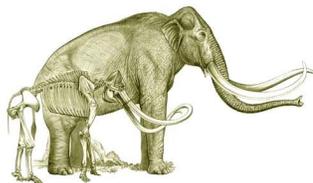


Our website: friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org offers info on new natural history programs, recordings of past programs, info on animals & plants in SPVP, and more!

Our email is: friendsofsanpedrovalley@gmail.com

WEBINAR* with MARK HYLKEMA on April 19, 2022: Mammoth in the Artichokes: Encounter with an Ice Age Landscape in Monterey County, and Implication for the First Native Americans.

On Tues., April 19, at 7pm, Mark Hylkema, Supervisor of the Cultural Resources Program & Santa Cruz District Archaeologist of California State Parks, will present a program of intrigue: In the spring of 2011, the remains of a **Columbian Mammoth** were archaeologically recovered from **artichoke fields** near the town of Castroville, California. In addition to the partial, but



articulated remains of the mammoth, a variety of other Late Pleistocene animals were also recovered. In the hope of finding a link to Paleo Indian behavior, a research team involving many different colleges and universities was tasked to investigate. The process of learning about these animals has led to a journey of discovery about the landscape and natural history of the Monterey Bay region at the end of this Great Ice Age. Mark will highlight some of the many insights we have gained, sharing information about our recovery of the remains of creatures that were once on the menu for the first people of the Americas, but have vanished from our world as if they had never been.



Mark Hylkema manages cultural resources within 32 State Parks of the Santa Cruz District- an area ranging from San Francisco to the Pajaro River. (Cont'd page 4)

A NATURALIST'S WALK IN SAN PEDRO VALLEY PARK

Sign up for a 1 & one half hour nature hike with **J.R.**



Blair (see Jan/Feb Newsletter), who will lead a walk on **Sunday, April 3, at 10:30 am**. The first 15 people to send a request to friendsofsanpedrovalley@gmail.com will be eligible; others will be on a waiting list. J.R. will discuss anything interesting that catches his eye, whether **plant, animal, insect**, etc. (You'll receive mtg. location in an email.)

WEBINAR* with DR. STEPHANIE DOLE: March 22, '22
The Extraordinary Diversity of Beetles

On this **4th Tuesday in March, at 7pm**, you can spend an evening with **Dr. Stephanie Dole**, exploring the huge variety in anatomical oddities—even beauty, and life-styles of **beetles**. This order of insects, called the Coleoptera, comprises one in five known species of living things, including plants (though perhaps not including microorganisms). With new beetles being discovered constantly, there are now 450,000 recorded species; these coleopterans, with their astounding profusion of biodiversity, encompass unimaginably unique ecological roles. Understanding beetles and their influence on other life forms is therefore fundamental to understanding the interplay of life on earth.



Stephanie Dole

Stephanie Dole, who holds a doctorate degree in Entomology, specializes in educating people of all ages about the wonderful world of terrestrial arthropods. With her business, "Beetlelady", she teaches programs in the Bay Area & beyond, hoping to instill a love of bugs in others. She'll present on the astonishing diversity of insects, & beetles specifically, as well as her own research into the diversity of **tropical bark beetles**.

Stephanie A. Dole, Ph.D., has been teaching about insects since 1997. She received her bachelor's degree from UC Davis & her doctoral degree in Entomology from Michigan State University. The National Science Foundation funded her PhD dissertation research on the diversity of **tropical bark beetles**, (continued on page 4)



ON THE TRAIL

On a rainy Jan. 2, afternoon stroll, your editor saw a tiny **slender salamander, *Batrachoceps attenuatus***, hiding under a rotted log halfway up Trout Farm Rd.



Dec. 1: **Jim Mackey**, while hiking on the meadow behind St. Peters with son **Jim Jr.** & wife, **Rose**, saw 2 **antlered bucks** square off against one another, antlers vs. antlers!



(continued on page 4)

***Zoom Webinar instructions on page 4.**

LEWIS & SARA LAGMAY FALL HEAD OVER HEELS for SPVP

On January 23, our Welcome Table crew of Alice, Carl, Enid, Judy and Penny, signed up an exceptional new couple as Friends of San Pedro Valley Park: Lewis & Sara Lagmay, who intend to keep using our trails and also want to volunteer to work on them. They are happy to share their unique story with us : (Thank you, Lewis, for the great email!)



