

SPRING 2007

AT THE PRESIDIO



A SEASONAL GUIDE TO THE PARK

TOUR THE PRESIDIO'S VICTORIANS

By Randolph Delehanty, Ph.D., Presidio Trust Historian



Officers' Row, 1915 Bob Bowen Family

Because of the destruction wrought by the Earthquake of 1906 in the older, eastern half of San Francisco, Funston Avenue officers' row in the Presidio is the oldest intact Victorian streetscape in the city. This distinct neighborhood with its two dozen Victorian officers' quarters in the Greek Revival, Eastlake and mansarded styles and historic landscaping is one of San Francisco's treasures. The Army preserved this old part of the post by building elsewhere and passing these quarters down the ranks.

To celebrate their rehabilitation, the Presidio Trust will conduct house tours in March to give the public a

chance to see their state-of-the-art architectural preservation.

Officers of the 9th Infantry first occupied the west side of Funston in September 1862. Later these buildings housed married officers including the post commander, inspector general and the chaplain. Before the forestation of the post, these houses were surrounded by white picket fences to shelter their gardens. More officers' quarters were built across the street in the 1880s and 90s. The *Alta California* noted in 1885:

"The principal married officers of the post are quartered in the row of trim brown cottages on the brow of the

These pretty houses are surrounded by grounds in exquisite keeping...

Alta California, 1885



eastern slope [along Funston Avenue], and fronting along the road leading up from the main entrance [Presidio Boulevard]... The fences are aflame with geraniums of the most vivid colors. Bon allens roses, Jacqui Minot, Gloire de Dijon, Gold of Ophir, and a hundred others of equal variety and beauty bloom every day in the year. ...Although each [house] possesses its own individuality, the interiors of these abodes differ in a striking manner from the houses of civilians... In some cases elegantly furnished, notable for their tidiness and decorum, there is yet a subtle suggestion of temporary residences. The very order which prevails, the dearth of superfluous odds and ends, such as clog the household machinery of less perfectly regulated homes, the methodical decorations, suggest the

possibility of speedy packing, in obedience to preemptory orders."

When the Presidio adopted a Mission-style color scheme of white and red in the early twentieth century, these houses were repainted to blend with the rest of the post. The four large Eastlake quarters at 56-59 Presidio Boulevard were the most challenging part of the project. Closets needed to be inserted and the circulation between the second and attic stories had to be improved. A dormer expansion to the rear of the buildings compatible with the 1885 architecture improved the upstairs circulation.

As these buildings are completed, the landscaping around them will be enhanced to preserve the historic character of this rare architectural and landscape ensemble.

PRESIDIO VICTORIAN HOUSE TOURS

Homes are open over two weekends. Meet in front of the Officers' Club.

Saturday, March 24, 2007 &
 Sunday, March 25, 2007
 and
 Saturday, March 31, 2007 &
 Sunday, April 1, 2007

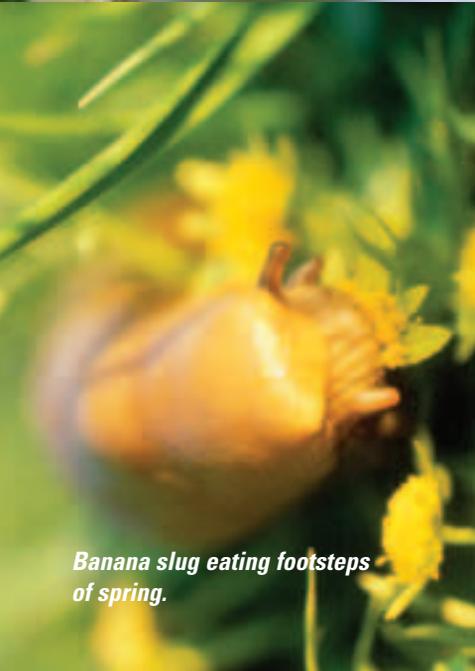
11 am – 3 pm

FREE, no reservation required
www.presidio.gov/calendar
 415/ 561 5500





A recent butterfly study observed 12 species in the Presidio.



Banana slug eating footsteps of spring.



Check out the new wayside exhibits at the Presidio Native Plant Nursery.

