



Buckeye

Original Committee Founded 1969



Winter '99/2000

San Bruno Mountain Watch

Published when we get

tuit



Patrick Orosco and the Pajaro Valley Ohlone performed an Equinox Bear Dance in the Saddle area.

Terrabay Report

by Philip Badgehlder

Kudos to all who braved the South San Francisco public meetings on Terrabay! Although these meetings seemed to come week after week, with some running well past midnight, a tremendous, heartfelt passion rose up consistently and eloquently to oppose SunChase and their project. Along with 1000 South City petition signatures and hundreds of postcards to City officials, this outspoken opposition paid off: the city council unanimously scaled Phase II down and instructed SunChase to redraw the Phase III plans leaving the Shellmound and everything north in permanent open space. On the week end before this vote, a dozen Mountain Watch volunteers distributed 5000 informational doorhangers in South City, including most of Terra Bay's Phase I. Since the issue is far from dead, however, we continue to press for guaranteed open space protection. City officials are clearly determined to

approve some level of building; we are working to ensure that the Shellmound is well protected from whatever monstrosity might be built. We have filed a lawsuit under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that condemns the city for its utter failure to analyze the cumulative impacts of Terrabay and other current proposals. This analysis is mandated by CEQA's environmental impact review process and we'll keep you informed as the litigation proceeds. Mountain Watch with South San Francisco residents is remaining vigilant since SunChase is still pressing to build north of the Shellmound. We want to ensure that the city doesn't give in and we'll be at city hall when public hearings resume. We'll also be requesting the help of our membership. Please watch for mailings, alerts and donation requests. Against tremendous odds, we've made a difference that you'll be able to go out and see with your own eyes. Our efforts cannot continue though without backing. Thank you.





Terrabay Update

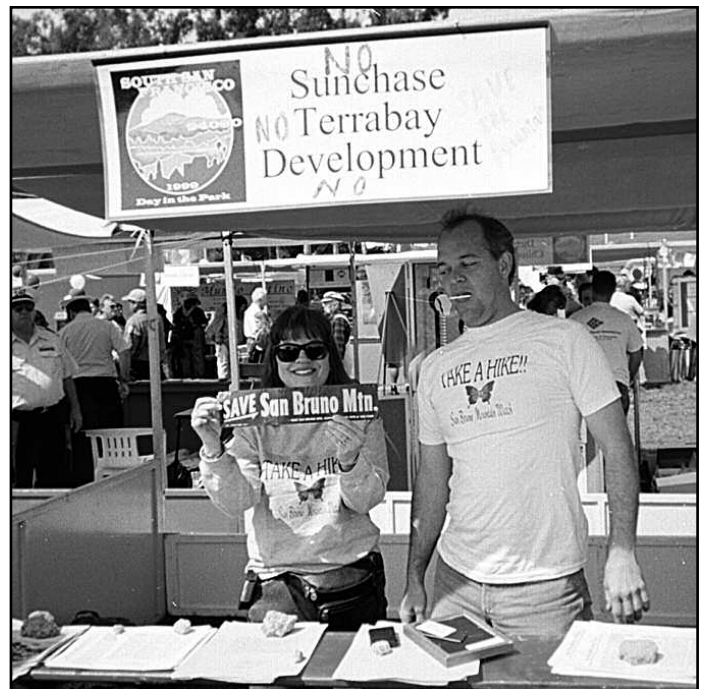
After intensive public hearings and meetings in South San Francisco through the summer and early fall, there appears to be some progress in our efforts to get the shellmound site dedicated to open space and added to the county park. Our vision is that all the land north of Indian Ridge (the ridge above the billboards on Old Bayshore Blvd.) be permanently preserved.

Mountain Watch Receives Grants

In the past two months we have received two grants; \$5,000 from the **San Francisco Foundation** and \$7,500 from the **Peninsula Community Foundation**. Both grants are for “general support” and will assist us with office expenses, printing and mailing, and other cost involved with our educational and habitat restoration efforts.

