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Friends News

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



Ohlone Day Fun

Deer Hollow Farm's replica Ohlone village was bustling with 384 visitors on Sunday, October 13. Families were soaking up the sun and learning so much about the native peoples of this area.

As this girl was leaving the village, her father complimented the docents and other volunteers on presenting such an interesting and educational event.



There were smiles all around and new skills to learn. This boy is making good progress on the hole he is drilling in a shell.

Families worked together; here Farm volunteer Timothy Wood and his family are doing cording.

Friends made over \$3000. Thank you volunteers! You made this a successful event. For more pictures see page 8.



Winter 2013 Giving

Donations to the Farm

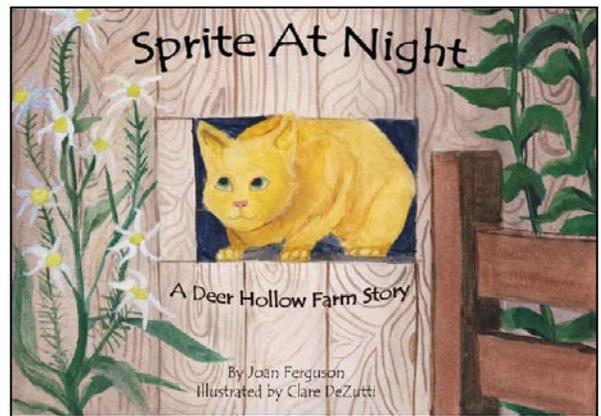
At year's end, Friends encourages you to remember the Farm as you consider your tax-deductible gifts. Your donations will support Friends general fund or you can specifically designate your gift for general operations, scholarships for field trips for low-income schools, Farm improvement projects, or animal care. Our website, www.fodhf.org, includes information on sponsoring a specific animal.

Consider including Friends of Deer Hollow Farm in your will or trust. In your estate planning, you can designate a specific dollar amount for Friends of Deer Hollow Farm, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, or a percentage of either your estate or your estate after other bequests.

Your lawyer might use this language: "I give [\$___] [___% of my estate] [___% of the residue of my estate] to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm, a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, tax ID Number 77-0373776. Friends of Deer Hollow Farm can be reached at info@fodhf.org."

Holiday Gifts

Holiday shopping is always fun at the Friends booth or in the Nature Center. The Nature Center will be open from **9:30 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday, December 7 and 21**. Find T-shirts in many colors and sizes. Hand-embroidered sweatshirts will keep friends or family warm on cold mornings. Friends mugs can hold warm drinks during holiday celebrations. Check out the new mug colors—green and brown.



You will also want to look at *Sprite At Night*, a new book for young children about the Farm animals by **Joan Ferguson**. The author is the "Familiar Face at the Farm" in this issue (see page 4). Meet her at the Nature Center on **December 7**. The Nature Center, usually open on the third Saturday of the month, is open an additional Saturday, with Joan showing you her new publication and signing copies for all the children on your holiday list.

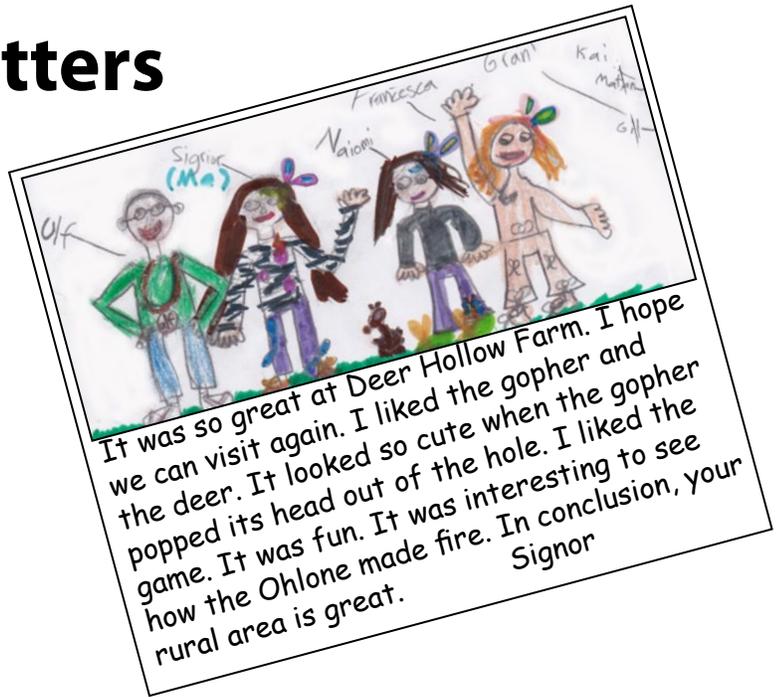
Letters

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.

