

# 29th year 2025 *Flyway Festival*

December 19, 2025

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

I am happy to invite you to join me for our 2025 Flyway Festival. As is my tradition, I've written a few words of reflection and welcome.

Today is the day that I have set aside to share with you, the happenings of the year and to wish you a marvelous holiday season and Wintertime. Here is what I thought I would do to get myself in the mood to chat about our upcoming Flyway Festival. I grabbed my computer and purse AND the dog and tripped out to the street to hop in my car and head into the local wilds like I have found works best for me to center on our wilderness (wild near us) and direct my thoughts to you my wildlands community from whom I receive my inspiration and who I cherish, so.

Life has other plans. The car will not start. I was going to switch to the good old Toyota pickup and when I turned the key, the new battery was completely dead. So, back into the house I traped to make a cup of coffee and regroup. Settled in the car with my Merlin Bird ID App scanning the nearby trees, for the voices of songbirds, the front seat pushed back with



**Photo: Myrna Hayes, On a Ramble amongst the blue gum eucalyptus Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve**

my computer propped on my steering wheel, I'm going to give a first draft of my love letter to you, a go.

First, let's review the last year and a half. You will recall that in February of 2023, we held a darling and triumphant Flyway Festival on our home turf in the heart of the historic shipbuilding area of Mare Island surrounding by drydocks and buildingways with cranes and gantries towering overhead. That was a fun weekend packed with fondest of memories of wild times shared together as we celebrated the return of migrating waterfowl,

shorebirds, hawks and songbirds who have visited, overwintered, refueled on our shores and Bay since the beginning of time.

Together, we have thrilled at the glimpses of nature viewed up close through a field guide's fancy scope or by holding binoculars to our faces, to see the flitting source of a song or sound, we had really not paid attention to, before.

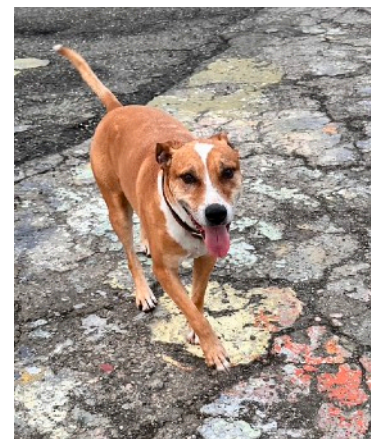
One time a year, we have set aside to gather and celebrate the beauty and bounty in which we live. This has become a treasured tradition. As we

gather to learn, to experience, to share and to rejuvenate our commitment to protecting what we hold most dear. Our wildlands and open spaces.

Fast forward. Things are inexplicably shifting in our lives. Like dozens of



earthquakes, some where we expected them, least. "Storm events" morphing into tornados. Tumultuous times in our communities that tumble us into despair, distress and yes, disbelief. I am going to tell you of one such 'storm event' in our lives. Before I do, I want to remind you and assure you that while all this tumult swirls around us, may we *(Continued, next page)*



Nitro, our good dog friend at the BOO (1300) Building Mare Island photo, Myrna Hayes

# Wilderness—wild near us...Go Wildly!

never forget to step outside, to look to the night sky saturated with stars, or the day sky of bluest blue, billowing with clouds. May we look to the earth beneath our feet. Not just watching as we place one foot in front of the other, but as we look ahead to the way before us, along a trail leading us to a distant hillside and soon, to a mountaintop and glorious vistas that transform us. May we go to the water's edge where our sorrows and sadnesses are always melted away and washed out with the tide and the ripples of fast flowing water. Nothing really changes about the great outdoors. It's our experience of it.

So, having reminded you that like today, when the blowing, piercing tule fog still blankets our town with chill, there is a sun right above, tussling with the fog, for a chance to warm us and remind us, as we come close to the shortest day, that ***the light will return***. We can weather all that buffets us. I know it is so and I believe that you do, too.

And, like magic, right before my eyes, the wind shoves the fog clouds away and the blue sky appears with its shimmering veil of high clouds glinting in the midday sunshine.



Photo: canvasback ducks along Highway 37, Pam Starr

So, having I hope, inspired you, I am, as promised, going to ask you to sit down with me so I can tell you about the changes we are experiencing.

First, my Nitro died on the night of November 1st. He has been our dog rock and joy mixed with a good dose of trouble, for 11.5 years. He convinced us to not take ourselves too seriously and that the bond between dogs and humans is as assured as migration. As I read the literally more than a thousand heartfelt tributes and condolences, it was clear that dogs are very much emissaries and ambassadors between all that is wild and us. I read stories of Nitro guiding people he did not know into the wilds of Mare Island. Dogs remind us that even we are wild and to dive on into the depths of that part of us. Its OK to be freely human.

Now, not only have we lost our mascot dog, we have

lost our San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival as we have known it for 28 years. A weird and almost inexplicable twist has occurred for our 2025 Flyway Festival. In 2023 it had been 3 years since we had held an In-Person Wildlife Expo traditionally headquartered on Mare Island and we were so excited to hold a LIVE EVENT that February.

Unbeknownst to us, BIZARRE things would begin to take place. Shortly after that fun 2023 Flyway Festival, a cabal of actors planned a stealth takeover of our traditional and beloved Flyway Festival. This is why as I planned the 2024 Flyway Festival, I was nonplussed about the lack of support I was receiving from the various partners which led me to cancel the 2024 Flyway Festival to regroup.

Imagine my shock upon learning that a group from the now former State

Senators office, the Vallejo City Managers office, and its Mare Island partner, with a contracted event company which the City of Vallejo City Manager entered into an agreement with in August 2023 to put on a number of events in Vallejo, were joined by representatives from agency and nonprofit organizations, all of whom began holding private meetings in January 2024 to create and produce a "NEW" birding event modeled after ours.

At first I was told they planned this "replacement" Birding Festival because I "quit". Clearly, this was NOT in response to my heartfelt letter canceling our 2024 event, but due to advanced planning to virtually steal our event headquartered on Mare Island for 28 years. They are making good on their plans. They have masterminded an event to take our Flyway Festival's place literally one week before ours, and enticed many organizations who were our partners to join them. WOW! Stealing a California Secretary of State registered non-profit business' key event! Unbelievable!

Yet, our friends are urging us to hold the San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, anyway.

*(Continued, next page)*

# Wilderness—wild near us...Go Wildly!

So, like the migration that never fails to take place, we will continue our migration celebration here on the north shore of San Francisco Bay, the way “we” do it. For our 29th season, we’ll just “wing it”! Let’s see what we will share together this year for our beloved Flyway Festival. I can tell you this.

We are a hardy lot. You come to the Flyway Festival with many expectations. We can assure that the Flyway Festival will take place regardless of the weather. Only heavy rain cancels our guided outings. This year will be in many ways like in the past. No heat, but lots of warmth!

Please join us February 7, 8 and 9, 2025 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, state wildlife areas and local wildlands parks?!

As the weeks unfold, you will learn of plans we are making to host you in this year’s **Go Wildly Live Outdoors Flyway Festival**.



Photo: American kestrel, East Bay, Michael Warner

This will be a version of the “original” Flyway Festival you have loved for almost 3 decades. To reduce confusion, let’s just call this year’s Flyway Festival, **“Myrna’s San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival”!**

We’ll host a gathering in Vallejo, NOT at our traditional headquarters on Mare Island. But, rest assured, there will be plenty of guided bird watching and hiking tours ON Mare Island, and around the “north shore” of San Francisco Bay. We will Live air on our “2023” Hybrid/Virtual Facebook Group page.

**Are you a birdwatching or hiking guide?** We’d love for you to join up with us.

**Are you an exhibitor or vendor?** We have limited space for your nature themed offerings or your nonprofit organization’s educational and interactive displays at no charge, but you are encouraged to bring your own table and

chairs. Drop me a note to confirm your participation.

