

MORE MESA PRESERVATION COALITION



MMPC e-Update

February 2015

You Can Help ...

Keep It Clean

I once read an interesting and insightful anecdote, it went something like this:

You can tell a lot about people when you observe their relationship with trash ...

* People who throw their trash on the ground don't care about the earth and other people at all. They are "the problem".

* People who deposit their trash in the appropriate receptacles are relatively good citizens, but they don't care much about "the problem".

* People who pick up trash are "the solution".

If you have been out on More Mesa, you probably

What's Happening About Potential Development On More Mesa?

We have heard nothing but continue to keep a close eye on any permit action at the County Planning Department.

Ask the President

Q. What are vernal pools and where are they located on More Mesa?

A. Vernal pools are a particular and special kind of ecosystem.

Vernal pools form as a result of a distinctive climate, topography, and soil. Climates typical of vernal pools exhibit mild winter temperatures and summer drought: namely, a "Mediterranean Climate" such as is found in Southern California.

Vernal pools also must have:

- * A shallow depression that will catch water from winter rains
- * Soil with an impermeable layer, such as clay, to insure that the water will remain in the pool for several months of flooding
- * Resident organisms that possess the ability to "wait out" dry seasons when the pool does not flood.

In short, vernal pools represent specific ecosystems, having organisms restricted to special habitats that flood temporarily in the winter and early spring, but that are dry the remainder of the year.

More Mesa has one documented vernal pool, located above the ocean bluff at its southeastern corner. Although a dense stand of Harding grass, a robust invasive plant, surrounds the pool, several uncommon vernal pool species may occur when the pool is flooded. Unhappily and due to the drought conditions we have experienced for the past

more mesa, you probably have noticed that even the most heavily used trails and viewing spots are quite clean and free of trash. This is no accident!

Many of our supporters and others who use More Mesa are in the third group; they care deeply about the earth and maintaining the incredible beauty we have here. The consciously and consistently carry plastic bags so they will be able to collect the miscellaneous trash that is left behind on More Mesa.

If you are part of "the solution", MANY THANKS! If you are a good citizen, think about becoming part of "the solution", carry a bag and pick up what you see that does not belong on More Mesa. If you are "the problem", you probably aren't reading this anyway.

Thanks so much

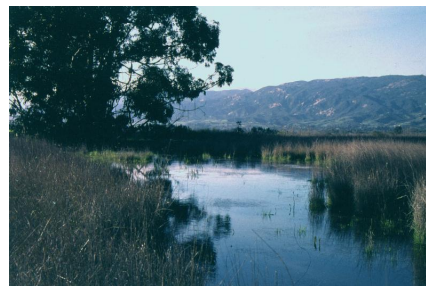
Valerie Olson
President, MMPC



***It is the mission of
the More Mesa
Preservation
Coalition to
preserve More
Mesa, in its***

three years, More Mesa's pool remains dry and "waiting for water". Wish for a "March Miracle" such as that which ended the early 1990s drought, and perhaps we may yet see a full vernal pool in 2015!

To learn more about vernal pools in general, and More Mesa's pool in particular, go to the paper on [Vernal Pools](#) in the "Habitat" section of this website.