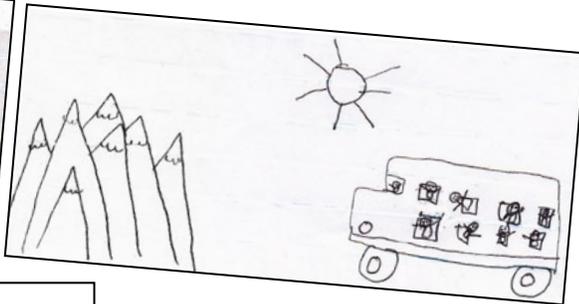
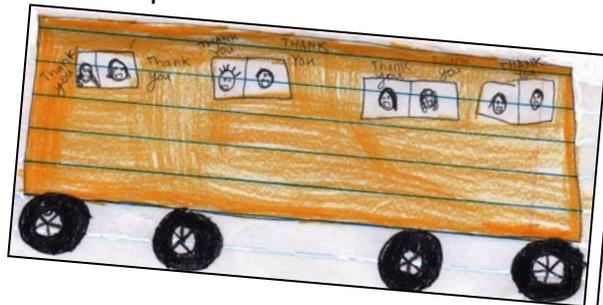
Many thanks again,
Landels 1st Grade Teachers



It was so great at Deer Hollow Farm. I hope we can visit again. I liked the gopher and the deer. It looked so cute when the gopher popped its head out of the hole. I liked the game. It was fun. It was interesting to see how the Ohlone made fire. In conclusion, your rural area is great.
Signor



Dear Friends of Deer Hollow Farm,
Thank you for your generous donation to Deer Hollow Farm. With your donation we will go on a field trip to visit Deer Hollow Farm in April. We could not go without your help.



Dear Friends of Deer Hollow Farm,

On behalf of the Kindergarten Team at Theuerkauf Elementary, I would like to thank you for the generous scholarship. For many of our students visiting a farm and interacting with animals will be a new and enchanting experience. As teachers, we will begin reading farm books and teaching about life on farms during the months and weeks prior to our visit. Through these efforts, the children will begin to make connections and on the day of our visit their learning will truly come to life. As a school and community we are grateful for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Claire Konkos,
Kindergarten Teacher Theuerkauf Elementary



Thank you for showing us the animals.
Sara

Luna B
Peter D
Clove E
Muffin F
Trudy C
Sprite A

Friendly Inquiries

by Tom Lustig

Visitors during “Spooky Times” were asked what attracts them to the Farm.



Venkatesh and Rohini, Cupertino

Rohini

I first came to the farm in 2006. Venkatesh wanted to show me the beauty of California, so he brought me here. We like the experience of the greenery and of being out in nature. And we like that the old Farm structures have been maintained so well.

Bea

I walk to the Farm 4 or 5 days a week. I like to walk among the trees and nature and breathe the good air. I used to come here many years ago with my children to see the animals. Now, I come to see the chickens. They are beautiful. The new rooster is very colorful.



Bea, Cupertino

Amelia

I was really, really young when I first came here with my parents. We enjoy walking along looking at the animals. Plus, I have my camera to take photos. The cow is really pretty. The Spooky Times décor is really cool.



Amelia, Sunnyvale

My

I came to the farm when I was in high school, around 1995. We did a run and saw the farm. I spent a lot of time here, went to college, and now I'm back here with my kids checking up on the animals. It's good for my daughter to see the live animals, instead of seeing them just in books.



My, Campbell



Cindy, Los Altos

Thirty years ago I walked with my neighbors to the Farm every day. Later, I pushed my kids in a stroller. Then they went to camp here. Now, for exercise, I ride my bicycle to the Farm. The cow and calf are my favorites. They are so beautiful. They are lucky to be here. I feel bad when the animals get sold. But it's a farm, right?



