Volunteer Fun

by Nina Wong-Dobkin

Volunteer opportunities at Deer Hollow Farm are “no-experience-required” positions where training and mentoring are provided. Livestock volunteers learn about animal care, feed, and farm chores. Field trip docents acquire and increase their knowledge of our environmental education curriculum: from plants in our garden to characteristics of various breeds of sheep and goats at the Farm, from native plants and their uses to Native American history, artifacts, and lifestyle.

Volunteers are also treated to Volunteer Enrichment funded by the City of Mountain View and arranged by our Farm staff, Jessica Morgan and Lisa Cornelius. Some recent programs included excursions to Ramini Mozzarella Water Buffalo Farm in Tomales. We brushed water buffalo calves and then tasted fresh mozzarella made from water-buffalo milk.

On our visit to the Oakland Museum of California our private docent-led tour of the California History gallery included beautiful Ohlone basketry made by Linda Yamane; Linda was the speaker at the Volunteer Enrichment a few years ago.

Time at Animal Assisted Happiness in Sunnyvale included learning about their work with disabled and ill children and meeting the animals, including these llamas.

Speakers come to the Farm to give presentations for our volunteers. In the last year, Bill Leikan shared his talk, “A Year with the Urban Gray Fox,” and Richard Di Giacomo, local social studies teacher, historian, and author of the Ohlone Teacher’s Resource, shared his research into the Ohlone people; and Jim Liskovec, local photographer, avid birder, and long-time member of the Santa Clara Audubon Society, led a morning bird walk at Rancho San Antonio.

Deer Hollow Farm volunteers also share fun social times at a winter potluck and white-elephant gift exchange in December and a Farm celebration and potluck in May.

Jessica enthusiastically shares with the volunteers her creative craft ideas for summer campers. Almost everyone is familiar with tie-dyeing. Jessica introduced volunteers to ice-dyeing last year for colors that were brighter than tie-dyeing.

Interested in volunteering? For more information, contact Jessica Morgan at DeerHollowFarm@mountainview.gov.

Save these dates.

Ohlone Day: October 6, 2018
noon until 3 PM

Spooky Times: October 27, 2018
10 AM until 3 PM
As I greet and talk with guests, I get to know regular visitors to Rancho San Antonio and Deer Hollow Farm. Some of them pictured here answered my query, “What brings you back so often?”

Claudia Montalban
Familiar faces, peace for meditation before the day

Eric Wilner
Fresh air, exercise, hills, and trees

Shannon Kava
Outdoors and nature's sounds—it's better than the gym.

Ray Ojinaga
Animals, peacefulness, and the smells of nature

Kevin Tang
Animals, people, and trees

Gary Sepulveda
Relaxing environment and seeing people

Nedra Skyles
Outdoors, the Farm, walks, and wildflowers

Dewey Halligan
Walks and wildlife

Diane McGovern
Open space, deer, and bears

Mona Alkayyali
Nature, changing seasons, friends, and health benefits

Dominic Bennett
Oasis of peace, friendly people

Ollie Bruce
Nature, animals, friends, and good memories
Familiar Face at the Farm—Dee Wood  
by Nina Wong-Dobkin

If you happen to visit Deer Hollow Farm on one of the two Saturdays each month when Dee Wood is there volunteering as farmyard docent, you will feel welcomed by her warm smile. She will generously share her time, giving you all the news about the animals and imparting her knowledge of the historic Farm structures. It has been ten years since Dee saw and responded to a “volunteers needed” announcement from the City of Mountain View. She enjoys volunteering at Deer Hollow because she loves being outdoors and she enjoys people.

Dee’s warm smile also welcomes the third and fourth graders who come to the Farm on field trips to learn about the Native Americans who lived in this valley for thousands of years. She likes teaching the Habitat and Ohlone Village classes because she enjoys learning and teaching about the Native Americans who settled in this area. Dee encourages school children to think about how different life was for people who lived here in the past. She explains the lengthy and labor-intensive process Native American women went through to turn acorns into dinner. She loves to see her students really able to imagine what making dinner entailed from harvesting and grinding the acorns to cooking the leached acorn meal using hot rocks in intricately woven baskets. Dee hopes that these lessons will help children know that the way they live is not the only way to live.

