

28th year 2023 *Flyway Festival*

December 30, 2022

Dear Flyway Festival
Friends, Fans, Sponsors
and Exhibitors and Field
Guides,

I am happy to invite you to
join me for our 2023 Flyway
Festival. As is my tradition,
I've written a few words of
reflection and welcome.

You might not think of
Mother Nature living in a
den under my 1920s likely
"Sears kit garage" concrete
floor. You might not imagine
that she needs a privacy
shield of plywood to protect
her entrance from the rain
and prying eyes. But, now
for the second time, I have
witnessed in the early
morning moon and ambient
lighting of the
neighborhood, a most
glorious appearance of her
in all her beauty. I have
seen a magnificent black
and white striped being, not
with tail raised in the air,
waddling across or along a
road, but a sleek, low, long
svelte creature emerge and
return to its young from
behind this simple disguise.
I sat on the nearby steps
after she left, even more
hastily when she saw me,
making a precious high
pitched little vocalizing.

As I sat there in the dark
and cold, hoping for
another glimpse as she
returned home from her
errands, I was treated with
a treasured moment every



Photo: Myrna Hayes, blue gum eucalyptus blossom unfurling
Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve

bit as magical as seeing
Mother Nature cloaked in
her warm black and white
fur coat. I heard the chorus
of voices of baby Mother
Natures emanating from
behind the plywood
protector, hopefully warm
and dry in their den. The
most darling little "me-me-
me-me", just audible in the
silence of a December
night.

I am honored and privileged
to live my life in the shadow
of the Great One. She is my
constant friend. I feel her
near me. I speak often to
her. I share her sadness and
loss and exuberance and
joy with you now and then,

as she reveals them to me
in a splendid sunset, a
serene river scene or
jubilant explosion of flower
color.

I tell of bearing witness to
slaughtered 200, 300 year-
old native oaks and cultural
landscape towering
eucalyptus trees, the nest
sites of thousands of great
horned owl families and
other birds and squirrels,
the attempted decimation
of my sacred rattlesnake
friends, and gopher
snakes, 100 year-old
native grasses by city
public works.

I reveal to you the horror of
witnessing Mother Nature's
massive fish who live for
more than 100 years, the
sturgeon who suffocated in
the Bay, landing on the
shores of our Island's
Western Flank, this fall.



We weep together, the
Mother and I, as we find her
precious bunny rabbits,
dead by the hundreds, now,
across the land from a
manmade virus meant to kill
only rabbits, for the greater
good possibly, in Australia,
but it has ravaged virtually
all rabbit life wherever the
"angel of death" touches
their beings throughout
Europe and now our
country and our Island.
(Continued, next page)



Wild jackrabbit in the Mare
Island Shoreline Heritage
Preserve. Virtually all rabbits on
Mare Island have died this fall
likely from Rabbit Hemorrhagic
Disease Virus 2.(RHDV2),
photo, Bill George

Wilderness—wild near us...closer, still

These are but some of my stories. Some of my journey on the land, the waters, in the trees and skies and even amongst the lightning rods of the old Naval Ammunition Depot.

Since I can remember, I have been welcomed into the arms of my Mother Nature. She led me through her vast West Branch of Feather River, hiking her quartz adorned paths, swimming in her freezing waters, lying in the warm sand by the heat radiating rocks of her swimming holes so far, far, far into her canyon walls. As a tiny tot, I remember being in a boat afloat on that River's great downstream waters and stepping onto its willow and grass covered islands, before it was dammed. She took me deep into her manzanita understory of her black oak and ponderosa pine forests. She carpeted flowers, shooting stars and pussy ears on the floor of that canopy for me to stroke with young fingers. She caused mushrooms to appear from the depths of the dampness.

She blanketed the arroyo below our family home with blackberry thickets to endlessly pick the fruit from to return to turn a white painted and counter-topped kitchen purple with the juices converted to pies and jam in the heat of the summertime in the Sierra



Photo: canvasback ducks along Highway 37, Pam Starr

Nevada foothills. She shared her sunset's light in brilliant reflections onto the tall ponderosa pine "candles" of new growth visible on the hillside above our home deep in the shadows of a wooded valley. She dazzled me with starlight shimmering above me as I lay in the night in my sleeping bag on the wooden floor of our open air tree fort built by my Dad, urged by my Mom.

