

A NEWS NOTE AND CALENDAR FOR MARE ISLAND

ARC ECOLOGY MARCH 2008

- OUTINGS
- TOURS
- PROGRAMS
- EVENTS

MARE ISLAND SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE AND MARE ISLAND



Photo: John Klycinski

WHAT'S NEW IN 2008?

- Monthly outings and special events in the planned regional park
- Annual DAFFODIL TEA and program at St. Peter's Chapel
- Tribute to the crew of the USS WAHOO
- It's not too soon to mark your calendar for next year's Flyway Festival

MARE ISLAND SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE



Illustrator/Artist: Carlo Carlucci

WALK PLEIN-AIR PAINT PHOTOGRAPH DISCOVER LEARN
PICNIC VIEW SCENIC VISTAS CONTEMPLATE REINVIGORATE

STATUS OF THE SHORELINE HERITAGE PRESERVE

The Vallejo City Council accepted the recommendations of the Mare Island Regional Park Taskforce for development of the 215 acres at the southern end of Mare Island as a regional park on December 11, 2007. Until the park is more fully developed, Arc Ecology will continue to host monthly outings and special events at the proposed parkland. You are invited to experience the magic and majesty of this remarkable part of Mare Island still largely off-limits to the public except through guided outings, tours and special events.

We have hosted outings at The Preserve on a monthly basis beginning with the **Mare Island**

Naval Ammunition Depot 150th Anniversary Commemorative Celebration in August 2007. During that day and half event an estimated 1100-1400 people visited the proposed park through a cooperative arrangement between the U.S. Navy, the City of Vallejo and Arc Ecology. We were assisted in a huge way by employees of Weston Solutions, Inc., which was also the major sponsor. They were joined in sponsor and in-kind support by ECC, Lennar Mare Island, CS Marine Constructors, Hertz Equipment Rental-Benicia, Vallejo Garbage Service, Greater Vallejo Recreation District, and Sue Lemmon. These good folks and our tremendous team of volunteers who did everything from cutting the cake and

servicing champagne to guiding outings and being park rangers provided a rich experience of this stunning part of the Bay we are so privileged to have amidst us.

Because of the enthusiasm of painters who came out in August, we arranged to offer access during the Fall for the Benicia Plein Air Group [pleinairlinks.com] who have assembled an impressive group of paintings of The Preserve and its vistas beyond. November 8, 2007 we hosted a tour that gave folks a chance to visit the site prior to a public meeting conducted by the Regional Park Taskforce. Those who joined the tour were thrilled with the chance to visit The Preserve. About 30 members of the public joined the tour and attended the presentation where Taskforce members gave an overview of their recommendations for the parkland. Visit the website below to read a brief description. [www.mareisland.org/Anniversary/MareIslandNarrative.pdf]. In response to requests for regular public access to the site and due to our commitment to seeing the property developed as a public trust park for the benefit of all Californians, we intend to continue to host monthly public access outings through an agreement with the City of Vallejo.

We will host escorted public access to The Preserve once a month during the coming year. All dates will be the second Saturday of the month, except October, when the outing will be on Sunday, October 12th. Mark your calendars and plan to meet Myrna Hayes, volunteer north bay projects manager for Arc Ecology at the gate at the deadend of Railroad Ave. for escorted access. Access is primarily pedestrian, (although bicycles will be permitted on the paved roadway only) including walks, stops at the cemetery, and at the interpretive center in its beginning stage in a former ordnance storage magazine, Building A-167. Outings will be primarily on paved roads, but may include guest guides and a theme, such as the cemetery, native plant identification, great blue heron rookery and osprey nest observations, history, etc.

The Preserve is not developed as a park yet. Therefore, there are very basic amenities such as a handful of picnic tables, no regular trash pickup, no interpretive signage and...we are hopeful that we can arrange for at least one handicapped accessible restroom, soon.

WHY TAKE THE ROAD *MOST* TRAVELED?

While the site is planned for a park, it isn't there yet. We urge you to stay on the paved road at this time and to not attempt to go through any locked gates or beyond areas that are barricaded. During the spring and summer, ticks and rattlesnakes are prevalent, so staying on the roadway is one way to reduce your risk of coming in contact with them! Even on the roadway, keep alert for rattlesnakes. Another resident of The Preserve is poison oak, yet another reason to stay on the roadway! There are still more reasons you are encouraged to stick to the main roadway. The hill with its dramatic vistas drops off precipitously with steep bluffs, unstable and crumbly sandstone and slippery leaves. Stay back and watch your step!

There are a couple more reasons we ask you to play it safe and stay within the fences and boundaries set. First, the Mare Island Golf Course is The Preserve's neighbor to the north. For your safety and as a good neighbor, stay a safe distance uphill from the golf course boundary...you might be amazed where golf balls can fly! The second reason to stay on the uphill side of fences and barricades is because the Navy and its contractors have not fully cleared the shoreline areas below the bluffs of munitions. Play it safe and steer clear of the shoreline at all times without an escort. You will learn more about the challenge of clearing buried munitions to make the shore safe as the education and interpretive center is developed.

Finally, staying on the roadway is a good idea because there are many fragile native habitats and historical cultural landscapes that we are just now getting to know. Until surveys have been completed and protective trail routes are developed, please enjoy the areas that are accessible, but treat The

Preserve as the undiscovered treasure that it truly is.

