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BING QUOCK—EXPLORING THE NIGHT SKY Saturday, April 25, 2020; 4pm

Last October, due to PG&E’s fun power outage, Bing had to cancel his popular presence at our Visitor Center; but this time, since there is close to zero chance of fires in March, and due to notices to **Mila Stroganoff** to please re-schedule Mr. Quock, she “bagged” him for the 4th month of 2020.



What's up in the evening sky that can be seen with the unaided eye or with just a pair of binoculars? Amateur astronomer **Bing Quock** will give us a tour of the heavens, including seasonal constellations, notable deep-sky objects & a sneak peek at a few upcoming events, including meteor showers, interesting configurations of the Moon & planets (photo shows positions on Thanksgiving '19), and a rare transit of Mercury across the Sun that won't be seen again until 2032. Interested in purchasing a telescope for yourself or as a gift? What are some recommendations and affordable resources? To satisfy your curiosity Join astronomer, **Mr. Quock**, on April 25!



ANIMALS OF THE AMERICAS FOR KIDS in APRIL!

At **one o'clock on Tuesday, April 7**, during Pacifica School District’s Spring Break, Wildmind (formerly Wildlife Associates)



will once again come to SPVP, this time with 5 of North and So. America’s amazing animals: **coati mundi** (left), **falcon**, **kinkajou** (above), **red fox** and **vulture**.

Expert presenters and handlers will let you know how they were rescued and their important place in their habitat zone. For instance, **RYKER**, the **peregrine falcon**, was found on the side of the road, dragging his wing in the gravel, clearly having hit a car. He was brought to a rehab center where he recovered but the wing injury is permanent.

Don't forget to join **Jim Steele** on his **Bird Song Walks**: April 19 and May 9 at 8am. Bring binoculars! (Song Sparrow photo by **Tom Grey**.)



WILDLIFE CORRIDORS WITH TIFFANY YAP in MARCH

Dr. Tiffany Yap will present at **5pm on Saturday, March 21st** about the importance of wildlife corridors and habitat connectivity for native animals. She will discuss how all animals great and small, from **salamanders** to **mountain lions**, require habitat connectivity to maintain healthy populations.



Although much of our landscape has been fragmented by roads and development, it's not too late to take action for the sake of wildlife and people. She will highlight some of the projects the Center for Biological Diversity is working on to protect remaining natural wildlife corridors and reconnect habitats.

Dr. Yap is scientist and wildlife corridor advocate at the Center. As a member in the Urban Wildlands Program, she works to protect biodiversity & environmental health at the interface between humans and the natural environment.

Her inspiration to work on conservation at the urban wildland interface struck when she took a natural history class as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley. During one of the weekly field trips, she saw for the first time **newts** migrating to breeding pools in Tilden Park, just a 15-minute drive from campus. She immediately fell in love with California wildlife, and over time, came to realize the intense interconnectedness between natural and human communities. Since then, her journey has consisted of exploring how humans impact (continued on page 4)



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ON THE TRAIL

Seen and beautifully photographed by **Ron Wilson** was this scene of our **black-tailed deer** off Weiler Ranch Rd. near the W. Valley View entrance on January 7. “There are frequently 9 of them in the pasture in the late afternoon.” Can you see 8 of them here?



At about 2pm on January’s habit restoration day, **Istvan Puski** came down to the South Walnut Picnic Area, to find a **grey fox** snoozing on its side, with head tucked down. Upon calling to it, the fox merely lifted his head. (continued on page 4)



PROFILE OF NEW SPVP RANGER: LISA DI LORENZO

Energetic, skilled and a lover of the great outdoors:

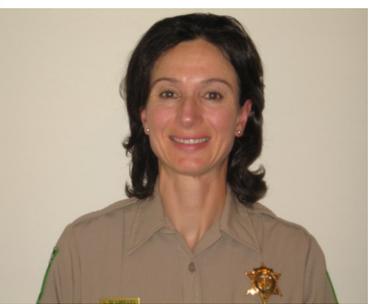


that's Lisa.
This young woman was born into a family that cherished the wilds, spending most summers at Fallen Leaf Lake near Tahoe and tons of time at the family cabin in the foothills of Amador County hiking, riding and working on the property. Fun times included fishing at

Tiger Creek, target shooting, riding ATV's, and hiking at nearby lakes like Silver & Caples. Even then she wondered what it would be like to be a park ranger.

