

Winter 2013

Marsh Mailing

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

Alondra Park--Unnatural Place for a Natural Garden

*Jeanne Bellemin, Professor of Zoology, El Camino College**

Over the past 14 years my students and I have created a rather unusual native garden on a very unnatural island. The Alondra Park Island Native Plant Garden is thriving with the winter rains and 2012 improvements. This past year we have painted the proud garden shed built by Max Pena and his LBCC and ECC construction students and funded by the South Coast Chapter of CNPS.

Another improvement was the removal by Carson Animal Control of dozens of hungry rabbits which necessitated the fencing of most of the native plants. Now that we are down to only two rabbits we are removing much of the unsightly fencing so that our natives may grow and shape themselves as they might naturally.

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Annual Meeting of the Friends of Madrona Marsh

When? Sunday, January 27 starting at 3 p.m.

Where? Madrona Marsh Nature Center Meeting Room

3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance, CA 90503

[NOTE: Come early for Tours of our New Restoration Areas from 2- 2:45 p.m.]

Election of 4 Members of Board of Directors

• **Jeanne Bellemin** • **Mary Garrity** • **Carol Roelen** • **Bobbie Snyder**

Annual Reports from Manager and Naturalist, **Tracy Drake**, and from Friends Vice President, **Suzan Hubert**

DOUBLE-HEADER PROGRAM:

1. **New Restoration Programs**—**Dan Portway** will bring us up to date on several new restoration areas on the Preserve and a new approach we are taking. Tony Baker and Manager Tracy Drake will join Dan in a discussion of current restoration plans.

2. **Alondra Park Island Project**—**Jeanne Bellemin** will present pictures of, and the latest developments and plans for, the Native Plant Garden and bird habitat that she and her El Camino students have created over the past 14 years on a man-made island at Alondra Park.

Light refreshments will be served.

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Students take time out to pose in front of the newly painted shed, built by Max Pena and his construction students.

Dave Latimer has worked the last fall semester to identify and label the plants so that we may better keep track of what we have. Challenges present themselves with the new year. In late December of

2012 I met with Joe Mendoza, Deputy Director of Southern County Parks and Recreation Department for Los Angeles County along with Bill Arrowsmith and Dave Latimer. It appears Los Angeles County would like to have an open access plan to allow the public on to the island. The island has been closed to the public for several decades.

Closure of the island has allowed a safe sanctuary for birds of all types to nest and rest and even die in peace on the island, unmolested by the general public. It has also allowed the native garden to be relatively free of vandalism, although some people have illegally gained entrance and vandalized the shed and plants. Therefore I am opposed to the open, unregulated access for the public which the county first suggested.

At the same time I would welcome some regular supervised and perhaps guided access so that people could appreciate our native garden. If the Island were open on a once or twice a month a month supervised schedule then the public would get to appreciate the native plants and birds. Perhaps even regular guided bird walks could occur there as they do at Madrona Marsh.

I very much welcome public comment on the access issue of our island garden from all you Friends of Madrona Marsh.

At the membership meeting Sunday, January 27th I will present a short visual update on the Alondra Park Island Native Plant Garden.

Editors Note: Jeanne is a member of the Friends of Madrona Marsh Board of Directors. Her e-mail is Jbellemi@elcamino.edu



Students from El Camino College and Long Beach City College dig in--literally--to help clean up and maintain the native plant garden on Alondra Park island.



Start the New Year Off Right!

--Bill Arrowsmith, FOMM President

I'd like to invite you all to come to the Nature Center on Sunday, January 27, for our Annual Meeting. We have two very interesting programs planned, as well as some delicious tidbits for your nibbling pleasure.

And this year, for the first time ever, we will be offering a very handsome DOOR PRIZE, generously donated to the Friends by Bob Shanman, of Wild Birds Unlimited.

