

## WILDTHINGS PROGRAM—ANIMALS GALORE AUG. 5

Yes, a new program for kids, run by **Gabe Kerschner**, whose Wildlife Ambassadors: Wildthings, has cared for displaced wild animals since 1988. Meet the critters, which may include a **bobcat**, at the South Walnut Grove picnic area at **11am on Friday, August 5**. They promise us from 5 to 8 wild animals with an almost hour long program.



Gabe, students, & American alligator

**Judy Bacon** got to know this organization during her teaching years, & worked hard to get this animal-studded program for us; The Wildthings facility, in the Sierra foothills, has 60 critters in residence, including **mammals, reptiles** and **birds**. Besides rescuing sometimes abused animals, Gabe's & the assistants', and son Jojo's, main goal is to educate youngsters (latest count: 100's of thousands) about the need for conservation of & respect for all living things. He is a graduate of the Exotic Animal Training & Management Program at Moorpark College. His high school degree is from the college prep. school, the Colorado Academy.

## THE BEETLE LADY FOR CHILDREN JULY 2

**Stephanie Dole**, a talented and well-educated insect lover and **beetle** expert, will come to the South Walnut on **Saturday, July 2, at 11am**, with her bag of "tricks" for kids of all ages.



She will show the youngsters how the insect skeleton of these little flyers is inside out from ours & will bring an array of fascinating bugs, including a live **tarantula** & an underground dweller, the **Jerusalem cricket** (left). She always has the children make bug jars for temporary "captives" after they net insects from the Park.



Stephanie gave a scholarly, thought-provoking program on the Coleoptera for the Friends of SPVP in March, one of the **Mila Stroganoff** series of Webinars, including recent research on certain species of beetles. Stephanie has her PhD in Entomology from Michigan State U., funded by the Nat'l Sci. Found., doing research for her dissertation on **tropical bark beetles**, gleaning 5 new species & one new genus.

## BAY AREA WILD in WALNUT GROVE PICNIC AREA 8/10

August is an exciting month for children at SPVP. The week following our "Wildthings" program, Half Moon Bay's Wildmind will deliver a program with the **king snake**, the **Great Horned Owl**, the **gray fox** and the **Red-tailed Hawk**, live and close-up. So save **Wednesday, August 10; 11am**, on your calendar.



All animals, excepting the king snake, are found in SPVP. My favorite may be the gray fox, who is unique among foxes in its tree-climbing abilities, but a sentimental favorite is the Great Horned Owl, with its one good eye, who was welcomed into their facility many years ago, after a run-in with a car. However, in this photo above of **Sonora** and **Siskiyou**, 4 year residents of Wildmind, one has to admit that gray foxes are harder to resist!

Wildmind, which was founded in 1980, by **Steve Karlin**, former national park ranger, has served over 2 million children, & now features programs for at-risk youngsters.

## MIRACLE by MARK GOLEMBIEWSKI

Editor for the May/June newsletter, **Mark Golembiewski**, performed a miracle when I told Mark I needed him to do the whole newsletter, due to a computer breakdown as well as health problems. After purchasing a laptop, a computer company took 10 days to transfer my data that contained the newsletter template from the old hard drive, but the files were not returned in correct sequence. I was lost and Mark was the paragon of patience. Then my Granddaughter, **Matilda**, helped me set things up and send them to Mark, giving him 20 days left in April to learn Publisher, to contact folks for material and then assemble what I think you will agree was a commendably fine bulletin. Not to mention that he included a page of his photos of one of the sparkling stars at SPVP, the **Trillium**. And he completed the newsletter early in a 30 day month! Additionally: he has an Apple & I a PC, further complicating his task.



With gratitude to Mark, Carolyn Pankow

### **BRUSH BUNNY—NOT A “DUMB BUNNY”**

A young **bobcat** imagines the tasty flesh of our **brush rabbit**, having seen it chewing on grasses and herbs by a **coyote brush** plant; as she stalks this fella, just at the point of a pounce, the rabbit turns on a dime, & dives into a bush where its brush warren begins. The rabbit is on very familiar territory



among the brambles of this “chaparral” & sprints its way into its half acre of covered, rough-wooded tunnels and pathways to hiding spots. Not so easy for the large cat to trot & tangle into the brush; hard on the paws, not an instant victory, in fact exhausting, as the bunny knows her way. Ensnarled & sore, the bobcat works her way out—perhaps next time a more calcu-



lated approach? Yes, a smart bunny can taste the greenery, the freshness of the air for several years, so often is just not the victim. Trails & refuges in an acre

of brambly brush can be cleverly organized as its safe harbor, its home.

*Carolyn Pankow*

Resource: “Bay Nature” magazine; spring 2022, p. 10

**Ron Wilson’s** photos of **brush rabbits** in SPVP

### **A POSSIBLE POSITIVE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?**

Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams tell about the good things going on in the quest for ameliorating human-caused climate disaster in their book: “**Hope**”: **A Survival Guide for Trying Times**.

Accounts in their chapter on the Indomitable Human Spirit highlights 2 of these: 1. She tells of 2 friends in China who became “incapacitated”, one losing his arms and one his eyesight. Rather than stay in a state of despair, contributing nothing, **Jia Haixia & Jia Wenqi** found a way to plant 10,000 trees in the degraded land surrounding their village. Then the formerly skeptical neighbors helped them take care of the trees. 2. The Minister of the Environment in the Dem. Repub. of the Congo is now involved with a “Roots & Shoots” group which he’d been a member of as a youngster.

This group started when a group of Tanzanian high schools kids came to Jane, distressed especially by destruction—dynamiting—of **coral reefs**, which the government was doing nothing about. This group from 8 schools returned and started a “Roots & Shoots” environmental group, which has now spread throughout the world. Also there are youth led environmental groups like Fridays for Climate: think Greta. (not to mention groups of **Indigenous people** working to stop the Climate Catastrophe) This chapter on The Power of Young People may give us the inspiration to also make a difference.



