

# Valley Views

The Friends of San Pedro Valley Park

January / February 2025

## Upcoming Programs

### A January Zoom Webinar with Tanya Baxter

#### “Flora of the Northern Sierra Nevada: Botanical Encounters off the Beaten Path”

On **Saturday, January 25th at 7 pm**, the Friends of San Pedro Valley Park welcome Tanya Baxter, botanist and ecologist, for a presentation on the flora of the northern Sierra Nevada. On over 1,146,000 acres, Plumas National Forest hosts some of the most diverse habitat in the northern Sierra Nevada range. Since 2023, Tanya Baxter and crews of consultant botanists have been documenting remote, rugged and often unvisited portions of the national forest around the area of Quincy for a fuels reduction mitigation inventory. Numerous new rare plant populations were documented during these botanical surveys. Over the last few years, several large fires have ravished the yellow pine forests and drastically impacted the ecology of Plumas National Forest, as well as the timber harvest there. Tanya’s talk will cover plant communities, botanical highlights, scenic sections of the Feather River, and the unexpected field encounters. Join us for an illuminating lecture.

**About the speaker:** Tanya Baxter, M.S. is a botanist and ecologist. Tanya conducts rare plant surveys in remote rugged areas. She has roots in fire science and has served as a natural resource advisor on wildland fires in Yosemite National Park. Tanya specializes in riparian habitats, coastal fire fuels reductions, native plant revegetation design, and northern Sierra Nevada flora. She teaches a field course on plant taxonomy at San Francisco State University each June that is open to the public.

Please register in advance for this webinar using the following link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_KRO1b3FtRbiG7yV2OsOLuw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_KRO1b3FtRbiG7yV2OsOLuw)

You will then get a confirmation email with further instructions, as well as reminder emails at one week, one day and one hour to prior the Webinar.



### A February Zoom Webinar with Dr. Tom Parker

#### “How Much Does Chaparral Differ from Place to Place?”

On **Saturday, February 8th at 7 pm**, the Friends of San Pedro Valley Park welcome back Dr. Tom Parker, Professor of Biology Emeritus from San Francisco State University for a talk that answers the question, How Much Does Chaparral Differ from Place to Place? Chaparral vegetation varies considerably in California, occupying a little more than 9% of the state, but contains almost 25% of plant species, with a lot of endemic ones. That suggests it looks different from place to place. Dr. Parker will introduce us to some of the dominant species’ diversity and will focus on the Bay Area versus San Diego County. He will also briefly include montane chaparral, which we find above the snow line in our mountains. So you can look forward to lots of photos, no graphs during his talk. Join us for a very special evening.

**About the speaker:** Tom Parker is Professor of Biology Emeritus at San Francisco State University and currently the Editor-in-Chief of *Madroño*, the Western America Journal of Botany, a publication of the California Botanical Society. Dr. Parker is an evolutionary ecologist focused on the role of plants in ecological communities. He specializes in the dynamics of plant communities and has conducted research principally on tidal wetlands and chaparral.

Please register in advance for this webinar using the following link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ueVHmnWYRbir2GyaqbXHRg](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ueVHmnWYRbir2GyaqbXHRg)

You will then get a confirmation email with further instructions, as well as reminder emails at one week, one day and one hour to prior the Webinar.



## The Friends of San Pedro Valley Park

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### Visitor Center

The Friends provide volunteer hosts to staff the reception desk when the Visitor Center is open on Saturdays and Sundays (only) from 10 am to 4 pm. Our Trailside Store is open during those hours.

