

Marsh Mailing

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

What a Magical Night It Was-and Will Be! Starlight Magic, October 1, 2011

If you're a regular reader of the *Marsh Mailing*, reflect back two issues to the Winter 2010/2011 newsletter. . . . You remember—the one with pages of pictures of happy faces? And we're not talking 'emoticons' here. These were giant grins on the faces of all the attendees of last autumn's inaugural fundraising event on the Preserve, "*Moonlight Magic, 2010*," including **Mayor Scotto** and the entire Torrance City Council. Hopefully, you were among the over 200 who attended last year, and the pictures brought back pleasant memories of good music, good food, good wine and lots of merriment for a very good cause: Securing the future of the Madrona Marsh Preserve.



Beth Shibata's Signature Starlight Magic artwork is one of the fantastic prizes offered at the event.

Ah, but if you were not able to attend last year, fear not, for you will soon get a second chance. And, from the planning I've seen thus far by **Suzan Hubert**, chief sorcerer, and her band of merry magicians, including **Mary Garrity** and **Bobbie Snyder**, this year's event will be even better—if that's possible.

For starters, this year's Magic evening promises to be even more romantic. With only a faint sliver of moon on Saturday, October 1, the Magic this year will be provided by starlight. For the less romantically inclined, **Paul**

Livio will have telescopes set up to view the heavens.

"Magical" continues on page 11

Special Midsummer Issue

This special midsummer issue of the *Marsh Mailing* hopes to accomplish several goals. First, it is a final reminder that you still have time to get your tickets to the premier event of the year: *Starlight Magic* on Saturday, October 1. Tickets may be purchased from Board members or via PayPal from our website, friendsofmadronamarsh.com.

Also, just before we went to press, there was a report that, for the first time, a few mosquitoes from the Marsh had tested positive for West Nile Virus. As you know WNV is a serious disease, and there has been a recent increase in the number of cases reported in Southern California. So, how dangerous is it to visit the Preserve? In particular, is it safe to attend *Starlight Magic* in October?

I am happy to report that, in spite of the recent report, you are quite safe visiting the Marsh today, and you should be even safer on October 1. The timing was perfect, for mosquitoes require standing water to breed, and the last small puddle of standing water on

our wonderful SEASONAL Marsh evaporated on August 17, two weeks **after** the WNV report. Mosquitoes live only about two weeks. No water, no new mosquitoes, no problem. For additional security, consider that, as executive director of LA County West Vector Control District, Bob Saviskas, stated, "mosquitoes in Southern California bite only from dusk to dawn, hours when the nature preserve is closed."

Starlight Magic will take place in the evening, but over six weeks after the Preserve completely dried up, so that night should be quite safe as well, even for the fewer than 1 percent (frail or elderly) who might become sick if bitten. There is presently not even any water in the sump, as it has been completely drained as we prepare to install a new, bus-sized filtration system starting August 23, as part of the Santa Monica Bay Project!

The safety and health of visitors to the Preserve is the foremost consideration of the Friends and the City Staff. We will continue to work with Vector Control to assure that your next visit is safe as well as enjoyable. I'll see you on Saturday, October 1st! —B.A.



Dear Friends of Madrona Marsh,

Here is your "Official Invitation" to



Starlight Magic

Saturday, October 1, 2011

5 pm to 10 pm



*A Celebration on the Madrona Marsh Preserve
3201 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance • 310 782 3989*

*You are invited to join us for barbeque, wine, music and entertainment,
stargazing with **Paul Livio**, gift baskets and auctions of unusual items.*

- Mark Comon, Master of Ceremonies*
- Paul Nowatka, Auctioneer*

\$50 per person*

Tickets available at: The Madrona Marsh Nature Center, Wild Birds Unlimited
www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com

Please join us for another year of laughter and magic on the Preserve.

