

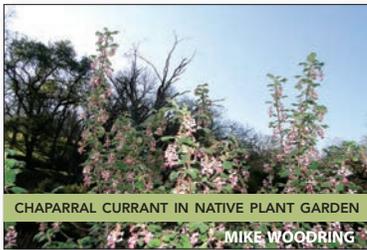
Mount Diablo Review

MOUNT DIABLO INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

Spring/Summer 2013 • MDIA, PO Box 346, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0346 • 925-927-7222 • www.mdia.org

Wildflowers: Always a Beautiful Surprise • Dave Caniglia

WILDFLOWERS ON MOUNT DIABLO are a big attraction to many visitors, and springtime is the most popular time to view them. They can be found along all the roads and trails on the herbs, shrubs, vines, and trees. Even grasses have flowers (but ferns do not). How and where the flowers occur is different from year to year, depending on the weather and conditions during the past year. That's what is so exciting about wildflowers: they are always a beautiful surprise!



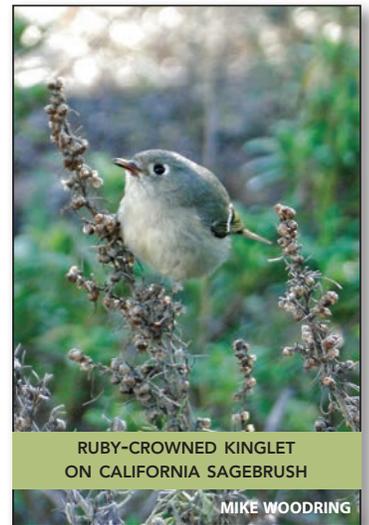
CHAPARRAL CURRANT IN NATIVE PLANT GARDEN
MIKE WOODRING

Docents at the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center keep an up-to-date log tracking what is currently in bloom, along with stunning photos for identification purposes

and the *Mt. Diablo Wildflowers* booklet for reference and purchase. Docents there and at the summit lead wildflower walks, too. Check the visitor centers or the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association website, www.mdia.org, for times and reservations for these hikes. You won't want to miss them!

Another way to introduce yourself to some of this season's wildflowers, if you time it just right, is to take the short saunter through the native plant garden loop at the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center. With the help of the East Bay chapter of the California Native Plant Society, volunteer gardeners have made a microcosm of the different plant habitats found in the park: streamside vegetation, grassland, chaparral, woodland, and rock outcrop. Pick up the plant list to identify the different species, and follow the numbered plant

beds in chronological order. Be careful not to scare the resident flock of California quail. By the time you leave the garden, you will recognize willow, native bunch grasses, gum plant, goldenbush, the pioneer coyote brush, California sage brush, black sage, coyote mint, bee plant, soap root, monkey flowers, manzanita, and more.



RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET
ON CALIFORNIA SAGEBRUSH

MIKE WOODRING

For the more sophisticated wildflower enthusiast and well-conditioned hiker, certain roads and trails come to mind for a day of joyful observation. On the north side of the park, Mitchell Canyon Road, Eagle Peak, Bald Ridge and Falls trails are worthy destinations. On the south side, Black Hawk Ridge Road and both Knobcone Point Road and Summit Trail will satisfy. On the east side, North Peak Trail and Green Ranch Road are good bets. On the west side, Burma Road can be a real find.

Not to be outdone by any place on the mountain for wildflowers is the revered Mary Bowerman Trail at the summit. Most visitors will find this 0.7-mile loop comfortably accessible in good weather and well worth the trek. Even driving along North Gate or South Gate roads will offer places worthy of pulling over for. Remember to please oblige the park regulations, and do not pick the wildflowers! Current and future generations of people and wildlife will thank you.

