

**YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE for obeying these and other park rules.  
Ask a Park Ranger for further information.**

- **ALL FEATURES OF THE PARK ARE PROTECTED!**  
Do not remove or disturb plants, animals or geological features.
- **PARK HOURS:**  
Opens at 8 am, and closes at SUNSET.  
Visitors should be in their vehicles heading out at sunset to avoid being locked in.
- **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:**  
All alcoholic beverages are PROHIBITED IN THE PARK.
- **VEHICLES / BICYCLES:**  
SPEED LIMIT is 15-25 MPH on park roads, 15 MPH in campgrounds and picnic areas. All vehicles must stay on pavement and are prohibited on trails and fire roads.
- **BICYCLES ARE ALLOWED:**  
Only on paved roads, fire roads and designated trails. Check at Ranger Station for current regulations.
- **SKATEBOARDS, ROLLERBLADES, ROLLERSKATES and GRAVITY-PROPELLED:**  
devices are prohibited.
- **DOGS:**  
MUST BE IN TENT or vehicles at night. MUST BE ON LEASH at all times when out of your car. MUST STAY IN DEVELOPED AREAS ONLY — not allowed on trails or fire roads.
- **FIRES:**  
RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT DURING FIRE SEASON — check with Ranger.

MUST BE IN STOVES OR BARBEQUES PROVIDED — No ground fires.

- **PUBLIC TELEPHONES:** Located at Junction Ranger Station and the Summit. Dial 911 for emergencies.
- **FIREWORKS:** PROHIBITED
- **FIREARMS/AIRGUNS:** PROHIBITED
- **HUNTING:** PROHIBITED

| Fire Danger - How Will It Affect You? |                                                                                |                        |                 |                             |                                                |             |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Fire Danger Reading                   | Wood fire permitted in stoves and BBQ pits in designated picnic and camp sites | Use of Compressed Logs | Use of Charcoal | Use of Self-contained Stove | Cigarette Smoking (including within a vehicle) | Park Closed |
| LOW                                   | YES                                                                            | YES                    | YES             | YES                         | YES                                            | NO          |
| MEDIUM                                | NO                                                                             | YES                    | YES             | YES                         | YES                                            | NO          |
| HIGH                                  | NO                                                                             | NO                     | YES             | YES                         | NO                                             | NO          |
| HIGH WITH RED FLAG                    | NO                                                                             | NO                     | NO              | YES                         | NO                                             | NO          |
| VERY HIGH/EXTREME                     | NO                                                                             | NO                     | NO              | NO                          | NO                                             | YES         |

**Mount Diablo State Park Phone Numbers:**

|                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Supervising Ranger     | 925-855-1730 |
| Junction Ranger        | 925-837-6129 |
| Mitchell Canyon Ranger | 925-672-4266 |
| Summit Museum          | 925-837-6119 |
| Entrance Station       | 925-837-0904 |
| Maintenance            | 925-837-6122 |
| Sector Office          | 925-673-2891 |
| General Information    | 925-837-2525 |

**Group Picnic Reservations: Call Ranger Carl Nielson, 925 - 837-6129, EXT 2**

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www.mdia.org.  
phone 925 927 7222  
fax 877 349 5016  
Mount Diablo Interpretive Association  
P.O. Box 346  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0346



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# MOUNT DIABLO REVIEW



Spring / Summer 2009 MDIA, PO Box 346, Walnut Creek, CA 94597-0346 • 925.927.7222 • fax 877.349.5016 • www.mdia.org

## Park Superintendent's Report

by Roland Gaebert

As with other California State agencies, State Parks are faced with an unprecedented budget challenge. It requires that we "work smarter and harder" than ever before. It is therefore imperative that we do what we can to reach out to park users as well as volunteers to let them know that patience, understanding, and volunteerism is appreciated by the park staff during these difficult times. Volunteerism is truly a key element in keeping parks running. Too often park visitors take for granted what staff and volunteers do. I encourage park staff and volunteers to "interpret" the work that is being done to show the public it is done with a true passion and a caring for the park system, resulting in an increased appreciation and enjoyment of the park by visitors.



## MDIA President's Column

by Rich McDrew

Welcome to YOUR Mount Diablo State Park! You are visiting the Park at one of the most popular seasons--springtime. Deciduous trees and shrubs have leafed-out, and the wildflowers are putting on a spectacular show. In fact, over 800 different species of native plants can be found in the Park, including several rare and endangered plants. Nowhere else in the Bay Area, except Mount Diablo State Park, can you see the native flora at its grandest. One reason for this is that there has been no livestock grazing for most of the 20,000 acres in the Park for over 15 years. We're glad that you are able to bear witness to the Bay Area's most prolific examples of native flora.



