

# 9TH ANNUAL SAN FRANCISCO BAY OSPREY DAYS



Photo upper: Lee Ann Tompkins Baker, Carquinez Strait, Vallejo, CA  
Image left: Kathleen R. Fenton

## FREE

\* **boat trips—2 hrs**  
**\$45 per person**

Nesting Osprey have flourished in San Francisco Bay since the early 2000's when the first successful nesting pair took up residence at the southernmost tip of Pier 34 at the mouth of the Napa River in the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve. Now, there are 56 documented nests Baywide, this 2021 season.

### HOSTED BY

- .....
- The Bay Area Osprey Coalition
- Mare Island Heritage Trust
- Golden Gate Raptor Observatory
- Napa Solano Audubon Society
- Golden Gate Audubon Society

### SPONSORED BY

- .....
- [\*\*Southern Land Company\*\*](#)
- [\*\*Dolphin Charters\*\*](#)

**Even in the most trying times, nature thrives. In our Bay, osprey still soar, dive, fish, nest, feed and fledge their young. . .**

We hope you will join them and us, to celebrate their resilience... and ours. This year continues to be a daunting challenge for our entire team of dedicated scientists, researchers, guides, volunteers and board of the Mare Island Heritage Trust. After a series of fires in September 2019, and after 12 years of trusted and protective care of the Preserve, we as a nonprofit founder, funder and manager of the Preserve, were dismissed by the Vallejo City Manager as operating managers of the Mare Island Preserve. Still as confused and troubled as you are, we hold out hope for better times. Imagine, more than 8,100 fellow Preserve Users have signed our online petition to return the Preserve to our care. [Click here](#) to sign and share. And, we're still so excited to share our beloved osprey with you this weekend. A very special thanks to our sponsors this season: **SOUTHERN LAND COMPANY AND DOLPHIN CHARTERS.**

Myrna Hayes, President, Mare Island Heritage Trust



Photo: Bill George, Mare Island Preserve

**SEE OSPREY NESTS UP CLOSE ON BOAT CRUISES, JOIN GUIDED OSPREY WATCHING HIKES AND DRIVING TOURS, LEARN THE SCIENCE AT AN IN PERSON/ZOOM SLIDE SHOW, AND ENJOY FISH TACOS AT OUR FAVORITE EATERY IN VALLEJO [OSPREYS EAT FISH]**

Join together with members of the San Francisco Bay Osprey Coalition whose volunteers are leading the Baywide nest site monitoring and protection effort and local Audubon Society field trip leaders and many other local guides, in an exciting gathering to celebrate and learn about the growing curious phenomenon of osprey nesting in San Francisco Bay.

Mare Island, Vallejo, CA

**Friday, June 25, 8:00am-9:00am  
Join Mare Island Preserve Photographer Bill George, for an Early Morning Wildlife Photography Hike in the Mare Island Preserve**

Former Mare Island Shipyard worker, Bill George is our “unofficial photographer” of the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve, where he comes out regularly, usually on Friday mornings, to chronicle wildlife and humans using the Preserve. He follows his photography visits with posts on our Facebook Preserve Community page. We are so pleased that Bill has agreed to guide a short wildlife photographing walk in the Preserve. This isn’t really a class. And, you are free to walk further up the Trail on your own. Bill will help you to see where nesting birds are,



Photo: Bill George, dead palm nest, Mare Island Preserve

including Osprey, great blue herons and great egrets. Bill will guide as far as the Rowser Garden, about 1/2 mile from the parking lot. Bring binoculars, (will you share or bring an extra pair?) a scope if you have one, camera and hike gear – hats, sunscreen, water for 1-mile roundtrip walk on a paved trail. Meet at Mare Island Preserve parking lot, 167 O’Hara Ct. at Azuar Dr. southern end of Mare Island. FREE. No reservation required. Call/text 707-249-9633.

**Friday, June 25, 11:00am-1:00pm  
Join Mare Island Preserve Co-Founder and Manager 2007-2019, Myrna Hayes for a Guided Driving Tour of Mare Island and Osprey Nesting Spots Across the Napa River Followed by Lunch at La Cuchara**

Myrna Hayes has volunteered on the environmental cleanup of Mare Island for 27 years. She served on the Mayoral appointed 35-member Regional Park Taskforce which prepared a Report for

the City of Vallejo outlining how to open and operate the Preserve. She then co-founded and managed the Preserve for 12 years. There just isn't any part of the Island she doesn't know. Join Myrna for a fast-paced tour of some of the osprey nests on and also off the Island, ending the tour at La Cuchara for fish tacos (or any other good food on the menu). Bring binoculars, (will you share or bring an extra pair?) a scope, camera and water. Meet at the Mare Island Preserve entry gate (see directions, left). FREE. No reservation required. Call/text 707-249-9633.

