

WINTER 2014-2015

# COMPASS

Healthy Parks Healthy People



REGIONAL PARKS  
Foundation

Supporting East Bay Regional Parks

## *A Living Legacy*

**The Patterson family's generosity boosts expansion of our regional parks**





## THANK YOU



Generosity, sharing, caring, stewardship, volunteerism, activism, joy. These and other uplifting terms come to mind when we consider the good fortune of the East Bay Regional Park District—and what it takes, year-round, 24/7, to maintain this local treasure.

Truth is, well-intentioned, farsighted donations to the Regional Parks Foundation greatly contribute to EBRPD. As witnessed on this and the following pages, these contributions have never been a cookie-cutter proposition. Gifts come to us in all forms and sizes—a piece of land, an hour of free time, even a percentage of a monthly allowance—and we value them all. Every acre, minute and penny, from the young and the young at heart, helps RPF sustain the East Bay's invaluable open spaces and expand access to its spectacular natural resources.

As an RPF Member, please know that you've already made a valuable contribution and that you are deeply appreciated. Know, too, that dollars from memberships represent an essential portion of the funds RPF raises. Without you and your assistance, we literally couldn't do what we do.

Even so, we hope you'll consider expanding your participation, commitment and enjoyment and that the stories in this issue inspire you to do so.

Whatever you decide, we'll always be glad to see you—clearing a trail, sprucing up a shoreline, joining an event, or just taking in a spectacular view.



**Carol Johnson**  
Executive Director  
Regional Parks Foundation

**Robert Doyle**  
General Manager  
East Bay Regional Park District

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**REGIONAL PARKS  
Foundation**

Supporting East Bay Regional Parks

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## DID YOU KNOW?

**These statistics speak volumes about the value of volunteerism at the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD).**



### 124,000 HOURS

That's the amount of time contributed annually by about 14,000 volunteers who undertake various tasks to help maintain and support the Park District.



### 35,000 POUNDS

That's the amount of debris removed by Park District volunteers from coastlands stretching from Fremont to Martinez Regional Shoreline on California Coastal Cleanup Day—September 21, 2013. That same day, District volunteers also removed 6,600 pounds of recyclable material.

On the cover: Mission Peak, as seen from Coyote Hills Regional Park, the location of the Patterson family's most recent donation to RPF.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT!

“There’s a way you work when you care about this piece of land—you’re actually working as a steward. It’s exhilarating and very rewarding.”

—WENDY TOKUDA

## All-Star Trailblazer

KTVU’s Wendy Tokuda invests her sweat equity in protecting EBRPD parklands and native plants

If you’re attuned to Bay Area TV news, you probably know KTVU’s Wendy Tokuda as a gutsy reporter turned popular news anchor and now beloved host of *Students Rising Above*, the station’s inspirational success stories on local at-risk kids. But if you’re a regular visitor at Redwood Regional Park, Sibley Volcanic Regional Preserve or Huckleberry Botanic Regional Preserve, you may also know Tokuda as one fiercely determined, weed-pulling volunteer.

For more than six years, this self-described “nature geek” has been on duty with fellow unpaid enthusiasts battling invasive plants in the parklands they adore. This effort all started with Tokuda, who was concerned about overgrown trails in Redwood, the park nearest her home. She convinced then-Park Supervisor Di Rosario to train her in the fine art of weed whacking, and he lent her gear for the job. Over time, her persistent presence at Redwood motivated others to join her in the cause and wage similar campaigns in Sibley and Huckleberry.

Nowadays, Tokuda goes at it about four to five days a week at one location or the other (she also donates time at a City of Oakland park). She and her cohorts have seen progress in battling their main nemesis: French broom, a highly invasive, and thanks to the drought, highly flammable shrub. “When you return to the same places year after year, the ecology starts to change and you can see it happening,” says Tokuda. “In Redwood, for instance, native grasses have returned. That’s a really cool thing.”

