

## **MUSHROOM DISCOVERY at SPVP with EXPERT, JR BLAIR**

On Saturday Dec. 1, from 10am to 12 noon, “comb the trails”



with J.R. Blair, the expert on **mushroom** identification who has impressed us with his knowledge and allowed us to help survey some of the macro fungus of our park. The magic of these fungi is that new species pop up in our Park each year.

J.R. Blair received his Master’s degree in Conservation Biology focusing on mushroom taxonomy in 1999. Since then he has been a full-time lecturer in the Dep’t of Biology at SFSU, teaching classes such as : World of Plants, Ornithology, Nature Study, Animal Diversity, & Human Biology. He is the present director



for the SFSU Field Campus near Yuba Pass in the Sierras & is active in the Mycological Soc. of SF & participates in Christmas bird counts for the Audubon Soc. (Deadly ***Amanita muscaria*** pictured at left)

## **HIMALAYAN BLACKBERRY FIGHT on the HAZELNUT TRAIL**

On September’s Habitat Restoration Day, **Bing Huey** and leader, **Istvan Puski** accepted the challenge of this ferocious interloper, pulling out long roots and stems, up to 30’ of the flesh-tearing **Himalayan Blackberry**,



Linda Crampton



distinguished from our gently spined and more flavorful native by its weapon-like thorns and its extensive growth—up to 25 feet in a season. But the berries are prized by many and described by one person as: “so dark and swollen [they] glisten like the abdomen of a **black widow spider**.”

This plant will easily grow back, crowding out our natives that nurture our insects (See pgs 10 & 11), finding fertile ground in such disturbed areas as these recently widened & cleared pathways. Join one of the next fights for our California plants & wildlife on Nov. 17 or Dec. 15, at 9am; meet at the Visitor Cntr.

## **HOLIDAY FUN for FRIENDS on WEDS, DECEMBER 12; 6:30pm**



Come, come to the Visitor Center holiday party, laden with a promised offering of food & a budget-priced gift to delight another, especially the thieves in the crowd—no holds barred, no sadness over luck gone sour—enjoy the laughter (on yourself

too!) of the gift-stealing game. **Santa Steele** will officiate, while **Jennifer Alpaugh** and **Rob Hughes** will sparkle with art & the music of the flute; we will sing new songs, & **Judy Bacon** will use her legendary chef’s skills to make sure the turkey and ham are cooked to perfection. Others will phone you & set up our tables. If you want to volunteer, phone **Judy** at 359-3123.

## **CORKY QUIRK’S HUNGRY LIVE BATS on NOVEMBER 10th**

On Nov. 10, at 3pm, you and your children will have a chance to see hungry live **bats** gobbling up **mealworms**, real time. And, maybe after this intimate view, our speaker, **Corky Quirk**, will tempt you to journey to Davis next summer, when you can see over 250,000 **moth-hungry**



**Mexican free-tail bats** swarm from under the bridge over rice fields near Davis, Calif, at the Yolo Bypass.

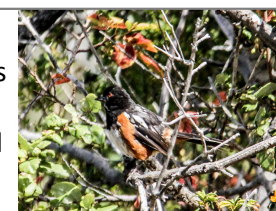
Ms. Quirk has had a passion to share the wondrous world of these Chiropterans since she was in junior high school in San Leandro. She attended Humboldt State to procure a BS in Natural Resources with an emphasis in Environmental Education, giving her the knowledge and opportunity to organize zillions of bat field trips for school groups and the general public. She has also created an entity, NorCal Bats, whose mission is to help these winged mammals survive and flourish despite the lethal **white-nose syndrome**. (Mex. Free-tail bat pictured above)



James N. Stuart

## **ON THE TRAIL**

**Ron Wilson’s** keen eye caught this perfectly camouflaged **Spotted Towhee**, with its characteristic red eye—on the 5th of August on the Valley View Trail. (See pg. 6)



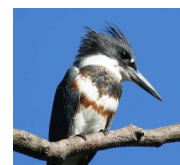
Ron Wilson

**Ray Trabucco** was happy to see young twin **raccoons**



Michelle Christianson

quite high up in a **pine tree** off the Trout Farm Trail on October 19th at about 3pm. **Ray** also reported hearing the undulating screechy call of the **Belted Kingfisher** in October.