The Mount Diablo Interpretive Association (MDIA), the volunteer stewards in the Park, publish trail maps, pamphlets and booklets that are intended to help visitors to better understand and appreciate their experience in the Park. Some of these publications are complimentary, like this one. Others are at a nominal cost since MDIA is a non-profit organization. To help you identify and understand the Park's flora, MDIA has published MT. DIABLO WILDFLOWERS, and TREES AND SHRUBS OF MOUNT DIABLO. You can purchase them for \$5 each at the Summit Museum and the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center. You can also purchase them by mail order (See Page 7).

By the way, please consider joining MDIA. Everyone is welcome to join. The membership application is on page 7 of this publication. Members get mailings of Park happenings several times a year, and are allowed a 10% discount on MDIA products. Your membership dues go to MDIA to do things that directly help take care of the Park and the visiting public.

Now, go forth and enjoy the Park. It is yours to enjoy.

Save Mount Diablo generously publishes the "Events Schedule" which includes hikes in Mount Diablo State Park. This schedule may be found on-line at [www.savemountdiablo.com](http://www.savemountdiablo.com) or via a link at [www.mdia.org](http://www.mdia.org).

## GEOCACHING ON MOUNT DIABLO

By Mike Woodring

There are many treasures located within the boundaries of Mount Diablo State Park—some put there by nature eons ago, and some hidden there by man just the other day.

Geocaching evolved from treasure hunting activities such as scavenger hunts and letterboxing when GPS (Global Positioning System) became more accurate several years ago.

Geocaching involves hiding a “cache” (a small storage container) in a clever location with a “treasure,” in this case a logbook, and sometimes a small collection of goodies for the treasure hunter to find and, of course, “secret clues” to its exact location that may be included in some form of cipher or code.

Geocaching is a great way to motivate kids, both young and old, to get some physical exercise, experience beautiful natural surroundings, learn about GPS technology, map reading, navigating, and decipher puzzles with clever clues. And, besides having fun, geocaching offers tangible rewards.

The lucky finder of the cache may sign or stamp the logbook and also record the discovery in their own notebook with comments and may also get to exchange an item in the cache for something of equal or greater value they bring along.

To start your own geocaching expedition, you simply need a geocache to hunt for, its location, clues to discovering its exact placement, and a notebook or personal geocache logbook to take notes. You don't even need your own GPS, although it's much easier bringing one along.

Geocache locations are usually given in GPS coordinates of latitude as a position that is north or south of the Earth's equator and longitude as a position that is east or west of the Prime Meridian in Greenwich, England, in degrees, minutes, and seconds.

Here's an example of a geocache location and its secret clue:  
Location: 37°55'14.32"N 121°56'28.63"W  
Clue: nemow ro nem rof thgir ro tfel  
(The solution to the clue is at the end of this article.)

In other words, the GPS location is at latitude 37 degrees, 55 minutes, and 14.32 seconds north (of the Equator) and longitude 121 degrees, 56 minutes, and 28.63 seconds west.

You don't even need to buy a GPS if you have internet access. You can enter this location into Google Maps in any of its many numeric forms to print a satellite image or map of your geocache location that will get you close enough to find the cache.

The easiest way to get started finding your first treasure cache is to join a geocaching group, be it friends, family, or your classmates, in your area or on a web site to learn about how to get a treasure hunt started.

Here is another example in different forms that can be entered to find the same location with degrees, minutes, and seconds:

N37 55 13.31 W121 56 29.49  
or with only degrees and minutes:  
37 55.221833, -121 56.4915  
or simply degrees:  
37.920364, -121.941525

This time the clue is given:  
The location is the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center at Mitchell Canyon, Mount Diablo State Park.

The California State Park guidelines regarding geocaching can be found at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov). These are generic guidelines, as each of the State's 279 Parks has unique natural, cultural, and historic protection requirements, so each Park may refine these guidelines. Mount Diablo State Park is in the process of doing this, so in the meantime, the Park does not want to encourage nor discourage geocaching until their specific guidelines can be formulated.

