

Lagoon Flyer



Jón Baldur Hlíöberg

B u e n a V i s t a A u d u b o n S o c i e t y



General Meeting

Puffins and Penguins

Presenter: Frank S. Todd

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2005

Time: Social 7pm, Presentation 730 pm

Frank Todd is one of the world's recognized authorities on waterfowl and penguins. He has spent over 30 seasons working in Antarctic, sub Antarctic and Arctic regions.

An ardent conservationist, he has been awarded the National Science Foundation Polar Medal and the San Diego Zoological Society Conservation Medal.

During his tenure as corporate vice president of aviculture and research at Sea World, Frank was responsible for the creation of the famous Penguin Encounters (for which BVAS' own Nestor Ramos did the engineering!). Frank was the first to successfully breed Emperor Penguins in captivity.

In addition to over 100 technical papers and popular articles, Frank is the author of *Antarctic Splendor; Penguins; Waterfowl: Ducks Geese and Swans of the World;* and *10,001 Titillating Tidbits of Avian Trivia.*

Despite an obvious passion for polar regions, Frank lives in sunny coastal North San Diego County. A Senior Research Fellow at the Hubbs/Sea World research Institute in San Diego, Frank is the executive director of EcoCepts International, an environmental and zoological consulting firm.

Dennis Huckabay

Buena Vista Audubon offers free programs most months on the 4th Wednesday. Please join us at the Audubon Nature Center, 2202 S. Pacific Coast Highway, Oceanside, CA.

Celebrate Earthday by joining BVAS Birdathon and participating in America's Birdiest City Contest

Buena Vista Audubon invites you to join in as we support San Diego County and for the first time-- Oceanside, in their bid to place first in this contest. Oceanside is entering the small city category; birds counted must be seen/heard by an observer within city limits during the period of noon, April 22 to noon, April 24.

Observers may bird separately or join in any of the group outings scheduled. Turn in your reports at BVAS Nature Center or phone (or email) them to Dennis Wysong 760-754-1264 (dwysongl@cox.net).

To join groups headed for places such as Guajome Park, Whelan Lake, Buddy Todd Park, etc., be at the Nature Center on Saturday, April 23rd at 8:00 A.M.

Birding By Ear

April 16 & 30, 2005

Learn to recognize the bird songs you hear when you are in your yard, as well as the more common songs of nearby natural areas. We will visit Whelan Lake and Guajome Park. While you will receive some helpful hints on remembering calls, this class will be conducted almost entirely in the field. We will meet at 8:00 A.M. on April 16 and 30 at the BVAS Nature Center with plans to leave as soon as everyone arrives. Some car-pooling may be necessary. We plan to return between 11 and noon.

Pre-registration required. Phone the Nature Center 760-439-BIRD

Instructor: John Haddock. Fee: \$20

Big Morongo Preserve

Birding Trip

Details on Page 3

Easy To Grow California Natives For San Diego County

By the California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter

Toyon (California Holly, Christmas Berry) (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)



Description: Native to canyons and hillsides ranging from San Diego and Baja California to the Sierra Nevada foothills and the California coastal mountains, toyon is a dense evergreen shrub that grows from 6-15' tall and almost as wide. Its dark green leaves have toothed margins. In summer it sports clusters of white flowers; in winter, bright red berries attract birds. Toyon's two other common names reflect its former abundance (legend has it that the city of Hollywood got its name from many toyon in the area) and seasonal berry display. One of our sturdiest, most lovely and most reliable landscape plants, toyon can be used alone, as a hedge, screen, or specimen plant, or to cover slopes. It's ideal for large-scale landscapes, especially when mixed with other native plants.

Planting and Care: In nature, toyon is often found on north-facing slopes; however, you can plant it in full sun

or part shade. It does best in well-drained soil, and is one of the few plants that survives highly alkaline soil and even calcareous soil. Once established, little water is necessary; however, flower and fruit production is more abundant with some water, and the overall plant looks better. Toyon can be pruned into a small tree; pruning may enhance berry production the following year.

