

Winter-2018

# Marsh Mailing

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

Marsh Mailing is also available in full color at [www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com](http://www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com)

## Madrona Marsh Featured in Torrance Rose Parade Float



*Riding on the float for Torrance were Friends President Suzan Hubert (not shown), and board members Connie Vadheim Roth and Bill Arrowsmith above, as well as West High School design winner Irene Tsay and FOMM Vice President Bobbie Snyder pictured on page 8. Photo by Liz McKee, Sumner, Washington, with help from Gina Barnett, Tacoma, Washington, and Don Kirby, Santa Fe, New Mexico.*

You read it right! How did it happen? The overall theme for the 2018 Tournament of Roses Parade was "Making A Difference." So last year the Torrance Rose Float Association (TRFA) held a contest open to all the students in Torrance schools, to pick a concept for the Torrance float. The winner of that contest was a delightful senior from West High School named Irene Tsay, (see page 8) using Madrona Marsh as the basis for her entry. The final outcome was the beautiful float [above] which won the Mayor's Trophy for Most Outstanding Float from a Participating City.

The title for our float was, "Protecting Nature... The Madrona Marsh Preserve." What better example of making a difference than the struggle

by a small group of determined citizens 35 years ago to save a precious urban seasonal wetland from development? They/we "made a difference" that continues to this day: The Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center. Thank you, Irene Tsay, for making a difference yourself by shining a nationwide light on our beautiful Preserve!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS  
for FOMM ANNUAL MEETING**

January 28, 2018  
See Page 3 for details

# Make Way for Ducks and Ducklings

*Suzan Hubert and Dinuk Magammana*

Every spring through the early summer Nature Center staff and volunteers receive between 30 and 50 calls about ducks and ducklings that seem to be lost and wandering. We are very grateful that there are so many concerned people who look



*Photo by Dinuk Magammana*

after the well-being of our local wildlife. The answer we provide to all inquiries is the simplest one: avoid human interference and let them be, as long as they are not in danger.

These are wild animals; Mallard Ducks, the ones most commonly encountered, are federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act from being touched and or moved. Something else to consider is that mother duck has a plan for securing a safe nesting place for herself and her family—a plan she devised from an aerial perspective as she flew over the area. She is leading her ducklings to the safe place she selected. It's a plan we can't see from the ground.

Whenever you can, help the ducks by making it easier for them to follow the path they are already on. It is a joy to hear stories about traffic stopping on Sepulveda, Madrona or Maple Ave to allow a duck family to cross the street. This often happens. But on the 405? Not so much.

How can we help ducks and ducklings when mom's aerial plan encounters land level obstacles and distractions such as swimming pools, sewer drains, busy streets and freeways? The first step when you see ducks in danger is to call a local wildlife organization. In the South Bay it's the International Bird Rescue (IBR) in San Pedro. Talk

to their trained staff. Be prepared to answer staff questions such as: are the ducks in imminent danger? Are they trapped on a freeway or stuck in a drain? Is the mom with the babies? Are they injured? Are pets nearby that could cause harm? Or are the ducks unable to freely move to locate shelter, food and water?

Under any of those conditions the ducks may need assistance, but make sure to follow the advice of the IBR staff. If the ducks do need to be relocated, the IBR can accept and rehabilitate the ducks. It may be tempting to capture the family and release them at a local park, but please keep in mind their chance of surviving is very low. By then the animal may be injured, starved, dehydrated and, without a doubt, stressed.

That is why it is vital to contact IBR, as they have the capability to give these birds their best chance at survival. If the trained staff is unable to assist with the capture of the animals, we advise capturing the mama duck first and then the ducklings. This is because the ducklings are flightless and, in most cases, will stay close to mom.

If you capture the ducklings first, the mom may believe the ducklings are gone and flee for her life. So capturing the mom and placing her in a secure box or container and then capturing the ducklings is ideal. If you are capturing a lone duck, search the area carefully to be sure there are no ducklings hidden under bushes nearby. Even if the mom duck is in the box, she will call, and the ducklings will likely stay near her call.

