

Marsh Mailing

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

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

Investing in the Next Generation of Environmental Leaders

Suzan Hubert, FOMM President

The Friends Prepare to Award First Scholarship

Every Saturday morning the Nature Center lobby is full of High School students participating in the Restoration Program. The great majority of the students are from Torrance Unified School District; they come to fulfill the high school's requirement for 20 hours of community service. The students bring energy and good spirit; we supply equipment, supervision, directions and cookies. The work consists primarily of weeding out non-native species, hauling water for new plants and sometimes planting new plants. Our visitors, our plants and the animals all benefit from their work. The students do whatever is asked of them and the Preserve is grateful.

Many of these students put in their time, collect the 20 hours and move on; we hope with happy memories. However, some of these students 'catch a spark'; they find a joy in the

*Environmental
Leadership Program
Founders, Dinuk
Magamma and
Hillary Jamieson*

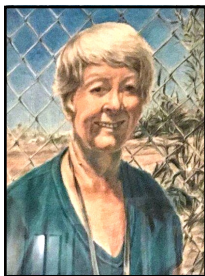


work. Those students may join the Environmental Leadership Program (ELP). This program was originally designed by Nature Center staff to create assistants to help the staff supervise the high school students because there were usually too many students for the number of staff supervisors available.

In 2017 the Friends Board was impressed to hear about this program in a presentation by its

***Scholarship** continued on page 11*

"In Memoriam"



*Painting by
Marianne Strehler*

Shirley Turner - An Inspiration to Us All

Bill Arrowsmith, FOMM past President

I'd like to share a few of my memories of Shirley Turner, a Marsh legend in her own time, who passed away on Sunday, March 24, 2019, having celebrating her 95th birthday twenty days earlier. I have known this lovely lady since the early 1970's, just after the Friends of Madrona Marsh had formed.

I first met Shirley when she joined others to supply baked goods for bake sales and for some early Friends meetings. At one annual meeting, we were short one candidate of the 12 Directors called for by our By-laws (we were afraid to vary one whit from them, sure that the developers would claim our activity invalid). Shirley had supplied and was serving cookies, and graciously consented to be our 12th Director. She served on

***"Shirley"** continued on page 11*

New Pollinator House

Jeanne Bellemin



Manager Melissa Loeb and Groundskeeper Ed Vandever setting up the new house



The Pollinator House fully installed.

There is a new Pollinator House in the Madrona Marsh Nature Center Garden. As the name implies, it is to house native bee pollinators that visit and live in the garden and Marsh.

California is home to over 1,600 species of native solitary nesting bees that are important pollinators of native plants as well as commercial fruit, vegetable, and forage crops. One of every three mouthfuls of food is prepared from plants pollinated primarily by bees, but also includes wasps, beetles, and butterflies.

Most people know and appreciate the common European honeybee as a regular visitor that pollinates a wide variety of plants. California native bees thrived here long before the introduction of the European honeybee and evolved along with native California plants, often becoming specialized and dependent on only a few groups of flowers. Currently, suburban gardens often contain exotic plants that native bees may not recognize. So, if you want to attract native bees to your garden, a variety of native plants will be needed.

Our native bees range in length from one tenth of an inch to the impressive black carpenter bees that are over an inch long. Bees vary in

color from yellow, black or grey, to blue, green, red, and even rusty orange. Their bodies may appear smooth with reduced hairs, or very hairy with specialized hind leg hairs that are electrostatically charged, called scopa, used to collect pollen. The spacing, arrangement, and size of the hairs vary depending on the type of the pollen grains collected.

One family, the Megachilidae or leaf-cutting bees, lacks the leg scopa but has modified abdominal hairs for gathering pollen.

I have always been interested in native plants and their associated native bee pollinators. While traveling in France, I would notice a high diversity of native bees. Perhaps it was the result of reduced pesticide use compared to this country. Or, it could be that most towns and cities display an abundance of bee houses, even in the heart of Paris.

