

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



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Hike of the Month

There are, of course, all kinds of reasons for picking a particular hike as a favorite. It may be the memory of an unusually pleasant day in a hidden corner of the mountain bursting with spring's colorful growth. It may be an exceptionally challenging single-track trail meandering through a wonderland of rocks and breathtaking views. Or it may be a destination hike—a hike featuring some unusual climactic phenomenon that repeatedly draws you back. An excursion to **China Wall** is one such destination hike, and if you have never experienced China Wall, you owe it to yourself to devote a part of a beautiful day to explore this masterpiece of nature at the end of a short, pleasant walk.



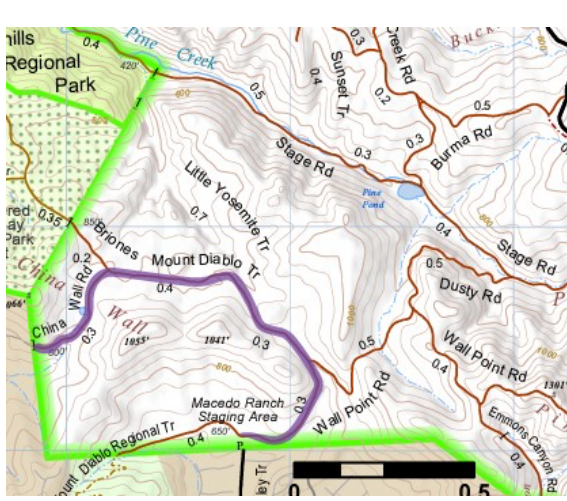
China Wall by Bill Karieva

This hike starts from Macedo Ranch at the end of Green Valley Road in Alamo. China Wall is a terminally eroded sandstone stratum, tilted into vertical position by the upthrust of Mount Diablo. With adjacent strata eroded away more rapidly, the remnant is, indeed, a wall-like structure running over hill and dale, just like its man-made equivalent in China. Take time to examine the grotesquely convoluted formations, sculpted by an imaginative Mother Nature; small paths made by previous explorers facilitate your examination.



Castle Rock by Steve Smith

You can always extend your hike by doubling back for a jaunt down Little Yosemite Trail into Pine Canyon below where shady picnic areas welcome you. Be sure to look up along the way to glimpse the spires of Castle Rock where our peregrine falcons tend to their young. Head right along the old Stage Road and return up Dusty Road back to Wall Point.



Check out Frank Valle-Riestra's hike write up [here](#) for more information and of course 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 on the website.



We're on [Facebook](#) now! 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 so much more. [Come give us a like!](#)



Peregrine Team



Peregrine in flight by Scott Hein

Peregrine falcons are the fastest animals on earth and can dive at speeds over 200 mph while hunting small to medium-sized birds in mid-air. After decades of DDT use only 2 nesting pairs remained in California by 1970. But thanks to recovery efforts, that number is about 400! If you have visited the Castle Rock area in Pine Canyon you are no doubt aware of the Peregrine Falcon nesting closure from February through July. You have likely seen our volunteers out there also, like core member Patricia Yamshon (pictured). Her garb prominently identifies her as a member of [MDIA's Peregrine Team](#). Founded in 2015 by five MDIA members, this is our ninth season. In the past three years our volunteers have racked up 2,000 hours of dutiful observation and visitor education.



Patricia Yamshon by Paul Yamshon

We are proud to report that in May our peregrine pair successfully hatched three eyases (unfledged falcons), two males and a female. The team has been busy photographing their development and monitoring their condition. The three chicks (pictured) were banded on June 6 by Gavin Emmons, Wildlife Biologist at Pinnacles NP and his assistant Kaitlin Lopez (pictured) on behalf of the UC Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group directed by raptor biologist Zeka Glucs. The chicks will fledge (become capable of flight) over several days in late June.