Jane points to the The Resilience of Nature, pointing to the now popular “green cities” with urban **trees**, helping to ameliorate our past love for concrete (much CO<sub>2</sub> is produced in its manufacture ). In a rare moment of dark humor she mentions the survival abilities of **rats & roaches**, but looks with optimism on the survival of a severely damaged tree in the midst of the Nagasaki bombing, still living, bringing hope to many Japanese for a resilient future.

*Your editor*

*(Jane also relates her personal experiences & beliefs.)*

### **RESTORING BROOKS CREEK TRAIL BEND**

**By Joseph Piro**

We had a new-comer for our May 14, 2022 Trail Day! **Mary Larsen** joined **Istvan Puski**, my brother **Erik** and **I** to work on a project we’ve been talking about for a while now up on the Brooks Falls Trail -- fixing the sharp bend in the trail just above the bridge (by all the dead pampas grass). As the outer edge of the trail was starting to collapse, we reinforced the edge with stones we found, bench-cut into the hillside a bit to widen/



move the trail in a bit and created a drain dip that should hopefully help keep water flowing across the trail instead of running down it. We then continued up to the

Joseph Piro Brooks Falls/

Montara Mtn. intersection & things looked good on that stretch.

*Happy trails!*

## DEBUT PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS!

by Sharron Walker

### Photos Start on page 7- of this Newsletter



Carl Schwab

The Friends of San Pedro Valley Park Photo Contest Committee want to thank you for participating in our very first Photo Contest. Although the number of entries was small, the images submitted were of high quality and spoke to both the skills of our member photographers and the beauty of our beloved park and its inhabitants.

Our gracious judges, **Matt Delcarlo**, **Edwin Hacking**, and **Sharron Walker**

have now reviewed all entries & completed our deliberations to determine the top 3 photos in each of the 4 contest categories. ( See: [www.friendsofsanpedropark.org](http://www.friendsofsanpedropark.org))

### And the Winners Are:

#### *Fauna*

- 1st: Checking Each Other Out: **Mark Golembiewski**
- 2nd: Yes... See... My Tail IS Black!: **Bevan Jones**
- 3rd: California Quail Crosses the Trail: **Carl Schwab**

#### *Flora*

- 1st : Trillium Trio - - **Carl Schwab**
- 2nd: Oak Tree Shading the Trails - - **Ron Wilson**
- 3rd: Red-Flowering Currant - - **Mark Golembiewski**

#### *Trails; Landscape*

- 1st: Brooks Falls After Oct. Storm: **Mark Golembiewski**
- 2nd: Riparian Fusion: **Bevan Jones**
- 3rd: Morning Fog Montara Mtn Trail: **Carl Schwab**

#### *People In the Park*

- 1st: Balancing near the Volleyball Court: **Ron Wilson**
- 2nd: Obsessed with Red Flowers: **Roger Mascio**
- 3rd: Educational Walk in Park: **Mark Golembiewski**

*Congratulations to all of the winners! We will be sending out award ribbons for each of the winning photos to the corresponding photographers We are grateful to all who entered this inaugural contest among our membership!*

*Congratulations again from the Photo Contest Committee:*

**Sharron Walker**, Committee Chair

**Bing Huey**

**Mark Golembiewski**

**Jayesh Kapoor**



Bevan Jones

## BOB LEWIS' BIRD COLOR May 17 WEBINAR

Review by Bing Huey

As a group, birds are exceptional for the degree to which visual information is used for survival. Key to this is the range of colors they exhibit, that are within the humanly visible spectrum & beyond. An exploration of this is the subject of the webinar given by **Bob Lewis**. Bob is a chemist by training with a passion for all things avian and is also an outstanding photographer.

He begins his presentation by explaining what produces the colors that we see (and, indeed, do not see). Coloration can be classified as those based on pigments, as in the **Cardinal** pictured below, and those based on structure.

Among pigments, melanin is most common. There are two types, and they are responsible for the blacks, dark browns, red browns, and yellows that are produced in the feather follicles and then deposited in a controlled manner into the feathers to produce patterns. In addition to its role in coloration, melanin also gives feathers strength. For example, in the mostly **white snow geese**, the primary flight feathers are tipped in black with melanin. Melanin also functions in sequestering metals into the dead feathers as a means to detoxify, and in giving antimicrobial, photo- and thermo-protection.



There are other pigments, such as carotenoids, porphyrins, and psittacofulvin. Of these, carotenoids are derived from diet, usually parts of plants, and are transferred to feathers via the follicles. These compounds can be chemically altered to change their colors, and, in general, produce the reds, oranges and yellows. The pink of **flamingos** come unaltered from the brine shrimp in their diet, who in turn get it from the **algae** they consume.

Next, Bob speaks about color perception in birds. Compared to humans, birds see farther into the ultraviolet range of the spectrum. Bird eyes have four types of cone receptors, as compared with three in humans, & have lenses that are transparent to UV, which human lenses block. Bird eye cones also have oil droplets that function as light filters to make the receptors more narrowly sensitive. Having the ability for UV perception affords key advantages.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

### ON THE TRAIL

Judy Bacon's Tues. lunch group saw a **gopher snake** close to the trail between the No, & So. Walnut Grove picnic areas on May 17, 2022. One lady was not thrilled! This photo by **Ron Wilson** shows the terrific **camouflage** of a SPVP gopher snake. (cropped photo)



Two different species

of **green moths** "seemed to cool themselves off on the bark of **red-wood trees**" on the Trout Farm Trail on a very warm day. **Ron Wilson**, was our "lepidopteran" observer. Here's one of these striking moths.



