

Valley Views

The Friends of San Pedro Valley Park

September / October 2024

Upcoming Programs

A September Zoom Webinar with Dr. Salvador Jorgensen “Interactions Among California’s Iconic Ocean Predators”

On **Tuesday, September 24th at 7 pm**, the Friends of San Pedro Valley Park welcome Dr. Salvador Jorgensen, Assistant Professor at California State University Monterey Bay. He will discuss the Great White Shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*), the apex predator of oceanic waters, its movement, population dynamics, and ecological interactions. The Great Whites are usually found in the waters around the Farallon Islands, a mere 28 miles off the Pacific coast. Gillnets have been banned in state waters off Southern California, leading to a greater survival rate of juvenile sharks, which may lead to seeing more Great Whites in the future in the waters off the coast of San Mateo County. Join us and find out all about this remarkable creature that has existed for 70 million years.

About the speaker: Dr. Salvador Jorgensen is a Marine Ecologist and Assistant Professor at CSUMB (California State University Monterey Bay). His research focuses on the ecology, migration and population dynamics of pelagic fishes and elasmobranchs. Jorgensen holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from Sonoma State University and a Ph.D. in Ecology from U.C. Davis where he worked on the design of California’s Marine Protected Areas. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University, where he first became a member of the Tagging of Pacific Predators (TOPP) program as lead researcher on white shark tagging and ecology. Prior to joining the CSUMB faculty Salvador worked as a Research Scientist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.



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

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_D_Vlt5vzQZis8Xvq3eyt0A 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.

An October Zoom Webinar with Craig Nikitas “Keep ‘em Flying - Helping Raptors in the Human Environment”

The Friends of SPVP are pleased to welcome back Craig Nikitas who will present a lecture entitled, “Keep ‘Em Flying--- Helping Raptors in the Human Environment” on **Saturday, October 19th at 7 pm**. His presentation provides an overview of 9 years of raptor rescue work, focusing on common issues necessitating intervention, and accounts of rescues that describe local species and techniques to help them.

About the speaker: Craig Nikitas, a retired urban planner, has been a wildlife volunteer working with raptors for over fifty years. His career has included caring for captive animals at the Randall Museum, Steinhart Aquarium, and the San Francisco Zoo, tending birds in rehab at WildCare, trapping and banding migratory and dispersive birds of prey for 30 years with the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory. Craig has presented talks on the natural history of raptors at schools, colleges, universities, local naturalist groups, park associations and to professional staff at the San Francisco and Oakland zoos.

In 2015, Craig founded Bay Raptor Rescue to provide a free service to aid predatory birds in distress. His work comprises trapping free-flighted birds in buildings, netting birds grounded by illness or injury, and transporting those who need veterinary care to local rehabilitation facilities.

To participate in this Webinar, please register in advance using the following link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ATTbaW-tSZIMSDXI-QyJIQ



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 Workshop Birding 101 Class and Field Trips

The Friends are pleased to announce our very first **Birding 101** course. This is a workshop for the beginning birder and will lay the foundation for the hobby of birding. The instructor is J.R. Blair, who is an avid birder and instructor on birding, and teaches this course at the S. F. State University's Field Campus.

You will need to bring a notebook and binoculars to the course sessions. Further requirements for the field trips will be announced during class. Information on the course schedule, locations, cost, and payment due date are provided below. If you have any questions, please email us: friendsofsanpedrovalley@gmail.com

Lectures: Mon. Sept. 23 7 - 9 pm Mon. Sept. 30 7 - 9 pm
 Wed. Sept. 25 7 - 9 pm Wed. Oct. 2 7 - 9 pm

Lecture Location: Pacifica Coastside Museum (Little Brown Church)
1850 Francisco Blvd., Pacifica, CA

Field Trips: Sat. Sept. 28 9 am – 12 pm
 Sat. Oct. 5 9 am – 12 pm

Locations for field trips to be announced by the instructor during the lectures.

Registration: Please include your full name, email address, and telephone number with your mailed check, just in case we need to get in touch with you.

