

Welcome to the *Flyway Festival*

January 2015

Dear friends and fans of the Flyway Festival:

For 19 holiday seasons, the Flyway Festival has been on my mind and in my heart at this time of year. Last evening, the insistent honking of a large flock of Canada geese flying in formation over our Mare Island Preserve visitor center, was a reminder that the Flyway Festival is just around the corner. Imagine. Soon, we will be coming together for our annual gathering to celebrate the return to San Francisco Bay of more than 1 million shorebirds and as many as a quarter million waterfowl and thousands of hawks and songbirds, on their annual migration.

As the Festival Director, there are many things to consider in planning the event. Sometimes, like this year, I wonder where we will hold the Flyway Festival, as our most recent home on Mare Island was rented this summer.

In recent years I wonder if there will be sufficient rain to fill our seasonal wetlands where waterfowl and shorebirds gather to rest and feed and where we view them up close during guided outings. Or, like last year, my concern becomes how to ensure a great event, even in the pouring rain! This year, there's no reason to worry about whether seasonal wetlands will be filled. We've received an abundance of rain.

So, no matter the weather or the location, you're assured a warm welcome to another celebration of San Francisco Bay's wild side. This year, our annual migration celebration falls on Valentine's Day. We know who you love. So, come out and show and share your love for all things wild. And, on Sunday of the Festival, help



Photo: snowy egret, Lee Ann Baker

me celebrate my birthday, too. How fun is that?!

What keeps me, and our wonderful team of volunteers working together to put this great event on each winter? You do. About now, we begin to hear from you and from our exhibitors, artists, guides and presenters. You are all eager to learn the details of the Flyway Festival.

Why the excitement? Wildlife and the special wildness that is unique to the north shore of San Francisco Bay: Mare Island's naval and maritime history; splendid scenic vistas of the Bay from so many spots where our guided outings occur;

As much as anything, what draws us together during the Flyway Festival, is our reverence for the sacred, the solace, the solitude that stirs our souls when we share moments of wonder together in the wild and when we experience the beauty and magic of the migration ritual. Will you join us? Will you support the Flyway Festival with your donations of cash and auction/raffle items? Will you tell your friends, co-workers and family about the Flyway Festival? Will you volunteer?

Whatever way you can, please help us ensure another Flyway Festival. We are most grateful.

On behalf of my fellow board members and our Flyway Festival coordinating team, we look forward with great anticipation to once again spending the weekend with you and many other times together this year.

Call or email either Sarah 510-579-1008 [sarahcainflywayfest@gmail.com] or me 707-249-9633 [myrnahayes@mac.com] with questions and suggestions. Warmly,

Myrna Hayes
Festival Director and Co-founder
Mare Island Heritage Trust
707-249-9633
SFBayFlywayFestival.com

p.s. Like us on Facebook, too.

Summer on Mare Island brings the return of osprey babes to the more than a dozen nests at the epicenter of osprey colonization of the San Francisco Bay. Thanks to Rosemary Rawcliffe for this photo of the entire family at the North Island nest site at Hwy 37 and the Mare Island exit. If you have been worried because the nest is gone, we understand Island Energy has ordered a pole and nest tub so that no one gets killed, injured or loses power. Thanks Island Energy.



Photo by Rosemary Rawcliffe

Please make your donation to the Flyway Festival payable to:

Mare Island Heritage Trust
Mail to: 816 Branciforte St. Vallejo, CA 94590

or to make a contribution by credit card visit: sfbayflywayfestival.com
Click on the **DONATE** button or give at the Flyway Festival



On my way to coffee while I waited for a flat tire to be repaired this week, I glanced up at a building in Vallejo that had once been a bank and now is a dental office. Here is a clip of the beautiful and so appropriate mosaic that depicts in such an amazing way, our celebration of the birds of our region. Lovely.

San Francisco Bay *Flyway Festival* Family Wildlife and Birding Expo

Friday, February 13, Saturday, February 14, Sunday, February 15 and Monday, February 16

Friday, February 13

5:00pm – 8:00pm

**Festival and Art Exhibit
Opening Reception
Bay Area Wetlands to
Ridgetops Art Exhibit
Building 253, 575 Connolly St.
Mare Island**

Preview fine art, sample wines of the Napa Valley and Carneros regions and beyond, and enjoy good company and food thanks to generous wine and food contributors at the opening of the Flyway Festival and its Fine Art Exhibit with our Opening Reception and Festival Host, Weston Solutions, Inc.



Photo: Brian Collett

Take advantage of this opportunity to meet the artists at our opening reception. Much of the art in our show is for sale. As one of the finest all nature art shows in the region, our Friday evening opening is a good time to consider an art purchase and help keep the Festival free. Arrange your purchase with the artists directly this evening.

Visit the Wildlife Expo and Support the Flyway Festival

Come in from the great outdoors to visit the more than 75 exhibitors, presenters, and art, jewelry and birding supply vendors waiting to show you a good time at our **FAMILY WILDLIFE EXPO** 9:00am to 4:00pm Saturday and Sunday at Building 253, 575 Connolly St. on Mare Island.

Your purchase of art, raffle tickets and your winning bids in our silent auction, all help keep our Festival wild and free.

Saturday, February 14

9:00am – 4:00pm

**Bay Area Wetlands to
Ridgetops Fine Art Exhibit
Art Exhibition, Building 253**
*Repeats Friday 5:00-8:00pm
and Sunday 9:00am-4:00pm*
See Friday 5:00pm description

9:00am - 4:00pm

**Nature Art, Learning and
Crafts for Kids**

Repeats Sunday 9:00am-4:00pm

Kids learn about birds and nature through hands-on activities about bird species and habitat, and art. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

11:30am - 12:30pm

**Native Bird Connections
Raptor Show “The Raptors
Around Us” Wildbird Show**

Presenter: Jenny Papka, Co-Director and Curator

Native Bird Connections

Repeats Sunday 11:30am

Once again, Native Bird Connections will share a variety of birds of prey in a lively engaging program. Please join Native Bird Connections for a journey into the world of Raptors or birds of prey. Live non-releasable raptors will accompany this lively and informative program. Bring your camera and your questions!



Photo: Lee Ann Baker

There will also be a fundraiser raffle of re-purposed bird feeders and other items. Fun, informative and spontaneous presentation featuring several live, non-releasable wild raptors.

Native Bird Connections strives to provide an experience of “seeing through the eyes of the birds” and encourages lots of questions! Jenny has been a wildlife educator and in the field of captive raptor management for 24 years and has experience with 35 species of raptors in captivity.

