

Marsh Mailing

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

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

The Mallard Project

Steve Ash

On a Tuesday evening in mid-summer, a most interesting and inspiring story of personal growth and achievement was shared with more than 50 visitors. That was the night that a man whom many have seen on the Preserve, but few knew much about, made public the exceptional research findings he had gathered over the previous three years. Having seen and spoken with Mr. Jun Saito personally, I had come to know him as a polite and quiet man, doing research on the most prevalent of waterfowl species found at the Preserve: Mallard Ducks. However, it wasn't until the night of July 19th that I truly learned about this man, what he had accomplished and what he had overcome. It was the most meaningful experience I have had in many years.

You see, I never really knew his story. His story is one of great personal courage. Following life-changing injuries, he showed the kind of bravery and courage that you read about in books and magazines. Jun Saito showed these traits and more. Had he not shared his story I would never have known it because he is such a quiet and unassuming man.

Nursing severe injuries from a terrible motorcycle accident several years ago, Jun began a lengthy and difficult recovery process and entered into a period of depression.

Originally he came to Madrona Marsh to spend time in contemplation and reflection in order to fight the depression that affected his mind and slowed his recovery. Jun discovered he felt contentment during these early visits. It was during these times that Jun began to observe ducklings. The first time he saw the wee

ducklings, Jun said, he just had to watch them because they were so cute. Soon curiosity took hold and he noticed other duck families in the wetlands and he began to watch them—and to track their lives as they grew up. In time he began to think of the ducks as friends. Many appeared to accept his daily treks into their territory without getting alarmed. He watched them with such interest that he developed a love for, and a deep appreciation of, these families as he learned about their intense struggle to survive in a sometimes-harsh environment. Like an artist, he became lost in the art of observation; the mother ducks and their ducklings being his subjects, and his mind the palette. By his own admission, early on he

knew them only as ducks, not as "Mallards"; that would come much later.



*Jun Saito at his favorite spot at the Preserve.
Photo courtesy of Mark Rubke*

"Mallards" continued on page 2

“Mallards ...” continued from page 1

Jun’s passion and caring for the ducks was so evident that it was only natural for him to become a volunteer at the Preserve. Despite a language barrier that made it very difficult for him to communicate, not to mention physical restrictions due to his injuries, Jun embarked on what would be a three-year-long journey of observing and documenting what he now knew were Mallards. His passion became an instrument of healing for his broken body and the prescription for controlling the depression that had plagued him during recovery.

For the past three years, Jun’s observation skills, and his passion for documenting how Mallards behave in the wild, grew. When I first met Jun, he was well along in this endeavor. I remember watching him and thinking, “that man is really focused!” Then I grew amazed at the man’s mapping skills. I watched him draw, by hand, his own maps of Mallard territories within the wetland areas of the Preserve. Each map was drawn in such detail that I began to think to myself, “he should do cartography for a living.” I never realized the full depth of his observation skills nor the extent of research resulting from his Mallard investigations until a July presentation to an Audubon Society meeting held at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

At the meeting, Jun Saito’s years-long research effort was shown to local Audubon members in what I will always remember as the most interesting wildlife story I have ever witnessed. While the Mallard research culminated in a collection of what must be some of the most in-depth research to have ever been performed by a single individual, I will remember it as an emotional story of hope and bravery by a quiet and unassuming man of deep caring and passion.

The Mallard Project presentation brought great praise by Audubon members for its depth and meaningfulness. Many attendees said it was the best presentation and discussion of any

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.

Update - Prop 84 Grant

Tracy Drake

Construction related to the Prop 84 grant started in late August. Three parts have been started. First, the floor of the atrium has been removed, making way for the support beams that will support the new solar roof. When the floor gets poured again, it will be a new color—sandstone. This color was chosen because it is the best match for the new exhibits that are being built, although the exhibit design has not yet been finalized.

The research for the mural depicting the history of Madrona Marsh through the ages has begun. A team from Madrona went to the Page Museum and met with the collections curator. We have worked hard to learn what the ancient Preserve area looked like and what animals were likely present during the late Pleistocene.

Because a mastodon jaw was found in nearby Wilmington, it is reasonable to include those animals in the mural. But we needed to learn what other plants and animals were present. Besides learning about the Pleistocene, we have been meeting with the Tongva elders and with the folks at the Dominguez Rancho in Carson, and we have been working with the City manager to learn about the oil history specific to Madrona.

