



MOONLETTER

Valley of the Moon Natural History Association, Spring Edition, March 2004

Valley of the Moon Spring Events

Jack London Wildflower Hike With Edith Newsome Saturday, March 6 11:00-1:00

Ledson Marsh Hike Annadel With Dave and Bill Saturday, March 13 10:00 to 3:00

Great Meadows Hike Sugarloaf Ridge With Norm Saturday, March 20 10:30 to 1:30

Wildflower Hike Annadel With Eleanor Sunday March 28 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Volunteers Needed Valley of the Moon State Parks: Jack London, Annadel, Sugarloaf Ridge



People interested in making a difference in protecting and sharing the fascinating stories of three Sonoma Valley State Parks are invited to join a spring-time volunteer training program. Volunteer opportunities are available for all interest levels and activities at Jack London State Historic Park, Annadel and Sugarloaf Ridge State Parks.

The six-week training course, offered just once each year, begins Saturday, March 27th at 10:00 a.m. at the Ferguson Observatory at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park. Classes will be held on consecutive Saturdays (with the exception of "Easter Saturday," April 10) and end with graduation on Saturday, May 8th. Topics covered in the required training program include park archeology, history, ecology, visitor contact skills, interpretation techniques and natural resource management. Volunteers are asked to commit a minimum of four hours per month over a two year period. There is a \$20.00 materials fee for the training course.

Volunteers are integral and vital contributors to park operations. For example they: Staff historic buildings, perform basic office work, lead tours for school children or adults on walks to Jack London's Wolf House or provide trail information to hikers while patrolling the back country on horses and mountain bikes. They answer visitor's questions at the London House of Happy Walls Museum or, as exemplified in the lower right picture of volunteers Dave Chalk and Bill Myers, lead monthly hikes. The pictures above illustrate how volunteers can become involved in the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association (Ted Mogel, President) and "Wolf House Express Tours" with volunteers Joyce Williford and John Felton. State park volunteers also provide the much needed "people power" for trail renovations and the removal of exotic plant species.



For more information, please contact Valley of the Moon State Parks Volunteer Coordinator Joyce Moldovan at (707) 938-4827 or at vmvolunteers@hotmail.com. California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Prior to arrival, participants with disabilities who need assistance should contact the park at the phone number listed above.

***Moonletter* Via The Internet**

By **John Felton**

The *Moonletter* is now ready for e-mail. Thanks to Al Stumpf, the first trial run with the Board Members was extremely successful.

Here is what you can do now: send your email address and we will send you a notice that your *Moonletter* is ready. The notice tells you how to access the news letter on the Jack London web site (jacklondonshp@aol.com) This will not only enable us to send the *Moonletter*, but also important updates on information. Recognizing that this may not work for you, we can always address your individual needs by reverting to a mailed copy. We will continue to mail printed copies for those of you who do not have a computer.

Please call, write, or drop by the Volunteer Office at the House of Happy Walls and let us know what you think. In any case, please provide us with your email address so that we will have it on record.

This is a very important project that potentially will save us a huge amount of money and we thank you for your cooperation.

***Moonletter* to be sent Quarterly**

This issue of the *Moonletter* will be considered the "Spring Issue". The next *Moonletter* will be your Summer edition sent in June. Followed by the Fall *Moonletter* in September and the Winter in December.

You will receive your schedules in the mail along with the hikes and special events on a monthly basis.

If you should like to contribute an article, please send the article on the 15th of the month prior to the issue. For example, for the June edition, submit your article by May 15th. All schedulers will continue to send their schedules and hikes by the 15th of each month.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions. Joyce Moldovan 938-4827 or email vmvolunteers@hotmail.com.

Wildflower Hike at Sugarloaf
With Norman Hill
Saturday, March 20th at 10:30 a.m.

Docent Council Elections

The Docent Council is seeking new members and officers. The Council is an extremely important group of volunteers who support docent enrichment, training and special events. All volunteers and docents are encouraged to participate. If you would like to serve on the Council or become an officer, please contact Joyce Moldovan at 938-4827.

Elections will be held in April. The Docent Council is now scheduled to meet the third **Thursday** of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the House of Happy Walls Museum. The day has been changed to Thursdays to accommodate Sheryl Lawton, Ranger and Angie Nowicki, Acting Supervising Ranger.

A special thank you to those who have agreed to be part of the mentor program: **Paul and Patti Martin**, Wolf House Tours; **Dave Chalk, Bill Myers**, Interpretive Hikes; **Geri Gottbrath**, House of Happy Walls; **Debby Bailey**, MAU; **John Felton**, Golf Cart; **Lou Leal**, Cottage; **Al Stumpf**, Docent Led School Groups; **Richard Smith**, Sugarloaf Ridge.

Valley of the Moon Natural History Association Board

The VMNHA Board is both fortunate and pleased to announce that Greg Hayes and John Felton were recently elected to serve on the Board. Ted Mogel will continue as President, Lou Leal and Norman Lash will serve as Vice presidents, Al Stumpf will continue as Treasurer and Jim Adams will continue as Secretary.

The Board is to be commended for its association with the Valley of the Moon Sector State Parks.