In January, the month before “**Go Wildly Live Outdoors San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival**” February 7-9, 2025 I have guided and will continue to host outings and

gatherings to get you in the spirit of birdwatching and into our winter wildness. Join me before and during these hikes with birding experts.

**Will you commit to support our Flyway Festival with your generous SPONSOR donation?** Visit our [GoFundMe site](#) to donate.

***Will you personally help underwrite the Flyway Festival with a donation? This Flyway Festival is still FREE because of your gift. We don’t have the sources of sponsor funds of the past.***

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

**Will you tell your friends, co-workers and family about the Flyway Festival in 2025 and attend?**

**Will you volunteer?** Call/text or email me at 707-656-7852

[\[myrnalhayes@icloud.com\]](mailto:myrnalhayes@icloud.com) with questions and ideas.

In any way you can, please help us ensure our 29th Flyway Festival is a great gathering. Together, we have forged a wildlands community of people bonded together to celebrate our north shore wilderness (wild near us).



I thank you for the difference you make. We are so grateful.

Warmly,

Myrna Hayes  
San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival Director/Co-founder. President, Mare Island Heritage Trust  
Website: **(will be updated!)**  
[SFBayFlywayFestival.com](http://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

# 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."

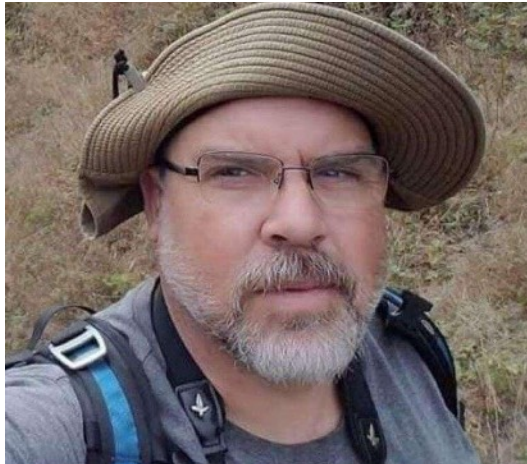


Photo: San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival Birds of Prey Guide Larry Broderick. He guided for our Flyway Festival at 2 sites for our regional outings, each year.

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

**Go Wildly Live Outdoors**  
**29th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival**  
**SPONSORSHIP FORM**

**YES!** We are pleased to sponsor the “**Go Wildly Live Outdoors**”

29th Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival held in Vallejo and throughout the “north shore” region of San Francisco Bay, FEBRUARY 7, 8 and 9, 2025. We know our donation of cash or in-kind support helps

- **Educate the public about the importance of conservation around our Bay;**
- **Offer free no pre-registration required admission to the Flyway Festival Pop-Up gathering – beginning wildlife conservation education at an early age;**
- **Market to increasing numbers of people and spread the word about the value of the San Francisco Bay and the natural habitat it offers;**
- **Bring together outdoor enthusiasts, birders, and conservationists to enjoy the unique wetland opportunities during the migratory season;**
- **Showcase Mare Island’s rich historic past and kindle interest in its future.**

**We are enclosing:**

**\$100 \$150 \$250 \$500 \$750 \$1000 Other: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

We understand we will receive all appropriate recognition for our donation including:

- **A listing in the website sponsor listing (if our pledge arrives by FEBRUARY 5, 2025)**
- **A listing in the event online schedule (if our pledge arrives by FEBRUARY 5, 2025)**
- **A listing on Thank You signs throughout the Flyway Festival Pop-Up location in Vallejo**
- **An invitation to the Friday evening, February 7, 2025 Dinner Gathering at a local Vallejo restaurant to share together with members of the public who choose to join us, our love for local wilderness (wild near us)**

Please make your check payable to **Mare Island Heritage Trust**

Mail your check to **Mare Island Heritage Trust**, 816 Branciforte St, Vallejo, CA 94590

If you have questions please text or call (707) 656-7852 or email [myrnalhayes@icloud.com](mailto:myrnalhayes@icloud.com)

If you are making your contribution electronically, please visit <https://gofund.me/ce3695ba>

**Please provide all appropriate recognition for our donation to:**

[PRINT OR TYPE THE NAME YOU WISH TO SEE IN PRINT] \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact City: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations to The 2025 Go Wildly Live Outdoors San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival are also donations to our sponsoring agency, Mare Island Heritage Trust, a 501(c)3 tax-exempt corporation. Fed. ID # 27-1493661. Your donation may be tax deductible. Please check with your tax advisor.

**Return this form no later than FEBRUARY 5, 2025 to be included in web and  
Festival location recognition**

**Scan and Email this form to: [myrnalhayes@icloud.com](mailto:myrnalhayes@icloud.com)**

# 2025 Go Wildly Live Outdoors Flyway Festival Schedule

Friday, February 7, Saturday, February 8 and Sunday, February 9

## Go Wildly Live Outdoors San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival 2025 Pop Up and Guided Outings on Mare Island, nearby and throughout the region

**A**fter taking a year off, we are back and headquartered in Vallejo for a **Pop-up Flyway Festival at Moschetti Coffee Roasting**. Fabrice Moschetti and his family have been friends of our cherished **Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve** and the **San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival** for more than a decade. So, when he offered to host our **Pop Up Flyway Festival**, I was overjoyed and humbled, at the same time.

We've been welcomed to join in with the traditional Saturday free coffee cupping, with coffee for sale, French food, vendors and music. A version will continue on Sunday.

What will this Pop Up Flyway Festival be like? Free, small, intimate, genuine, richly community-based with love for our wilderness (wild near us) and the wildlands community we have crafted together. We'll set up a kind of old-time **Flyway Festival** like the early days of our Mare Island event. Please plan to join us for a "way-it-used-to-be, "retro" version of our traditional format with engaging presenters and hands-on experiences, vendors and informative displays. We will re-air a curated group of pre-recorded presentations, video tours and outings *and* offer some Live coverage of our **Pop-up Flyway Festival** and presentations and some of our guided outings on Facebook, too. View the online schedule and find our combination of Facebook Live postings and pre-recordings in the **Virtual Flyway Festival Facebook Group**. Part-1 is the Schedule of **Go Wildly Live Outdoors Pop-Up** presentations and vendors. Guided Outing descriptions and directions to meet-up locations are listed in a Part-2 **Mare Island and Regional Outings Schedule**.



## Friday, February 7

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.**

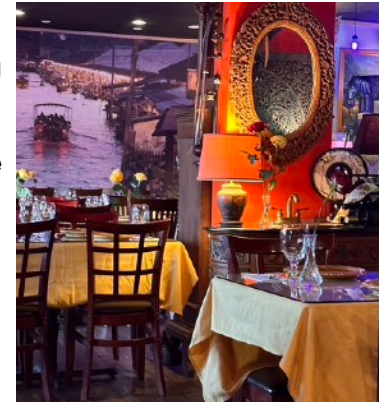
We open our Flyway Festival each morning with this blessing both in our Facebook Group and during our "Go Wildly Live Outdoors" San Francisco

Bay Flyway Festival Pop-Up, Sat and Sun.

5:00pm – 7:00pm

## 2025 Flyway Festival Opening Dinner Gathering at my NEW FAVORITE local restaurant in Vallejo, Elephant Thai Cuisine

I have become smitten with this local restaurant and I believe you will be, too. This is a Flyway Festival FIRST! I have arranged for us to share a meal together in an intimate and magical setting. We sure deserve it!



Join us for a Flyway Festival Friday Evening gathering together at my favorite restaurant because it reminds me of our **Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve visitor center** with exquisite food and special service

Here's my plan. You may make a donation of \$25 per person to the Mare Island Heritage Trust in cash, check or through our **GoFundMe**. We will pay the tab. Now, IF you want to join us, but, you just can't afford to contribute, let me know. I will welcome you and invite others to contribute a little extra. I AM

ADAMANT that everyone is invited who wishes to join us. I have built our beloved **Flyway Festival** on FREE and based on the gift. We are eager for you to join us in person and in spirit, as well as in that third strata we have become more accepting of, if not resigned to. We'll Facebook Live a little of the evening.



