

Naturalist Walks at Twin Peaks



The **Naturalist Walks at Twin Peaks** meet at the **Twin Peaks Overlook** at **10 am**. The walks go until noon and participants are asked to wear layers, sunscreen, a hat and appropriate shoes for uneven trails. Parking is available just past the Overlook on the left. Do not park in the tour bus area.

April 14, 2007: Mission blue butterfly habitat walk

Summer Lindsey, Endangered Butterfly Naturalist and Educator

Come experience one of the most fragile sites in San Francisco – Twin Peaks’ native grasslands that are the unique habitat for the federally endangered mission blue butterfly. Summer will interpret this sensitive natural area from the perspective of the butterfly and provide insight into what it will take to protect this diminutive but elegant creature.

May 12, 2007: Rare Plant Communities of Twin Peaks

Jake Sigg, Conservation Chair, Yerba Buena Chapter, California Native Plant Society; Former President of CNPS Statewide; Native Plant Community Steward Extraordinaire

Jake Sigg is the “godfather” of the local ecological restoration movement. Jake has been the single most important person in San Francisco in preventing our local natural areas, such as Twin Peaks, from being overrun with invasive plants and being ignored by local agencies. Thanks to Jake’s efforts, the GGNRA and U.S. Army saved the Raven’s manzanita from extinction. Jake and others were instrumental in making the Recreation and Park Department create its successful Natural Areas Program. Jake will take us on a tour of the native plant communities of Twin Peaks, which harbor grassland, coastal sage scrub, willow riparian, coastal bluff scrub and, unfortunately, still, many invasive plants. Jake will bring us to wildflowers, rare plant assemblages, and aggressive invasive weed infestations, in order to explain the totality of the vegetation environment of Twin Peaks.

June 9, 2007: Twin Peaks Bird Habitats and the Pacific Flyway of the Western Hemisphere

Josiah Clark, Urban Wildlife Ecologist and Ecological Consultant

Not only is Josiah the local expert on bird and urban wildlife ecology, he also has an uncanny knack for illustrating the interconnectedness of the complex suite of relationships among our local avian fauna and the rest of the hemisphere. We’ll learn all about the resident and migratory birds of Twin Peaks. Songbirds, raptors, and more await us on our avian ecological trek to the Peaks.

June 30, 2007: Ecology, Wildlife, and People: Where do we go from here?

Chris Giorni, Director of Tree Frog Treks

Chris is a consummate ecological science educator in San Francisco, working with youth all over the city. Chris’s specialty is reptiles and amphibians or herpetology. The Tree Frog Treks’ office is a virtual zoo, and Chris will bring some of the animal species that are native to the San Miguel Hills and Twin Peaks. With this final field trip program, Chris will engage participants in an interactive question and answer about how we can steward critter habitats, in particular how we can take better care of wetlands, seeps and our watersheds. Passersby will be welcomed to our urban ecological grand finale.

Community Service Projects at Twin Peaks

January 27, April 21, July 28, October 27, 2007:

Meet at 9 am at the Twin Peaks Overlook and the project concludes around noon. Please wear sunscreen, appropriate clothing (layers), and sturdy shoes.

Location info: The Twin Peaks are the two hills that overlook the Castro and Cole Valleys offering a spectacular 360-degree view of the city, the Bay and Golden Gate Bridges.

Project will include: We’ll clean up litter, plant native seedlings, and restore the natural habitat of the endangered Mission Blue Butterfly. This time we are working with both SF Department of Public Works and The Recreation and Parks Department to address both the litter and native plant and wildlife habitat issues. No prior experience is necessary. All ages are welcome; anyone under 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Refreshments (Thank you Noah’s & Peet’s!) will be provided for all. For additional information, call REI San Francisco, (415) 934-1938 or email Megan Perkins at mperkin@rei.com.

Directions: From Market Street / Portola Drive, turn onto Twin Peaks Blvd, following the scenic loop to the Overlook and Radio Tower Parking Lot. Please park in the lot just past the Overlook – not the Tour Bus spaces!