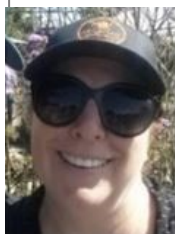


Our website: friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org Offers info on new natural history programs, recordings of past programs, info on animals and plants in SPVP, and more!

WHERE HAVE ALL THE MONARCH BUTTERFLIES GONE?

Kimberley Young, a Xerces Society Ambassador, will discuss the **Western Monarch butterflies**, their migratory



route & breeding habits in her **webinar*** on **June 5, at 4pm**. She will show the severe decline in their populations that has occurred in the last 2 decades and the various causes contributing to the collapse of the once large and healthy populations. The

size of their over-wintering clusters is pathetic in forested groves in Natural Bridges S.B. & Pacific Grove, etc. There is a need to help recover these huge losses by seeking to find protection under the Endangered Species Act. Join Kim to learn of the plight of W. Monarch butterflies & to learn how we can help all pollinators.

Ms. Young, a Monarch Butterfly Conservation Specialist, is a Calif. native who grew up learning about native flora & fauna. Kimberley gardens with Calif. native plants & helps to improve habitat for declining species, especially pollinators, by teaching effective conservation methods. She owns a 10 acre organic farm in No. Calif. & teaches about soil health, biodiversity, & restoration. She is a UC



Master Gardener, but her main love is helping others to learn about the need to protect our flora and wildlife of our planet Earth to ensure our own survival. (**Connie Masotti** photo)

SATURDAY, MAY 8th BIRD WALK WITH JIM STEELE : 8am

Our **bird** song & identification man is back! **Jim Steele** will help you find logical ways to zero in on which bird is



announcing itself. He'll help you with sight recognition also. Prime among his credentials are Mr. Steele's popular bird song classes at the SFSU Field Campus, as well as his work under the late famous **Luis Baptista** at the Cal. Acad. Meet Jim at **8am, Sat. May 8th**, in front of the Visitor Center. Bring binoculars.

Gregg Thompson

***For instructions on how to participate in the May or June webinars, see page 4 of this newsletter.**

MARK HYLKEMA: LIFEWAYS of OHLONE INDIANS of SF & MONTERREY BAY; MAY 15 at 4pm; Webinar*

In 1769, when the first Spanish expedition reached Monterey and learned of S.F. Bay, they encountered numerous tribal communities that lived in a bountiful landscape. Over a period in excess of 10,000 years tribal communities adapted to several major environmental transitions, and archaeological research has found that tribes spread along the San Mateo and Santa Cruz Co. coast developed an early focus on marine resources. Neighboring tribes of the Santa Clara Valley and SF Bay shore developed a different economic focus, creating an exchange system that eventually promoted more complex levels of social organization. This discussion



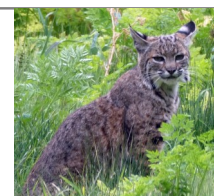
Alameda Sun

will provide an outline of the archaeology and ethnography of the ancestral **Ohlone people** and provide insights into the native lifeway that once flourished in our neighborhoods. We will reflect on what it was like not too many years ago when **grizzly bears** and the Ohlone people dwelled here and re-live the experiences of the first Spanish explorers.

Mark Hylkema is Supervisor of the Cultural Resources Program for the Santa Cruz District of Calif. State Parks, in an area ranging from S.F. to the Pajaro River. He has 40 years of experience in Calif. archaeology, mainly in Native Am. Culture, and has taught anthropology courses at many colleges and universities including U.C. Santa Cruz, not to mention serving 11 years as an adjunct professor at Foothill College.

ON THE TRAIL

On 3/13, Park Aide, **Steve**, saw a **bobcat** prowling by **willows** in the "Walnut"; one mo. later, at rt, photo by **Sharron W.** of **bobcat**:



11:30am; near Weiler/Hazlenut junction.

3/20, Spring! Left: **Sharron Walker's hound's tongue** at Weiler/HzInt junction.

Ray Trabucco: Great Blue Heron caught 2 **gophers**: So. Walnut; 4pm; 4/22.(cont p. 4)

DR. NATALIE NAGALINGUM: WHAT'S IN A FLOWER? OUR FEBRUARY 27th WEBINAR LECTURE

by Mila Stroganoff

Flowers are mysterious, seemingly so simple, composed of 4 distinct parts: sepals, petals, stamens with



Ian Foss

their pollen-laden anthers, and pistils with their sticky stigmas and ovaries. But there is every possible variation under the sun. We have fused flowers, partially fused

ones, inflorescences, solitary flowers and some that have only one sex per plant. Formerly all groupings were based on appearance; now scientists rely on DNA to fashion the new stick trees or cladograms that are used to group plants, to show their evolutionary relationships.