These, and a million more memories of frogs and water skippers in the creek, poison oak blisters, lizards and lilies. The fragrance of the forest in spring, summer and my favorite, the loveliest of all, fall, when we gathered the oak leaves into giant piles to leap into, arms wrapped in the wet pungent fluff of our Mother Nature and then mesmerized as she was set ablaze and out of her fire came roasted corn and baked potatoes. The glint of woodpecker crests, the rattling of the forest

reverberating with their raspy voice from the smallest tat-tat-tat to the jackhammer of a pileated high in a pine. Life on the land. With the deer as our grazers. Gray squirrels as our storers. Great horned owls as our guardians.

I am oh so lucky that I am chosen. To be my Mother Nature's companion and confidant. I am so touched and moved that she comes to me when she is broken in grief and loss. We embrace and weep and share an apple she has hung for me in a secret spot in the Preserve. We eat the ripest wild plums together as we used to suck the sweet nectar from the manzanita on those fleeting Sunday afternoons together in my childhood wildlands homeland of Paradise. Now mostly destroyed by the sweep of evil of the fire hurricane which took all but my memories—from the land. So much like the City has done to our Paradise of the

precious and sacred wildlands park at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve and its wildlands community, too.

Like the Camp Fire that snuffed the Mother Nature of Paradise, leaving it smoldering and stripped of almost all life, that is taking place in our beloved and treasured sacred place that does not belong to us to craft and sculpt in our likeness. Our fantasy. The Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve and the wilderness (wild near us) is our Mother Nature. She reveals herself to us as she does. In her majesty and magic. It is our purpose on this earth to listen and watch and "do no harm before we do good".

I know in my heart and soul that my Mother Nature, beautiful, splendid, spectacular, subtle, silent and wildly loud with the clap of rain or the voices of thousands of ducks and geese on the waters of our Bay, or the wondrous voices of osprey calls as they wheel above my house and perch and fly through my yard like cooper's hawks, needs me by her side, walking this journey here on earth together, side by side. She guides me. She shields me. She anneals me. She assures me. In her presence, I know that I am loved.

(Continued, next page)

Wilderness—wild near us...closer, still

I ask you to drop whatever you are doing at this moment and step outside into her world for a time. Take a moment. Take five. Take a cup of tea. Take a walk. Take a hike. Take a nap. In her arms. You might not think of her this way. But, she actually needs you. To acknowledge her beauty, her love for you, her kindness and sweetness and all the ways in which she scoops you into her arms and tells you that you will be OK. That you are loved and treasured and appreciated. For all the ways you honor her and do what you can to tread lightly upon her.

Love to you from me and my Nitro pal during these times of coldness and darkness of winter, when we need most of all to be assured that we are cherished and loved.

Love, too, from the Mother Nature. She invites you to her annual “wild party” we have nurtured together for 28 seasons, the San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, during which we celebrate the wonder of the annual migration to and through San Francisco Bay from the North to the South and then, back to summer nesting and feeding in the North. We are privileged that we live on this mysterious and sacred migratory route, where literally millions of birds



Photo: kiddos discovering Mare Island, Myrna Hayes

stop to rest and feed or even stay with us in our nature Bed and Breakfasts.

Join us February 10, 11 and 12, 2023 when we will once again celebrate the migration of as many as 1 million shorebirds, a quarter million waterfowl, ducks and geese, and likely tens of thousands of raptors, hawks and millions of songbirds, to and through San Francisco Bay. Isn't it so magical that we live nearby to these gatherings on the waters and in the sky at our national wildlife refuges and state wildlife areas?

After 3 years during which we did not gather due to the pandemic, we will hold an **IN-PERSON** gathering headquartered at Mare Island, again. It will likely not be quite as grand as in some years past, but it will feel so good to be together, once again.

Guided hikes are planned throughout the “north shore” of the Bay. We will

also continue our Virtual Festival, with some Live airing on our 2023 In-Person/Hybrid/Virtual Facebook Group page.

Will you commit to support our Flyway Festival with your generous

SPONSOR donation? We are so pleased that Mare Island Co. is our **HOST SPONSOR**. Many thanks for sponsorship by the Vallejo Flood Control and Wastewater District. Sierra Club, Redwood Chapter and Solano Group, have been our Host Sponsors for 3 years and return this year as Champion level sponsors, along with so many other sponsors shown on the next page. Visit our [GoFundMe site](#) to donate, effortlessly.

