

Quarterly issue • Winter 2023

THE MARSH INSIDER

Official Newsletter of the Friends of Madrona Marsh

FRIENDS OF MADRONA MARSH 50 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY (AND STILL GOING STRONG!)

BY SUZAN HUBERT

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the Friends of Madrona Marsh board. We will celebrate all year with a special annual meeting luncheon, our nature festival, City Council recognition, scholarships, tree planting, a fundraising gala in September, and anything else we can think of to commemorate this accomplishment!

During 2024, I will share *memories*- not my memories but those of others who were instrumental in saving the Madrona Marsh and building the Nature Center.

This issue:

Friends of Madrona Marsh Celebrates 50 Years
(1974-2024)

To the Friends of Madrona Marsh

2024 Annual Membership Meeting

Dodd Holsapple's Madrona Marsh

Earth, Breath

Artwork of the Preserve

Donors

Calender

MEMORIES

Mayor Katy Geissert of Torrance from 1986 to 1994 wrote the following for the Marsh Mailing Spring 1987 edition.

“By nature, I am a saver. So when Shirley Turner asked me to write a statement on the Madrona Marsh and the Friends, it gave me an excuse to pull out dusty files filled with over 20 years of accumulation of newspaper clippings, reports, and notes.

The battle to save the Marsh was a long and colorful one and had all the drama of a classic planning and political saga. It was a battle fought and won by people who had faith in and dedication to the value of their vision.

When I first became Mayor in 1986, my first goal was to finalize an agreement with the owners of the property and to gain title to the Marsh. After prolonged negotiations, that goal was realized, and the property was deeded to the City “in perpetuity” as a nature habitat.

Viewing the Marsh today, lush after the winter rains and lovingly cared for by all of you. I am convinced that the movement to save Madrona Marsh was one of the worthiest causes in the history of our city.”

When she passed in 2000, the Honorable Steven Kuykendall, California House of Representatives, honored Geissert during a session of the House. He said, in part,

“Katy will be missed. The community she represented is a better place to live because of her service.”

The Friends of Madrona Marsh could not agree more with this sentiment.



Suzan Hubert

California Naturalist

President

Friends of Madrona Marsh

To the Friends of Madrona Marsh

BY MICHELLE SISON

As the new year approaches, it is not uncommon for people to find themselves in a state of reflection, perhaps contemplating the actions that have led them to where they are now. This year, I am certainly guilty of this as 2024 presents itself as especially prospective. This upcoming year, I am proud to say that I will not only be taking the next step in my academic career by transferring to CSULB, but I am incredibly honored to continue my role as media director on the Friends of Madrona Marsh board as they celebrate 50 years!

I've come a long way since the end of 2020, a year spent in quarantine alone in a college town eight hours away from any immediate family. I had concluded that the life I had led up until quarantine was one I was not satisfied with. As a result, I left my university. I

returned home, continued my academics at a local community college, and grappled with the big question of what would bring me fulfillment.

After some dawdling, I concluded that volunteering would be a good answer. It's been over a year since I found myself at the Nature Center, attempting to find someone to tell me how to get involved. I started small, and then somehow, miraculously, the wonderful staff at the Nature Center entrusted me with more responsibility. I now serve as the media director and am at the helm of this lovely newsletter. It is a role that I am continuously learning from and one that I adore greatly.

My time at the Madrona Marsh, especially with the Friends of the Madrona Marsh board, has been incredibly fulfilling. I've learned that there is great joy in stewardship of the land, ensuring its longevity for ...

future generations. Certainly, my fondest memories of the preserve are the ones where I am on Chevron Corner, kneeling in the dirt, carefully identifying and removing invasive plants. My ability to distinguish between invasive and non-invasive plants is owed to the guidance of the staff, who kindly took time out of their busy day to teach me.

The community that has formed around this land is unlike any other. The variety of visitors that flock to the preserve never ceases to amaze me, whether new or returning, schoolchildren or parents, birders or artists. In addition, I find kindred souls in fellow volunteers who unabashedly express such enthusiasm for their work.

Most importantly, I find that I am forever grateful to the Friends of Madrona Marsh board, the most

individualistic, passionate, funny, and kind people I have ever met for allowing me to be a part of and contribute to this community. The Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center and the Friends of Madrona Marsh board have been and continue to be fundamental in my development as a young adult and hopefully, beyond that.