Other cool things concern the humans involved, she adds. “Having grown up in the 1960s, I’m a big believer in public service and in the John Kennedy–Martin Luther King Jr. philosophy that if you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem,” says Tokuda. “I feel a responsibility, and I really love it.”

▶ For info on Redwood, Sibley and Huckleberry volunteer weed-pulling, call Kevin Fox, volunteer coordinator, 510-544-2515. Check other EBRPD volunteer activities at [www.ebparks.org/about/getinvolved/volunteer](http://www.ebparks.org/about/getinvolved/volunteer).



## EVERY PENNY COUNTS

For one Albany fourth-grader, donations to the Regional Parks Foundation are a way to pay it forward

When Ben Brochard's parents decided to start giving their fourth-grade son an allowance, it came with one condition: that he save 10 percent of it, and that he give another 10 percent to charity.

Ben's father, Phillip, is an Episcopal priest and explained to his son the concept of voluntary tithing, or giving 10 percent of one's salary to charity. "Then we talked about different categories of charities, like the Red Cross and homeless shelters," Brochard's mother, Sarah Oneto, says. "And we asked him, 'What do you really like to do? What services do you use and love but don't really pay for?'"

For 7-year-old Ben, that was simple: "I like hiking," he says, "and I like being out in nature, looking at all the things nature does."



So, with the help of his parents, Ben discovered the Regional Parks Foundation, which helps support many of the parks he and his family love to hike, kite and play in, including Cesar Chavez Park and the Little Farm at Tilden Park in Berkeley, Oakland's Redwood Park, and Wildcat Canyon Park in Richmond. At the end of each of the past two years, he has filled an envelope with one-tenth of his \$3-a-week allowance—about \$15—and sent it to the RPF.

"We wanted to teach our kids about good stewardship," Oneto says.

Ben has also sent donations to Doctors Without Borders using earnings from his side business selling extra eggs from the family chickens.

According to Oneto, the entire family loves the outdoors but had never donated to the RPF before.

"We knew he liked to go on hikes in Tilden Park, so we looked into the EBRPD and found the Foundation," Oneto says. "But that was really just Ben figuring it out for himself."



The Brochards enjoy outdoor destinations, but it was young Ben (pictured above, second from left, and in other photos) who put his money where his heart was—inspiring us all in the process.







▶ The Little Farm's waiting list for child volunteers is long, but its doors are wide open to visitors from sunrise to sunset, 365 days a year. The Regional Parks Foundation supports many projects at the Farm.

## Lessons About Life on the Little Farm

**Kids who assist Farmer Stanley discover new possibilities about nature—and themselves**

What is it about Tilden Park's Little Farm in Berkeley that can coax urban and suburban kids out early on Sunday mornings to volunteer? "The Farm is a local institution, a community fixture. The public really appreciates us, and the kids really love it," says Stanley Ward, the Welsh native better known as "Farmer Stanley," who's in charge of the facility's animal husbandry and the children's crew.

The main attraction for the kids who volunteer or visit, says Farmer Stanley, is the various critters who know the Farm as their home and, for some, their birthplace. At last count, that includes 26 Black Welsh Mountain sheep, seven Alpine goats, two Berkshire sows, eight Dutch rabbits ("fixed males"), four Toulouse geese, eight Orpington ducks, plus 47 hens and five Shorthorn cows. The cows and hens are bred at the Farm and are heritage breeds, explains Farmer Stanley. "One day in the future, the world's agriculture will need to use the unique genetic characteristics of these old-fashioned breeds."

The young volunteers pitch in to help with the Farm's livestock and general upkeep—cleaning the grounds; washing, brushing and feeding the animals; and even walking the halter-broken goats. Along the way, they get the experience of a lifetime.

"I hope the kids learn responsibility, the work ethic, practical skills. They learn to work in a group and learn as much from their peers as from me," says Farmer Stanley. "They know what clean is by the time they work for me for a few years. They have to want to get hot and sweaty, dirty or wet, in all kinds of weather. Most kids stay as long as they can."



