

Our website: friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org Offers info on new natural history programs, recordings of past programs, info on animals and plants in SPVP, and more!

WOLVES WITH AMAROQ WEISS in APRIL; A WEBINAR*



CDFW photo of pup

From the Center for Biological Diversity comes arguably, the most astute and determined fighter for **American wolves, Amaroq Weiss.**

She will speak to us **Sat. Ap. 17**, in a **4pm webinar*** on these family oriented, charismatic top predators who are still being hunted & trapped with a vengeance in many Western States.

She will give you renewed hope for their survival. In her words: "The return of wolves to the West Coast after they had been driven to the brink of extinction by state bounties and federally-sponsored eradication programs, is an electrifying conservation story.", one that Amaroq will lead us through with first-hand knowledge, and which will include recent observations and studies of California Wolves, mainly the Lassen Park area pack, the only established pack in the state. Weiss will also discuss the politics, laws, social issues & science of wolf protection recovery, the necessity of their presence in many healthy ecosystems, & your involvement in securing their future. (above, **Minam Pack** ; top, pup **Lassen Pack**)



Ore DFW photo

Amaroq Weiss is the Senior W. Coast Wolf Advocate for the Center of B.D. Biologist & former attorney, Amaroq has worked on wolf issues in the Northern Rockies, Alaska, the Southwest, Pacific West and at the federal level, for 23 years. She holds a B.S. from Iowa State University, an M.S. from University of Wisconsin-Madison, & a J.D. from U. C. Hastings Law.



DOUG BELL: March Webinar* The PEREGRINE'S SAGA

This talk by Doug Bell, PhD, on **March 27, at 4pm**, will provide an overview of the **Peregrine Falcon's** saga, from the pre-DDT era through its drastic world-wide population crash to its present full recovery and beyond. He will touch on the cadre of researchers and citizen scientists who uncovered the DDT story as well as the efforts to save the peregrine through captive breeding and reintroduction. In addition to illustrating the breeding chronology of the peregrine he will also discuss how its biology has allowed it to inhabit both the natural and the "built" environment. While his talk will focus on California, he will present a global perspective.



Mary Malec

Among his many professional responsibilities, Dr. Bell is Wildlife Program Manager of the EBRPD and a Research Associate in the Department of Mammalogy and Ornithology at the Cal. Acad. of Sciences. His research interests range from avian systematics and population genetics to conservation biology. He has been engaged in a long term studies of **Golden Eagles, Prairie Falcons** and other raptors in Calif. with an emphasis on assessing such issues as the impact of renewable energy development on them. Much of his post-doc research has been on Peregrine Falcon genetics at the Cal Academy of Sciences.



Dr. Bell holds a B.A. in Zoology from Humboldt State U, a "Diplom-Biologie" from the U. of Muenster, Germany, and Ph.D. in Zoology from U.C.B., where he studied ornithology and systematic biology.

ON THE TRAIL

Does the beauty of a **bracket mushroom** rival that of many a flower or bird? **Ron Wilson** was strolling down Trout Farm



Trail on Jan. 13, when he couldn't resist this one, but you may prefer his photo of a magnificent **juvenile Red-tailed Hawk** in a tree near the Walnut Grove volleyball area at 4pm on Jan. 13.



Mila Stroganoff found 2 **Franciscan paintbrushes**, photographing this lone plant during her 1/17 hike the length of the Valley View. (continued p. 4)



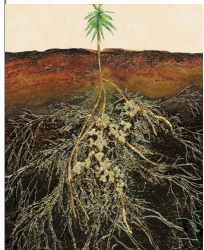
*For instructions on how to participate in the March or April webinars, see bottom of page 5 of this newsletter.

WHAT IS A MUSHROOM, MYCELIUM, a MYCORRHIZA?:

Dec. 12 Webinar* Program on Fungus with J.R. Blair

According to Mr. Blair, a **mushroom** is a type of reproductive body of a fungus, usually with a much larger underground system of long growths called mycelium, made up of thread-like hyphae. On the caps of many mushrooms are the gills, which contain the spores, from which eventually after sex, etc., grow new mushrooms.

