



# BAY AREA BARNS AND TRAILS

E D U C A T I O N • S T E W A R D S H I P • P R E S E R V A T I O N FALL 2002

415-383-6283 • FAX 415-381-3809 • e-mail BABtt@earthlink.net • www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org

## SAVING LANDS AND TRAILS FOR HORSES IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

Bay Area Barns and Trails is a land and trails trust whose mission is to preserve publicly accessible trails, barns, stables, pastures, staging areas, and horse camps in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma Counties.

**Bay Area Barns and Trails (BABTT)** was incorporated in 1999 as a California non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation; Federal Tax Exemption was granted in November, 2000. We work with public and private landowners, trail associations, environmental and open space advocates, and community groups. We have encouraged, educated, advised, referred, and provided educational and financial help to equestrians in American Canyon, Bodega, Brentwood, Castro Valley, Fairfax, Half Moon Bay, Hayward, Lafayette, Livermore, Los Altos Hills, Lucas Valley, Martinez, Mendocino, Mill Valley, Napa, Orinda, Rossmoor, San Geronimo Valley, San Rafael, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Saratoga, Sonoma, Walnut Creek...and Massachusetts! Since November 2000 - thirteen equestrian organizations or public agencies have been awarded \$37,000 in acquisition, stewardship, education and capacity building grants.

**LTA Standards and Practices Adopted**  
Bay Area Barns and Trails adopted a resolution of support for the Land Trust Alliance 'Standards and Practices' during the May 2002 Annual Meeting. Land Trust Alliance 'Standards and Practices' are guidelines to operating a sound, effective, and sustainable land conservation program including the implementation of sound programs of land stewardship, public/private landowner support, education, and transactions; and demonstrates that the organization operates legally, ethically, and in the public interest.

## What Can a Land Trust Do to Save Equestrian Lands and Open Space?

"...Land trusts protect open space of all kinds--wetlands, wildlife habitat, ranches, shorelines, forests, scenic views, farms, watersheds, historic estates, and recreational areas--land of every size and type that has conservation, historic, scenic, or other value as open space. Land Trusts are nonprofit, voluntary organizations that work hand-in hand with landowners ... using a variety of tools, such as conservation easements that permanently restrict the uses of the land, land donations, purchases and strategic estate planning. Land Trusts help protect America's open spaces and green places, increasingly threatened by sprawl and development." Local and regional land trusts have protected approximately 4.7 million acres of wetlands, wildlife habitat, ranches and farms, shorelines, forests, recreation land and other property of ecological significance. Indeed, the number of local land trusts has grown phenomenally, from 743 in 1985 to more than 1,200 today..." - LAND TRUST ALLIANCE [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org)



## Challenges and Opportunities

### ALAMEDA COUNTY

**Tri-Valley Trailblazers Discuss Lake Del Valle Horse Camp with Park Supervisor Al Olivera** Dick Quigley and the Tri Valley Trail Blazers are moving ahead to secure a permanent 'Jack Brook' quality Horse Camp/Environmental Demonstration Site in the eight acre Corporation Yard near Lake Del Valle, a State Park managed by the East Bay Regional Parks District. At this time, the land can be reserved for special events. However, improvements would add a level of service not found in the East Bay. *e-mail quigley1@ltnl.gov*

**East Bay Regional Parks District Seeks Partners to Develop Western Heritage Exhibit** Agency staff seek partners to assist in restoring historic ranch buildings and developing interpretive facilities in order to provide the public with increased understanding and appreciation for Livermore's agricultural traditions. The 19th century Laughlin Homestead project could include ranching artifacts and living history programs. Contact Shelly Miller, Park Supervisor, Brushy Peak Regional Preserve 925-846-4899; FAX 925-462-8740.