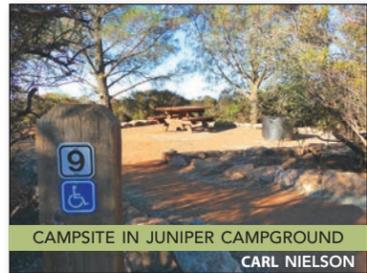
Park Supervising Ranger's Report

• Dan Stefanisko



One of the goals of California State Parks is to ensure that everyone, including visitors with disabilities, has access to the natural and cultural wonders that make up California State Parks. State Parks is continuing to work to make our parks more accessible.

Just such a project was recently completed in Juniper Campground at Mount Diablo State Park. Three large campsites were converted to meet accessibility standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and an accessible shower was installed. These campsites feature a firmly packed and level gravel surface and have accessible tables, water spigots, cook stoves, tent spaces, and parking spaces.



Visitors wishing to reserve accessible campsites must possess a Disabled Person placard or license plates issued by the California Department of Motor Vehicles

(DMV) or similar agency from another state. Call 1-800-444-PARK or go online to www.reserveamerica.com to make a camping reservation. At the time of check-in, please remember to show the DMV placard or DMV-issued wallet ID card.

Future planned improvements to day-use areas include accessible picnic sites at the Mitchell Canyon, Oak Knoll, and Elephant Rock picnic areas. The Lower Summit Parking Lot will become more accessible with ADA picnic sites featuring shade structures as well as improved parking and renovated restrooms nearby. The upper summit area will be improved with a more accessible elevator in the Summit Visitor Center and installation of an accessible restroom.

At Mount Diablo State Park we are excited to continue working to meet our mission of providing quality park experiences for all and welcome those who seek the diverse adventures our park offers.

MDIA President's Column

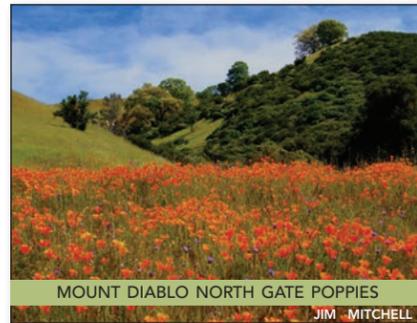
• Jim Mitchell

Welcome to Mount Diablo State Park. The members and volunteers of the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA) are happy to share this very special park with you and to help enhance your visit to the mountain.



The spring rains and warmth of longer days bring colorful wildflowers to the mountain. Large fields of California poppies often can be seen along North Gate Road, and in Mitchell Canyon you can find the native Mount Diablo globe lily. At the summit, clear spring days offer magnificent views of Mount Lassen to the north, the Farallon Islands to the west and, if you're lucky, Yosemite's Half Dome to the east. Hiking maps and other publications as well

as knowledgeable docents who will share their favorite places in the park may be found at the Summit Visitor Center and on weekends at the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center.



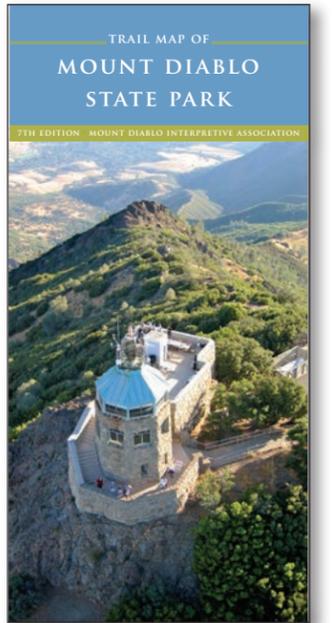
To plan your visit in the park or simply to learn more about Mount Diablo, go to MDIA's website at www.mdia.org. You will find an events calendar listing guided hikes, visual and audio tours, and detailed information about the mountain's history and natural wonders.

MDIA works closely with the State Parks staff to enhance your visit to this park by developing interpretive displays and publications and providing docents and visitor center operations. MDIA is an all-volunteer organization, and almost all net proceeds from publications and merchandise sales in the park, membership dues, and donations go directly to support Mount Diablo State Park. There are many opportunities to help both inside and outside of the park. To join MDIA and to volunteer to help, contact us through our website. Please enjoy your visit to Mount Diablo and let the mountain inspire and energize you.