Photo: **Elephant Thai Cuisine**, a Vallejo restaurant where we will gather Friday evening, February 7, 2025, 5:00-7:00pm to share a meal together and savor our **Go Wildly Live Outdoors San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival**.

**Directions: From Vallejo and East Bay:** Lost? Call/text Myrna Hayes, 707-656-7852. **From Marin, Sonoma:** From Hwy 37 Eastbound, take the Hwy 29/Sonoma Blvd exit after crossing the Napa River Bridge. Turn south/right onto Sonoma Blvd/Hwy 29. Turn left at Redwood St. and left into the first driveway on the left into the little strip mall and park. **From Napa:** Travel south on Hwy 29 passing under the Hwy 37 overpass, continuing to Redwood St. Turn left, then left again into the driveway of a small mall and park.

### FESTIVAL HOST

Mare Island Heritage Trust

### FESTIVAL POP UP SITE HOST

Moschetti Coffee Vallejo, CA

### Festival Champions (\$1,000-\$5,000)

- **MOSCHETTI COFFEE** IN-KIND
- **TWILIGHT** IN-KIND
- **ASTRO BOTANICALS** IN-KIND

### Festival Supporters (\$500 to \$999)

- Joe Estrada
- Belinda Seidemann

### Festival Friends (\$100 to \$499)

- Anonymous (1)
- Dragana Monson
- Liz and Drew Wattles
- Jeffrey Chinn

# 2025 Go Wildly Live Outdoors Flyway Festival Schedule

## Saturday, February 8



**9:00am**  
**Opening Greeting and Native American Prayer on the Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail**  
**Virtual Facebook Live Stream and on a display at the Flyway Festival PopUp in Vallejo.**  
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

### Join us for our Go Wildly Live Outdoors San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival Pop-Up at Moschetti Coffee 11 6th St, Vallejo, CA

Come in from the great outdoors to our **Flyway Festival Pop-Up** Saturday, 9:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday, 9:00am to 3:00pm at **Moschetti Artisan Coffee Roasters, 11 6th St, in Vallejo.** We'll be joining the typical Saturday morning Community coffee event at Moschetti's with a free coffee cupping, made to order coffee and other hot/cold drinks, French themed food, fresh roasted coffee from around the world for purchase and music, all hosted by Fabrice Moschetti.

**For our Flyway Festival, Moschetti Coffee is proud to offer an exclusively roasted coffee grown in Columbia as part of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's Bird Friendly® Coffee**

**Program, which "Protects Migratory Birds and Supports Shade-Grown Coffee Farms."** A portion of your purchase will be donated to the **San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival.** Our **Flyway Festival Pop-Up** features presenters and exhibitors/vendors. Your donations help keep our Festival wild and free. You may make an online donation on our Crowd-Funding site again this year.

Click **DONATE OR VISIT:** <https://gofund.me/ce3695ba>

**10:00am-11:00am**  
**What do I mean by Go Wildly Live Outdoors?**  
Presenter: Myrna Hayes  
Flyway Festival Co-founder and Director

For more than 35 years I have conducted bus tours as a step-on guide, been a river guide, opened and managed wildlands parks and co-founded a number of wildlife, nature and history events, such as the San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival and the San Francisco Bay Osprey Days headquartered on the "north shore" of San Francisco Bay. Yet, it is only quite recently that I have discovered a new and deeper understanding of wilderness(wild near us) through a more



Photo: Our own Flyway Festival coffee, exclusively roasted by Moschetti Coffee from Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center Bird Friendly Beans from Colombia

intimate and personal engagement with the natural world around me. More and more, I am becoming interested in the "edge" of land management. And, I am immersing more in the natural world just outside my back door, in my alley, through early morning jaunts with the dog, she most interested in squirrels and me, obsessed with the Merlin Bird ID App. Let's talk and learn together about deepening our reconnection with our own wildness.

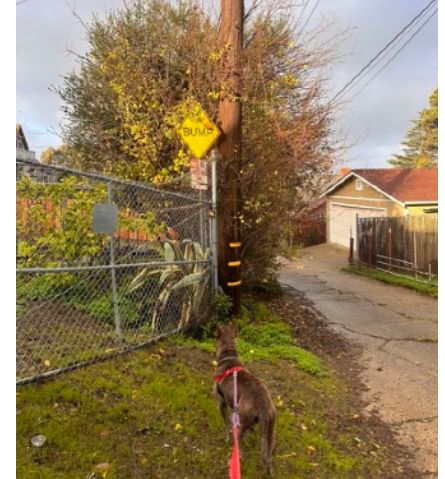


Photo: National Alley, a block from my home, Myrna Hayes

**11:30am-12:30pm**  
**Hold Soft Sculptures – Stuffed Animals Like You've Never Held and Hugged with Stan Clark and his magical beings**  
Presenter: Designer and Creator Stan Clark, Astro Botanicals

Stan Clark is a Vallejo-based creator of the remarkably gorgeous Astro Botanicals, the glowing art that has adorned our Flyway Festival for nearly 20 years. We are so grateful to Stan for ensuring that they return this year in their magical array. Meanwhile, here's where things get REALLY FUN and AMAZING! Known for his lighted inflatable sculptures, Stan explains that actually his "Soft Sculptures" stuffed toys are the prototype origin of his larger inflatable sculptures we are so drawn to. His dragons are species of different ecologies with similarities to real animals and plants. They are "Alice in Wonderland"



Photo: Stan Clark, will share his Mountain Dragons, and other "soft sculptures" that are prototype for his popular inflatable sculptures.

and "Velveteen Rabbit" type informal reminders of hobbits and children's fairy tales. Stan says, "Of the numerous designs, there are lots of dragons and plants and combos. They have claws, spines, horns, scales, tails and fangs." He mentions three categories of his stuffed toys. Mountain dragons and jungle dragons and sea dragons.

Before Stan made his magical large scale "Inflated Sculptures" art featured in shows all over the US, he designed and sold stuffed animals. Not your

ordinary stuffed animals. Join Stan Clark and Myrna Hayes for a rare moment when we join in conversation about his artful animals as you hold one in your arms. Stan has made and sold as many as 3,000 of these one of a kind creations. Now, he doesn't sell them, preferring to design and sew each one as personal magical and mysterious wildlife friends who you will meet and hold.

# 2025 Go Wildly Live Outdoors Flyway Festival Schedule

## Saturday, February 8, continued

1:00pm-2:00pm

### "Poetry en Pleine Aire" – Poetry Reading in a Marsh

Presenter: Jim Lewis, Poet and Photographer

We will leave at 1:00pm from our **Flyway Festival Pop Up at Moschetti Coffee** to walk the 5-10 minutes to the nearby wetlands. There, we will gather as I introduce Jim who will then, share his poetry with us. Following his reading, feel free to walk on your own along the wetlands trail or back with us to the **Flyway Festival Pop Up** location.

When I asked Jim if he would consider reading his poetry at Lake Dalwigk, a short walk from our **Flyway Festival Pop Up at Moschetti Coffee**, he wrote back with a tentative yes, and request to visit the wetland site I had in mind. After our walk over to the Lake with Karlyn, Jim's wife, and our decision about where we would set up, I assured Jim that I would walk over with him, along with you – our Flyway Festival Friend!

In a follow up note Jim wrote, "I look at this as a new adventure, a little outside my comfort zone, but with great possibilities." There's my friend who readily admits that poetry isn't everyone's cup of tea. I hope you will join us in encouraging Jim to read his poetry in a marsh and that you will humor me by responding joyously to yet another of my visions, since I have put Jim up to this!

