

Berkeley's PATHS

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a grass-roots 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, Spring 2000 Vol. 3 No. 1

Meetings

7-9 pm Live Oak Park Recreation Center

Apr. 20 General Meeting
Rose Walk talk
by John Underhill

May 13 Pot Luck Picnic

Sept. 16 General Meeting
The Hillside Club
by Gray Brechen, author of *Imperial San Francisco*, and *Farewell Promised Land: Waking from the California Dream*

Path Walks RAIN OR SHINE

Saturdays at 10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)

April 22 New Keeler Path & Vicinity
Charlie Bowen, leader 540-7223
Meet at Spruce & Santa Barbara

May 27 Southside Paths
Helen Wynne, leader 843-5738
Meet at Domingo & Ashby

June 24 Panoramic Way
Maggie Hodge, Ron Sires, leaders 559-8107
Meet at International House, top of Bancroft

July 24 North Berkeley Paths
Erica St. John, leader 548-0129
Meet at Shasta & Keith

Aug. 26 Thousand Oaks Paths
Pat DeVito, leader 527-2693
Meet at Indian Rock Park

Rose Walk

John Underhill will give a slide show and commentary about Rose Walk, including: history; Family history; early plans; Maybeck plans; construction; after the 1923 Fire; City demolition of the Path's upper terminus; and more. As a prologue, he'll present a brief look at Paths from his childhood. *John is a retired biological photographer with a degree in geography. His family history in the Rose Walk neighborhood dates back to 1904.*



Mini-grants, Scouts & Keeler Path Upgrade

Renovations to Keeler Avenue Pathway (between Sterling and Poppy Lane, #41 on City Index) were completed just before winter rains. Thanks go to Susan Schwartz for her organizing of the Scouts troupe 191 involvement after securing a City minigrant.

Troop 19 to the rescue.

Life Scout Warren Talbot led a team of Scouts in upgrading the path early this December, in so doing performed a civic project to complete the requirements for his Eagle Scout Award.

The Scouts placed stepping stones across a muddy stream bottom, covered the northern end of Keeler Path with

woodchips, and installed railroad-tie steps along the sloping section of the path parallel to Remillard Park.

The Scouts also dug drainage trenches and run-off areas to keep Keeler Path passable year-round.

Thanks Warren, and thanks Troop 19! Take a stroll along Keeler Path to see the Scouts' work and enjoy one of the more recently created paths in the Berkeley Hills.

Parking is easiest at the north end, alongside Remillard Park. The small park, located at the intersection of Poppy Lane and Keeler Avenue, features a small playground with swings and a slide; a playing field used for frisbie, badminton, and boules; and Remillard Rock, an impressive chunk of stone whose peak rewards adventurous climbers with a great view of the bay.

If you're looking for a slightly longer walk, you might start at Cragmont Park, walk a few blocks south down Regal and along Cragmont, and climb Sterling Path. Keeler Path starts diagonally

across the street. Walk Keeler Path to Remillard Park, then wander half a block down Poppy Lane and down Pinnacle Path back along Regal to Cragmont Park.

Cragmont Park offers great vistas of Cal, Oakland, Solano Avenue, the Golden Gate, and a house that resembles an ancient monastery. Brave souls sometimes sunbathe on the lawn. There's a basketball hoop at one end and picnic tables at the other.

Eagle project

Thanks to Paul Grunland, Jeff Golden of Berkeley Boy Scout Troop 6 is going to improve Mosswood Path as his Eagle project, completing it before summer vacation. This is a good development, as we promised the Parks Commission a southside path.

Oak Street

The next work project will be to repair the lower half of Oak Street — a huge grading project. The source for this project come from portions of the same minigrant which help fund Keeler path

Potluck

Join us May 13th for our second annual

Potluck picnic at Live Oak Park near the Art Center. Potluck begins at 1:30, preceded by a brief board meeting at 1 pm. Get together with like-minded path wandering enthusiasts.

Making Buttons

Join Allen Stross in a workshop 10:00 am, May 6th at the Civic Plaza. We will learn how to reproduce an image on a button, postcard, refrigerator magnet or tee-shirt. Donation of \$5.00 is suggested. Call for a reservation — 524-4715 — maximum class size, ten people.

Festivals

April 22 is Berkeley Earth day at Civic Center Park, with speakers including Julia Butterfly and Ralph Nader. Look for BPWA's booth where you will find maps of paths and the latest restoration news and someone to answer questions.

April 29, 11:00-4:00 is Berkeley Bay Festival, on the waterfront. It would be great to participate with hands-on activities (map coloring, path-finding games, plotting routes for walks?). Friends of Five Creeks will have a booth; Perhaps we can share a table. For info or to volunteer call Patty at Shorebird Nature Center, 644 8623.



Designated Landmarks architect and construction Blisted

Sutcliffe/Picnic Rock prehistoric
550 Santa Rosa Ave.

Piedmont Avenue 1864
Frederick Law Olmstead

Public right-of-way between Gayley & Dwight Way

Claremont District 1905

Frederick Law Olmstead & John Galen Howard
The Uplands/Domingo Ave./Encina Plc./Eucalyptus Rd./Hillcrest Ct. & Rd./ Nogales St./ Parkside Dr./ The plaza Dr.