*"Ducklings" continued on page 4.*

*Marsh Mailing* is a quarterly newsletter designed to provide information about activities and upcoming events at or relating to the Madrona Marsh Preserve. Contributions are welcome and may be e-mailed to Editorial Advisor, Bill Arrowsmith, [FrandBill@att.net](mailto:FrandBill@att.net) or Editor, Diane Gonsalves at [gonwild2@yahoo.com](mailto:gonwild2@yahoo.com) or may be dropped off or mailed to the Nature Center, P.O. Box 5078, Torrance, CA 90510.

# Annual Meeting

## Friends of Madrona Marsh

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Madrona Marsh Nature Center

3201 Plaza Del Amo

Torrance, CA 905053

Meeting starts at 1:00 p.m.

- Welcome and Introductions - President, Suzan Hubert
- Election of 4 Board Members
- Candidates: Vincent Lloyd  
Ellen Peterson  
Bill Arrowsmith  
Suzan Hubert
- Honoree Introductions
- FOMM Annual Report: President Hubert
- Welcome our New Manager/Naturalist: Melissa Loebel
- **"Peek into the Future"**  
Meet Melissa Loebel, our new Manager/Naturalist for the Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center, and learn about her exciting plans for the future of the Marsh.
- Closing Remarks - President Hubert

"Ducklings" continued from page 2

At all times, keep the group together to reduce panic and stress. When the ducks are being transported to bird rescue, cover the container to reduce stress. Do not put water or food inside the box; they will not eat, due to stress, and this may cause more harm than good. So get them to a nearby rescue place soon as possible!

In the past Madrona Marsh staff attempted to relocate and release ducks that were rescued from outside of the Preserve. However, the long-term success rate of these duck families was extremely low, and often zero. That is why we do not advise relocating families of ducks and we do not release any ducks on the Preserve. We take them to IBR.

It is wonderful to know our community is so caring about our wildlife. It makes our job at the Preserve that much more meaningful, and with your help our duck families and those from surrounding areas can have a long and happy life.

International Bird Rescue (IBR)  
(310) 514-2573  
3601 S. Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA  
90731

**Author's Note:** If International Bird Rescue is unavailable these are two alternative local bird rescue organizations:

Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center Orange  
County  
Huntington Beach, CA  
714-374-5587  
<http://www.wwccoc.org/>

California Wildlife Center  
Malibu, CA  
310-458-(WILD) 9453  
<http://cawildlife.org/>

**Editor's Note:** Preserve Manager Melissa Loebl notes that all three of the rescue organizations listed above are equipped to help with water birds (ducks, geese, grebes, egrets, etc.). She suggests that if you find a sick, injured or orphaned bird of prey (owl, hawk, falcon) or hummingbird, you may want to contact the nearby South Bay Wildlife Rehab (SBWR) at: 310-358-9921.



## Donations of \$100 Or More Winter 2017

DATE	DONOR	DONATION
Oct.	James & Yoko Justiss	\$500.00
Oct.	Steve & Carol Chudy	\$3,000.00
Oct.	Duane Allison	\$100.00
Nov.	Robert Ashley	\$100.00
Nov.	Cal. Native Plant Society	\$500.00
Nov.	The Baileys	\$100.00
Nov.	Paul De Alleaume	\$100.00
Nov.	Mark Dorfman	\$100.00
Nov.	The Kendalls	\$100.00
Nov.	The Majors	\$100.00
Nov.	F1 Key Foundation	\$500.00
Dec.	David & Janice Champion	\$100.00
Dec.	Ellen & Chris Velline	\$200.00
Dec.	Stettenheim Foundation/ Wendy Jones	\$500.00
Dec	Robin Kaminsky	\$100.00



# A Most Uncommon Visitor . . .

*Tracy Drake*  
*Manager, City of Torrance Park Services*



*Photo by Tracy Drake*

Fall is a great time for birding because it is the time for migration—and the time of year that unusual birds can show up. On September 29 a very uncommon bird came to the Preserve—a Dusky Warbler.

This is the first time one has ever been recorded in Los Angeles County and one of only about a dozen records in the State. How amazing it is that of all the places to be, it chose Madrona. If we look at a map of the warbler's migration range, it shows up nowhere on the North American continent!

