



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.



Reconstructed grotto with the bench dedicated to former founding board member Mary Wohlers

A Message from the Board



We are in the "dog days of summer": golden hills, warm summer days (and nights), our new chickens on the farm are laying eggs, and the sheep and ducks are content. Who can ask for more when you visit Forest Home Farms?

We have had a full and busy summer. In June, at our members-only Open House, we showcased our new organic garden. Members shared memories of their first visit to the farm and planted vegetable seeds in the new garden. The Foundation contributed \$69,000 toward this renovation, which included new fencing, planting beds, and varmint control.

We also had a very successful Summer Speaker Series, which began in June with "Growing Up on the Wiedemann Ranch." Siblings Jeff Wiedemann, Roxanne Wiedemann Lindsay and Sandee Wiedemann presented a fascinating story about their grandparents and what it was like growing up on their ranch. Thanks to Christian Wiedemann, a video of this presentation is available for viewing on our website. In July, we learned about the local history and importance of "The Amazing Honeybees," presented by Vice Mayor Mark Armstrong, who is a local beekeeper. Mark has been very instrumental in preserving bees at the farm and in our community. Our last session in August, "Meet the Shepherd at Forest Home Farms," included our very own Patsy Galati, who tends the sheep at the farm! Please read more about these events on our Membership page in this newsletter.

The San Ramon Chamber of Commerce and the San Ramon Historic Foundation partnered on the Second Annual Hootenanny, which was held at the Farm for the first time. Restaurants and wineries shared samples of their food and beverages with the large crowd of attendees. Music and line dancing livened up the event and was welcomed by a large crowd of Chamber members! It was a great time to socialize and meet other businesspeople from San Ramon in the perfect setting for a hootenanny.

Mark your calendars for our Annual Pioneer Families Potluck and Picnic on September 17 and the OKTOBERFEST on Saturday, October 7th from 11 AM to 3 PM. We look forward to seeing the Golden Gate Bavarian dancers, hearing the Olympic Fields Brass Band, and sampling the fine products from five breweries and a cider specialty. Buy your tickets early! (See the flyer insert for details.)

We encourage you to get involved! Please help by attending and supporting our programs and events, as all proceeds raised go directly to maintaining and preserving Forest Home Farms.

Carol J. Rowley
President of the Board



Forest Home Farms Needs YOU!

By Renee Kullick, SRHF Board Member

Do you have some free time on your hands?

The San Ramon Historic Foundation is supported by a group of residents who volunteer their administrative skills and special talents. We can always use help in the following areas:

- Event setup/cleanup
- Ticket sales
- Marketing
- Fundraising
- Computer website maintenance
- Event planning
- Quarterly newsletter

In addition, we have openings on our various Board committees. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please send us an email at sanramonHF@gmail.com and share your talents and interests. We will find a spot for you on our team.

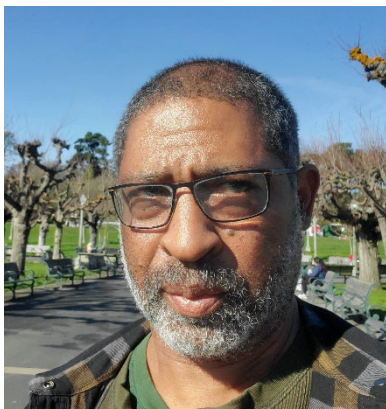


(left to right) Jill Mallory, Julia Oseland, Sandy Silva, and Dall Barley



A Warm Welcome to the SRHF’s Newest Board Members

By Yuna Karpelevitch, Guest Contributor



Lionel McNeely joined the San Ramon Historic Foundation Board earlier this year after years of working for the City of San Ramon’s Public Works department. He was instrumental in rehabilitating Forest Home Farms, turning it, in his words, from a “junk pile to a gem.” He has always been interested in historical buildings and joined the Board to continue influencing the farm during his retirement. Lionel hopes to propel the vision of the Board forward and give back to the community, stating “We all have something to give.”



Yvonne Richardson is a longtime historical home enthusiast, which inspired her to join the Board earlier this year. She is no stranger to Forest Home Farms; in fact, she volunteers as a docent in the Glass House. Yvonne wanted to be part of the effort to preserve historical buildings in the San Ramon Valley and is passionate about preserving history for generations to come. She encourages anyone who has an interest in contributing to historical preservation as well as to the community at large to explore volunteering options.



Membership News

By Julia Oseland, Vice President

**SRHF & SRVHS Pioneer Families Potluck & Picnic
Sunday, September 17, 11:30 AM–3:00 PM at
Forest Home Farms**

You're invited! This year we are partnering with the San Ramon Valley Historical Society for our annual Pioneer Families Potluck & Picnic! This fun, special event features members of the founding families still residing in San Ramon Valley. They will reminisce about growing up in the valley. It will be held on Sunday, September 17 at Forest Home Farms from 11:30 AM—3:00 PM. Invitations have been mailed and emailed.

Please RSVP by **September 8**. Hope to see you there.