**All proceeds help sustain the programs of the Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve*





Starlight Magic Dinner Menu



Saturday, October 1, 2011

Catered by the Red Car Brewery & Restaurant

~BBQ GRILLED CHICKEN~

Fresh marinated chicken, 2 pieces
grilled to perfection, basted with our smoky Red Car Ale BBQ sauce

~PULLED PORK SANDWICH~

Juicy, tender pulled pork marinated in our smoky
Red Car Ale BBQ sauce served on fresh artisan rolls

~SIDES~

~Gran's Southern Style Cole Slaw~

Shredded cabbage, green & red peppers and onions in a sweet & tangy dressing

~Baked Beans~

Hearty baked beans slowly simmered in sweet, smoky, savory sauce

~Italian Pasta Salad~

Tri-color curly pasta, provolone cheese, artichoke hearts, olives, peppers, sweet
onions and cherry tomatoes tossed with a tangy herb dressing

~Potato Salad~

An old-fashioned traditional creamy potato salad made with Idaho potatoes, celery,
egg, onions, Dijon mustard and mayo.

~DESSERTS~

Platter of Red Car Brewery house baked cookies:
Triple Chocolate Chip, Oatmeal Raisin,
White Chocolate Macadamia and Peanut Butter



Starlight Magic Promises Prizes Galore

Howl at the moon with auctioneer **Paul Nowatka**. (If you have never done this you should try it; quite a refreshing experience.) Chuckle along with our Master of Ceremonies, **Mark Comon** and . . . star gaze with **Paul Livio**.

Enjoy dinner catered by The Red Car Brewery, RCB Beer, magical wines, some unusual auction items and many original gift baskets.

We have some priceless stuff, "available nowhere else" for auction such as

- ◆ A Night Hike with our own Marsh Naturalist, **Tracy Drake**. Schedule for the evening of your choice, for you and eleven of your best friends. Value? Priceless!

- ◆ Lunch with **Max Presneill**, Curator of the Torrance Art Museum

- ◆ Hike Mt. Pinos with **Tracy Drake** and **Ron Melin**; Ron will bring a homemade pie!

- ◆ A two-hour native garden consultation with **Tony Baker** of Natural Landscapes, and a potted native plant

- ◆ Overnight for two with brunch at the Torrance DoubleTree Hotel

- ◆ Four Hours actual work time from the professionals at AW Construction

- ◆ Tour of the Torrance Police Department

- ◆ Air Cruise for two over Catalina, from Western Museum of Flight in Torrance

- ◆ Tour of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Foundation in Simi Valley

- ◆ Handel's ice cream gift certificate for 25 ice cream sandwiches!

A Docent Reward

Almost all of the docents for the hundred or so school tours on Madrona Marsh Preserve every year are volunteers from the Friends. And what do they get out of it? Perhaps you'll get a glimmer from this nice thank-you letter that **Suzan Hubert**, one of our newer docents, received from a student on a tour she led in June:

Dear Suzan,

Thank you for guiding me! I saw the true nature by you. I especially liked the dune poppies, ducklings (they're so cute!) and hunting the frogs. I loved hunting the frogs because I could see the real marsh. It felt kind of weird when the frog jumped out of my hands. My feet are still wet, but I loved it. I also thought the ducklings were so cute! I was amazed when several fathers came to protect the mother and ducklings even though they weren't related. Again thank you so much for helping us and inviting us to the true nature!

Love,

Anna Kim

- ◆ Gift certificate to the Redondo Beach Civic Light Opera

- ◆ Tickets to a Torrance Cultural Art Center event

- ◆ Red Car Brewery Tapping Party

- ◆ Overnight for two with breakfast at the Torrance Marriott Hotel

- ◆ Beth Shibata's *Starlight Magic 2011* Signature art piece (pictured on front page)

- ◆ Gift certificates to Lomeli's Italian Restaurant, Ikemoto Photography Studio, AAA Upholstery, 1321 Tap Room Bistro and more to come...

- ◆ Stained Glass art piece by Steve Chudy

- ◆ Many gift baskets

- ◆ Dinner for four with wine included at the Rolling Hills Country Club

- ◆ A personal Chakra Reading

- ◆ Weekend cabin in Big Bear for eight people

- ◆ Dinner with the Torrance Fire Department

- ◆ Lunch at El Torito with **Daily Breeze** crime reporter, Larry Altman

- ◆ Art Parties with Suzanne for children and adults.