However, please follow these general guidelines:

- (1) Caches may not be buried, nor may vegetation, rocks or other features be marked or damaged in the process of placing, accessing or maintaining the cache.
- (2) Caches are not permitted inside or upon any State Park facility or structure.
- (3) Caches are not permitted in any mine site, or allowed within 300 feet of streams, marshes or sensitive water features.
- (4) Caches may not be placed more than 3 feet from a designated trail.
- (5) The name and email address of the person placing the cache must be included in the container. Caches may not contain food, tobacco, scented items (so as not to attract animals), explosives, ammunition, knives, multi-tools, drugs, or alcohol. The geocache must be removed by the person placing the cache within a reasonable period of time.
- (6) Geocaching is not permitted after dark.
- (7) Virtual caches are encouraged in Parks, and must adhere to the applicable requirements used for physical caches. The website [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) provides general information.



## MDIA PRODUCT ORDER and MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Profits from sales support the educational programs of MDIA)

Thank you for your mail order.

If you would like to further support MDIA please consider joining the Association.

| MAPS AND HIKING INFORMATION                              | Qty. | Amount |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------|--------|
| Mount Diablo State Park Map                              | 2.25 | _____  |
| Mount Diablo State Park Trail Map                        | 6.50 | _____  |
| Hike Brochures: Easy, Moderate, and Demanding-(set of 3) | 2.00 | _____  |

| INTERPRETIVE PUBLICATIONS             | Qty.  | Amount |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Mount Diablo Guide                    | 12.50 | _____  |
| Geology Brochure and Map              | 2.00  | _____  |
| Trees and Shrubs of Mount Diablo      | 7.50  | _____  |
| Common Birds of Mount Diablo          | 7.50  | _____  |
| Mt. Diablo Wildflowers                | 7.50  | _____  |
| 51 Uncommon Names of MDSP             | 2.25  | _____  |
| Mount Diablo State Park Coloring Book | 3.75  | _____  |

| NATURE GUIDES - Laminated/Folded                | Qty. | Amount |
|-------------------------------------------------|------|--------|
| Local Birds of the San Francisco Bay Area       | 9.75 | _____  |
| Local Rocks of North America                    | 9.75 | _____  |
| Local Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay Area | 9.75 | _____  |
| Local Animal Tracks of North America            | 9.75 | _____  |

| PRODUCTS WITH MT. DIABLO STATE PARK LOGO                          | Qty.  | Amount |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|
| T-shirts: lt. blue or lt. olive; S,M, L, XL (circle size & color) | 16.00 | _____  |
| Mount Diablo Patch                                                | 4.00  | _____  |
| Mount Diablo Lapel / Hat Pin                                      | 3.50  | _____  |

**SUBTOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**10% discount for MDIA members and Park Staff** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Amount: (includes tax & shipping)** \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Category (check one) **Make Checks Payable to "MDIA"**

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| _____ Student/Senior | \$15  |
| _____ Individual     | \$25  |
| _____ Family         | \$40  |
| _____ Sustaining     | \$50  |
| _____ Contributing   | \$100 |
| _____ Lifetime       | \$500 |

Donation in addition to membership fee \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and Mail to:

**MDIA**  
**P.O. Box 346**  
**Walnut Creek, Ca 94597-0346**

## FALLS TRAIL LADYBIRDS

by Helene Crowley

Ascending Falls Trail from Middle Trail in October,  
A garnet carpet spills beneath my feet.  
A gathering of ladybirds has come to this place for the winter.  
Their perfume wafts through the air,  
Signaling more to join the throng.  
I step gingerly, not to crush them.

By Thanksgiving, they have settled in.  
They cling to the moss, and each other.  
They are basking in the last warmth of  
The waning sunlight, less of which will  
Appear each day now.

In December, they are fewer, and completely still.  
Some have found shelter in the leaves, or out of sight.  
While the cold surrounds them, they are frozen here,  
Tiny jewels in the mountain winter's long dark night.

A January warm spell rouses them from their sleep.  
After the rain, the falls their appearance make.  
The ladybirds have crossed the trail, their slumber not so deep,  
To reach the falls' water for their thirst to slake.

If you wish to submit articles or photographs for the *Mount Diablo Review*, contact Rich McDrew at 925-932-7511 or via e-mail at <[mcdrewrich@astound.net](mailto:mcdrewrich@astound.net)>. Submission deadline for the Spring/Summer edition is February 1, and for the Fall/Winter edition is August 1.