Penny Mitchell photo of Sara and Lewis Lagmay

“We both come from a lifestyle of fitness & work in the fitness industry. We enjoy Trail runs, Spartan races, working out and being healthy. We spend our weekends traveling around California looking for mountain trails to run up and add to our list of accomplishments.

In 2018 we stumbled upon Montara Mountain trail and ran it for the first time; while running up we really enjoyed the fresh air, the polite and friendly people and the beautiful breath-taking views overlooking the ocean. We eventually decided to use the Montara Mountain Trail to train and prepare for the multiple spartan races that we enter every year. Then on May 1st 2019, I decided to surprise Sara and ask her to marry me on that trail because it had become such a huge part of our lives, as we ran it almost every weekend at one point. Whenever we run there I feel at peace and free, with all my worries of life left behind in the car and there's nothing but beauty, fresh air and freedom. The idea was to propose to her at the first vista point about 2.4 miles into the trail.

The plan was for a bunch of our friends to hike up earlier in the day and set up a little section with pictures and flowers that Sara and I would just happen to stumble upon at the vista point. So as Sara and I ran up the mountain and we were about a mile away, I started to run faster so I could beat her to the vista and get the ring ready to propose, but when I got to the view site, not a soul was there, so I called my friends and it turns out that they were on the wrong trail! So when Sara arrived we ran back down together and I pretended to be tired and in need of a nap. When we got to the car, I closed my eyes for about 30 minutes so my friends had time to hike down and set up things elsewhere—a handy spot would be the “Taco Bell” beach, which was agreed on when I “woke up” after their secretive text arrived. I drove to the beach to “watch the waves” with Sara, and then we walked down the beach to

find all our friends holding flowers for Sara, greeting us with smiles; I proposed to her right there.

After the engagement we decided that we wanted to get married the next year on the same date and site where the engagement should have taken place. But the Covid pandemic delayed our wedding for 366 long days, and we ended up getting married on Montara Mountain trail on May 1st, 2021.”



(More photos of the Mt. Montara wedding on p. 6)

CREW REPORTS NEWS ON TRAIL RAIN CHECK

by Joseph Piro

For our January 8, 2022 Trail Day -- the first of the New Year! -- **Stan Jensen**, my brother **Erik** and I headed up the west end of the Hazelnut Trail. While still wet after all the recent rain, we found the trail to be in good shape and we mostly cleared out drain dips and inside ditches, dug out some "tripper" rocks and raked some excessive leaves and twigs away. Erik and I turned around at the top in the **eucalyptus** grove, while Stan continued all the way down the east end, and, aside for drainage ditches that needed some clearing, found the trail in good shape too. Happy New Year and let's all enjoy another year on the trails! [Thanks from one senior citizen for all the careful drainage work done by **Joseph, Istvan, Eric & Stan**, as well as all the diligent **rangers**, that makes our trails passable & safe this time of the year!]



IT'S A MOUNTAIN LION!...., NOT A BOBCAT!
January 25th Webinar—Summary of Program
Presenters: Alys Granados & Zara McDonald

by Judy Bacon

As a Visitor Center host, I've had visitors come in yelling, "I just saw a **mountain lion**". "No, you haven't", I reply. "How long was its tail?" "Oh, about 6 in. long."



What is the difference? If you saw the animals together you'd know right away. An adult puma can be from 7 to 8 ft.

long compared to 3 ft for the **bobcat**, which has a short tail compared to the long tail of the mountain lion. *Lynx rufus* can be from 9 to 35 lbs., but most pumas are over 100 lbs., some males twice that.

Bobcats can jump up to 12 feet high. They are solitary except in the breeding season. Females breed annually, starting in the 2nd year, giving birth to from 1 to six kittens that are weaned at 2 months, leave mom at 8 months, & can have a life span of 10 to 15 years. This cat is found in the lower 48, Canada; most of Mexico.



Their diet consists of small game like rats, mice & gophers, but they can dine on rabbits (seen in Flicker photo at left) and occasionally take down a small deer; kills are often covered with grass and twigs and eaten later. These "middle ranking predators", who are more urban than the puma, & often seen as vermin or pests.

