

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



*Photo by Steve Smith*

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### Hike of the Month

In the midst of an oppressive heat wave I always think about possibilities for hiking Mount Diablo. This is with the caveat that the hike should start very early in the morning or just before sunset. (Keep in mind the park opens at 8:00 and you must be outside the gates by 30 minutes past sunset). My go to trail on the South Side this time of year is always **Madrone Canyon**.

This hike starts from Curry Point one mile above Rock City but could just as easily be done from Rock City. Starting on Curry Point Road and veering right onto Knobcone Point Road you will traverse wide open grasslands with grand vistas of the Summit to your left. On warm summer evenings a gentle breeze will cool you slightly, in the early morning you may even have a nice fog belt wrapped around you. Continue your hike to Devil's Slide trail on your right, a lovely single track down into the canyon. (For a quick jaunt to a point of interest, continue another 100 yards to a post marking the mountain's north/south Meridian, then double back).

Traveling down the grasslands take note of *wavy-leaf soap root*, if you're here early or late enough in the day you'll be treated to it's dainty white blooms. Soon you will be engulfed in dense woodland habitat as you make your way down to the canyon. Look skyward to the towering trees overhead including big-leaf maple, but watch your feet too...poison oak abounds. Let your nose guide you to the Sulfur Spring, a murky stagnant puddle this time of year. At the bottom you have reached Madrone Canyon Trail to the right where you will start your gradual ascent.

Enjoy the cool, dense canopy of trees overhead, including the namesake *madrone* with their exfoliating red bark revealing pale pink, tan and green bark underneath. As you climb, a massive rock formation comes into view. You may even spot rock climbers on it's face...this is Boy Scout Rocks. This area is very special for me as my mom's ashes are scattered in the creek bed near here. Continue your climb to Rock City and stop for a break near the restrooms where you will find an interpretive panel for the **Trail Through Time** (on which you have just hiked). Head across the road and up a little way across from the park residence and hike up Summit Trail. At the junction turn right and head back to Curry Point. This hike is about 3 miles and 500 feet of climbing but you can easily extend it with a tour of Rock City or, for a wonderful overview of the canyon, take the .3 mile Camp Force Trail to the overlook out of Curry Point.

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.



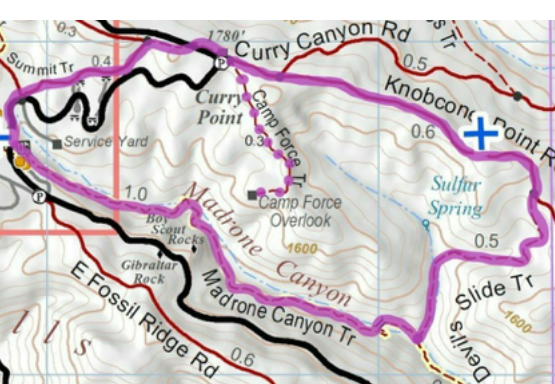
*Summit Meridan by Steve Smith*



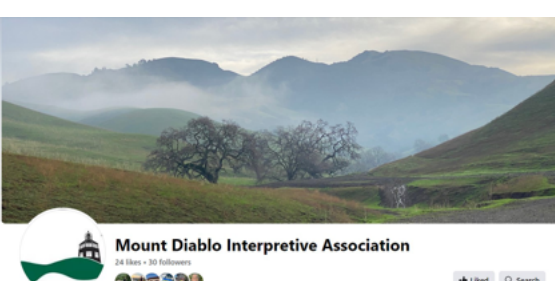
*Soap Root by Dan Fitzgerald*



*Pacific Madrone by Steve Smith*



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!](#)



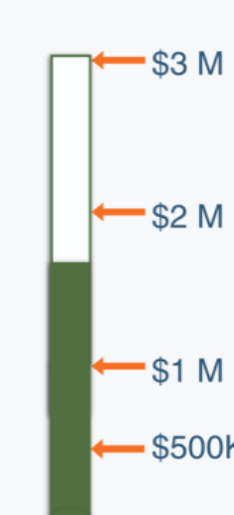
### Fundraising Campaign

**ANNOUNCING \$1.7 MILLION RAISED!**

We received news last week that we will receive **\$1 million** in funding for the new Education Center at Mitchell Canyon. This allocation was made as part of the State budget signed this month by Governor Newsom. It was 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. Clearly the project resonates with the community and legislative representatives.

