

Quarterly issue · Fall 2023

THE MARSH INSIDER

Official Newsletter of the Friends of Madrona Marsh

A Walk Through the Factory

BY SUZAN HUBERT

Come enjoy a walk through the Factory. The Factory, don't you mean the Preserve? Yes, I do, and it is a factory of sorts. It is nature's very own factory that produces life.

Consider the following on your next visit to the Preserve. As you stand under a tree, taking in the sights, you exhale a gas found in the air, carbon dioxide (CO₂). Then the tree 'inhales' CO₂ and 'exhales' oxygen (O₂) ... and then you breathe in O₂, exhale CO₂, and on it goes in a neat life-giving cycle. And it isn't just the trees. All the green plants and all the animals living on the Preserve are doing the exact same thing: exchanging CO₂ and O₂...

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It's a very elegant system. It leads to interesting discussions about how a plant "breathes" differently than an animal, yet the two work in perfect harmony. Life is produced every instance plants and animals are together. One reason people feel so good after a walk in nature is the abundance of O₂. It's also free; how cool is that for a life-giving benefit?

It's definitely very cool, but here comes the complicated part. Plants take in CO₂ through their stomata (microscopic openings in the underside of their leaves). Once plants have water and CO₂, they use radiation (energy from sunlight) to make food. The food made from these components is called glucose (a simple sugar that plants store in their leaves and use as energy for living).

Photosynthesis is largely responsible for producing and maintaining the O₂ content of the Earth's atmosphere.

Plants have to be healthy for photosynthesis to occur and need stable homes to put down roots to support their bodies. They need sunlight, water, and CO₂-producing animals around them to keep the life-giving cycle in balance.

it's not magic. It's science, but it is magical when you stand under a tree, beside a bush, or in a field of plants and consider what's happening around you and your contribution as a part of nature. So come walk into the factory that is the Preserve. Enjoy as much O₂ as you want. It's free. Leave lots of CO₂ so the factory will make more O₂ for your next visit.



Suzan Hubert

California Naturalist

President

Friends of Madrona Marsh

A Mallard Story

BY STEVEN ASH

On August 8 at approximately 5:45 PM, a Mallard hen was struck and killed by a vehicle during an attempted crossing of Madrona Avenue. As Mallards do, she was on a sojourn to the Target store across the street with her three juveniles. Fortunately, the juveniles survived and scurried to the safety of the Marsh, leaving the mother lying by the road. Staff retrieved the hen and removed her from the roadside.

While it might be just another sad story of a creature lost to the ever-present threat to wildlife by traffic, this loss is actually a plot that brings to light an important facet of naturalist preservation and scientific research.

On the shank of the deceased Mallard was found a silver band. The band was carefully removed, and on it were inscribed a nine-digit number, a phone number, and www.reportband.gov.

Turns out, our Mallard was part of The North American Bird Banding Program.

Bird banding is important for studying



PHOTO BY STEVE ASH

Pictured: Silver identification band removed from dead Mallard hen on 08/08/23

birds' movement, survival, and behavior. Since 1904, over 60 million birds representing hundreds of species received bands, with approximately 4 million bands recovered and reported.

Data from banded birds is important in monitoring populations, setting hunting regulations, restoring endangered species, studying environmental contaminants' effects,

and addressing issues such as Avian Influenza, bird hazards at airports, and crop depredations. Results from banding studies support national and international bird conservation programs such as Partners in Flight, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and Wetlands for the Americas.

After logging into the website, I proceeded to answer a few basic questions about how the bird died, location information, and mapping the site in what was an easy process. Upon completion, a downloadable certificate of appreciation and thank you email helped conclude the process.

The North American Bird Banding Program is under the general direction of the U.S. Geological Survey and Canadian Wildlife Service. Cooperatives include federal, state, and provincial conservation agencies, the most notable being The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service, Mexico's National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity, and the Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources. Other cooperatives include and are not limited to universities, amateur ornithologists, bird observatories, nature centers, nongovernmental organizations such as Ducks Unlimited, the National Audubon Society environmental consulting firms, and other private sector businesses.

However, according to the program, the most important partners in this cooperative venture are those that report a recovered band. For me, this is an uncommon activity, but once complete, I felt pleased to play a role in the process and hoped the data had meaning to those who received my comments.

From the program, we learned that our duck hatched in 2020 near Los Angeles. Then, on May 20, 2021, she was banded at International Bird Rescue in San

Pedro.

A likely scenario for our hen is that she was released at Madrona Marsh following her rescue and rehabilitation. Perhaps our duck returned to the area to nest and rear her ducklings. At least now, the banding program has closure information on her demise, including location and cause.

From this tragedy, we hope information becomes available to help researchers understand more about the ducks that frequent Madrona Marsh.

By the way, the juveniles survived the tragedy and matured, eventually flying off with their brethren to parts unknown.



