

GOLETA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Education, Preservation, Community

Newsletter

Spring 2011

Garden Restoration Project Begins

A new two-year project to restore the gardens of Ida and Sherman Stow and their descendants is underway at Rancho La Patera. In November 2010, the Goleta Valley Historical Society was awarded a prestigious grant for \$200,000 from the California Cultural Historical Endowment after a rigorous application process that began nine months earlier. Coupled with a generous donation of \$100,000 from the Goleta Valley Land Trust and earlier donations from Maria Ealand, GVHS now has the funds needed to restore part of the original garden, the first phase of a larger master plan for restoration of the gardens and grounds.



Sam Stow with his dog in the garden, 1888

The best loved, yet most endangered, element of the Rancho La Patera property is its grounds. Most visitors revel in the beauty of the plantings while strolling through the landscape, but do not realize its significance as a cultural landscape detailing the history of California. The gardens represent a rare surviving example of a late nineteenth, early twentieth century garden designed in the Picturesque style. Characterized by specimen planting set in a naturalistic framework of trees and lawns, the style was noted for its extensive use of rare and exotic plant species and continued to be the most popular landscape style in California between the 1850s and the end of the first decade of the twentieth century. While a significant number of such gardens once existed in California, few have survived urbanization and

suburbanization during the post World War two period. The landscaped grounds of Rancho La Patera are covered by over 150 mature trees, both planted and naturalized and most over 100 years old. Remains of a semi-formal garden to the east of the house and lawn give clues about its appearance and help us understand how the Stow family might have enjoyed it in their spare time.

Former board member Jim Lenaburg is heading up the project as project manager. The board has hired well-known local landscape architect Sydney Baumgartner to design a master plan for the gardens, as well as create installation and maintenance plans to see the project through. Baumgartner completed a similar restoration plan for the old Joseph Sexton property, now Pacific Suites. A cultural landscape study for Rancho La Patera completed by Post/Hazeltine Associates in November 2007 identified the significant period of restoration as 1871-1949 during the Stow family residency and will serve as the basis for a preservation and treatment plan for the plants, hardscape and other ornamental features throughout the garden.

**Goleta Valley Historical Society
Newsletter, Spring 2011**

Board of Directors

Anne Petersen, PhD	President
Connie Burns	Vice President, Facilities
Robin Cederlof	Vice President, Development
Lisa Holden	Secretary
Dan Marchiando	Treasurer
Debby Aceves	Corresponding Secretary
Catherine Cavaletto	Historian

Michael T. Bennett
Laurie Hannah
Barbara Klein
Victoria Kornahrens
Karen Ramsdell
Rick Wolf

Advisory Board

David Bisol
Mike Edwards
Gil Garcia, AIA
Kim Kimbell, Esq.
Larry Miller, Jr.
Fermina Murray
Ron Nye, PhD
Ida Rickborn
Jennifer Tice, Esq.
David Van Horne, Esq.

Staff

Jim McNay	Education Coordinator
Dacia Harwood	Events Coordinator
Jon Marshall	Resident Caretaker
Roberto Renteria	Gardener

The Newsletter is published twice yearly by the Goleta Valley Historical Society, a private 501(c)3 non-profit institution.

© Goleta Valley Historical Society

Contributors and editing team: Anne Petersen, Laurie Hannah, Margaret Connell, Dacia Harwood, Robin Cederlof, Catherine Cavaletto

Goleta Valley Historical Society
304 North Los Carneros Road
Goleta, CA 93117
805-681-7216
Fax 805-681-7217
Email: info@GoletaHistory.org
www.GoletaHistory.org

From the President

Each year GVHS's Annual Meeting provides a welcome opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the past year, and to anticipate the opportunities of the year ahead. In this issue of our newsletter, you will read more about that meeting of the membership, as well as new and ongoing GVHS projects and programs including the recent initiation of our new garden restoration project and the ongoing popularity of our Pioneer Days education program.

We are also pleased to welcome a new face, Rick Wolf, to the board of directors. Rick is a doctoral candidate in history at UCSB. In 2009, GVHS welcomed Rick as the featured speaker at our Annual Meeting. His excellent presentation about the bracero program on the Central Coast resonated with several members of the audience, and GVHS's collections have continued to inform his research. In addition to his interest in the bracero program, Rick brings to the board a strong interest in local history and extensive college-level teaching experience. Rick was born and raised in Santa Barbara and is excited at the opportunity to become more involved in a local historical organization.

