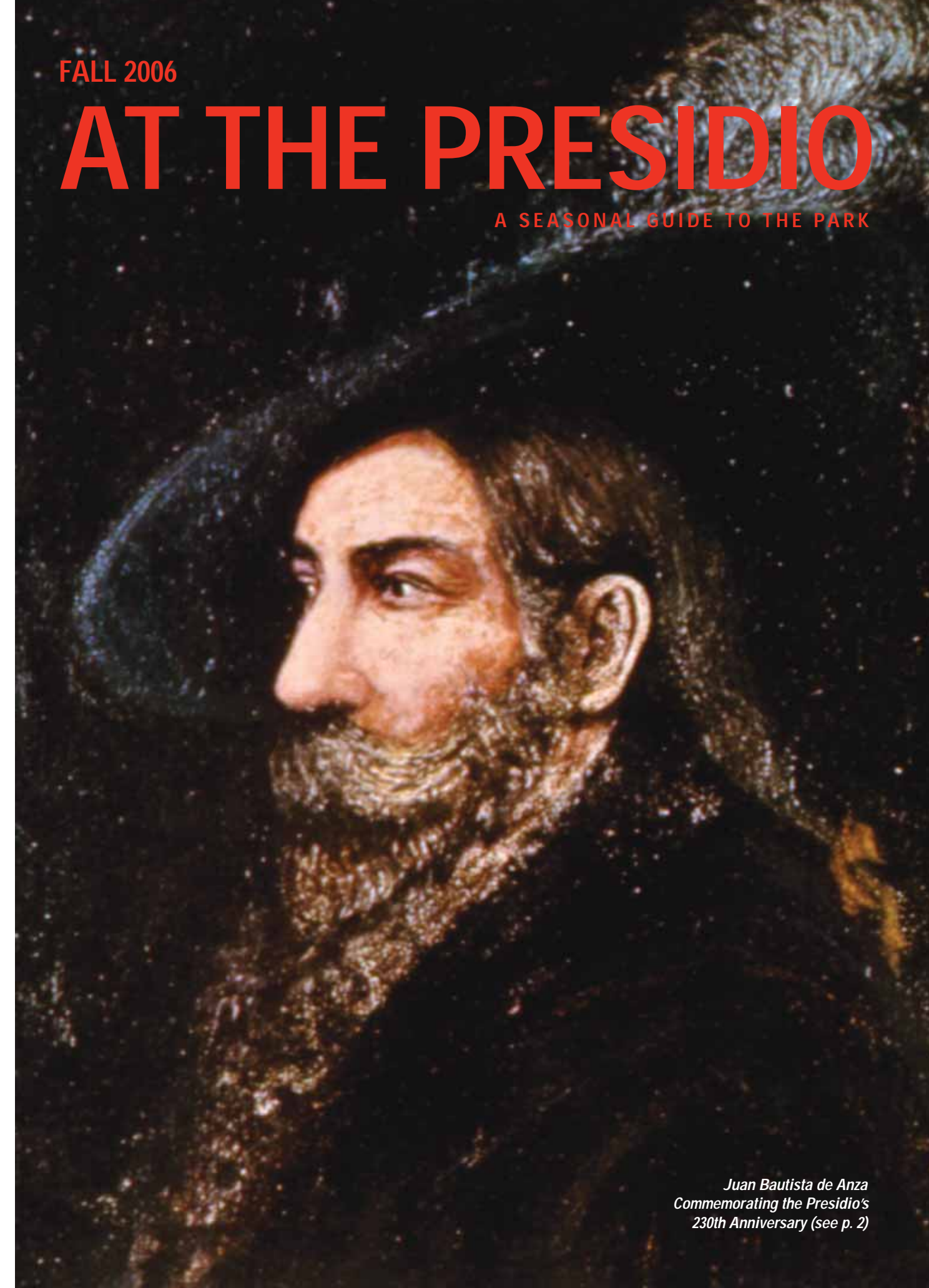


FALL 2006

# AT THE PRESIDIO

A SEASONAL GUIDE TO THE PARK

A detailed oil painting of Juan Bautista de Anza, shown in profile from the chest up. He has a full, dark beard and mustache, and is wearing a dark, heavy coat. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a night sky or a rugged landscape. The lighting highlights the texture of his beard and the contours of his face.

