

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury

GET DIRTY

Saturday, March 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Snake Habitat Restoration. Get your fingers dirty and help restore habitat for the critically endangered San Francisco garter snake, with a chance to see California red-legged frogs! Join Sue Gardner of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy for a day of weed pulling around several newly created frog ponds at Mori Point. Dress in warm layers, wear sturdy shoes and bring lots of friends! We provide snacks, tools and gloves. Meeting spot is Mori Point entrance gate behind Moose Lodge. RSVP required: 415-561-3067. Public info: 415-561-3067

CLOINED MEAT

Although the USDA only recently removed a voluntary market sale moratorium on foods from cloned animals, a Kansas cattleman claims these products are already in the U.S. food

supply. "I have sold offspring of cloned animals into feedlots, and they are in the food chain," said Donald Coover, a cattleman and veterinarian. Coover says he has sold semen from clones to many US meat producers in the past few years, and that others have been doing the same. Despite strong public opposition, the FDA has announced that these foods do not need to be labeled as such, so consumers buying meat, dairy and eggs don't know if the product came from a cloned animal. Fortunately, the USDA has clarified that foods labeled as "organic" cannot come from cloned animals. Info: organicconsumers.org

CATS HELP OUR HEARTS

Your cat may bring you a lot more than unconditional love after a tough day. A new study shows that cat owners are less likely to die of a heart attack and other cardiovascular diseases than people who have never had a pet cat. (Web MD)

BEACH BLVD. CONDO

The Coastal Commission hearing on the Beach Boulevard Condo project is scheduled for Friday, March 7, Item 6a on the agenda. The meeting starts at 9 a.m. It is advisable to be there promptly because other items may (and probably will) move quickly. The hearing is at Rancho Canada Golf Club, 4860 Carmel Valley Road in Carmel. Members of the public (whether or not they

"participated" at the local level) are generally allowed to speak for 2 minutes each, though time is always at the discretion of the Chair.

COMMENT ON FIRE DEPT.

The City of Pacifica invites you to an open forum to give input on firefighting and paramedic services. The city wants to hear from the community, so let's all show up and give them some feedback. Wednesday, March 12, 6 p.m., Sanchez Concert Hall, 1220 Linda Mar Blvd. (look for the colorful Early California mural).

PROJECT BUDBURST

Project BudBurst 2008 is here. Help scientists track climate change using wildflowers and other plants. Project BudBurst is a project of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research in collaboration with universities, botanic gardens and other organizations across the nation. The project tracks climate change through compiling observations of the timing of flowering and other developmental (phenological) changes in plants. Info: windows.ucar.edu/citizen_science/budburst/

RANGE CAMP

Range Camp is a phenomenal opportunity for teens to learn about resource management, develop career skills, and prepare their college resume. It is held at UC Elkus in coastside San Mateo

County. Teens come from all over the state. If any of you know of an appropriate student, would you kindly encourage applications? San Mateo County Resource Conservation District, 625 Miramontes Street, Suite 103, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019, phone 650.712.7765, fax 650.726.0494

WHAT GIVES

You can search any zip code in the U.S. and find the amount contributed in each area and who supported each presidential candidate. You might want to start by just putting in your own zip code. Warning: highly addictive. Info: fundrace.huffingtonpost.com

NO BAY FILL

Minnesota-based agribusiness giant Cargill Inc. is threatening to fill in and build on more than 1,400 acres of Bayfront salt ponds in Redwood City. Save The Bay has written to Cargill's CEO to tell him that San Francisco Bay cannot be sacrificed for profit. If these former tidal wetlands are no longer needed for salt production, the site should be restored instead. Former Bay wetlands are no place to build a massive development. Urban sprawl, massive Bay fill, and diking have already reduced the Bay's size by one-third. Restoring these salt ponds is necessary to provide critical habitat for endangered species, improve water quality and flood protection, combat global

warming, and enhance recreation and open space for the region's residents. Your voice will help fight Cargill and preserve this threatened former tidal wetland site. Please take action now to stop Cargill from filling in and paving San Francisco Bay. (saveSFbay.org)

WILD SUMMER SCHOOL

"Summer classes at San Francisco State University, Sierra campus. Many excellent classes in birds, fungi, butterflies, plants, bats, astronomy, Sierra natural history (taught by Jack Laws), drawing, medicinal and edible plants, photographing wildlife, and much more. For a brochure or information, contact Jim Steele at his email address on the Web site sfsu.edu/~sierra/Courses.html or calling 415-338-1571. I have taken these classes in the past, and found them to be an idyllic way to spend a week or two. You need bring only a sleeping bag and personal items. You stay in tents and eat delicious meals prepared by staff. Easy." (Jake Sigg, Nature News)

ODDS AND SODS

British industry magazine The Bookseller has announced this year's shortlist for the oddest book title of the year. Visitors to the magazine's website, thebookseller.com, can make their choice from six mostly nonfiction titles. The winner will be announced on March 28. The nominees for The

Diagram Prize are: "I Was Tortured by the Pygmy Love Queen" by Jasper McCutcheon; "How to Write a How to Write Book" by Brian Paddock; "Are Women Human? And Other International Dialogues" by Catharine A. MacKinnon; "Cheese Problems Solved" by P.L.H McSweeney; "If You Want Closure in Your Relationship, Start With Your Legs" by Big Boom; "People who Mattered in Southend and Beyond: From King Canute to Doctor Feelgood" by Dee Gordon. Horace Bent, The Bookseller's diarist, said on the magazine's website: "I confess: I have been anxious that as publishing becomes ever more corporate, the trade's quirky charms are being squeezed out. Lists are pruned, targets are set, authors are culled. But happily my fears have been proved unfounded: oddity lives on." (AFP)

SWAMI SEZ

"Sometimes I think war is God's way of teaching us geography." (Paul Rodriguez)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

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- My columns online: PacificaTribune.com, WanderingAndWondering.com
- Breaking news—no waiting: PacificaRiptide.com