

Explore our website & then note our email:
friendsofsanpedrovalley@gmail.com

CORKY QUIRK'S PRE-HALLOWEEN —BATS OCTOBER 17

At 4pm on Saturday, October 17, Corky Quirk will bring



her disabled **bats** into your home in a Webinar presentation. *Learn about bats and see live species of bats native to San Pedro Valley Park, via Zoom. Corky Quirk, founder of NorCal Bats, has worked with these amazing mammals since 2004. She will share her knowledge about bats, then show live bats with a webcam so you can see their details in the comfort of your own home. While viewing the live bats, you will have the chance to ask questions.*

*All bats in our area eat **insects** and are important for insect control. They save farmers in the United States billions of dollars annually. Once you see their faces, you will appreciate them in a completely new way.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi All,

I hope everyone is staying safe in these unprecedented times. We are busy at the park even though the Visitor Center remains closed for the time being. **Mila & Adrian** are busy arranging and hosting some great lectures on Zoom Webinar. **Jayesh, Lakshmi & Mark** are busy updating the website. **Melinda** is managing the Trailside Store. **Istvan, Mark** and **Joseph** have been able to get in some weeding. The rangers are very busy maintaining the park. We have a new drinking fountain in front of the Trout Farm restroom near the picnic area.

If you have a minute, it is really fun to look at past newsletters, which are archived on our website. Some familiar names appear and many that are not. Our editor, **Carolyn**, has been able to continue to provide us with newsletters that are interesting, informative and visually appealing, even during these difficult times.

We continue to hold our board meetings virtually on Zoom and at our last meeting we had 100% attendance. We are also happy to announce that **Sharron** is back on the board as a member-at-large. (continued at right)



Instructions for Webinar Programs: Page 5

DR. LUIZ ROCHA IN CORAL REEF WEBINAR— SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 4PM

We are so sorry that **Dr. Luiz Rocha**, Curator of Ichthyology at the Cal Academy of Sciences, had to cancel his July 11 webinar appearance at the last minute due to an emergency, but we were able to reschedule him for **Saturday, September 12**, for a webinar at **4pm**. (Luiz, camera-hunting in photo above)



Dr. Luiz Rocha will take viewers on a tour of the most spectacular reefs in the world, shallow and deep, as he explains the delicate balance between thousands of species, from **tiny photosynthetic algae** which live in the tissues of the shallower **corals**, to the giant **fishes**. As I hope you recall, Dr. Rocha is one of the scientists exploring all efforts possible to save the sterling **coral reefs** of the world, ecosystems with a fantastic diversity of species, unparalleled in the ocean.

ON THE TRAIL

While hiking the Hazelnut Trail, on July 13, **Laurie Nikitas** found coyote scat so laden with berries that the color was strikingly red! Please help us guess which berries they were eating.



On July 16, **Ron Wilson** found several **swallowtails** busy sniffing & looking for the best **thistle** nectar in a great group of the prickly plants on the Weiler. This was the first time he'd seen **Pale & Western Tiger Swallowtails** together. (photo of **Pale Swallowtail** is **Ron's**.)



(continued on page 4)

It is so wonderful to be able to work with so many talented and devoted volunteers!! Many, many thanks to all you dedicated people. When the Visitor Center finally re-opens, we'll have a big fat BBQ to celebrate!

Judy Bacon

Mark Golembiewski: **Swept Away by Nature, Part II**

I also grew to love the national parks after visiting a number of them before making my way to California and continue to check them off my “bucket list” (I’ve made it to 30, but still have 22 to go! Running out of time!). I’ve lost count of the number of trips we’ve made to Yosemite and even proposed to my wife there - at Glacier Point.



Last summer, my wife, Alicia, and I took an incredible trip to Alaska, where we visited Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias and Kenai Fjords National Parks during one of the worst heat waves they’ve ever had up there. However, we were thrilled to be able to see Denali in all its glory since the

dry heat also limited the cloud cover that usually obscures the great mountain.

The guides told us that normally only about 30% of the visitors to the park get to see any of the mountain at all and we were blessed to be able to view it with perfectly clear skies. (Mark with



Mt. Denali) We were also delighted to fly by single-engine plane into Wrangell-St. Elias NP & take a guided walk on a glacier after a short hike from our inn at the Kennicott historic mine site. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

My wife and I also visited Death Valley NP last year for



the very first time and were astonished by its beauty, variety and unexpected wonders. What took us so long? We’ll definitely return to do more exploring. [Here they are at Zabriskie Point.]

