

Hint For Mobile Users: Turn your phone sideways for a better view!



Photo by Steve Smith

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Hike of the Month**
Black Point
- Mount Diablo Review**
Latest edition
- Fundraising Update**
\$1,820,000 raised!
- Road Repair Update**
NG Road opening delayed
- Upcoming Events**
Great things to see and do

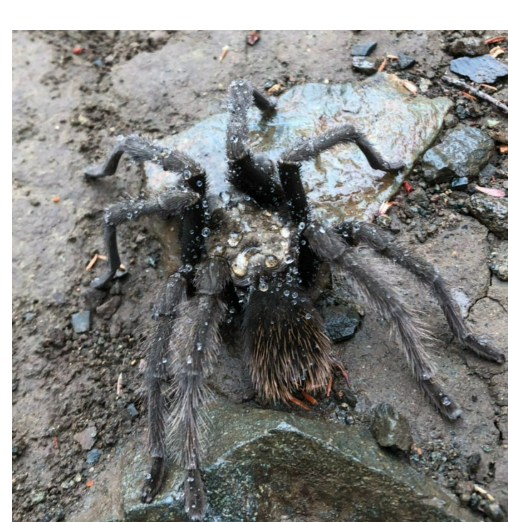
Hike of the Month: Black Point Summit

Black Point always has a lot to offer the intrepid hiker and like all parts of the mountain, changes dramatically according to season. While Spring offers the most diversity in terms of plant life, Fall can be a great time to visit also. There are two ways to approach this hike, clockwise or counter-clockwise. Each direction has its benefits and drawbacks.



Black Point by Steve Smith

This hike starts from Mitchell Canyon and is roughly 5 miles and 1,200 feet of climbing. While I hike it often, a particular visit to Black Point in late September of last year was memorable. Rain occasionally occurs in late Fall and that particular day it came hard, and sideways! While a group of us headed up the trail despite the conditions, I remember thinking I was going to be disappointed. September is prime Tarantula mating season and this trail is known for them, but they typically don't like rain.



Wet Tarantula by Steve Smith

Despite the fact that we often tell visitors you won't see our 8-legged friends in a downpour I trudged on. Traversing up the steep and exposed slope on counter-clockwise approach to the Black Point Summit Trail rain, fog and wind buffeted us. Just after the turn to climb the summit, a rain-soaked tarantula was lazily crossing my path. I was so excited when I looked at the photos at the end of the day, little beads of rain dotted the spider's body!



California Everlasting by Steve Smith

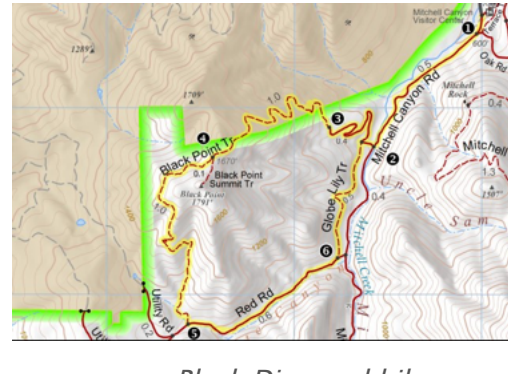
On sunnier days you may smell breakfast...the subtle aroma of maple syrup accompanies our California Everlasting. A gentle rub of the dried flower may give you a hankering for a stack of pancakes. Or if you are here toward the end of the day, you will often catch glimpses of bright pink and orange reflections of the sunset bouncing off of nearby Black Diamond Mines to the east.



Black Diamond Sunset by Steve Smith

Whatever your fancy you are sure to find something of great interest here on Black Point. For a wonderful description of the hike as well as what you can expect along the way, check out Frank Valle-Riestra's wonderful write up [here](#).

