

JACK LONDON STATE HISTORIC PARK

Moon Letter

Operated by Jack London Partners

Summer 2017

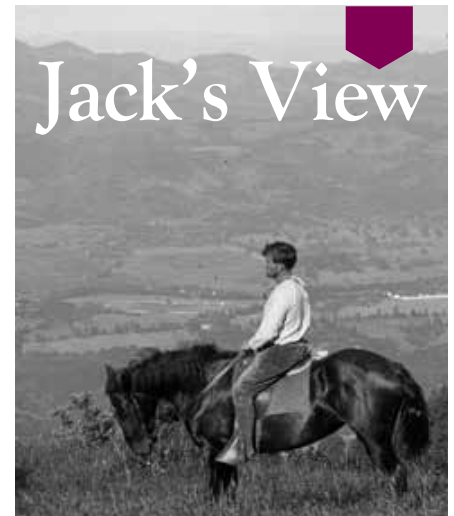


They made the ADA path a reality!

News from the Park

ADA PATHWAY INSTALLED AT BEAUTY RANCH

The Sonoma County Trails Council under Ken Well's leadership hosted 8 official work days and, in addition to an estimated 500 hours contributed by park volunteers, a 1,000-foot-long trail was installed to allow individuals with physical challenges easy entrance to Beauty Ranch and on through to the winery ruins. Over 115 tons of gravel and cobble were used to construct the pathway in addition to filter fabric, weed free rice straw and eco-friendly erosion control. To keep costs down, Mike Benziger donated the use of his tractor for cutting portions of the trail and removing material. Nils Derickson with CAL Fire brought the organization's bulldozer to the park to regrade the portion of the ADA pathway that utilizes the fire road to make sure it complies. He also loaned 4 large gravel rakes to assist volunteers and staff who raked until midnight the night before the inspection! Eric Metz, Director of Operations coordinated and managed this ambition project which was approved by State Park's ADA division on June 8th just in time for the 2017 season of Broadway Under the Stars. As with all projects conducted by Jack London Park Partners, it was a community effort of partners who volunteer, donate or significantly reduce their costs to make these otherwise cost prohibitive projects possible.



Even in the autumn of 1905 Jack London launched a lecture tour of the nation's colleges and universities. Audiences who expected colorful anecdotes of the famous author's Gold Rush days in the Yukon were in for a jolt. The famous author of *The Call of the Wild* was formerly nicknamed the "Boy Socialist of Oakland" and was now a founding member of the Intercollegiate Socialist Society. His lectures were a campaign to recruit the young Americans whose baccalaureate degrees guaranteed prestige and status, which is to say, powerful future leadership.

The tour was no lark. It meant zigzagging by train at ungodly hours through Kansas, Wisconsin, Illinois, and elsewhere. It meant a strenuous effort to stay healthy despite broken sleep and irregular meals. At times, it meant

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A Note from the Executive Director



These are important and interesting times. Every bit as energizing as when Jack London wrote, spoke and marched to express his thoughts and feelings about the world around him.

As keeper's of Jack's flame, so to speak, we are re-designing the exhibits within the House of Happy Walls to inspire others to "discover their call of the wild" and find their inspiration to influence the world around them. In the months that lead up to the grand opening of the "new" museum in May 2018 we will be saluting people who found inspiration from Jack's adventures, his novels, lifestyle or perhaps even a quote.

We invite you to express your current inspirations and how they may have been influenced by the London's legacy. Please send us your musings and we will consider them for a follow up interview with you to complete our "salute to inspiration" series of articles. Who knows? It just may have a ripple effect and inspire an entire community to follow their passions and dreams! In keeping with our mission to make Jack London proud, we know he and Charmian would be totally supportive of the effort.

