We Need Your Help: Volunteer

by Charlie Bowen

All the wonders that BPWA has achieved are due to the efforts of our volunteers, who are imbued with a cooperative spirit and an openness to new ideas. Everyone involved loves these aspects of Path Wanderers, and we encourage you to join us. Here are some ways to lend a hand:

Clean a Path
One Berkeley resident invites friends to brunch every year for her birthday. In lieu of gifts, guests bring tools, and they go to a path that the hostess has chosen. They sweep, rake, trim, and weed. Because the whole group works together, the path is neat and tidy in no time. The group then returns to the hostess' house invigorated and ready to eat.

Of course, you can combine a path cleanup with any kind of party. Or you can join one of our path-maintenance work parties. E-mail our maintenance coordinator, Robert Armstrong, robertorbit@earthlink.net or phone him at 548-8289.

Work Behind the Scenes
BPWA periodically needs people to attend meetings of the City Council or a commission, e-mail public officials, and help with publicity. We need artists, writers, and people with computer skills.

We have documents to scan, photos to sort, maps to sell, and programs to plan. Or maybe you enjoy strategic planning or grant writing. And we always need workers at our booth during events like the Solano Stroll. If you would like to help with any of these tasks, then send an e-mail with your preferences to: volunteer@berkeleypaths.org

Or call Dale Miller, our volunteer coordinator, at 524-4758.

Lead A Walk
Do you have a favorite walk up, down, and along Berkeley’s paths? Are you a local history or architecture buff? Lead one of our free walks, offered on one Wednesday and one Saturday each month.

Contact Marilyn Siegel, walk coordinator, at 549-2908 or e-mail her at: mnsiegel@cal.berkeley.edu

Build a Path
Our main, ongoing volunteer effort is path building. We organize one or two weekend path-building work parties a month for volunteers from our membership. We also host community-service work parties from high school and college environmental and service clubs. Work parties typically last 2½ hours, with refreshments the last 15 minutes. If you want to join a work party or if you belong to an organization that could do a service project with us, please send an e-mail to: charliepaths@comcast.net or call Charlie Bowen at 540-7223.

Being a volunteer allows you to pick an activity that you feel comfortable doing. No matter what you choose to do, you contribute to your community. Your service benefits others while enriching your life.
Meet the Paths: Terrace Walk  
by Dale Miller

As you stand at the lower end of Terrace Walk in a peaceful circle of pittosporum shrubs and raised ivy beds, you are at a point of geographic and aesthetic transition. Behind you to the West is one of North Berkeley’s busiest intersections, where Hopkins ends at Sutter. In front of you, a few steps lead onto a peaceful, well-maintained path that is one of the best gateways to the serene North Berkeley Hills.

As you begin your walk, note there are no wires cluttering the view overhead. All nearby wires were placed underground about six years ago. You’ll see six terraced lots on this steep lower section, with a traditional brown shingle house on the left and a beautiful cottage rose garden on the right. The path levels off to cross Mariposa, one of North Berkeley’s most unique streets. The avenue has an East Coast feel with two lines of large sycamores creating a canopy over the street, and the houses are set back from the sidewalk.

The second section of the path begins above Mariposa with redwood fences on either side. A gorgeous brugmansia tree in the backyard of No. 1047 shades the walk with its fragrant yellow trumpets. Two houses face the path, a Mediterranean and a red shingled farm house on a double lot. Rising from a spring flower show of daffodils, camellias, quince, and roses are two majestic redwoods as well as some cedars, an oak, and a small holly bush. A chain link fence has been mellowed by a clematis vine and ivy.

At the top of the path, Walnut ends at Shattuck — a spot that seems odd to residents of the Gourmet Ghetto, where these streets run parallel. At this point you may go left to Indian Rock, right to Live Oak Park, or you may take Walnut to the Short Cut.

Santa Fe Right-of-Way in Berkeley — Rails to Trails at Last?

by Susan Schwartz

Space in cities is often recycled in unexpected ways. The Santa Fe Right-of-Way, a 40-foot-wide strip of land between the BART tracks at the Berkeley-Albany border and Sacramento near Oregon Street, may be seeing such a change.

In the 1880s, the California & Nevada Railway headed from the Bay near the Oakland-Emeryville border toward mountain mining districts. This narrow-gauge railroad crossed the Berkeley hills along San Pablo Creek but never got past Orinda, a popular destination for weekend outings. These trains stopped running in the 1890s.

In the new century, Francis “Borax” Smith sought the failed railroad’s Bay access to add a ferry pier to his streetcar network, which became the Key System. The Atcheson, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad (the Santa Fe) bought the East Bay right-of-way for a spur from its Pt. Richmond Bay terminus into Oakland. Starting in 1904, the Santa Fe’s Oakland Local hauled freight and passengers through Berkeley, stopping at the mission-style station at 1310 University.

Berkeley industry was concentrated near the Bay, where the Southern Pacific (now Union Pacific) tracks ran, but a few factories clustered around the Santa Fe rail yard south of University. The industrial buildings at Addison and Bonar housed such companies as American Photoplayer, which made musical instruments for silent movie theaters. Starting in 1914, shops were consolidated in this area, where a spur track brought supplies by the railcar load. Designed by City Architect Walter H. Ratcliff Jr., the Tudor-style Corporation Yard, is still in use.