Cost: \$100 per person, payable in advance. Refunds given only if class is cancelled. Checks due by September 16th.

Editor's note: At the time of publication, **this class has been closed** to further sign-ups, since it has already reached capacity.

Recent Programs

The Lizard Lady's Reptiles by Mark Golembiewski

The Lizard Lady came to our Visitor Center on June 20th and brought a fascinating array of creatures for a good group of about 25 children and adults to see, touch, feel and learn about. These reptiles included a bearded dragon, a corn snake, an albino ("snowflake") corn snake, a bald python, a Brazilian red-footed tortoise and a Northern Australian blue tongue skink, each one with some unique and interesting feature(s) to hear about and enjoy.



And not only did we get to experience these reptiles up close as Gladys and her assistant carried them around for each person to visit with, several had the thrill of having a corn snake or a python placed around their neck!



Then, due to a scheduling error, we had a second presentation by the group SaveNature.org, who showed and taught us about a darkling beetle, an Eastern lubber grasshopper, a millipede, an Australian stick bug, a giant thorny phasmid, a vinegaroon, and a Madagascar hissing cockroach. What a day we had!!

Recent Program

Colleen Young's "An Overview of Southern Sea Otters in California"

by Bing Huey

On 18 May 2024, the Friends invited Colleen Young from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to give us an overview of the natural history of the southern sea otter and the current status of the health of its populations. The southern subspecies, *Enhydra lutris nereids*, occurs in California and is listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. Conservation efforts are being managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. So named for its range relative to that of two other subspecies, the southern sea otter was once found from Mexico, north to as far as Washington State. Its current range is from Gaviota near Santa Barbara to around Pigeon Point in San Mateo County. Population counts numbered around 3,000 in 2019, based on surveys done on the ground and aurally. The range had been expanding for several decades beginning in the 1930s, but has been stagnant for the last two decades.

Related to weasels, they are among the smallest of marine mammals. Males weigh up to 70 pounds and females, up to 50. Living in cold waters without blubber, sea otters rely on the densest fur of any mammal, which requires constant maintenance, such as blowing in air to maximize insulation. High metabolic heat loss by the body means high energy requirements. Thus, the animal needs 25% of its body weight in food per day. With paws in front, webbed flippers in back, and a flattened tail, they are built for diving and foraging. Dives average about 24 feet and 61.5 seconds, and can be as much as 264 feet and seven to nine minutes. Generally eating no fish, their favored foods are benthic invertebrate shellfish, like crab, clams, sea urchin, or abalone, which they can crush with specially adapted molars or manually crack open using a rock. Food is brought to the surface to be consumed. Ms. Young noted there is a high rate of individual prey specialization, which is passed onto pups.

Reproductive age begins at around three to four years with one pup produced annually. They pup year-round without need to haul out as with pinnipeds. Gestation lasts six months following a two-month delayed implantation. After birth, pups are dependent for six months. For reproductive females, this cycle continues for a lifetime. Individual sea otters have a home range. Females tend to have high site fidelity, with a range of one to five kilometers. Males may range over hundreds of kilometers, or maybe hold a territory with one male and a group of females.

Beginning in the mid 1700s, sea otters were hunted to near extinction for their fur. By the mid-19th century, concern for their diminishing numbers led to congressional mandates for protection which were largely ignored and the hunting continued. The Fur Treaty of 1911 (abrogated in 1941) offered protection in international waters, but did not apply to many other habitats and did little to slow the harvest. Between 1941 and 1972, California was the only state with an active protection program for sea otters. The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 gave unambiguous protection in all U.S. territorial waters. Protection of the otter habitat by the U.S. government had begun in the 1890s. Presently, State Marine Protected Areas potentially support sea otter conservation, particularly when paired with adjacent federal protected entities in or near sea otter habitat. (*Information from USGS publication "Synopsis of the history of Sea Otter Conservation in the United States" by G.R. VanBlaricom, 2015*)

Monitoring of the mortality of southern sea otters began in 1968 using stranding networks to perform examinations and follow tagged animals. Annual strandings have seen a sharp increase since 1990, while populations have remained stagnant. Causes of stranding are mostly not known, with a small percentage attributable to shark bites. Smaller percentages are associated with anthropogenic causes such as fishing lines, to miscellaneous factors such as biotoxins and parasites, and to the presence of a dependent pup.