Valley of the Moon Natural History Association

The Association Membership dues are now being collected. We value your membership and are pleased that you have chosen to be a member of this organization.

Send \$ 20.00 dues to: **VMNHA**

**2400 London Ranch Rd
Glen Ellen, California
95442**

Library Notes



By Jane Merryman

The docent library has just received a copy of *Jack London: One hundred Years a Writer*, edited by Sara Shodson and Jeanne Campbell Reesman and published in 2002 by the Huntington Library in San Marino, California

This volume celebrates the centennial of the publication of *The Call of the Wild* with nine essays that assess the current state of critical London scholarship. Earle Labor has called London "perhaps our greatest Folk Hero." London was undoubtedly one of the most famous and successful authors of his day in America and abroad and he remains to this day one of the world's most popular authors. He was equally well known as an adventurer, sailor, explorer, journalist, war correspondent, Socialist lecturer and rancher.

The book's essays discuss London's life, his short stories and two novels (*Martin Eden* and *the Little Lad of the Big House*). In the introduction, editor Hodson reviews past and current London scholarship, including the importance of the enormous archive of London's paper at the Huntington Library.

The titles of the ensuing essays promise a volume of intriguing reading: *Jack London and Anna Strunsky: Lovers at Cross-Purposes*; *Fathers and Sons in Jack London's "The House of Pride"*; *Jack London's "Second Thoughts": The Short Fiction of His Late Period*; *Jack London's Martin Eden: The Multiple Dimensions of a Literary Masterpiece*; *Algebra of Twisted Figures: Transvaluation in Martin Eden*; *Jack London "In the Midst of it All"*; *Jack London and the Sex Problem*; and *The American Muse's Tragedy*: *Jack London, Edith Wharton, and The Little Lady of the Big House*.

Wildflower Hike at Jack London



With Edith Newsome
Saturday, March 6th at 11:00 a.m.
Easy Hike, wonderful for beginners

MAU President's Message March, 2004

In the February edition of the *Moonletter*, members of our Mounted Assistance Unit were thanked for their commitment to the Valley of the Moon Parks by Park Staff. I would also like to thank each of you for your dedication and commitment. Many people envy us when they see us out on our mounts in the park. It looks like we are having a lot of fun, and indeed, we usually are. Park visitors have even been heard to say out loud that they wish they were in our saddles! But, do they really realize what is involved for us in order to fulfill our commitments to MAU, and to be out and having so much fun? Do they realize what it takes to get us out on those trails? First of all, we must have time, preferably at least six hours (once a month), so we can devote at least four of those hours to our patrol. Remember, the other two hours we use to hook up our trailers, load our horses, drive to the park, unload our horses, tack-up, do our patrol, un-tack, then load our horses again, drive home, and unload our horses and tack when we finally get home. (Many times, this actually means more than six hours because everything does not go just right. e.g. our trusted steeds do not feel like loading in the trailer). All this means first and foremost, that we must have patience. It also means we must have some money because we have to have good trailers to haul our horses. We also must have good vehicles to haul our horse trailers. We must have good tack that fits our horses appropriately. We must have clothes that fit us appropriately and that look presentable and professional, when we ride. We must have horses that are well trained, and obey our wishes. For our horses to do this they must be happy and healthy, and that means that they are vaccinated, fed, wormed, have received regular dental care, and fierier visits every six to eight weeks. The weather also needs to co-operate. The list of things that we must have, and that must work together could go on and on. All of you know this. The important thing is that they somehow all come together, at least most of the time, and we show up for our patrols! So members of MAU, thank you again for your



**You are Invited
To
Spring Docent Training
starting
Saturday
March 27
10:00 a.m.
Sugarloaf Ridge State Park
Ferguson Observatory**

All volunteers and docents are encouraged to attend the Spring Docent Training. There is an impressive list of guest speakers including Greg Hayes, Breck Parkman, Chuck Whatford, Park Rangers, Alan Baker and a special introduction of our new Mentors.

The training will take place on Saturday, March 27, Saturday, April 3 and 17 (Jack London State Historic Park), Saturday, April 24 (Oakmont Gardens and Annadel), and Saturday, May 1 and May 8 at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park.

Please call Joyce if you are interested in attending. Reservations are necessary.
938-4827
vmvolunteers@hotmail.com

Valley of the Moon
Natural History Assn.
California State Parks, Valley Sector
Jack London State Historic Park
2400 London Ranch Rd.,
Glen Ellen, CA 95442
Basic Membership: \$20 per year

Board of Directors:

Ted Mogel, President
Lou Leal, Vice President, Projects
Norman Lash, Vice President, Administrative
Jim Adams, Secretary
Al Stumpf, Treasurer
Matt Atkinson
John Felton
Greg Hayes
William Murray
June Perez
Mary Catherine Doherty

Joyce Moldovan, Volunteer. Coordinator

Phone or Fax: (707) 938-4827

e-mail: Jacklondon SHP@AOL.com

Articles submitted for publication are welcome and should be received by the 15th of the month, unless prior arrangements have been made.

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Natural History Association
Jack London State Historic Park
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Glen Ellen, CA 95442

