



Hike & Thrive May 2012

Sat, May 5, 4:30 – 10 p.m.
Brushy Peak Special Sunset Adventure! (LARPD)
 Leaders: Pat and Patti
 Meet at Brushy Peak Regional Preserve. From I-580 in Livermore, exit north at Vasco Road and immediately turn right onto Northfront Road. After about .8 miles turn left onto Laughlin Road and proceed approximately two miles to the staging area at the end of Laughlin Road. Join us for an evening trip to the portion of Brushy Peak that is usually closed to the public! Includes a moderately strenuous hike to the peak, four miles round trip, with 800 feet elevation gain. Fee is \$30. Register at (925) 373-5700.

Sunday, May 6, 10am-2pm
Diablo Range Missing Link Protected in Altamont Pass First Protected Tunnels Will Allow Wildlife Movement Under 11 Lanes of I-580

Leader: Seth Adams, Land Programs Director
RSVP Required to smdinfo@savemountdiablo.org or (925) 947-3535. Limit of 50 participants.
 Meet at the Park-N-Ride lot at the south end of Grant Line Road in Tracy. From Central County/Alameda County take I-580 east towards Tracy, exit Grant Line Road and turn right. Expect 1 hour travel time from Walnut Creek. From East County: head east

on Byron Rd towards Tracy, turn right on Mountain House Parkway and then right on W Grant Line Road, follow until you cross under I-580. Cutting 9 miles through Altamont Pass, Interstate 580 is an essential transit route linking the Bay Area to the Central Valley--200,000 cars and trucks traverse the highway each day—but it's a formidable obstacle to wildlife movement. Recently the first ever connection under the freeway was protected creating the beginnings of what we hope will eventually be a long-distance wildlife corridor stretching from the former Concord Naval Station through Mount Diablo State Park and Morgan Territory Regional Preserve to the south of Altamont Pass into the rest of the Diablo Range. Join us on an exclusive tour of three new properties, 651 acres purchased by the Contra Costa Water District as mitigation for the expansion of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. In addition to the cattle tunnel connections under I-580 on the Jess and Jensen Ranch purchases, we will see a "ghost in the landscape," the surreal abandoned Mountain House Golf Course, with its miles of concrete golf cart paths amid expansive wetlands—endangered species habitat which CCWD is restoring. Approximately 5 miles, mostly

on fire roads through easy terrain. No dogs allowed, bring lunch, liquids, a wind breaker, and dress in layers.



Sun, May 6, 9:30-11:30
Majestic Oaks at Mangini Ranch, Heritage Tree Hike (Save Mount Diablo)

Please RSVP (925) 947-3535. Join Julie Seelen, Save Mount Diablo's Advancement Director, on a hike through spectacular Mangini Ranch. Closed to the public, Save Mount Diablo's 208-acre property includes the headwaters of Galindo Creek with rolling grasslands, oaks, buckeyes, and a rare desert olive grove. Keep your eyes out for bobcats and coyotes looking for breakfast, plus burrowing owls, quail, and many other feathered friends. This is a two hour, four mile hike with one moderately strenuous hill. The length and course may be altered based on weather. Mangini Ranch is home to our [Heritage Tree program](#). If you have considered commemorating a loved one or cherished memory with a unique and beautiful tree please join us on the hike to see available trees.

Sun, May 6, 9:30am-5pm
Round the Mountain Hike (MDIA)
 Location: Juniper Campground – Mt. Diablo State Park
 Leader: Jake Van Akkeren 925-933-3486 (call before 9pm)
 Meet at Juniper Campground Trailhead, Enter Mt. Diablo State Park via Northgate Road in Walnut Creek or Southgate Road in Danville, continue up the mountain 2.3 miles past the Junction Ranger Station, \$10 per vehicle.

This classic loop provides views in all directions as we circle the park's dominant peak via Deer Flat, Prospector's Gap and Oak Knoll. Spring wildflowers should be abundant all along this route. Allow 6 hours for this 8 mile hike with an elevation gain of about 2000 feet. Steady relaxed pace with lunch break. Prepare for poison oak. Rain cancels. RSVP jvanakkeren@comcast.net



Sat, May 12, 10am-1pm
Wildflowers at the Summit (MDIA)
 Leader: Yulan Tong
 Meet at Lower Summit Lot - enter Mt. Diablo State Park via Northgate Rd in Walnut Creek or Southgate Rd in Danville, continue up the mountain past



KAISER PERMANENTE®

Save Mount Diablo's Hike Schedule is generously underwritten by Kaiser Permanente to promote healthy living.

the Junction Ranger Station, the lot is located at end of Summit Rd. \$10 park entrance fee.

Join us for a fairly level walk around the summit on the Mary Bowerman Trail. Flowers and views abound. Bring: sunscreen, snack and water. Rain cancels. 925-945-6068

**Sat, May 19, 10am-1pm
Wildflowers at the Summit (MDIA)**

Leader: Phil Reed

Meet at Lower Summit Lot - enter Mt. Diablo State Park via Northgate Rd in Walnut Creek or Southgate Rd in Danville, continue up the mountain past the Junction Ranger Station, the lot is located at end of Summit Rd. \$10 park entrance. Join us for a fairly level walk around the Summit on the Mary Bowerman Trail to see the flowers and the views. Bring sunscreen, snack or lunch and water. Rain Cancels. 925-829-0628.