Train noise and smoke assured that homes near the tracks would be for the working class. Queen of these new subdivisions was San Pablo Park. Lots sold for $100 down and $10 per
Household memberships in BPWA are $5.00 and cover one calendar year. If you can give more, please consider a donation. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings. You can join or donate on our secure web site: www.berkeleypaths.org

You may also send us a check, payable to BPWA. Please remit to:

BPWA
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

---

Santa Fe Right-of-Way in Berkeley — Rails to Trails at Last?
(continued from page 2)

month on streets with curved corners surrounding 15-acre San Pablo Park, Berkeley’s first public park, established in 1906.

By the 1960s, the Santa Fe was on its way out. Berkeley tried three times to pass a bond issue to buy the right of-way. Finally, in 1979, the railroad essentially donated nearly all its 20 acres to Berkeley.

In Albany and El Cerrito, BART took over the former rail line. These cities developed a recreation trail, the Ohlone Greenway, under the BART tracks where the Santa Fe tracks had run. In Berkeley, however, residents taxed themselves to put BART underground, and the trains turned east at Hearst. The city rejected the trail idea and called instead for a mix of parks, community gardens, and housing and for the sale of odd bits to neighbors.

A general bond issue for parks, passed in 1977, eventually funded Strawberry Creek Park, Cedar-Rose Park, and the ball courts near them on the Santa Fe Right-of-Way. Berkeley’s pioneer creek-daylighting project unearthed Strawberry Creek from the former rail yard, now Strawberry Creek Park. The “rocks” lining the bank are pieces of the old culvert.

North of the North Berkeley

BART Station, community gardens developed in the early 1980s. Gardeners added ecologically-oriented buildings, imaginative public art and interpretive signage, and coastal prairie plants. Other garden projects followed. In 1994, Berkeley Youth Alternatives created a multi-use garden south of Strawberry Creek Park. In 2004, Spiral Gardens opened a nursery and urban farm with classes, at Sacramento at Oregon. Last year, the Berkeley Community Orchard broke ground near Derby.

In 2002, encouraged by Berkeley Path Wanderers and others, Berkeley

revised its General Plan to call for a bicycle-pedestrian trail on the old railroad grade. Thanks to groundwork by Berkeley Partners for Parks, this trail, from University to Delaware, is under construction. Berkeley Montessori School, which bought the old Santa Fe station, plans to open the trail from University south to Strawberry Creek Park.

Berkeley Partners for Parks, the Berkeley Community Gardening Collective, and students from UC- Berkeley landscape architecture are working on plans for the Santa Fe Right-of-Way. Berkeley Path Wanderers hopes to open the fence that blocks the route at Lincoln. A gate there would open the trail all the way to Richmond, which has just received grants to extend a trail along the former rail line through much of that city.

Thus, the Santa Fe Right-of-Way may finally metamorphose into a 12-mile trail, from South Berkeley into Richmond, with community parks and gardens strung along it like beads on a necklace. BPWA wants to help make this happen.

-- Thanks to the Berkeley Historical Society and Phil Gale for historical information used in this article.

---

BPWA Membership/Donation Form

Please print clearly

Name

Address                                      City           Zip code

E-mail                                      Telephone number

☐ I am enclosing $_________ for membership  ☐ new  ☐ renewal

☐ I would like to donate $________ for path building
Berkeley Path Wanderers Association  Spring 2006
Dedicated to the creation, preservation and restoration of public paths, steps and walkways in Berkeley for the use and enjoyment of all.

Contents:
- Spring Walk Schedule ................................................... 1
- We Need Your Help: Volunteer ......................................... 1
- Meet the Paths: Terrace Walk ........................................ 2
- The Santa Fe Right-of-Way .......................................... 2
- Spring Meeting Schedule ............................................. 2
- BPWA Memberships and Donations ............................... 3

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

www.berkeleypaths.org
Have a Picnic!
Come to the BPWA summer fete.
This year we are going to have our picnic at Glendale-La Loma Park on Sunday, July 16. There will be a choice of three walks, starting at 11:00 a.m., followed by a BYO picnic at 1:00 p.m. For more details on this event, visit our web site: www.berkeleypaths.org

Guided Walks
10:00 a.m. (allow 2-3 hours) Walks are free, and all are invited to attend. For additional information on walks, please see our web site: www.berkeleypaths.org

Saturday Walks
July 8 Southwest Berkeley
Charlie Bowen & Susan Schwartz - 848-9358 charlie_paths@comcast.net
Meet at the corner of Channing and 10th (one block west of San Pablo) to explore Southwest Berkeley’s industrial history, galleries and other features. Level but fairly long walk.

August 26 Rock Parks of Berkeley
Robert Johnson - 510-528-3355 rejberk@covad.net
Meet at top of Solano Avenue at The Alameda (Northeast Corner by Indian Rock Path). Note: this walk will last until approximately 2:30 p.m. Bring lunch. Walk includes rock parks, paths, gardens, creeks, and historic homes. Not too strenuous, but some steep uphill walking (distance is 4 to 5 miles).

