

The Seventeenth Annual

Spring Outing,

Botanical Excursion,

Foray, Retreat, and Escape to the Environment!

**** SO BE FREE 17 ****

Tuesday-Friday, March 27 through 30, 2012 Inner North Coast Range near Cobb, CA

Organizers and fieldtrip scouts: David Toren, Ed Dearing

Advice and advertising: Brent Mishler

Treasurer: Mary Ann Dearing

Founded in 1996, SO BE FREE is a series of West Coast forays started by the Bryolab at UC Berkeley, but open to all botanists. The main focus is on bryophytes, but we also encourage experts on other groups to come along and smell the liverworts. We welcome specialists and generalists, professionals and amateurs, master bryologists and rank beginners. SO BE FREE is held each spring, somewhere in the Western US, associated with spring break at universities. The usual tradition is to have a four-day, three-night schedule with communal meals, in inexpensive and remote locations. Evening slide shows and informal talks are presented as well as keying sessions with microscopes. In addition to seeing interesting wild areas and learning new plants, important goals for SO BE FREE include keeping West Coast bryologists (and friends) in touch with each other and teaching beginners. For glimpses of the past outings, consult the SO BE FREE web site: http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/bryolab/Field_Trips.html

LOCATION THIS YEAR:

The 2012 SO BE FREE will be held in the Cobb Mt. area near Clear Lake (possibly North America's oldest lake) in Lake County, California. The area offers great sites for montane coniferous forest, oak woodland, and chaparral with rocky outcrops of varied geology and wetland habitats as well. Bryophyte diversity will span a range from California's spring ephemerals to epiphytes to the aquatic species of lakes and streams. The early-spring wildflowers should be great too!

Beginning bryologists are welcome, and we are planning field trips and activities that will engage all levels of interest from the neophyte to the hardcore.

We will be based at Mariah Meadows Resort/ Edie's Resort, near Cobb, CA. Mariah Meadows is at about 2500 ft. in elevation. See: <http://www.mariahmeadowsresortandspa.com/> and <http://www.ediesresort.com/front/home>. **You will be provided nine meals starting with dinner on Tuesday night (3/27) and going through box lunch Friday (3/30). You need to arrange housing yourself**; you have several options: (1) Mariah Meadows (where our headquarters and microscope room will be), which has eight cabins that can be shared (floor plans below). (2) Edie's Resort (1.5 miles away), which has 8 cabins and one 3-bedroom lodge to share (floor plans below). (3) Other motels/lodges in Loch Lomond or Cobb. See: <http://www.lakecounty.com/Accommodations.htm>. (4) You may camp in nearby Boggs Mt. State Forest (primitive camping with vault toilets, tables, and no running water, \$10.00/night per campsite).

For those flying in, Sacramento Airport is 106 mi., Oakland Airport is 108 mi., and San Francisco Airport is 115 mi. away.

