

Explore our website: friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org

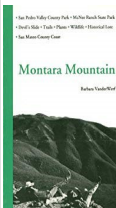


FRIENDS HOLIDAY PARTY RULES! ON WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11 at 6:30 PM

Our holiday party is always full of fun and food (We provide turkey & ham); your board welcomes everyone, but especially first timers. We hope all will join in on the gift-stealing game, bringing a unisexual gift: purchased or an old treasure, for each person in your party. You will get a phone call or email from 1 of **Judy Bacon's** team, asking you about your favorite dish for sharing. Artist **Jennifer Alpaugh**, will decorate our tree with refashioned recyclables, in whimsy & originality. Expect singing accompanied by **Rob Hughes** on flute & **Scott Hill's** guitar music as you enter. Now all we need is you!

TRAILSIDE STORE NEEDS INSPIRED MANAGER

Imagine a newly decorated space that will draw more of the public in to find items that will keep reminding them of our 1000 acre park. Ordering the new & replacing the old items would be your primary job, but we could use some ideas for display & someone who will keep track of the inventory and sales. The Board of the Friends of SPVP will help you get started & it's likely you will have an assistant if you wish. So bring your love for our natural park into action & help us have a thriving little store!



WE CELEBRATE OUR NEW OFFICERS OF THE FRIENDS OF SPVP

Susan Kern, a good-humored, quick-witted woman, will be our chief financial officer. Responding to my query, she said: "I don't know what to tell you except that I was a math major in college & spent my career as a investment analyst for a pension consulting firm for 40 yrs. I'm in 2 book clubs because I enjoy reading. I do volunteer work for a service that provides rides for elderly people to doctors appointments. I've lived in Pacifica for 42 yrs."



Carl Schwab takes over as the new Visitor Center Shift Coordinator, one who will now do the scheduling, letting you know when there is a need to fill an empty slot. He's promised to send me a little bio.

Thanks to finders: **Mila Stroganoff & Judy Bacon.**

CORKY QUIRK'S "ACROBATS OF THE NIGHT" FOR THE FAMILY; NOVEMBER 9

Once again, **Corky Quirk** will bring live **bats**, disabled ones, to our Visitor Center, this time on **Saturday, Nov. 9, at 3pm**. However, they will still have the same voracious appetite that the flyers in the darkness have, as you will see when she dangles mealworms in front of their jagged-toothed mouths—real time, on our screen.



Then you will hear about the wondrous eating that bats engage in while flying over our agricultural lands, keeping the insect world in balance, as they do in most ecosystems on our Earth. And, some of their most dramatic mass flight launches and eating binges occur just outside the Bay Area, by Davis, CA.

Corky loves these talented little mammals and not just the **Mexican free-tails** from under the Yolo Bypass Bridge. You will learn about an array of these often cave critters and find that not only do they have fancy faces, but that they can roost on trees or even shrubs, and not necessarily in groups.

Ms. Quirk, who has a degree in Natural Resources from Humboldt State, runs NorCal Bats, an organization that rescues, rehabs, and releases bats back into the wild, and she has led informative walks to the Yolo night show put on by the bats for many years.

She's one of the environmental heroes who's very aware of **white nose syndrome** & other challenges that these sonar-capable wonders are up against .

ON THE TRAIL

On Friday, August 30, **Katie Antista** was thinking of other things when she saw a fat bird crossing the lower parking lot. "Oh, my, a **turkey!**" It was about 4:30pm.



Laurie Nikitas tried to gain admission to this hangout when she shot the photo on Sept. 4, but I think it's an exclusive club. Mr. **Mule Deer** is looking for a female of his favorite species.

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NEW PARK RANGER: RYAN PARKINSON

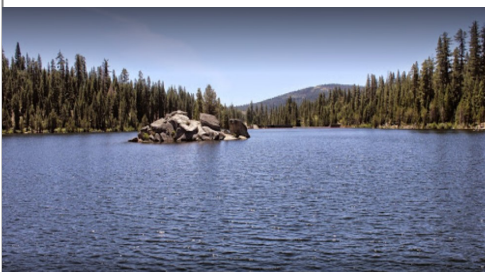
Our newest ranger for the North Coastal area, **Ryan Parkinson**, is a physically imposing man, but an affable soul with an engaging personality. Ryan is a native of Houston, Texas, where he lived for 8 years till his family situated permanently in Santa Maria, Calif.



