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!

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.

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.
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.

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 you 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.

1. Choose your route from the nearly 200 miles of trails and roads: pick a path along a stream, in a canyon, or 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 bike stores 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.

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 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.
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 RV’s 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 horseshoe pits 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.
- Campfires are only permitted 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

Park Fees per Car

- Mitchell Canyon Entrance*: $6.00
- Macedo Ranch Entrance*: $6.00
- North and South Gate Entrances*: $10.00
- Annual Park Pass: $125.00

* MINUS $1 FOR SENIORS 62+

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<th>Group Camps</th>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>NIGHTLY USE FEE</th>
<th>CAPACITY CAMPERS</th>
<th>CAPACITY VEHICLES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stagecoach</td>
<td>$65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boundary</td>
<td>$65</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buckeye</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildcat</td>
<td>$100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barbecue Terrace</td>
<td>$165</td>
<td>50</td>
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* Standard fees apply for equestrian use.
2013 Public Astronomy Programs on Mount Diablo

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

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.


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, roller Skates, 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 Chart

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Fire Danger Level</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Medium</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Very High with Red Flag</th>
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<tr>
<td>Suspended</td>
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<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-contained</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of Self-contained Store</td>
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<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do Not Bivouac</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do Not Camp</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
  - 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!

MDIA Interpretive Association Membership Application

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (Single Adult)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Student/Senior (55+)</td>
<td>$15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>$40</td>
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<td>Contributing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifetime</td>
<td>$500</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Donation in addition to membership dues $ ...

Name: ...
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.

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.

Article or Photograph Submission

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Mount Diablo’s Rare Botanical Art  •  Rich McDrew

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.