*Juan Bautista de Anza  
Commemorating the Presidio's  
230th Anniversary (see p. 2)*

# FOUNDING OF THE PRESIDIO

## The Anza Expedition

By Randolph Delehanty, Ph.D., Presidio Trust Historian

The story of the migration from Mexico to what was originally known as the “River of San Francisco” was one of hardship, endurance, political conflict and remarkable leadership. Spain feared that if she did not colonize San Francisco Bay, Britain or Russia would. Because adverse winds made reaching Alta California by sea from Mexico difficult, Viceroy Antonio Bucareli in Mexico City decided to back Juan Bautista de Anza’s proposal to open a land route from Sonora in northern Mexico, across the Colorado River and desert, and north to San Francisco Bay. Anza first scouted the route in 1774, and then led colonists and their cattle in 1775-76 on a 1,500-mile trek to the new territory.

Anza was the 39 year-old commander of the frontier Presidio of Tubac, today in southern Arizona, born to a military family on the borderlands of the Spanish Empire. He was a resourceful leader and later became governor of the Province of New Mexico.

The migration was recorded in the journals that Lt. Col. Anza kept for the Viceroy, that Father Pedro Font, the Franciscan missionary who accompanied the expedition kept for his superior in Mexico City, and in several letters written by Father Junípero Serra, the Father-President of the California missions.

In Sinaloa and Sonora, Anza recruited 30 married soldiers and their families. Among the settlers were people born in Spain, people of European parentage born in the New World, people of mixed European and Native American parentage, and people of European and African parentage. About half the hardy migrants were under 12 years of age. Eight babies were born during the trek and one woman died in childbirth. The expedition consisted of 240 people, 695 horses and mules and 358 head of cattle with which to establish a ranching economy in the new territory. Anza’s principal challenge was finding enough water and pasturage along the way for such a large number of people and livestock, especially in the harsh desert that lay between Arizona and southern California.

The Anza expedition passed through many different tribal territories on its way north. Some tribes were welcoming; others fled from the newcomers. The surrounding Apaches were hostile but never directly attacked the vulnerable marchers. Anza followed a consistent policy of good treatment of the native peoples and urged warring tribes to make peace with one another. He could also be indulgent and allowed the emigrants to celebrate occasionally with brandy, singing and dancing, much to Father Font’s disapproval.



Don Garate of Tumacacori National Historical Park enacts the role of Anza at the Presidio’s 230th anniversary.

Cover: Juan Bautista de Anza was born in Fronteras, Sonora, in 1736 into a military family. After a life on the Mexican frontier, he died in Arizpe, Sonora, in 1788.

*Portrait courtesy of the Palace of the Governors, Museum of New Mexico, 50828*

“

Indeed, although in my travels I saw very good sites and beautiful country, I saw none which pleased me so much as this. And I think that if it could be well settled like Europe there would not be anything more beautiful in all the world.

”

~ from Father Font's diary upon viewing the future Presidio grounds

Anza faced a sticky political situation. Just as the colonists entered Alta California, a revolt broke out at Mission San Diego. One missionary and two servants were killed and the mission itself was torched. The governor of Alta California in Monterey, Fernando Rivera y Moncada, turned against Anza's plan to establish a new presidio and missions at San Francisco Bay, fearing that they would spread his soldiers too thin. Rivera's priority was reestablishing control in San Diego. Communication between the two commanders became strained and they were reduced to writing letters to one another while both were at Mission San Gabriel rather than meeting face to face.

Anza's charge was to bring the colonists as far north as Monterey, which he did. It was Lt. José Joaquin Moraga, Anza's second-in-command,

who led 190 settlers on the final stage of their journey to San Francisco Bay and who founded the Presidio of San Francisco and Mission Dolores in June 1776. The presidio and mission were intended to be self-sustaining settlements based on agriculture and cattle-raising. But the Spanish-speaking society only lasted 70 years – 1776 to 1846 – one long lifetime, before Manifest Destiny propelled the expansive, English-speaking United States of America westward to create another California.

Today the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail traces this early path of migration from Nogales, Arizona, ending at the Presidio of San Francisco. See [www.nps.gov/juba](http://www.nps.gov/juba) for the national historical trail and [Web de Anza](http://Web.de.Anza) at [anza.uoregon.edu](http://anza.uoregon.edu) for the expedition diaries themselves.

Los Californianos celebrate the 230th anniversary of the Presidio.





