

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association 2018 Annual Report



MOUNT DIABLO FROM MITCHELL CANYON • STEPHEN SMITH

— PRESERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION —

P.O. Box 346, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0346 • 925-927-7222 • www.mdia.org



Message from the Board

In 2018, Mount Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA) continued its 44-year partnership with Mount Diablo State Park as the park's official cooperating association. Thanks to the remarkable efforts of our members, MDIA has expanded its impact in the park through new maintenance projects and educational opportunities. We have also continued to provide interpretive services to park visitors and the general public through guided hikes, publications, and community outreach. We are proud of our accomplishments this year and look forward to continuing to serve the park and the community in the future.

MDIA Board

MDIA's Board of Directors currently consists of 10 members who are responsible for overseeing the operations of MDIA. We are appreciative of the knowledge, experience, and hard work of our past and current board members and are always looking for new board members who can bring a fresh outlook, insight, skill, and enthusiasm to our organization.

In 2018, we said goodbye to three board members. Jim McBride served the board for 2 years and finished his term as our Secretary. Michelle Hummel served for 2 years and in that time oversaw the complete overhaul of our website as well as leading the publications committee. She has moved to Texas to pursue her new career as a college professor. Bill Karieva served the board for 3 years and despite his having left, still offers his technical experience in the digital realm as well as lending us his beautiful photographs. We are grateful for their contributions to the board, to our organization, and to the park. In 2018, we welcomed one new board member, Linda Kwong. She is an avid cyclist who rides up the mountain 2-3 times per week and will be taking over our wholesale merchandising.

In addition to our board members, other dedicated volunteers at MDIA ensure our continued success. Lisa Anich maintains our membership roster and dues, Erin Wilson handles our wholesale merchandising and distribution, and Ken Lavin answers our phones and website inquiries. Thank you.

Mission

In 2018, MDIA continued its mission of financial and interpretive support of Mount Diablo State Park. Merchandise sales, donations, membership contributions, employer matching funds, and grants enabled us to support a variety of projects within the park. Because we are an all-volunteer staff, our administrative expenses remain low, ensuring that nearly 90% of our income is allocated to providing visitors with the best experience possible. Some of the many projects funded by MDIA are outlined in this report. I would like to personally thank you, our members, for continuing your support of our efforts of "Preservation through Education."

Stephen Smith
MDIA President



Red Tailed Hawk • DAVID HARPER

Finances • Membership • Donations

Finances

MDIA's 2018 contributions to the park included funding the following projects:

- Publishing and printing of the *Mount Diablo Review* newsletter given to all park visitors
- Designing and publishing our brand new Web site at mdia.org
- Designing and publishing our Online Wildflower Guide
- Updating and captioning of the Rock City and Twin Peaks Audible Mount Diablo multimedia guides
- Supporting the Mountain Talks educational speakers series
- Designing and producing more in our interpretive poster series
- Supporting docent training through the Volunteers in Parks Program (VIPP)
- Supporting Junior Rangers, Volunteer Appreciation Days, and the Native Plant Garden
- Refurbishing picnic tables throughout the park
- Overhauling the restrooms at Junction Ranger Station
- Repairing stone walls at Macedo Ranch

Membership

Total membership at the end of 2018 was 350.

Life	78
Contributing	30
Family	38
Individual	31
Senior	167
Student	3
Associate	3

New MDIA members receive a free Mount Diablo State Park Trail Map and hike handouts for some of our most

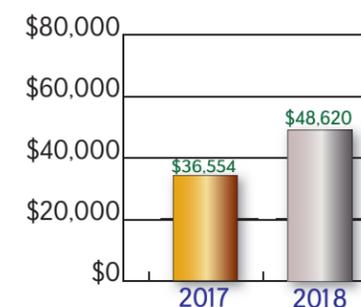
popular trails. Members also receive a 10% discount on merchandise purchases at the visitor centers and the MDIA online store. MDIA offers members the opportunity to learn about and participate in worthwhile and critically needed MDIA activities and events that greatly enhance the park visitor experience. Perhaps the most rewarding benefit of being a member of MDIA is the satisfaction of knowing that you are contributing to the preservation of one of the Bay Area's most dramatic and biologically significant landscape features.