And that's not all. One hundred percent of all profit raised at *Starlight Magic* supports the Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center.

In Memoriam Doris Forrest

If you have stopped by the Nature Center on any Friday in the last several years, you were no doubt charmed by the warm smile and twinkling eyes of **Doris Forrest**, who welcomed visitors from her station at the front desk, eager to answer questions and share her knowledge of the Preserve.

We were saddened to hear from her husband, Bill, that Doris passed away a few weeks ago. Doris and Bill have been long-time supporters of the Friends of Madrona Marsh as well as the Torrance Cultural Arts Center. Doris's interest in the environment started back in the 1970's as a member of the TRW Ecology Workshop, where several of us first learned about Madrona Marsh. Bill served as coordinator of the Friends' docent program for many years, as well as leading tours himself. Bill and Doris moved to an assisted living facility in Santa Monica last year.

We extend our greatest sympathy to Bill and the Forrest family for their loss. We have all been richer for the brief time we shared with Doris.

Shirley's Turn

—Shirley Turner

My favorite magazine, **Birder's World**, has changed its name to **Bird Watching**. One can visit them online at www.BirdWatchingDaily.com. The June 2011 issue story by David Allen Sibley is "*The Language of Birds*." To learn bird songs, listen carefully while watching the accompanying behavior. I found this especially interesting. As I sit at the computer with my back to a sliding glass door, the chatter of birds makes me turn to see and move outside. Here is the article.

"The ability to name a distant song is part of the definition of an expert birder, and with good reason. It takes years to develop the knowledge and discerning ear needed to identify bird calls. One important but often overlooked aspect of learning is context. To recognize patterns of variation, to know what the bird you just heard is likely doing or to anticipate what sounds you might hear on a given day, you must have a basic knowledge of the repertoire and the context of bird sounds. Bird song is a language. You can't learn French by memorizing rhythms and tones, and you can't learn bird songs that way either. You need to listen carefully, watch behavior, and think about the meaning of the song.

"Summer is an excellent time to hear the full repertoire of a species. The simplest way to start learning context is to watch birds and try to assign their vocalizations to broad categories.

"Songs: Males sing from prominent perches to broadcast their presence to rival males and to potential mates. Many species use a different song for each of these audiences

"Context Calls: A great variety of short, simple calls can be heard. Context calls are basically conversational. Mated pairs, neighbors, and flock mates keep in touch with sound. As you get to know each species, you will hear subtle levels of excitement.

"Alarm Calls: At one end of the spectrum, the

very agitated end, is the alarm call, generally louder and sharper than the ordinary context call. It is used in extreme alarm, such as when a human comes too close to a nest or fledgling. Birds giving an alarm call will circle close around the intruder (you), flick their wings and tail and flit rapidly from branch to branch. That is your signal to retreat and give the bird a little peace.

"Other Calls: Baby birds give an insistent begging call that changes as they age and differs between species. Most birds give a flight call which you hear often from perched birds as they prepare to fly. And there are other variations as well.

"You can learn a repertoire wherever you live, no matter whether you are listening to a House Sparrow, American Robin or a Curve-billed Thrasher. Just listen carefully to all the sounds the birds produce, and you will soon begin to understand their language."

Tracy Drake teaches a class on identifying birds by sound. She has an app for wildflowers and birds. Now there is an app for identifying trees.

Eldon Greij, professor emeritus of biology at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, is founding editor of **Birder's World**. He tells about a hovering Ring-billed Gull. The scene of a motionless bird in the wind has burned into his brain and been visited over and over again. See the picture and read how it can happen in the same issue.

Martin Byhower introduced me to this magazine years ago. He is Director of Birding Southern California, Private Guide Service.

His website is www.birdingsocal.com.

His e-mail is avitropic@sbcglobal.net

Symphony of birds: Over the last few years Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Chronicle Books have teamed up to produce several memorable books of bird songs that include attached audio players. Now the publishers, along with Les Bleletsky and a team of top notch illustrators, have outdone themselves with **Bird Song Bible**. It features 747 species from Canada and the United States, including dozens of native and non native species from Hawaii. Beautiful paintings with description of the birds and playing the video along with it is fun, as the advertisement says in the magazine.

