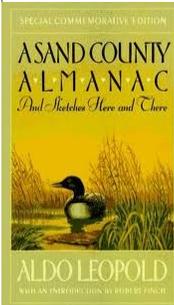


STEVE & ANNE DUNSKY PRESENT FILM ON ALDO LEOPOLD IN EARLY NOVEMBER

“Green Fire, Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time”, a full length film, will be shown by Steve and Anne Dunskey on **Saturday, November 5 at 7:30pm**. This event is in November is in lieu of our October lecture.

“The first full-length, high-definition documentary film ever made about legendary environmentalist Aldo Leopold, *Green Fire* highlights Leopold’s extraordinary career, tracing how he shaped and influenced the modern environmental movement. Leopold remains relevant today, inspiring projects all over the country that connect people and land.” Aldo was instrumental in reestablishing bears and mountain lions to New Mexico wilderness areas, a project inspired by the ‘lattice-work of roads being bulldozed through American wilds’ and from the sight of the dying eyes of a wolf he had shot years before. While his efforts to ‘save’ and understand nature were of inestimable value, he is probably best known for his series of natural history essays in the now classic, “A Sand County Almanac”.



The Dunskeys bring all of his dynamism and dedication to the ecosystems of our Earth to life in their film. Last year they showed us their “Butterflies and Bulldozers”, an acclaimed film about the conflicting interests and struggles for San Bruno Mountain.

The Dunskeys have been working together ever since they met while obtaining their Master’s in Film Art from UCLA. Since that time they have made innumerable films & videos on conservation issues. Their feature-length documentary, “The Greatest Good”, a history of the US Forest Service, has appeared not only on PBS in the United States, but internationally.

OUTDOOR GATHERING WILL INSPIRE MEMORIES OF JEAN LEONARD

Jean Leonard’s daughter, **Linda White**, will be at the “celebration of Jean’s life” on Saturday, September 17, with pictures of Jean at various times in her life. All people are encouraged to bring anecdotes of one or more of their times with Jean. We will then walk to the site where Jean’s commemorative bench will go.

We need each person/family to bring a side dish—salad or dessert for the event. Don’t forget that the barbeque begins at 12 noon. We’ll see you there, I hope.

ALVARO JARAMILLO RETURNS WITH BIRD MIGRATION

One of our most popular speakers, **Alvaro Jaramillo**, will present a program on the steadfast seasonal movement of **birds** that brings them to happier “hunting and breeding grounds”.

The program will take place on Sat. Sept. 3 at 7:30pm. His special interest in bird migration may be encouraged by the fact that he leads trips in both the So and No Hemispheres. (photo from Fla Audubon ws)



Though Alvaro did his first birding as a small boy in Toronto, Canada, he was born in Chile. He studied ecology and evolution in Canada, earning a master's degree studying co-evolution in Argentine cowbirds. Research forays and backpacking trips introduced Alvaro to the riches of the Neotropics. Mr. Jaramillo is an author of the well-received book, The Birds of Chile, and is the expert who wrote the chapter on the New World Blackbirds for the famous Sibley Guide to Birds. He is the author of many articles in various scientific journals.

Mr. Jaramillo has been a “Field Guides” company trip leader, taking novice and experienced birders on trips to the Galapagos Islands, Chile, Uruguay, as well as No. Calif. But now he is starting his own company, which is still in the planning phase. He will be doing tours, educational workshops & the like, which will deal with all of nature, as well as our graceful feathered flyers.

ON THE TRAIL

Ray Trabucco saw and photographed (at right), a dapper **grey fox** on July 15 at 3:58pm. The fox was peeking through some bushes near the creek by the Trout Farm Trail, then went down in a grassy area to defecate, which he managed to do in front of Trabucco, further showing his dominance? by taking a couple of steps toward our photographer, keeping him in eyesight most of the time.