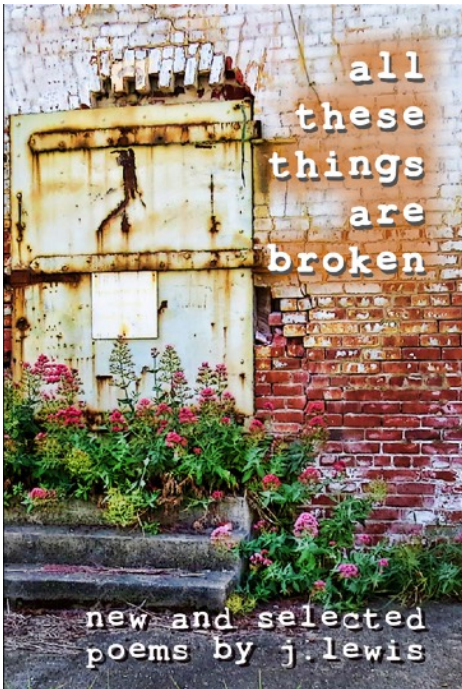


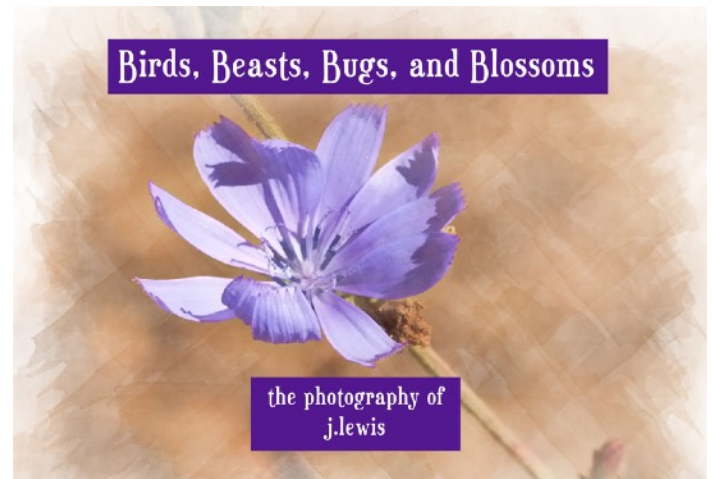
Photo: Book Cover for a recent book of poetry "all these things are broken" by Jim available on Amazon and his website. I recognized the building Jim chose for his book cover as a 150 year old munitions storage magazine in a National Park Service designated National Historic District in the Mare Island Naval Ammunition Depot.



Photo: mallard pair, Mare Island  
James E. Lewis

"Birds, Beasts, Bugs, and Blossoms" — The first book of photography from j.lewis.

He says "Beauty is everywhere, if you're looking for it."



j.lewis is an internationally published poet, musician, and nurse practitioner. His poetry and music reflect the complexity of human interactions, often drawing inspiration from his experiences in healthcare. When he is not otherwise occupied, he is often outdoors, exploring and photographing the varied open spaces near his home in California.

Jim's books of poetry and newly published photography book can be found on his website [www.jlewisweb.com/books.asp](http://www.jlewisweb.com/books.asp)  
Amazon link to "all these things..." [www.amazon.com/dp/1680730843](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1680730843)

Amazon link to "Birds, Beasts, Bugs, and Blossoms"  
[www.amazon.com/dp/B0DT9QT5D6](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0DT9QT5D6)



# 2025 Go Wildly Live Outdoors Flyway Festival Schedule

## Sunday, February 9

### Go Wildly Live Outdoors Flyway Festival Pop-Up

Join us at Moschetti Coffee 11 6th St. (Curtola Pkwy at Solano Ave, close to intersection of I-80/I-780) Vallejo



**9:00am**  
**Opening Greeting and Native American Prayer on the Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail Virtual Facebook Live Stream and on 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.

**9:00am-11:00am**

### **Bird watching and Mare Island History Boat Cruise**

Aboard River Dolphin with Dolphin Charters

**A San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival First** as we explore the Napa River and Mare Island Strait on a 2-hour timeless adventure with your guides Flyway Festival Co-founder and Director, and River Guide, Myrna Hayes and Dolphin Charters' Barbara Fitzgerald. How could

this be a FIRST?, you ask. It's the truth. We have never had a boat trip as part of our live Flyway Festivals.

We did have a "virtual boat trip" in 2021 aboard River Dolphin given by Dolphin Charters with preeminent bird guide and naturalist, David Wimpfheimer. Look for a repost of that outings in our Virtual Facebook page listings for 2025.



Pre-registration is required. \$40 per person. Rain or shine! Only heavy rain cancels. To reserve one of the limited seats, call 1-510-527-9622. Questions? Call 707-656-7852. When you arrive at Guest Dock 'K' at the Vallejo Marina, prior to our 9:00am departure, you will receive safety and boarding instructions. *We'll be serving coffee and have hot water available for tea and hot cocoa. Bring your own breakfast food.*

**11:30am-12:30pm**  
**Raptors Up Close with Native Bird Connections**

Presenter, Jenny Papka

*"Return of the Raptors"* is what our Flyway Festival team would call this year's exciting live wildbird show! After 2 years, Jenny Papka and her "always a treat" birds of prey, return to our

**Go Wildly Live Outdoors Stage at**

our **Flyway Festival Pop Up at Moschetti Coffee**, 11 6th St. Vallejo, CA 94590

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-2:15pm**

### **Birding 101: Optics and I.D. Basics**

Flyway Festival Pop Up at Moschetti Coffee

Presenter: Michelle Eliker, Birding Enthusiast

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.



Photo: Acorn woodpecker, Lagoon Valley Park, Solano County  
Bill George



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

First, we'll cover how to choose the best binoculars and other equipment that meet your birding needs and fit your budget. Then, we'll dive into some tips on how to identify the birds you see more easily. When we're done, you'll be ready to get out there and have some fun!

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 presented birding talks and led beginning birding in the field for the San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival.

# Mare Island Outings - Go Wildly Live Outdoors

Friday, February 7, Saturday, February 8 and Sunday, February 9

## Friday, February 7, Mare Island Outings

8:00am-5:30pm

### Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Self-guided Hiking and Biking

Repeats Saturday and Sunday 8:00am-5:30pm

Walk or bike on the 1.3 mile paved road/trail along the route to the hilltop 7-county scenic vista and beyond. Dogs are allowed on leash.

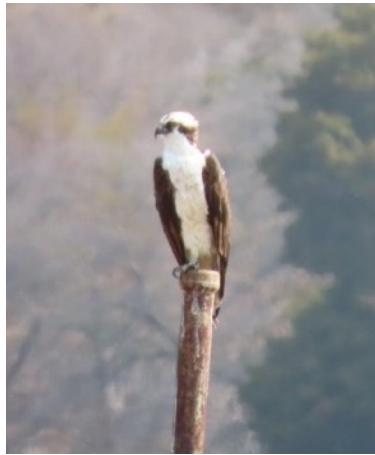


Photo: Osprey perched on lightning rod, Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve, Bill George

See Saturday, February 8, 1:15-3:15pm Mare Island Birding Hotspots car caravan with Tony Brake, description and meeting directions for a bird watching experience at the San Pablo Bay Trail and at the Mare Island Preserve in the mid-afternoon, Saturday.

**Directions:** [167 O'Hara Ct](#) at southern end of Azuar Dr. From the Mare Island entrance at Tennessee and Mare Island

Way, continue to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond gate to parking. From Marin or Napa

take the Mare Island exit off of Hwy 37 and follow Walnut Ave. south 3/4 mile to stop sign at "G" St. Turn right one block to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond entrance gate to parking.

8:00am-6:00pm

### San Pablo Bay Walking Trail Self-Guided Walk Hosted by Weston Solutions, Inc.

Repeats Saturday and Sunday 8:00am-6:00pm

Explore the wetland and bay habitats of Mare Island on a self-guided wildlife viewing trail to the Bay and seasonal ponds.