Challenges & Opportunities continued on page 2

### Contact Us

We're here to help you and your neighbors protect those special places that horses need. We'd like the opportunity to help you with equestrian land or trail challenges and opportunities in your area. If you believe that public-private partnerships can save equestrian lands here in the Bay Area — please contact Bay Area Barns and Trails at 415.383.6283 or BABTT@earthlink.net

### Directors and Advisors

- Alistair Bleifuss | BODEGA
- Nancy Couperus | LOS ALTOS HILLS
- Bonnie Davis | FREMONT
- Judy Etheridge | SUNOL
- Chip Hankins | MARTINEZ
- Maggie Kelly | SAN JOSE
- Annette Rains | OAKLEY
- William Symmes | OAKLAND
- Barbara Weitz | MILL VALLEY
- Nancy White | SAN JOSE



**The Equestrian Land Conservation Resource** is a national voice for a united equestrian land conservation movement dedicated to promoting access to and conservation of land for equestrian and other compatible uses through education and partnerships. Founded by concerned equestrians and conservationists with the assistance from the Conservation Fund, ELCR promotes the protection of open land and provides information to concerned individuals who wish to maintain access to land for the riding and driving of horses. [www.elcr.org](http://www.elcr.org)

**Equestrian Land Protection Guides Getting Organized - Creating an Equestrian Trails Organization**, begins with the knowledge that land and equestrian trails must be preserved...provides step-by-step ideas for working through an existing group, or if necessary, creating a new organization.

*The Equestrian Land Protection Guide* is a comprehensive 47-page, step-by-step action plan for land protection that is written specifically for horse people.

**San Francisco Bay Area Land and Trail Trusts Protecting Equestrian/ Equine Opportunities**

Bay Area Ridge Trail Council  
[www.ridgetrail.org](http://www.ridgetrail.org)

Equestrian Center of Walnut Creek  
[www.horsepony.com/equestriancenter](http://www.horsepony.com/equestriancenter)

Landpaths [www.landpaths.org/](http://www.landpaths.org/)

Land Trust of Santa Cruz County  
[www.ltscc.org](http://www.ltscc.org)

Muir Heritage Land Trust  
[www.muirheritagelandtrust.org](http://www.muirheritagelandtrust.org)

San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust [www.riverparkway.org](http://www.riverparkway.org)

Save Mt. Diablo [www.savemountdiablo.org](http://www.savemountdiablo.org)

Solano County Land Trust  
[www.solanolandtrust.org/](http://www.solanolandtrust.org/)

Westwind Barn Preservation  
[www.lahopensspace.com;](http://www.lahopensspace.com;)  
[www.westwindbarn.com](http://www.westwindbarn.com)



The neglected Alum Rock Stables in San Jose may become BABTT's first acquisition. BABTT representatives will meet with City, County and Park staff to determine feasibility of the purchase and geotechnical issues.

**Challenges and Opportunities**

**NAPA COUNTY**

**Endurance Ride Benefits Skyline Park and the Ridge Trail Council** "Ninety-five equestrians participated in the seventh annual 30/50 mile Napa Valley Endurance Ride on June 1. The route follows dedicated and proposed sections of the Ridge Trail...Over the last seven years, the ride has raised \$16,000 for Skyline Park and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Thanks to Jessica Tuteur--long time Ridge Trail supporter and Skyline Park neighbor.

*For more information*  
[www.napanet.net/~jessica/home.html](http://www.napanet.net/~jessica/home.html)

**SAN FRANCISCO CITY AND COUNTY**

**Golden Gate Stables** San Francisco Supervisor Tony Hall Appoints Committee to Plan Future of Historic Golden Gate Stables

Mary Landers, Aide to Supervisor Tony Hall, reports that a Stables' 'Working Group' has been meeting regularly to develop plans for restoring and re-opening the Stables. According to Jaci Fong, the City awaits results of an historic resource evaluation. Funds for renovation will be sought as plans evolve and approvals are obtained from relevant City agencies. The 'Group' hopes to present its findings to the community in November - 2002.