For our programs this year, we decided to stay close to home, as we have some very exciting things happening on the Preserve and in nearby Alondra Park. As many of you know, Dan Portway has taken restoration at the Preserve to a whole new level—and he's just getting started.

Dan has been involved in our restoration efforts for many years, but several years ago he asked the Board to support a very intensive effort in a specific area. We agreed to pay for the plants and for some additional manpower to assist Dan and be supervised by him.

We were so pleased with the results on that first area on the eastern edge of the Preserve that we have supported several more 'blitzkriegs' by Dan and his hard-working associates, currently Chris, Michael and Jason.

Although we appreciate the efforts of all of our volunteer groups, it is clear that we need intense, localized, and continued efforts like the ones Dan and his crew have performed if we hope to establish a truly healthy native plant community on the Preserve.

Efforts like what Tony Baker has done in the Native Plant Garden and Water-wise Garden next to the Nature Center and like what both Tony and Dan have done at the entrances to the Preserve.

Come to the meeting and hear both Dan and Tony, and Manager Tracy Drake tell of their recent challenges and successes restoring beautiful natives to our wonderful wetland. If you can, please come an hour early, at 2 p.m., and join us on a quick tour of new restoration areas.

We were all quite excited recently to hear fellow Board member, Professor Jeanne Bellemin of El Camino College, describe what's been happening at Alondra Park, on the island that she and her students have been turning into a plant and bird sanctuary for fourteen years. See Jeanne's article on the front page and, better yet, come to the annual meeting to see her beautiful slides of the island and hear about the latest plans and developments.

And perhaps best of all, come to the annual meeting to see and talk to the most wonderful people in the world, people who share your concern for our environment and who are determined to save and enjoy precious habitats like Madrona Marsh—your fellow marshan Friends! This is one of only two times a year when we all get together.

I'll see you there on Sunday, January 27th! (carefully scheduled between the final playoff games and the Super Bowl).

A Moonlight Magic Thank You

—Suzan Hubert

On behalf of the Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center the Friends of Madrona Marsh Magic Makers want to thank all of you who attended Moonlight Magic 2012 for supporting the Marsh. From the comments we received everyone had a great time.

The dinner was great, the entertainment was fine and the auction was a huge bargain for the guests and a benefit for the Preserve.

People enjoyed the dancing, the laughter and the time spent with 'old' friends. It was a fun evening. Thus we have decided to do it again. There will be a Moonlight Magic 2013 so watch for announcements. If you missed it, we probably missed you so put September 21 on your new 2013 calendars and we will see you on the Marsh under the moon in September.

If you would like to help out with Moonlight Magic 2013 we would be grateful for help collecting donations of great stuff and wonderful adventures, email Suzan Hubert at suzanhubert@sbcglobal.net

Lowe's Donates Christmas Tree

We are delighted to thank Lowe's Hardware on Skypark Drive for donating a beautiful Douglas fir Christmas Tree to the Nature Center. This is the third year that Lowe's has generously decorated our lobby, and we are very grateful.

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 Diane Gonsalves at gonwild2@yahoo.com or Bill Arrowsmith, TheArrowsmiths@sbcglobal.net, or dropped off or mailed to the Nature Center, P.O. Box 5078, Torrance, CA 90510.

Around The Preserve with Tracy Drake

Tracy Drake, Naturalist/Manager

Over the past year, we noticed that the rain does not seem to fall evenly on all places of the Nature Center and the Preserve. So this year we decided to see if our observations were accurate and set out three rain gauges in different areas. Since the first rain of the season, October 11, 2012, an average of 2.82 inches was measured at Madrona—locally the measured rain was 3.1 inches.

There are three gauges set out; one in the Native Plant Garden, one near the Nursery and one in the Sump. Interestingly, all three of them received different amounts of rain. In December the Garden received 1.71 inches, the Nursery 1.66 inches and the Sump 1.74 inches. While the high and low measurement difference is only .08 inches—not a lot of rain—it is more than we often get in a single event!