Historically they've been hunted as pests, and it's legal to hunt them in 28 states, and 7 Canadian provinces. As bobcat populations decline, rodent populations go up. The problems for bobcats are similar to those of mountain lions: deaths due to ingesting poisoned vermin plus habitat loss and fragmentation, so that there is little chance to disperse a variety of DNA, and thus maintain the health of the populations.

Living with bobcats is similar to living with mountain lions. They are active from dusk to dawn, so keep pets inside, pet food cleaned up and don't feed wildlife.

The Felidae Conservation Fund's Bay Area Bobcat Project helps these animals to flourish; to donate to protect them, check out the felidaefund.org website, and/or volunteer; become more involved!

Friends of SPVP Photo Contest....
Have you entered??



At the beginning of Feb we our launched very first **Friends' Photo Contest!** It will go to May 1st of 2022, the contest is open to all Members of the Friends of SPVP (only).

The 4 categories are: Flora, Fauna, Views of Trails & Landscapes & Activities of People in the Park. Photos may be taken between May 1, 2021 & May 1, 2022. Guidelines were sent early Feb; we will send them out again early March.

So grab your camera or phone & take a hike! The contest is intended to encourage our members to get more involved with the park, along with a means for us to obtain additional photos for our website galleries & postings. Winners will be awarded with Ribbons, plus Gift Certificates for local Pacific Businesses. We want to see your Best Shots!!! *Mark and Sharron*



FACIOM

Do **woodpeckers** need dying trees for their cavity nests? "No", says **Peter Wohlleben**, author of "The Hidden Life of Trees"*. Our **Downy Woodpeckers** (left) may prefer an old tree, but once a healthy tree hole has been started, **fungal infections** follow which soften the wood, making it easier for birds to excavate. **Pileated Woodpeckers**, with their large, chisel-shaped bills, have been seen at least twice in SPVP, and they are one of the champion hole crafters, probably making some starter holes. But our **Hairy Woodpecker** does seem to rely on old snags for its nest excavations. (*Recommended by **S. Walker, C. Pankow**)

JOIN US ON EARTH DAY IN SPVP

San Pedro Valley Park's Earth Day, Fri. April 22, will be a rescue day for the plants in our native gardens as we go after the usual suspects, weeds. It will take place from 10am till one by the V.C. We may also be planting some natives. Bring your gloves. Donuts Served!



The 2 gardens are ambassadors for the wild biodiversity of our Park, so we need to have the plants be able to show themselves at their best for visitors. We hope you can make it, and that we can get to know more of the folks who, like us, want to highlight a garden that welcomes native pollinators: bees, butterflies, beetles: a microcosm of a healthy Earth.



ON THE TRAIL (cont. from p 1)

Laurie Nikitas found this turkey totally unconcerned by her approach on Feb 6. Thus, Laurie believes that this is possibly one of last year's hatchlings, & so a bit naïve.

Bing Huey was looking for some of the earliest



flowers this year, stumbling across what he calls "a bouquet of **hound's tongue buds**"; Feb 3, Brook's Creek Trail.

ZOOM WEBINAR INSTRUCTIONS

by Adrian Stroganoff

Online registration for Webinars is now available. **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.

(S. Dole: *Extraordinary Diversity of Beetles*, from p. 1) which included the description of 5 previously unknown species and one new genus. Her research articles have been published in several scientific journals. She has had extensive field experience collecting and studying insects in the Ecuadorian Amazon, Guyana, Thailand, the Sonoran Desert, the Sierra Nevada, and throughout California. Dr. Dole has contributed immeasurably in her field as a scientist, educator, and researcher.