September 23 Strawberry Creek Walk
Sue Fernstrom - 510 524-4715 sfernstrom@chori.org
Meet by the oak tree in the middle of Leroy Avenue between Ridge Road and Le Conte Avenue. Easy pace, walking thru UC campus, by City Hall, and to Strawberry Creek Park near Bonar Street and Bancroft way. Bring change for bus fare back to the starting point.

Wednesday Walks
July 5 Creeks and Gardens
Susan Schwartz - 848-9358 F5creeks@aol.com
Meet on the north side of the North Berkeley BART station for an easy walk to creeks and gardens. Length of walk will depend on weather and mood of participants.

August 2 When Berkeley Wanted to be the State Capitol
Barbara Robben - 510 524-2383
Meet at Northbrae Church at Los Angeles and The Alameda. Walk will be on streets named after California counties. Moderate pace, easy walk.

September 6 Paths of Northbrae and Thousand Oaks
Jacque Ensign - 510 524-4715 jacqueensign@earthlink.net
Meet at the Marin Circle. History, rocks, houses. Some uphill.

Path-Building Update
Walkways Completed & In the Works by Charlie Bowen

The past year has seen an increase in the number of paths the City of Berkeley has authorized BPWA to build and that can now be considered open for public use. Last summer, we had nine consecutive work parties on Upper Covert Path during which time 165 steps were installed by our volunteers. We cleared massive amounts of bamboo, broom, thornless blackberry, ivy, and a variety of other brush and weeds along the way. This important path allows east-west pedestrian access in a long winding block that, until now, had no passable path.

During the fall we had an Eagle Scout project as well as UC Berkeley volunteers from CalCorps and the Circle K Service Club helping us finish Lower Stevenson Path. The tricky bottom end, a charming stairway switching back over the steep lower end, was designed and built by the new owner of the adjacent house (see Lower Stevenson story, page 3). We also made a significant improvement to the nearby Stoddard Path, adding sixteen steps and trimming back encroaching brush.

However, the most impressive autumn addition to the list of walkable paths has been Upper Glendale Path, with its concrete stairway over the rock drop-off at the bottom end. The City used funds from FEMA to help build this, and a contractor worked through much of the fall to complete it before the rains started. This path is one of three segments that make up Glendale Path, a long, strategically important path that intersects four streets in its ascent up the hill. It provides part of a direct pedestrian link between the Rose Garden area and Tilden Park.

During the winter and spring, on rare days when it wasn’t raining, we worked on the upper end of Bret Harte Path, with help from the El Cerrito High School Green Justice Club. This path is quite steep and was covered with ivy, berry bushes, and even some poison oak. But now it is nearly finished, with all the brush cleared and just seven steps remaining to be done. We also will be cooperating with one of the neighbors to plant a vine along the fence. This is a quiet and rustic path; last week I was walking up the path and spotted a big buck that was curled up on one of the

Continued on page 3
Meet the Paths

An Exploration of Yosemite Steps

by Lori Kohlstaedt

You might begin your exploration of Yosemite Steps at the corner of Solano and The Alameda, where it changes abruptly from a busy thoroughfare to a quiet residential street. As you walk north along the east side of The Alameda, traffic noise abates and shortly you will notice a white-washed cement railing on your right. This marks the presence of Blackberry Creek, which you can see running in a narrow bed between the houses at numbers 815 and 817.

Look for the beginning of Yosemite steps as The Alameda begins to rise again. Just as you turn onto the path, notice a giant clump of calla lilies on the right. This first section of the path is a little wild with encroaching vegetation and looming fences from the neighbors on each side.

As you approach Contra Costa Avenue, you may hear music. The sounds of a violin are likely to come from the house on your left whose front walk joins the path. This is the home of a distinguished luthier (violin maker), Peter van Arsdale.

Contra Costa Avenue is a narrow, quiet street, like many in the Berkeley hills. The majority of the houses here were built between 1912 and 1920 when the streets were added in this area of rolling meadows and large boulders.

You may want to turn right on Contra Costa and cross the creek to Contra Costa Rock Park. The steps carved into the rock surface lead to the top, where there is a panoramic view of the Bay. Return to Yosemite Steps by the same route.

Continue on the upper segment of Yosemite Steps, which is slightly north of the lower segment. Here the path immediately begins a steep rise. As you climb, a view of a charming garden opens on the left. Stop to smell the roses on the fence and to peek into this garden.

On the left, as you continue up two more sets of steps, you will find a literary treat. Local poetry lovers maintain a tradition of posting poems on the wooden fence here. The collection is ever-changing. On a recent visit, offerings included poems by ee cummings and Pablo Neruda.

Yosemite Steps ends at Yosemite Road. Directly in front of you is another of Berkeley’s many mini-parks, Frederick Park. To your left, Yosemite Road angles back downhill. This short street boasts several houses of architectural interest. At 1962 Yosemite is an English country cottage designed by Julia Morgan. Further down the street, at number 1941, is an “English village” designed by John Hudson Thomas. If you continue past the corner of Yosemite Road and Contra Costa Avenue, there is another park, Great Stoneface Park, and the boulder that gives it its name.

Return to the top of Yosemite Steps. Arlington Avenue is to your right. To return to where you began, walk along Arlington to Indian Rock Path. Follow the three segments of this path back down to the corner of Solano and The Alameda.