## Upcoming Field Trip

### Nature Walk in San Pedro Valley Park

Sunday, February 16, 2025

Time: 10 am – 12 pm

**This is the first Nature Walk of 2025.** Register for a 2-hour nature stroll with J.R. Blair on Sunday, February 16th at 10 am. We'll get started as soon as everyone has gathered, so please be on time. Dress for light drizzle with waterproof clothing, but heavy rain cancels. Umbrellas are best left at home as they block the view of other attendees. This walk is for ages 12 years and older. There is a limit of 15 people and sign-ups are done using the following link:

Eventbrite link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-nature-walk-in-san-pedro-valley-park-tickets-1116202865819?aff=oddtcreator>

**About the leader:** J.R. Blair received his Bachelor's degree at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington and obtained his Master's degree at San Francisco State University in 1999, studying with the accomplished mycologist, Dr. Dennis Desjardin. J.R. was a lecturer of biology at SFSU for 21 years and the director of the University's Sierra Nevada Field Campus for eleven years until his retirement in December 2020.



## Recent Field Trip

### Mycoblitz - December 2024

by Adrian and Mila Stroganoff

On Saturday, December 7th, the Friends of San Pedro Valley Park and friends of the Friends assembled for the annual Mycoblitz in San Pedro Valley Park. We had 20 people helping in this very important endeavor for a full three hours. "They sought them here, they sought them there / Those mushroom lovers sought them everywhere / Are they on tree trunks or down below? / These damned elusive fungus things."

Since there had been no rain for a while, mushrooms were not nearly as abundant as one would have hoped. But we still did very well. All of the mushrooms collected in the park were later on display at the SF Mycological Society's Fungus Fair in South San Francisco. Entrance to the Fungus Fair was free for those who had helped to collect. This was an unexpected treat this year, and a very kind gesture on the part of the SF Mycological Society.

One must not forget the other sightings. Besides mushrooms, there were banana slugs to behold, a foursome of deer in front of the visitor center and, most importantly, a "baby" Giant Pacific Salamander. We were told by J.R. Blair, the leader of the foray, that an adult salamander can reach about 12 inches in length. *(These photos were taken by our Membership Director, Adrian Stroganoff)*



Thank you all for your participation and we hope to see everyone back in a year's time foraging for mushrooms once again.

*(more photos from the mycoblitz event are on pages 9-11)*

## Recent Program

### Craig Nikitas' "Keep 'Em Flying - Helping Raptors in the Human Environment"

by Bing Huey

Craig Nikitas is well known to the Friends, having previously given talks on a number of avian topics. He was on hand on 19 October to give a webinar entitled, "Keep 'Em Flying - Helping Raptors in the Human Environment." Craig is a retired urban planner and has worked for years in bird conservation. He has cared for captive birds at the Randall Museum, Steinhardt Aquarium, and the San Francisco and Oakland Zoos. He has tended to birds in rehabilitation at Wild Care, worked at trapping and banding birds with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory, and has given educational programs in many venues.

In 2015, Craig founded Bay Area Raptor Rescue. With the working motto, "When raptors are in trouble, we're there on the double," the group responds to requests from wildlife sanctuaries and hospitals, government agencies, businesses, and individuals to aid or rescue raptors that are ill, injured, or trapped in buildings. They do this free of charge and with permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Highest priority is given to the birds' well-being using the best care possible in accordance with local ordinances.

Craig gave a brief overview of raptors, outlining traits that make them successful birds of prey. They are strong flyers, fast and agile, with strong talons for grasping, and strong hooked bills for tearing apart prey. He went into detail about the eyes, and their size and anatomy that give them a broad cone of vision able to see small, fast moving animals. Great gray owls use their dish-shaped faces to focus sound to their ears located close to their eyes. With their keen hearing they can hunt in complete darkness.

Raptors have a broad size range, from the seven-inch screech owl with its two-foot wingspan, up to the golden eagle with its seven-foot wingspan. Accordingly, their range of prey items is similarly broad: rodents, birds, reptiles, fish, and insects.

Craig described the hazards that raptors face and the techniques he employs in the course of his rescue work. Those hazards include entanglement with fences, nets, and barbed wire, collisions with doors and windows and cars, and entrapment in skylights.

