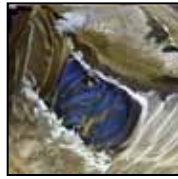




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# Friends News

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



## New Farm Animals



**H**ave you seen this addition to the sheep pen and wondered, "Is that a sheep?" Yes, Harriet is a unique addition. She is a St. Croix, one of the breeds of hair sheep raised for meat, not wool. Remarkable parasite resistance and excellent lamb production make the St. Croix an excellent breed to introduce to the Farm.

Of course, most of the new animals are the babies. This spring you will see lambs and kids. The first to be born was Roxie, Luna's beautiful heifer calf. Luna calved in the orchard on Monday, February 4, at about 8:30 in the evening. She was alone, but the experienced mother had no problem. Roxie is the image of her mom.



## Spring 2013 Opportunities

### Spring Farm Tours

**T**he third Saturday of spring months is a chance for families to learn about the Farm. **March 16, April 20, and May 18** from **10AM to 1PM** the pens will be open and trained docents will be available to talk about the animals, the garden, and the history of Deer Hollow Farm. You will see displayed some of the teaching tools docents use and learn more about the Farm's environmental education programs. You can also visit the Nature Center.

The Farm is a one-mile walk from parking. If it's rainy, check [www.fodhf.org](http://www.fodhf.org), to find the Farm Tour's status.

Cost is \$7 per person; babies one and under are free.



### More Farm Events

**I**t is now possible to arrange private Farm Tours for groups. Private tours will be held as trained docents are available to lead the tour. The minimal cost is \$100. The Friends website has the information you will need to plan a private tour.

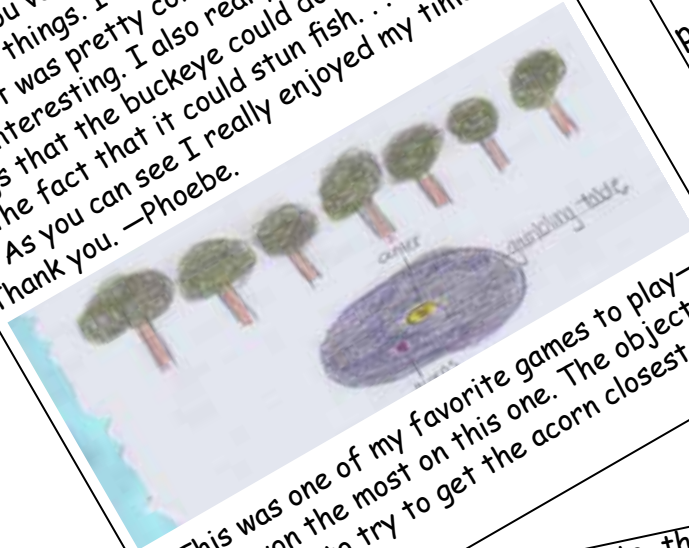
The Nature Center is open to the public on the third Saturday June through September from 9:30AM to 12:30PM. Drop by, explore the touch table, talk with the docents, and buy Farm-related merchandise.

Visit the Farm any time, buy fresh eggs, and on weekends talk with the docents. Opportunities to volunteer at the Farm abound. Care for animals, garden, guide children, or share your unique talent.



# Letters

Dear Friends of Deer Hollow Farm,  
 Thank you very much for teaching us many different things. I really enjoyed the sweat-house. It was pretty cold down there, but it was quite interesting. I also really enjoyed the cool things that the buckeye could do. I was shocked by the fact that it could stun fish. . . .  
 As you can see I really enjoyed my time.  
 Thank you. —Phoebe.



This was one of my favorite games to play—since I won the most on this one. The object of the game is to try to get the acorn closest to the center piece.

You helped me learn the powerfulness of little and adult girls. I can't wait to visit you next year and get smarter. The girls didn't hunt, because they gave life, they didn't take it. It wasn't because they weren't strong enough. My favorite thing I learned about was poison oak.  
 Thank you for your support.  
 —Jez



We went to the farm and we saw a cow. The cow was brown and white. The cow had big eyes. We also saw a duck and goats. Goats give us milk, soap, meat, and leather. Sheep give us wool, lanolin, meat, leather, and milk. My brother petted the goats, but I did not want to. We saw a garden. I really liked the farm.  
 —Alaina



Dear Friends of Deer Hollow Farm,  
 Thank you so much for awarding scholarships to Rooms 7, 8, 9 and 10 from Landels Elementary in Mountain View. We really appreciate the opportunity to visit Deer Hollow Farm.