It has been a tedious but wonderful process, and it is our intention, through the mural and a related book funded by another grant, to tell the rich history of Madrona. By the time the next newsletter is published, most of the project will be completed. And then by January, we hope to be able to show all the new exhibits at the Friends’ Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2017.

they could remember. It is of such quality that it will be brought to the attention of experts who can carry it forward based on its scientific quality and worth. However, I will always remember this exquisitely framed discussion of Mallards as the Jun Saito story of courage. -S.A.

Coming in the next issue of *Marsh Mailing*: a closer look at the detail of Jun Saito’s Mallard observations and Manager Tracy Drake’s assessment of how that information has changed her management approach.

Also examined will be the apparent effect of extended drought on Mallard behavior.

Scooby Saves the Day

Dave Jamieson

I have just completed a major part of a tour that has involved my needing to raise my voice to a level above my preferred range while leading young students through the Madrona Marsh Preserve, The Native Gardens and the Nature Center. I know that the cause of the unified chaos is the reason for the tour itself, and is also why I normally enjoy being a docent for children who may never have seen, smelt or touched some of the wonders to which I can introduce them.

I am a bit frustrated, however, at the level of noise and activities that are contrary to my introductory speech about "visiting the plants and animals in their home" and "calmness and quietness to make the Marsh feel comfortable." I feel like I have somehow failed to convey that we are interacting with the Marsh and need to do so in ways such that the many facets that are Madrona are undisturbed by our presence. I resist pointing out the skittering and flight of the animals as the children loudly point out tracks, or unusual plants; but I am not fully pleased with my performance today.

One of the important parts of my tours is introducing the students to one of our snakes. We have three that we keep in the Nature Center: Scooby, a gopher snake that was rescued from crows at a very young age, and two California Kingsnakes: Sheeva and Nala. The students normally anticipate the thrill of meeting a snake, and I can use that as a sort of reward for being a good group.

Today, I pass out one of the snake's molted skins, or "sheds," and talk about how even the eyes shed and allow the children to feel how light and fragile the sheds are. What comes back as I am removing Scooby from the cage is three pieces of a shed. I make a comical face like "What's up with this?" and some of the students look around guiltily. I point out that we have a lot of sheds and offer the teacher one of them to take back to the classroom as I place Scooby around my neck.

The next part of this experience is when I explain to the children that Scooby just woke up and is trying to figure out her surroundings. Is she in danger? Is she among friends? Are the people around her nice? Mean? Scared? Hungry? She does all of that figuring through

senses that we as people don't necessarily have or use. She can sense the vibrations of our voices and even our pheromones, which are invisible particles that we put in the air to declare our agenda. I explain that as I am telling them this, Scooby is going from being a nervous snake that has been recently awakened to a snake that is comfortable where she is. I point out that I can feel her nervousness on my neck and can also feel her relaxing and easing into her surroundings.

I scan the students as they are seated in a line awaiting a chance to feel Scooby's armored back and treads on her belly. It is my voice that is connecting with Scooby and I am extremely aware of my calming effect. The children are smiling and have been told to simply shake their head no if they don't want to touch a snake. Those that change their mind after first refusing will get the opportunity, and at the end, Scooby is reluctant to go back into her cage.

As I close the cage and direct the children to wash their hands before coming out to say goodbye, I see a change in the demeanor of the group. These children have made a new friend. When they are gone, I walk over and thank Scooby.

I suppose it was a pretty good tour after all.

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 October 7 - "**Various Mediums by Pacific Arts Group - Al Hagen.**"

October 11 - December 2 "**An Exhibit of Paintings by Yuna Tae,**" a local high school student. Artist's reception Friday, November 4, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

December 6 - January 20 - "**Flashcard Project: The Flora of Madrona Marsh III,**" by Estelle DeRidder. Artist's Reception - Sunday, December 18, 1 - 4 p.m.

A Friend is Someone Who Likes You

Suzan Hubert, FOMM President

What does it mean to be a Friend of Madrona Marsh? The most apt definition according to Webster is “someone who favors or promotes something.”

All of our Friends are truly wonderful in their “favoring” of the Marsh with money and time. Both are equally vital. We have so many people who give funds AND time for tours, technical support, gift shop, office help and the list goes on.