### JULY/AUGUST 2022 CALENDAR

- BEETLE LADY: INSECTS** in No. Walnut Grove for KIDS  
Saturday, July 2.....11am
- JULY TRAIL DAY**  
Saturday, July 9.....9am
- JULY HABITAT RESTORATION DAY**  
Saturday, July 16.....10am
- WILDTHINGS: in No. Walnut Grove for KIDS**  
Friday, August 5.....11am
- WILDMIND'S BAY AREA WILD** in No. Walnut Grove  
Wednesday, August 10.....11am
- AUGUST TRAIL DAY**  
Saturday, August 13.....9am
- AUGUST HABITAT RESTORATION DAY**  
Saturday, August 20.....10am

Note: For all work events meet at Visitor Center.  
Lectures will continue in October, and in that issue we will have reviews for 2 past webinars; find program info on our website: [friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org](http://friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org)

### PRICKLY AND POISONOUS DAY

by **Mary Larsen (with Joseph Piro)**

For the June 11, 2022 Trail Day, **Stan Jensen, Carl Schwab, Mary Larsen** and **Istvan Puski** removed some of the **thistle** growing abundantly along the Old Trout Farm Trail. Istvan even tackled some of the **hemlock**. It was a very warm morning, so we were happy to find some shady areas that needed weeding. And as there was too much thistle to haul back in small loads, a diligent **Ranger**



dropped off a large tarp we used to haul the big bundle back to the dumpster. Four workers contributed 3 hrs. each: 12 volunteer hours!

### FACTION

The **gray fox**, like all foxes, though a member of the dog family, the Canidae, forms a vertical pupil like a **cat's** when light is bright. Since all Canids have important concentric rings of different wave lengths of light in their lenses, this slit is crucial. A **dog** or **wolf**; has an iris that merely contracts the size of the circular opening, the pupil. In the fox, with its slit-opening ( below), all the wave lengths can be exploited, even when the slit is at its narrowest. Thus, the daylight blur/haze is eliminated, as all frequencies of light are in focus. (text from "Hidden World of the Fox", by **Adele Brand**)



**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 & hikes: **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)**; newslet. proofreading, mailing: **Adrian & Mila Stroganoff**; memb. at-ig: **Bing Huey, Sharron Walker**; Vol. Contributor; **Katie Antista**; Vol. passes

Our organization's website is : [friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org](http://friendsofsanpedrovalleypark.org)

## On the Nature Journaling Trail .... by Sharron Walker

The San Pedro Valley Nature Journaling Group continues to meet monthly in our Park. A recent prompt fo-



Sharron Walker

ocused our curiosity and journaling on wild flowers. And if you have been on the trails you know the blooms have been in abundance! Many are featured in our newsletters: **Istvan Puski and Carl Schwab** (at left) recently found a native **Starflower (*Trientalis latifolia*)**—at right) -also known as the Pacific or Western starflower - in the patio Nature Garden at our Visitor Center.



Sharron Walker

The Starflower's habitat is shady and/or woodland. It grows from slender, creeping rhizomes. Leaves are simple and occur in whorls of 4 - 5 at the tip of the stem.; petals 5-7, pink with white star shaped center. It is a member of the Primrose (Primulaceae) Family. It can be found on most of our trails, frequently seen on the Plaskon and Hazelnut Trails.

Nature Journaling is about discovery. In our group, discussions develop from the subjects we journal. An example what is the difference between a root and a rhizome? We often refer to the underground part of a plant as its "roots" but sometimes that is not technically correct. There are several parts of a plant that can grow underground, one common part is the rhizome. According to Wikipedia: " a rhizome is the main stem of the plant that runs underground horizontally, and retains the ability to allow new shoots to grow upwards. A Rhizome is also known as "rootstocks".

The SPVP Nature Journalers meet monthly at the park, on Thursdays; the dates vary. Last week we had an unexpected guest, **Jim Mackey** & daughter, **Robbin**. Always wonderful to see Jim in the park! So check us out sometime!



Istvan Puski

Photos: **starflower** by **Sharron Walker** on May 5; **Carl Schwab & Istvan Puski**, journaling on May 12; page from journal of **Istvan Puski**, showing star flower with Solomon seal leaves below, May 5; **Robbin** and father, **Jim Mackey**, visit the journaling group; by **Sharron Walker** on May 12.



**(Bob Lewis' Bird Color Webinar: continued from page 3)**

Birds can use UV dyes to convey sex, age, and fitness, or they can display striking patterns that are invisible to predators. In 139 species of birds the sexes are indistinguishable to a human observer, but 90% of species show a UV reflectance spectrum that enables birds to distinguish sexes.

The webinar returns to the other main type of bird coloration, namely, structural. These are colors created by microscopic layers of melanin granules separated by layers of keratin. Embedded within the melanin are air vacuoles. These structures, based on their size and arrangement, interact with light to produce visible colors by either iridescence or selective scatter. In general, there are no blue pigments in feathers, so that all blue color observed on birds is structural. One other shade produced structurally is super black, which reflects almost no light & is important in helping the bird blend in with its background or in making adjacent colored parts stand out even more. (right: male Bird of Paradise with super black)



*The webinar also had more about the biology and function of coloration in birds, as well as stunning bird photography.*

## Activities in SPVP; Water Lilies at Work for new Natives Carl Schwab and Istvan show Bounty of Weeds from Trail Day on Trout Farm Trail



Judy Bacon, Enid Ansgarius, Alice Shirley  
The life-giving "Water Lilies"



