BARNs AND TRAILS

Helping Preserve Equestrian Land & Trails in the San Francisco Bay Area

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Muir Heritage Land Trust: BABTT Donates \$2,500 to Support Tina Batt Trail Dedication

Saturday, September 29, 2007

Bay Area Barns and Trails joins community groups, neighbors, volunteers, businesses, and corporations which are helping ensure that the Tina Batt Trail will be available for public access long into the future. BABTT also congratulates 'Volunteers for Outdoor California' and over 200 inspired volunteers who came together to help build the Tina Batt Trail on National Trail Days weekend, June 2-3, 2007. 'Groups of 6-10 people, each with its own crew leader, worked hard, had fun and together created this new spur of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, a 2-mile signature trail loop to honor Founding Executive Director, Tina Batt.'

'Perched high upon the Franklin Ridge, the Tina Batt Trail overlooks world class views of the Carquinez Strait and Mt. Diablo on one of the Muir Heritage Land Trust's premier properties, Sky Ranch. The Muir Heritage Land Trust has permanently preserved over 2000 acres of natural area in Contra Costa County, one of the fastest growing regions of California. "Generous support from numerous individuals, private foundations, businesses and government agencies has allowed the Land Trust to make important acquisitions: 702-acre Fernandez Ranch, adjacent to Hercules' southern border; 158-acre Dutra Ranch on Franklin Ridge, linking Sky Ranch with Gustin to form 660 acres of contiguous open country just east of Hercules' southern border; 80-acre Gustin property ensuring permanent protection of an important segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, which runs the length of Franklin Ridge from Martinez to Hercules and Crockett; 242-acre Sky Ranch, one property down Franklin Ridge from Mt. Wanda; 325-acre Mt. Wanda addition to the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez; 180 acres of Stonehurst open land within a subdivision in Martinez next to Sky Ranch; 124-acre Pacheco Marsh property within the Carquinez Strait Heritage Area Corridor, purchased in partnership with East Bay Regional Park District and Contra Costa County Flood Control District; and 7-acre Bodfish property on Miner Road in Orinda, managed in partnership with the Orinda Park and Recreation Foundation. For more information, Muir Heritage Land Trust 925-228-5460

www.muirheritagelandtrust.org

Solano Land Trust/Access Adventure: BABTT Donates \$2,500 to Support Disabled Access and Public Riding Opportunities at the Rush Ranch Facility

Access Adventure offers a unique horse drawn carriage driving program for people with disabilities. This donation will help fund a mounting block with special ramp plus some new hitchrails. These projects will add to other recently completed stable renovations at Rush Ranch. The Solano Land Trust is expanding expand public access and public equestrian programs that highlight the Ranch's agricultural heritage. BABTT has also donated \$ to support SLT's work at Lynch Canyon. www.access-adventure.org

www.solanolandtrust.org

Seven & One Half Miles of New Bay Area Ridge Trail Dedication: Pinole Watershed

Saturday, November 3, 2007

Location: Pinole, Contra Costa County

The Bay Area Ridge Trail and the East Bay Municipal Utility District will be opening a new trail through this beautiful property, previously not open to the public. Come join us as we dedicate 7.5 miles of new Ridge Trail!!

Schedule:

8:30: Coffee, juice & Bagels

9:00: Dedication & ribbon cutting celebration

9:30: Hikes and equestrian rides (this property is not open to bicycles at this time)

Directions: Download the Pinole Watershed Dedication Map

<http://www.ridgetrail.org/>

GGNRA Marin Equestrian Plan: update October 2007

The environmental review (EA) process should be ready to be circulated for public review and comment in Spring 2008... and be completed by Fall 2008

Project Purpose: To improve equestrian sites, facilities, programs, and management on GGNRA land in southern Marin County in a manner consistent with NPS plans and policies so that park natural and cultural resources are preserved and protected.