Thank You to both foundations for your generous support of our ongoing work!

.....
 • Design & Layout of this newsletter •
 • by Vicky Graham, SBMW Director •



SBMW's Cindy Marcopoulis and Fred Andres gleefully take over a SB Mtn developers display booth at an SSF fair—and promote the mountain's preservation.



Shellmound Preservation...

by Edna Harks



Founder of South San Francisco Historic Preservation Commission

I am a member of the Historic Preservation Commission, one of the five appointed by the City Council. Our duties are defined by Chapter 2.58 of the City Charter. I quote Section 010: a) It is hereby found that structures, sites and areas of special character or special historical, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value have been and continue to be unnecessarily destroyed, impaired or neglected despite the feasibility of preserving them. b) It is further found that the prevention of such needless destruction and impairment is essential to the health safety and general welfare of the citizens of the city of South San Francisco. How can we not act in obedience of this charge.

We have been studying and analyzing Phase III of the SunChase development for over a year and as of this date the

final proposal has not been offered. As of today I am convinced that the proper decision is against any development proposed by SunChase. That entire area becomes a desecration of historic land; there is no way anyone can draw a line and declare 5100 acre any different than the total being planned. It is all one piece, home to the Ohlone (Siplichichin), shelter to the red tailed hawk, the butterfly, the fox. It would be an appropriate extension of the San Mateo County Park land or a serene home to a research facility. Members of the City Council should realize what awesome destruction they have in their power to bring down upon us. Leaving it alone would restore the feeling of benevolence and spiritual well being so pervasive here.

CA SMA 299 Shellmound @ new South City BART

by David Schooley

There is another third shellmound found in South San Francisco officially recorded in 1989 by Barbara Bocek of Stanford University during the San Francisquito Archeological Project. This site CA-SMA-299 is on both sides of Colma Creek around and under Chestnut Avenue. And once spread as far as the new BART next to El Camino Real. In the BART - San Francisco Airport extension. FEIR/FEIS volume one-cultural resources says page 3-0 and 4-6, "Moreover past disturbances in this vicinity suggests the site would not yield important information on pre-history or history."

Also Barbara Bocek said the integrity of the site was completely destroyed, not only by creek channelization, railroad tracks and other construction, but by systematic mining of the midden itself as "Colma loam" sold as gardening soil in the 1930's to 1950's.

SBMW members went out to check the sites by the creek—we found that its not true that the site would not yield important information. We found many places that as Barbara Bocek also said has shells in patches of varying density on the north and south banks of the creek and a large midden.

Standing on the creek and on the shellmound remnants, SBMW felt strongly that there should be some kind of monument and some kind of park on the grounds of Ohlone/Siplichiquin.

With a native oak, scrub, grassland arboretum as used by the Indian people for over 5000 years at what is now the center of South San Francisco.

Mountain Watch has resolved to send letters to BART and the City and other native American groups to find out if there is interest for such a marker and more living presence of that vanished culture and their creekside village.



Ohlone basket found in San Mateo County.



Join SBMW for a free guided hike, call 415/467-6631

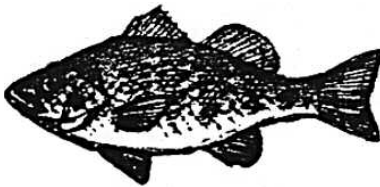
Shellmounds on the San Mateo Coast

There is a Whitehouse Creek shellmound which is part of a Mid Peninsula open space preserve and has for thousands of years remained unchanged. The spirits of the Ohlone still live. Crushed abalone shells cover the ground. Buckeye trees line the banks of the creeks. The glossy brown buckeye nuts provided a source of carbohydrates for the Indians. During the days the incoming sea breezes carry the sound of barking elephant seals roosting at Ano Nuevo, while at night the sound of yipping coyotes cuts through the darkness of the ancient redwood forests.