**Sun, May 20, 10am-3pm
Devil's Elbow to Prospector's Gap (California Native Plant Society)**

Leader: Gregg Weber call 510-223-3310

Meet at the Devil's Elbow parking lot at 10 am. Enter Mount Diablo State Park via Northgate Road in Walnut Creek or Southgate Road in Danville, continue up the mountain past the Junction Ranger Station. The trailhead is on the right about 3/4 mile past the Juniper parking area. This trail is packed with native plants and relatively few alien species. There may be *Calochortus venustus*, *C. pulchellus*, *Chorizanthe membranacea*, *Hydrophyllum occidentale*, *Arnica discoidea*, a few areas of *Collinsia tinctoria*, *Clarkia concinna*, plus native *Cirsium* (thistles), lupines, and

Lomatium. There are also large areas of *Quercus chrysolepis* (canyon live oak). This trip will be most of the day, so bring lunch and water. We should arrive back at the parking lot around 3 pm. Rain cancels. RSVP 510-223-3310

**Sunday, May 20th, 10am-2pm
The 60-mile Diablo Grand Loop is Complete
CCWD's Evergreen acquisition, at Deer Valley Road**

Leader: Seth Adams, Land Programs Director

RSVP Required to smdinfo@savemountdiablo.org or (925) 947-3535.

Meet at the Round Valley Staging Area, 19450 Marsh Creek Road, Brentwood. In the late 1990s Save Mount Diablo protected a 4 mile long section of ridgeline on Roddy Ranch as a condition of the golf course there. Although it includes a trail easement, it can only be used when a neighboring segment to the east has been secured. Now it has. The long ridgeline between Briones and Deer Valleys, south of Antioch and stretching east from Black Diamond Mines across the Roddy Ranch Open Space toward the new Marsh Creek State Park, is almost completely unknown to the public. North slope wooded, south slope steep grassland, it is both sublimely beautiful and includes rarely seen views of the Diablo area. Contra Costa Water District's 658-acre Evergreen property is therefore a land mark for conservation in the East Bay. It closes the final gap in the corridor of permanently protected open space stretching from Black Diamond Mines to the Los Vaqueros watershed. It will

also allow for the 60-70 mile "Diablo Grand Loop" regional hiking trail that will circle the Mount Diablo area. Finally, it is located in two of the parallel valleys stretching east from Black Diamond, Briones Valley and Deer Valley, and crosses the steep ridge between them. This rugged property was acquired by the Contra Costa Water District as mitigation for the expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir. The steep ridge between Deer and Briones Valleys is crowned with a fire road and terrific 360-degree views while the valley bottoms include sinuous creeks, alkaline soils and fascinating rare plants associated with them. This is really a choice of two hikes – an easy 60-90 minute 1-mile loop around the Briones Valley side where we'll park. And a longer 3-4 mile hike including a steep 15 minute "stair master" of a climb up and down the ridge to the more moderate ridgeline fire road over into Deer Valley. No dogs allowed, bring lunch, liquids, and sun protection.

**Sat, May 26, 10am-1pm
Mitchell Canyon to Black Point Trail**

Leader: Michael Marchiano
Meet at the Mitchell Canyon Interpretive Center parking area. From I-680 head east on Ygnacio Valley Road for 7.5 miles then turn right on Clayton Road, right on Mitchell Canyon Road follow to the end. \$6 per car.

It is a 3+ mile hike at an enjoyable pace, with some gradual uphill climbing. We will hike up Mitchell Canyon to Black Point Trail for an introduction to the Chaparral ecosystem that covers a large part of Mt. Diablo as well as California. Learn about the vegetation that is unique to this environment. We will

be in search of the elusive Coast Horned Lizard and Checkered Whip Tail along with other special creatures of the arid plant community. There are several species of migrant hummingbirds along with other birds that visit this area in spring and summer so bring binoculars as well as cameras. Also bring water, a snack and your curiosity. RSVP mmarchiano@gmail.com



**Saturday, June 2, 12pm – 3pm
Thomas Home Ranch Reception (Save Mount Diablo)**

Where: Historic Nortonville Canyon – Pittsburg Hills
This spring, Save Mount Diablo invited local plein air artists to come out and paint on one of our newest acquisitions, the 145 acre Thomas Home Ranch. They beautifully captured the old red barn, antique farming equipment, peaceful pomegranate grove and much more. We cordially invite you to a reception at the property where the artwork will be on display. The pieces will be for sale and a portion of the proceeds will go towards Save Mount Diablo's land preservation work. **RSVP Required** by Friday, May 25th. Email your phone number and name of guest to smdinfo@savemountdiablo.org or call 925-947-3535.



1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 320
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
(925) 947-3535
www.SaveMountDiablo.org

Save Mount Diablo preserves, defends and restores open space on and around Mount Diablo for people and wildlife to enjoy.