Jenny was the 2009 recipient of the William Penn Mott Jr. Environmental Award from the Orinda Association.

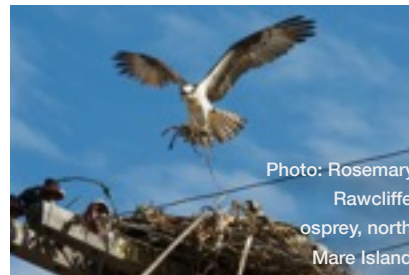


Photo: Rosemary Rawcliffe
osprey, north Mare Island

1:00pm – 2:00pm

**Learn About a Curious
Phenomenon: osprey
nesting in San Francisco
Bay and so much more
about osprey**

Presenter: Diane Rooney, self-

described “total ospreyholic!” While compiling nesting data and networking with other volunteers, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

volunteer Baywide osprey nesting monitors Tony Brake and Harvey Wilson made some pretty interesting discoveries leading to a report on their findings about ospreys in the Bay that was published this past Fall. Diane presents an overview of this work and her own comprehensive knowledge of osprey life from Maine to California and beyond. Following Diane’s presentation, if there is interest, take a 2-block guided outing to a nest on a nearby crane. Learn what you can do to help out with monitoring nest sites.

**Attend San Francisco
Bay Osprey Days, June
26-28, 2015**

Learn about and see more ospreys on Mare Island and the Napa River during the peak of nesting season.

Headquartered at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve visitor center with guided outings, boat trips, presentations, slide shows, a photography show, music and fish food – fish tacos and sushi, of course.

1:00pm-2:00pm

**National Wildlife Refuge Blue
Goose Mascot “Puddles” visit**

Get a hug and shake a hand with the Blue Goose Mascot.

(\$2,000 and up)
Weston Solutions, Inc.



Major Sponsors

(\$1,000 - \$1,999)

Vallejo Sanitation and
Flood Control District
Vallejo Watershed Alliance
Lennar Mare Island In-kind

Festival Supporters

(\$500 to \$999)

Friends of San Pablo Bay
National Wildlife Refuge
iCloud Hosting In-kind
Suburban Kiwanis Vallejo
Moschetti Coffee Roasting

Festival Friends

(\$50 to \$249)

Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge in-kind
Congressman Mike Thompson in-kind
Robin Leong
Marin Audubon Society
New Pacific Studios and Vallejo Multi-Cultural
Out of this World Discount Binoculars In-kind
Save San Pablo Baylands In-kind
Vaca Valley Volks
Vallejo Heights Neighborhood Association
Wild Bryde Jewelry In-kind

Wildlife Expo Sunday, Feb. 15

Sunday, February 15

9:00am – 4:00pm

Bay Area Wetlands to Ridgetops Fine Art Exhibit

Repeats Friday 5:00-8:00pm and Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm

See Friday 5:00pm description

9:00am - 4:00pm

Nature Art, Learning and Crafts for Kids

Repeats Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm

See Saturday 9:00am description

11:30am - 12:30pm

Native Bird Connections Raptor Show "The Raptors Around Us" Wildbird Show

Presenter: Jenny Papka, Co-Director and Curator

Native Bird Connections

Repeats Saturday 11:30am

See Saturday 11:30am description

12:45pm-1:45pm

Learn about the History of the Mare Island Naval Hospital Complex in a PowerPoint Discussion

Repeats Sunday 3:00pm-3:45pm

Join Dr. Tom Snyder, retired Navy surgeon and founder/past executive director of the Society for the History of Navy Medicine Medicine for a PowerPoint presentation featuring the fascinating history of the Navy's oldest hospital in the Pacific, closed in 1957 and now part of the campus of Touro University. Dr. Snyder will give a tour of the historic hospital campus immediately following his talk.

See Sunday 2:00pm Mare Island Outings for outing directions.

1:00pm-1:30pm

National Wildlife Refuge "Jr. Refuge Ranger"

Repeats Sunday 2:00pm and 3:00pm

Interactive activity for kids with National Refuge staff

2:00pm-2:45pm

Learn About a Curious Phenomenon: osprey nesting in San Francisco Bay and so much more about osprey

Presenter: Diane Rooney, self-described "total ospreyholic!" While compiling nesting data and networking with other volunteers,



Photo: Hank Miller, osprey middle Napa River

Golden Gate Raptor Observatory volunteer Baywide osprey nesting monitors Tony Brake and Harvey Wilson made some pretty interesting discoveries leading to a report on their findings about ospreys in the Bay that was published this past Fall. Diane presents an overview of this work and her own comprehensive knowledge of osprey life from Maine to California and beyond. Following

Diane's presentation, if there is interest, take a 2-block guided outing to a nest on a nearby crane. Learn what you can do to help out with monitoring nest sites.

Attend San Francisco Bay Osprey Days, June 26-28, 2015

Learn about and see more ospreys on Mare Island and the Napa River during the peak of nesting season. Headquartered at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve visitor center with guided outings,

boat trips, presentations, slide shows, a photography show, music and fish food – fish tacos and sushi, of course.

2:00pm – 2:30pm

Scrub Jays-planters of our oak forest on Mare Island

Digital image presentation by Bert Johnson and Meg Grumio, native plant specialists and Mare Island Preserve volunteers



Photo: Brian Collett

Learn about how these wonderful blue and gray feathered birds are major planters of our oak forests and woodlands. Jays have been busily replanting the oak forest on Mare Island without us ever having to ask them to do so. Jays are simply tending their food source (acorns) which "accidentally" results in the regeneration of oak forests. Learn to more greatly appreciate and better understand this fascinating relationship between jays and oaks on Mare Island.

2:00pm-2:30pm

National Wildlife Refuge "Jr. Refuge Ranger"

Repeats Sunday 1:00pm and 3:00pm

Interactive activity for kids with National Refuge staff

3:00pm-3:30pm

National Wildlife Refuge "Jr. Refuge Ranger"

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Interactive activity for kids with National Refuge staff



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See Sunday 2:00pm Mare Island Outings for outing directions.

3:00pm-5:00pm

Re:sound migration

Repeats Saturday 3:00pm-5:00pm

Join Jen Boyd and guest sound artists at an unique venue, Building A-168 Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve for an afternoon of sound art. Re:sound is an experimental music series focusing on exploring the relationship between forgotten spaces and the natural environment. The series takes place in the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve, a 215-acre park that formerly served as the first Naval Ammunition Depot in the Pacific.

