

Valley Views

The Friends of San Pedro Valley Park

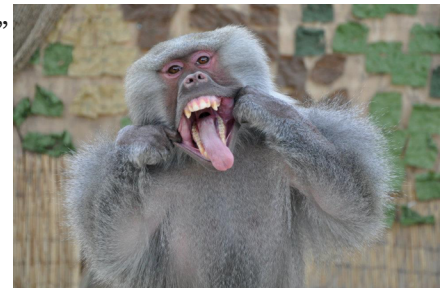
July / August 2024

Upcoming Summer Programs for Kids

A July Children's Program "Wild About Monkeys!"

On **Thursday, July 11th at 3 pm** in the **North Walnut Grove Group Picnic Area**, the Friends are pleased to present our second children's program for the summer, **Wild About Monkeys!** We are very excited that animal experts Kevin Keith & his daughter Illianna are bringing their renowned monkey family to San Pedro Valley Park for the very first time! Some of these wonderful animals have starred in several recent feature films, including "Rock Of Ages," "The Rundown," "Evan Almighty," and "Dinner for Schmucks."

Training baboons is their specialty and they believe baboons to be, by far, the most socially intelligent primate. Combining the rare skills of excellent trainers and the incredible instincts of the wild, as well as domestic animals with which they have become friends, Kevin and Illianna delight and amaze their audiences with fun, education and great entertainment for the whole family. Come and see them and their Mandrill baboon friends!!



Our Third (& last) Summer Children's Program in August "Wild Things!"

The Friends of SPVP once again welcome our friend Gabe Kerschner and his wonderful Wild Things show to San Pedro Valley Park on **Friday, August 2nd at 11:30 am** in the **North Walnut Grove Group Picnic Area**. Last year's program was fabulous and the ever affable Gabe again brought lots of smiles and laughs (and groans) to us all with his puns and jokes. Everyone loved the show! So do join us for this treat. You won't want to miss it!!



About the organization: Gabe founded Wild Things in 1988 after graduating from the Exotic Animal Training and Management Program at Moorpark College. His goal was not only to provide a home for animals in need, but also to share with others a respect for wildlife and an understanding of wildlife conservation.

Conservation Ambassadors' Wild Things was initially founded to house and care for displaced wildlife. With the help of these animal ambassadors, Gabe and his outstanding organization have been educating the public with a message of conservation and appreciation for natural wonders for over 35 years.

They now provide a home for over 60 species of wildlife. These animals are shared in their wildlife education presentations with thousands of school children every year. Their hope is that through meeting these animals and hearing their stories now while at a young age, future generations will gain a greater appreciation for the natural world.



The Friends of San Pedro Valley Park

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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.

Recent Program

Beavers: Return of the Engineer - Part 2 *(continued from last issue)*

Looking back at the devastation of the “Great Flood” of 1861-62 in California’s Central Valley and the significant roles that beavers (and the lack thereof) likely played in affecting the flow of water in streams and rivers, researchers have now come to realize that beavers can help us be more resistant to the effects of climate change. Beavers possess special and unique characteristics that allow them to perform feats that no other animal can match.

Even though they breathe air like us, Heidi explained how beavers are blessed with a number of specialized adaptations for their lives under water, which allow them to operate like miniature submarines. They have ear flaps that close and nostrils that close like a sea lion. They even have a second valve behind their mouth that they can close so they don’t get water down their throat while they’re swimming with a stick in their mouth. Their thick fur keeps them dry and comfortable, but it’s not waterproof and has to be constantly treated with oil from their castor gland. It was not the beavers’ outer fur, but their waterproof inner fur that was prized by trappers, since it was extensively used as felt for hats and other items. The beavers’ castor glands were also highly sought, since they could be sold as medicine and to treat various conditions, including pregnancy!

Heidi further described for us how beavers can swim entirely with their webbed rear feet like a duck. Their front paws are used for grasping, like a racoon. They can hold their breath under water for up to 15 minutes! Beavers are rodents, but they are unlike any other rodents we know of. Their teeth grow through their entire lives. Both parents mate for life and together care for their kits. A female can only get pregnant once a year. A kit will stay with its parents for 2-3 years. Kits are born fully furred and can swim, but they can’t dive because they’re like little furry corks that just float.