(*Hylkema: Mammoth in the Artichokes-cont'd* from p. 1)

He also works on many other projects throughout the state and has over 40 years of experience in Calif. archaeology, his emphasis on Native Am. culture. He has published extensively in journals & books focused on the archaeology of No. Am. In addition to his work for State Parks, he is an adjunct professor of Anthropology at Foothill College & has taught anthropology courses at many institutions of higher learning, including: Santa Clara University, U.C. Santa Cruz & De Anza College. Mark was Pres. of the Soc. for Calif. Archaeology '15-'16 (search: www.scahome.org)

MARCH/APRIL 2022 CALENDAR

STU SMITH, VOL. COORD. LEADS HABITAT WORK

Saturday, March 5..... 10am-1

MARCH TRAIL DAY

Saturday, March 12.....9am

MARCH HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, March 19.....10am

DOLE: GREAT DIVERSITY of BEETLES: Webinar*

Tuesday, March 22.....7pm

J.R. BLAIR NATURALIST WALK (by reservation only)

Sunday, April 3.....10:30am

APRIL TRAIL DAY

Saturday, April 9.....9am

APRIL HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Saturday, April 16.....10am

HYLKEMA: MAMMOTH in ARTICHOKEs: Webinar*

Tuesday, April 19.....7pm

EARTH DAY in SAN PEDRO VALLEY PARK

Friday, April 22.....10am

PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE.....May 1

For all events except Webinars, meet at Vis. Cntr.

TRIM AND TIDY TEAM ON BROOKS FALLS TRAIL

by Joseph Piro

Under a sunny blue sky with unusually warm February temperatures **Stan Jensen, Carl Schwab, Gifford Hartman** (a new-comer!) & I headed up the ever-popular Brooks Falls Trail for our February 12, 2022, Trail Day. Armed with rakes, McLeods, a pair of loppers and a folding saw, we tackled a few projects on the way up to the bench overlooking the falls -- we raked out several small piles of soil that had collapsed onto the trail, trimmed back low-hanging branches & identified a few spots that might need some more work in the future. But for now things are good, so go out and enjoy the trails.



The Leaders of "the Friends of SPVP": President: **Judy Bacon**; Vice President: **Mark Golembiewski**; Secretary: **Enid Ansgarius**; Treasurer: **Susan Kern**; Vis. Cntr. Shift Coordinator: **Carl Schwab**; Habitat Restoration Leader: **Istvan Puski**; Trail Leader: **Joseph Piro**; Membership Director: **Adrian Stroganoff**; Director of Programs and Field Trips: **Mila Stroganoff**; Zoom Webinar Program Coordinators: **Mila & Adrian Stroganoff**; Director of Hospitality: **Judy Bacon**; Directors of Website Management: **Lakshmi Javadekar & Jayesh Kapoor**; Trailside Store Manager: **Melinda Moses**; Newsletter Editor: **Carolyn Pankow** (pankowinca@gmail.com); newsletter proofreading & mailing: **Adrian and Mila Stroganoff**; -members-at-large: **Bing Huey, Sharron Walker**; Vol. Contributor: **Katie Antista**; member misc.

ON THE NATURE JOURNALING TRAIL

By Sharron Walker

During January and February, the San Pedro Valley Nature Journalers focused on ferns, which abound on our trails, especially on the Trout Farm, Brooks and Plaskon. Horsetails have been recently included in this group that reproduces with spores, using no flowers or seeds, but with true roots, stems and leaves. Of the more typical ferns, 9 species are found in SPVP: **bracken, California polypody, coastal wood, golden back, lady, western chain, sword fern, coffee fern** and perhaps the most beautiful, the **5 finger fern**.

One of the most common ferns is the western sword fern (at right, bottom), whose appearance is as you would expect, reminiscent of the weapon, with its toothed edges and sword "hilt" where the leaflets of the frond are attached to the stem. But my favorite is California polypody, a fern our **Martie Sautter** focused on in her journal, as seen in a photo of her page (at left, below). This little beauty is very common on the Trout Farm Trail, seen in its abundance as **Bevan Jones** walks along this cool and wooded pathway (at right, top).

An easy check on our Park's ferns is found in **Barbara Verderwerf's** classic book, "Montara Mountain", stocked by our Trailside Store and for sale at the "Friends of SPVP" frequent weekend Welcome! tables in front of the SPVP Visitor Center.

Rangers Katherine Wright, and Lauren Ford-Peterson joined us along with 2 interns: **Larisa Perez** and **JoAnn Sandoval**, observing the work of our 11 journalers at our most recent "fern" meeting .