Will you personally help underwrite the Flyway Festival with a donation? We have truly started from scratch to produce an IN-PERSON FESTIVAL this year. We no longer have the source of funds we generated as a non-profit land trust.

Click [DONATE](#) OR VISIT: <https://gofund.me/ce3695ba>

Will you tell your friends, co-workers and family about the Flyway Festival in 2023 and plan to attend?

Will you volunteer? Call/text or email me at 707-249-9633 [\[myrnahayes@mac.com\]](mailto:myrnahayes@mac.com) with questions and suggestions.

In any way you can, please help us ensure our 28th Flyway Festival is a great event. We are so grateful.



Warmly,

Myrna Hayes
San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival Director/Co-founder
President, Mare Island Heritage Trust

Website: SFBayFlywayFestival.com

Facebook Page: [Facebook Page Link](#)

Facebook Group: [Facebook Group Link](#)

MAKE YOUR DONATION NOW BY CREDIT CARD:
Click **DONATE**
<https://gofund.me/ce3695ba>

TO DONATION BY CHECK:

Mare Island Heritage Trust
816 Branciforte St.
Vallejo, CA 94590

We are a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit land trust

2023 In-Person Wildlife Expo Schedule

Friday, February 10, Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12

Friday, February 10, In-Person Wildlife Expo

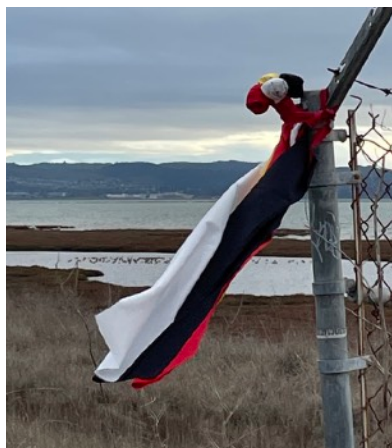
After 3 years, we are back In-Person for our Wildlife Expo headquartered on Mare Island. The Mare Island Co. has given us use of Building 34, again, in the heart of the historic Naval Shipyard. Join us again, for our traditional exhibitor booths, art show and live presentations. The pandemic had a silver-lining. In addition to returning to our In-Person Wildlife Expo, we will re-air a curated group of pre-recorded presentations, video tours and outings *and* air some Live coverage of our In-person Wildlife Expo and presentations, too. View the online schedule and find our combination of Facebook Live postings and pre-recordings in the [Virtual Flyway Festival Facebook Group](#). Guided Outing descriptions and directions to meet-up locations are listed in a Part-1 Mare Island and Regional Outings Schedule. Part-2 is this Schedule of Wildlife Expo presentations.

8:00am

Opening Greeting and Native American Prayer to bless the sacred Native lands and waters on which our Flyway

Festival takes place. This service was performed by Michelle Herrera on the Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail in February 2021.

We open our Flyway Festival each morning with this blessing both in our Facebook Group and during our In-Person Wildlife Expo, Sat and Sun.



5:00pm – 7:00pm

Festival Opening Reception, Wildlife Expo Headquarters Building 34, [1024 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island](#)

Join us at our 2023 Flyway Festival Wildlife Expo headquarters for an In-Person Opening Reception – at last! We are eager for you to join us in person and in spirit, as well as in that third strata we have become more and more accepting of, if not resigned to. We'll Facebook Live the evening. Enjoy good company and a spot of yummy refreshments. We certainly expect a host of dignitaries and Festival Sponsors, including our HOST SPONSOR, MARE ISLAND CO. and other friends and supporters, such as **Vallejo Mayor Robert McConnell** who began attending our Friday night opening reception with his wife when he was first elected as a Vallejo Councilmember, quite some time ago. How long ago? He has served two terms as Council representative and is beginning his 3rd year as our Mayor. **We thank you for your everlasting support, Mr. Mayor.**



Photo: Now Mayor Robert McConnell attending our opening reception as a Councilmember, 2019

Directions: From Vallejo and East Bay: Continue across the Blue Bridge onto Mare Island. Turn left immediately, at Nimitz Ave. Follow it to the deadend.

Park anywhere in the ample parking spots. Walk south towards the Buildingways and gantries to **Building 34, [1024 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island](#)** Lost?

Call/text 707-249-9633. **From Marin,**

Sonoma: From Hwy 37 Eastbound,

take the Mare Island exit immediately before the Napa River Bridge.