Ryan began his Park service in Maintenance, dealing with among other duties, heavy equipment, but he is enjoying getting to know the trails and nature in SPVP, being quite enamored of his now personal favorites, our coveys of **California Quail**, and the beauty and variety of our **ferns**.

Ryan is presently majoring in Environmental Science at SFSU, where he is especially intrigued by his class in Geographic Information Systems, which I had to immediately Google, after which time I sat contemplating its mystery. Prior to following this natural systems and parks pathway, he worked in security for a time. Previously he was a member of the United States Marine Corps being stationed at Camp Pendleton and at Okinawa, Japan for a year and a half.

Much of his introduction to nature was during many camping vacations into the rugged and diverse Los Padres National Forest nearer to his home (photo at right is of the Portrero John Falls Trail), but also in the El Dorado National Forest of the Sierras. Fast forward to the present: he loves to camp with his young family by Judell Lake, where they spent some wonderful days this summer. I can picture his wife, who he reports is quite



an excellent cook, frying trout and pancakes for a active and starving family of four.

Your Editor

Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out going to the mountains is going home; that wilderness is a necessity. *John Muir*

CRITTERS WOULD AGREE; THANKS, ROB, FOR THE PHOTOS

Judy Bacon

What wonderful pictures!! **Rob Cala**, a park ranger, but foremost a photographer, regaled us with his wonderful array of videos and still photography. Many of his photographs were taken in various places, including the Sierras, but many of his photos and videos were taken on the coast and in his own back yard.



Enid Ansgarius

My favorite was a video of a **hummingbird** nest with 2 little chicks. The video showed mom feeding the chicks and you could see the babies as they grew. Another was of **whales** breaching! Gorgeous **humpbacks!** There were also photos of a type of **godwit** that has never been seen in this area, one that flies without stopping for over 7000 mi. He has also taken pictures some years ago of a **mountain lion & three cubs** that were right here in the park!

Hopefully we can get him to come back and show these videos and stills again! Thank you, Rob!

“HEALTHY PARKS, HEALTHY PEOPLE” COMES TO SPVP

Bing Huey was in our Park on Community Nature Day, September 17, snapping photos of some of the happenings: he saw people nature-touring on our trails, meditating in the solace of trees and shrubs & learning about nature, all activities being done in groups.



“The Healthy Parks... “ was set up by a collaborative of local entities and the National Parks Service, engaging with their programs having been encouraged by **Dr. Scott Morrow**, SM Co’s top public health official. But it’s long been known that time in nature “soothes the savage beast”, easing anxiety and toxic depression. **E.O. Wilson** talks about “Biophilia” the love of nature that is an evolutionary part of us, that supports our quest for living on this Earth and brings us social animals into closer harmony and happiness. One of the latest ideas in this effort is for each person to have a “Digital Sabbath” in nature of at least 24 hours. **Istvan Puski**, our representative at this event, is a sterling example of that credo!



BIRD-LOVER BESS "FLIES" AGAIN VIA HER FRIEND, KARI

Yes, Bess Nericchio visits us from the Past, thanks to Kari, her friend of many years.

San Pedro Valley, June, 1980

Heavy drizzle, then clearing but overcast

The park rang out with the songs of the **Swainson's Thrush** and **Black-headed Grosbeaks**. Lovely! Runners disturbed the **Great-horned Owl** on



the mountain trail in his **Eucalyptus** sanctuary. I saw his great rounded wings beating to the opposite side of the trail.

Over the creek near the ranch road I found **Wilson's Warbler**, **Chestnut-backed Chickadees**, **Hutton's Vireo**, **Bushtits**, **Black-headed Grosbeaks** (at right), **Allen's hummingbird** & **Swainson's Thrush** feeding together. Hutton's Vireo and Allen's hum & the thrush showed great interest in me. They are unafraid.



Eric Elligson



Ron Fredrick

Allen's were chasing each other with such speed & enthusiasm they made me exclaim out loud. Several times one of them thrummed so loudly with the vibration of his wings as he

looked me over just inches from my shoulder—he startled me.

The vireo (below) actually worked his way from



Matt Davis

deep in the **willows** to the path where I was standing until we were looking at each other with mutual appreciation.