Our matching campaign is still going strong with **\$50,000 raised**, but we need your help to reach our goal. There's just **2 weeks 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!

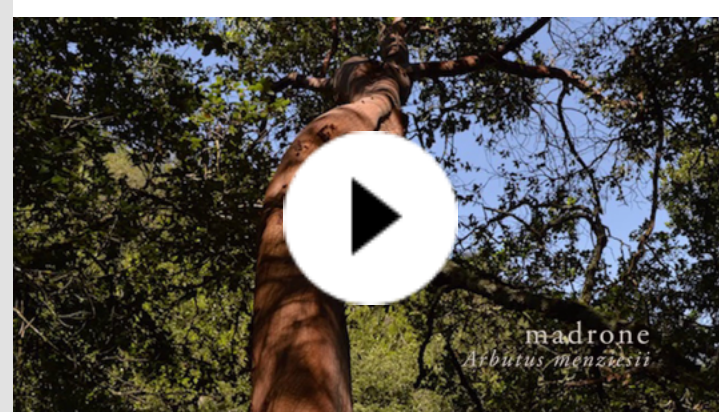
[Join the Matching Gift Challenge by July 31!](#)



*Help us meet our goal of \$2M in 2023*

[DONATE](#)

### Video Tours of Mount Diablo



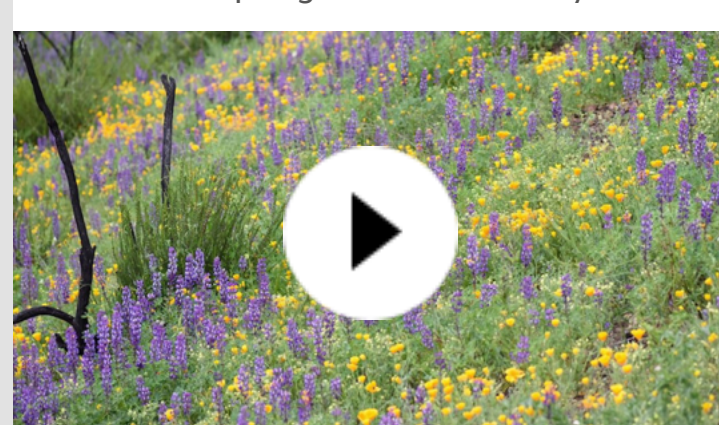
Trail Through Time: Madrone Canyon

I love to learn about Mount Diablo's wonderful cultural and natural history, it's why I became the president of an interpretive association and it's likely why you became one of our members! We have so many great tools at our disposal in this day and age and MDIA has been busy producing these materials for nearly 50 years. We started with typewritten and photocopied brochures, graduated to spiral-bound pamphlets, upgraded to full-color reference books and in this era produce all sorts of instructional multimedia.



Sulfur Spring in Madrone Canyon

Of course we always love to grab a great reference book (like our fourth edition Mount Diablo Guide being edited for publication later this year), but even more powerful can be an audiovisual experience to help you understand Mount Diablo. **Audible Mount Diablo** does just that! These 30-40 minute video productions are broken into 10-12 short segments and take you on a visual audio tour of our mountain.



