



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

MUDDY BUDDIES

Lynn Adams invited me to come up and see what she and her band of merry planters (see photo) have been doing to restore Pedro Point headlands habitat. So on a sunny Sunday, I got up as usual at the crack of noon and drove up Highway 1 to the green gate opposite Mitch Reid Bridge @ Devil's Slide, parked in the muddy lot, and hiked up the hill to find Lynn hard at work digging water bars to channel runoff. Others in her crew were busily planting seedlings to prevent erosion in slide areas. The entire site looks well cared for, thanks to these monthly work parties that remove invasive, nonnative plants like pampas grass, and plant distressed spaces with good native species. Lynn's group gets guidance and financial support from the Coastal Conservancy, especially when mudslides strike. Biologist Michael Vasey of Pacifica Land Trust, which holds the headlands in trust and hopes to eventually turn it over to GGNRA, co-leads the work parties with Lynn. The day of my visit, the volunteers had been hard at it since 10 a.m., and after I got the cook's tour of the site, with a hike up the summit trail and back down through

the arroyo, we all gathered in the parking lot for Lynn's famous tailgate party spread of soup, bread, cheese, grapes, apple juice, and cookies. To join this worthwhile undertaking and enjoy the gorgeous scenery, with ocean, mountain, and coastal views in every direction, call Lynn at 650-355-1668 (office) or 415-309-5856 (cell), or visit pedropointheadlands.org.

GOOD SAMARITANS

Great story in the San Francisco Chronicle (February 18, sfgate.com) about some young folks in Oakland who were so outraged at their neighbor beating his pit bull Blueberry that they bought a special camera to videotape the abuse. They took the evidence to the authorities, who put the bad guy behind bars and saved the dog's life.

WONDER WHERE THE YELLOW WENT?

Pacifica schoolteacher Angeliqye Barry and her husband tore out the crabgrass when they moved into their Linda Mar rancher on the northwest corner of Rosita and Rio Vista two years ago, so they were pretty surprised when bright yellow oxalis took over. They plan to landscape part of the yard near

the front door but leave the colorful yellow ground cover on the side yard facing Rosita. Oxalis flowers bloom in full sun, then close when the sun and temperature go down. Oxalis grows wild on the Rockaway headlands and other open areas of Pacifica, where it is considered an invasive species. Oxalis (wood sorrel) has been used medicinally throughout human history, mainly for its active ingredient, oxalic acid.

HIT AND MISS

The San Francisco Chronicle can be maddening at times. The February 20 Home & Garden section ran a clever headline ("Doody calls") on a story about manure composters, and called them "kings of the dung hill." Well done. But on February 18 the newspaper printed a story (see "GOOD SAMARITANS" item above) about an abused dog that "would lie his bloody frame on the apartment balcony." Bah, the old lie/lay error rears its ugly head once again

SNOW JOB

What a crock! After a weeklong blitz of weather forecasts about how snow could fall at sea level in the Bay Area, the big bad Canadian storm produced some rain and wind, but no white stuff except on higher mountaintops and in a few isolated spots on the coast. From Skyline Drive, you could see snowcapped Mount Hamilton peeking out of the clouds. It is mostly clear and cold now in the Bay Area, but at least more rain is on the way this week. To add insult to injury, our no-go snowstorm moved south and pelted the Los Angeles basin. Friends in Southern California told me they were

enjoying snowball fights. Eat your heart out, Bay Area! See sfgate.com for stories and photos of Bay Area snowstorms of the past. Enough snow to make a snowball covered San Francisco on the following dates: December 1882; February 5, 1887; February 28, 1951; January 21, 1962; February 6, 1976.

CAN YOU BEAT THIS?

Pacifica conundrum: how to beat over-the-hill prices. We always talk big about shopping locally and supporting our hometown merchants, but then we lower our voices and confess that we find better deals on the other side of the hill. The debate involves both price and selection. But with a little due diligence and a leap of faith, you often can meet or beat what out-of-town businesses offer. Two cases in point: First, if you like Trader Joe's prices and variety, try one of our locally owned grocery stores, which all sell unusual items at reasonable prices. Second, I had always assumed that

Costco had the best tire prices and selection. But in a recent comparison, I learned that Bill Meyerhoff's Seaview Tire and Brake in Pacific Manor can sell you tires you want at prices very close to Costco's, plus a lot more friendly, free tire care and maintenance after purchase. So shop locally, and keep the revenue and sales tax here in Pacifica. Now repeat after me: There's no place like home!

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- Increase your online presence: onlineidcalculator.com, visibility.com
- Wordsmith John Maybury finds blacksmith John Maybury in his family tree: rootsweb.ancestry.com

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