



## President's Note

### Happy Trails

One of the best things about living in Kent Woodlands is our easy access to nearby hiking, mountain biking and running trails. No matter where you live in Kent Woodlands, you're never far from a trailhead. Always on the search for new trails to explore, I asked four Kent Woodlands residents who are avid hikers and trail runners to reveal their favorites.



### **FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN:**

Jeff Leh is a Marin native and son of parents who took full advantage of Mt. Tam trails while he was growing up. Jeff and his wife Aubrey moved to the Woodlands from San Francisco a little over 4 years ago, after the youngest of their three children was born. With little time to enjoy all of the local trails while his kids were still in diapers, he's been out and about quite a bit these days, immersing his family in the same fantastic environment their grandparents fell in love with.

### **Jeff's three favorite kid-friendly nearby hikes:**

- 1) **The Crown Road fire road (aka Southern Marin Line Road)** is relatively flat and therefore perfect for heavy duty strollers. It is also dog-friendly, for dogs on leash or under voice-command (and owners who are equipped with poop bags). The intermittent distant views are great. Depending on the season, you may see wildflowers and hear the hooting of an owl. To get to the trailhead: Go to the southern end of Crown Road. There is ample parking on Crown Road before you reach the gate.
- 2) **The Dawn Falls Trail**, which you can access from the Crown Road fire road, is "perfect after a heavy rain, when the falls will be running," according to Jeff. "It's also nice during the hot summer weather when you will appreciate the shade." It takes about an hour to descend to the bottom, which is Madrone Canyon and the Larkspur park that the kids call "Dark Park" due to the shade. Jeff suggests having lunch afterward at Perry's on Magnolia, which is across Magnolia Ave. from Dark Park, and taking an Uber home.
- 3) **The trail around Phoenix Lake** is a 2.7 mile loop which has several short uphill or downhill sections, but between them is fairly gentle. (It's not stroller-friendly.) The best access to Phoenix Lake is the small parking lot located in Natalie Coffin Greene Park, at the end of Lagunitas Road in Ross. Since Phoenix Lake is a popular place, the parking lot tends to fill up quickly. On weekends, you'll want to get there before 10 am, otherwise you'll either need to wait for a spot to open up or park down on Lagunitas Road or around Ross Common and walk to the trailhead. On weekdays, parking is less challenging, but the lot can fill up early on nice weekdays.

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## **HAPPY TRAILS** (Continued from page 1)

### **FOR HIKERS:**

*Michelle Wilcox, who has led hiking and running groups on Mt. Tam, moved into Kent Woodlands in 1996. She and her husband raised their two children here, and enjoyed having trails right out their front door. What started as a “convenient” exercise routine, running became a passion for Michelle. She runs with Tamalpa Runners based in Marin County, and captained their women’s Masters Team. She competed in all distances ranging from 5k’s to marathons, and tackled her first ultra marathon in the Spring of 2011. Michelle’s spirited enthusiasm, endless energy, and the love of running enabled her to do what she loved most – running for fun and good health with people that shared that same passion. She coached both girls’ running and nutrition as well as women’s trail running on Mt. Tam for many years with Team LOLA. Although no longer coaching, she and her family still enjoy Mt. Tam on foot, on bikes, and with their Weimaraner, “Blue.”*

*Bitsa Freeman is an avid hiker who knows Mt Tam like the back of her hand. She is a Marin native who enjoyed the trails as a kid on horseback – back in the days when seeing horses on the trails was much more common than seeing runners or mountain bikers.*

*Sara Wardell-Smith has lived in Kent Woodlands for almost 20 years. She developed her love of the outdoors growing up in the English countryside (Buckinghamshire and Berkshire) where she enjoyed horseback riding, hiking, orienteering ... and driving in demolition derbies! She and her husband, Bruce, enjoy spending their free time exploring Mt. Tam together – hiking, running and mountain biking. When I spoke to Sara about how she felt about living so close to Mt Tam, she quoted Herb Caen in response, "The precise location of heaven on earth has never been established but it might very well be right here!"*

### **Michelle’s favorite hikes:**

1) **Yolanda Trail** -- Michelle says “My all-time favorite hiking or running trail is the Yolanda Trail, I simply love the varied terrain (flat, hills, single track, woods, wide open space, you name it). Start on Crown Rd (near Phoenix Rd), start down through cut in guard rail on Allen trail, left at bottom, right up Gertrude Ord around Phoenix lake on back side, right at Phoenix Junction, left up Yolanda. From that point there are many routes to extend the hike or run for as long as you like, eventually making your way back for a loop up the Harry Allen trail back home.”

