



greenfootnotes

COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS



The Devil's Slide Tunnel

A Sweet Ending to a Long Saga

BY LENNIE ROBERTS

In a fog-shrouded, invitation-only ceremony on March 25, hundreds of dignitaries, agency folks, and “tunnelistas” gathered to celebrate the opening of the Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil’s Slide.

The historic ribbon-cutting event was the culmination of decades of dogged resistance by environmentalists and coastside community groups to Caltrans’ proposed Devil’s Slide Freeway Bypass. As is often the case, there was much more at stake than merely stopping a destructive highway project around a short stretch of unstable cliffs at Devil’s Slide. The Bypass was in fact the key lynchpin for developers who dreamed of “Los Angelizing” the San Mateo coast.

Back in 1960, San Mateo County leaders adopted a Master Plan that anticipated 100,000 people living in Half Moon Bay by 1990. Vast tracts of land between Pacifica and Half Moon Bay and further down the coast were slated to become sprawling subdivisions and strip malls. This grandiose vision required new freeway access to the coast. The Devil’s Slide Bypass was just the beginning of a network of freeways that would have crisscrossed the county from the Bayside to the Coast and from San Francisco down to Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo.

In 1972, alarmed at the freeway dagger pointed at the heart of the coast, Committee for Green Foothills, Sierra Club,

Continued on page 4



Greetings from the Interim Executive Director

BY LIZ SNYDER



COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS

We are a grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization working to establish and maintain land use policies that protect the environment throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.

Our mission is to protect the open spaces, farmlands, and natural resources of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties through advocacy, education and grassroots action.

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For a long time, I refused to think of myself as an “activist.” It was a word I’d grown up associating with pictures of my parents from before I was born— funny clothes, fierce idealism, and fear of a system that was killing young people. I grew up politically savvy—

knowing which talking heads would make my Mom throw a slipper at the television— but without the sense that there was anything I could take part in to make change happen.

So in 2006, when I was volunteering 80 hours a week to get Full Circle Farm (www.fullcirclesunnyvale.org) off the ground—

doing everything from giving presentations at school board meetings to digging post holes and planting cover crops—I didn’t call it activism. My drive to start this sustainable, educational farm came from a personal desire

for my daughter to experience real food, for kids everywhere to have access to the outdoors, for there to be parts of Silicon Valley that were natural green instead of concrete grey.

In fact, the first time I was called a “food activist” by a local paper, it took me by surprise. I went home and looked in the mirror. Funny clothes? Not so much. But there was a resemblance to those faded photographs of my parents— the same fierce idealism that wanted something better for our world and an undercurrent of fear that we still weren’t doing right by our children. I’d become every bit the activist my parents were, and I hadn’t even noticed.

Upon joining Committee for Green Foothills, I began to wrap my head around CGF’s 50 years of activism. The words “overwhelming awe” only begin to describe what I felt. Learning what’s gone into preserving

all the green, wild places that I value so deeply has made me understand what activism really is—and what it can do.

When I stumbled on Lennie’s 2005 article, “Clout Counts,” I found myself nodding my head and saying “Yes!” out loud as I read it. If

“I have come to understand why activism persists beyond a generation or cause. It offers a meeting point between our highest ideals and our achievable goals.”

I’d come across Lennie’s words seven years ago, I would have known to wear that activism badge with pride. Her words— and what CGF has accomplished— exemplify what it means to be an activist. Her ten tips can be put to good use in any

sphere of life, one of the reasons why we’ve organized this issue around them. Whether you’re working to protect land, or reform your kids’ school lunch program, or get a new stop sign in your neighborhood— the guidelines for making positive change are the same.

Gradually I have come to understand why activism persists beyond a generation or cause. It offers a meeting point between our highest ideals (“I want make the world a better place”) and our achievable goals (“hey, let’s save this land from being turned into a strip mall”).

In the overlap of big ideals and concrete goals, activism is born. I encourage you all to find that place where your ideals and your goals merge into meaningful action. Wear your activist badge with pride, and go out into your corner of your world and make a difference, CGF style! 🐾

From the President

BY MARGARET MACNIVEN

It is hard to believe that eight years have passed since I joined the CGF Board. As my term is about to end, I find myself reflecting a bit on the evolution of my interest in the environment. Back in the mid 1970s my then-hippie husband persuaded me that all I really wanted to do with my life was to move to the country and live off the land. So when 40 ridgetop acres opened up in San Mateo County, just two miles west of Skyline in an area that PG&E had forgotten about and the loggers had abandoned, we jumped at the opportunity. We considered ourselves environmentalists in the most basic sense; we would have a simple, sustainable lifestyle that included woodstove cooking, solar electricity, a windmill to pump water, and organic gardening—all the while living in a barn converted from an old logging equipment shed. Well, we soon discovered why the indigenous people lived off acorns and huckleberries—between the myriad hungry critters and the fickle weather of the Skyline area, our production of row crops was dismal.

