

# The COTTLE ALMANAC

Martial Cottle Park Newsletter

## Fellow Farmers, Family Friends: Japanese tenant farmers on the Cottle Ranch

*By Carolyn Schimandle, Parks Program Coordinator*

The Cottles leased land to Japanese American tenant farmers from possibly as early as 1910 until the Japanese internment in 1942. The Japanese tenant farmers on **Cottle Ranch** grew strawberries, tomatoes, sugar beets, peas, and carrot and onion seed.

Tenant farming was a common practice for California's Japanese farmers in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Prejudice against Asians led to the **California Alien Land Law of 1913**. It prohibited Japanese and other Asians "ineligible for citizenship" from owning land or leasing it long term. Since non-whites were banned from naturalization until 1952, this included all Asians not born in the United States. Non-native Japanese Americans had to

lease or buy land in a citizen's name (often one of their children), or have some other under-the-table arrangement. American-born Japanese Americans faced discrimination in other areas. But Japanese were an important part of Santa Clara Valley agricultural production, and were very respected as farmers. Most specialized in row crops that required intensive hand labor. Every member of the family pitched in, including small children.

We know the names of three Japanese families who farmed on the ranch – **Yamakawa, Nakao, and Hirata** – and there may have been others. We know little about the



*The Nakaos at Heart Mountain internment camp. From an Easter card sent to Walter Lester in 1943.*

Yamakawas. George Nakao was the last Japanese farmer to lease **Cottle Ranch** land, beginning sometime in the early 1930s. The Nakaos lived on another parcel of Cottle property. Mr. Nakao hired his brother-in-law, Yoshinori Hirata, in about 1935. The Hiras moved into a small house on Cottle Ranch. Both families had to leave when the Japanese were forcibly removed during World War II, though

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COUNTY SUPERVISOR  
**Mike Wasserman**  
DISTRICT 1



## From my tractor seat

By Eric Goodrich

Welcome to **Martial Cottle Park!** In May, we will celebrate the two-year anniversary of our journey from the Cottle/Lester families' 150 year-old working ranch to an operational agricultural park whose primary objective, in Walter Cottle Lester's own words, is to "Inform and educate the public about the agricultural history of the Santa Clara Valley."

We're accomplishing Mr. Lester's wish with our park facilities, community partners, special events, and educational programs. Our neighboring community has been very supportive with visitation rising each month, and our staff provides a clean, safe park experience with excellent customer service. We have a thriving volunteer program and a variety of public programs, with community partners adding facilities and

programs this year (see pages 10-16).

In May, our **Visitor Center** will be open seven days a week, staffed by our docents, and in the fall, we are looking forward to offering education programs for second and third graders, in partnership with neighborhood schools.

As the calendar turns to spring – a time for planting, rebirth, and growth – we invite you to join us in celebrating agriculture in Santa Clara Valley with our first annual ***A Taste of the Valley of Heart's Delight: Spring Celebration at Martial Cottle Park.*** Mark your calendars for **May 6, 2017**, because as with our fall **Harvest Festival**, this is going to be a "must" to attend!

Our park attendance is increasing as more people learn about the park. Our volunteer team, led by docents in the **Visitor Center** and the **Park Land Steward** crew, are bringing more visitors, too. **Martial Cottle Park** has more than 55 active volunteers, many from our neighboring community, who are enhancing our visitor experience, customer service,

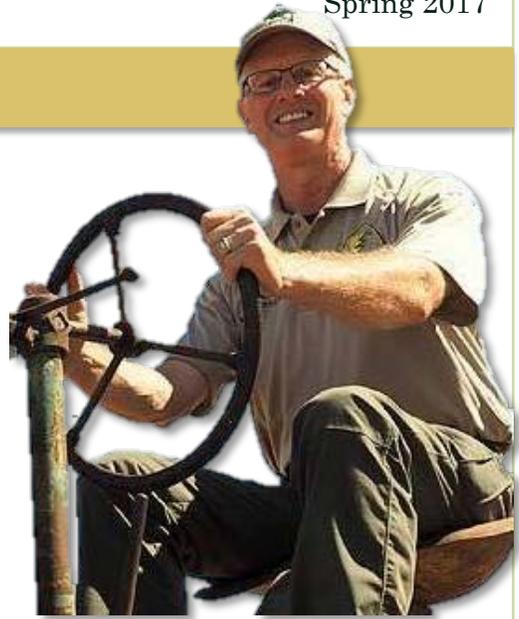


Photo by Ron Horii

and park beautification! We know this team will continue to grow in 2017 so, if you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at **(408) 535-4060**.

I encourage you to visit us often, watch us grow, and be part of the **Martial Cottle Park** experience. Whether you are going for a walk; enjoying the sunsets; having a picnic; taking a class; or visiting our partners, the **Visitor Center**, or the **Farm Stand**, your involvement in **Martial Cottle Park** is vital to the success of our mission. We have many fun and exciting plans for 2017 and look forward to seeing all of you at **Martial Cottle Park**.

