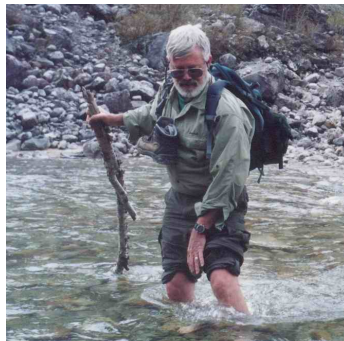


BETTER AND GLOBAL WARMING

Dr. Dave Kavanaugh of the California Academy of Sciences is coming to our Visitor Center on **Saturday, May 15, at 8pm**. He will explain to us how such a humble creature as a **Carabid or ground beetle** responds to the



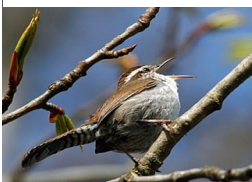
global warming we hear so much about, and perhaps will enlighten us about the problems encountered by animals as they wrestle with a warmer Earth. This program should be accessible to all, as Dave tells us that he is used to speaking to everyone from youngsters to university dwellers, however, he will, of course, tailor this program for

adults.

Dr. Kavanaugh received his B.A. from San Jose State University, a degree in Medicine and 2 years later an M.A. in Biology, both from University of Colorado, and a PhD from University of Alberta in Entomology. He is the chairman and head curator for the Entomology Department of the California Academy of Sciences, where he started out as a curatorial assistant in 1966, advancing steadily to his present position. Kavanaugh is a research associate, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Dr. Kavanaugh has done field work in more than 2 dozen countries and locations as diverse as Italy, the Antarctica, & Madagascar, as well as our own San Bruno Mt.

LISTENING TO BIRDS—JIM STEELE’S HIKE

On **Sunday, May 2, at 8am**, you will be able to hear the sound of music in the Park, with avian expert, **Jim Steele**, as birds defend their territory, and, I would like to think, revel in the beauty & power of their songs & calls.



Jim Steele was for many years the director of the SF State field campus near Yuba Pass, teaching bird ID there. He was a “disciple” of the famed Luis Baptista. taking over his classes after his death. (Towhee.net., Bewick’s Wren photo)

HELP THE PARK: VOLUNTEERISM

We, the Friends of SPVP, need volunteers in many areas. **Officers:** Our great treasurer, **Jane Turrel**, will run for reelection in May; **Shirley Drye** will run for secretary & **Carolyn Pankow** will run for vice president. There is no nominee for president; we may all have to “take turns” leading, and hold on by the skin of our teeth. We need those (See p. 4)

CRAIG CHILDS, FAMOUS NATURE WRITER & EXPLORER, SPEAKS HERE FRI, JUNE 11 at 8pm

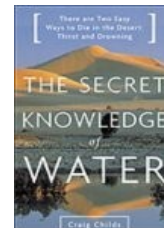
This man can write lyrical prose, yet is a rugged trekker and intrepid explorer, who has studied and written about the archaeology of the “Anazazi” (House of Rain), as well as his encounters with animals (Animal Dialogues) and with a harsh landscape (The Way Out, Secret Knowledge of Water). (Pima Library public image of Craig Childs)



I was desperate to find an exciting yet “poetic” nature writer. So I consulted Google, found Mr. Childs, read the first few pages from his book, “Animal Dialogues”(cover left), and fell in love with his vivid, dynamic writing, & his insight into our wild creatures.

Craig will present “Images From Around the World:

Water From the Deepest Deserts to the Wildest Rivers” **June 11, at 8pm**. He will also answer questions about situations & experiences taken from his other books.



Childs received a self designed master’s degree in desert studies from Prescott College on desert flash-flood hydrology, desert biology & the ecology of desert water holes, and has received such awards for his books as the MPBA Spirit of the West Literary Achievement Award, along with Tony Hillerman, & Terry Tempest Williams.

ON THE TRAIL

A swarm of butterflies, the small **Western Tailed Blues** (photo GreenNature web site), flew around the Trout Farm Trail, just past the picnic grounds in late March—**Shirley Drye**.



A visitor reported (in sign-in book) a **garter snake** “hanging” out with a **Banana Slug** right on the trail. Hmm.. Garter snakes sup on slugs—could this have been the reason for its interest in the slow moving animal? (See “Factoid”)

Lucky **Cindy Shaw** of San Francisco saw the rose colored **bleeding hearts** in bloom on the approach road from the Montara Mountain trail to the top of the mountain in late March. (Montara Mt.image).



(“On the Trail” continued on p.