We moved on with our lives, taking normal jobs, and raising a family. But I never stopped being in awe of the beautiful and natural place that had inadvertently fallen into our laps. The hills are green in spring, golden in summer, and sometimes white with a dusting of snow in winter. Raptors ride thermals and float lazily overhead. One never tires of watching the Pacific fog rolling in. Sunsets are magnificent, as are sunrises when shafts of silver and gold light pour through the retreating fog. Experiencing firsthand what a privilege it is to be surrounded by such glorious nature, I began the next phase of my environmental journey. I recognized the importance of open space protection—right in my front yard. Back then, my ideas were somewhat rudimentary and revolved around habitat preservation. I spent hours pulling the non-native invasive thistle and broom that had started to encroach on the grasslands that dominate our ridge top.

I still pull thistles, and still live in the barn and off the grid, but after eight years on the CGF Board I have come to recognize an even more important aspect of environmentalism and that is CGF's mission of advocacy, outreach and education. We can do so much by influencing our political leaders to make land use policy choices that preserve the quality of our life and natural surroundings. I am eternally grateful to the Committee for Green Foothills for taking that leadership role in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties for the past 50 years.

In Board news, April Vargas has also completed her eight-year term on the Board, and I would like to thank her for her wise and valuable contributions, especially her hard work on the Devil's Slide tunnel project and MROSD's coastside annexation. Current Vice President, Matt Burrows, will take over as Board President and I know I leave the Board in capable hands.

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve on CGF's Board for so many years. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your generosity and support of this highly effective and respected organization. 🐌

“We can do so much by influencing our political leaders to make land use policy choices that preserve the quality of our life and natural surroundings.”



Save Our Shores, Shamrock Ranch, and a number of coastal residents went to court and stopped the Bypass. Caltrans had not complied with new federal legislation that required them to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

This key court decision was just the beginning of a 40-year saga. There were dramatic twists and turns (and not just in the road!), road closures, more lawsuits, and discovery of damaging internal memos at Caltrans that gave hope to Bypass opponents. But by 1995, it appeared that the Bypass was ready to be built as the citizens could not convince a majority of San Mateo Supervisors to support the tunnel or any other alternative.

Tunnel supporters in 1996 decided to go directly to the people. Mounting a spirited citizen initiative campaign, tunnelists were thrilled when Measure T, the Tunnel Initiative, passed by a landslide 74% vote. Once the people spoke, our elected officials,

Caltrans, and tunnel supporters worked together to ensure the tunnel would be built.

Thanks to passage of Proposition 20 and the California Coastal Act, the antiquated sprawl-development plans were replaced with a strong County Coastal Plan that locates new residential, commercial, and industrial development within urban areas and preserves the scenic mountains and hillsides, fertile farmlands, and sensitive coastal wetlands and creeks. McNee Ranch State Park, Montara State Beach, and the 4,000-acre Rancho Corral de Tierra addition to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area are now permanently preserved as parkland for all to enjoy.

This sweet ending is a shining example of the power of thousands of people who worked together over a very long time and persevered against immense odds. 🐾



How One Person Can Make a Difference

BY LARRY AMES

I'm an avid bicyclist. My family and I enjoy cycling along the various creekside trails that offer much-needed respite from the stresses here in Silicon Valley, so it's only fair that I do my share by participating in various trail committees and advocacy groups.

Sometimes this may involve a long-term commitment. I spent over a decade on the Los Gatos Creek Streamside Park Committee alongside the chair, Don Hebard (who put in a quarter century), to bring the trail from "dreams and a blueprint" to what it is today.

But it isn't always a "lifetime" commitment. In the case of the Three Creeks Trail, all it took was for someone to ask "why is there a 'for sale' sign on the railroad right-of-way where there's supposed to be a park?" This alerted others to the situation and encouraged them to take action.