I think my visits to national parks all over the country, including various hiking and backpacking excursions in those parks and elsewhere, have made me appreciate San Pedro Valley Park so much. I feel so blessed that I can just walk out my front door and in a brief 20 minutes or less be in such a beautiful, calming place where I can hike to my heart’s content and enjoy the **flora** and **fauna**, or even hoof it to the top of the mountain if I want (but don’t do that so much any more)! And so I am grateful that I can volunteer with the Friends of SPVP and give a little back to a place that gives me so much pleasure. I hope to serve with the Friends for some years to come.

WE NEED OUR WILDLIFE—Report from June 27 **Wildlife Corridors talk**

By Judy Bacon

I once heard a woman on talk radio complain about the “Deer Crossing” signs on Hwy. 280. Why can’t they put the signs somewhere else so the deer stay off the highway! True story.

Well, **Dr. Tiffany Yap**, a scientist & wildlife corridor advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity had some answers: It’s connectivity ... connectivity describes large intact habitats that can be connected by smaller linear corridors.

Corridors can be bridges of habitat connecting one large habitat with another, or undercrossings (at right—**deer** using one in Ore.) that can go under roads and freeways. Stepping stones are small pieces of habitat between larger areas.



Connectivity not only gives wildlife access to diverse gene pools, keeping a species healthy, but also gives access to food, water, mates, & territory. There are 7 to 23 thousand vehicle collisions a year that kill & injure wildlife, not to even mention the monetary cost.

Since the Covid-19 shutdown and the commensurate reduction in traffic on our roads, there has been a 21% reduction in total wildlife fatalities & a 58% reduction in mountain lion fatalities.

Many places in Canada & the US are putting in simple connectors where wildlife can go freely from one area to another offering safety for critters like **frogs** and **newts** (at right, crossing hwy to reach pool) to larger animals including **moose & mountain**



lions. For instance, L. A. is due to build the world’s largest wildlife bridge going across a 10-lane freeway, hoping to save their mountain lion populations from dying out. Mountain lions are a species in need of watching because of their need for large home ranges, hunting pressures, low genetic opportunities, and car fatalities. Why should they be protected? They are needed to support the balance of nature.

There are laws in the works. A California Endangered Species Act listing for mountain lions would help build more wildlife corridors and help with many more protections for our wonderful wildlife.

Hiking The Old Colma Road

by Sharron Walker

I've walked Devil's Slide countless times, often while on patrol as an Ambassador. I frequently found myself looking up, asking myself: what would it be like to be above the trail and looking down? In late June I found out.

Masked up, I met up with friends at Gray Whale Cove parking lot, then walked the trail south to the beginning

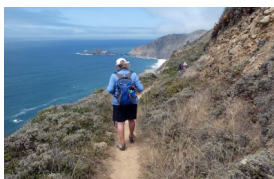


the Old Pedro Rd. Trailhead at Montara Beach, ascending that road to the saddle on Montara Mt. Then, heading west, we the hiked the rutted, yet well-defined trail along the ridge to the top of Pedro

Mt, where **Sharron** sits in the photo. Hikers & mountain bikers share this trail, so one must be diligent. At this point above Devil's Slide we couldn't see old Hwy 1, but knew it was several hundred feet below! A hard to locate spur trail connected us to the Old Colma Rd, which was our goal. Then we began our descent, zig-zagging down the mountain through impressive outcrops of eroding granite, corridors of **wild flowers**, in awe that this narrow path we were hiking once was a major road! (photo below: Sharron's friend on old road trail!)

The Old Colma Road is colorfully described in Barbara VanderWerf's 1994 book, *Montara Mountain*, To quote:

"There is no road running along the ocean that is more interesting, more grand & sublime than this road. It is, however, almost impossible, except for the expert, to drive on (1914)...an apology for a road, never built to grade."



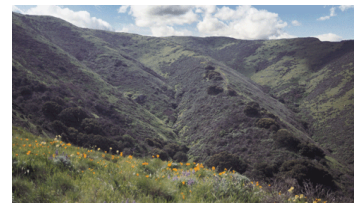
As we wound our way down, magnificent views unfolded, with glimpses of the Old Hwy 1—now Devil's Slide Trail, Devil's Slide Rock populated at this time of year with **Murres & Brandt's Cormorants**, & the promontory with the precipitous stairs that lead to the old military bunker on top, all off limits now. An added treat was a sighting of four **humpback whales**! Towards the lower part of the Old Colma Road we traversed above the south portal of the Tom Lantos Tunnel. The final part of the trail led us by the abandoned military housing in an area known as Green Valley. When we reached our starting point we had changed. The beauty of our rugged coastline, and walking trails layered with history, had made us more aware of the uniqueness of our home area! So during this difficult time, take an inspiring hike which will fill your heart and heighten your senses, confirming that there is still beauty in this world.