Great Blue Heron at Fort Scott



Poison oak's fall foliage



Fall is prime birding season

Photos by Damien Raifa

# presidio watch: reports from the field

## Great Blue Heron

*Ardea herodias*

The Great Blue Heron is one of the largest coastal birds you will see in the Presidio, standing four feet tall with a six-foot wing span. Watching one fly overhead with its deep, graceful wing beats and its neck folded in an S-shape is a thrilling experience. You will most likely find these year-round residents at Mountain Lake, Crissy marsh, or Lobos Creek standing motionless near the water's edge, and then suddenly striking out at a fish or frog below the water's surface. Don't be surprised, however, if you come across one in large grassy areas at Fort Scott, the Main Post and elsewhere. They not only hunt aquatic creatures, but also ground-dwelling animals such as snakes, gophers and other small rodents.

Hérons nest communally, building bulky stick nests high in trees. While herons are not known to nest in the Presidio, you can view their nesting behavior in other parts of San Francisco such as Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park and Lake Merced.

## Poison Oak

*Toxicodendron diversilobum*

Not an oak at all, poison oak is a member of the Anacardiaceae Family, the same family as the

cashew and mango, and is one of the more commonly found native plants in the Presidio. Poison oak changes with the seasons. This fall its shiny leaves will turn brilliant red, providing some of the best autumn color in the Presidio. In winter the leaves fall, exposing its bare branches and in spring the stems sprout new bronze leaves that soon turn glossy green. Whitish-green flowers bloom from April to May, attracting bees for pollination and perfuming the air. By summer, its small greenish-white berries feed local birds such as California quail, Spotted towhees, Dark-eyed juncos, and White-crowned sparrows.

In all its forms, this species has lobed leaves in groups of three. Learning to recognize them should be a first priority for anyone who wants to explore the outdoors in the Bay Area. The twigs, stems, and leaves carry an oil called urushiol, a skin irritant to many. Some are able to come into contact with poison oak without any reaction, while others might break out into a rash. Should you touch the plant, rinse your hands immediately with cold water and wash with dish soap: this should remove the oils.

## Winged Migration

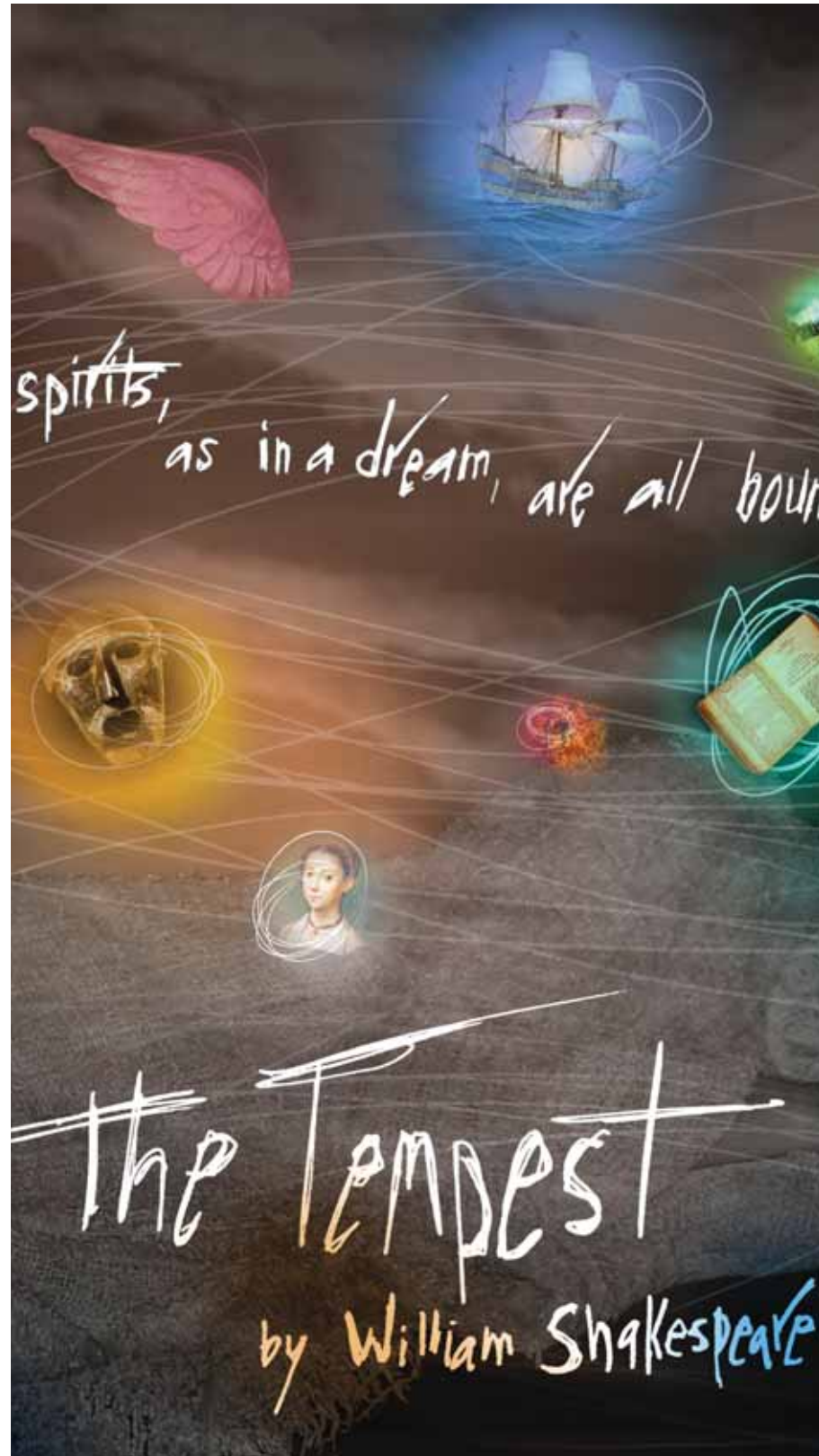
Maybe without knowing it, you've been seeing them come and go