Northbrae 1907 John Galen Howard

bounded by Albany (west); Spruce (east); Solano & Indian Rock (north); Sonoma, Yolo & Eunice (south).

Daley's Scenic Tract 1909 Hillside Club

Hilgard Av./ LeRoy/ La Vereda/ Virginia

Orchard Lane 1909-10

Vickery, Atkins, Torrey Gallery

La Loma Steps 1913 unknown

Rose Walk 1910-16 Bernard Maybeck

Working with the Public Works Department

BPWA recently met with City officials, Ken Emeziem and Virginia Vafa of Public Works and Garth Keehan of Parks regarding maintenance, repair and encroachment issues affecting public paths.

Some noteworthy conclusions from this very productive meeting were:

1. The office of Ken Emeziem (Project Manager for Paths — telephone: 665 3444) is the City's designated recipient for notification on needed path repair, safety concerns and any observed path neighbor boundary encroachments.

2. Ken suggested, and we agreed, that the development and/or improvement of the Vistamont Path, Twin Path and Tamalpais Path would receive priority. Costs apparently would be funded from the \$50,000 of funds previously allocated for path improvement and restoration.

3. Our shared objective is to focus on the developed and developable paths in Berkeley. Although we retain as an objective the reclamation of City path property which has suffered encroachment, we recognize that due to limited resources it may not be the best activity to be pursued at this time.

4. It is desirable that undeveloped but developable paths should be identified with signage at an early date.

5. We undertook to assemble additions for BPWA's listing of "10 Easy Fixes" (a listing of path's requiring comparatively easy repair) which we would communicate to Ken.

6. Virginia Vafa is in charge of replacement of missing signs. Many new signs have gone up — 30% of those listed as missing.

www.InternetTime.com/path

Read more about the Berkeley Path Wanderer's Association. Learn more history and Berkeley lore, see maps, and read details such as path upkeep status at our website.

Lead a Walk

If you would like to lead a walk for the month of October '00 or beyond please call Jacque at 524-4715.

Adopt a Path

Call Tom for details at 525-4064.

Missing Signs

(or Awkwardly Placed Signs)

Call Pat at 527-2693.

DUES WERE DUE JANUARY 2000 *Renew your membership if you haven't already for the year 2000.*

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
2371 Eunice St., Berkeley, CA 94708.

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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.

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.internetime.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.

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

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.

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Meetings **Live Oak Park Rec. Center**

7-9 pm 1200 Shattuck Avenue

Nov. 16 General Meeting
Pathways & Wildfire Safety
by Bill McClung

Dec. 14 Board Meeting

Jan. 18 General Meeting
Origin & History of the Pathways
by Paul Grunland

Feb. 22 Board Meeting

Mar. 15 General Meeting
Berkeley's Early Byways
by Richard Schwartz

Path Walks **RAIN OR SHINE**

Saturdays at 10:00 am (allow 2-3 hours)

Nov. 4 Aquatic Park
Mark Liolios 549-0818
Meet at Channing Way parking lot

Dec 2 Summit Rd. and Selby Path Loop
Charlie Bowen 540-7223
Meet at Summit Road and Grizzly Peak

Jan. 20 Claremont Triangle
Helen Wynne 843-5738
Meet at Ashby and Domingo

Feb. 24 Ridge to Bay Trail, Part I
Janet Byron 848-4008
Meet at Tilden Nature Center. Bring \$1.35 (exact change) for return trip on bus.

Mar. 17 N.E. Pathways
Paul Grunland 526-8001
Meet at Euclid and Grizzly Peak

BPWA Supports Measures S and W

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association has endorsed Berkeley Measures S and W in the upcoming election. Both measures supply money to maintain Berkeley's parks, open space, city trees, and paths. Measure W authorizes the city to continue to spend the approximately \$6,250,000 collected under the present Park Maintenance Tax, approved in 1997. (The California Constitution requires renewing this approval every four years.) Measure S increases the maintenance tax approximately 10%.

In the past 23 years, Berkeley has more than doubled its acreage of parks and open space. Yet the resources avail-

able for maintenance have remained virtually the same, after adjusting for inflation.

Many of the pathways join parks and make them more accessible. Our interests require treasured open spaces to be kept usable and beautiful. Measures S & W can do that.



A stone urn marks the bottom of Indian Trail which leads upward to Great Stoneface Park.

Bill McClung Speaks About Pathways' Role in Wildfire Safety

Bill McClung will be our guest speaker November 16th discussing fire danger, fire safety and paths. He is co-owner of Shelter Belt Builders, a land management native vegetation restoration team, and has organized important volunteer clearing work on University properties and elsewhere. In addition he publishes a periodic newsletter, *News from the Buffer Zone*, dedicated to creating a beautiful biologically rich and wildfire-safe East Bay hills.

