

Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury



DRAKE WAY

I started writing this column after Bill Drake had retired from the helm of the Tribune, so I never had the opportunity to work for him, but I knew he was still a sharp newspaperman, because one day in front of Safeway, right after I had written that I shop mainly at locally owned grocery stores, Drake saw me coming out of Safeway (I bank there at the Wells Fargo ATM), and he asked why I was in there. He seemed satisfied with my explanation, but I realized I had just been grilled by a pro. Bill had a newsman's steel-trap mind, didn't miss a trick. So I am glad to join my Tribune colleagues in asking the city to rename Aura Vista, the street our newspaper is on, William Drake Way, in honor of our

publisher emeritus.

IRISH BAKERY

Thanks to the Tribune readers who clipped out Todd Bray's "Time Travel" item (April 8) about Irish baker John Campbell and took it up to the city to share with Campbell. Now I really have to get up to San Francisco and try Campbell's bread and scones.

GARDEN TOUR

Take a free, self-guided tour of home gardens that are water-wise, low maintenance, low on chemical use, bird and butterfly friendly, and attractive. A variety of home gardens landscaped with California native plants will be open to the public Sunday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Locations throughout Santa Clara Valley and

the Peninsula. Free admission; registration required at gngt.org before April 18 at 12 noon, or until the tour reaches capacity, whichever comes first. Space is limited; register early to ensure a place. Volunteers receive invitations to visit native gardens throughout the year. For more information, email info@gngt.org

NATIVE-PLANT SALE

Go to 780 Frederick Street @ Arguello in San Francisco, and visit Nature in the City's Nursery at the HANC Recycle Center. Greg Gaar, local ecological activist, has more than 40 species of native plants, sown from local seed. Donations are asked on a per-plant basis. Discount donations can be negotiated for large orders. Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday from 12 noon to 4 p.m. (inside the recycling center). 415-753-2971. Some choice plants available: bee plant and California phacelia excellent bee plants, buckwheats for bees and butterflies, checkerbloom, cow parsnip, blue-eyed grass, pink currant, seaside daisy, and much, much more. (natureinthecity.org)

HERON WATCH

Each year since 1993, the great blue herons have returned to Stow Lake to court, mate, and raise their young: 119 chicks have fledged to date! San Francisco Nature Education middle- and high-school interns have spotting scopes to show these magnificent birds to the public. Naturalists lead two separate nature walks for adults and one for families around Stow Lake and Strawberry Island. Seniors and children are free. There is a \$10 donation for adults on tours. For more information, visit sfnature.org or call 415-387-9160.

GREEN STAYCATION

This year, many families are ditching the road trip and staying close to home. That's great for your carbon footprint and for your wallet. And because you're already in the Bay Area, one of the world's most beautiful places, there's much to explore. Let Bay Nature be your guide. Use Bay Nature's interactive, searchable map (baynature.org) to find hikes and nature-related events in your area. Bay Nature's interactive map is free to use and allows you

to search by location, park size, event date, and topic. Find a trail or outing nearby and show the family the best of Bay Area nature.

ECOSCAPTURE CONTEST

Whole House Building Supply will hold an ecoscaptive (sculpture made from salvaged materials) contest in early October 2009. The contest is a way of promoting environmentalism, green businesses, and the arts. Do you have contacts in institutions (schools, industry, commercial, retail) with a busy lobby where such a sculpture could be displayed? The sculpture would take up no more than 3ft x 3ft x 7ft space and would be light enough to be hand carried. It should be indoors for a week or two to protect against the elements and theft. Judges and materials (industry, office, commercial castoffs) are needed. Any thoughts and suggestions would be appreciated. Please forward widely. Contact Paul 650-856-0634 (message center)

LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US

Looking for cool places to hang out around the Peninsula without the expense of gas and parking? The spring edition of SamTrans Fun Transit Guide (samtrans.com) gives you options, including information on how to get there using the bus. The transit guide lists a variety of community events, such as festivals, fairs, farmers' markets, and sporting events.

SITeseer

- Protecting coast & ocean: montereybayaquarium.org/cr
- Montara Mountain map: store.usgs.gov
- German model train layout: miniatur-wunderland.com
- South Bay sugar rush: psycho-donuts.com

SWAMI SEZ

"Whiskey is for drinking; water is for fighting over." (Mark Twain)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Goofbuster.com
- PacificaRiptide.com
- WanderingAndWondering.com
- Email: mayburrito@goofbuster.com