For more info about **Martial Cottle Park**, visit our website:

[www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org)

**New!**

**Visitor Center  
Hours**

**Starting in May  
2017**

**7 days a week  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00**

## The Big Yellow Truck

*By Dave Zittlow*

Whether raising beef for market or dairy cows for milk, a rancher's primary duty is to get the cattle fed and watered. There are many ways to get forage to cattle and some of these methods have changed little over the past fifty years. While the Cottles did have a dairy operation for about fifteen years in the late 1800s, they finished beef cattle on their ranch for more than 50 years. Ideally, beef cattle can be turned loose onto open rangeland. However, much of the **Cottle Ranch** was too valuable for grazing purposes and was instead used for raising wheat and row crops (primarily vegetables).

There was a portion of the ranch with poorer crop production that was utilized for pasturage, located west of "two trees," a reference point the Cottle family used to distinguish between areas of the ranch with different soil qualities. The "two trees" are Valley Oaks and still stand today, located along the **Valley Oak Crossing** trail between agricultural fields A and B. Interestingly, the Cottles' experience with poorer yields in what is today known as Field B (and thus the reason they used it as grazing land) was corroborated when



*Photo by David Zittlow*

**Jacobs Farm** performed soil quality testing in 2015. It was found to be have a higher range of alkalinity than preferred by most crops. However, this grazing land west of "two trees" could not produce enough vegetation for many head of cattle. Sometime after WWII, **Walter Cottle Lester** solved this problem by purchasing a used 1946 Chevrolet truck and outfitting it with a large wooden box and augers to bring the forage to the front and left side of the truck.

The truck would be loaded with forage consisting of chopped hay, barley or vegetable culls from harvesting. The operation would take place either near the barns or in a field. There are two pieces of equipment presently at the ranch that would have been used to load

this truck. In the earlier days, a stationary feed mill would have been used to chop and load forage into the truck. Later, a field chopper would have been used to pick up mown hay and it would then have blown the chopped hay into the truck box.

The loaded truck would then be driven to what is now Field B and, by using the augers and power-take-off system, the forage would have been unloaded onto the ground for the cattle to eat. We have not yet found production records for the ranch, so do not know how many head of cattle were regularly raised, but we do know the truck played an integral role in getting feed to those cattle.

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## Japanese tenant farmers

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all but Yoshinori were American natives. This was not unusual. Of the approximately 110,000 interned Japanese Americans, about 80,000 were born in the United States.

The Cottles and Lesters kept in touch with the two families and took care of some of their farming equipment, but neither returned to the ranch after their release. The Nakaos acquired their own farm in the Coyote Valley. The Hiratas moved to Los Angeles, where Yoshinori became a gardener.

Racial attitudes began to change after World War II. Non-white aliens gained the right to become American

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*“...when Nikao rented from my grandmother, [...] they pulled all the trees that’s out by where that oak tree is, cleared that whole thing, and for several years they had strawberries in this area where the cherries are.”*

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– Walter Cottle Lester  
in a 2007 interview

citizens in 1952, and Yoshinori Hirata applied for naturalization in 1954. The Nakao family became leading citizens in South County and farmed there for many years. California’s Alien Land Law was repealed by popular vote in 1956.

The Cottles and Lesters saved correspondence, internment camp newsletters, and gifts from the Japanese tenant farmers, some of which are on display in the **Visitor Center**. These will be valuable resources to help fulfill Ethel, Edith and Walter Lester’s dream: that **Cottle Ranch** will be a place where people of today and tomorrow can learn about Santa Clara Valley’s agricultural past.

## The Big Yellow Truck

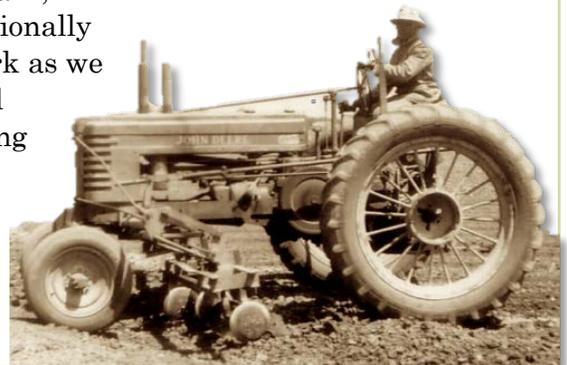
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**Martial Cottle Park** is fortunate that in addition to preserving 287 acres of land, Walter Cottle Lester and his family also held onto many farming implements and personal effects that the County later acquired and is able to display in the **Visitor Center** and at special events. Throughout this past winter, the yellow truck has been under the care of two Santa Clara County Parks mechanics who have

accomplished major mechanical reconditioning. Once the truck repairs have been completed and it has been returned to the park, watch for it to be occasionally driven through the park as we proudly show it off and keep it in good operating condition.