And she has always been fascinated by the animals that roamed the Sierra: **bobcats, bear, coyotes, foxes and deer.** So far in SPVP, she has mainly enjoyed the abundance of deer.

Later Ms. Di Lorenzo worked in the automotive industry and then in the administrative field, at the same time attending SFSU and Skyline College. Then she switched to work as a maintenance technician for several years in a condominium complex, performing a variety of tasks that helped her to prepare for " the role of a park ranger



and the many hats we wear".

Lisa began her career in a park district comprised of Coyote Point Park, Crystal Springs/Sawyer Camp Trails, San Bruno Mountain and Junipero Serra County Parks,

where she worked for two and a half years before moving to North County parks, San Bruno Mountain and Junipero Serra County Park when the district divided. .

She was promoted to Park Ranger III in August of 2017 and continued working in the northern county until December 2019 when she transferred to the Coast district. She is enjoying the change in scenery and getting to know her new district and everyone in it.



GOODBYE BROOM, EUCALYPTUS, PAMPAS!

HELLO TO A TRIM & DIPS

By Joseph Piro

For our January 11, 2020 Trail Day -- the first of the New Year (and *decade!*) -- **Istvan Puski, Ranger Tom Hart and I** spent the morning doing a good variety of work on the west end of the Valley View Trail. We cut down a few small **eucalyptus** trees, removed quite a bit of invasive **scotch broom**, dug up some **pampas grass** on the slope facing Weiler Ranch Road and cleaned out several drain dips and cut back coyote brush all along the way. And, with a big trail run also going on in the Park, we also cheered on all the runners as they passed. Happy New Year everyone and here's to another good year on the trails!



NEWS BRIEFS

Jim Mackey turns 90!

We won't give you the exact date of his birthday, as he always gets inundated with a flood of well-wishers, but we will tell you that he was a kid of 70 years when he first joined the Friends of SPVP, working on the trails and pulling the wicked weeds. From there he was asked to write "A Naturalist's Perspective" for the newsletter, which he did for over a decade and a half. Then he gave us popular programs, mainly on the natural history of our Park. **Happy Birthday, Jim!**

PUSKI'S VOLUNTEERS, RANGERS HIT PESTS HARD

Ten to twelve people, including 5-6 rangers, showed up for January Trail Day. Most worked on the Valley View Trail, but **Istvan Puski and Irene Lee** and later one other woman, showed up on the Trout Farm to pull out the persistent, arch enemy, **Cape ivy.** (photo by Joseph **Piro** shows Istvan battling some of the bad guys.



Alligator and Skink and Snake – Oh My!!

Writing and photos by *Judy Bacon*

Over 50 people, parents and kids, came to see one of Wildmind's programs for children. Wildmind is located in Half Moon Bay and we were able to have them come through a grant from San Mateo County Parks Foundation. The grant was written by **Carolyn Pankow** and we



will be able to fund three other children's programs with this grant.

Our young handlers, **Renee and Meghan**, were on hand to show us several reptiles. First, they explained the difference between warm-blooded and cold-blooded animals. Then, they introduced **Sherman, the desert tortoise**, explaining how Sherman

was a seed disperser. Next came **Phoenix the Mexican Fire-legged tarantula**. Again the girls used Phoenix to explain endo- and exo-skeletons. **Tally, the alligator** was next and along with him came an explanation of Tally's



third eyelid that allows him to see underwater. The water-cycle was also explained. **Uncle Fester, a giant skink** from the Solomon Islands, came in on a tree branch with his "prehensile" tail wrapped around it.

And last but not least,

Lola, the boa constrictor. The kids loved her, but we almost lost **Enid**, our secretary, who is not a fan of large snakes!

There was also a slide show with each animal and each new idea. The kids had questions and then had a snack, but before they got their cookie, they had to repeat a new word they had learned. And they did!!!

(Photos were taken by **Judy Bacon**)

(Unfortunately the promised **monitor lizard** had recently passed away, but the skink was a fascinating substitute)

TOM PARKER'S NATURAL HISTORY OF FIRES—CALIF.