## Directions to Mare Island Preserve

The Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve is located at the southernmost end of the former Mare Island Naval Shipyard.

Unexplicably, the City of Vallejo has both dismissed our nonprofit organization as the manager of the wildlands park, and it has also removed ALL wayfinding signs on the Island. Even the entrance sign posted on the gate is indistinguishable from multiple warning signs. So, follow the directions given here to the entrance at Correa Ct. @ Azuar Dr. on Mare Island in Vallejo, CA 94592

From the intersection of Tennessee St. and Mare Island Way, continue on Tennessee St. across the Causeway to the deadend at Azuar Dr. Turn left onto Azuar Dr. Drive for 2 miles to the entrance of the Preserve through the gate to the parking lot 167 O'Hara Ct. open only 8:00am-5:00pm. If directions say to meet at the gate, it is before the Preserve entrance at the intersection of Correa Ct. @ Azuar Dr.

Finally, feel free to call/text Myrna Hayes, at 707-249-9633.

**Friday, June 26, 1:30pm-3:00pm**

### **Guided Driving Tour of Mare Island Osprey Nest Sites with Robin Leong, Napa-Solano Audubon Field Guide**

*Repeats Saturday, June 26, 1:30pm-3:30pm with Tony Brake and Sunday, June 27, 1:30pm-3:00pm with Myrna Hayes*

Robin Leong, a Napa Solano Audubon Society field guide and former Mare Island shipyard worker, who along with Wally NeVille, has tracked the Osprey evolution from day one on Mare Island, will guide a caravan car driving and scope viewing tour of the Mare Island osprey nests on former shipyard cranes, buildingways, light poles and even a perched box placed by XKT Engineering as a deterrent nest site! There is no better person to help you observe nests and learn the fascinating life of the epicenter of Bay Area osprey nesting. Meet at the Mare Island Preserve entrance gate for social distanced car caravan (no carpools). Call/text Myrna Hayes, for assistance, if you get lost. 707-249-9633. See directions on page 3.

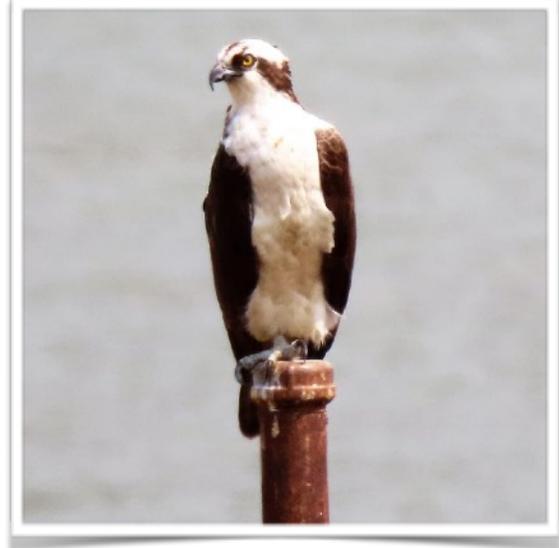


Photo: Bill George, Osprey on lightning rod  
Mare Island Preserve



Photo: Karen Grobner, Osprey Mare Island crane/buildingways, Vallejo, CA

**Osprey's diet is 99% fish, so of course we think fish is the best menu for the weekend**

We adore a local restaurant in Vallejo called **La Cuchara** which serves fusion Salvadoran food. Eduardo, the owner, is a friend of our Mare Island Preserve and you'll love the great team and vibe. Be sure to tell Eduardo that Myrna sent you!

Their *Fish tacos* are out of this world! The entire menu is scrumptious. Trust me. I eat there several times a week. Fresh Agua Fresca strawberry, jamaica and pineapple plus horchata and beers.

Address: 105 Couch St. Vallejo, CA 94590 The intersection of Sonoma Blvd/Hwy 29 and Couch St. It's round and red roofed with gloriously colorful paintings. Lots of outdoor seating.

