

Berkeley's PATHS

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a grassroots volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. BPWA hopes to accomplish this goal through volunteer-led path walks; identification and accurate mapping of Berkeley's complete path network; and eventual restoration of paths that have been blocked or obscured. We hope the final outcome of the community effort will be the preservation and on-going maintenance of all the paths, lanes and steps throughout Berkeley.

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, Summer 2000 Vol. 3 No. 2

Gray Brechin Speaks on & at the Hillside Club

"In a few short months last year, Gray Brechin finished his PhD, and had two books published by the University of California Press, one *Farewell Promised Land*, coauthored with the fine photographer Bob Dawson, the other *Imperial San Francisco* based on his dissertation. Both are superb, disturbing analyses of environmental destruction in our region. Both are immensely readable texts on profoundly disquieting themes. The latter is a remarkable hybrid: a scholarly dissertation, a popular best-seller, and, as I recently dis-

covered, a text sufficiently poetic to enthrall both Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Gary Snyder," introduces Alan Ritch, a BPWA member and University of California at Berkeley librarian, director of collections.

Gray Brechin will speak on the Hillside Club's influence on the design of the Berkeley hills, including the paths, at BPWA's September 27 meeting.

Meetings **Live Oak Park Rec. Center 7-9 pm 1200 Shattuck Avenue**

- Aug. 17 Board Meeting**
- Sept. 27 General Meeting**
Special **Wednesday** meeting at the Hillside Club, 2286 Cedar St.
7:00 Business
7:30 Talk on the Hillside Club by Gray Brechin, author
- Oct. 19 Board Meeting**
- Nov. 16 General Meeting**
Pathways & Wildfire Safety by Bill McClung
- Dec. 14 Board Meeting**

Path Walks **RAIN OR SHINE Saturdays at 10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)**

- Aug. 26** Thousand Oaks Paths
Pat DeVito leader 527-2693
Meet at **Indian Rock Park**
- Sept. 23** Northside Paths
Jim Sharp leader 848-6897
Meet at **Le Conte & La Loma**
- Oct. 21** Yosemite Steps and up
Adean Kane leader 524-4662
Meet at **Alameda & Capistrano**
- Nov. 4** Acquatic Park
Mark Liolios leader 549-0818
Meet at **Channing Way parking lot**
- Dec 2** Summit Rd. and Selby Path Loop
Paul Grunland leader 526-8001
Meet at **Summit Road and Grizzly Peak**

Path Improvements

Dirt paths that once were quagmires or torrents in winter have become attractive rustic trails, thanks to a Berkeley Parks Mini-Grant, and the muscle power of local Boy Scouts.

Since Path Wanderers received the \$2000 grant from the city last year, three paths have been improved:

- The north half of Keeler Avenue Path, edging Remillard Park, now has wooden steps; stepping stones at a seasonal creek; improved drainage; and an attractive, wood-chip surface.
- Oak Street Path, between Laurel and Glen, also has new wooden steps. Heavy runoff that was eroding a gulch down the center of the path has been channeled into ditches at the side, eventually reaching a new catch-basin also installed by the Scouts.



- Mosswood Path, a rustic path through an avenue of redwoods, branching from historic Orchard Lane on Panoramic Hill, has improved drainage and a new set of steps on what had been a steep, slippery hill at its top.

BPWA applied for the grant with the idea of "partnering" with neighborhood or youth groups seeking to do public service. With money and materials supplied through the mini-grant, and expert advice from Brad Ricards of the Berkeley Parks Department, the projects have turned out to be a good match for

BPWA
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

*Please note our
NEW ADDRESS*



Left: Warren Howe, Maurice Delmar and Ryan Taylor, lead by Paul Maheu of Troop 19 grade and lay wooden steps to the steep slope of Keelar Avenue Path.

Eagle Scout candidates. Scouts, usually 15 to 17 years old, are required to organize and carry out a public-service project as part of earning the honor. Trail building fits in with other Scouting skills: the projects take lots of muscle power and cooperation. Plus, there's time for outdoor fun afterwards — from touch football to a water fight on hot days.

Four local teens have led the projects: Warren Howe, Maurice Delmar, and Ryan Taylor, from Berkeley Troop 19; and Jeff Golden of Berkeley Troop 6. Paul Maheu, Troop 19 Scoutmaster, says his group is eager to continue to partnership.

Meanwhile, Path Wanderers is ready with projects. With only enough money remaining to improve one more path, we have applied for a second Berkeley

Parks Mini-Grant. The new application also asks for money to install a bench or two for tired walkers.

Good candidates for improvements include the following:

- Acacia Walk
- Latham Walk
- Sterling Path
- Twin Path
- Stevenson Path
- Keeler Avenue Path, south half

The benefits aren't just to beauty and the pleasure of walking. Several of these paths, including Latham, Twin, and Keeler Avenue, provide important escape routes from steep hill area during earthquakes or fires.

Path Wanderers is looking forward to continuing this program, and building more partnerships with groups or individuals. If you are interested, please contact Susan Schwartz, 510 848 9358.

Volunteer — Involve Yourself with Berkeley's Paths

Want to do more for Berkeley's wonderful path network? BPWA is always in need of volunteers. Get involved beyond the walks and meetings (and share with lots of like-minded path enthusiasts):

Help update our path inventory Check on whether paths have signs, need repairs, etc. If you see missing or awkwardly placed path signs call **Pat** at 527-2693. A fun task that gets you outdoors exploring paths!

Adopt a path Trim exuberant vegetation, maybe plant drought-resistant natives to beautify it. Plenty of candidates available! Call **Tom** for details at 525-4064.

Join a newsletter mailing party We promise cookies and laughter. Or, submit an

article for the next newsletter: **email ideas to Karen** at studio49@earthlink.net, or give her a call at 652-2449.

Help with Clerical work Maintain membership lists or our path-photos file.

Help coordinate meetings and walks Call **Jacque** at 524-4715 if you would like to lead a walk. Also, we'd love to hear your ideas for speakers and walks!

Host BPWA's Table at the Solano Stroll, Sun., September 10th; and How Berkeley Can You Be, Sun., September 24th. Call **Sue** at 215-0873.

Special projects For example, we could use help determining a route which connects the Bay Area Ridge Trail to the Bay Trail, following paths and creeks as much as possible; or develop plans for re-opening and improving neglected paths, and improving their function as emergency evacuation routes.

Call BPWA with your ideas, 524-4715!

Bylaws, Vote & Elections

At our September 27 General meeting we'll vote to pass our BPWA Bylaws (copy enclosed).

This will require a 2/3 majority of those present. November 16th we will hold elections for new board members.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Charlie Bowen | Sue Fernstrom |
| Jay Cross | Eleanor Gibson |
| Pat DeVito | Paul Grunland |
| Tom Edwards | Maggie Hodges |
| Jacque Ensign | Karen Kemp |
| | Ruth Moskovitz |
| | Susan Schwartz |
| | Helen Wynne |



www.internettime.com/path

Ten Easy Fixes

Ken Emeziem, civil engineer for Berkeley's Department of Public Works has been very proactive in maintaining the paths in conjunction with BPWA. Recently Upton and Tunbridge paths have been repaired, and BPWA has given Ken a list of ten more paths which are easy to fix, so more improvements are on the way.

Faced with an end-of-year surplus in her budget, Councilmember Betty Olds has donated \$500 to BPWA! Thank you.

Where are the Hidden Walks Books?



Stephen Altschuler's two guides to Bay Area pathways, *Hidden Walks in the Bay Area (1990)* and *More Hidden Walks in the Bay Area (1991)*, published in Santa Cruz by Western Tanager Press (no longer in business), are available from a Lafayette distributor, Great West Books. Call or fax your order to Peter Browning at 925 283 3184.

If you have any concerns about path issues please call Jacque at 524-4715.

Annual membership in Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is \$5.00 due January 1st of each year. Benefits include Path Inventory Index, maps of pathways, quarterly newsletter, and BPWA mailings. Mail form with check or money order, payable to:

**BPWA, Berkeley Partners for Parks
1442A Walnut St., #269, Berkeley, CA 94709**

(BPWA is a member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.)

BPWA Membership Form Please print

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Email _____

Telephone _____