

Trione-Annadel State Park Volunteer Hike Leader John Lynch

So a little about me:

Growing up I spent most of my time outdoors in the Hudson River Valley in upstate New York where I became fascinated by the wide variety of wildlife in the fields, streams, ponds and marshes just outside my backdoor. I was intrigued with the smells and tastes of the plants around me and spent many enjoyable hours watching and imitating the birds. For me, home is green, smells of lush swamps & piney forests and is full of bird song.

In college I helped found the Rutgers University Conservation Action Committee, which organized the 1st Earth Day Celebration in New Jersey.

When I moved to Sonoma County in 1980 I felt drawn to learn about California native plants and took several courses at the Santa Rosa Junior College studying native plants and their uses, both currently and historically, by California's native peoples. I also took every opportunity to hike Sonoma County's many trails.

When I retired from County service in 2011 I became a trail monitor for the Sonoma County Parks and regularly patrol the Shiloh Ranch Regional Park providing minor trail maintenance, visitor assistance and monitoring.

In the fall of 2011 I trained as a Docent/Interpretive Naturalist at the Audubon Canyon Ranch Bouverie Preserve where I continue to provide classroom based nature studies presentations and nature preserve interpretive hikes for elementary school age children and the general public.

I'm also a Certified California Naturalist and volunteer as a Naturalist with Sonoma State University providing guided tours of the SSU Fairfield Osborn Preserve.

In 2012 I became a Volunteer Interpretive Naturalist with the Valley of the Moon Natural History Association and lead regularly scheduled nature hikes at Jack London State Historical Park. I'm particularly interested in the interplay between natural and cultural history. Please see the JLP website for details of upcoming nature hikes: <http://jacklondonpark.com/jack-london-future-events.html>

In addition to my public nature hikes at Jack London State Park, I currently lead a series of interpretive hikes at Trione-Annadel State Park. Please see the Trione-Annadel Park website for details: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=480

Besides learning about and sharing my profound love of nature, I have a passion for photography and especially wildflower macro photography. I have a long standing appreciation of Native American stories and love sharing them. I'm also an active student of ethnobotany.

I deeply believe that helping reconnect people of all ages to the natural world through the processes of esthetic appreciation, exploration, and inquiry is vital to healing our planetary ecosystem, our society, and ourselves.

Please come, walk, and explore with me the beauty and wonder of our Sonoma County Preserves and Parks.

John