The event is held in a concrete munitions storage magazine measuring 55'x100' with ceilings over 15'. The architecture of the building traps sound resulting in a prolonged reverberation. The series will launch its first show in February 2015 as part of the San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, celebrating the annual bird migration to the Bay.

Contact: info@re-sound.net

Directions to the Preserve in the Friday 9:00am description

Mare Island Outings Friday Feb. 13 and Saturday, Feb. 14

Friday, February 13

8:00am-6:00pm

San Pablo Bay Walking Trail Self-Guided Walk Hosted by Weston Solutions, Inc.

Repeats Saturday, Sunday and Monday 8:00am-6:00pm

Explore the wetland and bay habitats of Mare Island on a self-guided wildlife viewing trail. From Building 253 turn north on Walnut Ave., then left on A St. if walking to the trailhead. If driving, park in the gravel parking lot at the end of A St. Entrance on Azuar Dr. at A St.

9:00am – 6:00pm

Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Self-guided Walk

Repeats Saturday, Sunday and Monday 9:00am-6:00pm

Walk or bike at your own pace as far as you like on the 1.3 mile paved road with 14 points of interest along the route to the hilltop scenic vista and beyond. Stop at the Mare Island Naval Cemetery. The Visitor Center is open. Dogs are allowed on leash.

Directions: From the Mare Island entrance at Tennessee and Mare Island Way, continue to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2.5 miles. Continue beyond gate to Visitor Center. **From Marin or Napa** take the Mare Island exit off of Hwy 37 and follow Walnut Ave. south to stop sign at "G" St. Turn right one block to Azuar Dr. Follow directions above. **From the Festival headquarters** travel west on Connolly St. to Walnut Ave. Turn left to Kansas St. Turn right one block to Azuar Dr. Follow directions above.

11:45am – 1:30pm

Hike the Historic Southshore with Wally Neville, Napa-Solano Audubon Society and Mare Island Preserve guide

Repeats Sunday 9:00am-11:00am

Hike along the Historic Southshore of Mare Island to Pier 35 for great views of the San Pablo Bay and Carquinez Strait and a chance to see waterfowl, hawks and osprey on and over the Napa River. Visit the Mare Island Naval Cemetery dating from 1858. Level 4-mile walk on paved and gravel roads. Meet at the Mare Island Preserve visitor center parking area. Info: Wally Neville, 707-315-3545.

Directions in the 9:00am description above

1:45pm – 4:45pm

Mare Island Birding Hot Spots Tour

Wally Neville, Napa-Solano Audubon Society field trip leader

Get to know what's on Mare Island. Stroll amongst "Captain's Row", Alden Park, and the grounds around St. Peter's Chapel. Learn about the people, it's historic buildings, the trees, avian fauna, and possibly, monarch butterflies. Visit the San Pablo Bay Trail with pickleweed and saltmarshes, prime salt marsh harvest mouse and California clapper rail habitat. Always lots of waterfowl in San Pablo Bay. No facilities. Meet at **Building 253** to form carpools. If you have a "walkie-talkie" tune to 11-22 the bird channel.

Saturday, February 14

8:00am - 4:00pm

American Volkssport Association 5k and 10k Volkswalk

Repeats Sunday 8:00am-4:00pm

Hosted by the Vaca Valley Volks chapter. Route is on mostly paved roads and sidewalks on and near Mare Island. Register at **Building 253** and start 8am-12noon Saturday and/or Sunday. Finish by 4pm. Anyone can walk the route at no charge. Takes place in all weather. Visit VacaVolks.org. Call Howard McGill at 707-447-9431 or email: hiwayhowie@aol.com

8:00am-6:00pm

San Pablo Bay Walking Trail Self-Guided Walk Hosted by Weston Solutions, Inc.

Repeats Friday, Sunday and Monday 8:00am-6:00pm

See Friday 8:00am description and directions



Photo: Larry Maggini

9:00am-11:00am

Hike the Mare Island Historic Western Magazine with hike leaders Karlyn and Jim Lewis

Hike the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve parklands on the remote western edge of Mare Island. See historic Marine Barracks, the Western Magazine Area part of the former Naval Ammunition Depot and a tribute to the salt marsh harvest mouse in the interface between the Mare

Island Shoreline Preserve and San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge with its endangered species' salt marsh habitat. Level 4.5 mile hike on gravel roads. Bring water, snacks and raingear. No facilities, group must stay together, entering locked gates; prompt departure.

Directions: From Hwy 37: take the Mare Island exit onto Walnut Ave. Turn right onto G St. at the stop sign. At the end of G turn left on Azuar Dr. Continue to first light. Turn right onto Flagship Dr. Continue about 1 mile to Nereus St. **From Mare Island entrance:** continue straight to Azuar Dr. Turn left and follow directions above. From Building 253 turn left onto Walnut Ave. to stop sign at Kansas St. Turn right. At Azuar Dr. Kansas St. becomes Flagship Dr. Follow directions above. Call Jim Lewis 707-803-0360.

9:00am – 6:00pm

Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Self-guided Walk

Repeats Friday, Sunday and Monday

See Friday 9:00am for description and directions

9:30am – 3:30pm

Come Aboard USS LCS 102 WWII Landing Craft Support Gunboat

Location: Berth 10 adjacent to north side of 1080 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island

Repeats Sunday and Monday 9:30am-3:30pm

Mare Island is home to the last of its kind of the 130 boats built for this purpose during WWII. Tours are free, donations appreciated.

Directions: From Vallejo: cross the Tennessee St. Causeway.

Turn left on Nimitz Ave. Continue to 1080 Nimitz Ave. Turn left to Berth 10. **From Marin, Sonoma and Napa Counties:** Take the Mare Island exit off of Hwy 37. Turn right. Continue on Walnut Ave. to G St. Turn left two blocks and turn right onto Nimitz Ave. Follow directions above.

From Contra Costa County: Cross Benicia Martinez Bridge onto I-780. Exit I-80 eastbound towards Sacramento. Exit Tennessee St./ Mare Island. Follow directions above. **From the Building 253 Wildlife Expo:** Follow Connolly St. eastbound to Nimitz Ave. Turn right. Continue on Nimitz Ave. to 1080 Nimitz Ave. Turn left to Berth 10.

9:45am-11:15am

Beginning Birding for All Ages in the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve

Leader: Marcia Grefsrud, Mare Island Preserve Field Guide

No matter what your birding skill level, take advantage of this special opportunity for a morning of learning how to look for birds in the sky and in forested areas and grasslands of the Mare Island Preserve. Marcia is enthusiastic, knowledgeable and fun!