Peregrine chicks by Gavin Emmons

Bird banding is important in both scientific research and conservation projects. Identification of birds makes studies of dispersal and migration, behavior, life-span and survival rate, reproductive success and population growth possible. As evidence, the male peregrine hatched and banded in Pine Canyon last year was caught on the UCB Campanile's nest cams in May, flying into the nest as the female adult fed her own three young. He was probably after a free meal, but the female adult drove him off without pity. Since only 20% or fewer baby birds make it to their second year, seeing our peregrine's band number on camera was exciting confirmation that he is surviving in a competitive world.

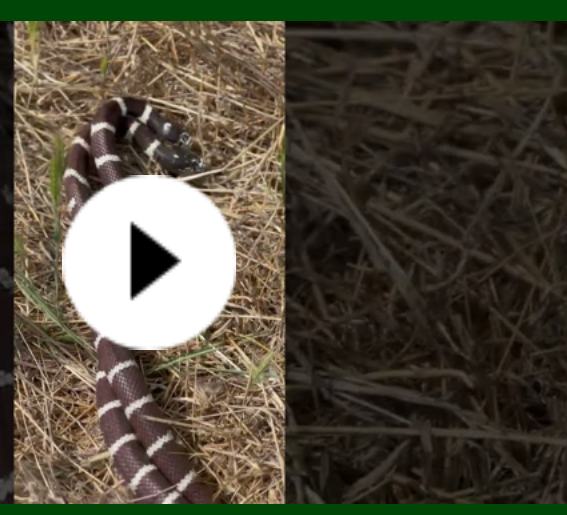


Kaitlin Lopez and chick by Gavin Emmons

MDIA's Peregrine Team is dedicated to preserving the area for future generations of people, peregrines, and the land we all depend on. To learn more about their efforts please visit our [website](#).

Fun Fact

Did you know when our California kingsnake (*Lampropeltis californiae*) is disturbed they will often coil their bodies to hide their heads, hiss, and rattle their tails mimicking a rattler? Check out this mating pair caught on camera by Steve Smith on the flanks of Mount Diablo.



Upcoming Events



Hike: Common Poorwill Twilight Hike
Friday, June 23 (almost full, offered in July also)

Event: Meet the Team 1
Saturday, June 24
Visit our friendly volunteers and learn about plans to build a new Education Center

Event: Meet the Team 2
Monday, June 26
Visit our friendly volunteers and learn about plans to build a new Education Center

Hike: Nature Walk: Birds, Butterflies and Blooms
Wednesday, June 28
Nature walk in the Mitchell Canyon area

Matching Campaign

ONLY 30 DAYS LEFT!

As you all know we are continuing to raise funds to build our brand new [Mitchell Canyon Education Center](#) and to date we have raised just over \$710,000 toward our \$3 Million goal.

Our campaign is picking up steam but we need your help to reach our goal, there's only one month left of our **\$80,000 matching goal ending July 31, 2023**. Don't forget that we can accept gifts of [appreciated stock](#) so you don't have to pay those capital gains!

[DONATE](#)



Help us meet our goal of \$1M in 2023

My Story

Mount Diablo is part of me and as many of us might say, *it's my mountain*. That personal ownership of a place speaks to its ability to shape and transform us, to wend itself into our fiber and to stand as an icon we can always find our way back to. This is a place of natural wonder and remote beauty no doubt, but it is also a place we share with others, where we make and mark celebrations and memories. No less fascinating than what we find in nature is who we find admiring it and that spark of understanding we see across their face when they learn something new.



Sister Julie, me and my Mom Sandy at the Summit by Bruce Erickson

It is why I became a volunteer here and certainly why I dedicate myself to leading this wonderful organization that seeks to spark that imagination in everyone who visits. It is why I am passionate about building an education center in Mitchell Canyon so that we have the best tools available to imbue those who come with the same sense of ownership that I have. And to make it *their mountain*.



Me looking toward Summit by Steve Abbanat

Visit [here](#) to see more personal stories from our board of directors, volunteers and donors.

Park Update: Road Closure



This week the team was placing rock in the section that was washed out during the storm events of this past winter. The project is on schedule with the anticipated completion date around September 15. Thank you for your patience and please continue to put safety first as you travel the other roads in the park.

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



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 Muwekma people."



Our Contact Information
 {{(Organization Name)}}
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