

Marsh Mailing

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

President's Report

Suzan Hubert, President

You did read that correctly, I'm Suzan Hubert, the newest President of The Friends of Madrona Marsh. Thank you to Bill Arrowsmith for his nomination, the Board for their vote of confidence and Bobbie Snyder for agreeing to be Vice President. Plus, thanks to Carol Roelen who will continue as Secretary and Ellen Peterson our continuing Treasurer. Bill will remain on the Board and handle our *Marsh Mailing*.

Filling Bill's shoes isn't likely. I don't have his knowledge, experience or history with the Friends. What I do have is a belief in this piece of land that giants before me saved for us all. What is it about this Preserve that holds such appeal? It is, after all, this tiny place, 45 acres (some say 50) in the middle of an urban city. You each have your own answers.

It reminds me of my childhood in Saugus, Massachusetts and summers on Cape Cod. That's where I explored the woods, ponds and the wildlife with my Dad who was my all time forever docent of life. It was my playground for adventures. It was where I built igloos in winter, rafts in summer and mud pies all the time. Where I learned to appreciate frogs, snakes, turtles, and birds and listened to cougars at night. It was where I learned the value of ants despite everything my London bred Mother said. It was a wild and wondrous place to grow up.

There are similar places in the Preserve where it's wild and apart despite traffic noise, where a person can feel a part of the natural world. It's a place where a child and the child within us can still have a taste of what it was like to play, imagine and be part of the land. It's a shame South Bay children can't build rafts and muck about, but when I lead a docent tour at least I can give them a taste via imagination and be grateful that opportunity still exists.


What is my ultimate goal as FOMM President? Expand the Preserve, double in size; capture 100 acres for wilderness, for wandering and wildlife. Cause 100 percent of the population of Torrance to understand it, venerate it as a jewel in the South Bay so that everyone wants to contribute to its preservation as a wild area, as a water filtration system, as a living science laboratory, as a wondrous place to dream. Ridiculous. "She's mental," you say! Perhaps. Yet who wants a leader who doesn't dream



New President Suzan Hubert, right, presents long-time Marsh docent Mary Garrity with an award for her outstanding contributions over the years. Mary will be relocating to Pennsylvania (see her "farewell" in the last issue of Marsh Mailing). She will be missed.

of something greater while appreciating what does exist? I believe people with dreams are prepared to actualize them when an opportunity presents and they look for opportunities. I have dreams and practical goals too. I want to develop a liaison with the School District, increase local outreach for education, entice new volunteers, consider awarding high school scholarships, enrich the Sunday Science programming and improve our advocacy with the City of Torrance.

Some of these goals are easy, others will take thought, discussion and planning; all of these goals will strengthen the Preserve and further the goals of the original founders. The Preserve is a jewel in the South Bay. It is a true natural resource. It was teamwork that saved it; it will be the teamwork of caring Friends that ensures its future.

Keep the Faith. 

Farewell, But Not Goodbye

Bill Arrowsmith, Past President

As you know from reading Suzan Hubert's article on the front page, we've had a "changing of the guard" in the Friends Board of Directors. After six (or is it seven?) years with me as president of the Friends we have come to a mutual conclusion that a change would be in the best interest for the health of the organization. I actually reached that conclusion (with my wife's help) several years ago, but it has taken some time to find a replacement who is both able and willing to take the reins.

Suzan is just that—and no doubt much more. She has experience leading a large organization, experience with our educational system, and has unlimited enthusiasm. Just look at what she has accomplished in three years as chairwoman (and originator) of the annual *Moonlight Magic* Fundraiser. It is not only a fun and exciting evening for all our members, it is an excellent way to introduce others in the community to the Friends, to our mission and to our wonderful Preserve.

Oh, and by the way, *Moonlight Magic* is also a superb money raiser for the programs and future of the Preserve, showing \$15,000 profit its first year, 2010, and exceeding that level the next two years, even in a nationwide recession.

Suzan reminds me of a quote from Robert Heinlein: "Always listen to experts. They'll tell you what can't be done and why. Then do it."

Please join me in giving Suzan and Bobbie and the Board your full support, that same fine community support the Friends has enjoyed for forty years.