"Farmer Stanley" Ward, pictured with Little Farm volunteers and some of its well-cared-for livestock.





# *Precious*

*Pleasanton's Emily Scholz helps turn her husband's tragic, heroic act into an*





# Steps

*enduring benefit for East Bay parks and trails*

***It** was nearly one year ago that Emily Scholz's husband, Philip, was commuting back to Pleasanton from his job at a Santa Clara tech company and noticed a man on the Caltrain tracks. In what those who knew him called a typically selfless act, the 35-year-old attempted to pull the man from danger. In the process, he was struck and killed by an oncoming train.*

*Overwhelmed with shock and grief after the accident, Scholz nevertheless knew immediately that she wanted to make a charitable gesture in her husband's memory—she just wasn't sure what. ➡*



It wasn't until several months later, after starting a memorial foundation in Philip's name, that Scholz read a story about the East Bay Regional Park District's expansion plans for Pleasanton Ridge. Suddenly everything clicked into place. The couple had loved hiking outdoor trails with their cocker spaniel, Poppy, and Pleasanton Ridge was one of their favorite local spots.

"The Foundation bounced around a lot of other ideas, but nothing to me felt as right as this project," Scholz says. "Phil was such an enthusiastic dog owner; he just loved it out there, so to be able to support a dog-friendly trail would be right up his alley. It also feels great that it's local and is going to be an asset to the community we loved."

She contacted Foundation staff, and the timing turned out to be serendipitous: The District was just starting an initiative to improve large portions of the 7,000-acre park's trail system. Scholz has pledged to raise \$122,000 to create a dog-friendly trail in her husband's name or expand an existing one.

She plans on fundraising through January 20, the one-year anniversary of her husband's death. She also hopes to organize a day or two of volunteer work in the spring and possibly an annual memorial hike after that. It's been a process, Scholz says, that has provided not just her, but friends and family, with a sense of purpose and camaraderie in the wake of tragedy.

"It's just a nice way to be able to preserve a piece of him. It's hard when someone passes away to think that they're just gone. Now maybe people will see his name and think about his story. His life won't have ended without anyone taking notice."



TOP TO BOTTOM: COURTESY OF EMILY SCHOLZ (2); JOHN KRZESINSKI





Opposite page: (Top) Emily and Phil at Sunol Regional Wilderness in 2006. (Bottom) Scholz's friends and Santa Clara University classmates at the October 4, 2014 bench dedication ceremony in Coyote Hills Regional Park.

Above: Phil and his friend Eden at Shadow Cliffs Regional Recreation Area in 2012.

## You Can Make a Difference

### How to help maintain the East Bay Regional Park District's trails

Often overlooked, the maintenance of trails is a crucial part of ensuring access to all parts of the East Bay Regional Park District. And in particular, says Trails Program Manager Jim Townsend, volunteers are vital for maintaining the District's network of narrow, natural trails for hiking, biking and horse riding.

"People certainly appreciate when they see us out there, but there are some who probably think that these trails just maintain themselves, which they don't," he says. "There's no way we could keep our narrow trail network open and safe for the public without the really great effort from our volunteers."

In addition to monetary donations to the Ivan Dickson Volunteer Trail Maintenance Program (funded in 1993 at the bequest of long-time Berkeley hiker Ivan Dickson), physical help is vital. Typically, the District organizes several events for which volunteers can sign up to work on supervised brush clearance and drainage upkeep from 8 a.m. until around noon, when the District provides a group lunch.

In the case of Pleasanton Ridge, the District is currently in the process of a large initiative to convert old ranch and fire roads into 26 miles of more gently graded hiking and biking trails that will meander through the most scenic parts of the park.

Says Townsend, "We think it will be a whole different experience once we're able to get all these planned new trails built."



EBRPD volunteers: on the job and learning the ropes



#### READY TO HELP EBRPD?

- > **To volunteer**, please visit [www.ebparks.org/getinvolved/volunteer/trail](http://www.ebparks.org/getinvolved/volunteer/trail).
- > **To donate**, please visit [www.RegionalParksFoundation.org](http://www.RegionalParksFoundation.org).