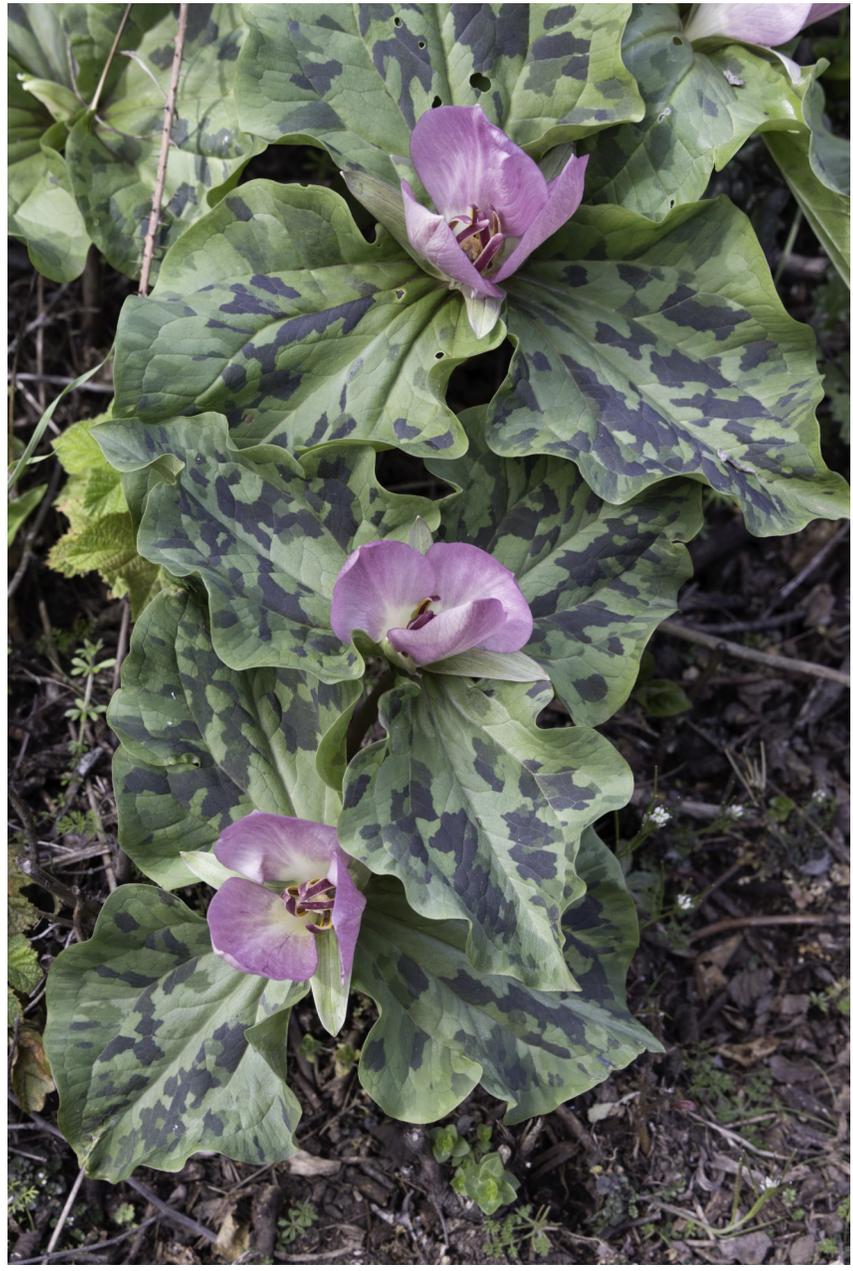
Carl Schwab and Istvan Puski Gloat over Weeds