Seeing this in 2015, I decided to have a pollinator house built for the garden here at Madrona Marsh by BioQuip, a local company

Membership Corner

Donna Wendel

As the new Membership Chair, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Donna Wendel and I have been volunteering at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center for about 5 years. I have been working the front desk greeting guests as well as maintaining the log of Permanent Volunteer Hours and Restoration Volunteer Hours. I have just transitioned my database role to Luis and Dave and I am now working in the Gift Shop on the first Sunday of every month. I was approached by Susan Hubert, the Friends of Madrona Marsh President, about becoming a board member in charge of membership. I look forward to this new opportunity.

To make a difference I need your help! I would like to find out why you joined our Friends of Madrona Marsh organization. What do you like about being a member? What can we do differently to keep you as a member or to bring in new members? My goal this year is to first get familiar with our members and understand what inspires our members, and then work on how can we attract interest within the community and build on our current organization membership.

The time has come to rededicate ourselves to protecting and enhancing the Madrona Marsh Preserve – our great vernal marsh habitat, urban oasis, educational resource in the very heart of the City of Torrance and our community. The

stakes are high but our commitment has never wavered!

Your support is greatly appreciated, so I would like to ask you to think about renewing your membership, spreading the word to friends and family or becoming a new member now! It's through contributions like yours and your active membership that we can continue the effort to preserve and improve our vernal Marsh habitat. The ultimate reward is the peacefulness and beauty the Marsh gives to each of us every day and the knowledge that taking care of this environment will allow future generations to continue to enjoy the migratory birds, insects, plants and other wildlife found on the Marsh.

I am looking forward to an exciting year ahead and getting to meet all of our members. Your feedback is very much appreciated, so please feel free to call the Nature Center and leave me a message, swing by the gift shop and say "Hi" or email me at member.FOMM@wendelsworld.com.

Editor's Note: Donna Wendel joins the Friends Board to share membership responsibilities with Cliff Heise. As Membership Chair, Donna will focus on attracting and inviting new members; and as Membership Administrator, Cliff will continue his fine, decades-long management of our membership data base. Welcome, Donna!

"Pollinator" continued from page 2

specializing in entomological supplies and specimens. Most native bees are ground nesting, but this structure was built to encourage cavity-nesting bees like leaf-cutting and mason bees, that normally depend on older or dead trees with preexisting holes created by insects and other animals. For suburban gardens, these conditions need to be artificially constructed.

Our Pollinator House was designed and construction completed this April by Ken Fall at BioQuip Products for the Madrona Marsh Nature Center. It was delivered to my house so that each compartment could be filled with suitable nesting material.

Cut logs from fallen wood in Madrona Marsh and elsewhere in Torrance were used along with old yucca stalks from the chaparral, 4x4s with drilled holes, and reeds. In September, it was installed in the garden.

Do not expect immediate occupancy for all nesting sites. It may take a year or more to attract and establish bees since the wood and other

materials need to age a little before it becomes prime bee property. Additionally, straw has been added to one compartment to encourage bumble bees. Another structure may soon be placed beneath the Pollinator House to further encourage bumblebees.

Fear not; our Pollinator House does not attract honeybees or "killer bees." The solitary bees that lay their eggs here are not aggressive, do not swarm and sting only when handled.

Lastly, our new director's first name is Melissa. How appropriate. Melissa originates from the Greek word for "bee," and its origin is "meli," meaning "honey."

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, frandbill@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.

A Three and a Half Hour Visit to Madrona Marsh

Kathy Benz

A phone call received on December 25 asked if I could guide a couple visiting from Washington, DC on the 26th. The caller hadn't been to the Marsh either and would join them. Not having been out there myself since the early December rains, I said, "Sure, be glad to."

Don and Charlotte Allen, Jim Dally and I checked out binoculars at 12:30 on the 26th and first "toured" the Nature Center. The Allens were full of questions and wanted to know more about the three student science projects in the Curation Lab. The students were all working on means to "destroy" the tree borers that have been killing so many trees across the U.S. and have entered California and even Madrona Marsh. Each project dealt with knowing that, since copper could be used to kill the insects, if used what would it do to other plants, soil, and water?

