

MOUNTAIN NEWS

Fall 2007

MOUNT DIABLO INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

President's Message.....

Thank you for your membership with MDIA. The members are the lifeblood of MDIA. Without your support and encouragement, MDIA could not accomplish the meaningful work for Mount Diablo State Park and the visiting public.

If you are not already doing so, consider doing some volunteer work for the Park through MDIA. MDIA can use your talents and enthusiasm in a variety of initiatives. You will find volunteering in the Park fulfilling in many ways:

Enhance Park Awareness—As a volunteer working with others, you'll learn to appreciate and work with people. As a result, you'll stay in touch with the Park, its needs and issues. Your Park awareness will grow through real experience.

Gain Self-Confidence—One advantage of MDIA volunteering is that you get practice adjusting to new situations, people and experiences. The more practice you get, the greater your self-awareness and self-confidence. You develop the confidence you need when faced with new situations.

Discover Your Strengths and Talents—MDIA volunteering can reveal hidden talents. You may be able to assume responsibilities or take on challenges you didn't know you were capable of.

Build a Sense of Independence—Volunteering empowers you. Many MDIA volunteer tasks require you to act independently and take initiative. Such tasks give you a sense of control over your own life - you set your goals, make your choices and follow your routines.

Expand Your Social Circle—Ask some MDIA volunteers why they work without pay. They'll probably say they work for the fun of it. Yes, volunteering is usually fun. Remember, MDIA volunteers have chosen their jobs carefully and are appreciated for their contributions. They're doing something for the love of it. Volunteer in the Park

and you'll meet people who love the outdoors.

Enjoy Better Health—Volunteering can give your mind, soul, heart, and body a jump-start! You'll be happier and healthier and have a purpose and greater sense of self-satisfaction. Volunteering can even lower your stress level, heighten your immune system and help you sleep better at night. Many people report feeling healthy and content as a result of their volunteer activities. Go ahead – give it a try!

Here is an alphabetical listing of 18 MDIA volunteer opportunities. One or more may just suit your fancy:

- Board Leadership
- Database Management
- Financial Management
- Grant Writing
- Hike Leading
- Maintenance at the Visitor Center
- Membership Renewing
- Merchandising
- Newsletter Editorship
- Newsletter Writing
- Outreach Tabling
- Proofreading
- Restoring Old Farm Equipment
- Trail Brushing Work
- Trail Signage
- Trash Removal
- Visitor Center Docent
- Webmastering



Feel free to discuss a volunteer opportunity with me personally either by phone (925/932-7511) or by email (<mcdrewrich@astound.net>).

Now, take a hike and enjoy your Mount Diablo State Park.

Rich McDrew,
President

TARANTULA TIME

A male tarantula may be seen on Mount Diablo crossing roads and trails from August through October, in search of a female. Locating her by scent, he will stand at the “doorway” of her burrow and tap, tap, tap, tap — hoping she will emerge to mate. He has waited about seven years for this moment. Afterwards, he will either be killed by her or be doomed to eternal wandering, dying in cold weather. Meanwhile, she lives on for perhaps 25 years, hatching many babies in her snug home.



MDIA Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for remainder 2007

Meet 7:00pm at the Alamo Safeway Store

MDIA members welcome to attend regular board meetings

September 27—Regular Board Meeting

October 25 — Executive Session

Note on your calendar: The Annual Membership Meeting will be Saturday, November 3, with a hike at noon, meeting 2:00 to 4:00 pm

December 6—Regular Board Meeting



A nature hike on Mount Diablo led by a Mount Diablo Interpretive Association docent.

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>.

MDIA Board Member Profile

Jim Mitchell

Biographical Summary

- Jim is a native of Northern California who grew up in the East Bay, and has family ties in California as far back as the gold rush. While he has lived in several different places in the U.S., the draw of the Bay Area continues to bring him back.
- After graduating from Cal State University in Sacramento and the University of California Berkeley with degrees in Chemistry and Biochemistry, he began working with the EPA on water and air testing.
- Jim started a long term career with Clorox Research and Development 27 years ago, and is currently a Director of R&D at their technical center in Pleasanton. His assignments at Clorox have spanned product development, technology acquisitions, and most currently business process improvement.
- Jim met his wife Francie at Clorox. Their daughter Beth attends the University of Washington in Seattle, and their son Daniel is a junior at San Ramon High School.
- In addition to serving as MDIA Secretary and being a docent at the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center, Jim is on the Executive Board of the Institute for Public Health and Water Research. He is a past Board of Governors member of the Water Quality Association, and past member of the NSF Joint Committee on Drinking Water. He has volunteered over the years cleaning beaches and harbors, and building wildlife habitat at local parks.
- Jim and Francie, when not working, split their time between the mountains and the beach. He enjoys SCUBA diving, kayaking, surfing, skiing, mountain biking, fly fishing, and, of course, hiking Mount Diablo.