Dee knows that many children do not spend time outdoors among trees, bugs, birds, and animals, so it is satisfying for her to share the outdoors with her students and teach them along the way about the environment and the importance of preserving it. She shares how the Native Americans used plants for food, medicine, tools, and weapons. Dee enjoys grinding acorns with her students, showing them how they can do face painting using colors from rocks, and giving them an opportunity to play the Native American hoop-and-spear game, a game boys played to practice hunting skills.

Dee’s life is enriched by interactions with her students and with weekend visitors, who come from all over the world. She is eager to hear about experiences visitors bring with them. Dee has a fond memory of chatting with a lady who said, “We had goats walking everywhere in our village when I was growing up, but my best childhood memories are of seeing the handlers lead elephants down the road. We children would give the elephants bananas, and they would take them with their trunks and put the bananas into their mouths. Then they would salute us with their trunks as their handlers had taught them.” Dee was delighted to learn that this visitor had grown up in India.

Dee has a son and a daughter; they each have a daughter. Dee says she drags them all to the Farm whenever they visit! Zoe, her older granddaughter, is now 12; she started coming to the Farm when she was 10 months old. She tags along with Dee to the Farm whenever she can. Zoe, pictured here with Dee, enjoys visiting the animals and would like to be a summer camp counselor at Deer Hollow Farm when she is older.

When Dee is not volunteering at the Farm, she is an ambassador for Deer Hollow Farm. She lives in nearby Mountain View and is often surprised to meet residents who don’t know where Deer Hollow Farm is. She urges people to visit the Farm and also encourages them to volunteer! She shares, “It is a great way to spend time outdoors, avoid traffic and noise, and meet a cross-section of people from around the world.” For Dee, a very rewarding aspect of working at the Farm is getting to know interesting, like-minded volunteers—retired teachers, dentists, doctors, nurses, engineers, and accountants—sharing their love of nature and the Farm with school children and the public.

Summer 2018 Friends News
Sue Gale Honored at Gardner Awards

On Wednesday, March 21, 2018, the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm honored past-president Sue Gale at the now biennial Los Altos Community Foundation’s Gardner Awards, held at the University Club of Palo Alto. The Los Altos Community Foundation honored a total of 19 amazing community volunteers and celebrated organizations that support youth, teen, and adult programs in our region. The Gardner Awards had been an annual event, but in 2017 the Los Altos Community Foundation Board made the decision to celebrate every other year. The FODHF Board has been patiently waiting to celebrate Sue and her long list of accomplishments for the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm. When Sue finally walked onto the stage to accept her award from Executive Director Joe Eyre, she was supported by 19 cheering past and present Board members along with staff members from partner agencies, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), and the City of Mountain View.

The Friends of the Farm wish to thank Sue, for being such a huge Farm supporter and an amazing past-president to the Friends of Deer Hollow Farm. Sue continues to volunteer her time teaching Farm classes and coordinating social media information for the Friends.

MROSD’s Preserve Partners

On a pleasant Thursday morning, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) volunteers worked in the Ohlone Village creating stable railings around the shade shelters. The six volunteers worked with their supervisor Ellen Gartside, Volunteer Program Lead. They were joined by Farm staff Jaime Villarreal, Joanne Lewis, and Kevin Low (the current Farm ranger on Sundays). They made quick work of replacing the old, somewhat unstable and potentially dangerous, crossbars. Now teachers and students can touch the railings without fear of injury.

Some in the group were retired, others were younger; there was a woman who frequently volunteers with her father and a young couple (the husband took a day off work to participate). Lively conversation showed that everyone enjoyed working together and making a difference for the open space they all value.

These enthusiastic volunteers were six of more than 300 Preserve Partners who put in over 2,600 hours a year. Most of their work is on habitat restoration (removing invasive plants and planting native plants). They also do minor trail maintenance and some construction projects.

These Preserve Partners have been wonderful partners for Friends of Deer Hollow Farm, who often provide money for the materials.

Preserve Partners have built the picket fence that goes along the road by the historic cabin, the fence that goes along the back side of the farm from the rabbits to the compost pile, the fencing along the sheep enclosure, and replaced the rotten posts in the fence by the open-air barn. They installed the gravel path in the duck/goose compound and the new gravel orchard path. They built the replica fire pit in the Ohlone Village and replaced the crossbars on the teaching shelters.