LIFE OF TREASURER, JANE TURREL:
Part 1: The School Years to the Vet. Years

I was born and raised in western Pennsylvania, I lived there for about 18 years in a new subdivision that was carved from a farm surrounded by woods and forests. My two brothers and I were given full rein to explore the wonders of nature, examining the creatures in our backyard creek (**crayfish and frogs**), hiking through the woods and streams, swinging on the **wild grapevines**, sliding down hills on cardboard, and in general having a great time.

For a good look at that lifetime, read **Annie Dillard's** book "An American Childhood". Dillard is three months older than me and her chronicle of the outdoors of western Pennsylvania is essentially mine.



We had an acre and half of land and we grew our own fruits and vegetables eating fresh, frozen and canned when appropriate. I was active in 4-H, church and Girl Scouts. We always had pets, (toddler Jane with Wag,



the dog) and I knew from an early age that I wanted to be a veterinarian. My parents were great nature lovers so we investigated the local flora and fauna together, learning their names and identifying characteristics.

After high school, I attended Monmouth College in Monmouth, Illinois. My course work was pre-vet so I took chemistry, physics, math and biology. The botany class assignment was to collect 50 plants and catalogue them. I was the only person in the class to get **poison ivy** from my collection efforts. I was desperate for the 50th plant!

I was admitted to veterinary school at the University of Illinois, one of five women out of 70 persons. Four years later in 1970, I graduated & became a small-animal practitioner working in several practices in Illinois and Ohio. I had a desire to become specialized in radiology so after 6 years of practice, I entered a 3-year residency program in radiology & radiation therapy (dog at modern x-ray) at Texas A&M U. Radiation treatment was in its infancy so I was largely self-taught with help from MD Anderson in Houston.

Jane Turrel

(Jane Turrel's life continued in next issue)



DIGGIN' DIPS IN THE MUD

[Must have been a mess of a job:]

We had a good turnout for the March 13th Trail Day -- **Ed Decker, Jim Pommier, myself** and two new fellows -- **Mark Patterson** and **Jerel Crawford**. Ranger **David Vasquez** suggested we head up the Montara Mtn. Trail by the old rifle range to dig some rain dips, so we rounded up the tools and headed up there via the Brooks Falls Trail under a wonderfully sunny and clear blue sky. When we arrived there, we found plenty of spots that needed work -- the trail was pretty soggy and had sections where erosion was creating a narrow trench down the center of the trail. We picked a few spots that we thought would benefit the most from some immediate help and ended up creating 5 or 6 new drain dips and as best as possible tried to re-grade the trail surface. However, in addition to the trail conditions, the vegetation on both sides of the trail is getting pretty thick and could use a visit by the blade trimmer... maybe that will be next month. Anyway, another Trail Day of good work done!

~Joseph

SUN GARDEN WAS THE WINNER IN MARCH

'Twas just before Habitat Restoration Day, in March, 2010, and **Katie Antista** was rescuing some of her favorite souls from the tiresome trouble-makers.—read sagebrush—(at right) & wood mint from burgeoning grasses & “clover”. On March 20, **Jim Mackey & Jim Pommier** lent a hand in the sun garden, weeding upstarts like sheep sorrel with vigor & working their way around the shade garden wall, taking out some over-enthusiastic wild cucumber & blackberries, who were winding around some of the “politer” native plants.



Meeting again in Ap, the 2 Jims fought a rough and tumble battle with the uninvited on the Valley View: eucalyptus and black acacia, at one point engaging in a challenging win vs one of the latter trees with 2 main trunks, one with a 4 in. diam. **Habitat crew needs help in May!**

FACTOID

Garter snakes eat Banana Slugs (refer to “On the Trail”p.1). It took one garter snake an hour to eat a large tasty Banana Slug “steak”. (photo from photogirl's photostream on Flickr) Afterwards he was seen rubbing his “chin” on concrete to get rid of some of the thick, gooey slime. So, can we imagine a “mother” yellow fellow telling her little darling to be careful how he picked his friends? “Please don't hang out with garter snakes”, honey!”



A NATURALIST'S PERSPECTIVE

By Jim Mackey

May/June 2010



On April 22, at 11:30am I began a hike in the Trout Farm Picnic Grounds. It was 50% overcast, cool & breezy. I was delighted to hear two male **Black-headed Grosbeaks** singing – probably proclaiming their breeding territories to each other. It was pleasant & reassuring to know that once again birds of this species had survived the winter at a neotropical site & a long migration back to our Park. (Paul Higgins image)

A few blossoms in the **apple tree** moved violently so I raised my binoculars and discovered that a **black squirrel** was hanging by its hind feet and grasping the blossoms with its hands. (I feel justified in referring to such dexterous paws as “hands.”) The squirrel stuffed 2 or 3 of the large blossoms into its mouth and then pulled itself up onto a branch and munched on the flowers. Incidentally, black tree squirrels are probably a melanistic color phase of the **Eastern Grey Squirrel**. This species has been introduced into Bay Area parks from the eastern U.S., as has the ruddy-colored **Eastern Fox Squirrel**. We have entertained, unwillingly, both of these at our bird feeder at home on Oddstad Blvd. and I believe that I have seen the native **Western Grey Squirrel** in the **conifers** along the upper Trout Farm Trail. So all 3 species of tree squirrels probably occur in our Park.