There are also poisons; every raptor tested has been shown to contain some rodenticide.



Craig with a Peregrin Falcon



Craig rescuing a Cooper's Hawk

Hand nets are used if the bird to be rescued is unable to fly. An approach from behind is used if possible, anticipating where the bird might run. If the bird is able to fly, a leg trap is used with a live lure, unless the leg has an injury. Where possible, the bird is released on site. Otherwise, it is transported to a clinic.

Especially fascinating was watching all the photos and videos showing Craig and associates at work, from setting leg traps to Craig himself scaling a fire engine ladder to reach a hawk. Craig does not believe in using gloves when handling his rescues, preferring to allow his bare hands to better assess their health. He showed us instances of his hand bearing the lacerations from a sharp talon.

An accounting of Craig's rescues serves to raise awareness of the numerous ways human activities and structures can pose hazards to raptors, from pigeon barriers or fences that entangle them, to glass that they collide with, to tall ceilings and skylights they fly into but cannot find their way out of. Poisoning from rodenticides are serious and common.

A recording of Craig's webinar is available for viewing through the Friends website. The contact information for Bay Area Raptor Rescue is [www.bayraptorrescue.org](http://www.bayraptorrescue.org), 415-810-5116.

## A Sunny Fall Day on the Trails

by Joseph Piro

We had a good group for our November 9, 2024 Trail -- **Mary Larsen, Stan Jensen, Ken Coe, my brother Erik and myself.**



Under a sunny, Fall-feeling sky and a variety of tools in hand, we headed out on the popular loop -- up the Brooks Falls Trail and down the Montara Mountain Trail -- and trimmed back low-hanging branches, dug up several "trip hazard" roots and cleared out several drain dips.

Enjoy the trails!

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The December Trail Day event unfortunately was rained out

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### ~~~~ Park Notes ~~~~

If you've walked up the Trout Farm trail in December, you likely have seen some of the construction work being done at the Day & Overnight Youth Camp Area.



*(At left: view of the main access into the youth camp area from the Trout Farm Trail.*

*Remnants of the old trout farm tanks a bit further up the trail at upper left)*

According to Head Ranger Matt Del Carlo, the Parks Dept. is updating this overnight area with all new amenities, including wood picnic tables, a serving table, barbeque grills, fire pit, water fountain and sink. There are also future plans to install an amphitheater just above the camp area that can be used by the camp groups, as well as for park naturalist talks.

Look for further developments as the work progresses!

## ~ January / February '25 Calendar ~

### January Trail Day

Saturday, January 11 ..... 9 am

### Jan. Habitat Restoration Day

Saturday, January 18 ..... 10 am

### Baxter - N. Sierra Nevada Flora\*

Saturday, January 25 ..... 7 pm

### February Trail Day

Saturday, February 8 ..... 9 am

### Dr. Tom Parker - Chapparal\*

Saturday, February 8 ..... 7 pm

### Feb. Habitat Restoration Day

Saturday, February 15 ..... 10 am

### Nature Walk w/J.R. Blair\*\*

Sunday, February 16 ..... 10 am

\*Zoom webinar registration required

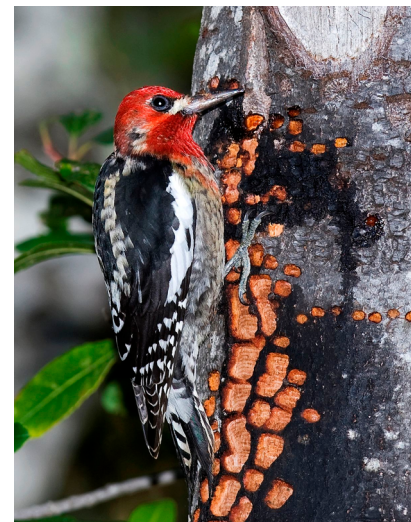
\*\* Eventbrite sign-up required

## >> FACTOID <<

### The Red-breasted Sapsucker and Anna's Hummingbird

in San Pedro Valley Park

Accolades go to our tenacious tree excavator; this snazzy fella who knocks and jabs rectangles and ovals through the bark of our oaks, alders and pines - exposing, of course, sap. And that's where the fun starts with our SPVP birds: the Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and, best of all, our popular Anna's Hummingbird love to sup on this nutritious goo.