Next, Heidi told us the story of how beavers first appeared in Alhambra Creek in Martinez, CA in 2007 and had a dynamic effect on the creek and its environment almost immediately. The beavers built a dam and lodge, and created a great deal of interest from the townspeople, since they could be easily watched right in the downtown area of Martinez (and Heidi began filming them herself at this time). What ensued was a debate between the city council, who wanted to have the beavers removed over concerns about possible damage, and residents who wanted to let them remain. The beavers had become very popular and received a lot of attention in the media. What ensued was an unusual town meeting with a huge turnout by residents that resulted in a unique committee to study the issue, on which Heidi was a member. The end result was the beavers were allowed to stay.

As a result of her work on the “beaver committee,” Heidi formed an advocacy group called Worth A Dam, whose initial mission was to keep pressure on the city council by keeping the issue in the public eye - “educate and engage!” (the council had never officially voted to let the beavers stay) Her group also held the first-ever “Beaver Festival” to educate and promote the value of beavers. The festival, which became an annual event, is now celebrating its 15th year.

Heidi then talked about how Worth A Dam has worked with other counties in CA to educate and advocate for beavers. Counties are typically charged with the responsibility of dealing with beaver-related issues and often respond differently, based on out-moded tactics and incorrect information about the negative effects of beaver populations. Trapping and removal is easy, but doesn’t work in the long run. Worth A Dam has been able to help change the way counties treat beavers.

There was quite a bit more to Heidi’s wonderful talk on beavers on Saturday, February 3rd, especially detailing the many positive effects that beavers can have on all aspects of river ecosystems, as well as the growing body of research that has been and is being done in CA and elsewhere. If you haven’t yet visited the excellent website of Worth A Dam - Martinezbeavers.org, you owe to yourself to do so!

Recent Program

Dr. Carlos Davidson's "Amphibians - Pacifica and Globally"

by Bing Huey

Dr. Carlos Davidson is a herpetologist and Professor Emeritus from San Francisco State. On 23 March 2024, Dr. Davidson's webinar for the Friends, titled "Amphibians - Pacifica and Globally," offered an opportunity to be better acquainted with these animals and learn about their presence in San Pedro Valley Park and surrounding areas. Most concerning was his discussion about the severe threats to the survival of amphibians. As part of his talk, he showed data from some of his own research on frog population declines, possibly attributable to climate change.

Amphibians encompass the familiar frogs and toads, and salamanders and newts. Less familiar might be the caecilians, which are legless and live underground in the tropics. Amphibians were the first land vertebrates, having diverged from ancestral fish before any other vertebrate. Their aquatic evolutionary roots remain evident in their aquatic larval stage. With around 8,000 species, most are tropical, but the U.S. is the hotspot for salamanders, with over 200 species. Amphibians are certainly diverse in size, from the 1/3-inch long *Brachycephalus* frog living in Brazil, the smallest known vertebrate, to the almost 6-foot long Japanese giant salamander. Dr. Davidson showed photos of the mountain yellow-legged frog in California to compare with the red-eyed frog of Costa Rica, and to the golden toad of Costa Rica, sadly now extinct.

According to Dr. Davidson, amphibians are in trouble. Populations are declining world-wide, as well as in California. Forty-one percent of the species globally are threatened, with 222 species confirmed extinct or with no known wild populations. This places amphibians in much worse shape than mammals, birds, reptiles, or fish, and the situation has been called the "amphibian extinction crisis." Causes for the declines are habitat destruction (true for other species in general), disease, and, likely, climate change. A particularly devastating disease is chytrid fungus infection in frogs, which can cause massive die-offs, even in otherwise pristine areas. While not all frogs are affected, those unaffected frogs can act as carriers of the fungus. On a hopeful note, Dr. Davidson said that some efforts with other species, such as captive breeding and habitat restoration, have shown some success.

