



# Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

## VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL

Looking for a unique way to spend Valentine's Day? Show your love for the Bay Checkerspot butterfly, a federally threatened species, at Edgewood County Park and Natural Preserve. By adopting a Bay Checkerspot caterpillar, you can play an important role in species preservation. Space is limited and all attendees must preregister at [EventBrite.com](http://EventBrite.com). As part of a tightly controlled scientific program, caterpillars are being transferred to Edgewood in an effort to re-establish the population that formerly thrived there. Each attendee can select and name a caterpillar and receive a special Certificate of Adoption. This event requires walking approximately three miles of moderately sloping terrain. You are off-trail on uneven ground that may be wet or muddy. Bring water, a hat, sturdy shoes, and sunscreen. To prevent introducing non-native plant species to this sensitive area, your shoes must be free of soil and seeds. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Event time and directions are provided to registered guests. Please visit [FriendsOfEdgewood.org](http://FriendsOfEdgewood.org) for information about other Edgewood programs.

## THEM'S FIGHTIN' WORDS

After a gang of masked bandits smashed a truck through the window of the Wells Fargo history museum in downtown San Francisco, making off with the museum's valuable old gold nuggets, retired Wells Fargo historian Robert Chandler told the San Francisco Chronicle: "I've got three comments: This is personal. Hang the bastards. And Wells Fargo never forgets."

## COST OF WAR

While we Little People fuss and fume over our budgets and local economic struggles, we should remember where the Big Bucks really go: Tomahawk cruise missile, \$1.2 million, plus costs of fuel, crew, and deployment of war-

ships to launch the missiles; Hellfire missile, \$100,000, plus costs of fuel, crew, and warplanes to fire the missiles; Small Diameter Bomb, \$30,000, plus costs of fuel, crew, and warplanes to drop the bombs; B-1 bomber, classified but estimated cost somewhere between \$1.5 billion and \$2.4 billion, plus \$58,000 an hour to operate; F-15E Strike Eagle fighter-bomber, \$108 million, plus \$39,000 an hour to operate; F-22 Raptor, \$350 million, plus \$68,000 an hour to operate. The United States uses much of this expensive firepower in Syria and Iraq against American-made materiel (artillery and tanks) that ISIS/ISIL seized from the Iraqi Army when it disintegrated in June 2014. (Sources: Robin Wright, "The Vortex," *The New Yorker*, December 8, 2014; Yahoo News; Defense Daily)

## UNCLOGGING IT

Scott McKellar says that, according to Google, cars stuck in traffic waste 1.9 billion gallons of gas per year in the United States. All the more reason to drive defensively and not cut people off, which causes traffic backups and road rage. And speaking of unclogging things, Scott's wife Patty recently used a half-gallon of a well-known brand of carbonated cola to clear the washing machine drainpipe at McKellar Manor.

## SITSEER

Join this online group of native-plant lovers: [GardeningWithNatives@YahooGroups.com](mailto:GardeningWithNatives@YahooGroups.com)

## SWAMI SEZ

"Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it."

## MAYBURRITOVILLE

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