SAN BRUNO MT.—A PLACE WITHOUT PARALLEL

By Mila Stroganoff

The *Natural History of the San Bruno Mountains* is a book in progress that lists the all of the species of plants on the Mountain, specializing in rare plants that only grow there. Full color photos of all species show all parts of the plant, highlighting **flowers**, as well as any special feature such as a thorn, seedpod, etc. Ever wanted to see a microphotograph of the spines of **stinging nettle**? It's in the book.

In order to understand the complete story of the San Bruno Mountains, the book includes the political history as well as the relationships of the plants to the animals, its geology & climate, including its wonderful and life-giving fog.



San Bruno Mt Watch photo

\$75,000 is needed for the non-profit Heyday of Berkeley to publish the book. Profits from the sales of the book will need to cover any additional publishing costs of the manuscript and then go to the Calif. Native Plant Society and to San Bruno Mountain Watch.

The authors, Doug Allshouse and David Nelson, are doing this project as members of the Yerba Buena chapter of the California Native Plant Society and as Site Stewards of San Bruno Mountain State and County Park. They are donating their time and the manuscript to the CNPS. You may also contribute:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-natural-history-of-the-san-bruno-mountains>

ZARA MACDONALD Webinar PUMA Talk:

First, we had over 50 people attending the Zoom program: thanks to **Adrian Stroganoff** for getting us connected and to **Mila** for being our managing host. *



In our next issue expect an article by **Judy Bacon** on the entire program on the mountain lion. * See page 5

FRIENDS OF SPVP NEEDS A P.R. PERSON

President **Judy Bacon** & our board are hoping to find a member of "The Friends of SPVP" who would be our Public Relations Director. We need a person willing to inform our Schools about our children's programs, one who would write notices for the newspaper about our activities, and who would post them on **nextdoor**; other duties would be up to you.



ON THE TRAIL (continued)

On July 2, this pollen-laden **sweat bee** flew into sight by the Hazelnut Trail, resting on a native **yarrow**; **Bing Huey** then snapped this photo of the equally native Californian.

“Harry” Heron was in the Park by picnic tables at No. Walnut on August 6, & **Mark Golombiewski** got some photos with his cell! Here’s the **GBH** with his beak at the ready.



Ron Wilson found this nicely striped Dragonfly on the Valley View on Aug. 6, perhaps a lucky day for hunting insects, as it was 10°F warmer than the previous days.

FAÇIÖID

An Orchid on San Bruno Mt. has an intoxicating effect on **bees & wasps** if fungus ferments its nectar. **Mark Sustarich** safely petted backs of **yellow jackets** feast – ing on the alien, **E. helleborine**, & picking up its pollen.

A THORNY PROBLEM

By Joseph Piro

Istvan called me last night and asked if I'd be interested in going up to the Park this morning to do a little work -- a little unofficial Trail Day—and I thought that'd be nice, as I haven't been up there for a while. So we rode our bikes up there in the morning sunshine and...wearing masks, practicing social distancing & enjoying a wonderfully sunny morning, **Istvan Puski**



and I did a little work for an unofficial August 8, 2020 Trail Day. Armed with gloves, Pulaski, loppers & a few big black trash bags, we tackled removing oodles of **Italian Thistle** on the hillside above

the service road into the Park. A bit of a thorny situation when we arrived, but better when we left!

BOARD MEMBERS BEHIND THE SCENES of COVID-19

Even after gifting neighbors, **Mila & Adrian** had to make tons of jam from their over-producing **plum tree**, trying desperately to locate more storage supplies on the internet. Later, Adrian found a snake while working in their native plant garden compost heap, at first alarming a sleepy Mila, who imagined a huge serpent, but 'twas only a **garter snake**; however they did find a dying **baby bat** on their shed door, who could have offered a threat of disease had they touched it.

Laurie & Craig Nikitas reconnected with grandkids: **Lee, 5 & Daphne, 3**. Lee had been afraid that Grandma wouldn't take them on any more hikes after Daphne was disgusted by a **banana slug** by our horse-shoe pit last winter, but now the masked family meets in the park to hike and play ball. (photo-Daphne on the 4th)



Carl Schwab reported that many people do not carry or wear masks in SPVP, & some go the wrong way on trails.; many don't socially distance on the Weiler RR. More happily, he's seen a similar number of **rabbits, lizards & deer** as pre-Covid; and still the occasional **fox or bobcat**.