Dr. Davidson's own research on the California red-legged frog and the foothill yellow-legged frog uses GPS data on presence and absence of the animals, in conjunction with World Climate data spanning 50 years. He has shown a significant difference in occurrence of both species to be dependent on a median temperature. While these results need to be further examined relative to other factors such as elevation, they are strongly suggestive of the effects of climate change.

The last part of the webinar focused on the amphibians in San Pedro Valley Park. He began with one of the more common frogs seen, or more likely heard, in Pacifica. This would be the Pacific chorus frog. Although also known as the Pacific or Sierran tree frog, they do not live in trees. During their breeding season from November to July, their night-time calls can be heard around creeks and ponds. In the Pacifica area, they are found in the Mori Point ponds and along Calera and San Pedro Creeks. Some individuals are able, over the course of days to weeks, to change color to blend in with their surroundings. One other vital characteristic of these frogs is their repertoire of calls. Dr. Davidson played recordings of the five types of calls they are known to produce, each serving a specific purpose related to mating or defense of territory.

Three other amphibians have confirmed observations in San Pedro Valley Park. They are the California slender salamander, the rough-skinned newt, and the Ensatina. Dr. Davidson showed photos of these, as well as other amphibians known from the area, but have no confirmed observation. These include the arboreal salamander and the California red-legged salamander. The California red-legged frog is one of conservation concern, having been lost from a substantial portion, mostly inland, of its historic range. Its coastal populations appear to be doing well.

Dr. Davidson has a website, carlosdavidson.org, where one can download his recordings of frog and toad calls of the Pacific coast. His webinar has been recorded and is available through the Friends' website.



A Mellow Trail Day is Always Nice

by Joseph Piro

We had a pretty mellow May 11, 2024 Trail Day. Under a sunny blue sky, **Mary Larsen**, my brother **Erik** and **I** gave the path that meanders through the garden next to the Visitor's Center a little TLC, as it was a bit overgrown looking. We trimmed things both high and low and raked the path nice and clear. We then headed up the Old Trout Farm Trail to the water dept. gate and cut down some tall, spiky thistle plants that were close to the trail-side along the way. A good little Saturday morning's work for sure!



New-Comers Make for a Fine Trail Day

by Joseph Piro

New-comers **Jeff**, **Jack**, **Raul** and **Johanna** joined **Mary Larsen**, **Stan Jensen**, my brother **Erik** and **I** for our June 8th, 2024 Trail Day. We all headed up the Old Trout Farm Trail and then merged uphill onto the Brooks Falls Trail, along the way cutting down big, close-to-the-side-of-the-trail thistle plants and the other occasional branches



and vines. At the bench overlooking the falls, we split into two groups -- some continued uphill and came down the Montara Mtn. Trail...while the rest of us came back down and went up the Hazelnut Trail behind the VC a bit and cleared some leaves out of the drain dips and trimmed some stuff back as well. Good people, good weather and good work makes for a good day indeed!

It turns out that only 16% of our milk-giving relatives have larger females, but since nearly an equal number of species, 39 percent, have sexes that are about the same size, that leaves only 45% of males larger than females. So while the initial claim may be literally correct, it is not quite what it seems to be: its all how you use statistics, which is so much based on our wishes. Mars proponents, it's reassuring to note that elephant seal males are 3 times the size of females, but the mighty female hyenas out-weigh the submissive males, and about half the most numerous group of mammals, the rodents, have similar-size species.

~~ July / August Calendar ~~

Wild About Monkeys! (Children's)

Thursday, July 11 3 pm

July Trail Day

Saturday, July 13 9 am

July Habitat Restoration Day

Saturday, July 20 10 am

Wild Things! (Children's show)

Friday, August 2 11:30 am

August Trail Day

Saturday, August 10 9 am

August Habitat Restoration Day

Saturday, August 17 10 am

>> FACTOID <<

MARS vs VENUS in MAMMALS

In hawks and falcons, there's no doubt the female hawk is the largest, just as the planet Venus is larger than the planet Mars. But though we've learned and observed that male mammals are larger than female mammals, what's the real story?

