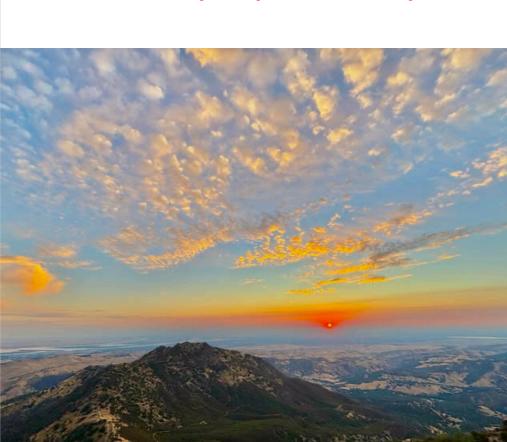


### MDIA E-Newsletter ● August 2025

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



Sunrise over North Peak by Dick Nicoll

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### **Education Center Nears Construction Phase**

I am sure that you are all curious about the progress of the Mitchell Canyon Education Center project and I want to reassure you that we have been working diligently behind the scenes over the past 6 months. Together with State Parks, we have been forging ahead with the planning process. This involves weekly meetings with our architects and project teams to continue refining the architectural plans for the building as well as the site. This has also involved many subcontractors to help design our landscaping, fire suppression, geotechnical engineering, electrical system, water supply and the like.

As of this writing we are very close to our final signoffs from the State Fire Marshal and ADA review board, very large hurdles in this process. With these final revisions and approvals also comes, thanks to Ware & Associates, the 100% completion of our architectural drawings, another huge milestone four years in the making. Our \$4.6 million raised has been entered into the State Budget for this fiscal year as we continue toward the bidding process working with the State Department of Finance.



We have also contracted with an exhibit designer to continue the exciting process of planning the interior spaces of the education center—the most important part of the project. We are still dealing with much uncertainty as we approach the construction phase of the project. Despite professional cost estimations we still cannot predict what the construction bids will ultimately come in at. We have worked to value-engineer the project down to essential components to put us in the best position to come in on budget. It will be imperative that we attract as large of a bidding pool as possible to create a competitive environment. If you have contacts in the commercial construction industry that might have interest in a project like ours, please do not hesitate to

reach out and let us know! Ultimately, we would like to go to bid later this year with the possibility of ground-breaking ceremonies to be held in late winter of 2026 and ribboncutting ceremonies in early 2027! In the meantime, you will be hearing more from me in the coming weeks and months as we commence our Fall Fundraising Campaign. On behalf of the board of directors let me thank you for your interest and continued support in what we all know is a worthy project so vital to Mount Diablo State Park and in continuing to support MDIA's mission of Preservation Through Education.

### **Exhibit Design Phase Kickoff**

Another huge milestone happened this week as we held a kick-off meeting with our new exhibit designers, John Murray Productions. Based in Oakland, JMP offers a full suite of design and fabrication services and has a large warehouse where they can mock-up our new education center interior at full scale. We chose JMP for their exceptional work on other local and state visitor center projects, their in-house fabrication capabilities, and the fact that they are local. In fact, one of the owners lives near and recreates on Mount Diablo regularly, providing an extra level of ownership for the company to produce a top-quality project. We look forward to continuing our exhibit design phase with them as we forge ahead.



Members of JMP, MDIA and MDSP meet at Mitchell Canyon

### **Fall Fundraising Campaign**

As I mentioned above, we are kicking off our Fall Fundraising Campaign as we continue to raise the necessary funds to design a world-class education center. Throughout the remainder of the year we will be offering many opportunities for donors to make a huge impact while offering matching campaigns and providing many avenues to contribute. We will be kicking things off with our annual Donor Recognition Event which will be held this year at the Clayton Library, please save the date for an afternoon soiree on October 9th. You will hear more about this in the coming weeks. This is an exciting time to support this project as we get closer and closer to breaking





ground.

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!

#### **Fun Fact** Rattlesnakes belong to the pit viper family, named for the heat-sensing pits located between their eyes and nostrils. These specialized organs enable them to detect infrared radiation emitted by warm-blooded prey, even in darkness. This adaptation is crucial for nocturnal hunting, allowing them to strike with remarkable accuracy. The pits function like a thermal camera, mapping out their target's location and movement.

# **Learning from Nature**



In furthering our mission of Preservation Through Education we have long wanted to develop more resources on our wonderful website (mdia.org) for students, teachers and parents alike. As part of our Wildlife Conservation Board grant to build the new Mitchell Canyon Education Center, we made a promise to develop resource materials for multiple subject areas including geology, geography, wildfire resilience, erosion, seasonal flora and fauna, and brand-new section of our website, the Learning From



the environment. To that end we are proud to announce a Nature page. This page is the result of a dedicated team of education professionals and designers who have worked for months to develop content that will allow for continued education not only for our youth but for the public in general. We will be launching this portion of our website soon...stay tuned!

# **Legislative Interns**



Assembly Member Rebecca Bauer Kahan has been instrumental in her support of the Mitchell Canyon Education Center as she spearheaded the allocation of \$1 million in the State Budget two years ago. We were pleased this July to host ten legislative interns who are working in her office this summer during their college break. Dick, Julie, Mike and Ryen met with the interns at Mitchell Canyon to tour the site and to give a presentation on how a non-profit like MDIA can work successfully with legislators, the community, State Park staff, and the Wildlife Conservation Board to bring the vision of a new

Education Center to fruition.

# **Upcoming Events**







Hike: **How I Learned** to Love Tarantulas Multiple Dates Nature walk in the

Mitchell Canyon area

to see Tarantulas

Hike: Wonder Hikes 2025 September 10

8:30-12:30 pm

Nature walk in the

Mitchell Canyon area

Webinar: Protecting **Nesting Bird Habitat** on Pacific Flyway September 17 7:00 pm-8:00 pm The Nesting Bird Habitat Incentive

Program

Click <a href="here">here</a> for a listing of more upcoming events!



We're on <a href="Instagram">Instagram</a>! Come like and follow us on our brand new Instagram page. You can see several posts every week, cool photos, interesting creatures, event updates, great articles and much more.



# DONATE

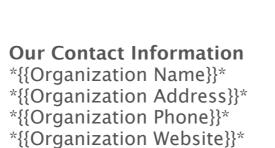


Thank you for your support of the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association and I will see you on the mountain!



"We acknowledge that Mount Diablo is the ancestral home, since time immemorial, of the Wilton Rancheria, Bay Miwok, Confederated Villages of Lisjan, Northern Valley Yokuts, Muwekma, and Ohlone peoples."





\*{{Unsubscribe}}\*



MOUNT DIABLO INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION