

Spring 2017

Marsh Mailing

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

Marsh Mailing is also available in full color at www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com

A Season of Change

Tracy Drake

Sometime late fall of 2016 Robert Carson, Torrance Park Services Manager, announced he would be retiring at the end of the year. This was a little bit of a surprise as we, the Park's staff, had not expected him to retire for about three years. But, he was well prepared, and decided to make the move.

During the time Robert was still here, he and his supervisor, John Jones, talked to all of the supervisors in the Parks Division about the position and about the qualifications. He was encouraging to all of us and as it turned out, all of us applied for the position.

Before applying though, I gave very little attention to how I would respond if I actually was offered the position. At the time, I thought the right thing to do for the Division was apply; but I did not think that I would be considered too seriously. I come from the world of biology and education. I am a teacher and naturalist. I thought that certainly there are many much more qualified persons than I "out there". As it turned out, about 64 people nationwide were interested in the position and applied.

Much to my surprise I was offered the chance to participate in a written test for the position. I was one of eight invited. A few weeks later, I made it to the interview stage—one of only two remaining people. By this time, I was seriously considering the position—weighing

the pros and cons, talking to friends and talking with John. Until the day before the interview, I had decided that Madrona was too important, too special with too many current projects for me to consider leaving. I tried to visualize the potential future for the Preserve: its programs and restoration and the Nature Center renovation not yet complete. But, the night before the interview, my friend Tim Anderson, previous manager of the Seal Beach National Wildlife refuge said, "Unshared knowledge is theft".

What Tim said hit me hard—the kind of hard that causes one to start over completely the

contemplation process. In doing so, in my imagination, I looked at the many parks, thought about the staff in the division and thought frankly about whether I actually could make a



Shirley Kell 2017

You meet the nicest people on the observation berm at Madrona Marsh. I met Shirley Kell there in February as we watched large numbers of American Wigeon and Northern Shoveler ducks feed alongside Snowy Egrets and Canada Geese. Noticing a nice telephoto lens on her camera, I asked her if she'd gotten any good shots that day. She showed me this American Kestrel having breakfast.--Bill Arrowsmith

"Change ..." continued on page 2

difference. I thought, too, about the staff and volunteers at Madrona and wondered if they were strong enough and passionate enough to carry on without me.

I thought also about the other person who was in the running. Would they be as strong an advocate for Madrona as I? Or might it be better for Madrona if I did move up? These questions were important—and of course unanswerable. I decided that it would be best that, if offered the position, I would take it.

When the position was offered, I did accept it—and have now been Torrance Park Services Manager for a full month. To say it is culture shock is an understatement. I miss Madrona and the friends I have made there. And I greatly miss the land.

However, I also realize what an honor it has been to be a part of such an amazing place. As I write this, thoughts and memories flood into my mind. Working with the Friends Board, a group so passionate, so dedicated to the Preserve gives me continued reason for joy.

It seems like just yesterday when I was at the April 2001, evening open house for prospective managers. I recall sitting next to Bill Arrowsmith and his encouraging words, and recall looking around and then behind me—my gaze resting a moment on Shirley Turner’s hands. It was her soil-stained hands that made me realize that I really wanted the job. Even back then I knew that only a truly dedicated person would allow her precious hands to become a living representation of the importance of the restoration of the Preserve. It was the best decision I ever made in my life.

I think too about the thousands of volunteers and programs, smiles and challenges. I think about the excitement so many had in seeing the Tundra Swan and the Prairie Warbler. I still have a sense of wonder about the sheer genius Tony Baker has about restoration and native plants and the depth of knowledge and dedication Dan Portway has for the Preserve and education of our volunteers.

I think of the care Ellen Peterson puts into documentation of our stats, the love Carol Roelen has for native plants. I think about the thousands of hours Connie Vadheim has given to Madrona—sharing her passion for Native Plant gardening. And every time I see our taxidermy and insect collection I think of the devotion of Jeanne Bellemin to the field of biology.

I think of Steve Giffin’s attention to detail, Bob Shanman’s love for all the birds, and the smile in Sarah’s Noddings’ voice every time she calls to confirm tours. I think about Vince Lloyd’s quiet and gentle nature applied to all he does and the depth of love Bobbie Snyder shows every time she enters the Center.