Magic Makers Needed

If you could spare an hour or two we could use your help with Starlight Magic. Specifically, we are looking for two people to set up and host the sign-in table and several people to sell gift basket tickets.

Contact **Suzan Hubert** at 310-415-4517

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 Diane Gonsalves at gonwild2@yahoo.com or Bill Arrowsmith, TheArrowsmiths@sbcglobal.net, or dropped off or mailed to the Nature Center.

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

Schedule of Events*

August-November 2011

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------|--|--|---|---|--|
| | 1 CLOSED | 2 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-12 n-Weeders | 3 10 am-12 n-Habitat Restoration Weeders | 4 10 am-Tyke Hike (fee) 10:30 am-12:30 pm-Propagation Society) | 5 10-11:30-am-Friday Fun*** | 6 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. & Student Serv.Learning 10 am-12 n- "Water-wise Success"/ Dr.Vadheim 8:30-10:30 pm-Star Party |
| 7 | 8 CLOSED | 9 9 am-Mornings on the Marsh 10 am-12 n-Weeders 6:30-8:30 pm-"Water-wise Success" /Dr. Vadheim | 10 8 am-Bird Walk/Bob Shanman 10 am-12 n-Weeders 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting | 11 10:30 am-12:30 pm-Propagation Society | 12 10-11:30-am-Friday Fun*** | 13 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. & Student Serv.Learning 8-10 pm-Night Hike |
| 2-4 pm- 2nd Sunday Science-"Dinosaurs-Where did they come from?" (fee) | 15 CLOSED | 16 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-12 n-Weeders 7 pm-Audubon meets | 17 10 am-12 n-Habitat Restoration Weeders | 18 10:30 am-12:30 pm-Propagation Society | 19 10-11:30-am-Friday Fun*** | 20 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. & Student Serv.Learning 2-4 pm-Search for Life..."(fee) |
| 21 10 am-12n-Water-color for Kids (fee) | 23 CLOSED | 24 10 am-12 n-Habitat Restoration-Weeders | 24 10 am-12 n-Habitat Restoration Weeders | 25 10:30 am-12:30 pm-Propagation Society | 26 10-11:30-am-Friday Fun*** 6:30 pm-Linda Bossler Recept. | 27 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. & Student Serv. Learning 10 am- Nature Walk |
| 28 10 a.m-Nature Walk | 29 CLOSED | 30 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-12 n-Habitat Restoration Weeders | 31 10 am-12 n-Habitat Restoration Weeders | | | |

AUGUST

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. **See Artists Corner, page 11. * No fee charged for Friday Fun , but reservations are required. For the latest event information, consult website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.*

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | 1 10 am-Tyke Hike (fee) 10:30 am-12:30 pm-Propagation Society | 2 Ivett Garay Exhibit Ends** | 3 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. & Student Serv.Learning (No "Native Gardening" Class) 8:30-10:30pm-Star Party |
| 4 | 5 CLOSED | 6 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-12 n-Weeders (No "Native Gardening") Linda Bossler Exhibit Ends | 7 10 am-12 n-Habitat-Weeders | 8 10:30 am-12:30 pm-Propagation Society | 9 10-11:30-am-Friday Fun*** | 10 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. & Student Serv.Learning 10 am- 1 pm-Turtle & Tortoise Day |
| 2 - 4 pm-Second Sunday Science-"Spiders,Scorpions & Snakes" (fee) | 12 CLOSED | 13 10 am-12 n-Weeders 9-11 am-Mornings on the Marsh 12-2 pm-History of the South Bay (fee) | 14 8 am- Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 10-12 n-HabitatWeeders 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting | 15 10:30 am-12:30 pm-Propagation Society | 16 10-11:30-am-Friday Fun*** Linda Bossler Exhibit Ends** | 17 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. & Student Serv. Learning 1-3 pm- "Sunsations...)(fee) |
| 18 10 am-12n-Water-color for Kids (fee) | 19 CLOSED | 20 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-12 n-Weeders 7 pm- Audubon Mtg. Stephen West exhibit begins** | 21 10-12 n-HabitatWeeders | 22 10:30 am-12:30 pm-Propagation Society | 23 10-11:30-am-Friday Fun*** 8:30 pm- | 24 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. & Student Serv. Learning 10 am-Nature Walk 10-12 n-Photographing Wildlife(fee) 2-2:30 pm-Storytime for Kids 6:30-8:30 pm-Stories in the Night Sky for Kids (fee) |
| 25 10 am-Nature Walk | 26 CLOSED | 27 10 am-12 n-Weeders | 28 10-12 n-Weeders | 29 10:30 am-12:30 pm-Propagation Society | 30 | |

