Hands-On Learning
It’s What We Do

Hidden Villa has been in the forefront of experiential learning for decades. We know that when kids (and adults!) use their senses to learn new things that learning is more fun and makes a greater impact. “Hidden Villa’s environmental education program (HVEEP) began humbly in the late 1960s, and was formalized in 1970 as a response, especially by Josephine Duveneck, to the first-ever Earth Day in the spring of that year….HVEEP’s first staff members were pioneers in developing experiential teaching methods for young children that, by now, have been shared across the country and the globe.” states Director of Environmental Education, Garth Harwood.

Continued on page 4.
Dear Friends,

Spring at Hidden Villa is the most wonderful time to visit and to enjoy the beauty of the farm and wilderness! There are so many signs of new life and growth all around the farm right now, it’s a really great time to introduce your friends to what makes this place so unique.

Many thanks to all of you who have supported us throughout the past year as we depend so much on the support and generosity of our friends to enable us to continue all of the good work that was started by the Duveneck family. While we’ve expanded upon many of their original programs, our core mission of inspiring a just and sustainable future remains the same.

As you are probably aware, the Duvenecks started the first multi-racial residential Summer Camp in the country back in 1945 and here we are in 2011, getting ready for our 66th season! This is always such an exciting time at Hidden Villa for me - both as a staff member and as a parent. This year my son will be attending Farm and Wilderness Camp for the first time and my daughter will be graduating from Day Camp to Tipi Camp. If you are connected to any children or young adults who might be interested in a unique camp experience which engages them to think about environmental and social justice issues while having fun within a farm setting, then please check out our website for information on how to register.

As I alluded to earlier, we depend on the goodness of our friends and supporters to help us to keep the vision of our founders, the Duveneck family alive. Thanks to another generous grant from the Morgan Family Foundation, we have a dollar-for-dollar $65,000 challenge match through June 30th. In an effort to broaden our base of support, at least $25,000 of the match must come from new donors or increased gifts from existing donors. I’d like to thank you in advance for considering supporting us to meet (or even exceed!) this challenge and for introducing us to your friends who may not be familiar with the variety of opportunities and activities that Hidden Villa has to offer.

Come on out for a visit soon! Spring really is the most beautiful time to see Hidden Villa.

Chris Overington, Executive Director

Dear Hidden Villa Community,

Spring at Hidden Villa offers a hopeful vision of renewal and optimism. Rains recharge the creeks, slicker and boot-clad children explore our farm and wilderness with awe as they experience a carrot pulled directly from the soil and watch our latest wiggly piglets nurse from their patient mother. The hills are bright green and, if one looks closely, sturdy young wildflowers offer a further promise of their beauty.

While we eagerly look towards the promise of Spring, we also reflect upon some of our losses. We will dearly miss Mary Davey and Elizabeth Bowden-Smith, who with their passing, have left behind an inspirational legacy of connecting our community with the wonders of nature. Mary and Elizabeth have been at the heart of Hidden Villa for decades and memorial gifts from their friends and family affirm their love for our lands and our work.

We were disappointed by Heifer International’s decision to stop work on its Global Learning Center which would have offered much to our region’s youth. Both organizations have expressed a desire to continue to work together. I hope we will find other ways of inspiring respect for different cultures and compassion for those who are less fortunate.

Finally, I’d like to encourage you to visit the exhibit of “Touching Lives: The Duvenecks of Hidden Villa” at the Los Altos History Museum. This thoughtful, joyful exhibit is the result of years of effort by museum and Hidden Villa volunteers and does a wonderful job of capturing the rich legacy of our founders. It strengthens my hope and confidence that we will successfully continue their work of inspiring a just and sustainable future. You might also enjoy events developed to complement the exhibit including “Remembering the Duvenecks of Hidden Villa” on March 16 and “Duveneck Day at Hidden Villa” on May 21. Details may be found on the museum’s events page.

Happy Spring!

Bill Whitmer, Board Chair

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SUMMER CAMP SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

Come find out why Hidden Villa Summer Camps are a unique, life-changing experience for your children. With a 66 year history of bringing diverse youth together, our camps are adept at helping young people learn what it means to live in community. Campers develop greater multicultural understanding, learn peaceful conflict resolution, cultivate independence, and overcome personal challenges… all while having more fun than we can possibly put in words. You can register for Camps online at www.hiddenvilla.org/camp.php
Thank You For Your Support

We wish to thank the following donors for their generous contributions from October 1, 2010 through December 28, 2010.

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Requests
Mary Stegner
As the challenges for our local schools continue and the resources become more scarce, we continue to look for ways to support teachers in the classroom with fun and engaging activities for students that meet California Academic Standards.