When visiting the Marsh you have the opportunity to meet astonishing people who freely give extraordinary skills to further the work of our Founders—those dedicated folks who saved these acres for us, our children, our grandchildren and beyond.

It's difficult to talk about just a few Friends; however, I would like you to ‘meet’ a few individuals who are devoting their time to furthering community education about nature for the next generation of Friends.

Over the past five years or so Cindy Reid created and established Friday Fun. This is a science based, active learning class for preschoolers. The class is designed for three- to four-year-olds but children up to age six also enjoy Friday Fun. Each class features a seasonal topic such as frogs, ladybugs, sun, water, insects, ducks...you get the idea. Each class includes classroom time where children interact with the object of study, listen to a story about the topic, play a game, complete a craft and/or participate in a puppet show.

After the classroom experience the group takes a walk on the Preserve with Ms. Cindy where they have direct interaction with whatever they learned about during class time. These are young children who are learning firsthand, up close and personal about the value of nature and how they fit into the world. Cindy started this class with Stacy Herman as her long-time assistant, and now welcomes Lore Schmidgall as her new sidekick. This is a very popular class, and for the benefit of the participants, the class is limited to 20 children. It often fills up in a few hours, so if you plan to bring a young friend be sure to register by calling the Nature Center on Tuesday morning soon after 10 a.m. for the following Friday.

The July-August topic was “co-existence with coyotes”. Children need to learn about coyote hazing just as much as adults. The Torrance City Council and Police Department have recommended community education for residents to learn coyote hazing, and thus far the City has

published a very useful brochure. Councilman Goodrich, Cindy Reid and Lore have taken action. Councilman Goodrich hosted an excellent community workshop in June, and Fun Friday offered two programs in July and August for our young children (and their parents).

Over the years many children aged out of the Friday Fun class. Cindy then created a similar class for home-schooled children aged six-to-nine years. This has been another great success with the addition of higher-level science concepts, water labs and microscope work. If that isn't enough, Cindy also leads school study tours and guides 4H projects.

Our FOMM founders worked unbelievably hard to save these acres from development, and challenge us all to continue their work. I honor them every time I walk on the Preserve. Cindy, Stacy and Lore have gone steps beyond in their work to educate and grow a next generation of people who care about the wonders of nature.

See you on the Preserve!



Lore and Cindy teach young children and their parents safety and hazing around coyotes.

Will You SMILE for the Friends?

Bill Arrowsmith, Past FOMM President

With just a couple of months before the year-end holidays, we will all soon be shopping for presents for our friends and loved ones. As you know, more and more of that shopping is now done by computer. Wouldn't it be nice if we could all give a little present to the Friends of Madrona Marsh at the same time we make our online purchases?

Well, thanks to a really easy to use new service, we all can, and it won't cost us a dime; not an extra dime, that is. Sarah Noddings, our docent tour coordinator, recently discovered a wonderful new service called AmazonSmile and introduced the FOMM Board of Directors to a great new fund-raising opportunity. Here's how it works:

The next time you are about to make a purchase from Amazon.com (and haven't we all?) simply go to its sister web portal: smile.amazon.com instead. It has the same products and the same low prices as Amazon.com, but on this site most of those products are eligible for a donation from Amazon to a charity of your choice (think Friends of Madrona Marsh).

On your first visit to AmazonSmile you will be asked if you want to select a charitable organization. And that's all you do. The site will remember your selection on all future visits, until/unless you change it, which you can do at any time.

If you would like to choose the Friends, our full name is: Friends of Madrona Marsh Corporation. (But it's a friendly site, and if you come close, it will offer you the full title.)

If you are already an Amazon customer, all your account information will be transferred over to AmazonSmile, including current shopping cart, Wish List, etc. No problem.

So how much does Amazon donate? AmazonSmile will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price of each eligible product, minus any rebates you claim and excluding shipping and handling, taxes and gift-wrapping.

Oh, by the way, on your first visit to AmazonSmile you will also be given an opportunity to very easily add AmazonSmile to your bookmarks, to make your next visit even easier.

That's all there is to it! Amazon does all the paper work and sends a nice check to charities like ours at the end of the month. We have already received a nice "gift" from Sarah. Won't you join her? 0.5 percent may seem like a small amount, but we have hundreds of members like you. And maybe you could even mention us to other member of your family?

