

Marsh Mailing

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

The Joy of Being a Naturalist

Photos and text by Tracy Drake, Preserve Manager

There are some times when it is awesome to be a naturalist. Many times you get to witness incredible beauty and sometimes, you make important discoveries. Friday, March 15, 2013 was a day of discovery and an incredible day that I just have to share!

In the morning I was working with my friend, Peggy, who works in the Environmental Management Division at LAX. She is in charge of the preservation and restoration of the dunes—doing so while being mindful of the needs of the airport and the safety of those people who fly in and out of the airport daily.

Anyway, she invited me to go out with the folks from Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, including Bart O'Brien, who were looking for an uncommon annual Phacelia. We did not find the plant but we (Bart) did spot a horned lizard and I saw at least four California Gnatcatchers.



Horned Lizard

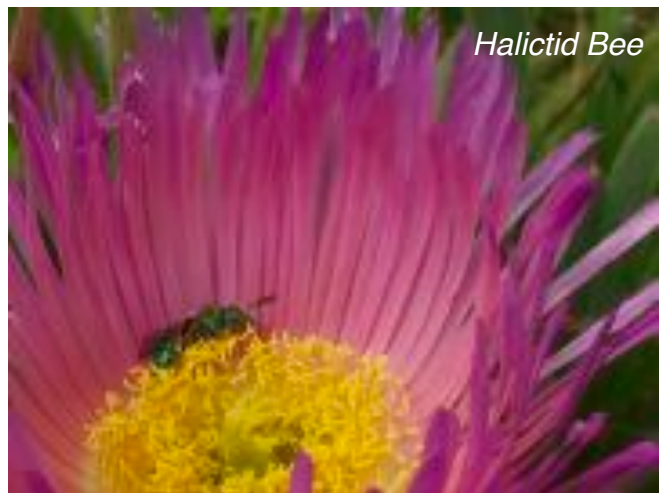
Because they were singing—the males' territory—both Bart and I could hear their songs wafting from afar. We could hear them even over the roar of the planes, the constant breeze, and through the thick, damp fog.



California Gnatcatcher

This bird has a limited range, extending north from Mexico's Baja California to coastal Southern California. Because of its specific habitat requirements, it is very vulnerable and is a high conservation priority. Increasing human populations have fragmented and destroyed much habitat in Southern California—so much so—that it was Federally listed as a Threatened Species in 1993.

“Joy” Continued on Page 3.



Halictid Bee

Madrona Science Fair Awards Announced

Tracy Drake, Manager & Naturalist

March is Science Fair completion month at Madrona. It is the time when all the research the students have been doing is finalized and entered into a Science Fair. Most of the students enter the Intel Science Fair held at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. This year we mentored seven students. Here's a list of their names, projects, brief summary and outcomes:

1. Researcher: *Sombe Banargee*

Research topic or question: Can *Pseudomonas fluorescens* be used to Reduce Nitrate Concentration in Marsh Water?

Summary: Nitrate concentration in the water of the Preserve is considered non-beneficial because it causes plants to grow too quickly and reduce water movement. Reduced water movement reduces the amount of oxygen in the water and as a consequence, non-beneficial algae and even non-beneficial bacteria can flourish. *Pseudomonas fluorescens* is a beneficial bacterium that naturally occurs in soil, plant roots and on the surface of water. It is known to be able to reduce environmental pollutants and is used in medicine because it produces a particular antibiotic (Mupirocin) which has been proven effective in treating certain kinds of skin, ear, and eye disorders.

Results: This bacteria was found to be effective in reducing nitrate concentrations in the water.

Awarded: Second place in the Biochemistry division.

2. Researcher: *Jenny Gao*

Research topic or question: Phytoremediation of Copper and Iron ions using *Scirpus californicus*

Summary: Due to past uses of the land that is the Preserve, high levels of copper and iron are present in the soil and water at Madrona. While iron is not too much of a problem, copper is a toxin in the environment. Remediation generally involves diluting the copper concentration in water through adding potable water. Remediation of copper-laden soil involves removing it and taking it to a special type of dump site.

Results: California Tule was very effective in removing copper from water.