Top 10 Reasons to Have (and Use) the Trail Map of Mount Diablo State Park

• Mike Woodring

- 1 Choose your route from the nearly 200 miles of trails and roads: pick a path along a stream, in a canyon, on a ridge; they're all marked on the map.
- 2 Use your map to decide which way to turn at an intersection to avoid getting lost.
- 3 In an emergency, use your map to determine your exact location and communicate it to the proper authorities.
- 4 Your map doesn't use a battery, so you don't have to worry about your cell phone or GPS battery dying before the end of your outing.
- 5 Your map won't lose cell phone reception, which can be sporadic in the park.
- 6 Use your map even when it's raining—it's printed on plastic so it won't fall apart.
- 7 Use the new, categorized index on the map to find a picnic area, campground, or other feature in the park that appeals to you.
- 8 Stay out of trouble by following the park rules and regulations listed on the text side of your map.
- 9 Save your map as a souvenir of your visit to Mount Diablo State Park.
- 10 Help support this park; net proceeds from map sales are used to directly benefit Mount Diablo State Park.



The new 7th edition of the *Trail Map of Mount Diablo State Park* may be purchased at the Summit and Mitchell Canyon visitor centers, North Gate and South Gate park entrance stations, and at selected bookstores and sporting goods retailers nearby. Copies are also available from the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association website, mdia.org. The map was produced by the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association, with hundreds of hours of volunteer effort. Please email any comments to info@mdia.org.

2013 Amgen Tour Stage Finish at the Summit!

• Steve Elliott

Mount Diablo State Park is pleased to again host a stage of the Amgen Tour of California (ATOC). The ATOC is the largest cycling event in America and is considered one of the top four events in the world. It attracts the best teams of the U.S. and Europe and many thousands of spectators.

In 2012, we hosted a segment of the race up South Gate Road from Danville to Junction and down North Gate Road to Walnut Creek. In 2013, we have a stage finish at the Summit! This is the first time ever for our mountain. We celebrate the Livermore to Mount Diablo stage of the statewide tour on May 18, 2013.

"Mount Diablo is an epic climb," said Kristin Bachochin, AEG Sports' Executive Director of the ATOC. "The opportunity to finish at the top is pretty phenomenal." For more information about the ATOC, visit www.mdia.org.