Success at Taft School
Since 2005, Hidden Villa has had a full-time, grant funded Science Enrichment Teacher at Taft Community School in Redwood City. Using their school garden in combination with hands-on science labs and experiments, all students participate in science. According to Jenny Zaebst, Science Enrichment Teacher and School Garden Specialist, students are more engaged as a result of this partnership. “You know a program is making an impact when students decide to spend their recess time in the school garden! This program compliments the in-class learning and gets students interested and excited about science. When they get to 5th grade, they dive even deeper into the science world with Science Lab every week. The results have been amazing: increased test scores, increased awareness of the environment, more stewardship, and overall growing interest in the world around them!”

We know that student retention is made easier by applying knowledge. “Bringing my students to Ms. Jenny’s science lab on a weekly basis is a highlight for me. My students have developed a deep love and understanding of science because of lab,” reports one fifth grade teacher. Surveys of students and staff tell us that the students are responding quite favorably to this partnership and are changing their attitudes about science with many now reporting that it is their favorite subject. While that excitement is what we strive for, we know that schools are evaluated in large part by their student’s standardized test scores. With this in mind we are thrilled to show you the results of the 2004-2010 fifth grade California Standards Test in Science at Taft Community School. This bar graph notes the marked improvement in test scores since the inception of this partnership. The results speak for themselves, but what really speaks to us is seeing kids eagerly participate in learning new things through class discussions, experiments, and activities.

The results have been amazing; increased test scores, increased awareness of the environment, more stewardship, and overall growing interest in the world around them!

Continued from page 1.

Redwood City School Garden Partnerships Sprouting New Life
The City of Redwood City created a set of Environmental Initiatives for both youth and adults to promote a healthy city and community. Working with the City, School District and Redwood City 2020’s Garden Network (which is an amazing amount of organization on the part of Redwood City), Hidden Villa
Hands in the Soil = Hands-on Science

support for teachers interested in gardens
districts to provide “resource-reasonable”
easily be replicated in other school
We anticipate that this model could
school gardens in our community.”
who are working to build and sustain
most valued partner in Redwood City, for
Redwood City 2020 Executive Director
tool that can help make my garden project
and encourages me — I have a new
to go to
handsinthesoil.org both reassures
activities with a multitude of areas to focus on
and little time or money. To address these
expanding needs and requests, teachers
in this network thought that a “one-stop”
online shop for curricula, professional
support and resources would be the best
way to centralize the support that Hidden Villa could offer. On January 31, 2011, the
Hands in the Soil = Hands-on Science!
website went live and features an online
scheduling tool, resources, curricula links
and ways to support this initiative.

One teacher that attended the website
debut said, “As a teacher and school
garden leader, I am so excited to have
www.handsinthesoil.org. I spend
so much of my valuable (and
limited!) planning time
looking for appropriate
resources for my garden
curriculum, as well as
garden maintenance
how-to’s. The site is
a starting point for
both those searches,
and it is supported by
the increasingly rare and
invaluable “real person”
expert. Being able to go to
handsinthesoil.org both reassures
and encourages me — I have a new
tool that can help make my garden project
a success for our students.” Pat Brown,
Redwood City 2020 Executive Director
said, “Many thanks to Hidden Villa, a
most valued partner in Redwood City, for
creating this excellent resource for those
who are working to build and sustain
school gardens in our community.”

We anticipate that this model could
easily be replicated in other school
districts to provide “resource-reasonable”
support for teachers interested in garden-
based education.

Hands in the Soil = Hands-on Science
can be viewed at www.handsinthesoil.org
and was made possible through grants
from Sequoia Healthcare District and
Cisco Systems and through a collaborative
partnership with Redwood City 2020 and
the City of Redwood City.

Teachers Expand on One-Day Trips to
Hidden Villa

Teachers are extremely busy so we
developed the online Hidden Villa
Classroom to help streamline and support
their goals! The online classroom can be
visited at www.hiddenvillaclassroom.org
and contains three separate resources that
are designed to meet California Academic
Standards.

In addition to a standard garden
curriculum and English Language Learner
curriculum (which builds and
reinforces both language and science skills
at the same time), we want to
highlight the online curri-
cula’s recently improved
field trip curriculum. This
resource empowers teachers
to take their one
day visit to Hidden Villa and fortify it
with pre-visit and
post-visit activities on
a plethora of subjects
and life skills. In total,
teachers are provided with
an entire month of classroom
activities to reinforce their learning
at Hidden Villa. It is our hope that this
resource will dramatically increase
concept retention through applied
learning that connects student experiences
with their classroom lessons. Ultimately,
we are educating future leaders who will
be prepared to meet the environmental
and social challenges of tomorrow.

