

Quarterly issue • SPRING 2023

THE MARSH INSIDER

Official Newsletter of the Madrona Marsh Preserve
and Nature Center

THOSE MARVELOUS MALLARDS ... BUT NOT IN MY POOL!

BY SUZAN HUBERT

Visitors flock to see the ducks when the Preserve is full of water. The ducks come for food and safe shelter to raise those adorable ducklings. The Preserve hosts several different species of duck. You can see examples in the exhibit hall to know who is who when you see them on the Preserve. It's lovely to see the ducklings follow mom into the water for the first time, with almost always one reluctant duckling needing a little encouragement. By watching duck families move through the water, you watch physics in action. While paddling behind their mom in an orderly line, the ducklings ride between the waves created by her wake. This strategy conserves the duckling's energy.

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Mallards...But
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Each duckling in the line passes on paddling waves to those behind, so the whole brood gets an assisted ride. The key is keeping up with mom because swimming is harder for dawdling ducks.

It's fun to watch the duckling families on the Preserve. Not so much when they are in your pool, parking lot, or crossing the street. Most of us want to help them find a safer, healthier spot. The first thing to know about helping ducks, they are Federally protected by the US Fish and Wildlife Services, and you cannot catch or relocate them by yourself, which must be remembered for all migrating birds.

Here's how to help wandering ducks find water, food, and shelter

You can start by trusting the abilities of the mother duck. They know where they are going because they can fly.

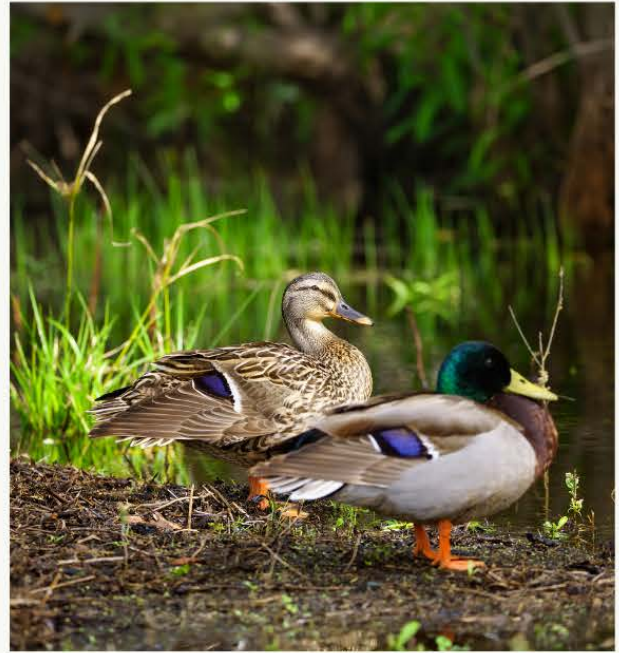


PHOTO BY LANCE HILL

They have an aerial perspective of the area and follow a path. The best thing humans can do is respect that mom knows what she is doing and help her by clearing the path. If you've ever walked around shops with a stroller and a toddler in tow, didn't you appreciate it when someone held the door for you? Help the duck family without interfering.

If they are in your pool, they are often a male and female pair needing a safe place to nest and hatch their young.

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Once the eggs hatch, they won't stay long in the pool because there is no food in the water. At that point, you should open a gate so mom can walk her family to a nearby water source such as the Preserve. People can help ducks in streets, parking lots, and other dangerous places, but it requires patience. Observe mother duck to determine what she is trying to do, then help her do it; stop traffic if possible. Follow from a safe distance and clear her path. It can be a lengthy process. Mother duck won't want you too close, and she will move her family at her speed, not yours, so be patient. If you find injured ducks, contact the International Bird Rescue (310)514-2573 between the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Resist the urge to share food with ducks, birds, and other wildlife!

We don't allow any feeding of anything on the Preserve because nature feeds its own. Human food isn't healthy for wildlife. Bread is a particularly bad culprit. Bread has little nutritional value; it just fills the duck's stomach so that it doesn't forage for the high-nutrition food it naturally eats, leading to malnourished, weak, and unhealthy ducks. Uneaten food thrown at ducks will pollute their water. Accept the wonder of nature by simply watching and respecting a different species' way of life. No interference is necessary!

