

1/16/07

## **Subject: Yerba Buena Island update**

Greetings Islanders,

I wanted to give a quick new year update on our goings on at Yerba Buena Island.

Last week, Ruth Gravanis and I met Noreen and Eddie and Diana out on the island. They are all active in **Golden Gate Audubon**, and are interested in learning more about Yerba Buena Island, and in helping us to begin documenting the natural resources that exist there.

Speaking of documentation, see below for a **bird list** from last week. The route where this list was gathered included Clipper Cove, the historic steps, Water Tank Lane, "the summit" past the road to the USCG tower, and down toward the east side of the island (the road above the east tunnel portal), but all on Navy/TIDA.

Also, see attached for a **draft native plant list** of the Clipper Cove natural area. The list encompasses the entire slope from the causeway over to the willows where the historic steps are. This area continues to be really ideal for our initial stewardship activities. Included on the plant list are the major invasive weeds - I didn't include all non-natives.

The **SF Board of Supervisors (BOS)** past a resolution on 12/12/06 endorsing the development plan for the islands. This is different from the actual final approval of the development, still quite a ways away. Among the conditions for endorsement, the BOS resolution states, "A management plan for the natural areas on Yerba Buena Island shall be developed and adopted." This is great news for the island's nature and biodiversity and for residents. The resolution is File#061498, and the "Short Title" is "Endorsement of Development Plan and Term Sheet for the Redevelopment of Naval Station Treasure Island," located at:

[http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_index.asp?id=37019](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_index.asp?id=37019)

We had a terrific **ecological work-party** on December 16th, at which we cleaned up the existing pile, removed the entire stand of monster French broom - one of our highest priority invasive plants - and did some miscellaneous weeding including fennel, iceplant, ehrharta and oxalis. As we were contemplating our finished work, the songbirds descended on the site hunting for seeds and little critters in the area where we removed the broom and other weeds.

I am excited about all of the activity around YBI's nature. We're now on a quarterly stewardship workday schedule. I would like to increase that sooner than later, but I've got to create the capacity to do so. More as it happens.

If you haven't already, be sure to check out the following two websites about the islands: <http://treasureislandonline.net/>  
<http://www.94130.org/>

Oh, and I was out on the Bay the last two weekends, during which sailing excursions I was treated to **harbor seals** right off of YBI's northwestern shore. I also saw them over

1/16/07

black-crowned  
night herons  
nesting

near Horseshoe Cove, Fort Baker. And the **cormorants** were just everywhere out there. Keep an eye out for them nesting outside the seaplane terminal, behind the cafe there. Finally, on our Clipper Cove walk last week, we spotted a beautifully blooming pink flowering **curren**t, a fragrant native shrub that blooms in January - it was growing between the 2 big willow groves.

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Below is a list of the birds that we identified on the walk in the morning on January 10, 2007:

Common Loon  
Brown Pelican  
Brandt's Cormorant  
Eared Grebe  
Horned Grebe  
Western Grebe  
Bufflehead  
Spotted Sandpiper  
Western Gull  
Anna's Hummingbird  
Black Phoebe  
Western Scrub Jay  
Chestnut-backed Chickadee  
Mourning Dove  
Bushtit  
Cedar Waxwing  
California Towhee  
American Robin  
Hermit Thrush  
Dark-eyed Junco  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet  
Townsend's Warbler  
Yellow-rumped Warbler  
Fox Sparrow  
Gold-crowned Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
White-crowned Sparrow  
American Goldfinch  
House Finch  
-Noreen Weeden