Nature

Watch: reports from the field

Banana Slug

Ariolimax columbianus

Banana slugs (California’s state mollusk) are the second-largest slugs in the world, growing up to 10 inches in length. Their coloring is either bright yellow or solid greenish, occasionally with black spots. In the Presidio they live in moist, wooded areas such as Inspiration Point, Presidio Hills, and near Lobos Creek. You will find these unique creatures crawling slowly along the ground devouring fungi, lichens, or plants. They especially love to eat mushrooms and poison oak! Predators include small mammals, snakes, amphibians, some birds, and carnivorous beetles. When threatened, banana slugs emit a thick layer of slime that makes them difficult to grasp. Their slime also provides important functions for moisture-control, navigation, and mating. Banana slugs play a role in the Presidio’s ecology by dispersing seeds and spores and breaking down decaying plant matter.

Sticky Monkey Flower

Mimulus aurantiacus

Easily recognized by the orange-yellow candycorn color trumpet blossom, Sticky monkey flower is one of the more common of the 250 native plants of the Presidio.

Its genus “Mimulus” is latin for “Little mime” and was commonly named monkey flower by a botanist who imagined they saw a monkey’s face in the blossom. “Sticky” refers to the texture of the leaves during flowering which repels predators from munching (imagine trying to bite into an unpeeled orange). Sticky monkey flower has a cousin called Seep monkey flower that grows in wetter areas of the Presidio. Both species provide valuable nectar to birds and insects. California Indians have traditionally used the stems and leaves of sticky monkey flower for healing purposes.

PRESIDIO SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM ON MAY 11TH!

(see calendar)

Conducting on the ground research allowed me to enjoy the richness of the Presidio’s flora and fauna and to gain a deeper appreciation of its beautiful and dynamic ecosystems.

Matt Zlatunich,
Golden Gate
Audubon Society

More from Dr. Simpson's Diary

Dr. Roger Simpson lived on the border of the Presidio, his backyard abutting Lobos Creek. (Thanks to Bruce Lyall and Andrew Rush for sharing this fascinating historical resource.)

Apr. 24 '55 Kingfisher flew over garden, they feed on sticklebacks [fish] in the creek and we hear their "rattling" notes down there.

May 8 '55 Gray foxes, a pair sunning themselves in an open spot across creek, the first sight of them since last fall.

Apr. 26 '56 One Brush Cottontail Rabbit, the first in 2-3 months.

Mar 30 '58 Allen's hummingbird gathering spider web and nest materials.

Apr. 10 '60 Six Mallards chasing in mating flight over the creek and Presidio.

Apr. 6 '63 Cliff swallows, about 25-30 migrating. Moving steadily northward; came into the Lobos Creek Canyon, down in and along for a few insects; then out and north over Presidio.

May 17 '64 Chickadees, family of 5 or 6, parents feeding full-sized young, noisy.

Spring in the Presidio Signs of the Season

Migratory birds flying and whales swimming north

Many birds species stopping for food and resting in the Presidio.

Birds are nesting!

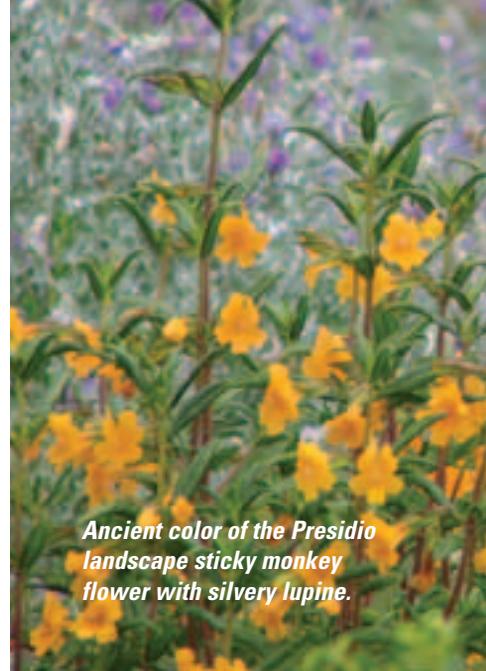
After a leafless winter, poison oak, willows and other deciduous trees re-growing their leaves.

Windy! Hold onto your hats...

Almost every plant species is blooming! The bloom is earlier in grassland areas and exposed bluffs while the peak bloom for dunes is later in spring.

Grizzly bears come out of hibernation (...200 years ago)

Please share any
Presidio wildlife
encounters of interest
(or photos) by emailing
nature@presidiotrust.gov.



Ancient color of the Presidio landscape sticky monkey flower with silvery lupine.



Thanks to the volunteers of all ages who helped with winter planting around the park.



Allen's hummingbird baby and egg.

SPRING 2007

PARK CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

Think globally, act locally.

