



September 7 - Presentations and Speakers

Welcome to Together Tuesdays, Diversity-Bio-Diversity on Sept 7, 2021 Happy California Biodiversity Week!

Our goal with today's event is to give attendees a taste for the work that TOGETHER Bay Area members do, and provide a time for attendees to connect to our members to learn more and get involved in their work. This is not meant to be comprehensive. This is intended to be quick and high energy, and for more substantive conversations to happen afterwards in Zoom breakout rooms or offline.

Today's presentations and speakers are listed here. We hope that you'll contact the speakers - either in the breakout room after the presentations or offline - to share ideas, collaborate, coordinate, and partner. Please no sales calls!

Bay Area Coordinated Stewardship

California Invasive Plant Council

Doug Johnson

djohnson@cal-ipc.org

- Controlling invasive plants is a critical part of protecting biodiversity and a range of land stewardship organizations across the Bay Area work on wildland weeds. Cal-IPC helps to coordinate partnership among these entities to develop and implement landscape-level strategy. www.cal-ipc.org
- It's important to share because entities may be able to get more involved, and the example of landscape-level cross-jurisdictional coordination is important for other aspects of stewardship.

Community-Based Habitat Restoration with Grassroots Ecology

Grassroots Ecology

Valerie Lee

valerie@grassrootsecology.org

- With a focus in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties, Grassroots Ecology supports high school and middle school volunteers to take action for the health of our local ecosystems through our Youth Stewards program.
- Habitat restoration and environmental education are used as vehicles for transformation in both human communities & wild land communities.

Thriving California

California Academy of Sciences

Rebecca Johnson

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- Thriving California is a major new Academy initiative that addresses the dual threats of climate change and biodiversity loss in the Golden State, harnessing the power of big data and crowd-sourced community science to build a vibrant model for scaling conservation solutions. This initiative seeks to understand the past, actively monitor the present, and work collaboratively to create the future. The ultimate aim is a statewide movement aimed at building healthy, resilient human and natural communities.

<https://www.calacademy.org/about-us/major-initiatives/thriving-california>

- We are thrilled to be able to share a kind of 'first look' at this work with TBA members. Although, we will be working statewide, we will be piloting in the Bay Area and will need land management partners to collaborate and test our ideas. We also want to meaningfully collaborate with communities to include people in conversations and decision making about biodiversity in new, powerful ways. TBA members make up a dynamic ecosystem of agencies, organizations, and tribes that will be critical team members to reach our shared goals of building healthy, resilient human and natural communities. We also hope this can be an opportunity for us to share the biodiversity science we do at the Academy!

We Are All Connected - Wildlife Corridors & Crossings

Paula Lane Action Network (PLAN) - Sonoma County

susankirks@sbcglobal.net

- Part 1 of a 3-part series to map wildlife corridors and crossings in Sonoma and Marin Counties. Community science project based on 20+ years of documenting live and deceased species & their movement patterns. Model that can be adapted for local mapping to connect to Bay Area Critical Linkages.
- When humans care about our lands and wildlife, the relationship is natural and one of respect and renewal. This project is all volunteer, community science. Reporting to a central phone # and email, bicyclists, birders, hikers and Nature lovers, cared enough to report living and deceased sightings of American Badger - and multiple other wildlife. Personal verification of sightings and photos provided helped validate reports. Over 20 years, movement patterns of wildlife emerged and are now able to be documented. The wildlife corridors and crossings = We Are All Connected - present a planning tool for protecting habitat connectivity and land, along with areas for modified highway crossings, to help wildlife move and sustain, adapting to climate change impacts and supporting

biodiversity. The keystone species American Badger is a remarkable mammal who ranges in very limited territory for prey, water, mating and reproduction, supporting movement patterns of multiple other species. This project is all volunteer with a straightforward communication model and encompassed in care and our deep connection to support for wildlife and conservation.

Urban River Otters: Connecting Communities to Conservation

River Otter Ecology Project

Terence Carroll

terence@riverotterecology.org

- River Otters are an indicator species for watershed health and function. Their presence in urban areas reminds us that even degraded habitats in densely populated places can be reservoirs of biodiversity. Our goal is to increase community support for, and participation in, local conservation of shared habitats for the mutual benefit of wildlife and people.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AkyNm_CUA4 and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPjhg3L0lwQ>
- We'll meet a family of river otters thriving in the Contra Costa Canal, and talk about the intersection of community science and conservation in urban spaces.
- Story Map of Otter Spotter community science program: <https://arcg.is/e8Sq9>