They were totally intrigued by Estelle DeRidder's detail in her mural on the classroom wall, which may take another three years to complete, and wondered where the hibernating Desert Tortoises went for their winter hibernation. We released Monarch butterfly #104 on our way out to the Native Plant Garden and walked through it ourselves admiring the few blooming flowers during the now dormant season.

Out to the Marsh itself we found a summer Toad Flax in bloom in its lovely lavender-blue! The end of December? Global warming? Wow! The recent rains had the fields greening up and looking peaceful. A stop at the large map intrigued my tourists and, when we headed for the berm overlook, they asked to go via the nursery and were pleasantly surprised to see the north finger of water greeting them.

We walked south along the finger heading up to the berm and spotted a lone Black Phoebe perched on a near vertical post, eyeing the water.



Kathy's tour group: Jim, Don and Charlotte

She flew out over the water for an insect and back to a second post; then flew out again for another bite of lunch, and back to the post. What a delightful moment watching her.

Once at the top of the berm we had a marvelous view of the North and Middle ponds, and ducks galore! Mainly dabblers, and all paired off already. Don and Charlotte got a chuckle watching a male and female Northern Shoveler "up ending" together in the Middle Pond as if in a coordinated dance.

We walked along the trail around the nesting area to the sheds, and yes, they wanted to go on each trail even if it meant going out and back. Okay, over to "Duck Island" for its story, and back. Past the trees killed by tree borers, cut and stacked for firewood, then on toward South Creek.

I stopped short at the sight of several birds trotting along the ground. All binoculars were

"Benz Tour" continued on page 5

raised and enjoyment had at seeing the White-crowned Sparrows feeding so near to us. As they wandered into bushes--out came more. "Hey, look, they have a red stripe on their head. Are they Red-crowned Sparrows?" Cute. (Actually White-crowned juveniles.)

Reaching the sump area, my guests were reminded of the TV screen in the Nature Center as I pointed out the weather station. This little "thing" computed all that? Amazing! Then over to the bio-filtration system. When they asked what were the grasses filtering the water, we walked a bit farther to read the information sign and learned that they were Vetiver Perennial grasses, native to India and clarified for ourselves how they worked. We noted that the grasses in the western area seemed healthier, or at least greener, than in the eastern section. Perhaps more shade? More water?

Then off for a look into the sump and to view the pipes where runoff water can be piped into the marsh itself when needed, and on we strolled along the Sepulveda side until we suddenly stopped short. "Did you see what I saw?" "Yes!" A red tail moving through the grass.

A furry red tail, not a bird's tail. We all stayed there wondering what critter had a furry red tail. Tomato red with gray or dark gray spikes! As we all looked, and wondered, and guessed, a bright red squirrel hopped up on a low bare tree branch. A squirrel? A red squirrel? We were all so amazed that no one raised a camera.

The squirrel was much larger than our Fox Squirrel. The tomato red color was its undercoating. Or seemed to be. Maybe not. The gray outer-coating was somewhat thin, or scarce, therefore the predominant visual red color. A first sighting for me, and for my three guests as well. Later, looking for it in a book and online, all the "red squirrels" were sort of a rusty tan color. How did this one come about? Did this one fall into a can of red paint? Look up "large red squirrels" online.

We enjoyed the comfortable log chair covered with "mushroom" fungi and the former canoe put-in now covered with growth. A walk across Dave Jamieson's remarkable engineering feat bridging our new lagoon and a pause, to admire the reflection of the willows in the mirror-like water before heading northbound along the Madrona side.

When I mentioned another bridge separating the south and middle ponds, the Allens wanted to deviate, and we totally enjoyed the coolness of the Willows on this warm December afternoon.