Most of our students have never had the experience of visiting a working farm. The hands-on experience at the farm inspires the development of oral language and an understanding of where food and products come from. As teachers, we will be able to follow up the visit with writing activities and discussions in the classroom.

Many thanks again,  
 Landels 1st Grade Teachers, Elizabeth Parry, Sharon Hicks, Mary Fielding, Emily Carpenter, Andrea Moore

Dear Friends of Deer Hollow Farm,  
 We were so thrilled to hear we will be receiving monies to help fund our trip to Deer Hollow Farm. Our first graders will be participating in the Fleece and Milk class tour. We have a number of children that will be visiting the farm for the first time and this hands-on experience with the farm animals is both educational and an unforgettable experience. We spend about 2 weeks prior to our trip to the farm studying about the Farm. The children get to taste goat milk and pet a live goat .... About 35% of our class population are second-language learners and 30% are from socioeconomically disadvantaged neighborhoods. This experience allows them to learn they can visit the Farm on their own with their families and makes the community aware of this great resource. We usually follow up our tour with a thank you note to all the wonderful volunteer docents who make this such a rich experience for all. We are so appreciative of this experience. Thank you!!  
 Kathy Patterson, First Grade Teacher, Bubb Elementary School

# Familiar Face at the Farm

## Weekend Farm Barnyard Greeter Helps Both Visitors and Animals

By Sue Gale

Often the first face the public sees at Deer Hollow Farm on the weekend is Carol Jossi's. As a docent, Carol walks the barnyard on Sundays, answering questions and ensuring that the public and the animals are safe.

"It's a great place to be," says Carol, who has given 650 hours to the Farm since starting her volunteer work in 2004.



"The public loves the Farm and the animals. It is amazing that this place is so close to our busy Silicon Valley lives. It's just a short walk to see such a beautiful place from a bygone time. In the 1800s, many Americans lived on a homestead farm just like this."

Carol says that sometimes the public, mostly children, want to feed the animals. "I let them know that we don't allow feeding the animals for their health and well-being. I explain that what we eat is not usually good for the animals. It can make them ill. I also try to keep the visitors off the fences for their safety."

According to Carol, a frequent visitor question is: Can we go into the pens and pet the animals? "I tell them about Friends' three Spring Farm Tours and encourage them to come back then. I explain that during the tours, the pens are open to the public and trained docents are there to answer their questions." All proceeds from these fund-raisers support the Farm and the animals.

Carol's favorite animals at the Farm are the goats. "I'm very fond of all of them and like to play with them. Goats are so people-friendly and have wonderful personalities. I also enjoy Luna. Occasionally, when I talk to her, she will moo back at me. I know it's random, but it feels personal."

Besides volunteering on the weekends, Carol has also served on the nonprofit Friends Board of Directors. Even after her term ended, she continues to help Friends with their public events by registering visitors and with Friends' Newsletter by folding, stamping, and mailing the 350 newsletters. She prepared this very newsletter that you are holding with the assistance of her faithful dog Anna.

Loving the Farm runs in the family. Paul, Carol's husband of 49 years, spent many years as a Farm volunteer. He helped restore the foreman's cabin with Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD). He came on Mondays to take care of the cabin when the Farm was closed. He dusted and washed windows and helped out on the Farm wherever he was needed. Paul was also an accomplished artist, producing many beautiful oil and watercolor paintings of the Farm. In fact, a print of his watercolor of the Farm, shown here, is awarded to all Farm volunteers who attain 1,000 hours of service.

After Paul died in February 2004, Carol began volunteering at the Farm herself. She says she feels a special connection with Paul at the Farm and the surrounding hills. "He really loved this place."

The Santa Clara resident also volunteers at the Santa Clara Library Friends used bookstore and the Santa Clara Senior Center Dining Out program. "Volunteering is an important part of my life."