Mount Diablo State Park Peace Officer Cameron Morrison Honored

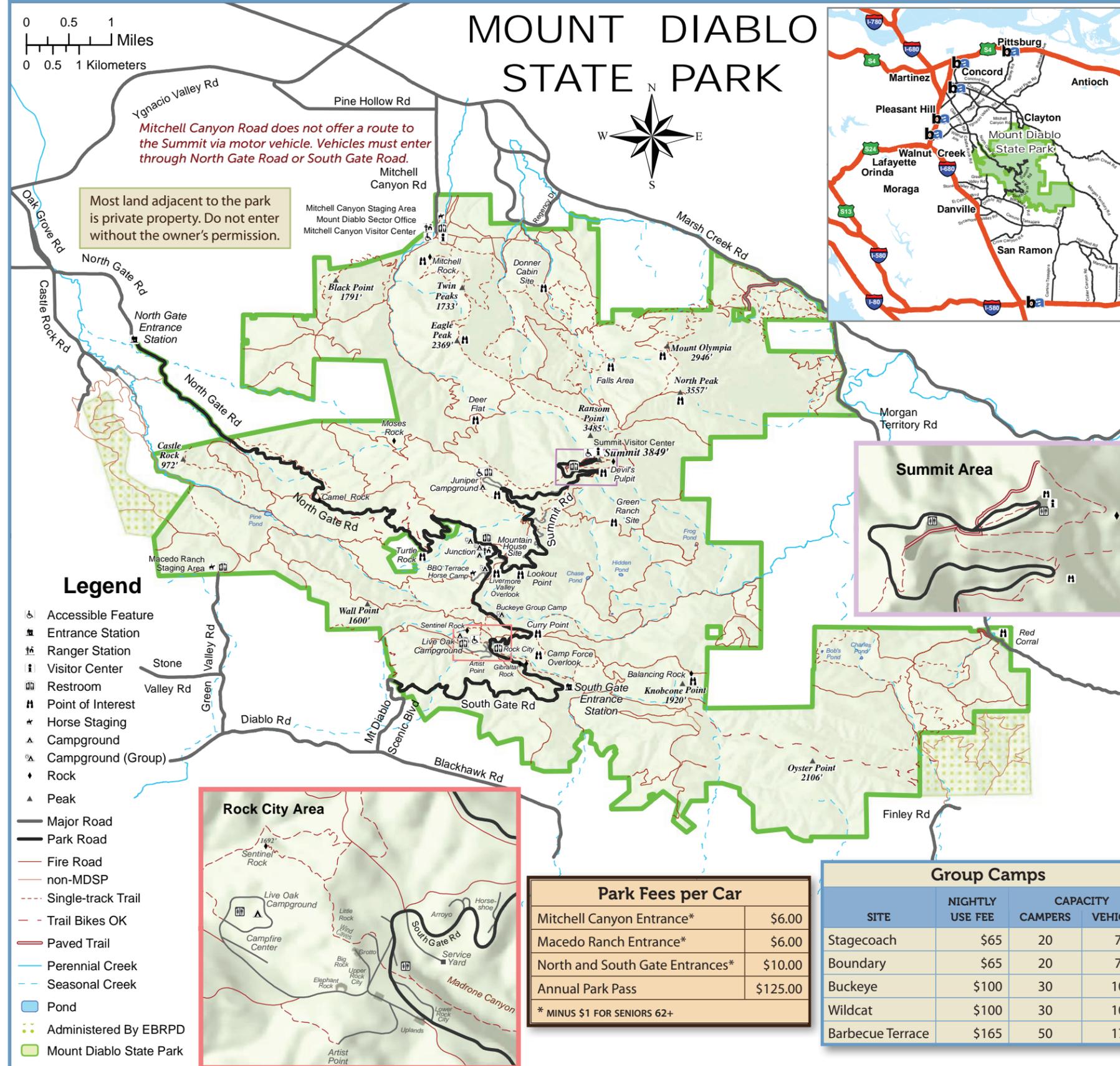


On March 20, 2013, Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret.), Director, California State Parks, announced the Director's Recognition Program Award recipients for 2012. Mount Diablo State Park's Cameron Morrison, State Park Peace Officer/Ranger, Diablo Vista District, received a special commendation (one of only six awarded). The Recognition Program honors "the individual recipients and teams who distinguished themselves through their extraordinary achievements."

Congratulations, Ranger Morrison!

A more detailed topographic map is available for purchase at the entrance stations and the Summit and Mitchell Canyon visitor centers.

Camping at Mount Diablo State Park



Mount Diablo has three designated family camping areas and five group camps:

Juniper Campground (36 sites, elevation 3,000 ft.) Located approximately 2 miles below the summit, on Summit Road, Juniper is known for its fantastic views. Three campsites meet accessibility (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards. *Reservations available.*

Live Oak Campground (23 sites, elevation 1,450 ft.) Located one mile above the South Gate Entrance Station, off South Gate Road. Live Oak is near Rock City, where one can explore rock formations. *Reservations available.*

Junction Campground (6 sites, elevation 2,200 ft.) Located where South Gate and North Gate meet at the Ranger Station. This campground is situated in an open woodland area. *Available on a first-come, first-served basis only.*

- All campgrounds are provided with picnic tables, fire pits or stoves, potable water and restrooms.
- The campgrounds are mainly designed for tent camping, yet they can accommodate RVs up to 20 ft. in length. There are no hookups and no dumping stations provided in the Park.