As for me, I'm not going anywhere. I'll still be on the Board, still serving as a docent, and still helping Diane Gonsalves run down articles for the newsletter. But I may take a few more vacations.

Like *Moonlight Magic*, it's been fun and exciting, and very rewarding to serve as president the last seven years. We've had some very nice accomplishments during that period: In 2007 the installation of five new display cases in the Exhibit Hall, with the help of my wife, Fran, who coordinated that effort, working with Split Rock Studios of Minnesota and local taxidermist Igor Caragodin; in 2008 we had the very generous donation of the 'Chevron Corner' by the Chevron Oil Company; in 2012, the installation of a Biofiltration System, to clean runoff water before it is pumped onto the Preserve as part of the Santa Monica Bay Project, possibly the most beneficial step we have taken for the Preserve since the City acquired it in 1986.

Of course, along the way we've also had a few bumps in the road. In 2010 we had some mosquito problems and a temporary closure which we handled okay, and then some serious problems with LA County Vector Control which were ultimately traced to one rogue employee of that agency. We now have an excellent rapport with Vector Control.

And there are always funding problems: Several years ago some were concerned that Proposition A funds, with which the Nature Center was built and which were intended to provide for its staff and maintenance for 20 years, were about to run out. But we ultimately received assurance from the City that the Preserve and Nature Center would be supported, even after those funds expire. Similarly, last year there was fear that, with the City belt-tightening that was required by the recession, the Preserve might lose part or all of its City support. Once again, after a tremendous turnout at a Council Committee meeting to address Marsh funding, we were assured that it was never the Council's intent to drop funding for the Preserve or its programs.

There will always be problems such as these, and probably more. That's why it is so important to have a group like the Friends who can act as an advocate for the programs and critters of the Preserve. That's why it is important for us to continue to raise money—to help out Manager Tracy Drake with quick funding when tules need to be cleared or a mower needs to be bought, or to provide more taxidermy for the Exhibit Hall, or to provide funding for a restoration program like the one Dan Portway has so successfully run for the last three years.

And even more important than raising that money is the development and maintenance of a good working relationship with the Mayor and City Council and with City Staff in all departments. Fortunately, with Tracy Drake's help, our current Board has done a good job of developing those relationships and I look forward to their continuance under the leadership of our new president.

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.

Your Official Invitation to...

Moonlight Magic on Madrona Marsh

September 21, 2013

5 - 10 p.m.



Art work by Douglas Stenhouse

An evening of live music, excellent food; unusual silent and live auction;
extravagant gift baskets and laughter
(The menu and a list of auction items will be posted on the website in August 2013)

\$50 per person

A fund raising celebration to help sustain and protect the programs of the
Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

Tickets will be available at Madrona Marsh Nature Center--cash or check only, and
Wild Birds Unlimited in Rolling Hills Plaza--cash, check or credit card and
www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com PayPal

A sincere thank you to our wonderful sponsors who help make the Magic happen
ExxonMobil, Toyota, Walsers and
LA County Supervisor Don Knabe

Avian Visitors in a Very Dry Year

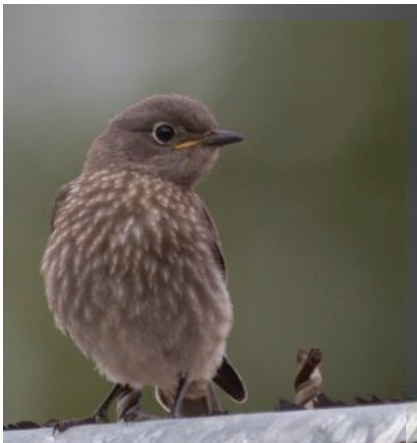
Tracy Drake and Ron Melin

With the winding down of the school year the flow of visitors to the Preserve slowed to near 2,000 during the month of June. This is down from the nearly 4,400 that visited in May. As a surprise to some, June is our cloudiest month and is also our second driest of the year.

As the sun reached its zenith on the 21st of June, interior portions of Southern California warmed considerably, causing air to rise. Replacing it was a flow of cool moist air from the Pacific Ocean. The result was low clouds and fog, a.k.a. "June gloom." Lots of clouds can be present but there is virtually no precipitation.