***Over the past 50  
years, this family's  
land sales and donations  
have greatly expanded  
Park District and  
open-space lands***



DAVOR DESANCIĆ



***THE***

**PATTERSONS'**







ED DONNELLY

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# TIMELESS GIFT

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## THE PATTERSONS' TIMELESS GIFT



# ON

a warm, clear day this past June, Wilcox Patterson gazed wistfully across the dusty fallow fields and golden grass-

lands east of the Coyote Hills in Fremont. Five generations of his family had owned and farmed these lands since 1851, and the scene conjured a flurry of memories. As a child, Patterson had tagged along with his father and grandfather through the rows of cauliflower and tomatoes, and as a teen he had hunted pheasants and ducks from the nearby levees along the saltwater marshes.

Now, everything was changing ... so that it could stay the same.

The Patterson family had just donated 296 acres of this land—valued at \$14.4 million—to the Regional Parks Foundation so that it would remain undeveloped open space forever. The largest land donation in the history of the East Bay Regional Park District was also the last major tract held by the Patterson family. Over the past 50 years, their land sales and donations have expanded Park District and open-space lands by thousands of acres.

"We inherited this land, and with inheritance comes an obligation to give back," said Patterson in a *San Francisco Chronicle* story about the land gift. "I'm thrilled to see this land go to public use, for public enjoyment."

Wilcox Patterson, grandson of George Washington Patterson, and 2014 District Board President Ayn Wieskamp announce the Patterson family donation of 296 acres at Coyote Hills Regional Park.

"This is an amazing example of benevolence," says Robert Doyle, general manager, EBRPD. "The Pattersons and their legacy have profoundly shaped the past, present and future of the East Bay."

### ***The Patterson Homestead***

That legacy began in 1849, when 26-year-old George Washington Patterson moved from Indiana to California with dreams of getting rich in the gold fields near the American River.

After more than a year of little luck, Patterson relocated to a ranch near Mission San Jose to ply a trade he knew much better: farming. He began as a lowly paid laborer but was soon renting his own land. With profits from his crops, he purchased 291 acres in 1856, where he established his first farm and homestead, Ardenwood, in what is now Fremont.

In this sparsely populated area near the bay, George Patterson could look out upon miles of wild and beautiful terrain—what every East Bay regional park today aspires to preserve. The dense grasses in the saltwater marshes supported thousands of shorebirds, and deer, elk, coyotes and even the occasional grizzly thrived in the hills and grasslands. Alameda Creek regularly spilled over its banks, flooding the plains and depositing rich silt that Patterson



**“We inherited this land, and with inheritance comes an obligation, to give back.”**

—Wilcox Patterson

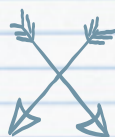
Coyote Hills Regional Park

## **New Parklands Opening Near Fremont**

Our unique regional park system continues to grow with new land purchases and donations. Two exciting developments are underway to the east and west of Fremont.

Construction is planned at the old Dumbarton Quarry within Coyote Hills Regional Park near the eastern shore of the bay. The 90-acre site will be reclaimed as a recreation unit within the park, set to open in 2016.

The eagerly anticipated opening of Vargas Plateau Regional Park is coming into focus. The 1,030-acre park will offer stunning views of the East Bay plains from atop the Fremont hills. Road improvements were completed earlier in 2014, and now the Park District is finalizing construction of the Morrison Canyon Staging Area, which will include a 25-car parking area, a restroom, trail connections and other facilities. More details coming soon!



Coyote Hills Regional Park



## THE PATTERSONS' TIMELESS GIFT

recognized as another form of gold—making his soil some of the most fertile and profitable in California.

### **Changing Times**

Over the next four decades, Patterson amassed a small empire of more than 6,000 acres in southern Alameda County and became one of the area's wealthiest and most respected men. He and his wife, Clara, built a stunning Victorian mansion at Ardenwood, and the couple, their children and grandchildren prospered.