Awarded: Honorable mention in the Botany division.

3. Researcher: *Christine Jung*

Research topic or question: Effects of Oxygen Flow and Phosphate Reducer on the Necrosis of *Cladophora* Algae

Summary: Phosphates are the number one pollutant in the water in the Marsh. The high concentrations arrive dissolved in urban run-off. The phosphates leach out of local lawns when they are overwatered and the run-off enters the Preserve. Phosphates are the number one pollutant in all fresh water world-wide. Too many phosphates causes algae to bloom, and other problems within the freshwater system

Results: The phosphate reducer was found to be effective in reducing phosphates in the water and as a result oxygen concentration increased and *Cladophora* populations reduced.

Awarded: Honorable mention, Botany division.

4. Researcher: *Praveen Kuruppu*

Research topic or question: The Control of Invasive Plants at the Madrona Marsh – Year 2

Summary: Controlling weeds on the Preserve is done by hand weeding and by mechanical means—mowing. Praveen chose a commercial product called Concern Weed Prevention Plus which is a powerful weed prevention pre-emergent and an effective all natural fertilizer. He wanted to find out if using this product would be more efficient in weed control around already established native plants.

Results: Concern was very effective if used from the plant base through the drip line of the plant.

Awarded: First place in the Earth and Space Science division.

“Science Awards” Continued on Page 3.

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.

5. Researcher: Katie Cha

Research topic or question: The Effect of Various Temperatures on the Viability of Halobacteria

Summary: Halobacteria is a beneficial bacteria found in saline conditions in shallow water in wetlands, ponds, and the ocean and at the La Brea Tar Pits. This newly discovered bacterium has been little studied and its temperature tolerance range was not previously known.

“Joy” Continued from Page 1.



Silvery Blue Butterfly

According to well-known local ornithologists, this bird had NEVER been seen in the dunes—at least for many decades.

Conservation and restoration of the dunes has been in process for many years. The restoration and preservation of the habitat of the endangered El Segundo Blue Butterfly, (not pictured here) that is present late spring to early summer, has been very successful. Now, with this discovery, another threatened species has hope.

The delicate balance between human interests and environmental preservation is—in this place and in this case—intact. To whom do we owe thanks? I do not know but I am very grateful for their dedication and to the folks at LAX who work—HARD—to keep that balance. . . .
-T.D.

Results: This bacterium was found to have a very narrow temperature tolerance. As a keystone species in inhospitable salty environmental conditions, it is surmised that if local temperatures were to rise, this bacterium and the organisms associated with it will not survive.

Awarded: Honorable Mention in the Microbiology division.

6. Researcher: Victoria Chan

Research topic or question: The Antiseptic Effects of Natural Substances on Escherichia Coli

Summary: Most strains of E. coli are harmless but some strains are non-beneficial that can cause food poisoning in humans which can lead to other serious illnesses. Victoria wanted to discover if natural substances would reduce non-beneficial E. coli or eliminate it in a lab setting.

Results: Of the many substances studied, Eucalyptus oil was found to be effective in reducing E. coli populations.

Awarded: Second place in the Microbiology division

7. Researcher: Anthony Stenzel (13 years old!)

Research topic or question: The Effect of Sodium Phosphate on Daphnia magna

Summary: Sodium phosphate is a generic term for the salts of sodium hydroxide and phosphoric acid. It is commonly used in medicine to treat heart problems. It is also one of the main pollutants in fresh water habitats world-wide. High concentrations are responsible for reduction of freshwater invertebrate populations which are an important food source to many freshwater animals. Anthony set out to discover the range of tolerance to lethality of sodium phosphate on Daphnia.

Results: The tolerance (at room temperature and room pressure) to lethality was determined.

Awarded: First Place, Holy Trinity School Science Fair, San Pedro

Second Place, Los Angeles County Science Fair – Ecology division

Cash Award, \$500 and Award of Excellence from the Southern California Paleontological

“Science Awards” Continued on Page 4.

Society. His research will also be published in the Paleontological Society Journal and he will give a talk on his research at the July 7th meeting of the Society held at the La Brea Tar Pits. He and his family will also get a behind the scenes tour of the Tar Pits.