Camping Procedures

You may make reservations from 48 hours to 7 months in advance by calling Reserve America at 800.444.7275 or by visiting their website at www.reserveamerica.com. Reservations can be made for a specific campground but not a specific site. Campers cannot be registered at Mitchell Canyon.

Check-in time is 2:00 p.m. Check-out time is 12:00 noon.

Group Camps are Buckeye, Barbecue Terrace, Wildcat, Stagecoach, and Boundary. Reservations are available for all group camps with Reserve America. Each campground is primitive with running water and pit toilets. Barbecue Terrace is equipped with horse ties for equestrian use. Motorhomes are not allowed in the group camping areas. During the fire season (generally May to October) the park is subject to closure due to extreme fire danger. Campers must call the park at 925.837.2525 or 925.837.0904 one day prior to their arrival to confirm park status.

General Rules

- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the park.
- 8 people and 2 vehicles maximum per campsite.
- Each juvenile (under age of 18) must have written permission from his/her parents (with parent's phone number) prior to camping without adult supervision. Phone verifications will be attempted.
- Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- No electric generators from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- Firewood gathering is prohibited.
- Fires must be in stoves or fire pits provided. **NO GROUND FIRES.**
- Campfire restrictions are in effect during the fire season. Check fire conditions for appropriate use (see page 6).
- Campers are locked in the park overnight from sunset to 8:00 a.m. For emergencies dial 911.
- Peace and quiet—noise must not carry beyond your immediate camp or picnic ground.

Group Picnic Reservations: Call Ranger Scott Poole at 925.837.6129 x4

2013 Public Astronomy Programs on Mount Diablo

2013 DATE	START	TOPIC
April 20	7:00 p.m.	Are We Alone in the Universe?
May 18	7:30 p.m.	See the Rings of Saturn
June 15	8:00 p.m.	Stars: Our Family Scrapbook
July 13	8:00 p.m.	Explore our Magnetic Sun
Aug 10	7:30 p.m.	Black Holes
Sept 14	6:30 p.m.	Go Inside a Telescope
Oct 12	6:00 p.m.	Rocks and Ice in the Solar System



- Time:** Beginning about an hour before sunset. Enter the park gate at least 45 minutes before the program starts.
- Where:** Lower summit parking lot of Mount Diablo State Park.
- Cost:** The astronomy program is free; there is a park entry fee.
- Bring:** Kids, binoculars, warm clothes (temperature can drop significantly), snacks, water. If you bring a flashlight, please cover it with red cellophane, red cloth, or a red balloon.
- Leaving:** The Park gates will be locked and visitors will only be able to leave the summit and exit the park by escorted caravans through the North Gate several times during the evening. Caravans will be announced at various intervals during the program and visitors should only leave with these escorts.

For more details, go to Mount Diablo Astronomical Society's website, www.mdas.net, and click on Event Calendar, or call Mount Diablo State Park at 925-837-2525.

Park Rules

You are responsible for obeying these and other Park rules

- All Features of the Park Are Protected!** Do not remove or disturb plants, animals, or geological features.
- Park Hours:** Opens at 8 a.m. and closes at sunset. Visitors should be in their vehicles heading out at sunset to avoid being locked in.
- No Alcohol:** All alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the park.
- Vehicles/Bicycles Speed Limit:** 15 to 25 mph on park roads, 15 mph in campgrounds and picnic areas. All vehicles must stay on the pavement and are prohibited on trails and fire roads.
- Bicycles** are allowed only on paved roads, fire roads and designated trails. Check at the Ranger Station for current regulations.
- Skateboards**, rollerblades, rollerskates, and gravity-propelled devices are prohibited.
- Dogs:** Must be on leash at all times when out of your car; must be in tent or a vehicle at night; and must stay in developed areas—they are not allowed on trails or fire roads.
- Fires:** Restrictions in effect during season. Check with a Ranger. Fires must be in fire stoves or barbecues provided—no ground fires.
- Emergencies:** Dial 911.
- Fireworks** are prohibited.
- Firearms/airguns** are prohibited.
- Hunting** is prohibited.