Where is it normally? The Dusky Warbler breeds in Northern Asia, specifically in the Upper Ob and Altai in Siberia to Anadyr region and Sakhalin Island, to eastern Himalayas and China. It's strongly migratory and winters in Northern India, Burma and the foothills of Nepal. Preferred habitats include mountain thickets and forests, bogs and wet meadows. Interestingly, it was found in the wetland meadow area of the Preserve!

Once the word spread, over the last weekend in September, more than four hundred birders from throughout the United States and even into Canada, came to the Preserve to take a look at this rare bird! For most, even the most experienced birders, this was a life bird—one they had never seen before.

What a rare treat it was to have this bird visit the Preserve. Thanks go to the thousands of people who, over the past forty-plus years, have worked to enhance the Preserve through restoration and respectful use. To all of them, and the many who wrote thank you letters for our providing additional access to the Preserve so they could see the bird, we're grateful.



*Photo by Tracy Drake*

*Thank you to Dan Cooper for identifying the bird – while I found the bird and tried, I could not make a positive identification! ----Tracy Drake*

---

## Artist's Corner

Through - Friday, January 12 - An Exhibit of Paintings by Suzanne Gibson.

Tuesday, January 16 - Friday, March 2 - A Photography Exhibit by Mark Comon.  
Artists Reception - Saturday, January 20 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6 - Friday, April 13 - An Exhibit of Botanical Illustrations by Estelle De Ridder. Artist's Reception Saturday, March 10 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

## Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center\*

### Schedule of Events for January through April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<u>1</u> CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance Gibson Exhibit Continues <u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	10 am-Tyke Hike donation 10:30 Prop.Soc. <u>4</u>	10 am--12 n- <u>5</u> Friday Fun-donation**	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10 am-Dr. Vadheim-"Beatrice Howett" <u>6</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> CLOSED	<u>9</u>	8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting <u>10</u>	10:30 Prop.Soc. 1pm- Naturalist 6:30Dr.Vadheim-"Beatrice Howett" <u>11</u>	10 am--12 n- <u>12</u> Friday Fun-donation** Gibson Exhibit Ends	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 6:30 pm-Night Hike-fee <u>13</u>
<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> CLOSED	8:30am-Tour d'Torrance Comon Exhib.Opens 7 pm-Audubon Mtg. <u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	10:30-12:30- Prop. Society <u>18</u>	10 am--12n- <u>19</u> Friday Fun-donation**	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. <u>20</u> 9am-H.B.Nature Walk 1:30-Comon Recept.
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> CLOSED	10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$ <u>23</u>	10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$ <u>24</u>	8:45am - NatureJournal-fee 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society <u>25</u>	10 am-Friday Fun-donation** <u>26</u>	8:30 am-Bird Walk <u>27</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am - Nature Walk 2-4pm-Native Bees- Leroy Jackson
<u>28</u> 10-NatureWalk 1pm FOMM ANNUAL MEETING	<u>29</u> CLOSED	<u>30</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance				

## JANUARY

\*All activities and classes meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center, located at 3201 Plaza del Amo (between Maple and Madrona) on the north side of the street. \*\*Reservations are required for Friday Fun. \*\*\*See Artists Corner, page 5. For latest event information, see our newly upgraded website, [www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com](http://www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				10 am-Tyke <u>1</u> Hike- 10:30-Prop. Soc.	10 am--12 n- <u>2</u> Friday Fun-donation**	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. <u>3</u> 10am- Dr.Vadheim-"Sonoran Desert"
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance <u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	10:30 a..m.- <u>8</u> Prop.Society 1pm- Naturalist 6:30pm- Dr.Vadheim	10 am--12 n- <u>9</u> Friday Fun-donation**	8:45am-12 n-Hab.Restor. <u>10</u> Student.Service 2-4-Valentine Potpourri 7pm-Night Hike
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> CLOSED	<u>13</u>	8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting <u>14</u>	10:30-12:30- Propagation Society <u>15</u>	10 am--12n- <u>16</u> Friday Fun-donation**	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Res.. <u>17</u> 9 am-H.B.Nature Walk 1:30-Nature's Origami
<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg. <u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	10:30-12:30- <u>22</u> Prop. Society 6:30-Urban Coyotes	10 am--12 n- <u>23</u> Friday Fun-donation**	8:30 am-Bird Walk <u>24</u> 8:45 am-Hab.Restor. 10 am-Nature Walk 12n-NASA talk 6:30pm-Star Party
10 am- Nature Walk <u>25</u>	<u>26</u> CLOSED	10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$ <u>27</u>	10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$ <u>28</u>			