Cleveland Sage (*Salvia clevelandii*)

Description: Cleveland sage (*Salvia clevelandii*) is an intensely fragrant evergreen shrub native to southern California and Baja California. Growing from 3-5' tall and 5-8' wide in a rounded form, its haze of gray-green leaves and clear purplish



blossoms paint hillsides from spring to fall. Use the fragrant leaves to make tea or potpourri; place a flower stalk in any small space to capture the scent. Extremely drought tolerant, its hardiness makes it useful as a background plant on dry slopes, as part of a border with other dry-summer plants, or in a dry rock garden as a single-specimen plant.

Selected Examples: *Salvia clevelandii* 'Winifred Gilman' is 3' tall and 3' wide with reddish purple flowers; *Salvia clevelandii* 'Alpine' survives to 10°F. A hybrid called 'Aromas' has large, dark blue flowers. Other native sages with similar needs and landscape value that are particularly well-suited to San Diego County include white sage, *Salvia apiana*, and black sage, *Salvia mellifera*.

Planting and Care: Plant Cleveland sage in full sun and poor soil; give it little or no summer water. Remove spent flower spikes to encourage re-bloom, and prune to shape after the final bloom.

See toyon and Cleveland sage at the Nature Center garden. Color photos available for viewing online at www.bvaudubon.org.

Excerpts from [Easy to Grow Native California Native Plants](#), published by the California Native Plant Society - San Diego Chapter, P.O. Box 1390, San Diego CA 92112-1390

www.cnpssd.org info@cnpssd.org 619-685-7321

Photos - Toyon by Carolyn Martus, Cleveland Sage by Suzann Spann

April Field Trips



Sat - April 2 - 8:00 am - Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count. A great opportunity to see many species. East on 78 to Douglas. Turn left and continue to North River Rd. Turn left and meet at end of cu-de-sac by the entrance gate. Leader: John Haddock 760-941-7824

Fri & Sat - April 8 & 9 - 7:00 am - Big Morongo Canyon Preserve Birding Trip. See article below for details

Sat - April 9 - 9:00 am - San Elijo Lagoon. I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe, west less than one mile to Rios Ave. Turn right and proceed to end of road. Andy Mauro, Leader 760-753-1266

Sat - April 16 - 8:00 am - Birding by Ear Class - Day 1. Details on Page 1.

Sat - April 23 - 8:am - Birdathon. Details on Page 1.

Sat - April 30 - 8:00 am - Buena Vista Lagoon Count. Take I-5 to Jefferson exit. Turn right and take immediate right on to Lagoon View Way where we meet. Leader: Joan Fountain 760-729-1379

Sat - April 30 - 8:00 am - Birding by Ear Class - Day 2. Details on Page 1.

Big Morongo Canyon Preserve Birding Trip, April 8-9th A Birding Adventure

The Big Morongo Canyon Preserve is an important California Birding area that is a favorite of Southern California Audubon Chapters. We have high expectations that our planned trip will be an excellent birding experience. The weather should be in the 70s, the walking is easy and we expect to see about 45 species. The walk will begin at 7:00 AM to avoid the desert heat. I was there in February and some of the interesting birds observed were the Red-Naped Sapsucker, Red-Breasted Sapsucker, Gambel's Quail, Phainopepla, Vermillion flycatcher, Mountain Chickadee, Slate-Colored Junco and Harris Sparrow. Dee Zeller, the Ranger at the Preserve, will lead the walk. He is an excellent birder and is intimately familiar with all aspects of bird activity in the Preserve. I expect a number of local birders will also join the walk. Dee lives at the Preserve and has 14 feeders that are pretty busy most of the time. Many birders eat their lunch in the feeder area after the main walk is finished. Dee has also been known to set up a post bird walk brunch at a local café. The entrance to the Preserve is on East Dr near the northeast side of Morongo Valley. There are brown Preserve signs on Ca-62 close to the turn to East Dr. The Preserve web site is www.bigmorongo.org.