Ms. Young outlined the key conservation issues for the southern sea otter as 1) most areas being at carrying capacity, 2) limited opportunities for range expansion, and 3) high mortality rate. White sharks are prevalent at both ends of their range. As to whether they occur near Pacifica, there are occasional live sightings, referred to as "extralimital," and in the period from 1986 to 2015, there were 17 recorded strandings, again, mostly of unknown causes, but shark bites were confirmed in a couple of cases.

Ms. Young described the procedure for reporting sea otter sightings: 1) Report it ASAP; 2) For live (healthy) otters in the water, email colleen.young@wildlife.ca.gov; and 3) For stranded dead sea otters, contact CDFW Stranded Otter Hotline (831)687-8776 (text OK). For stranded living sea otters, contact The Marine Mammal Center at (415)289-7325. Reporting information should include GPS coordinates with Google drop pin, closest access point, tags, and relative size. If possible, wear gloves and pull the animal above the high water line. Any reporting photos should show species features, surrounding location, and size.

An Easy Day When the Trail's in Great Shape!

by Joseph Piro

For our July 13, 2024 Trail Day, **Mary Larsen, Stan Jensen**, my brother **Erik** and **I** headed up the Hazelnut Trail behind the Visitor's Center.



We made it up to the 1-mile marker and, despite taking along a good selection of tools, only found a few little things to trim back here and there -- the trail is in really good shape! And on our way back down we saw **Istvan Puski**. Enjoy the trails!

A Fine Trail Day on the Other Side

by Joseph Piro

For our August 10, 2024 Trail Day, **Stan Jensen, Jack**, my brother **Erik** and **I** headed to the other side of the Park for a change, first walking out Weiler Ranch Road and then heading up the Valley View Trail.



Most of our work was on the east end there, trimming back small branches and whatnot from alongside the trail. On our way back to the toolshed, we also checked the Plaskon Nature Trail and found a few things to trim back over the bridges and along the handrail.

Things look good for summer-time -- head out and enjoy!

~~ September / October Calendar ~~

September Trail Day

Saturday, Sept. 14 9 am

Sept. Habitat Restoration Day

Saturday, Sept. 21 10 am

Members' Meeting & BBQ

Sunday, Sept. 22..... 11:30 am

Dr. Jorgensen - GW Sharks*

Tuesday, Sept. 24 7 pm

October Trail Day

Saturday, October 12 9 am

October Habitat Restoration Day

Saturday, October 19 10 am

Craig Nikitas: Raptor Rescue*

Saturday, October 19 7 pm

*Zoom webinar registration required

>> FACTOID <<

INVADING BIRD DREAMLAND

A big invasion of avian privacy has been underway -- but we humans seem to have no compunctions about violating the inner secrets of animals; we have been especially curious about what birds really think and lately, especially what they dream.

Researchers from the University of Buenos Aires (in 2024) have found that the voice box, or syrinx, of a sleeping song bird can move in ways that are similar to wide-awake singing times. "Essentially, we've pretty well shown that birds are silently singing in their dreams." Recording sensors which can sense subtle muscle twitches are capable of transferring data to computers and then showing how they relate to the activity of those same muscles when the feathered-songsters are awake and singing.



But I can't leave you without relating one anecdote about the "probable certainty"? of birds dreaming in the first place. Scholar Peter Hume says: "I have observed my Blue Fronted Amazon [parrot] who snores during the first hour of her sleep, often waking up with a shudder and attacks her toys as if she is coming out of a dream! [of conflict]."