The Plan: NPS supports recreational horse use in southern Marin GGNRA lands. To better serve the public and protect natural and cultural resources, NPS is evaluating changes to the stables. The existing Marin stable sites are:

- Golden Gate Dairy Stables near Muir Beach,
- Tennessee Valley Stables near Mill Valley
- The Rodeo Valley Stables in the Marin Headlands

NPS will propose alternative actions to achieve consistency with NPS goals, policies and directives. Stable management and site locations will be reviewed and may change. The programs will be modified and expanded to better serve the riding and nonriding general public. Operations will comply with NPS policies. The stables currently operate on a month to month lease with NPS; longer lease agreements will benefit planning for both operators and the NPS.

Best Management Practices: To better protect the Natural Resources of GGNRA, such as native vegetation, wildlife, and water quality, Best Management Practices (BMPs) are being developed for incorporation into the operation of GGNRA horse stables.

Sample Best Management Practices:

- Locate equestrian facilities a minimum distance from all natural water courses.
- Treat stormwater runoff that comes in contact with the stable grounds; separate from cleaner stormwater that flows off the surrounding natural landscape and feeds creeks and wetlands.
- Collect all horse waste from the stables and paddocks daily and store in a covered receptacle.

Public Programs: As a Park Partner, stables will be expected to offer programs available

for general public participation. Public Programs might include:

- Trail Rides
- Rides for disabled visitors, outreach programs for disadvantaged youth
- Short-term overnight boarding of visiting horses

Cultural Resources: All three southern Marin stables are within a historic cultural landscape that includes buildings that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Environmental Review Process: NPS is in the process of preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. Currently, alternatives are being developed for the management of the stables, including maximum numbers of horses, accessibility, parking, natural and cultural resource protection, and BMPs. The EA is expected to be ready to be circulated for public review and comment in Spring 2008. The environmental review process should be completed by Fall 2008.

Contact: To be included on the Equestrian Plan mailing list, send your address to: Superintendent; Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Attn: Andrea Lucas, Fort Mason, Building 201, San Francisco, CA 94123

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/> [go to park site: "Golden Gate NRA"]

East Bay Regional Park District adds Tyler Ranch to its holdings

"Millionaire's help adds 1,476 acres to Pleasanton park"

"In its largest land deal in 17 years, the East Bay's regional park agency is teaming up with a high-tech millionaire to buy 1,476 acres of hilly grasslands and oak forests to expand Pleasanton Ridge Regional Park. The \$6.63 million sales agreement was unveiled Friday in advance of a park board vote Tuesday. Park officials say the Tyler Ranch property land along Sunol Ridge is a recreational gem. Rising from Nilas Canyon near sea level to 2,000 or more feet, the ridge has wide dirt trails for hiking, bicycling and horse riding, and panoramic views of the San Francisco Bay to the west and the San Ramon, Livermore and Central valleys to the east." -Contra Costa Times - Denis Cuff | 9/15/2007

East Bay Regional Park District Trails

The East Bay Regional Park District operates 50 parks and 20 trails totaling more than 75,000 acres. Founded in 1934 the District provides a variety of recreation opportunities for the residents of the Diablo Valley and the entire East Bay, from fishing, swimming and boating to jogging, cycling, and horseback riding. But the one objective of all the East Bay Parks is to protect the natural resources so that the residents of this area will be able to

enjoy them for generations to come. www.ebparks.org/

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

The Santa Clara County Open Space Authority owns over 13,000 acres of land and manages 1,000 acres as easements and mitigation lands. In its continuing effort to preserve land in a balanced manner, the Board has developed Study Areas for the different geographic regions within its boundaries. www.openspaceauthority.org/

The Future of Coyote Valley

www.openspaceauthority.org/Preservation/coyote_valley_greenbelt_recommendation.pdf

To help keep BABTT informed of acquisition, facility and trail maintenance opportunities and challenges in your area, please submit articles and photos to Bay Area Barns and Trails:

babtt2@earthlink.net

visit us online @ www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

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