There are so many ways we’re planting
seeds out in the community! While
we will continue to provide our onsite
programs, we are so happy to have these
great opportunities to reach out to local
schools and help to get kids excited about
science and the caring for the earth.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

O ur Volunteer Spotlight this
issue shines on two of
our wonderful Ornamental
Gardening Volunteers, Carlene
Abbors and Claudia Bohm,
who have had their hands in
Hidden Villa’s soil for the past
two years. Each of them found
Hidden Villa in different ways.
One might think
Carlene learned about Hidden Villa
from her husband,
Steve Abbors, who
is the Midpenin-
sula Regional Open
Space District’s
General Manager, but she
actually found Hidden Villa
online from a keyword search
for volunteer gardening oppor-
tunities. Claudia was inspired
to volunteer at Hidden Villa
after seeing an advertisement
for volunteers in the local
newspaper with a picture of a
Hidden Villa goat. Claudia was
already familiar with Hidden Villa
after sending her son to
our Summer Camp and jumped
at the opportunity to get
involved.

Carlene and Claudia’s
favorite aspects of volunteering
at Hidden Villa include the
opportunity to work outdoors
with plants, spending time
at one of the most beautiful
places in the Bay Area, hearing
the sounds of children expe-
riencing the farm while they
work, being disconnected from
their cell phones, knowing
their work is appreciated, and
working with our Horticultur-
alist, Bill Dudley, who they
describe as warm, friendly, and
an excellent teacher. Carlene
and Claudia also enjoy volun-
teering together because they
have become great friends. In
fact, the two now go hiking
together every Wednesday!

We sincerely thank Carlene
and Claudia for keeping
Hidden Villa’s gardens looking
beautiful. If you’d like to join
them on Thursdays or volunteer
in some other capacity,
please contact Marc Sidel at
volunteer@hiddenvilla.org or
650-949-8652.

We’re Going Green

At Hidden Villa, we’re big fans of going green. Starting next
year, we will be dramatically cutting back the number of
these quarterly Moos & Views newsletters we print and mail.
Instead, we’ll be sending out the newsletters online and
posting them on our website. To prepare for this transition,
please register for our online newsletter by going to
www.hiddenvilla.org and signing up.
March

11

The Scoop on Poop
Thursday, 3:00 - 4:15 pm
For ages 3 to 5, plus caregivers
Get the scoop on poop in this fun gardening class with teacher Stacey, just for preschoolers! We’ll meet at the Kiosk, gather our farm tools and head out onto the farm to collect all the ingredients we need to plant our Spring garden... even poop! We’ll discover why poop is an important ingredient in everything we eat from fruits and veggies to milk and ice cream! All participants will create a mini-planter with a seedling that they can take home and raise in their own garden!
Location: Meet at kiosk $20 per first child and adult, $8 per each add’l person.

12

Greenbuilding 101
Saturday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
For Adults and Students age 16 and up
Did you know that the California State Building Code fundamentally changed on January 1, 2011? Greenbuilding is now part of the building code itself. Come hear greenbuilding consultant and trainer Roy Nordblom III talk about sustainable construction, CALGREEN, and greenbuilding in our everyday lives. Tour the sustainable construction sites at Hidden Villa, followed by a potluck lunch. Possibility for mixing mud plaster with our hands (depending on weather) so wear old clothes! Hands-on workshop!
Location: Meet at kiosk $20 per person

20

Sheep Shearing Day
Sunday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
For all ages
Join us for Sheep Shearing Day at Hidden Villa!! Come see our sheep get their annual hair cut! Cheer hardworking herding dogs as they round up sheep! Get your hands into all kinds of cool wool activities. Make a colorful felt pouch, create some crazy yarn critters, and try out finger knitting. Special “Little Lambs” activity area for toddlers and preschoolers too.
Location: Farm-wide $10 per person, toddlers under 2, no charge.

April

2

Kids in the Kitchen
Saturday, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
For kids ages 9 - 11
In this class we will make an ancient food that has been eaten since 10,000 BC – the tortilla. We’ll grind our own wheat and knead and press our tortillas with flowers you pick from our organic garden, then make yummy quesadillas to eat. You can take some of your beautiful edible art home too!
Location: Meet at kiosk $25 per child, no parent required to attend.

3

Dig It! Gardening Class
Sunday, 9:30 - 11:30 am
For ages 6 - 8
Please see 3/27 for a full description.

