



THE BARN BURNER



SAN RAMON HISTORIC FOUNDATION

Dedicated to the preservation of San Ramon's early farms and homesteads

A Message From The Board

The San Ramon Historic Foundation is a non-profit volunteer organization which is composed of active community volunteers who care deeply about Forest Home Farms, the City's only Historic Park. We meet monthly with City staff to go over all the activities and events planned, and needs at the farm for upkeep and restoration of buildings and structures on the site. We are dedicated to the preservation of San Ramon's early farms and homesteads, as the history of Forest Home Farms goes back to 1850. It is our mission to preserve and share the agricultural history and pioneer life in the San Ramon Valley. We want the whole community to enjoy and be part of the fabric of this wonderful park!

Membership is the key to creating a support system for San Ramon's ONLY Historic Park. Becoming a member is easy! Annual membership is \$50 per person or \$100 for a family (up to 6). For this nominal fee, you are entitled to: free docent led tours, 10% discount on purchases at events or at the Foundation Gift Shoppe at Forest Home Farms, quarterly Foundation Newsletter (The Barn Burner), and discounts on adult admissions to select events. Our goal is to increase membership and to obtain donations and grant monies to strengthen the programs designed to preserve the history and life of the pioneers in the San Ramon Valley.

A volunteer team is now available to give a 30-minute overview of Forest Home Farms, which includes the early history of the property, the importance of the school tours, the history of the Glass House, and ongoing projects. We hope to book this presentation for many community groups and organizations, as we want to broaden awareness of this magical Historic Park, so more people realize the prize we have in San Ramon!

Carol J. Rowley
President of the Foundation Board

Tractor Museum

Ron Frye & Walt Sommer

Forest Home Farms has approximately 45 tractors and a number of antique farm engines in their inventory. Most are stored in the "tractor museum." The tractor inventory includes John Deere, International Harvester/Farmall, Case, Oliver, Massey Ferguson, Ford, Allis Chalmers and Caterpillar. The antique farm engines on display include two throttle-governed engines by Fairbanks Morse (both ca. 1917), one by International Harvester (ca.1918-1920, and one by Maytag (ca. 1939). Hit-and-miss governed engines include those from Baker (ca. 1919), De Laval (ca. 1919), Maytag (ca. 1936), Nelson Brothers (ca. 1915), and a rare Peerless (ca. 1904-1913).

They may be seen whenever the park is open. They are also on display at the farm special events programs. Demonstrations by the "tractor guys" of the antique farm engines and a gasoline engine powered washing machine are very popular.



Sheep Shearing at The Farm

This year our sheep got their annual haircuts on Saturday, April 27th. The planning committee, under the able leadership of Lynnette Gerbert, were hard at work for over four months preparing for the special day! On event day, volunteers arrived at 8:30 am to set up.

Eager families arrived first, followed by a steady stream of visitors until the event closed at 3:00 pm. The herding dogs were ready to keep the sheep in line for their haircuts, while the seven baby lambs looked on. It was wonderful to watch all the young families who were viewing this activity for the first time. There were lots of gasps as fat sheep became much slimmer after the haircuts.

Demonstrations of blacksmithing, lace making, wood carving and quilting continued throughout the day. Areas were set up so children could do special farm crafts and have their face painted. The big hit of the day -- a ride on a tractor!

The Tractor Museum was also open all during the day to view antique tractors and the hit and miss engines. The Girl Scouts organized a scavenger hunt bingo game which was popular with young families. Great job Girl Scouts!

Volunteers dressed in period costumes strolled the grounds of the Farm and invited people to tour the Glass House. This took everyone back in time to over 100 years ago!

It was a very successful event and earned money to support San Ramon's only Historic Farm! The most important outcomes were: more families discovered the Farm for the first time and the event would not have been possible without the countless hours put in by the volunteers! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

If you would like to join our dedicated volunteer team, contact Jessica Reaber or Suzie McCreary at 925-973-3284. Save the date; Sheep Shearing 2020 is April 25! Mark your calendars, as every year it gets bigger and better!



Appreciation for These Generous Grants



Thank you!

The San Ramon Historic Foundation extends its gratitude for these generous grants.

The **Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley** is funding an immersive, self-guided audio tour of the farm. Visitors can visit the kiosk near the Welcome Center and pick up a tour brochure explaining how to access an audio tour of the site via cell-phone. This project is an extension of our efforts to make the rich history of the San Ramon Valley accessible to people of all ages.

Formed in 1956, the **Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley** is a service organization dedicated to supporting the community through volunteerism and grants. For more information, visit www.srvkiwanis.org.

The **Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club** and the **Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Foundation** are helping give elementary school kids an interactive and memorable experience of early farm life. For the past 13 years, almost every 3rd grade student in the area has visited the farm and participated in hands-on activities to learn about local history and life in the San Ramon Valley during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The farm programs, serving approximately 3,200 Tri-Valley students annually from both public and private schools, would not be possible without funding from these wonderful organizations dedicated to serving our community.

The **Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Foundation's** mission is to raise money and make charitable contributions directed at youth and education within the San Ramon area and/or California, as well as causes which alleviate suffering in a time of crisis. For more information, visit www.dvsrrotaryfoundation.org.

Celebrating You

Jessica Reaber

In recognition of the City of San Ramon's volunteers at
Forest Home Farms and Crown Canyon Gardens

If it takes a village to raise a child
then it takes an army to protect the legacy thereof.

If the families of the Tri-Valley were pioneers of the 20th Century,
learning how to navigate life on a new plain with new technology

Then YOU are pioneers of the 21st Century learning how to preserve and promote history
and impress upon the Hustlers and the Bustlers
the need for green
the need for space
the need for peace.

In an age of all-inclusive services:
people who walk our dogs
drivers who bring us food
and phones that automate our lives
You teach the legacy and value of hard work
of growing your own food
of FIXING THINGS instead of buying a new one
of relishing the green (that's left) around us.

I see the wonder and joy overtake children's faces when they see that a little housework could be fun
and games of simplicity still bring excitement and challenge.

I see people amazed that we still have food we can pull out of the ground and eat
without driving to the store—things they've never heard of or considered.

I see comradery and pride in a line of 10 tractor drivers in parades around the Tri-Valley
promoting the legacy of hardworking individuals, inventors, and entrepreneurs.

In this fast-paced, ivy-league bound,
Silicon Valley pressured atmosphere around us
people are finding respite and new life in the places you preserve.

Families gather on the grounds you maintain
children and adults alike learn and are inspired by the programs you help lead
individuals are taken aback with wonder at the engines that still run three-quarters of a century later.

So while people continue to clamor to celebrate the Next Best Thing
we are here to celebrate the Still Best Thing.
We are here to celebrate you—
the passion you contribute
the hours and hours you will never get back
the sacrifice of your labor and love.

You—dear volunteers, friends, comrades—you keep this legacy alive.

COMING SOON!

June

June 1 – Farm Chickens
June 8 – Century Pottery Making
June 15 – Fun with Dad
June 22 – All About Bees
June 29 – Flower Pressing

July


July 6 – Old fashioned Ice Cream Making
July 3 – Sun Prints
July 20 – Rug Weaving
July 27 – Through the Garden Gate & Seed Swap

August

Aug 3 – Quilting
Aug 10 – Farm Chores
Aug 17 – Scavenger Hunt Geocaching
Aug 24 – Back to School
Aug 31 – Closed/Labor Day


For details about these events, see the SR Parks & Comm. Svcs. Activity Guide


Follow Us

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