I think of the strength and straightforwardness of Suzan Hubert as she steers the Friends’ ship and I think of those who have been a part of this journey who are no longer active like Ron Melin and Venora Lee. I recall the voices of, and the smiles of, those who came before and have passed. So many great people—so many.

And the staff—not enough great things can possibly be said about them. With grace, dedication, persistence, and professionalism, they have helped to turn Madrona into a little Center that is known throughout the United States and that recently is being visited by people from other countries.

Steve Ash is at the helm now—temporary manager until a new manager is selected—and his maturity, professionalism, insight and wisdom will be a great benefit to the Preserve. For the past 14 years Bob Carr has mentored young scientists who are now out in the world doing good work. Mark Christensen continues to ensure all of our evening programs are a success; Linda Gonzales, our plant whisperer, has retired leaving a legacy of plant propagation that has helped with restoration not only at Madrona but at many other places in Los Angeles County.

Dinuk Magamma continues to inspire young people, getting them engaged in leadership, art, photography and birds. Beth Rhymes continues to market our programs to more than 50 different organizations monthly while Tracey Dunn and Hilary Jamieson continue the work of restoration of the Preserve on a day-to-day, week-to-week basis; and Ed Vandever works on many projects while he oversees the maintenance of both the Center and the Preserve.

What's Eating the Preserve?

Suzan Hubert, President

It has been many years since we have seen so much water in the Preserve. If you are a regular you have enjoyed wandering through the willows, the uplands and all across the land. Now it's wading or creeping carefully around the muddy edges of a vast amount of water. The plants are happy, the birds have fewer breeding places and the ground dwellers are having it tough. Yet there are worms in abundance.

Call me weird but I find worms so interesting. They are amazing creatures. Fun Fact: earthworms have five hearts! Worms don't dig their tunnels . . . think about that for a minute . . . they have no digging appendages. Worms eat their way through the earth. They aren't making burrows like our gophers or harvester ants; they are just eating the dirt and using the organic matter it contains for energy. Earthworms have five tiny hearts to help them process all the calcium they get from eating dirt. They breathe through their skin so they require moisture in the soil and can breathe just fine underwater for up to two weeks; but they can't get enough oxygen from water so eventually they would suffocate. While there are more than 4400 species of worms worldwide, in the Preserve you will primarily see the night crawlers. These are big worms which are both easy and interesting to watch. It's better if you don't touch them. Remember, they are breathing through their skin so whatever microscopic bits you have on your hands won't be healthy for the worm. The best thing to do is hunker down and just watch. While you're watching here are some things to think about:

Seeing: Earthworms have no eyes, but they do have light receptors and can tell when they are in the dark or in the light.

Hearing: Earthworms have no ears, but their bodies can sense the vibrations of animals moving nearby.

Thinking and feeling: Worms have a tiny brain that connects with nerves from their skin and muscles. Their nerves can detect light, vibrations, and even some tastes, and the muscles of their bodies make movements in response to these stimuli.

Movement: You can watch the worm's muscles contract as it moves. Worms also have

tiny setae along their sides. These are hooks that help pull them through the earth. The setae are difficult to see without a microscope.

Breathing: Worms breathe air in and carbon dioxide out, just like us, but they don't have lungs. They breathe through their skin. Air dissolves on the mucus of their skin, so they **MUST** stay moist to breathe. If worms dry out, they suffocate. As fresh air is taken in through the skin, oxygen is drawn into the worm's circulatory system, and the worm's hearts pump the oxygenated blood to the head area. The movements of the worm's body make the blood flow back to the back end of the body, and the hearts pump the blood forward again. Carbon dioxide dissolves out of the blood back to the skin.

Eating: Worms do not have teeth, but their mouths are muscular and strong. Night crawlers can even pull leaves into their tunnels using their strong mouths. The front end of the worm, its **prostomium**, is pointed and firm, making it easy for worms to push their way into crevices as they eat their way through the earth. The mouth of the worm is just behind the prostomium. Worms swallow pieces of dirt and decaying leaves, and the food passes through the **pharynx**, (located in body segments 1-6), the **esophagus** (segments 7-13), and into the crop, which stores food temporarily. The worm's stomach is very muscular; it's called a **gizzard**. Like a bird's gizzard, it grinds up the food, which then moves into the **intestine**. The intestine extends over two-thirds of the worm's body length. In the intestine, food is broken down into usable chemicals which are absorbed into the bloodstream. Leftover soil particles and undigested organic matter pass out of the worm through the rectum and anus in the form of **castings**, or worm poop. Worm poop is dark,

"Worms..." continued on page 4.