Boulders of Yosemite Steps

********

Architectural and historical information courtesy of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association.
Focus on Volunteers:  

Improving a Beloved Childhood Path  by Sandy Friedland

David Hirschberg recalls how he played on Lower Stevenson Path, sliding down its steep bottom next to his late uncle’s house at 1175 Keeler. As a child, Hirschberg often visited the house, which he now owns but does not occupy.

When he noticed that Charlie Bowen, the head of BPWA's path-building effort, and her volunteers were working on Lower Stevenson, he worried about how it would look. The path dropped off so sharply that it might have needed city-built concrete steps with metal railings. He had a more rustic vision.

“I really support the paths, and wanted to do something to help,” said Hirschberg, a neurobiologist from Menlo Park who describes himself as an avid runner, biker, and walker. “But I really loved the way the old paths looked, covered with ivy. I wanted the path to be more in that style.”

He volunteered to design and build the bottom twenty feet or so. BPWA supplied wood ties and rebar. Hirschberg, with help from his brother-in-law, the tenant in his house, and his son, built steps and landings that wound up the hill, providing safe and easy passage.

One day Hirschberg hopes to move his family into the Keeler house. In the meantime, he is planning to build a small bridge over another section of the path.

If you know someone who has made a special contribution to the path system, please let us know the details in an e-mail to info@berkeleypaths.org

---

Household memberships in BPWA are $5.00 and cover one calendar year. If you can give more, please consider a donation. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings. You can join or donate on our secure web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org

You may also send us a check, payable to BPWA. Please remit to:

BPWA
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

---

About BPWA

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley's pathways. Our activities include guided path walks, the mapping of Berkeley’s path network, the building of paths that are proposed, and the restoration of those that need maintenance. Our activities and events are listed on our web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org

Concerned about path issues? E-mail us at info@berkeleypaths.org

BPWA is a member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.

---

BPWA Membership/Donation Form  Please print clearly

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City Zip code ______________________________________

E-mail ____________________________________________
Telephone number _________________________________

☐ I am enclosing $___________ for membership ☐ new ☐ renewal

☐ I would like to donate $________ for path building

---

Lower Stevenson Path
Contents:

- Summer Walk Schedule .................................................. 1
- Path-Building Update .................................................... 1
- Meeting Announcements.................................................. 2
- Meet the Paths: Yosemite Steps ...................................... 2
- Volunteer Update: Lower Stevenson Path ....................... 3
- BPWA Memberships and Donations .............................. 3

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

www.berkeleypaths.org

Board Members
SANDY FRIEDLAND, president
WILL SCHRIBER, vice-president
BARBARA WEST, treasurer
MARLEYN SIEGEL, secretary/walks coordinator
ROBERT ARMSTRONG, path maintenance
CHARLIE BOWEN, path building
LORI KOHSTADT, special events
MARY LYNCH, membership/admin.
PAUL MAHEU, Boy Scouts liaison
DALE MILLER, volunteers
EMMA MORRIS, business-sector liaison
SUSAN SCHWARTZ, publicity
JERRY WACHTEL, safety/city liaison
The Eagles of Troop 19

Boy Scout Troop Improves the Paths by Paul Maheu

Over the years, many service groups and organizations have contributed to improving the paths we wanderers all enjoy. One such group is North Berkeley’s Boy Scout Troop 19. Eighty-six years old and still going strong, the troop is chartered by St. Mary Magdalen parish and meets at the Scout hut in John Hinkel Park.

Since 1998 when a portion of Keeler Path was completed, the members of Troop 19 have improved 11 different paths over the course of 16 Eagle projects. In addition to earning the required minimum of 21 merit badges and holding a leadership position in the troop, the Eagle candidate’s toughest requirement is need for path building. It’s a perfect fit. The entire design and building process normally requires six months and over 150 hours of work, although the actual physical work is accomplished in one or two weekends.

Working closely with BPWA’s path improvement committee and a representative from the city, the Eagle candidate gets a firsthand lesson in project management. Utilizing Berkeley’s Tool Lending Library and materials provided by BPWA, all of the hard work is done by Scouts eleven to eighteen years old under the watchful eyes of their adult leaders. The Eagle candidate places his team in groups based on skill level and tasks are performed accordingly. Although each path project is unique, many include the same ingredients: initial clearing, debris removal, regrading if necessary, installing steps, digging ditches, and managing water runoff.

Usually an Eagle candidate will opt for the addition of something special to his path that will improve its overall appearance. These enhance-

The development and completion of a service project which has “significant and lasting benefit to the community.” Finding a suitable project was always an extremely difficult task for a teenager.

Enter the Berkeley Path Wanderers Association. The Scout has a need to complete a project; BPWA has a
Dinner and a Walk On Indian Rock Path

Dinner and a Walk On Indian Rock Path

Probably no other path in Berkeley connects two more popular destinations than Indian Rock Path. It provides a direct pedestrian link between Indian Rock and the shops, restaurants, and the movie theater of Upper Solano Avenue.

Any time is great for walking this path. In fact, neighborhood residents can be seen with their shopping bags, kids and dogs going up and down at all hours. But, if you really want to make this walk a special occasion, try this: Enjoy a leisurely dinner and a nice wine at one of the excellent eateries on Solano. Time your meal to end about one half hour before sunset. In Berkeley’s gorgeous late afternoon light, walk up Solano to The Alameda.

