New Livestock Caretaker

We are excited to welcome Lisa Cornelius as our full-time Livestock Caretaker. Originally from New Jersey, Lisa and her husband, Jake, moved to Chula Vista, California where Jake trained in rowing for the 2012 Olympic Games. After competing in the Olympics, Jake took the assistant coaching position at Stanford, so Lisa and Jake moved up here.

Lisa has taught in San Diego schools for an environmental non-profit group, as well as for SeaWorld in San Diego. Prior to these teaching positions, Lisa had worked as a naturalist/educator on a nature preserve and a community organizer for an environmental Americorps program. To follow her passion in environmental education, she became a docent at Deer Hollow Farm a few years ago. When Claire Moore, our former Livestock Caretaker, left, Lisa filled in as part-time help with livestock. Eight months later, when offered the full-time Livestock Caretaker position, Lisa gladly accepted. Lisa said, “Jake and I both share the desire to live on our own small farm one day, so working with the livestock here at DHF was a great opportunity for me to combine my passion for environmental education with my lifestyle goals.”

Spring 2015 Farm Tours

With spring babies expected, now is the time to plan your visit to one of Friends’ 2015 Spring Farm Tour fund-raising events Saturdays: March 21, April 18, and May 9 from 10:00 to 1:00.

The wonderful docents will show you into the pens and tell you about all the Farm residents. You will also hear about the history of the the Farm and the Farm buildings, which are a balance between original structures and improvements for the safety of the volunteers and visitors. You will see the new chicken coop, built last year, and the new duck area created this year; they are better, safer homes for Farm fowl. Entrance fee is $7 and free for babies under 1. Proceeds benefit the Farm, the animals, and the 100,000 people and 5,000 students who visit the Farm annually.

Bring children, grandchildren, and friends. Don’t forget your camera; there will be many photo opportunities as you and your family get close up to the goats, rabbits, or other animals.

The Farm’s Nature Center will be open for even more hands-on learning. Parking is limited, so carpool if you can. It’s a level, one-mile walk from the parking lot to the Farm. Strollers are welcome, but not in the pens.

For more information, visit: www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org. To avoid overcrowding, MROSD limits groups to a max of 19 on weekends. For guidance, groups e-mail info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org.
Dear Friends,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my kindergarten teacher heart! :) We had a fabulous farm tour and learned so many animal facts. The kids loved the cow milking and petting the goats! It was such a memorable trip; we have talked about it frequently throughout the school year and couldn't have gone without the grant to our school. Thank you, again for making it possible for us to come.

We look forward to it next year.

Warmly, Marci Paulissen,
San Miguel Elementary School, Sunnyvale, CA
Dorothy Schafer has been sharing her wealth of knowledge about the Ohlone Indians and the flora and fauna (plants and animals) at Deer Hollow Farm with school children since 2005. She has also enjoyed teaching arts and crafts to summer campers at the Farm. She has given over 500 volunteer hours to the Farm! Dorothy, a retired high school social studies teacher, missed working with children. She discovered the golden opportunity to volunteer as a teaching docent at Deer Hollow Farm when she inquired at the Farm’s volunteer-recruiting table at the Mountain View Farmer’s Market. Since then, she has enjoyed learning about native California plants (which are different from those in Atlanta, where she had lived before moving to California) and has grown to love the Farm animals!

Dorothy has also been a member of the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board (2005–2011); she served as secretary (2007–2009) and president (2011).

Dorothy and her husband Ron moved to California in 2004. They now live in Mountain View. Ron is a retired professor from Georgia Tech and a retired researcher from Hewlett-Packard. He now teaches courses at Stanford and enjoys volunteering at Deer Hollow Farm in the orchard and wherever needed. The most compelling reason for their move to California after living 30 years in Georgia was to be nearer to their children, who both lived in California at the time. One of the great joys of living in California has been living closer to their children and their children’s families.

