

Rare Plant Hike In Memory of Sue Smith



A unique opportunity to hike the rare plant preserve and Sonoma Land Trust's first conservation easement, **NEFERTIERRA**, in the Mark West Watershed.

The **Friends of the Mark West Watershed** in cooperation with the **Sonoma County Land Trust**, and **Monan's Rill** are pleased to host a hike of this uniquely biodiverse property, home to 315 native plant species now in peak bloom.



**10AM Sunday
May 5, 2019**

Led by **Peter Warner**,
Sonoma County Botanist

**MEET AT MONAN'S
RILL GARDEN**

Hike is limited to 20 attendees
and reservations are required.

This is a strenuous hike.

**Lots of poison oak: long pants
suggested. Recommend 12+ years of age.**

Restroom at beginning and end of hike (only).

Bring a wide-brimmed hat, water, and lunch.



To register for the hike, go to: <https://forms.gle/4aTX6DjRewC5Fj7i8>

Susan Manuel [Smith](#)

December 14, 1928 - August 16, 2018

Susan Manuel Smith, an avid Bay Area conservationist, an amateur Egyptologist and the owner of an 80-acre California native plant preserve in Sonoma County, passed away in San Francisco on August 16. She was 89. Sue was descended from a pioneering California family, whose roots go back to the Gold Rush. She was born in Stockton, Calif., and spent the Depression years in Angels Camp, where her grandfather owned a lumber mill in nearby Arnold. She attended Stockton public schools and later graduated from [UCLA](#). She had a lifelong interest in Egypt stemming from two years she spent as a codebreaker at the American Embassy in Cairo after graduating from college. On returning stateside in the mid-1950s, she settled in San Francisco, and after working for Air France, she opened her own travel agency in Jackson Square with her friend Joan Curry. The pair traveled extensively, typically on long weekends, previewing trips they planned for clients. Sue bought her 80-acres of land in Sonoma Country as an investment in 1971, not knowing how important the land would become in her life or how botanically rich the property was. She had already become interested in California native plants and her newly bought land, which she named Nefertierra, became her laboratory. She devoted herself to the property, identifying plants, keeping records, and pulling weeds to give natives a chance to thrive. According to the Sonoma Land Trust, which holds a conservation easement on the property limiting future development, the land supports a wide variety of plant communities unique to the area. Upon selling her travel business, Susan split her time between San Francisco and Mendocino, Calif., where she applied her considerable energy and dedication to fending off development and protecting native plant species. She was an early board member of Save the Bay and throughout her life was active in numerous efforts to preserve wild places in the Bay Area and beyond.

Sue is survived by many friends; her niece Betsy Koppes, of Costa Mesa, Calif.; two nephews, Jordan Smith of Novato and Michael Smith of Portland, Ore; eight grandnieces and grandnephews; and one great grandnephew.

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