I continued on the lower Trout Farm Trail past the newly-installed memorial bench for Park-Volunteer **Raul Ortega**.



(Thanks to our Rangers) Past the next bench some colorful **turkey-tail fungi** (Clive Shirley image) on a eucalyptus log caught my eyes. I rolled the log and exposed an adult **Slender Salamander**. This species is probably the most common amphibian in the Park; but is it amphibious? No –

it lays eggs on land – probably a good strategy in this time of vanishing ponds & streams. But it was shady & moist near the log and I spotted a **Brown Cup Fungus**.

I continued up the Trout Farm Trail to its intersection with the Brooks Creek Trail and chose the latter. The trail broke out of the **eucalyptus** forest into an “island” of Maritime Chaparral. As **Toni Corelli** pointed out to us in her talk on April 23, the occurrence of this plant community corresponds with “islands” of granitic rocks. Sure enough, the soil of the trail, from the decomposed rock, becomes grittier, paler and less fertile.



Here I found the **Montara Mountain & brittle-leaved manzanitas** to be in fruit, while the **huckleberries** were still in bloom. (photo of Montara manzanita by Jim Ringland)

At the Maier bench I saw (with the aid of binocs) the 3 tiers of Brooks Falls and **ravens** bathing above the top tier. Later the Mount Montara Trail afforded me a panorama of the ocean bordered by Mt. Tamalpais. By the time I returned, along the Upper Trout Farm Trail, I had seen 3 **dog violets** (google photo of dog violet above, right), 2 **red columbines** and **Flame Long-horn Moths** “dancing” on the foliage of **Ocean Spray** shrubs!



Poor Jim's Almanac. Listen for the flute-like songs of **Swainson's Thrushes**. And watch **Fence Lizards** for their “push-up” displays of territorial & mating behavior.

TRAILS TRIMMED, DIPS DUG ON EARTH DAY

Rob Hughes, Jim Pommier, Yvonne Malloy (Photo of Jim

& Yvonne by J.Piro) & I headed out under a grey sky for the April 10th Trail Day [the “Friends” Earth Day]. Rob headed up the Brooks Falls trail with loppers to do trimming, while Jim, Yvonne and I headed up the Hazelnut Trail behind the Visitor's Center to work on drain dips. We mostly cleaned and spruced up existing dips, but we also dug a few new ones where water flow was starting to erode the trail. I'd say we made it about 3/4 of the way up to the bench at the edge of the **eucalyptus** forest before turning around. On our hike down, Yvonne tallied up 13 spots we worked on. And with rain forecast for Sun, it was perfect timing. We arrived back down at the VC just around noon to enjoy the potluck BBQ with everyone & **Ed Decker** manning the grill.



Joseph Piro

CHAMPS FETED AT EARTH DAY BARBEQUE

Several new people showed up to help celebrate this special time of the month and our trail champs: **Jennifer Alpaugh** and **Rob Hughes**, **Walter Hume**, **Linda Oppenlander**, **Yvonne Malloy** (trail hero), **Susan Hagen & Mother**, **Constance**. “Oldies” were **Ed and Joy Decker**, **Carol Jorgensen**, **Mila** and **Adrian Stroganoff**, **Jim Pommier & Joseph Piro** (2 trail heroes), **Jane Turrel**, **Istvan Puski**, **Carol Martinez**, **Skeeter**, **Carolyn Pankow**, and **Judy Spitler**, who led a morning bird hike in SPVP as a celebration of Earth Day, “netting” a **Pacific Coast Flycatcher** by the VC. (jvhigbee photo at right, below) in the process. Trail workers, Joseph & Yvonne, raffled off 2 Earth Day shopping bags donated by the Friend's, **Patricia Robinson**. Strangely, Yvonne bagged one, as did **Adrian S.**, whose wife had been determined to snag a “prize”.