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

The Flag on My Desk

Tracy Drake

The flag on my desk is in honor of Archie and Jerri Phillips. All of us received one at their celebration of life on Saturday, February 25. They were an incredible inspiration to me, to so many. There is no way to give a proper tribute to them in words—but this can be done in deeds. To determine what deeds to go forward with can be chosen by taking just a little glimpse at their beautiful life.

Archie and Jerri believed in community and they gave much of their time, and their hearts, to us at Madrona, to Torrance, to their church, to their country and to their family. For years they volunteered on many levels. Archie was on the Friends of Madrona Marsh Board of Directors; he

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moist, soil-colored, and very rich in nutrients; this is why farmers and gardeners like to have lots of worms in their soil. On the surface it appears as small piles of tiny grains.

Reproduction: a worm is both male and female; each worm can produce both eggs and sperm. They mate on the surface by pressing their bodies together and exchange sperm. The clitellum is the big collar around the worm; this is where fertilization takes place. The worm then crawls out of the clitellum, which closes off at both ends making a snug pouch in which the babies develop. Earthworm egg cases look a bit like tiny lemons.

Now that you know all that, wonder with me why worms come to the surface during rain. It's a curious question which scientists have not been able to answer definitively. One theory is that floating on water is an easy, faster way to travel around, which allows worms to breed with new worms and keep the genetic pool strong.

Worms are not pettable creatures. They won't make a Facebook “Cute Pets” page but these are living creatures and deserve a fair shake in life. Don't step on them. They are valuable to themselves and to the earth. Welcome worms to your garden; their tunnels irrigate your soil and their castings provide nutrients for your plants. Help them gently from the sidewalk back to earth. Then walk on and smile as you will have contributed to the earth and saved a life, however small.

See you on the Preserve, and watch where

you step...



mowed some of the most difficult areas on the Preserve; and recently he worked the reception desk on Wednesdays. For more than ten years Jerri and he walked the perimeter of the Preserve picking up every piece of trash, every single day. Yes, every single day. They departed this life just five days apart—their love too strong for either to be here without the other. They were loved, were in love and shared their love with many.

Archie and Jerri were also strongly patriotic. Maybe you recall them in the crowd at many Armed Forces Day parades dressed as Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty. I can still see them walking into the Nature Center to share their costumes before going to the parade. All of us appreciated them and shared in the pride and joy of their patriotism. Their patriotism was spoken about often at the celebration of their lives—it was clear to their family that Archie and Jerri's patriotism was a reflection of all that encompasses the incredible strength and depth of American values.

At the end of the celebration we all sang “God Bless America” and at that time, when all of us were singing, I realized that I need to be more like Archie and Jerri. We all do and we all can.

In Memoriam

We lost four members of our extended Marsh family in the past three months:

Joy Sweetnam, a long-time supporter who provided a home for our old 32-MARSH number.

Archie and Jerri Phillips (see article by Tracy Drake on this page.)

Gene Turner, husband of Marsh legend Shirley Turner.

Our sincere condolences to all the families.

The Black-Tailed Jackrabbitt

Vincent Lloyd

We live in the Era of Alternate Facts, but they're nothing new. The first thing to know about the Black-tailed jackrabbit is that they aren't rabbits—they're hares. The second thing to know is that they aren't all jacks—about half of them are jills! If you're thinking that they don't have black tails either, you're not all wrong—the underside is white.

What, you may ask, is the difference between a rabbit and a hare? This is one of those issues that divides families, alienates friends, and brings down governments, like the difference between turtles and tortoises, porpoises and dolphins, doves and pigeons, planets and Plutos. Some people use the one word, some people the other, even for the same critter. Having said that, zoologists make a useful distinction between the members of the genus *Lepus*, which they call "hares", and the other genera of the family Leporidae, which are termed "rabbits". Hares are larger and are distinguished by their extra long ears and strong rear legs. They are often seen running across the grass—the Black-tailed jackrabbit can run 35 mph and bound 10 feet in one leap—while rabbits like to hide in the brush. The ones with the cute little cottontails are rabbits. Hares are born hairy (sorry, couldn't resist!) with their eyes open; rabbits are born naked with their eyes closed.