Donations

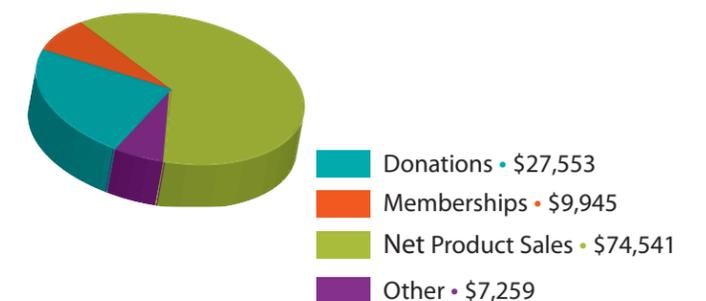
Donations and annual memberships provide the organization with ongoing support and a pool of potential volunteers who wish to support Mount Diablo State Park, its beautiful environment, and its precious natural resources. Donations are made by both organizations and individuals. The following major donors contributed \$500 or more to MDIA in 2018:

National Philanthropic Trust.....	\$10,000
California State Parks Foundation	\$5,000
CSAA Insurance.....	\$5,000
Valley Spokesmen Touring Club.....	\$2,000
LAM Research Foundation - Nicholas Sharrock.....	\$1,010
Sharon Landwehr	\$1,000
Cub Scout Pack #997	\$580
Steven Ricks.....	\$525
Chevron Matching Funds - Phil Reed.....	\$500
John and Charli Danielsen	\$500
Lynn Miller.....	\$500
Richard and Catherine Nicoll.....	\$500
Jon Ott	\$500
Donald & Georg Palmer	\$500
Heather Smith	\$500
Bob and Sue Sullivan	\$500
Wicked Events and Diablo Multisport Connection ...	\$500

Annual Contributions to the Park from MDIA 2017-2018



MDIA Sources of Revenue for 2018



Merchandising

Merchandising in 2018 remained our main source of revenue, particularly at the Summit Visitor Center. Here visitors can choose from a wide variety of educational, interpretive, and informational products along with a selection of apparel, souvenirs, and convenience items such as food and drinks. A selection of apparel and interpretive items are also offered for sale at the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center, at community outreach events, and online through our retail portal at mdia.org. Additional sale of publications occurs via wholesale orders, at the entrance kiosks, and at the sector office.

Thank you to Steve Smith, Dan Fitzgerald, Nancy Topp, Erin Wilson, and Liz Watson, our merchandising team, who coordinate the design of new products, purchase ordering, inventory management, packaging, shipping, and delivery. Because all of these operations are performed by volunteers, the financial benefit is substantial.

PARTS OF A FERN

Pinna or leaflet
Axis or rachis: stalk within the blade
Pinnae: division within a leaflet
Crozler or fiddlehead
Rachis
Blade
Frons
Rhizome
Roots

Common Ferns of Mitchell Canyon
and found elsewhere on Mount Diablo

Ferns are an ancient family of plants that appeared on earth long before the time of the dinosaurs. Ferns once dominated the plant world and though fewer in number today, they still grow throughout the world on every continent except Antarctica. Over 83 species of fern are native to California, and at least 15 species are found on Mount Diablo. The ferns pictured here are common to Mitchell Canyon and found elsewhere on Mount Diablo.

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact the Contra Solano Sector Office at (925) 673-2891. This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting Mount Diablo State Park at (925) 673-2891.

Mount Diablo State Park
96 Mitchell Canyon Road
Clayton, CA 94517-1500
(925) 837-2525 (General Information)
TTY Relay Service: 711

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Preservation through Education
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Nested polypody, maidenhair, and coffee ferns all growing together in the rocky soil of a semi-shaded slope.