Dorothy’s son Bill and his family (his wife Tricia and children Henry and Hannah) lived in San Diego, where Bill was a professor of neurobiology at UCSD. They have since moved to Cambridge, UK, where Bill is a lab director at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology for the Medical Research Council of the UK. His children, Henry and Hannah, have visited Dorothy and Ron many times and spent many happy afternoons at Deer Hollow Farm. Dorothy shares with our readers some photos of her grandchildren. Here are Hannah and Henry in 2007.

Since 2007, when Bill’s family moved to Cambridge, Dorothy and Ron have made many trips to the UK. On their trip last October, they celebrated the graduation of their oldest grandchild, Henry, from Imperial College in London.

Dorothy and Ron’s other great joy is Sophia, their 7-year old granddaughter who lives in Mountain View. Dorothy had the opportunity to care for her during her pre-school years as her mom, Dorothy’s daughter Kate, and her husband, Ken, are both teachers. Kate is a biology teacher at Harker Upper School, and Ken is a physics professor at San Jose State University. Sophia, shown above at ages 1 and 4, has loved going to Deer Hollow Farm. She has been able to gather eggs, stomp in puddles, and visit all the animals. Pigs are among her favorites. The Farm family (Jessica, Jamie, Lisa, Katie, and all the former staff) has been very welcoming to the docents and their families.

Dorothy shares, “People I have met through my volunteering at Deer Hollow Farm have become very good friends and are like a part of my family. It is a very nice and welcoming environment, full of other like-minded people who enjoy and love the Farm. All the staff have been easy and wonderful to work with.” She is particularly grateful to another docent, Sonja Marcus, who, as a mentor, taught Dorothy all about California plants as they took walks on the trails at Rancho San Antonio.

In addition to volunteering for Deer Hollow Farm’s education programs, Dorothy finds time to volunteer for the Community Services Agency, which runs a food bank in Mountain View; and she serves as an English tutor through a program at the Mountain View Library. She enjoys hiking and reading. She is part of a reading group originally started with a few other Deer Hollow Farm docents. Dorothy and Ron also enjoy traveling, especially their visits with family in England at least twice a year.
Friends Hits Milestone: $1 Million Raised for Farm

It was a very good year for the Farm and Friends of Deer Hollow Farm. Last year, during Friends’ 20th anniversary, the nonprofit reached a major milestone: raising $1,000,000 for the Farm and its educational programs. Most of this money was raised in just the past eight years.

“Our donors are passionate about the Farm and its importance as an outstanding educational center,” said Sue Gale, President of the Friends Board. “In 2014, the Board did important innovative work to sustain the Farm well into the future.”

Board Strengthened in Size, Skills

Last year, the all-volunteer Board of Directors modified its bylaws to increase its maximum size to thirteen members from nine. Board work and demands of fund-raising required these changes. “Our budget was fifteen times the size it was when Friends was founded in 1994,” said Sue, “and fund-raising methodology had changed a lot. We were fortunate to recruit new members in 2014, who brought important skills to help us with today’s nonprofit fund-raising models.”

An important change the Board made for more efficient operations was to organize its work into eight committees, each with decision-making, budget, and management. This, plus the Board’s documentation of its policies and procedures, helped streamline Board work, according to Sue. Board members can choose the type of work they want to do, such as grant request writing, lobbying, events management, marketing, merchandise, and youth projects management.

Another important Board change was that Friends stepped into the world of social media with a beautiful new website to better serve donors and the community: www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org. This website was designed by Board Member Jenise Henrikson, who joined the Board in 2014 and chairs the Marketing Committee. The new website includes a PayPal button for online donations and is easy to navigate, even with smart phones. The website features a great map on how to get to the Farm and a blog about events at the Farm and Friends, which is updated frequently.

Two new engaging videos about the Farm and volunteering are included on the new webpage. These videos, produced by Toni Gooch (right above) and Board Treasurer Carla Dorow, have already won awards from the Midpeninsula Community Media Center in Palo Alto.

Friends also expanded its Facebook presence, keeping donors and the community in touch with the latest Farm happenings on a weekly basis. The Friends Facebook page has attracted more than 525 followers: www.facebook.com/FriendsOfDeerHollowFarm.

