



QUIPTIDE
Louie Castoria

Watch this space for more Apple products

The “iWatch” was finally unveiled last week, but not with that name. It is the “Apple Watch,” which is what the techie press has been doing, impatiently awaiting the grand announcement.

“iWatch” would have sounded creepy, with overtones of surveillance and voyeurism. We don’t need our chronometers rattling us out to the surgeon general and the First Lady when we succumb to temptation and buy two extra-large Reese’s Peanut Butter Cups at the airport before boarding the big metal cattle tube to John Wayne Airport.

We are bound to see more cleverly named consumer products coming from Cupertino. To wit:

► **ApplePi.** The ideal tool for designers and mathematicians, ApplePi scans any object or drawing, calculates its volume, circumference, diameter, etc., and sends a scaled rendering to a 3-D printer. Instant model!

► **The iBall.** This is the robotic aluminum ball that rolls around the house to entertain your dog, cat or toddler. You can control the iBall from your iPhone from anywhere in the world, while your Mac at home streams the video to you on FaceTime.

► **iGlasses.** iGlasses pair up with your iPhone so there’s only a tiny microphone and a thin, transparent film screen sitting behind one lens of any pair of regular glasses. They provide twice the functionality, half the geek factor of Google’s Glass.

► **AppleCart.** Tired of all that bending over and troweling in the garden? The self-propelled AppleCart has a robotic arm that automates the wearisome tasks of weeding, picking and planting. Just say, “Zap that dandelion” or “Pick the ripe tomatoes.” Watch AppleCart get to work. (Just don’t upset it.)

► **MacAdemia.** It’s iTunes U on steroids. In as little as three months on the couch you can give yourself a bachelor’s degree (appropriately) in Sociology of Mad Men, Chemistry of Breaking Bad, or Sci-Fi Military Tactics. (“It’s a trap!”) Accreditation extra.

► **iWitness.** This is our electronic guardian angel. It sits atop your dashboard or anywhere you are and records (when you want it to) everything happening. Imagine the next time some driver cuts in front of you then speeds off. “iWitness,” you say, “save the last minute and get the license number of that silver BMW!” It can even send the video and license plate snapshot to the highway patrol.

► **MacRoScope.** Your computer becomes the ultimate imaging machine with the USB-powered MacRoScope. It takes high-resolution photos of objects as large as galaxies and as small as microbes. It’s the young scientist’s penultimate dream! (The ultimate being a date.)

► **AppleJuice.** This is an uninterruptible power supply that stores and wirelessly powers your other Apple devices when the electricity goes out.

► **iQuarium.** Like tropical fish, but keep forgetting to feed them? iQuarium fits inside an empty tank and projects a simulated 3-D image of fish, changing daily, or you can download iFish from the iTunes Store (\$1.99 per breed) and create your own aquatic community. Mix fresh and saltwater iFish in the same tank!

The best part: within a year new versions of these fine products will be released, requiring incompatible charging cords, and with “2” added to the name, followed six months later by “2S” and with different colors!

Louie@hmbreview.com claims dibs on the rights to all concepts and names in this column. On Twitter: @louiecastoria.



Scientist Igor Lacan of the University of California Cooperative Extension leads insect fans on a hunt for aquatic insects at Elkus Ranch. Dozens of people participated in the first-ever Insect Blitz south of Half Moon Bay.

Counting the bugs

If insects are an acquired taste, Andrew Neisess provides a willing palate. As a San Francisco State University entomology student, he was able to consider the suggestion that bugs are not only edible but even delicious, and to do so with a straight face.

“They kind of taste like Fritos,” he said of the “superworms” rattling around in a plastic container at a table at Elkus Ranch on Saturday. He was less excited about the taste of chili-coated crickets, which he said dissolved into dust in his mouth.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION HOSTS FIRST-EVER ‘INSECT BLITZ’

By CLAY LAMBERT
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Neisess may have found the bugs themselves a bit dry, but the subject matter — insects on the coast — was juicy enough to attract dozens of people for the first ever “Insect Blitz” at Elkus Ranch. The event was organized by the University of California Cooperative Extension and its staff in Half Moon Bay. Led by several renowned area scientists, volunteers spent the day collecting specimens, talking about their common passion and conducting real science.