Two valued members of our board of directors stepped down this year, but thankfully have not gone far. Jim Lenaburg served on our board for one year. Many members will remember Jim from his prior work for GVHS as the coordinator of the Society's capital campaign and project manager for the Packing Shed restoration project. Jim will continue to be involved with GVHS as the administrator for GVHS's grant from the California Cultural and Historical Endowment, which will fund the first phase of the garden restoration project. We are grateful for Jim's board service and pleased that he will continue to remain involved with GVHS in such a valuable capacity.

Margaret Connell served on the board for three years. Many of our members will know Margaret as the Mayor of Goleta and multi-year member of the Goleta City Council. During her GVHS board service, Margaret served as vice president and was also a member of the development, finance and publications committees. Margaret will continue to serve as a volunteer on GVHS committees, including participating in the development of this newsletter. We are thankful for Margaret's service and for her continued commitment to GVHS.

I would like to offer thanks to all of the members, volunteers and staff of GVHS who have contributed to the success of the past year, and I look forward continuing to share with you the news of the year ahead.

Anne Petersen

Pioneer Days at Rancho La Patera

Did you know that 100 years ago kids had to bring firewood to school? That teachers had to bring coal and water? That a walnut huller, cranked by hand, was invented in Goleta? These are just a couple of things about early ranching life that are part of the Goleta Valley Historical Society's "Pioneer Days at Rancho La Patera" program for 3rd graders in Goleta. This grade focuses on local history, and the Pioneer Days program helps bring it to life.

First our Education Coordinator Jim McNay visits the classroom to describe how children lived and learned 100 years ago in comparison with the present day. Clothes were mostly hand made rather than store bought and there were no zippers or velcro; chores included collecting eggs for breakfast, churning butter, beating the dust out of rugs with a carpet beater, and using a washboard for laundry. Math and language are integrated into the lesson, and children try their hand at cursive.

A week or two later, the class takes a field trip to Rancho La Patera, where they have a full morning immersed in ranch life of early 19th century. They tour the Stow House, built in 1873, and see the office with old ledgers, the kitchen with an ice box and old stove, and the laundry room with wash tubs, mangles and wash boards. Housework then was hard work. Modern appliances have made it much easier today.

The children then get a snack of animal crackers and lemonade outside and play some old-time games such as a lemon and spoon race, using lemons instead of eggs. Next they proceed to the Ranchyard and the History Education Center, first stopping to examine a lemon tree to learn about this important local industry that had its origins at Rancho La Patera. They get to crank the walnut huller and lift a bucket of water using a block and tackle. As they enter the packing shed, each group is given two questions to discover answers to from the exhibits in the hall. The final exercise is to "go to school," writing on slates and sharing the answers to the questions they had been given.

This is hands-on history. If you enjoy working with children and would like to help, please call Jim McNay at 805-681-7216.



"Going to school" inside the History Education Center

What's New in the Store

Looking for a unique gift for an upcoming special event or celebration? The Goleta Valley Historical Society's museum store is a great place to find that special gift of local interest. The latest arrivals to our wide selection of merchandise are honey and beeswax products from San Marcos Farms. We now feature candles, salves and lip balm. In addition, we sell individual honey sticks and jars of honey in many favorite flavors. Don't forget to take advantage of your 20% member discount at your next visit.

We are once again accepting donations of new and gently used collectables (no clothing please) to be sold at Grandma's Attic during our annual Old-Fashioned 4th of July celebration. For further information please contact Joan Rakowski 968-1475 or Robin Cederlof 455-5257.



Annual Members Meeting 2011

Nearly ninety members attended the Annual Meeting of the Membership at the Elks Lodge on January 30th. In addition to the “usual business,” President Anne Petersen and staff gave Society members an update on the work at the Ranch and a glimpse into the future.

Roberto Renteria, the Society’s “keeper of gardens,” was honored for his fifteen years of dedicated service with stories about his hard work and friendly demeanor. Former caretakers Linda and Ron Foster honored Roberto from afar with a letter that was read to the audience, “He always seemed to have his hands on the pulse of the land, the trees, the flower beds and the birds.” Our guests regularly commend the beautiful gardens and we can thank Roberto for continuing to help make Rancho La Patera a beautiful place.



