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Friends News

A non-profit organization supporting
Deer Hollow Farm's educational programs



Spring Tours Fun

More than 800 visitors enjoyed the opportunity to visit the animals in their pens during our three 2014 Spring Farm Tours. We raised over



\$7,000. Visitors enjoyed going into the chicken yard and seeing the new coop and rabbit home, projects funded by Friends.



Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made spring tours possible. Some of them are pictured here. More Spring Tour pictures are on page 8 of this color newsletter.

Fall 2014 Fundraisers

Ohlone Day

The Deer Hollow Farm replica Ohlone Village will be open to the public on **Saturday, October 11, 2014**. Fun will begin at **noon** and go until **3:00 pm**. Come with children, grandchildren, and friends to learn about Ohlone tools and



weapons, taste Yerba Buena tea, paint faces, drill holes, grind acorns, braid cordage,

dance, play games, see flintknapping, experiment with cooking stones, and watch **Keith Gutierrez** start fire.



Keith starting fire, Ohlone Day 2013

Spooky Times

Grab your costumes and cameras and head for Deer Hollow Farm on **Saturday, October 25, 2014** between **10:00 am** and **3:00 pm**.



Have fun following the story of Suzie Scarecrow as you visit animals in their pens, play games, follow the maze, walk among the ghosts, create crafts, explore the garden, and pose for pictures.

This fundraiser, put on by Farm staff, raises money for animal feed and care.

Entrance fee, parking, weather

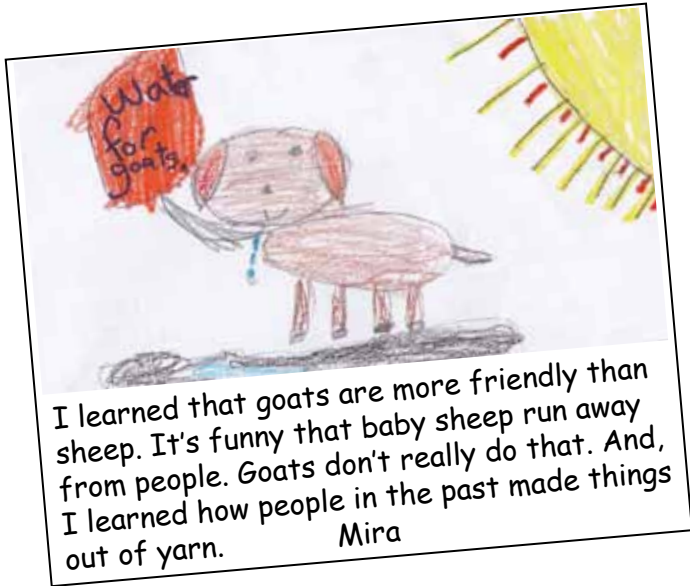
The entrance fee for each event is \$7.00. Babies under one are free. For Spooky Times, if you wear a costume you will be admitted to the fun for only \$5.00.

For both of these events, parking is limited so car pool if possible. Allow time for the one-mile walk to the Farm.

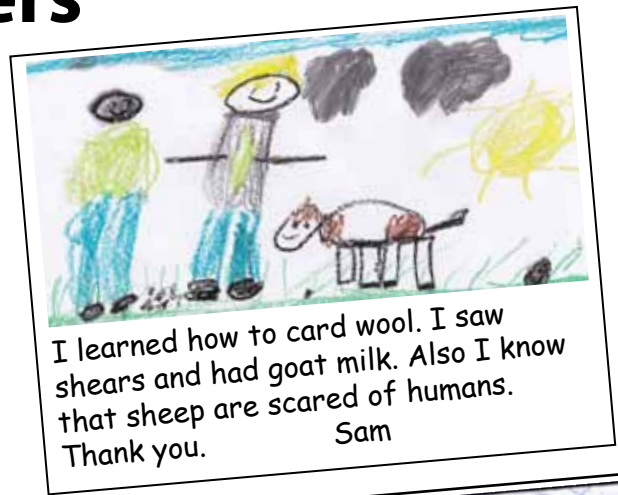
Light rain will not deter Spooky Times fun. In case of rain on Ohlone Day, please check deerhollowfarmfriends.org for event update.