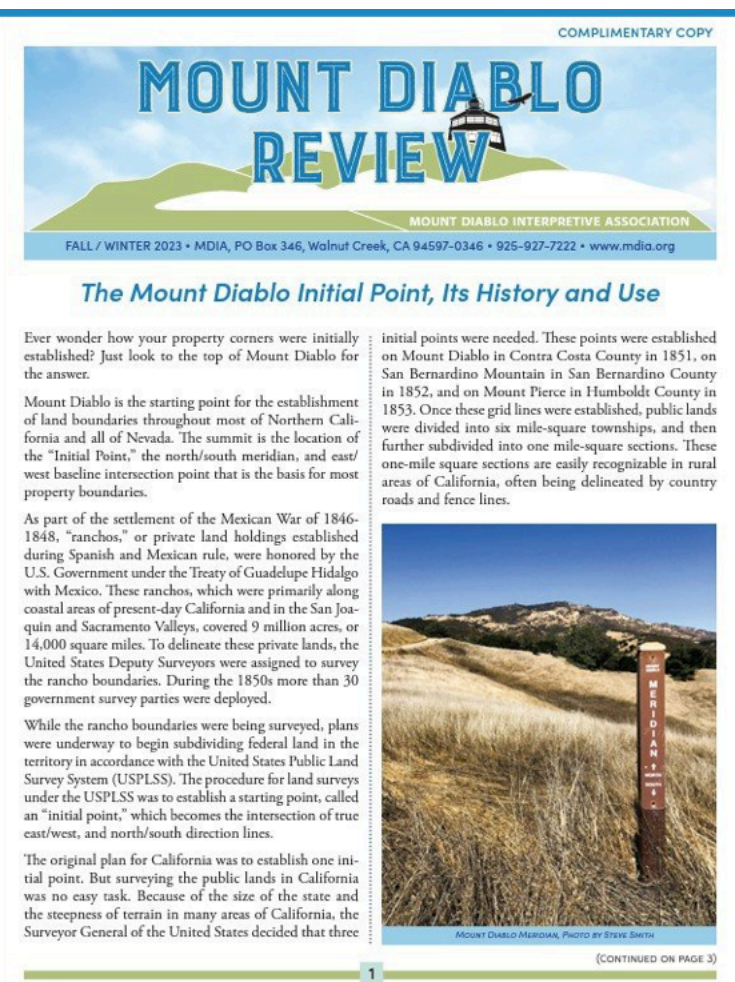
For more information about hiking the mountain visit our revamped Hiking section on the website with a new feature, [Find Your Hike](#). You can always find great things to do by clicking on our [Activities](#) tab.



Black Diamond hike map

If you're looking to see some Tarantulas, come out early in the day or late in the evening. You are bound to see them both on Black Point trail as well as on Globe Lily trail. Just keep a keen eye out as they are often crawling along the rocky/grassy trail sides in addition to the middle of the trail. These are delicate and precious creatures, only capture them with your camera...touching them is strictly prohibited.

The Mount Diablo Review (Fall/Winter 2023-24)



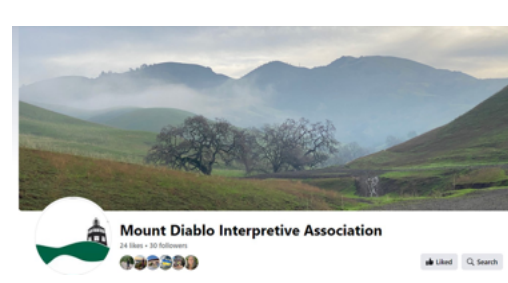
Hot Off the Presses...almost
Get an exclusive sneak peak of our twice annual park newsletter before it hits the newsstands!

Cover: *The Mount Diablo Initial Point, Its History and Use* by John W. Pettley

The new Mount Diablo Review is out, with an excellent feature about the history of surveying on Mount Diablo and its importance in establishing property boundaries in California and Nevada. Also included are updates from MDSP Supervising Ranger Cameron Morrison and MDIA President Steve Smith. Read it [HERE](#) or pick it up free at MDSP entry kiosks, visitor centers, and vending displays around the park. Want to read past issues, both the Mount Diablo Review and this e-Newsletter? Visit our website [here](#).



We're on **Facebook!** Come like and follow us on our brand new Facebook page. You can see several posts every week, cool photos, interesting creatures, event updates, great articles and much more. [Come give us a like!](#)



Fundraising Campaign



Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan presenting MDIA President Steve Smith 1,000,000 check. (Jeff Martin)

ANNOUNCING \$1.82 MILLION RAISED!

