



# PICKLEWEED POST

Friends of San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Newsletter

VOLUME 9

FEBRUARY 2013

## Friends Launch *Sardis and Stamm* Fundraising Campaign

January 5<sup>th</sup> author Matthew Bettelheim (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and illustrator Nicole Wong (right), were given a VIP tour of Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) by refuge manager Don Brubaker, docent Sandra Kelly (center), and Friends President Francesca Demgen.

Sardis and Stamm are the names of the two units comprising Antioch Dunes and the names of the two main characters in the Friends' next children's book. The story is about the endangered Lange's metalmark butterfly and Sardis, a little girl who rides her bike to an adventure in the sand dunes at the edge of the San Joaquin River to help Stamm, the butterfly with stammering flight.

The campaign goal is to raise \$2,500 toward publishing expenses and have the book finished by the start of the 2013 school year. The Friends will provide a free copy of the book to each school class that comes to Antioch Dunes NWR to help with restoration efforts. The book will be sold at Refuge headquarters to defray the cost of a second printing.

2013 Friends Membership levels and premiums are listed below and are additive:

\$25 Basic Sand Dune Supporter

\$50 Primrose Patron

\$75 Butterfly Benefactor

\$100 Wallflower Warrior

\$500 Antioch Dunes Angel

Entitles you to a book signing party invitation

Invitation to Antioch Dunes NWR to count Lange's Metalmark butterflies

Autographed, personalized copy of *Sardis and Stamm*

VIP Tour of Antioch Dunes

### Call For Board Members - Refuge Friends – Your Place to Connect with Wildlife and People

From its start in 1903, the National Wildlife Refuge System has owed its very existence to concerned citizens eager to protect America's natural resources. There are now more than 200 Friends groups, with about 10 new organizations created each year. Some support a single refuge while others are connected to a refuge complex or an entire state. Friends organizations are crucial to the collective mission of the Refuge System to conserve and protect the wildlife of this great nation. Friends organizations are essential to helping millions of Americans understand that their actions today determine the legacy we leave for tomorrow. The San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge lies along the north shore of San Pablo Bay in Sonoma, Solano and Napa Counties. The refuge includes open bay/tidal marsh, mud flats as well as seasonal and managed wetland habitats.

The top challenges facing Friends organization are too few active board members, board members facing burnout, too few active and engaged members, difficulty finding new board members and a small total number of members. But, you can help. Our Friends group needs board members, especially someone with non-profit accounting/bookkeeping experience and someone to maintain our web page and social media. The obligation is to purchase an annual membership and attend board meetings (approximately once a month). Please consider becoming a Friends Board Member - your contributions will make a significant difference! If you are interested, you are more than welcome to attend our Board's Annual meeting, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Refuge Headquarters (7715 Lakeville Highway, Petaluma). For additional information contact our Board President, Francesca Demgen at 707-315-1094.

For more information, please contact us at: [friendsofspbnwr@coconutmoon.com](mailto:friendsofspbnwr@coconutmoon.com), or check out what's going on at [www.pickleweed.org](http://www.pickleweed.org)

**Come Take a Nature Walk**

**Tubbs Island Trail**

**San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge**

Part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, the Tubbs Island Trail offers excellent bird watching and great views of the San Pablo and Greater San Francisco Bays and surrounding ridgelines and peaks. The trail starts near the intersection of Hwy 121 and Hwy 37 near Sears Point on the south side of 37, follows Tolay Creek, and splits for a loop around Lower Tubbs Island. The total trail length to complete the loop and back is approximately 8.15 flat miles with minimal elevation gain/loss. Birdwatching is often best at low tides. Check tides at : <http://www.tide-forecast.com/locations/Petaluma-River-entrance-San-Pablo-Bay-California/tides/latest>

Trails may be seasonally closed due to flooding/tides – check the condition of the levees by calling the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Headquarters at 707-769-4200. Be sure to stop by the Refuge Headquarters at 7715 Lakeville Highway, Petaluma.



**2013 Dates to Remember**

- February 2 - World Wetlands Day
- March 14 - 110th Birthday National Wildlife Refuge System
- April 14-20 - National Environmental Education Week
- April 22 - Earth Day
- May 1 - International Migratory Bird Day
- May 17 - Endangered Species Day
- June 1 - National Trails Day
- August 4-9 - National Wildlife Refuge System Friends Academy
- September 28 - National Public Lands Day - fee free
- Oct 13-19 - National Wildlife Refuge Week - fee free
- Oct 12-13 - The Big Sit (Birding Event)
- Nov 9-11 - Veterans Day – fee free

**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.**