Because of all the rain we've had recently, water from the sump was pumped up to the Preserve and about seven acres of the southern and middle wetlands have flooded to just over a foot of water. I do not know how this happens, but within an hour of water being in the wetlands, more than 125 ducks arrived—many of them announcing their arrival by calling and whistling. After the ducks, mostly mallards, arrived they bathed, explored the entire flooded area, fed on submerged grasses, and in just a few hours could be seen sleeping—tucked under the canopy of the willow trees. Warblers and sparrows became more abundant and by month's end, hundreds of birds could be observed. Even a few rare birds were present all month.(See page 8.)

One rare bird was the Yellow-shafted race of Northern Flicker; we usually see only the Red-shafted. Another was a Northern Parula. How uncommon are these birds? I have records of bird observations starting from 1992. On average, staff or volunteers conduct a bird survey about 150 days a year. During these surveys, very skilled birders go out to the Preserve with fine binoculars, cameras, and excellent skills and count every bird and every bird species they encounter.

Although there is no way to be 100 percent accurate, especially when hundreds of tiny shore birds pass overhead in a fast moving flock, the guesses are as accurate as possible. Anyway, the locally common flicker is the Red-shafted Northern Flicker; it is a woodpecker, the only one that eats on the ground. The Northern Flicker is mostly brown with black streaking on its back and red can be seen

on the underside of its tail. The middle feathers are, as in all woodpeckers, very thick-shafted and stiff, much stiffer than those of songbirds. The stiffness is necessary because woodpeckers use their tails to help stabilize them as they move up and down tree trunks. The woodpeckers' tail feathers give them their subspecies name. Also, the Yellow-shafted Flicker is the eastern race counterpart of our Red-shafted Flicker. Within the past 20 years, the Red-shafted Flicker was seen 18 years—absent in 1998 and 1999 only. The Yellow-Shafted Flicker was seen only in 2006, 2009, and 2010; not very often.

The same fact of rarity is true when considering the Northern Parula. This bird is an eastern wood warbler; common east of the Mississippi River and seldom seen in the west. But, since 1992, it has been spotted five times—1998, 2001, 2005, 2008 and 2010. These uncommon sightings are made, and by day's end, posted on the internet via a blog, LACountyBirds, and/or via the website, ebird, managed by the Lab of Ornithology at Cornell University.

Once the word is out, birders from all over, including from across the entire United States, will come to observe rare local sightings of birds. Many people have come to see both of these birds, the Yellow-shafted Flicker and Northern Parula, and most of them are like many of our visitors, ecstatic that such a wonderful place exists in the heart of Torrance.

One of the program highlights over the past season included the annual PV Audubon Christmas Bird Count during which 60 people volunteered to see how many species and individual birds they could observe in their assigned area on December 23. Preliminarily, 176 species and thousands of individuals were observed in our 15 mile diameter count circle. This is a relatively high number.

Over the past few years we observed an average of about 170 different species. This event nationally is huge, and is in fact the nation's largest and most organized citizen science program. How do we stand in the national rankings? Last year we were thirty-eighth in the nearly 2,000 counts conducted in the United States! We have very precious winter bird habitat locally, and the data of the last 15 years supports this. We owe a big thank you to all the volunteers who braved the cold weather, wind and holiday traffic to make this event a success.

Passings

—Bill Arrowsmith

It is always difficult to bid farewell to those who precede us on the next step in life's journey. That task is nobly done here by Shirley Turner (Jack Knapp) and Fran Arrowsmith (Huell Howser). Sadly, I must add two more. Ironically, those we cannot think of without smiling, evoke the most tears at their parting.

Elaine Melin, wife and life partner of Ron Melin, found final peace in December after a long and courageous battle against Multiple Sclerosis. Ron tells us that one of Elaine's favorite activities growing up was attending summer camp, and

suggests any gifts in her name be made to summer camp programs. We extend to Ron our heartfelt sorrow at his loss.