Contrary to rumor, neither rabbits nor hares are rodents. They belong to a distinct group, the lagomorphs. You can see the difference if you have the chance to see a rabbit skeleton in a nature center: look at the front teeth. Both rodents and lagomorphs have long incisors used for chewing on plants, but unlike rodents, the incisors

of lagomorphs come in pairs: one tooth in front and one hidden behind. The lagomorphs have been around for some 40 million years but have gone into something of a decline over the last few million years as the rodents have taken

over ecological niches formerly held by lagomorphs. Besides the Leporidae, the only other surviving lagomorph family are the pikas, adorable little critters with small round ears that live high up in the mountains.

The Black-tailed jackrabbit is the common hare of the western United States and northern Mexico. Its range extends north to Washington State, east to Missouri, and south to Baja California and central Mexico. In size, it's about two feet long and weighs

around five pounds. The fur on the upper side is agouti (individual hairs are mixed buff and black. One of my cats has agouti hair. Whenever I come across a buff-and-black hair lying around, I think to myself, "Oh, my precious Juni was here!"). The underparts are white.

Jackrabbits are widespread in a variety of habitats. They are happy if there is grassland interspersed with shrubs where they can hide. They don't like thick chaparral or dense forest. They can be found from sea level to the tree line and from the coast to the deserts. They are common in the sagebrush desert of the Great Basin. They feed on a variety of shrubs, forbs and grasses. They get most of their water from the plants they browse and so are adapted to the dry environments of the West. Jackrabbits are themselves food for many raptors, such as



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Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center*

Schedule of Events for April through July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						¹ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10am-"Birds" Dr. Vadheim 8 pm-Star Party
²	³ CLOSED	⁴ 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance	⁵	⁶ 10 am-Tyke Hike -donation 10:30 Prop.Soc. 6:30--"Birds" Dr.Vadheim	⁷ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	⁸ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service
⁹	¹⁰ CLOSED	¹¹	¹² 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	¹³ 1pm-Sr. Naturalists 35+ 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	¹⁴ 10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation**	¹⁵ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 9 am-H.B.Nature Walk 10am-Wildflowers-Baker
¹⁶	¹⁷ CLOSED	¹⁸ 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	¹⁹	²⁰ 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	²¹ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation** Osborne Exhibit Ends***	²² 8:30am-EarthDay 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am - Nature Walk 6:30 pm-Night Hike
10 am. ²³ Nature Walk ³⁰	²⁴ CLOSED	²⁵ 10 am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$ Comon Exhibit begins***	²⁶ 10 am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$	²⁷ 9am-Nature Journal-\$ 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	²⁸ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	²⁹ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Re stor. & Student Service 1:30-Geology

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.** **Reservations are required for Friday Fun.

***See Artists Corner, page 10. For latest event information, see our newly upgraded website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	¹ CLOSED	² 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	³	⁴ 10 am-Tyke Hike -donation 10:30 Prop.Soc.	⁵ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	⁶ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10am-"PeculiarPollinators" -Dr. Vadheim
⁷ 1pm-Comon Recept.***	⁸ CLOSED	⁹	¹⁰ 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	¹¹ 10:30 Prop.Soc. 1pm- Naturalist 6:30-"Peculiar Pollinators",- Dr.Vadheim	¹² 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	¹³ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10am-Turtle/Tortoise Day
¹⁴	¹⁵ CLOSED	¹⁶ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	¹⁷	¹⁸ 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	¹⁹ 10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation**	²⁰ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor.& Student.Service 9 am-H.B.Nature Walk 1pm-FOMM Tea Party & Ice Cream Social 1:30-Nature's Origami
²¹	²² CLOSED	²³ 10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$	²⁴ 10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$	²⁵ 9am-Nature Journal-\$ 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	²⁶ 10 am-Friday Fun- donation**	²⁷ 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am - Nature Walk 7pm-Night Hike
²⁸ 10-NatureWalk	²⁹ CLOSED	³⁰ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	³¹			