See Saturday, February 8, 1:15-3:15pm Mare Island Birding Hotspots car caravan with Tony Brake, description and meeting directions for a bird watching experience at the San Pablo Bay Trail and at the Mare Island Preserve in the mid-afternoon, Saturday.

**Directions:** Once you've reached Mare Island travel West to Azuar Dr., turn left onto Azuar Dr. Continue on Azuar Dr. to the first right at A St./ Dump Rd. onto the gravel road. Park in the gravel parking lot at the end of A St. Entrance Azuar Dr. at A St.



Photo: Say's phoebe, Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail, Bill George

11:15am-12:30pm

### Bird Viewing Outing at Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve

Michele Troughton, Mare Island Heritage Trust field guide

Michele is an expert and avid birding guide who gives freely of her time to guide birders of all skill levels at Mare Island viewing spots.

Meet her at the parking lot of the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve. See directions below. Michele will guide you on short, easy birdwatching walk along the paved trail through open grasslands, an oak forested area and an eucalyptus grove near the paved trail. Michele will stay about an hour. Feel free to continue further up the Trail on your own, or return to your car.



Photo: Hummingbird takes flight, in the East Bay, Michael Warner

**Directions:** [167 O'Hara Ct](#) at southern end of Azuar Dr. From the Mare Island entrance at Tennessee and Mare Island Way, continue to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond gate to parking. From Marin or Napa take the Mare Island exit off of Hwy 37 and follow Walnut Ave. south 3/4 mile to stop sign at "G" St. Turn right one block to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond entrance gate to parking.

1:00pm-1:45pm

### Visit Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail and its Seasonal Fresh Water Pond for Some Birdwatching and learn to use the Merlin Bird ID App with Myrna Hayes

Repeats Saturday, 11am-12noon with Dwight Gemar and Sunday 11:00am-12noon with Liz King

Join Myrna, Dwight and Liz for a come and go, guided birdwatching time at the fresh water season wetland called Wetland B. The source is stormwater and rainwater runoff from the nearby higher areas. With the abundance of rain we have had this season, waterfowl and shorebirds have lots of choices of where to loaf and feed, so they may not be abundant, but we always see some. Song birds and raptors will be heard and seen. Bring: snacks and water, hiking shoes, binoculars, outing wear, and your questions! You may stay as long as you want at the pond, then continue along the San Pablo Bay Trail to the Bay and beyond, or leave. Very informal and accessible on a flat trail. Clean portable restroom near the trailhead and handicapped parking.

# Mare Island Outings, Go Wildly Live Outdoors Schedule

## Saturday, February 8

**Saturday, February 8**

### **Self-guided and Field Guide Led Outings**

- We are pivoting, AGAIN! It's been 2 years since our wonderful February 2023 return to a fully in-person Flyway Festival following the pandemic years. Meanwhile, we have been "replaced" on Mare Island with an organization made up of governmental agencies, elected representatives and non-profit and businesses, many of whom were our sponsors, exhibitors and presenters.
- So, this year, we are mixing it up with a **Flyway Festival Pop Up at Moschetti Coffee Roasting in Vallejo** where we will join in the vibe of free coffee cupping, French food and hot and cold drinks for purchase. Some of your favorites will return, like **Jenny Papkas, Native Bird Connections raptor show**, and some new guests. As you will see from our schedule, some things are the same, in a new location. And, in other ways, we are taking a different tact. For one, we have been guiding hikes, birdwatching outings, tours of the former Shipyard and many regional birdwatching walks every weekend in January. It's been great fun!
- So, we will be here with much of what you love in a little different venue. But, I have to laugh. We are used to that, aren't we? I have even thought we might go on a prowl of all the buildings we have held the **Flyway Festival** in over the 30 years since our January 1996 first Flyway Festival at Building 505, hosted by the US Navy.
- We will offer some Hybrid programming. As in recent years, you will be able to view some of our **Flyway Festival Pop Up Live** on our [Facebook Group](#). We will live stream each day, a curated group of presentations, videos, Youtube and links from websites of interest. All Guided Outings are described here and are free. You will see descriptions and directions to locations in this schedule.
- A separate schedule features our Pop Up programming.
- Check in on the [Facebook Group](#) beginning February 7th, through the 9th for our daily lineup of Virtual Wildlife Expo programming.



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

**9:00am**

**Opening Greeting and Native American Prayer to bless the sacred Native lands and waters on which our Flyway Festival is held.** Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail Virtual Facebook Live Stream from our 2021 Flyway Festival on [Facebook Group](#) will air each morning on Facebook and at the **Flyway Festival Pop Up** Myrna Hayes, Flyway Festival Co-founder & Director with Michelle Herrera

**8:00am-5:30pm Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve open for self-guided hiking and biking**  
**Repeats Friday and Sunday, 8:00am-5:30pm(sunset)**

**Directions:** 167 O'Hara Ct at southern end of Azuar Dr. **From the Mare Island entrance at Tennessee and Mare Island Way**, continue to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond gate to parking. **From Marin or Napa** take the Mare Island exit off of Hwy 37 and follow Walnut Ave. south 3/4 mile to stop sign at "G" St. Turn right one block to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond gate to parking.

**8:00am-6:00pm**

**San Pablo Bay Walking Trail Self-Guided Walk**  
**Hosted by Weston Solutions, Inc.**

*Repeats Friday and Sunday 8:00am-6:00pm*

*There are porta potties on Mare Island at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve and one is stationed at the San Pablo Bay Trail.*

**Directions:** Once you've reached Mare Island travel West to Azuar Dr., turn left onto Azuar Dr. Continue on Azuar Dr. to the first right at A St./ Dump Rd. onto the gravel road. Park in the gravel parking lot at the end of A St. Entrance on Azuar Dr. at A St.

- *Our FLYWAY FESTIVAL schedule is 2-PART.*
- *This schedule is ALL Mare Island and Regional Outings.*
- *A second schedule details the programming for the Flyway Festival Pop Up headquartered at Moschetti Coffee, 11 6th St, Vallejo, CA 94590*
- *Look for a Virtual Wildlife Expo schedule on the [Facebook Group](#) by Feb. 7th*

# Mare Island Gatherings and Outings Go Wildly Live Outdoors Schedule Saturday, February 8, continued

## Saturday, February 8, Mare Island Tours and Self-Guided and Field-Guide Led Outings

9:30am–11:00am

### Go Take a Hike in the Mare Island Preserve with Mare Island Heritage Trust Volunteer Guide Gordon McMahon

Repeats Friday 11:15am for a bird walk with Michele Troughton and Sunday 9:30am–11:00am with Joe Feller, Sierra Club

Mare Island Heritage Trust hiking guide, Gordon McMahon, a Preserve volunteer since 2011, will escort you on a 2-mile roundtrip hike to the Preserve Hilltop at 284 ft elevation with stupendous 7-county views of the Bay region. From the Hilltop explore further on your own. Nature and cultural history points of interest with scenic vistas which are under imminent threat. Bring: snacks and water, hiking shoes, binoculars, outing wear, and your questions! Meet at the Mare Island Preserve parking lot, 167 O'Hara Ct. 94592

**Directions:** See Saturday, 8:00 am directions.

11:00am–12noon

### Natural and Scenic Treasures of San Pablo Bay Trail Guide: Dwight Gemar, Project Manager, Weston Solutions, Inc.

Dwight has overseen contracted environmental cleanup and restoration on Mare Island for more than 2 decades, including putting the landfill to bed and addressing munitions on other parts of the former Navy base. He and his team together with the US Navy and State and Federal regulators, developed and now manages the San Pablo Bay Trail. He will talk a little about how they transformed the natural areas for improved wildlife habitat and provide public access.

When I asked Dwight to guide during the Flyway Festival, he responded, "I always like to brag about the trails and the views and wildlife."