At the northeast corner of Solano and The Alameda you will find the starting point of Indian Rock Path. Take the four steps up that start your gentle climb of the four sections that lead to Indian Rock. Although the path runs straight, with wooden fences on either side for most of the way, there is still an open feeling to the walk. The fences, which are nicely set back from the path, vary in height, and some are covered with vines.

You will be crossing Contra Costa and Mendocino Avenues, quiet residential streets with a neighborhood feel. It’s hard to believe that bustling Solano Avenue is just behind you. The third cross street, Arlington Avenue, is totally different. It is a major artery that extends from Berkeley’s Marin Circle through Kensington and El Cerrito. Private cars and the AC Transit number 7 line all zip along this divided road at a pretty good clip. Even the best intentioned drivers might not notice the well painted cross walk and waiting path wanderers. So, take care when crossing this thoroughfare.

After this brief bit of excitement you’re on the last short bit of the path. You’ll soon see Indian Rock rising in front of you. The path branches with the right fork leading to Indian Rock Avenue past easily negotiated steps cut into the rock face, while the left fork heads up some more conventional cement steps to end at San Mateo Road. You can go straight to the rock steps or make a quick tour around the rock where you might see rock climbers practicing their craft.

Whichever route you choose, finish your walk by climbing the steps to the top of Indian Rock and settle in for the gorgeous 180 degree vista of San Francisco and Marin. Good timing should get you at the top in time for a fabulous sunset. If it’s late January or early February you’ll catch the sun setting right in the middle of the Golden Gate Bridge.

There are many easy variations for your return trip. I’d recommend going north on San Mateo Road to Mendocino Path. Take Mendocino Path down, re-cross Arlington, and continue onto Mendocino Avenue which reconnects with Indian Rock Path which returns you to Solano.

In the winter, when the sun sets early, you may reward your efforts with dinner after your sunset walk.

The Cranes

Po Chü-I (c. 830 A.D.)
Translated by Arthur Waley

The western wind has blown but a few days;
Yet the first leaf already flies from the bough.
On the drying paths I walk in my thin shoes;
In the first cold I have donned my quilted coat.
Through shallow ditches the floods are clearing away;
Through sparse bamboos trickles a slanting light.
In the early dusk, down an alley of green moss,
The garden-boy is leading the cranes home.

Meet the Paths

Our Next Appearance....
Come and see us at booth 337 at the Spice of Life street festival.
It takes place on Sunday, October 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Shattuck Avenue between Virginia and Rose Streets. Nearby booths will have good food and interesting exhibits.
Please see our web site for additional information on this event.
www.berkeleypaths.org

Our Next Appearance....
Come and see us at booth 337 at the Spice of Life street festival.
It takes place on Sunday, October 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Shattuck Avenue between Virginia and Rose Streets. Nearby booths will have good food and interesting exhibits.
Please see our web site for additional information on this event.
www.berkeleypaths.org

BPWA Board Meetings
The BPWA Board meets each month (except September and December) on the third Thursday of each month at the Live Oak Community Center, 1301 Shattuck Avenue. Observers are welcome to attend. The scheduled dates for Fall 2006 are October 19th and November 16th. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.

BPWA Board Meetings
The BPWA Board meets each month (except September and December) on the third Thursday of each month at the Live Oak Community Center, 1301 Shattuck Avenue. Observers are welcome to attend. The scheduled dates for Fall 2006 are October 19th and November 16th. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m.
Focus on Volunteers

The Trusty Truck of Ted Roberts  by Charlie Bowen

Behind the scenes of all our path-building work there is the ongoing chore of getting the materials to the paths before our work parties. First we have to figure out what we need on each path. Then wood-tie steps and rebar have to be ordered, picked up, and delivered to the paths. This is heavy work; for a couple of years now we have relied on Ted Roberts and his faithful Toyota truck to make it all happen.

Ted is a volunteer extraordinaire who loves the Berkeley paths and does a huge amount of work to maintain the ones we have already built as well as to help building new ones. After he picks up the eucalyptus wood steps (which are HEAVY!) from New Life Millworks in Richmond, he takes them home, unloads them, cuts them to the lengths we need, drills 2 holes in them for the rebar, reloads them in the truck, delivers them to the path

and carries them to the area where they will be used. Every single wood-tie step you see on our new paths has Ted’s energy invested in it.

We also have a source of free wood chips in El Cerrito, and Ted and his truck periodically make a visit there and pick up a load of chips to spread on our wood-tie paths. Before he puts down the chips he typically spends some time weeding and trimming, and the paths look 1000% better afterwards.

Ted is always looking for a person or two he could call upon to give him a hand for a couple of hours. So, if you’re sometimes free during the week and would like to help, let us know. Contact Charlie Bowen, 540-7223, or send e-mail to charlie_paths@comcast.net.

(continued from page 1)

Scouts projects (continued from page 1)

ments might include landscaping with rocks that are found nearby, retaining walls, hand-crafted benches and bulletin boards, or a hand rail.

The major highlight—and what keeps the boys coming!—is the free pizza lunch at every project. Of course, other healthy foods such as donuts, coffee, and carbonated beverages are served as well.