SEPTEMBER

Nature Center (310) 782-3989
 Gift Shop (310) 320-8255

Brought to you by
 Friends of Madrona Marsh

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | | | 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 1 8:45am-Student Serv.Learning (No "Native Gardening" Class) <i>Starlight Magic</i> (see p. 1) |
| 2 | 3 CLOSED | 8:30 am- 4 Tour d' Torrance 10 am-12 n-Weeders (No "Native Gardening" Class) | 10 am-12 n-Habitat 5 Restoration-Weeders | 10 am- 6 Tyke Hike (fee) 10:30 am-12:30 pm-Propagation Society | 10-11:30-am- 7 Friday Fun*** | 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. 8 & Student Serv.Learning 10 am-12 n- "Common Weeds in Your Garden" 7-9 pm-Star Party |
| 2-4 pm- 9 2nd Sunday Science- "Birds and Reptiles," with Tomi (fee) | 10 CLOSED | 9 am-Mornings 11 on the Marsh 10 am-12 n-Habitat Restoration-Weeders | 8 am-Bird Walk 12 /Bob Shanman 10 am-12 n-Habitat Restoration-Weeders 6:30-8:30 pm- FOMM Board Meeting | 10:30 am-12:30 13 pm-Propagation Society | 10-11:30-am- 14 Friday Fun*** | 8:45am-12 n-Habitat Restor. 15 & Student Serv.Learning 1-4 pm- "Planning Your New California Garden" (fee) |
| 16 | 17 CLOSED | 8:30 am- 18 Tour d' Torrance 10 am-12 n-Habitat Restoration-Weeders 7 pm- Audubon Mtg | 10 am-12 n-Weeders 19 | 10:30 am-12:30 20 pm-Propagation Society | 10-11:30-am- 21 Friday Fun*** | 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor... 22 9 am-12n-MADD 1-3 pm Stephen West Reception** 10 am-Nature Walk |
| 10 am-12n-Water 23 color for Kids (fee) 10 am-Nature Walk | 24 CLOSED | 25 10 am-12 n-Weeders | 26 10 am-12 n-Weeders | 27 10:30 am-12:30 pm-Propagation Society | 28 10-11:30-am- Friday Fun*** | 29 8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor. & Student Serv.Learning 1-4 pm- "Planning Your New California Garden" (fee) |
| 30 | 31 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. **See Artists Corner, page 11. *** No fee charged for Friday Fun, but reservations are required. For the latest event information, consult website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| | CLOSED | 8:30 am- 1 Tour d' Torrance 10 am-12 n-Weeders | 10 am-12 n-Habitat 2 Restoration Weeders | 10 am- 3 Tyke Hike (fee) 10:30 am- 12:30 pm- Propagation Society | 10-11:30-am- 4 Friday Fun*** Stephen West Exhibit Ends | 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. 5 & Student Serv.Learning 10 am-12 n- Native Gardening- TBA/ Dr.Vadheim |
| 6 | 7 CLOSED | 9 am-Mornings 8 on the Marsh 10 am-12 n-Weeders 6:30-8:30 pm-Native Gardening-TBA /Dr. Vadheim | 8 am- 9 Bird Walk/Bob Shanman 10 am-12 n-Weeders 6:30-8:30 pm- FOMM Board Meeting | 10:30 am- 10 12:30 pm- Propagation Society | 10-11:30-am- 11 Friday Fun*** | 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. 12 & Student Serv.Learning |
| 2-4 pm- 2nd Sun- 13 day Science- TBA (fee) | 14 CLOSED | 8:30 am- 15 Tour d' Torrance 10 am-12 n-Weeders 7 pm-Audubon meets | 10 am-12 n-Habitat 16 Restoration Weeders | 10:30 am- 17 12:30 pm- Propagation Society | 10-11:30-am- 18 Friday Fun*** | 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. 19 & Student Serv.Learning |
| 20 | 21 CLOSED | 10 am-12 n-Habitat 22 Restoration-Weeders | 10 am-12 n-Habitat 23 Restoration Weeders | 10:30 am- 24 12:30 pm- Propagation Society | 10-11:30-am- 25 Friday Fun*** | 8:45 am-12 n-Habitat Restor. 26 & Student Serv. Learning 10 am-Nature Walk |
| 10 a.m- 27 Nature Walk | 28 CLOSED | 8:30 am- 29 Tour d' Torrance 10 am-12 n-Habitat Restoration Weeders | 10 am-12 n-Habitat 30 Restoration Weeders | | | |