Many of the native plants found on the Preserve are adapted to our rather cool and dry coastal summer. *Encelia californica*, or Bush Sunflower, can often be mistaken for dead during the month. It basically "shuts down" and waits out the dry summer months. Bush Lupine and Foothill Needlegrass use the same strategy. With the return of the autumn and winter rains, these plants resurrect themselves.

During June's longer days and sometimes sunny afternoons, we have been getting a good hatch of summer butterflies. Western Tiger and Giant Swallowtails, Grey Hairstreaks, Fiery and Sandhill Skippers, Acmon, Marine, and Pygmy Blues as well as Funereal Duskywing, West Coast Lady and Mourning Cloak butterflies are easily seen sipping the nectar of coastal buckwheat, dudleya, and heliotrope.



Young Bluebird in mid May

For the second year Western Bluebirds have been successfully raising broods. As cavity nesters these beautiful insectivores have found it difficult nesting in the South Bay. Four years ago twelve bluebird houses were hung in our sycamore and eucalyptus trees. It took a couple of

years but bluebirds are once again resident breeders in Torrance! Last year the two pairs "double-clutched"—they raised two broods—which indicates that Madrona Marsh is a healthy place to raise young bluebirds.

Looking back, the dry winter had a definite impact on the breeding and distribution of species this year. The upland areas of the Preserve were completely dry

by early April. The wetlands, though receiving less water than usual, remained wet through spring and were productive, but less so than normal. Overall, the usual migrants were present during migration but the number of species and the number of migrant waves were both lower.

The usual breeders were present, but also in lower numbers. These included Mallards, Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, Mourning Dove, Anna and Allen's Hummingbirds, Black Phoebe, Bushtit, European Starling, Western Bluebird, California Towhee, Common Yellowthroat, Red-winged Blackbird, House Finch and House Sparrow.

New breeders for the Preserve were: House Wren—one family, two fledged; Canada Goose—one family, six fledged; and Song Sparrow—fledged two.

Additionally, breeding activity (nest building or holding territory) was shown by Black-chinned Hummingbird, Common Raven, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Lesser and American Goldfinches. We will soon know if any of these were successful. It is likely that most of these will show success.

For the first time since 2006, the Say's Phoebe's did not breed on the Preserve. Mama and papa did build a nest and attended to it for a few months but she never laid eggs. With the extremely early dry conditions of the upland areas of the Preserve, there were comparatively few insects available. It is likely her assessment of the area ended with the conclusion that there was not enough available food to raise a family.

Tree Swallows checked out the new nesting boxes in the Sump but did not stay, and a Downy Woodpecker built a nest in the Willows but did not breed there.

Locally of interest, the Red-tails that historically bred about .25 miles away from Madrona, moved to Wilderness Park. So far, one juvenile has been seen at the park. At least one family of Cooper's Hawks is nearby, as we can, on most days, see a juvenile on the Preserve learning to fly through the willow forest areas and hunt for small birds. The best bird by far this spring was the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher that stopped by for a few hours on May 30th.

On May 7th, the birders attending the Tour de Torrance bird walk were treated to the appearance of an Olive-sided Flycatcher, a migrant we don't see every spring. Olive-sided Flycatchers winter primarily on the Amazon slopes of the Andes Mountains, which makes their migration north one of

"Avian Visitors" Continued on Page 5.

Kudos!

Elaine Endres, Coordinator

Here it is again! The quarterly **Marsh Mailing** has arrived. You are reading the many inspiring and informative articles. Are you wondering how it all happens?

Every three months, just before the change of season, a call goes out to all of our terrific contributors for articles and photographs and story ideas. Then these are all assembled into a journalistic masterpiece by our Editor, Diane Gonsalves, and sent electronically to the printer (fellow Marshan and artist Ron Libbrecht, in Old Torrance), and *voila!* We have our next edition of the *Marsh Mailing*.

That's a great start, but there is one major step left: we have to get the Mailing to *you!* Just how does *that* happen?