J. R. informed us that over 90% of all plant species have a mutualistic relationship with these hyphae at their roots forming a "mycorrhiza" as shown in photo;



the thinness of the hyphae makes for a huge surface area that's used to draw in water and usable minerals for the plant, which in turn gives energy to the fungus. Some plants like the red-

colored parasitic **snow plant**, draw carbohydrates from fellow seed plants, green ones, by tapping the mycorrhiza they're both connected to, but most plants have healthy mycorrhizal connections with other plants.

I loved the fungus-eating **bark beetle** with pouches behind its head for carrying a surplus mycelium to its next tree, where it plants the stuff under the bark like a little farmer, but the poor tree! J.R. mentioned the **alien fungus** pestering the **Monterey Pine** and one **soil fungus** that



swells with water, tightly trapping **nematodes**, as well as one that grows to the top of one plant, mimicking a flower (left), which a deceived **wasp** lands on, carrying the fungus' spores to the next plant.

What a wondrous, varied fungal world!

Thanks to **J.R. Blair**, lecturer at SFSU, who's no stranger to San Pedro Valley Park, having given several presentations, & facilitating bio blitzes & mushroom forays here. He will soon retire as lecturer at SFSU and as Director of the SFSU Field Campus, his positions for many years.

FRIENDS, VOLUNTEERS, WAGE WAR ON BROOM

by Mark Golembiewski

On Weds, Jan. 13th at 9 am, we joined Volunteer Coordinator **Stuart Smith** for another planting/invasives removal work event. Our hardy group included **Irene Davies** and me, along with **Veronica, Madeline** and a third **new volunteer** with her young **daughter**. This time, instead of planting new seedlings on the ridge just off the Valley View Trail, we removed invasive **Scotch broom** (above, rt. from King Co, WA) (continued on page 4)



ORIGINS & EVOLUTION of the ARBUTOIDEAE & ITS MANZANITAS; Jan. 23 Webinar* with TOM PARKER

by Bing Huey

Within the family of the **blue-berry** and **rhododendron**, Ericaceae, is the subfamily, Arbutoideae with its 6 genera. Two of these: *Arctostaphylos*, the **manzanitas**, & *Arbutus*, the **madrones** (below), are found in SPVP and throughout much of Calif.



Calscape photo show Mont. Mt. manzanita's hard fruit

Three other genera: *Comarostaphylis*, *Ornithostaphylos*, & *Xylococcus*, are found in So. California & Mexico. A fourth genus, *Arctous*, is circumarctic. The Arbutoideae were the subject of **Dr. Parker's** webinar, and especially the manzanitas that he's studied for more than 35 years, co-authoring a field guide on them. (top **A. montaraensis**)



Tom Parker, professor emeritus of SFSU, draws upon what is known about the common ancestral origin of the subfamily and the position of each genus on the modern phylogenetic tree, which indicates their genetic distance from one another and likely order of emergence. He shows how the acquisition of various characteristics by each genus indicates a progression of adaptation to changing environments, referred to as ecological shifts. Traits such as a dry fruit, hard fused endocarp, persistent seed banks, and summer fruit maturation are adaptations to an increasingly dry and seasonal climate, **rodent** seed predation, & periodic fire. (Above: **chipmunk** crunching through the hard **manzanita berries**)



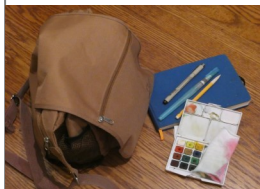
Las Pilitas Nursery

Dr. Parker also describes how the genetics of *Arctostaphylos* can prevent or allow hybridization, leading to the formation of new species. Within the *Arctostaphylos*, a remarkable consequence of evolution is that virtually all of the species and subspecies, some 106 taxa, are endemic to California, with just one species, **A. uva-ursi**, being widespread globally. Dr. Parker's presentation is a fascinating story of the myriad ecological factors that drive the evolution of and formation of new taxa within one subfamily and their geographic distribution. *View Tom Parker's webinar pgm, recorded on our the Friends website.