Another example: some years ago I happened to attend a public event where Caltrans representatives talked about upgrading Highway 17 by Lexington to freeway status. Various groups discussed the pros and cons of the so-called "Bear Creek Option" compared to the so-called "Black Road Option." During my two minutes to speak, I just asked how bicyclists would be able to get from the Los Gatos Creek Trail across to Montevina Road. The Caltrans representative answered,

"simply go along the freeway shoulder down to Los Gatos, twice around the cloverleaf, back up the hill on the other shoulder, and ... um ... that's not really a viable solution, is it?" That single question at a single meeting spurred Caltrans to provide a lakeside connecting trail along the freeway, a trail that now serves as a key link in the route from San José to Santa Cruz. True, it's currently just a single-track dirt path, but as Don Hebard said, "first get continuity, then get improvements and amenities."

Get involved in your community. While sometimes it might take years (or decades!) to complete a trail, every effort helps. You can make a real difference. 🐾



Los Gatos Creek Trail

Get Involved!

Morgan Hill's General Plan Update Offers Opportunity to Make a Difference

BY JULIE HUTCHESON

The City of Morgan Hill kicked off its General Plan update process in February. Since the outcome of the process will serve as the blueprint guiding the community's future growth and development, we strongly encourage residents to get involved. General Plans are meant to express a community's shared vision for its future—getting engaged in the process helps to build community connections while working toward a better future for the city. In addition, it is a great opportunity to learn about a broad range of community issues including land use, housing, open space, conservation, circulation, noise and safety—all of which affect our quality of life.

Committee for Green Foothills is particularly focused on this General Plan update because the City is reevaluating the direction it is taking with the Southeast Quadrant. CGF has repeatedly called for a halt to their misguided plan to annex

and then develop more than 700 acres of greenbelt on the valley floor.

The city already has plenty of buildable lands within its city limits without slating another 700+ acres for development. The time has come for better accountability on the part of the City Council for their planning decisions, and the General Plan update is a perfect tool with which to do this. We call upon the residents of Morgan Hill to get involved in the General Plan update process, to make city leaders answerable to residents' needs rather than those of developers, and in so doing, forge a better future for everyone.

The first community workshop for the Morgan Hill General Plan update is June 6th. The topic of discussion is an extremely important one—the vision and goals of the new general plan.

You can find more information on the Plan and public participation opportunities at: www.MorganHill2035.org. 🐾

Getting your point across in print

Originally published in the Activist's Toolbox on Committee for Green Foothills' website

Studies have confirmed that the editorial page of a newspaper is the second-most read page of newspapers, after the front page. Among elected officials and other opinion leaders, the editorial page is often cited as the page they most often read. Activists who utilize the editorial page can effectively educate and influence policy makers and fellow community members.

Writing a Letter to the Editor is the easiest way for most citizens to access the editorial page. Here are a few tips for getting your point across:



Sunset on Pine Ridge

SHORT IS SWEET. Your letter should be no more than 175 words in length. Often newspapers specify word count limits.

KEEP IT LOCAL. The newspaper serves a local readership and so should your letter.

WRITE RIGHT. Your letter should be concise, factual, perhaps clever (and thus fun to read), and grammatically correct.

FOCUS. Letters that are timely, engaging, and focused on a single issue are more likely to be published.

MAKE IT RELEVANT. Open your letter by tying your message to current news. Ideal letters respond to a recent article or provide a call to action regarding an upcoming event or decision.

STAY POSITIVE. Although it is perfectly acceptable to open with a criticism, a question, or a "zinger," the overall tone and intent of your letter should be constructive. If you have a solution, state it.

BE REACHABLE. Include your contact information, and be accessible should the editor have a follow-up question.

SPREAD THE WORD. When your letter is published, be sure to locate the online version and use social media to take your message further.

CLOUT COUNTS!*

BY LENNIE ROBERTS

Committee for Green Foothills is often recognized as “having clout” in both San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. Gaining such clout on environmental issues does not derive from the influence of money and sheer power (as it might in other arenas), but through smart persistence, honesty, and earning the support of the public.

As the Committee’s Legislative Advocate in San Mateo County since 1978, I’ve followed ten guidelines that have served me well and may be useful to other activists interested in developing their own clout.

These ten tips are a general guide for developing clout— and getting good results—as an environmental activist. But most important of all is tenacity. If you suffer a defeat, get ready to come back. Sometimes it takes decades to turn around a recalcitrant agency, as we know from the battle over Montara Mountain and the Devil’s Slide Tunnel.