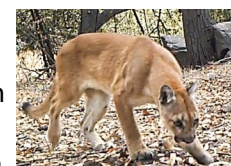


Then Ray and “Alex” knew they were not the first sighters of **steelhead** in San Pedro Creek. Look near the west Plaskon Bridge;

this is where they saw quite a large one of these iconic fish with a modestly sized fella.

A runner, **John**, stopped to show **Bing Huey** a video of a **mt. lion** he had seen on the Hazelnut in mid October ‘18.

The puma was running away from him in the distance & looked quite scrawny, ribs showing.



### CARMEN DOMINGO'S CHALLENGE

It was a tense afternoon in September when Dr. Carmen Domingo, SFSU's dean of Sci. and Engineering, asked those gathered in the Visitor Center, "Which one is the



human embryo?" And she was only asking us to compare ourselves with a **fish, amphibian, bird** or other **mammal's** underdeveloped form. Sadly, many were perplexed, showing us that it



takes a while for an amazingly uniform ball of cells to differentiate into a recognizable being with *our* organ-systems. And we were confronted with the uncomfortable fact that we were looking at some pretty damn close relatives of ours. [Your test: Which image above is of a human embryo? **Answer on bottom of pg 4**

Getting into the scientific intricacies, she discussed the discovery of the "Organizer" situated at the top of the growing cell ball that determines which cells will be destined to form our skin, or our muscles, or our digestive system. Then, in a reality check, based on mice experiments but sometimes seen in humans: if the Organizer is transplanted to a different location in a mouse, two heads could form, bringing forth some uncomfortable thoughts. Did you miss all the fun? See you at our next super-scientific offering? *If you have the head for it.*

### TWO PACIFICA-GEARED PROGRAMS

**by Jim Steele**

On Sept. 16, **Kathy Kellerman** shared the history of the Pacifica Land Trust & its successful efforts to acquire and/or restore undeveloped lands around Pacifica. We can thank the PLT for improvements at Mori Point, Pac.



State Beach & the Pedro Pt. Headlands. Along with the S.P. Creek Watershed Coalit'n, the PLT is now exploring how to best protect San Pedro Creek, protect homes from erosion,

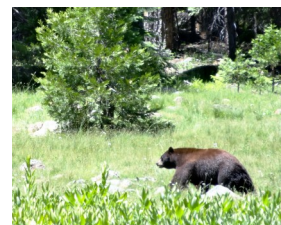
prevent pollution & save its steelhead population.

On Sept. 18, **David Behar**, the Climate Program Director, SF Public Utilities Comm. & **Jim Steele** discussed the uncertainties of sea level rise. David reported adaptation planning dependent upon sea level rise projections from official scientific organizations. However 5 official reports offering guidance all differed. Although each report projected rising sea level & some degree of acceleration, each report projected different rates of rise, making it difficult to determine the most effective adaptation plan.

Part of the uncertainty, as Steele pointed out, is the rate of sea level rise has naturally accelerated & decelerated during the 20th century, making it difficult to determine whether or not recent acceleration is natural or manmade. Adding to that uncertainty, all studies of the Greenland Ice Sheet reveal oscillating temperatures and degrees of meltwater that contribute to sea level. Greenland lost ice in the 30's, then stabilized or increased its ice sheet in the 70's-90's, followed by heavy melt similar to the 30's from the late 1990's to 2012. However, since 2012 ice melt decreased, with slight ice gains over the last 2 yrs. To develop wise adaptation policies that are not too excessive or too lax, we need studies to disentangle natural vs human-caused sea level rise.