The surprising thing is that flowers, which play such a beautiful part in our lives, were not created for us. They show up in the fossil record some 135 million years ago, a recent phenomenon in the geologic record. And not to be undone, **insects, birds, flies, bats**, have all had a hand in co-evolving with flowers. Of utmost importance is pollination, which takes place so that another generation of plants can occur. You ask why? The core of this process is not just the gifting of food to these animals, not just creation of seeds for a new plant, but shuffling of genes from 2 parents, so that the offspring have a chance not only to grow, but to thrive and adjust as their environment changes.

Let's start with the **Rafflesia**, the largest solitary flower in the world, incidentally pollinated by **flies**, which are attracted to its burgundy colors and rotting scent.

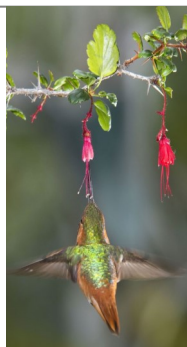
Bats like fruity or musky smells and white flowers that are open at night. **Bees** can see UV light and can see what we humans cannot. They can also see blue and yellow and even a mixture of these two colors. Bees are usually found in flowers that are



tubular in shape and that provide nectar, a critical energy source, an especially important point that should not be forgotten. Pollen is also nutritious as it contains proteins, vitamins, and minerals.

Birds, especially **hummingbirds**, hang out with red flowers, which is a color not visible by bees; a classic example of this is **Allen's Hummingbird** sipping nectar from the **gooseberry** flowers in the next column.

Butterflies see red, yellow, orange, and purple & prefer flowers with aromatic hidden nectar, often ones with landing pads. But what about plants whose flowers have reduced petals, as do the grasses? They have a different game: produce copious amounts of pollen and let the wind carry it to stigmas on their counterparts.



BEES SWARM, SHARRON WALKER WONDERS



*On Feb. 21, a huge mass of **honey bees** flew onto a **Coast live oak** in SPVP, and I wondered, "Why do bees swarm?" Apparently, when the colony gets too big for its health, as resources become limited, the hive may split, with one group remaining in the existing hive. There is much more to the story of why bees swarm, including the story of the old queen & the new queen. Let this be the spark for you to Google! (Sharron Walker photo on 2/21)*

Honoring Earth Day! by Sharron Walker

The Friends accepted the challenge suggested to local environmental groups from the Pacifica Beach Coalition to celebrate Earth Day. We've participated at the annual Eco Fest, which has been canceled for the past 2 years due to COVID. Our project was to work in SPVP.



A hardy and energetic group showed up on April 21 to weed & plant near the VC. Pacifica Land Trust's **Kathy Kellerman**, provided plants and guidance. **Stu Smith**, SMCP Vol. coordinator, assisted with supplies & weeded up a storm; **Matt Del Carlo** & rangers backed our work.

So this year we continued to support Earth Day by being outside, working responsibly together – good for the Earth and ourselves! It was a very productive day!!

THE RETURN OF THE WOLF: Webinar Review in next issue

After 100 yrs, Calif. wolves, top predators, have a pack in Lassen; What's going on? Check our Jul/Aug newsletter & our website under "recorded lectures", for their story. To be involved in their return, go to (case-sensitive) websites: <http://bit.ly/ReinstateWolfProtections>
<http://bit.ly/CenterWolfCampaign>

LONG-TIME FRIENDS MEMBER, ISTVAN PUSKI—Part I

Judy Bacon tells us: "I've known **Istvan** for some years and am always amazed at his sensitivity and kindness for other people. He seems to always think about the other person's point of view. He has a vast knowledge about a wide range of topics! He is also very, very devoted to the park, but I think everyone knows that." No, not everyone makes the same effort to know people that Judy does, but there is more: Istvan has a sense of humor about us humans; he has the type of intelligence, which because he doesn't think people should be perfect, lets him enjoy us without judging us. However, though he is open to knowing you, that does not mean he will tolerate your actions if you are destroying a native plant or running after a deer. He is an environmentalist.