This is a two day trip to accommodate the early start time of the bird walk. The drive takes approximately two and one half hours if you avoid the commute times. Remember that commute times take longer on Fridays. The route is good highway all the way. The recommended route is I-15 north to I-215 north to Ca-60 east to I-10 east to Ca-62 to Morongo Valley and Yucca Valley. We have reserved a few double rooms at the Yucca Inn and Suites at 7500 Camino Del Cielo Trail as you enter Yucca Valley on Ca-62. Give me a call and I will set you up for a room on a first call, first served basis. The rooms are \$69 plus tax. If you are interested in car pooling let me know and we will try to make appropriate arrangements. Contact person: Bill Jones 760-944-1775



FIELD NOTES...

The Del Dios birding trip on Feb. 19 was attended by eight birders braving the impending rainy weather! The trail was muddy, but spirits were high when we saw how full Lake Hodges was and when we heard sounds of bird songs beckoning us. We had a window of clear weather until 9:00 o'clock during which time we saw 22 species of birds. Ruby-crowned kinglets abound, as did the Western and Clark's grebes. Watching the grebe courting ritual was a treat, as was the sight of a pair of Red-tailed hawks leaving their nest to soar in the sky above us. Other birds of interest were the Hermit Thrush, Bewick's Wren, and Bonaparte's Gull. After the rain began, we retreated to Hernandez' Hideaway for a refreshing brunch.

Mary Ellen Marquand

BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Native Garden Tour

April 17 - 2 pm

Sunday April 17 is our 3rd annual Native Garden Tour. The Seaside Neighborhood in downtown Oceanside has over 10 native plant gardens and is full of historic homes. Those on the tour will receive a free map and plant list. The tour is approx 1 mile long and all gardens are viewable from the sidewalk. The tour starts at St. Mary's School at 2pm. Go north on Hwy 101 from Oceanside Blvd. The school is located at 515 Wisconsin Ave, one block east of the historic 101 Cafe

Monthly cleanup with Carolyn Martus

WHEN: Saturday Apr 2, 2005 8am-10am

WHERE: Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center

WHAT: We will be picking up trash around the nature center and along the trails and along the road, mostly fishing line and cigarette butts. We will also do some hand weeding, the rain has brought lots of weedy growth, but it is certainly not as much as in years past

BRING: Yourself, hand gardening tools

Tuesday Gardening

Join us at the Nature Center every Tuesday at 1:30 in the afternoon for some light gardening

For more information on any Native Plant Club events, call the Nature Center and leave a message for Joan Bockman 760-439-2473.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Nature Guides continue to be a very busy group as local schools, scouts, Boys and Girls Clubs and various adult groups take advantage of our programs. The Guides recently enjoyed an outing to the Pilgrim Creek area. Steve Scarano, a new member of the Education Committee, gave the group of short lesson the rock paintings and pictographs which were made by Native Americans many years ago. Pilgrim Creek is in Oceanside off Douglas Rd.

The Education Committee is always looking for new volunteers. It only requires a few hours a month and is a truly rewarding experience. The guides always work in pairs and the programs are already prepared, so it's really very easy. For more info, call Sue Sharon at 757-6461.

Update on the Injured Turtle

For those of you in attendance at the Feb. general meeting, this is an update on the saga of the female Slider turtle that was rescued from the street. Wildlife Assist was able to get her to a vet the next day. Her injured flipper will heal, and then they will do surgery on her under shell wound. A full recovery is expected. Thank you for all your concern and help!

Preschool Story Time

Apologies for a canceled story time on Mon., Feb.28 due to the storyteller's illness. We were able to have a "make-up" story time on March 7 with 8 in attendance. Our regular time of the 4th Monday of the month will continue as usual. There were some rumblings heard coming from our hibernating bear's cave last week... he may soon be awakening with Spring approaching!

