

# MORE MESA PRESERVATION COALITION



## MMPC e-Update

January 2014

### You Can Help ...

- \* Look for announcements of the upcoming symposium and register to attend.
- \* Do you have any feedback on the new website? Contact us with your comments [here](#) .

Thanks so much!



*It is the mission of*

### What's Happening About Potential Development On More Mesa?

*At the beginning of this new year, we are again happy to report that there is no news about development.*

### Ask the President

Q. Why does the More Mesa website look different?

A. Our MMPC website has been upgraded and completely revamped. We hope you find that the new formats, layouts and additions make our award winning website even better than ever. While details of the upgrade are described in the MMPC site's [January 2014 Monthly News](#), we would like to call your attention to just a few of the new features:

- One of the most exciting changes is that the MMPC website can now be read using mobile devices. First, you can read the Monthly News ... at a glance ... from your cell phone. And it also means that both research scientists and citizen scientists can now easily identify species while in the field.
- The old photo pages for plants, birds and insects were completely changed to display the photos in easily viewed slideshows. And, the iNaturalist page was also changed to provide better access to photos and maps of observations made about More Mesa on the iNaturalist site.
- Information pages describing these changes are available at [About Mobile](#) and [About iNaturalist](#).

*the More Mesa Preservation Coalition to preserve More Mesa, in its entirety, for all time. We've been at it since 2000.*



*Our New Web Site Header. Photo by Ron Williams.*

### Symposium Planned

It has been almost eleven years since the first More Mesa Symposium was held at UCSB in 2003. Because a lot has happened since that time, MMPC is planning a second symposium, to be held on 15 March 2014. We are happy to report that Wayne Ferren has agreed to take time from his busy schedule to lead and coordinate the scientific aspects of the symposium. Wayne, an eminent national ecologist, managed the first Biological Resources Study of More Mesa, and is well known for his special knowledge of wetlands, vernal pools and especially of More Mesa. In addition, we are indebted to the Bren School at UCSB for their gracious offer to host the symposium. Consider this a "heads-up" and look for further announcements on how to register for this exciting event.



*Wayne Ferren at the 2003 Symposium. Photo by Robert Bernstein.*

### The Past - The Deluge of 1861-62:

It seems incongruous in this time of drought to talk about floods, but a famous flood forever changed the face of the Goleta Valley. Intense rainstorms sweeping in from the Pacific Ocean began to pound Central California on Christmas Eve in 1861 and continued virtually unabated for 43 days. Statewide, thousands of people died, one quarter of California's taxable real estate was destroyed and an estimated 200,000 cattle drowned. Downtown Sacramento was submerged under 10 feet of brown, muddy water. California declared bankruptcy.

Here in Santa Barbara County, the narrow coastal plains also experienced major flooding. So many cattle were lost that the local economy, like the state economy, was forced to shift from ranching to farming. And most dramatically, the topography of the Goleta Slough was altered beyond recognition. From the earliest sea explorations until the "Deluge", the Goleta Slough was known as "Goleta Bay" because it was a fully



*Sacramento Under Water*

navigable body of water. For a fact, Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo sailed around it in 1542 and a well-established whaling station was prominently located in the bay for decades. When the "Deluge" of 1861/62 washed so much sediment into the Goleta Bay, it was forever changed, so much so, that it was able to provide a home for the Santa Barbara Airport.

How was T. Wallace More, the "More" of More Mesa affected? Although many ranchers were devastated and More's bean and hay crops were buried under hip-deep mud, More considered the siltation as just that much more fertile topsoil!

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