As the newsletter articles are being assembled, a request for mailing labels is made to Cliff Heise, the Friends' membership chairman (for over twenty years!). Cliff prints up the labels, sorted by zip code, and one of our mailing crew volunteers picks them up and takes them to the Nature Center. Another volunteer, usually Bill Arrowsmith, picks up the newsletters from the printer, delivers them to the Nature Center and lets me know we are ready for our next "mailing party."

I separate the mailing labels into four major bulk mailing categories and put out a call to the *Marsh Mailing* crew.

Since 2004, a small but loyal group of Marshans, which currently includes Jane Nishimura, Evelyn Young, Ruth Doddy, Maxine Trefethen, Kathy Benz, Bill and me, meets every three months at the Nature Center for a "mailing party."

During this fun morning get-together we greet each other and share the latest news as we get down to the business of the day: each 12-page newsletter is carefully folded in half, then has three closure tabs attached per post office specification. Finally a name label is affixed to the front of each of 600-plus mailings. It's not rocket science, but does require focus and attention to detail.

Jane Nishimura offers the perfect mantra to newcomers to the group, "Many hands make light work." And indeed, the group of five to seven usually completes its task by about 11 a.m.

The completed mailings are then counted and placed in four post office bulk mailing trays, then whisked over to the Torrance Main Post Office before

noon. Newsletters normally reach Friends in Torrance the next day, and other parts of the South Bay and California in the next week or so.

Mailing party members of the past included Pat Hagen, Jean Stenson, Ruth McConnell and Venora Lee, and the original editor of the *Marsh Mailing*, none other than Shirley Turner. After Shirley but before Diane, our editor was Julian Chasin.

So, this is a BIG "thank you" to all the volunteers, past and present, who make this mailing happen four times every year!

And we welcome any of you who would care to join us. There's always room for more 'hands' at our party! Call the Nature Center, at 310-782-3969, to volunteer.

"Avian Visitors" Continued from Page 4

the longest of any flycatcher. They may stay at the Preserve gorging on insects for just a day or so before continuing their northward migration. Olive-sided Flycatchers prefer to nest in conifer forests as far north as Alaska and Canada, although small numbers do nest in our local mountains as well as the Sierra Nevada, Cascades, and along California's "north coast." Their song sounds as if they're saying "quick! three beers!" Unfortunately, their numbers have decreased significantly over the last two decades, primarily due to habitat destruction in Amazonia, the Amazon Rain Forest, and in the boreal forests of North America.

Water in the Marsh continues to recede at a fast pace due to the very dry winter and spring. The shallow water makes for good hunting for Snowy and Great Egrets. They've both been common this month and can be seen hunting for mosquito fish, frogs, and tadpoles. In the evening, they are joined by Black-crowned Night Herons. Come July, all the water in the Marsh will be absorbed or evaporated, which is characteristic of a vernal marsh. Not until autumn rains return next October or November can we expect water to flood the tules and willows, and you can bet that our winter-resident ducks will be waiting for that atmospheric event to occur.

It may seem hard to believe, but "fall" migration of shorebirds and Rufous Hummingbirds will begin in early July! Even though it's summer and it's dry, there's a lot going on at the Madrona Marsh Preserve.

—Tracy Drake/Ron Melin

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center Schedule of Events for July through October 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	<u>4</u> CLOSED	<u>5</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun*** Drake/Christiansen Exhibit Ends**	<u>6</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor.& Student Service 10 am-"Beautiful Butterflies," Dr. Vadheim
<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 Mary Long Exhibit Begins**	<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 Board	<u>11</u> 10a-12-Jr. Naturalists 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	<u>12</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun*** 6:30pm-Mary Long Reception**	<u>13</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 8:30 pm-Star Party
<u>14</u> 2-4pm-2nd Sun.Science "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> 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> 10a-12-Sen.Naturalists 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 (fee)	<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