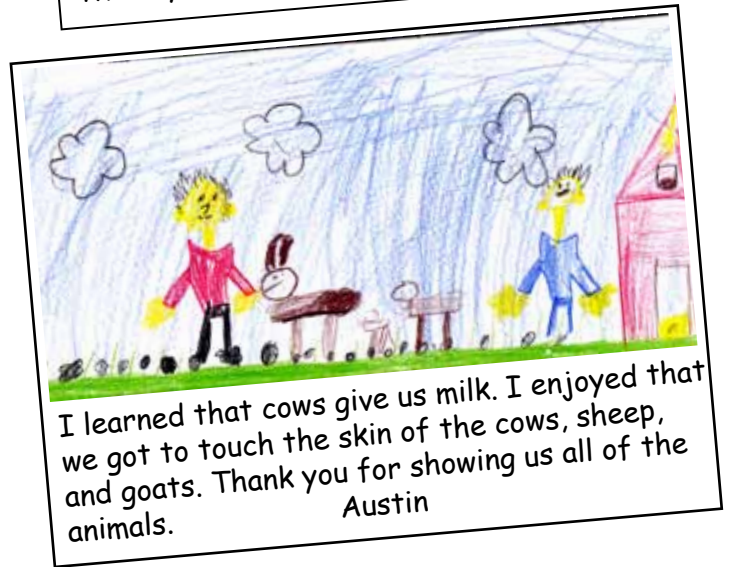
Letters



I learned that goats are more friendly than sheep. It's funny that baby sheep run away from people. Goats don't really do that. And, I learned how people in the past made things out of yarn.
Mira



I learned how to card wool. I saw shears and had goat milk. Also I know that sheep are scared of humans.
Thank you.
Sam



I learned that cows give us milk. I enjoyed that we got to touch the skin of the cows, sheep, and goats. Thank you for showing us all of the animals.
Austin



Thank you for being a docent and inviting us to see what it is like to be an Ohlone. I enjoyed the part where we got really close to the deer. We learned a lot about the Ohlone. I liked it so much that I would like to come back and visit.
Yadi



Dear Friends of Deer Hollow Farm,

Thank you for the generous scholarships allowing our fourth graders to come to the Ohlone village to experience the way of life of the first Californians. Without the scholarships, our school and students could not attend.

During the trip, the students are able to make a hands-on connection to what they have read in the social studies book. The docents portray activities just like the pictures portray in the books. Students especially liked the hoop and spear game, acorn grinding, and learning about how

Native Americans used the plants around them for eating, healing, and tools.

Another benefit of the trip to Deer Hollow is that students learn how plants and animals depend on each other and the importance of preserving the environment. This directly connects to our life sciences unit.

Thank you again for giving our students the opportunity to experience the Ohlone way of life.

Sincerely,

San Miguel Elementary 4th grade teachers

FamiliarFace at the Farm

by Nina Wong-Dobkin

Cally and Polly were responsible for attracting **Timothy Wood** to become a Deer Hollow Farm volunteer. No, they were not our volunteer recruiters, at least not the human kind. They were a pair of Targhee-Suffolk mix sheep, named after Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, from where they came to us. Cally and Polly would come to the fence when Timothy called them by their names!

After a while, our observant Farm maintenance worker, **Jaime Villarreal**, noticed this and invited Timothy to consider volunteering at the Farm. That was August of 2006, when he and his wife were expecting their first child.

Over the years, Timothy has put in over 700 hours of volunteer work, helping take care of Deer Hollow Farm's pigs, goats, sheep, rabbits, and cows. On Saturday mornings, Timothy checks on the goats and sheep and cleans their barns.