California State Science Fair invitee—to be held on April 14 and 15 at Exposition Park

As you can see our students completed amazing research this year and four of the seven students earned very prestigious awards. This year Bob Carr, Tracy Drake, Mark Christiansen and Dan Portway were all mentors. The teamwork and dedication of the both the students and the mentors helped to create these successes—and these successes help to make the Madrona Marsh an even more incredible place. –T.D.

Donations of \$100 or More Winter 2013

Ellen Peterson, Treasurer

Date	Donor	Donation	Information
December	Lisa Orrantia	\$200	
January	The Shanman’s	\$250	
January	James & Yooko Justiss	\$400	
January	Mr.&Mrs Bailey	\$100	
January	Richard & Jane Nishimura	\$100	In memory of Huell Howser
January	Norman & Suzanne George	\$200	
January	Mr. & Mrs. Roderick Macdonell	\$500	
January	Rebecca Moore	\$100	
January	Virginia Hilker	\$100	In honor of Bea Rasof’s life
January	Meri Rathbun & Mary Rathbun	\$150	In memory of Esther Cohen
February	Karoline Snakenborg	\$100	
February	Elizabeth Rogers	\$100	In memory of Esther Ginsbey Cohen
March	Shirley Clark	\$100	
March	Nathan Vogel	\$125	

Another Mystery. . .

To rattle your brain:

This elongated egg-shaped object was about 6 mm (~ 1/4 inch) long, bicolored, as visible in the photo, and relatively soft to the touch.

It was in a shady, sheltered area with above average moisture.

It could be a pupa, but of which animal ?"



Last month’s mystery item is still a mystery According to Emile Fiesler, “We haven’t figured it out yet. It is likely an insect egg (or pupal) case, but its cone shape doesn’t match anything familiar. . . .”

Any other ideas?

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.

April 9 - May 24, August Agustsson, “Metamorphosis,” a Photography Exhibit. Artist’s Reception Friday, April 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

May 28 - July 5, Tracy Drake and Mark Christiansen, “Spring on the Marsh,” an Exhibit of Photography and Paintings. Artists’ Reception Friday, June 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Shirley's Turn

—Shirley Turner

In the March 11 issue of *Investors Business Daily* financial newspaper under "Trends and Innovations," there are stories I would like to share with you:

Cicada Wings Kill Bacteria

"Their loud and annoying sound might not be so bad after all. Cicada do not take baths to stay clean, but their wings feature tiny spikes that kill the bacteria. When bacteria land on a hexagonal layer of nanopillars they stick to the spikes and the bacteria's soft membranes are ripped apart. Scientists are hoping the spiked wing design could be used to create self-cleaning surfaces like handrails and doors in public restrooms that wouldn't need to be sanitized with harmful cleaning agents."

Rainbow Algae

"Rainbow-colored algae could help biologists lower the cost of bio fuels, develop drugs or lead to other breakthroughs. U.C. San Diego biologists tagged algae with different kinds of fluorescent proteins, creating vibrant blues, reds, yellows, and other colors. They say the color-coding could be an important tool in allowing researchers to sort cells or view cellular structures."

Attracting Pollinators

Did you see the beautiful yellow bee in the March 16 *Daily Breeze* Home and Garden Section? "Earthtalk" is written by Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss for the Environment Magazine. They answer the question of how to attract bees to the garden. They suggest going to Xerces.org for a plant list for various sections of the states. Planting a garden to attract pollinators is a noble project that we all should do. Master gardener, Marie Iannotti, an About.com Gardening Guide, suggests many colors and different shapes of flowers to attract pollinators. Xerces has recently published a new \$80 book, *Attracting Native Pollinators: Protecting North America's Bees and Butterflies*, available at www.xerces.org.

CBS TV's Sunday Morning program mentioned Monarch Butterflies in Mexico where they are counted by how many acres they cover. Ten years ago it was 22 acres. Last year it was 7

acres, and this year it is less than 3 acres. Use less or no chemicals in your yard, please. It can be done. Then enjoy more friendly species to see.

