



THE BARN BURNER



SAN RAMON HISTORIC FOUNDATION

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

Carol Lombardi, editor

FOREST HOME FARMS HISTORIC PARK

Located at 19953 San Ramon Valley Boulevard, San Ramon, Forest Home Farms is the current focus of the San Ramon Historic Foundation's efforts. The property was bequeathed to the City of San Ramon in the 1990s by its owner, Ruth Quayle Boone, with the understanding that it become a city park.

It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10AM to 4PM, closed Sunday and Monday. All are welcome to come and enjoy the rural farm atmosphere.

Visit www.srhf.org to learn about activities and events at Forest Home Farms. More information, including tours and Farm Exploration Kits, may be found in the SAN RAMON PARKS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES GUIDE, at www.sanramon.ca.gov.

A Message from the Board



Sheep Shearing Day was again a resounding success at Forest Home Farms on April 22nd. Families lined up along the fence on a beautiful spring day to watch the shearing of the sheep and shepherding demonstrations and participated in a variety of family activities throughout the day. The Farm offered old-fashioned games and story time for children, music for all ages by the Olympic Fields Brass Band, and tractor rides (thanks to our tractor volunteers!). Talented artisans – including wood carvers, a blacksmith, wool spinners, quilt makers, embroidery experts, and a beekeeper – shared their arts and crafts and provided ample learning opportunities.

The Farm always comes alive on Sheep Shearing Day, which is sponsored by the City of San Ramon and the San Ramon Historic Foundation! This partnership has been alive for almost 25 years! It took over 100 volunteers 500+ hours to make this event possible.

We deeply appreciate the time and work of ALL the volunteers, which included members of DVSR Rotary, Gale Ranch Middle School Leadership, Girl Scouts of San Ramon, Dougherty Valley High School National Honor Society, Dougherty Valley High School California Federation of Scholars, California High School Interact, Rolling Hills National Charity League, San Ramon National Charity League, and many more. Special thanks to our professional photographers, Matt Boom and Dominique Mintz! Check out their great work on our website. The SRHF Board is grateful to Lynnette Gerbert, whose strong leadership managed all the moving parts of this production. Together with your attendance and support, this event was a success for all. Thank you!

We are so happy to see many new people joining our Foundation. Besides knowing you are helping to preserve history, you'll enjoy several perks of SRHF membership, including the upcoming Summer Speaker Series on the last Friday of June, July, and August (see page 3 for details); event discounts; and a discount at our Gift Shoppe. The Foundation is proud of the new garden at the Farm and will host a **members-only** garden Open House on Sunday, June 4 from 1 PM to 2 PM. Come see firsthand how your membership dues and donations have contributed to the Farm. We will have light refreshments and we might even have a few tasty treats from the garden.

Look for us at the Bishop Ranch Farmers Market on June 3. We will be happy to share information on our volunteer opportunities at the Farm—as a docent, a tour guide for the third-grade program, a guide for Glass House tours, and other event volunteer opportunities. It takes a village to make our Farm shine! Come and join us!

Carol J Rowley
President of the Board



Forest Home Farm Spring Happenings

By Alyse Lightfoot, City of San Ramon Recreation Coordinator

Forest Home Farms was bustling with programs and activity all year long! Despite the rains, both fall and spring were busy for staff and volunteers as they completed the renovation of the garden and handled a full schedule of Fun on the Farm Saturday programs, Farm Life and Victorian Life Tours.

The City is very grateful to the San Ramon Historic Foundation for funding the renovation of the garden so it can continue to be a central point of teaching in the educational programs and tours. This spring, volunteers and staff installed an automated watering system with drip lines; planted starter crops such as corn, strawberries, and cucumbers; built cages to protect new seedlings as they grow; and tended to the compost and worm bins. The work done in the garden this spring sets the garden up for future educational program participants to enjoy.

This past fall and spring, 70 classes (1,975 students) enjoyed Farm Life and Victorian Life Educational Programs at Forest Home Farms. These 3-hour field trip programs tour the property, including the renovated 1850s barn, walnut processing plant, organic garden, tractor museum, historic Boone House, and Victorian Glass House. Trained docents teach at various stations where students learn about early inventions of the 1900s and how they were used in daily life. They might sample produce straight from the farm and taste home-churned butter. They could play Victorian-era games, such as Graces. They might try their hands at juicing, canning, using old-fashioned hand tools, sewing, or turning compost, and more.