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa and a very, very Happy New Year, in which we all will have (Happy) Birthdays, as well, with any luck. Let's keep AmazonSmile busy!



Dinuk Magammana, on Tracy's staff at the Preserve, is helping to grow new friends of nature and, we hope, the next generation of Friends of Madrona Marsh. Dinuk and his team of interns, including Yuna, Arthur, Garrett, Marin and Brandon, led two week-long classes this summer: Junior Naturalists and the Wildlife Art Camp.

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center*

Schedule of Events for October 2016 through January 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. ¹ & Student.Service Vadheim-no class
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> CLOSED	<u>4</u> 8:30am-Tour d'Torrance	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike -donation 10:30 Prop. Society	<u>7</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation** Hagen Exhibit Ends***	<u>8</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 8:45 am-Nature Journaling All ages - fee 7-9 pm-Star Party
<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> CLOSED	<u>11</u> Yuna Tae Exhibit Begins***	<u>12</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	<u>13</u> 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society 1pm-Inquis. Naturalists	<u>14</u> 10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>15</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 9-11 am-Guided Tour/ Henrietta Basin
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> CLOSED	<u>18</u> 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	<u>21</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>22</u> 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 8:30 am-12 n-Make a Difference Day 10 am-Nature Walk
<u>23</u> 10 am- Nature Walk	<u>24</u> CLOSED	<u>25</u> 10 am-Home School Nature Class/ Cindy Reid	<u>26</u> 10 am-Home School Nature Class/ Cindy Reid	<u>27</u> 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	<u>28</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>29</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student Service
<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> CLOSED					

OCTOBER

**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 3. For latest event information, see our newly upgraded website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<u>1</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike-donation 10:30-Prop. Soc	<u>4</u> 10 am--Friday Fun-donation** Yuna Tae Recept.***	<u>5</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor & Student.Service 10 am--Dr.Vadheim 7pm-Star Party
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> CLOSED	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	<u>10</u> 10:30 am- Prop.Society 1pm-Inquisitive- Naturalist 6:30pm-Vadheim	<u>11</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>12</u> 8:45am-12 n-Hab.Restor. Student.Service 8:45-12-Nature Journaling
<u>13</u> 1-3pm- Tongva Native Music	<u>14</u> CLOSED	<u>15</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Soc.	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> 10:30-12:30 Propagation Society	<u>18</u> 10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>19</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Rest. & Student.Service 9-11 am-Guided Tour/ Henrietta Basin 1:30--Nature's Origami
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> CLOSED	<u>22</u> 10 am-Home SchoolNature Class/Reid pm-	<u>23</u> 10 am - Home School Nature Class/Reid	<u>24</u> CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY	<u>25</u> 10 am--12 n Friday Fun- donation**	<u>26</u> 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-Hab.Restor. 10 am- Nature Walk
<u>27</u> 10 am- Nature Walk	<u>28</u> CLOSED	<u>29</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	<u>30</u>			

NOVEMBER

Nature Center & Gift Shop

(310) 782-3989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				10 am-Tyke <u>1</u> Hike -donation 10:30 Prop.Soc.	10 am--12 n- <u>2</u> Friday Fun- donation** Yuna Taen Exhib.Ends***	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Rest. <u>3</u> & Student.Service 10am - Dr. Vadheim 6:30 pm-Night Hike
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> CLOSED	<u>6</u> 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance DeRidder Exhibit Begins***	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> 10:30 Prop.Soc. 6:30-Dr. Vadheim	<u>9</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>10</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> CLOSED	<u>13</u>	8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman <u>14</u> 1pm-Inquisitive- Naturalist 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	10:30-12:30- Prop. Society <u>15</u>	10 am--Friday Fun-donation** <u>16</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. <u>17</u> & Student.Service 9-11 am-Guided Tour/ Henrietta Basin 9 am-Wreath Making
<u>18</u> 1-4 pm- DeRidder Reception***	<u>19</u> CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d' <u>20</u> Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Soc.	<u>21</u>	10:30-12:30- Propagation Society <u>22</u>	10 am-Friday Fun-donation** <u>23</u>	8:30 am-Bird Walk <u>24</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am-NatureWalk
<u>25</u> CLOSED FOR HOLIDAY	<u>26</u> CLOSED	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	10:30-12:30- Propagation Society <u>29</u>	10 am--12 n- <u>30</u> Friday Fun- donation**	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Re- stor. & Student Service <u>31</u>

