



# The Trail Companion



# Corrections...

Thanks to Janice Frazier for noting  
that the number of trail builds for

## Maps

Plans are underway to resurrect our map offerings! We are working with the Peninsula Conservation Center to install map racks near the building entrance or at the top of the stairs. The staff reports that visitors have often asked them about maps ever since we went out of the retail business. While we won't stock all of our former offerings, thanks to the PCC and Trail Center volunteers, you will once again be able to pick up a variety of maps in one stop. We hope to have the racks up and filled within the next couple of months.

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# WILD LIT

## After a Measured Cup of Warming Brandy - with thoughts of high Sierra meadows

### Monte Bello

A moonless night is following  
swiftly at our backs  
Contorted live oaks:  
darkening hieroglyphs  
of themselves.  
We are descending switchbacks  
into a canyon, learning  
a song together.  
I sing a fragmented line,  
You sing the next; irregular  
music falling away into  
the dark like scraps of peel  
revealing something  
essential  
that makes us content  
with our struggling song,  
the cunning trail,  
the falling night.

-- Devavani Chatterjea-Matthes

Devavani was born and raised in West Bengal, India, coming to the U.S. eight years ago to study at Mount Holyoke University. While an undergraduate, she studied mangrove ecology in Belize, sparrow behavior on Kent Island, Canada, and sea urchin development at the University of Rochester. She is currently a graduate student in immunology at Stanford University. In her spare time she enjoys reading, writing poetry, cooking, and being outdoors. She is married and lives in San Jose.

On any trail, there is always someone ahead or behind. I thought about this as we hiked in Point Lobos State Reserve, outside Carmel, California. As we followed the North Shore Trail, we would occasionally encounter other hikers. Some came up from behind us, while others came to meet us.

The day was perfect. The sun was out, undeterred by the infre-

Pulgas Ridge Open Space Preserve (Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District)

This hike starts with a level, boring stretch on the Cordilleras trail, an easement beside a water department road. After 0.6 miles, bear off right onto the Polly Geraci trail (a 1988 Trail Center project) and turn almost immediately left on a bridge over Cordilleras Creek. Along the first stretch of trail, look for red giant trillium (



*flora*) (April) and the pansy-like johnny-jump-up (*Viola pedunculata*) (early to mid-March is best for viewing them, before grass gets too long). Midpen has been experimenting with annual controlled burns in this end of the park to reduce the noxious yellow star-thistle (



encounter the dramatic Indian Joe Cave Rocks. The trail steepens somewhat, and soon brings you to a dirt road, the Cave Rocks Road. Turn right here. Cows often plow this area up, but you are now climbing to good views back west to Mission Peak, Mount Allison, and Monument Peak, in north to south order. As you come into clearer areas, there should be mixed flower meadows, with filaree, buttercups, checkerbloom, and blue eyed grass

low flowers - the cool scent may surprise you.

**Getting there:** Take Hwy 92 or 84 from I-280 to Hwy 1 and go south to Pescadero Rd.; turn left and go through the town of Pescadero to Cloverdale Rd., then turn right and travel south 5 miles to the park entrance. Alternatively, take Hwy 84 to La Honda and turn left on Pescadero travel 8 to verdale Cut-off; turn left, then left again on Cloverdale Rd.

**Distance/Elevation change:** 3.5 miles to Butano Fire Trail; approx. 900 ft. climb.

**Best time for flowers:** February-early April.

**On the Web:** [parks.ca.gov/districts/bayarea/bsp423.htm](http://parks.ca.gov/districts/bayarea/bsp423.htm)

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Long Ridge; the Preserve seems to be at the edge of an expanding range of a stable population. MROSD hopes that they will be able to slow the northward spread. By contrast, in Rancho de Guadalupe, an MROSD property not yet open to the public, pig damage in 1998 was severe, yet in 1999, very little damage was seen; Isaacs speculated that the population is much less stable, perhaps due to other pressures, including hunting by local landowners.

The other factor in

portion of the process can be accomplished without releasing nitrous oxide. The University researchers developed a means of oxidizing cyclohexane with crystalline adipic acid using hydrogen peroxide ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ )



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