8

Hands-on Nature: Astro Night Hike
Friday, 8:00 – 9:30 pm
Family Program (recommended that children be age 6 and up)
Escape the “light smog” of civilization as Naturalist Tara Hostnick takes you on a fun night hike up to our beloved Knoll for a night sky celestial feast! Learn about the Spring constellations and stars only visible this time of year as Tara guides you with a high resolution laser pointer.
Location: Meet at kiosk $10 per person

10

Family Play Day: Passport to Nature
Sunday, 2 – 4 pm
Family Program
Join us for a play day at Hidden Villa! Pick up your Passport to Nature at the check in table, then find the cool nature-inspired fun at each location on our farm. Or, just enjoy a family hike on one of our trails at your leisure, or visit our animals and beautiful garden. Docents will be available throughout the farm to answer questions and be your compass on this day of exploration. Registration is limited, so sign up early... see you soon!
Location: Farm-wide
This is a FREE event
**Hidden Villa Moovie Night**
Saturday, 6:30 - 9:30 pm
Family program.
What’s on YOUR Plate? follows 11 year old Sadie and her best friend Safiyah as the intrepid tweens interview farmers, school officials, chefs and ordinary folks to answer that not so simple question for themselves. An amusing, thought-provoking, and very kid-friendly way to start a stimulating discussion at your own dinner table!
Location: Duveneck lawn and House $5 per person donation

**Mothers Day Celebration with ’Chelle and Friends**
Sunday, 3:00 – 5:00 pm
All ages welcome. We love the R&B and gospel sound of ’Chelle and Friends – and know you will too! You’ll find yourself moving and moved in both heart and soul to the joyful and spiritual sound of this band from New Orleans, Louisiana.
Bring a blanket and picnic snack. Free face painting and special crafts to make for the mom in your life. Come early and enjoy a visit to the farm too...what a nice way to celebrate the day!
Location: Dana Center $15 per person in advance, toddlers under 2, no charge

**Cow Wow!**
Offered on: Saturday 3/5; Sunday 3/6; Sunday 3/12; Sunday 4/3; Saturday 4/9; Sunday 4/10; 8:30 - 10:00 am. Sunday, 5/1; Sunday 5/22; 3:30 – 5:00 pm.
For ages 5 and up. Come help us milk Cleo, our dairy cow! Learn fun cow facts and practice proper milking techniques. Dress warmly. Space is very limited – register early! Fee applies to all attendees. Children under 12 years must be accompanied by a paying adult. $20 per person

**Greywater Workshop**
Sunday, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
For Adults and Students age 16 and up
Using your greywater is now legal, in fact you can use your washing machine water without a building permit! Roy Nordblom III, early greenbuilder, sustain-able construction consultant and trainer will teach you what you need to know - working knowledge to take home and do the same to your washing machine. Save water, save money, save the planet! Participants will help in the construction of dispersion-basins, so bring boots and gloves. Potluck lunch following class.
Location: Dana Center $75 per person, $35 per senior, student, or limited income.

**Go Wild for Flowers - a Beginner’s Botany Walk**
Saturday, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Do you want to more about the local plants and flowers growing at your feet? Then come join Jolie Egert and learn to see the world through the eyes of a botanist. We will slow down to see the intricate, gorgeous details of flowers and plants. You will begin to recognize common plant groups and become empowered to use local wildflower guides. Please bring a hand lens if you have one!
Jolie Egert M.S. is a botanist, forest ecologist and herbalist, and principal at Go Wild Consulting, a company that fosters healthy ecosystems and our connections to them: www.gowildconsulting.com
Location: Meet at kiosk $12 per person

**Manure to Meadow to MMMmmm**
Saturday, 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Family Program (recommended that children be age 6 and up)
Join your son or daughter in making homemade organic ice cream topped with fresh fruits and herbs from Hidden Villa’s garden. Meet our dairy cows, Cleo and Maisie and learn how they convert the work of worms into the main ingredient for a favorite treat!
Location: Meet at kiosk $15 per person
HOW YOU CAN HELP

Hidden Villa is a nonprofit, charitable organization, exempt under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). About half of our budget comes from gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations; the other half comes from fees and other sources of income. Visit our website to find how you can support Hidden Villa.

- Cash Gifts
- Employer Matching Gifts
- Real Estate, Stocks and Bonds
- Charitable Lead Trusts
- Charitable Remainder Trusts

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of 25-year Hidden Villa staff member, Elizabeth Bowden-Smith, whose love of hands-on learning lives on at Hidden Villa. We will be creating a Hidden Villa “Elizabeth Day,” where each year, one school will participate in our programs on a full scholarship generated by her endowment fund. On that day, we will share her favorite activities, sing her favorite songs and continue the good work that she inspires. Should you wish to honor Elizabeth’s memory, please consider making a donation to her Endowment Fund at Hidden Villa. Checks can be sent to Hidden Villa/Elizabeth Bowden-Smith Memorial Endowment Fund/26870 Moody Road/ Los Altos Hills, CA 94022-4209.