Jim Mitchell,
Secretary, MDIA

Like most organizations, MDIA does some communication via email—it is not only timely but cost-effective. Nancy Topp maintains the MDIA email directory. If you would like to add or update your email in this directory, please provide it to Nancy at <mnvtopp@pacbell.net>. Please be assured that your email will not be shared with any other organization or company without your permission.

Support MDIA Through the Combined Federal Campaign

MDIA members who are or were federal employees may be familiar with the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). This annual workplace Campaign provides employees the opportunity to designate pre-tax monetary support to eligible non-profit organizations. Application for inclusion into the Campaign is rigorous, and non-profit organizations must comply with qualitative and quantitative guidelines before they are to be considered. MDIA is pleased to announce that it will again be included in this year's CFC program. The MDIA identification number is 89189. If you are participating in the 2007 CFC, consider selecting number 89189 to support MDIA programs, publications, and specific events geared towards enhancing and enriching one's experience in Mount Diablo State Park. The CFC will run September 1, 2007, through December 15, 2007. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Rich McDew at 925/932-7511.

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

If you or your spouse work for, or retired from, a corporation that operates a "Matching Gift Program", your contribution to MDIA may be matched by your employer. Obviously, this doubles the financial impact to MDIA. In addition, if your employer conducts an annual charitable gift drive, you can designate MDIA to be the recipient of your payroll deduction gift. Please ask your employer's Human Resources Office if they have a "Matching Gift Program" or a "Workplace Giving Program".

WHEEL WORKS

Fred Asaf
Store Manager

1205 Parkside Dr.
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Phone: (925) 945-1900

BRIDGESTONE
Continental®
DAYTON
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GOOD YEAR
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YOKOHAMA

Thank you WHEEL WORKS! This retail tire store is recycling, at no cost to MDIA, dozens of old tires found in Mount Diablo State Park.

Adoption of Black Point Trail

Harry Silcocks

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association has adopted Black Point Trail as the Mount Diablo State Park trail that they would like to maintain. As part of that adoption process, MDIA is asking their members to assist in keeping Black Point Trail an enjoyable hiking trail by joining together in this year's annual trail maintenance and improvement project.

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association is pleased to announce that their members will do maintenance work on Black Point Trail on the 11th of November. Volunteers will leave the visitor center at Mitchell Canyon at 9:00 am, returning to the visitor center by 3:00 pm.

All volunteers are asked to wear protective clothing and to bring gloves, water and lunch. All tools will be provided. It is expected that pruning the trail will be the primary objective. Arrangements are being made to form a ride pool closer to the work site.

If you can volunteer, or are interested in obtaining more information, please contact Harry Silcocks at gohabs@earthlink.net before November 7th so the correct number of tools will be on hand

Thanks for your interest,
Harry

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION TO MOUNTAIN NEWS

We put out two issues of the MOUNTAIN NEWS annually. If you would like to submit an article/photo, deadlines are:

March 15 for Spring Issue
September 15 for Fall Issue

East Bay 
NATURE

....Enjoy Nature!

Joanie Smith

Owner

1270A Newell Avenue, Walnut Creek, CA 94596
925-407-1333 • Fax 925-937-6291
email: joanie@eastbaynature.com

Thank you EAST BAY NATURE! This retail outdoor nature store helps to maintain the MDIA web site, and hosts the server for free.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rich McDrew President
 Nancy Topp Vice-President
 Stephen Elliott Treasurer
 Jim Mitchell Secretary

Burt Bogardus
 Harvey Brosler
 Leslie Contreras
 Leslie Dawson
 Sue Donecker
 Liede-Marie Haitzma
 Mike Nelson
 Tom Nootbaar
 Harry Silcocks
 Maria Tice
 Verne Van Vlear
 Ralph Wright

Pictured are, from left to right:
 Rich McDrew, Tom Nootbaar, Nancy Topp, Sue Donecker, Leslie Contreras, Harvey Brosler,
 Maria Tice, Jim Mitchell, Leslie Dawson, Stephen Elliott, Burt Bogardus, Mike Nelson,
 Inset pictures: Liede-Marie Haitzma, Verne Van Vlear, Harry Silcocks, and Ralph Wright.

The 16 person MDIA Board of Directors is comprised of MDIA members who combine a passion for State Parks with strong business experience, proven leadership in other organizations, and diverse personal backgrounds.

MDIA
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“Preservation through Education”

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