MAY

Nature Center & Gift Shop

(310) 782-3989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				10 am-Tyke ¹ Hike- 10:30-Prop. Soc.	10 am--12 n- ² Friday Fun- donation**	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. ³ 10am-"Perfect Pathways" Dr.Vadheim 7:30 pm--Star Party
⁴	⁵ CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance ⁶	⁷	10:30 a.m.- ⁸ Prop.Society 1pm-Naturalists 6:30pm- Dr.Vadheim	10 am--12 n- ⁹ Friday Fun- donation** Comon Ex.Ends	8:45am-12 n-Hab.Restor. ¹⁰ Student.Service 7 pm-Bugs of the Night\$
¹¹	¹² CLOSED	¹³ Libbrecht Exhibit Begins***	8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman ¹⁴ 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	10:30-12:30- ¹⁵ Propagation Society	10 am--12n- ¹⁶ Friday Fun- donation**	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Res. ¹⁷ & Student.Service 9 am-Nature Walk- Henrietta Basin
¹⁸	¹⁹ CLOSED	²⁰ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	²¹	²² 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	²³ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	²⁴ 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-Hab.Restor. Student.Service 10 am-Nature Walk 1pm-Raptors\$
²⁵ 1pm-Libbrecht Recept.& class	²⁶ CLOSED	²⁷	²⁸	²⁹	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. **Reservations are required for Friday Fun. *See Artists Corner, page 10. For latest event information, see our newly upgraded website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						8:45 am-12 n- ¹ Hab.Restor.&StudentServ. 10am-"Magic Dragons" -Dr. Vadheim
²	³ CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance ⁴	⁵	10 am-Tyke Hike ⁶ 10:30Prop.Soc- 6:30- Dr. Vadheim	10 am--12 n- ⁷ Friday Fun- donation**	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. ⁸ & Student.Service 10:30am-Sunsations
⁹	¹⁰ CLOSED	¹¹	8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman ¹² 6:30pm-FOMM Mtg	10:30-12:30- ¹³ Propagation Society	10 am--12n- ¹⁴ Friday Fun- donation**	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Res ¹⁵ & Student.Service 9am-H.B.Nature Walk 1pm-Butterfly Count Class
¹⁶	¹⁷ CLOSED	¹⁸ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	¹⁹	²⁰ 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	10 am--12 n ²¹ Friday Fun- donation** Libbrecht Exhibit Ends	8:30 am-Bird Walk ²² 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10 am-Nature Walk
10 am. ²³ Nature Walk	²⁴ CLOSED	²⁵	²⁶	²⁷ 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	10 am--12 n ²⁸ Friday Fun- donation**	²⁹ 7-9pm-Night Hike
³⁰	³¹ CLOSED					

JULY

Species seen from January through March 2017

This list was compiled using the reports of many local birders and naturalists including Tracy Drake, Dinuk Magammana, Tommye Hite, Eric Hansen, Jeanne Bellemin, Vince Lloyd, David Quadhammer, The Tour de Torrance group and members of the Palos Verdes / South Bay Audubon Society

BIRDS			
Canada Goose	Red-tailed Hawk	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Yellow Warbler
Gadwall	Sora	Cassin's Kingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Eurasian Wigeon	American Coot	Western Kingbird	Townsend's Warbler
American Wigeon	Black-necked Stilt	California Scrub-Jay	Chipping Sparrow
Mallard	Killdeer	American Crow	Lark Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Whimbrel</i>	Common Raven	Fox Sparrow
Cinnamon Teal	Long-billed Dowitcher	No. Rough-winged Swallow	Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Shoveler	Wilson's Snipe	Tree Swallow	White-crowned Sparrow
Northern Pintail	Spotted Sandpiper	Barn Swallow	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Greater Yellowlegs	Cliff Swallow	Savannah Sparrow
Ring-necked Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Bushtit	Song Sparrow
<i>Bufflehead</i>	Western Gull	House Wren	Lincoln's Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	California Gull	Marsh Wren	California Towhee
Pied-billed Grebe	Rock Pigeon	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Red-winged Blackbird
Eared Grebe	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Western Meadowlark
Double-crested Cormorant	Mourning Dove	Western Bluebird	Great-tailed Grackle
Great Blue Heron	Anna's Hummingbird	Hermit Thrush	Brown-headed Cowbird
Great Egret	Allen's Hummingbird	Northern Mockingbird	House Finch
Snowy Egret	Downy Woodpecker	European Starling	Lesser Goldfinch
Green Heron	Northern Flicker	American Pipit	American Goldfinch
Black-crowned Night-Heron	American Kestrel	Cedar Waxwing	<i>European Goldfinch</i>
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Black Phoebe	<i>Black-and-white Warbler</i>	House Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk	Eastern Phoebe	Orange-crowned Warbler	Northern Red Bishop
Red-shouldered Hawk	Say's Phoebe	Common Yellowthroat	Scaly-breasted Munia
		<i>Italics = rare visitor</i>	Bold = Showing breeding behaviour
BUTTERFLIES			
Monarch	Western Swallowtail	Cloudless Sulphur	Funereal Duskywing
Gulf Fritillary	Giant Swallowtail	Eufala Skipper	
Painted Lady	Cabbage White	Umber Skipper	
DRAGONFLIES			
Common Green Darner	Variegated Meadowhawk	Flame Skimmer	Pacific Forktail