Sunday Morning's program featured Monarch Butterflies on March 17 and on March 24 the program's "Moment of Nature" featured bees pollinating almond trees in California.

Editor's Note: As usual, Shirley has offered some sound environmental advice: "Plant a garden that will attract pollinators, like bees and butterflies." And you may not need to go far to find good suggestions. Friends' expert Professor Connie Vadheim recently received this praise via our website from Michael Eckenfels, who lives in Houston, Texas:

"I just wanted to say thank you for your Slide Share on bee gardening.

I've been looking at bee resources on the internet for a couple of months now and your Slide Share is really one of the best overall practical info sources I've found.

I live in Houston, so of course the plant specifics would be different, but the overall template is very succinct and rich and still applicable.

As I gather more IT skills I will consider doing one for my region. I like the public accessibility and conciseness. Given what I'm learning about learners, the more concise the better.

Thanks for the inspiration.

Michael"

(What You May Not Know: Professor Vadheim has posted her 'Out of the Wild' class Power Point presentations from 2009-present on SlideShare, which is like a YouTube for slide shows, to allow class members to see talks they missed. She shares that, since she started doing this in mid-January, she's had over 12,000 views! In her words, "Yowza!" Connie continues to be one of our greatest human resources. Google SlideShare or go to www.slideshare.net)

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

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

APRIL

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 4. *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-Home School Nature Class (fee) 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>2</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike (fee) 10am-Home School Nature Class (fee) 10:30-Prop. Soc.	<u>3</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>4</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor.& Student.Service 10 am-12 n-"Theodore Payne"-Dr. Vadheim
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> CLOSED	<u>7</u> 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30- pm, "Theodore Payne,"-Dr. Vadheim	<u>8</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 10 am-Adult Weeders 1-2pm-Sr.Naturalist 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	<u>9</u> 10:30--12:30-Propagation Society	<u>10</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>11</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor.& Student.Service 10 am-12n-Botan./Zoo. Illustration.-fee
<u>12</u> 2-4 pm-2nd Sun. Sci., Microscope Explor."-fee	<u>13</u> CLOSED	<u>14</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>15</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>16</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>17</u> 10 am--12n-Friday Fun***	<u>18</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor.& Student.Service 9 am-Bird Stories
<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> CLOSED	<u>21</u> 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>22</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>23</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>24</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun*** Augustsson Exhib. Ends	<u>25</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor.& Student.Service 10 am-Nature Walk 7:30-pm-Bugs of Night
<u>26</u> 10 am-Nature Walk 10 am-Kids' Watercolor	<u>27</u> CLOSED	<u>28</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders Drake/Christiansen Exhibit Begins	<u>29</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>30</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>31</u>	

MAY

Nature Center & Gift Shop

(310)782-3989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<u>1</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 am-"Planning for Pollinators," Dr. Vadheim
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> CLOSED	<u>4</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30 pm-"...Pollinators" Dr. Vadheim	<u>5</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>6</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike (fee) 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>7</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>8</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service
<u>9</u> 2-4 pm-2nd Sun. Sci.-"Spiders & Bugs"-fee	<u>10</u> CLOSED	<u>11</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>12</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ 10 am-Adult Weeders 1-2pm-Sr.Naturalists 6:30 pm-FOMM Mtg.	<u>13</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>14</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>15</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student Service 9-11am-Warblers/Sparrows 8:30-10:30 pm-Star Party
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> CLOSED	<u>18</u> 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>19</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>20</u> 10:30--12:30-Propagation Society	<u>21</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun*** 6:30-Tracy/Christiansen Reception	<u>22</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10 am-Nature Walk
<u>23</u> 10am-Nature Walk	<u>24</u> CLOSED	<u>25</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>26</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>27</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>28</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>29</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10 am-10 an-12n-Bot.& Zoo. Illustration workshop-fee 10 am-Turtle/Tortoise Day

1-3 pm-Dinosaur Lesson & Hunt-fee 30
JUNE

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 4. *No charge for Friday Fun, but reservations are required. For the latest event information, consult website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.*