Diane, Cupertino

I love nature, and I love the Farm, the goats, and the cows. The Farm is absolutely good for the community. I purchased a pumpkin here at Spooky Times and now have it at my front door. It's adorable. I've purchased persimmons in the past, and I'm going to come back for more.



Erin, Sunnyvale

Today is the first time I've been to the farm. I was looking for hiking trails on Yelp, and this happened to be one of the closest. It mentioned Deer Hollow Farm. I really like it. It gives an opportunity for people living in an urban area a chance to see what a farm looks like. I come from a farming family, so this is a special place for me. I'm going to look into volunteering here. I see the lady (Christine) cleaning up after the animals with shovel and wheelbarrow. That looks like something I'd be interested in doing.



Familiar Face at the Farm

Researcher Finds Many Ways to Help the Farm and Friends



While enjoying a walk in Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve, **Joan Ferguson** and her husband **Craig Uhrich** saw a sign, "Volunteers Needed." **Jessica Morgan** was in the Deer Hollow Farm barnyard and took time with Joan sharing the ways she might help at the Farm. Joan felt a connection with Jessica and with the Farm. She started volunteering in 2008; four years later Joan had over 500 Farm volunteer hours. Working as an animal-care volunteer year round and as a docent during the school year, the hours accumulated quickly.

Joan enjoys teaching and learning from children, especially those with special needs. Her background of research at Stanford with low-birth-weight children and with autistic children and their families gives her a special awareness with differently-abled groups. Joan also appreciates learning from and team teaching with professionals like **Lee Winchell** and experiencing the joy of teaching with **Donna Aronson** and others.

The rewards of working with children are often simple things such as a deaf child slipping her hand into Joan's at the end of the tour or new words she learns from a student's native language as she encourages students' sharing. Connecting with

students is important to Joan, so is enjoying them. The things children say often make her smile:

- After she explained how woodrats were active at night, a student replied, "My dad says my mom is nocturnal."
- Overhearing Joan tell an adult chaperone that Luna would be bred soon, a child asked, "How is Luna going to turn into bread?"
- Walking with kindergarteners past the Nature Center, Joan commented, "You have to come and visit when the Nature Center is open. We have a new mountain lion in there." A child with a very worried look asked, "Do you keep him in a cage?"

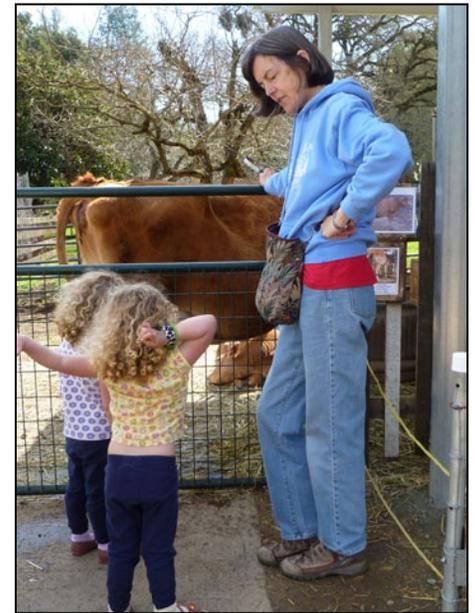
Joan has learned her own ways of dealing with an occasional difficult group. She remembers one time when someone thought it funny to tease her by bumping her and stepping on her heels; several children tried it. Joan stopped the group and explained that if she fell, their fun trip would come to an end. Then she put the worst offender in charge of being sure no one stepped on her heels. When sometimes children act out for attention, Joan gives them that attention by giving them a responsibility. Her favorite tours to lead are Farm and Garden and Fleece and Milk. She ends each tour by thanking the children for coming and offering a high five to anyone who wants one.

Caring for the animals, Joan has connected with them. She found them to be friends with personalities. Joan loved her early Monday-morning shift, saying, "The Farm is so quiet and peaceful at that time." As she opened the gate, Sprite, the cat, was the first one to greet her and want attention. Joan learned from **Jen Beckman** how to care for the pens and animals. She describes also learning from other volunteers. "**Julie and Evan Dewey** were my Monday morning partners. Evan is so strong. He shovels large amounts of muck to clean the barns, and he has his

own rhythm. He takes two large shovel scoops of muck, and then he slams the shovel on the ground. At first, it startled me, and then I realized that's just his style and his rhythm, and he does such great work." Evan gave Joan insight into ways to see things differently.