I got to know this quiet, bearded man gradually over a period of maybe 25 years, at first thinking that he might be too wild to approach, as he always seemed to appear out of the woods or brush and calmly blend into the background again, but he did have his bicycle—not a hermit. Little did I know that his mother, Anne was a charter member of the Park Volunteers, or that his family had made Pacifica their home when he was 7 years old, that within 3 years they left Pacific Manor to live in what he called the "crazy house" (a construction jumble) on Pedro Pt, that he was a Hungarian dancer, a musician, an herbalist, & the story goes on, as it will in our next issue.

Another revelation: he didn't just hike the trails, he knew these trails and their flora & fauna intimately. He had seen scats of Mt. Lion, realizing they were keeping an eye out on hikers like him. One day, while we were weeding



CSUSM PHOTO
Alum root

in our sun garden, Istvan filled in the name of a plant I'd forgotten, **alum root**. I thought it might be a fluke, as he never bragged or revealed how much he knew about native plants. He became my gardener, revealing **giant trillium** growing behind my chain link fence, as he cleared out **English ivy**; he never pulled a "home" plant; aliens were history, yet he was a little reticent to pull thistles, knowing many **butterflies** need them.

When he decided to join the Park Vol, about 20 years ago, he respectfully introduced himself at a museum meeting as he gently took a seat. He became much more than an ordinary member as we well know: loyal trail worker, habitat restoration leader, member of the board, not to mention the feared "ax man". (Part II: Jul/ Aug)



Peregrine's Saga; Mar27 Webinar with Doug Bell

by Mila Stroganoff

How did we go from 250 **Peregrine Falcon** (*Falco peregrinus*) pairs in Calif. to 2 pairs in 1970? How did we take a much-revered bird & practically make it globally extinct within the span of 25 years? The answer comes with the further development of chemicals during WW II, especially DDT. After the war it was thought to be a miracle insecticide. It was used everywhere with no idea of its consequences. DDE, a breakdown product of DDT, negatively impacts the female reproductive system in birds and does not allow calcium to form in the body, creating much thinner eggshells, so that the eggs come out deformed, or the mother hen cannot incubate them because her weight destroys them. These are consequences of DDE. (cont'd p. 5)



U. Oregon

HIKERS on "LOOP" THANK WORKERS

By Joseph Piro



On Mar. 13, 2021, Trail Day, (l to r) my brother **Erik**, I, **Joseph**, **Stan Jensen** and **Istvan Puski**, took a variety of tools along for a hike on the Montara Mt./ Brooks Falls Trail loop. We used McLeods, a soft rake and a small mattock to clean debris and silt out of several drain dips (and even made a small new one).... and Stan's loppers came in handy trimming back various low-hanging branches. Despite being rather cool and grey out, there were a surprising number of folks of all ages enjoying the same route.

Several people thanked us as they walked by our work sites; one couple asked us what we were doing digging and scraping out a small ditch. I explained to them that we were making drain dips, & how we helped manage water flow; they were attentive and grateful. Hope everyone's well; see you on the trail!

ON THE TRAIL (Continued)

In late March **Istvan** was "lunching" in the Trout Farm area when he was joined by a **deer** from the hill, who companionably browsed close by on **willow, nettle**....

Sharron Walker loved these **horsetail "sprouts"** she photographed 2nd day of spring on Weiler, just beyond the Hazelnut Trail junction. (sun garden had petite ones)

P.A. Steve saw **striped skunk**: 10am, 4/17; ambled from the V.C. area to kiosk hill.

Ray Trabucco: 4/23, 4:25pm; 2 **turkeys** in kiosk area.



HERE'S TO A SAFER WALK ON THE HAZELNUT!

By **Joseph Piro**

Istvan Puski, Stan Jensen, my brother **Erik** and I were the team for our April 10, 2021 Trail Day. Under a sunny blue sky we headed out to work on the east end of the park -- we walked out Weiler Ranch Road, where we scraped some weeds from around the benches, and then headed up Hazelnut Trail (with permission from the Rangers to go "reverse" on the route). We made it a little over a mile up the hill, where along the way we trimmed back vegetation that was getting a little too wild, filled in some gopher holes and cut out some "tripper" roots in the trail, gently raked out some drain dips.... and enjoyed all the great views. Happy Spring and enjoy the trails! (Joseph's photo of brother, **Erik**, cutting back vegetation.)