Carol, who has three daughters, five grandkids, and five great grandchildren, says that spending time at the Farm enriches her life. "This place and the animals are so special.



The rest of the world seems to disappear and life is simpler and quieter." She says she is honored to be among the hundred volunteers who help make the Farm the wonderful place it is. "I would encourage anyone who has considered joining this group of volunteers not to hesitate," says Carol. "There's lots to do here. Anyone can find a special task, such as being a docent, an animal caretaker, a gardener or helping Friends out with public events. It's a very welcoming place."

Carol can be seen on Sundays in the barnyard where she welcomes hundreds of weekend visitors to the peace, the history, and the animals of Deer Hollow Farm.



## Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board of Directors News

### Board Welcomes New Member

The Friends' Board of Directors has welcomed a new member, **Judith Stewart**, a Farm animal care volunteer since 2009. Judith, who joined the Board in January, is a contract litigation intellectual property paralegal who lives in Cupertino. Her initial work on the Board will be grant writing and helping with Friends events. As a farm volunteer, she provides animal care every Wednesday morning.



"I'm pleased to help Friends and the Farm," said Stewart. "My husband and I have been coming to the Farm since we moved here in 2000. It's a rare and wonderful place."

Stewart says caring for the animals is the best part of her week. "It's fun to pet and interact with them." She once made the mistake of thinking the goats were not interested in her on one of her first volunteer days. "While I was out of their pen getting clean straw, I left the door open. When I turned around, two had followed me into the open barn! Yikes! Luckily, one ran back on her own, and I grabbed the horns of the other and was able to get her back inside the gate. Crisis averted!" Judith also volunteers for the Humane Society as a foster mom for dogs.



Judith attended the January Friends Board meeting to learn more about the 501(c)(3) charitable organization and

decided to join. Board meetings, open to the public, are held four evenings a year at the Mountain View Senior Center.

Board President **Sue Gale** welcomed Stewart to the Board. "We've got a busy year planned, and we'll put Judith's writing skills to use on our Grants Committee." Sue says that the Board membership must increase to ensure its long-term stability and to help pass on Board knowledge and experience to future members. The Board's bylaws specify membership of five to nine members. Sue would like to see a full nine-member Board.

"Having more members would spread the work," she explained. "We also want to ensure that we are passing on our knowledge to tomorrow's Board leaders. The Board ideally needs a few more members with fund-raising and organizational skills who can give a few hours a week to various Board chores," said Sue. Details about Board membership are posted on the Friends website [www.fodhf.org](http://www.fodhf.org).

### Board goals for 2013

The Board can't take on new work until Board membership is increased, according to Sue. "Right now the Board is doing an excellent job supporting the Farm. We raised about \$80,000 last year and will continue our current work in 2013. But until we have more members, it's prudent that we not take on more projects." The Board's 2013 plans include:

- Writing grant requests and reports,
- Sponsoring four public fund-raisers,
- Conducting donor outreach campaigns,
- Communicating with supporters through newsletter and annual report,
- Lobbying local governments and community organizations for Farm operations support,
- Funding Farm Enhancement Projects and Youth Organization Volunteer Projects,
- Providing scholarships for about half the student field trips, and
- Staffing the Nature Center and selling Farm merchandise.



Friends' Treasurer **Carla Dorow** and President **Sue Gale** receiving a \$25,000 check for Deer Hollow Farm operations from the **Brin Wojcicki Foundation**

### Friends and the Community

Throughout 2013, Friends will organize volunteers to staff the Nature Center and Friends' public events (three Farm tours and Ohlone Day). If you are interested in helping out, contact Friends at [info@fodhf.org](mailto:info@fodhf.org). Plans call for the Nature Center to be open on the third Saturday of each month except October. With more volunteers, Friends could open the Nature Center more frequently, giving the public more access.

In January, Friends published a 2012 Annual Report about its activities and accomplishments for its funding partners and donors. You can find the annual report at Friends website, [www.fodhf.org](http://www.fodhf.org).

Also in January, the Board gave a well-received report detailing its 2012 accomplishments to the Mountain View Parks and Recreation Commission. Friends Board works closely with the City of Mountain View. A member of the Parks and Recreation Department attends each Board meeting.



