

Nature Notes



by Patricia Clark-Gray

NATURE-RELATED IPHONE APPLICATIONS

Since so many people have smart phones, I thought it would be useful to write about nature-related applications (app.). I have an iPhone, but I am sure there are related apps. on other smart phones.

My favorite app. is I Bird Explorer Plus. If you need help identifying a bird you can type in the name of a bird such as a woodpecker. Then you select from the list to narrow down the bird. If you pick an Acorn Woodpecker, you would find a photo of the woodpecker, a map showing the range, tips on identification, list of similar birds and facts about the bird. Did you know that a group of acorn woodpeckers is collectively known as a "bushel" of woodpeckers? My favorite feature is the bird sounds and I have used this to identify many birds. The Acorn Woodpecker's call is a loud "ja-cob, ja-cob" or "wake-up, wake-up".

My other favorite app. is Star Walk. The most useful feature is Sky Live which shows the planets that can be seen and when they rise and set. It also shows the phases of the moon. The "Picture of the Day" shows spectacular photos and today's photo is the Veil Nebula. The best feature is the listing of the constellations, solar system planets, deep space objects, stars, and satellites. The photo of Jupiter rotates and shows the great red spot and the belts. Did you know that the Crab Nebula is labeled M1 and is a supernova remnant and is in the constellation Taurus? A new

update just added a section on satellites. I was amazed by the number of satellites and the unusual names like Atlas, Aqua, Cosmos, and Genesis. I was curious about the total number of apps. so I looked this up on the internet and the numbers ranged from 4,000 to 5,000 on the various websites.

The most useful feature is the ability to lift the phone into the sky and the live sky shows what I am looking at. This app. helps amateur astronomers like myself feel like a professional astronomer.

The tideApp shows the high and low tide in a visual chart which is easier for me to understand. Knowing the tides is great for kayaking and tide pooling. The Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch app. is useful for making decisions on which sustainable fish to select at restaurants and is very educational.

When you are traveling the Campground app. help you find campgrounds and provide all the needed information such as the number of campsites, rv length, availability of showers. You can find the location using Google Maps. The EveryTrail app. helps you locate trails to go hiking and features one of our local parks, Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. The Cypress Grove Trail and the Birders Guide to Point Lobos are two of the guides in this app.

Last but not least, is the Flashlight app. When you click on the LED flashlight and shake your phone the light turns on and provides light to help you find your way if you forgot your traditional flashlight. It also has entertaining icons such as a glowing candle, colorful glow sticks, and neon signs. I have to admit I found this app. amusing.

The list that I have provided contains just a few of the nature-related apps. If you have an iPhone or other smart phone, see how many nature-related apps. you have and learn some new facts about nature or use the features to help you hike or camp.





Senior Produce Market

Open Tuesday before Christmas:
Tuesday: December 21, 2010
 Closed: Tuesday December 28
 Closed: Tuesday January 4, 2011
 Re-opens: Tuesday January 11

Tuesday 9:30 AM

City of Marina
 'Rocky Han'
 Community Center

City of Marina 'Rocky Han' Community Center 211 Hillcrest Avenue Marina
 City of Marina Recreation Senior Program (831) 384-6009, jgonzales@ci.marina.ca.us

American Cancer Society
Relay For Life
 A Team Event to Fight Cancer



Join the Planning Committee
Contribute to the Relay's Success!
Team Captains Wanted!
 Please contact Michelle
 442-2992 option 3
michelle.jones@cancer.org

Mark your calendar:
Relay For Life of Marina
July 16, 2011

-COUPON-

33% OFF

new storage units for the first 3 months!



Clean, safe, gated facility with RV & Boat parking, too!

497 RESERVATION ROAD
 MARINA, CA 93933
 (831) 384-1111

(BEHIND THE ORANGE FENCING)

-COUPON-

MACHI Japanese Restaurant



MACHI

Owners Kyoji & Kiyoko Michioka

3114 Del Monte Blvd.
 Marina, CA 93933
 (831) 384-6665



Auto • Home • Life • Business • Workers Compensation

Johnny B. Eugenio
 Agent
 Johnny Eugenio Insurance Agency

FARMERS



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