Returning to the northbound trail along the Middle Pond and seeing a few ducks enjoying life on the water, we were soon at the North Pond. At the far north end of the pond was a full gathering of ducks, geese, and coots, and perhaps some teals as well; but hard to tell. There were the missing Mallards, many Northern Shovelers and two larger ducks? No, Geese? Head and beak looked like Geese. Two tone gray, but slightly larger and rounder body than a Mallard.

Steve later said that Cackling Geese had been sighted out there. According to a bird book, Cackling Geese are miniature Canadas. No, wrong color. These were light gray with darker gray wings. No, not Gulls; they had a goose head and orange beak (at least where the beak met the head). Juvenile Snowy's? Another mystery in the Marsh.

Reflecting on our walk, even though it was late December and dormant season for plants, we noted the California Bush Sunflower, our yellow and orange Dune Poppies, Bladderpod (minus the Harlequin Bugs), and a few other unknown plants were in full bloom—all adding to the enjoyment of our time in the Marsh.

***(Editor's Note:** These visitors from Washington were very fortunate to have as keen an observer as octogenarian Kathy Benz for a tour guide. Were you familiar with all the things she pointed out? Our new docents may want to include some of her descriptions in their own patter.)*

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center*

Schedule of Events for April through July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<u>1</u> CLOSED	<u>2</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike -donation 10:30 Prop.Soc.	<u>5</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>6</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> CLOSED	<u>9</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	<u>10</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	<u>11</u> 10:30 Prop.Soc. 11am-Storytime 1pm- Naturalist	<u>12</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>13</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10am-Turtle/Tortoise Day
<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> CLOSED	<u>16</u> 8:30am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	<u>19</u> 10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>20</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor 8:45am-EarthDay Restor. 10am-EasterExtrav.-fee
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> CLOSED	<u>23</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	<u>26</u> 9 am- 10 am-Friday Fun- donation**	<u>27</u> 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am - Nature Walk 6:30pm-Night Hike
<u>28</u> 10-NatureWalk	<u>29</u> CLOSED	<u>30</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance				

A P R I L

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike -donation 10:30 Prop.Soc	<u>3</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>4</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> CLOSED	<u>7</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	<u>8</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	<u>9</u> 10:30 Prop.Soc. 11am--Storytime 1pm- Naturalist	<u>10</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>11</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service
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<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> CLOSED	<u>21</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	<u>24</u> 10 am- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>25</u> 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am - Nature Walk 6:30-8:30 pm-Night Hike
<u>26</u> 10-am NatureWalk	<u>27</u> CLOSED	<u>28</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	<u>31</u> 10 am- Friday Fun- donation**	

M A Y

Nature Center & Gift Shop

(310) 782-3989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						¹ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service
²	³ CLOSED	⁴ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	⁵	⁶ 10 am-Tyke Hike -donation 10:30 Prop.Soc	⁷ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	⁸ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service
⁹	¹⁰ CLOSED	¹¹ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	¹² 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	¹³ 10:30 Prop.Soc. 1pm-Naturalist	¹⁴ 10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation**	¹⁵ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab. 9am-H.B.Nature Walk
¹⁶	¹⁷ CLOSED	¹⁸ 8:30am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	¹⁹	²⁰ 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	²¹ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	²² 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am - Nature Walk 12n-Spiders 1-Ice Cream Bash-Free
10-am ²³ NatureWalk ³⁰	²⁴ CLOSED	²⁵ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	²⁶	²⁷ 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	²⁸ 10 am- Friday Fun- donation**	²⁹ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am - Nature Walk 6:30pm-Night Hike

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	¹ CLOSED	² 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	³	⁴ CLOSED	⁵ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	⁶ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 9:30am-ButterflyCountClass 7pm-StarParty
⁷	⁸ CLOSED	⁹ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	¹⁰ 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	¹¹ 10:30 Prop.Soc. 1pm- Naturalist	¹² 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	¹³ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 9:30am-Annual Butterfly Count
¹⁴	¹⁵ CLOSED	¹⁶ 8:30am-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 9am-H.B.Nature Walk 10am-Raptors/Melissa
²¹	²² CLOSED	²³ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	²⁴	²⁵ 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	²⁶ 9 am- 10 am-Friday Fun- donation**	²⁷ 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am - Nature Walk 6:30pm-Night Hike
²⁸ 10-NatureWalk	²⁹ CLOSED	³⁰ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	³¹			

