

BPWA Guided Walks

Walks take place rain or shine and last 2-3 hours unless otherwise noted. They are free and open to all. Please check online a few days before each walk for any changes.

Saturday Walks - 10 AM

Jan 3 - New Year's Waterfront Walk
Susan Schwartz - 510 848 9358
f5creeks@aol.com

Meeting Place: Shorebird Nature Center, 160 University Ave. (South side., west of Adventure Playground) **AC Transit #9 bus.** View wintering waterfowl and discover how Berkeley beaches are rebuilding themselves. Binoculars are recommended. Walk is leisurely and level but not wheelchair accessible. Optional coffee/tea stop at Sea Breeze Deli.

February 7 - Geocaching on the Paths

Mike Zinser - 510 528 3246
keithskinner.public@gmail.com

Meeting Place: Top of Fountain Walk, Marin (Arlington) Circle. AC Transit #7 bus
If you haven't tried your hand at geocaching — essentially treasure hunting with a GPS unit — here's your chance. We will share GPS units and hunt for caches on and around the paths. www.geocaching.com has more info on this popular pastime.

March 7 - Power Walk

Colleen Neff - 510 848 2944
colleenneff@earthlink.net

Meeting Place: Picnic area of Indian Rock Park. AC Transit #7 bus

This will be a challenging, fast-paced fitness walk through John Hinkel Park, on Acacia Walk, and past Grizzly Peak Blvd. to Vistamont with a return via Easter Way.

Wednesday Walks - Page 2

BPWA Winter Program

Thursday, February 19 - 7 PM.
Redwood Gardens (2951 Derby St.)
Susan Schwartz will speak on *Habitat Rehab: Restoring Bay Area Nature from Mountains to your Downspout.*
(Full details on page 2.)

BPWA Volunteer Opportunities

Work in Booth - lbrad5501@sbcglobal.net
Build Paths - charlie_paths@comcast.net
Plan/Lead Walks - keithskinner.public@gmail.com
Spruce up a Path - colleenneff@earthlink.net

Berkeley's PATHS

Vol. 11 No. 4

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Winter 2008-09

President's Year-End Message

— Lori Kohlstaedt

The mission statement of the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association reads "Dedicated to the creation, preservation and restoration of public paths, steps, and walkways in Berkeley for the use and enjoyment of all." Implicit in our mission is another goal: To make walking in Berkeley an easy and pleasant, perhaps even joyous, experience.

Most of Berkeley's paths are in the hills, where they serve a utilitarian purpose. They significantly shorten commuting distances for walkers and provide important emergency access and egress. Yet walking along Berkeley's pathways can also be a pure pleasure. These hill paths provide breathtaking views and glimpses of distinguished Berkeley architecture and beautiful gardens.

Far fewer public pathways lie in the flatter parts of our city, where streets form a regular grid. Nevertheless, many interesting and lovely spots lie in this section of Berkeley, and often our guided walks take place below the hills. Because BPWA recognizes that walking should be safe and pleasurable throughout city, we often partner with other groups to, among other things, improve the Ohlone Greenway, open other railway rights of way to pedestrians, upgrade crosswalks near paths, and install borders of native, drought-resistant plants.

Our own program of path creation and improvement continued to add new walking routes in 2008. Our path-building teams include everyone from high school students to retirees.

Under the direction of our principal path builder Charlie Bowen, two new paths were opened this year. UC Berkeley students and a crew from Mountain Hardware helped us finish one, Upper El Mirador (#50). The other, Bret Harte Lane (#72), offers a fine view of the Bay from its upper end at Grizzly Peak Blvd. You may also have noticed that the broken brick steps at the bottom of Poppy Path have disappeared. With the help

(Continued on page 3)



One of the highlights of this eventful year was the November City Council meeting, at which Charlie Bowen (above) was honored with a City of Berkeley proclamation recognizing her leadership in the building of 23 of Berkeley's pathways. That meeting also marked the retirement of our long-time champion, Council Member Betty Olds.

First Wednesday Walks - 10 AM

Jan 7 - Monkey Island Park Neighborhood

Colleen Neff - 510 848 2944

ColleenNeff@earthlink.net

Meeting Place: Monkey Island Park - Claremont Blvd. & Garber St. AC Transit #7 bus

Tour the Monkey Island Park neighborhood, including Avalon Walk and Oak Knoll and Tanglewood Paths. This will be a fairly easy route with some stairs and some uphill. We will finish on College Ave. at Ici for an ice cream cone.

