

## Martin-Fontana Parks Association



6081 Meridian Avenue, Suite 70 #246, San Jose, CA 95120

### from the President.....

Spring is here! What a wonderful time to visit the Parks. This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to our big Spring Event "Heart of The Park" and the dedication of our long awaited "Five Islands Project". Also, at our Annual Meeting in February we elected a new slate of officers for 2018, honored three of our Board for outstanding service, and welcomed two new board members, Rosy Bowring and Michelle Judd.

Our Five Islands Project was a year in the making and an effort that involved a lot of people. Pat Pizzo was our project manager. Pat conceived the idea of the project and it was adopted by the Board of Directors as its number one priority for 2017. The Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services Department of San Jose became a partner in this project and contributed time, resources, and dollars to support our own efforts in these areas. Each of the Five Islands had a sponsor, which brought the project to life through their financial support and some hands-on planting as well. Within this issue we have highlighted our five sponsors and we welcome them as our chief contributors to the success of the project. A description in Pat's own words of the history and progress of the project are contained in the pages that follow.

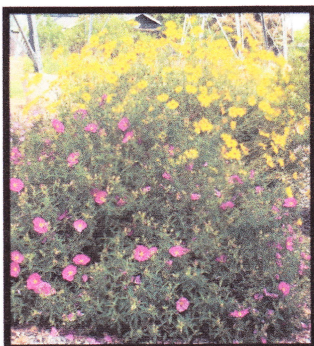
A decision was made early last year to move our annual event "Heart of The Park" to May so all of you could see the native plants in bloom on the "Five Islands". A Five Islands Dedication Ceremony, Dog Parade, Meet the Artists that will paint the cement blocks in the parks this year, a raffle, a police officer showing his police dog, various booths that are very informative and interesting, all this and so much more on May 19th. Our program for the day is also contained in this issue.

This year the Board has earmarked three major projects to work on: Restoring a section of grass gopher-free to be called the Haywood Patch, named after a major donor, providing a paved path around the Five Islands, and restoring the fence along Meridian leading into TJ Martin Park. All these projects plus keeping up with the ongoing care of the park on a daily basis will be a very full agenda.

I would like to invite all our members to join with us in taking this journey to make our parks great again. I look forward to seeing all of you at Heart of the Park on May 19 at 1PM!

*Rod Carpenter*

Meet our two new board members!



Rosy Bowring



Michelle Judd



## A Little Bit About the Five Islands

by Patrick Pizzo

The concept of the Five Island Project was born about six years ago. We wanted to create islands or berms much like the ones that we first introduced into Jeffrey Fontana Park as an alternative landscape feature to tall trees which have an impact on the safe delivery of power transmission by PG&E. Since our two parks, TJ Martin and Jeffrey Fontana are contiguous along the PG&E power transmission easement in south San Jose, our contribution toward potential loss of trees was to develop native plant and shrub alternatives.

Near this island is an open area between heritage oak trees, *Q. agrifolia*. Our vision was to have a network of islands/berms in this area, which is about 120 feet by 120 feet. Neighbors wanted to have an alternative to weeds and summer dust storms and we envisioned five CA native plant islands here.

Part of the reason for the passage of time was due to the drought. The City policy became 'no new plantings'. Then a couple of years ago, with MFPA postured financially to support a major project, the idea came to the forefront and I was asked to implement the proposed project. During the four years leading up to this we had been in multiple conversations with our Parks Department in San Jose about the Five Island Project. About a year ago, we broke ground.

The elongated islands are about 35 by 15 feet and of elliptical shape. The spine is about 2 feet high, tapered to ground level, providing good drainage. The native soil was removed or 'dished'; and this native dirt (sand and adobe) was mixed with 'garden soil' from Evergreen Supply in San Jose. It is the lowest grade of organic soil on the market. The combined soils were used to create the islands/berms. Each island has been sponsored to raise money to implement this project. We have five sponsors: East Bay Wilds, DGDG.COM, Almaden Valley Nursery, PG&E, and the past presidents of our organization: MFPA (Martin-Fontana Parks Association).

After forming the islands, plants were planted. Each sponsor selected plants and designed their own gardens. Directly after planting, drip-irrigation was installed. We are using Techline drip line with pressure-opened emitters: 1 gallon per hour per emitter. The emitters are spaced 18 inches apart. I designed the irrigation system and would be happy to share details with you. Currently, due to low rain (nothing Jan and Feb), we irrigate every 8 days for half an hour and this is working out fine. We have a variety of water-need plants on the island, by design, so it will be a challenge to fine-tune any summer watering. The islands were planted from mid-January through the end of February, which worked out great as you recall the beautiful weather (minus rain). The plants seem very happy with their new homes.

Thanks to our Martin-Fontana Parks Association members Larry Sasscer, Lee Pauser, Rod Carpenter, Vince Piazzisi, Sunny Wagstaff, Richard Grialou, Pat Pizzo, PRNS District 1 Manager, Dan Greeley and our Fontana West Park maintenance person, Mark Conklin, for all their hard work and expertise.



L to R: Rich Grialou, Pat Pizzo, David Poeschel, Lee Pauser, Vince Piazzisi, and Sunny Wagstaff



## SPONSORS OF THE FIVE ISLANDS PROJECT

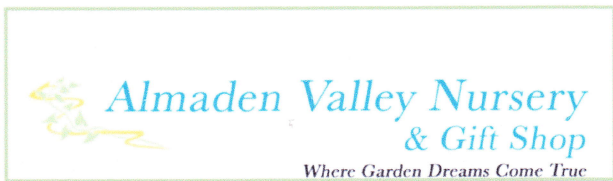


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Pier Maggiani	2010 - 2011
Dick Stevens	2010 - 2011
Linda Wilson	2011 - 2017
Rod Carpenter	2017 - 2019

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L to R: Richard Zahner (Treasurer), Rich Grialou (Secretary), Mike Kalashian (At Large Member), Linda Wilson (Past President), Robert Braunstein (Vice President), Rod Carpenter (President), Pat Wagstaff (At Large Member), Rosy Bowring (At Large Member), Linda Opp (At Large Member), Michelle Judd (At Large Member).

At the annual meeting in February, Rod Carpenter recognized three people for their outstanding service on the MFPA Board: Pat Wagstaff, Sunny Wagstaff, and Mike Kalashian.



## Current Sponsors of MFPA

A special thank you to our sponsors for their financial support and for making it possible for many of our projects to become a reality.

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