Zoom Webinar Instructions

by **Adrian Stroganoff**

We have changed the signup for Webinars. Instead of sending an email, you need to go to our website, <http://friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org>

In the Events section, you will find a link to the registration page for each webinar. There you need to put in your name & email address to register. You will then get a confirmation email with further instructions, & reminder emails closer to the event.

MAY/JUNE 2021 CALENDAR

JIM STEELE BIRD WALK

Saturday, May 8.....8am

MAY TRAIL DAY

Saturday, May 8.....9am

MAY HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, May 15.....9am

MARK HYLKEMA'S LIFEWAYS OF THE OHLONE web*

Saturday, May 15.....4pm

K.YOUNG: Where have all MONARCHS gone? web*

Saturday, June 5.....4pm



JUNE TRAIL DAY

Saturday, June 12.....9am

JUNE HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, June 19.....9am

Outdoor events: wear mask; distance; meet at Vis. Cntr

**Webinar instructions are on this page at the bottom.*

NATURE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS on our WEBSITE

As I researched the article on our Feb. Webinar, I knew I had to remind you of our info-packed website: friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org At present, it contains **8** lecture/webinars that the Friends have hosted since beginning these virtual lectures on 5/20! Click on lecture recordings. **Mila**



FACIOM

Nectar on Order; Just Buzz Me.

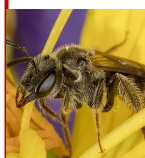
Lilach Hadany, an evol. theoretician., wondered if plants, not just animals, could use sound to help them survive. She discovered through a series of careful experiments that the **evening primrose** had the ability to respond to the nectar needs of its pollinators, the flowers themselves serving as ears, picking up the specific frequencies of bees' wings while tuning out irrelevant sounds like wind. She revealed that its tall yellow blossoms, common by highways in S. M. Co., produce fresh nectar 3 min. after hearing the buzz, in order to attract the nearby **bees**!



(Nat'l Geog. Sci. News article by **Michelle Z.**

Donahue, 1/15/'19) And it was not the only flower to have this ability. At night, **moths**

pollinate the even. primrose. (Smithsonian Mag; 12/20)



Sweat Bee

The Leaders of "the Friends of SPVP": President: **Judy Bacon**; Vice President: **Mark Golembiewski**; Secretary: **Enid Ansgarius**; Treasurer: **Susan Kern**; Visitor Center Shift Coordinator: **Carl Schwab**; Habitat Restoration Leader: **Istvan Puski**; Trail Leader: **Joseph Piro**; Membership Director: **Adrian Stroganoff**; Director of Programs: **Mila Stroganoff**; Zoom Webinar Program Coordinators: **Mila & Adrian Stroganoff**; Director of Hospitality: **Judy Bacon**; Directors of Website Management: **Lakshmi Javadekar and Jayesh Kapoor**; Trailside Store Manager: **Melinda Moses**; Newsletter editor: **Carolyn Pankow** (pankowinca@gmail.com); Members-at-large: **Bing Huey, Sharron Walker**; Vol. Contributor: **Katie Antista** membr misc.

The Peregrine's Saga: March Webinar with Doug Bell (continued from page 3)

Dr. Doug Bell in "The Peregrine's Saga" took us on a most informative and fascinating story of **the peregrine falcon** from its healthy global distribution to almost complete extinction due to the toxicity of these chemicals, to full recovery. His lecture was a tour de force, but so was the battle to save ***Falco peregrinus***.

According to **Indigenous Californians**, & other Indians, we humans were created by "Wek-wek" (Peregrine Falcon) **Coyote Man & Condor Man**, who provided us with the natural resources we would need to live & prosper. Perhaps it was only fitting, that as we owed this falcon our very existence, it was our responsibility to save it.

To save the peregrine falcon, scientists turned to the Art of Falconry practiced by the royal societies of Europe in the Middle Ages. They took the eggs laid by the hen, placed dummy eggs, and then two weeks later returned with two-week hatchlings. These little birds were accepted, fed, and cared for by the peregrine parents.

But it was not as simple as that. It took decades for scientists to realize what was happening to the population numbers of **peregrine falcons**, **ospreys** and **bald eagles** and why. They needed scientific data and proof. However, before the advent of DDT, scientists were notified of the shooting sprees that were occurring on Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania from 1932 -1934, that killed thousands of peregrine falcons. A slaughter of unprecedented proportions was going on. Hawk Mt. was purchased and turned into a sanctuary and a warden hired.

Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*, published in 1972, analyzed the peregrine count per hour every year from 1948 -1960. She read, studied, and assembled countless reports of the effects of numerous chemicals being used in agriculture and everyday life. She hypothesized that DDT prevented birds from breeding. Her book, *Silent Spring*, was the bellwether that said in no uncertain terms that widespread application of pesticides & their degraded byproducts would result in there being no birds. She was vilified but stood her ground and against countless odds was proven right.

James J. Hickey at the U. of Wisconsin held an international conference in Madison, Wisconsin in 1965, regarding peregrine falcon populations. In '67 British researchers verified that DDE does not allow for calcium to bind, creating thin eggshells inside the raptors. **Dr. Dan Anderson** in the journal *Science*, wrote an article about chlorinated hydrocarbons & eggshell changes in raptors & fish-eating birds. He had measured egg thicknesses from 1700 eggs from 39 museum collections. In 1970, **Derek Ratcliffe** published peregrine eggshell data for Britain and stated that an 18 percent or higher reduction of eggshell thickness was the tipping point.

Finally, DDT was banned in the United States in 1972.

The captive breeding & release program took place from 1974 – 1992 in California. In 1990 there were approximately 100 nests. We are currently at over 300 pairs in California, but the carrying capacity is not yet known.

Peregrines reside in the S.F. Bay Area in both natural settings (20), as well as anthropogenic settings (27), for a total of 47 nest sites. Peregrines use a scrape with a ledge for a nest unless they take over another bird's nest. However, the fledglings need help in urban settings, sometimes multiple times over, when they attempt to fly and end up somewhere unexpected and cannot make it back to their nest.

However, as adults, peregrines are the fastest bird and vertebrate, clocking in at 242 mph when diving in a stoop and showing off its prowess during the mating period. And they're adept at eating **pigeons**, so let us have kinder thoughts for pigeons.

We have had success with reintroducing condors and peregrine falcons to the wild, but our successes are few compared to the many losses of biodiversity occurring in the world today. Let us hope that we have more successes in our efforts to preserve the natural world.

*Here are some websites that **Dr. Doug Bell** asked me to include in my article:*

1. YouTube website to determine flying spd: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5uy84N8CjR0>
2. Research continues: check the following web site: <https://pbrg.pbsci.ucsc.edu/>
3. Check out this website with camcorders at UC Berkeley: <https://calfalcons.berkeley.edu/>

Predators of a Different Feather



Bing Huey's Red-tailed Hawk: January 29, 2021
Valley View Trail



Sharron Walker's Peregrine Falcon, male & female (l to r);
2/22/21; nest above the trail, back side of Devil's Slide

Ron Wilson; Junco; Strands for Nest Weaving



Ron Wilson's Dark-eyed Junco
with nesting materials; Female Builds the Nest;
April 18; Trout Farm Trail

Lynx rufus: Prowling for Potential Prey; Sharron Walker



Sharron Walker followed this Bobcat with her camera at 11:30am on April 14, 2021, a bit up from the Weiler Ranch Rd. near the Hazelnut Trail entrance. About 15 min. later she was able to capture its image on the Weiler Ranch Rd. Look at the next page to follow its movements with Sharron.



Hiker observes
Right of way

Sharron Walker



Sharron Walker

The End of the Tale
Goodbye, Kitty



Sharron Walker

Wilson & Huey: Beauty is in the Eyes of the Bird, Spider....?



Ron Wilson

Stable Fly with piercing stylet mouth;
Need to tell you whom it takes blood from?
March 4; Trout Farm Trail