Beginning in the 1950s and '60s, Patterson-owned lands began a transformation. Some were sold for housing as development pressure intensified and the region urbanized. Part of the Nimitz Freeway was built through Patterson tracts, and the Coyote Hills were leased to the U.S. Army for a Nike missile installation.

### **Forging the EBRPD Connection**

Two dates stand out in the Pattersons' tremendous contribution to open-space parks and the family's commitment to preserving their lands as George Patterson knew them. The family sold 978 acres of the Coyote Hills area to the East Bay Regional Park District, which established Coyote Hills Regional Park in 1967. And in 1978, members of the family donated 45 acres and sold 160 acres of Ardenwood lands to the city of Fremont. Ardenwood Historic Farm, which is managed by the Park District, has since become one of the most popular parks in the area (see page 15).

The land donated in 2014 will serve as a buffer against development, says Doyle, and will be used to link up existing trails. Other sections will undergo habitat restoration or be used for small-scale organic farming, he adds. "The nearby community is thrilled with this land donation, particularly the Friends of Coyote Hills who have advocated for the park's expansion for years."

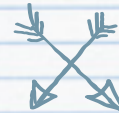
"We are gratified," says Patterson, "that this land is now passing from the Patterson family to the good stewardship of the East Bay Regional Park District, for everyone to enjoy."

## How You Can Make a Lasting Contribution

Do you have a passion for our regional parks? If you want to ensure that they're preserved for the enjoyment of your children and their children, talk to the Regional Parks Foundation about your many options for planned giving—from appreciated assets to land donations. Planned giving allows you to support your family, your community and your passions at the same time, while gaining substantial tax savings.

"Your wealth can have an impact today and in the future, and you have the ability to decide what that impact will be," says Robert Jacques, secretary of the Regional Parks Foundation and chair of the board's Planned Giving Committee.

To begin a conversation, just call the Foundation at 510-544-2212 or attend one of our free estate planning workshops throughout the year, led by wealth management and estate planning professionals.





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# 'Tis *THE* Season(s) *OF* Ardenwood

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The pristine landscapes of our regional parks help you escape from traffic and to-do lists. But Ardenwood Historic Farm can transport you much further—more than 120 years back in time. You won't find another family destination in the East Bay quite like Ardenwood, a historic site and a working farm that still grows many of the same crops it did when George Patterson made it his homestead back in 1856.

Life on a farm changes each season, and at Ardenwood so do the fun activities, which is why so many kids and adults make repeat trips. Below, we've highlighted a few of the best reasons by season.

## **Winter Wonders**

In December, celebrate **An Ardenwood Christmas** in resplendent Victorian style, with caroling, Christmas cookies and a docent-led tour of the **Patterson House**. This gorgeous Queen Anne-style mansion is filled with original furnishings that each tell a story. In February and March, say hello to the **newly born lambs and kids** with off-the-charts cuteness. Bring your children to help **feed the farm animals** their 3 p.m. afternoon snack or assist with farm chores.

## **Spring Flings**

In April, catch **Sheep Shearing Day** to witness their annual haircut. As the weather warms, plan a **day-long picnic** at Ardenwood. Take the self-guided tour to explore hidden spots in the farmyard, fields and beautiful Victorian gardens, and check the schedule for fascinating **farm demonstrations** (how *did* they do laundry 100 years ago?) throughout the day.

## **Summer Sweet Treats**

Sundays in the summer bring the **Country Kitchen**, when staff move the stove outside (just like the Patterson family used to do) and give 19th-century cooking and baking demonstrations. Sample delicious cornmeal cookies, oat cakes and other delights prepared with organic, farm-grown ingredients. On July 4, celebrate an **Old Fashioned Independence Day** with patriotic tunes from a brass band and games and races all day. Can you break the record for the **egg toss** (95 feet) or the **watermelon seed-spitting contest** (36 feet 7 inches)?