(Illustration by Megan Bishop as seen in the [Summer 2019](#) issue of Living Bird magazine)



— Carolyn's Corner —

DREAMERS OVER THE YEARS

Human brains are amazing things: people are so inventive, none any less than the members of SPVP Volunteers, The Friends. So many ideas have emerged over the years; some at our meetings: someone pushed for a frog pond in one of the first fields after the chorus frogs lost their seasonal pond by “Pacific Oaks.” Most of us knew these songs that used to decorate the air became increasingly sparse in the back of our San Pedro Valley. Someone wanted a children’s playground in the South Walnut Grove Picnic Area. A couple of elderly ladies wanted a ranger shuttle to run now and then, carrying the disabled to the back of the Weiler Ranch Road. When my knees got bad, I had a fantasy about a slide curving down from the heights of the Valley View: no grinding impact on fragile cartilage and nerves in the knees when descending. But one idea I took very seriously was when Ron Wilson wanted to put a sheet and strong light on the side of the Visitor Center in the middle of the night to attract and elucidate the beautiful diversity of moths in SPVP. I believe that plan was nixed because of its certainty of compromising valuable ranger time.

Some of our ideas became (or almost became) concrete, like the time we agreed we should put in a few bluebird nesting boxes along the Weiler Ranch Road; sadly none of these beauties liked our sites. (But Ray Trabucco showed me 2 photos of these visiting insect catchers - intensely blue fellas, that he took this July!)



Male Western Bluebird © TGrey

I had a glimmer of hope years ago when I heard that Jim Pommier, Jim Mackey and Istvan Puski were sawing down flourishing eucalyptus sprouts and pulling and snapping off the seedlings with clippers. But getting rid of the Australian Native was a very expensive pipe dream of mine, not to mention that some visitors and members thought they were a great shady respite along trails! Unfortunately, we have countless more than the few blue gums that were removed many years ago from San Bruno Park. When a couple came into the Visitor Center to ask me in awe what some gorgeous trees were on the hill, I tried to imagine which native tree they were referring to, becoming disheartened as they pointed out the window at the statuesque invaders.

FINDS FOR SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

Now that many covering leaves have dropped, be on the lookout for the conically shaped stick nest of *Neotoma fucipes*, the dusky-footed woodrat. Study the areas near the creek and other damp places near tiny springs or freshets. Though we miss the green of winter, spring and the last blooms of summer, we can still look for the lavender-blue petaled, yellow-center flower of the California aster.



Don’t ignore the yellowish flowers of the male coyote brush and white wispy seed plumes of their female plants. Each sex is on its own bush. The white, fluffily-floating seed will blow around like cottonwood fuzz in the fall.

Our old newsletters have sightings of our heavily-antlered, black-tailed deer bucks from October through December at least, by Ron Wilson, Sharron Walker, Enid Ansgarius and others - some not that far from the Visitor Center! These fellows are impressive, but don’t underrate their aggressiveness throughout their breeding season.



I do hope our family of 2 female turkeys and 4 poults can survive by some miracle as they have for a few months. The fact that the adults are formidable opponents when threatened has helped to save them so far. I also hope you may have noticed that the ladies are getting too habituated to us, too comfortable with being near us, likely because at least one human has been feeding them. That unnatural familiarity could be dangerous.

Friends of SPVP Annual Membership Meeting, Election and Barbecue

The Friends of San Pedro Valley Park's Membership Meeting 2024, with Election, will be held on **Sunday, September 22nd at 11:30 am**, followed by a **Barbecue at noon**. These two events, held back-to-back, will take place at the Visitor Center in San Pedro Valley Park. Please mark your calendars. The presence of our members at this event is needed and much appreciated. We look forward to seeing many of our Friends there.

For the barbecue, please let us know if you can come and if you can bring a side dish for all to share. The Friends of SPVP, as usual, will supply hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks. **Please RSVP to our President, Judy Bacon at: judybaconegg@gmail.com** As a reminder, members may also be called by a member of the Friends' Board to remind you of the event and to answer any questions you may have.

The Annual Election for the Board of Directors will be held during the annual meeting. The nominating committee: Mila Stroganoff, Adrian Stroganoff, and Mark Golembiewski have selected the following officer candidates, but others may be nominated from the floor (and must be seconded to stand for election):

President: Mark Golembiewski; **Vice-President:** Judy Bacon; **Secretary:** _____; **Treasurer:** Susan Kern. Other Board Directors and Members-at-Large will be elected from this slate of nominees: Adrian Stroganoff, Mila Stroganoff, Carl Schwab, Melinda Moses, Shane Kadlecik, Istvan Puski, Sharron Walker, and Bing Huey.