See Friday 9:00am directions

Mare Island Outings Saturday Feb. 14 cont. and Sunday, Feb. 15

Saturday, February 14, cont'd.

10:00am - 4:00pm

Tour of the Mare Island Museum

Repeats Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm and Monday 10:00am-2:00pm

Directions: The Museum is located in Building 46. Entrance across from Alden Park at 8th St. and Railroad Ave. Donation: \$4 per person.

11:00am - 3:00pm

Tour St. Peter's Chapel

Repeats Sunday 11:00am-3:00pm

St. Peter's Chapel, the oldest Navy chapel built in 1900, is home to the most Tiffany glass under one roof in the West.

Directions: Park across from Chapel Park located at the south end of Walnut Ave beyond Captain's Row mansions (right turn at end of Captain's Row onto alley, then left turn and left turn again, onto Walnut Ave northbound to parking lot). \$4.00 per person.

12noon-2:00pm

Mare Island Naval Cemetery Docent-led History Tour

Join Cemetery Docent Kyle Green at the US Navy's oldest cemetery in the Pacific. Learn about this military cemetery founded in 1858, where sailors, marines, nurses and doctors, entire families, naval personnel from foreign countries and Medal of Honor recipients have all found their final resting place.

1:00pm-2:00pm

San Pablo Bay Walking Trail Beginning Birding Outing

Leader: Michele Troughton field guide

Views of San Pablo Bay, Mt. Tamalpais and Sonoma Mountain. Seasonal wetlands with ducks, egrets and shorebirds. A good chance of spotting raptors in the sky and trees. Spend an hour with Michele, then continue on along the levee-top trail, if desired.

Directions: Meet at the trailhead at the west end of A Street off Azuar Dr. From Flyway Festival Wildlife Expo, turn north onto Walnut Ave, then turn left at A St. Continue across Azuar Dr. 3/4 mile on gravel road to parking lot and trailhead.

1:30pm-2:30pm

Mare Island San Pablo Bay Walking Trail Birdwalk

Leader: Wally NeVille, Napa-Solano Audubon Society field guide

Views of San Pablo Bay, Mt. Tamalpais and Sonoma Mountain. Seasonal wetlands with ducks, egrets and shorebirds. A good chance of spotting raptors in the sky and trees. Spend an hour with Wally, then continue on along the levee-top trail if desired.

See 1:00pm directions above

3:00pm-5:00pm

Re:sound migration

Repeats Sunday 3:00pm-5:00pm



Photo: Building A-168 Jen Boyd

Join Jen Boyd and guest sound artists at a unique venue, Building A-168 Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve for an afternoon of sound art. Re:sound is an experimental music series focusing on exploring the relationship between forgotten spaces and the natural environment. The series takes place in the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve, a 215-acre park that formerly served as the first Naval Ammunition Depot in the Pacific.

The event is held in a concrete munitions storage magazine measuring 55'x100' with ceilings over 15'. The architecture of the

building traps sound resulting in a prolonged reverberation. The series will launch its first show in February 2015 as part of the San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, celebrating the annual bird migration to the Bay.

Contact: info@re-sound.net

Directions to the Preserve in the Friday 9:00am description

5:15pm - 10:00pm

Free Introductory Night Photography Workshop in the "Historic Core" of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard With Tim Baskerville, Founder/Director of The Nocturnes

Location: Mare Island Naval Shipyard, established in 1854, was the first naval facility on the Pacific Coast. At one point in its history, more than 40,000 men and women worked at the island's drydocks, shops and warehouses, all making for interesting night photography. Tuition and Registration: This is a [FREE introductory Night Photography workshop - offered by The Nocturnes and the SF Bay Flyway Festival](#) on Saturday February 14, 2015. To register - fill out our [Registration form](#) and EMAIL or FAX it to Pacific Media Arts (form must be received no later than February 10th). To speak to a live person, call Susan Nichols at Pacific Media Arts - (707) 645-9860.

Sunday, February 15

8:00am - 4:00pm

American Volkssport Association 5k and 10k Volkswalk

Repeats Saturday 8:00am-4:00pm

See Saturday 8:00am description and directions

8:00am-6:00pm

San Pablo Bay Walking Trail Self-Guided Walk Hosted by Weston Solutions, Inc.

Repeats Friday, Saturday and Monday 8:00am-6:00pm

See Friday 8:00am description and directions

9:00am - 11:00am

Hike the Historic Southshore with volunteer Mare Island Preserve Outing Guide Gordon McMahan and Osprey enthusiast Diane Rooney

Repeats Friday 11:45am-1:30pm with Wally NeVille

Hike along the Historic Southshore of

Mare Island to Pier 35 for great views of the San Pablo Bay and Carquinez Strait. Visit the Mare Island Naval Cemetery dating from 1858. Good chance to see waterfowl and hawks. Level 4-mile walk on paved and gravel roads. Meet at the Palmer's Hut at the Trailhead in the Preserve. Info: Gordon McMahan, 707-758-0393.

See Friday 9:00am directions

9:00am - 12noon

Tours of the Vallejo Peoples Garden

Located behind 1055 Azuar Drive, we are on the way to the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve from the Festival Wildlife Expo, so folks may stop by before, during, or after their visit to the Expo or the Preserve. The garden is a charity garden that donates all of its produce to those in need in Vallejo. You will see what is growing, how it is harvested, and points of interest like our worm composter and the aquaponics garden. Info: www.vallejopeoplesgarden.org

Directions: From the Wildlife Expo drive south on Walnut Ave. to Kansas St. Turn right, then left on Azuar Dr. Turn right on E. Poplar St. (behind The Global Success Center, 1055 Azuar Ave).



Photo: Brian Collett

Mare Island Outings Sunday Feb.15, cont'd.

Sunday, February 15, cont'd.



Photo: US Naval Sea Cadets
Pyro Division Color Guard
Lost Boats Memorial October 2013

9:30am – 3:30pm
Come Aboard USS LCS 102
WWII Landing Craft
Support Gunboat

Location: Berth 10 adjacent to north side of 1080 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island
Repeats Saturday and Monday
9:30am-3:30pm

See Saturday 9:30am
description and
directions

10:00am - 4:00pm
Tour of the Mare Island Museum

Repeats Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm and Monday 10:00am-2:00pm

Directions: The Museum is located in Building 46. Entrance across from Alden Park at 8th St. and Railroad Ave. Donation: \$4 per person.

11:00am – 3:00pm
Tour St. Peter's Chapel

Repeats Saturday 11:00am-3:00pm

St. Peter's Chapel, the oldest Navy chapel built in 1900, is home to the most Tiffany glass under one roof in the West.