## SPOTLIGHT ON MT. DIABLO WILDFLOWERS

Reviewed by  
Harvey S. Brosler

The purpose of this guide is to give the reader a tool for use in identifying 104 of the more showy wildflowers on the mountain. To make this 55 page guide easy to use, it is divided into flower color groups. Accompanying each photograph is a brief description of the flower, the location where the flower can be found in the Park, identification and /or cultural information. Included are flowers only found on Mount Diablo such as the Mt. Diablo Manzanita (p.9), the Mt Diablo Sunflower (p.23), and the Mt. Diablo Globe Tulip (p.19). Flower diagrams and a short glossary of terms are included in the back of the book for more clarification. The Guide is made of heavy gloss paper stock that can withstand rough treatment and can easily be placed in a backpack. The Guide can be purchased at the Mitchell Canyon Visitor Center or the Summit Visitor Center for \$5.00 or by mail from MDIA for \$7.50. MDIA members receive a ten percent discount.



*Continued from page 3*

His gradual deteriorating symptoms were loss of coordination, staggering walk, and slurring of speech. After Antone's death, about one-half of his children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren developed the same muscular-dystrophy-type symptoms, and would die usually before 50 years of age. In the 150-plus years since Antone Joseph came to the Tassajara region, at least 48 of his 300 or so descendants have died of similar symptoms. In the 1970s, the great-great granddaughter of Antone, Rose Marie Silva, frustrated by the lack of knowledge of why her blood relatives were inexplicably dying at an early age from similar symptoms, encouraged the National Genetics Foundation in New York and well-known geneticists to study this illness. As a result, a new hereditary disease was discovered, and named the "Joseph Disease". There is no cure. The origin of the disease has been traced to the Portuguese mainland some 400 years ago.

It is interesting to note that each human being has 21,500 genes; i.e., the coded messages that contribute to life processes. Over the years, scientists have pinpointed some 1,700 genes linked to hereditary diseases, many of them powerful mutations of a single gene. Today, geneticists have been able to isolate the defective single gene that causes the Joseph Disease, and are able to test whether a family member has the defective gene. Treatment and a cure are still several decades away.

Rose Marie Silva unearthed a medical mystery in the United States and the world that originated on the slopes of Mount Diablo



**Rita Furtado:**  
Joseph's - 2nd wife  
**Born:**  
1827 - Flores, Azores  
**Died:**  
1905 - Buried Pleasanton,  
Catholic Cemetery  
**Mother:**  
Of 5 children



**Summit Museum  
is open  
7 days a week  
10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Summit Temperature  
and wind conditions  
are updated every  
20 minutes at  
925-838-9225**

## MOUNTAIN QUIZ

Which of these Northern California landmarks can be seen from Mount Diablo's summit (3,849 feet) on a clear winter morning?

- Golden Gate Bridge, 28 miles away.
- Farallon Islands, 70 miles away.
- Half Dome in Yosemite, 130 miles away.
- Mount Lassen, 165 miles away.
- All of the above.

If you said "e", you are correct.

## MEDICAL MYSTERY UNEARTHED ON MOUNT DIABLO

by Rich McDrew

There is a remote and little-known area of Mount Diablo State Park (currently managed by the East Bay Regional Park District) that fostered a significant medical discovery. The area is accessed by Finley Road from Camino Tassajara just south of Blackhawk. The Tassajara region is the storied country which Bret Harte (1836-1902), the famous western author, wrote about in his novel, *FIRST FAMILY OF TASAJARA* [sic], published in 1886. Harte lived as a tutor for a Tassajara rancher's family in 1856 and 1857. He wrote "... for Tasajara [sic] as a 'cow county' had attracted families, and there were already contrasting types East and West".

Harte might have known Antone Joseph, true name Antonio Jacinto Bastiana (1815-1860), who homesteaded in the 1850s in an area which is now parkland at the end of Sulphur Creek Trail. Remnants of the house foundation and out-building are still visible today. They had no electrical power. So, in the late 1930s, subsequent generations built a house on Old Finley Road (see photo), which is also parkland, and that house remains today at the junction of Oyster Point Trail and Old Finley Road. Power lines were strung to this house in 1942.

Antone Joseph immigrated to California from the Portuguese Azores in the late 1840s when he was in his late thirties. He and his wife Rita had six children. Antone died prematurely at age 45 probably from pneumonia brought on by paralysis of the muscles involved in breathing.

*Continued on page 6*



**Antone Joseph:** Antonio Jacinto Bastiana  
**Born:** 1815 - Flores, Azores  
**Died:** 1860 - Mount Diablo  
**Buried:** Pleasanton, Catholic Cemetery,  
originally buried Hayward Catholic  
Cemetery, then moved to Pleasanton.