COVID Saturday Nights with Sharron & Bevan Jones

When you can't go out on a Saturday Night, what does one do? Bring date nights to your home! We began our date nights quite innocently in early March when COVID19 was new: a formal dinner, clothes other than the ones we had been wearing all week, wine & movie! Themes somehow developed; I never know who is going to show up! A recent theme was that of “Naturalist”who shows up to join me: a pile of leaves!!



Sharron Walker

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**. Volunteer Contributor: **Katie Antista** on membership misc.; Program consultant: **Carolyn Pankow**.

Zoom Webinar Instructions

by Adrian Stroganoff

The Friends of SPVP have a limit to how many people can participate in the Webinar, so please send an email to friendsofsanpedrovalley@gmail.com in order to be placed on the list of attendees. **If for any reason you find that you cannot participate, send an email as soon as possible to free up the spot for someone else.**

Do not email to join any webinar the day of its taking place. Deadline for signing up is noon on the day before the lecture.

On the day of the lecture, an invitation to join the webinar will be sent approximately 30 minutes prior to the talk in order for everyone to be ready by 4 pm.

In the email will be a big blue Zoom box. You need to click on it, which takes you to a screen for the Webinar registration. You need to put in the required information, which will get you to the Webinar.

If you wish to just hear the Webinar on a phone call, then open the second email that will be sent to you after you register, using the link from the first email. The email will have the phone number to call. When you call, follow the instructions and put in the Webinar ID and Passcode which are included in the email.

***Also Note*:**

***Living with Mountain Lions** webinar was attended by 68 people with many who had RSVP'd not showing up. People interested had to be turned away due to the fact that we had reached the maximum capacity and we were holding their places. We DO have a maximum capacity, and the RSVP to the webinars should be done after carefully checking your calendar.*

Ron Wilson Features Battle-scarred Swallowtails on Thistle

"Back near the bench by the Hazelnut trail intersection with Weiler, there was a large batch of really healthy thistle blossoms drawing multiple swallowtails including the Western Tiger Swallowtail and the pale cream-colored or white Pale Swallowtail."



Western Tiger Swallowtail on thistle; 7/16/20 at 11:30am; Weiler R.R.



"First time I've seen the two types at the same food source. Although all the specimens were tattered, (tails torn off and nicks etc. in the wings, all seemed healthy otherwise. Surprising how many people walk right by such wonders without a clue. "

Pale Swallowtail on thistle; 7/16/20 at 11:30am; Weiler R.R.

Ron Wilson Chases Butterflies, & a Weird fella just appears on a door.



Anglewing on valley manroot;
July 7, 4pm; West entrance Hazelnut



Acmon Blue butterfly on bird's foot Lotus
July 12, 4pm; Weiler Ranch Rd.

Greg Pankow was amazed to this this fella; I was clueless as to the presence of walking sticks in California, but apparently there are at least 3 species of them here, and since we are right next to a wild hill that eventually connects with the SPVP, I'm sure they must be in our amazing Pride of Pacifica! Are those the 3rd pair of legs sticking out of the back? Did the head get clipped off? What's what?