According to weird John Harmon, within the Ohlone language area there were 40 tribelets averaging about 250 people, each with its own territory and chief. This was the densest population north of Mexico. Ohlone Valley along Whitehouse Creek is within the Ramaytush language area. Such linguistic diversity in a small area indicates that the resources of the Bay Area were rich, the peoples were prosperous and peaceful, and they lived in harmony with their environment for a very long time. The Whitehouse Creek shellmound is one of the last remaining village sites surrounded by native habitat.

Stream Monitoring in Whitehouse and San Gregorio Creeks

by Chris Larsen



Volunteers with the San Gregorio Environmental Resource Center SGERC have completed over six months of monitoring at Whitehouse Creek. Although Whitehouse Creek has excellent water quality, low flows during the summer time may be harming the small but viable steelhead fishery in the creek. In addition, shallow spots in the creek heat up in summer sun, depleting dissolved oxygen. We are encouraged though that one of the main summer time diverters of water, the Coastal Conservancy, has stopped diverting water during the summer. We are working to prevent any further summer time diversions by the state agency. This will allow more water to stay in the creek for rare species such as steelhead and the California Red-Legged Frog.

San Gregorio Creek has been designated a top priority watershed for the re-introduction of Coho Salmon, an endangered species. This creek is slated to go through a rigorous Clean Water Act process to combat excessive sedimentation caused by past logging, road building; in addition to coliform contamination from farms upstream. SGERC is concerned that the low flow of water will lower the chances for successful coho re-introduction. Another meeting on salmon issues in San Gregorio Creek will be held in January 2000. For more information or to get involved call 650-726-2499.

Steelhead Lawsuit Victory

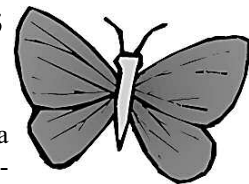
Under the settlement of a lawsuit brought by the Coastside Habitat Coalition, the Alameda Creek Alliance, the Center for Biological Diversity, and the National Marine Fisheries Service NMFS has agreed to issue protective regulations for the threatened runs of steelhead trout along California's central coast. With these Endangered Species Act regulations, activists will have another tool to use in the protection of extremely important wetland, riparian and estuarine habitats. The regulations are to be proposed by NMFS by Dec. 15, 1999 and finalized by June 19, 2000. Once in place, they will provide guidelines on what activities constitute harm to the species, such as fish kills, habitat destruction and dewatering events. For more information call us, or the Center for Biological diversity at 510-841-0812.



Bill Freedman, (second to right) recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Bill is known as the Bay Area mushroom man and has written several books on cooking with wild mushrooms. On Wednesday December 1, Bill will join David Schooley in leading a Mushroom walk on San Bruno Mountain. Meet at the park entrance in the Saddle area.

Restoration of Grasslands

by Fred Andres



We had a very successful season removing fennel from Buckeye Canyon. Many people worked on the ridge east of Buckeye and in the canyon itself. The difference between fennel this year and last year is very obvious to persons doing the work. It is much easier this year.

Fennel removal has also been done on the great San Bruno shellmound threatened by Phase III Sunchase development. Native seeds including, johnny jumpup, lupine, buckeyes etc. were broadcast near the shellmound and cast near the bay laurel tree.

A native grassland project involving Junipero Serra School and San Bruno Mountain Watch will begin this winter. Both Philip Badgeholder and I will be growing albifrons lupine, larval host plant for the mission blue butterfly. Other butterfly plant projects are in the pipeline.

Berkeley Shellmound Threatened

by Stephanie Manning

With the closure of Spenger's Fish Restaurant in December 1998, public attention has been focusing on development prospects on Spenger's parking lot at 4th and Hearst Avenue in Berkeley which sits atop the site of a 5,700 year old native American shellmound.