# FREE SHAKESPEARE IN THE PARK

## The Tempest Plays During September

In a beautiful outdoor setting, drama lovers of all ages can enjoy free performances of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* on the lawn of the Presidio Main Post Parade Ground. Performances will take place weekends, September 2 – 24, Saturdays at 7:30 pm, with matinees held Sundays and Labor Day at 2:30 pm.

Fans should arrive about an hour early. Pillows and low-back folding chairs are allowed. Snacks and beverages will be available for sale, or bring a picnic. For information, visit [www.sfshakes.org](http://www.sfshakes.org) or call 415/ 865 4434.



# KIDS ON TRAILS

## Engaging Children in the Park



The Presidio Trust published the premiere version of *KIDS on Trails* in fall 2003. The guide, designed for younger children, includes Anna the Hummingbird who points out plants, animals, trees, special rocks, and other features along the Ecology Trail. It is available in English, Spanish, and Chinese, and is used by educators, students, families, and youth groups with an interest in nature and recreation.

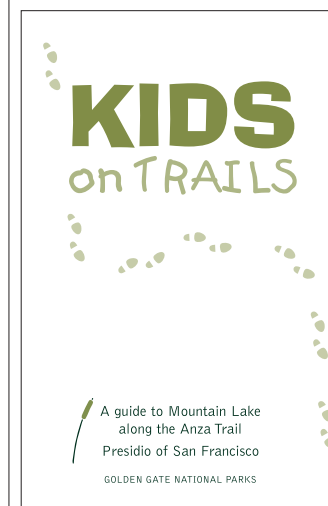
"The guide is a great success," said Lisa Hillstrom, the Trust programs specialist who developed the concept and helped create its contents. "The children have a chance to interact with nature, listen to its sounds, look at its intricate patterns, and experience the great outdoors."

The second *KIDS on Trails* guide is due out this winter. It features

Mountain Lake along the Anza Trail, highlighting the park's rich cultural history. Anna the Hummingbird is replaced by Maria Ysidora Tapia, who was only 5 years old when she took the long journey with Anza and her family back in 1775.

"What's most fascinating to me is that nearly half of the people on the expedition were children like Maria under the age of 12," said Hillstrom. "Children will be able to learn about the many changes that have taken place since Maria's day, create their own journal entries, and identify California native plants such as willow and tule reeds."

Both guides are free. They are available at the Presidio Visitor Center and can be downloaded at [www.presidio.gov/kids](http://www.presidio.gov/kids). If you have questions, or would like to schedule a visit for your group, call 415/ 561 2703.



The new guide starts at Mountain Lake. Children will learn about the lake's environment and history.

for years. Migratory birds have been passing through the Bay Area for millennia. If you haven't noticed them, keep your eyes peeled.