Nature Journaling

by Sharron Walker

What is it? How does it differ from journaling? According to **John Muir Laws**, the present-day well-known Nature Journaler, it is a way to “slow down, observe, discover, & see!!” Not a bad thing to do, eh? Especially during these times.



What is involved? 1) An active sense of discovery 2) A journaling “Kit” : a notebook, pencil or pen, paints or colored pencils (photo at left is my kit) 3) curiosity & a desire to be in nature.

Last October I signed up for a Zoom 5-day Wild Wonder Nature Journaling Conference. Classes ranged from “Nature Journaling Mindset”, to “Adventure Sketching”, “Gesture of Trees” to “Tiny Worlds” and more. Twenty presenters shared different perspectives. What I took away was the awareness that journaling was not about creating fine art but simply documenting memorable moments and thoughts with words and illustrations.

On a recent outing to the **No. California Redwoods** I filled



several pages with such sketches & thoughts (left, a pg. from Humboldt State Park) As many of you know, I am an avid photographer, but have discovered by journaling I have a more complete record of my observations on the journal page and in my mind.

Over the past few months I have spent time journaling, kit at my side, in San Pedro Valley Park: no better place! One



of my favorite spots is the Walnut Grove Picnic area. (photo below; sketching the lone **cypress**) The key is to keep it simple. My yard is another place where I can observe. I discovered an **Orb Spider’s** intricate web on my side gate. I spent several days making daily observations of Ms. Orb’s efforts, asking myself questions about her and ended up learning so much more than if I had simply taken her photo!

Nature Journaling is for everyone, adults and kids! For more info on Nature Journaling, go to johnmuirlaws.com. Give it a try; you too might become hooked! Later this spring I will be leading a workshop on Introduction to Nature Journaling at the Sanchez Art Center.

FOCUS ON BOARD VOLUNTEERS, OUR HEROES

By Judy Bacon

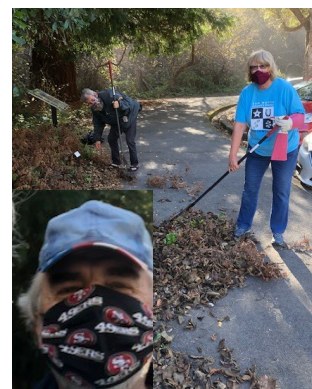
Please take a minute to recognize the amazing people on our board [Ed. Thanks, President **Judy Bacon**, for some mighty persuasive talent-searching, giving us for the 1st time: 1 person, 1 board position]

Enid has been our secretary for over a year and also helps us on our Welcome! table days. **Susan Kern** has agreed to be our treasurer and also helps us on Welcome! days. **Melinda Moses** has fitted in perfectly as our Trailside Store Manager, as well as our computer inventory person. **Carl Schwab** is our Host Coordinator, also helping us at our Welcome! table and on planting/weeding days. **Istvan** is always helping out on Welcome! days, planting days, habitat restoration and anything else we may need help in. **Carolyn** composed super newsletters, even during the pandemic. (Continued on page 4)

SPRUCING UP THE WALKWAY

by Judy Bacon

Saturday, Jan. 16; here we are getting rid of overgrown **blackberry** and old dead leaves and **ferns** on Habitat Restoration Day. **Mark**, (inset), **Istvan** and I are working hard. I confess, Judy had to leave early as she was feeling old! The men weeded the sun garden.