### WELCOME TO SAN PEDRO PARK, RANGER TRAVIS HANSON

Now a ranger in District IV of San Mateo County Parks, **Ranger Hanson** started out building trails in the wilds of the Trinity Alps, being off the electronic map for 6 mo. at a time, chasing hungry **bears** out of camp with his fellow men and women workers and relying on **mule** teams to bring in provisions. Later he built trails in the wilds of Kings Cnyn National Park. But when he worked for the Appalachian Mt Club, once again building trails, weather was so severe that this became his most challenging, arduous detail, even though he was once knocked for a loop by the breath-taking wonder of a full-antlered **bull moose**, close-up.



Running Bear in T. Alps

Travis, a native of Monterey, then attended Hartnell Community College in Salinas, graduating with an AA in Natural Science. He's now been employed by SM Co. for 2 years, and we hope he will be working at San Pedro Valley Park for a long time!

### IS THIS WHY WE GET GREAT COMMENTS ON OUR TRAILS ?

**By Joseph Piro**

For our sunny September 8th Trail Day, Park Aide **Kody Morello**, **Istvan Puski**, **Carl Schwab** and I did some brush work on the Brooks Falls Trail/Montara Mtn. Trail loop. Taking trusty loppers and handsaws to cut back various overgrowth, we came across [**manzanita**, etc.], we went up the Brooks Falls Trail, a bit up the Montara Mtn. Trail to the bend just past the old rifle range and then all the way back down. Things are looking good on this popular route -- enjoy!





## WOW – WHAT A CAMPOUT!!!!

Words and Photos by **Judy Bacon**

On Saturday, October 6, the Friends hosted a campout for all. We had at least 70 people come to the sleep-over at the So. Walnut Picnic Area & have an old-fashioned camp-out! Hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie-burgers were cooked up by our chefs, **Joseph (in chef's hat)** & **Eric Piro**.



There were tents everywhere!



Everyone enjoyed all the good food and treats!! The Khouirig was busy all the time!! Hot chocolate was especially popular.



When the sun went down, **Jim Steele** and **Istvan** took the stargazers for a walk up Weiler Ranch road to look at the stars and pick out some of the constellations. Some of the folks came back singing! Then it was to the tents for a nice sleepout!

Dawn came quickly and our breakfast chef was

kept busy. Pancakes with blueberries! The little ones loved them! The adults, of course, went for the coffee first.



Then it was time to pack up and move out. Everyone was happy and cooperative. We made some new friends and have ten or so new members which made our president (at right) very happy. The campout was such a success our campers want to do it again, soon!! Join us!





## ON THE TRAIL (continued)



An especially beautiful **garter snake** became a portrait shot for **Ron Wilson** on the 14th of September at 5:30pm. Jim Mackey tells us "It's a **Coast Garter Snake, *Thamnophis elegans terrestris***."

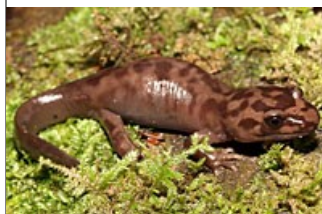
Notice that in **Ron Wilson's** efforts to find lepidopterans this autumn he found a rather non-descript ***Pyrausta subsequalis***, non-descript until you notice the lovely silver fringe on the edge of its wings; 9/27/18 on the Valley View Trail. And the good old **Buckeye** (below)



showed up for Ron on the same trail on his butterfly hunt. On 10/14 on the WRR he saw **2 kinds of Crescents**, many **Ringlets**, **Lorquin Admirals** and one **Echo Blue**. Good to see you back in action, Ron!

And from **Laurie Nikitas**: I've seen a **bobcat** in the Walnut picnic area twice, Oct 19 & 22. Both times it was at the edge of the meadow, about fifty feet from the picnic tables. Last time, it was so chill a covey of **quail** fed peacefully about 20 feet away. Lots of **baby lizards** this year—I've never seen so many before. Adults are getting scarcer as nights get colder. but the little guys are everywhere.

## FACTOID



The **California giant salamander, *Dicamptodon ensatus***, is one of the only salamanders that makes a noise—it will emit low-pitched barks when threatened.