Recent Programs

Monkey Business by Judy Bacon

On July 11th, "Wild About Monkeys!" came to San Pedro Valley Park as the second program of the summer aimed specifically at children. Kevin Keith and his daughter Illiana, along with their furry friends, brought their show about monkeys to the park for the very first time. They are excellent baboon trainers and their baboons have appeared in several Hollywood movies, including "Rock of Ages", "Evan Almighty", and others.



About 30 of us sat in the patio area of the Visitor Center and watched Kevin and Illiana put the baboons through their paces.



One baboon was wearing Kevin's hat and brought lots of laughs to the group.

There was also a cute little capuchin monkey and a huge snake that Kevin wore around his neck. Some of us went up to pet the snake and were surprised at how heavy it was! We'll have to have them back next year!

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 San Pedro Valley Park Nature Journalers Celebrate 3 Years!

by Sharron Walker

On July 25, the SPVP Nature Journalers celebrated 3 years of nature journaling in our park! There were 16 of us, including 3 new members! Two of our founding members, Marty Sauter and Jane Ahearn attended.

Here are some of our accomplishments during past three years:

- 3 years of monthly meetings!
- 26 monthly prompts to which we journaled
- Workshops on Sketching & Botany given by members
- Our Nature Journaling group is a part of the SMC Parks Dept's Interpretative Plan for SPVP
- Completed 10 Nature Journal-based Tree Plaques to be installed at designated SPVP trees!
- Group listed on Wild Wonder Foundation Nature Journal International Group Map
- A non-judgmental, supportive group of Nature Journalers was successfully established — the most important goal! And became a place to share nature with like-minded folks!



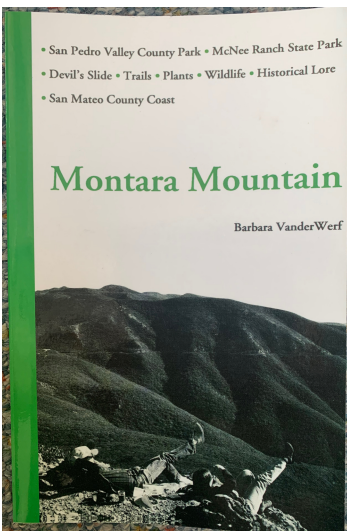
A display of Nature Journaling Tree Plaques is in place in the Visitor Center. Soon the plaques will be mounted on stands before their corresponding trees around the South parking lot, except for the Cypress tree located in the Walnut Grove Group Picnic area.



We have had a successful 3 years! We are so appreciative of the support we have received from: Matt Del Carlo, head Ranger of SPVP; the SMC Parks Department's Interpretative Planning group, led by Katherine Wright -- her department has worked diligently to support the Tree Plaque project; the Board of Directors of the Friends of SPVP; and the Sanchez Art Center. Cindy Abbott (SAC Executive Director) has supported NJ Workshops that created the foundation of folks who have formed the San Pedro Valley Nature Journal Group. It takes a village!!

For info about SPVP Nature Journalers contact: sharronlee@aol.com

"Montara Mountain" by Sharron Walker



Barbara VanderWerf wrote her book, "Montara Mountain," in 1995 to support the proposed tunnel effort at Devil's Slide and prevent a highway from being built over the mountain and through McNee Ranch State Park! The passionate community protest worked, the proposed highway construction was stopped, the Tom Lantos Tunnels were built and opened in 2013, and the book remains a great natural history resource for our park and surrounding areas.

Also, as far as I know, it provides one of best records of the historic roads over Montara and Pedro Mountains that had once existed!

When I was managing the Trailside Store in 2016, we were running low on Montara Mountain books, so I contacted Barbara, who now lives in Sequim, WA. She gave us permission to reprint and she came to a book signing we held for her at the SPVP Visitor Center. Barbara also gave our store exclusive rights to sell "Montara Mountain."

