This Mare Faire, we dedicate our celebration to our glorious fields of Fennel and forests of native and non-native trees that call Mare Island home, some for as many as 175 years or more.

I invite you to forget for one weekend, things weighing heavily on your heart... and, concerns about the future of this sacred Preserve space we’ve shared together for 12 years this weekend, due to what I think is just a garbled misunderstanding of the purpose for the Preserve that we’ve already established together.

Imagine, as I really believe, that all can be healed, corrected and collected together in magnificent renewal. Nothing I know of, demonstrates that capacity like fennel. Since coming here to volunteer manage this special land, I have grown to hold a healthy respect for fennel.

This time of year, its effervescent yellow and explosive sweet licorice flavor combine in our own unique summertime signature landscape. It’s tenacity is remarkable. Its gentle fronds and tender green stalks team with wildlife, red-winged blackbirds and lesser gold finches, just now. Domestic bees and native bees and wasps, the tiniest insects that bring us life, sustenance and joy, are busy feeding from its blossoms. The aroma of our fennel forests beckons us to the shores of the Mediterranean sea from which “she” is a “non-native alien invasive species” so readily naturalized in our combo of sunny and foggy northern California.

This year is a “Tree Hugger” Fest, too. We’ll go on guided walks and tours throughout our special original and planted forests. Seek shade, seek peace and seek a deeper understanding of this treasured wild place.

Want to tent camp at Sleepover Under the Stars in the fennel-filled field near the visitor center? Take 20% off with the code: MareIsland20. Reserve at Hipcamp.com Call/text Myrna Hayes 707-249-9633.
Twelve years ago this weekend, in August 2007, we opened the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve and its Naval Cemetery to the public for the very first time in 150 years. What an exciting moment in history!

It was 150 years since French stonemason John Gomo had built the black powder storage magazine called Building 1 and quite likely carved the glorious frontis stone that adorns the warmly glowing sandstone structure nestled into the hillside near the mouth of the Napa River/Mare Island Strait. We are thrilled to once again, allow you to visit the “Historic Southshore” where this building and its sisters and brothers are located. Join our guides and a Navy escort Fri, Aug 9th or Sat, Aug 10th 10:00am-11:30am to walk to this historic spot. Sorry, the Navy, asks that we not bring our doggies.

In 1858, the U.S. Navy officially designated the lovely old-timey California cemetery within our Preserve, as a military cemetery, making it the oldest Naval Cemetery in the Pacific. With its collection of ancient “non-native” trees, it is a sacred place of peace for those who rest here eternally and those who come to pay their respects. Many of these trees are threatened. Come on hikes and tours led by volunteer Preserve Manager Myrna Hayes to learn more about the life of these and nearby native trees. Take one of Cemetery Docent Kyle Green’s history tours, Sat, Aug 10th. Meet him at the cemetery at 12noon or 1:00pm.
Schedule of Events, Mare Faire Info.
Friday, August 9

8:00am-8:00pm Self-guided walk
San Pablo Bay Wetlands Trail: see description next page

10:00am-11:30am Hike the Historic Southshore with Preserve Naturalist, Brian Collett and Birding Guide, Michele Troughton. This is a rare opportunity to visit an area slated to become part of our Preserve, but off-limits except through our City of Vallejo permitted hikes with Navy escort. Don’t miss out! Please people, please, NO dogs are allowed on this trek. Repeats Sat, Aug 10 also at 10am. see description next page

10:00am-2:00pm Visit Mare Island Museum
Located at Railroad Ave. @ 8th St. $5 per person. Repeats Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm.

10:00am-9:00pm Self-guided walk
Scenic Vista Trail Mare Island Preserve
167 O’Hara Ct. @ Azure Dr. Mare Island
Starts at the cones and donation barrel.
Remember, this is your park, funded and enjoyed by you and free for all.

5:30pm-7:30pm Wine and Walk in the Preserve to the Rowser Garden
Join Myrna Hayes, volunteer Preserve manager and co-founder, for a walk to the Rowser Garden. Along the way, let’s keep a lookout for our osprey fledglings many still in the skies and trees above in our Preserve neighborhood. We’ll stop at the air raid shelter for a historic story reminding of it’s purpose. Meet at the Visitors Center for the 20 min walk followed by a gathering with cheese, bread and wine. You can also bring contributions of food and wine, and even music to share. We’ll set the table!

Join volunteer Preserve Manager Myrna Hayes for a Friday evening “wine and walk” 5:30pm-7:30pm to the Rowser Garden, one of our all-time favorite spots in the Preserve. see description above

WE ARE AN ALL VOLUNTEER, DONATION-BASED PARK. WE RECEIVE NO FUNDS FROM THE CITY OF VALLEJO. YOUR DONATIONS TO MARE ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST AND VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION OF TIME AND SKILLS RUN THIS PARK!

707-249-9633 text/phone visit and like the Preserve on Facebook

NO BETTER TIME TO THANK ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR MAKING THE PRESERVE A PARKLAND!

