FEATURED ARTICLES:

• STUDYING THE POST-FIRE LANDSCAPE
• AWAKENING A SENSE OF WONDER

EVENT LISTING ENCLOSED
Dear Friends,

We are watching with awe and reverence as our 3,200 acre preserve rebounds from the 2017 Wine Country wildfires. Thanks to you, Pepperwood staff, volunteers, and partner researchers are carefully documenting how the plant and animal life of Pepperwood are recovering, creating a unique and critical dataset. We are truly grateful for your dedication and support through the challenges presented by the fire, and are pleased to share that as a result of your generosity, our community will have science-based tools to help increase our resilience to future wildfires.

We are constantly reminded that we are part of an incredible and diverse community. To share just a few examples, passionate volunteers such as Pepperwood Stewards Wendy Herniman and Eleanor Guerin, together with our phenology project crew, resurrected a critical study six years in the making from the charred landscape. Prahlad Papper, who started the phenology project as a Santa Rosa Junior College intern in 2012, is returning this fall to teach a class on oaks at Pepperwood. Long-time supporters Bill and Pat Gittins chose to donate proceeds from the sales of Bill’s art to Pepperwood despite losing their own home in the fire. And every day the voices of youth, from summer campers to teenage interns, provide inspiration and hope for the future.

Thank you for joining us on this journey as we work together to advance the health of Northern California’s land, water and wildlife.

Sincerely,

Lisa Micheli, PhD
President & CEO

Top: Lupine bloom this spring near Pepperwood’s Double Ponds
photo by Gerald & Buff Corsi, Focus on Nature, Inc.
Demonstrate your love for Northern California

Pepperwood membership is a great way to show your commitment to conservation and the environment! Members are the foundation for our work on behalf of nature, and membership allows you to become part of a dynamic, environmentally-focused community. Our membership program strives to give you what you love best—opportunities to learn more about the natural world and be out in nature.

2018 MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

$50 Individual (one adult)
$85 Couple (two adults)
$110 Family (two adults + children)
$35 Senior (aged 63+)
$25 Student (valid ID required)

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

Do you know someone who would enjoy being a Pepperwood member? Give them the gift of membership today!

Exclusive hikes • You’ll be treated to at least one members-only hiking excursion each quarter to remote and pristine areas of Pepperwood not typically accessible to the public. Our staff members and stewards will enrich your experience through their wealth of natural history knowledge.

Behind the scenes • Get in depth with two special events each year; ranging from updates with our President & CEO to intimate get-togethers with scientists discussing today’s most important conservation issues.

Discounts and early registration • Pepperwood members receive early registration on all classes and a discount of at least $5 on those with a fee. As more and more classes sell out, early registration is becoming more valuable!

Last, but definitely not least • With Pepperwood membership, you become part of a strong foundation working to secure a thriving natural world.

Already a member? Not a member but want to help the natural world?

Every dollar you donate beyond your membership level will go directly toward advancing the health of Northern California’s land, water and wildlife. Become a member or make a donation to support post-fire research by using the enclosed donation envelope. You can also donate online at www.pepperwoodpreserve.org.

LEGACY GIVING PROGRAM

Make a long-term investment in Northern California’s future by considering Pepperwood in your estate planning—contact us for details at (707) 591-9310 or donate@pepperwoodpreserve.org
Citizen scientists help restore phenology study

For over six years, a team of Pepperwood volunteers have been carefully monitoring more than two dozen individual plants along a transect near the Dwight Center. Was each plant budding? Flowering or seeding? They were observing indicators of plant phenology, the study of life cycles. The Tubbs Fire consumed nearly all of the monitored plants, yet there were no protocols for monitoring phenology in a post-fire landscape. Thankfully, our indomitable volunteers were so passionate and determined to document the recovery that they stepped up to play leadership roles in restoring the transect. Talk about citizen science in action! Pepperwood Stewards Wendy Herniman and Eleanor Guerin now serve as the lead coordinators and are thrilled that the project will continue.

We were able to identify the remains of most of our original plants and have been astounded at their ability to rise from the ashes. Michelle Halbur, Preserve Ecologist, adapted our project protocol. The team has been diligently counting and measuring new shoots from charred stumps... documenting the gradual restoration of chaparral and woodland ecosystems.