Fire Danger: How Will It Affect You?

- Maintain fires at all times in a safe condition that does not threaten any person or natural or structural feature.
- Never leave a fire unattended.
- Extinguish all fires prior to departure.
- Ground fires are not permitted.
- Firewood gathering is prohibited.
- Report all wildfires immediately. Call 911.

Fire Danger Reading	FIRE DANGER CHART					
	Wood fire permitted in stoves and BBQ pits (designated picnic and campsites)	Use of Compressed Logs	Use of Charcoal	Use of Self-contained Stove	Cigarette Smoking ¹	Park Closed ²
LOW	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
MEDIUM	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
HIGH	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
HIGH WITH RED FLAG	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
VERY HIGH/EXTREME	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

¹ THE PROHIBITION OF SMOKING UNDER HIGH FIRE DANGER INCLUDES SMOKING WITHIN A VEHICLE.
² PARK CLOSURE APPLIES TO ALL HIKERS, VEHICLES, BICYCLISTS (MOUNTAIN AND ROAD), AND HORSEBACK RIDERS.

MDIA Product Order and Membership Form

Prices include sales tax, shipping and handling. Profits from sales support the educational programs of MDIA.

• Maps and Hiking Information	EACH	QTY	TOTAL
Trail Map of Mount Diablo State Park (7th Ed.)	7.50		
Hiking Brochures: Easy, Moderate, Demanding (set of 3)	2.00		
• Interpretive Publications			
Mount Diablo, The Extraordinary Life and Landscapes of a California Treasure	60.00		
Mount Diablo Guide	12.50		
Mountain Lore—History & Place Names of Mount Diablo	7.50		
Trees and Shrubs of Mount Diablo	7.50		
Common Birds of Mount Diablo	7.50		
Mt. Diablo Wildflowers	7.50		
Geology Brochure and Map	2.50		
• Nature Guides (Laminated/Folded)			
Local Birds of the San Francisco Bay Area	9.75		
Local Rocks of North America	9.75		
Local Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay Area	9.75		
Local Animal Tracks of North America	9.75		
• Products with Mount Diablo State Park Logo			
T-shirts: Sky Blue or Pine Green; S, M, L, XL (circle size and color)	16.00		
Mount Diablo Patch	4.00		
Mount Diablo Lapel/Hat Pin	3.50		
SUBTOTAL			\$
10% Discount for MDIA, California State Parks Foundation members, and Park Staff			
TOTAL AMOUNT (INCLUDES TAX & SHIPPING)			\$

Thank you for your mail order!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT MDIA, PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING

Mount Diablo Interpretive Association Membership Application

Membership dues are deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (CIRCLE ONE)

Student/Senior (55+)	\$15
Individual	\$25
Family	\$40
Contributing	\$100
Lifetime	\$500

Donation in addition to membership dues \$

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____

Email: _____

Checks only, made payable to MDIA

Clip and mail to:

MDIA
PO Box 346
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0346

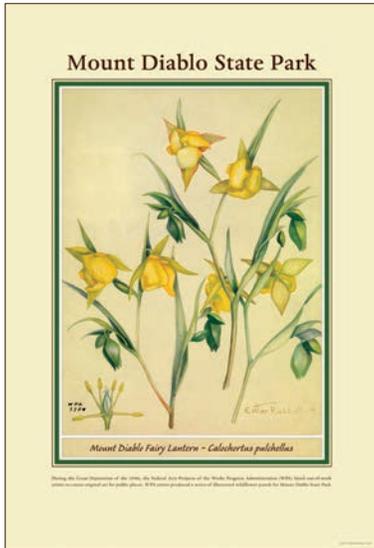
Summit Museum is open
7 days a week, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Summit temperature and wind
conditions are updated every
20 minutes at 925.838.9225.

