

MOUNTAIN NEWS

Summer 2006

MOUNT DIABLO INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

President's Message.....

Thank you for your membership with the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA). The number of MDIA members is at an all-time high (almost 400), and growing. MDIA could not do the things we do without your support, whether it be financial, moral, or physical, so thank you again. Because of you, Mount Diablo State Park and its visitors are the benefactors.

Recently, you received the MDIA Annual Report which chronicled the things we have done and are doing. I hope you enjoyed the report. However, we have not been resting on our laurels! We have embarked on two primary publication initiatives this year that were not mentioned in the Annual Report:

- 1 Creating a field guide on the trees and shrubs of Mount Diablo.
- 2 Creating a field guide on the common birds of Mount Diablo.

Both field guides or booklets will contain color photographs, and will be similar in size and shape to our earlier booklet, MT. DIABLO WILDFLOWERS. The two booklets will be designed so that laymen can readily identify the observed tree, shrub, or bird. Approximately 80 plant species will be in the tree/shrub booklet. The bird booklet is a little more complicated as at least 200 birds have been identified in or above Mount Diablo. How many of the 200 will be in the booklet is yet to be determined. MDIA should have these two booklets available sometime next year.

If you have not seen the recently published BAY NATURE magazine (July-September 2006 issue), you're missing out. This magazine contains a special 16-page pull-out section entitled "Speak of the Devil: The Unexpected Landscapes of Mount Diablo". It was written by David Rains Wallace, and produced with the assistance and support of Save Mount Diablo. This special section is an outstanding overview of Mount Diablo, and a must read for anyone who has an interest in and love of the Park. BAY NATURE's editor, David Loeb, writes in a preface: "...we hope to give you some inkling of the multiplicity of habitats and stories found on and around the mountain, and to highlight it as the core of a large and accessible swath of

critical open space." To acquire copies of "Speak of the Devil", visit <www.baynature.com>, or call (925)372-6002.

Lastly, please save the date of Saturday, October 28, 2006, for the annual MDIA meeting. It will be held in Mitchell Canyon in the early afternoon. The schedule of events has not yet been finalized, but we usually have an organized hike preceding the meeting, and at the meeting, a short status report on MDIA is given, the Park Superintendent or his representative will speak, Board members are elected, and a well-known person will speak on an interesting topic. Mark your calendars now, and you will be receiving a reminder in the mail late next month.

Enough!
Now go visit and
enjoy The Mountain!

Rich McDrew,
President



Like most organizations, we do some communication via e-mail — it is not only timely but cost effective. Nancy Topp maintains the e-mail directory. If you would like to add your e-mail, or update it, please provide it to Nancy at <mnvtopp@pacbell.net>

VIPs at Mount Diablo State Park

On a cool grey spring morning seven VIPs ventured up the mountain to the service area across from Rock City on Mt. Diablo State Park. It was time for training or renewing training for Volunteers In Parks. Not the usual definition of the VIP abbreviation but we would call them Very Important Persons none the less. Led by Ryen Goering the seven spent three hours learning about California State Parks. This is a prerequisite for volunteering in the Park. Afterward it was too lovely to just leave so some of us rode to the top and admired the view. On the way down we stopped at Juniper Campground and were lucky enough to watch a hang glider take off. What a spectacular sight.



Pictured left to right are: Dennis Butkowski, Edith Valle-Riestra, Karen Barrett, Frank Valle-Riestra, Craig Lyon (Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center docent manager and Board Member), Diana Tharp, and Sue Donecker.

MAJOR ROAD WORK PLANNED:

Mount Diablo State Park will begin major road repairs on July 10, 2006. Work is expected to take place over the next six months. This project will take place along the 4.5-mile-long Summit Road as well as North Gate Road, the park's entrance from Walnut Creek.

Summit Road will be closed to all park visitors including vehicles, hikers and bicyclists on weekdays from July 10th to September 8th. Park visitors using North Gate Road may experience delays on weekdays due to construction.

The South Gate Road entrance from Danville will stay open during construction and will remain open to the Junction Ranger Station. All roads are expected to be open on weekends although selective closures may be in effect if road work is extended into the weekend. Dirt hiking trails in the park will not be affected by the work.

Spring Flowers

This year the winter rains made spring flower walks difficult but it also brought some surprises. The walks to catch the later blooming flowers were filled with early as well as late blooming blossoms. We also got two surprises in the Mitchell Canyon Area. Oso berry was found and a Rein Orchid. Yulan Tong, one of our Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center docents and our expert on flowers, was able to key them out with the aid of Glen Keator's book and Mary Bowerman's book. We hope to have photographs for next year. If you haven't tried the Globe Lily Trail from Mitchell Canyon in spring you don't know what you are missing! Go take a hike!!