February 4 - Emeryville Public Art

Keith Skinner - 510 528 3246

keithskinner.public@gmail.com

Meeting Place: Ruby's Cafe - 6233 Hollis St (63rd), Emeryville. Transit: Emery-Go-Round Shuttle from Macarthur BART station

Discover the wealth of public art in Emeryville, sponsored by city's Art in Public Places program. This walk will be flat and the pace moderate.

Mar 4 - UC Campus Outdoor Sculpture

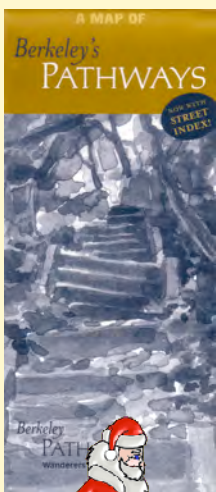
Alan Kaplan - 510 528-3246

keithskinner.public@gmail.com

Meeting Place: UC Campus - North Gate entrance. AC Transit #52L bus

A continuation of Alan's art and architecture walks, this moderately-paced tour will focus on the interesting sculpture dotting the UC-Berkeley campus.

BPWA Map



This attractive and accurate map shows all the 135+ paths of Berkeley as well as all the streets. It is printed on sturdy, water-resistant paper and is only \$6.95. To order, see our web site. The map is a wonderful gift for anyone who drives, bikes, or hikes in Berkeley.

Santa thinks maps and note cards make excellent holiday gifts

February 19th Winter Meeting To Focus on Creeks and Watersheds

— Sandy Friedland

Susan Schwartz, long active in restoring local creeks and watersheds, will speak at BPWA's winter program on Thursday, February 19, at 7 PM at Redwood Gardens (2951 Derby St.). Her talk, Habitat Rehab: Restoring Bay Area Nature from Mountains to your Downspout, will take you on a slide tour of the amazingly varied efforts aimed at protecting and restoring nature in our area, the largest estuary on the West Coast. The program is free and open to the public.

A dedicated community activist, Susan has a knack for attracting and motivating volunteers to join efforts to improve the local environment. She is president of Friends of Five Creeks, a group that works to restore and preserve clean water and healthy watersheds from North Berkeley to Richmond. She also leads work parties, walks, and community meetings. Every Tuesday, her dedicated Weekday Weed Warriors battle invasive plants at varied restoration sites.

She has helped form coalitions both locally and regionally and to spread the word about their efforts. In 2006, Susan organized Greening Berkeley, collaboration among five citizen groups – including BPWA and UC Berkeley students – to create more green spaces in Berkeley. She recently launched a new website featuring “blue-green” developments – homes, schools, churches, parking lots, shopping malls and more designed to minimize impacts on the environment. She is producing an online map that gives information on the dozens of Bay Area projects where volunteers can join hands-on efforts to improve the environment.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* recently gave Susan a Jefferson Award for Public Service and ran a spotlight feature on her on October 8.

"It's magical to watch water," she told the *Chronicle*. "As we live more in cities, and with global warming, we



Our Winter Program Speaker Susan Schwartz

need to be able to have nature close at hand without driving for hours with our internal combustion engine."

Susan is a former journalist, editor, and teacher of scientific writing. She has been an active member of BPWA almost since it began ten years ago. She started BPWA's path-building program, in which adult volunteers, students, and other groups clear long-lost paths on city-owned rights of way and install wooden steps. That effort, now led by Charlie Bowen, has added 25 new paths to the system.

Want to Lead a Walk?

If you have an idea for a walk, please contact Keith Skinner – 510 528 3246 keithskinner.public@gmail.com.

BPWA Board Meetings

The BPWA Board meets on the third Thursday of each month (except Feb, Sept, and Dec) at Music Sources, 1000 The Alameda (at Marin). Observers are welcome. Please enter via the side door at 1842 Marin Ave.

President's Year-End Message (Continued)

of a neighboring homeowner, we are replacing them with wooden ones.

BPWA bid a fond goodbye to one of our major supporters, Betty Olds, who just retired from the Berkeley City Council. We honored Betty at our Annual Meeting in September by giving her a set of beautiful path photos taken by BPWA Vice-President Colleen Neff. Many people who love the paths also attended Betty's last council meeting to thank her for her efforts on behalf of the path system.