Directions: Park across from Chapel Park located at the south end of Walnut Ave beyond Captain's Row mansions (right turn at end of Captain's Row onto alley, then left turn and left turn again, onto Walnut Ave northbound to parking lot). \$4.00 per person.

12noon-2:00pm
Mare Island Naval Cemetery Docent-led History Tour

Join Cemetery Docent Peggy O'Drain at the Mare Island Naval Cemetery, the Navy's oldest cemetery in the Pacific founded in 1858. Peggy is always researching for a book about its history and those buried there. She has completed a booklet on the first section and really is the sole source on what history we have of those buried here. Peggy is truly dedicated to her passion and just plain interesting.

See Friday 10am directions to Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve

1:00pm-2:30pm
Beginning Birding for All Ages and Families in the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve

Leader: Rich Cimino, Yellowbilled Tours Field Guide

No matter what your birding skill level, take advantage of this special opportunity to join Rich in the Mare Island Preserve for a morning of learning how to look for birds in the sky and in forested areas and grasslands. Rich is an experienced beginning birding teacher and guide, as well as a Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Hawk Hill volunteer and the Ohlone Audubon Society Conservation Chair along with many other areas of expertise.

See Friday 9:00am directions

1:00pm-2:30pm
Beginning Birding Basics of Binoculars and Bird ID Talk and Walk

Leader: Michelle Eliker, Owner, The Unconventional Garden in downtown Vallejo

Michelle is a gracious and knowledgeable birding and nature enthusiast. Meet her at "Out of This World's" booth at the Wildlife Expo for a demonstration of the use of binoculars and scopes. Then meet at the Trailhead of the San Pablo Bay Trail for a short walk to the seasonal pond to learn to spot and ID birds in the sky and on the water. Bring

binoculars, scopes, cameras (will you share or bring an extra pair?) and hike gear-hats, sunscreen, water for .5 to 1-mile walk on a gravel trail.

See Saturday 1:00pm directions to parking lot Azuar Dr. and A St.

1:30pm – 3:00pm
Walkin' and Talkin' 'Bout the Bees

Walk leader– Rokas Armonas, Beekeeper, Bay Area Bee Co.

Beekeeper and an owner of Bay Area Bee Company in Vallejo, Rokas has been beekeeping since his teens. With a natural, hands-on and holistic approach to beekeeping, he cares for his hives with an eye toward organic, bee-friendly, human friendly and environmentally friendly methods. Join Rokas for a conversation about honeybees and related topical issues as you walk together from the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Visitor Center to view actual hives on the Preserve. **Things to be aware of:** half-mile hike one way on paved and dirt surfaces with short climb up a grassy hillside; wear comfortable & appropriate footwear, sunscreen, insect protections; please remain outside fenced off hive area; Rokas will explain as he goes and carry examples closer to the fence for viewing and discussion; your participation is voluntary and you assume full responsibility for yourself; please keep this in mind if you have a sensitivity to honeybee stings (should one occur).

2:00pm – 2:45pm
Tour the Grounds of the Historic Mare Island Naval Hospital Complex

Join Dr. Tom Snyder, retired Navy surgeon and founder/past executive director of the Society for the History of Navy Medicine for a fascinating and oft asked about history of the Navy's oldest hospital in the Pacific, closed in 1957 and now part of the campus of Touro University.



Photo: Brian Collett

Directions: Park in Touro University Library parking lot at 1545 Azuar Dr. near corner of 15th St. and Azuar Dr. Meet at the entrance to the Library on Moises Way, on the west side of the Library in front of the Hospital grounds. Dr. Snyder will be recognizable by his Panama hat!

Prior to and following the walk Dr. Snyder will give a PowerPoint discussion about the history of the hospital, Sunday, February 15, 12:45pm-1:45pm and 3:00pm-3:45pm at Building 253, the Wildlife Expo.

5:15pm - 10:00pm
Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve - Night Photography with Tim Baskerville of [The Nocturnes](#)

This special [one-night introductory Night Photography Workshop](#) is offered in conjunction with the 19th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, Sunday, February 15th, from 5:15pm to 10pm in the Mare Island Preserve. Meet at the Mare Island Heritage Preserve Visitor Center.

Tuition: Free, with [preregistration](#), to be received no later than Feb. 11, 2015

Instructor: Tim Baskerville

Curriculum: Learn how to better photograph after dark, with either digital cameras or film, in industrial and 'mixed-use' environments.

Emphasis will be on evaluating existing lighting situations and exposing accordingly. Transparency, b/w, color negative films, as well as digital will be discussed and compared. This is an intensive workshop limited to 15 participants who will be closely supervised on location.

Supplemental lighting possibilities will be discussed and demonstrated, with an emphasis on "Light Painting" techniques, where appropriate. Meeting details for the Workshop will be provided upon registration.



Photo: Tim Baskerville

Mare Island and Regional Tours & Outings Monday Feb.16

Monday, February 16 President's Day Holiday

8:00am-6:00pm

San Pablo Bay Walking Trail Self-Guided Walk Hosted by Weston Solutions, Inc.

Repeats Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8:00am-6:00pm

See Friday 8:00am

description and directions



9:00am – 6:00pm

Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Self-guided Walk

Repeats Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9:00am-6:00pm

See Friday 9:00am for description and directions

9:30am-11:30am

Guided Birdwatching in the Shoreline Heritage Preserve

with Michele Troughton, birding guide

Meet at the Visitor Center for an approximately 2-mile scenic walk on and off road trails (somewhat steep and uneven terrain) through oak woodlands with panoramic vistas and a chance to see lots of hawks and turkey vultures in the skies. And, guess who's back?! At least two osprey and 6 great blue herons have been sighted on their former nest sites as of February 2nd. More to come.



Photo: Eric Dugan
fledgling osprey,
Mare Island Strait

Directions in the 9:00am description above

9:30am – 3:30pm

Come Aboard USS LCS 102 WWII Landing Craft Support Gunboat

Location: Berth 10 adjacent to north side of 1080 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island

Repeats Saturday and Sunday 9:30am-3:30pm

Mare Island is home to the last of its kind of the 130 boats built for this purpose during WWII. Tours are free, donations appreciated.

