

FEB. 15: STICKROD'S FARALLONE ECOSYSTEMS

Join us at 3pm on Saturday, February 15, for **Morgan Stickrod's** program on the ecosystems of these craggy islands. In his own words: "A mere 30 miles offshore from the bustling metropolis of San Francisco, the Farallon Islands can seem more wild and remote than some of North America's most geographically isolated wilderness areas. Jagged granitic spires that share an orogenic history with the distant mammoth peaks of the Sierras, sit draped in a seemingly perpetual cloak of fog amidst a ceaseless onslaught from the surrounding turbulent oceanic waters." (Above, **Morgan's** photo of Farallones)



The cold, nutrient-rich waters surrounding the Farallon chain support great offerings in marine habitat and diversity of wildlife. These islands are arguably the most important area for nesting **seabirds** within the contiguous U.S.; upwards of 300,000 can be observed nesting on the rocky islands from late spring to early summer. Small in size, and "exposed to myriad environmental stresses & disturbance",



only 25 species of native plants exist here. Yet, the native flora like **seaside goldfields** at left have found a niche in the "nutrient-poor, guano-encrusted barrens of the islands" and have a mighty story to tell.

Closed & inaccessible to the public, the islands have always held an "aura of mystique & foreboding". This talk will explore the natural history of the Farallones, from birds and pinnipeds relying on these rocky havens for winter breeding grounds, to the fascinating interactions between the flora and fauna of the islands. Morgan will explore the role of humans in the mix – from egg & fur poachers at the end of the 19th century & on through the continued dedicated management of the island by a revolving but small group of scientists. (*cont'd on page 4*)

CREEPY CRITTERS for KIDS RETURNS on Feb 18—1pm

Thanks to the *S.M. Co. Parks Foundation*, we were able to secure this great Wildmind program on large reptiles: the **Mojave tortoise**, an awesome **monitor lizard**, a not-tiny **alligator**, a **boa constrictor**, and a bonus **tarantula**. Our effort, through Wildmind, is to instill in children love and excitement for the wonders of wildlife on Earth, so that when they reach a certain age they will want to save all wildlife from our hunting, carbon release, land grabs, poisoning, and all the blunders and/or greed of **Homo sapiens**.



NATURAL HISTORY OF FIRES IN CALIFORNIA, JAN 25

Dr. V. Thomas Parker, who presented a program on the effects of climate change on California plants one year ago, will present again at 3pm on Saturday afternoon, the 25th of January. This time he will explore in some detail how wildfires have been a major ecological process in the "Golden State" for millennia, and how our state's plants have adapted to it.



Dr. Parker's goal is to show the variation in patterns of fire across our diverse landscapes and how we should think about it: how we should plan for the future in general, with climate change in the mix. He will explore the fires in forests and grasslands, but he will spend more time highlighting the thoroughly fire-adapted chaparral. In the end he'll show ways humans are (not) trying to live with fire.

Though Dr. Parker has retired after 43 years of teaching ecology and related graduate programs, he plans to be even more engaged in fire ecology, telling us, "I plan to continue research & writing indefinitely." Thus far he has authored over 100 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, edited three books, and co-authored a *Field Guide to **Manzanitas*** (a plant of which he is an expert in its systematics & ecology).



Field Guide to **Manzanitas**
California, North America, and Mexico
Michael Kauffmann, Tom Parker, and Michael Vasey
Photographs by Jeff Balcer

ON THE TRAIL

On October 4, **Helen Penna** took this photo of a trim **Steller's Jay** on a restroom roof in SPVP, perhaps with an acorn in its beak.



Ron Wilson preferred the courtship of a pair of **Buckeye butterflies** on female **coyote brush** (*Baccharis pilularis*) at about noontime on Nov. 1st. (continued on page 4)

Explore our website:
friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org

FOCUS ON ENID ANSGARIUS, OFFICER of FRIENDS

The Friends of SPVP's reliable secretary of almost one year now, **Enid Ansgarius**, is enjoyable to be around, with her spicy sense of humor and ready smile, and she is great at helping us get our volunteer events together. She's become an integral part of our team of Park supporters.

