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A non-profit organization supporting
Deer Hollow Farm and its educational programs



Spring 2016

April 16 Farm Tour Features the 1800s

Joe Simitian Visits Ohlone Field Trip



Santa Clara County Supervisor **Joe Simitian** visited a Deer Hollow Farm 4th-grade field trip to witness the hands-on outdoor learning supported by the \$25,000 grant he sponsored.



He and **Kristina Loquist** (his Policy Aide for Housing, Land Use, and

Environment) were greeted by Friends Board representatives **Carla Dorow** (left) and **David Fung** (right).

Supervisor Simitian authored a County initiative to fund three years of field trips and busing for students from low-income neighborhoods. Supervisor Simitian watched the children pound acorns and enjoyed demonstrations of flint-knapping and fire starting (above).



The 2016 Spring Farm Tour will feature a "living history" exhibit in the historic Grant cabin complete with **Ginny Kaminski**, shown here, and other docents dressed in 1800s garb.



Visitors will learn what life was like on Deer Hollow Farm in the nineteenth century. They'll step inside the 163-year-old Grant cabin to see everyday items early farm families used, like the spinning wheel, iron stove, butter churner, and even the chamber pot and long johns. This is a rare treat, because for the rest of the year, the cabin can be viewed only through the windows.



The Spring Farm Tour will be **Saturday, April 16**, with extended hours, from **10am to 2pm**. Entrance fee is \$7, free for those under one year old.

Besides the historical exhibit, visitors will go inside the animal pens to meet the Farm babies up close. This kid and lamb were born last spring.



Docents will be in the pens to answer questions.

The renowned Nature Center will be open for families to see up close a stuffed mountain lion, buck, fox, bobcat, and birds of prey. A docent will answer questions and help visitors explore the Touch Table.

Come out on April 16 to the Spring Farm Tour and support the Farm animals. All proceeds benefit the Farm.



Letters

Dear Friends of Deer Hollow Farm,
 Thank you so much for the Farm and Garden Tour scholarship. My students had so much fun at the Farm. They still talk about the animals, especially Pepper and Mint. They thought seeing Luna being milked was the best part.

As always, the tour guides were amazingly patient with my kindergarteners! We are so fortunate to have Deer Hollow Farm so close. Without this scholarship we would never be able to go. Thank you!
 Warmly,
 Colleen Lynch Espinoza
 San Miguel School, Sunnyvale
(Enjoy the pictures of "me at the Farm" and what students said they learned about their favorite animal.)



Rabbits can jump.



Hens lay eggs.



Cows have milk.



Pigs like mud.

Pigs can eat grass.



The third-grade students from room 28 at Robert Sanders Elementary wrote thank-you notes to their docents. Here are some of the pictures they drew and things they said.

My favorite part was when we went into the room where we got to see and touch animal skins and other things.



You showed me how they ground their acorns, also how they built their homes. I learned how they made their weapons. We learned about how some plants are useful and other plants are poisonous.

I had a lot of fun seeing the sweathouse. Thank you for showing us the poison oak. Thank you for letting us play hoop and spear. My favorite thing was face painting.



Thank you for teaching me about the Ohlone Native Americans. I had a lot of fun. My favorite part was the games and face painting and the tools.



I liked how we played with the spear and hoop, it was really fun. My favorite part was when we were hiking. Thank you for warning us about the poison oak. I love Deer Hollow Farm, it was the best I felt in years. I thought the turkey I saw was really funny.

It was cool when we crushed the acorns and played hoop and spear.

Familiar Face at the Farm

Stan Hall

by Nina Wong-Dobkin

Sending volunteers wearing Deer Hollow Farm jackets out in the public probably never made it onto the list of strategies for recruiting volunteer teaching docents.



Nonetheless, that is how Stan Hall started his long and fulfilling teaching career at Deer Hollow Farm.

In 1994, Stan and his wife, Jackie, were touring Alcatraz when they met Donna Poulos, cozily dressed in her green Deer Hollow Farm jacket. They connected with her on that trip, amazed that all the way in San Francisco they met someone from Deer Hollow Farm, so near their home.