**Judith Stewart** will be joining existing Friends Board Members: standing, left to right: **Sue Gale**, President; **Joan Lewis**, Secretary; **Carla Dorow**, Treasurer. Seated, left to right: **Liz Montgomery**, Communications Manager, and **Deb Maniar**, Events and Merchandise Manager.

# Exploring the Touch Table

Come to the Farm around ten in the morning on the third Saturday of most months for a chance to explore the Touch Table, enjoyed during the week by school children and summer campers. Some of the objects are in little boxes with identification. Others are left for you to identify.



What birds do these feathers come from?

The wild turkey feathers are easy to identify from the turkey pictures, and you'll see a turkey beard. The female and male mallard wings can be compared; the male is larger and more colorful. The wings of the flicker are so colorful. The display

case has a flicker, so you can see this member of the woodpecker family. You can also compare the barn owl feathers on the table to the stuffed barn owls on display.

Other feathers could be from a Coopers hawk, a tiny lesser gold finch, or another woodpecker.

The box of bones has several skulls and jawbones. Are they from carnivores



or herbivores? A look at the display mountain lion's mouth shows that meat eaters have two large canines. If none of the skulls have these teeth in place,



you might look for one that has spaces for these large teeth.



The grass eaters' teeth are for grinding. The large herbivore jawbone is too big to come from a deer. What might it be?

At first glance, the oak gall and buckeye look similar. Both grow on trees. The gall is formed when a wasp lays its eggs on an oak branch. The tree grows the gall to protect itself. The larvae eat their way out, creating the tiny holes.



The buckeye bears the seed of the buckeye tree. Compare the buckeye to the eye of the display buck hanging near the Nature Center

door. Is that how the buckeye got its name?

Fragile snakeskins are also on the touch table; they need replacing more frequently than other things. Young snakes shed their skin up to four times a year; older snakes leave old skin behind once or twice a year. Each time the skin is shed, the rattler gets one segment longer; you can see a rattle in one of the boxes on the table.



Children engaged with the materials on the touch table, and with each other, parents, and docents like Ulf Stauber on this Saturday morning in January.

The touch table is not the only thing to see in the Nature Center. For example, look at the many different nests. The bushtit's nest looks like a sock. The spider web woven into it keeps it strong. The small hummingbird nest is also woven with spider web; docent Ulf Stauber points out it is engineered so that it will expand as the baby birds grow.



Keep exploring and asking questions.

## New Friend of the Farm



You may have seen this friendly face working around the Farm in the late fall or early winter. **Robert Futu** was the Open Space Maintenance Technician who filled in while **Jaime Villarreal** worked elsewhere. Robert fell in love with the Farm. He worked hard keeping everything in good shape. The Farm staff, **Jessica Morgan**, **Jacquie Coggiola**, and **Claire Moore** enjoyed working with him and praised his many accomplishments. Remember that old outhouse in the chicken coop? Robert demolished it. He also cleared all the water valves; they are now easily accessible and in good working condition.

Jaime was away temporarily coordinating volunteers for MROSD. By doing the job for several months he was helping define the requirements for a new position.

## Friendly Inquiries

by Tom Lustig

Visitors were asked what attracts them to the Farm.



Jasmine, San Jose

**J**asmine: Today is my first day at the Farm. I was looking up parks on Yelp, and I saw it listed. I have been observing old barns and their history. I'm studying art and am here to do sketches of the Farm animals. Luna will be my first subject.



Vikram and Hersh, Cupertino

**V**ikram: My two sons love coming to the Farm to see the animals. The cow's name, Luna, is special to Hersh because he is fascinated with the moon.

**H**ersh: The planets are Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, which has storms, Uranus, which is cold, and Neptune. The moon has craters. I want to be an astronaut.



Ingrid, Los Altos

**I**ngrid: I first came to the Farm around 1980. There were few people here then. We come here almost every week. We go for a walk and check up on the animals. I like nature. Now there are more and more people here, almost too many. Parking is terrible. I know people enjoy it and have a right to come here. We are fortunate that there are so many open spaces along our peninsula, but this one is a beautiful place for children and families. Plus, the Farm is important because some children have never seen a chicken, a cow, or a goat.