**2nd Prize: Ron Wilson's  
"Oak Tree Shading Trail"**



# Flora

**1st Prize: Carl Schwab  
"Trilium Trio"**



**3rd Prize: Mark Golembiewski's  
"Red Flowering Currant Blossom"**

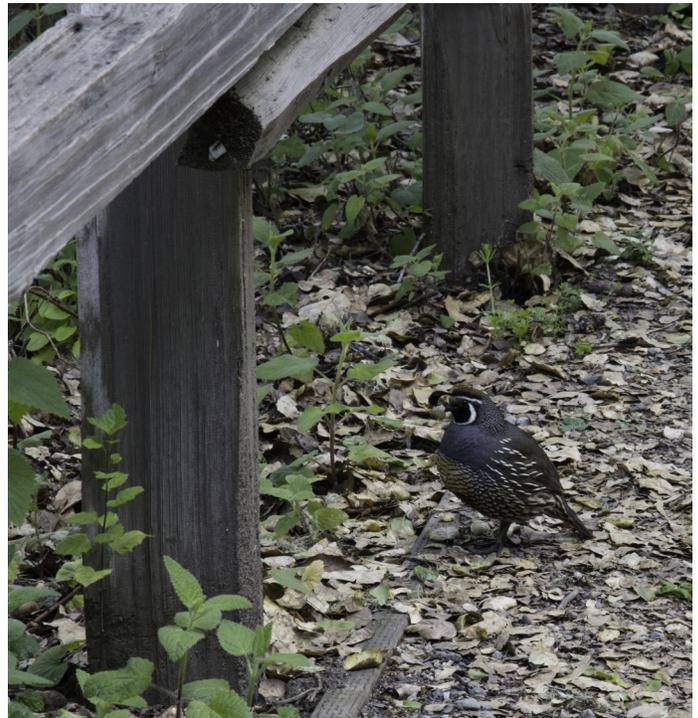




**1st Prize: Mark Golembiewski's  
"Checking Each Other Out"**



**2nd Prize: Bevan Jones  
"Yes...See...My Tail is Black"**



**3rd Prize: Carl Schwab:  
"California Quail Crosses Trail"**

# Landscapes and Trails

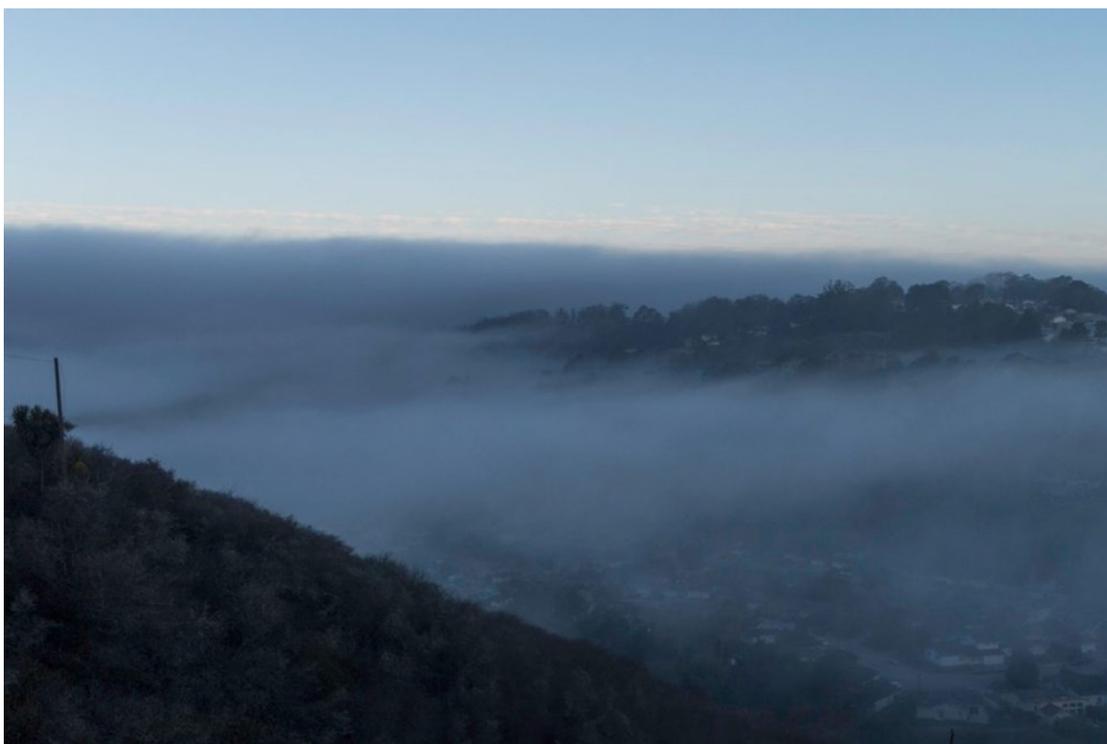
**1st Prize: Mark Golembiewski's**  
Brooks Falls After Big October Storm



# Landscapes and Trails



**2nd Prize: Bevan Jones'**  
Riparian Fusion



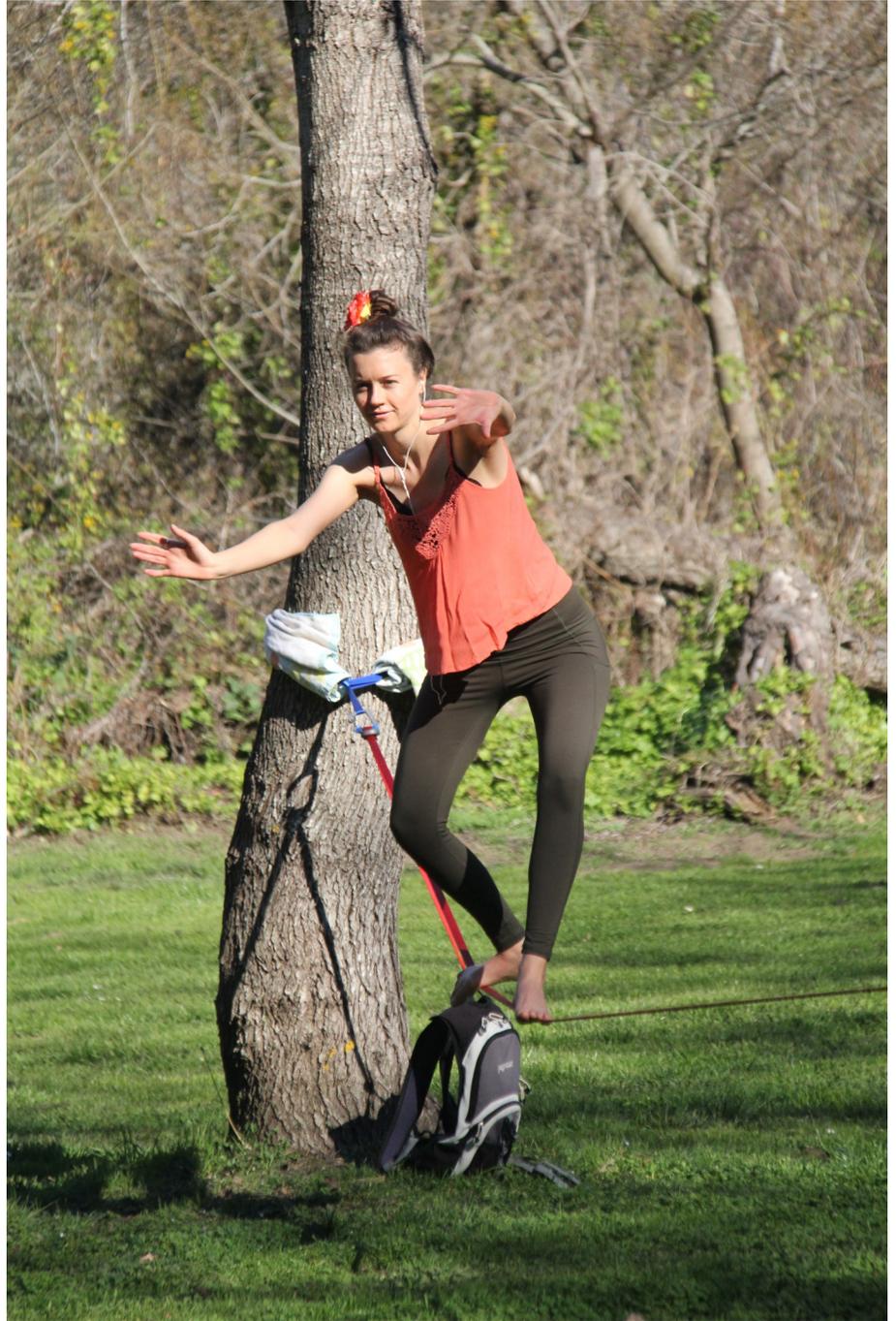
**3rd Prize: Carl Schwab's**  
Morning Fog on Montara Mountain Trail