Stan is retiring from his role as teaching docent after an impressive 1055 hours. He enjoyed leading groups in the Farm



& Garden and Fleece & Milk classes helping children understand where their food comes from and the many things we get from animals. Stan also liked to lead groups on the Wilderness Hike. He conveyed the understanding that the wilderness belongs to the wild animals and should be treated with respect. Some children who came on field trips several times remembered Stan very well; they would share with classmates, excitedly, "I remember him, he's cool."



Jessica Morgan, Farm Senior Coordinator, shared, "I always enjoyed observing Stan during classes because he had a nice way of sharing facts about the livestock. You could tell he really cared about helping the children learn."

Stan's natural gift in teaching was evident in how he led his groups. He shared interesting details that caught children's attention. He would point out bay leaves on the ground and have children crush them and sniff the fragrance. Later in the garden, he would show them rosemary and go through the same routine. One plant was found in the wild and the other grew in the garden, yet both are used to flavor meats and soups. When the garden was full of produce, the group would make a small salad of spinach, carrot, green onion, and radish. Barbed wire was another teaching tool. He said, "Notice the sharp points which act as a barrier to keep some animals *in* and others *out*." Later he would point out a smooth wire and ask, "What kind of wire is this?" If the children answered, "Barbed," Stan would respond "Actually, not—it is a smooth wire with no barbs, and it's used for a different purpose,"



Stan showed young students a huge pile of branches, the wood rat nest, saying, "This is the home of a nocturnal animal." Nocturnal was a big word that needed defining. Stan would confess, "Because I have never been here at night, I have never seen the wood rat, but the huge nest tells me that the wood rat family is thriving." The children loved learning these big words from Stan in the context of fascinating factual stories.

Stan has touched the lives of young children beyond providing information about the animals and the wilderness and giving them memories of hands-on experiences. He has helped raise the next generation to appreciate and preserve nature. We will miss Stan leading on field trips, but we hope to see him at Farm events and on the trails.

Stan and Jackie have lived in unincorporated Los Altos for 56 years. Stan worked in the aerospace industry for several decades at Lockheed, Loral, and other companies. One early experience that Stan treasures was the summer he spent in Austria in 1955 with the Experiment in International Living, a non-profit organization promoting intercultural learning experiences through home stays. Stan immensely enjoyed the experience and made a lasting connection with his host family in Austria.

Stan and Jackie enjoy traveling and have participated in programs such as Road Scholar. Stan also enjoys working on projects around his house, such as installing a drip irrigation system.

Friends Board Strong, Innovative



Friends Board of Directors: *Seated:* Park Chamberlain, treasurer; Sue Gale, president; Nina Wong-Dobkin, secretary. *Standing L to R:* Jenise Henrikson; Pamela Baird; Timothy Dylan Wood; Elizabeth Montgomery; Wai Mo; David Fung; Kevin Henrikson. *Not pictured:* Deb Maniar and Zulah Eckert.

Sereno Properties Los Altos office gave \$11,169 to the Farm as part of their 1% for Good philanthropic program. Friends shared one percent of the office's commissions for the third quarter of 2015 with Hidden Villa and Kara. Sue Gale, Friends President, accepted the check in January.



The all-volunteer Board of Directors of Friends of Deer Hollow Farm had a very good year, implementing new fund-raising techniques and raising a record amount for the Farm. This year we passed the \$1.1 million mark in Farm support.

We raised \$138,000 in fiscal year 2015, giving:

- \$55,000 for Farm operations
- \$18,000 for Farm improvements
- \$10,000 for field trip scholarships
- \$10,000 for animal fund.

A long-time champion of the Farm, **Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian** assisted Friends in two critical wins for the Farm. Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation has increased its annual Farm operations support from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

Santa Clara County also granted \$75,000 to Friends (\$25,000 per year for three years) to provide field trip scholarships and busing for schools in low-income area. This grant covers tuition and busing for half the field-trip students each year.



Deer Hollow Farm has become a truly regional environmental education center. For the 2015–2016 school year, the Farm will host:

- 5,036 elementary school students
- on 206 field trips
- from 48 elementary schools
- from 14 Silicon Valley cities.

Half the students will attend with scholarships funded by Friends of Deer Hollow Farm. Friends will fund \$14,010 in scholarships in the 2015–2016 school year for 2,536 students to attend 105 field trips. These students will also receive free busing under a special grant from the County of Santa Clara. Scholarship eligibility is determined if at least 20% of the school or class participates in the federal lunch program, an indicator of need.

