

Summer 2016

Marsh Mailing

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

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

Coexisting With Coyotes

Suzan Hubert, President,

Over the past year we have been hearing about coyotes moving into the South Bay. Actually they have been here and keeping a low profile for centuries. Coyotes don't care for the company of humans; they prefer to keep to themselves. Sadly, as their habitats are destroyed they must seek new places to live. As all living things do, coyotes seek a habitat with food, water and safe shelter. While I am fond of coyotes, I would be devastated if my pets had been injured or eaten by one.

Knowing Coyotes are in the neighborhood I did a little research on how I could best live with them, help them to live with me and achieve successful co-existence. Coyote hazing is, to my mind, the best choice. Hazing in this instance means the use of deterrent methods to move a coyote out of an area or discourage undesirable behavior or activity, and is generally anything you do to make your neighborhood less attractive to the coyote.

We have posted a link to a YouTube video on the Friends website called, "How to Haze a Coyote," produced by the Coyote Project. If you are concerned about coyotes in your neighborhood, watch this video!

The following is very helpful information from the Project Coyote website:

Tips and Tools for Coexistence

Urban and rural residential landscapes offer an abundance of food, water, and shelter for coyotes. Take

the following steps to prevent coyotes from being attracted to your home:

- Wildlife-proof garbage in sturdy containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Don't leave pet food outside.
- Take out trash the morning pick up is scheduled.
- Keep compost in secure containers.
- Keep fallen fruit off the ground. Coyotes eat fruit.
- Keep birdseed off the ground; seeds attract rodents which then attract coyotes. Remove feeders if coyotes are seen in your yard.
- Keep barbecue grills clean.
- Eliminate accessible water sources.
- Clear away brush and dense weeds near buildings.
- Close off crawl spaces under decks and around buildings where coyotes may den.
- If you frequently see

a coyote in your yard, make loud noises with pots, pans, or air horns, and haze the coyote further with a water hose.

"Coyotes ..." continued on page 2

The Torrance City Council, in violation of their own approved Coyote Management Plan, paid for the setting of coyote traps on the Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve. The traps were set and baited from June 27-July 1, 2016. Thankfully nothing was caught. We were lucky this time but will it happen again?

Yes, it may happen again if we don't show our opposition and insist that the Preserve is neutral ground; a Switzerland for coyotes. According to the City's own Plan, open areas like the Preserve can be active co-existence areas where Coyotes will not be hazed or trapped. Coyotes are a natural part of the ecosystem on the Preserve. They deserve a safe place. I ask you to please email, fax, call or visit your Mayor and City Council Members; tell them. . . .

The Preserve should be an active co-existence area as described in the City Plan; Please follow the Plan--no traps on the Preserve ever again.

Mayor Furey: PFurey@torranceCA.Gov (Council emails can be found on the Council website)
Phone: 310-618-2801 Fax: 310-618-5841

There is also a petition on-line which can be found at Change.org: Stop Killing Coyotes in Torrance. As of July 1, 2016 there were 1208 signatures garnered over three days. The Friends didn't originate this petition, but many have signed it and made comments along with people from 36 States and 22 Countries. Consider how those people will view our Torrance Rose Float this January; 'hmmm... Torrance, isn't that the City that was trapping coyotes in a Nature Preserve?' Yikes, what terrible publicity! No traps on the Preserve ever again!



"Coyotes ..." continued from page 1

- Share this list with your neighbors; coexistence is a neighborhood effort.

History

Maligning stereotypes and fallacies follow the coyote wherever she goes. Unlike many predators who face extinction, coyotes continue to survive and thrive in the face of persecution. Their survival is attributed to their intelligence, adaptability, and resilience, traits many Native Americans revered in the coyote as the creator, trickster and ancestor.

A vital part of both our rural and urban landscapes, the coyote's ability to adjust to changing conditions and diverse environments sets her apart and makes the coyote so difficult to pigeonhole, perhaps further contributing to people's fear and misunderstanding.