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<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> CLOSED	<u>9</u> 10a-12-Jr. Naturalists 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30 pm-"Beautiful Butterflies" Dr. Vadheim	<u>10</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 9-11 am-Birding 101 10 am-Adult Weeders 1-2 pm-Sr.Naturalists 6:30-pm-FOMM Bd	<u>11</u> 10a-12-Jr. Naturalists 10:30-12:30-Prop. Society	<u>12</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>13</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 a-Butterfly Count Class-fee 8:30 pm-Star Party
<u>14</u> 2-4pm-2ndSun. Sci."Fabulous Critters"-fee	<u>15</u> CLOSED	<u>16</u> 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10a-12-Jr. Naturalists 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>17</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders 9-11 am-Birding 101	<u>18</u> 10a-12-Jr. Naturalists 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>19</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>20</u> All Day-Butterfly Count 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student Service
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> CLOSED	<u>23</u> 10a-12-Jr. Naturalists 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>24</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders 9-11 am-Birding 101	<u>25</u> 10a-12-Jr. Naturalists 10:30--12:30-Propagation Society	<u>26</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>27</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Re-stor.& Student.Service 10 am-Nature Walk 11am-Kids Storytime & Crafts
<u>28</u> 10am-Nature Walk 10am-Kids' Watercolor	<u>29</u> CLOSED	<u>30</u> 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10am-Adult Weeders	<u>31</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders 9-11 am-Birding 101			

JULY

Madrona Marsh Preserve Total Bird Species Observed in 2012

Canada Goose	White-throated Swift	Northern Parula
Wood Duck	Anna's Hummingbird	Yellow Warbler
Gadwall	Allen's Hummingbird	Palm Warbler
American Wigeon	Belted Kingfisher	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Northern Flicker	Townsend's Warbler
Cinnamon Teal	Olive-sided Woodpecker	Hermit Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Western Wood-peewee	Wilson's Warbler
Northern Pintail	Willow Flycatcher	Yellow-breasted Chat
Green-winged Teal	Hammond's Flycatcher	Green-tailed Towhee
Ringed-necked Duck	Gray Flycatcher	Spotted Towhee
Bufflehead	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	California Towhee
Pied-billed Grebe	Dusky Flycatcher	Chipping Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Black Phoebe	Clay-colored Sparrow
Brown Pelican	Say's Phoebe	Brewer's Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Vesper Sparrow
Great Egret	Cassin's Kingbird	Lark Sparrow
Snowy Egret	Western Kingbird	Savannah Sparrow
Green Heron	Loggerhead Shrike	Fox Sparrow
Black-crowned Night Heron	Cassin's Vireo	Song Sparrow
Turkey Vulture	Hutton's Vireo	Lincoln's Sparrow
White-tailed Kite	Warbling Vireo	White-throated Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Western Scrub-jay	White-crowned Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	American Crow	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Red-shouldered Hawk	Common Raven	Dark-eyed Junco
Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Western Tanager
Virginia Rail	Tree Swallow	Black-headed Grosbeak
Sora	Violet-green Swallow	Blue Grosbeak
Common Gallinule	Bank Swallow	Lazuli Bunting
American Coot	Barn Swallow	Indigo Bunting
Killdeer	Cliff Swallow	Red-winged Blackbird
Spotted Sandpiper	Bushtit	Brewer's Blackbird
Solitary Sandpiper	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Long-billed Dowitcher	White-breasted Nuthatch*	Western Meadowlark
Wilson's Snipe	House Wren	Great-tailed Grackle
Ringed-bill Gull	Marsh Wren	Brown-headed Cowbird
Western Gull	Bewick's Wren	Hooded Oriole
California Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Bullock's Oriole
Glaucous-winged Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	House Finch
Caspian Tern	Western Bluebird	Pine Siskin
Rock Pigeon	Swainson's Thrush	Lesser Goldfinch
Eurasian Collared Dove	Hermit Thrush	American Goldfinch
Mourning Dove	American Robin	House Sparrow
American Kestrel	Northern Mockingbird	Orange Bishop
Merlin	European Starling	Nutmeg Mannikin
Peregrine Falcon	American Pipit	Pin-tailed Whydah
Budgerigar	Cedar Waxwing	
Mitred Parakeet	Phainopepla	154 total species for the year
Yellow-cheveroned Parakeet	Black-and-white Warbler	19 species breed
Great Horned Owl	Orange-crowned Warbler	12 uncommon species seen
Short-eared Owl	Nashville Warbler	*1 new bird for Madrona Marsh
Common Poorwill	MacGillivray's Warbler	
Vaux's Swift	Common Yellowthroat	More than 30 people contributed data to this list