Veer right onto Walnut Ave. At the stop sign, turn left 2 blocks through the flashing stop light at Railroad Ave. to Nimitz Ave. Turn right onto Nimitz Ave. Follow it to the deadend. Park anywhere in the

ample parking spots. Walk south towards the Buildingways and gantries to **Building 34, [1024 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island](#)** **From Napa:** From Hwy 37 Westbound, take the Mare Island exit immediately after the Napa River Bridge. Veer right off the off-ramp, looping over the overpass onto Walnut Ave. Continue to the first stop sign. Turn left 2 blocks through the flashing stop light at Railroad Ave. to Nimitz Ave. Turn right onto Nimitz Ave. Follow it to the deadend. Park anywhere in the ample parking spots. Walk south towards the Buildingways and gantries to **Building 34, [1024 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island](#)** Lost? Call/text 707-249-9633.

FESTIVAL HOST
Mare Island
Heritage Trust

Festival Champions
(\$1,000-\$2,000)

- SMALL BUSINESS OUTSOURCE IN-KIND
- VALLEJO FLOOD CONTROL AND WASTEWATER DISTRICT
- VALLEJO WATERSHED ALLIANCE
- SIERRA CLUB, REDWOOD CHAPTER
- KAREN SHELTON
- ASTRO BOTANICALS IN-KIND

Mare
Island
Co.

FESTIVAL HOST SPONSOR
Wildlife Expo Headquarters
(In-kind)
Festival Champions
(\$1,000-\$2,000)

Festival Supporters
(\$500 to \$999)

- Jane Hicks for Napa Solano Audubon Society
- Melissa Hobbs Schmidt
- Sierra Club, Solano Group
- Skyview Memorial Lawn

Festival Friends
(\$100 to \$249)

- Anonymous (3)
- Daniel Boone
- Ruth Conroy
- Michelle Elicker
- Joe Estrada
- Friends San Pablo Bay NWR
- J.D. Miller
- Francisco Neri
- Frank and Kathy Silveira
- Vallejo People's Garden
- Elizabeth & Andrew Wattles



Photo: We are so thankful to the Sierra Club, Redwood Chapter for their role as HOST SPONSOR for 3 years and at the CHAMPION level this year and for the support and participation of the Sierra Club, Solano Group for 28 years! 2019 Flyway Festival, Gary Cullen

2023 Flyway Festival In-Person Wildlife Expo

Saturday, February 11



9:30am
Opening Greeting and Native American Prayer on the Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail Virtual Facebook Live Stream and on video display at the Wildlife Expo
Myrna Hayes, Flyway Festival Co-founder and Director with Michelle Herrera

Photo: Native American Prayer Flags made and hung for the 2021 Flyway Festival by Michelle Herrera, Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail, Myrna Hayes

Visit the Wildlife Expo Flyway Festival headquarters Building 34, 1024 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island, Vallejo

Come in from the great outdoors to our **WILDLIFE EXPO** Saturday, 9:30am to 4:00pm and Sunday, 9:30am to 3:00pm at Building 34 on Mare Island in Vallejo, with exhibitors, presenters, and art, and other vendors. Your purchase of art and your bids in our silent auction, raffle ticket purchases and donations all help keep our Festival wild and free. You may make an online donation on our Crowd-Funding site this year.

Click **DONATE**

OR VISIT: <https://gofund.me/ce3695ba>

9:30am – 4:00pm **Bay Area Wetlands to Ridgetops Fine Art Exhibit** **Art Exhibition, Building 34, Wildlife Expo**

Repeats Sunday 9:30am-3:00pm

Much of the art in our show is for sale. As one of the finest all nature art shows in the region, our Art Show during the Flyway Festival is a good time to consider an art purchase and help keep the Festival free. Arrange your purchase with the artists, directly.

10:00am - 11:15am **Birding 101: Optics and I.D. Basics**

Presentation at the Wildlife Stage

Your presenter, Michelle Eliker, is a longtime birder who gained her knowledge through hands-on experience, researching her topics, and a whole lot of trial and error! Michelle has often led beginning birding in the field for the Flyway Festival. **New to birding? Confused about what equipment to buy and how to get started?** This talk will give you all the basic information you'll need to get out there and have some fun! First, we will cover how to choose the best binoculars to meet your birding needs and budget. Next, we'll look at some of the other equipment you might need to make your trip more enjoyable. Lastly, you'll get some tips on how to more easily identify the birds you see. Whether you are a brand-new birder or just interested in adding to your birding skills, this talk will help you feel more confident in getting out there to bird.