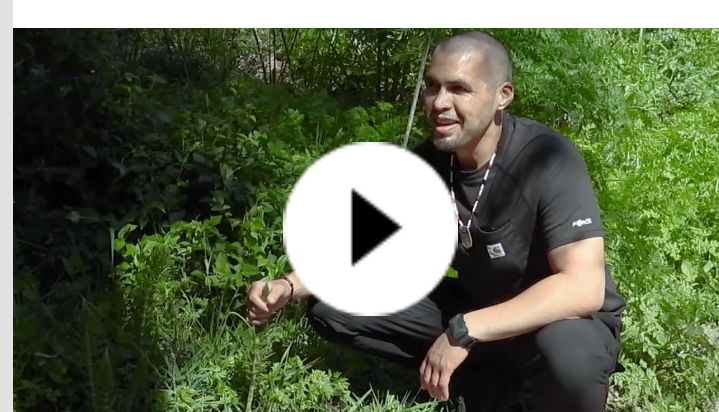
Harvest of Fire: Trees

**Audible Mount Diablo** is an invitation to adventure. Its free multimedia tours and videos combine lively interviews and music with the rush of wind and the chirps, howls, and growls of wildlife. Naturalists heighten visitors' appreciation of the sights and sounds, tell tales of the mountain's past, and suggest what to look for when exploring on your own. Perfect to prepare for your first-- or your hundredth--trip up the mountain.



A Brief History of Mount Diablo

With over 30 feature presentations to explore you are sure to find a topic to pique your interest. I use them as references to write articles, lead hikes and give presentations. You may use them to prepare for your next hike, to enjoy the mountain on days where weather prevents visiting, or for great trivia when gathered around the campfire!

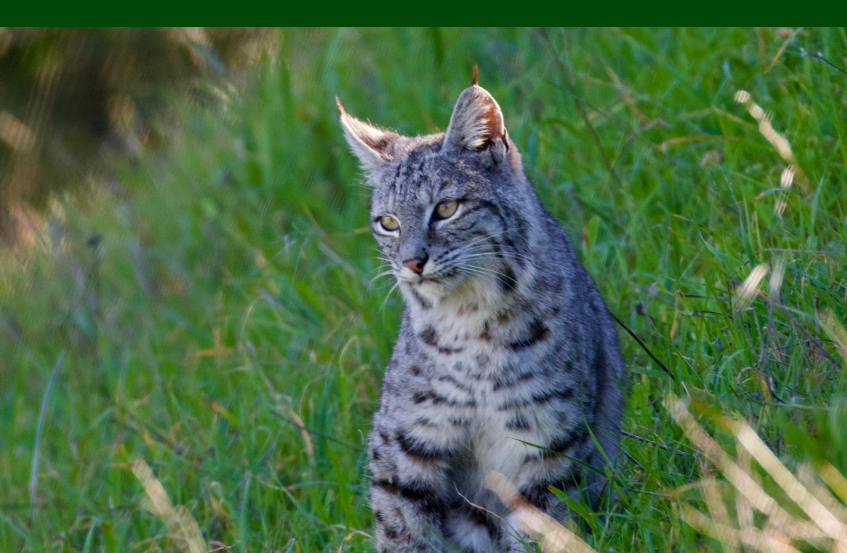


Native To Right Here: the plants, animals, and people of Tuushtak

You can always find these productions on our homepage by clicking **Listen** on the top right menu bar at [mdia.org](http://mdia.org) So tune in today and explore.

### Fun Fact

A bobcat's paw prints direct register which is when the hind paw almost lands or lands perfectly on the front paw while walking. Bobcats do this while walking to minimize the noise made during walking, which helps them move stealthily and creates fewer tracks on the ground, which prevents predators from easily tracking them.



*Photo by Dan Sandri*

### Upcoming Events



**Hike: Common Poorwill Twilight Hike**  
Friday, July 21  
7-10:30 pm  
See what lurks and hunts at night



**Event: Moon: MDAS Astronomy Program**  
Saturday, July 22  
8-11:00 pm  
Moon program by MDAS at lower Summit



**Hike: Nature Walk: Birds, Butterflies and Blooms**  
Wednesday, Aug 2  
8:30-12:30 pm  
Nature walk in the Mitchell Canyon area



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."*



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