

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, the identification and accurate mapping of Berkeley's complete path network, and the eventual restoration of paths that have been blocked or obscured.

A Newsletter of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association December 2004 Vol. 7 No. 4

Path-Building is Accelerating

We last reported to you on the progress of our work on the unimproved paths in our June 2004 newsletter. Since then there are many exciting new developments. The SF Chronicle wrote a great article about us in July; we finished 2 more paths; we've gotten new volunteers—old, young, and in-between—and we have several more paths that we anticipate completing in 2005.

First, we have finished building Wilson Walk and Upper Stevenson Path. And Lower Stevenson Path is on its way to completion.

Wilson Walk does not yet have signs, but one can find the top of the path between 1504 and 1506 Summit Road and the bottom between 9

and 14 Wilson Circle. When we started Wilson Walk in late April it was almost nearly impassible, very steep, with lots of brush and ground vegetation. By mid-October we were installing the last steps by an enthusiastic group of UC Berkeley students working with the CalCorps service organization. Most of them had never used picks, mattocks or sledge hammers, but they were quick learners and they had a great time.

Now the path has 100 steps, so walking up it will give one a good workout and walking down some lovely views.

Upper and Lower Stevenson Paths have seen rapid progress throughout November and December, with a total of 80 steps installed between the two paths. Ground-clearing has been completed on both, and steps have been installed along the entire length of Upper Stevenson. Lower Stevenson Path, with 39 steps installed, is more than half way done.

Help from the kids

The second exciting thing in our path-building efforts is the new people who are getting involved—many of them young. This fall Lower Glendale Path had the middle segment improved by Gavin Taylor from Scout Troop 19 as an Eagle project, and it will benefit from another Eagle

Meetings **Live Oak Park Rec. Center**

7-9 pm 1301 Shattuck Ave (unless noted)

Jan 20 Board Meeting

Feb 17 General Meeting
Speaker to be announced

Mar 17 Board Meeting

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

Saturday Walks

Jan 22 Pt. Molate
Marilyn Siegel 549-2908 zemerlds@aol.com
Park near Brothers Lighthouse sign.

Feb 5 Redwood Park Nature/Mushrooms
Robert Mackler 799-6756
Redwood Rd. entrance, Redwood Regional Pk.

Mar 26 Cerrito Creek/Albany Hill
Susan Schwartz 848-9358 F5creeks@aol.com
Meet at El Cerrito BART.

First Wednesday Walks

Jan 5 Live Oak Park Area
Jacque Ensign 524-4715
Meet at Live Oak Park on Walnut Street

Feb 2 Wildlife
Susan Schwartz 848-9358 F5creeks@aol.com
Seabreeze Deli, University Ave. west of 580.

Apr 6 Wildland/Urban Interface
Paul Grunland 526-8001
Summit Reservoir at Grizzly Peak & Spruce St.

See www.Berkeleypaths.org for walk details.



Wilson Walk, looking down from the top.

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

Board Members

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Webmaster WILL SCHIEBER

Important... Make your New Year's resolution
to renew your BPWA membership for 2005 NOW!

Path-Building (cont.)

project in the spring by a member of Troop 14. The bottom part of Acacia Steps will be built soon by Eagle candidate **Patrick Georgi** from Troop 24. We hope to be ordering signs for Acacia Steps soon!

The **Green Justice Club** from El Cerrito High School had their first outing and thought it was so rewarding that they decided to work again in December and January. And the **Circle K Club** (college-level Kiwanis) at Cal also had a workparty that was a big success. They too want to return in 2005. These young people are now all old hands at path-building, so we are eager to have them back.

This fall we've had elementary-level students providing very welcome help with maintenance on the paths.

The **Berkeley Montessori School** 8th grade class has been sweeping paths on Thursday afternoons, arranged by their teacher **Craig Jackson** as part of the Community Service program for their grade. They can transform a path in just over an hour! We also take them on a path walk to introduce them to their neighborhood.

During Thanksgiving week we had an unexpected source of volunteer path workers, when three **Vanderbilt University** students (who originally hail from Orinda and Moraga) contacted us. Their Environmental Ethics course includes fifteen hours of community service, most of which they hoped they could do with us. Their work on Stoddard Path and Wilson Walk was most appreciated.

A Brief History of Berkeley View Terrace

Berkeley View Terrace, also referred to as Terrace View, is the comparatively little known neighborhood adjacent to the University of California on the north, just below Grizzly Peak Boulevard. It was promoted by **Mason-McDuffie Company** in the 1930's as being a quiet, secluded, and restful location. There was no arterial traffic. Centennial Road—which connects Grizzly to the Lawrence Hall of Science, and streets below—was not completed until decades later. One Berkeley resident recalls walking up Strawberry Canyon in the 1930's when the road ended at the UC Botanical Garden.

By the time the Terrace View area of Berkeley was developed, most people travelled by car. It wasn't essential to have easy access to streetcars although Terrace View was said to be within .7 mile of the Euclid Avenue streetcar line. Travel times were given as 4 minutes to UCB, 5 minutes to downtown Berkeley, 15 minutes to downtown

Oakland, and 40 minutes to San Francisco (to be reduced on completion of Bay Bridge).

The public paths going up and down the steep hills of Terrace View had been planned. However the paths were not a selling point, and were not developed. The City of Berkeley eventually acquired land for Terrace View Park. This park, pleasant with a creek running through it, is bordered by Queens Road, Fairlawn, and Avenida.

On Saturday, April 23 there will be a walk scheduled for this area led by **Charlie Bowen**, BPWA's path-building leader. Meanwhile, you are encouraged to visit Terrace View on your own to appreciate this scenic and somewhat remote part of town.

By Marilyn Siegel

www.berkeleypaths.org



Out-going & In-coming Board Members

We would like to thank all the dedicated board members who have fulfilled their maximum two terms with incredible diligence and hard work. Thank you!

At our November 18th meeting, five new board members were elected, and **Emma Morris** was re-elected. The new members are: **Prescott Cole, Mary Lynch, Will Schieber, Marilyn Siegel** and **Barbara West**. We would like to welcome them to the board.

Our New Amplifier for Our Walks

allows the leader to comment on items of passing interest while walking. It takes getting use to, but we hope it enhances the enjoyment of our loyal path wanderers.

Gray Brechin Needs Your Help!

Mr. Brechin is working on a project to identify the legacy of the New Deal in California and would like to find what effect it had on Berkeley.

He suspects that the WPA may have done work on the Berkeley paths, as well as the city's parks. Are you aware of any such contribution?

About The New Deal Legacy Project

Within the span of less than a decade, a multitude of federally sponsored "alphabet soup" agencies transformed the Golden State. The CWA, WPA, PWA, and others constructed hospitals, schools, auditoriums, firehouses and police stations, post offices, amphitheaters, university buildings, rose gardens, and recreational centers...

Opponents of Roosevelt's programs and reforms sought not only to erase them but even the memory of their accomplishments as an option.

The project will produce a book and photographic exhibition by **Brechin** and photographer **Robert Dawson** and a film by **Christopher Beaver**. It is sponsored by the California Historical Society.

If you know of New Deal projects, participants, or records, please contact:

Dr. Gray Brechin, Research Fellow
U.C. Berkeley Dpmt. of Geography
501 McCone Hall
Berkeley, California 94720
gbrechin@berkeley.edu

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

Annual membership in Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is \$5.00 per household, due **January 1st** of each year. Donations are always welcome. Benefits include a 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 clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

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Email _____

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I would like my newsletter sent via e-mail and have included my e-mail address.