

**VALUE of the PACIFICA LAND TRUST—KATHY KELLERMAN**



Our program chair, **Jim Steele**, encourages Pacificans to come to the Visitor Center **Sunday, September 16, at 4pm**, to “join **Kathy Kellerman** for a talk about the acquisition and restoration of lands that are making Pacifica a more resilient & vibrant environment for all to enjoy.” (Outdoorproject.com ph.)

Kathy is bound to emphasize the parcel the most “man” hours have going into, telling you about her planned reintroduction of native plants to the Pedro Point headlands, about its great variety of ecosystems/habitats due to the mixed geological features of the area, including a **Pacific reed grass** field, riparian areas, etc., & its lifeline, its wildlife corridor to other wild areas nearby, especially the eastern green space, including Montara Mt., etc.



Kathy moved to Pacifica in 1997 and immediately fell in love with its natural beauty. After the birth of her daughter, she plunged into local volunteerism, serving as Board President of the Pacifica Co-op Nursery School, working as a docent at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve & as a Pedro Point Head-

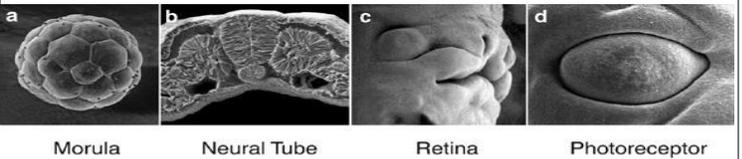
lands Steward. She headed native plant landscaping at Ocean Shore School, which led to her current job as Native Plant Nursery Manager at Go Native, a habitat restoration company. She is currently Project Manager for the Pedro Point Headlands Restoration and Trails Project and is enthusiastic about protecting this important open space for future inclusion in the San Mateo County Parks system.

**CARMEN DOMINGO WILL APPEAR ON SEPTEMBER 8 !**

We are sorry that **Dr. Carmen Domingo's** lecture on how one cell turns into a complete human being had to have a date change, but note she will be able to come on **September 8, at 3pm** in our Visitor Center.



“**Carmen Domingo** is the Dean of San Francisco State University’s College of Science & Engineering and national leader in promoting women in science. She will present her insights from her research in developmental biology, describing how a single cell can divide & differentiate to produce all the wonderful organs & tissues that assemble into the amazing individuals that we are.” (**J. Steele**)



Above, go from our initial ball of cells to the specialization of the various tissues of the eye. (*Nature* magazine images)

**PROGRAM ON POLLUTION IN SAN PEDRO CREEK**

**Sat., October 13<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM** researchers with the Resource Conservation District will speak about the causes of pollution in San Pedro Creek & recent reports of a polluted Pacifica State Beach & what we can do to improve conditions. They are also active in monitoring creek health for **steelhead & coho salmon** in the creeks of W. S.M. County. Details will follow & be posted to our website, **friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org**



(photo shows San Pedro Creek near Capistrano Bridge—) (*Wikipedia*)

**ON THE TRAIL**

**Walter Colquhoun** reported a **Red Tailed Hawk** with a **snake** in its mouth on a bush on the Weiler Ranch Rd. ‘Twas back in early June, but knew you would want to hear about this one. The hawk flew off as Walter was trying to capture its image. (photo of unknown hawk with snake in mouth by **Ron Dudley**)



**Ray Trabucco** inspected the Walnut group picnic area at about 8:30pm in late July and found what is likely our resident **bobcat** hanging out there, undoubtedly checking on dinner prospects.

(On the Trail is continued on page 4)

**FRIENDS BARBECUE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT NOON**

We always welcome sunny October, especially because we can celebrate our 2nd warmest month with barbecued links and burgers, complete with buns supplied by our treasury.



**Mila Stroganoff** will arrange callers, **Joseph Piro** will man the barbeque, and you get to bring your favorite dish to share. What a venue: our creek-serenaded Visitor Center patio; don’t miss meeting all the great nature lovers who hope to meet you!

## MUSHROOM PAMPHLET IS HERE!

And just in time for a little relaxed studying before the wet season and, I predict, a SPVP **mushroom** walk, scheduled by our program chair come December.



*W. Jack-o'-lantern*

But, who put this great guide together? **Jim Steele** created the list from the most commonly reported SPVP mushrooms on iNaturalist. None of the photos were taken in the park. The photos and “explanatories” are from **My-koweb.com** with the generous permission of

**Michael Wood**. Photos and id's are from expert mycologists **Michael Wood** and **Fred Stevens**. **Sharron Walker** and Jim did most of the “deciding” but sent our list to **Bing Huey** and **Jim Mackey** for comment. Sharron was responsible for formatting the guide, keeping it similar to our Flora and Butterfly guides, and she did final editing of text but discussed it with Jim and others. Sharron got the grant & arranged the printing. Jim wrote this explanation. You will find a pdf of the guide on our website, [friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org](http://friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org)



