

Nature Notes

By Patricia Clark-Gray

Pacific Tree Frog or Pacific Chorus Frog

Tonight it was easy to decide what to write my article about because the Pacific tree frogs or Pacific chorus frogs are vocalizing outside so loud that it is hard to concentrate. We have a large man-made pond in our backyard and a smaller pots filled with pond water so we have quite a symphony going on in the backyard. My husband Ken encouraged me to take a flashlight to see if I could see one of the singing males. One of photos that I sent in with this article is of the one male that I captured with my iPhone camera that shows his expanded vocal sac. One shows the frog swimming gracefully and the other is a close-up showing the color variation.

They have a prolonged breeding season that can last for several months. Males sit near the water's edge and use different types of vocalizations to communicate with other males and females. During the peak of the season, huge numbers of males may gather on the same night creating an incredible din. Right now, it



sounds like there are hundreds of frogs in my backyard. The female frogs prefer to mate with the males that make advertisements calls more frequently than the other males and the call sounds like "ribbit" and "kreck-ek".

Once they mate, the females lay their eggs in clumps of 10 - 90 and usually place them on and under vegetation. The embryos will hatch into tadpoles within one to three weeks. They eat vegetation and diatoms. They metamorphose in about 2 months and during the final stages they will have 4 limbs and a tail. I love going out regularly to watch the tadpoles transform. When their mouth widens their digestive system will change to carnivorous. This is when I find tiny frogs hiding in my hoses, on my sliding glass window, and in the soil. During this time they will eat spiders, ants and other insects.

Did you know that these frogs are the most abundant

on the west coast? How you can identify these frogs is by the presence of toe pads and a dark stripe that extends just before the nostril, through the eye, and past the ear. They can live anywhere from sea level up to over 10,000 feet. They can be green, tan, reddish, gray, brown, cream or black. They usually are pale or white on their bellies.

Some fun facts about tree frogs are that they were named the state frog of the State of Washington in 2002. They are a keystone species and many other species depend on their abundance for their survival. The calls of the Baja California tree frog,



which sound identical to those of the Pacific tree frog, were commonly used as nighttime sound effects in old Hollywood movies. And, because they were burrowing and hibernating at the time that Mt. Saint Helens erupted in 1980, they were some of the only vertebrates in the area to survive the blast.

So if you have a water source, go outside in the coming nights and see if you can find the singing male Pacific chorus frogs. Then go out and watch the tadpoles grow into tiny frogs. This transformation is one of the wonders of nature.

Wellness

Step-by-step instructions



Take these steps to good health this weekend at the Dunes Shopping Center:

- 1 Visit participating stores.
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And everyone who plays can join Peninsula Wellness Center at 50% off for a limited time. Avoid long-term contracts with our month-to-month membership.

Saturday, January 22, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.
 Sunday, January 23, 11 a.m.—3 p.m.
 Dunes Shopping Center, Marina
 (Look for our tent in the REI parking lot)



MOSS LANDING WATER, LLC CHANGES NAME TO MOSS LANDING DESAL



Proposed Moss Landing Desal facility

tract's desire to change the name of the Moss Landing Harbor Water System to Moss Landing Water System.

Brent Constantz, Ph.D., Calera Corporation founder and partner in Moss Landing Desal, announced that Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) have agreed to provide data from the deep water canyon adjacent to Moss Landing. "There are lots of synergetic interests between Moss Landing Desal and the engineering and marine science community based in Moss Landing," Constantz said. The agreement of cooperation is greatly appreciated as the research conducted by both institutions is contributing to Moss Landing Desal's project description and cost estimates.

Scott Jackson, Managing Partner of Telesto Consulting Group, LLC, a partner in Moss Landing Desal stated, "Our engineering team is truly benefiting in our planning through cooperation and data that is being provided by both MLML and MBARI."

Stan Lueck, CEO of Desal America, a partner in Moss Landing Desal stated, "One of the most obvious benefits to the Desal project is the existing infrastructure of 30 million gallons of water storage and pipe already in place under Highway 1 and Moss Landing Island which represents approximately 60 to 70 million dollars in value. Not having to build out new storage nor disrupt traffic patterns by utilizing pipe infrastructure makes the Moss Landing Commercial Park site the most cost effective place to build a fa-

Desal on Page B6

Desalination project receives input and data from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
 Moss Landing, CALIF. - Moss Landing Water, LLC has changed its name to Moss Landing Desal to describe directly the operation of the recently formed company and, to cooperate with the Pajaro Sunny Mesa Community Services Dis-

Commercial Burglary

On January 4, 2011 about 2337 hours, Marina Officers were dispatched to the Best Buy Store located at 101 General Stillwell Drive on a report of a burglary alarm. Marina Police Canine Officers arrived on scene at 2241 hours. On arrival, officers located the rear door of the business open and several articles of merchandise from inside of the store were scattered near the doorway.

With the assistance of California State University of Monterey Bay Police Officers, Marina Officers established a perimeter. A systematic search for the suspect(s) was conducted inside of the store by Marina Police Officers and Marina Police Canine Officers (Thunder). No Suspect(s) were located during the search. An unknown dollar amount of merchandise was stolen from the business. Case is under investigation.

If anyone has any information regarding this incident, please contact the Marina Police Department: 384-7575 or 884-1210.

MICHI Japanese Restaurant

Owners Kyoko & Kiyoko Michioka

3115 Del Monte Blvd.
 Marina, CA 93955
 (831) 384-6665

MARINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS:

Marina Restaurant Week

JAN. 22-28, 2011

This weeklong event offers you chances to win delicious prizes—including a free meal at EVERY participating business—when you spend \$5 or more and get your Passport stamped at these participating businesses:

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
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- El Palmar
- English Ales Brewery
- Everyone's Harvest Marina Certified Farmers' Market
- Francisco's
- Kula Ranch Island Steakhouse

- Marina Village Restaurant
- Michael's Grill & Taqueria
- The Otter's Den
- Wild Thyme Deli & Cafe