By *Mila Stroganoff*

Who of us has experienced a wildfire or is prepared for a wildfire when it strikes? Who is worried about earthquakes and is prepared when one occurs?

After posing these questions, Tom pointed out that we are expecting and somewhat prepared for earthquakes,

but the answer to the second question was that no one expects a wildfire to come through our area and we are not prepared for one if it did. Wildfires do come through our coastal areas, just rarely whereas inland coastal scrub has frequent ones.



Mila Stroganoff

We did learn that fire comes in patterns; if that pattern switches, there are changes in the vegetation. Fire regimes vary and fire is not a bad phenomenon unless homes & people are at risk. We forget that human beings are very much a part of the natural world and fires are essential for plants that have adapted to them. California has the driest of all the Mediterranean climates and fires occur throughout the state. Fires are ignited by human beings 98 percent of the time. Thunderstorms with their accompanying lightning strikes are very rare in our coastal regions.

All plants have thresholds. An example given was of a 1970 chaparral fire where the plants are now a youngish 50 years of age. A hundred years of age for chaparral is quite normal and healthy. Another fire went through the same area in 2001 and there is recovering chaparral that is a sprightly 29 years of age. Another fire went through in 2003 and the new vegetation has converted to weeds. Too much fire is not good as it changes the fire regime that plants have adapted to. (photo by Chaparral Institute shows resulting loss of chaparral due to increased fire frequency. Below nascent weeds thrive after fires)



The lessons are:

- If we suppress fire, we are going to wipe out the
- (continued on page 4)

ON THE TRAIL (continued)

Joseph Piro fell in love with the flowers of the **pink flowering currant** that all can see blooming just outside our Visitor Center entrance



this February. Look for a similar plant in our native shade garden.



Bing Huey found this lovely *Viola adunca* by the Hazelnut Trail on February 8.

Katie Antista reported the good news that she heard what was undoubtedly the loud croak of a **Pacific chorus frog** in an area by the creek in late January.

**MARCH/APRIL 2020 CALENDAR****MARCH TRAIL DAY**

Saturday, March 14.....9am

MARCH HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, March 21.....9am

WILDLIFE CORRIDORS WITH TIFFANY YAP

Saturday, March 21.....5pm

ANIMALS OF THE AMERICAS FOR KIDS

Tuesday, April 7.....1pm

APRIL TRAIL DAY

Saturday, April 11.....9am

APRIL HABITAT RESTORATION DAY.

Saturday, April 18.....9am

JIM STEELE'S APRIL BIRD SONG WALK

Sunday, April 19.....8am

BING QUOCK'S EXPLORING NIGHT SKIES

Saturday, April 25.....4pm

For all events meet at the Visitor Center

For Board Meetings call Judy Bacon at 359-3123

Tiffany Yap (continued from page 1) wildlife and wild places and fight to protect species and habitats.

Prior to joining the Center, she studied disease in **frogs** and **salamanders** and the impacts of wildlife trade. Her work has been published in several scientific journals, including *Science Magazine*. She also worked as a field biologist, focusing mainly on amphibians, marine intertidal habitats, and fisheries. She received a Bachelor's degree in biology from UC Berkeley as well as a Master's in environmental health science and a Doctorate in environmental science and engineering from UCLA.

**BIG DRAIN DIP MOVE; WAITING FOR RAIN**

By Joseph Piro

For our Feb. 8, 2020, Trail Day, Ranger **Matthew Tolmasoff**, **Bill** (a new-comer and fellow long-time Pacifican; he's on the left in the photo), **Istvan Puski**, **Stan** and **I** headed up the east end of the Hazelnut Trail. Armed with good selection of McLeods, a shovel, rake and lopers, we cleaned out several drain dips, dug a few news ones, trimmed some overgrown brush & just generally checked things out. I'm happy to say the trail generally looks in good shape; head out & enjoy!

**(Tom Parker's Natural History of Fires continued)**

natural vegetation of the state over time. **b)** Vegetation types have incorporated fire into the processes they require. **c)** Veg. recovers quickly and vegetation is a reflection of what you see & each has a threshold.