If you want to check it out, the Trailside Store in our Visitor Center is open on the weekends - hours are Saturday & Sunday from 10AM to 4PM.

<< ON THE TRAIL >>

Bet you've never seen this sight before in SPVP — because it's never happened before...a herd of goats in the park!! I was surprised to see a warning sign at the entrance to Weiler Ranch Rd. when I was exercise walking down Oddstad Blvd. one day in late July and just had to go see them for myself. So on July 24th I wandered in and there they were - dozens of them covering the southern hillside along WRR near the Valley View Trailhead.



I later learned that Ranger Kody Morello was in charge of finding a company that offered goat grazing services and had hired Green Goats Landscapers. They supplied approximately 300 goats, first arriving on July 17th and “working” until July 26th, when the the project was concluded.

Ranger Kody explained that this was a trial run to see if goat grazing would work as a fire fuel reduction tactic. The chosen area has had



previous fuel reduction work done in the past few years. He told me that, in this instance, this method of fuel reduction was mostly successful. The goats removed a significant amount of possible fuel for a fire and lowered the amount of invasive plants (poison oak) in the area, but did not eat much of the new growth Eucalyptus sprouts. As far as Ranger Kody could tell me, no other County parks have actively sought out goat grazing, but a few have entertained the possibility. If possible, he would like to use the goats in other parks, as well as have them in the same area at SPVP to see the effect from multiple goat grazing sessions. He said SMCP is considering having the goats back in our park around June of next year. I don't know about you, but I'd like to see the cute little fellas visit us again next year!



San Mateo County Parks' 2nd Annual SummerFest

by Melinda Moses

On August 10th, Mark Golembiewski, Enid Ansgarius and I participated in the County Park's SummerFest festival at Coyote Point Recreation Area (<https://www.smcgov.org/parks/coyote-point-recreation-area>) in San Mateo, just south of SFO. We set up our table alongside a number of other non-profits and local organizations, including the San Mateo Library Bookmobile, Peninsula Humane Society, Bay Area Puma Project, and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department.

The weather was perfect for a family festival. There were several food trucks, giant kites floating in the Bay breezes, an arts and crafts area where very clever solar-powered insects could be created, along with talented artists from Pacific Face Painters, whose work we admired on the faces of several youngsters passing by.



Families stopped at the Friends' table to pick up SPVP maps, stickers, San Mateo Parks pencils and coloring books. A highlight for children and adults alike was a “passport” to be stamped at each of the 16 tables. Once completed, the bearer received a kite from the Park Rangers to fly in the field beyond the tables.

It was great to speak with lots of folks about San Pedro Valley Park, along with the recreation opportunities available at other San Mateo Co. park sites. Some wanted to share their experience of hiking on SPVP trails, while for others, SPVP and other sites close to their homes were new and something to be put on a weekend to-do list.

Now that we've become experienced with planning, setting up and engaging with the public at these tabling events, the Friends are looking forward to our next event on October 12th at Quarry Park in El Granada. Stay tuned for FallFest details on our Instagram and Facebook pages!



Recent Programs

Wonderful “Wild Things”

by Paula Martin

The Friends of SPVP were treated to another great presentation by Gabe Kerschner and his wonderful “Wild Things” show at San Pedro Valley Park on Friday, August 2nd at 11:30 in the North Walnut Grove Group Picnic Area. The presentation was attended by 47 adults and children on a lovely summer day. Gabe’s organization Conservation Ambassadors’ Wild Things was founded in 1988 to house and care for injured and displaced wildlife. They provide a home for over 60 species of wildlife.



The entertaining, fun and educational presentation included a range of wildlife and included interaction from participants. Each animal had a rescue story and a pet name. The red-tailed hawk had an injured wing and displayed its wings and beautiful red tail in the sunlight. A barn owl had been injured as it was hit by a car at night in its silent flight affecting its ability to fly. A capuchin monkey was rescued by the Fish and Wildlife Service. A magician was displaying it on his Facebook page. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is a U.S. federal government agency under the U.S. Department of the Interior that oversees the management and protection of fish, wildlife and natural habitats in the United States.