In the upcoming months between Eagle projects, Troop 19 plans to revisit old sites and do maintenance where needed. This will serve to train younger boys for future paths and their own Eagle projects.

So the next time you’re out wandering and see a group of adolescent boys sweating over a step, stop and say hello. Heck, why not stop and give them a hand?

About BPWA

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley’s pathways. Our activities include guided path walks, the mapping of Berkeley’s path network, the building of paths that are proposed, and the restoration of those that need maintenance. Our activities and events are listed on our web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org.

Concerned about path issues? E-mail us at info@berkeleypaths.org. BPWA is a member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.

Household memberships in BPWA are $5.00 and cover one calendar year. If you can give more, please consider a donation. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings. You can join or donate on our secure web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org.

You may also send us a check, payable to BPWA. Please remit to:

BPWA
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

BPWA Membership/Donation Form  Please print clearly

Name

Address  City  Zip code

E-mail  Telephone number

I am enclosing $_______ for membership  new  renewal

I would like to donate $_______ for path building

Ted and His Truck

David Burwell
President, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 2001

Trails

Trails not only connect us with each other, they connect us with ourselves. Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted knew this, and designed his pathways for reverie: gentle, winding, and somehow private. Communities with no place to daydream are communities without imagination.

Focus on Volunteers

The Trusty Truck of Ted Roberts  by Charlie Bowen

Behind the scenes of all our path-building work there is the ongoing chore of getting the materials to the paths before our work parties. First we have to figure out what we need on each path. Then wood-tie steps and rebar have to be ordered, picked up, and delivered to the paths. This is heavy work; for a couple of years now we have relied on Ted Roberts and his faithful Toyota truck to make it all happen.

Ted is a volunteer extraordinaire who loves the Berkeley paths and does a huge amount of work to maintain the ones we have already built as well as to help building new ones. After he picks up the eucalyptus wood steps (which are HEAVY!) from New Life Millworks in Richmond, he takes them home, unloads them, cuts them to the lengths we need, drills 2 holes in them for the rebar, reloads them in the truck, delivers them to the path

and carries them to the area where they will be used. Every single wood-tie step you see on our new paths has Ted’s energy invested in it.

We also have a source of free wood chips in El Cerrito, and Ted and his truck periodically make a visit there and pick up a load of chips to spread on our wood-tie paths. Before he puts down the chips he typically spends some time weeding and trimming, and the paths look 1000% better afterwards.

Ted is always looking for a person or two he could call upon to give him a hand for a couple of hours. So, if you’re sometimes free during the week and would like to help, let us know. Contact Charlie Bowen, 540-7223, or send e-mail to charlie_paths@comcast.net.

(continued from page 1)

Scouts projects (continued from page 1)

ments might include landscaping with rocks that are found nearby, retaining walls, hand-crafted benches and bulletin boards, or a hand rail.

The major highlight—and what keeps the boys coming!—is the free pizza lunch at every project. Of course, other healthy foods such as donuts, coffee, and carbonated beverages are served as well.

In the upcoming months between Eagle projects, Troop 19 plans to revisit old sites and do maintenance where needed. This will serve to train younger boys for future paths and their own Eagle projects.

So the next time you’re out wandering and see a group of adolescent boys sweating over a step, stop and say hello. Heck, why not stop and give them a hand?

About BPWA

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is a volunteer group of community members who have come together to increase public awareness of the City of Berkeley’s pathways. Our activities include guided path walks, the mapping of Berkeley’s path network, the building of paths that are proposed, and the restoration of those that need maintenance. Our activities and events are listed on our web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org.

Concerned about path issues? E-mail us at info@berkeleypaths.org. BPWA is a member of Berkeley Partners for Parks, a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.

Household memberships in BPWA are $5.00 and cover one calendar year. If you can give more, please consider a donation. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings. You can join or donate on our secure web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org.

You may also send us a check, payable to BPWA. Please remit to:

BPWA
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

BPWA Membership/Donation Form  Please print clearly

Name

Address  City  Zip code

E-mail  Telephone number

I am enclosing $_______ for membership  new  renewal

I would like to donate $_______ for path building

Ted and His Truck

David Burwell
President, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, 2001

Trails

Trails not only connect us with each other, they connect us with ourselves. Landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted knew this, and designed his pathways for reverie: gentle, winding, and somehow private. Communities with no place to daydream are communities without imagination.

Focus on Volunteers

The Trusty Truck of Ted Roberts  by Charlie Bowen

Behind the scenes of all our path-building work there is the ongoing chore of getting the materials to the paths before our work parties. First we have to figure out what we need on each path. Then wood-tie steps and rebar have to be ordered, picked up, and delivered to the paths. This is heavy work; for a couple of years now we have relied on Ted Roberts and his faithful Toyota truck to make it all happen.

Ted is a volunteer extraordinaire who loves the Berkeley paths and does a huge amount of work to maintain the ones we have already built as well as to help building new ones. After he picks up the eucalyptus wood steps (which are HEAVY!) from New Life Millworks in Richmond, he takes them home, unloads them, cuts them to the lengths we need, drills 2 holes in them for the rebar, reloads them in the truck, delivers them to the path

and carries them to the area where they will be used. Every single wood-tie step you see on our new paths has Ted’s energy invested in it.