An article from "Scientific American" caught my eye: "Males Aren't Larger Than Females in Most Mammalian Species." How could this be? We readily recognize that bucks are heftier than does, male dogs and cats bigger than females, and one look at humans and gorillas.....so maybe it's the Rodentia that has all the big ladies: after all there are many more species of this type of mammal than others, but keep in mind that in *The Descent of Man*, Charles Darwin posits that in most species of mammals, males are larger than females.

(continued below)



Male vs female mule deer sizes
GJM Nature Media photo



— Carolyn's Corner —

EASY TRAIL TREAT

We used to call it the handicapped trail, that woodsy alternative alongside the beginning of the the Weiler Ranch Road trail near the horseshoe pits, and though the name is antiquated in more ways than one, the fact that we used to have “wheelchairs to borrow” at the Visitor Center is history. In the 90’s, Ranger Dennis Hanley was sensitive to the needs of park visitors and the chance for them to see deer in the field. When a member of the Park Volunteers, Maggie, who was a polio survivor, had her wheelchair get a bit testy, she could still rely on getting around on the Plaskon Nature Trail and the Weiler Ranch Road without being stymied at the abrupt incline alongside the water company yard. However, S.M. County Parks found it expensive to keep up with up the onslaught of the rugged grind on these buggies. Finally fearing insurance claims from mishaps, they were phased out.



A week or two ago, I ventured up the still smoothly-maintained pathway, but I had to laugh when I saw that the well-kept trail still has deep-rooted, determined grass springing forth mightily in some spots and was happy that I could still enjoy the yellow flowers of the ground-hugging pineapple weed, which when crushed smells like the fruit. My elderly knees and I were especially happy that we could go safely up the evenly-graded route by the willows, from which, on occasion, I and most others have seen rabbits, grey foxes or quail spill forth. Yes, and once two of us disturbed a bobcat in the process of stalking a quail on the edge of the willows and small field.

SOME SIGHTS FOR SORE EYES: JULY/AUGUST

If you were able to take time to check out some nostalgic Sept/Oct newsletters, you could find more than the observations below, but maybe your head would be spinning trying to look for all the sightings made by folks who truly love delving into the depths of the Park. Starting with the present and traveling back in time, here are a few:

First and foremost are the dazzling display of antlers on all the bucks. I know in late May/early June you saw some buds only a few inches long, but by the end of August, the impressive head racks on the mule deer can weigh from 3 to 9 pounds, the heaviest ones perhaps only on the Sierra fellas; they can end up being a dangerous challenge in our tightly woven “chaparral.” In the summer of 2015, Barbara Kempster found one stag’s antlers encumbered with unwieldy bunches of brush. As an inveterate animal lover, she had to hold herself back from trying to go “hands on” to help pull off this additional burden. Luckily, he was able to rub off his load. I would say that she shares the “courting disaster award” with Ranger Greg Escoto, who one summer had to be reminded by compadre Ranger Rob Cala not to approach and pluck a huge tick from the nose of a baby skunk wandering in the Native Plant Garden.

Animal life is so robust in July and August! Ray Trabucco saw a grey fox leap up into a willow tree one summer and early one August, a chipmunk coming up from the bottom of a tree trunk on Trout Farm Trail, perhaps from its den. He and others sighted single or twin fawns, some still spotted, all not far from mom. Then over this warmer season, Bing Huey sleuthed enough to find the narrow winged plume moth and Ron Wilson was in



The chinquapin's spiny fruit and catkin flowers

butterfly heaven on a sunny day of 2020, finding the Hedgerow Hairstreak Butterfly, for one. But be on the lookout for the iconic Monarch that Katie Antista sighted one summer near our park.

In this season of remarkable animals and night-droning cicadas, don't forget to look for the weird fruits and flowers of the oaks' relative, the golden chinquapin (best place - Montara Mountain Trail) and all the delicious, tempting berries on the flowering currant photographed by Joseph Piro: remember to curb your instincts and leave these tasty “juicies” to the deer, chipmunks, birds, etc. If you're as patient as Bing, Ray and Ron and others, maybe you'll find a deer stripping the fruits from huckleberries.