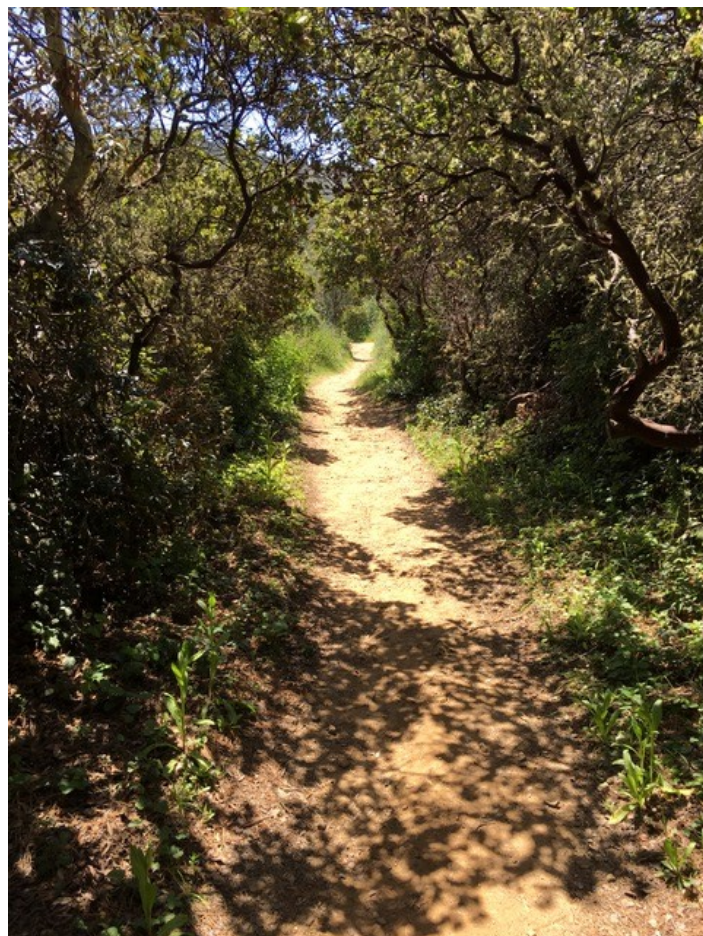
Walking Stick August 15, 2020; garage door on Big Bend Drive

From Mark Golembiewski's Photo Hike—May 6, 2020



After a Steep Climb—
First Bench,
Montara Mt. Trail,
With
Overview of
Pacifica

The Last Stretch—
In a Bit
Montara Mt. Trail
joins with
Brooks Creek Trail
at Grand Pacifica Overview.



Ron Wilson: Nectar and Eggs



Western Tiger Swallowtail on alien thistle; July 21;
Weiler Ranch Rd

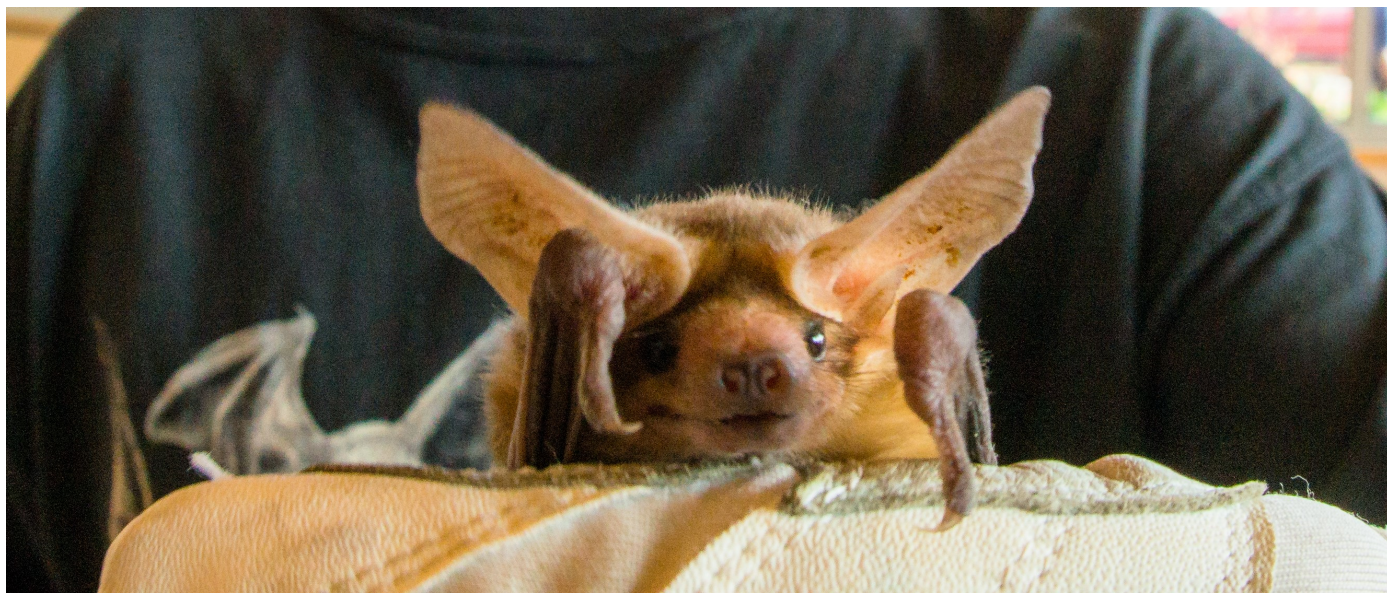


Hedgerow Hairstreak on
Ceanothus thyrsiflorus or
blue-blossom; July 21; near top
of Valley View Trail