Initially she told me about her schooling, employment and home life, but she has always been full of volunteer energy, using much of it to work with community and charitable groups. Enid is a ready for your questions about displays at the Pacifica Historical Museum on Francisco Blvd, where she works once a month. She's a member of Beta Sigma Phi, the social, cultural & philanthropic soc. that supports kidney disease issues at Stanford as well as help for lupus & scleroderma patients, and is involved in addressing local family needs here in our town. Now, from Enid herself:

"I moved to Pacifica (Pedro Valley) in December 1956. I attended local schools and graduated from Terra Nova in the 3rd graduating class. Shortly thereafter, I went to work for the Social Security Administration & was there when Medicare was started (\$3/month). I worked at the Pacifica School District for 26 years retiring in 2006 as secretary at Ocean Shore School.

I married a fellow Pacifican in 1968. My future husband, **John**, moved into a brand new Linda Mar rancher in 1954, shortly before he turned 8. Pedro Valley was a paradise for him and his buddies, what with fishing, playing in the hills (now the park), and later surfing. He was a friend of **Steve Gay** whose family owned the Trout Farm. The Gay family moved to the Tucson area many years ago and we visited them several times.

I have two sons, one who still lives here and the other lives in Ben Lomond. My husband passed away in December 2014 from complications of Parkinson's Disease. He knew every trail in the park and ran them regularly. I'm pretty much a sitter, but am enjoying my participation with the Friends of SPVP and was 'trained' today to be a substitute host, as well as being secretary of the group."



Enid's two favorite forms of relaxing are quite a contrast: she loves her time working for the health of her body and mind and peaceful enjoyment at the Yoga Studio, but is always excited about betting at the tempting Casinos in Northern California. She may not walk in the Park much, as she's a bit leery of what she might find, or what might find her, but she loves **wildflowers**, in fact all flowers.

Then Enid told me that she went camping with her family on the Klamath River in years past, but liked the housekeeping cabins at Yosemite a bit more. Alas, I'm afraid she was great at keeping their cabin **bug & spider** free!



TRAIL WORKERS ENJOY BANANA SLUGS' FOG FEST

By Joseph Piro

For our November 9th Trail, Ranger **Tom Hart**, Volunteer Coordinator **Stuart Smith**, **Istvan Puski**, **Stan** and I headed up the west end of the Hazelnut Trail and, armed with McLeods, rakes and more, cleaned out several drain dips, raked/widened some bends in the trail and cut back a few overhanging branches. We made it up to the **eucalyptus** forest at the top and, along the way, spotted quite a few **banana slugs** and enjoyed the view of the fog coming and going at the front of the valley.



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Banana Lesson

Ima banana, slimin' away on my time
Your time---way fast
Slime is slow and hold fast
Slime is fingers stuck fast
Gifts of glue, not the last
Ima pulling; free at last!
Slow digits in slimy grasp
Probing yellow flesh: your crime
I'm slimin' away on my time



Sarah McQuate

M.N. Cully

THE STAR AWARD FOR 2 WHO SAVED the FRIENDS

Very few of us are aware that the **Stroganoffs** resurrected



our non-profit status, and saved us from large financial fines due to well-meaning but unsupported past treasurers. First, **Adrian Stroganoff**, for many years treasurer

for the Yerba Buena Chapter of the Calif. Native Plant Society, was paramount in filling out state & federal forms, which had to cover the past 8 yrs, to re-establish our tax exempt status; then **Mila Stroganoff** was expert at decoding, demystifying & completing a huge number of documents. **Judy Bacon** labored for hours gathering information for their forms & reports. Now the path is clear for **Susan Kern** & future treasurers.