1:15pm–3:15pm

### Mare Island Birding Hotspots Car Caravan with Tony Brake, San Francisco Bay Osprey Monitoring Manager

Meet Tony at the WETA Mare Island Ferry parking lot, 1050 Nimitz Ave. (Turn left onto Nimitz Ave immediately after crossing the Blue Bridge. Continue to parking lot on your left) You'll walk first around the historic shipyard area on the lookout for the first osprey of the season, then form a car caravan to drive to other Mare Island birding hot spots. The car caravan will guide you to the San Pablo Bay Trail with pickleweed and saltmarshes, prime salt marsh harvest mouse and Ridgeway rail habitat and a stop at the freshwater pond for waterfowl and



Photo: Osprey with a catch, Lee Ann Tompkins Baker

shorebirds. [Portable restrooms at San Pablo Trail and Preserve trailheads, only.]

Dwight Gemar, our Flyway Festival Guest Guide will meet the Birding Hotspots group and anyone else who would like to arrive at the Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail around 2:15pm.

Dwight Gemar is the Project Manager for Weston

Solutions, Inc. and has guided the development of and managed the San Pablo Bay Trail. He will give a short talk about how they transformed the natural areas for improved wildlife habitat and development of a public access trail.

The next stop on the Hotspots Tour, is the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve for bird viewing, possibly osprey and great blue herons making nests, great egrets, raptors and song birds.

3:30pm–6:30pm

**Re:Sound presents: Migration, with Mayuko Hino and Ava Koohbar! Re:Sound writes, "We so look forward to sharing this exciting sonic experience with you on Mare Island, Vallejo." Tickets: <https://events.eventgroove.com/event/Resound-Migration-105242>**

**More information: <https://www.re-sound.net/new-events-1>**



This dynamic and totally unique experience **Re:Sound** was founded by Jen Boyd and her husband Charles at Building 168, Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve when the Mare Island Heritage Trust operated the Mare Island Preserve. Together, we nurtured and grew this exceptional art event continuing, still. Congratulations **Re:Sound** Team!

We are so thrilled that by great good fortune, their next performance on Mare Island coincides with our 2025 San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival. Join them at Building 34 3:30–6:30pm. Details above. Tickets and directions to the venue on their website.



Photo: Fresh water wetland Pond B Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail, Myrna Hayes

# Mare Island Outings, Go Wildly Live Outdoors

## Saturday, February 8, Continued and Sunday, February 9

### Saturday, February 8 Mare Island Outings, continued

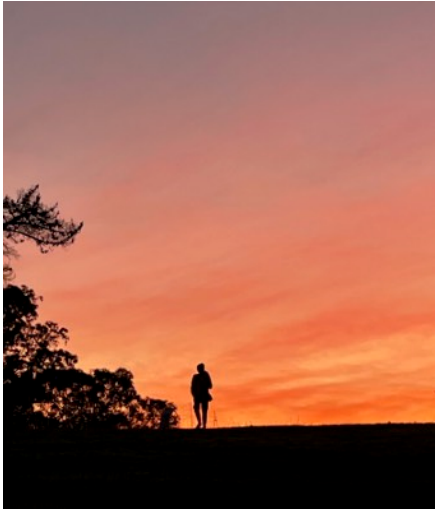


Photo: A Winter Ramble on the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve with Myrna Hayes

and nature ramble through this lovely classical park with its towering old-growth forest and quirky concentration of WWI bomb shelters and the Victorian Bandstand Gazebo. Alden Park Forest is adjacent to historic Captain's Row with its stately southern-inspired mansions, which we will also walk along, continuing on to other areas of Mare Island, then, circling back to your cars. Bring friends, family and pets, for an evening exploration of the Island. Don't forget, birds will be settling in for the night and owls will likely be active, so this can be a good time to extend your birdwatching. Bring something to drink, hiking gear, jackets, binoculars and cameras.

### Sunday, February 9 Mare Island Outings



Photo: Native American Prayer Flags made and placed with prayer for the 2021 Flyway Festival by Michelle Herrera, San Pablo Bay Trail, Myrna Hayes

### 8:00am-5:30pm(sunset) Mare Island Preserve self-guided hiking and biking

*Repeats Friday and Saturday, 8:00am-5:30pm(sunset)*

**Directions:** See Friday, February 7 description and directions.

### 5:30-7:30pm Join an Evening Ramble on Mare Island with Myrna Hayes, Flyway Festival Co-Founder/Director

Given that one of the most magical times of day on Mare Island, is actually the "golden hour" of sunset, evening and dusk, Myrna Hayes will guide her very popular Go Wildly Live Outdoors Flyway Festival evening "ramble"/walk on Mare Island starting at [Mare Island's Alden Park](#). She will guide a cultural history

### 8:00am-6:00pm(sunset)

### San Pablo Bay Walking Trail Self-Guided Walk Hosted by Weston Solutions Inc.

*Repeats Friday and Saturday 8:00am-6:00pm(sunset)*

**Directions:** Once you've reached Mare Island travel West to Azuar Dr., turn left onto Azuar Dr. Continue on Azuar Dr. to the first right at A St./ Dump Rd. onto the gravel road. Park in the gravel parking lot at the end of A St. [Entrance on Azuar Dr. at A St.](#) A portable restroom is located at the trailhead/parking area.

### 9:30am-11:00am

### Go Take a Hike in the Mare Island Preserve with Mare Island Heritage Trust Volunteer Guide Joe Feller

*Repeats Friday 11:15 bird walk and Saturday 9:30am-11:00am*

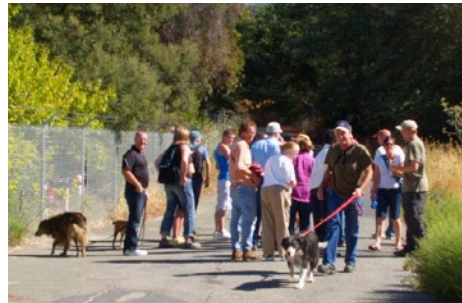


Photo: Guided outing in the Mare Island Preserve, Bill George

Sierra Club Solano Group hiking guide, Joe Feller, escorts you on a 2-mile roundtrip hike to the Preserve Hilltop at 284 ft elevation with stupendous 7-county views of the Bay region. From the Hilltop explore further in the Preserve, on your own.

The trek is chocked full of nature and cultural history points. There's a big picture story of this wildlands park and imminent threats to it. Bring: snacks and water, binoculars and your questions! Wear: hiking shoes and outing wear. Meet at the Mare Island Preserve parking lot, 167 O'Hara Ct. 94592 **Directions:** See [Saturday, 8:00 am directions](#).

### 11:00am-12noon

### Birding for All Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail Pond Onsite Field Guide: Liz King

No matter what your birding skill level, take advantage of this opportunity for a morning of learning how to look for birds and wildlife wherever you are. Orient to looking for birds in the sky and all around you at the Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail seasonal freshwater pond.

**Directions:** 8:00am description. [Azuar Dr. @ A St.](#) From the parking lot/trailhead, turn left 100 yds walk along chainlink fence to pond.

### 11:00am - 2:00pm

### Tour St. Peter's Chapel

*Repeats 2nd and 4th Sundays*

St. Peter's Chapel, the oldest existing Navy chapel built in 1901, is home to a large collection of early Tiffany stained glass windows. 16 of the 29 windows are signed by the Tiffany Studios. This is a self-guided visit and the only day that the Chapel will be open during the Go Wildly Live Outdoors Flyway Festival.