Special thanks to the dedicated docents who make these programs possible. This award-winning educational program aligns with curriculum and teaching standards of San Ramon Valley Unified School District. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a docent and bringing history to life at Forest Home Farms, please email Alyse Lightfoot at alightfoot@sanramon.ca.gov.



Garden Restoration Update

By Yuna Karpelevitch, Guest Contributor

The newly restored organic garden at Forest Home Farms officially opened on April 15th! The grand re-opening was part of the City of San Ramon’s Arbor Day Celebration. Various City Public Works employees and San Ramon Historic Foundation board members attended the event. Jessica Reaber, City of San Ramon Recreation Supervisor, and Carol Rowley, President of the San Ramon Historic Foundation, made the opening remarks. Parks Make Life Better volunteers and children from the Saturday Fun on the Farm program had the opportunity to plant pollinator-attracting flowers. Stop by and admire the new and improved garden next time you visit the Farm!





Membership News

2023 Summer Speaker Series Is Back!

When? Fridays: June 23, July 28, and August 25; 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Where? Forest Home Farms, Walnut Barn

By Julia Oseland, Vice President



Mark your calendars! We invite all SRHF members to enjoy the third Friday evening of June, July, and August with us in the Walnut Barn at Forest Home Farms from 5:30 PM -7:30 PM to learn about San Ramon Valley’s rich history from one of our local experts. This summer’s speaker lineup is a sure not-to-miss! Hear stories told by members of a pioneering family: the Wiedemann siblings, who grew up on the ranch and are still involved in running it today. Learn about the history of honeybees and the important role they play in the food we eat. Get up close and personal with our very own Forest Home Farms shepherd to learn about the sheep at the Farm and their relationship with sheepdogs.

Invitations to the Summer Speaker Series Events will be emailed to our members via Evite on the first of the month (June 1 for June’s program, July 1 for July’s program, and August 1 for August’s program). RSVPs will be required to attend, as seating is limited. Members will be allowed to bring a guest. Keep your eyes open for your Evite invitations!

Arrival time is set for 5:30 PM, with the lecture running from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM. We encourage you to bring a picnic, a bottle of wine, some cheese and crackers, and a cold drink. Water will be available; however, no additional food will be sold.

This is a great opportunity to mingle with fellow Foundation members before and after the program!

Here is this summer’s lineup:

Friday, June 23 GROWING UP ON THE WIEDEMANN RANCH

Speakers: siblings Roxanne Wiedemann Lindsay, Jeff Wiedemann and Sandee Wiedemann

Friday, July 28 THE AMAZING HONEYBEES: THEIR LOCAL HISTORY AND IMPORTANCE

Speaker: Mark Armstrong, Vice Mayor, City of San Ramon

Friday, August 25 MEET THE SHEPHERD AT FOREST HOME FARMS

Speaker: Patsy Galati



For more details, please visit our website, at <https://srhf.org/index.php/summer-speaker-series/>

Watch for your Evite invitation via email! We look forward to seeing you!



PLEASE JOIN US ON JUNE 4TH! “THANK YOU” OPEN HOUSE FOR MEMBERS ONLY!

The Foundation will host a **members-only** garden Open House on Sunday, June 4 from 1 PM to 2 PM. Come see firsthand how your membership dues and donations have contributed to the Farm. We will have light refreshments, and we might even have a few tasty treats from the garden.

FUN ON THE FARM SATURDAYS!

Fun on the Farm Activities are *FREE* crafts and activities that highlight farm life in the late Victorian era. These Saturday events are an opportunity to step back into history and enjoy the simple things of life.

June	July	August
Jun 3 Fun with Bubbles	Jul 8 Sunflowers	Aug 5 Back to School
Jun 10 Fans Keep Us Cool	Jul 15 Old Fashioned Ice Cream	Aug 12 Animal Tracks
Jun 17 Fun with Dad	Jul 22 Farm Chores	Aug 19 Victorian Lawn Games
Jun 24 Embroidery	Jul 29 Marshmallow Painting	Aug 26 Ah Shucks!

Take a free tour of the Glass House Museum, Saturdays 12 PM and 1 PM
 Enjoy themed presentations and hands-on activities at Fun on the Farm, Saturdays 11 AM – 2 PM

----- BOARD MEMBERS -----

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How to Reach Us

Location
 1953 San Ramon Valley Blvd.
 San Ramon, CA 94583

Mailing Address
 SRHF, P.O. Box 1
 San Ramon, CA 94583

Follow Us!

sanramonhf@gmail.com
 925.973.3284
<http://www.srhf.org>

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