Steven Ash

Acting Manager

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature
Center

Community Services

“The A, B, C’s of Native Bees”



November 21st
2023

7:00 PM

Madrona Marsh
Nature Center

www.BeeSip.com

About Krystle Hickman

Krystle Hickman is a National Geographic Explorer, speaker, artist, community scientist, and photographer based in Los Angeles, California. Through artful photography, Krystle strives to increase awareness of the decline in native bee species and highlight their biodiverse ecosystems. Her photography has been featured in The LA Times, children's books, and scientific journals.

Krystle works with gardens like the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Arlington Garden, regularly photographing and documenting their native habitats. She also collects data on rare bee species in the Mojave Desert, Joshua Tree, Anza-Borrego, the Santa Monica Mountains, yards with native gardens, and more.

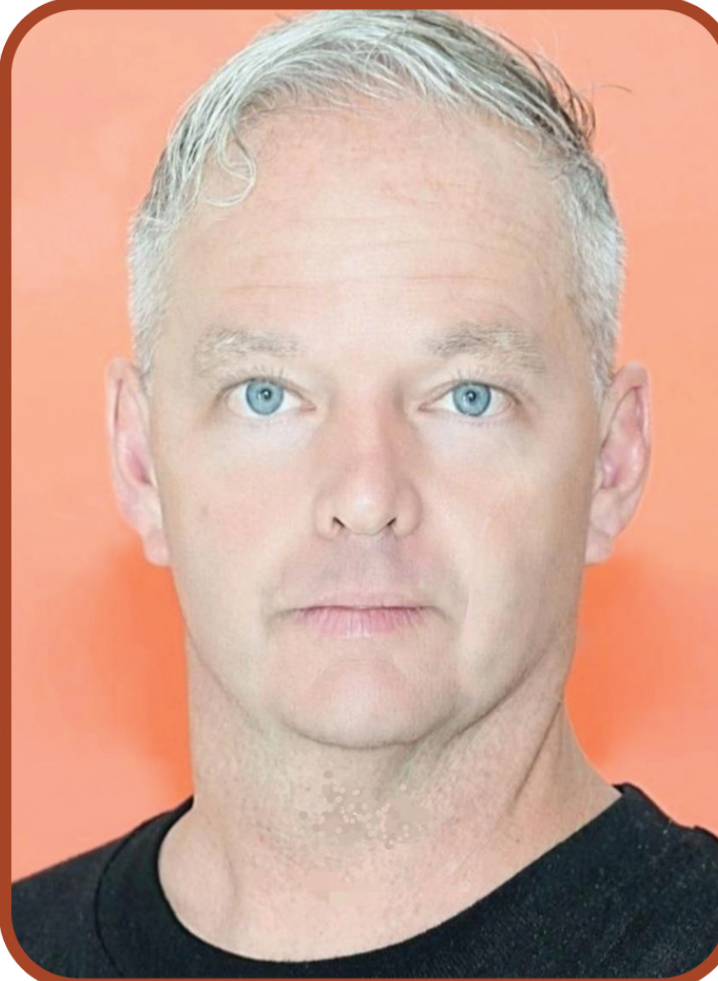
Did you know?

California is home to over 1,600 species of native bees, a vital part of the ecosystem. Have you ever seen a native bee? Do you have native bees in your garden?

Through Krystle's stunning macro photography, please get to know these important pollinators, what makes them so special, and signs of a healthy garden.



MEET OUR RESIDENT ARTIST *DODD HOLSAPPLE*



A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN THE MADRONA MARSH & THE TORRANCE ART MUSEUM

ARTIST WILL BE ON-SITE
OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 28TH.
EVERY SATURDAY & ADDITIONAL DAYS TBA



CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP (ON DODD'S WORK)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM
AT KATY GEISSERT CIVIC
CENTER LIBRARY

CONTACT THE LIBRARY TO REGISTER.

DODD HOLSAPPLE

PAST ARTWORK



JUNE 14TH JUJU2
FLORA EXOTICA SERIES



POPPIES IN RED
FLORA EXOTICA SERIES



ONONDAGA LAKE
REFLECTIONS SERIES



JULY 22ND
EXOTICA SERIES



PROJECT PHOENIX

ABOUT

Project Phoenix is a new community science project to study how wildfire smoke impacts birds in California. Project Phoenix is a joint partnership between the UCLA La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Project Phoenix is open to all birders and bird enthusiasts – regardless of previous birding experience. To support beginner birders, we provide resources on species identification, including free courses from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Project Phoenix volunteers are helping us monitor birds by conducting weekly, ten-minute surveys of birds at their chosen location, beginning now through the end of October.

VISIT

PROJECTPHOENIX.STUDY

CONTACT

PROJECTPHOENIX.SOCAL
@GMAIL.COM

NOTE

A walk through the Preserve is not sufficient. Participants must stay in one place for 10 minutes and list and count the different birds they see in that location. Sitting in your yard, driveway, local park, or balcony for 10 minutes would work.



HEY, YOU!