“**Adrian** & I received the most beautiful card with gift cards to the Moonraker. How kind of you to do this & to show your appreciation for the work that has gone into re-establishing the 501(C)3 status for the Friends of SPVP.”

WE LOVE BATS!

By Judy Bacon

Corky Quirk, better known as the bat lady, again brought her furry little friends to the delight of young and old alike. Corky told us how **bats** get around at night using



sonar and how useful they are in keeping down the **bug** population, such as **mosquitoes** and other appetizing insects. The best part is when she feeds the little guys nice fat **larvae** and the kids, big and little, can see it up

close & personal when it is on the big screen. This is one of our most popular events! See you next year, Corky!

[Portrait of photogenic “strawberry blonde” **pallid bat** in **Corky’s** gloved hand, is by audience member, **Christy C.**]

PACIOID

Jamaican Olympic **Usain Bolt** averaged 23 mph during one Olympic run; so should you try to outrun an angry SPVP **turkey**, when the most fit of this species (male? female?) has clocked in at 25mph? **Lionesses** are around 30% faster than **male lions**; and female vs male turkeys?



THANK YOU, SAN MATEO CO. PARKS FOUNDATION

Good news from **Michelle Beasley** (at right) Executive Director of the S.M. County Parks Foundation: “I am very pleased to let you know that the San Mateo County Parks Foundation will grant the Friends of SPVP the **\$1,608**



you requested ‘to help children to love, respect and be intrigued by wild creatures in California and on Earth by giving them real close encounters with living beings’. Congratulations!” Thus, we can now have the 4 children’s programs we wanted for Coastside youngsters: Creepy Critters (Reptiles) on Feb. 18; Animals of the Americas on April 7; The Beetle Lady on July 11; Bats—Live! On Nov. 14. All feature live animals; the first 2 are from Wildmind (was Wildlife Assoc)

Details on our website: friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org



THE RAIN WILL DRAIN, HERE IF NOT in SPAIN

By Joseph Piro

We had a good group for our December 14th Trail Day -- the last one of 2019. There were 3 newcomers -- **Jhanine Guevarra**, **Jordan Hasty** and **Bianca Reyes** (center, l to r) -- **myself** and Ranger **Tom Hart**, **Carlos** and **Chris** from the Park crew. With a collection of lopers, McLeods and a shovel or two, we headed up the Brooks Falls Trail to check on drain dips and trim back some **manzanita** above the bench. We continued to the intersection with the Montara Mtn. Trail, went up a little ways before turning around and taking that trail all the way back down, making for a nice, big loop. We enjoyed a crisp morning, good views and did some good rainy season trail work. **Happy holidays to all & enjoy the trails!** (Ranger Tom Hart’s photo of men ready to protect 3 new happy trail experts from the dangers of the wild.)

ON THE TRAIL (continued)

Bing Huey's project: winter photos of 9 berry plants in the Park and an accompanying quiz for the online edition. Here are 4 for you! 1-4; left to right. Person with 1st correct guesses gets color page of entire quiz and answers. Phone: 650 355-7466, **Carolyn**



Two birds as seen off the lower Weiler Ranch Rd. by **Helen Penna** on October 4, 2019: one—**Townsend's Warbler** and one of the most reliable species in the

Park: the **Black Phoebe** that loves to fly down to grab insects & back to post in the horseshoe pits area.

**AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS IT WAS**

By **Judy Bacon**

Our annual Christmas party was a rousing success! We had over 30 people and lots and lots of food to eat! Turkey and ham were so popular there were no leftovers! **Rob** and **Jennifer's** deviled eggs were a hit as well as **Jennifer's** beautiful decorations on the tree. **Scott Hill** was singing and playing the guitar and **Rob** led us singing carols with his flute.



Then the gift game began! The most unusual gift was a machine that played chime music. Never saw anything like it. Then the stealing went on. **Carolyn's** punch recipe was also a hit, especially the punch bowl that had champagne in it. As usual we all helped set things up and take things down & clean up. What a wonderful group!