WE CLEAR CULVERTS to LET WATER FLOW

by Joseph Piro

For our January 9th Trail Day -- the first of 2021! -- **Istvan Puski** and I headed out the Weiler Ranch



Road to check on the culvert pipes that run under the trail. Using a long-handled MacLeod and a mattock, we cleared out quite a bit of loose dirt and a few small branches from several of them. These pipes help divert water that runs down the hillside and lets it flow out into the meadow (when more rain comes). It was also nice seeing lots of people -- and **deer** -- out enjoying the morning sunshine.

Happy New Year & happy trails to all! (See before & after shots by **Joseph** at top and to right.)



Ron Wilson picked a sunny February 4th morning to discover an **Echo Blue butterfly** amongst rocks and greenery at the side of the Weiler Ranch Rd.



Trilium chloropetalum (largest 3 leaves) & **Trilium ovatum** (long pedicel) were in bloom on Plaskon Nature Trail on 2/12, the latter having bloomed a week earlier.



Sharp-eyed **Ron Wilson** brings you the image of a tagged hawk in a euc off Weiler R.Rd. on Feb. 22.

(Our Heroes, continued from page 3)

Lakshmi & Jayesh are doing a great job keeping up our website. Lakshmi got us into Square so now we can take credit cards. (Condolences to Jayesh in the loss of his dear father.) Sharron, an idea person, also contributes fine articles & photos to the newsletter. Mila has done an awesome job as Program Director & Webinar coordinator. VP, Mark, is everywhere & does everything from putting together the mt. lion display, & guide, helping with website management, manning the Welcome table, to weeding, raking & constantly coming up with new ideas! Bing was interim treasurer for 6 yrs. He walks trails along with rangers to make sure that the native plants are safe. He's our advocate for **pampas grass** meetings. He composes superb scientific articles, insect & plant photos for our newsletter. (Condolences to Bing in the recent loss of his cherished sister.)

UNSUNG HERO

Adrian is Membership Director & was responsible for the revival of our non-profit status, slogging through 10 years of tax returns & mountains of paper work, with help on the latter from Mila and Judy, to get us financially fit & proud. And Adrian gets us on the Webinars! ***A round of Applause for Adrian, Bing, and all of you!*** It's so wonderful to work with such a talented group of people. So pat yourselves on the back and when the VC opens again, we can have a:

Big Fat Celebration!

MARCH/APRIL 2021 CALENDAR

MARCH TRAIL DAY

Saturday, March 13.....9am

MARCH HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, March 20.....9am

DOUG BELL's "THE PEREGRINE'S SAGA" Webinar*

Saturday, March 27.....4pm

APRIL TRAIL DAY

Saturday, April 10.....9am

APRIL HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, April 17.....9am

AMAROQ WEISS' "RETURN OF THE WOLF" Webinar*

Saturday, April 17.....4pm

***Webinar instructions: see page 5.**

Outdoor events: wear mask; distance ; meet at Vis. Cntr.

(War on Broom, continued from page 2)

in the same general area, using heavy-duty woody plant puller tools (aka, Weed Wrenches). We yanked out quite a few of the tough plants - large and small - before our arms (and backs) tuckered out. Determined to defeat the Scottish monster, we had another anti-broom day in the same area on 2/17!



Mark G.

FACTOID

Monarch Butterfly larvae head-butt one another when **milkweed** is scarce. Biologist & neuroscientist **Alex Keene's** wife showed him how some Monarch young were fighting one another in their garden; he checked them out on YouTube, confirming his suspicions: Hungry, roaming larvae, in their search for scarce food, were lunging at one another. In lab investigations, his team found that the main stressor may have been a paucity of pesticide-free milkweed; monarch caterpillars would only eat "organic" fare. We've seen adult Monarchs in SPVP, so keep an eye out for them!



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. **Our organization's website: friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org**

Zoom Webinar Instructions

by **Adrian Stroganoff**

We have changed the signup for Webinars. Instead of sending an email, you need to go to our website, <http://friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org> In the Events section, you will find a link to the registration page for each webinar. There you need to put in your name and email address to register. You will then get a confirmation email with further instructions, and reminder emails closer to the event.