A pikachu monkey was also rescued and treated itself to a banana while on display with its long tail. A raccoon had been raised by people that thought they were helping it. Gabe explained that once raccoons are raised by humans, they adapt to people and can no longer be released to the wild. A star of the show was Spike the alligator that everyone (including our Editor!) got to line up and touch at the end of the presentation.

Gabe’s organization provides an important message of conservation and appreciation for wildlife. He closed in saying that we can all help wildlife by recycling and by keeping our natural resources clean.



Kids Summer Fun at San Pedro Valley Park! by Sharron Walker

This summer, San Mateo County Parks has partnered with the Pacifica Sanchez Library for adventurous activities in San Pedro Valley Park. The first of the programs on July 3 was on Nature Journaling for Kids! The group of kids who took part in this new program, as well as their parents, were quite enthusiastic! Rachael and her crew from the Sanchez Library participated as well!

Kids were supplied with Wild Wonder Introduction Nature Journaling booklets, journals & colored pencils. Our focus was the Giant Sequoia, its needles and cones. We also did some leaf rubbing...always great fun! Kids left with several pages completed in their journals. Paula Martin from the San Pedro Valley Nature Journalers assisted me with the program.

Ranger Tracy Nappi shared with us the Junior Ranger Program, of which the Friends of San Pedro Valley Park is a participant! So, check it out kids and parents! There is a Junior Ranger Booklet available at our Visitor Center. When completed, return it to our Visitor Center (on weekends from 10 am to 4) to have it signed and get your badge!



Subsequent programs that Tracy and her staff offered were “Animal Tracks” on July 17, “Bird Adaptations” on July 31, and a Weiler Ranch Hike on Aug 7th. A wonderful discovery program and partnership with our parks and the Sanchez library!

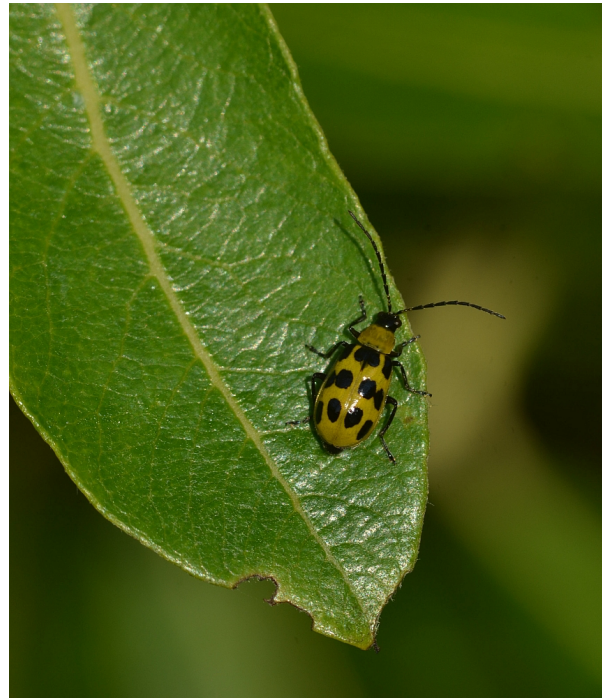


Bing Huey's Continuing Study of Insects in SPVP



Ichneumonid wasp on blackberry
taken on 06/25/24
along the Hazelnut Trail

Spotted cucumber beetle (*Diabrotica*)
taken on 06/25/24
along the Hazelnut Trail



Chrysomelid beetle larva
taken on 06/10/24
along the Hazelnut Trail

Jumping spider on pitcher sage
taken on 04/07/24
along the Brooks Creek Trail



More of Bing Huey's Study of Flora & Fauna in SPVP



Erebid moth
taken on 08/03/24
along the Valley View Trail



Common ringlet
taken on 08/03/24
along the Valley View Trail



Epilobium seed pod splitting open
taken on 08/15/24
near the bridge to Walnut Grove picnic area



Tall annual willowherb (*Epilobium brachycarpum*)
taken on 08/03/24
along the Valley View Trail