(continued on p 4)



GROWING UP AND INTO NATURE (Part One)

By Shirley Drye

I was born in 1929, on the threshold of the Great Depression and my father's death in Lawrence, Kansas . He had been a merchant owning an Auto Mechanic's Garage and Ford Agency. As nearly as I can figure, although we were extremely poor after his death and moved from a large house to a small one in an affluent neighborhood, we seem to have been accepted by our neighbors.. Our house was small, but we had a car and a telephone. (a recent photo of Shirley in front of her Kansas home)



One of these "neighbors," was the Green family who owned a farm implement dealership. They also owned a small lake on the north end of town about a half mile from where we lived, and the father, who was a hunter, had a small zoo at the lake. On one of those long hot evenings during the 1930's drought, a good sized bunch of neighbors and my family would walk out to Green's Lake to dip our feet in the water to cool off and to look at the animals. I was about 6 or 7 years old and the youngest of 4 children by ten years. The only animal I remember was a very large bear. I stood and looked at him and we made eye contact. I immediately felt very sad that he was cooped up in a cage. Seventy five years later it still bothers me.



I remember those drought years with some affection. We slept out doors on cots in our large back yard because the temperature never dropped below 100 degrees all night. My brothers white-washed our stone lined basement,& we moved our living room furniture down there where it was cool (Shirley in Mother's tub on a hot Kansas day)

I joined Girl Scouts and learned a great deal about the out-of-doors. Many years later, my mother sent me a box of my things I had left behind in Kansas . This was around 1960-63. The word, "environmentalist" was a "dirty word." I was already leaning heavily in that direction, and an acquaintance undertook to straighten me out. Why was I doing this? Was it just a "pose?" I felt the need to understand this myself after being questioned. It was just then that the box arrived, and in it was my old Girl Scout uniform. I shook it out and looked at the long sleeve with all my badges on it. To my surprise, every one of my badges was an out of doors badge except one troop badge. I remember trying very hard to earn a badge on cooking and one on sewing but never achieved them. They were so BORING!

All my badges were, you guessed, it, Wild Flower Finder, Bird Finder, Tree Finder, Star Finder, Trails, Fire Making... So I wasn't putting on an act! I really was that way!

To some extent I can thank my mother who was an avid gardener. We had both a good sized kitchen garden & a number of flower beds. She even gave me my own flower bed



when I was about 10. I also had a number of seasonal jobs, like cutting off the leaves of the lily family plants after they finished blooming. I can remember her claiming she could put a nutritious meal on the table for 10 cents, if you can believe it. She would pay 5 cents for a ham hock, maybe 2 cents for a bag of dried beans & 3 cents for corn meal to make corn bread, & then go out in the yard & collect greens like dandelions & chard & other weeds she was familiar with. It was a good hardy meal! (photo of garden, Shirley in middle with friends)

HOOKER'S EVENING PRIM-ROSE:SUMMER FLOWER

By Jack Dodson

This foggy Spring & Summer has seen the most prodigious and prolonged inflorescence of these bright yellow flowers along Highway One in memory. A member of the evening primrose family, our **Hooker's evening primrose (Oenothera Hookeri)**, seems to love foggy weather & a roadside spot. With them, it's location, location, location. Along every side of our most coastal highways these radiant flowers are blooming as if there's no end to this year's season. It appears they prefer cool & disturbed soil, the closer to the road the better for these flashy fellows.



They started blooming at the base of their stalk and have simply continued to flower ever higher as they spiral upwards. Currently they're growing four feet from the edges of the asphalt, "waving" their yellow flags at us as we drive past them, happy to be bright, floppy flowers that never want to stop growing & giving forth more blossoms.

FACTOID

Mule deer have no teeth in the front of their upper jaw (photo below), only their hard palate. It's as though they had all been knocked out by collisions with cars: there are about 1.5 million vehicle collisions with deer each year, costing over \$1 billion dollars. A deer hit the car of **Jim & Joyce Mackey** last year as they were driving up Fassler, & last winter one wiped out part of a car driven by **Dick Weisgerber**, whose passenger, **Carolyn Pankow**, was scared silly by the "'flying' Nevada mule deer".



ON THE TRAIL (continued)

Ray also nearly stepped on an endangered **Red-legged Frog** at 5:48pm, July 1, near the east part of Weiler Ranch Road. Apparently it liked the damp weather and vegetation.

Ranger **Jonel Ishida** and park aide "**Bernadette**" saw 2 **bobcats**: mom and kitten, in the South Walnut picnic area at 10am on Saturday, July 16. This year, with its bounty of plants feeding critters such as the vole and deer mouse, many a baby bobcat should have a full tummy & live to adulthood.. (Tom Merigan photo of bobcats)



Barbara Kempster saw a juvenile bobcat only, grooming itself in the South Walnut on Tuesday, August

12, just before noon.