In her intelligence and adaptability, the coyote teaches us about our own capacity to evolve and coexist in the face of rapid ecological and social change. By helping to shift attitudes toward coyotes and other native carnivores, we replace fear and ignorance with understanding and appreciation.

Ecological Role

Coyotes limit mesocarnivore populations and increase bird diversity and abundance. Animals such as skunks, raccoons, and foxes as well as feral cats can have a destructive impact on bird populations by raiding nests, etc. While coyotes can coexist with these species, studies indicate that coyotes limit mesocarnivore populations largely through competitive exclusion, thereby having a positive impact on ground-nesting birds and songbird diversity and abundance.

Coyotes keep rodent and rabbit populations in check. Rodents and rabbits are important food items for coyotes, often making up more than half of the dry weight of prey items found in scats. This varies regionally, seasonally, and by level of urbanization—all of which affect the availability of rodents and rabbits as prey items.

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.

Thus, coyotes provide benefits to both urban and rural communities by keeping rodent and rabbit populations in check. City dwellers enjoy cleaner environments and avoid having to use rat poisons that can impact non-target animals.

Coyotes help control disease transmission.

Coyotes provide an invaluable public health service by helping to control rodents, thus reducing the spread of rodent-born zoonotic diseases such as plague and hantavirus.

Coyotes clean up the environment. As scavengers, coyotes provide an ecological service by helping to keep our communities clean of carrion.

Learn more about coyotes by visiting the Project Coyote website. You may also be interested in the City of Torrance Plan for Coyote Management which is available on our website.

Co-existence is everyone's responsibility.



Pardon our Dust and Debris During Transformation



Starting this summer the Nature Center and Preserve will benefit from a state grant from Proposition 84, a 2006 Bond Act for Safe Drinking Water, Flood Control and River and Coastal Protection. This funding was delayed by the Great Recession, but will now be used for new exhibits and a mural in the Nature Center, as well as a wall with one-way glass to allow viewing of wildlife in the Native Plant Garden. There will also be a new viewing area near the sump on the Preserve.

It's going to be a little messy for a while, but like any remodel it will end, and the results will be worth the wait.

We will be open during construction, so please visit and watch our transformation.

Artists Corner

Through- July 15 - "A Ten Year Reflection on the Marsh," An Exhibit of Paintings by Stephen West.

July 19 - August 26 - A Photography Exhibit by Paul Blieden. Artist's reception Friday, August 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

August 30 - October 7 - Various Mediums by Pacific Arts Group - Al Hagen. Artist's reception Friday, September 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cooper's Hawk at the Marsh

Dave Jamieson

As I walk through the gates to Madrona Marsh Preserve I feel a slight tug compelling me into the stands of Mule Fat and Willows. I am here to walk the paths and ensure no dangers are present due to tree falls or other hazards that the previous night has presented. My term for this is a "safety walk" but I know in my heart the selfish motivation that encourages me is to be the one that witnesses the trails before any human footprints mingle with the conversations of the previous night's animals.

As I advance into the Preserve my ears try to discern any sounds that might help guide me into the world that breathes there and I feel my own foot treads somehow lighten, and the sounds of my tramping seem to hush. I feel like I am beginning to melt into the very being of the Marsh, and it seems only natural that the meadowlarks who fled from the metallic sound of the gate a few minutes ago are now on the ground just feet away from me, enjoying their morning meals without concern for the biped within harm's reach. I am touched and feel honored.

Through the willows now and to the edge of the water, I see evidence of some of the violence that is nature. Feathers sit in a small heap, and a few bones lie not far away. A small bird of some type has paid the ultimate price and provided nourishment to some of its fellow Marsh inhabitants. Soon even these small reminders will be engulfed into the decomposition and rebirth of this beautiful little world.

There is a stir to my right and I am compelled to freeze. Without knowing how I got there, I am amongst the twigs and leaves. I don't hear noises from my movement, but I know that I cannot move silently. Physics defines that my body must be crushing and crashing as I move closer to the being that beckons. My eyes seem to focus from some suspension and I am greeted by a Cooper's Hawk that is staring right at me—just less than ten feet away.