Hours: 9:00am-8:00pm

Phone: 707-654-8242

**Friday, June 25, 5:00pm-8:00pm  
Join Mare Island Preserve Co-Founder and Manager 2007-2019, Myrna Hayes for a Short Walk to View Nesting Osprey, then Gather to Watch Osprey in the Sky and other Birds During the "Hunting Hour"**

Myrna Hayes co-founded and managed the Mare Island Preserve for 12 years. You will find her most weekend afternoons now, outside the entrance to the Preserve with a fleet of camp chairs set up under the shade of eucalyptus trees from which a wide range of birds are visible. Bring a chair, binoculars, (will you share or bring an extra pair?), a scope and camera. Why not bring beverage(s) and even a picnic dinner? We'll have hot water, tea/hot chocolate and hot cups as the evening gets cooler. Meet at the Mare Island Preserve entry gate at the south end of Mare Island. FREE. No reservation required. See directions to left. Call/text 707-249-9633.



Photo: Anne von Reiche, Myrna Hayes and her dog Nitro, Mare Island Preserve

**Saturday, June 26, 9:00am-11:00am Cruise the Napa River on the Lookout for Osprey: fishing, nests up close, nestlings and fledglings**

*Repeats Saturday, June 26 1:00pm-3:00pm and Sunday, June 27, 9:00am-11:00am and 1:00pm-3:00pm*



Photo: Bill George, Aboard *River Dolphin* Napa River/Mare Island Strait Vallejo, CA

Come aboard Dolphin Charters for a 2-hour still social distanced boat cruise on the Mare Island Strait for up close views of osprey nests, possible peregrine falcon sighting and learn Mare Island history with Tony Brake, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory Bay Area Osprey Monitoring Director and Myrna Hayes, President, Mare Island Heritage Trust. \$45 per person. Space limited to 22-25 persons. Leaves from Vallejo Marina. Call 510-527-9622 or 1-800-472-9942 or visit: [dolphincharters.com](http://dolphincharters.com)

## How to join Tony's In-person and Zoom/Facebook Live presentation

To join this presentation on Saturday, June 26th, you may simply drive out to the entrance to the Mare Island Preserve, Correa Ct @Azuar Dr. on Mare Island (see directions, page 3), park and gather under the tent.

To join via Zoom, it's pretty easy...we just need your email to send you an invite. Don't worry, we certainly won't share or sell your email or even keep it, unless you want us to add you to our newsletter updates I send about Mare Island from time to time.

Or, join on Facebook Live on the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Page.

Finally, following Tony's presentation, you will be able to view and share via Facebook Live, Zoom and Youtube. (Please be patient while we post early in the following week)

Send your email to [myrnahayes@mac.com](mailto:myrnahayes@mac.com)

## Saturday, June 26, 9:30am-11:00am Guided Osprey, Great Blue Heron and Great Egret Viewing Hike in the Mare Island Preserve with Wally NeVille and Robin Leong, Napa-Solano Audubon Society

*Repeats in the Mare Island Preserve Sunday, June 27,  
9:30am-11:00am with Marcia Grefsrud*

Join Napa-Solano Audubon Society field guides Wally NeVille and Robin Leong for a guided osprey watching walk in the Preserve. Bring binoculars(will you share or bring an extra pair?), a scope, a camera and hike gear – hats, sunscreen, water for 1-mile roundtrip walk on a paved trail. Meet at Mare Island Preserve parking lot. 167 O'Hara Ct. at Azuar Dr. southern end of Mare Island in Vallejo, CA 94592. FREE. No reservation. Call/text 707-249-9633.



Photo: Bill George, osprey nest above and great blue heron nest below on this light pole condo in the former Mare Island Naval Ammunition Depot, Napa River/Mare Island Strait Vallejo, CA

**Saturday, June 26, 11:30am-12:30pm**

**An In-person Presentation Outdoors Under the Tent at the Entrance to the Mare Island Preserve AND Zoom/Facebook Live** (*see Zoom/Facebook Live details page 5 above left*)  
**“Continued Expansion of Osprey Nesting in San Francisco Bay”** (see page 3 for location)  
*Repeats as a Zoom/Facebook Live Repost Sunday, June 27 11:30am-12:30pm*

Join Golden Gate Raptor Observatory’s volunteer Bay Osprey Monitoring Director, Tony Brake for an in-person science presentation which will be Zoomed/Facebook Lived, as well. Tony’s Osprey talk is packed with info. about the nesting osprey population in San Francisco Bay which has grow and expanded southward over the last decade, with over 50 nests now active between Vallejo and the South Bay. Since almost all of the nests are on human-made structures, there have been numerous cases of nest removal and disturbance. Nesting on problematic structures is easily solved by the installation of alternative artificial nest structures. This has been accomplished for about ten nesting pairs, so far. Continued education of wildlife agencies, biology consulting firms and property managers about this approach will allow this iconic species to continue to expand and thrive in San Francisco Bay. (View/share post on Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Facebook page as a Live post, via Zoom on our website and on YouTube. (Please be patient for post later in the following week.)

