

Wandering & Wondering



John Maybury



DIESELGATE

All sides in the biodiesel debate are talking openly about having a community forum on the biodiesel plant. It's about time. Everybody has hashed out facts and opinions endlessly on PacificaRiptide.com, here in the Tribune, and at City Council. Aren't we all just a little sick of this biowar? Oh yes. And this means that it's time for peace talks. I have spoken with members of all factions that have dogs in this fight. They all seem to want a public debate, or at least a question-and-answer session, with written questions submitted in advance. So come on, y'all,

let's agree to disagree in a town hall meeting at Sanchez or Council Chambers or a church or a school auditorium or wherever. Who's gonna make the first move?

FROGS FLOURISH

Dave Gromm, director of the Calera Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), says that the plant's outlying wetlands are now home to thousands of red-legged frogs, compared to just a few when the plant opened. Calera Creek and natural springs provide plenty of water to keep the ponds primed, but if more water is ever needed to raise the levels, the plant has a buried PVC pipe that can feed the ponds with treated water. Gromm is calling a powwow with the state and federal fish & game agencies and the Coastal Commission to decide how best to promote and protect endangered species in the Calera Creek/Rockaway Quarry wildlife zone, namely red-legged frogs and San Francisco garter snakes.

E IS FOR EMPEROR

Calling out that big fat typo on the Giants scoreboard last week brought this mysterious message from the Emperor of Pacifica, Frank Winston: "here's a toss from way out in left field. congrats on crashing the gates (glossary), logging another error for the giants. yours was a good catch. i wish to enthusiastically and unequivocally emphasize that I thought 'e' stood for 'emperor': did i drop the ball?"

JOHN MUIR AWARD

The John Muir Association, a non-profit organization supporting the National Park Service's John Muir National Historic Site, is requesting nominations for the John Muir Conservation Award. Awards are given in four different categories and are open to individuals, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and businesses. The categories are: Conservationist of the Year for an individual who has excelled in environmental protection or made significant contributions to the advancement of conservation; Environmental Education Conservation Award for outstanding contribution by an individual (professional or volunteer), business, organization or public agency to environmental education, whether in a classroom or otherwise; Non-profit Conservation Award for outstanding achievement by a nonprofit organization that promotes environmental protection or demonstrated significant achievement or leadership in the advancement of conservation; Business Conservation Award for outstanding achievement by a business (other than a nonprofit organization) that promotes environmental protection or demonstrated significant achievement or leadership in the advancement of conservation. For more information and a nomination form, go to johnmuirassociation.org. Deadline for submission is September 28. Winners receive their awards at the Conservation Award dinner on Saturday, November 15, at the Winslow Center, 2590 Pleasant Hill Road, in Pleasant Hill.

RESEARCH SHIP

Research Vessel "Fulmar" at Pillar Point Harbor's 75th Anniversary Celebration, Saturday, August 16, 10 a.m. to noon, end of Capistrano Road, just north of Half Moon Bay. Visit with NOAA Captain Dave Minard and staff from Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to learn about research conducted in the North-Central California national marine sanctuaries: Gulf of the Farallones, Monterey Bay, and Cordell Bank. Step aboard and see various kinds of navigation and other equipment used in at-sea operations to study our oceans, and more effectively manage and conserve our marine resources. Contact: Mary Jane Schramm, 415-561-6622 extension 205; maryjane.schramm@noaa.gov.

PALMETTO ORGANIC

"I was driving along Palmetto in Sharp Park today and did a double take when I caught sight of a store with a sidewalk stand of fresh fruits and veggies! I pulled over to check it out and discovered Pacifica's newest organic grocery store, Palmetto Organic Grocery, 2304 Palmetto (one block south of Florey's, on the same side of the street). It's a small store, but it seems to have a good selection of fresh and packaged organic items, including one of my favorites—milk in returnable bottles. For more info, email manager Arkadiy Goltser: arkadiyg@palmettoorganic.com." (Larry Arndt)

FOGZILLA



FOGZILLA

You come from the sea/Monster of summer/Relentless gray beast/Snorting salt spray/Sliding along the coast/Rolling over the ridges/Going where you want/Constantly in motion/Blocking out the sun/Keeping us cool/Bringing us sleep. (John Maybury wrote this poem one August long ago in a land called Pacifica.)

JEPSON FIELD BOOKS

University of California and Jepson Herbarium at UC Berkeley want to increase the accessibility of famed botanist Willis Linn Jepson's field books by linking them to online specimen records. But the books first need to be transcribed so Internet search engines can find them. The Herbarium seeks volunteers to help. All you need is an Internet connection and a few minutes for each page. Contact Richard Moe at rlmoe@berkeley.edu. Info: ucjeps.berkeley.edu

OCEAN OF INDIA

Ocean of India, serving Pakistani tandoori and other delicacies from

the subcontinent, is now open in the old Beach Cafe on Highway 1 at Rockaway Beach. Grand opening is August 18.

PLOVER PROBLEM

"Snowy plovers have been very scarce at Pacifica State Beach in Linda Mar. Two weeks ago, I saw three, and I haven't seen any since then. I didn't see any in May, June, and most of July. Ocean Beach in San Francisco and the Half Moon Bay beaches also have had fewer-than-normal sightings of snowy plovers. I have not heard any explanations for fewer sightings. Greg Cochrane of the PB&R Commission told me there was going to be a walkaround on Linda Mar beach beginning at 5 p.m. this Wednesday, August 13. I plan to go along." (Clark Natwick, Pacifica Beach Coalition and Environmental Family)

SITeseer

- Eat right and prosper: slowfoodnation.org
- Bicycle recycle: pedalrevolution.org
- Click and enjoy the ride: zoomquilt.org

SWAMI SEZ

"Fortune favors the bold." (Vergil)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Breaking news 24/7: PacificaRiptide.com
- My columns: WanderingAndWondering.com, PacificaTribune.com
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