She is standing in a shallow pond, drinking and taking in her surroundings. I am slightly embarrassed to realize that I am part of those surroundings and feel like I should apologize for intruding. Then it happens. A feeling of welcome washes over me and right now, this is where I belong. She turns slightly to the right; I can see a talon rise out of the water in a sort of stretching

motion and I empathize with her. A bright beam of sunlight is on her back, and she squats in the water, causing a faint splashing sound that makes me smile for some reason. The water is warm and refreshing.

As the back feathers rustle, we feel a breeze whisper through the brush, like the backbeat of a familiar tune, binding all of the other members of the band in harmony. Surprisingly, I am part of this "song" and caught up in the rhythm of the Marsh. Our wings flap to spray a mist on the feathers beneath, and we preen. This continues until all feathers are in their place and dry. "What's next?," I wonder, looking to the many perches from which to perhaps gain advantage. She turns to look at me again and I feel as though she is saying goodbye to me.

For the next few minutes I reluctantly leave this small sanctuary and return to the trails; trails that weave out to the world where I belong (sometimes).

Donations of \$100 Or More Summer 2016

Date	Donor	Donation	Comment
March	Sharon Angelos	\$100	ITG Matching Gift Fund
April	June Kagdis	\$100	
April	The Hilkers	\$100	
April	Joyce Cardwell	\$100	
April	Old Torrance Neighborhood Assoc.	\$100	
May	Torrance Teachers Assoc.	\$300	
May	Soto-Campos Family	\$100	
May	Irma Ruiz	\$300	
June	Maxine Trevethen	\$100	
June	Linda Gonzales	\$6,000	In memory of Linda's father
June	Jim and Jo Standifer	\$100	
June	Nancy & Terry McHenry	\$100	
June	The Bailey's	\$200	
June	Ruth Vogel	\$110	
June	Dale Lincoln	\$100	
June	The Sattler's	\$100	

Botta's Pocket Gopher

Vincent Lloyd

One of my favorite experiences on the Marsh is the sight of a little brown nose with buck teeth sticking up from a hole in the ground, sniffing the air, then disappearing in a flash. This is the pocket gopher. The holes found all over the Marsh tell us they are there, but it's not everyday you get to see one, so when you do, it's a special experience.



Photo credit: Botta pocket gopher, Santiago Oaks Regional Park, Orange County, 16 Jan. 2011 by Davefoc via Wikipedia Commons.

Gophers are burrow-dwelling rodents. Sometimes they are confused with moles, which also live underground but are not rodents. Here's how to tell the difference: Gophers have big front teeth and small but visible eyes. Moles have small teeth and tiny, hard-to-see eyes. If you can't see the animal, look for long ridges pushed up above the tunnels; only moles make ridges, not gophers. Gophers must also be distinguished from ground squirrels, which also use burrows. Squirrels are rodents, like gophers, but belong to a different family. They spend a lot of their time above ground, whereas gophers seldom venture out onto the surface. Other kinds of squirrels, of course, live in trees.

You may be wondering about the name of our gopher. Did M. Botta stuff a gopher into his pocket when he was in a hurry? Actually all true gophers have fur-lined pockets in their cheeks for carrying food. As for the word "gopher," it's an American word of uncertain origin. The best guess is that it comes from the French word *gaufre*, meaning "honeycomb" or "waffle." The idea is that the French settlers in Louisiana applied the word to the rodent because of the network of tunnels it lived in. The English word

"wafer" came from the same French word in medieval times. You may be familiar with those little waffle-like cookies from France called *gaufrettes*. *Gaufre* is a word of Germanic origin that probably goes back to the same source as the English word waffle. By the way, there is no good reason for spelling the word "gopher" rather than "gofer."