There were challenging experiences with animals that Jen helped her through. One day Joan saw a chicken in the duck pond. Chickens can't swim. Joan called to Jen who attempted to rescue the unfortunate victim by fishing her out with the swimming-pool scoop. Once a pregnant goat was crowding Joan; the goat slipped and did a belly flop on the cement. When Jen was called, she found no damage and reassured Joan. While using the milking machine, Joan noticed one of Luna's teats was turned completely backward. She called to Jen, "Jen, I broke the cow!" Jen came out and assured Joan she had not broken the cow. Of course the saddest thing is to see animals die or be sold to other farms.

In addition to volunteering on the Farm, Joan gives many hours volunteering with Friends. At the Farm Tours fundraisers, you can find Joan introducing families to Luna.



While on the Board, she had the idea of working with Whole Foods of Los

Ask the Nature Lover about Wild Turkeys

by Donna Aronson



Sprite At Night illustrator Clare DeZutti shows Sprite saying goodnight to the pigs.

Altos on their Nickels for Nonprofits fundraising program. In the two months that Friends was recipient of the nickels, nearly three thousand dollars was raised.

Joan has a wonderful new way to help Friends raise money. She has written, commissioned art for, and published *Sprite At Night*, a book about the Farm. The simple story of relationships among Sprite and the other animals shows their concern for each other, the assurance that they are being watched over, and the sense of peace on the Farm. Joan has paid the production costs, and Friends will receive all the proceeds from the books sold at the Farm fundraising events and through the Nature Center.

Joan's latest Farm-related research project is wool dyeing. Joan has followed the process from watching the shearing of our sheep through the carding and spinning at Yolo Wool Mill in Woodland. Now she is experimenting with natural dyes and is beginning to grow the needed plants in her garden. A true researcher, she is sharing what she is learning with Farm docents and others.

Joan and Craig are members of other

farms, including the Monkeyflower Ranch sheep farm where she gets "garden-variety cheese" and Himmalgarten Farm in Redwood City. Joan is involved in other community projects, often through her church, University Church at Stanford. Connecting with and helping people and animals are a natural part of Joan's life. Deer Hollow Farm has become an important part of that life. "I'm grateful for the caring people I've met and the many opportunities to learn and share new things."



Yarns Joan dyed from natural sources

If you hear the words "Big Bird" this time of year, you are not likely to think of the Sesame Street character, but may imagine a turkey. Did you know Rancho San Antonio preserve has several flocks of wild turkeys? I am not sure of exactly the number of birds, but have counted more than a dozen in a flock.

Wild turkeys were not native to California, but were introduced from the Rio Grande about 1878. They are big birds exhibiting sexual dimorphism. The male (tom) weighs 11 to 24 pounds. The female (hen) is much smaller at 5 to 12 pounds. The tom has exquisite feathers with red, purple, green, copper, bronze, and gold iridescence. (See the turkey feathers and pictures at the Nature Center.) The hens are duller and do not have a beard or red wattle on the throat/neck. All have three toes, but the tom has spurs on his lower legs. Plus he has an amazing fantail that he raises for display like a peacock.

Young birds are called *poults*. Adolescents are *jakes*.

Turkeys roost in trees at night. Their habitat is brush, riparian, scrub oak, and woodland. Raccoons, skunks, and snakes will eat turkey eggs. Coyote, bobcats, cougars, and eagles will prey on the turkeys. They can protect themselves by kicking, using the spurs, biting, or ramming with their relatively big body.

The sound of a turkey is loud and can be heard a mile away. Turkeys are scientifically classified as class: Aves, and order: Galliformes.



You might enjoy seeing a You Tube offering called "Rancho San Antonio turkey encounter," made in 2010 while the photographer was running at the Open Space Preserve.

Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board News

New Members Join

by Sue Gale, President

This Fall, the Friends Board welcomed three new members, all long-time Farm supporters who responded to our September newsletter plea for help in raising Farm funding. These new members not only have a great love of the Farm but bring helpful fund-raising, writing, and management skills which will keep our board strong well into the future.

Zulah Eckert, a Farm volunteer since 2004, joined the Friends Board of Directors in September. Before a recent two-year move to New Mexico, she was often seen on Saturday morning working in the garden. Readers may remember when she was featured as a Familiar Face at the Farm in 2008. By that time, Zulah had put in more than 800 hours maintaining the garden, adding beds near the Farm entrance, and beginning the planting of pumpkins in the orchard. Zulah has returned to Cupertino and to her work with the corporate legal department at Hewlett Packard. She is happy to also return to her support of the Farm, now as a member of Friends board. "The Friends Board work looks interesting, and it certainly is a wonderful cause," Zulah said.

Nina Wong-Dobkin has been bringing her children to Deer Hollow Farm for many years. "I have a



long connection with Deer Hollow Farm, from hiking the trails when I first moved to Sunnyvale, through years of visiting animals at the Farm with my children. My eldest child just turned 21." Nina's daughter is a big animal lover and has enjoyed all her school field trips at the Farm as well as summer camps there. "I have been a parent participation preschool teacher for seven years and in addition to my passion in teaching parenting skills,



Seated L-R: Sue Gale, President; Joan Lewis, Secretary; Carla Dorow, Treasurer. Standing L-R: Judith Stewart, Deb Maniar, Liz Montgomery, Zulah Eckert.

I also am passionate about encouraging parents in my classes to spend time outdoors with their preschoolers," said Nina. "The Farm is so important to our children, teaching them about the importance of the outdoors and caring for our environment and animals." Nina already volunteers for several worthy causes. The Sunnyvale resident is interested in grant-writing for the Board.

Cupertino resident **Park Chamberlain**

recently reduced the scope of his tax business and has more time to volunteer. He says it's important that Friends continues to keep the Farm strong. For decades, he has visited the Farm and hiked the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District trails; he now wants to help ensure that Deer Hollow Farm remains successful. Park spent many years volunteering for Little League and served two years as President of the Board of the Serra Little League. He has a good understanding of organizations that are largely staffed by volunteers and also about working with local governments. Park says he'd like to help out with grant request writing and financial management.



The Friends Board is pleased to have such well-qualified new members to

ensure that the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization continues to support Deer Hollow Farm. Your all-volunteer FODHF Board members are hard at work planning the 2014 Spring Farm Tours, writing grant requests, and staffing the Nature Center and FODHF booth. They manage your donations well, providing more than 90% of all donations directly to the Farm.

Visitor Survey Continues

More than 126,000 Bay Area residents visit Deer Hollow Farm each year. They enjoy the many Farm animals, exhibits, historic buildings, and picnic areas for free. This year, the Farm is conducting quarterly surveys of Farm visitors to determine who visits the Farm by city of origin. Seasonal week-long surveys were conducted in March, June, and October. Each person who entered the Farm barnyard was asked for their resident city. A winter survey is also planned to give a complete seasonal picture. Sunnyvale and San Jose residents number the most visitors.

ANNUAL VISITORS AVERAGED

Sunnyvale	24,457
San Jose	23,747
Out of Area	17,784
Cupertino*	13,000
Los Altos	12,879
Mountain View*	11,873
Santa Clara	8,840
Palo Alto	3,484
Saratoga	2,999
Campbell	2,219
Los Gatos	2,080
Los Altos Hills*	1,456
Unknown	1,335

TOTAL VISITORS 126,152

* Cities contributing to operations

Friends plans to seek funding from the cities of Sunnyvale and San Jose, whose

Board News continued

residents visit the Farm in large numbers as board strength allows a member to take on the task. This year, Friends lobbied the city councils of Cupertino, Los Altos Hills, and Los Altos for Farm funding. Cupertino and Los Altos Hills generously responded to our grant requests with \$10,000 each. The City Council of Los Altos declined to fund the Farm despite the fact that nearly 13,000 of its residents visit the Farm annually.

Founders Day Gathering

Friends was among those who took part in the **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD)** Founder's Day celebrating 40 years of acquiring land to preserve as open space.