Fern Flyer

Mountain Talks

MDIA hosts a monthly speakers' series for MDSP as an extension of training for our volunteers. Open to accredited MDSP volunteers and members of the Volunteers in Park Program (VIP), the series features regional experts on a variety of Diablo area topics, with an emphasis on natural history. In 2018, topics included mountain lions, butterflies, native plants, fire ecology, and gray foxes. The series was directed by natural history docents Jenn Roe and Staci Hobbet.

Interpretive Posters

Over the past year, Jenn Roe and our Interpretive Programs committee have created a number of beautiful and informative posters that are displayed in the visitor centers and used by hike leaders to teach the public about the plants and wildlife found in Mount Diablo State Park. This year we added posters on lizards, snakes, birds, butterflies, and tarantulas. Some posters, including those on wildflowers and butterflies, are created as a series to show species that are commonly seen during different times of the year.

Home Park Information Activities Nature Events Wildflower Guide Gallery MDIA Store Contact

MOUNT DIABLO INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
PRESERVATION THROUGH EDUCATION

California State Parks

Mount Diablo State Park is one of the ecological treasures of the San Francisco Bay Area. Every season in the park has its special qualities. Discover them for yourself, from the mountain's 3,849-foot summit to its beautiful wildflowers, extensive trail system, fascinating wildlife, and distinctive rock formations.

What is that plant? Find it here!
The Mount Diablo Wildflower Guide

What's Blooming Now? Check out the
Wildflowers in Bloom

Get Involved
MDIA encourages the public to join our organization and become involved in its mission to support the park. We are always looking for dedicated volunteers to lead or help with various programs, outreach, and operations.

Audio Tour
The Audible Mount Diablo audio tour features lively interviews and music with the rush of the wind and the chirps, hoots, and growls of wildlife—all downloadable to your computer or cellular device.

Events
MDIA hosts a variety of hikes and talks throughout the year. View our events page and register for upcoming activities.

Online Store
Check out our clothing, books, maps, and more. Every purchase supports MDIA's programs and activities.

PayPal VISA M.C.

Park Maintenance

Maintenance Volunteer Group

The Maintenance Volunteer Group (MVG) had another busy year helping to maintain many of the park facilities, with MDIA supporting the costs associated with purchasing building materials needed to complete the repairs. This year our volunteers contributed 640 hours and focused on the rehabilitation of the Junction Ranger Station Restrooms. MVG installed new siding, new doors with new locks and closers, and new window locks and hardware. After repairing existing boards, MVG applied a fresh coat (or two) of paint to the entire building.

We also painted the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center and refurbished Macedo Ranch's stone walls—stone by stone. MDIA sponsored a special project to place "poo-poo screens" over the ventilation shafts on all the park vault toilets. These screens prevent owls and other burrowing nesters from getting themselves stuck in the business end of the toilets.

We are happy to announce the completion of phase one of our Picnic Table Repair Project now in its third year. This project set out to repair the aging, weathered, and damaged picnic tables throughout the park. To date a total of 58 tables have been completed. Many of these tables required extensive repairs, a process you can review by watching a 5-minute demonstration video at: https://youtu.be/Adr6hCiY_ac



New screen



Walter Moeller and Dennis England



Junction restrooms



Steve Williams and Walter Moeller



Jim Mitchell

Publicity and Outreach

MDIA representatives raised awareness of Mount Diablo State Park and MDIA at many community outreach events in 2018, including Creekside Arts at the Clayton Library, a Spring Nature Event at Wild Birds Unlimited, John Marsh Heritage Day at Marsh Creek State Historic Park, and Clayton Cleans Up in Clayton. We would like to thank our tabling volunteers, including Michael Marchiano, Steve Smith, Nancy Topp, Erin Wilson, Staci Hobbet, and Dan Weiss.

Naturalist and Board Member Michael Marchiano continued his well-attended programs, with 8 nature presentations at the Summit Visitor Center and 10 Mitchell Canyon outreach events. Michael covered a variety of topics, including mushrooms, amphibians, butterflies, snakes, and tarantulas.