Habitat Restoration in the Field

Wednesdays & Sundays
9 am to noon

Habitat Restoration at the Nursery

Wednesdays & Saturdays
1 to 4 pm

415/ 561 5333



Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Public Meeting

Second Tuesday of the Month
7 pm

Presidio Officers' Club
RAB is a citizen's group that works with the Trust's environmental remediation program.

415/ 561 4255

Tours of Arion Press

Thursday, 3 pm

Tours of the historic facilities, including the typefoundry, pressroom and composing room, and bookbindery. Reservations required, \$7. Visit the gallery Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm, free.

www.arionpress.com

415/ 668 2548

Presidio RX Running Group

Mondays & Wednesdays
6:30 pm

Runners meet Mondays under the Palace of Fine Arts Dome, and Wednesdays at the Lombard Gate.

www.woohoo.org/presidiorx

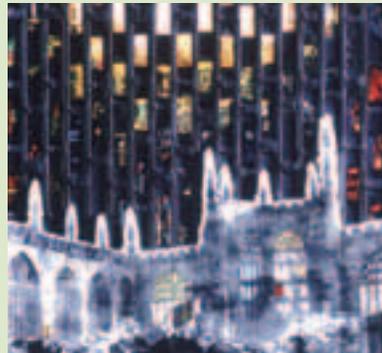
MARCH

REMEMBERED LIGHT EXHIBIT

Through April 15
Wednesdays – Sundays
11 am – 5 pm
Presidio Officers' Club

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/ 561 5500



Embroidered Bindings Exhibit

Through April 18

See this extraordinary exhibition of internationally renowned bookbinder and San Francisco resident Jill Oriane Tarlau at Arion Press. Free.

www.arionpress.com

415/ 668 2548

Liminality Exhibit

Through June 3, 2007

Liminality: Art on the Threshold features large-scale artworks, created by Seattle and Bay-Area artists, which create an artistic drama and a heightened awareness of the architecture within the Exploratorium.

www.exploratorium.edu

15 & 16

Pacific Union Presents CONCERTS AT THE PRESIDIO

Thursday, March 15

Friday, March 16

8 pm

Golden Gate Club

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/ 447 6274

PRESIDIO VICTORIAN HOUSE TOURS

Saturday and Sunday,
March 24 and 25

Saturday and Sunday,
March 31 and April 1

11 am to 3 pm

(see HISTORY)

www.presidio.gov/calendar

415/ 561 5500



PULL OUT ►

APRIL

17

US/ICOMOS Event

Tuesday, April 17
7 pm
Golden Gate Club
Free public event to kick off the US/ICOMOS International Symposium.
www.presidio.gov/calendar
415/ 561 5500

18 – 21

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON MONUMENTS AND SITES (ICOMOS) International Symposium

April 18 – 21, 2007
Golden Gate Club
(see article)
All are welcome to register for this week-long event. For schedule, fees, and details visit www.icomos.org/usicomos.



MAY

10

Presidio Trust Public Board Meeting

Thursday, May 10
6:30 pm
Golden Gate Club
www.presidio.gov/calendar
415/ 561 5418

12

7th Annual Community Heroes Awards Ceremony

Saturday, May 12
2 – 4 pm
Crissy Field Center
Join us as we recognize the important work of the Center's 2007 Community Heroes honorees. Free. All ages welcome.
www.crissyfield.org

19

Presidio Bird Count

Saturday, May 19
9 am – 12 pm
Walk one of 8 routes in the park in teams of experts and novices. Please call for information.
415/ 561 5333

28

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Monday, May 29
10:30 am – 12 pm
Presidio Main Post and National Cemetery
Event includes a parade and formal program.
www.presidio.gov/calendar
415/ 561 5500



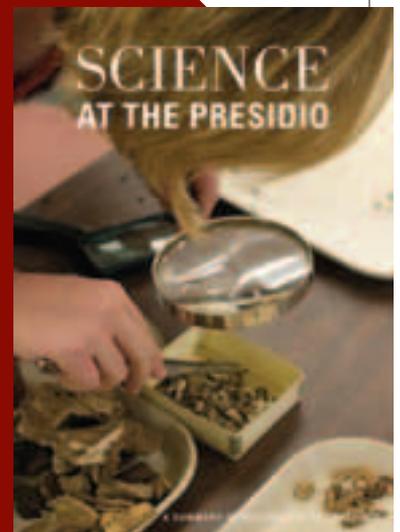
Presidio Science Symposium

Friday, May 11

May 11th is the first ever "Endangered Species Day," celebrating America's commitment to protecting and recovering our nation's endangered species. The Presidio is home to several endangered species.