When you do win, keep in mind that environmental victories are often only temporary—defeats, on the other hand, are permanent. You must be ready to stay the course. That’s exactly what Committee for Green Foothills has done for the past 50 years. And we stand ready for the next 50!

(Originally printed in June 2005 in Green Footnotes.)

3.

STUDY EVERYTHING YOU CAN ABOUT THE DECISION MAKERS—

Find out what their jobs involve and what is important to them. Learn something about all the other concerns they must consider, and use this information in crafting your arguments.

4.

DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH KEY PEOPLE

Lasting success on environmental issues depends upon good relationships. Building trust with others gives you a huge advantage. If trust isn’t possible, respect will sometimes suffice.

1.

LEARN EVERYTHING POSSIBLE ABOUT YOUR TOPIC—

Knowledge is power. Seek out others who know the lay of the land, read all the resource documents you can find, and become an expert on your topic.

2.

DISCOVER THE DECISION— MAKING PROCESS

And find the most advantageous and strategic ways to influence those decisions. Determine who your allies are or might be, make connections, and empower others to use the knowledge about both the topic and the process. Knowledgeable allies increase your clout tremendously.

People

Relationships

Information

Process

TEN TIPS

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS:

6.

DO NOT ATTACK OTHERS PERSONALLY—

Even with the most vexatious opponents, you can— and should— strongly argue against ideas, but do not personalize your differences. When I am attacked personally (and that happens!) I always consider the source. The problem is nearly always with the individual attacker, and there is usually nothing I can do about it. Yes, it is often painful, but let it go. And remember that the more attention you call to an opponent's arguments, the more power you yield to him or her.

8.

REMAIN CIVIL, AND DON'T BURN BRIDGES—

You would be amazed at how many opponents on one issue become allies on another. Civility and comity are diminished in today's society, but respectful acknowledgement of other points of view earns respect for your position.

9.

FOCUS ON THE RESULTS AND RECOGNIZE EVERYONE—

Work with anyone and everyone you can. A corollary: acknowledge, celebrate, and thank everyone, genuinely and frequently. Let others bask in the spotlight wherever possible: this is not a business for personal glory.

5.

Ideas

NEVER LIE OR MISLEAD ANYONE

And if you do inadvertently use wrong information, 'fess up to your errors right away. Nothing will undermine your credibility more quickly than a lie. In this category I include letting others you are working with know when you have disagreements, and if necessary, agree to disagree.

7.

Civility

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE GOAL—

Don't get distracted or waylaid. The effort may take many years, but define your goal early and continue to pursue it. Don't let the small stuff overtake the big picture. This will pay off!

10.

Hope

ABOVE ALL, KEEP A SENSE OF HUMOR—

It helps enormously to maintain your perspective. When I despair of a bad decision, my wise husband has a wonderful way of bringing me back to reality. He will say, "Well, what did you expect?" We laugh, and I become reinvigorated to go forth and renew my efforts.

Integrity

Collaboration

Tenacity



Citizen Activism in Redwood City

Protecting the Salt Ponds

BY ALICE KAUFMAN

The Committee for Green Foothills partners with many environmental organizations, from regional groups with a focus on large parts of the Bay Area, to grassroots groups who are concerned for their own city or neighborhood. One important partner in Redwood City is Redwood City Neighbors United (RCNU), whose members are Redwood City residents united by their opposition to development on the Redwood City salt ponds.

While many of the former salt ponds that edge San Francisco Bay are currently being restored to their former state as wetlands, the Cargill-owned salt ponds in Redwood City are under threat from development. The most recent plan submitted by Cargill and its development partner, DMB Associates, proposed to build the equivalent of a small city on this area, which stretches from Woodside Road to Marsh Road and covers over 1400 acres. Details of the proposal included 12,000 homes (enough for 30,000 new residents), 1 million square feet of office space, plus retail and commercial uses — in essence, another Foster City instead of the current open space that the migratory and year-round birds rely on.

The residents of Redwood City, alarmed by Cargill's proposal and determined to do everything they could to defeat it, organized together and founded Redwood City Neighbors

United (RCNU) to fight the Cargill plan (called "Saltworks"). The group began by holding community meetings, speaking before the City Council, and spreading the word about the Saltworks project and the widespread opposition to it. RCNU membership rapidly grew into the hundreds, local media began calling them for interviews, and the City Council began paying attention to what they had to say. Within a few months, Cargill announced that they were withdrawing their development proposal. Although they simultaneously announced that they would be submitting a revised proposal before long, the withdrawal of the plan was a major victory for CGF, RCNU, and the many other groups, neighboring communities, and individuals who opposed the project and who remain committed to preserving the salt ponds from all future development plans. RCNU remains active while waiting for Cargill to submit its revised proposal; recent activities by the group include community gatherings and meetings with elected officials.