The big yellow truck has been displayed at the **Harvest Festival**, and we

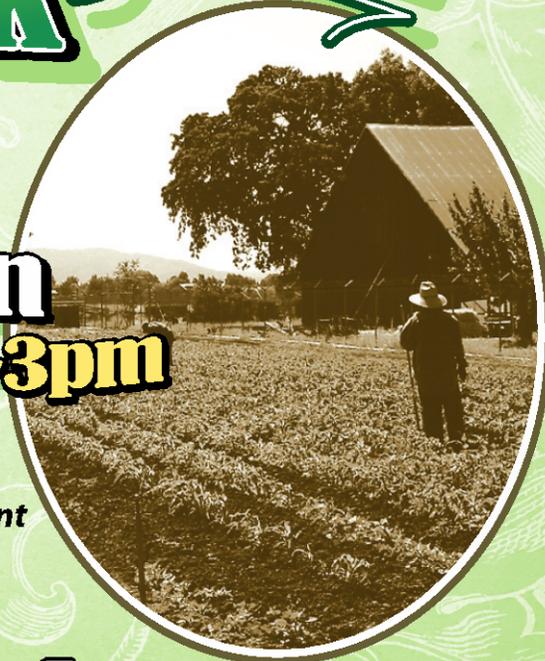
expect to have it, some reconditioned tractors, and some other equipment to be on display at our **Spring Celebration on May 6**.



# A Taste of the Valley of Heart's Delight!

# MARTIAL COTTLE PARK

**1st annual**  
**Spring Celebration**  
**Sat., May 6 - 10am-3pm**



**Experience**  
*Santa Clara Valley's agricultural past, present and future, on land the Cottle family farmed for over 150 years.*

- Local Arts, Crafts and Food Items
- Meet Farm Animals Up-close
- Urban Forest Demonstration
- Antique and Vintage Autos
- Vintage Farm Equipment
- Gardening Demonstrations
- Spring Planting Activities
- Kids Activities and Crafts
- Fresh Organic Produce
- Garden Workshops
- Jacobs Farm Tours
- Live Music and more!

**5283 Snell Avenue**  
**San Jose, 95136**

**Free Admission!**  
**(\$6 Parking)**  
**Bike or take public transit**



**SANTA CLARA™**  
**COUNTY PARKS**



## Volunteer Spotlight: Jennifer Unger

*By Joyce Chesnos, Volunteer*

On a recent Tuesday morning, I had the privilege of interviewing **Jennifer Unger**, Martial Cottle Park's volunteer "Bird Whisperer." Since the beginning of March, she has kept a weekly record of activity in eleven of the bird boxes placed throughout the park and will continue to do so through mid-August.

Jennifer describes herself as artistic, great at home remodeling drywall construction, and possessing "a gift with animals." A native of Maryland, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Film and enjoys photographing and identifying birds at locations like the **Rookery at Pescadero Beach and Marsh** and at **Ed R. Levin County Park** in Milpitas. She credits her California native husband with encouraging her to pursue her interest in working more closely with birds. Jennifer previously worked for a veterinarian for two years. She first started doing bird counts in Cupertino using *The Sibley Field Guide to Birds*. At **McClellan Ranch Preserve** in Cupertino, she joined the **Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society (SCVAS)**. She spent



*Photo by Diane Bacon*

five years doing bird counts at **Deep Cliff Golf Course** in Cupertino. Jennifer volunteers at the **Wildlife Center** in San Jose's East foothills. She and her husband even once assisted the **Marine Mammal Center** (based in Sausalito) with a sea lion rescue.

While riding along with Jennifer during her bird count that day, I made a list of the tools of her trade: A rod with a slanted mirror on one end to see into boxes, extension pole with hook on one end to reach boxes hanging in trees, rubber gloves, plastic bag, Diatomaceous Earth for pests, stepstool, and cell phone/camera.

Jennifer logs information, such as evidence of nest building, eggs, nestlings, who

is in the box, and who fledges (birds that become able to fly away from the nest). She also notes which birds are around the park, and recently saw a Bald Eagle flying nearby. She may find ants or wasps in the boxes, but most dislikes finding raccoon attacks on nests. She reports that the Bluebirds have started to build their nests in a couple of the hanging boxes.

Jennifer has to be focused and quiet while checking the bird boxes, but she wants people to know that she is very approachable when not actively doing that work. She reminds us that it is illegal to disturb the nest boxes, and feels perhaps the signage needs to be more noticeable. She hopes people will pay attention to the birds and the environment here and at other parks. With the exception of House Sparrows and European Starlings, which are non-native and not protected, all wild birds are protected, and it is illegal to keep wildlife as pets. If anyone sees an injured bird, they should contact **Martial Cottle Park Rangers** at (408) 535-4060 or the **Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley** at (408) 929-9453.

## Food storage on the farm

By Joyce Chesnos, Volunteer

For those of you who have not yet ventured into the **Visitor Center (VC)** at **Martial Cottle Park**, there are many wonderful historical items on display worthy of a closer look. Several of the largest items are fine examples of typical free-standing food storage and preparation pieces. These were used during the 1800s and early 1900s before gas, electricity, and running water became common in rural homes, and they give us insight into life in those days.