Arijit, San Jose

**A**rijit: Fifteen years ago, we came to Rancho San Antonio and discovered the Farm. I was brought up in a rural area and we had cows and chickens. I milked the cows. We bring our children here because they should know that milk doesn't come from a gallon container at Safeway.



Margaret, Palo Alto

**M**argaret: I first came to the Farm about 15 years ago. I come to see the beautiful landscape and the animals, especially the newborns. My great grandmother collected milk from the farmers and sold it in the city. She would go by horse and buggy in the Russian Empire.

## Ask the Nature Lover About Wild Cucumber

by Donna Aronson

**I**f you should be walking at Rancho San Antonio Preserve in late winter, you might observe green shoots with lots of curly tendrils growing out of the ground. These shoots grow rapidly and may climb fifteen to twenty feet. This wild cucumber, also known as bitter root or man root, is in the same gourd family (cucurbitaceae) as cucumbers, melons, squashes, and pumpkins. But the California native wild cucumber is not edible; in fact the seeds are poisonous. The fruit is a spiky ball; its round seeds were used by native people for games like marbles.

One of the most fascinating parts of this perennial vine is the root. Author Ted Williams in *Audubon* (January/February 2013 issue, in the Earth Almanac section) reports, "A root in front of the administration building at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, California, was dug up to make way for a garden. It weighed 467 pounds and had to be hauled away in a flatbed truck." That is a man-sized root! The enormous root stores water and starch, allowing the plant to survive drought or fire.

The name of the genus, *marah fabareus*, comes from Exodus 15:23. "They could not drink the waters of Marah for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah."

I assume the plant tastes bitter, but honestly haven't tried it. Wild cucumber is not a food source, but it is a very interesting plant.



# Wonderful Friends: We gratefully acknowledge these generous Friends and community organizations who donated to the Farm between November 1, 2012, and January 31, 2013.

## Red-Tailed Hawk (\$25,000)

Brin Wojcicki Foundation

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

City of Cupertino

## California Thrasher (\$2,000)

Mountain View Kiwanis Foundation

## Steller's Jay (\$1,000)

Silicon Valley Realtors Charitable Foundation

Joy Desai

Esther John and Aart De Geus

Regis and Dianne McKenna

Dewey and Doris Halligan

## California Quail (\$500-\$999)

Los Altos Rotary Endowment Fund

Sandra Bergan

Bad Robot, per the request of their employee, David Codeglia

Catherine Gordon

Genny Smith

Gordon and Lauri Steel

Anonymous

## Acorn Woodpecker (\$250-\$499)

Connett Ahart

Sue Gale

Tom and Barbara Lustig

Wendy Wilcox

Betsy and George Young

Lorraine Alleman, in memory of Rodger Alleman

Park Chamberlain

Chris and Bill Green, in honor of Lee Winchell and her steadfast dedication to Deer Hollow Farm

Chris Halvorsen

Fen Choi

Carol Jossi

Ron and Dorothy Schafer

Mary Kane

Paresh and Debra Maniar

Jim and Alma Phillips

Kathryn Sparkman, in honor of Carla Dorow—extraordinary volunteer

Tim and Gail Sullivan,  
in memory of Bob Gale

Anonymous, in memory of Boyd Haley

## Phoebe (\$100-\$249)

Eugene and Clare Cordero

Christopher and Deborah Crouse

Christel Fliss

Neil and Ruth Foley

Sally Cappucci

Cheryl and Lew Masters

Susan Mingione

Ulf and Marcella Stauber

Lee Winchell, in honor of Jack and Bev Winchell, Stacie Williams, and Sue Shaffer

Dee Wood, in memory of Chris Wood

Timothy Dylan Wood, in honor of Donnella, Lavelle, and Ridley

Ken and Jean Yao

Christine Goritschnigg, with HP match

Everett and Rebecca Palmer

Kevin and Sue Purcell, in honor of Lee Winchell

Steve and Merry Astor, in honor of Sy Alpert

John and Mary Jane Edwards, in memory of Herwig Von Morze

Ruth Kaempf

Shirley Leisses

Joan and Greg Loney, in memory of Kim Weden

Gail Nyhan

Tim and Julia O'Keefe

Stephen and Elizabeth Salveter

Katherine Wasilenko

Linda Choi, in memory of Herwig von Morze

Steven Natterstad, in memory of Herwig von Morze

Freddie Park, in memory of Herwig von Morze

Arthur Robertson, in memory of Anne Robertson

Alissa Viktorova

Zulah Eckert

Kate Murashige, in memory of Herwig von Morze

Matt Pennings, in memory of Herwig von Morze

Coleman and Betsy Youngdahl

Anonymous (2)