Bobcat
DAVID HARPER



Western Blue Bird
DAVID HARPER



2 Tailed Swallowtail
JENN ROE



California Poppies
MICHAEL MARCHIANO

Publications

MDIA continued to publish 70,000 copies of our biannual issues of the park newsletter, the *Mount Diablo Review*, for distribution to park visitors. This year, featured articles focused on conservation efforts surrounding our Peregrine Falcons, the history of snowfall on the mountain, a treatise on the dangers associated with ticks in the park, and an exposé on hiking all of the trails in MDSP. Current and past editions of the Review can be accessed on our website at <https://www.mdia.org/newsletters>.

Trash Removal and Habitat Restoration

Over 17 years ago, MDIA and Volunteers in Parks Project (VIPPP) workers, in conjunction with Mount Diablo State Park management, mapped and photographed 113 Trash Removal Project (TRP) worksites in Mount Diablo State Park. Volunteers began working on those sites on May 20, 2001. Volunteers also cleaned up other sites as a result of further discovery, including in 2018 the removal of discarded automobile tires below North Gate Road and abandoned pipe along Summit Trail and the Shepherders Springs area. The team further helped a UC Berkeley professor remove wire cages placed in steep terrain for research purposes. For the 2018 calendar year, 500 volunteer hours were devoted to the

TRP initiative in Mount Diablo State Park. Since 2001, a total of 36,645 volunteer hours have been logged. TRP volunteers removed the following items from Mount Diablo State Park:

In 2018:		Since 2001:	
Wood	5 board ft.	Volunteer Hours ...	36,645
Metal	9,150 lbs.	Wood	63,651 board ft.
Fence Posts	113	Metal	225,655 lbs.
Barbed Wire	5,530 ft.	Fence Posts	23,800
Tires	40	Barbed Wire	1,228,535 ft.
Cement	50 lbs.	Tires	855
		Cement	40,291 lbs.

Hikes

In 2018, Volunteers in Park Program (VIPPP) docents led 89 guided hikes, 5 Night Programs with the Academy of Sciences, and 2 Wildflower talks.

The hikes were for the general public, students, and private groups. These programs included wildflower and butterfly walks, the popular summer night hikes, and longer destination treks, from 5 to 15 miles. The tarantula walks started in mid-August and ended in late October with a total of 33 events.

We had 37 docents assisting with hiking programs this year, including 14 new volunteers joining the ranks! Recognition should be given to Karen Barrett, Leslie Bartholic, Steve Beatty, Regina Benson, Joyce Chin,

Leslie Contreras, Helen Deaguero, Susana de Trapaga, Dan Fitzgerald, Juan Pablo Galvan, Karen Goodwin, Oscar Goodwin, Mike Gorin, Jay Grover, Christine Hagelin, Fred Herkenhoff, Staci Hobbet, Mary Jankowski, Arti Kirch, Diane Kong, Ken Lavin, Michael Marchiano, David Morris, Dick Nicoll, Phil Reed, Jenn Roe, Mark Saliman, Karen Shackleton, Hema Shah, John Skeels, Maren Smith, Steve Smith, Nancy Topp, Jake Van Akkeren, Liz Watson, Denise Wight, and Ken Wilson. A special thank you goes to these docents who gave of their time and talents!

Website

The MDIA website provides visitors with a wealth of information about park regulations, notable destinations and trails, camping procedures, and the natural resources and cultural history of Mount Diablo. In 2018 we are very proud to have debuted our brand new website which is easier to use, more attractive,

formatted for both computers and personal devices, and well organized. Along with the redesign also came our new online wildflower guide which allows users to identify the many blooms found on the mountain. If you haven't visited mdia.org lately, please check it out!

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA) is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization that supports the California Department of Parks and Recreation in maintaining and interpreting Mount Diablo State Park for its hundreds of thousands of annual visitors. MDIA works side by side with State Park staff to enhance the visitors' experience and appreciation of the park.