THANK YOU, Preserve Partners!
Animals at the Farm—Finnsheep

by Pamela Baird

Finnsheep, one of the oldest breeds of European sheep, were not introduced into the United States until 1968. The breed traces its roots to Finland. Finnsheep are known for the high frequency of multiple births and for their fine wool. They have short tails and an alert demeanor.

Female sheep are called ewes, and males are called rams. Deer Hollow Farm’s two Finnsheep ewes are named Knit and Purl. Knit and two of her three lambs, who were born in March, are shown in the photograph. The newborn lambs are often small, but they are vigorous and grow well. Finnsheep make excellent mothers. Ewes can have three, four, or even five lambs at a time.

Because of their fertility, Finnsheep are often crossbred with other varieties to increase flock size. A mature ewe will weigh between 130 and 170 pounds.

The Finnsheep wool is primarily white, although there can be color variations. The Finns at Deer Hollow Farm are black/silver. The wool has a superior length, luster, and softness and can be less “prickly” than other varieties. The sheep at Deer Hollow Farm are shorn in April or May. The wool is sent to a mill and made into yarn.

Sheep at Deer Hollow Farm are fed a diet of alfalfa hay and grass hay. Finnsheep are friendly, docile, and easy to care for. They are naturally polled (have no horns).

Finnsheep can be raised for meat production and milk production for cheese making. They typically live longer than other breeds of sheep.

Friends’ Board Shares the Farm with the Community

To promote the Farm, Friends of Deer Hollow Farm Board members set up displays and talk to neighbors at community events.

Sunnyvale Fit and Fun Fair

The City of Sunnyvale holds a spring event that focuses on health, fitness, and safety. More than a thousand attendees find out about community resources and get health and safety information. The event features free health screenings, activities for children, entertainment, and fitness demos.

For the first time Friends of Deer Hollow Farm participated as an exhibitor at the Fit and Fun Fair on April 28. Board members Wai Mo and Nina Wong-Dobkin met visitors who had not heard about Deer Hollow Farm as well as visitors who come to the Farm regularly. School-age children in several families who stopped by our table shared their vivid memories of field trip experiences at the Farm. We invited everyone to come visit the Farm soon.

Cupertino Earth and Arbor Day Festival

For the first time on April 21, Friends of Deer Hollow Farm participated in the festival at the Cupertino Civic Plaza, joining 70 booths, live music, food trucks, and over 7000 attendees, including many families and young kids. We brought a table full of items from the Nature Center for hands-on learning with coyote and fox skins and an assortment of feathers, jawbones, skulls, and oak galls. Our visitors spanned a wide range from regular weekly visitors to people who were unaware of the Farm or Rancho San Antonio. This was great timing to promote Farm Tour Day (just a week later) and the DHF Summer Camps. We made many new friends, and hope to see them soon on the Farm.

Thanks to our booth volunteers, Park Chamberlain, Dick Walker, David Fung, and Tara Sreekrishnan.

Events this Summer

This summer Friends of Deer Hollow Farm will again host a table at Mountain View’s Thursday Night Live on Castro Street between Mercy and Villa, which features live music, vendors, farmer’s market, non-profit booths, and activities for children. Come visit us on June 14, 28, July 12, 26 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM.

Friends’ Board will also host a table at the Silicon Valley Fall Festival in Cupertino Memorial Park on Saturday, September 15 from 10 AM to 5 PM.
Wonderful Friends
Grants and Donations from November 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018

**Tindall Family Trust (final $2,131)**

**Los Altos Rotary Endowment Fund** ($2,000)

**Mountain View Kiwanis Foundation** ($2,000)

**Hawk ($5,000 to $6,000)**
- Timothy Dylan Wood
- Marcella Stauber, for Jessica’s wish list

**California Thresher ($2,000 to $4,000)**
- Connett Ahart and Clint Severson
- Dewey and Doris Halligan
- Aart De Geus and Esther John

**Stellar Jay ($1,000 to $1,999)**
- Trust of Curt R. Demele, for memorial bench
- Susan Casner-Kay and Jack Kay
- Richard and Jane Walker
- Regis and Dianne McKenna
- Margaret Turner
- Joy Desai
- Joan Anderson, in memory of Mary and Ralph Kane
- David and Karen Jessen
- Anonymous