# People in the Park

**2nd Prize: Roger Mascio**  
 "Lady Obsessed by Scarlet Flowers"



**1st Prize: Ron Wilson**  
 "Balance Practice Near  
 the Volley Ball Court"



**3rd Prize: Mark Golembiewski:**  
 "A Most Educational Walk  
 in the Park"



# Bing Huey's Potpourri of Park Natural Life

Pocket Gopher Emerges from Den:  
Hungry & Brave Or Hungry & Foolish?



Pocket Gopher; April 30, 2022  
East Walnut



Bing Huey's male Anna's hummingbird; April 24, 3pm;  
Brooks Falls Trail

California Burning Bush is a member of  
the Celastraceae Family. It's a native,  
but is related to many of its  
Genus, Euonymus that live in the tem-  
perate zones of Asia and North America

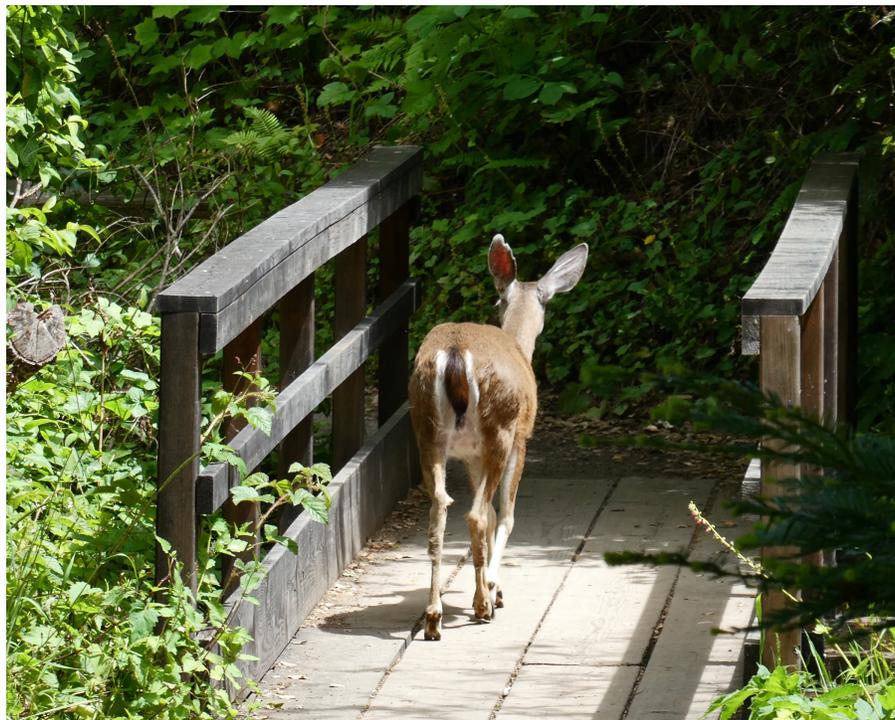


California Burning Bush;  
May 20, 2022; Weiler Ranch Rd.

Bing Thinks:  
Reincarnation of Cleopatra?

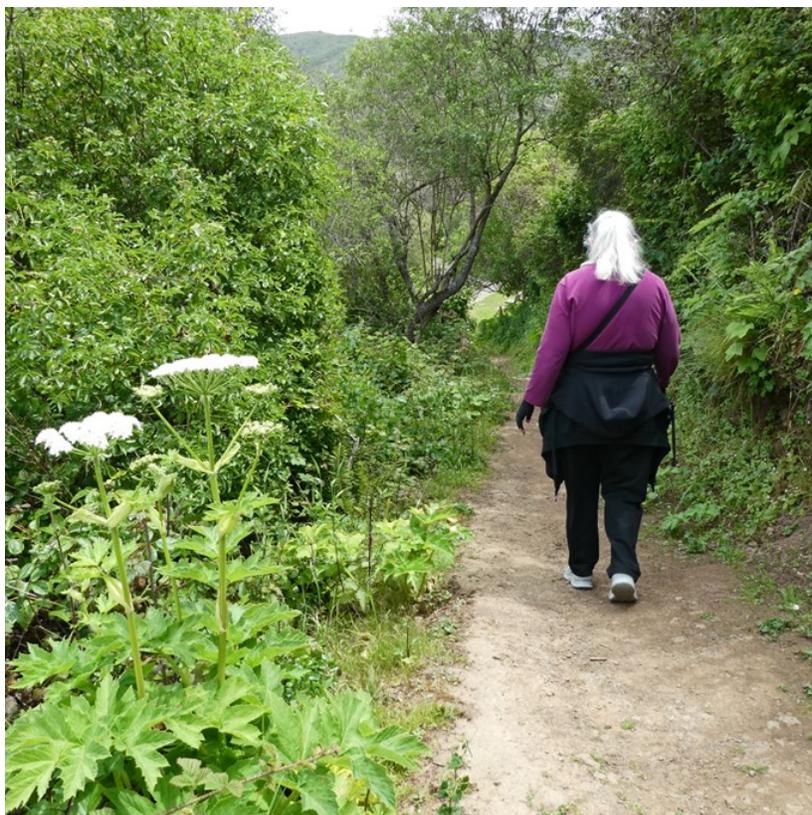


Fence Lizards; May 5, 2022; Weiler Ranch Rd.  
"Please Come into my Den" by Sharron Walker