## FEBRUARY

**Nature Center & Gift Shop**

**(310) 782-3989**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				10 am-Tyke Hike- 10:30-Prop. Soc. <u>1</u>	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation** Comon Ex.Ends <u>2</u>	8:45 am-12 -Hab.Restor. 10am-Dr.Vadheim- 1-3 pm-"Tree Frogs.." <u>3</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> <b>CLOSED</b>	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance De Ridder Exhibit Opens <u>6</u>	11am-Senior Stroll <u>7</u>	10:30 a.m.- Prop.Society 1pm- Naturalist 6:30pm-Dr. Vadheim <u>8</u>	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation** <u>9</u>	8:30-12-Arbor Day 8:45am-12-Hab.Restor. Student.Service 1:30-DeRidder Recept. <u>10</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> <b>CLOSED</b>	<u>13</u>	8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30--FOMM Board Meeting <u>14</u>	10:30-12:30- Propagation Society <u>15</u>	10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation** <u>16</u>	8:45 am-12 - Hab.Res.. 9 am-H.B.Nature Walk <u>17</u>
<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> <b>CLOSED</b>	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg. <u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	10:30-12:30- Prop. Society <u>22</u>	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation** <u>23</u>	8:30 am-Bird Walk <u>24</u> 8:45 am-Hab.Restor. Student.Service 10 am-Nature Walk 7pm-Star Party
10 am- Nature Walk <u>25</u>	<u>26</u> <b>CLOSED</b>	10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$ <u>27</u>	10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$ <u>28</u>	8:45am-Nature Journal-fee <u>29</u>	10 am--12 <u>30</u> Friday Fun- donation**	8:45 am-Hab.Restor. <u>31</u> Student.Service 7pm-Night Hike

**MARCH**

*\*All activities and classes meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center, located at 3201 Plaza del Amo (between Maple and Madrona) on the north side of the street. \*\*Reservations are required for Friday Fun. \*\*\*See Artists Corner, page 5. For latest event information, see our newly upgraded website, [www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com](http://www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com).*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> <b>CLOSED</b>	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance <u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	10 am-Tyke Hike -donation 10:30 Prop.Soc. <u>5</u>	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation** <u>6</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10am-Dr. Vadheim-TBA <u>7</u>
<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> <b>CLOSED</b>	<u>10</u>	8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting <u>11</u>	10:30 Prop.Soc. 1pm- Naturalist 6:30Dr.Vadheim <u>12</u>	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation** DeRidder Exhibit Ends <u>13</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10am-Turtle & Tortoise Day <u>14</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> <b>CLOSED</b>	8:30am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg. <u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	10:30-12:30- Prop. Society <u>19</u>	10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation** <u>20</u>	8:30-12-Earth Day <u>21</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 9am-H.B.Nature Walk 7 pm-Star Party
<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> <b>CLOSED</b>	10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$ <u>24</u>	10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$ <u>25</u>	8:45 am- Nat.Journal\$ 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society <u>26</u>	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation** <u>27</u>	8:30 am-Bird Walk <u>28</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am - Nature Walk
<u>29</u> 10-NatureWalk	<u>30</u> <b>CLOSED</b>					

**APRIL**

# Friends Welcome New Manager and Naturalist

The Friends Board of Directors is pleased to welcome the new Manager and Naturalist for the Preserve, Melissa Loebel (pronounced LO-bul), who was previously a naturalist at South Bay Wildlife Rehab.