Daisies at San Pedro Valley Park, Pacifica*

Thousands of Daisies wander and spread
Merry, they spill out, quick as gossip
White thin petals circle gold centers

Daisies are children birthed by strong Sun
They emerge, smile, worship their star
Sun is their Goddess ruling them all
Near or far, small or tall

Park Daisies settle unite and snuggle
Showing their love to Mother Nature

A robust herd of wandering deer
Daily crops grass in a wide, damp meadow
The deer groom, stand, sprawl, rest

Does nurse fawns when babies cease frisking
Eager, mild Daisies persist and grow
Their destiny is spreading all their while
How lucky for us, they light up the Park

Each Daisy lives its brief, bonny brilliance
Park visitors stunned make beautiful videos

Kids stare wide-eyed at Daisies' motion
Thanks, wild Daisies, we can't resist you
People respond. They often sing and prance

Daisies beguiling, you thrillingly live and spread
Live with your utmost white blossom flair
We love your earthy floral Spring dazzle dance.

* Poem submitted by Ellen Frank, May 2024: "Having been recently to the Park, and having been amazed by the vast population of little white daisies, I was moved to write a poem." Thank you, Ellen!

A Little About Our Newest Board Member

Shane Kadlecik is the newest face on the Friends of SPVP Board of Directors. As we noted in the last issue of Valley Views, he has volunteered to be our Director of Promotions and Outreach, as well as an astute helper with all things tech, and we are delighted to welcome him aboard.

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Shane has lived in Pacifica since the age of five and showed an interest in animals and the environment at an early age. He started taking classes for young children at the SF Zoo before attending preschool and his regular schooling would continue to be supplemented by classes at the California Academy of Sciences and trips to South Lake Tahoe. Eventually, as a teen, he would become a Nature Trail volunteer at the San Francisco Zoo, educating the public on the wildlife that surrounds us all and the need for its conservation.

As an Information Technology specialist, Shane has worked for large search engine and social media companies in Silicon Valley. Most recently, he has worked as a "flatter" (coloring specialist) for the Eisner-nominated comic book "Ripple Effects" and a few issues of "The Cabinet" by Image Comics.

As a traveler, Shane has planned more trips than he's taken, but his completed trips include a "coin flip trip" that visited Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Arches National Parks, a road trip around the whole of Ireland, a 535-mile trip in Scotland, a 264-mile trip by train, taxi and foot in The Czech Republic, and a 9,155-mile coast-to-coast loop road trip back home in the states.

Influenced by his grandfather, father and brother, photography has been a lifelong interest for Shane, starting with his father's Pentax SLR film camera as a child. Next was a 3.2 megapixel Kodak point and shoot Black Friday deal, as a teen. And finally, a DSLR Canon 7D he still shoots with today. "The good thing about taking pictures of nature is that on the worst day, you walk away with a good hike."

His interests and experiences have led him from being a passive admirer of the Friends of San Pedro Valley Park to being an active volunteer, helping the Friends to further educate visitors to the park and restore the site's native habitat during this critical time in "natural" history.

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!

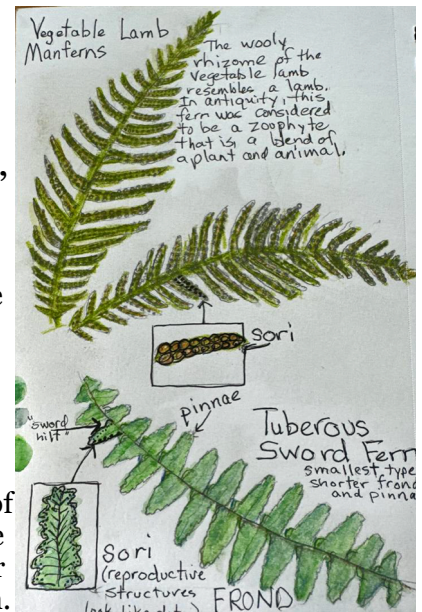
On The Nature Journaling Trail

by Sharron Walker

Have you ever explored ferns in San Pedro Valley Park? We have several species in the park to enjoy, including Western Sword, Coastal Wood, Bracken/Brake, Gold Back, California Polypody, Western Chain Fern, Lady Fern and Five Finger ferns. Ferns (*Polypodiopsida* or *Polypodiophyta*) are a group of vascular plants (those with xylem and phloem) that reproduce via spores and have neither seeds nor flowers.