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020 CALENDAR**JANUARY TRAIL DAY**

Saturday, January 11.....9am

JANUARY HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, January 18.....9am

V. THOMAS PARKER'S NATURAL HIST OF CALIF FIRES

Saturday, January 25.....3pm

FEBRUARY TRAIL DAY

Saturday, February 8.....9am

FEBRUARY HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, February 15.....9am

MORGAN STICKROD'S ECOLOGY OF FARALLONES

Saturday, February 15.....3pm

CREEPY CRITTERS FOR CHILDREN

Tuesday, February 18.....1pm

For all events meet at the Visitor Center

For Board Meetings call **Judy Bacon** at 359-3123

DON'T MESS WITH MOTHER NATURE**Global warming & California Quail:**

Coveys of our state bird scurry through chaparral along much of the Pacific Slope today, but warming of 3° C could make up to 3/4 of that range unsuitable in some seasons. Heat waves & increased fire risk pose serious threats to this bird's brushy habitats. If warming is limited to 1.5° C, **quail** could still thrive in over 1/2 their current range. ([Audubon.org/climate/survival by degrees](http://Audubon.org/climate/survival%20by%20degrees))

**STICKROD'S FARALLONES: (continued)**

Morgan is a graduate student at SFSU, investigating seed banks & vegetation dynamics of a brackish tidal marsh in Solano Co. He has worked at the SF Botanical Garden for nearly 3 years. But prior to this existence he was in the Southern Appalachians, working for the Blue Ridge Parkway, developing the herbarium collection and doing rare plant management. He was also involved in several long-term research projects in Great Smoky Mountains NP studying potential resistance in 2 species of **hemlock** to the **Hemlock Woolly Adelgid**. And, though born in San Francisco, he received his BS in Ecology from the University of North Carolina.

The Leaders of "the Friends of SPVP": Interim President: **Judy Bacon**; Vice President: **open**; 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.