JULY

Magical Time of Year

Story by Melissa Loebl and Steve Ash

Photos by Melissa Loebl

Spring has arrived and the Marsh is full of life! With over 16 inches of rainfall since October, the wetlands have filled and our very own super bloom is occurring in both the native garden and Preserve. If you have not had a chance to visit, now is a great time! It is a magical time

when native annuals and perennials are in bloom, birds thriving and breeding, Harvester ants emerging from their nest and pollinators busy fertilizing and feeding on plants.

People can be seen photographing wildlife, enjoying a walk with family and friends, birders gathering to complete bird counts and many others simply connecting with nature. It is easy to say people are often struck by Madrona Marsh Preserve beauty and diversity. With so much water on the land, our attendance has increased by over 2,300 since the month of December compared to 2018. In total 10,510 people have visited MMP since December.



A bee finds its happy place nestled in the petals of a poppy.



of wetland usually devoid of fish, and thus allow the safe development of natal amphibian and insect species unable to withstand competition or predation by fish. Vernal pools harbor a distinct assemblage of plants and animals that, in some cases, aren't found anywhere else on

the planet. Despite this fact, about 90 percent of vernal pool ecosystems in California have disappeared. Ours are among the last remaining vernal pools in the region.

It's important we observe and study what goes on in them from an esoteric and scientific viewpoint. For example, staff and volunteers take depth readings of the pools each and every day. Those readings are diligently compiled into a database, providing useful statistical data, not to mention improving our knowledge of the hydrology of the pools.

Our vernal pools are enjoying a significant period of life this season. Many hundreds of people, including school children, are learning firsthand about these amazing pools, many for the first time.

Our vernal pools are unique and in some ways are stand-alone habitats having their own specific aquatic and terrestrial characteristics. What is especially rewarding, is to watch how surprised visitors are when they learn of the existence of vernal pools. Many aren't aware such habitats exist, and are amazed to find them in Torrance! Again, we hope you will come visit Madrona soon. It's a magical time of year!

Invasion of the Painted Ladies

Vincent Lloyd

"There goes one!" I exclaimed during outdoor lunch last week at Eaton Canyon. "There's another! And four more!" My lunch companions thought I was seeing things until a butterfly flew right over the table. Perhaps you've seen them, too: March's massive northward migration of Painted Ladies. This week at El Camino College, I counted 60 Ladies flying by within a minute—that's one per second. Estimating that I can see the butterflies out to a distance of about 100 feet, and considering that the L.A. Basin is about 150,000 feet across, and the butterflies fly about six hours a day, there must be about 30 million ladies migrating through the basin every day!

The Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) is the most common of the four Ladies that occur in California. (The other three are the American Lady, the West Coast Lady, and the "Red Lady", who is incognito and goes by the name "Red Admiral.")

The Ladies belong to the brushfoot family, Nymphalidae. The generic name *Vanessa* may come from a poem by Swift in which there is a nymph named "Vanessa", connecting the Ladies with the related genus *Nymphalis*, which includes the well-known Mourning Cloak. The specific name *cardui* comes from the Latin word for thistle, "carduus". The thistle is the Painted Lady's favorite food plant.

The Painted Lady lives in temperate areas all over North America, Eurasia, and Africa. Closely related Ladies are found in Australia, Hawaii, and South America. It is the most widely distributed butterfly in the world and is sometimes called the "Cosmopolitan." One reason for its success is that it's not too picky about its food plant; besides thistle, its caterpillars will feed on a variety of plants including mallows, nettles, lupines, and fiddleneck.

