

wildflower run



FUN CAUSE The 34th annual Wildflower Run on March 26, 2017 supports education for women and girls. Photo: Susan Brazelton

Since 1983 the Wildflower Run has been fundraising to support the education of women. Former director Elizabeth Mandel is in charge of publicity this year and says she's been living and breathing this event every winter for the past seven.

“We raise close to \$50,000 a year for scholarships for women and girls,” says Mandel. “From our organization’s perspective, it’s a way of being very engaged in the community.”

Chartered in 1981, the Morgan Hill chapter of American Association of University Women (AAUW) joined the century-old national organization to address social, educational, political and economic issues affecting women.

With 1,200 runners and walkers in events ranging from a 5K for parents pushing strollers to a Kids’ 2K, a 5K walk, a 5K run, a 10K run, and a senior 2K, the Run brings the community together with events for all ages.

“The separate stroller event is somewhat unique in the Bay Area and extremely popular with both men and women,” says Mandel. “We give awards for both the top men and the top women in this category.”

But the Wildflower Run isn’t just for casual walkers and runners—the 10K is a USA Track and Field certified course.

“It’s a type of course that a serious runner will look for,” says Mandel.

The Run includes a Finish Fest that provides fun attractions for kids, including face painting and science activities.

Sign up for the 34th Annual Wildflower Run on Sunday, March 26, 2017 at WildflowerRun.org.

The Morgan Hill Times

Damato wins 2017 Wildflower Run

Pereira places first in women's 10K

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Staff report Photos by Robert Eliason

http://www.morganhilltimes.com/news/community/damato-wins-wildflower-run/article_eafb1bfc-133c-11e7-b1ce-6bf9963b2649.html?mode=image&photo=1



Overall champion Dominik Damato (#2228) leads the 10K field out of the gates during Sunday's 2017 Wildflower Run that started and ended at Live Oak High School.

San Jose resident Dominik Damato edged defending champion Jorn Jensen to take the tape in the 10K run of the 2017 Wildflower Run, while Morgan Hill runner Tiffany Pereira bested the women's 10K field at the March 26 event. Damato, 37, completed the 6.2-mile course in 35:35 with 5:44-minute mile average, while Jensen, 48, of Morgan Hill, finished in 36:12 with 5:50-minute mile splits. Sunnyvale's Bartosz Ciechanowski, 27, of Sunnyvale, placed third in the men's 10K in 37:32.

Pereira, 42, crossed the finish line in 41:57 with 6:45-minute miles ahead of runner-up Merlin Vassigh, 36, of San Jose, in 6:52 and third-place winner Stephanie Kato, 28, of San Jose, in 6:52.

The 2017 Wildflower Run was organized by the American Association of University Women. The local AAUW chapter makes sure there is always one true winner as the group uses the money raised from the Wildflower run to "provide funds to support education of women and girls."



Runners head out of Live Oak High School to start the 5K race during Sunday's 2017 Wildflower Run.



Morgan Hill's Stephanie Darcy completes the 5K stroller race during Sunday's 2017 Wildflower Run.



Benjamin Soeholm reaches the finish line of the 5K run Sunday.



Morgan Hill's Colin Estep crosses the finish line Sunday during the 2017 Wildflower Run.

In the 5K, Jonas Soeholm, 36, of San Jose, finished first in the men's field with a time of 17:20 and Morgan Hill's Kaylah Grant, 17, topped the women's 5K field in 17:30.

Rounding out the men's 5K top three were Gilroy's Andrew Gibaut, 33, who finished in 18:32 for second, and third-place winner Greg Anderson, 31, of Sacramento, in 18:47.

Kate Rainey, 33, of Redwood City, took second in the women's 5K in 21:59 and 45-year-old Dalila Rodriguez placed third in 23:22.

In the 5k stroller race, San Jose's Joseph Aubuchon, 35, was first in 18:53, while women's champion Stephanie Darcy, 37, of Morgan Hill, took the tape in 26:48.

Walker Napoli (7:31), Andrew Hamamoto (7:32) and Hudson Napoli (8:54) finished 1-2-3 in the Kids 2K, while Julia Guerra placed first in the girls 2K field in 9:19.