An excellent reference book for ferns in our park is “*Montara Mountain*” by Barbara VanderWerf. Barbara wrote her book in 1994 during the Highway 1 bypass dispute – resulting in what is now known as the Tom Lantos Tunnel. The book raised awareness of the area, particularly the negative impacts on the environment and habitats that would result from the construction of a major road like Highway 1 over the flank of Montara Mountain. “*Montara Mountain*” is sold in the Trailside Bookstore at the SPVP Visitor Center.

“Ferns” was our June prompt for San Pedro Valley Nature Journalers. Following our “Green” prompt, it was a natural progression to ferns, as they are green and found throughout the park (see Wendy Snyder’s fern NJ page shown at right). If you seek them out and do not want to go far, check out Plaskon Nature Trail, where you will find Sword, Bracken, Lady varieties. And be sure to look beneath the bridge located near the south end of the trail and you may see a Five Finger Fern.



As mentioned in the May-June issue of Valley Views, San Pedro Valley Nature Journalers now have submitted art for Tree Plaques that will be in place soon. Ranger Katherine Wright’s

Interpretive Department is working with District Ranger Matt Del Carlo to construct the display stands for the Tree Plaques. Until the plaques are in place at the trees, photos of the Tree Plaques art and info about the project will be on display in the Visitor Center beginning in about mid-July. Check it out.

Nature Journaling is not about fine art, but about being interested in nature, being curious and sharing with others. In July, we will be celebrating 3 years together as a group of nature journalers! If interested in learning more about our group, please contact me: sharronlee@aol.com

<< ON THE TRAIL >>

It wasn’t exactly an unexpected sighting of SPVP’s rarely seen critters while out hiking the trails, but it was a special occurrence nonetheless. While out on one of my regular exercise walks down to and through the park on Monday, June 24th, I spotted a family of black-tailed deer - Mom, Dad and their two cute little fawns - munching on vegetation near the entrance station. I had seen this family on recent walks through the park.

But then at nearly the same time, Sharron Walker and a friend were chatting over near the Creekside group picnic area when a mother wild turkey, with her six, cute little poults in tow, were sauntering past near the beginning of the Trout Farm Trail.