*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 10. ***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-Tyke Hike (fee) 10:30-Prop. Society	<u>2</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>3</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10 am-12 n-"Natives on the Edge"-Dr. Vadheim
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> CLOSED	<u>6</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30- pm, "Natives..."- Dr. Vadheim	<u>7</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>8</u> 10:30--12:30- Propagation Society	<u>9</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>10</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 5-8 pm-Music Under Stars/ Frank DeLuca 8-10 pm-Star Party
<u>11</u> 2-4 pm-2nd Sun. Science, "Raptors" (fee)	<u>12</u> CLOSED	<u>13</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>14</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 10 am-Adult Weeders 1-2pm-Senior Naturalist 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	<u>15</u> 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	<u>16</u> 10 am--12n-Friday Fun***	<u>17</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10-12-Kids Illustration-fee
<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> CLOSED	<u>20</u> 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>21</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>22</u> 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	<u>23</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun*** Mary Long Exhibit Ends**	<u>24</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10 am-Nature Walk 2-4 pm-Einstein/Kids (fee)
<u>25</u> 10 am- Nature Walk 2-4 pm- Einstein for Kids (fee)	<u>26</u> CLOSED	<u>27</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders Hagan Exhibit Begins**	<u>28</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders 1-2pm-Senior Naturalist	<u>29</u> 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	<u>30</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun*** 6:30 pm-Hagan Reception**	<u>31</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service

AUGUST

Nature Center & Gift Shop

(310)782-3989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> CLOSED	<u>3</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>4</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>5</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike (fee) 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>6</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>7</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service
2nd Sunday <u>8</u> Science-"Terrific Reptiles" (fee)	<u>9</u> CLOSED	<u>10</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>11</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ 10 am-Adult Weeders 1-2pm-Senior Naturalist 6:30 pm-FOMM Mtg.	<u>12</u> 10:30--12:30-Propagation Society	<u>13</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>14</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 8:30-am-Fall Migration
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> CLOSED	<u>17</u> 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>18</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>19</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>20</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>21</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 am-Kids Storytime-fee 5-10pm-Annual <i>Moonlight Magic</i> Fundraiser
<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> CLOSED	<u>24</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>25</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders 1-2pm-Senior Naturalist	<u>26</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>27</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>28</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 am-Nature Walk 6:30 pm-Night Hike
10 am- Nature Walk <u>29</u>	<u>30</u> CLOSED					

SEPTEMBER

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

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		<u>1</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>2</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>3</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike (fee) 10:30-Prop. Society.	<u>4</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun*** Hagan Exhibit Ends**	<u>5</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student. Service
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> CLOSED	<u>8</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders Joannie Spring Exhibit Begins**	<u>9</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 10 am-Adult Weeders 1-2pm-Sr. Naturalist 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Bd. Meeting	<u>10</u> 10:30--12:30-Propagation Society	<u>11</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun*** 6:30 pm-Spring Reception	<u>12</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student. Service 7-9 pm-Star Party
2-4 pm-2nd Sun. Science, 'Nature's Treasurers'-fee <u>13</u>	<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--12n-Friday Fun***	<u>19</u> 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student. Service 10 am-Turtle/Tortoise Day 10-12-Kids Illustration-fee
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> CLOSED	<u>22</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>23</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders 1-2pm-Sr. Naturalist	<u>24</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>25</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun***	<u>26</u> 8:30 am-Make a Difference Day 8:45 am-12n-Hab. Restor. & Student. Service 10 am-Nature Walk
10 am- Nature Walk 1-3 pm-Kids Watercolor-fee <u>27</u>	<u>28</u> CLOSED	<u>29</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>30</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>31</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society		