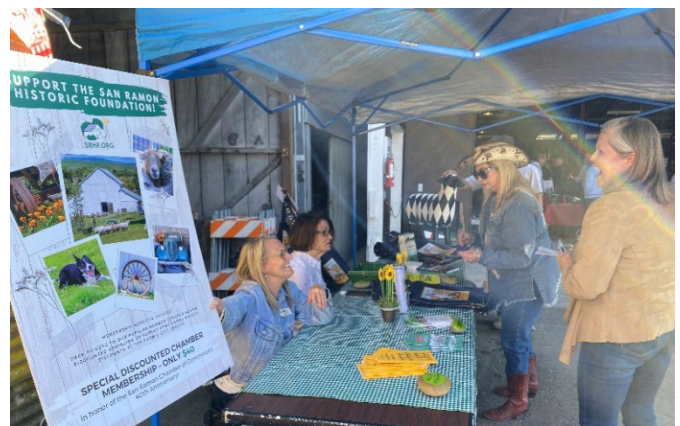


Summer Speaker Series 2023: That's a Wrap!

We had a tremendous turnout this year at our 2023 Summer Speaker Series! Each event brought over 50 guests to the old Barn at the Farm. In June, we enjoyed hearing the stories of what growing up on the ranch was like with the San Ramon Valley Wiedemann siblings, Sandee, Roxie, and Jeff. In July, we were enlightened about the history of bees in the San Ramon Valley and the Boone family's connection with them, plus everything you'd ever want to know about bees, by San Ramon's Vice Mayor Mark Armstrong. In August, we were up close and personal with Forest Home Farm's very own shepherd, Patsy Galati, and her sheep and sheepdogs. Patsy shared with us what a day in the life of a shepherd looks like, and we also learned about the partnership between the sheepdogs and the shepherd. It was a great season all in all and we can't wait for next year! Thank you to all who came out and participated.

A Hootenanny at the Farm?

Yep, y'all! On Thursday June 24, the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce partnered with the San Ramon Historic Foundation, and we kicked off summer (and kicked up our heels!) with a rootin'-tootin' time at the Farm. Everyone enjoyed line dancing to country western tunes, making new friends, and connecting with old friends. The Foundation even recruited 10 new members at the event. It was a lovely evening!



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.

September	October	November	December
Sept 9 Food Preservation	Oct 7 OKTOBERFEST	Nov 4 Hawks	Dec 2 Candle Making
Sept 16 Weathervanes	Oct 14 Bats	Nov 11 Veteran's Day	Dec 9 Holiday on the Farm
Sept 23 Corn Painting	Oct 21 Trick or Treat on the Farm	Nov 18 Giving Thanks	Dec 16 Victorian Christmas Cards
Sept 30 Apple Pressing	Oct 28 Pumpkins, Squash, & Gourds		Dec 23 – Jan 2 CLOSED

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 to 2 PM

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

President: Carol Rowley Vice President: Julia Oseland Secretary: Carol Lopez-Lucey Treasurer: H. Abram Wilson (interim)
Steve Chiapetto Robert Downum Patsy Galati Rene Kullick
Don Kowalski Lionel McNeely Yvonne Richardson Sandy Silva

--Advisory Committee--

Dall Barley Pat Boom Herb Moniz





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Location: Forest Home Farms Historic Park
19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd, San Ramon
Date: Saturday, October 7, 2023 11 AM–3 PM

You're invited to join the San Ramon Historic Foundation for our lively annual fundraising event! All proceeds raised go directly to maintaining and preserving Forest Home Farms Historic Park. This 16-acre park was bequeathed to the City of San Ramon in 1997 by Ruth Boone in honor of her husband, Travis Boone. The site includes the Glass House, built in 1877, the Boone House, built in 1900, and 14 outbuildings/barns. The barn, originally built from 1850 to 1860, was recently restored. Come see it all and treat yourself to a great lunch!

Be sure to visit the Gift Shoppe as well! **ADMISSION IS FREE - ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Lunch is available to those who purchase tickets online by September 29

- 11:30 AM–2:30 PM Back Forty catered German-themed lunch: **Buy advance online tickets by Sept. 29 via Paypal @www.srhf.org**
- 11 AM–3 PM Music by the Olympia Fields Brass
Golden Gate Bavarian Dancers
- All Day Self-Guided Tours of the Tractor Barn: Vintage restored tractors
Self-Guided Tours of Forest Homes Historic Park: Look for the interpretive signage and map; download OTOCAST for the audio tour.

Please note that food and beverages are not allowed in any of the buildings/barns on the site.

ORDER YOUR ADVANCE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.srhf.org

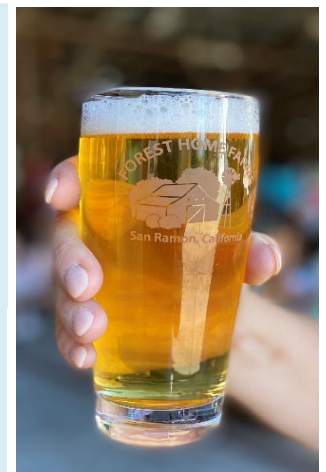
Catered Lunch by Back Forty Texas BBQ

***Buy advance tickets by Sept. 29**

- Adult \$40 Bratwurst lunch, beer glass, and 4 beer tastings
- Ages 11–20 \$30 Bratwurst or hot dog lunch + soft drink
- Ages 6–10 \$20 hot dog lunch + soft drink
- Ages 5 and under: FREE

Purchase beer and wine tickets online and day of

\$25 includes 4 drink tickets and the glass.
You must have an event glass to taste beer and wine,
Additional drink tickets are available for purchase: 4 Tickets = \$20



Proud Sponsors



SRHF OKTOBERFEST