*strict-branch coral*

## CHILDREN & PARENTS CAPTURE NATURE on PAPER

*by Jim Steele*

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, **Jack Laws** enthralled families with his Nature Journaling presentation, encouraging everyone to draw, no matter their skill, and to write questions in a journal. In doing so, we hoped to become better nature observers. We found we were appreciating details too often ignored & becoming inspired to seek a better understanding of our natural world. As a culminating activity, parents & kids worked together. Each drew an individual plant with enough details so that his partner could then identify it within its 4-square meter patch, distinguishing it from other greenery. (Photo by Alwin Szeto, ASZ Photography)



## MEET NEWCOMERS WORKING on TROUT BYPASS

*By Joseph Piro*

On our July 14 Trail Day, new-comers **Sunny Hibbits & Ian Fike** joined **Istvan Puski, me & Rangers Matthew Tolmasoff & Jake Jones** to continue work on the new bypass trail between the bridge by the old foundation back on the Trout Farm Trail & Brooks Creek Trail above. We did a lot of bench-cutting & raking of the existing segments and



Joseph Piro

debated how best to complete a small steep portion, which was left for another day. It's work in progress but will certainly be nice when done -- enjoy the trails! It was sure nice having 2 new people and they both had interesting stuff to share with us. Sunny (the gal in the black cowboy hat next to me in the photo) lives in Montara and splits her time between working at a coffee shop in Half Moon Bay and helping manage 17 **alpacas** at a ranch in the back of Montara. Ian (the guy in the yellow jacket on the other side of me in the photo) is a recent transplant from Seattle, lives in Potrero Hill in SF & commutes to a job in Mountain View (which he says is sure a grind) and is working on an 8 hr. volunteer requirement for a trail-running club (or race) he's doing. Both seemed to enjoy the work so hopefully they'll come back again.

## THE BUG LADY PUTS ON TWO GREAT SHOWS!!

*by Judy Bacon*

On Monday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Bug Lady, **Stephanie Doyle**, brought her live bugs and described how these creatures defend themselves. She brought her program to almost 100 children, parents, and others! A full house! She highlighted the parts of a bug with an animated song on head, thorax abdomen; then she explained the various ways insects defend themselves from stinging to stinking;

not only do some bugs just not taste good, but they advertise this through their coloring.

Finally she passed around items to make a bug catcher, a pooter; kids & parents went out to catch their own bugs with lots of enthusiasm; we were all amazed at the big haul some had. Insects were everywhere! What fun it was, but maybe not for the bugs, who were, however returned to their habitat.



Judy Bacon

(Continued on page 3)

### A Naturalist's Perspective by Jim Mackey Sept./Oct. , 2018

**Mallards in Linda Mar.** Last Jan. 10 I hiked south from the shopping center to under the Coast Highway Bridge. I encountered a pair of mallards (male & female). Nearby there was a group of four males. I recalled that, in winter,



a female selects a mate from several suitors. This is challenging because there are more males than females - especially in cities, where the nesting habitat is poor - and the females do all of the nesting. (photo of mating mallards by Ron Dudley)

May 7. Two mallards mating near the mouth of San Pedro Creek. The male swam in tight circles around the female while pumping his head up and down, then mounted her with the back of her head in his beak, and she mostly submerged. They copulated, then separated and flapped!

May 8. The mouth of San Pedro Creek. Sanderlings, and, or "peeps" here - some bathing. Also 4-6 whimbrels. (Whimbrel at left; Sanderlings and Calif. Gull in J. Mackey photo) Three mallards flew over - two males pursuing a female. I moved to the bridge over the creek, on the road to Pedro Point. There was a female mallard



J. Mackey

swimming with four ducklings (at left) and a male nearby. A killdeer landed below & a male Red-winged Blackbird perched on the bridge railing. Good



J. Mackey

July 10. I am on the bridge over the creek. Six adult-sized, brown mallards are dabbling in the same spot where I saw a female, four ducklings and a male on May 8! (See photo at left) Were they the same birds? I would like to think so. The male might have molted all of his flight feathers and gone into his eclipse plumage (female-like). Such flightless males are known to flock together. Maybe all six of these birds



J. Mackey

are flightless males? Why didn't I visit this family between May 8 and July 10? (Incidentally, a mallard usually lays about 8 eggs.) (All James Mackey photos were taken on site on the dates given!) Then Joseph Piro captured a photo of this elegant Great Blue Heron at the Creek's mouth on Aug 11.)



### (The Bug Lady, continued)

**Stephanie's** second show was on Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. This time the theme was change: how insects like **butterflies, beetles, and moths** grow from an egg to a caterpillar to a pupa to an adult. She showed how many arthropods, including some insects, grow by shedding their exoskeleton, molting, getting bigger & bigger as they shed their skins. Our own **Jim Steele** helped to display the chart on how insects go from an egg to adult.



Judy Bacon

Then, again, all went outside to collect!