One such example in the VC is the “baking table,” which currently holds a display of vintage kitchen tools. Also known as “pot belly” or “flour bin” tables, this essential piece typically had an unfinished hardwood top, pull-out cutting boards, and storage drawers. Underneath were deeply rounded bins for storage of dry goods such as flour, cornmeal and sugar.

A second food storage piece in the VC is the “meat safe.” Beginning as early as the 1700s, food safes were commonly used for storage of perishables, such as meat, baked goods, and hard cheeses, until the icebox came into common use. Although shown here atop a table of the same color, the “meat safe” on display is actually a legless box, which is

screened in on all sides. Inside is a shelf and hooks to set or hang food from. Meats stored inside were likely dried, salted, or somehow cured to prolong shelf life. The meat safe was probably placed in a cool, dry area, such as a shady porch or basement. The fine metal screen allowed for good ventilation to prevent spoilage while protecting the contents from pests.



Many visitors to the VC recognize the “icebox” from an elder relative’s home during their own childhood. By the early 1900s the home icebox was widely used and even sold in catalogs as a “refrigerator.” Iceboxes remained popular until homes converted to electric power and the electric refrigerator was introduced in the 1930s (usually years later in rural areas than in cities). Iceboxes have thick insulated walls with tin or zinc inside panels. A block of ice was placed in one section of the interior, and a tube or drain for melted ice led to a drip pan beneath, which had to be frequently emptied. Perishable food items were kept cold, but never to the point of freezing. Sold by the pound, ice needed to be replenished often to maintain an even temperature. Ice was purchased locally at a central location or “ice house,” or delivered by the “ice man.”

The introduction and utilization of electric power, gas, and running water into the home certainly made food preparation and storage much easier, faster, safer, and convenient. When you go to the **Visitor Center**, please take the time to ponder how the Cottle/Lester family must have used and enjoyed these vintage pieces in their home.

*(Credits: Lisa Pappanastos; Wikipedia; Wikicollecting; Old House Online)*

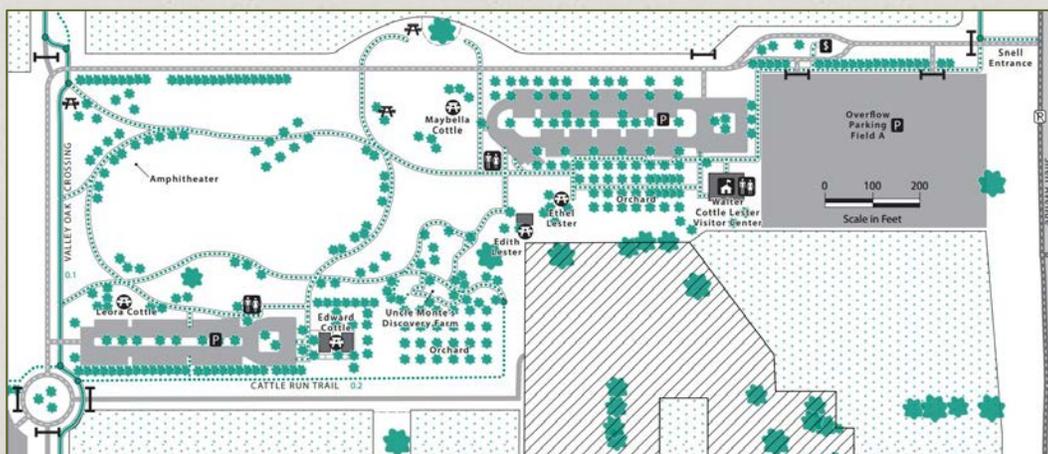
## The Ranger Logs: A Reminder

*By Park Ranger Jake*

We are expecting a busy spring at **Martial Cottle Park**. Our **Martial Cottle Park** park ranger team would like to share a few reminders and tips for the public coming to the park:

- If you have more than 20 people in your group, you are required to reserve a group site.
- For groups with fewer than 20 people, any site with a **square** barbecue or open lawn area is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- You are able to bring your own barbecues, tables, chairs, and canopies (stakes must be no longer than 6 inches.)
- Sites that are **covered** or have **rectangular** barbecues are available for reservation. You can make reservations through [www.gooutsideandplay.org](http://www.gooutsideandplay.org) or by phone at (408) 355-2201.
- A group site must be reserved to have a jump house, use park electricity (Edith and Edward group sites only), or use any other large equipment (approval required).
- Amplified sound is only allowed at Edward Group Site, upon approval. Small speakers are allowed at other picnic sites.
- Bands, DJs, or any live music are not allowed anywhere in the park.
- For food vendors, fundraising, or any merchandising associated with your event, please contact our reservations department with specifics.
- All vehicles must pay a \$6 fee to park inside the park.
- Smoking, vaping, and electronic cigarettes are not permitted anywhere in the park, including inside vehicles.
- Trash bags are provided for reserved areas, but bins to hold them are not provided. Dumpsters to dispose of full bags are available throughout the park.
- The park participates in an off-site recycling program. This means that all litter and recycling can be disposed of together in the dumpsters, and the recyclables will then be sorted out of the trash once it is taken to an off-site location.
- The park (and bathrooms) open at 8:00 a.m. and close at sunset.