**Saturday, June 26, 1:00pm-3:00pm**

**Cruise the Napa River on the Lookout for Osprey: fishing, nests up close, nestlings and fledglings**

*Repeats Saturday, June 26 9:00am-11:00am and Sunday, June 27, 9:00am-11:00am and 1:00pm-3:00pm*

Come aboard Dolphin Charters for a 2-hour still social distanced boat cruise in the Mare Island Strait for up close views of osprey nests, possible peregrine falcon sighting and learn Mare Island history with



Photo: Bill George, Osprey nest, Channel marker 4, Aboard *River Dolphin*, Mouth of Napa River, Vallejo, CA

Robin Leong, Napa-Solano Audubon Society Field Guide and Mare Island Osprey monitor from “Day One” when there were **no** osprey nesting in San Francisco Bay. In other words, osprey nesting in San Francisco Bay is a new phenomon in just the past few years. Robin Leong and Wally NeVille observed the first attempts on Mare Island and have been monitoring their presence since, in concert with Tony Brake, Bay Area Osprey Monitoring Director, for the Golden Gate Raptor Observatory. Robin is joined by Myrna Hayes, President, Mare Island Heritage Trust. \$45 per person. Space limited to 22-25max persons. Leaves from Vallejo Marina. Call 510-527-9622 or 1-800-472-9942 or visit:

[dolphincharters.com](http://dolphincharters.com)

**Saturday, June 26, 1:30pm-3:30pm****Guided Driving Tour of Mare Island Osprey Nest Sites with Tony Brake**

*Repeats Sunday, June 27, 1:30pm-3:00pm with Myrna Hayes,  
President, Mare Island Heritage Trust*

Tony Brake, Bay Area Osprey Monitoring Director, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory guides a caravan car driving and scope viewing tour of the Mare Island osprey nests on former shipyard cranes, buildingways, light poles and even a perched box placed by XKT Engineering as a deterrent nest site! Tony is a scientist, enthusiast and adventurer. There is no better person to help you observe nests and learn the fascinating life...in real time, of Bay Area osprey. Meet at the Mare Island Preserve entrance gate for a car caravan. Call/text Myrna Hayes, for assistance, 707-249-9633. See directions on page 3.



Photo: Karen Grobner, Osprey nest perched on former nuclear rod refueling crane, Drydock 2, Mare Island Drydocks Napa River/Mare Island Strait, Vallejo, CA

**Saturday, June 26, 5:00pm-6:00pm**

**Join Mare Island Preserve Co-Founder and Manager 2007-2019, Myrna Hayes for a Short Walk to View Nesting Osprey**

Meet at the Mare Island Preserve entrance (see directions, page 3) to walk approximately 200 feet to Berth 24 for a closeup view of two osprey nest sites.



Photo: Chris Jerbic, osprey soaring over Berth 24 nests behind Building 1300, Azuar Dr. Close to the entrance of the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve.

**Saturday, June 26,****6:00pm-8:00pm**

**Gather to Watch Osprey in the Sky and other Birds During the “Hunting Hour”. BYO Beverages. . .Cold/hot Drinks, Wine & Beer Served with a light BBQ (donations appreciated)**

Myrna Hayes, who co-founded and managed the Mare Island Preserve for 12 years, will host this evening gathering. Evenings are magical at this kinda quirky spot! Bring a chair, binoculars, (will you share or bring an extra pair?), a scope and camera.

Meet at the Mare Island Preserve entry gate at the southern end of

Mare Island in Vallejo, CA. (Directions: page 3) FREE. No reservation required. Call/text 707-249-9633.



**Sunday, June 27, 9:30am-11:00am**  
**Guided Osprey, Great Blue Heron and**  
**Great Egret Viewing Hike in the Mare Island**  
**Preserve with Marcia Grefsrud (In photo left)**

*Repeats in the Mare Island Preserve Saturday, 9:30am-11:00am with Napa-Solano Audubon Society Field Guides Wally NeVille and Robin Leong*

Marcia Grefsrud is a very knowledgeable birder and tremendous naturalist. You'll be on the lookout for osprey of course, but great blue herons and great egrets on and off nests,

hawks, kites, songbirds and woodpeckers, too. Bring binoculars (will you share or bring an extra pair?), scopes, cameras and hike gear – hats, sunscreen, water for a 1-mile walk on paved trail. Meet at the Mare Island Preserve parking lot 167 O'Hara Ct. at Azuar Dr. southern end of Mare Island in Vallejo, CA 94592. Call/text 707-249-9633. Directions to the Preserve on page 3.