Long time FOMM supporter **Beatrice Rasoff** has died at the age of 94 in Colorado, where she was living with her son, Henry. "Bea" was an active docent at Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center until she suffered a stroke at the age of 91, according to fellow docent Stephanie Grieco. What a fine example for our 'young' docents! We send our sympathy to Henry and family.

JOHN "JACK" KNAPP JR. - Long-time Friend

—Shirley Turner

Jack Knapp was a long time supporter of the Madrona Marsh. He was a member of the FOMM Board and served as president, as well. His volunteer activities included walk leader for weekend walks, school walks, tour groups, docent for First Thursday preschool—his favorite—Middle School Leadership Training exhibit table, High School Open House, and outreach to Environmental Fairs. You ask him and he was always a "go!"

A long time Torrance High School physics, biology and botany teacher, Jack taught math in many ways to many of all ages and enjoyed teaching his religious education classes. His love of life will continue for generations.

Native plants and flowers adorned his front yard for the benefit of visiting wild life and passersby. After he dug out the grass, Tony Baker planted from his stock.

The famous Marsh brownie satisfied his sweet tooth. Betty, his wife of 62 years, stated that the cookie lifter he used before they married is still in the kitchen drawer.

Family and friends from England donated funds for a map for the entrance to the Preserve. Contributions may be made to: Sacred Stones, Abbey of New Clairvaux, P.O. Box 80, Vina, CA96092, his older brother Joe's Monastery.

HUELL HOWSER-The Man from Tennessee

—Fran Arrowsmith

Many people came in search of California gold . . . but a century or so ago. **Huell Howser** came and struck gold in California . . . less than 35 years ago. California television viewers were the big profiteers of his discoveries.

We lost a fine man January 7, quite unexpectedly. He made many journeys around California, finding the known, and especially the unknown, to showcase to his devoted as well as random viewers. He opened worlds and enlarged our world as he spotlighted special places. Places that he described as "Spectacular!" and "Amazing!"

And they were.

Madrona Marsh was a special place he visited more than once. Happily we have Huell visiting with Shirley Turner and with Jane Nishimura, the lady who invited him down to Torrance in 1995. Naturalist Walt Wright joined them, with Friends Bart Tendick and Carol Roelen. Then, Huell visited again in 2003, again with Jane and Shirley, hosted by Manager Tracy Drake, and a docenting Bill Arrowsmith. It is great that we have it all beautifully recorded on his television program.

Huell was a delight for me to watch on his weekly television programs, all around California and then to Alaska and later Australia.

He will be missed by so many.

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center Schedule of Events for January through April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<u>1</u> CLOSED NEW YEARS DAY	<u>2</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>3</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike (fee) 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>4</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun*** Blieden Exhibit Ends**	<u>5</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10 am-12 n-Native Plants-Dr. Vadheim
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> CLOSED	<u>8</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30-8:30 pm-Dr. Vadheim McGreevy Ex.Begins	<u>9</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	<u>10</u> 10:30--12:30-Propagation Society	<u>11</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>12</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 6:30-8:30 pm-Night Hike
<u>13</u> 2-4 pm-Second Sunday Science-"The Wonders of Winter"-fee	<u>14</u> CLOSED	<u>15</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>16</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>17</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>18</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>19</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 9-11 am-Winter on Edge 11-1pm-Storytime & Crafts for Kids 6:30-8:30 pm-Star Party/ Paul Livio
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> CLOSED	<u>22</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>23</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>24</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>25</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun*** DeRidder Ex. Opens**	<u>26</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10 am-Nature Walk
<u>27</u> 10 am-Nature Walk 3-5-FOMM Annual Mtg.	<u>28</u> CLOSED	<u>29</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>30</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders			

