

## **HVLT.org is Live and Well -- Check It Out!**

By Margaret Harding

At last! Juicy tidbits from the Homestead Valley Land Trust are revealed on our web site, HVLT.org. Read our **History** for the derring do of the merry band who came up with the idea for the Land Trust and bludgeoned our residents to vote for it (Geoff Barrett, Mike Cann, Lou Harding, Al Wuthnow, and other long-time Homesteaders – 1973, a \$600,000 bond issue, it passed with 529 “yes” votes, which was 79% of the cast ballots. Go Homestead!). See for yourself the evil residents of our pastoral hillsides under “**Invasives and Pests**” – French and Scotch Broom, Poison (!) Oak. Not shown: ticks, who live on broom plants and hitchhike on innocent passersby like you, me, and our dogs. Look up all the super **events** planned for the year – **March 14** Work Party aimed directly at the evil Broom, **April 11** Wildflower Walk to revel in our bounty, and many more. Speaking of wildflowers, a panorama of them that have been spotted, photographed, and identified by Marabeth Grahame is on the site – bone up on them and see how many you spot on the Walk. Thank you, Marabeth; everyone is invited to add to the collection with your snapshots. And, best of all, a **Trail Map**, complete with a numbered index of the trails that criss-cross our 80 acres of open space.

Aren't you glad you live in Homestead?

### **HVLT's Spring Events**

Questions: [info@hvlt.org](mailto:info@hvlt.org); 415-968-9747

**Saturday, March 14, 10 – 1, Broom Pull, meet at Community Center, 315 Montford.** Community Work Party, open to everyone over 5. Be on time as we'll be heading to trails with the worst broom infestations. This is a frontal attack on our invasive menace when it is at its most vulnerable and easy to pull up. Many hands make an impressive impact -- add yours to ours. Our do-or-die Land Manager Maverick will put you in the right place to make the biggest impact; wear gloves and a long-sleeved shirt (poison oak protection!). RSVP's appreciated ([info@hvlt.org](mailto:info@hvlt.org))! If we have enough takers we'll feed you pizza.

**Saturday, April 5, 10-1: Earth Day Work Party.** Celebrate the Earth by giving your time and energy to sustain it. Meet at Stolte Grove (at the end of the canyon, where LaVerne and Montford intersect). Ages 5+ welcome, bring garden tools (marked with your name). Pizza Party in Stolte Grove at noon!

**Saturday, April 11, 10 – 12:30, Wildflower Walk, meet at Community Center, 315 Montford.** Join us for a treasure hunt on Homestead's trails, with spring's wildflowers as the treasures just waiting for you to find them! Bring kids and cameras. Lifetime Homestead residents Marilyn Barrett and Marabeth Grahame will lead small groups on the quest, all ages welcome.

## **Eyesore and Fire Hazard Removed from Pixie Trail**

By Brian Spring

The history: in the late '80's, HVLТ cut down some eucalyptus trees along Pixie Trail that were deemed hazardous. The budget at that time didn't allow for the removal of the logs, so they were dropped and left in place in several locations along the upper Pixie Trail. 30+ years later, residents came to a HVLТ board meeting to complain about the unsightliness of these logs and to request that we remove them – complete with an offer to help pay for it! The fire department confirmed the logs' danger as fire fuel and the HVLТ board voted to authorize monies for their removal.

Thanks to donations from residents and the generous donation of Mill Valley Refuse of several debris boxes, the project became affordable, and the Land Trust applied Measure A funds to cover the costs. Clement Tree Service brought its large crane truck on the 3rd week in January and dragged the logs out, cut them into 10 ft. lengths, and hoisted them into the debris boxes. Some of the logs were 36" diameter! In all, the Land Trust probably got rid of 7 or 8 large downed trees that had been there for decades.

In addition to fire fuel reduction, a benefit of this project is appearance – this heavily used area no longer looks like an old logging operation and now appears more park-like. The Land Trust thanks the participating residents and Mill Valley Refuse for donating to this important removal.

This is your community and the Land Trust is here to help you protect our homes from fire and enhance our precious open space. Please contact us if you know of conditions that you feel pose a fire hazard or an impediment to our trails – [info@hvlt.org](mailto:info@hvlt.org).