Bevan Jones on "Polypody" Trail



Martie Sauter's Journal Page



Sword Fern

Lewis & Sara Lagmay Wedding
on the Montara Mt. Trail;
May 1, 2021

At bottom of page:
Judy & David Bacon's Crashed
Wedding; So. Walnut Grove



Center: Groom & Bride: David & Judy Bacon. Guests: L to R: Pat Dondono, Judy's Son, David Gaskins, Father, Bill Mutzko, Judy's Son Paul Gaskins, Pat's husband, Bill Dondono.

(The traditional solemnity of the ceremony was broken when Judy's friend Eileen Woods led her 1st grade class towards the suddenly laughing wedding party, Eileen's jaw dropped and she did an abrupt about face with her bouncy bunch; Judy had told her the when & where of the wedding, and she'd totally forgotten.)

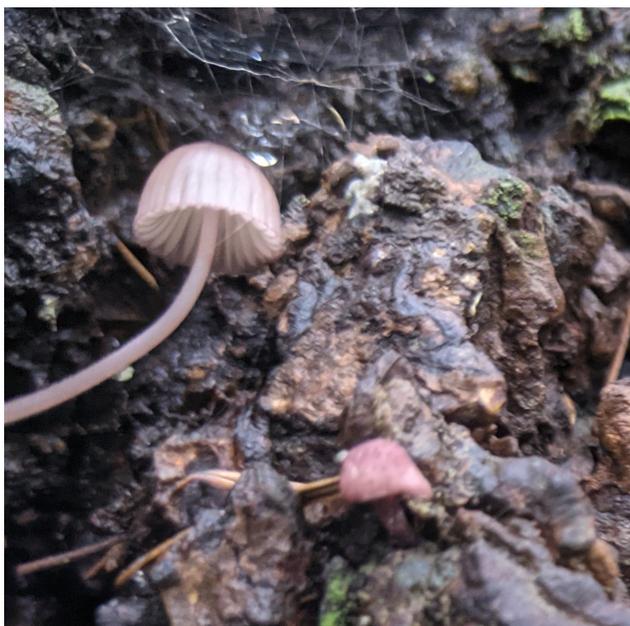
Douglas-Fir—Habitat for Fungus, Lichen, Moss & Hidden Critters

on the Trout Farm Trail; Jan 6, 2022

Lucious litter under Doug-fir supports white coral fungus and acts as refuge for moss



Lemon-bordered
Bracket Mushroom
Finds food in Bark Cavity
Of Douglas-fir



As I slowly ascended the muddy trail, my first delight was seeing these fluted parasol-like mushrooms growing out of the bark of Douglas-Firs. Many little treasures are there, like a spider web remnant, lichens, and more!

No complaints about the wet, flowerless days
Carolyn Pankow

Douglas-fir, fungus all in a bit of a blur as inspired senior citizen tried to hold camera and balance body

Ron Wilson's World of Mushrooms; January 14, 1pm On the Trout Farm Trail



"Butter Leaf" Fungus



"Pagoda" Fungus



"Moss-Dweller" Mushroom

Our Black-tailed Deer on the Weiler Alert to Danger while Enjoying Lunch January 9, 2022 Near Brooks Creek Bridge