Same: she may be laying eggs, as this is her
larval food plant, but they also sip the nectar
AND pollinate flowers of genus *Ceanothus*

Perhaps a pallid bat, coyote scat, and a quail family



Unknown

The Cute, the Ugly,
& the Beautiful



Laurie Nikitas



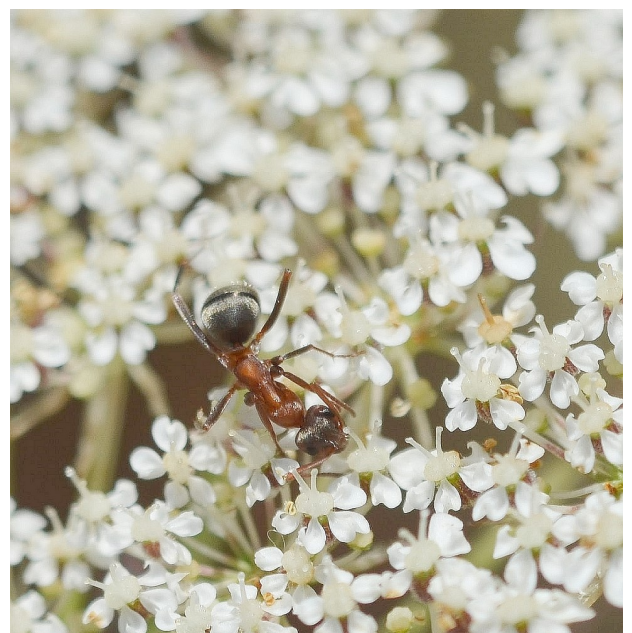
James Mackey



Wasp—Genus *Gasteruption*; June 26;
Valley View Trail



Beetle—family *Mordelidae*
6/26; Valley View Trail



Ant—*Formica* 6/26
Valley View Trail

Bing Huey's Native sweat bees

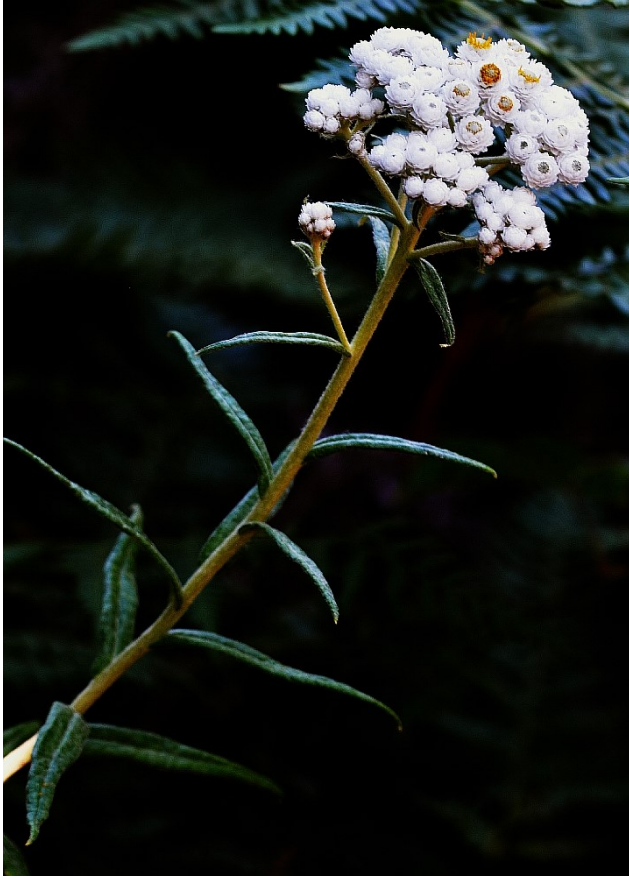
Sweat bee ; Valley View Trail



Sweat Bee on yarrow;
July2; Hazelnut Trail



Lesson in Look-alikes; by Bing Huey



Anaphalis margaritacea
or
Western pearly everlasting;
July 2;
Hazelnut Trail

Let's get technical

One might confuse these 2 plants found in SPVP. They both belong to the "Sunflower Family", Asteraceae, and one of its tribes, the Gnaphalieae.

Genus *Anaphalis* has its greatest species diversity in the E. Himalayas; Genus *Pseudognaphalium* (with possible maple odor) is widespread in temperate regions of many countries.



*Pseudognaphalium Californicum**
or
cudweed; July 2;
Hazelnut Trail

*99% sure of species