You can pick up a park map at the **Visitor Center** or view it online at [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org). We hope to see you at **Martial Cottle Park** and never hesitate to say “hi” and ask us any questions!



## Chynoweth Project unanimously approved by Council

*An update from Councilmember Johnny Khamis and the City of San José*

I am thrilled to share that on January 24th the City Council unanimously approved the award of the contract for construction of the **Chynoweth Avenue Green Street Project**.

Construction is scheduled to commence this April, with completion expected October 2017, weather permitting. The project brings improvements that include bioretention facilities, median islands with trees, traffic calming bulb-outs with new ADA wheelchair ramps, additional parking, and sidewalks.

This is a project that I worked on since I first took office and I am happy to see it has finally funded and on the way to being delivered! Our hope is that this project will improve traffic and pedestrian safety, enhance the aesthetics of the neighborhood and **Martial Cottle Park**, and deter illegal and undesirable activities thanks to better lighting. The lighting improvement is made possible by a budget request I submitted for the current year's budget that was approved by the City Council and provided enough funding to add this to the scope of work for the project. Please note that residential parking at the end of Chynoweth near the Colony



*Artist's rendition of Chynoweth Avenue Green Street Project*

Green HOA will remain available after construction of this project. As is to be expected with a project of this type, please expect some minor traffic inconveniences during the construction period.

A big THANK YOU to the **Environmental Services Department, Department of Transportation, Public Works Department, and Mayor Liccardo** for their ingenuity and support in making this happen. [The project award memo, with the project details, may be viewed on the City's website.](#)

For questions, comments, or concerns, please contact **Dora Gonzalez** at (408) 535-4982 or email: [dora.gonzalez@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:dora.gonzalez@sanjoseca.gov)

*Originally published in Councilmember Johnny Khamis's February 2017 District 10 News.*



## What's new on Jacobs Farm

*By Brendan Miele,  
Director of Domestic Farming*

Greetings from **Jacobs Farm!** What an incredible winter we have had on the farm. The heavy rains have saturated our soils making field work very challenging. The long-term benefit of this year's rains recharging our aquifers outweigh the short term muddy field conditions.

Our orchards have bloomed and spring is here. Our bees have been busy as well. On average, bees have to tap the pollen of two million flowers to create one pound of honey. That's about 55,000 miles of travel per hive to make one pound of this sweet sticky treat. Even though they work tirelessly as they zip about at 15 miles per hour, each worker bee only contributes roughly  $\frac{1}{12}$  of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime. Bees are a critical component of agriculture; without them and the pollination they provide, we would not be able to enjoy many of the fruits, nuts, and vegetables we eat every day. There are several hives at the farm to ensure pollination of the crops that we grow. The honey from those hives is currently available at the Farm Stand. Consider how many bees it took to fill those jars and you will get a glimpse of the

bounty that **Jacobs Farms** grows at **Martial Cottle Park.**

Over the next few months, we will be preparing the soil and planting our crops for the 2017 season. Hundreds of acres across the park must be maintained and nurtured to provide the ideal environment for growing healthy, great tasting food. We manage our

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*On average, bees have to tap the pollen of two million flowers to create one pound of honey.*

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farms with the idea of healthy soils, healthy plants, and healthy people. The soil is a world in and of itself. It's a collection of elements, organic compounds, and biology that live together to create a fertile ground. As farmers, it's our duty to maintain and protect the natural resources upon which our crops depend. Our soil is some of the most nutrient-rich in the world, and plants love to grow here. To them it's paradise and they don't have to commute to work



*Photo by Sergio Peralta*

– no wonder this place is called “The Valley of the Heart’s Delight.”

We know it can be challenging to appreciate the natural beauty and incredible spring weather the farm has to offer with busy work, school, and home schedules. Luckily, the **U-pick** field at the **Farm Stand** will be increasing its bounty over the next few months and can offer a reprieve from the day-to-day grind. Come watch the plants grow and pick a basket of the good stuff right from the source.

For the latest hours at **Jacobs Farm Stand** at the corner of Chynoweth and Snell avenues, visit:

[www.JacobsFarmCA.com](http://www.JacobsFarmCA.com)

 [@JacobsDelCabo](https://twitter.com/JacobsDelCabo)

 [/JacobsFarmCA](https://www.facebook.com/JacobsFarmCA)

 [/jacobsfarmCA](https://www.instagram.com/jacobsfarmCA)

## My Farm Story

To celebrate our collective memories of agriculture here in Santa Clara Valley and around the world, we invite you to share your farm memories with us by emailing [martialcottlepark@prk.sccgov.org](mailto:martialcottlepark@prk.sccgov.org).

Individual stories will be featured in future editions of *The Cottle Almanac* and the complete collection will be available in the **Martial Cottle Park Visitor Center**.