Read more about this subject and also why the Red-breasted sapsucker (*above*) is a keystone species of ecosystems, how it's evolving, etc., in the new Winter 2025 issue of *Bay Nature* magazine.



— Carolyn's Corner —

**BANANA BANTER**

I felt a little thrill when, in late November, I saw 17 banana slugs in the little area by the back entry to the Plaskon Trail; they seemed to be almost exactly the same size, so I couldn't help but wonder if they'd been "litter-mates", emerging from the same egg bundle. If so, these ridiculously slow guys with a top speed of 6 and one half inches/minute are lucky to have survived. Why? Hatchlings have almost no slime, the defense that forms a layer of disgusting, but protective, glue over the entire beast.



Since none of these yellow hermaphrodites was using its simultaneous male/female capabilities to couple with another in their savage sexual ritual (a protruding part of each slug is often bitten off), why stay in a group? If only I'd had the patience to wait and see if their together time would turn into a "love fest" like the one I'd chanced upon one May!



Banana slug eggs hatching

Then, while at the "Upper Crust Deli," I ran into our new SPVP Ranger, Adam Schneider, who told me that when a redwood tree falls, the ranger-woodsmen often find banana slugs in the top branches, but also that they frequently "bungee jump" down with a string of slime that they produce from hydrating crystals, all spewing forth, purportedly, from a plug at the end of their tail. So it looks like we can't laugh indiscriminately at their slow speed after all.

Before that revelation, it took me a moment to realize Adam had been trying to tell me that he had seen a Pacific Giant Salamander at Pescadero Creek County Park\* where he hails from. But why? When he was reading the last issue of Valley Views, he ran across my part about the Pacific Giant Salamander and told me that he himself had seen one of the slimy monster amphibians gobble up a gooey banana slug at that underused park. To end this strange animal tale, Bing Huey informed me at our Xmas party that, when J.R. Blair was leading his mushroom walk recently, he found a very young G.P. Salamander, one with a typically short tail, just over the Trout Farm "bench fence." (Ed. note: see page 2 for a photo of the infant salamander at the mycoblitz)

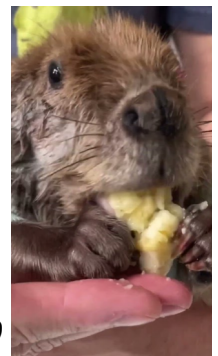
Since it's about dinner time for me, I have to say I've been thinking of the time Laurie Nikitas wondered if a banana slug who might have smelled her little picnic would eat the strand from her banana. You probably guessed right; this scavenger loved it. So "banana madness" is not just a chimp phenomenon.

**LONGING FOR BEAVERS AND BANANAS?**

After seeing the Heidi Perryman webinar early this year, do you wish that we had beavers building dams again throughout San Mateo County? One intrepid back-country hiker with the tag "ouzel" claimed that in 1975, he'd heard beaver tails slapping just northwest of Crystal Springs Reservoir in San Mateo Creek and then saw a beaver in the water, but he failed to report it until much later as he had been in a forbidden watershed area. Could such beavers climb their way over to our western side of the Santa Cruz Mountains? In an internet video, one man recorded one of these large, chisel-toothed rodents waddling quite a distance up a little trail,\*\* finally stepping into the brush to pull out a favorite plant. So I started becoming hopeful that they might one day be able to conquer the crest of our hills, working the westward flowing streams; we do know for sure that they are in the Guadalupe River down in the Santa Clara County part of the Santa Cruz range.