VOLUNTEER BARBARA MORRIS CREATING A WWI DISPLAY OF FAMILY TREASURES

REMEMBER THE PORT CHICAGO MUTINY (WORK STOPPAGE)
75TH ANNIVERSARY AUGUST 9, 1944

OSPREY MARE ISLAND

The Mare Faire is Hosted by the Mare Island Heritage Trust
Saturday, August 10

8:00am-8:00pm  Self-guided walk San Pablo Bay Wetlands Trail: see description →

9:30am – 3:30pm  Come Aboard USS LCS 102 WWII Landing Craft Support Gunboat
Location: Berth 6, A St @ Nimitz Ave. Mare Island
Mare Island is home to the last of its kind of the 130 boats built for this purpose during WWII. Tours are free, donations appreciated.

10:00am-11:30am  Walk the Historic Southshore with Preserve Guide Gordon McMahon “ospreyholic” Diane Rooney and volunteer Preserve Manager, Myrna Hayes. This is a rare opportunity to visit an area slated to become part of our Preserve, but off-limits except through our permitted hikes with Navy escort. Don’t miss out! Please people, please, NO dogs are allowed on this trek. Repeats Friday, Aug 9. see description →

10:00am-4:00pm Visit Mare Island Museum
Located at Railroad Ave. @ 8th St. $5 per person. Closed Sunday, so be sure to visit Fri and Sat. Repeats Friday 10:00am-2:00pm

10:00am-9:00pm  Self-guided walk Scenic Vista Trail Mare Island Preserve
Located at 167 O’Hara Ct. @ Azuar Dr. Starts at the cones and donation barrel. Remember, this is your park. The owner agency does not fund us. We count on you!

12noon-12:45pm  Join Cemetery Docent Kyle Green for a tour of the Naval Cemetery
Meet at the Cemetery, a short 5-minute walk from the visitor center. Visit the U.S. Navy’s oldest cemetery in the Pacific, on your own self-guided tour any time the Preserve is open and also by appointment. Call/text Myrna Hayes at 707-249-9633.

12noon-2:00pm  It’s Lunchtime!
Fennel pollen harvested on the Preserve and pollen blends season the cheeses and fresh salads offered for lunch at the visitors center. Available to take on the trail for a picnic along the trail or enjoy on the Building A-167 dock at our visitor center.

Saturday Afternoon and Evening schedule is continued next page ↓

Friday and Saturday evenings, Aug 9 and Aug 10. Visit Hipcamp.com to reserve a tent camp site at “Sleep Over Under the Stars” in the field next to the visitor center. 20% off discount code: MareIsland20.
Bring your tent and camping gear. Share our communal cook area.
Questions? text/call Myrna 707-249-9633

Cemetery Tours
12noon-12:45pm and 1:00pm-1:45pm Sat Aug 10 join Cemetery Docent Kyle Green for a tour of the Naval Cemetery
Meet at the Cemetery, a very short 5-minute walk from the visitor center on our paved main Scenic Vista Trail.
Visit the U.S. Navy’s oldest cemetery in the Pacific, on your own self-guided tour any time the Preserve is open and also by appointment. Call/text Myrna Hayes at 707-249-9633.

Guided Hikes in the Preserve
All walks start at the visitors center, 167 O’Hara Ct.@ Azuar Dr. Mare Island.
10:00am-11:30am Friday and Saturday. The Historic Southshore is a future addition to the Mare Island Preserve. see description ↑
4:30pm-5:30pm Sat and 4-5pm Sun Preserve Trees (slide show 4pm Sat & 3:30pm Sun) followed by a “Tree Hugger” talk and walk/exploration of our forests.
5:30pm-7:30pm Fri Guided Walk and Wine to the Rowser Garden with volunteer Preserve manager, Myrna Hayes
7:30pm-8:30pm Saturday, Self-guided Sunset walk to the Mare Island Hill
Saturday, August 10, cont’d.

12noon-8:00pm Vino Godfather Winery Mansion Tasting Room
Tasting room and food truck. Likely live music 2-5pm. $15-$20 per person. Location: 500 Walnut Ave. on Mare Island’s historic Captain’s Row. Two miles north of the Preserve entrance, return to traffic circle, veer right towards Chapel onto Walnut Ave. to Kansas St.

1:00pm-1:45pm Join Cemetery Docent Kyle Green for a tour of the Naval Cemetery
Meet at the Cemetery, a very short 5-minute walk on our paved main trail from the visitor center. Repeats Saturday at 12noon

1:30pm-2:30pm Make fruit liqueurs of the Preserve, blackberry rumpot and fennel fruit brandy
Bring medium value brandy and/or dark rum. Plan to pick blackberries at the Preserve or wherever you know of some if making rumpot. Gather with Myrna Hayes, volunteer Preserve Manager at the visitor center. We’ll provide 12 oz jars. If you want to make more, bring larger jars and of course more alcohol.