Directions: From Vallejo: cross the Tennessee St. Causeway. Turn left on Nimitz Ave. Turn left to Berth 6. **From Marin, Sonoma and Napa Counties:** Take the Mare Island exit off of Hwy 37. Turn right. Continue on Walnut Ave. to G St. Turn left two blocks and turn right onto Nimitz Ave. Follow directions above. **From Contra Costa County:** Cross Benicia Martinez Bridge onto I-780. Exit I-80 eastbound towards Sacramento. Exit Tennessee St./Mare Island. Follow directions above. **From the Building 253 Wildlife Expo:** Follow Connolly St. eastbound to Nimitz Ave. Turn right. Continue on Nimitz Ave. to Berth 10. Turn left to the LCS-102 docked at Berth 10.

10:00am – 2:00pm

Tour Mare Island Museum

Museum tour repeats Saturday and Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm, St. Peter's Chapel is also open Saturday and Sunday, 11:00am-3:00pm

St. Peter's Chapel, the oldest Navy chapel built in 1900, is home to the most Tiffany glass on a single site in the West. Directions: Park across from Chapel Park located at the south end of Walnut Ave beyond Captain's Row mansions (right turn at end of Captain's Row onto alley, then left turn and left turn again around traffic circle, onto Walnut Ave. northbound to parking lot). \$4.00 per person for each site.

7:00am-6:00pm

Self-guided walk on Lower Tubbs Island and Toley Creek Trail Loop to San Pablo Bay – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-6:00pm

The trail offers hiking, fishing, photography, wildlife viewing and biking opportunities. Parking lot is located at the trailhead. The complete Lower Tubbs Island Trail loop is 8.15 miles. If recently rained the trail may be quite muddy.

Directions: Entrance to Trail is located off of east bound Highway 37, just east of the Highway 121/37 intersection in Sonoma County.

7:00am – 6:00pm

Self-guided walk on Sonoma Baylands Tidal Wetland Levee Trail – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-6:00pm

Walk the levee trail along this wetland transition zone restoration of a 348 acre tidal marsh habitat constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1995. **Directions:** Turn south off Hwy 37 at Port Sonoma Marina, follow directional signs.

7:00am – 6:00pm

Self-guided walk or paddle on Cullinan Ranch Tidal Wetland Levee Trail – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-6:00pm

When complete, the Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project will restore over 1500 acres of tidal wetlands in the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The site is now open to the public to explore on foot, bicycle or kayak.

After interior demolition, protecting important infrastructure, and installation of public access, the Project breached aging levees along the perimeter to allow the tidal flow. Over time, it will become an expansive marsh, bisected by tidal channels and filled with a multitude of birds, fish and other aquatic species. Thousands of ducks and geese are rafted up on the tidal wetland, already.

Directions: From Vallejo, Solano and Contra Costa Counties take Hwy 37 West 3.4 miles past the Mare Island exit ramp to the Cullinan Ranch Unit parking lot and trailhead. From Marin and Sonoma Counties take Hwy 37 east approximately 9 miles past the Hwy 121 junction to the Mare Island exit. Veer left on the exit under the overpass and then turn right onto the overpass. Turn right to get onto Hwy 37 West. The parking lot and trailhead is approximately 3.4 miles from the Mare Island ramp.

Since the parking lot is small, a *Refuge van leaves Building 253, the Wildlife Expo*

Saturday, Feb
14 10:00am,
11:00am,
1:00pm and
2:00pm and
Sunday,
February 15
10:00am,
11:00am,
12noon and
1:00pm.



Photo: Rosemary Rawcliffe
merlin, north Mare Island



Photo: Al Bayless

San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project, 2015

Regional Outings Friday Feb. 13

Friday, February 13 Regional Outings

San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge trails open to public from Sunrise, to Sunset include: the Tolay Creek/ Tubbs Island Trail, Sonoma Baylands Levee Trail, Cullinan Ranch Unit Trail and Guadalcanal Restoration Site Trail. For a San Pablo Bay NWR trail map go to www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/SPTailMap.pdf#a

7:00am-6:00pm

Self-guided walk on Lower Tubbs Island and Tolay Creek Trail Loop to San Pablo Bay – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-6:00pm

The trail offers hiking, fishing, photography, wildlife viewing and biking opportunities. Parking lot is located at the trailhead. The complete Lower Tubbs Island Trail loop is 8.15 miles. If recently rained the trail may be quite muddy.

Directions: Entrance to Trail is located off of east bound Highway 37, just east of the Highway 121/37 intersection in Sonoma County.

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Walk the levee trail along this wetland transition zone restoration of a 348 acre tidal marsh habitat constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1995. **Directions:** Turn south off Hwy 37 at Port Sonoma Marina, follow directional signs.

7:00am – 6:00pm

Self-guided walk, bike or paddle on Cullinan Ranch Tidal Wetland Levee Trail – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Saturday, Sunday and Monday 7:00am-6:00pm

When complete, the Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project will restore over 1500 acres of tidal wetlands in the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The site is now open to the public to explore on foot, bicycle or kayak.

After interior demolition, protecting important infrastructure, and installation of public access, the Project breached aging levees along the perimeter to allow the tidal flow. Over time, it will become an expansive marsh, bisected by tidal channels and filled with a multitude of birds, fish and other aquatic species. Thousands of ducks and geese are rafted up on the tidal wetland, already.

Directions: From Vallejo, Solano and Contra Costa Counties take Hwy 37 West 3.4 miles past the Mare Island exit ramp to the Cullinan Ranch Unit parking lot and trailhead. From Marin and Sonoma Counties take Hwy 37 east approximately 9 miles past the Hwy 121 junction to the Mare Island exit. Veer left on the exit under the overpass and then turn right onto the overpass. Turn right to get onto Hwy 37 West. The parking lot and trailhead is approximately 3.4 miles from the Mare Island ramp.

Since the parking lot is small, a *Refuge van leaves Building 253, the Wildlife Expo Saturday, Feb 14 10:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm and 2:00pm and Sunday, February 15 10:00am, 11:00am, 12noon and 1:00pm.*

7:00am – 6:00pm

Self-guided walk on Guadalcanal Village Wetland Restoration Trail – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Saturday, Sunday and Monday 7:00am-6:00pm

View the Caltrans Guadalcanal Village wetland restoration on a short, flat out and back trail.

Driving Directions from Festival Wildlife Expo: Travel north on Railroad Ave. to flashing stoplight at G St. Continue through the North Gate. Turn left onto overpass, then left into parking lot. **From Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano and Contra Costa Counties:** take the Mare Island exit from Highway 37 to the parking lot on the north side of the Highway.

9:00am-12:30pm

Skaggs Island Raptor Tours

Field Guide: Murray Berner

Repeats Saturday, 9:00am-12:30pm with Murray Berner and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am-3:00pm with Tim Behr.