## **Fall Harvest, Family Fun**

Take a **steam train ride** around the farm, then choose your perfect jack-o'-lantern in the **pumpkin patch**. Gather family and friends at our October **Harvest Festival** to walk the fields and pick Indian corn. Snack on fresh popcorn, try your hand at cider pressing and old-time crafts, and carry home as much colorful corn as you like. In November and December, watch for the annual return of hundreds or thousands of **monarch butterflies** that overwinter in the eucalyptus grove.



How to keep up with this many activities? Bookmark [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org) and view the events calendar every week, or “like” Ardenwood on Facebook.



# WONDERMENTS OF THE EAST BAY

This new book by Heyday publisher Malcolm Margolin and Sylvia Linsteadt, and Heyday contributors, celebrates EBRPD's 80th anniversary and will fit neatly in your palm or backpack on your next hike. For a glimpse of what's in store, here's an excerpt on ladybugs.

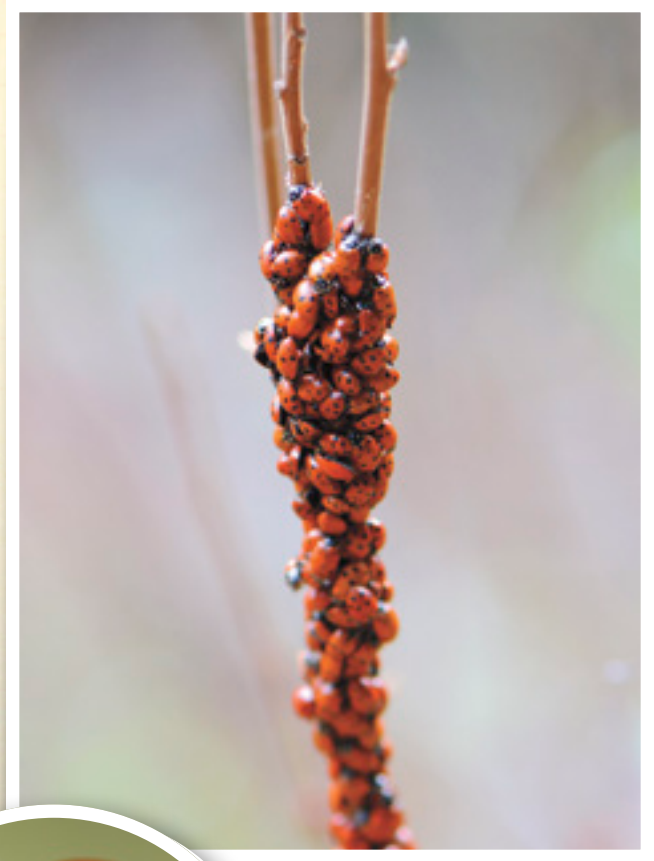
Why does the sight of hundreds, if not hundreds of thousands, of overwintering ladybugs fill us with spine-tingling awe? During the colder months at Redwood Regional Park, this is a familiar sight for hikers: convergent ladybugs (*Hippodamia convergens*) huddled together for warmth in shared diapause—insect hibernation—on select logs, trees, and foliage. Though they barely move when chilled, the ladybugs come alive when temperatures rise, lumbering about and mating.

In spite of our affection for them, nothing about the ladybug, or “ladybird beetle” as entomologists would prefer you say, is designed solely for human happiness. Its cheerful coloration, which recalled the shawls of Our Lady Mary in European iconography (hence “lady” bugs), is really a warning sign to predators: eat me and prepare for a nasty-tasting meal. The ladybug bleeds toxins from its leg joints when attacked. Its pleasingly round shape? An armored tank to repel ants and other threats.

Maybe our delight stems from the scale: we're talking thousands of beetles, maybe even millions. The ladybug is solitary over the spring and summer months, as it single-mindedly gorges on aphids in bayside wetlands; it is solitary as it journeys to its winter home. As the temperature drops, the aphids thin. The ladybug vaults skyward and, aided by air currents, makes its haphazard way to a specific higher-altitude site, already crawling with others, whose recent ancestors overwintered there. Ladybugs live only several months, not long enough to have intimately known this place, so how they know where to go is a mystery.

