

# BLACK DIAMOND

## NATURALIST PROGRAMS

October 2010

*Black Diamond Naturalists offer a variety of natural and cultural history programs throughout central and eastern Contra Costa County. Programs at Black Diamond Mines meet at the parking lot at the south end of Somersville Road unless otherwise noted. Other meeting sites are listed with each program. Those requiring registration list a course code number after the Naturalist name. Accommodations will be made for visitors with disabilities upon request.*

**Sidney Flat Visitor Center:** Open Saturdays and Sundays, 10am-4:30pm

### Hazel-Atlas Silica Mine Tour

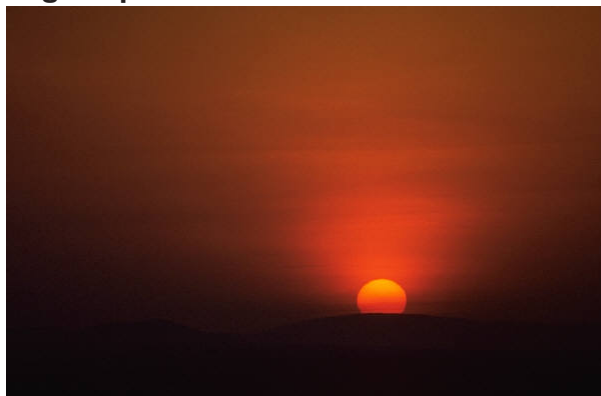
*Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve*  
Saturdays & Sundays, March-November  
Explore the underground through a guided tour; learn its history, geology, and technology. Ninety minute advanced registration tours are offered at 11am, 1pm, and 2pm. Call number below or go to [www.ebparksonline.org](http://www.ebparksonline.org). A 10am tour is available to groups of ten or more on weekends (not available for online registration). First-come, first-served tours are offered at noon and 3pm. Purchase tickets at the visitor center. Must be at least 7 years old, parent participation required. Dogs not permitted on the tour. Fee: \$3.

**Reg. Required:** 1-888-EBPARKS

### Shooting the Light

*Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline*  
8am-Noon, Saturday, October 2  
Kevin Damstra #25155  
Join other amateur photographers as we trek up the steep hills above Carquinez Strait to take in the magnificent vistas these ridgelines afford. Discover the natural and cultural history of what makes up these stunning shots.

**Reg. Required:** 1-888-EBPARKS



### East County Trails Horizontal Tasting

*Big Break Regional Trail*  
9-11:30am, Saturday, October 2  
Mike Moran #25117  
Nothing vertical about these delightfully flat paved promenades! Explore the line between wild and rural, backyard and backwater, wetland and farmland, on these easy going strolls along the creekside forest of Marsh Creek (9/4), and Delta wetlands (9/18 & 10/2), including the brand new section of Big Break Regional Trail. Disabled accessible.

**Reg. Required:** 1-888-EBPARKS

### Autumn's Aghast!

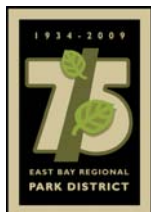
*Morgan Territory Regional Preserve*  
9am-1pm, Saturday, October 9  
Kevin Damstra #25157  
Join us as we hike four miles over varied terrain to discover the wonders of autumn in the "Black Hills," and find out why this season connects so many cultures worldwide to the natural world around us. 8+yrs

**Reg. Required:** 1-888-EBPARKS

### Backpacking Round Valley

*Round Valley Regional Preserve*  
3pm-Noon, Sat-Sun, October 9-10  
E. Willis/S. Labiste #25217  
Pack your gear for an easy overnighter at Round Valley. We'll hike approximately 3.5 mostly flat miles to the group site, set up camp, and explore the natural and cultural wonders of this preserve under crisp autumn skies. Food included, limited loaner gear available. 12+yrs (12-17 PPR)  
Fee: \$55 (\$61 non-res.)

**Reg. Required:** 1-888-EBPARKS



EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT  
Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve  
5175 Somersville Road, Antioch, CA 94509

website: [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org)  
telephone: 510-544-2750  
e-mail: [bdvisit@ebparks.org](mailto:bdvisit@ebparks.org)

registration: [www.ebparksonline.org](http://www.ebparksonline.org)

calendar of events

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### Autumn Delta Lunch Cruise

*Pittsburg Marina*

10am-1:30pm, Saturday, October 16

Mike Moran #25159

Ply the serene waters of California's Delta along the lower Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers.

We'll board the beautiful, double-decked Island Serenade, enjoy a hearty lunch (included!), and explore the fascinating nature and lore of this corner of California's Inland Coast. 10+yrs.

Disabled accessible. Fee: \$44 (non-res. \$50)

**Reg. Required:** 1-888-EBPARKS

### Hazel-Atlas Mine Open House

*Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve*

Noon-4:30pm, Sunday, October 17

Interpretive Staff

Thirty-three years ago, we offered our first underground tours. Today, you can explore nearly 1,000 feet of this 1930s-era silica sand mine to learn its history, geology, and commemorate those who led to its restoration. Must be seven or older to tour the mine. 7+yrs. Parking \$5

### Breathtaking Briones

*Briones Regional Park*

8am-Noon, Saturday, October 23

Kevin Damstra #25201

From our start down in the valley we will climb to the brink, discovering the natural splendor found in the heart of Contra Costa County. Bring a lunch and sturdy hiking shoes as we explore this five mile loop through the John Muir Nature Area.

**Reg. Required:** 1-888-EBPARKS

### Hunters Moon at Vasco Caves

3:30-8pm, Saturday, October 23

Mike Moran #25151

The sun's last rays and rising Hunter's moon will illuminate the many natural and cultural wonders found at this fascinating Preserve. We will hike 2-3 moderate miles. Vasco Caves is accessible through guided tours by District provided bus transport.

Fee: \$30 (non-res. \$34)

**Reg. Required:** 1-888-EBPARKS

### Thursday Birding: Raptor Baseline

*Marsh Creek Regional Trail*

9-11:30am, Thursday, October 28

Mike Moran #25153

The morning (eastern) side of Mount Diablo hosts a magnificent array of birds of prey: hawks, falcons, and eagles. Help us document their variety and numbers in this fun, social citizen research project. No experience necessary—we'll teach you how to identify these birds. We'll meet at a different park on the last Thursday of each month. Join in for one or all. 10+yrs. Disabled accessible.

**Reg. Required:** 1-888-EBPARKS

### Reading an Altered Landscape

*Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve*

10am-Noon, Saturday, October 30

Kevin Damstra #25072

Why is that hill terraced? How did trees from China get here? Search for the clues that will help us solve the mysteries of these hills during this short exploration. Parking \$5

### Vasco Caves Regional Preserve Tour

*Round Valley Regional Preserve*

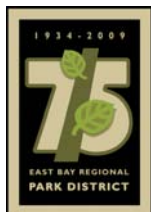
9am-2pm, Saturday, October 30

Mike Moran #25203

Behold Vasco's spectacular rock outcrops, vernal pools-seasonal home of endangered amphibians and fairy shrimp. This is habitat for eagles and various nesting and migrating raptors hunting bountiful prey in robust restored grasslands. Archaeological sites contain Indian rock art, part of a complex reaching back nearly 10,000 years. This Preserve is accessible through guided tours only, staging from Round Valley Regional Preserve and Brushy Peak Regional Preserve aboard District-provided bus transportation. 10+yrs

Fee: \$30 (non-res. \$34)

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