*By Susan Gadbery*

*Hello, my name is Susan Gadbery and I worked on a corn farm in Metamora, Illinois, during my junior year of high school. I worked on a tractor that carried eight to ten people on each side. As the tractor moved between the corn rows, we de-tasseled the corn. I'll try to explain: the tassels are the brown tops in the middle of the corn plant and we had to pull them out as the machine moved along. I think I learned a lot about farming the year that I lived in the Midwest.*



## University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE)

*By Jessica Schweiger*

Midway through winter, atmospheric rivers\* made UCCE's space at **Martial Cottle Park** inhospitable to anything but the ducks, as the muddy gardeners and cows can attest. However, the rain gave us the opportunity to discover new things about the parkland as a small-scale watershed: the previously invisible contours of the land are now clearly outlined with pooling water, and the soil has shown itself to be a type that hinders drainage. Managing these and other features to create productive growing spaces on urban land will be part of UCCE's learning process as we become familiar with this site.

Although difficult to fathom right now, California's future under a changing climate promises to be hotter and drier. UCCE projects at **Martial Cottle Park** will be testing and applying adaptive strategies like drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting, rain gardens, mulching, and improving soil organic matter to help farmers and home gardeners to conserve water in drought and store and manage water use in rainy seasons.

\* Atmospheric rivers are relatively long, narrow regions in the atmosphere – like rivers in the sky – that transport most of the water vapor outside of the tropics. These columns of vapor move with the weather, carrying an amount of water vapor roughly equivalent to the average flow of water at the mouth of the Mississippi River. When the atmospheric rivers make landfall, they often release this water vapor in the form of rain or snow. Atmospheric rivers are a key feature in the global water cycle and are closely tied to both water supply and flood risks – particularly in the western United States.

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,  
*What Are Atmospheric Rivers?*

<http://www.noaa.gov/stories/what-are-atmospheric-rivers>

## University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardener Program of Santa Clara County Martial Cottle Park Community Education Center

What's new in the **Master Gardener** program area of **Martial Cottle Park**? For starters, a **Habitat Garden** is underway. Plants that attract beneficial birds and insects like lady beetles, bees, and butterflies will soon be thriving and showing their lovely flowers along a curving pathway. This garden is located to the left as you enter the plot. Continuing down the same fence line, a giant pumpkin and watermelon patch is progressing.

The rain this winter hasn't slowed us down. In fact, as gardeners we love it! We have been catching the storm water from the barn roof and diverting into our two 750-gallon rain catchment tanks. These tanks are almost full so we plan to water some of our greenhouse plants with the stored water.

Speaking of the greenhouse, we are at capacity with all the plants being seeded. Currently over 80 pepper and tomato varieties, succulents, many flower varieties, and hundreds of herbs are growing in preparation for our upcoming **Spring Garden Market** to be held at **History Park** at **Kelley Park**. All of the vegetable plants that we offer for sale at our garden markets are grown from seed by **Master Gardener** volunteers working at the **Martial Cottle Park** greenhouse. Details about the market can be found on our website:

([mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/spring-garden-market/](http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/spring-garden-market/)). Mark your calendars for April 8 and come to **History San Jose** bright and early for a day of plant shopping, educational talks, and more. Bring your family and enjoy the entertainment, food trucks, and vendors.

Also mark the date, May 6. We look forward to participating in the **Martial Cottle Park's Spring Celebration: A Taste of the Valley of Heart's Delight**.

In preparation for May 6 and both of our **Garden Markets**, we are busy planning hands-on workshops and building plant capacity. To that end, a 24' x 70' shade house has been constructed and fully utilized this spring.



Photo by Hank Morales

We saved the best news for last. We are thrilled to announce that the **Master Gardener Program** at **Martial Cottle Park** recently received an **Open Space Authority (OSA) Measure Q Grant!** This grant will fund a **Teaching Pavilion**, field trips for local elementary schools, and interpretive signs. We will share more plans in future newsletters.

**Stop by for gardening advice or to volunteer. You are always welcome on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon.**

**Our website** has the events, classes and details for all our gardens:

[mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu](http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu)

[sccmastergardeners](http://sccmastergardeners)



## What's going on at the Martial Cottle 4-H Ranch?

*By the Sunset 4-H Ranch Committee*

New animals are joining the steer in the coming months on the **4-H Ranch at Martial Cottle Park**. A flock of grazing lambs arrived in March and we are expecting a few Boer goat kids moved in the first weekend of April. The lambs will graze the pasture in a rotation of small fenced-in areas, just as they did last year, and the goat kids will be housed in a pen near the steer. 4-H project members will be onsite in the morning and evening hours to check on and feed their animals, so please stop by and say hello anytime you see one of us out there.

Are you interested in learning more about 4-H? From May through July, our **Ranch Committee** will be hosting **Open House** events at the **4-H Ranch** parcel on the first and third Saturdays. Stop by to see some of our animals up-close and talk to the 4-H members and parents about this unique opportunity happening right in the middle of our suburban neighborhood. These events will likely take place in the cooler evening hours, but watch for signs posted on the parcel beginning in April.