Michelle Sison

Volunteer

Media Director

Friends of Madrona Marsh



The Friends of Madrona Marsh
presents

2024 Annual Membership Meeting

Let's celebrate 50 Years of Environmental Advocacy (1974 - 2024) with a feast! We invite members to join us as we express our heartfelt gratitude for your support of Madrona Marsh.

The menu will feature Lomeli's lasagna, chicken salad, garlic bread, and amazing desserts!

When:

January 28, 2024
1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Where:

Madrona Marsh Nature Center
3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance, CA 90503

Please RSVP before January 24, 2024 at (310)-782-3989



Agenda

Opening Remarks

President Suzan Hubert

Election of New Board Members

Charlene Lee, Director of Community Relations
Michelle Sison, Director of Media

Election of Continuing Board Members

Bill Arrowsmith, Director Emeritus
Ellen Peterson, Treasurer
Sarah Noddings, Director of Docent Tours
Suzan Hubert, President

2023 Honorees with a Twist

Friends of Madrona Marsh 2023 Annual Report

President Suzan Hubert

What's Happening at the Preserve and Nature Center

Steve Ash, Manager of Preserve and Nature Center

Closing Remarks



DODD HOLSAPPLE'S WORLD OF MADRONA MARSH

A STATEMENT FROM OUR CURRENT RESIDENT ARTIST

My reflections and direction during the residence project were to formally and conceptually address the Marsh and its species through thoughtful interactive artworks. These studies and related information were embedded into contemporary visual arrangements that beautify as well as define real-time environmental concerns, awareness, and the natural beauty of the Marsh. I created a cohesive interactive series of Obelisk-styled sculptures. The shapes of the sculptures resemble oil drilling platforms from the past as a reference to the geographical history of the area. The sculptures are constructed from wood materials to create four themes related to the Marsh. *Grow*, *Swim*, *Crawl*, and *Fly* presents a feeling of connectivity with the Marsh and each other.

Come and visit the Nature Center and experience Dodd Holsapple's World of Madrona Marsh.

DODD HOLSAPPLE'S WORLD OF MADRONA MARSH



Earth, Breath

AN ORIGINAL POEM BY BEVERLY VOIGT

If you stand there, by the yellow deerweed
after rain
on a morning of gathering heat

the eucalyptus tree above you
and all it has lost to the mulchy earth
will begin to breathe

and your breath
remembering itself
will join the exhalation

and the one who is not you
will evanesce
in the bright air

leaving you in the swing
of your own
galloping heart



ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY DEBBIE ABSHEAR



ORIGINAL ARTWORK BY DEBBIE ABSHEAR

QUARTERLY DONATIONS \$100 OR MORE			
Month	Donor	Donation	Comments
August	Vidyalakshmi Ramanathan	\$1,001.00	
October	Barbara Epstein & Family	\$100.00	
September	Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society	\$300.00	
November	Calif. Native Plant Society	\$800.00	Support for our help at the plant sale
November	Peter & Pamela Major	\$200.00	
November	Windsong Condominium	\$300.00	Holiday Donation
December	Arlene Gardner	\$100.00	
January- December	Kelson Vibber	\$120.00	
January- December	Zhen Zhou	\$360.00	Scholarship Fund
December	Ruth M. Bloland	\$100.00	
December	Rebecca A. Moore	\$200.00	
Decemeber	Marvin Finnley	\$100.00	



DECEMBER



**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> 10AM - 11:30 AM <u>Night Hike***</u> 6:30 PM-8:30 PM
10	11	12	13	14	15 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	16 <u>Bird Walk</u> 9AM-11AM <u>Henrietta Basin Walk</u> 9AM-11AM
17	18	19	20	21	22 <u>CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE</u>	23 <u>CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE</u>
24 <u>CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE</u>	25 <u>CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE</u>	26	27	28	29 <u>CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE</u>	30 <u>CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE</u>
31 <u>CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE</u>						

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

JANUARY



**Adult Supervision required*

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**** Adult supervision & registration required*

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

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

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

FEBRUARY



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*** Registration required*

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 <u>Tyke Hike*</u> Ages 3 mos-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM - 11AM	2 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	3
4	5	6	7	8 <u>Nature Story Time & Craft***</u> Ages 2-5 yrs 10AM-12PM	9 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	10 <u>Nature Walks</u> 10AM - 11:30 AM <u>Night Hike***</u> 6:30 PM-8:30 PM
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18	19 <u>CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE</u>	20	21	22	23 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10AM-12PM	24
25	26	27	28	29		

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