The Painted Lady looks a lot like the American Lady and the West Coast Lady. Field guides tell you to look for the spots on the hind wing: the Painted Lady has four or five small black spots. But perhaps it is easier to recognize the Painted Lady from a distance: it has more black on its upper wings, so looks darker than the other two. The orange background is variable in shade on the Painted Lady; it's more uniform orange in the other two. Also, there is a black spot on the



Photo by Jean-Pol Grandmont

leading edge of the upper forewing (in the "cell") which is half surrounded by a pink area that stands out quite well when viewed from a distance.

Another reason for their success is their ability to migrate. Like the better-known Monarch, the Painted Lady undergoes migrations of thousands of miles. In Africa, they migrate north in the spring across the Sahara—2000 miles of desert. It is a heroic feat for such a small animal! They will migrate as far north as northern Europe, and then return to Africa, a 9000-mile round trip.

However, as with the Monarch, no individual butterfly makes the complete round trip; rather, the butterflies go thru half a dozen generations as they move north and south. The number of migrants is quite variable from year to year; in California there are big migrations when winter rains bring lots of flowers to the Colorado and Sonoran Deserts. Local butterfly guru Fred Heath describes it this way:

"In some years, Painted Ladies emigrate in large numbers from Mexico starting in February and reaching a peak in Southern California in March and April. Occasionally during these incursions, millions of Painted Ladies fly across highways, making driving hazardous: they hit windshields and cut visibility or block radiators. One year, a Painted Lady mass flight halted

"Ladies" continued on page 10

Moon Over Madrona

April—June 2019

Vincent Lloyd

A wet winter turns into a flowery spring followed by a brilliant summer. The Sun continues to get higher in the sky and the days get longer. Between April 1 and June 21, the height of the noon Sun increases from 61° to 80°, while the hours of daylight increase from 12 hours 33 minutes to 14 hours 25 minutes. June 21 is the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. At solar noon (12:54 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time), the Sun is nearly overhead, its concentrated rays drying out the land and shrivelling up the pond in the Marsh. The Sun sets at 8:07 p.m. and twilight lingers to 8:30 p.m., providing pleasant evenings on the Marsh.

The Moon is full on April 19, May 18, and June 16. After sundown, look for the Big Dipper high overhead, its cup upside-down this time of the year, spilling its water onto the Earth. Before dawn in April, Venus and Mercury are close together in the east, while Saturn and Jupiter are in the south.

Cars 4 Causes Dissolution

The People of the State of California have issued an Involuntary Dissolution for Cars 4 Causes.

Cars 4 Causes is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation. Cars 4 Causes advertised that it would take your car and sell it and give a portion to the charity of your choice. As the donor you would receive a tax write-off.

There have been several complaints that Cars 4 Causes has not met its commitments.

The Friends of Madrona Marsh (FOMM) received a letter regarding the Involuntary Dissolution for Cars 4 Causes. We have been identified as a potential creditor.

Have any of you donated your car to Cars 4 Causes at any time and specified FOMM as the charity of your choice?

If so, please notify the Treasurer of FOMM, Ellen Peterson, with the information regarding your donation. Ms. Peterson can be e-mailed at tres4fomm@gmail.com

Donations of \$100 or More Spring 2019

Date	Donor	Amt.	Comments
December	Ellen & Chris Velline	\$100	
December	Barbara & James Whitman	\$100	
December	Beth Shibata	\$500	
December	Brian Currie	\$500	
December	Mr.&Mrs. Frank Miles	\$200	
December	Marianne Kopcho	\$500	
January	David Moody	\$200	
January	David & Michele Wilson	\$200	
January	Rebecca Moore	\$100	
January	Anne Bellemin	\$250	In honor of Jeanne Bellemin Birthday
January	Torrance Women's Club	\$300	
January	Robert Ashley	\$150	
January	Norman & Suzanne George	\$100	
January	Michael & Ann Klein	\$500	
February	Botanical Artists Guild	\$200	
February	Elane Poline	\$1,000	

"Ladies" continued from page 9

traffic on Interstate 15 in Riverside and San Diego Counties."