We humans do not diapause or hibernate ourselves: the closest we come to it is sleeping, an intensely private and ritualized affair for us. Though we know better, we find ourselves projecting again: something about those pretty beetles—the noticeably slowing effect that the cold has on them; the absence of fur and burrows, those mammalian defenses—strikes us as vulnerable. We tread lightly to protect the nakedly slumbering loveliness of ladybugs upon which we've stumbled. We leave them be and wish them well on their return journeys to the coast come spring.

—Gayle Wattawa



Redwood Regional Park boasts large numbers of overwintering ladybugs each year.



“*Wonderments of the East Bay* pays homage to the curiosities, miracles, and mysteries hidden in plain sight in the East Bay Regional Parks. Trail guides are for the feet. This is a book for the heart.”

To order your copy, visit your local independent bookstore or receive a 30% discount at [www.heydaybooks.com](http://www.heydaybooks.com) when you use the promotion code EBwonder.





# Let Eagles Soar

East Bay Regional Park District's Wildlife Program Manager Doug Bell discusses the legacy—and continued survival—of the East Bay's golden eagles

## Have golden eagles always existed in large numbers in the East Bay?

The answer is yes. There are records of California zoologists and naturalists collecting golden eagle eggs in the late 1800s. Recent assessments indicate that we have one of the densest nesting populations of golden eagles in the world, particularly in the Sunol area up to the immediate Mount Diablo region.

## They seem to be particularly admired among wildlife. Why is that?

It goes hand in hand with human history. Indigenous peoples of North America revered them and used them in their ceremonies—it's an integral part of human aspiration and admiration. Eagles are so unique and so impressive, flying on wings that stretch forever. And they're very, very smart.

## What is their greatest threat today?

Outright development, conversion of land into an urban landscape—the loss of open space is always a threat. But the biggest issue here is eagles being killed in the wind turbines of Altamont. There was a survey in the 1980s that came up with a mortality estimate that about 50 golden eagles are killed in

the Altamont each year, which would represent a population sink for eagles locally.

## What is the District doing to mitigate that?

The District has always had a history of monitoring raptors because they are such an indicator of ecosystem health. That's helpful in informing long-term studies that determine population trends.

We've also helped to start looking at raptor flight behavior in the Altamont and that has led to us collaborating with investigators on developing maps of how the golden eagle uses the landscape. Then we can create a collision hazard map and use that information to try to inform the wind companies as they move forward so they won't put these mega-turbines in heavily concentrated areas. We want to offer the best information available to say, "Hey, this is a less bad spot than this spot."

## Do you think that a solution can be found?

People are working hard on so many levels to try to make these wind farms more compatible. There's nothing sadder than to find an eagle with an amputated wing walking across the landscape. I'm hopeful that we can fix that and make this work.

## Want to help?

For more information about golden eagles, or to volunteer for the District's Golden Eagle Monitoring Team, email Doug Bell at [dbell@ebparks.org](mailto:dbell@ebparks.org). (Note: An article by Bell in *Science* magazine is available at [www.ebparks.org/about/stewardship/wildlife](http://www.ebparks.org/about/stewardship/wildlife).)

Golden eagle, Sunol Regional Wilderness





## CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

2014 marked two significant anniversaries: The East Bay Regional Park District celebrated 80 years, and the Regional Parks Foundation celebrated 45 years of community service. The two organizations honored the occasions together at a gala held at the Claremont Hotel in Berkeley. The sold-out event was completely underwritten by private sponsors and inspired a “fashion flashback” to styles of the 1930s worn by some of the attendees. During the special evening, the Park District and the Foundation also recognized several key partners with Awards of Excellence (see below).



At left: Congressman George Miller (D-Martinez) surprises District Board Member Ted Radke with a commendation entered into the *Congressional Record*. Below: Miller and 2014 District Board President Ayn Wieskamp.