ON THE TRAIL (continued)

At the very end of February, **Jim Pommier** was on the Brooks creek trail as he saw a flock of about 14 **ravens** fly from the area near the falls toward the Visitor Center. The noise of their wings was an ominous, commanding, “swish, swish, swish—an eerie sound. Is that one reason why they call a flock of ravens a “conspiracy”, or is it only because they’re such “ravenous” eaters? (photobucket image of raven)



Sighted by several workers in the Pedro Point habitat restoration area in early March: a Mountain Lion. Thank you, **John Murphy**, of PLT. (google ph)

*And I walk hungry, smelling the twilight
Looking for you, for your hot heart,
Like a puma in the barren wilderness*

From a poem by **Pablo Neruda**, Chilean poet laureate

MAY—JUNE CALENDAR

- JIM STEELE’S BIRD SONG WALK**
 Sunday, May 2.....8am
MAY TRAIL DAY
 Saturday, May 8.....9am
MAY GENERAL MEETING
 Wednesday, May 12.....7pm
MAY HABITAT RESTORATION DAY
 Saturday, May 15.....9am
KAVANAUGH’S BEETLES & GLOBAL WARMING
 Saturday, May 15.....8pm
JUNE GENERAL MEETING
 Wednesday, June 9.....7pm
CRAIG CHILDS & WATER OF THE WORLD
 Friday, June 11.....8pm
JUNE TRAIL DAY.
 Saturday, June 12.....9am
JUNE HABITAT RESTORATION DAY
 Saturday, June 19.....9am

For all events meet at the Visitor Center

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

- Sat., July 10 at 8pm—Geology of San Mateo Co. with
 Dr. Jean DeMouthe
 Sat, August 7 at 8pm—Intertidal Life with
 John Albers-Mead (of the Fitzgerald Marine Preserve)*

(Volunteers, continued from p.1)

who would like to contribute to the Park & enjoy the camaraderie of working with others. Habitat restoration needs new people on the 3rd Sat. of the month at 9am; join **Jim Pommier, Jim Mackey, Katie Antista, & Istvan Puski**. Or help **Joseph Piro**, who would like to keep our trails in better shape on the 2nd Sat. of each month, also at 9am. Call **Jean Leonard** (359-7485) if you would like to meet the public, while using various skills at the V.C. There are 2 shifts on Sat.& Sun.: 10am-1pm & 1pm-4pm. All are welcome at board meetings, which are on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7pm; this is a time when you can offer your ideas to help the Park flourish.

NEWS BRIEF

The Ortega family has donated a bench to their father, **Raul Ortega**. **Rangers David Vasquez, Doug Heisinger & Head Ranger, Scott Lombardi**, have installed it on the Trout Farm Trail between the **Laverne Decker** bench and the bend in the trail near the Water Company barrier. Raul was president of the “Friends”, a photographer for the bulletin, & contributed an award winning photo for our Visitor Center.



WE LOVED TONI’S TOP NOTCH TEACHING

On Ap. 23, **Toni Corelli** enlightened us about our flora by highlighting individual slides of the flowers, fruit & foliage of many members of 3 of our main plant communities (& dominant plants): Maritime Chaparral (2 **manzanitas**), the cream bush [photo below] & hazelnut complex, & the Coastal Sage (**coyote brush**). She relied on panoramic photos of our Park to show us how each community was recognizable from a distance and told us the soil type it relied upon. She donated her time to us , and we are proud to welcome our local expert as an honorary member of the “Friends”. (Corelli’s et al’s newest book can be found for sale in our bookstore) *Next month: Toni’s loop hike Ap24. SPVP.*



Reach your editor at: carolynjunepankow@yahoo.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

“I am sad that I can not be at the park now, for the spring is the most lovely time with all the flowers blooming, and **Anna’s Hummingbirds** out and breeding” (from a letter by volunteer, **Sara Shaw**, in *So Cal.*)

AP. 9: WILDLIFE ASSOC. PGM ENCHANTS 61 KIDS

Whether it was the one-eyed **Great Horned Owl** who had been hit by a truck or the **opossum** who had fallen out of his mom’s pouch, the children knew that none was imprisoned to satisfy us. A **Red-tailed Hawk** flapped its useless wing; the stress-abandoned **grey fox** showed off his tail & the kids in our V.C. loved them!

The Leaders of “the Friends of San Pedro Valley Park”:

President, **Carolyn Pankow**; Vice President, **Shirley Drye**; Secretary, **Jim Mackey** ; Treasurer, **Jane Turrel** ; members at large, **Jean Leonard** and **Istvan Puski**; visitor center staffing, **Jean Leonard**; Habitat Restoration Day Leader, **Jim Pommier** ; Trail Day Leader, **Joseph Piro**; Membership, **Catherine Antista**; Programs, **Carolyn Pankow**; Trailside Store, **Jane Turrel**.