Spenger's restaurant was one of Berkeley's oldest and most popular businesses. Established over 100 years ago as a fish market, it was built in the days before the I-880 freeway and the University Avenue overpass. Life was less about concrete and closer to nature in those days with Strawberry Creek flowing freely along the south side of the market out through a grove of yellow willows to the bay only 2 1/2 blocks to the west.

According to US geologist B. Lynn Ingram, the west Berkeley shellmound began in about 3,700 B.C. and was not abandoned until 800 A.D. due to a long global dry period. Native families had used the mound for 4,500 years, hundreds of generations.

Through out the 1850's to 1950's the West Berkeley mound was severely disturbed by scavengers and by the construction of factories. Shell material was sold off for fertilizer, chicken feed and tennis court and tennis court and road bed paving. The top was shaved off to make a flat base for a water tank. In 1910, N.C. Nelson who studied and numbered all the bay mounds, drew a sketch map of the west Berkeley mound showing its coverage extending north of Hearst Avenue, east of 4th Street and south to Strawberry Creek.

In 1950, UC anthropologists excavated the remaining above ground portion. They brought out hundreds of artifacts and 95 human burials. They noted their inability to bring out more buri-

als because of the buildings, roads and trackbeds.

Now Spenger's parking lot could very well contain subterranean remnants of this significant mound. However, David Ruegg, developer for the Spenger's family proposed a shopping mall, claiming there is no shellmound beneath the lot. His claim is based on 14 borings done on the northern half of the lot by Architect Inc. However, the southern half is yet to be examined. This portion contains the Strawberry Creek culvert, along which the mound was said to be located. Area businesses are anxious to see a 400-car parking structure built on the southern half. Ruegg states that the plan is not to build a structure but to create surface parking. Surface parking would be far better for preservation of any human remains or other remaining shellmound material.

Meanwhile the site of the old mound has been nominated for official city landmark designation. Shellmound proponents, native Americans, preservationists, people concerned about pre-history and archeology should make your feelings known about the importance of this historic site. Write to the Landmarks Preservation Commission, 2120 Milvia Street, Berkeley 94704.

Bay Area shellmounds are some of the most endangered cultural resources in the country. They are also perhaps the most significant. Citizens need to make their voices heard if even a tiny fraction of these shellmounds are to be saved. Otherwise thousands of years of Bay Area history could slide back into oblivion as children continue to be taught that California did not exist before 1849. For more information contact Stephanie Manning 510/841-8562.

The Callippe Silverspot

<http://www.hort.agri.umn.edu/h5015/97papers/mason.html>

Butterflies evade the fogs of San Bruno Mountain by keeping away from the coastward, western portions of the mountain. Avoiding foggy areas allows the callippe silverspot (*Speyeria callippe callippe*) to fly from May through July in search of its host plant, *Viola pedunculata*, and nectar sources in grasslands on San Bruno Mountain. The callippe silverspot is restricted to sunny north- and east-facing slopes on the mountain on the eastern side of the fog line (a topographic barrier to the fog). Above these slopes, on hilltops and ridges, the male silverspots gather in "mating assemblages", and females fly to the hilltops to choose mates from these groups. Therefore, planning to restore appropriate habitat for the silverspot must include considerations of location, vegetation, aspect, and large-scale topography.

Efforts have been made to revegetate grasslands containing *Viola* in order to increase habitat for the callippe silverspot. Unfortunately, the proposed restoration area was on the west side of the fog line, an area which will be unsuitable except on infrequent clear days during the flight season.

Victorian Days in the Park



SBMW directors David Betti and David Schooley spread the word about the threats to San Bruno Mtn. last August at Victorian Days in the Park, San Mateo.



“My PhD was in Botany from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. My thesis was on a monograph of the genus *Hydrangia*. I’m a southern Californian and I came to the Bay Area in about 1949 because I had a job. I’d been at graduate school at the University of Michigan and there was a position open at the California Academy of Sciences where I worked until I retired in 1957.