Pocket gophers are North American rodents belonging to the family *Geomyidae*. There are about three dozen species that are distributed from Canada to Columbia. Botta's pocket gopher, *Thomomys bottae*, belongs to the western, or smooth-toothed, pocket gopher group (genus *Thomomys*). These gophers have smooth upper incisors, unlike other genera of gophers, and use their teeth for digging as well as their claws. The specific name refers to the French scientist Paul-Emile Botta, who had a truly remarkable career. He is best known for excavating the palace of the Assyrian king Sargon II while he was serving as the French consul in Mosul. As a young man, however, he was the naturalist on a voyage to the Pacific coast of America and Hawaii (this, a decade before Darwin) which brought him to California, where he collected local animals and birds.

Botta's pocket gopher, also called valley pocket gopher, ranges over much of the Southwestern United States and Mexico, from Utah to Baja California and from California to Texas. It occurs in a wide variety of habitats from sea level to 13,000 feet elevation. They are considered a pest in farmers' fields and city parks, though they do provide a service by aerating the soil. In their defense one might point out that they were here first! The little rodent is about 6 to 12 inches long with a two-inch tail. Males are larger than females. The fur varies in color from near white to blackish brown.

Gophers are solitary creatures. Except when breeding, they live alone in their underground abodes. The burrows cover an area 15 to 20 yards across and can descend as much as five feet below the surface. Some rooms are used for nesting, some for food storage, some for defecation, and some are just places to put loose dirt. Since they spend most of their time in utter darkness, they don't care whether it's day or night. They eat mainly roots, bulbs, tubers and grasses. They like to burrow near the

"Gopher ..." continued on page 5

Farewell 32-MARSH; You Served Us Well

Bill Arrowsmith, Past FOMM President

It was the late 1970's, and our newly organized group called the Friends of Madrona Marsh was struggling to get its message to residents of Torrance and the South Bay: "Hey! Look at this fantastic natural resource—a beautiful seasonal wetland harboring dozens of species of migrating birds!" And it was sitting right in the heart of Torrance next to the Del Amo mall, at that time reportedly the largest shopping center in the country. Heck, back then it was a struggle just to let people know that we existed.

We held bake sales and rummage sales, and sold hot dogs on the Fourth of July, partially to raise money, but just as importantly to share our dream of somehow turning a privately owned, fenced-in and very valuable 74-acre property into a public nature preserve. A number of us belonged to environmental organizations like the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society, and were perhaps a bit flushed with a recent success: we had joined in an effort to save the California Brown Pelican by spreading the word that high concentrations of the pesticide DDT in the Santa Monica Bay were causing the shells of Pelican eggs to be too thin, resulting in widespread breeding failure. The DDT had become more concentrated at each step of the food chain, and the Pelican, at the top of the chain, received the strongest dose.

Perhaps we could use similar techniques to educate our local community about the importance of saving Madrona Marsh—a last vestige of a vast system of wetlands that once lined our coast. We started putting together informational brochures and slide shows to take our message to the public.

But how could the public reach us? We had no office; we met in each other's homes. Finally we had enough money for a phone (a wall phone; this was still decades before cell phones). Maybe we could even get a number whose associated letters could be used to spell Madrona, or Heron. Finally we came up with the more direct MARSH (62774), and upon checking with the phone company, discovered that number was available in our local Torrance/Lomita area, with the prefix: 32. Voila! **32-MARSH** (326-2774) was born! And this was before one had to include the Area Code for a local call (we were all in AC 213, remember?).

Now our only problem was finding a "home" for our phone—literally. It had to be someone who lived in an area using the prefix, 326-. Somehow,

I don't remember the details, but an angel named Joy Sweetnam volunteered her home. The plan was to attach the phone to a tape recorder; Joy would check the phone on a daily basis and let a board member know if there was a message, often relaying the message herself. This also allowed the Friends to be in the Telephone Directory. Remember those? That's how people got hold of other people before personal computers and Google. You simply looked them up in the phone book, and now The Friends of Madrona Marsh were there, too.