The Skaggs Island field trips concentrate on diurnal raptors. The former naval station is now part of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Habitat is grassland and low brush. The most common raptors are Red-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Kite and Northern Harrier. Rough-legged Hawk is an increasing winter visitor. Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon are rare. Most trips enjoy at least one Merlin, Golden Eagle and Peregrine Falcon.

We take a couple of short walks on levees and around the former base housing area in search of songbirds. A decent look at a Burrowing Owl also requires a levee stroll. Roosting Barn and

Great-horned Owl are possible. The tour begins atop the bridge near the south island gate. Short-eared Owl is possible from the bridge if it is cloudy at the beginning of a morning trip. One restroom stop. All ages and levels of birding experience welcomed. Only heavy rain cancels. Upon arrival of all field trip participants, before entry onto the island, we will consolidate the auto caravan into as few vehicles as possible. The gate is locked behind us. Mostly an auto tour. The fewer vehicles, the better. No early departures.



Photo: Lee Ann Baker
burrowing owl

Carpools are required! From Vallejo, Napa and East Bay:

gather at the Wildlife Expo entrance to Building 253 on Mare Island one-half hour before outing time to form carpools. **From Marin and Sonoma:** meet at the Skaggs Island gate to further form carpools.

Directions: From Marin and Sonoma Counties: travel eastbound on Highway 37 five miles beyond the light at Sears Point/Sonoma Raceway. Turn left onto Skaggs Island Road. Meet your guide just inside the gate.

Thank you to our sponsors—see all of them listed at the Wildlife Expo and on our website sponsor page. Many will have a booth at the Expo. Stop and say thank you personally, please!

Regional Outings Friday, Feb. 13 cont'd. and Saturday, Feb. 14

Friday, February 13

11:30am-3:00pm

Skaggs Island Raptor Tours

Field Guide: Tim Behr, Raptor Researcher, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

Repeats Friday, 9:00am-12:30pm and Saturday, 9:00am-12:30pm with Murray Berner and Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am-3:00pm with Tim Behr.

See Friday 9:00am carpool meeting and driving directions

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Suisun Wildlife Center Tour

The Suisun Marsh Natural History Association presents a tour of its Suisun Wildlife Center, which rescues and releases back to the wild Solano County wildlife. Go behind the scenes to learn how injured wildlife is helped. See non-releasable education birds and animals – a Golden Eagle, Raccoon, Coyote, Great-horned Owl and more. Limit: 30 participants. To preregister call 707-429-4295.

Directions: From I-80: exit at Hwy 12 in Fairfield-near the Budweiser Brewery. Travel East on Hwy 12 toward Suisun for 3 miles to the first exit AFTER the Pennsylvania St. exit. Exit at the Civic Center Blvd/Suisun City Business District exit. Turn left onto Main St. Proceed to stop sign past downtown. Turn left onto Cordelia Rd. Take next right to 1171 Kellogg St.



Photo: Erik Halberstadt

Saturday, February 14

7:00am-6:00pm

Self-guided walk at Green Island Unit, Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area

Repeats Saturday, Sunday and Monday 7:00am-6:00pm

Walk the trails in the newly restored 1,400 acre Napa salt ponds. Along the way you will learn the history of the restoration site, design/construction challenges faced.

Directions: From northbound Highway 29 in American Canyon, turn onto Paoli Loop Road/Green Island Road. (From south turn onto Paoli Loop Road .08 miles north of Walmart and follow Paoli Loop under Hwy 29). At stop sign turn left onto Green Island Rd. Proceed straight for 0.9 miles. At 2nd stop sign turn right continuing on Green Island Rd. straight for one long block; continue as it turns left, then approximately 1.4 miles to end. Turn left into the park driveway at Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, Green Island Unit sign. Follow the driveway around to the parking lot.

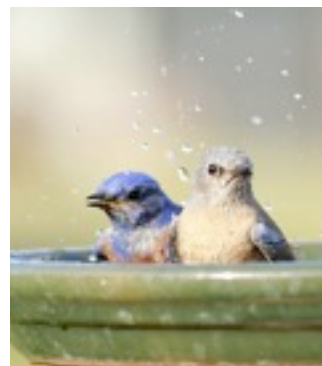


Photo: Erik Halberstadt

9:00am – 12noon

The Great Backyard Bird Count & Bird Walk

This weekend is the National Audubon Great Backyard Bird Count. To celebrate, we will have a 30 minute workshop to show you how you can help scientists by recording the birds that you see in your backyard, followed by a walk in American Canyon Wetlands.

Meet at the parking lot on the corner of Wetlands Edge Road and Eucalyptus Drive at 9 a.m. Bring binoculars if you have them and drinking water. Contact Napa-Solano Audubon Society President, Wendy Schackwitz at napa-solano-birds@outlook.com or (925) 963-4871 for more information.

Directions: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Eucalyptus Drive and Wetlands Edge Rd. From Highway 29 coming from Vallejo: turn left on West American Canyon Rd. Drive to end and turn right on Wetlands Edge Rd. Drive to the end and turn left on Eucalyptus Dr. From Napa: turn right on Rio Del Mar, make a sharp right on Eucalyptus Dr.; drive to the end.

9:00am-12:30pm

Skaggs Island Raptor Tours

Field Guide: Murray Berner

Repeats Friday,

9:00am-12:30pm with Murray

Berner; and Friday, Saturday

and Sunday, 11:30am-3:00pm

with Tim Behr.

See Friday 9:00am description and directions white tailed kite, Grizzly Island



Photo: Hank Miller

10:00am – 11:00am

Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge Docent Tour

Join Docent Michael Krieg to learn about three endangered species that occur nowhere else in the world – Lange's metalmark butterfly, Contra Costa wallflower and Antioch Dunes evening primrose. Arrive early to enter Refuge for tour as an escorted group. No late arrivals or early departures.

Directions: Take Hwy 4 east to Lone Tree/A Street exit in Antioch. Travel north on A Street, turn right on Wilbur Ave., left on Fulton Shipyard Rd. to gate at 501 Fulton Rd.

10:00am – 11:30am

Ecology of the North Bay: Walk at Pond 1 – Cullinan Ranch Levee

Join wetland biologist Francesca Demgen, President of Friends of San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge for a walk on the levee between two important north bay habitats: shallow, managed pond and the newly restored 1,200 acre tidal wetland. Potential to see hundreds of shore birds and ducks foraging and resting in Pond 1 and ducks and geese rafted on the tidal wetland. Learn how pickleweed and ducks can both “drink” salt water and about the thousands of acres of wetland restoration happening between the Napa and Petaluma Rivers.