## Where Are Our Visiting Birds Going?

- Snowy Egrets winter as far as South America
- Western Sandpipers stay warm along both coastlines of Central America as far south as Peru
- Long-billed Dowitcher head for Mexico & Guatemala
- Allen's Hummingbirds stop over in Mexico
- Belted Kingfisher spend the colder season in South America
- Ruddy Turnstone winters along rocky coasts as far south as Tierra del Fuego

## What Wildlife Have YOU Seen Lately?

One morning a few weeks ago I looked down from Battery Godfrey [on the Presidio's Coastal Bluffs] and saw a southern sea otter dining on a red crab near shore. I watched the otter for the next 20 minutes as it collected and consumed a total of four crabs before moving off to the west.

**Matt Zlatunich,**  
Enjoys Wildlife in the Park

I had a really great look at a coyote at Lobos Creek Valley. He seemed to be enjoying the landscape. I've brought friends there who were just blown away by the beauty of the place.

**Lisa Berkelhammer,**  
Runs in the Park

A few weeks ago when I was playing on the trampoline with my daughter and her friend we sighted quail chicks. We heard a strange sound in the brush. We all got quiet, especially difficult for two young girls, and crawled to the edge of the trampoline. At the edge of the high grass emerged a quail mother followed by about 10 chicks. The father was close behind and the sound was the parents herding the youngsters.

**Dan Durkin,**  
Lives in the Park

*Near Mountain Lake there were so many yerba buena and so many lilies that I almost had them inside my tent.*

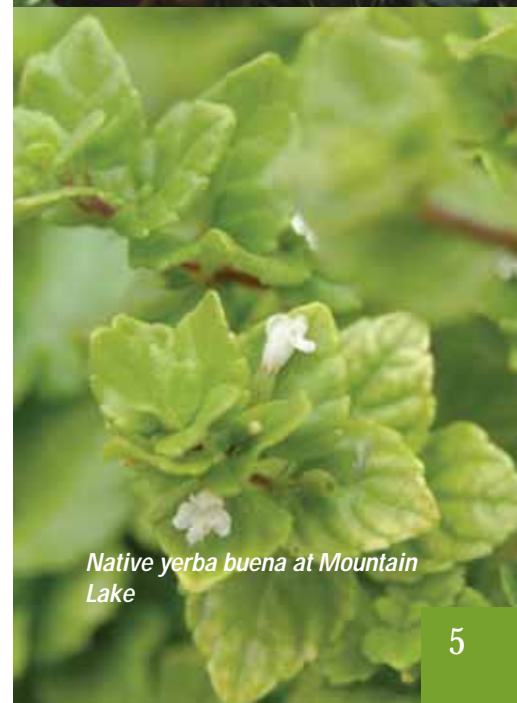
– Padre Pedro Font, who accompanied Juan Bautista de Anza on his expedition to the San Francisco peninsula in 1776



State flower and state rock: California poppy in serpentinite



Students monitoring salamanders where Anza's party first camped in the Presidio



Native yerba buena at Mountain Lake

# PARK CALENDAR

## ONGOING EVENTS

Lend a hand to native plant and wildlife at these volunteer programs:

**Habitat Restoration in the Field**  
Wednesdays & Saturdays  
9 am to noon  
415/ 668 8429

**Habitat Restoration at the Nursery**  
Wednesdays & Saturdays  
1 to 4 pm  
415/ 561 4449



**Restoration Advisory Board Public Meeting**  
Second Tuesday of the Month  
7 pm  
Presidio Officers' Club  
The Restoration Advisory Board is a citizen's group that works with the Trust's environmental remediation program.  
415/ 561 4255

**Presidio RX Running Group**  
Mondays & Wednesdays  
6:30 pm  
Runners meet Mondays under the Palace of Fine Arts Dome, and Wednesdays at the Lombard Gate.  
[www.woohoo.org/presidiorx](http://www.woohoo.org/presidiorx)

## AUGUST

25

**PLANTS + INSECTS ART + SCIENCE**

**OPENING DAY**  
11 am to 5 pm  
Presidio Officers' Club

**Opening Night Reception**  
Friday, August 25  
6 to 8 pm

Presidio Officers' Club  
Meet the artists and celebrate this extraordinary exhibit. Reception sponsored by SPUR Projects/Portola Valley and the Presidio Trust.