Contact Mary Landers (415-554-6516) or Park and Recreation Program Manager Jaci Fong (415-831-2759)

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

**Bay Area Barns and Trails Sees Bright Future for Alum Rock Stables**

Alum Rock Stables, in east San Jose, is a strategically placed but seriously neglected property perched on a hillside overlooking Alum Rock Park. In mid-September, Judy Etheridge, Maggie Kelly, and Barbara Weitz met with the landowner to discuss plans for the facility which has the potential to house a dozen or more horses. The stables also offer trail access onto existing Alum Rock Park trails and future trail connections to Joseph Grant Park. BABTT representatives will meet with City, County and Park staff to determine feasibility of the purchase and geotechnical issues. Many thanks to the landowner, Don Hamilton, who is allowing us time to research and develop a purchase and management plan. If successful, Alum Rock Stables will be BABTT's 'first' acquisition! To learn more about this exciting project, call 415-383-6283 or e-mail [BABTT@earthlink.net](mailto:BABTT@earthlink.net)

**San Jose Preserves Open Space for Mounted Unit at Tully Road and Kenoga Drive**

Community opposition to a plan to take green pastures away from the hard working San Jose Police Department's Mounted Unit seems to have been effective...at least for now. The latest park plan - according to David Mitchell of the City's Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood

Services - will provide the mounted unit with a 'replacement' pasture near Stonegate School. Maggie Kelly, 5th generation Santa Clara resident has alerted many Santa Clara County residents, including Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren and Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta, to the realization that the Mounted Unit must remain where they are - accessible to downtown and with plenty of greenspace to rest and play. The City will move one element of a proposed building project away from the 'Mounted Unit' stables...but the ballfield remains on the drawing board - a ballfield which will obliterate verdant greenspace near Coyote Creek - 'birdsongs will be replaced by 'batters-up!' *For the rest of the story, contact Maggie Kelly cazador@earthlink.net*

**Los Altos Hills' Residents Plan Voters' Initiative Which will Require Public Approval for Sale of Public Lands**  
 A Council member's proposal to inventory town-owned property for possible 're-use' spurred horse lovers and open-space advocates into action as speculation arose about the possible sale of the Westwind Community Barn, the crown jewel in the city's collection of open spaces. After Mayor Toni Casey and other council members ordered an inventory of town-owned property as well as an assessment of how each of the 27 parcels might be put to best use, fears arose that the properties would be lost to the highest bidder. In 1975 an Hungarian countess, Margit Bessenyei, donated Westwind and the land around to the town without restriction. 'When land is given to a community by someone who's dying, it would be appalling for a few people on the city council to turn around and sell it,' said John Metcalfe, one of the organizers of the initiative drive. Nancy Couperus, a founder of Friends of Westwind Barn, noted that the loss of Westwind would be felt beyond the exclusively residential town of Los Altos Hills. 'It would be a shame', she said, 'to see Westwind wind up in private hands.' These concerns led the Los Altos Hills Open Space Committee to plan an initiative to ensure that the public will have final say in this issue. Council

candidates Dean Warshawsky and Breene Kerr are both actively supporting its passage through their individual campaigns. Neighborhood gatherings are explaining the initiative to residents. Organizations including the Audubon Society of Santa Clara Valley, Bay Area Barns & Trails, and the Committee for Green Foothills have contributed funds to help the Committee raise \$20,000 for legal costs. Contributions are still needed. Contributions of more than \$250.00 to support this initiative will be tax-deductible because the Audubon Society will accept donations payable to LAHills Open Space. So instead of making your check out to LAH Open Space, for these larger donations just make your check out to 'Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society with the notation 'LAHills Open Space.' The progress of the Open Space Initiative can be followed by viewing [www.lahopenspace.com](http://www.lahopenspace.com)

*Mail all donations to: Los Altos Hills Open Space- Attn Nancy Couperus, 13680 Page Mill Road, Los Altos Hills 94022*

**SOLANO COUNTY  
 Trail Dedication Hike and Ride in Lynch Canyon - Saturday, November 2, 2002**

Explore a new link in the Bay Area Ridge Trail through Lynch Canyon just northwest of Interstate 80 between American Canyon Road and Highway 12, also known as Jameson Canyon Road.

The celebration includes a variety of events including a two-hour trail ride. For event information, call 707-644-5190.