Sharron Walker; Mule Deer Crossing Plaskon Bridge;  
6/12/22, at 12 noon;

# Sharron Walker's Cow Parsnip on the Trail



Hiker & Cow Parsnip 5/5/22 ; 1pm, by S L Walker  
Hazelnut off Weiler



Cow Parsnip Bloom , *Heracleum lanatum*; 5/5/22 at 1pm  
just off Weiler Ranch Rd. by Sharron Walker



Both Photos of Jim leading this bird walk by Judy Bacon

## HERE BIRDY, BIRDY

By Judy Bacon

**Jim Steele's** bird walks became even more interesting as he showed us the app called "Merlin". I absolutely love this app! It has a microphone that listens for bird song and tells you what bird is making the song. In addition, it has a list of birds with pictures that can be found in your area. Often, when I turn it on and stand in my backyard, I will hear about ten different birds that I had no idea were there!! Thank you, Jim!

With his phone and the phone app, Merlin, **Mark Goliembewski** heard these birds during 13 minutes of bird walk on the Trout Farm:

- Common Raven
- Chestnut-backed Chickadee
- Wilson's Warbler
- Orange-crowned Warbler
- Spotted Towhee
- Anna's Hummingbird
- Song Sparrow
- Swainson's Thrush
- Wrentit
- Bushtit
- Cedar Waxwing
- California Quail
- Black-headed Grosbeak



Jim talks to assembling group

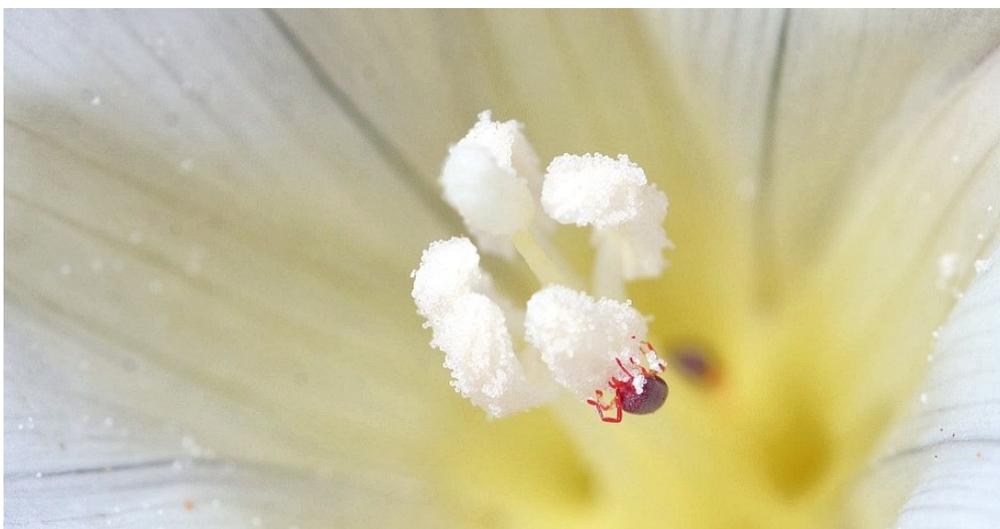
## Bing Huey's Bugs Munching on Morning Glory



Ant feeding on Morning Glory Pollen  
on April 10, 2022; Hazelnut Trail



Crab Spider Waiting to Munch on Prey as Sits on  
Morning Glory on April 10, '22; Hazelnut Trail

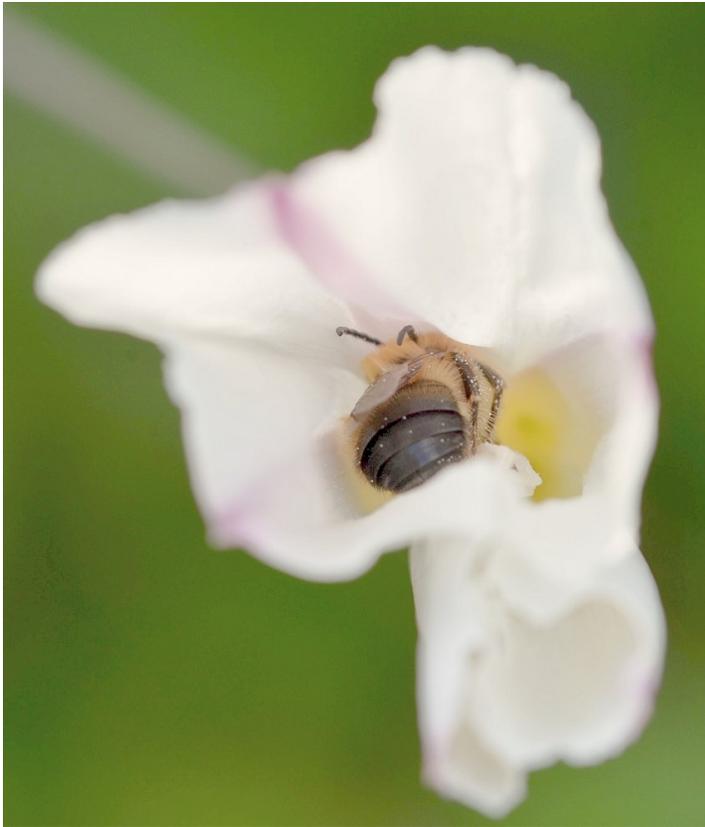


Plant Mite (Balaustium) feeding on Pollen on Morning Glory  
on April 10, 2022, on Hazelnut Trail