South Bay Native Plant Corner

—Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSU, Dominguez Hills



California Sycamore
Platanus racemosa

Springtime is full of surprises. For example, the large trees near the Preserve entrance are now covered with spiky pink balls on zig-zag stems. The trees are California Sycamores—and the balls are actually densely packed with bright pink flowers. Isn't nature wonderful!

The California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) is a large tree that grows in western California and Baja, mostly along stream banks and other moist places below 5000 feet elevation. You can still see original trees in the Santa Monica Mountains and on Catalina Island. Sycamores always grow where water is near the surface; California natives and settlers looked for these trees when choosing a place to live.

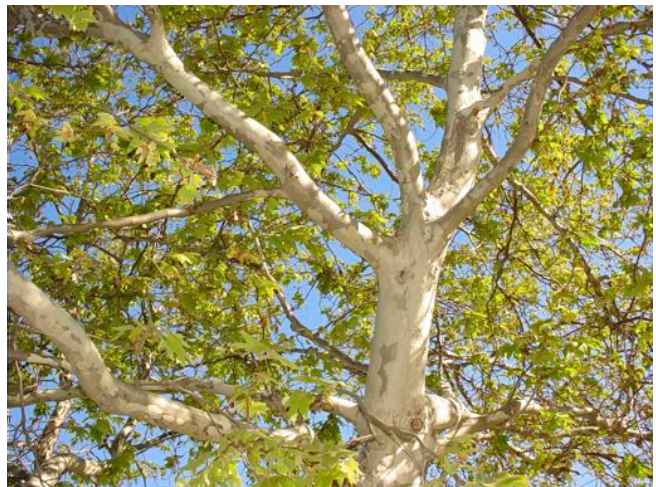
Mature Sycamores are impressive. They can reach over 100 feet tall and 70-80 feet wide and live 400 years or more. With spreading branches that touch the ground, Sycamores provide shelter for many wild creatures. In fact, California Sycamore is one of our best native habitat trees.

Its seeds and insects attract a range of feeding birds including orioles, cedar waxwings, warblers, goldfinches and house finches. Sycamores are larval food plants for the Western Tiger Swallowtail butterfly. Mature trees provide nest sites for raptors and cavity nesting birds. Look for hummingbirds, warblers, hawks, and

many other birds in our Sycamores on the north side of the Preserve.

You can tell a California Sycamore by its leaves and bark. The leaves look like an outstretched hand with three to five fingers. In early spring, they are covered with dense, soft brown hairs. The bark is often described as 'puzzle bark' because the colored sections resemble pieces of a puzzle. The youngest bark is the most brightly colored. Trees that look like Sycamores—but don't have the distinctive bark—are non-native London Plane Trees. Several of these are planted near the Nature Center.

California Sycamores are wind-pollinated. One clue is the location of flowers on drooping stalks where they are exposed to the wind. The tiny seeds are densely packed in the ball-shaped fruit. Seeds float away on the wind when the mature fruit ball breaks apart in summer/fall.



California Sycamore is used in local parks and as a street tree in some neighborhoods. The trees drop their leaves in winter - they produce quite a bit of leaf litter. The wood has been used to make many products including musical instruments. California Sycamores are an important legacy of natural California.

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.

Goodbye, Madrona Marsh

Mary Garrity

Several decades ago I stepped into an unknown territory. I read about a group of enthusiastic citizens who were attempting to preserve and save a parcel of open space in the City of Torrance.

As I gazed through the rusty old chain link fence I could only dream of future possibilities for what I had learned was a very important stop on the Pacific Flyway for migrating birds and ducks. I jumped into volunteering with the Friends of Madrona Marsh.