2) **Hoo Koo E Koo** – Michelle says “Another shorter favorite is starting at Crown Rd., up Hoo Koo E Koo, crossover Blithedale Ridge to continue on Hoo Koo E Koo, up stairs to Hoo Koo E Koo fire road, down Hoo Koo E Koo (this is on Knob Hill), to the Crown Road fire road and back to your starting point. Only 3 miles round trip but you truly feel like you have escaped and gotten a great workout in.”

### **Bitsa’s favorite hike:**

**Hoo Koo E Koo** – This is Bitsa’s all-time favorite hiking trail. She says “The Hoo Koo e Koo is a perfect reflection of the variety of Marin’s landscape. You start a steep climb in a heavily forested and shady tree corridor and you crest at the sunny, stunning view junction of Blithedale Ridge where on summer days you can see why living in Kentfield is preferable to Mill Valley due to the thick blanket of fog that is usually covering up MV. Plus the views of the Bay and City are stunning. I never tire of that loop.”

### **Sara’s favorite hikes:**

For Sara Wardell-Smith, choosing one favorite hiking trail was too difficult, so she mentioned two nearby trails:

1) **Tucker trail up to Eldridge fire road and then down around Phoenix Lake** – “This makes for a nice hiking loop. It’s very shaded and it’s particularly lovely in the winter when all the waterfalls are running.”

2) **Phoenix Lake – Yolanda Loop** – “I also like hiking down to Phoenix Lake (starting out on the trail on the northern side of Crown Road, which is closer to Goodhill) and then go up the Yolanda trail and down Hidden Meadow to Phoenix Lake and then I usually head back to the Woodlands via the Bill Williams trail.”

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## HAPPY TRAILS (Continued from page 2)

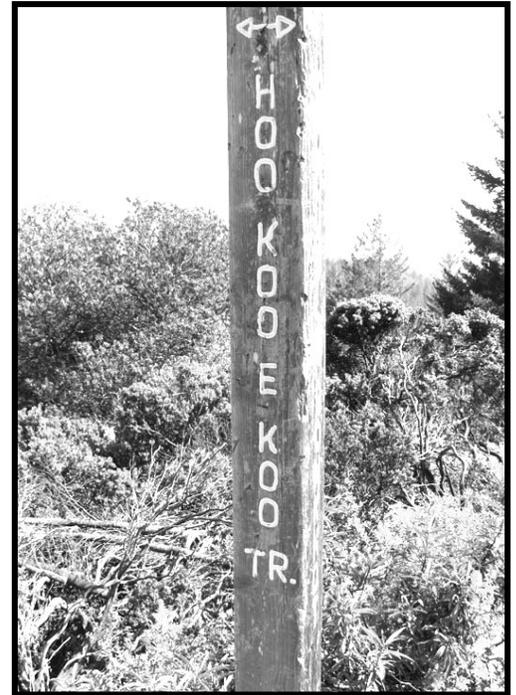
### **FOR TRAIL RUNNERS:**

#### **Sara's favorite running trails:**

1) **Hoo Koo E Koo Figure 8 Loop** – “If I don't have much time, then I like to run the Hoo Koo E Koo "Figure 8" loop. It's a great single track trail with some expansive views along the way. I usually start out at the Crown Road trail head in the Woodlands. (This is also a great loop to hike.)”

2) **Dawn Falls** – “If it's a particularly hot day, I like running down Dawn Falls (also starting out at the Crown Road trail head) and either up the Ladybug trail up and around King Mountain and back (this loop is a pretty shaded, with some good elevation and views) ... or I'll take Dawn Falls all the way to the "somewhat secret" Big Dog connector trail (warning: this connecting part is *super steep*) up to the Southern Marin line, and then up Huckleberry, back via Blithedale Ridge fire road.”