Because of the worldwide collapse of insect numbers, we may never again see such massive flights as Heath describes, but migrations such as this year's continue to remind us that Nature is all around us. The migration may be tapering off by the time you read this, but you may still be able to see Painted Ladies passing through Madrona Marsh. Eaton Canyon in Altadena is another good place to see them. As the butterflies fly north, they run into the San Gabriel Mountains and stream along the base of the mountains.-V.L.

"Scholarship" continued from page 1

key leaders; Dinuk Magamma and Hilary Jamieson. We were impressed twice over by their presentation: first by the high standards these two young staffers set for ELP members, and secondly by their passion for encouraging and developing other young people's interest in environmental leadership skills.

The Friends have a vital role in carrying on over 40 years of environmental leadership and advocacy. It is our intention to support the legacy of our founders through providing scholarships for the Environmental Leadership students and/or their equivalents elsewhere in the community. For the 2018-19 school-year we raised sufficient funds to support a \$1000 scholarship for either a member of the ELP at the Marsh or a student involved in a similar environmental program with another organization. Half of this first scholarship came from donations to the Friends and the other half was donated by the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society.

Working with the Torrance Unified School District, we identified four qualified student applicants. The Board then appointed a Scholarship Committee to examine these finalists, and our next Marsh Mailer will feature the winner of the first Friends of Madrona Marsh Environmental Scholarship. On June 12, 2019 the Board will honor our first scholarship winner in a modest recognition ceremony in the Nature Center.

If you would like to support our ongoing scholarship effort you can do so by writing SCHOLARSHIP FUND on your check made out to Friends of Madrona Marsh or use the Scholarship button under the SUPPORT/DONATE pull-down on our website.

Thank you for supporting the next generation of Friends of the Madrona Marsh.

The students thank you and all the plants and animals calling the Preserve home thank you greatly.

"Shirley" continued from page 1

the Board faithfully and well for over 20 years after that night.

Shirley soon became an ardent observer and keen watchdog of City government, attending Park Commission and City Council meetings—and never shy to voice her opinion, to some members' dismay (there was no 3-minute rule then). Shirley almost single handedly started the Friends first newsletter in the mid-1970's. She wrote many of the articles, typed it up and had it reproduced, then others helped her fold, tab and address these early *Marsh Mailings*. Finally, Shirley would deliver copies to libraries, schools and stores all over town.

During the battle with developers, 1980-1986, Shirley was at Council Meetings and environmental reviews with the rest of us (still expressing her views). After the City Council's initial approval of the Park Del Amo project which would have allowed development on all but 10 acres of the Preserve, Shirley joined us in gathering signatures for a public referendum on the project—we collected more than twice the number needed to force a referendum. The referendum became unnecessary after one Councilman, Don Wilson, observed the overwhelming public support for the referendum and changed his vote from Yes to No, causing the project to be denied. Rather than start over from scratch, the developers

entered into months of discussion and compromise with the Friends and our fellow organizations and the City, ultimately resulting in the dedication of 35 acres for what is now the Preserve. The City bought another 8-½ acres with \$1.1M grant money from the state Environmental License Plate Fund and Madrona Marsh was preserved! Shirley's efforts, and our efforts, had not been in vain.

But Shirley's work was just beginning. She and friend Ruth McConnell started a monthly walking tour of the Preserve for young toddlers and their parents; that program continues today as our monthly Tyke Hike. And Shirley became very interested in restoration, forming a close alliance with one of our first naturalists, Walt Wright, thus starting what would become another of her lasting legacies—the sharing of her love, appreciation and knowledge of our local native plants and the importance of restoring them on the Preserve. She shared that vision with young people—scout troops, YM/YWCA and church groups and to students of local schools; and shared it also with adults—forming the precursor of our later Wednesday Weeders and Propagation Society. Shirley led by example, showing us how to plant by getting her hands just as dirty as her students', and showing us by her exemplary life the lasting good that one dedicated person can accomplish. She has been an inspiration to us all, and we will miss her. **-B.A.**

Friends of Madrona Marsh

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