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. **See Artists Corner, page 9. *No charge for Friday Fun, but reservations are required. For the latest event information, consult website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<u>1</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>2</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 am-"Gourmet Greens ..." Dr. Vadheim
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> CLOSED	<u>5</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30 pm-"Gourmet Greens" Dr. Vadheim	<u>6</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>7</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike (fee) 10:30-12:30-Prop. Society 7-DeRidder reception**	<u>8</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun*** 6:30-McGreevy Reception	<u>9</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 am- 1pm-Turtle & Tortoise Day
<u>10</u> 1-3 pm-Kids Watercolor-fee 2-4pm-2ndSun. "...Ducks"-fee 8 am-Photo Walk-free	<u>11</u> CLOSED	<u>12</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>13</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 10 am-Adult Weeders 1-2 pm-Sr. Naturalists 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	<u>14</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>15</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>16</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student Service 9-11 am-Bird Stories 10 am-12-Illustration workshop-fee 6:30 pm-Star Party
<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> CLOSED	<u>19</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>20</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>21</u> 10:30--12:30-Propagation Society	<u>22</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun*** McGreevy Exhibit Ends	<u>23</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10 am-Nature Walk
<u>24</u> 10am-Nature Walk	<u>25</u> CLOSED DeRidder Ex.Ends**	<u>26</u> 10am-Adult Weeders Reid/Magner Exhibit Opens	<u>27</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>28</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society		

FEBRUARY

Nature Center & Gift Shop

(310)782-3989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					10 am--12 n- Friday Fun*** ¹	8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 am-"Garden Warfare," Dr. Vadheim ²
³	⁴ CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30 pm-"Garden Warfare" Dr. Vadheim ⁵	⁶ 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30-8:30 pm-Digital Photography, I-fee	10 am-Tyke Hike (fee) 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society ⁷	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun*** ⁸	8:30-12-Arbor Day 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service ⁹
2-4 pm- Second Sunday Science-"Harle- quin Bug"-fee ¹⁰	¹¹ CLOSED	¹² 10 am-Adult Weeders	8 am-Bird Walk/ 10 am-Adult Weeders 1-2pm-Sr.Naturalists 6:30-8:30 pm-Digital Photography, I-fee 6:30 pm-FOMM Mtg. ¹³	10:30-12:30- Propagation Society ¹⁴	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun*** ¹⁵	8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student Service ¹⁶ 9-11 am-Bird Stories 7:30-pm-Star Party
1-3pm-Water- color for Kids- fee ¹⁷	¹⁸ CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg. ¹⁹	10 am-Adult Weeders ²⁰	10:30--12:30- Propagation Society ²¹	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun*** ²² 6:30-Reid/ Magner Reception	8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service ²³ 10 am-Nature Walk
10am-Nature ²⁴ Walk 8 am-Digital Photo, I-fee	²⁵ CLOSED	²⁶ 10 am-Adult Weeders	10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30-8:30 pm-Digital Photography, I-fee ²⁷	10:30-12:30- Propagation Society ²⁸	²⁹	8:30-11 am-Birding by Ear ³⁰ 10 am-Illustration workshop-fee