Seeing both groups of little ones at nearly the same time surely made it seem like it must have been a spring “Mom’s Day” at SPVP.



~~~ 2024 Friends Photo Contest Winners ~~~

The Friends of San Pedro Valley Park's 2024 Photo Contest Committee wishes to thank all who participated in this year's (our 3rd annual) contest. The number and quality of the entries we received by the May 1st deadline were comparable to the fine images submitted for our second contest last year. Based on the delightful results of our first three contests, we expect that next year's entries will exceed even the excellent images that produced this year's winners!

Our gracious judges (for the past three contests), Matt Del Carlo, Edward Hacking and Sharron Walker, once again reviewed all of the entries and completed their deliberations in early May to determine the top three entries in each of the four contest categories. Winners were notified soon afterwards and received an award ribbon and certificate for each winning entry.

And the winners are:

Flora

- 1st "Oak" by Ron Wilson
- 2nd "Trillium Standing Tall Seeking Morning Light" by Debra Etienne
- 3rd "Three Beautiful Daisies" by Paula Martin

Fauna

- 1st "Easter Bunny Arrives Early" by Ron Wilson
- 2nd "Banana Slugs' Dinner" by Ian McDermott
- 3rd "Doe and Young Deer" by Paula Martin

Trails & Landscapes

- 1st "Annular Eclipse in October" by Sean Matthew
- 2nd "Adventure Calls" by Bevan Jones
- 3rd "The Creek is Running" by Paula Martin

People in the Park

- 1st "Discovery" by Bevan Jones
- 2nd "Nature Journaling" by Paula Martin
- 3rd "March of the Herbologists" by Mila Stroganoff

(The winning photos are displayed beginning on page 9)

As was done last year, the winning images were printed and displayed in the Visitor Center, and for a period of about 60 days, all visitors will be able to view them and vote on their favorite. The photo that garners the most votes will receive the 'People's Choice Award.' Stay tuned to learn which one was the winning photo!



Visitor Center display of winning entries and ballots for People's Choice Award

Recent Sightings Along the Hazelnut Trail by Sharron Walker



Brush rabbit lunching near the trail
taken on 6/1/24

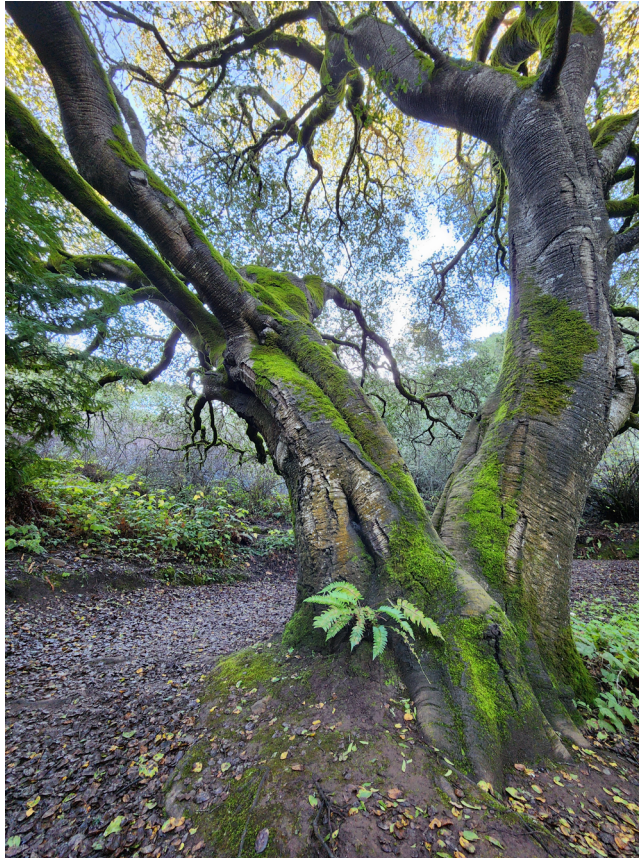


Douglas iris bloom
taken on 6/1/24



Indian paintbrush bloom
taken on 6/1/24

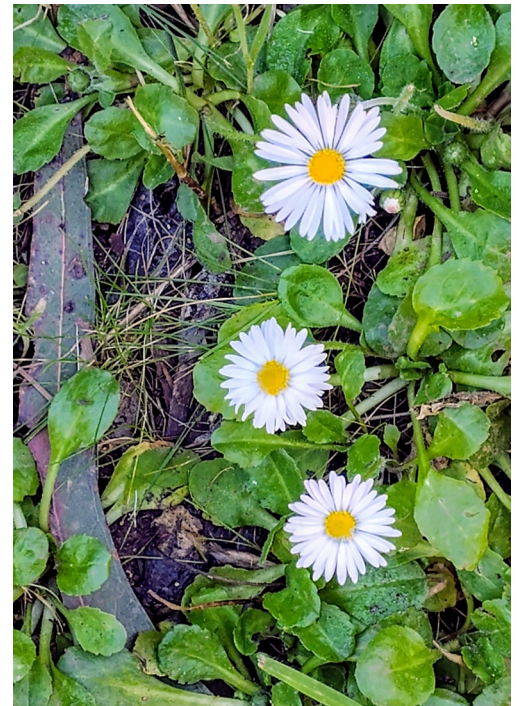