- Mount Diablo Interpretive Association offers an online Event Calendar, which includes hikes and other events in Mount Diablo State Park.
www.mdia.org/site/mdia-event-calendar
- MDIA's newsletter is also available online via a link at www.mdia.org

Article or Photograph Submission

To submit articles or photographs for the next issue of the *Mount Diablo Review*, email info@mdia.org or leave a message at 925.927.7222. Submission deadline for the Fall/Winter issue is **July 15**.



Many visitors to Mount Diablo State Park enjoy and marvel at the “rustic park architecture” of the Summit Building and picnic facilities built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression in the 1930s and 1940s. But less known are the results of the Federal Art Project (FAP) of the Works Progress Administration (later known as the Works Projects Administration), which hired thousands of out-of-work artists throughout the United States to create original art for public places.

From 1937 to 1942, “The Pictorial History of Mount Diablo,” WPA Project #7754, brought artists to Mount Diablo State Park to create exhibits depicting Mount Diablo’s flora and fauna. Many of the original wildflower watercolor illustrations have been preserved by California State Parks and the Library of Congress.

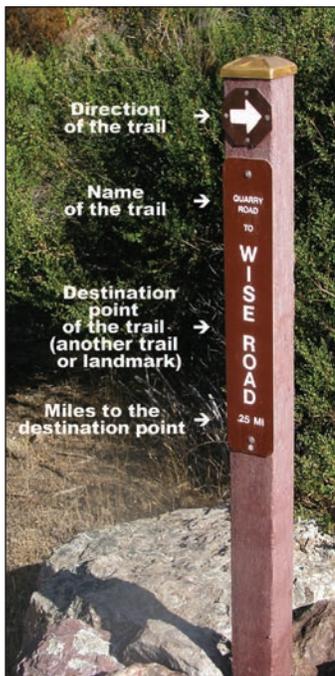
California State Parks recently reproduced enlarged photographic images of eight of these unique and rare illustrations for the local public to enjoy again. These reproductions are now displayed on the walls in the stairwell at the Park’s Summit Visitor Center.

The eight reproductions depict the following plants: Mount Diablo Fairy Lantern (*Calochortus pulchellus*) by Esther Irene Ruddock (1903-1992); Gray Pine (*Pinus Sabiniana*), Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos manzanita*), Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus argillosus*), and Bitter Root (*Lewisia rediviva*) by Norma Marotto (1906-2006); Blue Dicks (*Dichelostemma capitatum*), California Buttercup (*Ranunculus californicus*), and Red Ribbons (*Clarkia concinna*) by Marjorie Lee (1910-1986).

Additionally, 12x18-inch poster copies of the artwork may be purchased at the Summit Visitor Center and the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center. Each poster costs \$5, with a reduced price for multiple poster purchases.

Source: To view the wildflower watercolor images, see the California State Parks Online Museum Collections (CSPOMC) website: <http://www.museumcollections.parks.ca.gov/code/eMuseum.asp?page=collections>

Understanding Trail Signs



Almost 400 trail signposts identify over 155 miles of hiking trails and fire roads in Mount Diablo State Park’s nearly 20,000 acres.

The trail signs in the park follow the California State Parks uniform format. The name of the trail you are on is specified in relatively small horizontal type near the top of the sign.

The name that appears vertically in large type (usually another trail but sometimes a destination or park boundary) shows the termination of that particular trail; the word “TO”, in small letters, is important. The mileage to that end point is specified at the bottom.



Mount Diablo State Park Phone Numbers

Supervising Ranger	925.855.1730
Junction Ranger	925.837.6129
Mitchell Canyon Ranger.....	925.672.4266
Summit Museum	925.837.6119
South Gate Entrance Station ...	925.837.0904
Maintenance.....	925.837.6122
Sector Office	925.673.2891
General Information.....	925.837.2525
Summit Weather Conditions....	925.838.9225
TTY Relay Service.....	711

Mount Diablo State Park
96 Mitchell Canyon Road
Clayton, CA 94517-1500