Chapel no longer accessible to mobility

challenged. Tickets online: <https://mare-island-historic-park-foundation.square.site/product/open-chapel/115>



Photo: St Peter's Chapel, Mare Island, Myrna Hayes

# NEARBY AND REGIONAL HIKES AND OUTINGS INCLUDING WEEKENDS IN JANUARY 2025 AND “Go Wildly Live Outdoors” San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival 2025 SELF-GUIDED and GUIDED Outings

## Regional SELF-GUIDED Hiking and Birdwatching Open daily, year round

### 6:00am-10:00pm Self-guided Birding American Canyon Wetlands

Self-guided (unless we secure a Flyway Festival weekend birding guide — will let you know date and time) walk at American Canyon Wetlands, a restored marsh land along the Napa River. Many aeration ponds and treatment ponds make up the waters where the Napa River Bay Trail meanders around. Many waterfowl and shorebirds are within the marshes. Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler and Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye, Marbled Godwit, Willet, American Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Black-Crowned Night-Heron and American White Pelican are almost guaranteed. American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sora and Black Rail, are uncommon visitors to the area. Wintering Surf, White-Winged, & Black Scoters, Long-Tailed Duck, and Barrow's Goldeneye have been seen in the past.

**Directions:** Park at parking lot at the corner of 2 Eucalyptus Drive and Wetlands Edge Rd. [Wetlands Edge Park in American Canyon](#) From Highway 29 coming from Vallejo: turn left on Rio Del Mar Drive, then hard right to Eucalyptus Drive to the end. From Napa: turn right on Rio Del Mar, make a sharp right on Eucalyptus Dr.; drive to the end.

### 7:00am-6:00pm Self-guided walk on Lower Tubbs Island and Tolley Creek Trail Loop to San Pablo Bay – San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

The trail offers hiking, fishing, photography, wildlife viewing and biking opportunities. Parking lot is located at the trailhead. The Lower Tubbs Island Trail loop is 8.15 miles.

**Directions:** Entrance to Trail is located off of east bound Highway 37, just east of the Highway 121/37 intersection in Sonoma County.

### 7:00am – 6:00pm Self-guided walk on Sonoma Baylands Tidal Wetland Levee Trail – San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Walk the levee trail along this wetland transition zone restoration of a 348 acre tidal marsh habitat constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1995. **Directions:** Turn south off Hwy 37 at Port Sonoma Marina, follow directional signs.



Photo: mallard pair, Mare Island James E. Lewis

### 7:00am – 6:00pm Self-guided walk, bike or paddle on Cullinan Ranch Tidal Wetland Levee Trail – San Pablo Bay NWR

The Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project has restored over 1500 acres of tidal wetlands in the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The site is now open to the public to explore on foot, bicycle or kayak. Thousands of ducks and geese raft-up on the tidal wetlands.

**Directions:** From Vallejo, Solano and Contra Costa Counties take Hwy 37 West 3.4 miles past the Mare Island

exit ramp to the Cullinan Ranch Unit parking lot and trailhead. From Marin and Sonoma Counties take Hwy 37 east approximately 9 miles past the Hwy 121 junction to the Mare Island exit. Veer left on the exit to the stop sign. Then turn left onto the overpass towards Hwy 37 West. The parking lot and trailhead is 3.4 miles from the Mare Island overpass.

### 7:00am-6:00pm Self-guided walk at Green Island Unit, CA Dept Fish and Wildlife Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area

Walk the trails in the restored 1,400 acre Napa salt ponds, primarily shorebirds, seasonally.

**Directions:** Directions: From northbound Highway 29 in American Canyon, turn onto Paoli Loop Road/Green Island Road. (From south turn onto Paoli Loop Road .08 miles north of Walmart and follow Paoli Loop under Hwy 29). At stop sign turn left onto Green Island Rd. Proceed straight for 0.9 miles. At 2nd stop sign turn right continuing on Green Island Rd. straight for one long block; continue as it turns left, then approximately 1.4 miles to end. Turn left into the park driveway at Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, Green Island Unit sign. Follow the driveway around to the parking lot.

8:30:00am-10:30am

# NEARBY AND REGIONAL HIKES AND OUTINGS INCLUDING WEEKENDS IN JANUARY 2025 AND “Go Wildly Live Outdoors” San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival 2025 SELF-GUIDED and GUIDED Outings

## Regional SELF-GUIDED Hiking and Birdwatching Open daily, year round. GUIDED Outings in RED

7:00am – 6:00pm

### Birding Huichica Wetlands and Hudeman Slough

Take a drive and then walk at Huichica Wetlands and nearby Hudeman Slough a couple of miles further West along Ramal Road. Both areas are part of the greater Napa-Sonoma Marsh Wildlife Area Complex overseen by the CA Department of Fish & Wildlife. Huichica Creek Wetlands and Hudeman Slough are hotspots for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. A description from a previous Napa Solano Audubon Society guided outing, says, “Many interesting birds have been reported in these wonderful birding areas. You are likely to find Sora & Virginia Rails, Northern Shoveler, Pintails, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Redheads, Western & Eared Grebes, Double-Crested Cormorants, American White Pelican, Dunlin, Western & Least Sandpipers, Black-Necked Stilt, and American Avocets. Raptors observed at these locations include: Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, White-Tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, and occasionally Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Ferruginous Hawks, and Short-Eared Owls. Bonaparte's Gull and Forster's Terns are regular winter visitors. A number of passerine species and Great Horned Owls frequent the marshes and Eucalyptus Groves. One year there was a Red-necked Grebe and several Red Phalaropes at Huichica.

**Directions:** [Huichica Wetlands](#). Heading North on Highway 29 from Vallejo, turn left and head West on Highway 12/Sonoma Highway for approximately 2.4 miles to Duhig Road (next to the Domain Carneros Winery just past the light at Old Sonoma Road). Turn left on Duhig Rd. and head South approximately 2 miles to Las Amigas Road. Turn left and head East approximately 1 1/4 miles to Buchli Station Road. Head South on Buchli Station Road approximately 1 mile to the very end past the winery then along a dirt extension to the parking lot just over the railroad tracks.

**From Marin and Sonoma Counties:** From Hwy 37, turn left at Sears Point Rd. onto Hwy 12/121/Arnold Dr. Continue east on Hwy 121 to Duhig Rd. Follow directions above. **From Napa:** turn right from Hwy 29 onto Hwy 12/121 towards Sonoma. Turn left on Duhig Rd. Follow directions above.



Photo: Common goldeneye male duck, Loma Vista Farm pond, Vallejo, Rita LeRoy

8:00am-Sunset

### Self-guided 2.5 mile walk or bike ride on paved trail at Benicia State Recreation Area

Benicia State Recreation Area covers marsh, grassy hillsides and rocky beaches along the narrowest portion of the Carquinez Strait. Cyclists, runners, walkers, equestrians, and roller skaters enjoy the park's 2 1/2 miles of road and bike paths. Picnicking, bird watching and fishing are also attractions. Dogs must be on a leash at all times.

The marshland area on Dillon's Point is a particularly favorite place for fishing. A \$6 parking fee is required.

**Directions:** The recreation area is 1.5 miles west of the outskirts of Benicia on I-780, take the Columbus Parkway exit.

**Sunday, February 9, 2025, 9:00am-11:00am join a guided Birding and Exploring Walk in Benicia State Recreation Area with Marcia Grefsrud, Mare Island Heritage Trust field guide**

Marcia has a lovely and friendly personality. She's fun and factual, interesting and engaging. Here's how she describes her guided outing at the only CA State Park in Solano County, “In February we should see egrets, herons, maybe osprey, cormorants, harriers, turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks, Cooper's hawk, white-tailed kites, grebes, blue birds, robins, and lots of little brown birds. The downside is there is a gate fee of \$6/car.” NOTE: If you CAN pay, the \$6 parking/entry fee, that's great. If you just can't pay the \$6, check in with Marcia. The Go Wildly Live Outdoors San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival 2025 is founded on FREE. We will ensure you can join in Marcia's walk.

9:00am – 5:00pm

### Friday-Monday Self-guided hiking, biking, horseback riding, birdwatching Lynch Canyon Open Space Park [Lynch Canyon Solano Land Trust](#) Parking fee \$5 cash or check only per day

With habitats ranging from steep grasslands to the riparian corridor of Lynch Creek, you will see buckeyes, oaks and wetland meadows that provide shelter for deer, fox, bobcat, waterfowl, and many raptors. Native grasses and spring wildflowers are abundant. A small reservoir provides a home to muskrats, great blue herons and endangered California red-legged frogs.