~~~ 2024 Friends Photo Contest: Winning Entries ~~~



Category: **Flora** / Place: **1st** ~ “Oak” ~  
by Ron Wilson



Category: **Flora** / Place: **2nd**  
~ “Trillium Standing Tall Seeking Morning Light” ~  
by Debra Etienne



Category: **Flora** / Place: **3rd**  
~ “Three Beautiful Daisies” ~  
by Paula Martin



~~~ 2024 Friends Photo Contest: Winning Entries (cont'd) ~~~



Category: **Fauna** / Place: **1st** ~ *"Easter Bunny Arrives Early"* ~
by Ron Wilson



Category: **Fauna** / Place: **2nd**
~ *"Banana Slugs' Dinner"* ~
by Ian McDermod



Category: **Fauna** / Place: **3rd**
~ *"Doe and Young Deer"* ~
by Paula Martin

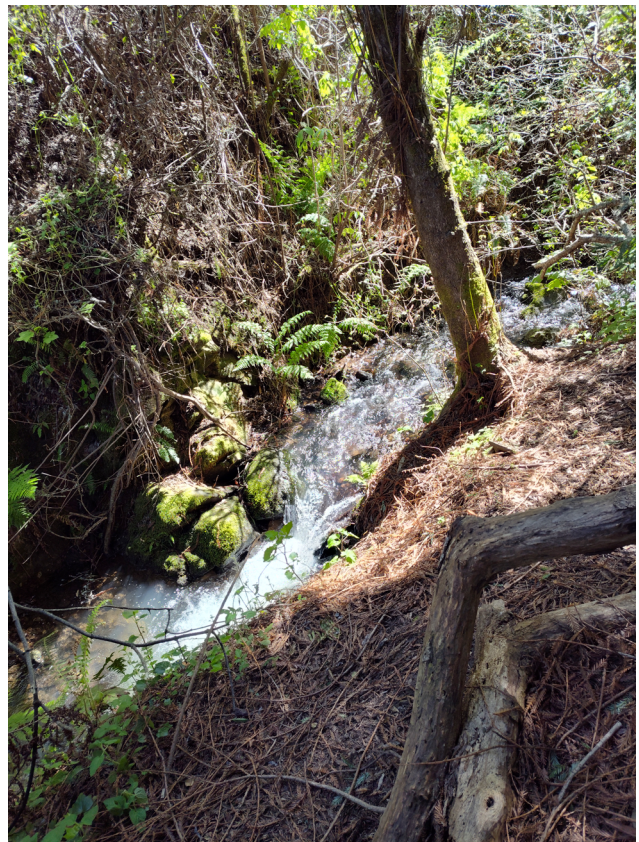

~~~ 2024 Friends Photo Contest: Winning Entries (cont'd) ~~~



Category: **Trails & Landscapes** / Place: **1st** ~ “Annular Eclipse in October” ~  
by Sean Matthew



Category: **Trails & Landscapes** / Place: **2nd**  
~ “Adventure Calls” ~  
by Bevan Jones



Category: **Trails & Landscapes** / Place: **3rd**  
~ “The Creek is Running” ~  
by Paula Martin



~~~ 2024 Friends Photo Contest: Winning Entries (cont'd) ~~~



Category: **People in the Park** / Place: **1st** ~ *"Discovery"* ~
by Bevan Jones



Category: **People in the Park** / Place: **2nd**
~ *"Nature Journaling"* ~
by Paula Martin



Category: **People in the Park** / Place: **3rd**
~ *"March of the Herbologists"* ~
by Mila Stroganoff

Bing Huey's Study of Insects in SPVP



Fairy moth on Woolly sunflower
along the Hazelnut Trail
taken on 06/03/24

Fungus gnat (*Sciaridae*) on Woolly sunflower
along the Hazelnut Trail
taken on 06/10/24



Fringe cups near the Walnut Grove picnic area
taken on 06/03/24



Blood bee (*Sphecodes*) on Woolly sunflower
along the Hazelnut Trail taken on 06/10/24