Joy and her husband, Donald, served as our relay to the world for over 30 years, making sure important messages reached the Friends officers. When Joy left her home a few years ago to live near her daughter, the Friends found another way to get their messages: We pay to have them forwarded to the Nature Center phone, where they are answered by whoever is sitting at the front desk.

But we don't get as many calls on that line as we used to, and it has long since ceased to be economically sensible. So the Board of Directors has decided to retire our dear **32-MARSH**, aka (310) **32-MARSH**. Rest in peace, old friend. Oh, and if you want to leave a message for 'the Friends', please just call the Nature Center at **(310) 782-3989**. We haven't figured out a clever mnemonic for that number yet.

"Gophers..." continued from page 4

surface so they can pull the roots into the tunnel. Going upstairs is dangerous: coyotes, weasels, snakes, hawks, and owls all prey on unwary gophers. They are an important food resource for the Red-tailed Hawks on the Marsh. No wonder they prefer to stay underground.

Breeding can occur year round. Females can have as many as four litters a year. The mother will give birth to about four or five hairless, blind young, each about two inches long. They nurse for about forty days. When they are ready, the mother will shoo them away to find their own burrows.

While the gophers in my front yard may be annoying, the ones at the Marsh are an integral part of the ecosystem as well as being fun to watch. Keep an eye out for them, and sooner or later you're sure to see one! —V.L.

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center*

Schedule of Events for July through October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					10 am--12 n- ¹ Friday Fun- donation**	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Rest. ² & Student.Service 10am - "Butterfly Container," Dr. Vadheim
³	⁴ CLOSED Happy 4th of July!	⁵ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	⁶	⁷ 10 am-Tyke Hike-donation 10:30 Prop.Soc. 6:30-"Butterfly Container,"Dr. Vadheim	⁸ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	⁹ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 7- 9 pm-Night Hike
¹⁰	¹¹ CLOSED	¹² 10 am-Jr.Naturalists-fee	¹³ 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 10 am-Jr.Naturalist-fee 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	¹⁴ 1pm-Sr. Naturalists 35+ 10 am- Jr.Naturalist-fee 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	¹⁵ 10 am--Friday Fun-donation** 10 am-- Jr.Naturalists-fee WestEx/Ends***	¹⁶ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 9-11 am-Guided Tour/ Henrietta Basin
¹⁷	¹⁸ CLOSED	¹⁹ 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance Blieden Ex.Opens	²⁰	²¹ 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	²² 10 am-Friday Fun-donation**	²³ 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 9am-12-Illuminating Nature 10 am-NatureWalk 2-4 pm"Sunsations,"/Livio
10 am. ²⁴ Nature Walk ³¹	²⁵ CLOSED	²⁶ 10am-Wildlife Kids Camp-fee	²⁷ 10am-Wildlife Kids Camp-fee	²⁸ 10:30-12:30 Propagation Society 10am-Wildlife Kids Camp-fee	²⁹ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation** 10am-Wildlife Kids Camp-fee	³⁰ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Re- stor. & Student Service
JULY						

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	¹ CLOSED	² 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10:30-Kid Photog-fee.	³ 10:30-Kid Photog.-fee	⁴ 10 am-Tyke Hike-donation 10:30-Prop. Soc 10:30-Kid Photog	⁵ 10 am--Friday Fun-donation** 10:30-Kid Photog BliedenRecpt***	⁶ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor & Student.Service 10 am-"Ponds"Dr.Vadheim Star Party
⁷	⁸ CLOSED	⁹	¹⁰ 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	¹¹ 10:30 a.m.- Prop.Society 1pm-Sr.Natur- alists- 35+ 6:30pm-Vadheim	¹² 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	¹³ 8:45am-12 n-Hab.Restor. Student.Service 8:45 am-Nature Journal.-fee 6:30 pm-Night Hike
¹⁴	¹⁵ CLOSED	¹⁶ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	¹⁷	¹⁸ 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	¹⁹ 10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation**	²⁰ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Rest & Student.Service 9-11 am-Guided Tour/ Henrietta Basin
²¹	²² CLOSED	²³ 10 am-Home School Nature Class/Reid	²⁴ 10 am - Home School Nature Class/Reid	²⁵ 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	²⁶ 10 am--12 n Friday Fun- donation** Blieden Exhibit. Ends***	²⁷ 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-Hab.Restor. 10 am- Nature Walk
10 am- ²⁸ Nature Walk	²⁹ CLOSED	³⁰ 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance Hagen Exhibit Opens***	³¹			