Farm visitors can also find Timothy milking Luna, the cow. Since Deer Hollow Farm does not have the facility to process milk for sale to the general public, Luna's milk usually goes to feed other animals.

Timothy, now a Los Gatos resident, had grown up in Los Altos near Deer Hollow Farm. He delights in the opportunity of working with livestock through his volunteering and being part of the Farm's historical legacy in the process. He particularly appreciates seeing the full cycle of life in the animals at the Farm, and thoroughly enjoys the very special and rare opportunities of witnessing and assisting in the birthing of animals at the Farm.

As he milks Luna every Saturday, he



loves sharing with Farm visitors, especially young children, where the milk they drink at home comes from. He shows them the milk that comes from Luna and asks them whether it looks just like what they drink at home. Farm visitors young and old enjoy watching Timothy work with Luna, get Luna on the milking platform, clean her, check her milk, hook her up to the milking machine, and when milking is done, guide Luna back in her enclosure.

Timothy shares, "It is the ability to share the Farm with visitors that is most rewarding, both with visitors who had grown up on a farm, who are thrilled to discover Deer Hollow and to get reconnected to a farm; and those who have no idea of what a farm is like and are becoming fascinated through their experiences at Deer Hollow Farm."

He and his family also enjoy buying (and eating) eggs from the Farm because they know where the eggs come from.

When Timothy read in a Friends of

Deer Hollow Farm newsletter that the Board was in dire need of more board members last fall, he felt that it was time he expanded his involvement with the Farm and applied to join the Board. He knew the Farm had faced rough financial times a few years ago and wished to be involved with the long-term future vision of Deer Hollow Farm. The Board welcomed Timothy with enthusiastic open arms in January.



Timothy works full-time as a Usability Engineer at Apple Computers. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family—his wife, his daughter who is 7, and two sons, 5 and 2. He also finds time for mountain biking.

He often brings his children to the Farm when he volunteers and his young children are so familiar with Timothy's Farm chores that his older two can work alongside him as his assistants. Do look for Timothy when you come visit the Farm on Saturday mornings.



Harvesting the Farm's Wool

by Joan Ferguson and Joan Lewis

Deer Hollow Farm sheep are sheared each spring. In April of 2013 **Joan Ferguson** and her husband, **Craig Uhrich** went with four Farm sheep to the Shearing Day event at Ardenwood Farm in Fremont. At this event, sheep from several farms were sheared, and all the phases of processing sheep fleece were demonstrated.



This picture shows the finished fleece from one sheep and the nearly complete fleece of another.

The shearer took about 10 minutes to remove the fleece from one sheep. He told us that he had sheared up to 80 sheep in a day. This is amazing considering how physically demanding the work is. There is a skill to shearing that will remove the fleece in one intact piece, as close to the skin as possible without nicking the sheep. If the shearer has to make a second pass over parts of the sheep, the fiber may be cut in pieces that are too short to be used.

Our fleece was bagged after it was sheared, so we could take it for professional skirting, scouring, carding, and spinning. We had 16.5 pounds from three Deer Hollow Farm Suffolk sheep and 12 pounds of fleece from Bella, a Romney sheep. We saw why Romney sheep are known as good wool producers. Not only is there a lot of fleece, it is also lustrous; it hangs in separate locks with minimal cross fibers; and it is easily spun. Our Romney yarn (on the right in the spinning machine picture) is darker than the Suffolk.



Craig with Farm wool

Wool from other sheep is processed further at Ardenwood.



Ardenwood festival visitors watch the skirting of the fleece.

The next step is skirting the wool. The sheared fleece is gently flattened out on a table. Then workers remove all the areas that are matted, very dirty, or tangled with grass and weeds. They use their hands to pull away unusable parts of the fleece, especially around the legs and rear end.



Joan Ferguson is helping Ardenwood Farm volunteers scour some fleece.