DECEMBER

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 5. For latest event information, see our newly upgraded website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>1</u> CLOSED Happy New Year!	<u>2</u> CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour <u>3</u> d'Torrance	<u>4</u>	10 am-Tyke <u>5</u> Hike-donation 10:30-Prop. Soc	10 am--Friday <u>6</u> Fun-donation**	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor <u>7</u> & Student.Service 10 am-:Dr.Vadheim
<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> CLOSED	<u>10</u>	8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman <u>11</u> 6:30 pm FOMM Meeting	10:30 am- <u>12</u> Prop.Society 6:30pm-Dr. Vadheim	10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation** <u>13</u>	8:45am-12 n-Hab.Restor. Student.Service <u>14</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour <u>17</u> d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>18</u>	10:30-12:30- <u>19</u> Propagation Society	10 am--12n- <u>20</u> Friday Fun- donation** DeRidder Ends.	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Rest. <u>21</u> & Student.Service 9 am-Henrietta Basin Tour 6:30-pm-Night Hike
<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> CLOSED	10 am-Home School <u>24</u> Nature Class/Reid	10 am - Home School <u>25</u> Nature Class/Reid	10:30-12:30- <u>26</u> Propagation Society	10 am--12 n- <u>27</u> Friday Fun- donation**	8:30 am-Bird Walk <u>28</u> 8:45 am-Hab.Restor. 10 am- Nature Walk
10 am- <u>29</u> GRAND REOPENING of Nature Center 1pm-FOMM Annual Mtg.	<u>30</u> CLOSED	<u>31</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance				

JANUARY

Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer Causes Fusarium Dieback

Jeanne Bellemin, Professor of Entomology



First reported in our region in 2012 is a little wood-boring beetle known as the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB). Originally from Asia, the beetle carries a fatal fungal package. *Euwallacea* sp. is brown to black in color with a body that looks to be in two parts, with the pronotum plate which covers the head dorsally resembling the closely related weevils but in a separate subfamily, Scolytinae.

The borer is tiny with the larger females only 2mm (less than .1 inch) in length, smaller than a sesame seed. You can easily miss the actual insect, but the “shot hole” entry ports with frass (wood dust from boring) and gummy sap bunched together on the trunks of trees reveals an infestation. There may also be dark stains on the bark near the shot holes caused by the *Fusarium* fungus the beetle introduces.

The female beetle bores into the cambium under the bark and then into the heartwood of the tree and carries in her mouthparts the fungal spores. As she lays eggs at the end of her tunnels she deposits the fungus as food for her grubs. An infected tree may have scores of shot holes, and as the fungus spreads it destroys the cambium just under the bark and blocks the xylem vessels responsible for water and mineral transport.

Progressive beetle and fungal damage will cause dieback of leaves and weakening of branches, causing them to break and fall. The *Fusarium* fungus leaves a black stain on the infected and decaying wood as it slowly kills the tree.

Tracy Drake reports that we have not had the PSHB and *Fusarium* complex infect the Marsh trees currently; however, it has been very destructive at the Willows Preserve in Gardena, according to Kelley Dawdy.

Kelley reported in CNPS’s *Artemesia* (Spring 2015) that the shot hole borer had killed Box Elder, Goodding’s Black Willow, Sycamore and Arroyo Willow at the Willows Preserve. The beetles attack and feed on 110 species of trees, including both native species and ornamental species.

PSHB was initially detected on avocado trees and that caused the avocado growers to contribute funds to Dr. Akif Eskalan at UC Riverside. His lab has been working on a treatment that will take some time to develop.

If you should find suspect PSHB or the symptoms mentioned, remove and dispose of infected branches. If the tree dies, grind out the stump. It is suggested that you put plastic tarp over felled wood to “solarize” it. Most importantly, do not move any infested plant material to another location, as that might spread this destructive little beetle.