In a ceremony at Mitchell Canyon representatives and dignitaries from California State Legislature, California State Parks and MDIA Board of Directors gathered for the presentation of a \$1,000,000 check for the new Education Center. This allocation was made as part of the State budget and championed through the legislative process by Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (District 16) whose district includes the site for this project. We are so pleased to see that she shares our vision for this exciting new project. "Something we focus so fiercely on in my office is our youth mental health. One of the best ways to battle the youth mental health crisis is to get them out here and into nature." Clearly the project resonates with the community and legislative representatives.

Don't forget that we can accept gifts of [appreciated stock](#) so you don't have to pay those capital gains! Be sure to see if your employer offers a matching program. Just click the [Donate](#) button below for all of your giving options.

[DONATE](#)



RBK and MDIA Board of Directors with 1,000,000 check (photo: Jeff Martin)

Park Update: North Gate Road closure extended



We all know how rough last Winter was in terms of storm damage, and Mount Diablo State Park took the brunt of it with over 70 inches of rainfall! The Park staff and volunteers have done an amazing job clearing trails, shoring up landslides and ensuring the roadways are safe, and work continues.

The worst casualty was North Gate Road, part of which slid into a deep canyon. The repairs are extensive and a lengthy closure has been in effect all Summer. Unfortunately due to issues with materials the closure is now extended a couple of weeks until October 2nd.



In order to make it safe for work crews and visitors alike, North Gate Road will remain closed to all traffic- vehicles, bikes, pedestrians, equestrians, etc. You can view updates on the progress on the [Mount Diablo State Park](#) website or on the [Mount Diablo Facebook](#) page.

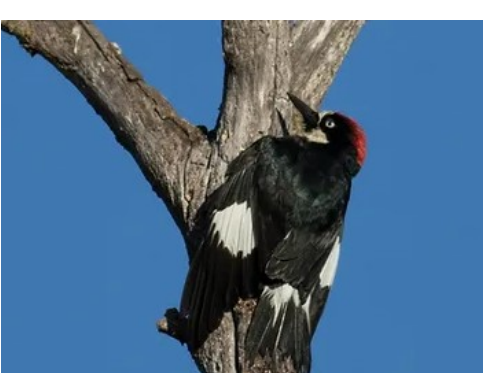
Fun Fact

A male tarantula out looking for a mate has a hard life, not the least of which are the threat from predators. Coyotes, large lizards, snakes and birds all find this a delectable meal. The spider is not without defense though, it will use its hind legs to throw hairs from its abdomen which cause a great deal of irritation to the mucus membranes of the offender. It also may lead to a "bald spot" on the tarantula if defending itself often. No judgement.



Male pattern baldness

Upcoming Events



Hike: [Nature Walk: Birds, Butterflies and Blooms](#)
Wednesday, Sep 27
8:30-12:30 pm
Nature walk in the Mitchell Canyon area



Event: [Planets: MDAS Astronomy Program](#)
Saturday, October 7
6-11:00 pm
Astronomy program by MDAS at lower Summit



Webinar: [Mount Diablo Survey Markers](#)
Wed, September 27
7-8:00 pm
History of property mapping on Mount Diablo



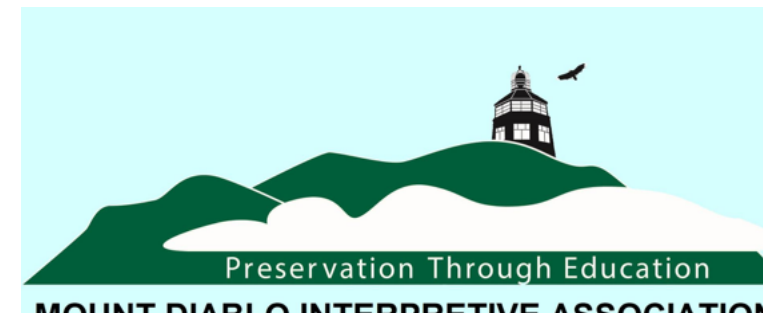
Thank you for your support of the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association and I will see you on the mountain!

Steve

"We acknowledge that Mount Diablo is the ancestral home, since time immemorial, of the Wilton Rancheria, Bay Miwok, Confederated Villages of Lisjan, Northern Valley Yokut, and Muwékma people."



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