Hope to see you on the Preserve, where nature does a fine job providing for all the plants and critters.



Suzan

California Naturalist

President Friends of Madrona Marsh

**MADRONA MARSH PRESERVE AND NATURE
CENTER PRESENTS**

NATURE FESTIVAL



**APRIL 29TH, 2023
10:00 AM-3:00 PM**

Sierra Club

Project Coyote

International Bird Rescue

Audubon Society

Native Plant Society

Marine Mammal Care Center

Madrona Marsh Preserve

List of Events for the Spring Quarter

**4th
Saturday of
the month**

Bird Walks

All ages
9:00 AM-11:00 AM

**2nd
Saturday of
the month**

Nature Walks

All ages
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**1st
Thursday of
the month**

Tyke Hike

Ages 3 months-6 years
\$5.00 per child
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
*Adult supervision required

**2nd
Saturday of
the month**

Night Hike

\$5.00 per person, \$10.00 per family
6:30 PM-8:30 PM
*Adult supervision & registration required

**Every
Friday**

Friday Fun

Ages 3-6 years
\$5.00 per child
10:00 AM-12:00 AM
*Adult supervision & registration required

**2nd
Thursday of
the month**

Nature Story Time & Craft

Ages 2-5 years
10:30 AM-12:00 PM
*Adult supervision & registration required

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

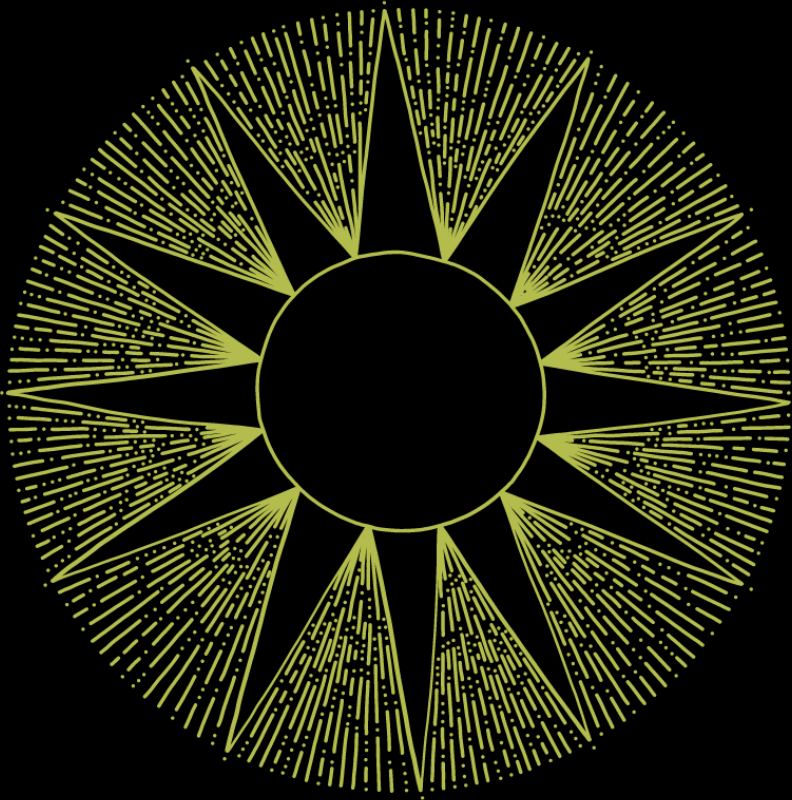
To register for events call (310) 782-3989



STAR PARTY

MARCH 25TH

7 PM-9 PM



LECTURE AT 7:00 PM

LIFE ON VENUS ?
JUICE MISSION TO EUROPA

WHAT'S IN THE SKY?

- LEO/CANCER/GEMINI
CONSTELLATIONS
- WAXING MOON
- VENUS & MARS
- ORION NEBULA
- OPEN CLUSTERS
- DOUBLE STARS





**Gift Shop
Clearance items**

Take what you want

**Leave a donation for the Friends
of the Madrona Marsh**

Thank you for your support

**FRIENDS OF MADRONA
MARSH**



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
nature1@torranceca.gov
(310) 782-3989