**California Quail ($500 to $999)**
- Ruth Kaempf
- Doug and Karen Morgan
- Tom and Susan Kempe, match from Bristol Myers Squibb
- Coleman and Betsy Youngdahl, with match by Dell
- Richard and Diane Horn
- Radar Foundation in honor of David Fung and family
- Pine Cone Lumber
- Park Chamberlain
- Pamela Baird
- Dennis Haas, in honor of Joan and the runners

**California Quail (cont.)**
- Cindy Castillo
- Carol Luckhardt, in honor of Lee Winchell for her care and love for animals
- Carol Jossi
- Bonnie Stearns
- Bob and Sallie Rogallo
- Anonymous

**Acorn Woodpecker ($250 to $499)**
- Chris Halvorsen
- Darwin and Donna Poulos
- Mike Hammes

**Acorn Woodpecker (cont.)**
- Lee Winchell, in honor of Marianne Gregersen, Stacie Williams, Jack and Betty Winchell, Kathleen Winchell, and Joan Jordan
- Kristin Forster, in honor of Judy Webster with Apple match
- John and Brenda Robbins, with Workday Inc. match in memory of Karyl and Tom Robbins
- Donna Segal, for rabbit David Fung
- Tim and Gail Sullivan, in memory of Bob Gale
- The Stanley Family
- Tara Sreekrishnan
- Rob Colwell
- Raymond and Elsa Heald
- Patricia Campbell, in memory of Diana Cook Pearl
- Neil and Ruth Foley
- Marge Haley, in memory of Boyd Haley
- Larry and Donna Aronson
- Katrina Johnson Secoy, for Roxie
- Katherine Miller Wasilenko
- Jeffrey and Barbara Taylor
- Jason Miller, Google match
- Hilary Bartels, in honor of Stanford Hall
- Helene Hills
- Edward Reed and Johanna Schmid
- Don Weden
- Daniel and Nina Dobkin
- Chris and Bill Green
- Betsy and George Young

**Phoebe ($100 to $249)**
- Stan and Jackie Hall
- Amazon Smile Foundation
- Tim and Julia O’Keefe
- Penny Gardner
- Nora Singer and Brett Degner, with Apple match
- John Atwood, in memory of Kim Weden
- Jerry and Sandy Juracich
- Hans Bernhardt
- DeRyke and Associates, Inc.
- Bernadette Wieland, with Intel match
- Paresh and Debra Maniar
- Sue Gale
- Sandra Bergan
- Sally Cappucci
- Pamela Carlton, for Luna and Soleil in honor of their upcoming babies
- Nancy Jacobson
- John and Mary Jane Edwards
- James Morales
- Gary Schlueter
- Michael and Susan Plass, with Google match
- Everett and Rebecca Palmer
- Kristin Forster, in honor of Judy Webster
- Nancy Stuhr, for goats
- Kevin and Grace Witt
- Robin Leimer
- Katherine Naegle
- Katherine Chew, in memory of Evelyn Chew
- Ted Kitayama
- William “Buzz” and Georgie McClain
- Tim Coogan and Alendra Hua
- Susan Purcell, in honor of Lee Winchell
- Robert Hauge, in memory of Virginia Grant Murphy, Louis Grant and Virginia Grant Shea (Robert is the great-grandson of Franklin Grant, homesteader of what is now DHF)
- Olga Bruce, in memory of Bill Bruce
Farm rodents were working their way through the garden’s redwood beds. The solution—metal beds. Watering pipes were set up; holes were drilled in the bottom of each container for drainage; and compost from the Farm enriched the soil. Wooden frames were added to the top of some of the beds so that wire cages can be put on top of those frames to protect small plants. Volunteers worked with Farm staff planting the beds. By the time of the Spring Tour, there was a bountiful garden for guests to enjoy.
Spring Farm Tour

With the March Spring Farm Tour rained out, the April 28th event became the one time for the public to go inside the pens, see all the new babies, and talk to the experts. Docents and animal volunteers answered many questions for 543 visitors.

We raised $3,521 for the animals, including entrance fees and merchandise sales. A great seller was the new t-shirt with Trudy’s image designed by Nancy Stuhr and her brother David Stuhr and tie-dyed by Farm staff and volunteers.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who enjoyed sharing their love of the Farm with the visitors.

Your next *Friends News* will be mailed on December 1, 2018.