

# MORE MESA PRESERVATION COALITION



## MMPC e-Update

March-April 2014

### You Can Help ...

Our recent Symposium was free to all who wished to attend. And, while we did receive a generous grant from the Education and Outreach branch of the Coastal Fund at UCSB, it was not sufficient to cover the costs associated with the event.

Therefore, we would truly appreciate any donations to help cover the remainder of Symposium costs. You can help us by going to our [home page](#) and clicking on the "Donate" button at the bottom.

You may also send checks to the More Mesa Preservation Coalition, P.O. Box 22557, Santa Barbara, CA 93121.

Thanks so much!



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

*We are still in a "holding pattern" with respect to development ... nothing happening.*

### Ask the President

**Q. What was the conclusion of the Symposium?**

**A. MORE MESA IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER!**

The second More Mesa Symposium was held at Bren Hall of UCSB on Saturday, March 15th. All the feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive and the day seemed to be very appreciated by all. The event also had a nice write-up by Ray Ford in the [Independent](#).

All sixty people who attended heard a variety of papers by a team of experienced environmentalists including:

Wayne Ferren on ecology, John Storrer on raptors, and Dan Gira on the potential for development of More Mesa.

Displays told several other More Mesa stories and our speaker panel discussion gave the community an opportunity to ask questions of this prestigious group of More Mesa experts.



*Panel Discussion Was Lively*



The afternoon walk, lead by Wayne Ferren, and enjoyed by many of the



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



***Wayne Ferren Leading Walk on More Mesa***

attendees, lasted almost three hours. Wayne discussed how the geology and soils of More Mesa determine the habitats and plants, which in turn, lead to the abundance of raptors and animals that occur on More Mesa. Papers, panel discussion and the afternoon walk were all video recorded.

MMPC is currently exploring various ways to provide the proceedings to those who could not attend, as well as for those who would like to review the material presented. Look for news of the video in upcoming e-Updates, and on the Monthly News posted on [our website](#). Also look for reporting, and more images of the Symposium in the "Events" section of our web site.

**This Month on More Mesa:** We finally have a "ghost" of Spring on More Mesa. cottonwoods and willows have found enough water and are in leaf. The little rain that came has also given us very short grasslands, a few coastal poppies, some blue-eyed grass and more of the ever-present deerweed along the coast. If you wish to identify what you see, consult the "Birds", "Insects" and "Plants" sections of our web site for our new guides on the species of More Mesa.

*Even with only a "ghost" spring, it is still lovely out there!*

## **The Past: After the Deluge, Came the Drought**

We talked about the flood of 1861-62 in the January issue of our Newsletter. But, if the years of 1861-62 were the "Big Deluge", 1863 and 1864 were destined to go down in history as the years of the "Big Drought". The Goleta Valley looked as it does today ... an area in the throes of a severe multi-year drought. Livestock died in such numbers that there were only 40 cattle left in the entire Valley at the end of 1864.

These were truly distressing times.

Daniel Hill, the owner of La Goleta Rancho, had no assets left, except the land. After a series of risky financial decisions driven by effects of the drought, Hill was forced to sell 1000 acres of La Goleta Rancho to his shrewd son-in-law, T. Wallace More. This transaction gave T. Wallace a total of 1400 acres of bottomland and Mesa, and title to the asphaltum deposits on the beach. Thus, the ranching era came to a close in the Goleta Valley and the More Ranch became a prominent and formidable fixture of the landscape. And ... More Mesa was born.



Daniel Hill's Son-in-law ...  
T. Wallace More

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