- Wendy Herniman, Pepperwood Steward

Phenology is especially important in the context of climate change, since shifts in plant life cycle timing such as earlier flowering can impact the activity of pollinators, leading to potentially dire consequences for the ecosystem. We will be presenting our findings and protocol recommendations to the National Phenology Network so that others affected by fire can monitor impacts on phenology and food sources. Thanks to this passionate group of volunteers, researchers will have access to important post-fire phenology data!
Searching for rarities that rise from the ash

Open the metal cabinet doors lining the walls of Pepperwood’s Stephen J. Barnhart Herbarium and you’ll find a decades-long natural history project in progress. Pressed plant samples carefully collected, preserved, and documented by researchers and volunteers over the years tell the tale of what has grown on the preserve, affording the scientists of today and tomorrow an invaluable snapshot into what makes up the Pepperwood ecosystem and how it may be changing over time. In the wake of the Tubbs Fire, we wanted expert help to scout for plants expected to rise up for the first time since the Hanly Fire swept through in 1964. These “fire followers” are plants whose seeds stay buried in the ground, often for decades, until heat or smoke stimulates germination. We recruited Greg de Nevers, who served as Pepperwood’s first resident biologist for the California Academy of Sciences in the 1980’s and 1990’s. During his time on the preserve, Greg amassed a comprehensive set of plant samples and founded our Herbarium collection. He had studied the role of the Hanly fire in shaping the landscape, so Greg was drawn to the opportunity to experience the effects of the Tubbs Fire first-hand.

Seeing the actual fire followers, rather than speaking in generalities about dormant seeds germinating, is incredibly inspiring... feeling the resurgence of life from the ashes inspires confidence in the resilience of the biosphere.

- Greg de Nevers, Botanist and Educator

Roving Pepperwood over three weeks, Greg recorded many observations and identified seven fire follower species previously unrecorded prior to the fire—now immortalized as important natural history data in our Herbarium.

New blog articles at www.pepperwoodpreserve.org:
• Conservation Science Manager Dr. T osha Comendant on fire followers
• Pepperwood Steward Wendy Herniman on post-fire phenology
YOU AWAKEN A SENSE OF WONDER

Budding Biologists summer camp inspires the next generation

Do you remember the first moment you fell in love with nature? Maybe you can trace it back to your childhood—a family camping trip, swimming in a lake on a hot summer day, or spending hours surrounded by nature at a summer camp. At Pepperwood, one of our most immersive youth nature experiences is Budding Biologists summer camp, held each June. This year 20 young campers explored the natural world through art, science, music, and play. Each day brought a new discovery and a chance to learn local bird songs, identify mammal tracks and signs, catch a frog at Turtle Pond, or create a fairy house in our Redwood Canyon. Research shows this kind of experience can spark a life-long conservation ethic and a yearning to discover more about the natural world.

One of the most heartwarming parts about summer camp is witnessing a child having a breakthrough moment, like realizing that hiking outside is something they enjoy doing, and watching them experience the essence of childhood curiosity, playfulness, and joy. It’s a great reminder of why we offer these opportunities to connect young children with the land, and to establish a love and respect for the outdoors.

- Margaret Boeger, Education Director

Thanks to you, hundreds of students of all ages have the opportunity to explore nature and science at Pepperwood. Students Conducting Environmental Inquiry (SCENIQ), serves 800 elementary school students each year with field trips to our preserve and classroom visits by our educators. TeenNat, an immersive five-week summer internship, empowers two dozen teens to conduct real research and explore science careers. And hands-on internships provide Santa Rosa Junior College students with resume-boosting field experience.
A vibrant career path shaped by Pepperwood experience