And if they got to streams like Pescadero and Pilarcitos Creeks, would we have to worry about their cutting down all the alders as they started new dams and fed on the delicious inner bark of trees? No, I doubt it, as they reinforce dams with mud and willow sticks and even stones, and love to eat the "weedy" willows, as well as an abundance of forbs and herbs. One website said they often chomp down on coyote brush, sword fern, cow parsnip, stinging nettle and poison oak.

They are definitely herbivorous and, like you, are not attracted to the meat of the banana slug, but I'd like you to know that there is video proof that some of these hungry workers will eat bananas, as shown in the photo (right) of a young beaver gourmand. (continued on page 6)



~~~~ Happy New Year 2025! ~~~~

The Friends of San Pedro Valley Park wish you and yours  
a New Year filled with joy, health and adventure

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### **Friends of SPVP Photo Contest 2025 ... Will YOU enter this year??**

by Sharron Walker & Mark Golembiewski

On February 1, 2025, we will launch our 4th annual **Friends Photo Contest!** Once again, it will run until May 1st, and, like last year's contest, will be **open to all park visitors.**

The four entry categories will remain the same: 1) Flora, 2) Fauna, 3) Views of Trails & Landscapes, and 4) Activities of People in the Park. Photos entered in the contest must be taken between May 1, 2024 & May 1, 2025. Guidelines with detailed submittal instructions for entrants will be sent to members in early February and again in March, with that same information posted on our website for all other park visitors.

Winners will be awarded recognition ribbons and the winning images will be printed and displayed in the Visitor Center for about three months. All winning images will also be posted on our website and presented in this newsletter, as well. Visitors who view the displayed contest photos will have the opportunity to vote on their favorite image (by paper ballot) and the photograph that gets the most votes at the end of the display period will be declared winner of the Friends' "People's Choice Award."

So whether you're a seasoned and accomplished nature photographer, or just a budding photo artist with a smart phone, come join us for the Friends Photo Contest 2025 and have some additional inspiration and fun while taking photos in the park. Or start going through your photo library to see if you might already have any award-winning images from last year. In any case, we want to see your Best Shots!!

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### **Carolyn's Corner** (continued from page 5)

Which helps to also show us that bananas rule in much of the animal world.

### **FINDS for JANUARY/FEBRUARY**

What to look for in San Pedro Valley Park in January/February? First an *errata*: Bing Huey, our constant trail hiker, said that the Montara Mtn. manzanita actually blooms before the burled, brittle-leaf manzanita, and I knew that his first-hand information would be correct. Buzzing along on the floristic part of the next 2 months: the manzanitas should still be in bloom, but the Hazelnut Trail's February flower displays are primo and often bring out a large group from the Yerba Buena chapter of the California Native Plant Society for an iconic floristic ramble. Favorite findings in my memory have been blue/lavender blooming anemones (at the summit), mission bells, fetid adder's tongue and blue hound's tongue.

\* Pescadero County Park is a large complex that is barely used and was Ranger Schneider's last range of duty. He told me it may have to be closed if there aren't more visitors, leaving a large area without as much surveillance. Why not enjoy a mysterious forest hike there, as at least half of it was not damaged by the CZU rampage, leaving the large redwoods triumphant?

\*\* The photographer followed him to and from this adventurous foray, walking backwards with camera in hand as it returned to its watery sancturary.

<https://www.facebook.com/beavervideos/videos/beaver-walks-down-bike-path/1063634497505282/>

(Sources for beaver: *Bay Nature Magazine*: Fall 2018 and Jan. 3, 2024, and various internet sites)