The map below shows where our slimy giant is found. There are other members of the genus ***Dicamptodon*** in a few other states and in British Columbia and farther north in coastal California. I first saw ours in a cubby hole between damp, mossy rocks at Camp Redwood Glen (by the SF Y Camp) back in late 1967. **Jim Mackey & Walter Colquhoun** have found them at the back of the lower Trout Farm Trail in SPVP. Jim's was in San Pedro creek, Walter's on land. Another S.P. creek sighting was made on Jan. 21, 2017, by **Newt Rockney**.



## CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2018

### NOVEMBER TRAIL DAY

Saturday, November 10.....9am

### CORKY QUIRK'S: VIEWS OF HUNGRY LIVE BATS

Saturday, November 10.....3-4pm

### NOVEMBER HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, November 17.....9am

### FRIENDS OF SPVP NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 19.....7pm

### J.R. BLAIR'S MUSHROOM DISCOVERIES IN SPVP

Saturday, December 1.....10-noon

### DECEMBER TRAIL DAY

Saturday, December 8.....9am

### HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, December 12.....6:30pm

### DECEMBER HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, December 15.....9am

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

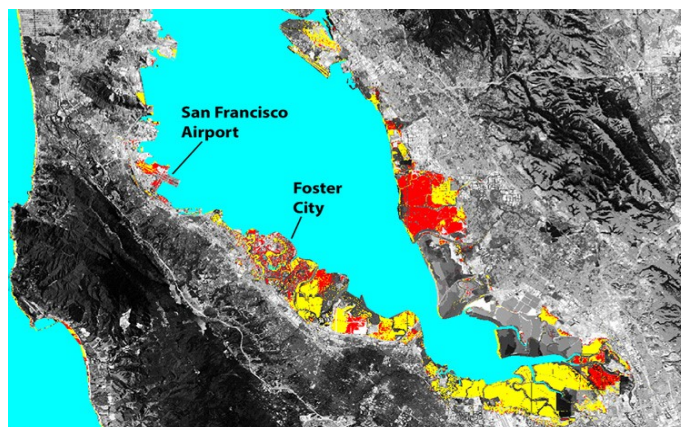
## DON'T MESS WITH MOTHER NATURE

The **Smithsonian Institute** tells us that today, sea level is 5 to 8 inches (13-20 cm) higher on average than it was in 1900; for the previous 2,000 yrs, sea level hadn't changed much at all. The rate of sea level rise has also increased over time. Between 1900 & 1990 studies show that sea level rose between **1.2 mm & 1.7 mm/yr** on average. By 2000, the rate had increased to about 3.2 mm per year and the **rate in 2016 is estimated at 3.4 mm per year**. Sea level is expected to rise even more quickly by the end of the century.

In **San Francisco Bay** many areas, as those shown below, are predicted to be inundated by 2100 due to sea level rise or a combination of subsidence & sea level rise. The latter areas are those where landfills "reclaimed" the Bay.

*Don't mess with mother nature!*

Map below is based on a new study by UC Berkeley & AZ State geologists, showing sea rise, (red) & subsidence/sea level rise, yellow.



**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](http://friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org) **Letters to Ed:** Carolyn at [pankowinca@gmail.com](mailto:pankowinca@gmail.com) **{THE ONE AT THE LEFT}**





*AN DETERMINED APPROACH BY A MULE DEER  
BUCK?*

*OUR WILDLIFE TURNS AGGRESSIVE TOWARDS  
PHOTOGRAPHER, **RON WILSON**? OR “A TOUGH  
DAY FOR RON”—SEPTEMBER 17, 2018*



*A CHALLENGING STARE BY A MALE  
CALIFORNIA QUAIL?*



*FINALLY THE STAKES WENT UP AS  
RON HAD TO RUN FROM THIS ANGRY  
GOPHER?*

*(CAMERA WAS BOUNCING)*



**Ron Wilson's** *Intimate Eye for Capturing Beauty and Setting*



Aug 5 shot of red-eyed **Spotted Towhee** on the Valley View, “perfectly camouflaged”