On October 6, roughly eight years after stepping foot on the preserve for the first time as a Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) student, Prahlad Papper will teach *The Oaks of Pepperwood*, a community education class exploring the evolution and ecology of these majestic trees. His teaching partner is Steve Barnhart, Pepperwood’s Academic Director emeritus and a national expert on oaks who has mentored Prahlad throughout his years at SRJC and beyond. After completing the SRJC’s two-semester *Natural History of Pepperwood* course, which introduced him to the preserve, Prahlad became our first Barnhart Herbarium Intern in 2012 and established Pepperwood’s plant phenology monitoring project (see opposite article for how this project was impacted by the fires). Now, Prahlad is working on his PhD dissertation at UC Berkeley under Dr. David Ackerly, an opportunity that emerged after he volunteered in surveys of the Ackerly Lab’s 50 forest monitoring plots at Pepperwood. Prahlad’s doctoral research focuses on hybridization of California white oaks, which were introduced to him during his coursework with Steve. We’re proud of how far Prahlad’s dedication and passion have taken him!

*The thing about natural history is that you’re sort of perpetually a novice. Each new plant you see and every day you spend in the field is something brand new—taking in that uniqueness as well as the patterns that repeat is the naturalist’s goal.*

- Prahlad Papper, UC Berkeley doctoral student

Thank you to Prahlad for inspiring us and advancing important research at Pepperwood—and thank you to Pepperwood supporters for creating career-boosting opportunities that helped him along the way!

New blog articles at www.pepperwoodpreserve.org:

- Prahlad Papper on his journey through Pepperwood and beyond
- Education Director Margaret Boeger on the magic of summer camp
Deepen your connection to the natural world

There is no charge to attend the events listed here unless otherwise indicated. Donations are greatly appreciated! All classes require registration except for those marked with an asterisk (*). To view complete offerings including descriptions and registration details please visit our website.

AUGUST

25 | Geology of the Mayacamas .......... w/ Rebecca Perlroth, 9am-3pm, $30

SEPTEMBER

8 | Volunteer Workday
9am-12pm, lunch provided after

8 | Public Hike
9am-1pm, reservations required

14 | DISCOVER NATURE
The Wild Wonders of California
w/ Beth Pratt-Bergstrom, 7pm lecture *

15 & 16 | WOMEN’S RETREAT
Art and Nature Immersion
11am-12pm (next day), $150

29 | Butterflies of Pepperwood
w/ Liam O’Brien, 9am-3pm, $30

30 | Landscape Painting .................... w/ Marsha Connell, 9am-3pm, $45

REGISTER TODAY AT
www.pepperwoodpreserve.org

Explore the Pepperwood landscape as SRJC instructor Rebecca Perlroth explains how it has been forged by geologic forces over millions of years.

Learn how to investigate the spirit of place and evoke the mood of the inner landscape with artist and SRJC instructor Marsha Connell as you paint in the open air at Pepperwood.
OCTOBER

5 | DISCOVER NATURE
Nature’s Recovery at Pepperwood
w/ Michelle Halbur, 7pm lecture *

6 | Volunteer Workday
9am-12pm, lunch provided after

6 | The Oaks of Pepperwood
w/ Steve Barnhart and Prahlad Papper, 9am-3pm, $30

13 | Public Hike
9am-1pm, reservations required

13 | Edible and Medicinal Plants
w/ Autumn Summers, 9am-3pm, $50

27 | Intermediate Birding
w/ Nicole Barden, 8am-1pm, $30

NOVEMBER

2 | DISCOVER NATURE
Deep Environmental Consciousness
w/ Ben Benson, 7pm lecture *

3 | Volunteer Workday
9am-12pm, lunch provided after

10 | Public Hike
9am-1pm, reservations required

DECEMBER

1 | Volunteer Workday
10am-1pm, lunch provided after

1 | Holiday Wreath Making
w/ Heather Jennings, two times:
10am-12pm OR 1pm-3pm, $25

Please check our website for the latest information on classes and updates about Pepperwood programs
BRINGING SCIENCE TO LIFE
Pepperwood is a leader in forging solutions to advance the health of Northern California’s land, water and wildlife. We use our 3,200 acre preserve as a living laboratory to engage nature lovers, volunteers, students, and scientists in applied conservation. Pepperwood serves as a field site for cutting-edge conservation science, provides comprehensive environmental education for adults and youth, and hosts an innovative citizen science initiative. Learn more at our website: www.pepperwoodpreserve.org