For the first time, Friends participated in the Silicon Valley Gives online fund-raising event in May. We raised \$27,600 and placed seventh among the 305 small nonprofits participating in the event, a great showing for the Farm on our first effort.

Friends has funded more than \$126,000



in major Farm improvement projects since 2008. This year Friends donors funded \$18,000 in enhancements to Deer Hollow Farm's environmental education program. A new duck pond and house were completed, and a new pig enclosure was begun. Employing a new fund-raising model, Friends partnered with The Rotary Club of Cupertino in a matching fund-raising campaign for the new duck pond.

Friends wrote grant requests for and received \$10,000 in renewed annual Farm funding from Cupertino and \$5,000 from Los Altos Hills for 2016.

This year, Friends will transition management of Farm fund-raising events to the Farm staff, beginning with Ohlone Day 2016.

For the past 20 years, Friends has hosted



public Farm events to raise funds for the Farm and to provide the public access to the animals and replica village. Because the public Farm events are presented by Farm volunteers with Farm teaching tools

Friends 2015 Highlights

and class curriculum content, Friends and Farm management decided that it would be more efficient for Farm staff to manage these public events. Friends will continue to provide event support, particularly with registration. This is the model that has been successfully used for the Spooky Times event. This modification of roles builds on a very successful partnership of Farm staff and Friends. This change also allows the Board to concentrate its efforts in its key fund-raising areas: grant writing and individual donor campaign drives. These areas account for most of Friends fund raising.

More than a third of Friends funding comes from grants from organizations, clubs, foundations, and trust funds. Friends thanks the following organizations for their generous support:

- The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- Santa Clara County
- Kiwanis Club of Mountain View Foundation
- The Mountain View Rotary Club
- The Los Altos Rotary Club
- Endowment Foundation
- The Los Altos Community Foundation
- The Town of Los Altos Hills
- The City of Cupertino
- The Rotary Club of Cupertino
- The Henrikson Family Fund
- The Manfroy Family Fund
- The Merrimac Fund, an advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- Silicon Valley Association of Realtors
- Sereno Properties 1% for Good program, Los Alto office

Individual donors account for more than half of Friends fund-raising. This year, Friends formed a new Donor Relations Committee based on its research of best practices of other 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. The new committee began sending personal donor thank-you cards and small, Farm-related donor-appreciation gifts for high value donors.

A new Donor Recognition Wall was



placed at the Farm for donors giving more than \$1,000 a year.

A new "Be A Friend" Donor Drive was conducted at year-end.

The Board's website, Facebook



page, and newsletters provided busy hubs for Farm and community information exchange in 2015. Frequent blogs and postings

kept the public current on Farm and Friends news.

Please visit our sites:

www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org
[www.facebook.com/Friends of Deer Hollow Farm](https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Deer-Hollow-Farm)

Friends provided access to the Farm's outstanding Nature Center by recruiting volunteers to staff it. These events were well attended.



Friends also provided partial funding for Farm volunteer projects that met Farm

staff and Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) approval. These projects were completed by MROSD Preserve Volunteers and local Youth organiza-



tions such as these Boy Scouts.

This year Friends also committed a minimum of \$10,000 for the Animal Fund. This Fund is supported strictly by donations, which tend to be variable. The Animal Fund was also impacted by the drought

and significant increases in animal food and straw prices.



Friends also began writing grant requests for the Animal Fund.

The Friends Board was proud to be honored by the Mountain View City Council for its fund-raising efforts.

The all-volunteer Friends Board has supported the Farm for the past 21 years. The Farm is truly an important regional environmental education center, receiving more than 100,000 free visits by visitors from 14 cities during 2015. It is staffed by 2.5 employees of the Mountain View Recreation Division and 1.2 MROSD employees. More than 70 volunteers from 12 surrounding cities gave 8,000 hours last year as docents, animal caretakers, gardeners, and maintenance workers.

Friends will continue to work within the great partnership of government and community organizations and the many volunteers to preserve this 160-year-old regional environmental education center for tomorrow's generations.

Wonderful Friends **W**e gratefully acknowledge these generous friends and community organizations who contributed to Friends of Deer Hollow Farm between November 1, 2015 and January 31, 2016.