The fleece is scoured (gently washed, never agitated) in very warm water using a soap such as dishwashing liquid or Orvus, a livestock washing soap. The soap removes the dirt and the grease, or lanolin. The Farm's fleece was taken to Yolo Wool Mill in Woodland, California. The mill's equipment, purchased from eastern wool mills, was reassembled north of Davis.



Yolo Wool Mill's carding equipment



Deer Hollow Farm wool on a spinning machine at Yolo Wool Mill

As the fleece is skirted, scoured, and carded, over one-half of the fleece is discarded. Only the best parts are used to spin into yarn. The total of 28.5 lbs of Farm raw fleece resulted in 10.5 lbs (approximately 40 skeins) of 2-ply spun wool. The price for processing the Deer Hollow Farm fleece was \$422, plus driving it up to the mill. So the price for processing our fleece was about \$10 per skein.

Friends of the Farm have been able to make items out of yarn from the Farm's sheep. Joan Ferguson has two projects going now. The pictures are on the next page.



Farm yarn with red embroidery floss on a table loom

Sampler woven of dyed Farm Yarn



Last spring, Farm volunteers were given a chance to dye some of the wool. We went to the beautiful hand-built home of **Andrea Niehuis** in Woodside where she runs Amazing Yarns, a yarn and textile boutique.



Andrea's workroom and shop

We had an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful setting, learn about the dying process, and actually dye the Farm wool, which Andrea had prepared for us with the proper mordant.

Here **Andrea Niehuis** and **Joan Lewis** are removing wool from the cochineal dye (insects that give us pink to red color). We also used onion skin for yellow, and logwood for a purple color.



Launched: Our New Website

DeerHollowFarmFriends.org

by *Jenise Henrikson*

Last winter, my husband Kevin and I were considering whether to apply to join the Board of Directors for Friends of Deer Hollow Farm. We loved the Farm and wanted to see how we could help.

When we saw the website, we knew instantly where our skills could be best put to use, as we both have backgrounds in tech. While serviceable, the website was out of date. It did not allow the organization to keep in touch with fans and volunteers the way today's sites can do with blogs, videos, and social media.

So for the past six months, we have been working on plans, design, and development. We changed the URL to be more self-explanatory; it is now **DeerHollowFarmFriends.org**, the old address **www.fodhf.org** will also get you to the new site. We've added more options for donations and more information pages that help visitors find what they're looking for, faster.



We plan on updating the website regularly with Farm news and events. And we'll be sure to include lots of pictures of cute Deer Hollow Farm animal friends and the families that love them!

Enjoy exploring the new site. We'd love your feedback on your experience. Please email your comments to info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org.

Ask the Nature Lover About Poison Oak

by *Donna Aronson*

"Leaflets three; Leave it be!"

This saying by scouts and others is taught to help avoid the ubiquitous plant, shrub, vine *Rhus diversiloba*, *Toxicodendron diversilobum*, commonly called poison oak. It is not poisonous, but causes many people who get its oily sap on their skin to react with an itchy rash.

California kids need to be able to identify it, as it grows all over Santa Clara County, and many places west of the Sierra Nevada mountains, below 5,000 feet elevation and not in desert areas. It is plentiful at Rancho San Antonio Preserve.

The plant has shiny lobed leaves that are green in spring and summer and lovely shades of crimson in autumn. It is leafless in winter, but the branches still carry the poisonous sap or oil called *urushiol*, which can cause the skin reaction.

If you do come in contact with poison oak, wash the urushiol off your skin as soon as possible. You can also pick up that oily sap from clothes or pets who have contacted poison oak.

Birds and animals are immune to poison oak; they eat the leaves and little white berries. Our California quail live amongst the poison oak bushes.

The Ohlone and other California Native Americans, must have been resistant to poison oak, as they used the stems and shoots for basketry. They used the oily sap to cure ringworm and warts.

Along the road to Deer Hollow Farm, one can see spectacular examples of poison oak. Please look, but do not touch!