Lynch Canyon was acquired by the Solano Land Trust in 1996. It provides a perpetual agricultural and open space buffer along Interstate 80 between the cities of Fairfield, Vallejo, and Benicia. Funding for the \$4.2 million purchase was garnered from many sources: Tri-City and County Cooperative Planning Group, City of Fairfield, State Legislature, State Parks, California Transportation Commission, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) program (as mitigation for freeway development), and other sources. And, the Trust continues to make payments on a 20-year mortgage. Docent guided access will be provided for hikers, mountain bicycle riders, and horseback riders. Volunteers assist with trail development and maintenance. [www.solanolandtrust.org](http://www.solanolandtrust.org)

**SONOMA COUNTY  
 Johnson Ranch to be acquired by Sonoma County Agriculture and Open Space District; Future of the remaining 70-acre parcel is uncertain.**

The Johnson Ranch, east of Hwy 12/ south of Santa Rosa, has the potential to connect Annadel State Park, Spring Lake Regional Park, (after crossing Hwy 12) Hood Mountain Regional Park and Sugarloaf State Park.

The District has made an offer to acquire 300 acres of the 370-acre Johnson property. A buyer is being sought for the remaining 70-acres.

For more information, contact Stewart Martin, Sonoma County Agriculture Preservation and Open Space District. 707-565-7362.

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**Success Story in Placer County**

**Traylor Ranch Nature Preserve and Equestrian Trails Managed by Loomis Basin Horsemen** On February 10, 2002, the Placer County Board of Supervisors approved the 90-acre 'Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve'. The same afternoon, Supervisor Robert Weygandt and Placer County Parks Department representatives presented a granite plaque to the Traylor's in recognition of their donation of this property. The plaque will be mounted on a granite rock at the entrance to the Reserve. The Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association, a non-profit organization founded in 1983, will be maintaining and managing the Nature Reserve with the help of the Sierra Foothill Audubon Society and other volunteer groups and friends.' [www.garlic.com/~moomom/traylor.html](http://www.garlic.com/~moomom/traylor.html)





**BABTT Grants Program**  
**Equestrian Land and Trail**  
**Stewardship Grants Available**  
**for Spring/Summer 2003 -**  
**\$500.00 - \$2,500.00**

Grants are available to enhance equestrian trails, stables, pastures, and staging areas in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Solano, or Sonoma Counties. Preference will be given to "grass-roots" projects that enhance public access and demonstrate landowner, agency and community support. Applications from organizations, individuals, and landowners - public and private - are invited.

Contact **Bay Area Barns and Trails**  
 Phone 415-383-6283; Fax 415-381-3809; e-mail BABtt@earthlink.net

**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

Honoring Bay Area equestrians whose partnerships with public agencies, private landowners, and land trusts are indeed 'saving land and trails for horses.'



**Ray & Sharon Valladao,**  
 Back Country Horsemen,  
 North Bay Unit/Annadel State Park  
 and Spring Lake Regional Park