FACILITIES: We are hoping that arrangements may be made soon for temporary facilities. At this time, there aren't any! We can let you out of the gate to head for facilities other places on the Island, though. But, it's a ways away, so plan ahead!

Photo: John Klycinski



DOGS: For the time being, it's OK to bring your dog(s). Just plan to keep them on a leash and stay on the roadway—remember to bring water for you and them, and also remember those rattlesnakes and ticks!



Photo: John Klycinski

SPRING, SUMMER AND FALL PLAN TO HEAD FOR THE SHORELINE

Kenn Browne, hike leader for the Sierra Club, Solano Group, has led hikes to the shoreline area during the spring, summer and fall for many years. Join Kenn Saturday mornings from 9:30am-12:30pm. Spring dates are April 19, May 17 and June 14. More details: SFBayflywayfestival.com/shorelinehertpresv.htm or call Kenn at 707-319-1846.

STAY UP ON NEWS OF MARE ISLAND OR PASS ALONG INFORMATION: Send your email or mailing address to be sent updates about happening on the Island through occasional e-newsletters and printed bulletins. We plan more evening star-gazing and night photography sessions [for Mare Island night photography and classes visit TheNocturnes.com] and even music in The Preserve and other locations on Mare Island. Would you like to propose an idea for an outing, tour or program on Mare Island? Have a story to tell? Looking for information and not sure where to start? Contact us at SFBayFlywayFestival.com or call 707-557-9816 or 707-649-9464.

ARC ECOLOGY'S MARE ISLAND TOURS, OUTINGS AND EVENTS CALENDAR FOR 2008

Outings, tours, events and programs for the public hosted by the Mare Island Trust—a project of Arc Ecology. Contact: Myrna Hayes, Volunteer North Bay Projects Manager for Arc Ecology for addition information or to book special group outings and tours of Mare Island with experienced guides knowledgeable about a wide range of Mare Island issues [myrnahay@pacbell.net or call 707-557-9816].

- **MARCH 30, SUNDAY, *DAFFODIL TEA AND ST. PETER'S CHAPEL PROGRAM*** FIRST SEATING: 10am Chapel program and 12noon Tea; SECOND SEATING: 1pm Chapel program and 3pm Tea COST: \$30 adults, \$15, youth 6-12, free, children 5 & under. INFORMATION: 707-649-9464 or 707-557-9816, SFBayFlywayFestival.com/daffodiltea.htm TICKETS: 707-642-3653
- **APRIL 12 SATURDAY**, Guided Outing to Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve 10am-5pm Meet at The Preserve entrance gate at deadend of Railroad Ave. Cost: FREE
- **MAY 10 SATURDAY**, Guided Outing to Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve 10am-5pm Meet at The Preserve entrance gate at deadend of Railroad Ave. Cost: FREE

- **JUNE 14 SATURDAY** Guided Outing to Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve
10am-6pm Meet at The Preserve entrance gate at deadend of Railroad Ave. Cost: FREE
- **JULY 12 SATURDAY** Guided Outing to Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve
10am-6pm Meet at The Preserve entrance gate at deadend of Railroad Ave. Cost: FREE

- **AUGUST 8 AND 9 FRIDAY AND SATURDAY**
MARE FAIRE: CELEBRATE THE ORIGINAL MARE ISLAND
Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve, Friday outings:
10am-5pm, programs: 5-8pm; Saturday, outings, exhibits
and programs, 9am-6pm. Featuring the 150th anniversary
of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery, the U.S. Navy's first
cemetery in the Pacific and the 64th anniversary of the
Port Chicago Mutiny that took place across the Mare
Island Strait in Vallejo. Building A-167. Enter through
The Preserve entrance gate at deadend of Railroad Ave. Cost: FREE



Photo: John Klycinski

- **SEPTEMBER 13 SATURDAY** Guided Outing to Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve
10am-5pm Meet at The Preserve entrance gate at deadend of Railroad Ave. Cost: FREE
- **OCTOBER 11 SATURDAY 2ND ANNUAL USS WAHOO (SS 238) MARE ISLAND MEMORIAL**
commemorates the 65th anniversary of the loss at sea of the boat and crew and honors all 7
submarines lost at sea during WWII that were built at Mare Island. Flag-raising at Morton
Field, Program of Music and History at St. Peter's Chapel,



Photo: Steve Farley

Wreath-laying dockside on the
Napa River at Berth 6 Cost:
FREE [pre-registration may
be necessary for Chapel
program due to limited space]



Photo: Steve Farley

- **OCTOBER 12 SUNDAY** Guided Outing to Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve
10am-5pm Meet at The Preserve entrance gate at deadend of Railroad Ave. Cost: FREE
- **NOVEMBER 8 SATURDAY** Guided Outing to Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve
10am-3pm Meet at The Preserve entrance gate at deadend of Railroad Ave. Cost: FREE
- **DECEMBER 13 SATURDAY** Guided Outing to Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve
10am-3pm Meet at The Preserve entrance gate at deadend of Railroad Ave. Cost: FREE
- **JANUARY 10, 2009 SATURDAY** Guided Outing to Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve
10am-3pm Meet at The Preserve entrance gate at deadend of Railroad Ave. Cost: FREE
- **FEBRUARY 6-8, 2009 FRIDAY-SUNDAY, 13TH ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO BAY FLYWAY FESTIVAL**
North end of Mare Island (location to be announced) Cost: FREE

[feel free to submit information about your public event on or about Mare Island for inclusion in
future newsletters to myrnaahay@pacbell.net or call 707-557-9816]