## 2014 Honorees

- > Youth Partners: **YMCA of the East Bay** and **The Taylor Family Foundation** for managing Camp Arroyo.
- > Citizen Advocacy: **Friends of Crown Beach** and **Sierra Club** for their vigorous support to expand Crab Cove Visitor Center in Alameda.
- > Conservation Partners: **Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy** and **Save Mount Diablo** for assisting EBRPD in the acquisition and preservation of 11,000 acres of open space in eastern Contra Costa County.
- > Volunteer Service: **Jerry Kent** and the **Park District Archives Team** for contributing 600 hours to preserve and protect rich collections of Park District history.
- > Health Partner Donor: **Kaiser Permanente** for contributing \$1.2 million to support health and fitness programs for children and families.
- > Safety Advocate Donor: **Committee for Industrial Safety** for funding visitor safety programs, vehicles, portable radios and the TrailSafe web app.
- > Commitment to the Community: **The Patterson Family** for donating 296 acres to expand Coyote Hills Regional Park, the largest donation value of parkland in the Park District's history.





Martin Luther King Jr.  
Day of Service (2012)

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Marvelous Monarchs

Sundays, Jan. 4, 11, 18 and 25, 12:30 p.m., Ardenwood Historic Farm, Fremont. Discover what life is like for monarch butterflies via a slide presentation, and then witness their life cycle in action at our greenhouse. Find out how you can participate in monarch conservation too! Meet at the Granary. \$2-\$3 winter entry fee applies (free for kids under 4).

### Mammals of the Marsh

Sunday, Jan. 18, 2-3 p.m., Big Break Regional Park, Oakley. Explore the Delta's mammals: river otters, beavers, minks and much more. Learn their similarities, differences and adaptations to the unique Delta habitats they call home.

### Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Monday, Jan. 19, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline, Oakland. Join us in a day of service in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Assist staff in restoration work and invasive plant removal to support and care for wildlife and their natural habitats. Or care for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Grove. Registration required. To register or for more information, call 1-888-327-2757, option 2, or visit [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org).

## PUT EBRPD ON YOUR CALENDAR

A special invitation to you and yours: Plan now to join these highlighted EBRPD programs and activities—fun for all ages! To view a complete listing of EBRPD events, visit [www.ebparks.org/activities](http://www.ebparks.org/activities).

### Plan Your 2015 Wedding in the Regional Parks

Tuesdays, Feb. 3, 10 and 17, 4-8 p.m., Brazilian Room, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley. Attend our free wedding fairs to meet approved vendors including caterers, bakers, florists, musicians and more. The historic Brazilian Room is a favorite spot for romantic occasions. The Park District also offers three other special event facilities available for rent: Fern Cottage in Kennedy Grove, the Shoreline Center at Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline and the Beach House at Temescal Regional Park. No RSVP required. For more information, call 510-544-3164.

### Early Blooms Hike

Sunday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m.-noon, Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, Antioch. Wildflower season starts early in the chaparral, so let's hit those rugged, sandy trails to see what's popping. Bring a camera and good, sturdy boots. 7+yrs.

### Thursday Morning Plant Sales

Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley. When the Regional Parks Botanic Garden is open and it is not pouring rain, our volunteers usually sell plants on Thursday mornings between 9-11 a.m. at the potting shed (the Juniper Lodge). Park on Anza View Road and enter via the west gate of the Botanic Garden. For more information: Visit [www.nativeplants.org](http://www.nativeplants.org), call 510-544-3169 or email [bgarden@ebparks.org](mailto:bgarden@ebparks.org). Note: The Thursday sales are in addition to our Spring Plant Sale on April 18 and our Fall Plant Sale on October 3.

### Boating in the Regional Parks

Charter boating activities: Register your school or community group for a canoe or kayak trip tailored to meet your boating needs. Ages 8 and up. For more information, call 510-544-2553 or email [recreation@ebparks.org](mailto:recreation@ebparks.org).



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