See page 15 for details about our first ever **Kite-Flying Day at Martial Cottle Park**

on Saturday, April 15 at 2:00 p.m. This free event is open to the public. You are invited to bring your own kite or our club members can show you how to build one out of recycled materials. For more information, email our club leader at [sunset4hclub@gmail.com](mailto:sunset4hclub@gmail.com).

On May 6, **Sunset 4-H Club** and the **Ranch Committee** will host an educational animal experience opportunity sharing some of the animals owned by our 4-H members. Learn more about the 4-H program opportunities and have the chance to get close to the steer, goats, lambs, chickens, rabbits, guinea pigs, and snakes. The animals will rotate throughout the day's event, and the **Ranch Committee** will also be hosting games, crafts, and a snack booth onsite.



*Photo by Candace O'Niell*

Want to see even more animals? Join us at the **Santa Clara County Fair** on August 3-6, where you can see our goats and steer and more than one hundred other animals, big and small. You can also see displays from our other projects, including sewing and gardening. There's something for everyone to enjoy at the fair!



## Plant Science Field Day

*By Jada Ho, 4-H Youth Volunteer*

Can you tell a fruit from a nut or match a scent to a plant? Be sure to join us on **May 6, 2017** when **Santa Clara County 4-H** will host **Plant Science Field Day**, as part of **Martial Cottle Park's Spring Celebration** from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. You'll have the chance to identify plants by categories, such as California natives, fruits and nuts, and ornamentals, in a plant identification and judging activity. You can participate in various craft activities, like seed mosaics and veggie stamping; plant your own seeds in a potato or eggshell to take home; and play games, like matching scents with various plants.

## Our City Forest

*By Dave Tull and Renae McCollum*

Work on **Our City Forest's** educational site at **Martial Cottle Park** is gathering steam. Under the leadership of **AmeriCorps** member **Kevin Nee**, and with the help of community volunteers and other members of **AmeriCorps**, **Our City Forest (OCF)** is adding walking paths to the site, as well as a demonstration of "lawn busting" -- an OCF service that converts traditional lawns to attractive, water-saving landscapes.

The lawn-busting exhibit uses a sequence of five separate garden plots, each dedicated to a particular phase of the conversion process:

1. *The original grass lawn*
2. *Trenching the lawn's perimeter, building a mound, and installing a pressure regulator for drip irrigation*
3. *Covering the grass with cardboard*
4. *Adding soil amendment and irrigation line*
5. *Planting drought-resistant shrubs topped off with a thick layer of mulch*

See page 15 for more upcoming **Our City Forest** events!

Questions? Visit [www.ourcityforest.org](http://www.ourcityforest.org) or email [info@ourcityforest.org](mailto:info@ourcityforest.org)



*Lawn-busting exhibit at Our City Forest parcel  
Photo by Our City Forest*

Read more about the **Lawn Busters Program** in the **Our City Forest** blog article by **David Tull**, [Two Days in the Life of a Lawn Buster](#), February 12, 2016. Instructional videos are also available on the [Our City Forest YouTube channel](#).

**\*\*Save the date for the first of many Lawn Conversion Workshops on May 6th during the Martial Cottle Park Spring Celebration!** Our City Forest's team will host two free hands-on demonstrations that day – one in the morning and one in the afternoon.



*Photo by Sandi Geringer*

### 4-H Service Day

*By Kyle Geringer*

Forty-five members of the **4-H Youth Development Program** participated in a service day at **Martial Cottle Park** on Martin Luther King Day. 4-H members weeded, spread wood chips, and dug holes for new signs to be installed.

Learn more about the **4-H Youth Development Program** and the **4-H Community Clubs in Santa Clara County** by visiting:

[cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/Youth\\_Development/](http://cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/Youth_Development/)



[@SCC4Hespanol](#) and [@SCC4H](#)



[@4HinSC](#)

## Martial Cottle Park Spring and Summer Programs

Every Saturday and Sunday  
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

### ***Martial Cottle Park Experience***

Meet at the Visitor Center to learn about the Cottle family, the park and its agricultural roots.

Every Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### ***Volunteer with Our City Forest***

Volunteer at the Our City Forest site at Martial Cottle Park (across from Master Gardeners). Drop in or email [treecarevolunteers@ourcityforest.org](mailto:treecarevolunteers@ourcityforest.org) to sign up. More info and events at [www.ourcityforest.org](http://www.ourcityforest.org).

Saturday, April 15  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### ***Park Beautification Day***

Complete a volunteer project with us to keep Martial Cottle Park beautiful! Please register for this volunteer event by emailing [volunteer@prk.sccgov.org](mailto:volunteer@prk.sccgov.org).

Saturday, April 15  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### ***Win the Weed War!***

Learn how to identify weeds and learn techniques from Master Gardeners to keep garden weeds at bay and save you lots of time and effort in the process. Meet at the Master Gardener parcel.