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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. **See Artists Corner, page 9. *No charge for Friday Fun, but reservations are required. For the latest event information, consult website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	¹ CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders ²	10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30-8:30-Basic Digital Photography, II-fee ³	10 am-Tyke Hike (fee) 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society ⁴	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun*** Reid/Magner Exhibit Ends ⁵	8:45 am-12n-Hab. Re- stor. & Student Service ⁶ 10 am-12 n-"Attractive Annuals,"Dr. Vadheim 7-9 pm- Night Hike-fee
⁷	⁸ CLOSED	10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30 pm- "Attractive Annuals,"Dr. Vadheim ⁹	8 am-Bird Walk/ 10 am-Adult Weeders 1-2 pm-Sr.Naturalists 6:30 pm-FOMM Mtg. 6:30-pm-Basic Digit. Photography, II -fee ¹⁰	10:30--12:30- Propagation Society ¹¹	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun*** ¹²	8:45 am-12n-Hab. Re- stor. & Student Service ¹³ 11am-Kids Storytime-fee
1-3pm-Kids ¹⁴ Watercolor-fee 2-4 pm-2nd Sunday Sci.- Spring"-fee- 6:30-8:30-Digit. photo, II-fee	¹⁵ CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg. ¹⁶	10 am-Adult Weeders ¹⁷	10:30-12:30- Propagation Society ¹⁸	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun*** ¹⁹	8:30 am-12- Earth Day ²⁰ 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Re- stor. & Student Service 9-11 am-Bird Stories 10 am-12-Illustr.wkshp-fee 11:30 am-Madrona Music/ Frank Deluca-free
²¹	²² CLOSED	10 am-Adult Weeders ²³	10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30pm-Basic Photo,II fee ²⁴	10:30-12:30- Propagation Society ²⁵	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun*** ²⁶	8:45 am-12n-Hab. Re- stor. & Student Service ²⁷ 10 am-Nature Walk
10 am-Nature ²⁸ Walk	²⁹ CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders ³⁰				

APRIL

Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies of the Preserve

These species were documented by Tracy Drake, Dinuk Magamma and Jean Wilkerson.

Birds		
Gadwall	Western Wood-Pewee	Yellow-rumped Warbler
American Wigeon	Willow Flycatcher	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Mallard	Hammond's Flycatcher	Townsend's Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Wilson's Warbler
Cinnamon Teal	Black Phoebe	Spotted Towhee
Northern Shoveler	Say's Phoebe	California Towhee
Double-crested Cormorant	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Chipping Sparrow
Brown Pelican	Cassin's Kingbird	Clay-colored Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Western Kingbird	Brewer's Sparrow
Great Egret	Hutton's Vireo	Vesper Sparrow
Snowy Egret	Warbling Vireo	Lark Sparrow
Green Heron	Western Scrub-Jay	Savannah Sparrow
Black-crowned Night-heron	American Crow	Fox Sparrow
White-tailed Kite	Common Raven	Song Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Barn Swallow	Lincoln's Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Cliff Swallow	White-throated Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Bushtit	White-crowned Sparrow
Red-tailed Hawk	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Common Gallinule	White-breasted Nuthatch	Dark-eyed Junco
American Coot	House Wren	Western Tanager
Killdeer	Bewick's Wren	Black-headed Grosbeak
Wilson's Snipe	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Blue Grosbeak
Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Lazuli Bunting
Western Gull	Western Bluebird	Red-winged Blackbird
California Gull	Hermit Thrush	Western Meadowlark
Rock Pigeon	American Robin	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Northern Mockingbird	Brewer's Blackbird
Mourning Dove	European Starling	Great-tailed Grackle
Great Horned Owl	American Pipit	Brown-headed Cowbird
Vaux's Swift	Cedar Waxwing	Hooded Oriole
White-throated Swift	Phainopepla	House Finch
Anna's Hummingbird	Black-and-white Warbler	Pine Siskin
Allen's Hummingbird	Orange-crowned Warbler	Lesser Goldfinch
Belted Kingfisher	Nashville Warbler	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Downy Woodpecker	MacGillivray's Warbler	American Goldfinch
Northern Flicker	Common Yellowthroat	House Sparrow
American Kestrel	Northern Parula	Orange Bishop
Merlin	Yellow Warbler	Nutmeg Mannikin
Peregrine Falcon	Palm Warbler	Italic= Rare or unusual

Butterflies		
Monarch	American Lady	Gray Hairstreak
Queen	West Coast Lady	Western Pygmy Blue
Gulf Fritillary	Cabbage White	Marine Blue
Red Admiral	Cloudless Sulphur	Acmon Blue
Painted Lady	Sleepy Orange	Fiery Skipper