“Jackrabbit...” continued from page 5

the Red-tailed Hawk and Swainson's Hawk, as well as the coyote and bobcat.

The female jackrabbit breeds all year round in warm climates. She can bear up to seven litters per year, poor thing. The litter size is about two to five and tends to be larger in the northern part of the range, where fewer litters are born each year. Jackrabbits don't waste a lot of effort in house-making; she will just scrape out a shallow depression in the ground—accurately if vaguely called a “form”—where she drops her babies, which are called “leverets”. The young are pretty much on their own soon after birth. She will nurse them for a few weeks, but otherwise, she leaves them to their own devices.

Locally, the jackrabbit is widespread in the hills and deserts surrounding Los Angeles. They can be seen in preserves in Palos Verdes. Another good place to see them is Jackrabbit Flat Wildlife Sanctuary in Pearblossom (there are lots of spring flowers there as well). Jackrabbits no longer breed in the Marsh, but recently a pair of them popped up. Tracy thinks they were probably dumped here by someone who discovered that they made poor pets (for one thing, they are often infested with parasites). Tracy calls them Hippity and Hoppity. They like to hide in the brushy area around the shed. But if you get there early in the morning, perhaps you'll get to see them munching on mulefat for breakfast. **-Vincent Lloyd**

Photo credit: Black-tailed jackrabbit in the Mojave Desert. Jessie Eastland via Wikimedia.

“Change” continued from page 2.

There are so many people who matter there, too many to list them all, but to start with: Dave Jamieson, Jerry Lloyd, Bill Fulkerson, Dorothy Austin, David Schubert, Kathy Benz, Elaine Enders, Gail Cole, Yvonne Wertz, Stan Goldstein, Joe and Glenda Chiang, Fran Arrowsmith, Dale Lincoln, Mark Rubke, David Moody, Beth Shibata, and all of the ARC members; to thank, to appreciate—to truly miss seeing. I think of the incredible artists with the vision to see the beauty and essence of the Preserve and the ability to articulate it with intricate detail.

Donations of \$100 of more Winter/Spring 2017

DATE	DONOR	DONATION	COMMENT
December 2016	Blair Smith	\$100.00	
January	Roberta Shanman	\$250.00	
January	Champion Family Charitable Fund	\$100.00	
January	Shirley Clark	\$100.00	
January	Torrance Women's Club	\$300.00	
January	Frank & Marilyn Miles	\$200.00	
January	Maxine Trevethen	\$100.00	
February	Lenore Bloss	\$500.00	
February	Gillian Groves & Gerald Peterson	\$2,000.00	
February	James Justiss	\$250.00	Thru Boeing Gift Match Program
February	Vincent Lloyd	\$100.00	
February	(James Justiss)	250.00	Boeing Gift Match
February	Clark Mitchell via Raytheon	\$1,078.00	
March	Mrs. Stanuifer	\$100.00	In memory of Joy Sweetnam
March	Teresa Palos	\$150.00	
March	Joyce Cardwell	\$200.00	

I think of the hundreds and hundreds of walks—alone on the Preserve day and night I have taken—gratitude in every footfall. Yes, it has been an amazing fifteen-year journey—one I sincerely thank John Jones and the City for entrusting me with.

Still, in the quiet moments in my new office, my mind wanders through the wetlands,

“Change” continued on page 10.

"Change" continued from page 9.

through the wind gliding over new green leaves in the trees and down dry paths spotted with gopher holes, footprints and flowers; then up to the sky to soar with Red-tailed Hawks and hear the whirring wings of flying doves.

A dingy sound on my phone brings me back to the present. A text from Chris Wendel: near his house #227, the female Red-tailed hawk who raised our young male hawk, Hope, last year is now on a new nest, preparing for her 2017 family.

Ah, I think, time passes, things change, generations continue and our adventure begins anew.