Sweat Bee feeding in Morning Glory on April 24, '22; Brooks Creek Trail

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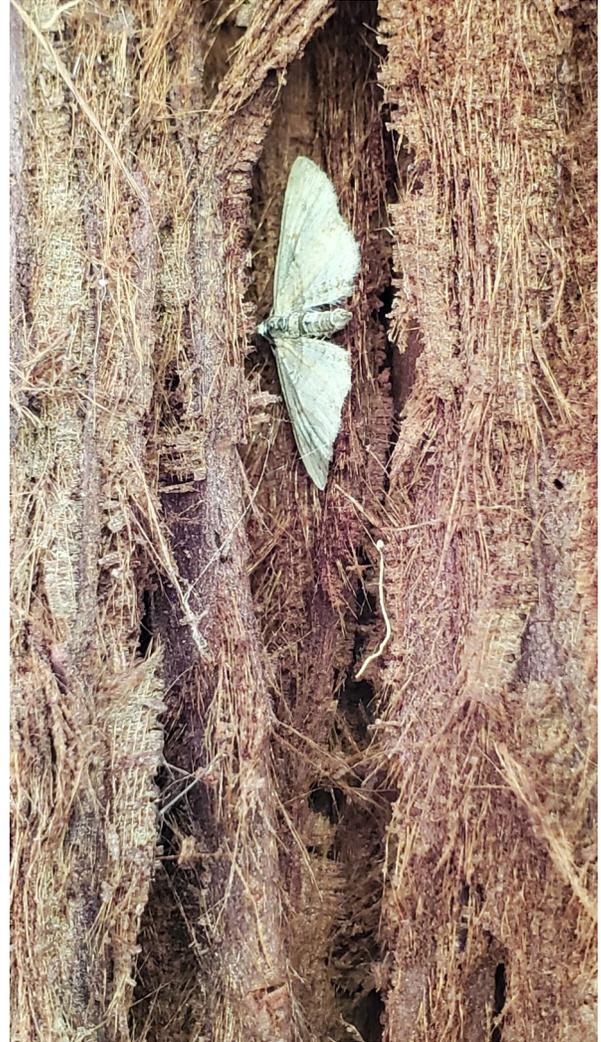


Unidentified Bee feeding in Morning Glory on April 3, '22; Valley View Trail

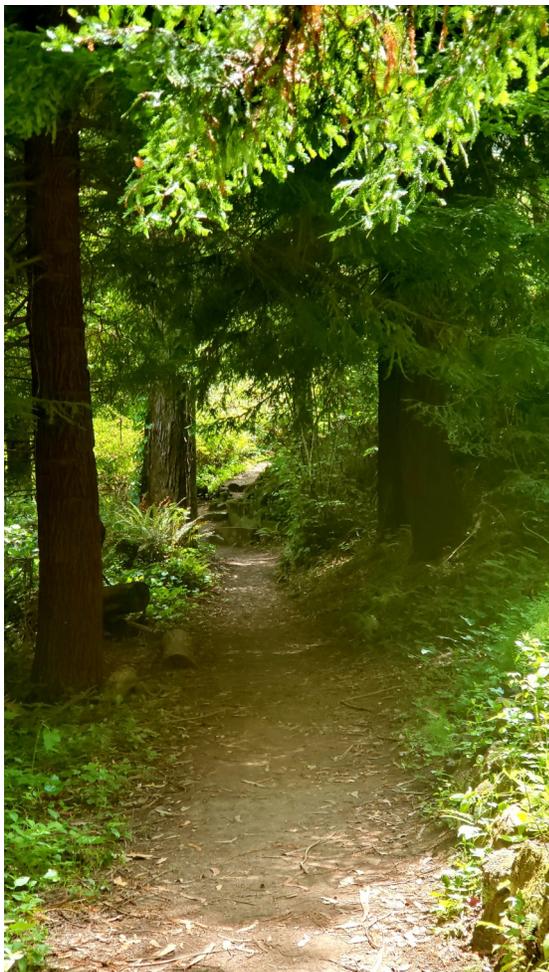
# Ron Wilson's Lovely Flyers; the Verdant Trout Farm Trail Being Enjoyed by two Green Moth Beauties



Ron Wilson's Buckeye on Forget-me-not  
On notecard—for sale on Welcome Days



Ron Wilson's Moth on redwood tree  
May 25, 2022; Trout Farm Trail



Ron Wilson's Redwood Trees on May 9th  
Trout Farm Trail



Ron Wilson: Moth on Redwood;  
April 7, 2022; Trout Farm Trail

## Barbara VanderWerf, Author of Classic "Montara Mountain" Book



Sharron Walker

On their very recent trip to the Pacific Northwest, Sharron Walker and Bevan Jones met up with Barbara VanderWerf, who wrote and assembled illustrations for her terrific book, "Montara Mountain". This is a delightful and informative natural and human history of the Mountain towering above San Pedro Valley Park & accessible from our trails. It's on sale at our Trailside Store (now at our Sunday Welcome Tables when they return)

*"I stood on Nature's balcony around the picturesque amphitheater formed by Montara Mountain with the sea and sky like a curtain fronting me..... God never touched with brush a finer painting than the large green-and-gold curtains that hung in front of the peaks of Montara that evening I saw the sun go down."*

M.B. Johnson. July 28, 1914. "San Mateo News"  
(On the final page of Barbara's book)



News briefs on a couple new additions to the park: 1) we have a new tool shed, and 2) two new boot cleaning stations are being installed, one at the entrance to the Plaskon trail at the edge of the north parking lot and the other at the Montara Mtn trailhead near the restrooms at the south parking lot.

Reporter and photographer: Mark Golembiewski