AUGUST

Nature Center & Gift Shop

(310) 782-3989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				¹ 10 am-Tyke Hike -donation 1:30-Prop Soc.	² 10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation**	³ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service Vadheim-no class
⁴	⁵ CLOSED	⁶ 8:30am-Tour d'Torrance	⁷	⁸ 10:30 Prop.Soc. 1pm-Sr. Naturalists 35+ Vadheim-no class	⁹ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	¹⁰ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 8:45 am-Nature Journaling All ages - fee
¹¹ 10am-12 Grandpar- ents Day	¹² CLOSED	¹³	¹⁴ 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	¹⁵ 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	¹⁶ 10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation** 6:30-Hayden Recept.***	¹⁷
¹⁸	¹⁹ CLOSED	²⁰ 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10am-Docent Workshop 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	²¹ 10am-Docent Workshop	²² 10am-Docent Workshop 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	²³ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	²⁴ 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am.Nature Walk 10am-Docent Workshop
²⁵ 10 am. Nature Walk	²⁶ CLOSED	²⁷ 10am-Docent Workshop	²⁸ 10am-Docent Workshop	²⁹ 10am-Docent Workshop 10:30-12:30- Prop.Society	³⁰ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	

SEPTEMBER

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⁹	¹⁰ CLOSED	¹¹	¹² 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	¹³ 1pm-Sr. Naturalists 35+ 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	¹⁴ 10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation**	¹⁵ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 9-11 am-Guided Tour/ Henrietta Basin 1:30-Nature's Origami
¹⁶	¹⁷ CLOSED	¹⁸ 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	¹⁹	²⁰ 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	²¹ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	²² 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
²³ 10 am- Nature Walk	²⁴ CLOSED	²⁵ 10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid	²⁶ 10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid	²⁷ 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	²⁸ 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	²⁹ 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student Service
³⁰	³¹ CLOSED					

OCTOBER

JOIN US FOR A FUN-RAISER AT SOUPLANTATION AND RAISE MONEY FOR

Friends of Madrona Marsh
Enjoy dinner and support the Preserve and Nature Center



Souplantation will donate 15% of sales generated by your organization. Purchase a meal and a beverage* and enjoy a great meal and help a great organization!

DATE:

Wednesday, August 10, 2016

TIME:

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

AT THIS SOUPLANTATION LOCATION:

Torrance
21309 S. Hawthorne Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90503-5602

For directions visit Souplantation.com

*1. All participants must purchase a beverage with their meal in order to receive credit towards the organization. 2. Under no circumstances are flyers to be handed out in the restaurant, parking lot or vicinity. Failure to comply will result in a voided contract. 3. Coupons or discounts will not be honored in conjunction with any approved Fun-Raisers. 4. Must present this flyer at time of purchase. 5. Your receipt will be kept and stapled to this form in order to add up the event's sales.

HOUSEHOLD GUIDELINES: 1. For the safety of our guests, no horseplay, running or climbing at any time, please. 2. Please accompany small children when visiting food bars. 3. It is very much appreciated when a supervisory person is present at a table of children.