Roberto Renteria and Vice President Robin Cederlof

Joan and Larry Miller were celebrated as *Volunteers of the Year*. These busy grandparents rarely turn down an opportunity to help. You’ll often find Larry working in the Ranchyard, with the Education & Collections Committee or driving a tractor around the Ranch, while Joan stays busy as scheduler of the Museum Store and can often be seen at our events working with children or behind the scenes. Joined by their large family they reminisced, “After over 50 years of marriage, this is something we are so proud to do together.”



The Millers with board members Margaret Connell, Michael Bennett, and Vicki Kornahrens

The honor of *Lifetime Achievement* was given to **JoAnne Treloar** for her 40-plus years as one of our most dedicated and influential volunteers. JoAnne joined Ladies League at the urging of volunteer Babs Cornish in the late 1960’s and shortly after convinced her husband, Denny to help out as well. Together they helped form the vibrant volunteer community that still exists today. Over the years JoAnne has served as a docent, on the Board, as chair of the Ladies League, as a committee member, and assisted with countless special events and projects. JoAnne remains one of our most beloved and requested docents and we are so grateful for her enduring commitment to the Society.



Bennett, Connell, JoAnne Treloar, Connie Burns, Goleta Councilman Roger Aceves, and President Anne Petersen

The meeting also included an illustrated lecture by Peter Jordano and Willard Thompson, *Postcards From Paradise*. A special thank you to our presenters and honorees who made this meeting very special.

Donations and Contributions

Thank you to our many donors of 2010. Your generous donations help us sustain our mission to collect, preserve, interpret, and foster research of Goleta Valley's history through exhibits, programs, and stewardship of the historic Rancho La Patera, home to the Stow family.

2010 Year End Appeal:

Anonymous
Anonymous
Michael T. Bennett
Amaryllis Bridges
Randy & Connie Burns
Catherine Cavaletto
Reid & Robin Cederlof
Barbara Cornish
Mary Louise Days
Bobbie & David Giorgi
Margaret Hamister

Rose Ann Hill
Anne Jacobson
Ken Knight
John C. Shute
Leora Williford

Unrestricted:

Deborah Aceves
Anonymous
Michael Bennett
Connie Burns
Catherine Cavaletto
Margaret Connell
Goleta Noontime Rotary
Laurie Hannah
Lisa Holden
Si & Karen Jenkins
Barbara Klein
Vicki Kornahrens
James Lenaburg
McGowam Guntermann
Ed & Judy Orias
Dan Marchiando
Anne Petersen
Price, Postel & Parma
Karen Ramsdell

Robert Sorich

Memorials:

Carol Bowie
Patrick & Patricia Brick
Rollie & Nellie Cavaletto
Reid & Robin Cederlof
Barbara Cornish
Elliot & Linda Dell
Giorgi Ranches, Inc.
Rose Ann Hill
Ed & Debbie Koke
Carolyn Kumm
Roger & Guadalupe Mock
Bob & Catherina Nelson
Betty Ordnung
Robert & Kathryn Paulson
Richard & Sandra Paulson
Jean L. Pierre
John & Janna Price
Fred & Elaine Roach
Kenneth & Toni Salyer
Dr. Gerald Svedlow
Joanne Treloar
Margaret Udesen
Rev. Ted & Elaine Zimmerman

Membership Renewal Time

Spring is rolling around and it's time to renew your membership. You will soon receive a renewal request for the coming year. Your continuing support is very important to us. Preserving Rancho La Patera for all to enjoy is a major endeavor. Your membership fees allow us to maintain and operate the house and museums. Membership also helps to support our educational programs.

What's in it for you? Your membership provides you with free admission to Rancho La Patera, which includes the Stow House, Ranchyard, History Education Center, and Visitor Center. You'll also receive the GVHS members-only newsletter, plus discounts on special events and merchandise purchased at the museum store. You'll know that you have helped preserve the history of Goleta Valley for the enjoyment of future generations.

GOLETA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
304 NORTH LOS CARNEROS ROAD
GOLETA, CA 93117

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
SANTA BARBARA, CA
PERMIT #774

To see and download a color version of this newsletter, please visit www.goletahistory.org

Upcoming Events

Goleta Valley Heritage Tree and History Tour
co-hosted by GVHS and Goleta Valley Beautiful
May 22

Fiesta Ranchera, July 14
co-hosted by GVHS and Old Spanish Days

Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration
July 4

Music at the Ranch
July 12, 19, 26
August 2, 9, 16