4:00-4:30pm and 4:30-5:30pm Trees of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery and Preserve slide show and hike
Join volunteer Preserve Manager Myrna Hayes at the visitor center for the slide show followed by a 1-mile roundtrip hike. Location: 167 O’Hara Ct @ Azuar Dr.
Repeats Sun, 3:30pm: see description ↓

6:30pm-9:30pm, Evening gathering at the visitor center. Bring snacks, potluck item, drinks. Play music, sing. We have a keyboard and two guitars, as well as a stage. Bring your favorite board game! Mosquito free at the visitor center, 167 O’Hara Ct @ Azuar Dr.

7:30pm-8:30pm Self-guided sunset walk
There’s no better experience of the Mare Island Preserve, than sunset at the Mare Island Hilltop or even on the “western bench” at the bunkers below the Hilltop. We recommend mosquito spray.

HANDS-ON LEARNING
Easy to make fruit liqueurs from the Preserve... bring either a medium grade brandy or dark rum or both to make blackberry rumpot and fennel fruit brandy. Gather Saturday afternoon 1:30pm-2:30pm at the visitor center.

Pick blackberries on your own either at the Preserve or your favorite location. If you have never picked blackberries, you have missed out on one of summer’s most memorable experiences. We provide 12 oz jars. Want more, bring bigger jars.

SLIDE SHOWS & HISTORY TOURS
2:00pm (slide show) and 3:30pm (tour) Sun, Aug 11, ONLY. History of the Mare Island Naval Hospital by Dr. Tom Snyder, Captain, Medical Corps, USN, (ret.), Co-Founder, of The Society for the History of Navy Medicine; 3:30pm join a guided tour of the hospital grounds complex, now the Touro University campus following the slide presentation. Meet at the Touro University Library, 1545 Azuar Dr. for the tour. You must show ID to the University security service.

MORE SLIDE SHOWS
4:00-4:30pm (slide show) & 4:30-5:30 (hike) Saturday afternoon and 3:30-4:00pm (slide show) & 4:00-5:00pm (hike) Sunday learn about some of the native and non-native historic and newly planted trees in the Preserve in a slide show given by volunteer Preserve Manager Myrna Hayes. A one-mile roundtrip Trees of the Preserve hike will follow. Slide show given at the visitor center. The walk leaves from the visitor center. Location: 167 O’Hara Ct @ Azuar Dr.
Sunday, August 11

8:00am-8:00pm Self-guided walk
San Pablo Bay Wetlands Trail: see Saturday morning page for description ↑

10:00am-9:00pm Self-guided walk
Scenic Vista Trail, Mare Island Preserve: 167 O’Hara Ct. @ Azuar Dr.

12:30pm-1:30pm “All things Osprey” with “Ospreyholic” Diane Rooney
Diane offers a lunchtime presentation at the Mare Island Preserve visitors center. Diane has been studying ospreys and visiting osprey nest sites for 7 years. She will present a birder’s overview of osprey life from Maine to California and beyond. Diane attended the Raptor Rapture seminars at Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine in 2014 and 2015 and in August will start her 5th season as a hawk watcher at Golden Gate Raptor Observatory in Marin County. Presentation at the Preserve visitor center. 167 O’Hara Ct. @ Azuar Dr.

2:00pm-3:00pm Mare Island Hospital History slide presentation by Dr. Tom Snyder, The Society for the History of Navy Medicine. This slide show is followed at 3:30pm by a guided tour of the Naval Hospital grounds, now the Touro University campus: see description and directions to tour meet up on the this page ↑

3:30pm-4:30pm Guided tour of former Mare Island Hospital complex grounds with Dr. Tom Snyder. see description and directions ↑

3:30-4:00pm and 4:00pm-5:00pm Trees of the Mare Island Naval Cemetery and Preserve slide show and hike Join volunteer Preserve Manager Myrna Hayes at the visitor center. for the slide show followed by a 1-mile roundtrip hike. Location: 167 O’Hara Ct @ Azuar Dr. Repeats Sat, 4:00pm and 4:30pm: see description page above ↑

OSPREY SLIDE SHOW
12:30pm-1:30pm Sun, Aug 11 “All things Osprey” with “Ospreyholic” Diane Rooney
Diane offers a lunchtime presentation at the Mare Island Preserve visitors center. Diane has studied ospreys and visiting osprey nest sites for 7 years. She will present a birder’s overview of osprey life from Maine to California and beyond. Diane attended the Raptor Rapture seminars at Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine in 2014 and 2015 and in August will start her 5th season as a hawk watcher at Golden Gate Raptor Observatory in Marin County. She will also help guide the Sat, Aug 10, 10:00am hike to the Historic Southshore.

EVENING GATHERING
6:30pm-9:30pm, Evening at the visitor center. Bring your own food and drink. Join us for a lovely evening together hanging out at the visitor center. We have a keyboard and two guitars, a stage. Let’s make music, sing, bring table games....

Location: 167 O’Hara Ct. @ Azuar Dr.

SATURDAY FENNEL POLLEN THEMED LUNCHEON
12noon-2:00pm Saturday: Fennel pollen themed cheese and salad lunch bar at the visitor center. Enjoy with friends on the trail, at our favorite “sit spots” or at the visitor center.