Learn about the Presidio's plant worlds, wildlife communities and archaeology. Free. Registration required.

www.presidio.gov/calendar
415/ 561 5333



REMEMBERED LIGHT EXHIBITION

This light-filled exhibit presents 25 “windows” created by 13 artists in diverse media including ceramic, silk screen, vinyl, copper, and glass. Their work varies from a 9x14 inch glass book, its shard from an unknown site, to a 41x30 inch crown of thorns created in antique glass with shards from the Cathedral of St. Stephen in Metz, France.

Through April 15

Wednesdays – Sundays

11 am – 5 pm

Presidio Officers’ Club

Exhibition Hall

415/ 561 5500

www.presidio.gov

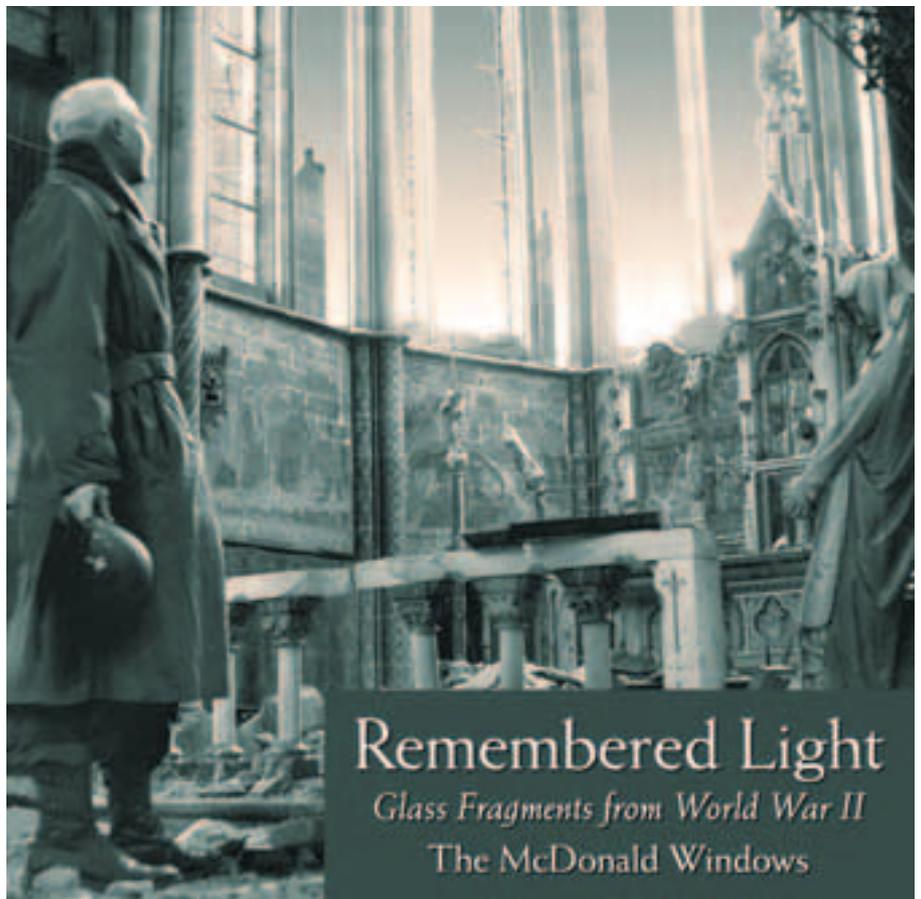
Created by artists from across Europe and the U.S., the McDonald Windows incorporate shards of stained glass collected from European church ruins at the close of World War II by U.S. Army Chaplain Frederick A. McDonald. The shards remained in a box for 55 years.

In 1999, the long-retired Rev. McDonald mentioned the shards in his possession to friends. Intrigued by the moving story, they offered ideas, consulted with others about artists and venue, and steadfastly helped him breathe life

into what would become the McDonald Windows.

From 1999 until his death in 2002, Rev. McDonald collaborated with principal artist and project manager Armelle Le Roux to envision the McDonald Windows. “He was a witness to his time,” Le Roux said.

In documentary footage recorded late in his life, Rev. McDonald said that “a little thing” like a blackened shard of glass “can bring back a flood of memories.” He wanted those memories shared so others could feel their impact.



US/ICOMOS SYMPOSIUM

REGISTER NOW!