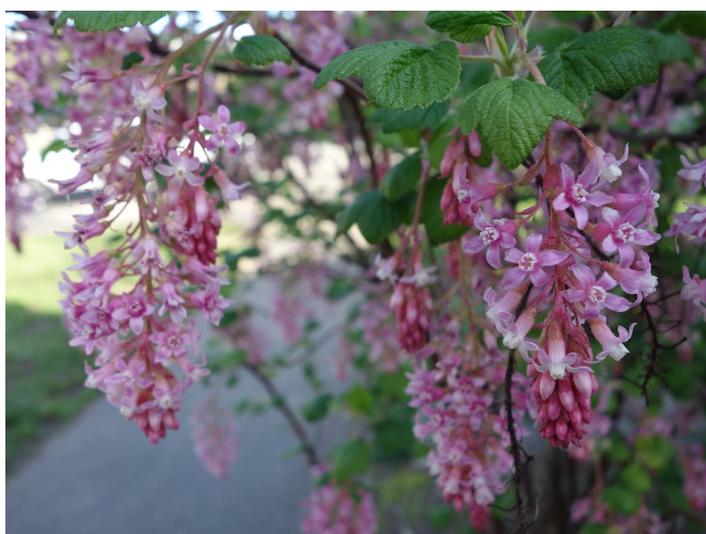
Botanists check out the recovery of plants after a fire and there is an explosion of new plants. The rabbits and rodents are all having a feast but all this lasts only a couple of years; very notable plant taxa pop up as well during these recovery periods & then disappear.

The Leaders of "the Friends of SPVP": Interim President: **Judy Bacon**; V. 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**; Program Director: **Carolyn Pankow**; 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); Member-at-large: **Bing Huey**. **Volunteer Contributors:** **Katie Antista** on membership misc.; **Mila Stroganoff** as program consultant.

Wilson, Piro, and Huey: Beauty in SPVP



Ron Wilson's California's "Early Spring", Jan. 7; Eight black-tailed Deer just off W. Valley View entrance at Weiler Ranch Road

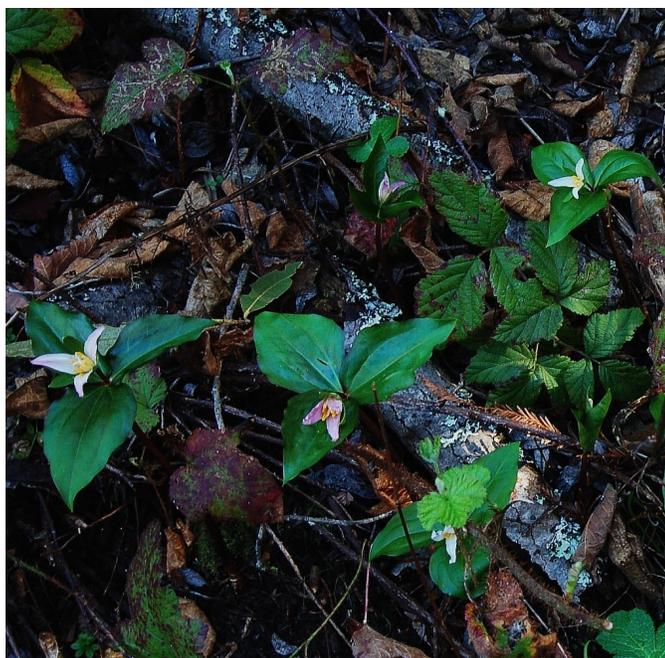


Joseph Piro's photo of our beautiful pink flowering currant from the E. Hazelnut on Feb. 8



Bing Huey's *Viola adunca* on Feb. 8; foot of Hazelnut Trail

Bing Huey: Blossoms and a "Bug"



Trillium ovatum from February 18;
Plaskon Nature Trail



Trillium chloropetalum from February 18;
Plaskon Nature Trail



Fetid adder's tongue, February 8;
Hazelnut Trail



Cropped, enlarged photo (with some loss of resolution) of a **fungus gnat** covered with pollen from **fetid adder's tongue**, upon which it is perched;
Feb. 8; Hazelnut Trail