RCNU is a great example of what residents and neighbors can accomplish when they band together for a common purpose. RCNU intends to continue fighting to protect the Redwood City salt ponds, and providing a voice for Redwood City residents who oppose development in that location. 🐦



Cargill Redwood City Pond

Remembering Ollie Mayer

Passing the Torch to a New Generation

BY LENNIE ROBERTS

We put up a good fight and we sparked a myriad of new people and organizations that built a true environmental movement...”

Ollie Mayer wrote these words in January 2005, just four months before the groundbreaking for the Devil’s Slide Tunnel. Ollie died on March 20, 2013, only five days before the tunnel officially opened, but her presence was clearly there among the celebrants, her infectious smile and dancing eyes warming the hearts of even the most skeptical opponents.

How Ollie would have loved to have been at the ribbon cutting in person, to celebrate the saving of her beloved Montara Mountain, to hike its trails, admire the sweeping views of the coast and smell the wildflowers.

The results of her fierce determination to preserve the natural beauty of the hills, the forests and the streams and shorelines of the Peninsula can be seen everywhere.

If you have hiked on a trail in Pescadero County Park, Edgewood County Park, San Bruno Mountain, the San Francisco Watershed, or Portola and Butano State Parks, your path was likely blazed by Ollie and



her “myriad of new people” who got their environmental start hiking with her weekly Sierra Club groups.

If you have stood in awe of the giant old growth redwoods in the Heritage Grove near La Honda, you have Ollie to thank for inspiring (some might say shaming) the Board of Supervisors into matching citizen donations to acquire these ancient and awesome trees. Because of Ollie and other visionaries of the 1960’s and 70’s, there is no Army Corps dam at Worley Flat on Pescadero Creek, and steelhead can spawn there as they have for millennia.

Ollie won many recognitions and awards, but never rested on her laurels. Her 2005 letter included this call to action:

“Today I am organizing for new challenges ahead. Once I thought the battles would end someday, but I know now that conservation battles never end. We just pass the torch to new generations. People are beginning to recognize that the entire system of land exploitation must change if we are to survive.”

Indeed, the greatest tribute we can give to Ollie is to build on her legacy by taking up the torch in whatever small way we can. 🐾

Clout Counts: Tip No. 2

Discover the Decision-Making Process

BY NANCY ARBUCKLE

You will often find that the decision-making process involves speaking at a City Council or Board of Supervisors meeting. For those of us who can’t envision ourselves speaking in front of the mirror, much less in front of our illustrious representatives, this realization can be a stressful one. When I first started speaking out, my voice was unsteady and I felt pretty shaky. I really didn’t want to get up there. But, I came to realize that what you say, and your willingness to say it, is far more important than how you feel. I guess this is called having the courage of one’s convictions. And when you’ve got that, the rest is easy.

Now I am careful to write up what I want to say before the meeting, to read it over and over again before my name is called, then to step up to the microphone, cool as a cucumber, and say what needs to be said. 🐾

Clout Counts: Tip No. 5

Never Lie or Mislead Anyone

BY ALICE KAUFMAN

Never lying or misleading anyone includes never exaggerating your claims or pretending to have more knowledge than you actually possess. You are likely to have your bluff called by someone who just might happen to know a little more than you about the subject matter.

I once spoke in front of the Santa Clara County Planning Commission on the subject of whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) would be required if the county amended an ordinance. In my comments, I stated that there had been legal cases holding that similar ordinance amendments required an EIR. One of the Commissioners immediately asked me to name some of these cases! Luckily, I happened to remember the name of one of the cases and was able to answer his question. But, this experience taught me the necessity of always knowing what I’m talking about. 🐾

The Committee is watching...

In Santa Clara County:

SAN JOSE/SANTA CLARA WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT — which is proposing to put offices and retail on what is currently open space near the Bay.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY — which is updating its regulations governing individual on-site wastewater treatment (septic) systems within the unincorporated portions of the county.

LEHIGH PERMANENTE QUARRY — which was recently directed by the Water Quality Control Board to report on contaminants in its waste piles and in Permanente Creek.