Pokémon GO Spotted at Madrona Marsh

Suzan Hubert

If you are playing this fun game, the Nature Center and Preserve are Poke Stops and we have wild Pokémon appearing all around. You have probably heard or read about some negatives associated with this game, such as people walking into poles or getting stuck in trees. Some folks just don’t follow directions and ignore the cautions the game gives every time it opens.



The positives of Pokémon Go far outweigh the negatives: Players are outside walking—you have to walk from two to ten kilometers to “hatch an egg” and you have to walk to find Pokémon to capture; and players are socializing, meeting neighbors and conversing with other players of all ages. Walking is great exercise and social interaction between multi-age groups is very positive.

Personally, I am after a Snorlax; perhaps I’ll see you wandering.

Species List - September 2016

Species observations were made by Tracy Drake, Mark Rubke, Dinuk Magamma, David Moody, Tony Strangarity, Tommye Hite and Eric Hansen

Birds			
Gadwall	California Gull	Bushtit	<i>Black-throated Sparrow</i>
Mallard	Rock Pigeon	House Wren	Dark-eyed Junco
Cinnamon Teal	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Marsh Wren	White-crowned Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	Mourning Dove	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Savannah Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Anna's Hummingbird	<i>California Gnatcatcher</i>	Song Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Rufous Hummingbird	Western Bluebird	Lincoln's Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	Allen's Hummingbird	Swainson's Thrush	California Towhee
Great Egret	Belted Kingfisher	American Robin	Western Tanager
Snowy Egret	Downy Woodpecker	European Starling	Black-headed Grosbeak
Cattle Egret	American Kestrel	Cedar Waxwing	<i>Blue Grosbeak</i>
Green Heron	Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Phainopepla</i>	Lazuli Bunting
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Willow Flycatcher	<i>Northern Waterthrush</i>	Red-winged Blackbird
<i>Turkey Vulture</i>	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Orange-crowned Warbler	Great-tailed Grackle
<i>Osprey</i>	Black Phoebe	Nashville Warbler	Brown-headed Cowbird
Cooper's Hawk	Say's Phoebe	<i>MacGillivray's Warbler</i>	Bullock's Oriole
Red-shouldered Hawk	Cassin's Kingbird	Common Yellowthroat	House Finch
Red-tailed Hawk	Western Kingbird	Yellow Warbler	Lesser Goldfinch
Sora	Warbling Vireo	Black-throated Gray Warbler	American Goldfinch
American Coot	California Scrub-Jay	Townsend's Warbler	European Goldfinch
Killdeer	American Crow	Wilson's Warbler	House Sparrow
Spotted Sandpiper	Common Raven	Chipping Sparrow	Northern Red Bishop
Ring-billed Gull	N. Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Clay-colored Sparrow</i>	Scaly-breasted Munia
Western Gull	Barn Swallow	Brewer's Sparrow	
	Bold = bred this year	<i>italics = rare visitors</i>	
Butterflies			
Giant Swallowtail	<i>Dainty Sulphur</i>	Monarch	Fiery Skipper
Western Swallowtail	Gray Hairstreak	Gulf Fritillary	Sandhill Skipper
Cabbage White	Marine Blue	American Lady	Umber Skipper
Orange Sulfur	Pygmy Blue	Funereal Duskywing	Eufala Skipper
Cloudless Sulfur	Acmon Blue	White Checkered Skipper	
<i>There were days when there were more than 200 Dainty Sulphur on the Preserve!</i>			
Dragonflies			
Pacific Forktail	Variiegated Meadowhawk	<i>Roseate Skimmer</i>	Blue Dasher
Common Green Darner	Flame Skimmer	Black Saddlebags	Wandering Glider
Blue-eyed Darner			
<i>This is the second year we have seen Roseate Skimmers on the Preserve</i>			

Don't Forget to Water Your Trees

Dr. Connie Vadheim

The drought forces us to use water effectively. Among our high-priority garden plants should be the trees. Trees provide much to our neighborhoods: cooling shade, fresh oxygen, habitat, even food. They clean the air, take up



carbon dioxide, prevent soil erosion and protect us from winds. They promote mental and physical well-being and are an important component of green spaces.

While local trees are often water-wise, the current drought challenges some of our assumptions. Many drought-tolerant trees and shrubs survive the summer using long roots that tap into ground water. Drought-tolerance requires adequate winter and spring rains. If the underground water reserves aren't there, water-wise trees and shrubs will ultimately die. You can see dead or dying trees in many neighborhoods.