Grants

Sereno Properties,
Los Altos (\$11,169)
Town of Los Altos Hills
(\$5,000)
Mountain View Kiwanis
Foundation (\$1,000)

Donations

Red-Shouldered Hawk (\$10,000)

Kevin and Jenise Henrikson,
Microsoft match

California Thresher (\$2,000)

Connett Ahart and Clint Severson

Stellar Jay (\$1,000)

Christopher McKillop, in honor of
Chris, Michelle, and Jillian McKillop
Joy Desai, in memory of her son,
Edwin Roodhouse

California Quail (\$500 to \$999)

Timothy Dylan Wood
Michael and Susan Murphy
Bob and Sallie Rogallo
David and Karen Jessen
Esther John and Aart De Geus
George Bunting and
Barbara Titel
Gordon and Lauri Steel
Joan Anderson, in memory of
Mary E. Kane
Mingzhe Zhuang, match
from Microsoft
Park Chamberlain
Roman and Wendy Scheiter
Ruth Kaempf
Stan and Jackie Hall

Acorn Woodpecker

(\$250 to \$499)

Shannon Hegg
Catherine Gordon, Google match
Marge Haley, in memory of her
father, Boyd Haley

Acorn Woodpecker

(\$250 to \$499)

Chris Halvorsen
Tom and Barbara Lustig
Alan and Valerie Huwe
Betsy and George Young
Darwin and Donna Poulos
Dennis Haas
Fen and Alexander Choi
Hilary Bartels, in honor of
Stanford L. Hall
Kathryn Sparkman, in honor of
Carla Dorow, outstanding volunteer
Pamela Baird
Tim and Gail Sullivan
Ulf and Marcella Stauber

Phoebe (\$100 to \$249)

Jason Guerra, with HP match
Katherine Miller Wasilenko, in
honor of George and Eleanor Miller
Neil and Ruth Foley
Patricia Campbell
Alexandra Monroy
James Morales
Jim Bleakley
John and Mary Jane Edwards
Katrina Johnson for Roxie
Lee Winchell, in honor of Marianne
Gregersen, Jack and Bev Winchell,
and Stacie Williams
Sandra Bergan
Joan Lewis
Andy Lott
Barbara Goodwin
Christel Fliss
Coleman and Betsy Youngdahl
Daniel and Nina Dobkin
Eugene and Clare Cordero
Gail Nyhan
Helene Hills
James and Andrea Sandstrom
Joanne Schmid

Phoebe (\$100 to \$249)

John Atwood, in memory of
Kim Weden
Kim Wong and Priscilla Sarinas
Kristin Forster, in honor of
Judy Webster
Linda Thomason
Lorraine Alleman
Mary Ellen Chafey
Mary Malgoire
Merry Astor
Olga Bruce, in memory of
Bill Bruce
Rob Colwell
Robert and Nedra Skyles
Shirley Leisses
Stephen Salveter
Susan Casner-Kay and Jack Kay,
in memory of Glen Casner
Susan Purcell, in honor of on-going
volunteer Lee Winchell
Anonymous

Junco (\$50 to \$99)

Christopher and Deborah Crouse
Cindy Castillo
Inge Roberts
Kevin Hall, in honor of
Stanford Hall
Stanley and Barbara Wong
Amazon Smile Foundation
Doug Cox
Virginia Gelczis, Apple match
Ann Schmitt, in honor of
Carla Dorow
Betty Eskeldson
Brett Degner and Nora Singer
Carl Baeuerlen and
Jim Hulseman
Carol Peters
Claude and Gudrun DeBuhr, "I will
never forget my days at the Farm"
Dawn Smith

Wonderful Friends

Junco (\$50 to \$99)

Dixie Storkman

Ellen and Marvin Schwartz

Eugene and Barbara Kates

Fred and Nancy Witteborn

Jeannie Wood, in honor of Bill Lock and Kathie Lee

Joan and Greg Loney

John and Karen Lemes

Marianne Gregersen, in honor of Lee Winchell for Christmas

Michael and Susan Plass

Naomi and Seymour Alpert

Paul Kostka

Robert and Judith Dahl

Stephanie Channing, in honor of Nancy Stuhr

Sue Jacobus

Thomas Goosmann

Tomasz Jasionowski and Esin Salter

Walter Keutgens

William "Buzz" and Georgie McClain

Anonymous

Hummingbird (up to \$49)

Annie Hart

Daniel and Anne Marie Pruzan

David Kaskowitz and Susan Kahn

Elizabeth Trahan Berry

John and Jane Kesselring

Neal and Sonja Locke

Richard and Anna Johnson

Thomas MacDonald

Heidi Dambach, in honor of Gabriella for animals

Jude Morgan

Thank you to the guests who left \$578 in the Friends Iron Ranger donation box at the Farm.