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### **We Need Volunteers!!**

The Friends of SPVP are continually looking for new volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help us out and give something back to the park you enjoy so much - whether it's being a host at the Visitor Center on weekends, helping to maintain the trails and the Native Plant Garden, removing invasive plants, or working on special projects - **please contact us** by talking with one of our Visitor Center Hosts or by dropping us a note via email: *FriendsofSanPedroValley@gmail.com* We'd love to talk with you!

## On The Nature Journaling Trail

by Sharron Walker

In previous issues of this Valley Views newsletter, we highlighted the new Nature Journaling Tree Plaques. Hope you have had a chance to view them as they're now out in the park. For the most part, they are situated in and around the South parking lot (near the visitor center), with the exception of the indigenous giant Monterey Cypress located at the Walnut Grove Group Picnic Area.

To encourage park visitors to see the new tree plaques, a new "Discover San Pedro Valley Park Trees" worksheet (pictured at right) is now available at the Visitor Center reception desk. When completed by entering information obtained by viewing the plaque at each of the designated trees, the worksheet can then be returned to the Host at the Visitor Center to obtain a "Tree Explorer" sticker. The thought behind this worksheet is that it may encourage visitors and families, particularly children, to learn more about our beautiful trees at San Pedro Valley Park!

**DISCOVER SAN PEDRO VALLEY PARK TREES**

South Parking Lot: Search for 9 tree plaques and write down your favorite fact about each tree.

Bonus Challenge: Head over to the Walnut Grove Picnic Area to find one more special plaque!

|                  |                     |                    |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Arroyo Willow    | Blue Gum Eucalyptus | California Buckeye |
| Coast Live oak   | Coast Redwood       | Creek Dogwood      |
| Douglas Fir      | Giant Sequoia       | Red Alder          |
| Monterey Cypress |                     |                    |

Complete your sheet to earn a cool Tree Sticker at the Visitor Center!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



We are also working on preparing QR codes that will be placed on each of the Tree Plaque posts for those wanting to access even more information about each of the trees posted with one of the new plaques.

The San Pedro Valley Park Nature Journalers met inside the Visitor Center (pictured at left) for their November meeting as the weather was cold.

The prompt for this month's meeting was "Spirals In Nature." Spirals are considered one of the most common shapes in nature and can be found in many different objects. Go for a walk and challenge yourself to look for spirals! Check out pine cones, plants, weather patterns to name a few!

The San Pedro Valley Park Nature Journalers meet monthly. For more information contact: [Sharronlee@aol.com](mailto:Sharronlee@aol.com)

## Meet Our New Secretary!

The Friends of SPVP Board of Directors gratefully welcomed Raquel Iverson as our new Secretary, beginning with our November Board meeting. She provided us with a little background information about herself.

Raquel Iverson was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, but returned to the States when she was nine. She earned her Bachelor's degree with a double major in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and in Biochemistry from the University of Colorado in Boulder and a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering at Texas A&M University. Her first job post-graduate school was in Green River, Wyoming as an Environmental Engineer. She moved to California in 1992 for a position in pharmaceutical manufacturing process support at Genentech in South San Francisco.

Raquel met her husband, Mark, at Genentech and they moved to Pacifica in 1999, where they raise their two beautiful children, daughter Alyssa (24) and son Parker (17).