OCTOBER

Madrona Marsh Preserve Species seen January-June 2013

Compiled by Tracy Drake and Ron Melin

Canada Goose	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Nashville Warbler
Wood Duck	Anna's Hummingbird	MacGillivray's Warbler
Gadwall	Allen's Hummingbird	Common Yellowthroat
American Wigeon	Belted Kingfisher	Northern Parula
Mallard	Downy Woodpecker	Yellow Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Northern Flicker	Palm Warbler
Cinnamon Teal	American Kestrel	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Merlin	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Northern Pintail	Peregrine Falcon	Townsend's Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Mitred Parakeet	Wilson's Warbler
Ringed-necked Duck	Olive-sided Woodpecker	Yellow-breasted Chat
Lesser Scaup	Western Wood-Pee-wee	Spotted Towhee
Ruddy Duck	Willow Flycatcher	California Towhee
Common Loon	Hammond's Flycatcher	Chipping Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Lark Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Black Phoebe	Savannah Sparrow
Brown Pelican	Say's Phoebe	Song Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Lincoln's Sparrow
Great Egret	Cassin's Kingbird	White-throated Sparrow
Snowy Egret	Western Kingbird	White-crowned Sparrow
Green Heron	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Black-crowned Night Heron	Plumbeous Vireo	Western Tanager
White-faced Ibis	Cassin's Vireo	Black-headed Grosbeak
White-tailed Kite	Hutton's Vireo	Blue Grosbeak
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Warbling Vireo	Lazuli Bunting
Cooper's Hawk	Western Scrub-jay	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-shouldered Hawk	American Crow	Western Meadowlark
Red-tailed Hawk	Common Raven	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Sora	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Great-tailed Grackle
Common Gallinule	Tree Swallow	Brown-headed Cowbird
American Coot	Barn Swallow	Hooded Oriole
Killdeer	Cliff Swallow	Bullock's Oriole
Solitary Sandpiper	Bushtit	House Finch
Greater Yellowlegs	House Wren	Lesser Goldfinch
Marbled Godwit	Marsh Wren	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Least Sandpiper	Bewick's Wren	American Goldfinch
Wilson's Snipe	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	House Sparrow
Red-Necked Phalarope	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Orange Bishop
Ringed-bill Gull	Western Bluebird	Nutmeg Mannikin

Species. . . *Continued from page 8.*

Western Gull	Swainson's Thrush	
California Gull	Hermit Thrush	133 total species so far this year
Glaucous-winged Gull	American Robin	18 species breed
Rock Pigeon	Northern Mockingbird	17 uncommon species seen
Eurasian Collared Dove	European Starling	2 new birds for Madrona Marsh
Mourning Dove	American Pipit	
Vaux's Swift	Cedar Waxwing	9 birders contributed these observations
White-throated Swift	Orange-crowned Warbler	

Butterflies

Anise Swallowtail	Acmon Blue	Queen
Giant Swallowtail	Gulf Fritillary	Funereal Duskywing
Western Tiger Swallowtail	Mourning Cloak	White-checked Skipper
Cabbage White	American Lady	Fiery Skipper
Cloudless Sulphur	Painted Lady	Sandhill Skipper
Gray Hairstreak	West Coast Lady	Eufala Skipper
Western Pygmy-Blue	Red Admiral	Umber Skipper
Marine Blue	Monarch	

Dragonflies

Pacific Forktail	Variegated Meadowhawk	Red Saddlebags
Common Green Darner	Blue Dasher	Wandering Glider
Blue-eyed Darner	Flame Skimmer	



Flame Skimmer

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Shirley's Turn

—*Shirley Turner*

The Big Year: A Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession, was a gift to me which I set aside to read at a later time. Now is the time to share it with you. This best selling book by Mark Obmascik is now a major motion picture enjoyed by FOMM friends, Carol and Dave Roelen. Dave has been to most of the locations described in the book to bird—but not in one year.

The Big Year. . . starts January 1, 1998 in this marathon event for three men in particular who compete for the most birds seen in one year. “The suspense built up by the author with considerable skill is to make these three men so real in their quests, so admirably alive, that in the end who wins the contest is almost beside the point. The true subject is the human spirit and all the impossible, incredible, and wonderful things people do and endure for our beloved passions.” -- **Boston Globe**.

Mark says every year dozens see 500 species but only three have had 700 birds. He spent time in the field with them: Sandy Komito, Al Levantin and Greg Miller.

Why birds? What is there about them that inspires such devotion. They are beautiful with amazing life stories. Stalking them is fun. Birding exercises your brains and legs. I remember Bob Carr making this comment to the Torrance City Council in support of preserving the Marsh.

Greg Miller flew 87,000 miles and drove 36,000 miles and spent \$31,000 for 715 birds. Al Levantin flew 135,000 miles and spent more than \$60,000 for 711 birds. Sandy Komito was winner with 745 birds. He was winner of **Big Year** in 1987 with 721 birds. When he was six, he and his family played a game naming birds until one could not think of another.