**Want to get involved at Madrona Marsh?
Check out these opportunities!**

Career Openings

Program Specialist

The City of Torrance is recruiting for a Program Specialist to be part of the Community Services Team! This Program Specialist position involves indoor and outdoor duties, such as restoring and landscaping the Preserve, leading tours, and teaching classes.

Senior Program Specialist

The City of Torrance is recruiting for a Program Specialist to be part of the Community Services Team! This Program Specialist position involves indoor and outdoor duties, such as restoring and landscaping the Preserve, leading tours, and teaching classes.

For More Information

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/torranceca/jobs/3327233/program-specialist-madrona-marsh-at-will-re-issue>

Docent Training

Tuesdays

September 26th

October 3rd

October 10th

October 17th



Where

Nature Center
Classroom

When

10 AM-12 PM

Sessions are designed to prepare docents to lead student tours. This training will be very helpful for those who already volunteer at the gate, front desk, general tours, or outreach events.

If interested, please call the Nature Center at (310)-782-3989 to register so we know how many people to expect.



CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY PLANT SALE



WHEN:
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023
10AM-2PM

WHERE:
MADRONA MARSH NATURE
CENTER

CHECK OUT THE LOCAL CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SOUTH COAST CHAPTER



@cnps_south_coast



info@scnps.org



<https://chapters.cnps.org/southcoast/>

QUARTERLY DONATIONS
\$100 OR MORE

Month	Donor	Donation	Comments
May	Mr. & Mrs. John Ripley	\$100	
May	Mary Ann Meyers	\$250	In Memory of Elaine Endes
May	Christine & Robert Martin	\$200	
May	David Wilson	\$150.00	
June	Hermosa Garden Club	\$100.00	
June	Daniel Hawkins	\$230.00	9 Round Fund Raiser
June	Torrance Teachers Association	\$300.00	
June	Henry Rasof	\$7,599.92	In memory of Beatrice Leplin Rasof
July	Barbara Pritzkat	\$100.00	
July	Bobby & Larry Snyder	\$2,500.00	For the Golden Anniversary Celebration
July	Barbara & Alfred Sattler	\$100.00	
August	Vidyalakshmi Ramanathan	\$1,001.00	

SEPTEMBER



**Adult Supervision required*

*** Registration required*

**** Adult supervision & registration required*

To register for events, call (310) 782-3989

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	2
3	4	5	6	7 <u>Tyke Hike*</u> Ages 3 mos-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM - 11AM	8 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	9 <u>Nature Walks</u> All ages 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM <u>Night Hike***</u> 6:30 PM-8:30 PM
10	11	12	13	14 <u>Nature Story Time & Craft***</u> Ages 2-5 yrs 10AM-12PM	15 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	16 <u>Henrietta Basin Walk</u> All ages 9AM-11AM
17	18	19	20	21	22 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	23 <u>Bird Walks</u> All ages 9AM-11AM
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 <u>CNPS Plant Sale</u> Nature Center 10AM-2PM

Occasionally events are canceled due to weather. Cancellations are announced on FaceBook and Instagram.

OCTOBER



**Adult Supervision required*

*** Registration required*

**** Adult supervision & registration required*

To register for events, call (310) 782-3989

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 <u>Tyke Hike*</u> Ages 3 mos-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM - 11AM	6 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	7
8	9	10	11	12 <u>Nature Story Time & Craft***</u> Ages 2-5 yrs 10AM-12PM	13 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	14 <u>Nature Walks</u> All ages 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM <u>Night Hike***</u> 6:30 PM-8:30 PM
15	16	17	18	19	20 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	21 <u>Henrietta Basin Walk</u> All ages 9AM-11AM
22	23	24	25	26	27 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	28 <u>Bird Walks</u> All ages 9AM-11AM
29	30	31				

Occasionally events are canceled due to weather. Cancellations are announced on FaceBook and Instagram.

NOVEMBER



**Adult Supervision required*

*** Registration required*

**** Adult supervision & registration required*

To register for events, call (310) 782-3989

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 <u>Tyke Hike*</u> Ages 3 mos-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM - 11AM	3 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	4
5	6	7	8	9 <u>Nature Story Time & Craft***</u> Ages 2-5 yrs 10AM-12PM	10 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	11 <u>Nature Walks</u> All ages 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM <u>Night Hike***</u> 6:30 PM-8:30 PM
12	13	14	15	16	17 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	18 <u>Henrietta Basin Walk</u> All ages 9AM-11AM
19	20	21 <u>"The A, B, C's of Native Bees"</u> All ages 7:00 PM	22	23	24 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	25 <u>Bird Walks</u> All ages 9AM-11AM
26	27	28	29	30		

Occasionally events are canceled due to weather. Cancellations are announced on FaceBook and Instagram.

VOLUNTEER AT MADRONA MARSH

Join the team!
Open to
applicants 18
years & older.



Positions Available

- Reception Desk
- Preserve Entry Greeter
- Gift Shop
- Animal Care



Scan QR Code
For information



Contact for information
naturel@torranceca.gov
(310) 782-3989