Souplantation & Sweet Tomatoes®
salads • soups • bakery

Bumbling Around

David K. Faulkner (photo by Kim Moore)

When hearing the term “bees”, the usual thought is directed to honey bees, an introduced European species. Rarely do people think about the numerous, mostly non-social, native bees that inhabit the California region. Bumble bees would be included in this overlooked category, especially the native Sonoran Bumble Bee, *Bombus sonorus* (Family Apidae), one of 26



species found within the state. However, what was once the largest and most distinctive of bees has all but disappeared, and is now encountered in small, isolated colonies supporting fewer than 100 worker bees each. This bumble bee is about one inch in length and covered in thick, yellow, hair-like bristles called setae, except for black setae on the head, terminal end of the abdomen, and a single band across the thorax. As with other similar species, they possess on the hind legs a “corbicula,” a bowl-shaped structure with long hairs that collect pollen and nectar. In flight, they produce a loud buzzing that is called a “bumble” in parts of England, thus giving us the name bumble bee.

Sonoran Bumble Bee queens (reproductive females) mate during a nuptial flight in the late fall and soon construct an earthen cell in the ground or conceal themselves in vegetation to wait out the winter. In early spring, the queens again emerge to search out a suitable niche, such as an abandoned rodent burrow, bird nest, or compost pile, and use fine plant material to line a cavity. Once settled, the foundress queen

forms wax jars that will be filled with pollen and nectar that she will gather, and proceeds to lay eggs. Initially, only sterile females (workers) are produced, requiring about 10 days to complete their egg and larval (grub) stages and another few weeks before emerging from the pupal stage as an adult. The queen now restricts herself to the colony and continues to produce eggs while the workers assume all other colony duties. In the late summer, the queen will begin to deposit additional fertilized eggs that produce the next generation of queens. Then, in what we might consider an afterthought, she lays unfertilized eggs that eventually develop into drones (males). In late summer and early fall the entire colony, including the aging queen, begins to die out, leaving the newly emerged and mated queens to begin fresh colonies the next year.

Most bumble bee mortality is directed at the worker bees while they are foraging outside of the colony—by birds, small mammals, and predatory insects such as large robber flies. Workers are also parasitized by what are called thick-headed flies (Family Conopidae), whose maggots enter the abdomen of the bee, where they eventually weaken and kill the host. There is also a genus of bumble bee, *Psithyrus*, producing only queens that invade other *Bombus* colonies and soon dominate or kill the queen. The new resident then controls the hive, tricking the worker bees into rearing and protecting her eggs. It’s the insect version of “Game of Thrones.”

So where have all the Sonoran Bumble Bees gone? As with other disappearing insect groups, they have been decimated by a number of factors—such as pesticides, loss of habitat and native host plants, competition from invasive species, disease, and climate change. For the Sonoran Bumble Bee, loss of nesting sites in shrubs, rushes and other plant detritus near estuaries has probably been one of the main causes for their disappearance. Considering the bee’s importance as a native plant pollinator, that alone should be enough to encourage us to initiate habitat enhancement for this species. In fact, the bees are also valuable pollinators for commercially grown tomatoes, avocado, various berries, and even clover. Creation of additional nesting spots might help stabilize and eventually increase bumble bee populations.

Become a Docent

Would you enjoy becoming a volunteer docent and leading school tours of the Preserve and Nature Center? We offer a series of docent preparation workshops for new and returning docents.

Upcoming Docent Workshops meet from 10 a.m. to 12 noon unless noted.

September 20

How to be a docent with Tracy Drake

September 21 – (10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)

Marsh History of the Tongva Indians with Linda Gonzales and the history of "Saving Madrona Marsh" with Bill Arrowsmith

September 22 – Marsh animals with Dinuk Magammana

September 24 – Outreach training with Suzan Hubert, Cindy Reid, Darlene King

September 27 - Water lab with Dinuk Magammana, plus Insect/bug tour with Cindy Reid

September 28th – Native Plants with Tony Baker and Carol Roelen

September 29th – Interpretation with Tracy Drake

There will also be an opportunity to tour with an experienced docent. All workshops are held at the Nature Center 3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance.

Docents must be 21 years of age or older and pass a background check. Docents should be available to conduct at least two tours a month.

Tours are usually offered from 10 a.m.-12:00 noon on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from October to May.