US/ICOMOS 10th Annual
International Symposium

April 18 – 21

Golden Gate Club

FREE PUBLIC EVENT

Tuesday, April 17

7 pm

Golden Gate Club

The evening includes a presentation by the Executive Director of US/ICOMOS, along with past participants in the US/ICOMOS International Exchange Program, and will focus on the Presidio as a world-class cultural destination.

[www.presidio.gov/
calendar](http://www.presidio.gov/calendar)



The only organization focused on international preservation has selected the Presidio as the host site for its 10th annual U.S. conference. The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) will bring its symposium to the Presidio's Golden Gate Club from April 18-21.

ICOMOS is the premiere non-governmental organization dedicated to preserving the world's cultural heritage. Eminent heritage experts from America and abroad will present their views and knowledge on how to promote and protect the world's special places during this four-day event. This year's theme is *Balancing Culture, Conservation and Economic Development: Heritage Tourism in and around the Pacific Rim*.

"Heritage tourism" is a trip to an historic, cultural, natural, or recreational site to learn more

about the past in an enjoyable way. In recent years, heritage tourism has become an important way organizations share history and culture with the visiting public. It also can be a critical way to support the costly preservation of historic sites.

The Presidio and the surrounding City of San Francisco will serve as the backdrop for the symposium because the region is a multicultural hub on the Pacific Rim with many heritage tourism sites, from the Presidio to Angel Island to Japantown. The symposium will feature expert guest speakers, a multi-media and poster exhibit illustrating conservation practices, tourist sites, restoration projects, and traditional building techniques, and field tours throughout the bay region. All are welcomed to attend. A full schedule and details are available at www.icomos.org/usicomos.

HERE AND CHOW

Dining around the Park Suits a Variety of Moods

Did you know that there are ten eateries in the Presidio? The park offers a variety of settings, whether you want to grab a quick bite on the run or enjoy a fine dining experience in an historic setting.

Take a quick tour of your culinary options, and visit

www.presidio.gov/experiences/restaurants.htm for regular updates.

Acre Café

In the Thoreau Center

1013 Torney Avenue

Monday to Friday

7 am to 3 pm

415/ 561 2273

A long-time staple for park employees, Acre Café offers a light-filled and airy setting inside the beautifully restored former Letterman Hospital. With a focus on freshness and organic fare, Acre offers affordable breakfast and lunch options including gourmet sandwiches, salads, and coffee drinks.

Crissy Field Center Café

603 Mason Street at Crissy Field

Wednesday to Sunday

9 am to 5 pm

415/ 561 7752

Operated by the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, the Crissy Field Center Café features baked goods, hot and cold sandwiches, fresh squeezed juices, organic espresso, and affordable

kids' meals. Produce is organic, and/or comes from sustainable and local sources.

Dish Café

In the SF Film Center

39 Mesa Street

Monday to Friday

8 am to 4 pm

415/ 561 2336

Offering sit-down and take-out options for breakfast and lunch, Dish features organic, local and seasonal, made-from-scratch foods, as well as coffee drinks.

La Terrasse

In the Main Post Transit Center

215 Lincoln Boulevard

Open daily for breakfast, lunch, brunch, and dinner (hours vary)

415/ 922 DUNE

La Terrasse offers casual but elegant French brasserie cuisine, a cocktail menu, and a cozy interior with a wood burning stove. Outside seating available on warmer days. Limited take-out breakfast and lunch options are offered.





Perk Presidio Café

**In the Letterman Digital Arts Center, One Letterman Drive
Daily 8 am to 4 pm**

415/ 746 5456

Looking for quick and casual fare? Perk Presidio Café features organic fair trade coffee, fresh squeezed juices, smoothies, sandwiches, salads, snacks, and desserts. Grab lunch and have a picnic overlooking the Palace of Fine Arts.



Pres a Vi

**In the Letterman Digital Arts Center
One Letterman Drive**

**Days and hours vary for brunch,
lunch, and dinner**

415/ 409 3000

Take a culinary journey to Spain, France, Italy, Latin America, and the Philippines via this global small plate menu. An extensive wine selection and a full bar are available.



Presidio Café at the Golf Course

300 Finley Road, inside the Arguello Gate

Lunch Monday to Saturday

11 am to 3 pm

(appetizers 3 – 6 pm);

Weekend brunch 10 am to 3 pm

415/ 561 4661

Admire stunning views of the golf course and Presidio forest while enjoying fresh seasonal cuisine at this full service, sit-down restaurant. Outdoor seating and a full bar are available.