Laurie Nikitas was shocked by the wanton display of passion by 2 **banana slugs** and an interloper. These were seen on a drizzly day—approximately July 7, in our Park. I felt it my duty to report these "going-ons". (Laurie Nikitas photo of slug ménage a trois)



Toni Gamlin had been observing a family of **Red Shouldered Hawks** amidst the euc and **pine trees** across from the Rosita condos, listening to the pleas of the youngsters and watching the Mom and Dad coaches encourage the fledglings to fly. Imagine her surprise when one of the offspring appeared right at her upstairs bedroom window, hanging upside down in a pine tree; seemingly with every muscle of its body, it swiveled up and then flew away. Toni ambushed me in Dr. Kobori's waiting room to tell me the story. (Cornel University photo of juvenile red-shouldered hawk)



"TAKE A HIKE DAY" WITH PHIL POSK & JIM MACKEY

The county of San Mateo wants more people to walk in its beautiful parks. **Carla Schoof**, our volunteer program coordinator has informed us that SPVP's showcase hikes will be on the Weiler R. R, etc., on Sept. 24, at 9am. Meet at the Visitor Center. Dress in layers and bring water, a snack and, perhaps binoculars. Posk will concentrate on plants, Jim on birds. Get more info at www.SMCoParks.org/takeahike

SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER CALENDAR

- AL JARAMILLO 'S BIRD MIGRATION**
Saturday, September 3.....7:30pm
- SEPTEMBER TRAIL DAY**
Saturday, September 10.....9am
- SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING**
Wednesday, September 14.....7pm
- SEPTEMBER HABITAT RESTORATION DAY**
Saturday, September 17.....9am
- JEAN LEONARD LIFE CELEBRATION BARBQ**
Saturday, September 17.....12noon
- TAKE A HIKE DAY: POSK and MACKEY**
Saturday, September 24.....9am
- OCTOBER TRAIL DAY**
Saturday, October 8.....9am
- OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING**
Wednesday, October, 12.....7pm
- OCTOBER HABITAT RESTORATION DAY**
Saturday, October 15.....9am
- STEVE & ANNE DUNSKEY'S ALDO LEOPOLD**
Saturday, November 5.....7:30pm

For all events meet at the Visitor Center
Coming attractions:
Saturday, November 19, at 7:30pm—**Paul Donahue's Jaguars**
Weds, Dec. 14, at 6pm The "Friends" Holiday Party

SPRUCING UP FOR THE CONTEST?

By **Joseph Piro**

Well, it was just your trusty 2-man crew of **me & Istvan Puski** for the July 9th Trail Day. Since it was just the 2 of us again, I decided we'd stick nearby and work in the sun garden next to the Visitor's Center -- it was looking pretty overgrown again. We were just about done with that when **Jane Turrel**, manning the VC, opened the back gate and saw us. She told us the good news that the Rand McNally team would be visiting the Park on Tuesday as part of their tour to see if Pacifica is really the "Most Beautiful Town in America." So we now worked on the back patio & trimmed lots of low-hanging branches over the deck over the creek & cleaned up the path through the shade garden, trimming bushes by the bike lock area. I'm glad we could do a little bit to impress the out-of-towners. Whether or not we win though, I'm pretty sure everyone here agrees that our Park -- & Pacifica -- is a pretty beautiful place. (Joseph's shot of Istvan)



Questions or letters to the editor? —email: carolynjunepankow@yahoo.com or write **Carolyn Pankow**, "Friends of San Pedro Valley Park", 600 Oddstad, Pacifica, CA 94044. The editor is the writer of all uncredited features.

The Leaders of "the Friends of San Pedro Valley Park":

President, **Jim Mackey**; Vice President, **Carolyn Pankow**; Secretary, **Shirley Drye**; Treasurer, **Jane Turrel**; members at large, **Istvan Puski**; visitor center staffing, **Doris Kelly**; Habitat Restoration Leader, **Istvan Puski**; Trail Leader, **Joseph Piro**; Membership, **Catherine Antista**; Pgms, **Carolyn Pankow**; Trailside Store, **Jane Turrel** . . .