3) **Eldridge** – “For a longer run, I like going up Eldridge fire road (starting out at the Evergreen fire road trail head - warning: the first 5 minutes are very steep!) There's a great view at Inspiration Point and then I take Northside Trail (this is always a very quiet/lightly trodden single track trail to run.) Then I usually go down Collier Springs (or for a longer run, down Lower Northside Trail) down to Lake Lagunitas, and then I usually loop back via Lakeview down to Phoenix Lake and then back up to the Woodlands via the Harry Allen trail.”



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#### **Advice to new residents of Kent Woodlands:**

Bitsa says that any new resident of Kent Woodlands should seek to experience our neighborhood treasure: all the trails that surround our community. For example, the Harry Allen trail is a short trail that begins off Crown (the northern end) and terminates on Phoenix Rd. It's a peaceful, rarely used neighborhood gem that is mostly used by locals -- in comparison to the crowded and heavily used Crown Road fire road (aka Southern Marin Line Road).

Michelle says she always tells newcomers to try and hook up with a local to hit the trails with for the first few times. “It's always nice to have someone along who knows their way and can point out intersections, various options, etc. Be sure to buy a Tom Harrison Mt. Tam Trail Map, too! Don't leave home without it!”

Sara suggests that you consider tracking your hiking and trail running progress on a map. As Sara explains, “My husband, Bruce Raabe, and I love to explore the trails on Mt Tam together. A few years ago, we printed the MMWD trail map, laminated it, and then hung it on the wall of our garage,” Sara explains. “Our goal was to run every trail on the mountain, starting out from our home in the Woodlands, within one calendar year. Every time we ran a new trail together, we'd use a marker to highlight it on the map. It was a great way to get to know the mountain!”

Download the watershed maps here:

<http://marinwater.org/DocumentCenter/View/5231/Watershed-Map-2-pages-PDF?bidId=>

To that, I would like to add that whether you are a parent with a stroller, a hiker, or a trail runner, our nearby trails are wonderful. As John Muir said “Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt.” I hope to see you out there.

— Ann Becker, President

## IMPORTANT REMINDER: EXTERIOR PAINT COLORS

Are you thinking of painting your home? Please remember that our CC&Rs and Architectural Rules require the use of muted earth tones. If you choose an exterior color from our approved palette (available to view in our office), no application is required. Other colors will require an application and approval by the Architectural Committee. Please contact Michael Barber, Architectural Coordinator, at [mbarber@kwpoa.com](mailto:mbarber@kwpoa.com) or 415-721-7429 for more information.

## Landscape Safety Issues

KWPOA has been notified of a number of areas where vegetation on an owner's lot has overgrown to the point of obscuring traffic signs, blocking sightlines, and impeding public right-of-ways.

Correcting overgrown landscaping is the responsibility of property owners, whether a member of KWPOA or not, and we strongly encourage everyone to take a lap around their property to assess whether or not some vegetation may need to be pruned back. Also, if there is any area in the neighborhood that you think is of particular concern, please let us know so that we can contact the homeowner.

Please be diligent about maintaining your landscaping — safety is our number one priority!

## Road Safety

With summer bringing more people outdoors, we ask that all residents please help us keep our streets **SAFE**. Of course, this includes **watching your speed** on all our roads and keeping an eye out for **pedestrians and bicyclists**.

Please also remind your contractors and other workers to keep their vehicles and personnel out of the **public right-of-way** whenever possible. This creates a real hazard for walkers, bikers and drivers who must move around large vehicles and into the middle of the street in order to pass by. This is especially hazardous on our narrower roads with blind corners.

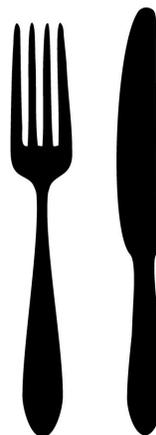
Thanks in advance for your commitment to keeping the neighborhood safe!

## A call for involvement in the KWPOA Board

Due to the resignation of KWPOA Board member Mimi Willard, we are seeking a volunteer to serve on the Board in her place. Board members must be members of the homeowners association in good standing. Should you wish to be considered for this position, please contact Jeanne Williams at 415-721-7429 or [jwilliams@kwpoa.com](mailto:jwilliams@kwpoa.com). The only way our association will prosper is by members stepping forward to be involved.

## KWPOA's next FOOD TRUCK EVENT

Sunday, September 22 — 5:30-7:30pm



Join us for this fun family event! This time, we'll be introducing a new vendor, who will be serving fabulous fried chicken and sides, as well as our returning vendors providing Latin food, Hawaiian shave ice, and face-painting for the kids. Don't miss it!