Board member Kevin Henrikson, who joined the Board last year and now chairs the new Database Committee, created an online FODHF Database to facilitate sharing of documents and photos. Hundreds of documents and photographs are now readily available for Board work.

Registration at Friends events is now easier with the new ability to process credit card payments at the Farm. Carla Dorow led this effort.

Friends also found new revenue sources. Board member Nina Wong-Dobkin worked with The Rotary Club of Cupertino to help raise $8,350 for the 20th Anniversary Year
Friends of Deer Hollow Farm
Board of Directors
Standing L to R: Park Chamberlain, Zulah Eckert, Timothy Wood, Judith Stewart, Jenise Henrikson, Liz Montgomery, David Fung
Seated L to R: Nina Wong-Dobkin, Joan Lewis, Secretary; Sue Gale, President; Carla Dorow, Treasurer; not pictured: Deb Maniar, Kevin Henrikson
Farm’s new duck pond and house. The Rotary Club of Cupertino matched the first $2,350 Friends raised. Board Member Zulah Eckert managed this new fundraising campaign.

The Board’s Youth Volunteer Project Committee was re-activated this year with Board member Park Chamberlain as chair. This committee coordinates Friends funding of youth volunteer projects at the Farm working with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) staff member Jaime Villarreal. The committee had been idle without someone to manage it. Once again, youth project support is in full swing at the Farm.

How Friends Supports the Farm

Friends donors specify how they want their funding to support the Farm: animal care, improvements to the Farm and its programs, general operations, and field trip scholarships for low-income schools.

In its fund-raising, Friends works closely with the Farm’s major funding partners: MROSD, which owns the land and Farm buildings and provides maintenance with support from the County of Santa Clara, and the City of Mountain View, which manages the Farm programs. The cities of Cupertino and Los Altos Hills are also important Farm supporters.

Field Trip Scholarships

This year 5,390 students from more than 40 schools in ten Bay Area cities will attend 226 Farm field trips. Friends donors will pay for more than a third of these students, who attend low-income schools.

Farm Projects

Farm improvements proposed and managed by Farm staff have been an important Friends contribution to the Farm. Over the past seven years, Friends has contributed $100,000 in Farm enhancement projects. Read more about these Farm projects in the fall issue of Friends News.

Farm Operations Support

In FY2014, Friends donors provided $48,600 to Mountain View for Farm operations. Mountain View Farm costs for FY2014 were nearly $300,000. FY2014 out-of-pocket Mountain View costs, (after class fees and grants) were $99,000. For decades, Mountain View was the only city to fund the Farm even though residents from all the surrounding cities enjoyed the Farm for free. When MROSD offered the Farm as a teaching center to the local communities 40 years ago, only Mountain View stepped up to staff the Farm, caring for its animals and offering educational programs like field trips and summer camp through its Recreation Department.

The Friends Board has worked to ensure that the cost of Farm operations budget is spread among more Farm users, both relieving the pressure on Mountain View’s budget and improving sustainability of the Farm. Cupertino and Los Altos Hills renewed their Farm support through 2015.

In 2014, the Farm staff and Friends completed the final of four week-long Farm visitor surveys. Seasonal data averaged from the surveys showed that the Farm is clearly a regional resource: more than 100,000 Farm visitors come from all nearby Silicon Valley cities each year to enjoy the Farm.

Animal Care

In FY2014 Friends also provided $18,200 in animal care and feed. Animal care and feed is mostly funded by donations.

2015 Board Plans

This year the Friends Board will host four public events under the guidance of Board Members Deb Maniar and Judith Stewart, co-chairs of the Board Events Committee: three Spring Farm Tours on March 21, April 18, and May 9 and Ohlone Day on October 10 (with Liz Montgomery and Zulah Eckert replacing Judith). Friends will also assist the Farm staff for Spooky Times at Deer Hollow Farm on October 24.

Friends will continue to research new funding sources and write grant requests, which account for about half our funding. Friends will fund Farm projects such as the new duck pond and house. Friends’ donors will also continue to fund animal feed and care and assist with Farm operations support.

