



# Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

## FILOLI'S WONDERS

Pacifica Beach Coalition member Cindy Abbott also volunteers at Filoli Mansion (filoli.org). She writes: "Coastsiders in search of warm sun and the stunning beauty of a formal garden regularly make their way over the hill to Filoli, the historic estate in Woodside. Filoli, established as a private residence in 1917 and opened to the public in 1976 to promote cultural and horticultural endeavors, is a rare instance of the original land surrounding an estate remaining intact. The 654-acre property includes the largest heirloom orchard in private hands in the United States. The orchard tours, which resume in 2012, are a fun and interesting way to learn about the tradition of how Filoli is conserving not only rare fruits and trees but also preserving this defining landscape feature of Filoli's country estate. Another wonder is Filoli's

Nature Preserve, with more than seven miles crisscrossing six different types of native California habitat. Experienced nature education docents lead hikes through the preserve, describing wildlife, plants, endangered species, and the historical background of the area. The beauty of Filoli is open to the public and supported by a small staff and more than 1,200 Friends of Filoli who volunteer their time and financial resources. The Volunteer Open House is in January 2012, presenting information on how to get involved, from working in the garden to leading student tours and nature hikes. Filoli's spectacular nine-day Holiday Traditions fund-raising event begins on Friday, November 25. This year's theme is "The Wise Old Owl." Filoli is home to barn owls, great horned owls, western screech owls, and possibly northern pygmy owls."

## SCIENCE FAIR

Discovery Day is Sunday, November 6 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at AT&T Park, San Francisco. Visit SRI and other Bay Area R&D centers at Discovery Day in AT&T Park. This free event is the grand finale of the San Francisco Bay Area Science Festival, a 10-day NSF-supported celebration of science and technology. The festival features more than 100 hands-on, fun, interactive science and technology exhibits and activities for families and kids: bayareascience.org or email basf@sri.com.

## URBAN GARDENS

"Urban Gardens to Open Range: The Present and Future of Bay Area Food Landscapes," a lively public forum on the possibilities for sustainable food production in the Bay Area, is on Wednesday, November 16 at 7:30 p.m., Goldman Theater, David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley (main Berkeley BART station). Featured speakers are local farmers, food producers, and thought leaders in the sustainable agriculture movement. The Bay Area is known as the cradle of the environmental movement. And it has been a major source of

energy for the emerging movement for local, sustainable food production. Now Bay Nature magazine is collaborating with Sustainable Agricultural Education (SAGE) and the Bay Area Open Space Council to bring these two vital movements closer together. "Local, organic, sustainable" are terms that sound good, but what do they mean to the people who actually produce food in the Bay Area? This event provides a forum for a lively discussion with local producers and advocates on the joys and challenges of sustainable agriculture. \$10 donation requested. Space is limited, so reservations are encouraged. RSVP: bnfoodlandscapes.eventbrite.com/

## ALANDROMES

My thanks to Pacifica palindromist Alan Wald for sharing two of his latest creations with us:  
•After reading a recent Tribune, Pacifica palindrome lovers have high hopes that City Council will implement a new General Plan for all residential areas that shows that Pacifica is not in Kansas anymore: "Zonal Pacifica Plan: Oz!"  
•As recently reported in the Pacifica Tribune, Candy Oasis,

the new candy store on Palmetto Avenue, offers flavored fudge, organic and sugar-free chocolates, and other treats so yummy they're practically addictive. Pacifica palindrome lovers who've been to Candy Oasis say it's a risk worth taking: "Risk? 'Oasis' is A-OK, sir!"

## SWAMI SEZ

For shock value, this week's quotation is by an infamous conservative, whom I just happen to agree with, but only on this one particular issue: "If Thomas Jefferson thought taxation without representation was bad, he should see how it is with representation." (Rush Limbaugh)

## SITeseer

- Baseball history and traditions: ourgame.mlblogs.com
- Nature photography: michaelpoliza.com
- Farewell to Nona's Kitchen, our own comfort food diner

## MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Meandering: LomaPrieta. SierraClub.org
- Copyediting: Goofbuster.com
- Blogging: PacificaRiptide.com
- Email: mayburrito@goofbuster.com