

Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury



BIRD BRAINS

Sequoia Audubon's online San Mateo County Birding Guide is loaded with photographs, searchable maps, and clickable links for birders, hikers, and all nature-lovers. This new Web site incorporates decades of work on the San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching book. Sequoia Audubon, our local chapter of the national Audubon organization, welcomes citizen-scientists' additions and corrections. You also can use the site to find out about the local Audubon events, field trips. (birding.sequoia-audubon.org)

WAVELENGTH

I appreciate Jean Bartlett's great Pacifica Tribune feature story last week on my Wavelength cofounder and coproducer Ian Butler taking over the solo host slot on the new Pacifica Community Television (PCT) talk show. Ian and I started Wavelength earlier this summer, but when I got busy blogging on SF Gate (Peninsula Coastside), plus

keeping Pacifica Riptide afloat, Ian took up the slack and became the panel moderator as well as resident comedian. Our very first show has already aired (August 24), with me in the hot seat, but meanwhile Ian has been busy taping the next two shows with a cast of interesting local characters. Watch Wavelength on Channel 26 or online at pct26.com. The next show, airing Monday, September 14 and 21 at 6:30 p.m., examines the hot-button issue of Sharp Park Golf Course, with panelists Richard Harris, Barbara Arietta, Ron Maykel, and Brent Plater in a lively debate. The show airing Monday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m. deals with the past, present, and future of Rockaway Quarry, and features four Riptide regulars (Todd Bray, Steve Sinai, Peter Loeb, and Bruce Hotchkiss) in an informative discussion. Next month the show delves into term limits and the proposed Styrofoam food container ordinance. Stay tuned!



ON BUFFALO WINGS

Saturday, September 12, White-Crowned Sparrow Habitat Planting at the Bison Paddock in Golden Gate Park. Meet on JFK Drive by the bison pen. Help plant native coastal scrub, the vital nesting resource for Golden Gate Park's last breeding Nuttall's White-Crowned Sparrows: 8 to 9 a.m., optional birding field trip led by Josiah Clark looking for migrant songbirds, return to paddock; 9 a.m. to 12 noon, site preparation and habitat planting; 12 noon to 1 p.m., lunch provided by The Parks Trust for volunteers who sign up.

RSVP: Kristin.Bowman@sfgov.org.

INFINITY ART

Former Pacifican and City Council candidate Julie Weismann, who moved to Portland, Oregon a few years ago, has been a busy hummingbird in her new home. Julie has created an online gallery space at InfinityArtGallery.com. The shows are juried and curated internationally using the Web. They are as interesting and diverse as your ability to absorb them. It shows a healthy, vibrant international collection of styles, mediums, and concepts, not limited by borders, politics, or logistical costs of gathering so much work in one spot. The tactile element is missing, not being in the same physical space with the art, but the quality, quantity, and diversity of the shows more than make up for it. Julie has put together something very cool and I wouldn't be surprised if mainstream media take notice. Make sure to click the About Us link. The site's biography is informative and well written. It's nice to see a creative, professional gallery site take itself and its artists, collectors, and visitors seriously, treating them all with gratitude and respect. (Todd McCune Bray, pacificariptide.com)

SKYLINE SHOOTER

A suspect has been arrested and charged in the recent Skyline College shooting, and he has pleaded not guilty. All the hoopla about gunmen on the loose appears to have been an argument that got out of hand, but the day of the incident, both the San



Bruno community college and nearby Oceana High School campus in Pacifica were locked down as police helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft hovered over the area. A Skyline student was shot in the buttocks and abdomen but was released from the hospital the same day. Here is the official statement on the incident from the college Web site: "There was a shooting in one of the parking lots on the Skyline College campus on Wednesday, September 2 that was a result of a confrontation between two groups. ...Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to call the San Bruno Police Dept. at 650-616-7100. If you left personal belongings on campus, you may retrieve them at the Public Safety Office in Building 6." Pacifica Riptide reported on the incident as it unfolded, updated frequently by Riptide readers.

NOT SO FRESH & EASY

England's Tesco supermarket chain has successfully opened Fresh & Easy grocery stores in Southern California, and it recently paid several million U.S. dollars for land in the East Bay. But for the most part, its Northern California rollout has been an on-again-off-again affair, particularly here in Pacifica, where the British lion roared only briefly at its Pedro Point shopping center buildout/remodel and then went silent—as in, calls to the developer were not returned and nothing more has happened at the

construction site. So now you can drive by that location and see the nice-looking gut job the builders did, but you will feel the emptiness of being not so fresh and easy in Pacifica. And many of us will continue to mourn the loss of what used to be there: Mister Lee's Chinese Food. (Get more details on this story in the archives and search box at PacificaRiptide.com.)

SITSEER

■ Google the Sky TV video "Kevin Richardson, The Lion Whisperer." After watching it online, you may call it "The Lion Wrestler." If you love cats large or small, you owe it to yourself to watch this one.

■ You want some Dostoyevsky with that? Go to sfgate.com or Google "Ghost bus carries workers to Russia" by Associated Press writer Mansur Mirovalev, August 30. This story of Uzbek migrant laborers riding unlicensed buses to find jobs in Russia will stay with you for a while.

SWAMI SEZ

"Cats are rather delicate creatures and they are subject to a good many ailments, but I never heard of one who suffered from insomnia." (Joseph Wood Krutch)

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