

MORE MESA PRESERVATION COALITION



MMPC e-Update

August 2014

You Can Help ...

Our community cares deeply about More Mesa for many reasons: its ecological values, its recreational opportunities and also because it is a truly beautiful place.



It's a beautiful place

While enjoying More Mesa, you might consider bringing along a plastic bag to carry out some of the trash left behind by those in our community who do not recognize a true treasure

What's Happening About Potential Development On More Mesa?

There is no word of any development plans having been submitted to the County.

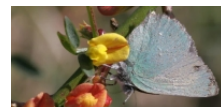
Ask the President

Q. Why is there so much trash on More Mesa lately?

A. Lots of visitors. The unusually warm weather and the excitement surrounding the "Super Moon" phenomenon have prompted many in our community to visit More Mesa after dark. Apparently the consumption of alcoholic beverages seems to be a big part of these nocturnal visits. And unhappily, most of these party-goers anticipate that there will also be a visit from the trash fairy every night as well.

This Month on More Mesa: California is in a state of "Extreme Drought", with 2014 being the driest year since 1895, 119 years ago! But, in spite of this disastrous condition, one can still observe some native wildflowers in bloom on More Mesa. For example, Deerweed, which normally blooms from March to October, has been in flower constantly for more than a year. Heavily populating the east-west coastal trail, it most likely prospers in this severe drought because it is a plant that is able to survive on the moisture left behind from the many fogs that visit us in spring and summer.

Deerweed, also known as California Broom, is not only resourceful, but has a fascinating adaptation. This dainty, native Chaparral plant has a clever way of attracting pollinators to the correct flowers. Beginning yellow, the flowers turn red after



when they see one. And, you might remind those you see littering that neither the trash fairy, nor Marborg, stop at More Mesa.

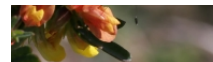
Thanks so much!

Valerie Olson
President, MMPC

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.



pollination. Why? Honeybees cannot see the color red, so it keeps them from wasting time on flowers that have already been visited.



Deerweed and "friend"

[The Past: T. Wallace More's Asphalt Mine](#)

Beginning in the mid 1850s, T. Wallace More began asphalt mining by "harvesting" natural tar seeping from outcroppings on the beach east of the Goleta Slough. He used dynamite to fragment the asphaltum ... which was then washed clean by wave action and loaded on onto carts for shipment. As asphalt mining in our area goes, More's "mine" was a relatively small scale operation. Early in the history of mining asphalt, More sold this commodity for \$2 a ton.

However, as it turned out, asphaltum proved More's most lucrative source of income. Indeed, the first paving materials for the streets and roofs of San Francisco came from More's outcrop at the foot of Anderson Lane. By 1890 he had shipped more than 32,000 tons, at prices ranging from \$12 to \$20 a ton. By even the most conservative calculations, More took in a half million dollars from his asphalt business alone.

If you would also like to learn about another type of asphalt mining in our area, you can read about the famous Alcatraz mine at [Goleta History](#).

Finally, we can still see evidence of tar in the More Mesa area as close as the Hope Ranch Beach. The beautiful rock shown in the photo is a fragment of the large tar seep that comes out of the cliffs of More Mesa. This formation is the solid remains of a surface oil deposit, created over the past million years. As the tar, or asphalt was formulated, it incorporated nearby soils, clays and sands of various colors, creating a marbled ice cream effect. It then has been smoothed and eroded by the sea and weather. These rocks come in all colors, and the gold colored one shown is particularly striking.



Tar Seep Rock

More Mesa Preservation Coalition | | mmpc@moremesa.org |

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More Mesa Preservation Coalition | P.O. Box 22557 | Santa Barbara | CA | 93121