Elkus Ranch Director Virginia Bolshakova emphasized that the event was intended to be fun for all — in addition to the insect tasting station there were children’s art projects and plenty of insects to see — but also a chance to learn about the biodiversity of the area.

To that end, organizers divided the ranch and surrounding open space into quadrants. Coolers were placed strategically throughout the trail system and attendees, many of whom signed up in advance, were encouraged to venture off with nets and other collection devices and bring back samples of the species that are abundant if only visitors stop to look.

Peter Oboyski is collections manager and senior scientist for the Essig Museum in Berkeley. He opened the day by gathering the volunteers and giving a bit of advice as they prepared to set off on their bug hunt.

“Sit still,” he said. “Feel the breeze. Take it all in.” And scientists assured participants there was plenty to take in. Oboyski, who arrived at the site the night before, said researchers, including Neisess and other college students, identified 20 species of moths on Friday by placing a white sheet over a light to attract the flying insects.

Bolshakova said Saturday’s exercise will provide a baseline for future such “bio blitzes.” And she noted that insect concentrations are seasonal.

“Three weeks ago you couldn’t come out here without attracting a tick,” she said, noting that ticks were much less evident on Saturday.

Children and pre-teens brought their parents to Saturday’s count. It isn’t unusual for kids to be interested in bugs, Igor Lacan said. The entomologist and urban forestry adviser for the cooperative extension said the insect bug bit him as a child as well.

“I think that is true of most of us,” he said. “I always liked the strange-looking little things.” ■



CLAY LAMBERT / REVIEW

Peter Oboyski, senior scientist and collections manager for the Essig Museum in Berkeley, speaks to people who turned out for the first bug count in and around Elkus Ranch on Saturday. His advice: Be still and observe.



Separating moths by type was a painstaking operation during the Insect Blitz at Elkus Ranch on Saturday. Scientists joined layman volunteers to create a baseline for the area’s biodiversity.

[EVENT]

Jazz music festival to salute Pete Douglas

TWO DAYS OF TOP JAZZ PLAYERS ON THEIR WAY

By STACY TREVENON
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The ubiquitous image of late Bach Dancing and Dynamite Society founder Pete Douglas, puffing his pipe while booking concerts from his desk overlooking the ocean, will pervade the Pete Douglas Memorial Music Festival on the first weekend in October.

From 1 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 4 and

Oct. 5, combos made up of respected Bay Area jazz musicians who are no strangers to the Bach stage will step up once more to honor him.

Douglas died July 12 at age 85.

The performers, mostly jazz players and some classical, “are mostly Bay Area musicians who have been grateful for this place to play their music,” said Bach Society manager Linda Goetz.

She wryly noted that while Douglas may have cringed at being in the spotlight himself, he always preferred to shine it on to the players. He would say, “Don’t honor me, honor the

room,” she said, in reference to the Bach’s unique concert room, an intimate setting for some of the genre’s greats.

The Oct. 4 performances will be emceed by Tim Jackson who runs the Kuumbwa Jazz Center in Santa Cruz and is involved with the Monterey Jazz Festival, and Clifford Brown Jr., an on-air personality for jazz radio. The Oct. 5 emcees are saxophonist Muhammad Dawan who organizes jazz events in San Francisco and co-founded the organization Lifeforce, which assists young jazz musicians, and Jayne Sanchez who hosts the “Jazz Oa-

sis” on KCSM radio.

The full schedule of performances and performers will be listed on the Bach’s website of bachddsoc.org. Admission is free but donations are welcomed, and reservations are required at info@bachddsoc.org or 726-2020.

The Bach will honor concerts booked by Douglas prior to his death and scheduled through Dec. 7, Goetz said. After that, she added, the Bach will be on hiatus until the disposition of the Douglas Beach House is determined by Douglas’ three daughters.

For information on the festival, contact Goetz at 726-2020. ■