After 30 some years serving as a board member, docent and part of the fund raising committee; viewing the struggles and devotion of FOMM volunteers; and kindly assistance from the City of Torrance, I have now been privileged to view the magical change. The goal to return Madrona Marsh to its original habitat is taking place. Native plants that naturally grew wild are, presently, not just a dream but a genuine reality. This vernal marsh now beautifully blooms each year and Madrona Marsh is a safe harbor for migratory birds and ducks to nest.

I thank Shirley Turner who gave me the gift of the Tyke Hike. What a hoot these short people are. They always instill in me a sense of joy as they excitedly view with awe and wonder a frog or a bug for the first time.

While I leave the red winged blackbird, Say's Phoebe, Bluebird, Red Tailed Hawk and my very special Pacific Tree Frog (oh, they are my favorite) I will be rediscovering seasons in Pennsylvania. I will be feeding the vibrantly red Cardinal who overwinters and survives in the snowy climate. I will look forward to the harbinger of Spring, the Robin, who plucks worms out of the nearly frozen soil with veracity.

As I leave my long and happy commitment to Madrona Marsh, true friendships and delightful critters I have encountered, I will forever be mindful of the wonders of nature I have learned to appreciate and enjoy. Only because of your passion and devoted participation in the future of this amazing spot of tranquility in the middle of this large city could I have become inspired to volunteer with this amazing group of people.

I thank you all for being a part of this beautiful, peaceful preserve and will remember the guidance and appreciation given to me by the Friends of Madrona Marsh. Please go forward with all of your commitments because it is well worth your unselfish efforts and your passion to insure the future of this magnificent and important vernal marsh in California.

Purchase Refurbished Computers and Tested Electronics from
WALSER'S
to benefit the Madrona Marsh

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

A wonderful partnership of the community and the city.

Friends of Madrona Marsh

The Madrona Marsh Trust

Store Hours:
Mon. - Sat. 9:30 - 6

Recycle Hours:
Mon. - Sat. 11 - 5

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City of Torrance EARTH DAY Recycling Event

**Free Recycling Drop-off and
Mulch Give-away Event**
Parking lot at the corner of
Maple Avenue and Civic Center Drive
Saturday, April 20, 2013, 10 am to 2 pm

- **Free Paper Shredding Drop-Off**

A certified company (MTI) will shred documents on site.

- **Electronics Recycling Drop-Off**

WALSER'S will accept computers, TV's, monitors, cell phones, printers, microwaves, small appliances and other electronics for recycling at this event. You may also bring CD's, DVD's, floppy disks, audio tapes and video tapes. Please do not bring large appliances or electronics, batteries, lamp bulbs & tubes, breakable items or hazardous items to this event. The large items should be taken directly to their facility at 23145 Kashiwa Court.

Twenty-five percent of the proceeds from refurbished computers, tested monitors and other electronics are donated to the Madrona Marsh.

- **Soles for Life - Shoe and Clothing Recycling Drop-Off**

Shoes in any condition, clothes in wearable condition. Funds will benefit Torrance Unified School District (TUSD) and be used to create clean water sources for developing countries.

- **Used Oil Recycling and Filter Exchange Drop-off**

Will accept clean used oil for recycling (cannot be contaminated) and used oil filters for recycling. Each filter recycled will be exchanged for a \$5 coupon to purchase a new filter at participating O'Reilly Auto Parts locations. (Limit 2 coupons per participant, while supplies last)

- **Mulch Give-Away**

Chipped and ground materials from City trees and landscaping collected by City crews to reuse as mulch, while supplies last.



City of Torrance Public Works

For more information, call 310-781-6900 or visit

www.TorranceCA.Gov/PublicWorks or www.RecycleTorrance.Org

Friends of Madrona Marsh

a non-profit organization est. 1972

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Membership Application

We appreciate your support. Thank you!

Annual Membership: _____ New _____ Renewal

Individual _____\$10 Family _____\$20 Youth (under 18)/Senior (over 65) _____\$5

Patron _____\$35 Club/Organization _____\$50 Business/Industry _____\$100

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. Your donations are tax free within the law.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E:Mail _____

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