



PICKLEWEED POST

Friends of San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Newsletter

VOLUME 10

FEBRUARY 2014

Sardis and Stamm Book Signing Event and Dunes Tour

On January 11th, just under 100 visitors gathered at the Big Break Visitor Center at the Delta for a tour of the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge and for the unveiling and signing of our new children's book, *Sardis and Stamm*. The author, Matthew Bettelheim, the illustrator, Nicole Wong, and the model for the main character in the book, Rebeca Aguilar, were all present for signing books. *Sardis and Stamm* is a story about the endangered Lange's metalmark butterfly and a young girl who discovers a hidden world of wildflowers and insects at the Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. Antioch Dunes is a sensitive sand dune habitat located near the city of Antioch on the south shore of the San Joaquin River. It serves as a refuge for three endangered species, the metalmark butterfly, the Antioch Dunes evening primrose and the Contra Costa wallflower. We would like to sincerely thank the staff at Big Break Visitor Center for hosting this event and for their hospitality.



Sardis model, Rebeca Aguilar, poses with her book



Illustrator, Nicole Wong, author, Matthew Bettelheim pose with Francesca Demgen, president of the Friends of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge and inspiration behind the publication of *Sardis and Stamm*



Author, Matthew Bettelheim, reads *Sardis and Stamm* to a group of children at the Big Break Visitor Center



Matthew, Rebeca and Nicole at the book signing table

**San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Continues to Grow and Improve**

Over the years, many improvements have been made to the refuge for the benefit of the habitat and the public. Below is an account of some of the latest improvements.

- 1) A new access road to the refuge office has been constructed which provides school buses a safe passage to the facility. One group of students who were participating in a restoration project has already been bused to the refuge office.
- 2) Through the efforts of the Sonoma Land Trust, the 1080-acre Haire Ranch was acquired into the refuge. This is a tremendous addition to the Skaggs Island property that is already part of the refuge.
- 3) A major restoration project is under way at the Antioch Dunes refuge. Approximately 43,000 cubic yards of dredged sand has been distributed over the Stamm unit of the refuge. Eventually, a complete habitat restoration will be accomplished at the refuge with the planting of the host buckwheat plant of the metalmark butterfly.

2014 Dates to Remember

- March 12 - San Pablo Bay Friends Board Meeting, 6 PM - Mare Island
- March 14 - 111th Birthday National Wildlife Refuge System
- April 22 - Earth Day
- May 16 - San Pablo Bay Friends Board Meeting, 2 PM - Refuge Headquarters, 7715 Lakeville Hwy, Petaluma
- **May 16 - BBQ open to the public at the Refuge Headquarters, 7715 Lakeville Hwy, Petaluma - 4 PM**
- June 20-22 - Publicity, education, fun at the Sonoma Raceway
- August 4-9 - National Wildlife Refuge System Friends Academy
- September 3-6 - 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Wilderness Act, Downtown Vallejo
- September 10 - San Pablo Bay Friends Board Meeting, 6 PM - Mare Island
- Nov 12 - San Pablo Bay Friends Board Meeting, 6 PM - Mare Island

Yes, I would like to join the Friends and help protect the wildlife and support the Refuges.

Please fill out, enclose with your donation and mail to:

**Friends of the San Pablo Bay NWR
Membership
7715 Lakeville Highway
Petaluma, CA 94954
707-769-4200**

- Pickleweed Pal \$25
- Marsh Wren \$50
- Clapper Rail \$100
- Harvest Mouse Helper \$250
- Great Blue Heron Hero \$500
- Saltmarsh Sponsor \$1,000
- White Pelican Patron \$2,500
- Tidal Marsh Mentor \$5,000
- Great Egret Guardian \$10,000
- Baylands Benefactor \$25,000
- Other \$ _____

I am interested in becoming a Friends Board Member

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email Address

Signature

**Thank You!
Your membership contribution
is tax deductible.**