In 2023, after 30 years in multiple roles/departments and 5 sabbaticals, she retired from Genentech and is happily pursuing new hobbies (crocheting, bird watching, painting) and discovering new corners of Pacifica and its rich history. She is a docent for the Sanchez Adobe and a docent for the Pacifica Historical Society. She volunteers at the San Pedro Valley Park visitor center and is the newest Secretary for the Friends of San Pedro Valley Park Board of Directors. In addition, she is co-VP of Programming for the AAUW Pacifica Branch.

Raquel is a self-proclaimed multi-universe geek as a major fan of both Star Wars and Star Trek, and she loves all things Disney and Mickey Mouse. She and her daughter share a passion for Lego bricks and minifigures, but she struggles with where to put it all!

## The Friends' Annual Christmas Party: "And a Good Time Was Had by All"

The Friends once again joyfully assembled for our annual Christmas party in the Visitor Center on Sunday, December 15. For this year's celebratory holiday gathering, we decided to make a change and schedule it to begin at noon - during daylight hours to accommodate members who may be averse or have difficulty traveling after dark. We think this 'luncheon' version worked out quite well.

As is customary, the Friends provided the main entrees of turkey and ham (prepared by our Director of Hospitality, Judy Bacon, and our past Secretary, Enid Ansgarius) and drinks (including wine and mimosas!), while everyone else brought appetizers, sides, and desserts. And isn't it amazing how, with very little coordination, the types and variety of foods contributed by the partygoers always turns out so well? Somehow, it just works.



Poinsettia plants festively decorated the tables (and were later awarded by lottery to lucky attendees) and Christmas music was in the air.

After we all ate our fill and began digging into the deserts, the traditional gift exchange "game" began. Our Treasurer, Susan Kern, volunteered to play 'Santa' and lead the gift exchange.

Each person who brought a gift to place under the tree got a number with a duplicate, companion number they placed in a "hat" (cup). When the gift game began, Santa begin selecting numbers from the "hat."



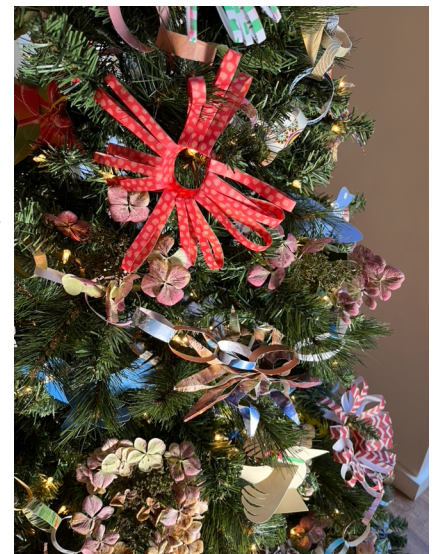
When each selected number was called, the person holding that number could either choose a gift from under the tree and open it, or take someone else's previously opened gift instead. The person who had their gift "stolen" away could then pick a new one from under the tree or take someone else's.

Needless to say, you couldn't get too attached to your gift as it might get stolen. It was all in good fun and we didn't have to break up too many fights.

See you at the party next year!!

The Friends also wish to convey our special thanks to member Jennifer Alpaugh for once again so beautifully decorating our Christmas tree in the Visitor Center. Each year she creates beautiful, all-new, all-hand-made "ornaments" and "garlands" out of paper materials (often recycled) that are just amazing. The finished product is a very special, unique and admired tree.

Thank you so much, Jennifer, for your continuing contribution to the Friends' Christmas Party!





**Additional Photos from the Mycoblitz Field Trip with J.R. Blair**  
(photographs by Adrian Stroganoff)



*Panaeolus* sp.



*Marasmiellus candidus*



*Pluteus atomarginatus*  
Common name: *Deer Mushroom*



*Gymnopus brassicolens*

**More Photos from the Mycoblitz Field Trip with J.R. Blair**  
(photographs by Adrian Stroganoff)



*Suillellus amygdalinus*



*Xerocomellus* sp.  
being infected by another mushroom  
called *Hypomyces chrysospermus*!



Lichen: Genus *Cladonia* (cup lichen)

A very small, red-capped fungus  
taken by Keven Bailey  
(location not identified)



**And Even More Images of Fungi in SPVP during the Mycoblitz**  
by Bing Huey



Honey mushroom  
along the Trout Farm Trail



Honey mushroom consumed by banana slug  
along the Trout Farm Trail



Candlesnuff fungus  
along the Trout Farm Trail

And finally...  
It's nice to still see the  
occasional horse and rider  
ambling through the park -  
in this case, Gabrielle  
aboard Ronan along the  
Weiler Ranch Road Trail  
Taken by Bing Huey  
on 12/29/24