Deer Hollow Farm is located on 10 acres of land within the MROSD. They own the land and provide Farm maintenance staff (estimated at more than \$140,000 annually). The **County of Santa Clara** owns the parking lots and the land up to the tennis courts. They provide about \$50,000 each year for Farm operations. The **City of Mountain View** provides about \$80,000 (above the fees received for classes) to help pay for the 2.5 educational program staff. Since the 1970s, the City of Mountain View employees have cared for the Farm animals and managed the educational program with the permission of MROSD.



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

Friends has a FACEBOOK page. Keep up with all the latest news about Friends and the Farm at Friends of Deer Hollow Farm on Facebook.

Friends Funds Scholarships

More than 5,000 Bay Area elementary school students will come to the Farm for field trips this year from 45 schools in 13 Bay Area cities. Friends will pay \$9,163 in tuition for about 45% of those students. These children attend schools in low-income areas of Mountain View, San Jose, and Sunnyvale. To qualify for Friends' scholarships, at least one-third of the school or class must qualify for the free lunch program.

Friends Scholarships

City	# Students	\$ Amount
Mountain View	1,364	\$3,151
San Jose	405	\$3,243
Sunnyvale	471	\$2,484
Menlo Park	7	\$ 285
TOTAL	2,247	\$9,163

Overall, the cities with the most students attending field trips, accounting for 86% of the 5,000 students, are Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Cupertino and San Jose.

Spooky Times Fun

This year 268 people attended Spooky Times, the annual Halloween fund raiser put on by Farm staff. It brought in just over \$1,600 for the Animal Trust Fund. The Farm decorations were amazing, and creative costumes added to the fun.



Wonderful Friends

We gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organizations who donated to Friends between August 1 and October 31, 2013.

Red-Shouldered Hawk (\$2,000-\$10,000)

Town of Los Altos Hills

California Quail (\$500-\$1,000)

Carol Ryall, with match from Applied Materials

Corey and Ellen Pavitt, in memory of Ted and Dorothy Carlson

Anonymous

Acorn Woodpecker (\$250-\$499)

Tim Coogan and Alendra Hua

Joan Lewis

Phoebe (\$100-\$249)

Susan Mingione

Jeffrey and Marian Urman

Sally Cappucci

Jeannine Deveaux

Carol Howard

Leslie C. and Anita N. Nichols

Joan Ferguson

Robert Friedman

Inge Roberts

Nora Singer

The George Stanley Family

Junco (\$26-99)

James Morales, with match from HP

Robert and Judith Dahl

Lee Winchell, in memory of

Kathleen Keeler

Betty Eskeldson

Thomas Goosmann

David and Karen Jessen

Hummingbird (up to \$25)

Roger and Peggy Masini

Michael and Angela Orr

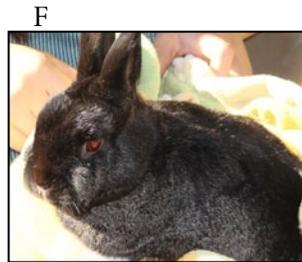
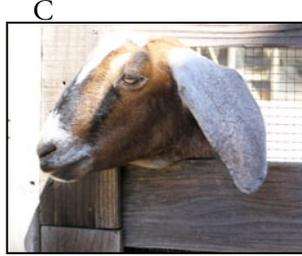
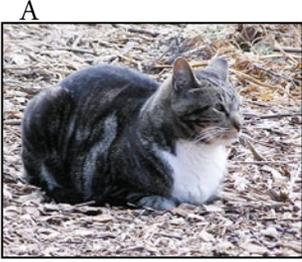
Thank you to those who donated \$274 cash at the Farm



Animals on the Farm

by Tom Lustig

Unscramble the animal names and match them to the pictures. (answers on page 2)



N U A L

F U N M I F

T E P R E

D U R Y T

O E L C V

E P S T R I

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 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. To contribute to the newsletter contact: info@fodhf.org by mail: P.O. Box 4282, Mountain View, CA 94040

Editor: Joan Lewis
Staff: Donna Aronson, Carla Dorow, Dan Fillin, Sue Gale, Mike Hammes, Carol Jossi, Tom Lustig, and Gail Nyhan

Your next **FriendsNews** will be mailed on March 1, 2014.