### DUO TRAIL TRIM: HAZELNUT, BROOKS FALLS

By Joseph Piro

We had a great turn-out for our August 11th Trail Day, primarily because a group of "**Give Back**" volunteers from **The Cheesecake Factory** came to help. With so many people, we decided to break into two groups. Ranger **Matthew Tolmasoff** led the group of new-comers up the Brooks Falls Trail to cut back **manzanita** above the bench overlooking the falls. Meanwhile, **Istvan Puski**, my brother **Erik** and I headed up the Hazelnut Trail (making it up to the **eucalyptus forest**) trimming various overhanging and overgrown vegetation all along the way. Nothing like helping keep our wonderful trails clear to enjoy!



J. Piro

**ON THE TRAIL (continued)**



I am pretty sure I spotted a **pygmy blue butterfly** today along Valley View lower trail not far above the beginning of the trail above the horseshoe pit. Will try to get a photo as this would be another new

Peter J. Bryant species for the Park. It is one of the smallest butterflies in the world and in the Lycaenidae Family (Blues and Hairstreaks etc.). Keep your eyes open if you wander that way this month or August. Afternoon walk about 1:30. **Ron Wilson** July 26—upper Valley View Trail. Also saw this



Ron Wilson

**mule deer fawn.** (above)

Then on Aug 11, **Joseph Piro** photographed a hand-



Joseph Piro

some young fella in an area contiguous with our park, across from the Rosita condominiums. He was immersed in **cow parsnip, horse-tails**, etc, but had teeth & tongue only for the **blackberries**.



Joseph Piro

**Epipactis helleborine** on the V.C. end of the upper Trout Farm trail . Very pretty lavender/pink on this introduced orchid.



Park Aide, **Brian**, was transfixed by the tiny **Western**

**fence lizard, Sceloporus occidentalis**, sunning itself on the V.C. pkg lot curbing early Sunday am, August 19. Many guests in the Visitor Center remarked on all the little lizards they saw on the trails.



**CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018**

**SEPTEMBER TRAIL DAY**

**Saturday, September 8.....9am**

**CARMEN DOMINGO'S: FROM ONE CELL TO US**

**Saturday, September 8.....3pm**

**SEPTEMBER HABITAT RESTORATION DAY**

**Saturday, September 15.....9am**

**KATHY KELLERMAN'S VALUE OF PACIFICA LAND TRUST**

**Sunday, September 16.....4pm**

**OCTOBER TRAIL DAY**

**Saturday, October, 13.....9am**

**REMEDY FOR POLLUTION IN SAN PEDRO CREEK?**

**Saturday, October 13.....3pm**

**FRIENDS OF SPVP OCTOBER BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, October 16.....7pm**

**OCTOBER HABITAT RESTORATION DAY**

**Saturday, October 20.....9am**

**FRIENDS AUTUMN BBQ**

**Saturday, October 20.....Noon**

*For all events except board mtgs, meet at Visitor Center*

**DON'T MESS WITH MOTHER NATURE! Help us, Little Fly**

The dashing **Cape ivy gall fly** may come to rescue our coastal scrub from the tangling green menace of **Cape ivy** in the Bay Area—hope hangs high. Some flies have already been deposited in the Golden Gate National Rec. Area where the invader reins supreme.



The idea is to appreciably weaken the fast-growing invasive, so that we stand a chance in eradicating **Cape ivy**, maybe eventually from SPVP; **Paul Jones** led an effort to pull out the monster from a study area off the main Trout Farm Rd. (in back of the bench) almost 2 decades ago, along with **Clark Natwick, Ranger Mike Fritz & others.** (gbohne/Flicker fly photo )

Cape ivy not only is not food for almost all of our natives, but it is poisoning some animals; those rare & endemic ones around rivers & creeks are at the highest risk.

The article in the October-December 2017 issue of "Bay Nature" tells us also that the USDA facility at Albany, CA, has tested the other possible deleterious effects of this gall fly and found it to be "safe" for our ecosystems, thus avoiding a Mongoose-Hawaiian native bird type debacle. (cal.gov web site photo of **cape ivy** )

*(Note: GGNRA says: Cape ivy was brought to the Eastern U.S. in the 1850's as a house plant, & introduced to California in the 1950's)*



**The Leaders of "the Friends of SPVP":** President: **Jim Steele**; Vice President & Editor of this newsletter: **Carolyn Pankow**; Secretary: **Judy Bacon**; Treasurer: **Bing Huey**; Visitor Center Desk and Staffing: **Mila Stroganoff**; Habitat Restoration leader: **Istvan Puski**; Trail Leader: **Joseph Piro**; Membership: **Jim Steele**; Programs: **Jim Steele**; Trailside Store Manager: **open**; Membership misc: **Katie Antista**.  
**WEB SITE: friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org** Letters to Ed : Carolyn at [pankowinca@gmail.com](mailto:pankowinca@gmail.com)

### Ron Wilson's SPVP Insects in July



Flesh Fly



Angle Wing Butterfly

### Jack Laws' Nature Journaling Class on July 5th



Alwin Szeto