Everyone will enjoy reading this praiseworthy story of a **Big Year**. The book was published in 2004. My copy includes an epilogue and interview with the author. I was impressed with his comment that most people live with the brakes on, and how he became a birder. He shared some of the adventures of each man during the year. He wanted to write something his kids could read. Mark Obmascik is an award winning journalist who writes for the **Denver Post**. He lives with his wife and three sons in Denver.

There is a new opportunity to learn about birding at the Marsh with Dinuk Magamma in Birding 101 on Wednesdays, July 17, 24, and 31 at 10 a.m. starting at the Nature Center. And on the second Wednesday of the month Bob Shanman's walk starts at 8 a.m. Attend and have fun enjoying the birds and nature.

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.

July 9 - August 23 - **Mary Long, A Watercolor and Photography Exhibit**. Artist's Reception Friday, July 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

August 27 - October 4, **Al Hagan, "Showing the Beauty of the Marsh, Part III," Various Mediums by Pacific Arts**. Artists' Reception Friday, August 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

October 8 - November 22, **Joannie Spring, "Small Wonders of a Dry Marsh," A Photography Exhibit**. Artists' Reception Friday, October 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Donations of \$100 or More

Ellen Peterson, Treasurer

Date	Donor	Donation	Information
April	Joannie Spring	\$100	
April	Irma Ruiz	\$300	
April	Bertrand Alm	\$904	From Mr. Alm's participation in the Northrop Grumman ENGPAC Program
May	Juno & Ethel Uyematsu	\$100	
May	Joan Roach	\$250	
May	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Miles	\$200	
June	Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Furey	\$100	
June	Old Torrance Neighborhood Assn.	\$100	
June	Ted Kotzin	\$150	
June	Maxine Trevethen	\$100	
June	Dorothy & Anthony Vinter	\$100	
May	Davis Wong	\$500	

South Bay Native Plant Corner

—Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSU, Dominguez Hills



Goodding's Black Willow
Salix gooddingii

Summer is here and shade is at a premium. It's a perfect time to visit the Preserve and enjoy the riparian woodland trees. Among our local Willows, Goodding's Black Willow is among the tallest and most interesting.

Salix gooddingii can be found along streams and other wet areas in the U.S. Southwest and Northern Mexico. It is often a dominant or co-dominant member of riparian communities, together with Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*). These large trees create a tree canopy that provides food and shelter to many Madrona Marsh inhabitants. Take time to notice all the wildlife in the Black Willows.

Surprisingly, Black Willows can grow right in the water (most trees can't). Special 'adventitious roots' float on the water, keeping them from becoming waterlogged. You can see these strange roots even in summertime, growing several feet above the ground. These roots mark the winter water level.

Black willows have thin peach-like leaves that are medium green on both sides. This distinguishes them from the Red Willow (leaves with light colored underside and 'weeping' growth habit) and Arroyo Willows (thicker leaves with a waxy coat and white underside).

Like all willows, Goodding's Willow has separate male and female plants. In spring, male plants have yellow, pollen-covered flowers

that attract bee pollinators. Later, female flowers produce the fluffy seeds shown below. The ground beneath appears covered in 'snow' due to the many seeds.



Black Willows grow rapidly, making the wood light-weight and relatively weak. Large branches regularly break off; these can root, forming new trees. Look for the interesting 'sprouting willow logs' as you wander the Preserve.

Willow bark is very useful. The inner bark contains salicin (salicylic acid); bark tea can be used like aspirin. Bark is also used for natural dyes and young branches are good for basketry work.

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.

Thank you

The Friends would like to say a special "Thank You!" to Gary Kuwahara and his associate, Sue Nagy, for preparing income tax forms for both the FOMM, a 501(c.3) non-profit corporation, and the Friends' Gift Shop, which is also non-profit, as net proceeds are used to support Marsh programs. Gary's accounting firm has prepared our tax returns pro bono for many years, which allows us to use all your contributions for the restoration of the Marsh and education programs for its visitors. Thank you, Gary and Sue!

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