**Maureen Pinto,**  
 Ocean Riders of Marin/ Golden Gate  
 National Recreation Area

**Dick Quigley,** Tri Valley Trail Blazers/East  
 Bay Regional Parks District

**Michael Murphy,** Sonoma Horse Council/  
 Sonoma-Marín Resource Conservation District

**Mary Widmeyer,** Skyline Wilderness Park  
 Association/City of Napa

**Jessica Tutuer,** American Endurance Ride  
 Conference/Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

**Nancy Couperous,** Westwind Barns/Los Altos  
 Hills Open Space

**Maggie Kelley,** San Jose Mounted Unit/  
 City of San Jose

**Chip Hankins,** Muir Heritage Land Trust/  
 Martinez Horsemen's Association

**BABTT 2002 Grants to Equestrian Organizations**

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**

**Muir Heritage Land Trust/Martinez Horsemen's Association Benefit Ride Earns \$7.790** Bay Area Barns and Trails again matched funds raised during 3rd Annual Martinez Horsemen's Association Benefit Ride, Sept 14, 2002. Over the past three years, Martinez Horsemen's Association (MHA) has raised over \$16,000 during its fundraising rides to benefit preservation, acquisition, and stewardship work of the Muir Heritage Land Trust. The rides have increased public awareness of the Land Trust's mission within the equestrian community. This year's ride followed a reclaimed segment of Contra Costa Feeder Trail #1 and also explored parts of Franklin Canyon. Although Feeder Trail #1 is still officially closed pending a formal survey and work on the grading and drainage, tremendous progress has been made in clearing the route. MHLT has been working with private landowners along the trail, as well as East Bay Regional Parks District, Contra Costa County, the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council (BARTC) and the California Conservation Corps. BARTC will contribute \$117,900 from its share of the Park Bond monies for planning and negotiating improvements to this historic 'Feeder' trail.'

- Chip Hankins @ Wild Oaks Ranch (925-229-2122) or [chankins@smlinsurance.com](mailto:chankins@smlinsurance.com)
- Muir Heritage Land Trust [www.muirheritagelandtrust.org](http://www.muirheritagelandtrust.org)
- Bay Area Ridge Trail Council [www.ridgetrail.org](http://www.ridgetrail.org)

**MARIN COUNTY**

**Ocean Riders of Muir Beach received \$2,500** to improve water quality in the Redwood Creek Watershed. Volunteers will install a frame for their manure bin tarp cover, install rubber dams along driveway, and install roofing to protect the lower portions of the paddocks from excess runoff. Public/private partnerships with the Marin/Sonoma Resource Conservation District and other public agencies working to enhance the Redwood Creek Watershed, including the National Park Service, Muir Woods National Monument, Golden Gate National Recreation Area; and California State Parks/Marin District/Mt. Tamalpais State Park, will keep salmon thriving in Redwood Creek.

**Alto Bowl Horseowners Association received \$150.00** to help defray volunteer expenses during its annual 'green' work party on Horse Hill Open Space. Volunteers removed invasive plant species - including scotch and french broom, preserved the land for future generations of visitors and wildlife; and strengthened the public/private partnership with the Marin County Open Space District.

-Alto Bowl Horseowner's Association [www.horsehill.org](http://www.horsehill.org)



Horses discuss opportunities to help with the annual work party on Mill Valley's Horse Hill



Workers from Sonoma County Back Country Horsemen / North Bay Unit install a manure bunker and hitchrails in Oak Knolls Equestrian parking lot.

## SONOMA COUNTY

**Back Country Horsemen/North Bay Unit awarded \$1,917.00** to install a manure bunker and hitchrails in Oak Knolls Equestrian Parking Lot - Spring Lake Regional Park/Santa Rosa. The manure bunker protects a nearby drainage ditch and stream from manure runoff AND provides composted product for the local gardeners. The hitching rails provide a secure place to tie horses and will eliminate scarring of trees from rope burns. The work was accomplished by public/private partnership of BCHA/North Bay volunteers and Annadel State Park and Spring Lake Regional Park staff. Donors and volunteers included the Russian River Riders, Sonoma County Riding and Driving Club, Petaluma Riding and Driving Club, Sonoma County Horse Council, Wine Country Peruvians, Reliable Hardware, Pace Supply, Slakey Bros., Inc., Cameron and Cameron Ranch Supply. [www.bchc.org](http://www.bchc.org)

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY

**\$500.00 in 'startup funds'** helped volunteers work towards permanent preservation of Los Altos Hills Open Spaces, including the Byrne Preserve and Westwind Barn. These beautiful open lands and unique horse property must be protected from sale or development, for it was the expressed intent of the generous persons who donated the land to the city of Los Altos Hills that the land be preserved forever. 'At stake: 15 acres of horse heaven -- rolling pastures; riding ring; a 17-stall, U-shaped stable; and all the brushing and pampering a horse could want. Located at the top of Altamont Road, the barn is home to several horse programs for teens, disabled children and others from around the Bay Area.' To paraphrase a recent article appearing in the San Jose Mercury News (6/19/02) written by Huey D. Johnson, founder of Defense of Place: 'The question is one of permanence. What is our obligation to continue to preserve parks created by past generations? When we promise to preserve such spaces in perpetuity, how long is forever?' - Westwind Barn [www.westwindbarn.com](http://www.westwindbarn.com)