I started going onto San Bruno Mountain probably early in the 1960’s. The book *A Flora of the San Bruno Mountains* was first published in 1968. Walter Knight and his wife Erie, and I were quite friendly and we started going to the mountain and making these collections of plants. They didn’t make the collections, but I made them.

Finally after having done that for several years I had made quite a collection and had notes. And it just seemed like a good idea maybe to do a little flora. I’d visited some areas in San Francisco but I didn’t want to duplicate anything that John Thomas Howles was doing. You see he was there at the Academy at the same time and he was interested in the native plants in San Francisco and I became interested in ornamental plants. But I did some collecting also. I did a few collections around in San Francisco and then I started making these collections on San Bruno Mountain. I did the native plants of San Bruno Mountain. There’s no ornamentals there. So anyway, I just wrote that up. Walter Knight contributed, he had been with me when we made the collections and then Neil Faye did a couple of early sections in the flora. My book on the flora had something to do with the fact that Guadalupe Canyon Parkway was going to be made. I knew about that because I just knew about what the Crocker Land Company was going to do. I think I had met Sherman Eubanks (president, Crocker Land Company, owned most of mountain during 60’s) about that time. I had no animosity at all toward him he was always very friendly. And in fact he joined us once on San Bruno Mountain



Elizabeth McClintock, David Schooley and Betsy Burr attended David’s recent award dinner.

Photo by Cindy Marcopoulis

as I recall, back in the 1960’s, thirty years ago. I’m sure I was worried about Guadalupe and all the development planned for the mountain but what could I do? It was the Crocker Land Company that owned the land. There was a woman Mary Holmans, who was a Crocker, was a member of the Crocker Land Company. She’s long gone from here now. The Rockefeller and the Crocker were related and she was a cousin, I think, of David Rockefeller. Anyway, Mary knew about San Bruno Mountain and she was the one who first interested me in San Bruno Mountain. Mary knew about the mountain because it was part of the Crocker Land Company’s properties. Really I was just interested in the plants and any of the people concerned, well they were just kind of incidental. But I was acquainted with Mary Holmans and I believe it was Helen Crocker Russell, I met her once, she was a cousin of Mary Holmans. Mary came through her mothers line, but she was a descendent of the Big Charles Crocker.

James Roof made no contributions to the flora. I thank him in the book because we went together. He was a friend of Walter Knight’s at that time and later they became unfriendly. James Roof lived, at one time, sort of at the foot of San Bruno

Mountain. He looked on the mountain as his mountain. And he was friendly enough in the beginning, we went on two or three trips together. Then later he was not so friendly with Walter Knight. I don’t know that he ever really became unfriendly with me. I don’t think he ever disliked me for what I did on the mountain.

Jim wanted to write something about San Bruno Mountain but he would never have written flora. He would never have done what I did. But he wanted to write and unfortunately he never did. He wanted to write, sort of a popular account of San Bruno Mountain. Maybe something like kind that you’re (SBMW orla history project) working on. He had lots of photographs and I don’t know what became of his photographs. Alice Howard has them may but I haven’t seen Alice for years.

I use to know her a long time ago and we were always very friendly but we didn’t keep up with each other. She worked at the University of California Herbarium and that was where I first knew her and where I was friendly with her. Then she retired quite a number of years ago and I didn’t see her anymore. She was a great friend of Jim Roof and I have a recollection that she acquired his many photographs.”

David Schooley Wins Sustainability Award

by Betsy Burr

David Schooley was honored recently for his three decades long work on behalf of San Bruno Mountain, as the organization Sustainable San Mateo County presented its first annual sustainability awards.

Sustainable San Mateo County is a non-profit educational organization begun in 1992, "dedicated to the long-term social, economic and environmental health and vitality" of the county. The awards are designed to call attention to individuals and programs which have promoted new ways of strengthening communities by enhancing quality of life. Five awards were bestowed.