Dragonflies		
Common Green Darner	Wandering Glider	Black Saddlebags
Variegated Meadowhawk	Spot-Winged Glider	Red Saddlebags

Our Favorite Hostage

—Bill Arrowsmith

Estelle DeRidder is an extremely interesting person. She is as delightful and charming as she is artistically gifted illustrator. Although she has her studio in Colorado where she normally lives, we are quite fortunate that she is currently being held captive in Torrance by her equally charming two-year-old granddaughter, Cora. While here to take care of Cora for a working mother, Estelle somehow has found time to adopt the Marsh and FOMM, and to develop an appreciation for native and drought tolerant plants. She volunteers at the front desk and in the Gift Shop and is providing illustrations of Native Plants for an educational grant, for which Tracy is providing photographs of the same plants, and they have another project planned.

We are therefore pleased to invite you all to an exhibition in Orange, in which Estelle is showing eight pieces, of which all but one are natives:

Drought Tolerant Plants Illustrated and Described at the Chapman University Leatherby Library

The Botany Dept. of Chapman University, in conjunction with the Botanical Artists' Guild of Southern California, is hosting an exhibition of drought tolerant plants from January 25 to February 25. The University is located at: 1 University Drive, Orange, CA 92866.

The opening reception is: Thursday, February 7, from 7 - 9 p.m., in the Leatherby Library, on the second floor.

Estelle DeRidder will have eight pieces in the show, of which all but one are natives.

For more information about this event, please contact estellederidderart@gmail.com

Mornings on the Marsh Transitions to Senior Naturalists

We want to thank former Friends President Bart Tendick for many years of fascinating tours for our senior citizens, as he led the Senior Stroll and later Mornings on the Marsh on Tuesdays. Bart will now take some well-deserved time off to spend with his lovely wife, Kathy.

And we have an entirely new series to offer our seniors: Senior Naturalists, with Bob Carr. Meet with Bob in his laboratory in the Nature Center and discover the world of microorganisms visible only

through the powerful microscopes that Mr. Carr will show you how to use. Soon you'll be able to identify the plankton and algae and fairy shrimp that form the basis of animal life on the preserve -- the very bottom of the food chain. And you'll find they are interesting and fun to watch -- just like Bob!

The first series of three programs will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month in February, March and April. That's February 13, March 13 and April 10. It's free, and light refreshment will be provided.

Artists Corner

Works of local artists and photographers inspired by the beauty of the Madrona Marsh are regularly on display at the Nature Center. Everyone is invited to attend each artist's reception where the artist talks about his/her work or gives a demonstration. Snacks and beverages are served.

January 8 - February 22, **Dick Mc-Greevy**, "**Splendor on the Marsh**," a Photography Exhibit. Artist's reception Friday, February 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

January 25 - February 25, **Estelle DeRidder**, "**Drought Tolerant Plants**," at Chapman University (see story above). Reception February 7, 7-9 p.m. at Chapman.

February 26 - April 5, **Cindy Reid**, "**Harley the Harlequin Bug**," The Art of Creating a Children's Book; illustrated by **Joan Magner**. Artist's Reception - Friday, March 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Donations of \$100 or More

Ellen Peterson, Treasurer

Date	Who	Sum	Comments
August	ExxonMobil	\$3,500	Volunteer Matching Funds
Sept.	Palo Del Amo Woods Home-Owners Assn.	\$150	
Oct.	Glen Williams Mr./Mrs. Juno Uyematsu	\$100	
	Pamela Baal & Robert Fisher	\$300	In memory of Jack Knapp
Nov.	CNPS	\$500	
Dec.	Old Torrance Neighborhood Association	\$100	
	Diane Hattori	\$125	

Shirley's Turn

—Shirley Turner

Twenty five miles off the coast of Southern California is Santa Cruz Island. Once on the brink of ecological collapse, it is now home to more than 1,000 species of plants and animals. The Nature Conservancy, since the 1978 purchase of much of the island, has been working to eradicate invasive species such as feral pigs, which are fast becoming food for the Golden Eagle which now fishes for its food.