At the same council meeting, Charlie Bowen was honored with a City of Berkeley proclamation recognizing her leadership in building of 23 of Berkeley's pathways. (see photograph on page 1).

The path ahead for BPWA has many opportunities and obstacles. Many of the city-owned rights of way that were reserved for paths but never developed are very steep or pose other serious challenges. However, work is underway on some of these difficult paths. Charlie and crew are cutting switchbacks and fashioning a retaining wall in the steep lower section of Covert Path. Next year they will tackle the rest of this path, which traverses rugged terrain. Please show your support for the paths by joining one of Charlie's work parties. Sign up to help on our website.

As 2008 ends, it is time for those of you who don't see "Mem '09" after your name on the next page, to renew your BPWA membership. Please con-

sider also making a donation to further our path building. Although these grim economic times have us all tightening our belts, a small gift to BPWA goes a long way. You can join and donate at www.berkeleypaths.org. All BPWA workers and officers are volunteers, and our overhead is extremely low. This is your organization, and I invite you to become more involved by volunteering. You can help with path building, offer to lead one of our two guided walks each month and with a variety of other activities, such as publicity and map sales.

Watch our website and our print and e-newsletters for volunteer opportunities. I also invite you to show your support for both the Path Wanderers and the environment by putting your feet on a path whenever you can. Happy walking!

"Afoot and light hearted I take to the open road, Healthy, free, the world before me, The long brown path before me leading wherever I choose. Henceforth, I ask not good fortune, I myself am good fortune. Henceforth, I whimper no more, postpone no more, I need nothing. I'm done with indoor complaints, libraries, and querulous criticisms. Strong and content I travel the open road."

— Walt Whitman

BPWA Note Cards



This set of four note cards with envelopes features Rose Walk (above) and three other paths. The cards are gorgeous reproductions of watercolors by Karen Kemp. The set is only \$7.50 and makes a wonderful gift.

You can order sets from our website www.berkeleypaths.org

Our Photo Contest Was a Big Hit

The winner of the photo contest we began in the last newsletter is BPWA member Geoff Chandler. He received a free BPWA map when his correct answer was chosen at random from the dozen we received.

The fall photo was an elephant sculpture located on Scenic Ave. near Cedar St. The prize pachyderm is named Penelope. She was created by Berkeley/Oakland native, Roxanne Urry, with a Sawzall, screws, and 100 recycled tires. Steel-belted radials comprise the body, and dragster tires the ears. Muffler pipes are the tusks.

Contest rules and the latest mystery photo are on page four.

Tax-deductible household memberships in the BPWA are \$5.00 and cover one calendar year. If you can give more, please consider a donation. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings and emails. You can join or donate online at www.berkeleypaths.org or by sending this form and a check, payable to our fiscal parent BFPF (Berkeley Partners for Parks) to:

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

BPWA Membership/Donation Form

Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Telephone Number (optional) _____

I am enclosing \$5 for membership new renewal

I am also enclosing a donation of _____

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Winter 2008-09

Dedicated to the creation, preservation, and restoration of public paths, steps, and walkways in Berkeley for the use and enjoyment of all.

The Berkeley Path Wanderers Association, an affiliate of Berkeley Partners for Parks, is a volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. Our activities include guided path walks, the mapping of Berkeley's path network, the building of paths that are proposed, and the restoration of those that need maintenance.



Recognize this sculpture? Tell us where it is and win a BPWA map, and a mention in our next newsletter. Email your answer to ColleenNeff@earthlink.net or send it to the address below, Attn: Colleen Neff. We will choose at random from the correct answers.

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
1442-A Walnut St. #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

www.berkeleypaths.org

Board Members

LORI KOHLSTAEDT, president
CHARLIE BOWEN, path building
LINDA BRADFORD, external events
JEN ENGLISH, walks
STEVE GLAESER, path building
ANNE HENNY, treasurer
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DALE MILLER, newsletter editor
COLLEEN NEFF, vice-president
WILL SCHIEBER, web master
MARILYN SIEGEL, secretary/internal events
KEITH SKINNER, walk coordinator
BARBARA WEST, nominating committee chair

If you don't see "Mem. 09" after your name above, it's time to renew your membership. You can renew online or by sending in the form on page three.