**Sunday, June 27 11:30am-12:30pm**

**A Zoom/Facebook Live Presentation (see *Zoom/Facebook Live details page 5*) with Tony Brake, Volunteer Osprey Monitoring Manager, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory**  
**“Continued Expansion of Osprey Nesting in San Francisco Bay”**

*Repeats In-person, Saturday, June 26, 11:30am-12:30pm under the tent at the Mare Island Preserve entrance*

Join Golden Gate Raptor Observatory's volunteer Bay Osprey Monitoring Director, Tony Brake for a repeat of his Saturday, June 26, 11:30am-12:30pm in-person presentation, but this talk will be via Zoom/Facebook Live, rather than in person (see page 5 for details about how to join via Zoom/Facebook Live). Tony's Osprey talk is packed with info. about the nesting osprey population in San Francisco Bay which has grow and expanded southward over the last decade, with over 50 nests now active between Vallejo and the South Bay. Since almost all of the nests are on human-made structures, there have been numerous cases of nest removal and disturbance. Nesting on problematic structures is easily solved by the installation of alternative artificial nest structures. This has been accomplished for about ten nesting pairs so far. Continued education of wildlife agencies, biology consulting firms and property managers about this approach will allow this iconic species to continue to expand and thrive in San Francisco Bay. (This presentation can be viewed/shared in the future on our Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Facebook page Live post, Zoom on our website and Youtube.)



Photo: Bill George, female osprey in Mare Island Preserve Napa River/Mare Island Strait, Vallejo, CA

**Sunday, June 27, 1:30pm-3:00pm****Guided Driving Tour of Mare Island Osprey Nest Sites with Myrna Hayes**

*Repeats Friday, June 25, 11:00am-1:00pm on a route with stops on and off the Island, with Myrna Hayes and Friday, June 25 1:30-3pm on the Island with Robin Leong and Saturday, June 26 1:30pm-3:30pm on the Island with Tony Brake*

## Take our Osprey with you . . . wherever you call home . . . and marvel, please.

As we come to the end of our celebration of another glorious season of Osprey nesting on Mare Island, the epicenter of San Francisco Bay osprey nesting . . . where it all began here on the Napa River/Mare Island Strait, we reflect on the special gift we have been given—we have been chosen by Mother Nature to steward her stunningly beautiful fishing eagle, the same species throughout the world, here, on this magical Island.

May I ask you a few questions?

- ❖ Do you fully comprehend what that means?
- ❖ Do you understand what a “flagship” and herald of nature the presence of Osprey are?
- ❖ Do you know that because of them, DDT was banned?
- ❖ Did you know that around the world, 70% of ospreys nest on manmade structures?
- ❖ Do you see the synergy that brought osprey to make their homes here on this Island? Maybe its because we have done the hard work of environmental cleanup on the Island and in the waterways of the Bay. In spite of the pain of base closure, osprey have seized on the manmade structures of past use to choose to “develop” their new homes. Pretty cool!
- ❖ How long do you think these ospreys eyed this Island Paradise and spoke among themselves of the day when they would be able to colonize this ideal nesting community? Asking for a friend!

The amazing thing is that they fit right in. If they select a spot that doesn't work for us, if we build an alternative nest site nearby, they move! PG&E has placed 1,000 nest tubs in CA for Bald and Golden eagles and osprey for whom their power poles make perfect nest sites. A thriving nest placed for just this purpose by Island Energy is located at the northern entrance of Mare Island.



Photo: Marcia Grefsrud, Osprey with flat fish, possibly Flounder?/Sand dab? Napa River/Mare Island Strait Vallejo, CA

Myrna Hayes will guide a caravan car driving and scope viewing tour of the Mare Island osprey nests on former shipyard cranes, buildingways, light poles and even a perched box placed by XKT Engineering as a deterrent nest site where osprey have willingly moved off of their working crane onto a plywood nest box! Myrna has been the Community Co-Chair of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard Restoration Advisory Board for 27 years and co-founder and manager of the Mare Island Preserve from 2007-2019. She will weave the history and operations of the Naval Shipyard together while observing Mare Island's abundant active osprey nests. Meet at the Mare Island Preserve entrance gate (directions page 3). Call/text Myrna Hayes, 707-249-9633.

Please consider making a donation to our nonprofit land trust, Mare Island Heritage Trust. Visit [mareislandpreserve.com](http://mareislandpreserve.com) to donate and to sign our petition to return the Mare Island Preserve to our skilled and gentle care. We care for Ospreys!