Tjiska Van Wyk
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Volunteer Spotlight



JoAnn Augustine - She Does It All! *Kiosk, Cottage, Green Team Leader & Museum*

JoAnn has provided an amazing 1100 volunteer hours in her 5 years of service. Her most satisfying experiences are in the cottage. "People sometimes stay for much longer than they expect as we get into conversations about history and nature. A visitor once asked about hikes and I mentioned my goal of hiking to the summit. Weeks later that visitor was back and asked me if I had made it to the summit. I was so pleased that he remembered, and even more pleased to be able to tell him about the First Day Hike. He congratulated me warmly. Very satisfying". JoAnn loves the feeling of community at the park and the opportunity to meet people from all over the world. Before retiring, Joann worked in legal publishing, small business management, and teaching English in Napa high schools. Her goal is to read all of Jack London's books!

London Leadership Council Benefit Event

Members of the London Leadership Council were treated to a hike organized by Board member, Donna Halow and led by naturalist John Lynch. The group took the trails past the ancient redwoods that led to the park's historic orchard where lunch and champagne was provided under the fruit trees. On the way back the group was treated to a female Junco sitting on her eggs (right at hip level) while the male tried to distract them with his song and dance! Learn more about the benefits of being a member of the London Leadership Council by visiting the park's website.



Jack's view continued from page 1

playing the role of a literary heavyweight while fevered and chilled by the flu.

The promise of a socialist future was London's driving force. To Jack, the wondrous, modern industrial system had become pathological, if not criminal. It benefitted a few while subjecting multitudes to needless suffering. The socioeconomic and political status quo needed radical change, and the stakes for America's future were bannered in the titles of London's lectures—"The Coming Crisis" and "Revolution."

Although Jack London volunteered for the tour, he was drafted by socialist principles distilled from his impoverished boyhood and youth. In Oakland he had toiled in a jute mill and a cannery for ten cents an hour; shoveled coal while his wrists swelled and throbbed; labored in a steam laundry where a friend compared him to a "robot" and "slave." His story, Jack realized, was typical of legions of America's boys and girls, men and women. The US working class, he saw, toiled for near-starvation wages in mines, mills, and factories. Workers labored for twelve or sixteen hour shifts and lived in foul tenement slums. (At one point the young London's struggling family was housed in a scrap lumber shack.)

London grew up in the post-Civil War decades variously called the Age of Energy, the Age of Steam and Steel, or the Age of Enterprise. The name that stuck, however, was The Gilded Age, a title from Mark Twain's novel of 1873. A story of American schemers and fraudsters masquerading as high-minded gentlemen and ladies, The Gilded Age, in its title, implied a shining surface

covering and concealing an underlying base metal.

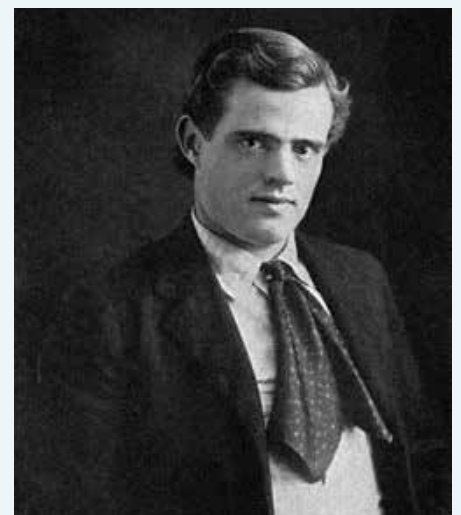
The socialists, including Jack London, held the captains of industry responsible for the base conditions of their era. Their names—Vanderbilt, Rockefeller, Carnegie, the railroader Collis Huntington—were bywords for great wealth and power. As London said, these tycoons "organized the machinery of life and made possible a wonderful era for all mankind ...wherein no creature should cry aloud because it had not enough to eat." However, he emphasized, they failed "horribly" at serving mankind. In a national census of over 80 million, some 10 million Americans' bodies were weakened from a lack of sufficient food, London reported. Coast to coast, from the Berkeley campus to the eastern "ivy" colleges, Jack's audiences heard him describe America as a nation urgently in need of a revolution to reform a socioeconomic and political system that some compared to the feudalism of the Middle Ages, with modern day citizen-workers as serfs.