Home of Antone Joesph's Descendents

## Understanding Trail Signs

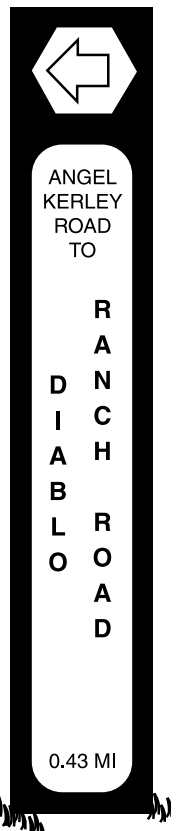
The identification of almost 200 miles of hiking trails in Mount Diablo State Park's 20,000 acres has been much improved due to the signage project spearheaded by the Mount Diablo Interpretive Association. Hundreds of signs have been installed on 403 trail signposts as part of the effort begun in 1993 by MDIA.

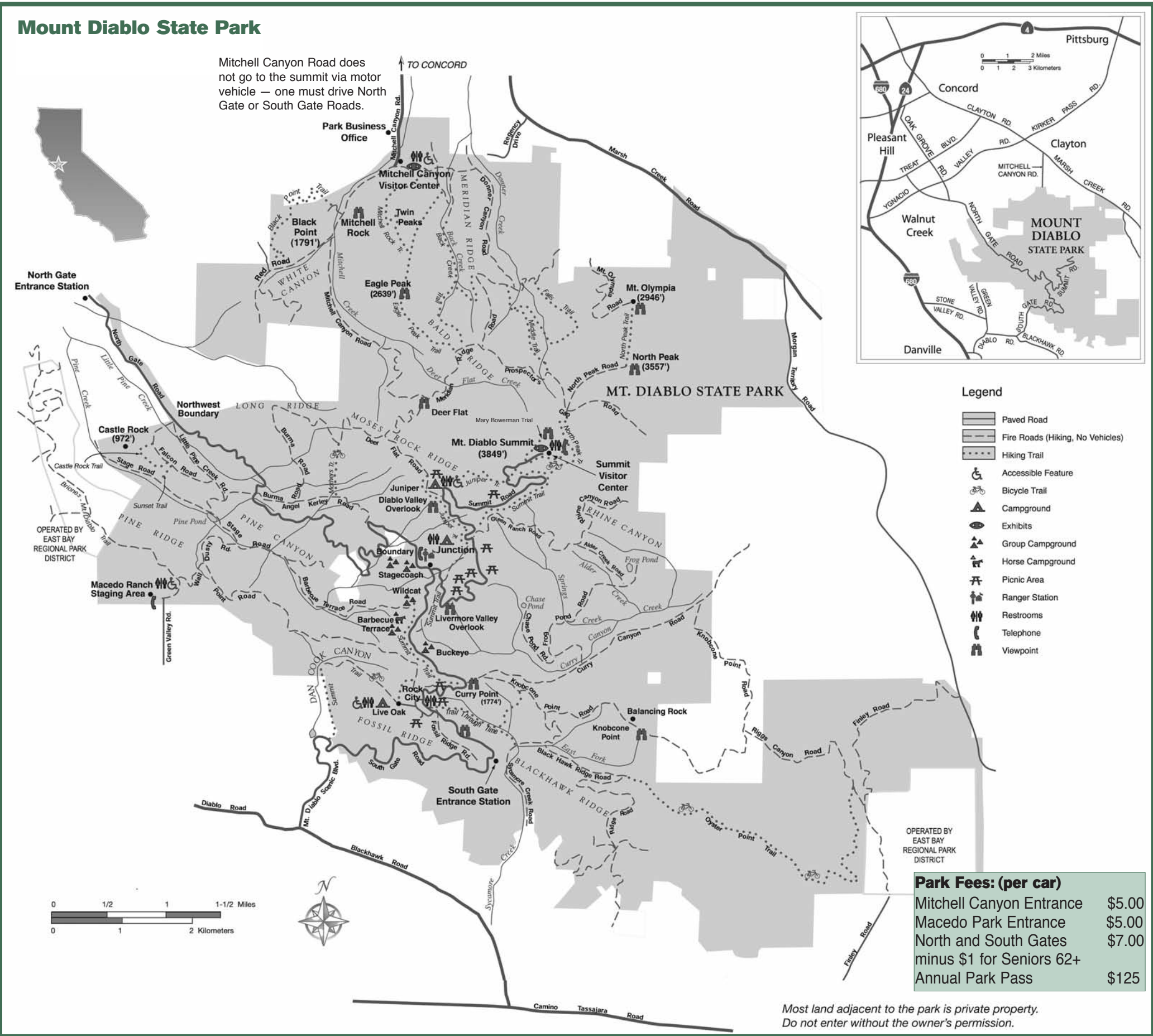
The trail signs in the park follow a uniform format prescribed for use in all California State Parks. The format has confused more than one visitor who has hastily read only the larger words on the sign. The name of the trail you are on is specified in relatively small horizontal type near the top of the sign.

