

Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury



USGS OPEN HOUSE

May 16-17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. is the U.S. Geological Service (USGS) 9th Triennial Open House. Scientists at the USGS Menlo Park campus are leaders in research on earthquakes, water quality, volcanoes, coastal and marine geology, mineral and energy resources, geography, and the San Francisco Bay ecosystem. Exhibits and presentations illustrate the diversity of projects that USGS employees are engaged in. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to interact with USGS scientists, enjoy hands-on exhibits, and gain a greater appreciation of our human connection to the natural systems of our dynamic planet Earth. Parking and admission are free. Pets are not allowed, other than Certified Seeing-Eye or Assisted-Living animals. All exhibits are wheelchair accessible. Handicapped parking is available. Limited food service is available. Alternatively, many

restaurants are nearby in downtown Menlo Park and Palo Alto, less than a mile away. Open House is “kid friendly.” Info: 650-329-4390, wmcesic@usgs.gov

PADDLE TO THE SEA

Tuolumne River Trust sponsors a three-week festival celebrating the Tuolumne River as it courses from the Sierra Nevada to San Francisco Bay. Kayakers and rafters begin this journey on the upper stretches of the Clavey and Tuolumne rivers, travel through the Central Valley, where canoeists take the lead, pass the confluence of the Tuolumne and San Joaquin rivers, and continue on to San Francisco Bay. Join them for kayaking, rafting, canoeing, and weekend celebration festivities. Come for a day, a week, or the entire trip, May 16 to June 7. Info: Tuolumne.org.

WINGS OF FREEDOM

Participating in the Collings Foundation’s

“Wings of Freedom” tour, the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress “Nine O Nine” WWII Heavy Bomber, Consolidated B-24 Liberator “Witchcraft” WWII Heavy Bomber, and P-51 Mustang fly into Moffett Federal Airfield in Mountain View for a visit May 15-23. This is a rare opportunity to see these unique and rare treasures of aviation history. The B-17 is one of only nine in flying condition in the United States. The B-24J and Dual Control P-51C Mustang are the sole remaining examples of their type flying anywhere in the world. Visitors are invited to explore the aircraft inside and out: \$12 donation for adults and \$6 donation for children under 12 requested for access to up-close viewing and tours through the inside of the aircraft. Visitors also can experience the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to actually take a 30-minute flight aboard these rare aircraft. Flight experiences are a tax-deductible donation. Flights on either the B-17 or B-24 are \$425 per person. Get some “stick time” in the world’s greatest fighter! P-51 flights are \$2,200 for a half-hour and \$3,200 for a full hour. For reservations and information on flight experiences, call 800-568-8924. The planes will be on display

at the Main Gate near the Control Tower on Cody Road. The tour will arrive at 2 p.m. on Friday, May 15 and will be on display until the aircraft departs Saturday, May 23 at 4 p.m. Hours of ground tours and display are: 2 through 4 p.m. on Friday, May 15; 10 a.m. through 4 p.m. Saturday, May 16 to Saturday, May 23. The 30-minute flight experiences are normally scheduled before and after the ground tour times above. The tour travels the nation as a flying tribute to these aircraft; the flight crews who flew them; the ground crews who maintained them; the workers who built them; the soldiers, sailors, and airmen they helped protect; and the citizens and families who share the freedom that they helped preserve. The B-17 and B-24 were the backbone of the American effort during the war from 1942 to 1945, and were famous for their ability to sustain damage and still accomplish the mission. Despite the risks of antiaircraft fire, attacking enemy fighters, and the harrowing environment of subzero temperatures, many B-17s and B-24s safely brought their crews home. The P-51 Mustang was affectionately known as the bombers’ “Little Friend,” saving countless crews

from attacking Axis fighters. After the war, many aircraft were scrapped for their raw aluminum.

SUSTAINABILITY HUB

Sustainable San Mateo County (SSMC) is preparing the ground for changing society. The Sustainability Hub is SSMC’s newest community resource for promoting a healthy economy, environment, and society in San Mateo County. This first-of-its-kind webtool provides the community with an easy way to share and find Sustainable Solutions and Local Resources, as well as the first and only Bay Area Green Jobs Board. The Sustainability Hub is a one-stop toolkit tailored for San Mateo County individuals, community groups, businesses, and cities. Building upon the annual Indicators for a Sustainable San Mateo County Report, the Hub illustrates the connections between what is happening in the Indicators Report and how we can make improvements. Plenty of solid, credible sustainability information already exists, and there’s no need for reinvention. Rather, the Hub gathers information most relevant to the local region in one place, saving people time and frustration from searching through an overwhelming

sea of eco-information. The Sustainability Hub webtool is designed so that “portals: can be added for communities outside San Mateo County. Visit the Sustainability Hub at sustainabilityhub.net.

INNER EDIROT

“Roll Models and Spokespeople” (double-pun headline on story about bicycle transportation advocates, UC Berkeley Web site, May 8)

SHARP PARK NATIONWIDE

The May 11 Sports Illustrated magazine supplement Golf Plus features a cover story on the big controversy over Sharp Park Golf Course, pitting golfers against environmentalists and politicians in Pacifica and San Francisco.

SWAMI SEZ

“As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.” (Dolores De Cabeza)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

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