Luckily though, my new adventure still includes Madrona. For the next year or so I will divide my time and be involved in the completion of the half-dozen grants still in progress and the training of Steve as temporary manager. In about five months, I will likely be training my replacement. John Jones is onboard with roughly 40 percent of my time being spent at Madrona.

So, while my time on site has diminished, and I am not overseeing the day to day operations, I am still here, still leading bird walks, doing outreach programs and as long as I can, I will always be an advocate, friend and steward of Madrona Marsh Preserve. **-Tracy Drake**

Artist's Corner

View the works of local artists portraying the beauty of the Madrona Marsh. Exhibits are on display daily in the Nature Center. To display your art at Madrona Marsh, call 310-782-3989.

Through April 21 - **Landscapes of Madrona, A Photography Exhibit** by Patrick Osborne.

Tuesday, April 24 - Friday, June 9 - **Beauty in the City** by Mark Comon of Paul's Photo. Artist's Reception Sunday, May 7, 1 - 3 p.m.

Tuesday, June 13 - Friday, July 21 - **An Exhibit of Paintings** by Ron Libbrecht. Artist's Reception and Plein Air Class, Sunday June 25, 1 - 3 p.m.

Get Involved-Volunteer

Volunteering is a special way that you can help in the preservation of the Madrona Marsh Preserve. We value your time, effort and commitment to this worthwhile job. All of our volunteers are trained in their chosen position or may need to attend a short orientation.

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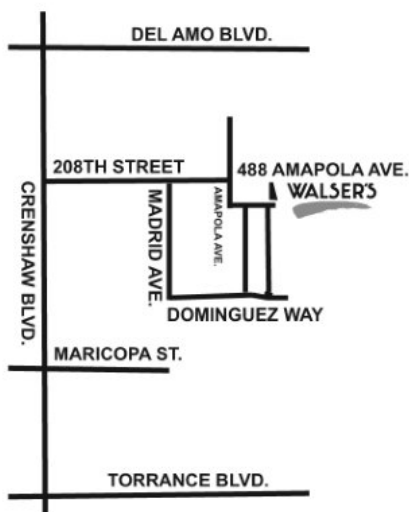
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South Bay Native Plant Corner

Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSU, Dominguez Hills



Goldenstar ***Bloomeria crocea***

Among our special spring treats are the California native bulbs. First are Wild Hyacinth (Blue Dicks) and Redskinned onion; next in line are the Goldenstars. Blooming in April, their golden yellow flowers create quite a sensation in the native plant garden and on the Preserve.

Goldenstar is an herbaceous perennial from a corm (like a bulb). It's a typical native 'garden bulb' of Southern California, growing from the coast of Santa Barbara County to Baja California. It once was common in Los Angeles County and the Channel Islands, growing in the local coastal prairie, coastal sage scrub, chaparral and even in woodland openings.

Like most native 'bulbs', Goldenstar dies back to an underground storage structure (the corm) after blooming. This adaptation allows it to survive our long dry season. With the winter rains, the plants poke new green leaves through the soil, beginning the yearly cycle yet again. It's no wonder many people find the geophytes (bulbs) utterly fascinating.

Bloomeria crocea plants have one to two long, slender, strap-like leaves. The leaves emerge first, often in December in our area. The leaves grow quickly, creating the energy needed for flowering and later storage. In early April, the flowering stalk emerges. This also grows quickly, as plants have a limited time to grow, bloom, produce seeds and store food energy.

Goldenstar flowers look like golden, six-petal stars. They grow in a loose cluster, at the top of a slender flowering stalk (rather like one of those fireworks that explodes outwards). You can't miss them in garden or Preserve—there's nothing else like them. And the local butterflies don't miss them either!

Goldenstar is one of those local perennials that are really easy to grow. They tolerate any local soil and do fine in sun or afternoon shade. They do need good winter water and then—after they flower—a long dry period. That's one reason why some gardeners prefer growing California native 'bulbs' in pots.



So, be on the lookout for the Goldenstars this spring. They reproduce both by seed and by offsets, so the display gets better every year. Then consider growing this charming, reliable native in your own garden. You'll be helping restore a bit of our local natural heritage, while bringing joy to all who behold.

For more on gardening with California native 'bulbs' see: <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/2017/02/gardening-with-california-native-bulbs.html>

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

Friends of Madrona Marsh

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