Presidio Bowling Center

**93 Montgomery Street
on the Main Post**

Sundays to Thursdays

9 am to midnight;

Weekends 9 am to 2 pm

415/ 561 2695

A great place for families, Presidio Bowling Center features breakfast, hamburgers, hot dogs, hot sandwiches, and snacks, with a beer and wine selection. The Center is a hot destination for kids' birthday parties and special events.



Presidio Social Club

563 Ruger, inside the Lombard Gate

Daily Lunch and Dinner (hours vary)

415/ 885 1888

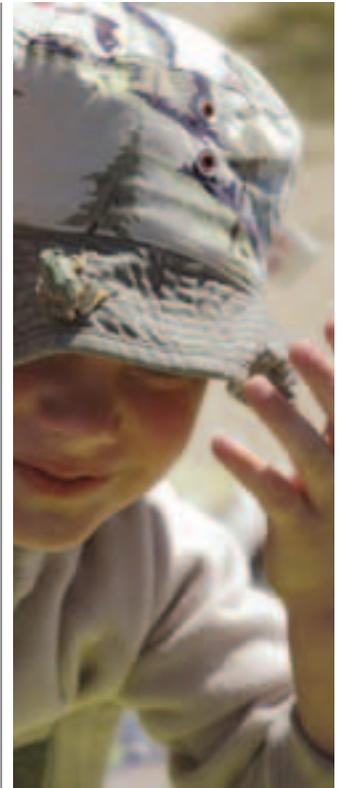
A transformed century-old building is the backdrop where classic San Francisco dishes and cocktails are served in a cozy yet elegant setting. An outdoor patio beckons guests on warmer days.

Warming Hut

The Warming Hut, located at the west end of Crissy Field, is temporarily closed due to a fire. The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy is working quickly to assess and rebuild, and urges visitors to enjoy lunch or a snack at the Crissy Field Center Café and Bookstore. Proceeds support programs at the Center and throughout the parks. If you have questions, please contact the Conservancy at 415/ 561 3000.



EARTH STROLL



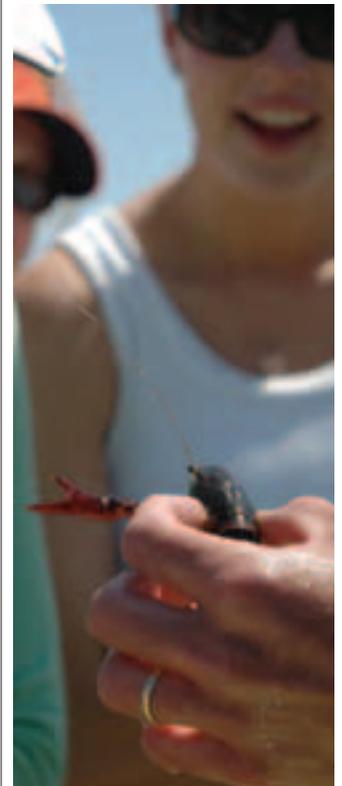
An Earth Day Adventure for the Whole Family **Saturday, April 21 • 10 am to 2 pm • Crissy Field Center**

Make strides for a healthy planet and a healthy you this Earth Day.

Bring the whole family for a special fitness walk that brings your local natural history to life! Enjoy games, music and live animals. This is sure to be an Earth Day to remember. Planet-friendly goodies for all who attend!

Fee: Individual activities range from free to \$5 each drop in – All ages welcome.

This event is a partnership of the Presidio Trust, Crissy Field Center (Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy) and the National Park Service.





Dr. Edgar Wayburn, a community leader and fervent champion of the parks, said more than three decades ago, “wilderness can begin in our own back yards.”

A new expression of this idea took flight in January as a “community trailhead” was unveiled at the Richmond YMCA near 18th Avenue and Clement. Part of the Trails Forever initiative, a community trailhead is a kiosk located within neighborhoods where visitors learn how to begin a visit to the park. More than 100 people attended the ceremony, which was followed by guided walks to Lands End and the Presidio’s Mountain Lake. The Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, Presidio Trust, and National Park Service hope to install additional trailhead sites in coming months.

Please visit www.parksconservancy.org/ourwork/trailsforever.php for more information.



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AT THE PRESIDIO is published by the Presidio Trust. Your questions and comments are welcome. Please call **415/561 5418**.

{Cover}

Amy Wolff

Fog engulfs the Golden Gate, 2006

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{ DID YOU KNOW? }

US/COMOS, the United States' committee for the world's leading historic preservation organization, holds its annual symposium at the Presidio April 18-21.