I'm used to the thrushes' curiosity but always pleased when they let me see them. (**Swainson's Thrush** at right)



Shawn Billerman

FUN FALL BBQ & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Perfect weather and a perfect crowd of compatible nature lovers were on hand for our fall barbeque. First timers included **Alice Shirley**, **Susan Kern** and **Regina Piro**.



Friends of SPVP outgoing President, **Mila Stroganoff**, carefully prepared individualized appreciation certificates for the members of the board who helped her make this a successful year. Then every volunteer, from the trail and habitat restoration workers, to the Visitor Center hosts, to **Judy B's** hospitality people, received a handsome green engraved, quality pen; mine will not leave my desk.

HIGHLIGHTING SOME BUCKS OF AUTUMN

I had a strange encounter with a beautiful **buck** today—it did not seem well. It was slow and clumsy, let me get within ten feet, which I did pretty noisily to see how he'd react. He barely looked up. He sniffed carefully at every weed, never eating, kept raising his head to sniff the air with his bottom jaw slack and open. I know that's a way to taste and smell simultaneously, but he looked so dazed when he did it. Wondering if anyone else has noticed an unwell animal. He was in "my" parking place, under the oak facing the field in back of St Peter's. I almost thought he might be blind, but that should make him more reactive to sound. Maybe he's just a geezer. . *Laurie Nikitas*.



Tess Jolly

And rather interesting this year, probably just before the time of rut that **2 bucks** would gather peacefully with **11 does** in the fields of the old nursery behind the Park Mall:

Holly of Dr. Kobori's dental office saw them grazing there accompanied by a lone **turkey** in late September. (photo from Google images)



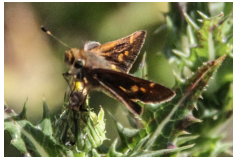
ON THE TRAIL (continued)

Laurie Nikitas saw tons of fence lizards on the Valley View on 9/4 but especially enjoyed the new babies.



Christian Wheel

Ron Wilson, butterfly expert, sent this photo of the lovely **Umbur Skipper** from Oct. 13 on the Weiler Ranch Rd. He was amazed that he also ran across a **Buckeye** butterfly , apparently a lone survivor, who was so “battle scarred” that he couldn’t bring himself to expose her.



Good show! **Bing Huey** “got buggy”, again, hunting insects at a time when the overuse of pesticides & the rigors of habitat destruction & climate change have

taken their toll on these pollinators & food source for avians. Here’s my favorite of his photos showing different species of insects exploiting **sticky monkey flower**: **Camponotus semitestaceus**, a species of **carpenter ant** as identified by **Brian Fisher**. (Thank you, Brian.)



CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2019

NOVEMBER TRAIL DAY

Saturday, November 9.....9am

CORKY QUIRK’S “ACROBATS OF THE NIGHT”

Saturday, November 9.....3pm

NOVEMBER HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, November 16.....9am

FRIENDS’ HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, December 11.....6:30pm

DECEMBER TRAIL DAY

Saturday, December 14.....9am

DECEMBER HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, December 21.....9am

For all events meet at the Visitor Center

For Board Meetings call Judy Bacon at 359-3123



UP ON THE HAZELNUT: FOR YOU AND THE RAIN

By Joseph Piro

For our October 12th Trail Day, new-comers **Isabella Sandino, Virginia Sandino, Maria Allen** and **Paloma Sangervasi** joined Park Aide **Steven Clinton, Istvan Puski, Carl Schwab** and I for a good walk up to the 1.0 mile marker on the west end of the Hazelnut Trail. Armed with McLeods, a variety of rakes & a pair of loppers, we cleared out drain dips & trimmed back some low-overhanging branches all along the way. It was a wonderfully sunny fall day for some good trail work & for our new friends to enjoy their first visit to the Park.

SEVERAL MEMBERS OF FRIENDS OF SPVP SUPPORT 9/20 CLIMATE CRISIS STRIKE DAY IN SAN FRANCISCO

Among the throngs of concerned folks walking San Francisco’s crowded streets or sidewalks were Friends’



SF Gate

members, **Isabel Ebert, Susan Herring**, daughter **Ruby**, and your **Editor. Laurie Nikitas & Katie Beltrano**

expressed regrets at not being able to attend. All of us are alarmed at rising methane level in the Arctic (Isabel) and the non-stop fossil fuel removal, especially the fracking (subject of your Editor’s sign) But as of today I’m getting concerned as I hear about the heat-stress killing off some **Joshua Trees** in Southern California, and I do wonder what plants in our Park could be future victims of the warming of our Planet Earth.