11:30am-1230pm **Raptors Up Close with Native Bird Connections**

Presenter, Jenny Papka
Repeats Sunday 11:30am-12:30pm

"Return of the Raptors" is what our Flyway Festival team would call this year's exciting live wildbird show! After 3 years, Jenny Papka

and her "always a treat" birds of prey, return to our Wildlife Stage.

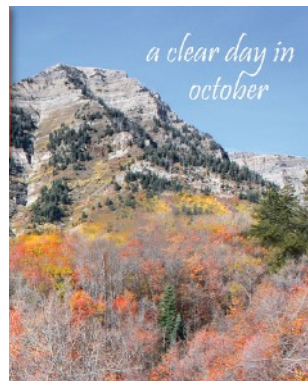
Please join Native Bird Connections for a journey into the world of Raptors or birds of prey. Live non-releasable raptors will accompany this lively, informative and always new program. Bring your camera and your questions!

1:00pm-2:00pm

Words as Pictures – Poetry Reading and Photo Show

Presenter: Jim Lewis, Poet and Photographer

Digital Slide Presentations, Gather under the white canopies



Jim will both read his poetry and give a slideshow of his photos. He will hold a drawing to give away a photograph. And, he will have some of his splendid photos (matted, ready to frame), and poetry books available for sale.

Photo: Book Cover for one of Jim Lewis' books of poetry. He and his wife Karlyn, are avid regional wildlife advocates and outdoors users, supporters, and friends of all things wild and wilderness.

1:30pm-2:15pm

What's Not to Love About Bats?

Presenter: Corky Quirk, Executive Director NorCal Bats with live, non-releasable, native bats at the Wildlife Stage
Repeats Sunday 1:00pm-2:00pm at the Norcal Bats Booth
Sharp fangs, pointy devil ears and spooky black vampire wings are staples of Halloween, but the legend of the bloodthirsty bat drives those who study the winged creatures batty! Corky will dispel



Photo: NorCal Bats' Executive Director, Corky Quirk, gives an upclose "In-person Live" presentation at the 2019 Flyway Festival, Gary Cullen.

misperceptions and describe the importance of bats in our environment. You'll learn about their natural history and biology and get a broader appreciation for bats. As primary predators of night-flying insects, bats play a vital role in maintaining the balance of nature. Yet, bat populations are in alarming decline due to decades of unwarranted human fear and persecution. By the end of Corky's talk, you'll be convinced to build your own "bat house".



Photo: Jenny Papka, Native Bird Connections, with an Eurasian eagle owl

2023 Flyway Festival In-Person Wildlife Expo

Saturday, February 11, cont'd. and Sunday, February 12

Saturday, February 11, Wildlife Expo, cont'd.



Photo: Former Naval Hospital, Touro University campus, Myrna Hayes

2:30pm-3:30pm

Learn about the History of the Mare Island Naval Hospital Digital Slide Presentation

Repeats Sunday 10:00am-11:15am

Join Dr. Tom Snyder, retired Navy surgeon and founder/past executive director of the Society for the History of Navy Medicine for a presentation featuring the fascinating history of the Navy's first hospital in the Pacific, closed in 1957 and now part of the campus of Touro University. Every year, Dr. Snyder's presentation gets richer and fuller as he adds more information to his very popular Mare Island history story.

3:00pm-4:00pm

Silent Auction closes and Raffle is called

Repeats Sunday 2:00pm-3:00pm

Sunday, February 12, Wildlife Expo



9:30am

Opening Greeting and Native American Prayer on the Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail Virtual Facebook Live Stream and on video display at the Wildlife Expo

Myrna Hayes, Flyway Festival Co-founder and Director with Michelle Herrera, Prayer flags created and hung for 2021 Flyway Festival.

10:00am-11:15am

Learn about the History of the Mare Island Naval Hospital Digital Slide Presentation

Repeats Saturday 2:30pm-3:30pm

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Photo: Former Naval Hospital, Touro University campus, Myrna Hayes

11:30am-12:30pm

Raptors Up Close with Native Bird Connections

Presenter, Jenny Papka

Repeats Saturday 11:30am-12:30pm

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Photo: Jenny Papka, Native Bird Connections, with an Eurasian eagle owl

1:00pm-2:00pm

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Repeats Saturday 1:30pm-2:30pm at the Wildlife Stage

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