NOVEMBER

Another Great Year for School Tours

—Sarah Noddings

This was another amazing year for school tours and our docent program. Some 1640 students and 323 adults (mostly chaperones) toured the Madrona Marsh and Nature Center learning every step of the way about animal and plant life, the importance of our Marsh for migrating birds and local habitation. They experienced first hand the excitement and wonder that comes from each tour. They learned about Scooby, the gopher snake, which many actually touched (see page 10 for Scooby's story). They felt the pelts of the raccoon, opossum and skunk and saw all the local wildlife as displayed in the Nature Center Museum. They saw the tiniest of creatures through microscopes in water labs. Out on the Marsh, they caught little tree frogs, held Harlequin bugs, watched lizards scurry for cover and ants building homes in the sandy soil. They smiled as the ducks went by with their little ducklings and stood in awe looking at the larger, majestic birds such as the Great Blue Heron. They watched the butterflies, hummingbirds and other birds fly overhead and played in the "snow" (actually lots of white willow seeds blowing in the wind).

Each tour brought a different experience and some

precious memories for students, chaperones and docents alike. Approximately 100 tours of groups—ideally no larger than 20 and often less when possible—were given from September through June. Students came from as far away as Santa Monica and other parts of Los Angeles, although an equal number of students (49 percent) were from the Torrance Schools. Third graders made up the largest class of students (43 percent).

Fortunately this year we had quite a few docents who, as always, enthusiastically led the tours. Docents from Friends of Madrona Marsh were **Bill Arrowsmith, Cindy Reid, Joann Bailey, Suzan Hubert, Mary Garrity, and Bobbie Snyder**. Docents from the staff (who led 17 of the tours) included **Bob Carr** (who conducted the marvelous water labs), **Daniel Marion, Ron Melin, and Beth Scott**. Thank you all for so freely giving of your time for a most worthy program. We more than welcome others to become a part of our exciting docent program.

Should you be interested, please contact **Tracy Drake**, Manager of the Madrona Marsh, who conducts valuable training sessions throughout the year.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following corporations that sponsored our 2010 Moonlight Magic Fund Raiser at the \$2500 Red-Tailed Hawk level:



ExxonMobil
Toyota

Your support allowed us to assemble and execute the most successful fund-raising event in the 39-year history of the Friends of Madrona Marsh.

Two Of Our Best Grace Nature Center Wall

—Bill Arrowsmith

If you have visited the Nature Center recently, you may have noticed a new addition. On the north wall, over the information table, we now have splendid portraits of two women who made remarkable contributions in the effort to preserve Madrona Marsh.

You may remember that in the spring of 2009 we presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to **Shirley Turner**, considered by many to be the “Mother of the Marsh” for her efforts in every facet of the saving of the Preserve and later in educating local residents, young and old, about the importance of Madrona Marsh and training them in its restoration. Her involvement in the Friends ranged from organizing bake sales, to serving on the Board of Directors, to single-handedly publishing the newsletter for years. She worked with scout troops and YM/YWCA groups and schools, started our Tyke Hike program and was instrumental in getting our first native plant nursery established. And she continues to be a regular contributor to the *Marsh Mailing*.