They have brought back the nearly extinct island fox in the last 10 years. Together with the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Game, The Nature Conservancy has engaged in extensive science-based restoration efforts on the island. Formerly the island's 77 miles of coast could be observed only from boats, but it is now open to the public for visiting.

Author T.C. Boyle has used the historic story of Santa Cruz Island as the basis of his novel, *When the Killing is Done*, published February 2011. The inspiration for this book was a rather testy turf war fought during the last decade between animal rights activists and the biologists of the NPS and Nature Conservancy over the elimination of non-native species of plants and animals on the Channel Islands.

Boyle is a much published story teller and has written eleven novels. He is an English professor, who lives in Santa Barbara with his wife and three children. You may watch him recite stories on his web page: <http://www.tcboyle.com>.

Introduced species occur everywhere. Boyle's book was a gift from my daughter who recently

observed two deer near her home in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. People likely brought deer to the island for hunting. From a boat people have seen deer swimming from island to island. Nearer to home, in Palos Verdes there are the Peafowl and Red Foxes. And we at the Marsh have done our own successful restoration and will continue to do so.

Aliens? Can you help us identify this mystery object discovered by Emile Fiesler? It's about a half an inch long.



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South Bay Native Plant Corner

—Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSU, Dominguez Hills



Purple Clarkia
Clarkia purpurea

Our rains have been perfect for spring wildflowers. Although late in coming, they've been gentle and regular. If they continue, we may have a bumper crop of wild flowers on the Preserve this year.

You may have noticed a charming little wildflower that grows in spring near the gate at the entrance to the Preserve. Its flowers—in shades of pastel pink-purple—are delicate enough to grace an English cottage garden. The plant you've admired is Elegant Clarkia (*Clarkia purpurea*), which once grew abundantly in low-lying areas of the South Bay, as well as on the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Purple Clarkia, like other native Clarkias, is a member of the *Onagraceae* or Evening Primrose/Willow Herb family. This family includes a number of lovely flowering plants including garden fuschias, California Fuschia, the Evening Primroses and the Suncups (*Camissonia* species). Plants in the family *Onagraceae* are particularly common in the western United States.

In addition to having lovely flowers in parts of four, many species in this family open either at dawn or dusk—hence the common name 'Evening Primrose.' Purple Clarkia is open in the daytime and pollinated by day-flying insects like bees, as well as hummingbirds.

Our local Purple Clarkia is particularly lovely. The petals are almost white near the center, pink-purple at their edges with a darker magenta spot or wedge. The petal's coloration and irregular edge suggest a

lady's fan, hence this plant's other common name 'Fairy Fans.'

Purple Clarkia is as easy to grow as it is beautiful. Clarkias thrive in any local soil and can take full sun or partial shade. You can grow them in garden beds or in containers. They look beautiful with other native wildflowers and make a surprisingly robust cut flower. Birds love the seeds; you can also parch them for use as pinole or in baked goods.



Purple Clarkia is grown from seed (see links below for seed sources). A good trick is to cover the wildflower area with a thin (< 1 inch) layer of gravel. This helps the plants survive cold, drought and hungry birds. Gently rake in seeds before a good rain. Keep the soil moist until flowering is done, then taper off so seeds develop. Gather seeds (you can invert whole plants into a paper bag and let them drop out) or let them re-seed naturally. Give seeds to your neighbors as a nice, life-friendly gift!

Learn more about local native plants at our "Out of the Wilds and into Your Garden" series on the first Saturday of each month, repeated the following Tuesday.

Plant Information Sheets and Plant Lists are also available at the Nature Center or at <http://nativeplantscsudh.blogspot.com/> (see 'Plant Lists & Native Plant Gallery' page).



Friends of Madrona Marsh

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