MORGAN HILL — where the draft Environment Impact Report for the proposed annexation and development of the Southeast Quadrant is expected to be released.

THE SANTA CLARA VALLEY HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN — which was conditionally approved by the San Jose City Council.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT — which will release the draft of their first 5-year implementation plan for the voter-approved 15-year Clean, Safe Water program.

In San Mateo County:

MARTIN'S BEACH — where the owner is proposing to armor the edge of an informal road along the shore with a 963-foot-long riprap structure, which will eventually cause the loss of the sandy beach, a well documented phenomenon up and down the coast.

PESCADERO MARSH AND LAGOON — where a panel of scientists has been convened to evaluate hydrological and biological characteristics of the Marsh and recommend future restoration and management actions for this important ecosystem.

The Committee applauds...

FACEBOOK — whose new “West Campus” will include a “green roof” with diverse native habitats and whose structure will incorporate an innovative bird-safe design to protect and benefit the birds living in the adjacent Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge.

STATE SENATOR JERRY HILL — who was recently appointed Chair of the influential Senate Environmental Quality Committee, a position held in the past by other Peninsula legislators including Byron Sher and Joe Simitian.

CALTRANS — who together with its construction contractors completed the Devil's Slide Tunnel, which marks the happy conclusion of a 40-year-plus effort by environmentalists to

protect Montara Mountain, McNee State Park, and the Rancho Corral de Tierra while providing a safe, reliable transportation solution along Highway One between Pacifica and Half Moon Bay.

SAN MATEO COUNTY SUPERVISORS — who have decided to allocate approximately \$60 million in increased sales tax revenue (approved by voters in November 2012) to re-establish County Parks as a stand-alone department, create a new, high-level Parks position with expertise in ecology or biology, and reinstate County Park service levels that have been drastically reduced over the past ten years.

ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE HUNDREDS OF BAY AREA ACTIVISTS

committed to leaving a legacy of open space for the next generation — help us preserve and protect the beautiful places that make the Bay Area such an amazing place to live. From sweeping coastlines to oak-studded hillsides, Committee for Green Foothills has been instrumental in preserving our region's natural beauty for over 50 years.

Please join us in this movement by becoming a Member today! You can use the enclosed envelope, or renew online at: greenfoothills.org.



Coastside Champion Joins CGF

Welcoming Ed Larenas

The Committee is honored to welcome Ed Larenas to the Board. Ed lives in Moss Beach and is the Chair of the Surfrider Foundation’s San Mateo County chapter, a group dedicated to the preservation and respectful treatment of the world’s oceans, waves, and beaches. Under his guidance, the chapter implemented a water-quality testing program for local beaches and streams that has been in operation for over a decade. When he’s not surfing or saving our coasts, Ed works as a scientist on a multidisciplinary team working on conversion of agricultural waste to biofuels. 🐾



Ed Larenas

Fond Farewells

Two CGF legends finished their terms with our Board of Directors this month; we wish them the best and some grand new adventures (and hope they still come play with us in the great outdoors!).

April has been a longtime coastside activist and “Tunnelista” working for decades to bring the recently-completed Devil’s Slide Tunnel to Highway One. Over the years, April has brought incredible political savvy and energy to CGF’s advocacy efforts. April was instrumental in bringing Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to coastside San Mateo County, effectively preserving thousands of acres of prime agricultural land and coastside resources. April – we thank you for everything you have done to preserve open space in our region! 🐾



April Vargas

In her term with CGF’s Board of Directors, Margaret has provided nurturing, leadership and unwavering support to our organization. As our beloved Board President, she has done a little bit of everything: keeping our Board meetings running on time (no small feat!), joining almost every committee, pitching in wherever it’s needed, and serving as ambassador and hostess extraordinaire at our CGF hikes and education programs. Her amazing ability to keep us all feeling supported is a testament to her leadership. Margaret – we will miss you! 🐾



Margaret MacNiven



COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS

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Upcoming Events

Coyote Valley Family Farm Feast

Saturday, May 11th • 11:00am -- 4:00pm

Come say hi to CGF, we'll be out tabling at this great event. Show your support for a healthy agricultural economy in Santa Clara County.

Take this opportunity to experience the taste of fresh farm foods in the beautiful 348-acre Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve!

*For more information or to register for this free event visit:
familyfarmfeast.eventbrite.com*



Upcoming June Event

Date is to be determined.

Keep your eyes open for an upcoming event in June. Check back on our website for details in the coming weeks.

For more information, visit www.greenfoothills.org.