We also have a source of free wood chips in El Cerrito, and Ted and his truck periodically make a visit there and pick up a load of chips to spread on our wood-tie paths. Before he puts down the chips he typically spends some time weeding and trimming, and the paths look 1000% better afterwards.

Ted is always looking for a person or two he could call upon to give him a hand for a couple of hours. So, if you’re sometimes free during the week and would like to help, let us know. Contact Charlie Bowen, 540-7223, or send e-mail to charlie_paths@comcast.net.

(continued from page 1)
Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

Dedicated to the creation, preservation and restoration of public paths, steps and walkways in Berkeley for the use and enjoyment of all.

Contents:

- Guided Walk Schedule ........................................ 1
- Boy Scout Troop Improves the Paths ................. 1
- Meeting Announcements ...................................... 2
- Meet the Paths: Indian Rock Path ...................... 2
- Focus on Volunteers: Ted Roberts and His Truck ... 3
- BPWA Memberships and Donations ..................... 3

Berkeley Path Wanderers Association
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

www.berkeleypaths.org

Board Members

SANDY FRIEDLAND, president
WILL SCHIEBER, vice-president/editor/website
BARBARA WEST, treasurer
MARILYN SIEGEL, secretary/walks coordinator
CHARLIE BOWEN, path building
LORI KOHLSTAEDT, special events
MARY LYNCH, membership/admin.
PAUL MAHEU, Boy Scouts liaison
DALE MILLER, volunteers
EMMA MORRIS, business-sector liaison
SUSAN SCHWARTZ, publicity
JERRY WACHTEL, safety/city liaison
A Message from the BPWA President  by Sandy Friedland

Armed with shovels, mattocks, levels, and mallets, our hard-working volunteers completed three new paths in 2006. That brings to 20 the number of paths that BPWA has completed since it began in 1998. The latest additions are Bret Harte, Middle Glendale Path, and Cedar Path. Weather permitting, Poppy Path and Shasta Path will soon be finished as well.

Although our labor is donated, a typical stairway of 100 steps requires $1000 in wood and steel rebar. A survey to ensure that a new path is correctly sited on city property can cost $1,000 or more.

If we are to build more paths — about 30 remain unfinished — and continue our efforts to preserve, protect, and publicize these Berkeley treasures, we need your help.

What can you do? Most important, be sure to renew your membership for 2007, and encourage your friends and neighbors to join or renew theirs as well. We have deliberately kept our dues at only $5 to encourage people to join, and nearly 600 of you have done so. However, we have sold nearly 17,000 of our wonderful Berkeley pathways maps, so clearly all path walkers have not joined.

The more members we have, the louder our message to the city: Berkeley residents value and use the paths, and the city should support them. Membership numbers are also important when we submit grant proposals.

We hope you also will consider including Berkeley Path Wanderers Association in your annual giving. The truth is, your $5 membership fee does not cover the cost of printing and mailing of our newsletter, maintenance of our web site and supplies for our programs and guided walks. By making a donation to BPWA you will enable us to continue and to expand these activities.

Lastly, consider giving BPWA maps and note cards for gifts during the holidays or for special occasions during the year. The map (only $5.00) makes a perfect present for people who love to walk and explore Berkeley’s twists and turns as well as for out-of-town guests.

Our lovely note cards come in packs of four and cost $6.50. Each card in a set reproduces a watercolor painting of a different path by Berkeley artist Karen Kemp. They are pretty enough to frame!

For your convenience, you can order maps and notecards, join BPWA, renew your membership, or donate to BPWA on our web site: www.berkeleypaths.org. You will be supporting our efforts to maintain and improve the paths and stairways we all cherish.
I had surreal experience the other day — or, more accurately — an everyday experience that I viewed in a surrealistic way. I was driving down Addison St. when someone parking brought me to a stop in front of 24-Hour Fitness. Through the window of the gym I made eye contact with a woman huffing away on a stair stepper. How weird it was. Someone inside was “climbing” to nowhere while I was “running” errands in my car. I might just as well have been on a ten-mile drive to some fitness center, where I’d take the elevator to the 30th floor, “walk” ten miles on the treadmill, “climb” 30 stories on the stair stepper and finish with ten miles on the stationery bike. Similarly absurd examples came to mind:

• One of my relatives back east regularly drives 20 miles to walk laps in a shopping mall.
• My wife once stayed at a cliff-side hotel in Los Angeles overlooking a beach where folks were enjoying the sun and surf. When she asked how to walk to the beach, the concierge looked at her as if she wanted to take a rocket ship to Mars. The only way to get there was by car, of course.
• We’ve all spent a night in some motel on a freeway interchange with a restaurant about fifty feet away that can only be reached by car — unless you want to try a mad dash across a freeway off ramp or a quarter mile hike through a drainage ditch to some crossing spot.

Some musings on exercise:

So why not try being less reliant on labor-saving devices and exercise machines? Instead, use our paths and sidewalks to perform some of your daily chores. Schlepping home a bag of groceries from the store, your books from the library, or the bounty from your shopping spree can save you a trip to the health club and save us all some gas. Or you can take an urban hike instead of sweating indoors on a piece of equipment or two.