Ron Wilson

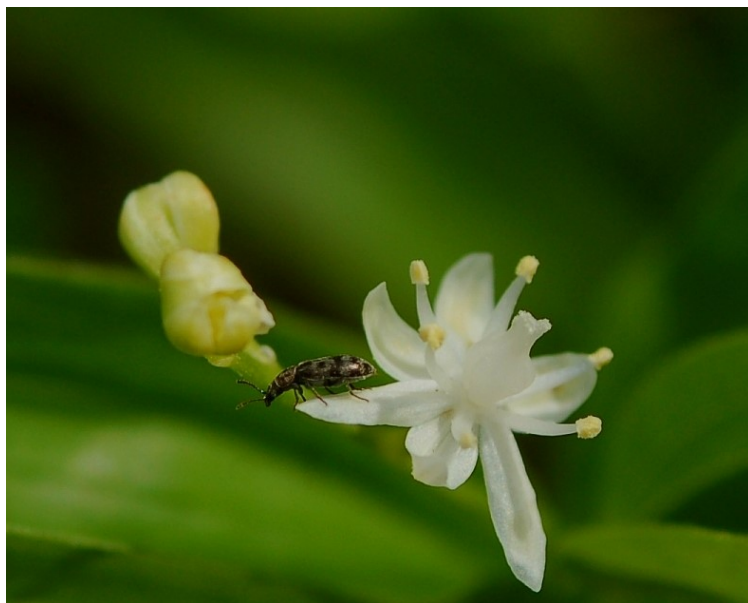
Ant and wasp; who's eating
whom? Is a parasitic wasp lay-
ing eggs in the ant, or is the
ant chomping on a wasp?
March 4; Trout Farm Trail



Bing Huey

Tenebrionid Beetle—a scavenger on plant material, also
insects, etc; April 16, 2021; Valley View Trail

Bing Huey's Possible Pollinators; Insects



Beetle on Slender False Solomon's Seal;
3/24; Hazelnut Trail



Detail from photo at left



Solitary Bee on Blackberry Flower; 3/24;
Hazelnut Trail



Detail from photo at left

Huey's Formic Feasters: Recyclers, Soil Aerators, Pollintors, & Tasty Tidbits for Woodpeckers, Wrentits, & more!