A group of long-time San Bruno Mountain advocates cheered David on as he received a framed commendation from the California State Assembly and citations sponsored by two US Congress members.

David was nominated for this award through the efforts of Anja and Ray Miller of Brisbane. The citation commended David for consistent and sustained activity in multiple areas: as a



(Left to right) Anya Miller who nominated David for Sustainability award, Betty Higgins leader of the Original Committee to Save SB Mtn, Jeanine Hodges, David Schooley, Tony Attard, and SBMW director Ken McIntire.

Photo by Cindy Marcepoulis

participant in the political debate over development of the mountain; as a poet, writer and historian; as a tireless educator of the young and old about the natural wonders on the hundreds of hikes he leads and as a hands-on worker to restore native habitat of the mountain and to eradicate invasive species as well as for his authorship of "numerous articles and pamphlets demonstrating careful research and thorough knowledge."

David expressed his gratitude for the award and added "What we most need now is for you to turn out and help us with this vital effort."

Negative news about Habitat Conservation Plans in Cyberspace

http://www.hcn.org/1997/aug04/Index_2914.html

• High Country News (Colo.) theme issue on HCPs (Aug. 1997), with ten articles online.

<http://www.sw-center.org/swcbd/activist/hcp.html>

• Southwest Center for Biological Diversity on problems of Habitat Conservation Plans

<http://www.sw-center.org/swcbd/activist/esa.html>

• HCPs and the Endangered Species Recovery Act, which would address HCP problems and reauthorize the ESA; Includes text of the ESA, including Section 10 on HCPs.

<http://www.defenders.org/hcp98.html>, and:

<http://www.defenders.org/defenders/pr021098.html>

• Two articles about Defenders of Wildlife's critical study of Habitat Conservation Plans, "Frayed Safety Nets: Conservation Planning Under the Endangered Species Act", by biologist Laura Hood (115 pp.; published Feb. 1998). The report documents that many Habitat Conservation Plans are driving endangered species to the brink of extinction instead of helping them recover. ESA reauthorization legislation introduced in the House by Rep. George Miller (H.R. 2351) addresses many of the problems identified in the report.

<http://www.defenders.org/defenders/esesra.html>

• On the Endangered Species Recovery Act (H.R. 2351).

<http://www.defenders.org/pr730297.html>

• Rep. George Miller's Endangered Species Recovery Act Wins

Endorsements from leading Environmental, Religious, & Sportsmen's Groups (7/97)

<http://www.defenders.org/esa-1.html>

• Defenders of Wildlife's Endangered Species page

http://www.pirg.org/enviro/esa/f_hr2351.htm

• The Endangered Species Recovery Act (H.R. 2351) -

Summary and text of this bill to reauthorize and fix loopholes in the ESA

[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d105:h.r.02351:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d105:h.r.02351)

• Summary, legislative status, co-sponsors list and text of H.R. 2351

<http://www.igc.org/epic/pages/angered.html>

• EPIC / The Environmental Protection Information Center - Endangered Species

Especially relevant articles from this site:

http://www.igc.org/epic/pages/hcp_facts.html

• "Habitat Conservation Plans: Not All They're Cracked up to Be", by Tara Mueller.

http://www.igc.org/epic/pages/nccp_facts.html

• NCCP (Natural Community Conservation Plan) Fact Sheet: Natural Communities Conservation Planning: Does Delegation of Endangered Species Protection to the States Protect Species?", by Tara Mueller.

<http://www.igc.org/epic/pages/angered.html>

• "Endangered Species Protection Compromised in California"

(ESA update from the Winter 1997/1998 issue of EPIC's publication Wild California)

The Two Brisbane Quarries

by David Schooley



The smaller quarry long abandoned is in the acres above the old Bay Shore a down from Thomas Hill surrounded and filled by eucalyptus trees and broom. Its barely seen and barely walked. It is now home for jackrabbits, raccoons, foxes, snakes and lots of birds.