Thank you All Things Printed

Friendly Inquiries

by Tom Lustig



Barbara,
San Jose

Thirty-four years ago I brought my preschool classes

here. Now I enjoy the wonderful walk. Being around the animals makes me feel better, especially if I'm feeling down. My family had a farm in the Ukraine.

Tom and Marge,
Los Altos



For 37 years, we have been hiking to the Farm on Sundays. It's nice to get away from our crowded cities and be out here in nature. I am from Holland, and Marge grew up on a farm in New Zealand.



Andrea and Scott,
Santa Clara

I've been running on these trails for

20 years. With Scott, we've been visiting the Farm a few times a year. It's good for youth to see the animals up close.

Enayt,
Sunnyvale



I remember very well the first time I came to the Farm; it was November 7th, 1980. That was the first day I arrived in this country. We live close by, and I just started walking and saw the Farm. I knew nothing about it. I've been coming ever since, at least once a week.

Celine and Qing,
Saratoga



Previously, I lived in Pleasanton.

A friend from Cupertino brought me here to hike. I really liked it and eventually moved to Saratoga to be close. My daughter enjoys seeing the Farm animals.



Vidya, Varun, and Satich,
San Jose

Every time we come to the Farm we discover new

things. We are from Bombay, which is a crowded city like New York. Obviously, there are no farms there.

Sadie and Roman,
Los Altos



Today we are here as visitors, but on

Wednesday mornings we come to clean the animal barns. Sadie must be at school by 9:30, so we get here at 7:30, work for about 90 minutes, and then we're off to school and work.



Martha and Andy,
Sunnyvale

Today we were on a walk, and we said, "Let's

have a look at the Farm!" We are new to the area and enjoy seeing the farm animals. I am from Austria, and Martha is from Poland.

Ask the Nature Lover About a Goat Playground

by Donna Aronson

Seven fun-loving and active goats are enjoying a new structure in their pen at Deer Hollow Farm. Goats always seem to like to leap, jump, cavort, and play. Penny, Trudy, and Ginger (our older ladies), Pippin and Mary (our young dwarf goats), and Willie (the wether son of Ginger) are all proving that statement true. Things are fun when you can play “King of the Mountain”, “Billy Goat’s Gruff”, or just test gravity by going up the ramp and jumping off!



Marion Sotcher is a teaching docent at Deer Hollow Farm. She enjoys the kindergarten children who visit to see the Farm animals first hand. The goats are always popular. Until December 2015 the goat pen had only a few stumps for play time. Marion’s husband, Fred, likes to work with wood. They wondered if they could do something to improve the Farm. Goat structures were suggested. After studying various plans for such a project,

Fred drew up his plans and submitted them. Deer Hollow Farm staff approved with the proviso that, for the safety of the goats and the human kids, it could be no more than four feet high and not teeter totter.



Fred made the structure in his basement. Then he took it apart and transported it to the farm. Jaime Villarreal, a MROSD staff member, helped dig post holes and supplied extra bolts. In one afternoon, about twenty people including family and friends helped to cement in the posts and set up the whole wooden wonder.

Come out and see busy, happy goats having fun!

Look for the sign, “In honor of 80 gracious years. Marion Sotcher, December 2015.” Thank you, Sotcher family!



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



Friends News

This newsletter is published for the community of individual and community donors who want to preserve and improve Deer Hollow Farm and its outstanding environmental-education program. The Farm is one of the last working homestead farms in California. Find the color **Friends News** at www.deerhollowfarmfriends.org. contact: info@deerhollowfarmfriends.org by mail: P.O. Box 4282, Mountain View, CA 94040

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Nina Wong-Dobkin

The new pigpen is emerging despite rain delays. You will see the full result of what **Wonderful Friends** have provided for the pigs in our next issue. Here you see the first stages. After the pigs were moved, the old structure was destroyed, and new fences were built.