So what's the gardener to do? As the temperatures cool down, give your trees and shrubs a good, deep watering. Let the hose trickle for several hours, if possible. Remember that the roots extend out at least as far as the branches do, so water widely. If we don't get the normal rains in November and December, water your trees again. The trees should get 12-14 inches of water (from rain or irrigation) between October and April.

Trees are an investment for the future. Keep your investment healthy by giving your trees some water. Remember: Water Your Trees.

Water-wise Workshops Offered



California native plants are pretty, water-wise—and useful! The Friends of Madrona Marsh offer several hands-on workshops each year featuring the uses of native plants. Search the calendar for our workshops on Solar Dyeing, Native Tea Tasting, Potpourri- and Flavored Vinegar-making and more.

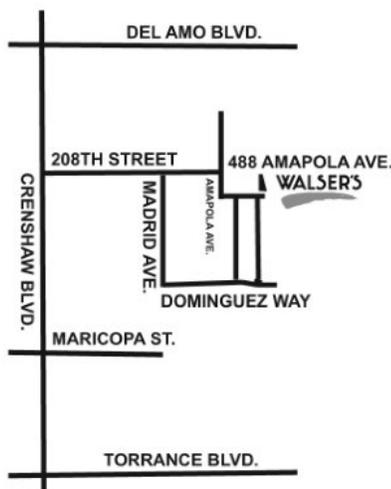
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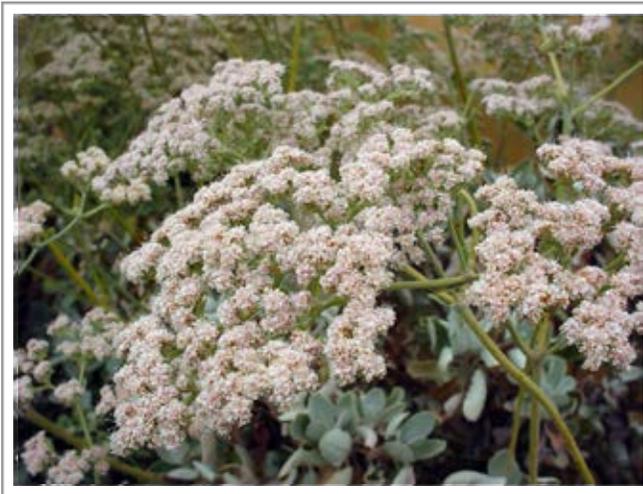
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South Bay Native Plant Corner

Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSU, Dominguez Hills



Giant Buckwheat (St. Catherine's Lace)
Eriogonum giganteum

You may have noticed more birds and butterflies in your garden this year. In years of drought, insects, birds and other creatures flock to our gardens, in search of a drink and a meal.

As the climate changes, gardens play a greater role in preserving native plants and animals. Whether your garden is large or small, it's important to choose plants that are not only water-wise, but also *life-friendly*. For more on the importance of gardens in times of drought see: <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/2016/07/why-gardens-matter-in-times-of-drought.html>

Some of the best habitat plants are the native buckwheats. One of the showiest, from spring through fall, is the Giant buckwheat, also called 'St. Catherine's Lace.' Hailing from the Channel Islands, *Eriogonum giganteum* is the largest of our local native buckwheats. This is not a plant for tiny gardens. But if you have room, this is a dramatic habitat plant!

Giant buckwheat produces thousands of tiny, pale-pink blooms in flat clusters. In addition to being pretty, the blooms attract a number of pollinators: butterflies, bees,

pollinator flies and others. The blooms last from late spring through mid-summer. Then the rust-brown seed heads add a note of color to the fall garden. Now is a good time to watch birds eating the seeds in our native plant gardens, near the Nature Center.

In general, native buckwheats are easy to grow—if you don't pamper them too much. They grow in most local soils, and need little or no summer water in a normal year (they *will* need *winter irrigation* in a dry year).



Plant Giant buckwheat in a sunny spot, where it can grow to full size (5-8 feet tall and wide). Cut off flowering stalks after birds have eaten their fill. And that's about all it takes to grow this interesting plant. Consider planting a buckwheat this year. You'll be glad you did.

For more see: <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/2013/08/plant-of-month-august-st-catherines.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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