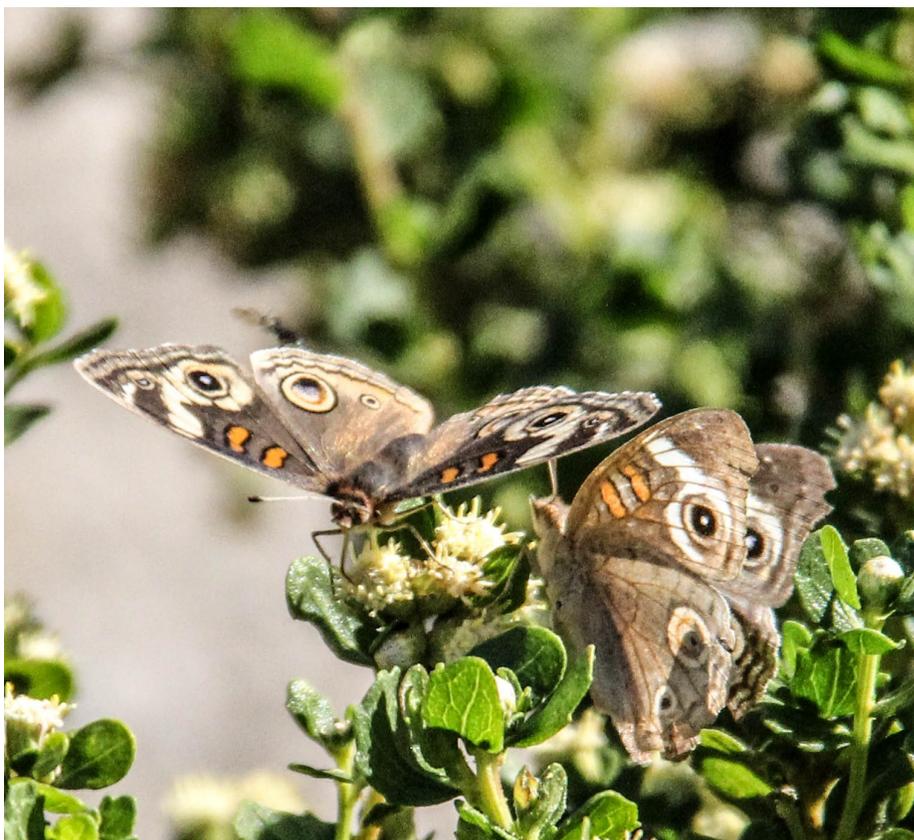
RON WILSON'S COURTING BUCKEYES



Male and female **Buckeyes** are approaching one another on a female **coyote brush**, *Baccharis pilularis*, perhaps having had a flower dinner engagement.

They were photographed by the Paparazzi at about noontime on November 1, 2019, on the Weiler Ranch Road.

And Closer.....



Helen Penna's—Chasing Townsend's Warbler in SPVP
And, finding so much more!
October 4, 2019



Townsend's Warbler—looking for insects on red elderberry?



Black Phoebe—on a favorite post; wild radish in background



Steller's Jay—bags an acorn on restroom roof—notice oak leaves and lichen, etc.



Young male black-tailed deer munches on fine blackberry leaf salad—Yum!



Anything palatable amongst this coyote brush?



Brown Towhee finding seeds and insects in the litter

BING HUEY'S EARLY WINTER BERRIES OF SPVP

WHICH PLANT DOES EACH SET OF BERRIES BELONG TO?

Get in the Spirit; Get Closer to Nature. (Answers on next page)

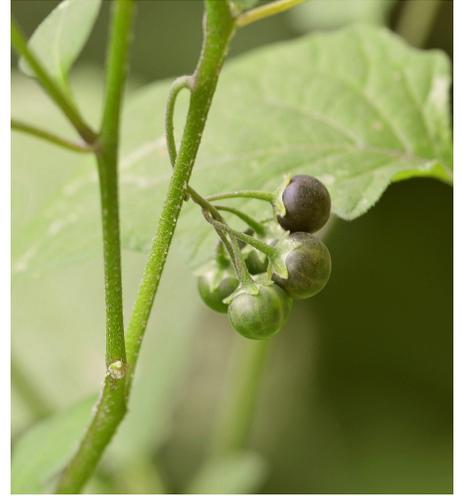
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HOLIDAY PARTY HIGHLIGHTS

Susan Kern & Mark Golembiewski



Judy Bacon

Irene Lee, Carl, Susan

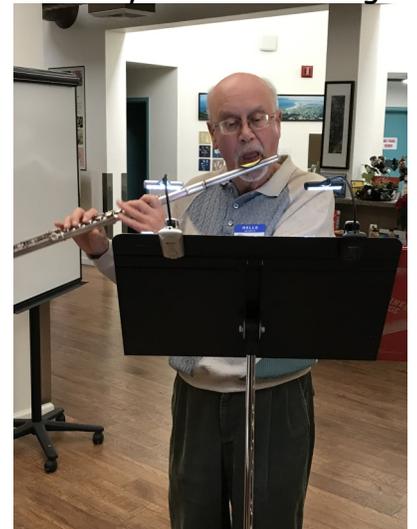


Back: Enid, Judy, Alice; frnt: Penny, Carol



Heavenly Music: Rob Hughes

Poinsettia raffle ; a tense moment for all but Francoise



Mila Stroganoff

Roger, Santa Judy, & Jennifer's Tree

Adrian with Mila and the butterfly

Roger Mascio



- #8 Blue elderberry
- #2 Coffeeberry
- #9 Creek dogwood
- #5 Honeysuckle
- #3 Nightshade
- #4 Poison oak
- #7 Snowberry
- #6 Toyon
- #1 Wax myrtle