At her award presentation, artist and long-time Marsh supporter **Marianne Strehler** presented Shirley with a beautiful color portrait as her personal gift of admiration and gratitude. Shirley has allowed us to display that portrait in the Nature Center, shown above, on the right.



A place of honor. Portraits of Betty Shaw, left, and Shirley Turner; welcome visitors to the Nature Center.

But Marianne, who served on the Board of Directors herself and was very active with the Friends as well as serving for many years on the Torrance Cultural Arts Commission, was not done. She wanted also to honor another icon in the history of the Preserve, and a

few months ago she came down from her new home in Oregon to present us with a portrait of Betty Shaw, left, which now shares the wall with Shirley's portrait.

As many of you know **Betty Shaw**, an artist and retired teacher, served on the Board in the 1970's and 1980's in the years leading up to the final development agreement for the property

which included Madrona Marsh. And she took over as president of the Friends just as that agreement became contentious, when the City realized that certain sections of the Deed were written in a way that might allow the developers to reclaim the Preserve.

Betty worked for two years with then Mayor Jim Armstrong, the Council and the developers—sometimes facing threats of personal lawsuits—until a final Grant Deed was issued in 1986, giving the City of Torrance full possession of the Preserve. Like Grace Lear before her, Betty had the courage and fire to face the most serious challenges to the Preserve's existence.

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CSUDH Earns Highest Federal Recognition—Marsh Student Volunteers Cited

The following is extracted from an article in the June 6, 2011, *Daily Breeze*, pointed out by **Shirley Turner**:

“For the second year in a row, California State University, Dominguez Hills in Carson has received the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to community service.

Of the CSU system’s 22 campuses, just Dominguez Hills and two others were named to the 2010 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, the federal organization which administers the honor roll, evaluated the applications of more than 600 colleges and universities as to their impact on issues such as literacy, neighborhood revitalization, and at-risk youth.

CSU Dominguez Hills was one of 115 universities nationwide and one of 15 in California to receive the “with distinction” designation.

In 2010, approximately 5,500 students at CSU Dominguez Hills engaged in more than 120,000 hours of service to the community.

This included environmental science and biology students who helped with native species restoration at Madrona Marsh and Gardena Willows; nursing students who volunteered at a Remote Area Free Clinic in the LA Sports Arena, and hundreds of students who volunteer their time to work with local elementary, middle, and high school students.”

Thanks to Shirley for noticing this item, and a giant thank you to Dr. Connie Vadheim who has spear-

Scooby--A Gentle Serpent

—Treeman*

As the gates to the Marsh were being opened one morning, I noticed that there were two Ravens playing with something on the sidewalk. Closer inspection revealed that they were trying to eat two very small Gopher Snakes. As they were successful with one (only a short piece of tail remained) they were about to finish the other.

I frightened away the birds and took the small snake to the Nature Center. He was checked over and seemed healthy, just small—the diameter of a pencil and about three inches long. A small white spot on his head showed where he had been pecked by the ravens, his “distinguishing characteristic.” He was found in the spring of 2004.

At the Nature Center today you can still visit “Scooby,” so-named because he came so close to becoming a snack. He is very docile and has never attempted to bite anybody. His specialty is allowing himself to be handled by small children; he is patient and gentle. Of course, he is bigger—much bigger—than when he was found, but still a gentle serpent. He will probably never be released, as he would not know how to live in the wild.

[Editor’s note: Treeman is also known as **Bill Rubner, former groundskeeper at Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve. A further note: we found out recently that Scooby is a “she.” Maybe that’s why she’s so gentle?]*

headed the involvement of CSUDH students at both Madrona Marsh and Gardena Willows. Congratulations on getting national recognition for your fine work.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to

Wells Fargo

*for its sponsorship of our
2010 Moonlight Magic Fund Raiser at the
\$1500 Western Meadowlark level.*

*Your support allowed us to assemble and execute
the most successful fund-raising event in the
39-year history of the Friends of Madrona Marsh.*



“Magical” continued from page 1

But there will definitely still be enough moon for howling, led and directed by our jovial Master of Ceremonies, **Mark Comon**. Again, you will be dining on delicious preparations by the Red Car Brewery, but this year they are providing a complete dinner. And once again you may sip fine wine provided by Pernod-Ricard as you peruse a spectacular array of prizes for the live auction, silent auction and gift basket drawings which will follow dinner. Directing that activity once again, and howling, will be Auctioneer and former Torrance City Councilman, **Paul Nowatka**.