# NEARBY AND REGIONAL HIKES AND OUTINGS INCLUDING WEEKENDS IN JANUARY 2025 AND “Go Wildly Live Outdoors” San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival 2025 SELF-GUIDED and GUIDED Outings

**Regional SELF-GUIDED and GUIDED Hiking and Birdwatching**  
**Open daily or more limited, but regular hours year round. GUIDED outings in RED**

**9:30am-1:30pm**

**Saturday, January 25, 2025**

**Nature Hike at Lynch Canyon led by Solano Land Trust Registration required**  
**Details:** [Lynch Canyon Solano Land Trust](#)

Hike will take you westward along Middle Valley Trail leading to Prairie Ridge. Expect about a 5-mile hike at a moderate, but even pace over uneven ground. Muddy spots will have cattle prints. There are steep climbs over several hills with the longest at Prairie Ridge. It's worth it to see the view of the northern San Francisco Bay. Meet: Parking lot: Parking is \$5 cash or check. Envelopes in the iron ranger near the main gate. \*Please note, cancellation of the hike may occur due to County Fire Danger Warnings and closures of open spaces and parks. Once registered, an update could be sent to you. Hike level: Moderate to Moderately Strenuous

**10:00am-2:00pm**

**Saturday, February 8, 2025**

**Lynch Canyon Open Space Park**  
**Eagles, Hawks and Other Birds of Prey**  
**Guided Hike**

**Guided by West County HawkWatch Team**

**Link to registration and details:** [Flyway Festival Lynch Feb 8 10am Hike Solano Land Trust](#)

This Birds of Prey Hike is given in Honor of Larry Broderick. He had wanted to recognize longtime Solano Land Trust employee Ken Poerner, with this hike.

Because this is a scheduled outing of the 2025 San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, it is FREE. However, please note that West County Hawkwatch docents are accepting donations for Larry Broderick's family following his passing December 31, 2024. You may also donate directly on the GoFundMe page set up for Larry's wife, Sameth, and their 3 boys. [Larry Broderick GoFundMe](#)

The Sonoma Land Trust and many organizations have posted tributes to Larry. [https://www.facebook.com/sonomalandtrust/videos/519894217099292/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-IO5\\_GK0T-GK1C&ref=sharing&mibextid=wwXlfr](https://www.facebook.com/sonomalandtrust/videos/519894217099292/?extid=CL-UNK-UNK-UNK-IO5_GK0T-GK1C&ref=sharing&mibextid=wwXlfr)

Join West County Hawkwatch Guides for a Birds of Prey Migration Hike featuring resident, migrating and over-wintering birds of prey hosted by Solano Land Trust and Solano County Parks. Over-wintering hawks are the highlight of this day. Lynch Canyon already boasts a large population of raptors, but over-wintering birds added in makes for a peak level of Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, Harriers, Accipiters, Kites



Photo: Young red-shouldered hawk, Rita LeRoy

and even Osprey. Arrive by 9:45 am for parking and orientation. Larry brought over 25 years of experience researching, rescuing and rehabilitating raptors. His Team will offer raptor identification tips. Learn about where they go and what they do, and how to distinguish different species based on their looks, behaviors, and ways they fly. Golden and Bald Eagles, Rough-legged, Cooper's, Sharp-shinned and Ferruginous Hawks, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, and other more common raptor species. **Free: requested \$10 donation or what you can give online for Larry's family.** [Larry Broderick GoFundMe](#) **Parking \$5 cash or check per day.** Stay on trails. No dogs allowed. A working ranch—stay a safe distance from

cattle. Bring water, snacks, sunglasses, camera, hiking sticks, bug repellent, binoculars and bird books. Wear sturdy shoes. Dress for all types of weather. Hike off trail: steep and rugged 4 miles. Restroom at parking lot. A phone number for Adrian Phillip Johnson the Hike day is 925-858-7071. Pre-registration appreciated—not required. Register at [Flyway Festival Lynch Feb 8 10am Hike Solano Land Trust](#)

**Directions:** [3100 Lynch Road, just west of the intersection of Lynch Road & McGary Road, Vallejo, CA](#) **From San Francisco / I-80 East just east of Vallejo:** Take the American Canyon/Hiddenbrooke exit. Turn towards Hiddenbrooke Parkway. Just before entering the Hiddenbrooke, turn east (left) on McGary Road (frontage road parallel to I-80). Follow McGary Road 1.6 miles to Lynch Road. Turn left, go under the I-80 underpass through gate at end of cul-de-sac to parking lot. **From Sacramento / I-80 West toward Vallejo beyond Fairfield:** Take the Red Top Road exit. Go south (left) under the underpass. In less than 0.1 mile, turn right on McGary Road (frontage road parallel to I-80). Follow McGary Road for 1.8 miles. Turn right on Lynch Road. go under the I-80 underpass, and through the gate at the end of the cul-de-sac.



# NEARBY AND REGIONAL HIKES AND OUTINGS INCLUDING WEEKENDS IN JANUARY 2025 AND “Go Wildly Live Outdoors” San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival 2025 SELF-GUIDED and GUIDED Outings

**Regional SELF-GUIDED Hiking and Birdwatching**  
Open daily, year round. **GUIDED Outings in RED**

**9:00am-11:00am**

**Sunday, February 9, 2025, join a guided Birding and Exploring Walk in Benicia State Recreation Area with Marcia Grefsrud, Mare Island Heritage Trust field guide**

Marcia has a lovely and friendly personality. She's fun and factual, interesting and engaging. Here's how she describes her guided outing at the only CA State Park in Solano County, "In February we should see egrets, herons, maybe osprey, cormorants, harriers, turkey vultures, red-tailed hawks, Cooper's hawk, white-tailed kites, grebes, blue birds, robins, and lots of little brown birds. The downside is there is a gate fee of \$6/car." NOTE: If you CAN pay, the \$6 parking/entry fee, that's great. If you just can't pay the \$6, check in with Marcia. The Go Wildly Live Outdoors San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival 2025 is founded on FREE. We will ensure you can join in Marcia's walk.

The marshland area on Dillon's Point is a particularly favorite place for fishing. A \$6 parking fee is required.

**Directions: The recreation area is 1.5 miles west of the outskirts of Benicia on I-780, take the Columbus Parkway exit.**



Photo: Marcia Grefsrud guiding a more summery bird watching hike at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve, Bill George

**9:00am-11:00am**

**Sunday, February 9, 2025**  
**Bird watching and Mare Island History Boat Cruise**  
Aboard River Dolphin with Dolphin Charters



Photo: River Dolphin at dock, Vallejo Marina with historic Mare Island Naval Shipyard in background, Karen Grobner

**A San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival First as we explore the Napa River and Mare Island Strait on a 2-hour timeless adventure with your guides Flyway Festival Co-founder and Director, and River Guide, Myrna Hayes and Dolphin Charters' Barbara Fitzgerald. How could this be a FIRST?, you ask. It's the truth. We have never had a boat trip as part of our live Flyway Festivals.**

We did have a "virtual boat trip" in 2021 aboard River Dolphin given by Dolphin Charters with preeminent bird guide and naturalist, David Wimpfheimer. Look for a repost of that outings in our Virtual Facebook page listings for 2025.

Pre-registration is required. \$40 per person. Rain or shine! Only heavy rain cancels. To reserve one of the limited seats, call 1-510-527-9622. Questions? Call 707-656-7852. When you arrive at Guest Dock 'K' at the Vallejo Marina, prior to our 9:00am departure, you will receive safety and boarding instructions. *We'll be serving coffee and have hot water available for tea and hot cocoa. Bring your own breakfast food.*