[www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov)  
415/ 561 5500



Photo by Edward S. Ross

## SEPTEMBER

2 - 24

**Free Shakespeare in the Park "The Tempest"**

September 2 to 24  
Presidio Main Parade Ground (see full page spread)  
[www.sfshakes.org](http://www.sfshakes.org)  
415/ 865 4434

9

**Helping Quail and Other Presidio Birdlife**

Saturday, September 9  
9 am to noon  
Your choice of bird monitoring or habitat enhancement.  
415/ 561 4449

25

**Presidio Trust Quarterly Workshop**

Monday, September 25  
6:30 pm  
Golden Gate Club  
The topic will be the FY07 budget.  
[www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov)  
415/ 561 5418

## OCTOBER

30

**5TH ANNUAL FILM IN THE FOG**

Saturday, September 30  
5 pm - Music; 7 pm - Film  
The San Francisco Film Society and the Presidio Trust present an outdoor screening of the classic horror film "THEM!" Kick off the San Francisco International Film Festival's 50th year with this free event on the lawn of the Main Post Theatre, 99 Moraga Avenue at Montgomery Street. Food is available for sale, or bring a picnic. Blankets and low chairs are recommended.  
[www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov)  
415/ 561 5500



5

**Presidio Teachers' Night**

Thursday, October 5  
5 pm  
Educators! Learn how the Presidio can be an outdoor classroom. Look for your invitation in the mail, or call to be included. Reservations requested. For teachers only.  
415/ 561 2000

7

**OceanFest**

Saturday, October 7  
11 am to 4 pm  
Crissy Field, Building 991  
The Farallones National Marine Sanctuary presents this annual event featuring sustainable seafood, vegetarian fare, live music, and children's activities.  
[www.farallones.org](http://www.farallones.org)  
415/ 561 6625

7

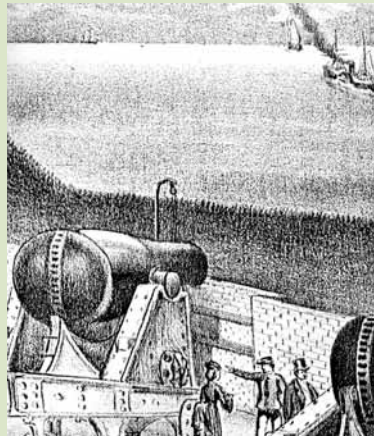
**Presidio to Mission Walk**

Saturday, October 7  
10 am to 1 pm  
Walk from the Presidio to Mission Dolores to celebrate San Francisco's 230th birthday. Meet in front of the Presidio Officers' Club. Please make your own return trip plans.  
415/ 561 4323

11

**Third System, Civil War and Post-Civil War Fortifications of San Francisco Bay**

Wednesday, October 11  
7 to 8 pm  
Presidio Officers' Club  
Historian John Martini explains the history of the coastal fortifications.  
[www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov)  
415/ 561 5500



19

**Presidio Trust Board of Directors Public Meeting**

Thursday, October 19  
6:30 pm  
Golden Gate Club  
[www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov)  
415/ 561 5418

## NOVEMBER

9 & 10

**Pacific Union Presents: Concerts at the Presidio**

Thursday and Friday, November 9 and 10  
8 pm  
Golden Gate Club  
Enjoy free classical music.  
415/ 447 6274



# PLANTS + INSECTS ART + SCIENCE

## A New Exhibition

August 25 to November 19  
Wednesdays to Sundays

11 am to 5 pm  
Presidio Officers' Club  
50 Moraga Avenue  
FREE

**Opening Reception**  
Friday, August 25  
6 to 8 pm

[www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov)  
415/ 561 5500



Lady Fern

Robert Buelteman (c) 2006

## RELATED PROGRAMS

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT TALKS**  
7 to 8 pm

Presidio Officers' Club

Wednesday, August 30  
*Photography without the Camera with Robert Buelteman*

Wednesday, September 13  
*The Lives of Insects with entomologist Edward S. Ross*

Wednesday, September 27  
*The Presidio: An Island of Biodiversity*

Wednesday, October 18  
*California Invasive Plants: Why Should We Care?*

Wednesday, October 25  
*Insects: An Evolutionary Success Story*

Wednesday, November 8  
*Monarch Magic*

**SATURDAY PLANT AND INSECT WALKS**

9:30 to 11 am  
Outdoor Programs for Adults and Kids Ages 7+  
RSVP and meeting location:  
415/ 561 4323