Rejecting the dark "isms" of communism and anarchism, Jack endorsed socialism for its promise to distribute the goods and services of the bountiful industrial age to the nation as a whole. "A socialist is of necessity social," he proclaimed in 1895 article in the San Francisco Examiner. And he (or she) "wishes to live in a society formed of social beings" comprised of groupings of the "family, community or State."

It sounded self-evidently simple, but the message was radically disruptive. Through the onenighters at colleges and universities from the heartland to the East Coast, London exposed as false the established

"truths" of the contemporary political, economic, and social system that was legitimated by the social Darwinist motto of "survival of the fittest" and the prevalent economic system of laissez faire (a freedom from any and all regulation). His new-found wealth notwithstanding, Jack London pledged lifelong allegiance to working class and the socialist cause. His writings bear the imprint of his convictions.

Cecelia Tichi is the author of twelve books, including her recent Book Jack London, A Writer's Fight For a Better America, mystery novels and nonfiction. She is the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of English and Professor of American Studies at Vanderbilt University and the winner of the Jay B. Hubbell Medal for lifetime achievement in American literature. She has lectured by invitation at universities and community groups of upwards of one thousand persons on topics ranging from technological change to national monuments.



Courtesy of the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA



A TASTE OF THE WILD AT JACK LONDON PARK

On Friday, June 9th, a wild night was had in the meadow at Beauty Ranch! The first annual A Taste of the Wild food and wine contest paired delicious, original dishes with several Jack London Brand wines from Kenwood Vineyards and the result was a recipe for success. Among the local restaurants competing for first place, were Yeti, Palooza, Tri Tip Trolley, El Brinquito and Sweet Scoops Homemade Ice Cream. Guests were treated to a variety of small bites from each participant with foods ranging from spicy Curry Lamb with Naan bread from Yeti to Chocolate, Cherry- Walnut Syrah ice cream from Sweet Scoops. The restaurant with the most votes was Tri Tip Trolley who created an incredible Cherry Wood, 5 Spice, Short Rib Slider and paired it with Jack London Zinfandel. Guests that evening had the best of all worlds with rocking music by local band, Loosely Covered, who had them dancing in the meadow till sunset. Our guests were also able to enjoy tastes of all four Jack London Brand Wines provided that evening by Kenwood Vineyards. And best of all, the evening ended with a full moon over Sonoma Mountain.

Jack London Enrichment Series of Classes For Volunteers!

Lou Leal, Park Historian and Jack London authority, created a series of classes for volunteers to expand their knowledge of Jack London's extraordinary life and the story of the Beauty Ranch for our volunteers!

Schedule of 2017 Ongoing Education for interpreters

July 29 - Jack and Sailing

Location: Oakmont East Rec.**.

August 26 - History of the Wolf House and HHW

Location: Oakmont East Rec.**

September 30 - History of the Beauty Ranch.

Location: JLSHP Terrace Picnic site.

October 28 - The Controversies surrounding Jack's Death

Location: Oakmont East Rec.**

**Oakmont East Recreation Center is located at: 7902 Oakmont Drive, Santa Rosa

The audience was enthralled during the first class, held on May 27th, which focused on Jack London's early life of instability. From birth to age twenty-four Jack London lived in sixteen different homes. Through this period he became an avid reader, had many adventures, and worked at developing his writing skills to become a published author. The road to success was relatively short, but included many hardships. Jack London went on to become one of the world's most read writers. He died at age forty, in pursuit of his last dream, success in agriculture.

Classes are held in various venues from 10-11:30 am
No reservations are needed, just show up!



and with special thanks...

A HUGE thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped make the new ADA accessible pathway come together.

Our park volunteer truly went above and beyond to make this pathway happen, working extra days and long hours, often in the blazing sun. Thank you Bob Reid, Rusty Simms, Mike Mathies, Bern Lefson, Wayne Hallman, Jim Jackson, Bob Lutolf, Sandy Shoemaker, Jenny Randall, and our Tours and Education manager Kristina Ellis for raking gravel at midnight the night before inspection!



Eric Metz,
Director of Operations



Special thanks to Ken Wells and the Sonoma County Trails Council staff and volunteers including Tim Mayer, Tony Cale, Rory Pool, Todd Board, Paul Hetherman, Dan Adams, Carl, Ken, Sig and those whose names I didn't catch or can't remember! Many of you came outside of the regular trails council days to lend a hand during crunch time.