Rein Orchid

SUPPORT MDIA THROUGH COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

MDIA members who are or were federal employees may be familiar with the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The annual workplace campaign provides employees an opportunity to designate pre-tax dollar support to eligible non-profit organizations. Application for inclusion into the campaign is rigorous, and non-profit organizations must comply with specific guidelines before they are considered. We are pleased to announce that MDIA will again be included in this year's CFC program. The MDIA identification number is 6005. When you participate in the 2006 CFC, please select number 6005 to support MDIA programs, publications, and special events geared towards enhancing and enriching your experience in Mount Diablo State Park. The CFC will run September 1, 2006, through December 15, 2006. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Rich McDrew at 925/932-7511.

If you wish to contribute articles or photographs for any of the MDIA publications, contact Mike Nelson at 925 686-9295 or via e-mail at <janmike@astound.net>.

Publicity & Outreach

By Harvey S. Brosler, Chair

The Publicity and Outreach Committee has been busy. We distributed approximately 5000 copies each of the Spring 2006 and the Summer 2006 Mount Diablo Review to libraries contiguous to Mount Diablo, to REI, Any Mountain and other similar facilities patrons and which prospective patrons of the Park frequent, to hiking clubs in the area that might utilize the Park, and of course to the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center for distribution to patrons of the Center.

We have escalated our activities in relation to Outreach. The portable exhibit which is comprised of a tri-fold display describing MDIA activities, samples of MDIA publications available for sale, and other relevant information has been used extensively. Talks were also given to organizations to describe MDIA activities.

DATE	OUTREACH ACTIVITY
March 4, 5	Creekside Arts Celebration at the Clayton Library
March 15	California State Parks Foundation at Mount Diablo
March 27	Speech by Rich McDrew to The National and Retired Federal Employees
April 22	Earth Day display at the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center
May 6	Community Environmental Fair at Dow Chemical
May 10	Speech by Rich McDrew to the Mount Diablo Group Sierra Club Meeting
June 11	Heritage Day at Borges Ranch
June 13	Speech by Rich McDrew to the Hayward Hiking Club

In addition to the MDIA portable exhibit, a display of the Trash Removal Project manned by Burt Bogardus was exhibited at the Heritage Day celebration at Borges Ranch. Included in that exhibit was a display of the different types of barbed wire found on Mount Diablo and the winder used to roll up the miles of barbed wire abandoned on the property of private ranches added to the Park.



Burt Bogardus, TRP display at the Heritage Day celebration

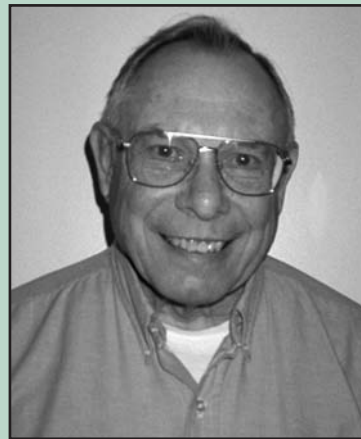


Harvey Brosler, MDIA display at the Heritage Day celebration

Craig Lyon

Biographical Summary

- Native of Iowa. Graduated from Iowa State University in 1955 with a Masters Degree in geology.
- After graduation, signed on with Standard Oil Co. of California (now Chevron) as a geologist in oil and gas exploration and oil field development. Career involved field geology, oil field operations, office interpretation of geological and geophysical data, and project management.
- Worked in Western U.S., ranging from the deserts of Utah and Arizona to the San Joaquin Valley and Santa Barbara Channel of California. Spent about half of career in Alaskan oil exploration. Found some oil and gas and had a great time doing it.
- Met wife in Alaska. Have two children, grown and married. Moved from town to town over the years, finally settling in Concord in 1971.
- Retired in 1990 after 35 years with Chevron. Following Chevron, worked as a consultant geologist for several years. Currently a registered geologist in California.
- Joined the volunteer ranks in the early 1990s, and since then has been with Lindsay Wildlife Museum and Mt. Diablo Interpretive Association, with occasional volunteer work for other organizations. Currently managing the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center in Mt. Diablo State Park. Has been an MDIA board member for about 6 years.



Craig Lyon,
Vice President, MDIA

East Bay 
NATURE

....Enjoy Nature!

Joanie Smith

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Mount Diablo Interpretive Association
Membership Application

Membership Dues are Deductible to the Full Extent Allowed by Law

Membership Category (check one)

Make Checks Payable to "MDIA"

_____ Student/Senior \$15

Clip and Mail to:

_____ Individual \$25

MDIA

P.O. Box 346

Walnut Creek, Ca 94597

_____ Family \$40

_____ Sustaining \$50

Donation in addition to membership
fee \$_____.

_____ Contributing \$100

_____ Lifetime \$500

Name _____ E-mail _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City/State/Zip _____

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