## Architectural Applications: August 2019

**Please note:** This newsletter is your **official notice** from the KWPOA regarding property improvements submitted for approval by the Architectural Committee. Please review this section very carefully as some planned development may affect you. Note that Architectural Committee actions are not final until ratified by the Board of Directors.

### ***THIS MONTH'S ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW MEETING: August 20, 2019***

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Property Address</b>	<b>Category/Project Description</b>
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#### **New Applications for August**

8 Laurel Way LLC	8 Laurel Way	C2- Minor Addition
Musser	605 College	C7 - Changes to Approved Plans

#### **Continued Applications to be considered in August**

None

#### **Applications Approved in July**

Goshay	75 Rock	C7 - Changes to Approved Plans
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#### **Applications Denied in July**

None

#### **Applications Continued in July - next meeting to be decided**

None

#### **Open Enforcements**

67 Ridgcrest  
7 Rancheria  
421 Crown  
147 Crown  
14 Madrone

#### **Exempt and Administratively Approved Applications**

None

**ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE:** Jim Schafer (Chair), Anne Barr, Trina Lavigna, Tom Nicholson, Bill Riley

**AC COORDINATOR:** Michael Barber

**MEETINGS:** Held at the KWPOA office at 1010 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., #200, Kentfield, CA on **the 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** To be noticed in the newsletter and placed on the agenda, COMPLETE applications must be received by the 21<sup>st</sup> of the preceding month (or the Friday prior if the 21<sup>st</sup> falls on a weekend or holiday). All calls concerning Architectural Committee matters should be directed to Michael Barber at the KWPOA office at 415-721-7429 or [mbarber@kwpoa.com](mailto:mbarber@kwpoa.com). Materials and applications may be mailed to P.O. Box 404, Kentfield 94914, or delivered to the office by appointment only.



Kent Woodlands Property Owners Association  
PO Box 404  
Kentfield, CA 94914

## *Regular Board Meeting*

**Date:** Thursday, August 22, 2019 - 6:00PM  
**Location:** 1010 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. #200

- Call to Order
- Public Comment
- Approval of June 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- AC Report and Ratifications
- Officer Reports
- County Update
- Fire Safety Report and Related Votes
- Social Events Update
- Administrator's Report
- Next Regular Board Meeting Agenda
- Adjourn and Reconvene in Executive Session

### **Executive Session Agenda:**

- Call to Order
- Approval of June 27, 2019 Executive Session Minutes
- Enforcements and Legal Matters
- Personnel
- Adjournment

*(This is a preliminary agenda. Final agenda posted at our office 96 hours prior to meeting.)*

## *KWPOA Contact Information*

**Mailing address:** PO Box 404, Kentfield 94914  
**Office address:** 1010 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. #200  
Kentfield, CA 94904  
**Phone:** 415-721-7429  
**Fax:** 415-532-1487  
**Web Site:** [www.kwpoa.com](http://www.kwpoa.com)  
**Email:** [info@kwpoa.com](mailto:info@kwpoa.com)

## *Board Members and Staff*

Ann Becker, President	<a href="mailto:abecker@kwpoa.com">abecker@kwpoa.com</a>
Bitsa Freeman, Vice President	<a href="mailto:bfreeman@kwpoa.com">bfreeman@kwpoa.com</a>
Steve Gray, Treasurer	<a href="mailto:sgray@kwpoa.com">sgray@kwpoa.com</a>
Mimi Willard, Secretary	<a href="mailto:mwillard@kwpoa.com">mwillard@kwpoa.com</a>
Anne Barr, Director/AC	<a href="mailto:abarr@kwpoa.com">abarr@kwpoa.com</a>
Jeff Leh, Director	<a href="mailto:jleh@kwpoa.com">jleh@kwpoa.com</a>
Sara Wardell-Smith, Director	<a href="mailto:swardellsmith@kwpoa.com">swardellsmith@kwpoa.com</a>
Jeanne Williams, Administrator	<a href="mailto:jwilliams@kwpoa.com">jwilliams@kwpoa.com</a>
Michael Barber, AC Coordinator	<a href="mailto:mbarber@kwpoa.com">mbarber@kwpoa.com</a>