Saturday, August 26  
*Plants and Insects of the Presidio*

Saturday, September 9  
*Insect Discovery at Lobos Valley*

Saturday, September 23  
*Flower Fables*

Saturday, October 7  
*In the Garden*

Saturday, October 21  
*Bug Walk*

Saturday, November 4  
*Exotic Plant Walk*

Saturday, November 18  
*Bugs and Butterflies*

**SATURDAYS IN THE GALLERY**  
Family Programs in The Hive at the Exhibition Hall  
1 to 2 pm

Saturday, August 26  
*Bugs Alive! with the Randall Museum*

Saturday, September 2  
*Learning to Draw Bugs with Artist Ryan Jones*

Saturday, September 30  
*California Academy of Sciences presents live bugs like tarantulas, millipedes, and cockroaches*

Saturday, October 14  
*Learning to Draw Bugs with Artist Ryan Jones*

Saturday, October 21  
*Creature Features with Bug Eaters from the San Francisco ZooMobile*

Saturday, October 28  
*Solar Prints: The Shadow of Nature*  
Create your own thermographs with photographer Robert Buelteman.  
RSVP 415/ 561 5500

Saturday, November 11  
*Creature Features with Bug Eaters from the San Francisco ZooMobile*

Visit the Presidio's  
New Website!  
[www.presidio.gov](http://www.presidio.gov)

# ANZA TRAIL

## A New Perspective on History

Presidio RX meets at 6:30 pm on Mondays (meet under the dome at the Palace of Fine Arts) and Wednesdays (meet at the Lombard Gate) and runs along the trails and pathways of the park. All levels are welcome. For more information, visit [www.woohoo.org/presidiorx](http://www.woohoo.org/presidiorx) or see [Calendar](#).



Runners, bikers, and other outdoor enthusiasts are enjoying breathtaking views along the newly improved Anza National Historic Trail. This trail, which traces the route of the Anza settlers that founded the Presidio (see p. 2), travels through the Presidio from Mountain Lake to the Golden Gate Bridge. At Immigrant Point it offers sunset vistas from a beautifully landscaped picnic area.

The Presidio Trust invited Presidio RX, a group of runners and park enthusiasts, to explore the improved Anza Trail. Even though the view of the headlands was shrouded in the

San Francisco haze, the group enjoyed their run. "Even in the fog you get a new, beautiful perspective," said San Francisco native Steve Woo. A proposal manger for a software company by day, Woo formed Presidio RX in 2002 for joggers who want to enjoy the Presidio, stay fit and make new friends. Woo has been running for 20 years and says "the Presidio has the best running routes in San Francisco with its interesting terrain and amazing scenery. We tend to slow down near the coastal bluffs to catch a view of the ocean."

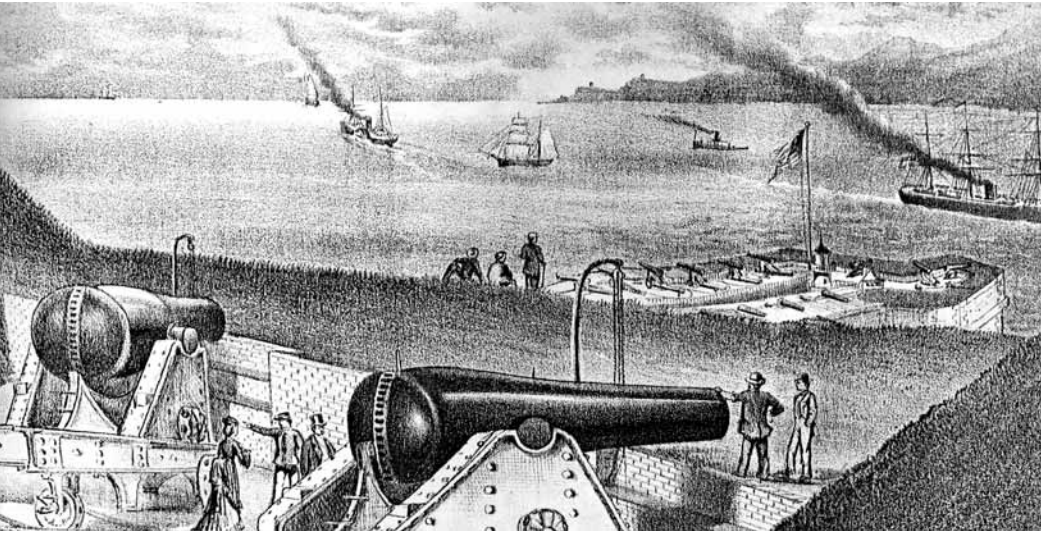
New to the Anza trail are picnic tables where joggers can rest, or families can bring a picnic and enjoy the view.