**Coast garter snake, *Thamnophis elegans terrestris*** seen on 9/14

5:30pm—Weiler Ranch Road



# Ron Wilson's Butterflies: Weiler Ranch Rd and Valley View Trail September 27 and October 14, 2018



"tattered" **Field Crescent** on the WRR—10/14



"fresh" **Field Crescent**—Weiler Ranch Rd. 10/14



"Fresh" **Mylitta Field Crescent** WRR 10/14



**Buckeye** on the Valley View Trail—9/27/18



*Pyrausta subsequalis*, a moth, on the VV—9/27/18



## Ron Wilson's: The Return of the Great Blue



Five years ago: 11/9/13



Now: 11/4/18—towards dusk in the  
South Walnut Picnic Area





*Looks like a race with male mule deer in foreground, but **Ron Wilson** says the **GBH** (back) was going about its business, unperturbed by a "skirt-chasing" mule deer.*

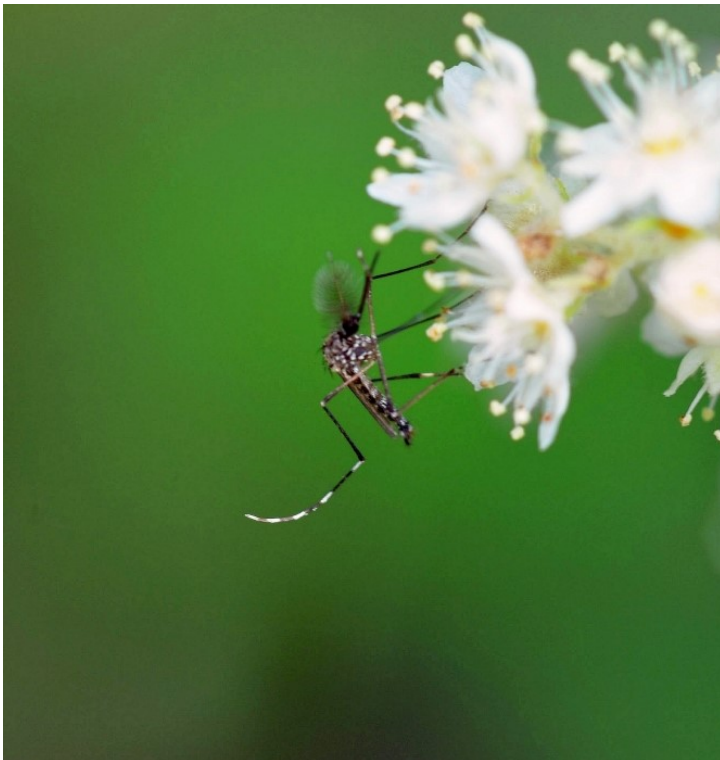


Walnut Picnic Area on 10/19/'18 at about 4:30pm





Family Chrysomelidae: *Trirhabda* Beetle trips over to **Poison Oak berries** from its usual haunt on **Coyote Brush**  
August 30—Valley View Trail



**Mosquito or *Chironomid* Midge** on **Cream Bush blossom**  
July 23—Hazelnut Trail



**Order Hemiptera, the true bugs—“Seedbug”** on  
**Sticky Monkey Flower**  
August 30—Valley View Trail





**Honey Bee** feeding on a “pearly” on Aug. 1, 2018; Hazelnut Trail; “Tastes so good, Table Manners be damned”



**Tachinid fly** seems to enjoy **Pearly Everlasting, *Anaphalis margaritaceae***:  
August 10, 2018—Hazelnut Trail



**Argentine Ant?** tests the flavor of **Pearly** petals: August 20  
Hazelnut Trail





Front Row: Carl Schwab, Eric Piro, Istvan Puski, Youhua Yang

Middle Row: Unknown, Adrian Stroganoff, Penney, Norisa Berardi, Katie Beltrano, Amy Sullivan, Eileen Woods, Judy Bacon, Jim Mackey, Carolyn Pankow, and YaFei Ni Yang

Top Row: Joseph Piro, Jim Steele, Rob Hughes, Jack Coots, Jennifer Alpaugh, Enid Ansgarius, Walter Colquhoun

Hiding in the Back: David Bacon