A NATURALIST'S PERSPECTIVE

By Jim Mackey

Sept./Oct. 2011

A mysterious flower! On August 6, **Ray Trabucco** showed me a single blue flower that he and **Katie Antista** had discovered in the Trout Farm Picnic Grounds. The plant was about one foot tall and looked fragile, with a sparse foliage of branching filaments. The single flower, on top, was about



one inch in diameter and had two concentric circles of about 15 blue petals. It made me think of a chicory, but in its center, above the petals, there was a large vase-shaped ovary with three long, recurved styles. This was surrounded by a large number of stamens. I tried, without success,

to key it to family in Niehaus' "Pacific States Wildflowers." Then I looked at the illustrations of blue flowers in the same guide, again without success. (photo of *Nigella damascene* from [Horizon Herbs](#))

On August 15, Katie came to the rescue! She phoned and said that she had found our flower in a garden book. It was *Nigella damascene*, a native of the Mediterranean Region, and known as "love in the mist" or "Devil in the bush." Katie also said that she had spotted a patch of these flowers in the front yard of a house on Adobe Drive. So I seized my copy of the "Sunset Western Garden Book" and looked up *Nigella*. There was a paragraph of information and even a sketch of the plant, which is a spring annual and in the Ranunculaceae (buttercup family). I also read that the seeds of the plant are used as a spice known as black cumin, and the papery, horned seed capsules are used in dried bouquets.

Next I looked up the Ranunculaceae in the list of 268 species of plants of our Park that **Toni Corelli** gave us at her presentation here in April 2010. There are seven species listed here in the family, including two buttercups, a larkspur, meadow-rue and crimson columbine, but no *Nigella*. Now curious about the bases of the common and scientific names of our new plant, I wanted to have another look at it. Unfortunately the one in the Park had dropped all of its petals, so I went (still on August 15) to the yard on Adobe Drive that Katie had mentioned. There was a patch of **English lavender** continuous with a patch of *Nigella* and with a few **California poppies** mixed in. Most of the *Nigella* were in various stages of fruiting, while the most complete flower retained only five blue petals. I photographed it (at left) and another plant with the largest, darkest seed capsule.



This purplish-brown oval capsule was 3/4-inch long and had five, 1/2-inch long "horns" extending from its top. It could be seen through an airy enclosure of several green, forked, filamentous leaves that extended up from immediately below it. I have



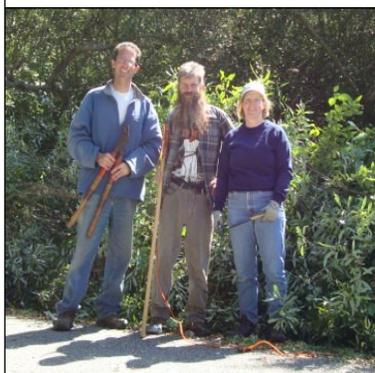
little doubt that the name "Devil in the bush" was inspired by this structure. (Don't ask me about "love in the mist.")

I wondered about the origin of the scientific name, *Nigella damascene*, so I went to my copy of "Jaeger's Sourcebook of Biological Names." *Nigella* is a diminutive form of *niger* (L. for black). Could the seeds be black? (Remember, black cumin?) I sectioned the capsule and found app. 50, 2 mm-long, green seeds. (Probably not ripe.) Dama refers to a fallow deer, while scena is from *scenicus* (L. for a tent or scene). So the forked leaves are the antlers that form a tent around the capsule-devil! (photo of the "Devil's capsule" by **Jim Mackey**)

TRIO OF "TREE" TRIMMERS WINS THE DAY

By Joseph Piro

Istvan Puski and I had a nice surprise for today's August 13th Trail Day -- **Sara Shaw** joined us. Ranger **Doug**



Heisinger suggested we work close-by and trim all the low-hanging branches over the path leading out from the Visitor's Center patio towards the Plaskon Nature Trail & then, if we had time, work on rebuilding some drain dips near the start of the Hazelnut. Well, the 3 of us went to town with loppers and handsaws and

generated a huge pile of branches and also dug a short stretch of rain dip. And the sun came out, too! A good day indeed! (both photos by **Joseph Piro**) (Top - left to right: Joseph, Istvan, Sara) (Bottom photo shows Istvan to the left and Sara to the right)

