

## **BIOLOGY 96A/B JASPER RIDGE BIOLOGICAL PRESERVE**

The Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (JRBP) is a 481 hectare (1,189 acre) field station located just a few miles from the main Stanford University campus. JRBP lands have been studied continuously since the university opened in 1891, and this extensive research history includes long-term studies that are landmarks in ecology and population biology. In 1975, Jasper Ridge began developing community education programs that would enhance educational opportunities for both the university and the community. The first docents were community members knowledgeable about the Preserve's natural history and willing to contribute their time and expertise to students and community education by teaching and leading tours. In 1977, Stanford students were incorporated into the docent program and a formal, rigorous class was established (Biology 96 A/B)

Biology 96 A/B, the JRBP docent training class, is a 4 unit Stanford undergraduate biology class that runs through winter and spring quarter. Classes are Thursday afternoons from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Community members in the class are not registered with the University and do not pay tuition. There is a class fee of \$80.00 for community members and \$40.00 for Stanford students to cover the cost of materials.

Bio 96 A/B covers a significant amount of curricula in two quarters, including intensive classes in the fields of geology, soil science, ecology, global climate change, archaeology, botany, herpetology and ornithology. New topics are covered weekly with a lecture from Stanford faculty or experts in the topic followed by hands-on fieldwork. The lectures cannot be made up if missed and all students must be committed to be present every week.

After completing the course work, JRBP docents are expected to help provide field education opportunities and increase community awareness of the work done at the Preserve. All JR affiliates are welcome to attend JR continuing education classes throughout the year. Brown bag lunch discussions, field classes and lectures provide an overview of current research on the Preserve, relevant work at other sites, and specialized fieldwork.

JR docents/affiliates have opportunities to work with researchers and some projects at the Preserve are managed entirely by docents. For many years, members of the JRBP community have conducted regular bird surveys and produced invaluable bird lists and data bases. JR affiliates efforts are also responsible for the outstanding teaching collection in the JRBP Herbarium, the insect collection, geology display and bat research.

What do the JRBP docents get in return for doing all this?

- A chance to be part of the JRBP community.
- An opportunity for stimulating continuing education.
- The reward of working personally in environmental education, ecology, and research.
- A key to the Preserve.

If you are interested in an application for (Bio 96A/B) contact: Cindy Wilber, JRBP Education Coordinator

650-327-2277 or by e-mail at <cwilber@stanford.edu>

Applications will be reviewed during October and November. The deadline for submitting an application is October 15th for community applicants and November 15th for Stanford students.