Melissa is very personable and friendly, and is very savvy about our animals and environment. More importantly, she is eager to learn even more about Madrona Marsh and our community as she steps into the shoes of Tracy Drake, who is now Manager of Park Services for all of Torrance.

She is also eager to meet all of you, so please come to the Annual Meeting on January 28 to meet her and hear her presentation as our featured speaker. (See page 3 for details of the upcoming Annual Meeting.)



Photo from SBWR  
(See page 3 for details of the upcoming Annual Meeting.)



Riding on the rose parade float for the City of Torrance were, left, Ms. Irene Tsay, West High School student and winning designer of the float, and Friends of Madrona Marsh Vice President Bobbie Snyder. (See front page for more about the float.) Photo by Tracy Drake

**Purchase Refurbished Computers and Tested Electronics from WALSERS**  
to benefit the Madrona Marsh

25% of your purchase goes directly to Friends of Madrona Marsh

**Visit our New Location**

**Store Hours:**  
Mon. - Sat. 9:30 - 5:30

**Recycle Hours:**  
Mon. - Sat. 10 - 4

## RECYCLING CENTER

Electronics, Appliances & Metals  
Six days a week for Residents,  
Businesses and Government Agencies

**488 Amapola Avenue**  
**Torrance, CA 90501**  
**www.walsers.com**

**The Creative Store for**  
Art - Office - Digital - Collectibles

**310-891-3325**  
**service@walsers.com**



# The Four Seasons: Winter

*Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSU, Dominguez Hills*

Winter lasts from January through the end of March. Typically it's our coolest and wettest period. Night temperatures dip down into the 40's and rainfall moistens the ground and fills the vernal pools and marshlands. It's a great time to get out and visit Madrona Marsh.



*Photo by Dr. Vadheim*

**What to see:** The Preserve is very pretty this time of year, with abundant water and wildlife. The large Willow and Cottonwood trees first bloom, then leaf out. Look for the bright yellow male flower stalks (catkins) on the willows. Wetland plants show signs of new growth, particularly the tules, cattails and floating water plants. In the upland areas, early wildflowers like the lupines, bush sunflowers and many others brighten the areas between cool-season grasses.

**Birds:** This is one of the best times to see both resident birds and winter visitors. Watch for the water birds: the ducks (Widgeons, Mallards, Teals and others), geese and coots. You may see and hear Red-winged and Tri-colored Blackbirds in the Tules. Water fowl are nesting—respect signs that protect sensitive nesting areas.

Among the showy water birds are the Great and Snowy Egrets—large, white, long-legged birds that hunt in shallow water. Watch and listen for Red-tailed, Red-shouldered and Cooper's hawks in the larger trees or soaring above. You'll also hear Crows, Ravens, Scrub Jays, and Mockingbirds.

Anna's and Allen's hummingbirds are raising their offspring; see them perched or gathering food. Also busy are the Black and Say's Phoebes. Watch them dart out to catch insects on the wing. Flocks of tiny Bushtits are very common this time of year. If you're lucky, you may also glimpse a Bluebird or flock of Cedar

Wax-wings. Visiting songbirds are at their best in Winter. Hear their melodic songs as the season progresses. Look for the brightly colored Common Yellowthroats and Yellow-rumped Warblers in the foliage. Over 10 species of sparrows and the American Goldfinches are

busily eating seeds, preparing to migrate.

**Insects and animals:** This is usually not the best season for insects, but you will see many bees and other pollinators visiting flowers. Watch the large bumblebees visiting purple lupines. In a dry winter you may see early butterflies, including brown Mourning Cloaks, orange Monarchs and Red Admirals. Look closely for early moths, tiny Pygmy Blue butterflies and spider webs covered in dew. Late or early in the day you may glimpse a skunk.

**Things to do at the Preserve:**

- Get out and walk to clear your head.
- Notice the scents on a rainy or foggy day. The Preserve is magical in damp weather.
- Bring your camera or sketchpad. This is a great time to capture memorable scenes.
- Bring binoculars to watch birds, insects. Visit the Nature Center to learn more. Pick up a guidebook in the Gift Shop.
- Close your eyes. Listen to the sounds.
- Visit the parking lot at dusk or evening to hear the Baja Tree Frogs singing.
- Enjoy flowers in the Native Plant Gardens.
- Take a winter class, walk or workshop. See the Madrona Marsh calendar for ideas.