1974 MDIA Founding Members

Sam Smoker	Mary Bowerman
Paul Carlson	Betty Zilen
Howard Knight	Ron Edwards
Joanne Dean	Phil Gordon
Beverly Clemson	William Bland
Frank Valle-Riestra	John Werminski
Ed Earl	Miles Standish

2019 MDIA Board of Directors

	TERM EXPIRES
Steve Smith, President	2019
Dan Fitzgerald, Vice President	2019
Staci Hobbet, Secretary	2020
Nancy Topp, Treasurer	2020
Leslie Contreras	2020
Linda Kwong	2020
Carol Lane	2019
Dick Nicoll	2020
Jenn Roe	2019
Liz Watson	2020

MDIA Committee Leads

Archives	Nancy Topp
Contracts	Dick Nicoll
Corporate Governance.....	Staci Hobbet
Fundraising and Grant Writing	Carol Lane
Hikes.....	Leslie Contreras
Insurance	Nancy Topp
Interpretive Displays.....	Steve Smith
Interpretive Program Committee	Jenn Roe
Marketing, Outreach and Publicity.....	Steve Smith
MVCV	Leslie Contreras/Nancy Topp
Membership	Liz Watson
Merchandising	Dan Fitzgerald, Steve Smith
Native Plant Garden	Carol Lane
Nominating.....	Staci Hobbet
Park Maintenance	Steve Smith
Publications	Dick Nicoll
Telescopes.....	Carol Lane
Trail Maintenance	Carol Lane
Trail Signage	Steve Smith
Trash Removal	Dan Fitzgerald/Burt Bogardus
Volunteers in Park Liaison.....	Jenn Roe
Website and Social Media.....	Steve Smith/Dan Fitzgerald

Life and Associate Members

Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to Mount Diablo State Park!

Judy Adler	Carol Lane
Scott Anderson	Marjory J. Lee
Anonymous (2)	Peggy Lyon
Sheldon Berz	Michael Marchiano
Lenore Bezzerides	Richard McDrew
Jim & Linda Bily	Kathy McEwen
Burt Bogardus	Ray Mengel
Gary Bogue	Lynn Miller
Ron Castaldo Family	Nancy Miller
Joseph Cavaness	Gordon Mills
Allen & Lynda Chasnoff	Jim Mitchell
Ann Chetty	Walter & Linda Moeller
Leslie Contreras	John Mott
Marilyn Cooper	Dick Nicoll
John & Charli Danielsen	Tom Nootbaar
Leslie Dawson	Shirley Nootbaar
Daymond-Hanna Family	Jon & Molly Ott
Jim DeKloe	Dave Peck
Dinesh Desai	Aaron Porter
Fred & Sue Donecker	Jim & Gloria Redmond
Stephen Elliott	Philip Reed
Mr. & Mrs. William T. Espey	Brian Rubino
Tom & Carol Evans	Barbara Sacks
Sharyn Fernandez	Linda Sanford
Daniel Fitzgerald	Karl Schindhelm
Spencer & Rena Fulweiler	Jerry Schweickert
Glade Gaffney	Laurie Shapley
Jay-Marie Garcia	Richard & Sandra Smith
John Jeffrey Green	Sandor & Faye Straus
Claudia & Scott Hein	Bob & Sue Sullivan
Mary Israel	Stephen Taylor
Ken Jordan	Brian & Carolyn Thiessen
Bob Justice	Martin Tice
Judith Green Kelly	Maria Tice
John Kinney	Yulan Chang Tong
Mike Woodring & Ruth Ann Kishi	Tom Torlakson
Sharon Landwehr	Frank Valle-Riestra
	Verne Van Vlear

Membership Contributions

Student.....	\$15.00
Senior (55+)	\$15.00
Individual	\$25.00
Family	\$40.00
Contributing	\$100.00
Lifetime.....	\$500.00

MDIA was established in 1974 as a nonprofit organization that is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes, with exempt status under IRS Section 501(c)(3).