Saturday, April 15 and August 26  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### ***Compost Education Workshop***

Join Master Composters for a workshop to learn about the magic of decomposition and how to compost at home. Meet at the Master Composter parcel with a hat/sunscreen and water bottle.

Saturday, April 15  
2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

### ***4-H Kite Flight***

Join Sunset 4-H Club for an afternoon of kite flying fun on the center lawn at the park. Bring your own kites and fill the sky with fluttering fun and beauty. Open to all ages and experience levels!

Saturday, April 15 –  
Friday, April 28

### ***Plein Air Painting at the Park***

Participate in Santa Clara County Parks' first open air painting event at Martial Cottle Park. Paint or draw in any media, no registration fee. Artwork will be on display at County facilities. Prizes for winning artists. Visit [www.parkhere.org](http://www.parkhere.org) for more information and to register.

Saturdays, 4/22, 5/13, 5/20, 6/10,  
6/17, 7/1, 8/12, 8/26  
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### ***Hula Hoop!***

Learn a new way to get some exercise, play, and have FUN! All ages and experience levels welcome. Hoops provided for free or available for purchase. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 6  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### ***Spring Celebration***

Attend the first annual Spring Celebration at Martial Cottle Park as we celebrate the spring planting, the ranch's history, as well as urban agriculture and the food system! Enjoy a variety of workshops hosted by Master Gardeners, farm-themed activities and crafts for kids, face painting, live music, food and

artisanal crafts and products for sale. Tour the fields with Jacobs Farm and shop for their fresh organic produce, and see 4-H's live farm animals up close. We encourage you to walk, bike, or ride public transit to the park. Parking will be limited. Bike valet available.

Saturday, June 3 and August 5  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### ***Health Parks, Healthy People Walk***

Join park staff for a walking tour of Martial Cottle Park and learn about the ranch's history and present-day organic farming. Spend time afterward playing at the Discovery Farm or visiting the Jacobs Farm organic Farm Stand. Meet at the Visitor Center.

Saturday, June 10 and July 8  
8:00 – 10:30 p.m.

### ***In the Park After Dark Movie Night***

Watch a family-friendly free feature movie\* on a giant blow-up screen under the stars. Come early and join an Open Space Authority Interpreter to learn and play old past time activities. Meet on the lawn near parking lot A. Bring a flashlight and low lawn chair or blanket. Dogs are not permitted for this after-hours event.

\*For movie titles visit: [www.facebook.com/santaclaracounty\\_parks](http://www.facebook.com/santaclaracounty_parks).

## Martial Cottle Park Spring and Summer Programs

Saturday, June 17  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### ***Container Gardening***

Live in a condo or apartment? Learn from certified Master Gardeners how to grow veggies and ornamental plants in containers. You may be surprised that you can grow all the makings of a salad in just a few containers. Join us to learn how! Meet at the Master Gardener parcel.

Sunday, July 9  
8:00 – 10:00 p.m.

### ***Full Moon Owl Hike***

Come learn about the nighttime predators that soar at night through Martial Cottle Park. Meet at the Visitor Center. Bring warm clothes and a reusable water bottle. With the full moon, no flashlight needed on the hike.

Saturday, July 15  
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### ***Building Raised Beds Workshop***

Learn from Master Gardeners about the benefits of raised beds and how to build one. Bring gloves, a hat, and a refillable water container. Meet at the Master Gardener parcel.

Saturday, August 5  
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### ***Drip Irrigation Workshop***

Learn about the benefits of drip irrigation and how to design a system and install it at home. Then, install drip irrigation in a raised bed under the supervision of Master Gardeners. Bring gloves, a hat, and a refillable water container. Meet at the Master Gardener parcel.

Saturday, August 12  
8:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m.

### ***In the Park After Dark Movie Night***

Watch a family-friendly free feature movie\* on a giant blow-up screen under the stars. Want to view the Perseid meteor shower? Stay as late as midnight to view the sky. Meet on the lawn near parking lot A. Bring your own telescope, a flashlight and low lawn chair or blanket. Dogs are not permitted for this after hours event.

Saturday, August 26  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### ***Compost Education Workshop***

Join Master Composters for a workshop to learn about the magic of decomposition and how to compost at home. Meet at the Master Composter parcel with a hat/sunscreen and water bottle.

## Contributors

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Suzanne Thomas  
Dave Tull  
Jake Waltemeyer  
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### **Park Hours**

8:00am to sunset

### **Trail Hours**

Sunrise to sunset

### **Visitor Center Hours**

7 days a week starting May 5  
10:00am to 4:00pm

**Martial Cottle Park • County of Santa Clara Parks and Recreation Department**

5283 Snell Avenue • San José, CA 95136

Park Office: (408) 535-4060

Reservations Office (Monday–Friday): (408) 355-2201

[www.sccgov.org](http://www.sccgov.org) [www.facebook.com/santaclaracountyparks](http://www.facebook.com/santaclaracountyparks)