Throughout 2015, Friends will organize volunteers to staff the Farm’s Nature Center on the third Saturday of each month so the public has a chance to see the exhibits. Friends welcomes volunteers to assist with this. Contact us at: info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org

Board Member Changes

This year two Board members will be leaving. Board Secretary and Newsletter Editor Joan Lewis will term out in mid-year, but will continue as our newsletter editor. Judith Stewart, who has helped organize our events and write grant requests, is relocating to Oregon in the fall. Friends welcomes new members to the Board. For more information, contact us.

Friends looks forward to another exciting year working for the thousands of Bay Area people who love Deer Hollow Farm and whose dream is to see it thrive for another 160 years.
Friendly Inquiries

Visitors were asked why they like Deer Hollow Farm.

**Arick** from San Jose

Our 15-month-old daughter learned all the farm animals in her nursery rhymes, so we decided to show her the real thing. Where I grew up near Toronto, there were a lot of farms with cows and horses grazing. It is interesting that I can move to somewhere more populated and developed, and there is still a place like this to come to.

**Sara** from Sunnyvale

I come here all the time with my son. I used to come here for the hiking, but now it’s all about educating and entertaining him at the Farm. It’s good exercise and motivating.

**Chris** from Sunnyvale

We moved to the area and learned about Deer Hollow Farm, so we wanted to show it to our kids. My grandparents had a farm back in Europe, so I feel a special connection to this place.

**Frances** from Redwood City

We come to the Farm to educate our children about the animals. The Farm is awesome. We’ve learned a lot about chickens. I’m reminded of my relatives who have a ranch in South America.

**Fang** from Sunnyvale

I first came here for a good walk, fresh air, and shaded trails. Now I have two youngsters who love animals. And they need the outdoor activities. I wish that the Farm stays here forever. I support this Farm!

**Frankie** from the Brown Barn

I arrived here a few years ago and reside in the Brown Barn. You may see me taking catnaps during the day because my nights are spent chasing mice away. And I always have to keep an eye out for Sprite, the White Barn cat, to make sure she doesn’t enter my territory. All in all, I think life here has been just about purr-fect!
We gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organizations who donated to Friends between November 1, 2014 and January 31, 2015.

**Acorn Woodpecker ($250 to $499)** continued
- Don Weden, in memory of Kim Weden
- Betsy and George Young
- Tim and Gail Sullivan, in memory of Bob Gale

**Phoebe ($100 to $249)** continued
- Neil and Ruth Foley
- Gail Nyhan, via Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- Ulf and Marcella Stauber
- Patricia Campbell, in memory of Diana Cook Pearl
- Cindy Castillo
- Rob Colwell
- Marge Haley, in memory of Boyd Haley
- Ruth Kaempf, in memory of Ulrich Kaempf
- Lee Winchell, for Jack and Bev Winchell
- Stacie Williams, and Jim and Joan Jordan
- Stanley and Barbara Wong
- Everett and Rebecca Palmer
- Merry Astor, in honor of Seymour Alpert
- John Atwood, in memory of Kim Weden
- Christine Burns
- Robert Wohlgemuth and Cynthia Lee, with Google match
- Susan Casner-Kay, in memory of Norah Casner
- Eugene and Clare Cordero
- John and Mary Jane Edwards
- Hills Foundation
- Carol Howard
- Shirley Leisses
- Kevin and Jenise Henrikson
- Jim and Alma Phillips
- Heather Wall, with Google match
- Andy Lott
- Chris and Amy Migdal
- Arthur Robertson, in memory of Anne Robertson
- Stephen Salveter
- Joanne Schmid
- Ann Schmitt, in honor of Carla Dorow
- John and Pat Sheehan

**Phoebe ($100 to $249) continued**
- Brett Degner and Nora Singer, with Apple match
- Kevin and Grace Witt
- Kim Wong and Priscilla Sarinas
- Coleman and Betsy Youngdahl
- Carla Dorow
- Doreen Fernandez
- Katherine Miller Wasilenko, with Google match
- Christel Fliss
- Dennis Haas, in honor of his running friends
- Tamas Sarlos, with Google match
- Anonymous (2)