Special thanks as well to Nils Derickson with CALFire for his last minute road adjustment and to Mike Benziger for letting us borrow his tractor over and over again.

I apologize if I've left anyone out as there were so many wonderful people chipping in on this project from the initial groundbreaking, which seems so long ago.

IN GRATITUDE

Contributors March 1 - June 15, 2017

Ken and Karen Adelson	Diana and Peter Ferris	Steve and Maribelle Leavitt
Valerie and Stephen Arelt	Richard and Carolyn Fogg	Sandy and Geoff Leonard
Frances and Chester Arnold	Michael and Jette Franks	Mary Lester
Alis Arrowood	Richard and Stephanie Fredericks	Chuck Levine and Elisa Stancil
Tom and Julie Atwood	David and Ginny Freeman	Tony and Nancy Lilly
Gerald and Jane Baldwin	Gary Garabedian	Linda Liscom and Ed Powers
Benevity Community Impact Fund	Bob and Gretchen Gardner	Rosemarie and Steve Marks
Mike and Mary Benziger	Robert Glotzbach and Susan M. Schinsing	Maria Matson
Richard Bernal	Margaret Gokey	Vicki Sue McCartney
Sylvia Bernard	Hugh and Lorraine Gordon	Mary McEachron
Joyce Bianchi	John and Phyllis Gurney	Dennis and Susan McQuaid
Stephen and Diane Bieneman	Karin Guzman	Alice and John Melillo
Hugh and Judy Black	William Hake	Christine and Ron Mickelsen
Kathy and Dennis Bloch	Leigh Hall	Buffy Miller
Bill Blosser and Dorinda Parker	Yvonne Hall	Douglas Mo and Marcia Charles-Mo
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Suzanne Brangham and Jack Lundgren	Donna Halow	Matt Muldoon
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Paula Bunting	Steven and Troy Hightower	Eric Norrbom
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Sally and Albert Davies	Marilyn and Daniel Kittleson	Vanessa Phillips
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Miriam Denning	Betsy Kutska and Paul Genovese	Ligeia Polidora and Patrick Smith
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		Ken and Sarah Reid

In Gratitude continued from page 6

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 Isabel Wade and Jan Chernoff
 Gerry and Marguerite Wallace
 Rich and Sheila Ward
 Lucy Weiger and Robert Crane
 John and Mona Wilson
 Valerie and James Woods
 Evelyn Zanin
 Frank and Janet Zona

Welcome New Board Member Wally McGuire!

Wally McGuire, an attorney by training, has spent most of his career leading environmental and social marketing projects. He is president of McGuire and Company, Inc., a public affairs firm and President of the Environmental Policy Center, a non-profit organization. Wally was and remains the principle creator and manager of California's award winning statewide "Flex Your Power" energy conservation and efficiency campaign. He also has extensive public policy experience, including a stint as Chief Lobbyist for the state of Washington D.C. In this capacity, he served as the principal contact with Congress, the White House and the federal bureaucracy. Throughout the Carter administration he organized overseas and domestic trips for the President, Vice President and the State Department including the Presidents' trips to Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Germany, France, Japan, Korea, and the "Camp David Shuttle" to Israel. Wally has broad experience in managing national promotional campaigns.

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Upcoming Events

visit: www.jacklondonpark.com

JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

- June 29-July 2** Broadway Under the Stars *Another Openin' Another Show!*
- July 8:** Hiking For Fitness on the Ridge Trail #4
- July 14-15:** Broadway Under the Stars *Fantastical Family Night*
- July 15:** Hiking For Fitness to the Summit #5



- July 29:** Photography: Art of Seeing Composition
- August 4-20** Broadway Under the Stars *Fascinating Rhythm*
- August 5:** Hike to Fern Lake
- August 12:** Short Story Read Aloud-Doc Stull reads "War"
- September 23:** Call of the Wild Gala
- September 30:** Watercolors at the Lake