Which looks like more fun?

Or this...

There are approximately 130 paths in Berkeley that await you. Some — like Tamalpais Path, Easter Way, or Arden Steps — will get your heart rate up in no time. You’ll usually find me with my little black dog on Terrace Walk, The Short Cut, Mendocino Path, Indian Rock Path, Berryman Path or the streets that connect them. I guarantee if you start at the base of the Berkeley Hills and climb to the top and back, you won’t need to visit the gym.
Unless you have read the tiny print in our newsletter or on our letterhead, you might not know that Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is one of 30 local groups that comprise Berkeley Partners for Parks (BPFP). This 501(c)(3) charitable organization enables its members to operate as nonprofits and to enjoy technical and administrative benefits that few could afford on their own.

In its own way, each group is improving outdoor life in Berkeley, whether its focus is parks, creeks, paths, playgrounds, community gardens, public pools, murals, or labyrinths. Affiliates range from Pillars of our Community, a small group trying to restore the masonry pillars at Ashby and College, to large organizations like Path Wanderers and United Pool Council, which is dedicated to maintaining Berkeley's public swimming pools. Thanks to BPFP, the whole is far greater than the sum of its parts.

Organized in 1993, Berkeley Partners for Parks has been influential in promoting and sustaining new projects as well as lobbying for improvements in existing resources. BPFP also lends expertise and encouragement to citizens and City staff. This support makes it much easier for a new group of people with creative ideas, dedication, and energy — like the founders of BPWA eight years ago — to launch their organization and manage their finances. BPFP also helps its members apply for and administer grants, provides liability insurance for the affiliated groups, and files the tax returns and other paperwork the government requires for 501(c)(3) groups. In exchange, members pay a small percentage of their income to BPFP.

In 2006, with the backing of BPFP, member organizations counted many accomplishments, including these:
- Provided pedestrian and bike paths on the Santa Fe Right-of-Way.
- Kept several outdoor City pools from closing
- Restored the marsh in Aquatic Park through the "Egret Project"  
- Helped the East Bay Labyrinth Project to secure City approval for a lovely waterfront site for a permanent labyrinth

BPFP supports various community groups including the Friends of Five Creeks and the Young Artists’ Workspace. To learn more about BPFP, go to www.bpfp.org. The link to the November newsletter has updates and photos from affiliates that were active this past year.

You can lend your support to BPFP with a donation and by becoming an individual member so you will continue to hear about all its projects. To contact BPFP by mail, write to PO Box 13673, Berkeley, CA 94712.

The Berkeley Path Wanderers Association is pleased to be affiliated with Berkeley Partners for Parks, and we are grateful for all the services they offer us each year.

Household memberships in BPWA are $5.00 and cover one calendar year. If you can give more, please consider a donation. Benefits include a newsletter and other BPWA mailings. You can join or donate on our secure web site:

www.berkeleypaths.org

You may also send us a check, payable to BPWA. Please remit to:

BPWA
1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

BPWA Membership/Donation Form Please print clearly

Name

Address            City            Zip code

E-mail            Telephone number

☐ I am enclosing $_________ for membership  ☐ new  ☐ renewal

☐ I would like to donate $_________ for path building

East Bay Naturalist To Speak at Next BPWA Program
February 15, 2007

Wildlife biologist and ethnologist Jim Hale, Ph. D., will speak at our mid-winter General Meeting on Thursday, February 15. An expert on local wildlife and rare and endangered species, Jim has contributed to more than 500 Environmental Impact Reports. He has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as well as the Department of the Interior and taught biology at San Jose State and U.C. Santa Cruz.

Jim has helped restore many creeks in Northern California. When beavers appeared in the creek that flows through downtown Walnut Creek and began felling trees, Jim helped relocate the animals. His latest project is a study of mountain lions in the Bay Area. Jim is also an authority on the Native Americans of Northern California.

The program will run from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Redwood Gardens, 2951 Derby St., on the north side of the Clark Kerr Campus. Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

In conjunction with his lecture, Jim will lead our February 10th walk in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park. He will highlight wildlife along Wildcat Creek and the Native American history associated with the area. For details, see the Walks Schedule on page 1.
Berkeley Path Wanderers Association

1442A Walnut Street, #269
Berkeley, CA 94709

www.berkeleypaths.org

Contents:
Guided Walk Schedule ................................................... 1
A Message from the BPWA President ............................. 1
Some Musings on Exercise .......................................... 2
Our Parent Organization: BPFP .................................... 3
Naturalist to Speak ....................................................... 3
BPWA Memberships and Donations ............................... 3

Vine Lane

Board Members
SANDY FRIEDLAND, president
WILL SCHIEBER, vice-president/editor/web site
BARBARA WEST, treasurer
MARILYN SIEGEL, secretary/walks coordinator
CHARLIE BOWEN, path building
LORI KOHLSTAEDT, special events
MARY LYNCH, membership/admin.
PAUL MAHEU, Boy Scouts liaison
DALE MILLER, volunteers
EMMA MORRIS, business-sector liaison
SUSAN SCHWARTZ, publicity
JERRY WACHTEL, safety/city liaison

ANNE HENNY*
COLEEN NEFF*
KEITH SKINNER*

* New Board Member, 2007