# DEFENDING THE GATE

## The Unfinished Plan of 1870

By John A. Martini, former NPS Ranger and historical consultant



From the Gold Rush through the Cold War, the U.S. Army built several generations of harbor defense fortifications at the Golden Gate. The largest of these are the sprawling concrete batteries constructed between the 1890s and 1940s lining the Presidio and Marin Headlands cliffs. Nearly forgotten, though, they are the remains of earlier generations of brick and earthen fortifications dating to before the Civil War.

Beginning in 1850, the U.S. Army Engineers developed a cunning design for defending San Francisco Bay with three major forts: one at Fort Point in the Presidio (now under the arch of the Golden Gate Bridge), a second at Lime Point on the Marin shore, and a third on Alcatraz Island. The two forts at the Golden Gate straits would present a cross-fire to enemy ships, while Alcatraz would defend the inner harbor.

The two forts at the narrowest part of the Golden Gate were to be "Third System" American forts, and featured several tiers of cannon mounted in arched casemates and firing through thick brick walls. Third System forts were a comprehensive system designed to protect each significant port in the country. The fort at Fort Point was completed in 1861. The Lime Point fort was never built. The third major fort, on Alcatraz Island, was completed in 1859, but it had a radically different design. There, open "barbette" batteries ringed the island's high cliffs, while underground tunnels within the rock held food, water and ammunition for a prolonged siege.

During the Civil War, the batteries at Fort Point and Alcatraz were augmented by emergency fortifications constructed at Black Point (Fort Mason) and on Angel Island. By the end of the war, nearly 200 heavy cannon guarded the bay.

**Third System, Civil War and Post-Civil War Fortifications of San Francisco Bay**  
Wednesday, October 11  
7 to 8 pm  
Historian John Martini explains the history of the coastal fortifications. At the Presidio Officers' Club.  
**415/ 561 5500**

Looking from Battery East over Fort Point toward the Golden Gate.

*The Wasp, January 27, 1877, courtesy California Historical Society*





Battery East with Rodman guns looking north in 1915.

*Photo courtesy Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Park Archives & Records Center, Fort Point Collection*

Battles during the Civil War demonstrated the vulnerability of Third System forts when, during several sieges, their thick masonry walls had offered meager resistance to bombardment. (Fort Pulaski in Georgia fell to modern artillery in 30 hours.)

By contrast, battlefield experience demonstrated that low-lying batteries constructed of earth provided the best resistance to bombardment. Low profiles made them hard to hit, and thick earthen parapets easily absorbed artillery fire. Beginning in 1870, Army Engineers began work on a new nation-wide system that came to be known as the Plan of 1870. The military drew up extensive plans for batteries at the Presidio, the Marin shore, and at other points around the Bay. Built to standard plans, these batteries featured pairs of Rodman-pattern cannon separated by earthen hills containing magazines or bomb-proof crew shelters. (Two bottle-shaped Rodman guns are near the flagpole at the Presidio.)

Work on the nation's earthwork batteries came to a halt 1876. Only a handful of cannon had been emplaced at the Presidio when construction stopped, and for the next 15 years the unarmed earthworks were the "toothless tiger" of America's coastal defenses.

In the 1890s, yet another generation of fortifications began to be erected

to defend the Golden Gate. Built of concrete and steel, and mounting powerful rifled guns, these new batteries obliterated many of the never-finished 1870s batteries. On Alcatraz, a growing prison complex buried the Third System batteries and the 1870s earthworks that once covered the island.



Entrance to a magazine at Battery East built in the 1870s.

Today, red brick Fort Point stands as one of the best-preserved examples of a Third System fort in the United States, and it is the only example west of the Mississippi River. Only traces of the earthen Plan of 1870 batteries survive at the Presidio at places like Battery East off the trail north of Pilots' Row. There mysterious arched rooms and brick tunnels provide tantalizing clues to a plan that was never completed.



**THE PRESIDIO TRUST**

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{cover}  
Portrait courtesy of the Palace of the  
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*Portrait of Juan Bautista de Anza*

Layout: Black Cat Graphics - SF  
Printed on Recycled Paper with Soybase Inks  
Principal photography by Amy Wolff

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**{ DID YOU KNOW? }**

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail begins near Nogales, Arizona and ends at the Presidio of San Francisco. Visit [www.nps.gov/juba](http://www.nps.gov/juba).



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