Return to Pampas Grass & Some History of Its Control in SPVP

by **Bing Huey**; Part II by your editor

This fall, the Friends began to explore ways to help address the problem of the **pampas** and **jubata grass** in SPVP when **Mila Stroganoff** remarked on how much the invasive plants have increased. **Bing Huey** and **Ranger Matt DelCarlo** coordinated a virtual meeting between Natural Resources Manager **Sean Correa** and seven board members to discuss the County Parks effort using herbicide control & the possibility of the Friends organizing a project of seed plume removal. (Left: *Nursery ad, or work-er removing seed-bearing plumes?*)



Part II

The latter strategy was championed in the '90s by SPVP volunteer, **Pegge Fields**, who having left some windows open, returned home to find sticky seeds from her autumnal arrangement studding her drapes & cushions. She wrote county officials and visited nurseries to stop the sale of pampas grass after having seen that spreading-power of its seedy plumes.

When **Lou**, a maverick trail-builder, blazed several pathways in SPVP and contiguous areas in the early days of the Park, the aftermath on cuts not used for our new trails

was an invasion of these aggressive plants onto the exposed soil. Pampas grass grew with a vengeance in the denuded grounds of the old shooting range off the Montara Mt. Trail, & also in areas of old mud-slides and other disturbances.



Peninsula Open Space folks

For many years, **Jim Pommier**, steadfast trail leader, (below in purple) pulled so much of the Argentinian invader that insiders called him **Pampas-grass Pommier**. He also pressured the county to concentrate on removing this scourge fast & furiously. But money wasn't available for extra manpower to take the time to dig up innumerable large, tenaciously established plants, many located on isolated slopes.

Years ago, I succeeded in extricating a mature Pampas only by using my whole body, but 1 year plants are easy to pull, dry season or not. And Bing's suggestion of seed-plume removal needs to be one of the most sensible strategies of conquering this foe.

(In the photo you can see **Ralph Larsen** to **Jim's** right as they rest during their group's construction of the stairs for the first bench on the Montara Mt. trail, another bit of history)



WATCH FOR MORE on

website: Welcome! tables on weekends, regular work days grooming trails & our native gardens, special planting or pulling days to keep our Park's habitats healthy, great Webinar nature pgms. *You are invited to join us in some of these activities: a good way to care for Mother Earth in SPVP.*

EARTH DAY 2021 Usual Earth Day activities, including the annual Pacifica Beach Coalition Eco Fest, are canceled for this April, but keep an eye out for small group & local activities. We will be posting them on the Friends Web Site and sending an email to members. (**Jack Coots** at one SPVP Earth Day table.)



Ron's Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk; January 13;
Walnut Grove Picnic Area, tree near restroom; ID by Craig Nikitas



Ron Wilson's Older Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk? in
Eucalyptus tree; February 22; Weiler Ranch Rd.



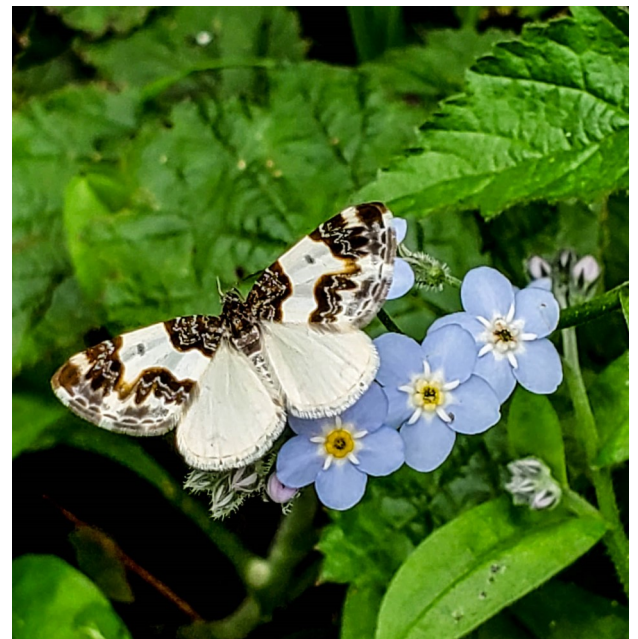
Mr. Ron Wilson Finds Beauty in the Small