ONE IVY BATTLE WON; BUT WAR GOES ON

Istvan Puski cut & pulled **English Ivy** on the Trout Farm Trail by the old cabin foundation until his fingers groaned. While he did have help from “Irene” on September’s Habitat Restoration Day, he could use your help!



The Leaders of “the Friends of SPVP”: Interim President: **Judy Bacon**; Vice President: **Judy Bacon**; 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**; Program Director: **Carolyn Pankow**; Director of Hospitality: **Judy Bacon**; Directors of Website Management: **Lakshmi Javadekar** and **Jayesh Kapoor**; Trailside Store: **open**. Newsletter editor: **Carolyn Pankow (pankowinca@gmail.com)**; Member-at-large: **Bing Huey**. **Volunteer Contributors: Katie Antista** on membership misc., **Mila Stroganoff** as a program consultant.

Website: friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org



Ron Wilson's Umber Skipper alone on thistle; 10/13/19
Weiler Ranch Road



RON WILSON'S BUTTERFLY BEAUTY



Lorquin's Admiral butterfly on blackberry plant; 9/17/19; first bridge from lower parking lot to WRR

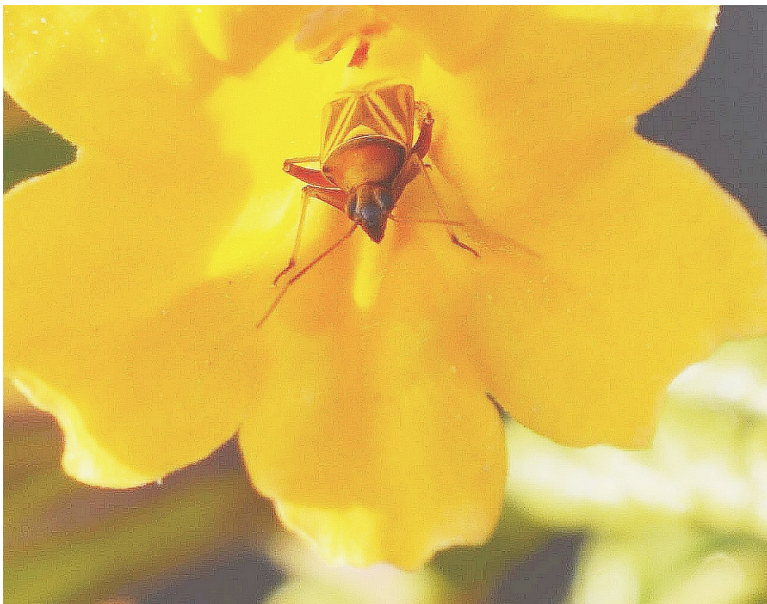
Bing Huey: insects attracted to Sticky Monkey Flower: [Diplacus aurantiacus](#), plus...



Formal ant attire? A minor worker of *Camponotus semitestaceus*, a species of carpenter ant Oct 4 2019, on Valley View Trail (thank you: **Dr. Brian Fisher**, for the I.D.)



A rare oddball, a fly of family **Acroceridae**, characterized by small head and hunchback look. 6/25/19, Brooks Creek Trail



Another reason not to pick wildflowers—You never know who might spring up from beneath! *Closterocerus amoenis*, a true bug, **Heteroptera** 6/30/19, Mc Nee Ranch State Park.



Trirhabda, a skeletonizing leaf beetle of the family **Chrysomelidae** on yerba santa; Sept 2, 2019



FRIENDS
FALL
BARBECUE





JOSEPH
PIRO
AT THE
GRILL





Front row: Rob Hughes, Jayesh Japor, Lakshmi Javadekar, Istvan Puski

Middle row: Joseph Piro, Terry Sherar, Judy Bacon, David Bacon, Jennifer Alpaugh, Carol Martinez, Norisa Berardi, Adrian Stroganoff, Mila Stroganoff, YaFei Ni Yang, Youhua Yang

Back rows: Susan Kern, Enid Ansgarius, Skeeter, Volunteer Coordinator Stuart Smith, Roger Mascio, Mark Golembiewski, Carolyn Pankow, Jack Coats, and Alice Shirley

Missing from photo: Eric Piro & Eric and Joseph's Mom, Regina.