

Our “Go Wildly Live Outdoors Flyway Festival” is Dedicated to the Life of Larry Broderick, Our Birds of Prey Guide and Friend

I'm devastated. My dear friend and a friend to the San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, Larry Broderick, died of a heart attack the morning of New Year's Eve, 2025.

We were planning that he would guide a first ever birds of prey hike at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve at this year's Flyway Festival.

He started coming to our birdwatching Festival as a young man and dreamed of guiding hikes featuring his beloved raptors, and THAT HE DID!

I remember calling him one year to let him know I had a carload of birders running late for his Lynch Canyon birds of prey hike. First, I was amazed that his cell coverage was good enough to receive my call from the Mare Island Flyway Festival headquarters and then, that he actually answered his phone in the field!

When I told him this group was on their way, and asked if they would be too late, characteristically, I now have learned from his close Team who helped him lead the hikes, he wasn't grumpy or upset, as more than one field guide has been over 30 years.

Instead, he said so excitedly, "I have 92 people already! I'll wait for them."

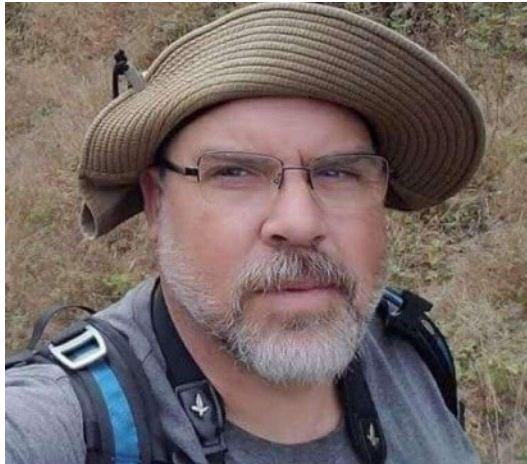


Photo: San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival Birds of Prey Guide Larry Broderick. He guided for our Flyway Festival at 2 sites for our regional outings, each year.

Many guides would be flipped out by that size turnout and even refuse to guide if I didn't limit the number on their tours, require preregistration and really discourage, rather than encourage everyone to participate. They were known to even lock the gate and leave people behind who had maybe gotten lost or stuck in traffic. I don't mean to be rude. I'm just saying that Larry had a radically different style. Larry was obsessed with "inclusion", not "exclusion". I was told recently, by a bird watching enthusiast who has been one of Larry's closest colleagues, that they actually assigned themselves to seek out new people who had not been on one of Larry's hikes and beginning birdwatchers and stayed with them throughout the many miles of some of their hikes. Like John C Robinson, the African American Biologist and book author whose

mission is to inspire African Americans to get out into the outdoors through birdwatching. John told me when he guided for the Flyway Festival with equally large numbers, that he looks around for people with scopes and asks

them to take some of the group under their wing. Larry pre-planned dividing the large group into smaller groups assigned to guides he had recruited. These are the giants and the true leaders in my business. The business of sharing our reverence and awe for the natural world around us, with anyone and everyone. I have often been guilty of cajoling and of course, resorting to story-telling to engage those I am convinced must know nature like I strive to.

Larry, Larry, Larry. What will we do without you? Your wife and three young boys. No. **I AM DEDICATING THIS YEAR'S FLYWAY FESTIVAL IN YOUR HONOR, MY DEAR FRIEND.**

We'll still do that hike at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve in your name. I promise. As raptors begin to be seen in the trees and the sky, I will speak your name. Maybe by then, you'll be able to join us in the sky because

you will have earned your wings, precious friend. I have no words. Only tears. RIP Larry Broderick.



Quite amazingly and sadly, he posted this reminiscent photo of his family Dec 30, 2024

As for the Birds of Prey hikes Larry loved to give during our Flyway Festival, his West County HawkWatch Team will guide his traditional Flyway Festival hike in his name, Saturday, February 8, 2025, 10:00am-2:00pm. As he always did and because I've made every effort to keep the Flyway Festival free, this hike is Free. However, his volunteers invite you to give a donation to help out his family. Here's a beautiful tribute posted on Facebook by Sonoma Land Trust with the link to a GoFundMe fundraiser for his wife Sameth and their 3 young sons. [Larry Broderick Retrospective](#)

With my deepest appreciation, Larry, for your heart and passion and love for wild ones and our treasured Flyway Festival

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