# Birds of Madrona 2017

The number of birds species seen in 2017 appears to be in line with what is typical. Our surveys confirmed 165 species. Comparing with the last few years, 163 were seen in 2016, 178 were seen in 2015 and 153 were seen in 2014.

Surveyers included: Mark Rubke, Tracy Drake, David Moody, Dinuk Magammana, Tommye Hite, Eric Hansen, Jeanne Bellemin, the Tour de Torrance Group, Manuel and Alejandra Duran, Greg Gentry, Tony Strangarity, Bob Shanman, Jonothan Nakai, Philp Carnhl, Becky Turley and Sarah Ngo

Cackling Goose	Solitary Sandpiper	Warbling Vireo	<i>Grasshopper Sparrow</i>
Canada Goose	Greater Yellowlegs	California Scrub-Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Bonaparte's Gull</i>	American Crow	<i>Clay-colored Sparrow</i>
Cinnamon Teal	Ring-billed Gull	<b>Common Raven</b>	Brewer's Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Western Gull	No. Rough-winged Swallow	Lark Sparrow
Gadwall	California Gull	Tree Swallow	Fox Sparrow
Eurasian Wigeon	Herring Gull	Barn Swallow	Dark-eyed Junco
American Wigeon	Caspian Tern	Cliff Swallow	White-crowned Sparrow
<b>Mallard</b>	Rock Pigeon	Bushtit	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Northern Pintail	<i>Band-tailed Pigeon</i>	<b>House Wren</b>	<i>Vesper Sparrow</i>
Green-winged Teal	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Marsh Wren	Savannah Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	<i>White-winged Dove</i>	Bewick's Wren	<b>Song Sparrow</b>
Bufflehead	<b>Mourning Dove</b>	<i>California Gnatcatcher</i>	Lincoln's Sparrow
<i>Hooded Merganser</i>	<i>Barn Owl</i>	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	California Towhee
<b>Ruddy Duck</b>	<i>Great Horned Owl</i>	<b>Red-whiskered Bulbul</b>	<i>Yellow-breasted Chat</i>
<b>Pied-billed Grebe</b>	<i>Common Poorwill</i>	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Western Tanager
Eared Grebe	Vaux's Swift	<b>Dusky Warbler</b>	Black-headed Grosbeak
Double-crested Cormorant	White-throated Swift	Western Bluebird	Blue Grosbeak
<i>American White Pelican</i>	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Swainson's Thrush	Lazuli Bunting
Brown Pelican	<b>Anna's Hummingbird</b>	Hermit Thrush	Indigo Bunting
Great Blue Heron	<b>Allen's Hummingbird</b>	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Yellow-headed Blackbird</i>
Great Egret	Belted Kingfisher	<b>European Starling</b>	Western Meadowlark
Snowy Egret	<i>Nuttall's Woodpecker</i>	American Pipit	Hooded Oriole
Green Heron	<b>Downy Woodpecker</b>	Cedar Waxwing	Bullock's Oriole
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Northern Flicker	Phainopepla	<b>Red-winged Blackbird</b>
White-faced Ibis	American Kestrel	<b>Ovenbird</b>	Brown-headed Cowbird
White-tailed Kite	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Black-and-white Warbler</i>	<b>Great-tailed Grackle</b>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Rose-ringed Parakeet</i>	Orange-crowned Warbler	<b>House Finch</b>
Cooper's Hawk	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Nashville Warbler	Purple Finch
Red-shouldered Hawk	Western Wood-Pewee	MacGillivray's Warbler	European Goldfinch
Red-tailed Hawk	Willow Flycatcher	<b>Common Yellowthroat</b>	Pine Siskin
Sora	Hammond's Flycatcher	<i>American Redstart</i>	<b>Lesser Goldfinch</b>
Common Gallinule	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	<i>Northern Parula</i>	Lawrence's Goldfinch
<b>American Coot</b>	<b>Black Phoebe</b>	<i>Magnolia Warbler</i>	<b>American Goldfinch</b>
<i>Black-necked Stilt</i>	<i>Eastern Phoebe</i>	<b>Yellow Warbler</b>	<b>House Sparrow</b>
<i>Semipalmated Plover</i>	Say's Phoebe	<i>Blackpoll Warbler</i>	Northern Red Bishop
Killdeer	<i>Vermilion Flycatcher</i>	Palm Warbler	<b>Orange-checked Waxbill</b>
<i>Whimbrel</i>	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Yellow-rumped Warbler	<b>Scaly-breasted Munia</b>
Least Sandpiper	<b>Cassin's Kingbird</b>	Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Pin-tailed Whydah</i>
Long-billed Dowitcher	Western Kingbird	Townsend's Warbler	<b>B = Bred</b>
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Loggerhead Shrike</i>	Hermit Warbler	<i>I = uncommon sighting</i>
Spotted Sandpiper	Hutton's Vireo	Wilson's Warbler	<b>BI = new to Madrona</b>