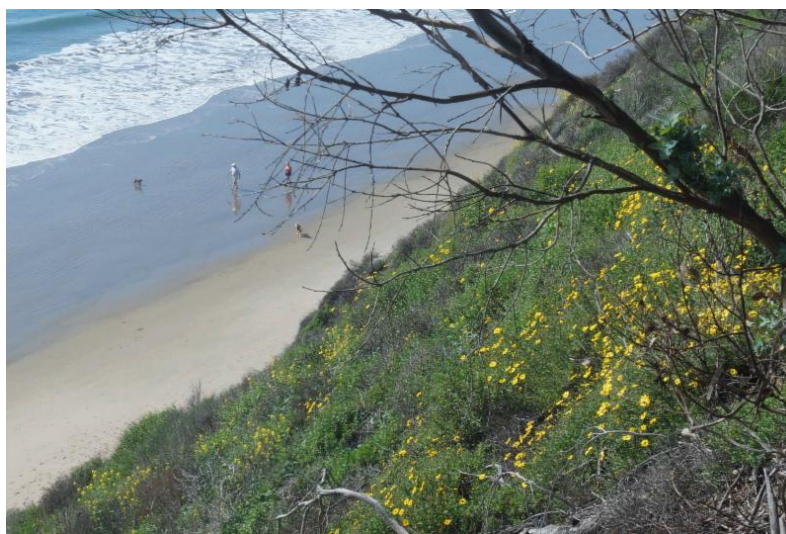


More Mesa's Vernal Pool 2002

This Month on More Mesa:

Last month we reported on the beautiful greenery and grasses of More Mesa. This month we are pleased to present the next installment of emerging spring -- flowers. A great many species are contributing to the show. And nestled among all the introduced species (mustard, radish, Bermuda Buttercups, etc.), there are some truly delightful natives popping up.

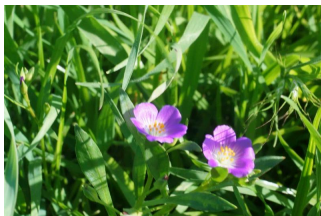
The most prominent, abundant and spectacular of these is the California Bush Flower, a perennial shrub growing in the lower coastal sage scrub. On More Mesa this drought-tolerant plant appears in profusion along the bluffs and on the coastal trail. It is a fast-growing, slope-loving plant with tenacious roots that limit erosion, as do its green leaves that disperse rain downpour before it reaches the soil. The large, bright yellow sunflowers attract bees, butterflies and insects that remain to collect pollen or drink nectar.



California Bush Flower 2015

A little shyer and more difficult to spot is the diminutive and lovely Redmaid, a succulent carpet-forming plant having small brilliant reddish-pink flowers. These tiny treasures grow in open areas of woodland and grassland habitats, with sandy or loamy soils. Currently Redmaids may be seen along the north-south trail on the eastern side of More Mesa. Hopefully within a few weeks, other species of native wildflowers will be making their appearances all over More Mesa. We would love to hear about those you have seen. In addition to

entirety, for all time. We've been at it since 2000.



Redmaids 2015

reporting birds and animals, you can also report flowering native plants on our sightings reports. Click "Sightings" on the home page of [this web site](#).

[The Past: T. Wallace More Defends His Land](#)

In an earlier issue of this update (Fall 2013) we talked about how three of the six More brothers were shrewd enough to realize that they could amass an infinitely larger fortune running beef to hungry miners than from prospecting. And, being the good businessmen they were, they also knew that the gold would eventually peter out, so would prospecting, and therefore the need for beef as well. They reasoned that land acquisition in the Central Coast was the way to go. So they bought land ... vast acreages ... in the Lompoc Valley, on the Channel Islands, in the Santa Clara River Valley, in Santa Paula and in Saticoy. Their acquisitions eventually created for them an unbroken stretch of rangeland from the ocean to a point 32 miles inland! But even the More brothers, as large as they loomed in the early years of the Goleta Valley, could not live in all the places they owned at once.

You may remember (November 2013 Update) that after he married Daniel Hill's daughter Susanna, T. Wallace More brought his young bride to live at his Sespe Ranch in what was to become Ventura County. However, in 1856, with three children and another on the way, Susanna was homesick for the beautiful Goleta Valley of her youth. So the family moved back to the "Goodland" and the Sespe Ranch was left behind.

However, through the years, hordes of squatters continuously attempted to settle on More's Sespe Ranch. And at one point he even tried (unsuccessfully) to remove them by burning down their shacks. However, all the negative publicity arising from More's attempts to rid the Sespe of squatters was affecting both his reputation in the community, and his financial situation as well. He finally decided to use legal means; i.e. by prosecuting the squatters. To raise the money for this plan, he sold off some of his precious More Ranch to pay for the impending legal action. In early March of 1877, T. Wallace boarded a stage for a showdown battle with the squatters. *(Cliffhanger!)*

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