The name that appears vertically in larger type (usually another trail but sometimes a park boundary) shows the termination of that particular trail; the word 'TO', in small letters, is important. The mileage to that end point is specified at the bottom.

Here is a simplified sample to the right.

The sign shows that you are on Angel Kerley Road, and that if you go .43 miles to the left you will arrive at the junction with Diablo Ranch Road, and the termination of Angel Kerley Road.





**Camping At Mount Diablo State Park**

Mount Diablo has three designated family camping areas and five group camps:

- Juniper Campground** (36 sites, elevation 3000 ft.) Located approximately 2 miles below the summit, on Summit Road, Juniper is known for its fantastic views. Reservations Available.
- Live Oak Campground** (23 sites, elevation 1450 ft.) Located one mile above the South Gate Entrance Station, off South Gate Road. Live Oak is near Rock City. At Rock City one can explore rock formations. Reservations Available.
- Junction Campground** (6 sites, elevation 2200 ft.) Located where South Gate and North Gate meet at the Ranger Station. This campground is situated in an open woodland area. Available on a first come/first served basis ONLY.

\*All campgrounds are provided with picnic tables, fire pits or stoves, potable water and rest rooms. \*The campgrounds are mainly designed for tent camping, yet they can accommodate RVs up to 20 feet in length. There are no hook ups and no dumping stations provided in the Park. \*Pay phones are located at the Junction Ranger Station and the Summit Visitor Center.

**Camping Procedures**

You may make reservations from 48 hours to 7 months in advance by calling **Reserve America at 1-800-444-7275** or by visiting their website at [www.reserveamerica.com](http://www.reserveamerica.com). Reservations can be made for a specific campground but not a specific site. Campers will not be registered at Mitchell Canyon.

**\*Check-in time is 2:00 PM. — Check-out time is 12:00 NOON.**

**Group Camps**—Buckeye, Barbecue Terrace, Wildcat, Stagecoach & Boundary. Reservations are available for all group camps with Reserve America. Each campground is primitive with running water and pit toilets. BBQ Terrace is equipped with horse ties for equestrian use. Motorhomes are not allowed in the group camping areas. During the fire season (generally, May—October) the park is subject to closure due to extreme fire danger. Campers must call the park at **(925) 837-2525 or (925) 837-0904** one day prior to their arrival to confirm park status.

**General Rules**

- \*Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the park.
- \*8 people 2 vehicles maximum per family campsite.
- \*Each juvenile (under the age of 18) must have written permission from his/her parents (with the parents' phone number) prior to camping. Phone verifications will be attempted.
- \*Quiet hours are from 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM
- \*No electric generators from 8:00 PM to 10:00 AM.
- \*Firewood gathering is prohibited.
- \*Fires must be in stoves or fire pits provided (NO GROUND FIRES).
- \*Campfire restrictions are in effect during the fire season. Check fire conditions for appropriate use (see page 8).
- \*Campers are locked in the park overnight from sunset to 8:00 AM. For emergencies, dial 911.
- \*Peace and Quiet: Noise must not carry beyond your immediate camp or picnic ground.

| Nightly Rates                   |                       |                         |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| In- Season                      | May 15 - September 15 | \$20.00                 |
| Off- Season                     | September 16 - May 14 | \$15.00                 |
| Additional Vehicle ( one only ) |                       | \$7.00                  |
| Senior Discount (62+)           |                       | \$2.00 off Camping Fees |

| Group Camps |                 |          |          |
|-------------|-----------------|----------|----------|
| Name        | Nightly Use Fee | Capacity | Vehicles |
| Stagecoach  | \$45.00         | 20       | 7        |
| Boundary    | \$45.00         | 20       | 7        |
| Buckeye     | \$66.00         | 30       | 10       |
| Wildcat     | \$66.00         | 30       | 10       |
| BBQ Terrace | \$111.00        | 50       | 17       |