Contact the Nature Center if you would like to register to become a Docent: 310-782-3989

Forget Tomato Juice

--Suzan Hubert

Here is how to really neutralize skunk spray. The composition of skunk spray depends on the species but common to all is a group of organic compounds called thiols. These compounds are characterized by their attached sulphur and hydrogen atoms, notorious for a strong smell. The only way to get rid of skunk odor is neutralizing the thiols by changing them into compounds your nose won't recognize as offensive. You can do this by adding oxygen in a process known as oxidation. When oxygen is added to sulphur and hydrogen, odorless sulfonic acid is formed. Sound like Chem. 101? It's not; it's actually doable in the kitchen.

Use a nonreactive (glass, stainless steel, enamel) pot:

Mix 1 quart of 3% hydrogen peroxide with
1/4 cup baking soda and
1 teaspoon of liquid detergent;

Lather up, wait 5 minutes, rinse off well—and you're good to go!

This is applicable for people as well as furry friends. Note: This mix can slightly change hair color; and don't store it, because it releases oxygen and may break a container. For your clothes, a good wash in the machine with bleach will work.

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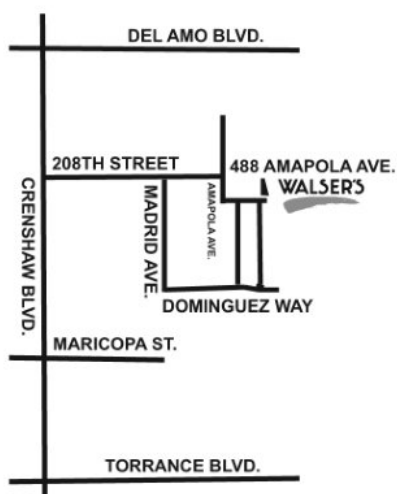
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South Bay Native Plant Corner

Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSU, Dominguez Hills



Feltleaf everlasting
Pseudognaphalium canescens

Summer is butterfly season at the Preserve. On sunny days, butterflies seem to be everywhere! That's because there's food and water for both the adult butterflies and—more importantly—their larvae (caterpillars). One important plant is also one of the whitest. It's the striking perennial Feltleaf everlasting.

Pseudognaphalium canescens is one of eight Everlasting species native to Western Los Angeles County. It was once common in the South Bay and still grows wild in undeveloped areas like the Preserve. It may even show up in your home garden.

Feltleaf everlasting is a short-lived perennial. It grows one to three feet tall and can reach widths of three to five feet. Plants have an open, mounded form with stiff branches. The foliage is very light green to white due to dense, velvety hairs that cover both sides of the leaves and the stems. The hairs make the plant soft to the touch; they also help the plants 'harvest' fog and dew.

While *Pseudognaphalium canescens* is a member of the Sunflower family, its flowers are not the conspicuous heads we associate with sunflowers. The flower heads are covered with papery bracts (flower leaves). In summer, look closely to see the small yellow flowers, which are pollinated by small insect pollinators. This

is just one of the locally native sunflowers that provide key habitat for native bees and other pollinators in Southern California.

Even more interesting is the relationship of native Everlastings and the American Painted Lady butterfly (*Vanessa virginiensis*), for which they serve as an important larval food source.

The caterpillars construct a shelter of partially chewed leaves, in which they hide during the daytime. They emerge to feed at night, thus avoiding their common predators. The larval shelters are quite distinctive and easy to find; they look like small balls of cotton. Look for them on plants from summer through early fall.



Feltleaf everlasting is easy to grow. It likes sun and grows in any local soil. It needs winter-spring moisture, but then is quite drought tolerant. It reseeds well; plant it once and it will keep coming back—an easy-to-grow plant. The white foliage makes a dramatic garden accent. Plants will fill in around shrubs and the dried 'everlasting' flowers are lovely in bouquets.

For more on Feltleaf everlasting see: <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/2013/09/plant-of-month-september-wrights.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*](#) & [*Plant Lists*](#) also available at the Nature Center.

Friends of Madrona Marsh

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