

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

TOM'S TUNNELS

I agree with Mitch Reid that the Devil's Slide Tunnels rightly should be named after Montara Mountain or "the people" (in honor of citizens who defeated the freeway bypass and championed the tunnels). Even Congressman Tom Lantos echoed that theme at Caltrans' ribbon-cutting ceremony, calling the massive project "The People's Tunnels." But now state Senator Leland Yee has introduced legislation to honor Lantos by naming the tunnels after him. Lantos recently announced he will retire at the end of this term because he is suffering from esophageal cancer. Lantos helped get federal funding for the tunnels.

FUN WITH FEEBS

Funniest news item of the week was about the FBI having to drop some wiretaps because it hadn't paid its phone bill.

SACKS ON THE BEACH

Come plant new native plants, transplant native dune grass already growing in abundance, and remove nonnative invasive

plants. Mary Petrilli will guide botany in action as she has since 1997. Children with their parents or other adults are welcome. Call 650-359-3600 if you have questions, or email clarkn@mac.com. The beach work party runs from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, January 19.

SOIL ECOLOGY

Dr. Elaine Ingham of Soil Food Web, Inc will be in San Mateo next week for a 2 day intensive seminar on Managing the Health & Vitality of your Landscape Through Soil Ecology. Topics include the soil foodweb life cycle and their effect on the biology & chemistry of soil; compost and compost tea production & use, biological management of plant mineral needs, non-toxic pest management alternatives. Jan. 17, Thursday evening overview, 7 to 9 p.m. Jan. 18, Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. intensive biology/chem. Jan. 19, Saturday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. practical application \$20 for evening lecture \$180 package for all 3 lectures; or \$100/day Hot lunch available with advance registration for an additional fee - see registration form For more information or to register contact: wormlady@sbcglobal.net (Jake Sigg, Nature News)

BIOFUEL REFINERY DEBATE

AAUW presents a thought-provoking program, "Should Biodiesel Fuel be Refined in Pacifica? A discussion of How, Why, Where, and When." It will be led by Nancy

Hall. Thursday, January 17 at 7 p.m., in the Pacifica Community Center, Card Room, Highway 1 at Crespi Drive. Biodiesel is a diesel equivalent processed from vegetable oils, algae, and animal fats that can be used in unmodified diesel engine vehicles. This fuel is biodegradable and nontoxic and typically produces 60% less carbon dioxide emissions, and 65% less smog emissions. CO2 emissions can differ widely between fuels depending on production methods, of the source vegetable oils and the processing methods used. It is debatable how well biodiesel reduces CO2 emissions compared to those from petroleum-based diesel. Nancy Hall drives a car fueled by biodiesel, and has done extensive research into the production and use of this fuel. This will be an opportunity to hear firsthand about this important development. Members of the community are invited to come listen and discuss. For details, call Mar Kaden at 650-359-5863 or email Christine Krenzel at chris@chriskrenzel.com. AAUW is an organization of graduates of 2-year and 4-year colleges and may be joined without invitation.

HOT BODIES

A Swedish company plans to harness the body heat generated by thousands of commuters scrambling to catch their trains at Stockholm's main railway station and use it for heating a nearby office building. (Reuters)

HOT ROCKS

The next time you're in San Francisco Airport, stop by the International Terminal and admire 20 cases of gems, minerals, and meteorites from the Academy's geology collection. From huge amethyst geodes to tiny faceted rubies, this exhibit promises to put a sparkle in your eye before you fly. Open 24 hours; a plane ticket is NOT required for viewing. Exhibit ends in February 2008. (Jake Sigg, Nature News)

BIRD LAND

If you're going up to bird-watch at Gray Lodge, Colusa, and/or Sacramento wildlife refuges, stay overnight at Colusa Casino Resort for nice rooms, gambling (for those so inclined), and an Olympic-size outdoor swimming pool (well heated). For lunch and dinner, hop over to Louis Cairo's old-time Italian restaurant in Williams, home of famous Louis bread topped with serious garlic.

GRANTHAM JAZZ

Happy New Year! Here's a resolution for 2008. We will continue to commit and encourage jazz as often as we can. That is going to be Jazz Sundays until further notice. Come join us on either of these two gigs: Jim Grantham Jazz Quartet every Sunday 3-6 p.m. at the Coffee Mill, 3363 Grand Ave. at Elwood, Oakland, 510-465-4224, and every Sunday 8-11 p.m. at Kingman's Ivy Room, 860 San Pablo at Solano, Albany, 510-526-5888.

TURKISH MUSIC

If you are considering joining this one-of-a-kind music adventure, it's time to make yourself known. There is an orientation on Sunday, January 20, 5 to 8 p.m. RSVP if you would like to attend. I'll send details after hearing from you. In addition to learning about the music tour, it is a perfect opportunity to meet fellow Turkey tour travelers. Seven folks have reserved spots by sending a \$500 nonrefundable deposit. Eight spaces remain. Deposits should be made out to Tangents Radio. Mail to Dore Stein, 301 Gambier St., San Francisco, CA 94134. There is no telling when the final eight spaces will fill up. It could happen in days, weeks or months. All three previous tours sold out and this one is trending ahead of schedule. For those of you outside the Bay Area or who cannot make it on the 20th, contact me directly if you are interested in the music tour. There have been key developments since the last update. First, as you may know, it's now all-Turkey because Armenia was removed from the itinerary. The flights from Armenia to Istanbul are too dicey for a tour. When the airlines get their act together, Armenia will be back on the front burner. The Turkey music tour dates are May 2 to May 18. Cost is \$3,900 not including transatlantic airfare, which is about \$1,000 including tax. Airfares will increase as time goes on. The music itinerary will be outstanding. Tour overview, itinerary and other links are at Tangents.com. Tom Brosnahan, the dean of Turkey

travel writers, says: "Dore identifies a wish-list of artists from the most interesting corners of the Turkish and international music scene and is remarkably successful at booking them for his tour." Email Dore Stein if you'd like to read more about Turkey in the news. He keeps a link archive. tangentsturkeytour@gmail.com, 415-584-4367 (Mon-Fri 2 to 7 p.m.).

SITeseer

- Green cars, green art: weburbanist.com
- New Bush commemorative coins: blip.tv/file/520347
- Visit the real South Africa: theculturalexplorer.com
- Alan Grinberg storm photos: flickr.com/photos/agrinberg/
- Beat voice mail: gethuman.com

SWAMI SEZ

"A pirate may never compliment another pirate on the softness of his hands." (Pirate Law #13)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Send stories & pix: mayburrito@goofbuster.com
- My columns: PacificaTribune.com, WanderingAndWondering.com
- Local news: PacificaRiptide.com