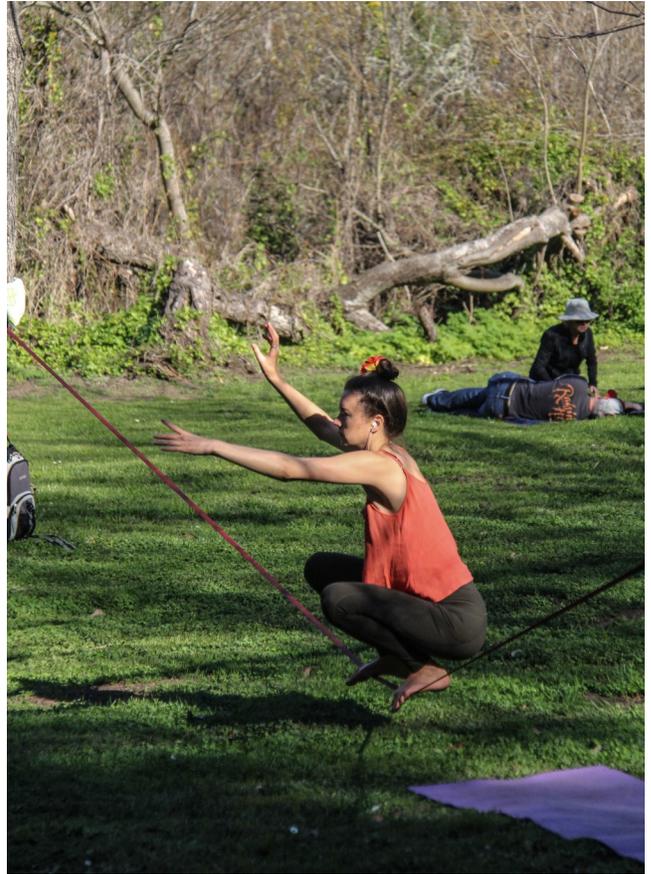


Sharron Walker loved the view with Sweeny Ridge in the background, as well as the eagerly eating youngster and alert munching doe, and she captures the golden color of arroyo willow in winter in this photo of a salad of plenty.

Ron Wilson's Activities of People: Present & Past in SPVP



Preparation for a Ride up
Weiler Ranch Rd. and Other Trails?



Balancing Act in So. Walnut; Grass Lounge



"Historical" Fruit Tree Was Planted by Ranch Folk or by the Gays, Owners of
the Trout Farm



Pink Flowering Currant;
February 6, 2022
Front of Visitor Center
Mark Golembiewski

Early Bloomers



Milk maids, *Denaria californica*
February 7, 2022
Plaskon Trail, near bridge so. of VC
Sharron Walker



Strange Double Tower Mushroom;
Feb. 3; Valley View Trail
Ron Wilson

And Some C O N S U M E R S



Approachable Turkey; Feb. 18
By Fence to St. Peter's
Laurie Nikitas'



Acmon Blue Butterfly, branch clinging
February 3, 3pm; Valley View Trail
Ron Wilson