The bigger and older quarry between Owl Canyon and Dairy Ravine is still in operation. It began over 100 years ago mining graywacke, the San Bruno Mountain rock, pressed sand deep from the ocean. It has altered the mountain water table and drainage. It has removed two valleys and is still destroying rare and endangered species and their habitat. The quarry is not under the Habitat Conservation Plan and is not under the jurisdiction of Brisbane. Permits, inspections and tax revenues go to the county of San Mateo. None-the-less the quarry has significant effected both Brisbane and San Bruno Mountain State and County Park.

Soon enough that quarry will be shut down and its owner is already prepared to sell the land. Most people in Brisbane do not want even more development or housing on the mountain. SBMW agrees. We made the effort to purchase both Buckeye and Owl Canyon through the State Bond Act. The quarry is now surrounded by pure native habitat and rare and endangered habitat. To build houses in the quarry would enter a whole new change:

non-native plants around houses and roads, there will be cats, dogs, rats, mice and birds that are not now in native areas such as starlings, pigeons, etc. This will effect the areas where we are working so hard to remove non-natives.

SBMW and Brisbane residents don't want the quarry road used for ongoing car traffic. The quarry road should be used as a peaceful path into the natural beauty of San Bruno Mountain.

The immense cavern, gutted ridges and falling rock will never look safe for houses. Who wants to be living in the quarry during and earthquake or massive rains.

SBMW's dream is that the quarry should become a botanical garden with native plants growing on the quarry edges and ridges, and on the upper flat portion of the quarry. The building where the machinery is kept should become a pre-historical museum and library for the northern end of San Mateo County. We are now preparing for the Trust for Public Land and State Bond Act to help purchase the land for preservation.

In the east bay, there was a vote asking to have any further growth be put to a public vote by the citizens. Brisbane residents should also work to curtail run-away development by putting large development projects to a vote.

Brisbane residents should write to the city about their wish to preserve the mountain. Do you want to see more 263 more houses or a botanical garden and museum.

Mountain Media 1999

Jan '99

Green Party of San Mateo

PO Box 6886

San Carlos 94070

"South San Francisco's choice" Shellmound or Shellgame?"

April 20, 1999

Independent, Michelle O'Donnell

"SSF Council postpones Terrabay vote"

April 24, 1999

Independent, Michelle O'Donnell

"South City Commissioner's comments draw mayors ire"

April 24, 1999

Independent, Michelle O'Donnell

"Citizens voiced concern about San Bruno Mountain"

(30 people addressed the City Council April 14 on San Bruno Mtn.)

April 1999

Independent, Michelle O'Donnell

"Storm of Controversy brews over second Phase of Terrabay"

April 1999

Independent, Michelle O'Donnell

"Public's last chance to be heard"

"Council to vote on Terrabay Tomorrow"

April 14, 1999

Pacifica Tribune, By John Mayberry

Activist recounts efforts to preserve "legendary" San Bruno Mtn. (Schooley urges all concerned citizens to contact SSF City

Council immediately. The council meets Wed. April 14, at 7:30 in the Municipal Service building at Arroyo and El Camino.)

Feb. 20, 1999

Independent, by David Burruto

"Group to file suit against SSF and Terrabay"

"Environmentalists cite potential Endangered Species Act Violation."

May 18, 1999

The Independent

Michelle O'Donnell

"The other battle on the Mountain. Invasive plant species threatens habitat"

May 26, 1999

San Mateo Times

Michelle Marcucci

"Prime habitat, housing, try to share mountain"

May 28, 1999

San Mateo Times

"South City rejects Terrabay Proposal"

May 8, 1999

The SF Chronicle, Marshall Wilson

"South City won't disturb Shellmound. Council rejects plan for big project near Ohlone Indian Site"

May 10, 1999

San Mateo Times, by Michelle Marcucci

"Environmentalists attack Terrabay proposal."