## Junco (\$26-\$99)

Naomi and Seymour Alpert, in honor of Steve and Merry Astor  
Thomas Goosmann

## Junco (\$26-\$99)

Carol Howard

David Kaskowitz and Susan Kahn  
Paul Kostka

Margaret Lanphier

Naomi McKee

Dixie Storkman

Jeffrey and Marian Urman

Gretchen Vogel

Fred and Nancy Witteborn

Barbara Wong

Ross and Joane Anderson

Enigmatics

Betty Eskeldson

Kirsten Espe

Marge Haley

James Morales, with HP match

Martin and Roberta Schwartz

Ron and Nancy Calhoun

Walter Keutgens

Helene Pier, in honor of Betsy Young

Michael and Susan Plass

Sylvia Weiser

Christine Bate

Gerard Blaufarb, in memory of Herwig Von Morze

Patricia Campbell

Doug Cox

Curt Wohlgenuth

Carol Peters

Anonymous

## Hummingbird (Up to \$25)

Sylvie Gitin

Richard and Anna Johnson

Olivia Poulos, in memory of James D. Poulos

Chet and Marlene Zimmerman

John and Jane Kesselring

Mary Malgoire

Sam and Anne Ng

Michael and Barbara Korn

Neal and Sonja Locke

Thomas MacDonald

Carl and Ann Schmitt,  
in honor of Carla Dorow

Galen Scott

Maureen Godwin, in memory of Herwig von Morze

Anonymous, in memory of Kim Weden

**T**hank you to the visitors who left \$461 in the Iron Ranger during November, December, and January.

# A Balancing Act

By Jaime Villarreal

Deer Hollow Farm is home to a mix of historic and modern structures. Visitors enjoy seeing the historic examples of farm buildings and practices from days gone by. So, when they see new structures, some ask “why?” On the other hand, others see what they consider obsolete structures. They may wonder if more efforts can be put forth to make the Farm more modern. The Farm stewards try to find the best balance between these two viewpoints.



The buildings at Deer Hollow Farm were constructed from the 1800s through the mid 1900s. The historic Foreman’s Cabin, the iconic White Barn, open air Hay Barn, and the Carriage Shed (aka: Farm Office) are the oldest buildings, constructed in the 1850s. All of these structures have been retrofitted within the last thirty years, with the goal of keeping the Farm a safe environment for program participants and visitors. The garage and chicken coop were added when the Perham Family owned and operated a

construction company at this location in the 1950s. The sheep and pig barn, also known as the Brown Barn, was built in the 1980s when the Farm was first being managed by the City of Mountain View.

In the past five years, other structures



have been added: a goat and sheep feeding shelter which protects outdoor feed from excess moisture; a small barn for Luna, the Farm’s Jersey cow, and the cow milking parlor with a milking machine used daily often for demonstrations when milking Luna; and the most recent, an amphitheater in the replica Ohlone Village. All of these newer structures have been funded by the generous support of the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm.

In the upcoming year, Farm staff will evaluate the Chicken Coop and identify needed changes to make the space more clean and safe.

The historic aspects of the Farm combined with the newer additions further the goal of a clean, safe, and comfortable environment for students and visitors.

Friends donations helped preserve the old by financing the painting of the White Barn in February, and donations gave Luna a place to live and raise her calf.



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 located at: 22500 Cristo Rey Drive, Los Altos. 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. Your contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Please contact us with your questions and ideas. Thank for you requesting the electronic **color** copy of **FriendsNews**; the printing cost and postage saved will go to the Farm. Contact: [info@fodhf.org](mailto:info@fodhf.org) by mail: P.O. Box 4282, Mountain View, CA 94040

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Your next **FriendsNews** will be posted by September 1, 2013.