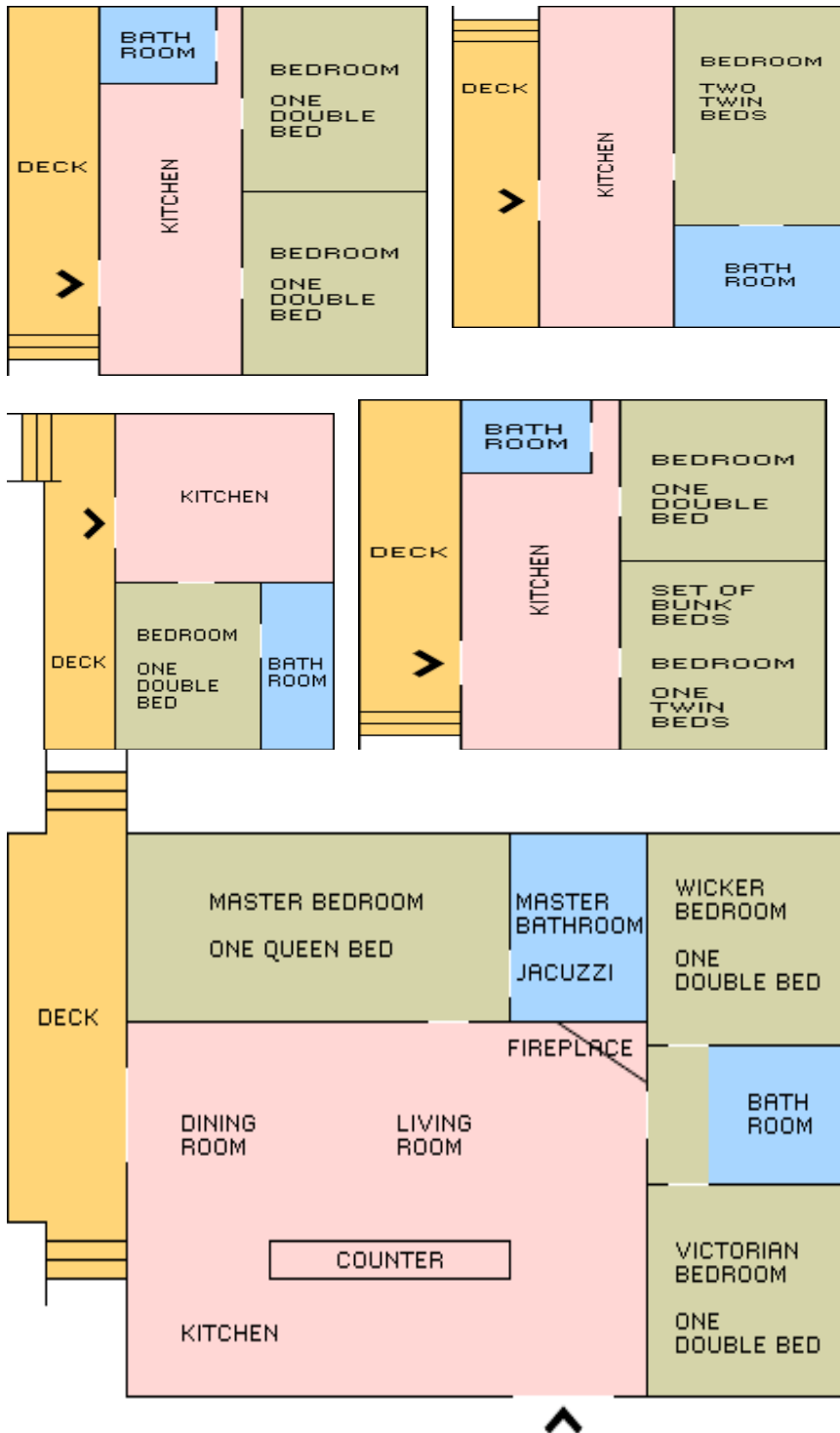
Eddie's Resort Cabins: All prices shown are for the whole cabin for three nights.

Please find people to share a cabin with if you are not interested in having it all to yourself.

Top L: cabins 2-6, each sleeps 4, \$264.00. Top R: cabin 8, sleeps 2, \$180.00.

Middle L: cabin 1, sleeps 2, \$180.00. Middle R: cabin 7, sleeps 5, \$264.00.

Bottom: Sequoia Lodge, sleeps 6, \$720.00.



Mariah Meadows Cabins: All prices shown are for the whole cabin for three nights.

Please find people to share a cabin with if you are not interested in having it all to yourself.

Top L: cabins 6 & 7, each sleeps 2, \$180.00. Top R: cabins 1 & 5 each sleeps 4, \$180.00

(Variation from the picture: #1 has 1-Q & 1-D, # 5 has 1-D & 2-S)

Bottom L: cabin 9, sleeps 2, \$180.00. Bottom R: cabin 10, sleeps 2, \$180.00.



Registration details are below. **Registration and payment are due by 24 Feb, 2012.**

Registration consists of the cost of 9 meals, and the use of the 1,700 square Event Center where we will meet, have talks, and set up our microscopes. All registration is being handled by **Mary Ann Dearing**; Please fill out the following registration form and return by mail with your check to the address given below.

To book a cabin at Mariah Meadows Resort or Edie's Resort, call Colleen at 707-928-9804 as soon as possible to make your own arrangements; mention SO BE FREE. They will rent all housing on a first-come, first-served basis. Please try to find people to share a cabin with if you are not interested in having it all to yourself.

Further details will be sent to those who register.

SO BE FREE 17 MARCH 27 through 30, 2012 Inner North Coast Range, near Cobb, CA

Registration Form

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____ email: _____

Meals and facility fees; \$165 for 9 meals and facility fee.

\$ _____ : meals/facility fee for ____ people

Vegetarian meals for ____ people requested

Checks should be made out to Mary Ann Dearing and sent to:

The Dearing's

P.O. Box 1212

Middletown, CA 95461 email: edandmary@onebox.com - phone 707-987-0858

Registration and payment are due by 24 Feb, 2012. Full Refunds are available until March 7th. After that date we are committed to paying for the meals and facility use and therefore refunds will not be possible.