**Junco ($50 to $99) continued**
- Nancy Delbrueck, in honor of Mimi Mourkas
- Anne Hanson
- Ed and Jean Aiken
- Ron and Nancy Calhoun
- Naomi and Seymour Alpert, in honor of Steve and Merry Astor
- Doug Cox, in memory of Judy Hallagan and Hector Picchetti
- Benjamin Holtz, with Google match
- Mimi Mourkas
- Larry and Dolores Thompson
- Inge Roberts
- Michael and Susan Murphy
- Robert and Nedra Skyles
- Gretchen Vogel, in honor of Mother Nature
- Sylvia Weiser
- Dawn Smith
- Candace Joy
- William “Buzz” McClain
- Christine Bate
- Olga Bruce, in memory of Bill Bruce
- Peter Darrah
- Glenn Davis
- Regina Driscoll, in honor of Mona Helmhold
- Marianne Gregersen, in honor of Lee Winchell
- David Kaskowitz and Susan Kahn
- Walter Keutgens

**Junco ($50 to $99) continued**
- Paul Kostka
- Joan and Greg Loney
- Catherine Mack
- Mary Malgoire
- Tim and Julia O’Keefe
- Michael and Susan Plass
- Martin and Roberta Schwartz
- Sue Stewart, in memory of Maggie Ouligian
- Dixie Storkman
- Gary and Mary Tietz
- Fred and Nancy Witteborn
- Anonymous (2)

**Hummingbird (up to $49)**
- Stephanie Channing, in honor of Nancy Stuhr
- Jacob Vine, in honor of Maya Maniar
- Elizabeth Trahan Berry, in honor of Sue Gale
- Barbara Goodwin
- Kate Hawkes, in honor of Bill Hawkes
- Judith Hietter
- Eugene and Barbara Kates
- Margaret Lanphier
- Neal and Sonja Locke
- Thomas MacDonald
- Nancy Stuhr
- John and Jane Kesselring
- Robert and Judith Dahl
- Patrick and Jan Dalton
- Frederick and Suzanne McDonough
- Kevin and Barbara O’Reilly, in memory of Bob Rynders
- Kirk Ostrowski, in honor of Aaron Oshidari
- Marge Shively
- Linda Thomason
- Sam and Anne Ng
- Anonymous

Thank you to those who gave $398 at the Friends’ Iron Ranger donation box.
Ask theNatureLover
When It Rains It Spores!
by Donna Aronson

After winter rains one can see various interesting fungi throughout open spaces in the Bay Area. Rancho San Antonio Preserve is no exception. Do not collect mushrooms here or at any Midpeninsula Regional Open Space Preserve or East Bay Regional Park. Please only memories, photos, or sketches of mushrooms go home with you. In fact, the rangers can issue a citation for picking mushrooms.

Reading the “Bay Nature” website one learns mushrooms are not really plants. They are in their own kingdom. What we see is the fruit that sends out spores; under the ground are filaments called hyphae that together are mycelium. Mycelia masses can be huge. The record in size goes to Armillaria ostoyae in Oregon covering 2,400 acres; it is thousands of years old.

“Mushrooms can be every bit as beautiful as birds, butterflies, shells or flowers,” states, David Arora in Mushrooms Demystified. He also emphasizes that mushrooms are an important part of our delicate ecosystem.

In the Bay Area we have many mushroom types. After rainfall in the autumn, the mycelia expand. Early boletes and Amanitas like oak tree areas. Chanterelles (such as the black Chanterella above), waxy caps, russulas, are common. On old logs the strange and lovely lion’s mane can appear. Morels appear anywhere and are delicious.

The Ohlone people of this area roasted and ate mushrooms.

Mushrooms are fascinating and diverse. Some mushrooms are toxic, such as this Amanito muscaria. It is far better to either buy mushrooms at the market or go with an experienced mycologist, than to need a kidney or liver transplant.

Volunteer Enrichment

Volunteers and staff enjoy time together learning new skills. Here Lisa is showing us how to make something we use everyday. Gloves and eye protection are required.

Your next Friends News will be posted by September 1, 2015.