Bing Huey



Bing Huey



Bing Huey



Bing Huey

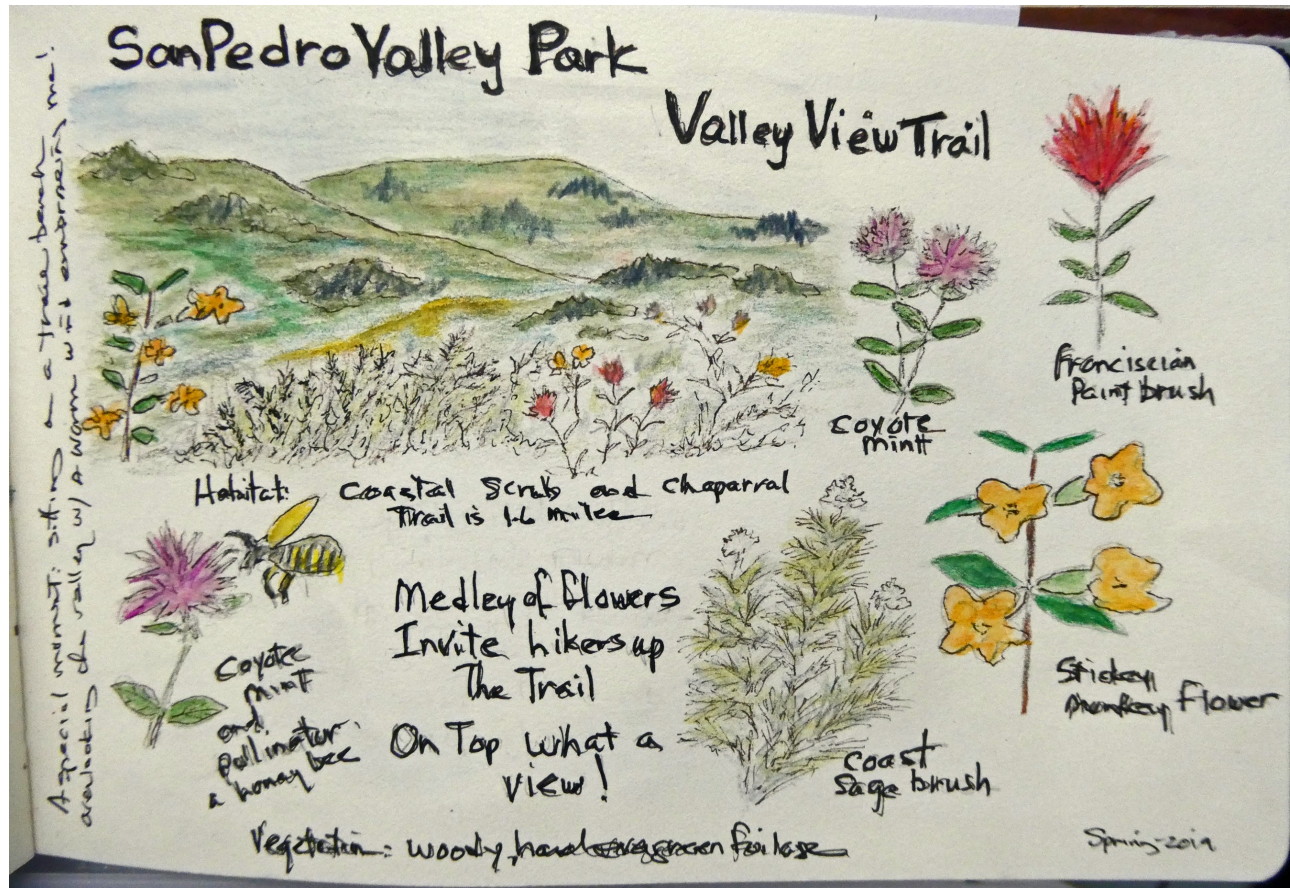
The Buzz on Sharron Walker and the Bees



Swarm of Bees Visits SPVP

On Feb 21, as I was leaving the VC, I noticed an unusual number of **bees** on my car. Indeed there was a swarm settling in a small **oak tree** in the parking lot. Though the rangers set up warnings to alert visitors, for the most part swarming bees are docile. The bees remained in the oak for about 2 hours then moved on, which is normal behavior. Where did they go? (See "Bees Swarm....." on page 2)

Nothing Says Spring Like Flowers



Sharron Walker Journalled the Valley View Trail in Spring 2019;
Now she's teaching Journaling Classes at the Sanchez!



Sharron Walker; Hound's tongue;
3/20/21; Weiler Ranch Rd/Hazelnut



Douglas Iris; Michael Kimbell;
4/20/08; Hazelnut Trail

More Flowers of Spring: Huey & Wilson



Bing Huey

Dichelostemma: White Variant
April 1, 2021; Valley View Trail



Ron Wilson

Solomon's seal
4/2/21 at 4pm; Trout Farm Trail



Bing Huey

Dichelostemma;
April 16, 2021; Valley View Trail



Bing Huey

A California Gilia;
April 16; Valley View Trail

We Celebrate Earth Day on April 21, 2021

16



Friends Earth Day Participants: (left to right: Front Row: Bevan, Istvan, Carolyn, Judy, Enid, Carl Kathy, Sharron; Back Row left to right: Jack, Brian & Mark (not shown: Bing & Penny) - Stu Smith took photo with Sharron's camera!! Total 13 of us showed up!!!

Judy, Mark, & all your board: Sunday "Welcome!" Tables in March & April have been pretty successful but mostly fun. All Friends of SPVP can join us & maybe learn the ropes in May & June. See website (top of p. one) for dates!



S. Walker

Penny & Mark Weeding Island 2



S. Walker

Carl & Mark Weeding & Planting Island 2

Judy Bacon; Friends at Work on Our Earth Day



Brian Speigelman Shows No Mercy



Weeds Meet Their Match in Carl Schwab



Sharron Prepares "Nest" for a Native



Mark Introduces Native Beauties

Friends of San Pedro Valley Park

Come and Be a Monthly Volunteer With Us!!

'Trail Keepers'

The second Saturday of every month is designated for our trail upkeep work. Trail work typically involves clearing brush from the trail sides, cleaning out drain dips, raking out trail bends, and cutting overhanging branches.

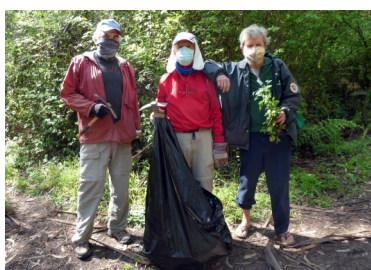
'Habitat Rehabbers'

The third Saturday of every month is designated for our habitat restoration work. This often involves removing invasive plants (like the ever-present thistle) from trailside areas, maintaining the Native Plant Garden at the Visitor Center, or planting new vegetation.

'The Details'–

Volunteers meet at the Visitor Center at 9 a.m. & begin work with our leaders. Sign-ups aren't needed. Tools are provided. Only gloves & other personal protective items are needed by volunteers. Our work parties typically are completed by noon or 1 pm. There is no obligation to participate each month - only as often as you would like

Will you come & join us to help sustain your Park?



- ♦ Sharron Walker photo
- ♦ Flyer by Mark Golembiewski