Turkey-tail bracket fungus; January 13, 2021; Trout Farm Trail



Mesoleuca gratulata
Looking for a damp spot with minerals.
Seen on about 2/23/21;
Weiler Ranch Rd.



Mesoleuca gratulata, from 3/26/19,
shown here since Ron saw same species
earlier this year, perhaps due to higher
temp.?
Trout Farm Trail

Ron Wilson's Views from Valley View



1/16/21 at 10am



Time to get rid of some plumes!



Laurie Nikitas led budding naturalists: Grandson, Lee, and Granddaughter, Daphne, on a hike of exploration to find winter mushrooms early in January. Here are three of their discoveries in Giant Sequoia litter (below) by the Visitor Center & on the Trout Farm Trail (2 photos at left)

An ancient moss plant provides a perfect back-drop for undulating mushrooms of the even more ancient Fungi Kingdom



Miniature Mushrooms stand like little cave-dwellers



Graceful in grey and white;
Slim beauties

Mila Stroganoff: Two Native Plants Species Dressed in Red, on the Valley View Trail



Toyon; January 17, 2021



Toyon with its perfusion of berries on January 17



Refer to J.R. Blair's Webinar on our website to reveal why a Franciscan paintbrush often stands alone.; January 17

Sharron Walker's photo shows the beauty of smooth manzanita bark, here in the company of blackberry vines and lichen on the Hazelnut Trail



Check out V. Thomas Parker's Webinar on the Evolution and Genetics of the Manzanitas by going to our website: friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org



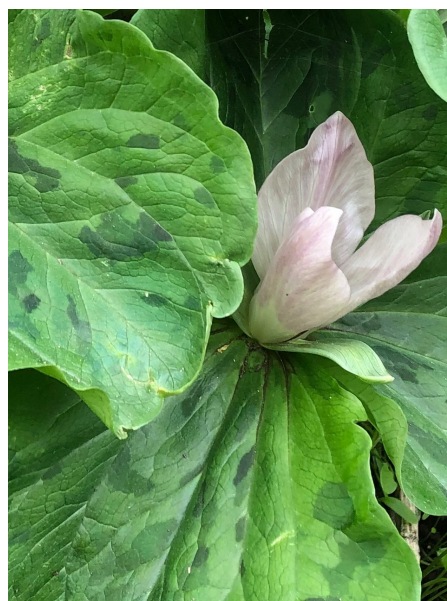
*Ron Wilson's Echo Blue Butterfly; wings closed, wings open;
Sunny morning, Feb 4, '21; three fourths mile back—Weiler Ranch Rd.*



*Beauty Emerges: First: a Giant Trilium Flower Bud
by Ron Wilson 2/17 & Mature Flower by Laurie Nikitas 2/10*



Ron Wilson



Laurie Nikitas

*Second: Laurie's Emerging Fetid Adder's Tongue;
2/3 & a Mature one Mila & Adrian found at the top
of the Hazelnut Trail 2/21*