After the '91 fire and the loss of his home on Alvarado Road, Bill has been

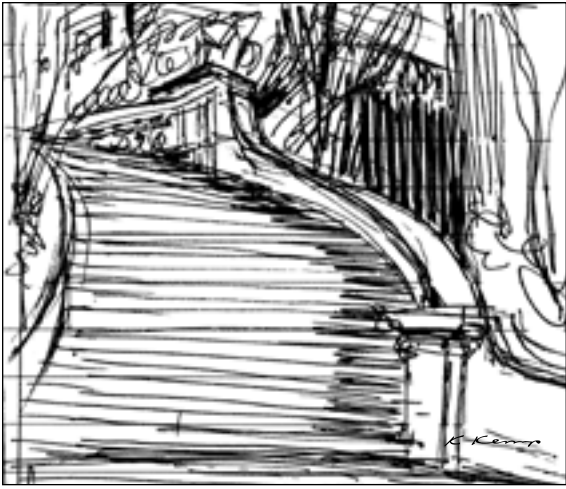
active in the management of vegetation at Urban Wild Land Interface.

He has worked with the City of Berkeley Fire Commission and volunteered with the El Cerrito and Kensington Fire Departments.

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www.internettime.com/path



Improving Our Path Network

Efforts of volunteers and city government are beginning to nibble at the long backlog of much needed improvements to Berkeley's path network.

In the last fiscal year, partly due to Berkeley Path Wanderers' urging, the Department of Public Works repaired two dangerous paths in the Hinkel Park area: A foot-high "hump" was smoothed out and a new handrail added on Upton Lane (between San Luis and San Diego). And a splintery, unsafe handrail and deeply sunken pavement



In maintaining Orchard Lane we must preserve the integrity of its classical design. Tunbridge and The Cutoff (center), without special atmosphere, benefit by added railings. Whereas Visalia Walk poses more difficult aesthetic decisions with its historic ruins quality.

Historic Ruins

The charm of many of the Berkeley paths is in part due to their "ruined" nature. We walk the paths for the joy of discovering what is around the next bend, wondering about the people who were inspired to create them 50-100 years ago. We note time passing through the natural effects as earth shifts and vegetation grows. Walls bulge outward, capitals lean, pulling away from their handrails. Foliage swallows up an entrance or obliterates the blue sky or bay view.

On Visalia Walk one must cross six canted steps and walk around boulders jutting across the path. While Mosswood Lane, tidy with freshly laid woodchips and colored in tropical greens, provides an intimate path tenderly cared for and aesthetically maintained. Indian Trail seems to have created itself, the hillside appearing to have pushed up stones from the earth to let them meander upwards.

The paths must be maintained. And while doing so we must maintain the beauty of wandering along the Berkeley paths and the surprises which await. A handrail can be helpful to steady one's footing or to help lift the weary wanderer. But we should be careful and considerate to the aesthetics and uniqueness of each path when deciding on how to renovate.

were repaired on Tunbridge Lane (from Southhampton to Arlington).

A Bay-to-Ridge Trail

BPWA also is taking the first steps toward creating a pedestrian greenway from the hills to the Bay — a step called for in the Berkeley Planning Commission's new Draft General Plan. Janet Byron, active in Greenbelt Alliance as well as BPWA, is working with other members to plan a route that as much as possible will follow paths and Codornices Creek, or possibly Cerrito Creek. She will lead a walk along one possible route on February 24.



Neighbors Linda Bertolli, Richard Seals, Karen Libby and organizer Trena Cleland cleared Acacia Walk.

and removal of some obstructing day lilies would benefit this path. Four neighbors responded and showed up on the agreed upon Saturday afternoon with some tools in hand. They worked for an average of two hours, took a social break with beverages to say hello to each other and share their pride in the work they were accomplishing. The result was a more passable path and steps, and an aesthetically more pleasing path appearance.

An unintended consequence has benefitted the BPWA treasury. Two neighbors adjacent to the path expressed their pleasure, but noted conflicting demands on their time. Then they reached into their pockets to make unsolicited donations to the BPWA totalling \$48. And perhaps the greatest reward is that seven

Path Adoption

Many BPWA members have expressed interest in adopting paths, or, more simply, in monitoring a path for the occasionally needed sweeping, raking or other type of grooming. The activity need not be highly organized unless you want it to be. A recent activity on Acacia Walk might serve as an example.

A neighbor who likes to use the public paths to reach public transportation issued an e-mail invitation to neighbors. She suggested that some raking, sweeping, pruning

Preserving Safety

Is there a tradeoff between aesthetics and safety? Keeler Avenue Path, for example, at the edge of Remillard Park, now has improved drainage and simple wooden steps, but is easy to walk as a woodland path. Should safety require paving and handrails? BPWA might consult with the Berkeley Historical Society and Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association to identify the handful of paths where beauty and history should take precedence over safety.

Tell us what you think!

Which paths most need improvement? What changes would you like to see? What should be the balance between aesthetics and smooth paving with handrails? Write your opinions to BPWA, 1442A Walnut St., #269, Berkeley, CA 94709.

neighbors now are more likely to exchange pleasantries and other neighborly acts of kindness.

The next time you see your favorite path in need, mention it to some neighbors and suggest that it would be fun to assemble a work party one afternoon.

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