## NAPA COUNTY

**Skyline Wilderness Park Citizen's Association received \$500.00** to purchase poplar trees for the horse camp in Napa's Skyline Wilderness Park. The trees will help with erosion control and provide shade for horses and campers...a multi-benefit project demonstrating environmentally responsible techniques for enhancing lands enjoyed by equestrians and their friends.

Accomplished through a public/private partnership of Skyline Wilderness Park Citizen's Association under the leadership of Mary Widmeyer, the Napa Valley Saddlejackets, and the Napa Chapter of the Native Plant Society.



## BARGAIN SALE

A useful tool for a landowner interested in conservation who cannot donate land directly. A bargain sale of property to a land trust insures the land will be protected. With this option, the land trust purchases land at less than full-market value. The benefit to the landowner is twofold:

1. the sale produces needed income and,
2. he/she can claim the difference between the sale and full-market value as a tax-deductible donation.

More intangible but equally important, landowners can be assured that valuable land resources will be protected.

[www.nhlt.org/bargainsale.shtml](http://www.nhlt.org/bargainsale.shtml)

## Resources for Equestrian Land and Trails Protection

**Land Trust Alliance Video: For the Common Good: Preserving Private Lands with Conservation Easements.**

This award-winning video uses three case studies to explain the workings and public benefits of conservation easements. Show it at your next community meeting. 16 min. Loan? e-mail [BABTT@earthlink.net](mailto:BABTT@earthlink.net) or purchase directly from [lta.org/publications/bkowner.htm#videos](http://lta.org/publications/bkowner.htm#videos)

## Land Trust Alliance

The **Land Trust Alliance** promotes voluntary land conservation and strengthens the land trust movement by providing the leadership, information, skills and resources land trusts need to conserve land for the benefit of communities and natural systems. [www.lta.org](http://www.lta.org)

## Trust for Public Land

Over the last 25 years the **Trust for Public Land** has worked with hundreds of landowners. A landowner may come to TPL for help protecting family lands as a park or natural area. Or a landowner may have a property of scenic, historic, or environmental value that the public wants to protect. Working only with willing sellers, TPL offers advice on land value, tax planning, appraisals, title searches, property surveys, and environmental assessments. [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)



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**“Land...they  
ain't making  
it anymore...”**

-WILL ROGERS



TO :

## Join Up with Bay Area Barns & Trails

Your membership will help Bay Area Barns & Trails provide support to equestrian groups and landowners — both private and public — working to preserve San Francisco Bay Area equestrian properties for future generations. Thank you for helping BABTT save “habitat for horses”.

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Student or Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Organization | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Patron    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Advocate    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 Steward |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Family            | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Affiliate   |  |

Yes! I want to preserve equestrian lands in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to and mail to: **Bay Area Barns & Trails**  
**P. O. Box 2435 • Mill Valley, CA 94942**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (eve) \_\_\_\_\_ (day) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Comments? \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests? \_\_\_\_\_

### NEW MEMBERSHIP GIFT!

**MEMBERSHIPS OF \$ 50.00+**  
**Video "Ocean Riders Outreach Program"**  
Muir Beach Equestrians Build Support for their Stable. Enchanting stories of Ocean Riders' partnerships with the San Francisco Police Department's 'Wilderness Program' for inner city children; Description of environmental enhancement within stable management leading to reduction of sedimentation and improvement to water quality in adjoining wetlands and Redwood Creek, a coho and steelhead spawning site near Muir Woods; School outing to Green Gulch Farm/Zen Center where composting demonstrates the beneficial use of horse manure in organic gardening.

*Bay Area Barns and Trails was incorporated as a tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) public charity in September, 2000. Contributions, less the fair market value of any benefits you may receive, are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law.*

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