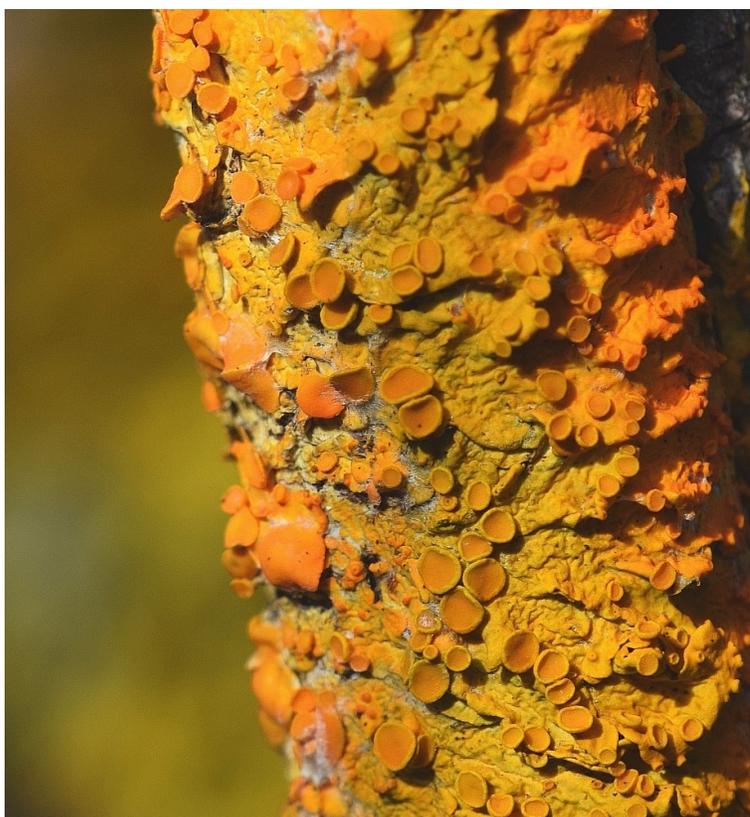
Bing Huey: Fungus, Early Buds



Bolete Mushroom; *Genus Suilus*
Jan 14, '22; Brooks Creek Trail



Bouquet hound's tongue buds;
Feb. 3, 2022; Brooks Creek Trail

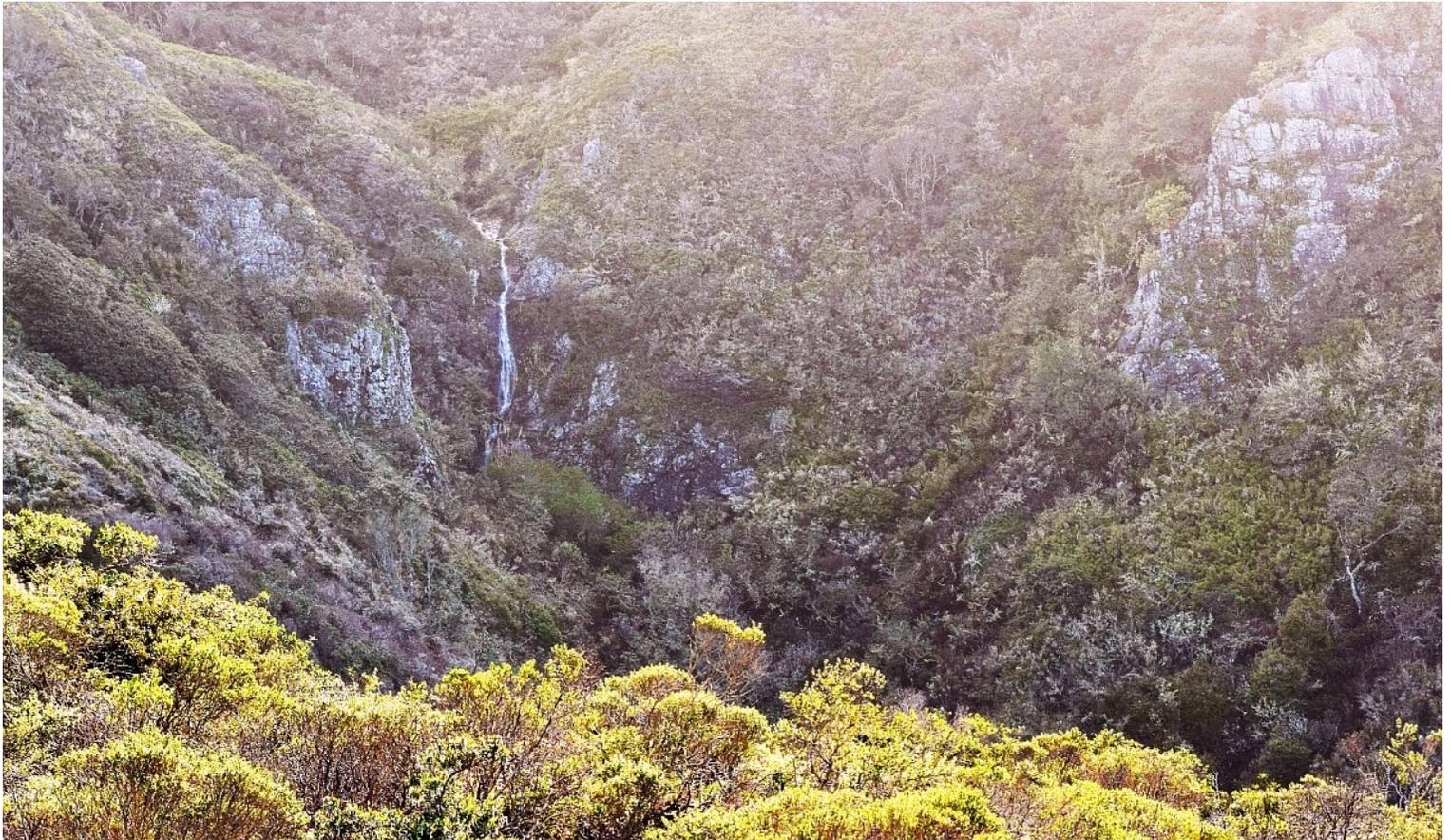


Lichen xanthoria; Dec. 16, 2021
Montara Mountain Trail
Most lichens consist of cup fungus & algae



Western Leatherwood Bud;
Jan. 26, 2022;
Brooks Creek Trail

Bing Huey's View of our Ephemeral Waterfalls,
"Seldom Seen Falls"? on
December 16, 2021,
as seen from the Montara Mt. Trail.



And Bing's Pressing Question
for you: What is the little
stream that is its source,
And to where does it flow?

#Find the missing creek