Among the prizes are **Beth Shibata’s** “*Starlight Magic*” signature piece, pictured on page 1. Suzan, Bobbie and Mary are still putting together the prizes; see page 4 for a list of prizes offered so far.

Once again, all profits will be used to support the educational and restoration programs of the Madrona Marsh Preserve, through the continuing partnership between the Friends of Madrona Marsh and the City of Torrance.

Did you ever ask yourself, “What could I do for the Marsh?” This is the easy answer, and it’s guaranteed to be fun, as well. Please reserve **October 1** on your calendar, and if you really want to help the Marsh (and have even more fun) bring a couple of friends!

That’s *Starlight Magic* on Saturday, October 1, 2011. See you there!

—Bill Arrowsmith

Guardian Angels Come to the Rescue

—Bill Arrowsmith

It’s amazing how often people step forward to help at just the time you need it. That has happened twice to the Friends recently. Last August, just as Tracy realized she would have to cancel a popular Watercolor Workshops for Kids program because of City budget restraints, the Friends received an invitation from Las Candalistas of the Palos Verdes Peninsula to apply for a grant, preferably one which would benefit children and the environment in the South Bay—the two primary goals of their organization.

Each year they have fundraising events, including “Walk on the Wild Side,” and distribute the proceeds among worthy projects and organizations in the South Bay. They gave us \$960, the cost of instructors and materials for the quarterly workshops.

Thank you, Las Candalistas! What a wonderful organization!

And Walser’s continues to give us 25 percent of all sales of Refurbished Computers and Electronics—over \$2000 last year alone. See the ad on page 9, and visit their website. Better yet, take your old printer and computer to the store and check out Walser’s inventory clearance items.

Thanks to Jack Walser and Henry Trejo for this generous arrangement, which also helps keep landfills clear of toxic waste.

Donations of \$100 or More

| DATE | WHO | DONATION |
|---------|-----------------------|----------|
| 3-8-11 | Sharon Angelos | \$200 |
| 4-8-11 | Georgean Griswold | \$100 |
| 4-12-11 | Mr. & Mrs. Ted Kotzin | \$100 |
| 4-12-11 | Marjorie Hill | \$100 |
| 4-13-11 | Ms. Joan Roach | \$200 |
| 4-12-11 | Karoline Snakenborg | \$100 |
| 4-15-11 | Joanne Thomson | \$100 |
| 4-25-11 | David Moody | \$150 |
| 5-2-11 | Anne O’Brien | \$135 |
| 5-4-11 | Rex Yanase | \$100 |
| 5-5-11 | Joannie Spring | \$500 |
| 5-15-11 | Juno & Ethel Uyematsu | \$100 |
| 5-15-11 | Sharon Angelos | \$200* |
| 5-20-11 | Riviera Garden Club | \$100 |
| 7-5-11 | Maxine Trevethen | \$100 |
| 7-8-11 | Iris McKinley | \$100 |

*Employer ITG Matching Funds

—Ellen Peterson, Treasurer

Artists Corner

Works of local artists and photographers inspired by the beauty of the Madrona Marsh are regularly on display at the Nature Center. Everyone is invited to attend each artist’s reception where the artist talks about his/her work or gives a demonstration. Snacks and beverages are served.

Through September 6 - Linda Bossler, “Limbs, Leaves and Trees of Madrona Marsh,” A Painting Exhibit. Artist Reception, Friday, August 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

September 20-November 4 - Stephen West, “The Many Eyes of the Marsh,” a Painting Exhibit. Artist Reception, Saturday, October 22, 1-3 p.m.

If you would like to display your art at the Nature Center, please call for more information: 310-782-3989.

Friends of Madrona Marsh

a non-profit organization est. 1972

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