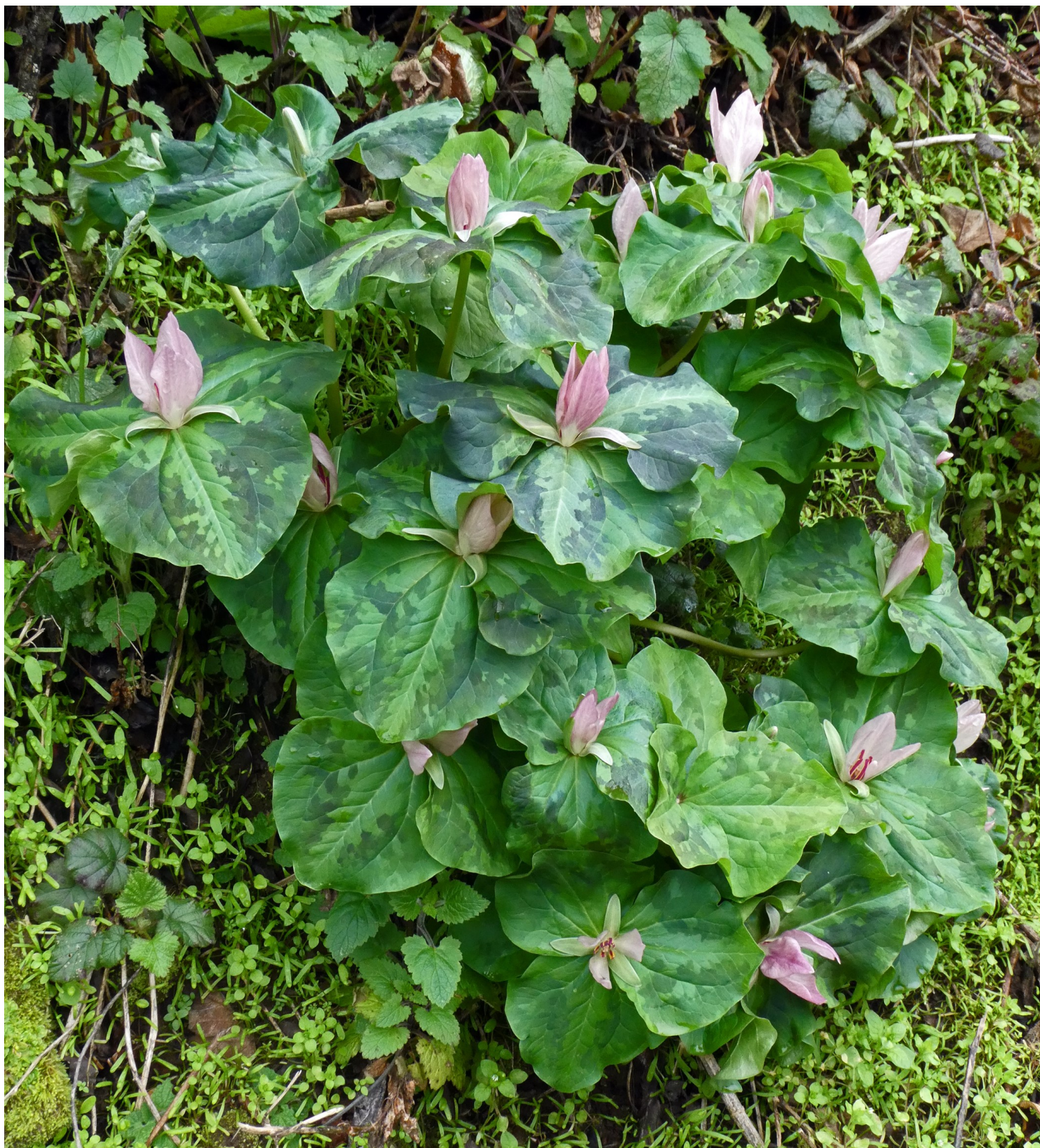


Laurie Nikitas



Mila Stroganoff

Sharron Walker's Gathering of Beauties



Trillium chloropetalum; 2/19/21; Weiler Ranch Rd. at E. Hazelnut Trail



Giant Trilium or *Trilium chloropetalum*; 3pm on 2/19/'21;
Hazelnut/Weiler intersection



Western Trilium or *Trilium ovatum*; 3pm on 2/19/'21;
Near Weiler Ranch Rd.