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Hiking Trail Traditions

By Phillip Moyer

The tradition of hiking around Homestead Valley and Mt. Tamalpais was started in the late eighteen hundreds by sometimes singing immigrant groups spending weekends hiking up and around the mountain forming the Sightseer's Club and the Tamalpais Club among others. This included the building and maintaining of new trails. At various times in the forties, fifties and sixties the poet Gary Snyder lived in the valley and has been inspired by hiking all over from Muir Woods to the top of the mountain. Many images in his wonderful poems refer to these areas. In the early nineteen seventies the Homestead Valley Land Trust was created by a few local residents endeavoring to save the last open acres from development. And as a result we have miles of great hiking trails right in Homestead Valley. Hiking trail maps are available for the asking at the H.V. Community Center, 315 Montford Ave.,

Maintaining the trails is a big job for the Land Trust. We have had the good fortune recently, to have the involvement of several Boy Scout troops, Greenwood School and Marin Horizon School groups doing trail restoration. to augment Maverick's hard work. Marin Horizon School has become a regular participant in our Earth Day community cleanup at Stolte Grove. We love and appreciate that all these people who enjoy the use of the parks and trails have made these commitments. If you hear their voices on the trail or in the park remember they are participating community members! Thanks to all!

While on the subject of trails, Maverick has done a magnificent job creating a walkable path in a lovely area worth a walk. Starting at the first curve on N. Ferndale, it winds up a charming redwood grove overlooking a seasonal stream with little sound gems of miniature waterfalls at this time of the year. Where the trail emerges at the top, there is currently a wonderful display of Iris douglasiana guarded by a prolific growth of poison oak! Walking left up the hill a few yards gets you to the beginning of several trails that will give you options as you are guided by your trail map.

We love to hear from you and we hope you will be a volunteer for work parties and we invite you to come to HVLTL meetings, second Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm in the new community center. Please bring questions, comments, and criticisms and join the discussion. See you there.

To Matt Davis, a founding member of the Land Trust, we wish a quick recovery after a nasty bike accident on Reed St. Matt has led celebrated hikes around the mountain for decades. See you back out there soon Matt!

Maverick, 215-7708 / Philip Moyer, 383-5874/ philipam@sbcglobal.net