Children learn what they live...

Kids from Lipman School in Brisbane enjoy brisk autumn air, panoramic vistas and autumn flora, including California fuschia, aster & goldenrod.

Don't miss the spring wildflower season which starts in January with Footsteps-of-spring, cream colored franciscan wallflowers, checkerbloom, gold-field, buttercups, poppies...



Photo by Robert Carillo

May 27, 1999
 San Jose Mercury
 By Marcus Walton
 "Mountain development plan debated. Foes point to Ohlone historical site during council debate."

June 21, 1999
 SF Examiner, by Althea Yip
 "Indian site development plan at odds. Shellmound by SB Mtn. is sacred to Ohlone, but Arizona firm wants office tower, hotel, restaurant."

May 4, 1999
 San Mateo County Times
 by Michele Marcucci
 "SSF Council ok's study for traffic east of Highway 101"

May 11, 1999
 The Independent, by Michelle O'Donnell
 "No vote on sacred native burial ground. South City planners table vote til May 20."

May 18, 1999
 The Independent, Michele O'Donnell
 "City approves Terrabay Phase II. Houses to be ready by spring 2000."

July 2, 1999
 San Mateo Times, by Michelle Marcucci
 "Residents don't dig quarry master plan."

July 14, 1999
 San Mateo County Times, by Michelle Marcucci
 "Mountain's defender rock solid in his beliefs. David Schooley admired for tenacity."

Join San Bruno Mountain Watch for a Winter Solstice Celebration. Call 415/468-1345 for more information.

The Earth is actually nearer the sun in January than it is in June — by three million miles. Pretty much irrelevant to our planet. What causes the seasons is something completely different. The Earth leans slightly on its axis like a spinning top frozen in one off-kilter position. Astronomers have even pinpointed the precise angle of the tilt. It's 23 degrees and 27 minutes off the perpendicular to the plane of orbit. This planetary pose is what causes all the variety of our climate; all the drama and poetry of our seasons, since it determines how many hours and minutes each hemisphere receives precious sunlight.

Many, many cultures the world over perform solstice ceremonies. At their root: an ancient fear that the failing light would never return unless humans intervened with anxious vigil or antic celebration. Solstice celebrations: universal & perhaps much older than we know. There's much new scholarship about Neolithic peoples and their amazing culture. For example, it now looks as though writing is much more ancient than we earlier thought — as much as 10,000 years old. Neolithic peoples were the first farmers. Their lives were intimately tied to the seasons and the cycle of harvest. I'm certain they were attuned to the turning skies. Scholars haven't yet found proof that these peoples had the skill to pinpoint a celestial event like solstice. Earliest markers of time that we've found from these ancient peoples are notches carved into bone that appear to count the cycles of the moon. But perhaps they watched the movement of the sun as well as the moon, and perhaps they celebrated it — with fertility rites, with fire festivals, with offerings and prayers to their gods and goddesses.

Call us if you want a copy...

oso berry

Red Shafted Flicker

There's nothing there
 the leaves flutter down
 & the wind pulls tall grass
 wash away the dust
 wash away the sun
 a bird on the willow stems
 an empty trail
 past the creek
 sharp canyons sliced by a flicker song
 & lost among themselves, my thoughts
 scattered
 without a voice



DS

Poison Oak, (*toxicodendrin diversilobum*) a handsome plant blossoms in April with hundred of tiny cream-colored stars. During the holiday season the foliage turns vibrant red. Poison oak grows as shrubs, vines and small trees. The bark is gray brown.

by David Schooley

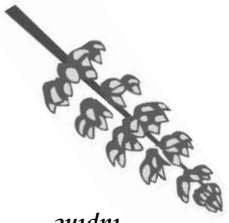
Seasons Greetings and Happy Winter Solstice from Mountain Watch Members!



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