# South Bay Native Plant Corner

*Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSU, Dominguez Hills*



*Photo by Dr. Vadheim*

## **California Mugwort** *Artemisia douglasiana*

Winter is when many California native plants begin their growing season. The cooler temperatures and winter rains signal that the dry season's over; it's time for plants to grow again. Some of the most spectacular examples of 'springing to life' can be seen in our native perennial sunflowers. Seemingly dead plants leaf out in a matter of weeks—a true miracle of survival. A good example is the California Mugwort. New stems can be seen emerging right now in the native plant garden.

*Artemisia douglasiana* is a perennial that dies back to the ground in fall. Native to winter-moist places in much of the Western U.S., it once was common along the Los Angeles River, the seasonal creeks and freshwater marshes; it can still be seen in the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains and on Catalina Island.

California mugwort is related to the European mugwort; plants used to flavor beer, in the ages before hops was grown. Hence the name mugwort means 'mug plant' ('wort' was the old name for an herbaceous plant). Mugworts also have a history of use as medicinal plants.

California mugwort is a part-woody perennial with upright stems that are 2-3 feet tall. It sends

out more stems each year, spreading to fill an area. It's a good groundcover, particularly in part-shady areas under trees or on shady slopes. The foliage is bright to medium green above and fuzzy white below. In dry gardens, the leaves begin to shrivel in late summer.

This is not a plant with showy flowers. The small flower heads are green-gold and inconspicuous to humans. But they do attract the pollinators. This plant also provides good cover for ground-dwelling reptiles and the seed-eating birds will flock to it in fall.



*Photo by Dr. Vadheim*

Mugwort is an easy plant to grow. It likes some shade (at least afternoon shade; can tolerate quite shady) and occasional water until late summer. It tolerates most local soils. Cut back old stems in late fall; contain if spreading is an issue. That's about all that's required.

For more on this plant see: <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/2017/12/plant-of-month-december-california.html>

*Learn more about local native plants at our "Out of the Wilds and into Your Garden" series on the first Saturday of each month. [Plant Information Sheets](#) and [Plant Lists](#) are also available at the Nature Center.*

# Friends of Madrona Marsh

a non-profit organization est. 1972

P. O. Box 5078  
Torrance, CA 90510

(310) 32MARSH

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO.214  
Torrance, California

Return Service Requested



## Membership Application

We appreciate your support. Thank you! *Your donations are tax deductible. Please consider a donation to FOMM in your will or trust!*

Annual Membership: \_\_\_New \_\_\_Renewal

Individual \_\_\_\$20 Family \_\_\_\$30 Youth (under 18)/Senior (over 65) \_\_\_\$10

Patron \_\_\_\$50 Club/Organization \_\_\_\$75 Business/Industry \_\_\_\$150

Lifetime Membership \_\_\_\$500 Amount Enclosed \_\_\_

Please send your donation or offer of services to:

**Friends of Madrona Marsh, P.O. Box 5078, Torrance, CA 90510**

FOMM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E:Mail \_\_\_\_\_

I will volunteer for: (Gift Shop, Reception Desk, other) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_