Meet at the corner of Railroad Ave. and Connolly St. one block from the Flyway Festival Wildlife Expo Hall to form carpools or use the Refuge van described below.

Directions: To drive from the Flyway Festival, go north on Railroad Ave. to Hwy 37. Turn left over the overpass and follow directions from Vallejo. **From Vallejo, Solano and Contra Costa Counties:** take Hwy 37 West 3.4 miles past the Mare Island exit ramp to the Cullinan Ranch Unit parking lot and trailhead. **From Marin and Sonoma Counties:** take Hwy 37 east approximately 9 miles past the Hwy 121 junction to the Mare Island exit. Veer left on the exit under the overpass and then turn right onto the overpass. Turn right to get onto Hwy 37 West. The parking lot and trailhead is approximately 3.4 miles from the Mare Island ramp.

Since the parking lot is small, a *Refuge van leaves Building 253, the Wildlife Expo Saturday, Feb 14 10:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm and 2:00pm and Sunday, February 15 10:00am, 11:00am, 12noon and 1:00pm.*

Regional Outings Saturday, Feb. 14 cont'd. and Sunday Feb. 15

Saturday, February 14, cont'd.

10:00am-2:00pm

Lynch Canyon Eagles, Hawks and Other Birds of Prey Raptor and Birding Hike

Join James Walsh, an accomplished Solano Land Trust and West County Hawk Watch guide and the Solano Land Trust Raptor Team for a Wintering Birds of Prey Hike at Lynch Canyon Open Space Park. This hike will feature raptor identification tips and views of resident and over-wintering birds of prey. Previous sightings include golden eagles, bald eagles, rough-legged hawks, ferruginous hawks, cooper's hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, peregrine falcons, prairie falcons and other more common birds of prey. Bring water, snacks and binoculars. Wear sturdy shoes. Prepare for all weather. All ages welcome. Must be able to hike 4 miles up and down steep hills [Really, 800 ft up and 800 ft. down!] No dogs. Donation suggested—not required. RSVP requested—not required: to Mary Beth at mbcrittendon@comcast.net or 707-685-5908. Constant or heavy rain cancels. Call Mary Beth at 707-685-5908 if weather is uncertain.

Since Lynch Canyon is otherwise closed, the gate will be locked except for the tour's 10:00am start time and 2:00pm end time.

Directions: 3100 Lynch Road, just west of the intersection of Lynch Road & McGary Road, Vallejo, CA

From San Francisco / I-80 East between Vallejo and Fairfield:

Take the American Canyon/Hiddenbrooke exit. Go south toward Hiddenbrooke Parkway. Just before entering the Hiddenbrooke development, turn east (left) on McGary Road (frontage road that runs parallel to I-80). Follow McGary Road for 1.6 miles to where it intersects with Lynch Road. Turn left on Lynch Road, go under the I-80 underpass, and proceed through the gate at the end of the cul-de-sac to the gravel parking lot.

From Sacramento / I-80 West between Fairfield and Vallejo:

Take the Red Top Road exit. Go south (left) under the underpass. In less than 0.1 mile, turn right on McGary Road (frontage road that runs parallel to I-80). Follow McGary Road for 1.8 miles. Turn right on Lynch Road, go under the I-80 underpass, and proceed through the gate at the end of the cul-de-sac to the gravel parking lot.

Solano Land Trust is here: www.solanolandtrust.org

James Walsh is here: www.facebook.com/WestCountyHawkWatch

Sunday, February 15

10:00am – 11:30am

White Slough Eco-walk and Bird Watching [Family Friendly event]

Join wetland biologist Francesca Demgen, President of Friends of San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, to walk on an approximately 1-mile segment of the Bay Trail at the water's edge of South White Slough, an approximately 200 acre tidal lagoon. On our Eco-walk we talk about birds, plants, history, geography, ecology, and politics. Potential to see hundreds of shore birds and ducks foraging and resting. Bring binoculars and curiosity.

Meet at 10:00am at parking area located at the end of Enterprise Street, off of Sonoma Blvd. (cross street/light by Ace Hardware/Raley's) Vallejo [use 1177 Enterprise St. Vallejo for GPS navigation].

Directions: At the stop light on Hwy 29/Sonoma Blvd - Turn west on Yolano Drive, go one long block and then turn right (north) on Enterprise Street. Park where Enterprise "T"s into the Highway 37 sound wall.

10:00am-12:00noon

Sears Point Ranch Raptor Walk

Join Sonoma Land Trust at Sears Point to hike the hilly grasslands with long-time raptor enthusiast Larry Broderick, West County Hawk Watch, as we search for resident and migratory raptors and learn how to identify the different raptor species. From this vantage point, we will also get to look out over the in-progress, 1,000-acre tidal marsh restoration project area and enjoy the panoramic views of San Pablo Bay to San Francisco, Mt. Diablo and Mt. Tam. Bring your binoculars! Meet at the Baylands Center at 2100 Hwy 37, just east of the Lakeville Hwy intersection. Pre-register at <http://sltsearspoint021515.eventbrite.com> or show up at 10:00am at the Baylands Center at the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, located at 2100 Highway 37, part of an old dairy farm. Hike is over steep and uneven terrain. Wear sturdy shoes.

Directions: From Napa/Sonoma: travel from Hwy 12/121 through light at Sears Point to light at Lakeville Hwy. Make U-turn at light. Refuge is .25 miles on right. **From Vallejo:** travel west on Hwy 37 to Lakeville Hwy light. Follow directions above. **From Marin:** travel eastbound on Hwy 37, Refuge is .25 miles on right after Lakeville Hwy light. Turn right into the driveway of an old dairy farm—no refuge signs.

11:30am-3:00pm

Skaggs Island Raptor Tours

Field Guide: Tim Behr, Raptor Researcher, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

Repeats Friday and Saturday, 9:00am-12:30pm with Murray Berner; and Friday and Saturday 11:30am-3:00pm with Tim Behr.

See Friday 9:00am description and directions

1:00pm-3:00pm

Sears Point Levee Shorebirds and Waterfowl Walk

Join Sonoma Land Trust at Sears Point Ranch for a walk with Certified California Naturalist Dave Barry along the old and new levees surrounding the 1,000-acre tidal marsh restoration project. Look at the shorebirds and waterfowl adorning the newly-created wetlands. Bring your binoculars and spotting scopes! Meet at the Baylands Center at 2100 Hwy 37, just east of the Lakeville Hwy intersection. Pre-register at <http://sltsearspointB021515.eventbrite.com>

See Sunday 10:00am directions



Photo: Lee Ann Baker



Photo: Lee Ann Baker