Friendly Inquiries

Visitors were asked why they like to visit Deer Hollow Farm.

by Tom Lustig



Shu
San Jose

Shu: The trip to the Farm is a good family experience. The Farm provides a valuable education. My children get to learn about the animals while at the same time enjoying the beauty of nature.

Orlando: I learned about the Farm and surroundings through on-line research. We like the area for the wild-life and trails. The variety of animals at the Farm gives our children an important lesson on where our food comes from.



Orlando
San Jose

June: We've been coming to the Farm for twenty years. Along the path, we see squirrels, deer, and beautiful birds. I like to see the pigs because my grandpa raised a pig on his farm. When I was young, I always liked to visit my grandpa's place and talk to the pig.



June
San Jose



Hemanthe
Los Altos

Hemanthe: This is a good experience for my children. They haven't seen this sort of thing anywhere else. I come from New Zealand, and I know all about sheep. New Zealand has 4 million people and 60 million sheep.



Thusitha
Los Altos

Thusitha: This is our first time to the Farm. We are very impressed. The Farm has a lots of animals. It is a nice place...very tidy. We saw the baby chicks. My children are learning by just walking around.

Rahul: We come to walk the trails. We visit the Farm for our children. We are interested in showing the Farm animals to our kids so they learn where their food comes from.



Rahul
Fremont

Frances: The Farm is a great learning experience for my children. They have a curiosity about the Farm—about how the animals are raised, how they are fed, what they eat, their daily routines. When I was young, we raised chickens in our back yard; we always had fresh eggs.



Frances
Sunnyvale



Adam
Petaluma

Adam: Today is the first time I've been to the Farm. This Farm and the Open Space are similar to areas around Petaluma. My son goes to a farm camp during the summer, probably similar to Deer Hollow Farm's summer camp.

Wonderful Friends

We gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organizations who donated to Friends between February 1, 2014 and July 31, 2014.

Red-Shouldered Hawk (\$10,000-\$15,000)

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
City of Cupertino

Red-Tailed Hawk (\$5,000)

Anonymous via Schwab Charitable Fund

Stellaer's Jay (\$500-\$1,000)

Dewey and Doris Halligan
Los Altos Rotary Endowment Fund
Larry and Donna Aronson, in memory of
brother Paul Gillet
Catherine Gordon
Tom and Susan Kempe, in memory of Matt
Kempe

Mountain View Rotary Club

Acorn Woodpecker(\$250-\$499)

Google on behalf of Guatam Inaganti,
in honor of his son, Owen Inaganti

Mike Hammes

Ivars and Marion Blukis

Carol Jossi

Timothy Dylan Wood, Apple match

Phoebe (\$100-\$249)

Jerry and Sandy Juracich
Dee Wood, in memory of Chris Wood
Soni-Wurtzburger Family Fund via
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Google on behalf of Alex Vidergar
Marge Haley, in memory of her
father, Boyd Haley
Leanne Luna
James Morales, with HP match
Christine Goritschnigg, HP match
Leslie C. and Anita N. Nichols
Don Weden, in memory of Mike Coggiola
Jeannine Deveaux
Nora Singer and Brett Degner, Apple
match

Anonymous Google Employee

Anonymous

Junco (\$26-\$99)

Palo Alto Girl Scout Troop 60218
Cynthia Lee, Google match
Dave and Claire Kingsbury, in memory of
Mary Kane
Lee Winchell, in memory of Sue Shaffer
Laura Crabb

Junco continued

Lewis and Nancy Franklin
Charleen Cheng
Ron and Dorothy Schafer, in memory of
Mike Coggiola
Annie Hart
Robert Friedman, IBM match
Stephen Salveter, IBM match
Sue Gale
David and Teresa Mathiasmeier
William and Olga Bruce
Steve Kowalski
Tara Sreekrishnan
Dwain and Susan Aidala
Sue Stewart
Roberta Jorgensen
Renate Dietz, in memory of Jim Long
Tracy Hughes, in honor of her Mom, Eleanor
Jensen, on her birthday

Hummingbird (up to \$25)

Chui Fong
Kali Franco
Eugene and Barbara Kates,
Carla Dorow, in memory of Mike Coggiola
Matt Lucero
Green Oak Adult Care Center
Frederick and Suzanne McDonough
"We know and love Sue Gale"
Kathy Castillo
Lana Ha
Anonymous (2)

We also thank the many Farm visitors who donated \$1,557.

Spring Tours were made better with the donation of Hobee's famous blueberry coffeecake from **Hobee's Restaurants**.



Served along with coffeecake was coffee from **Pee't's Coffee and Tea** or **Starbucks Coffee Company**.

A home-grown redwood tree was donated by **Saige Aronson**.

Matching Funds Challenge Underway

Cupertino Rotary to Help Finance Duck Pond

From **September 1 to October 31, 2014** Friends of Deer Hollow Farm will be holding the **Duck Pond Matching Fund Challenge**. The Cupertino Rotary is helping us raise funds for a new duck pond and will match the first \$2,300 in donations towards the new duck pond. Your donations are tax deductible and can be made by mail, online at our website, or at the Farm.

To ensure that your donation is matched, mark your check, envelope or Paypal memo with "Duck Pond". Visit our website or Facebook page for full details. Help us give the ducks and geese a fun new place to swim.

Farm Staff Changes

We were all sad to see **Jacquie Coggiola** leave last spring; we wish her well in her new home.

With both **Claire Moore** and Jacquie gone, **Jessica Morgan** needed some help with the animals while new staff is being sought. She found that help from **Lisa Cornelius**. Lisa began as a volunteer docent in 2012. She soon got to know the animals and has worked part time this summer taking care of them.

Lisa comes from a family that loves the outdoors and animals. She helped her family raise chickens as she grew up. In the picture below Lisa is helping a summer camper milk Luna. Thank you, Lisa, for helping fill the gap.



Lee Winchell Honored with Gardner Award

Friends of Deer Hollow Farm nominated Deer Hollow Farm docent **Lee Winchell** for the prestigious John W. Gardner Award given by the Los Altos Community Foundation (LACF) for her dedicated support of this historic teaching Farm. Lee received her award at a special Awards Dinner given by LACF.



FODHF President Sue Gale and Deer Hollow Farm Docent Lee Winchell at Awards Dinner

The purpose of this award is to honor volunteers who make a difference in improving the communities of Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, and Mountain View. LACF's Gardner Awards are unique in our community, because they provide a

memorable event for non-profits to honor volunteers in front of the philanthropic community, and because the non-profits choose whom to honor instead of an independent panel.

"Liberty and duty, freedom and obligation. That's the deal." This quote by the late John W. Gardner, former Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare and honorary founder of the LACF, exemplifies his life's devotion to bettering our society. LACF's Gardner Awards honor Dr. Gardner's legacy by highlighting honorees who exhibit his civic entrepreneurship and community service in any of the five areas of his career—public service, education, government, science and technology, and arts and letters.

Lee has given 2,400 hours teaching more than 700 field trips. Her passion for teaching kids in this wonderful outdoor classroom has touched thousands of lives over the past decade. Her talent lights up the Farm's lessons: the source of our food, our local history, and the preservation of our wild lands and parks. We thank you, Lee, for spreading the magic of Deer Hollow Farm.

Deer Hollow Farm is a ten-acre working farm in the Los Altos foothills. The Farm is part of the 3800-acre Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve 22500 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos, 94024. For Deer Hollow Farm information, call 650.903.6430.



FriendsNews

This newsletter is published for the community of over 400 people and organizations who want to preserve and improve the outstanding environmental-education program of Deer Hollow Farm, one of the last working homestead farms in California. To contribute to the newsletter or request notification of the posting of the **FriendsNews** at deerhollowfarmfriends.org contact: info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org by mail: P.O. Box 4282,

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SPRING TOURS 2014

Your next **FriendsNews** will be posted by December 1, 2014.