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD AND CHAIRS

| | | |
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| Education | Sue Sharon | 757-6461 |
| Education | Nancy Miller | 929-2869 |
| Field Trips | Doug Dunn* | 781-1227 |
| Field Trips | Mary Ellen Marquand* | 918-6622 |
| Native Plant Club and Garden | Joan Bockman* | 433-9401 |
| Gift Shop | Rosalyn Dong* | 806-1430 |
| Library | Norma Handy | 634-2120 |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|----------|
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| Volunteers | Petey Tade | 438-1058 |
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| Audubon Adventures | JoAnne Schontzler | 431-0953 |
| Flyer Editor | Suzann Spann | 231-9709 |
| | email: suzann@cox.net | |
| Nature Center | | 439-2473 |

Tue - Sat 10 am - 4 pm
Sun 1pm - 4 pm
Closed Monday

2202 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside CA
East side of street just north of lagoon bridge

www.bvaudubon.org

* Board Members

RARE BIRD ALERT 619-688-2473

FRIENDS OF BVAS - 2005

The following people have joined the Friends of BVAS for 2005. 100% of your donation goes to the support of the Buena Vista Nature Center and our local nature programs. Thanks for your support! We look forward to seeing you at our General Meetings and other events.

- Mike Lee
- Lee & Pat Gayle
- Martha Erickson
- Deborah & Donald Stillman
- Ruth Lewis
- Margaret Parry
- John Moore
- John Haddock
- Joan & Kevin Bockman
- Bill Hinderuter
- Dorothy Hill
- Ronald & Jane Feldman
- Margaret Lesinsky
- Audrey Terras
- Emily Garnica
- Mary Clark
- Susan & Adam Sharon
- William Jones
- Joanne Brook
- Jerry Bode
- Judi Wilson

Highlights of the March BVAS Board Meeting

- The storage and facilities committee is getting quotes for new storage cabinets to be installed in the auditorium. The cabinets will be similar to those at the front of the auditorium and will replace the tables currently used for 'touch table' and for storage of Nature Guide's materials.
- The storage and facilities committee was made a standing committee. Rosalyn Lane and Andy Mauro were added to the committee.
- The City of Oceanside is working to get the leaks fixed. This is a warranty issue.
- BVAS is now providing Audubon Adventures to 50 classrooms.
- BVAS submitted an application to San Diego County for the Community Enhancement Program grant. Funds, if awarded, will be used to support the Nature Center Operations and for Nature Center Manager.
- Bill Jones continues to sort through the chapter's vast inventory of bird slides. Joan Bockman and Bill Fischer will sort through plant slides. Selected slides will be converted to digital format.
- The Nominating Committee (Mary Ellen Marquand, Dennis Huckabay, Suzann Spann, Annette Schneider) will propose a slate of officers and directors for publication in the May newsletter. Elections will be held at the June general meeting.

Book Donation

Thanks to Norma Handy for the donation of several books to the BVAS Library.

FRIENDS OF BUENA VISTA AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

As a Friend of BVAS, I will receive the chapter newsletter, be invited to special events just for Friends and receive a discount on BVAS Gift Shop purchases. 100% of my contribution will go to support the BVAS Nature Center and its educational programs.

Minimum donation required - \$20

I would like to donate \$ 20 _____ \$ 40 _____ \$ 50 _____ \$ 100 _____ Other _____:

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Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please bill my VISA card

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Make Checks Payable to:

**Buena Vista Audubon Society
P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92054**

Lagoon Flyer



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QUICK CALENDAR

| | |
|---------|---|
| Apr 1 | Board Meeting 9 am |
| Apr 2 | Garden Clean-up Day 8 am |
| Apr 2 | Whelan Bird Count 8 am |
| Apr 4 | Nature Guides Meeting 10 am |
| Apr 8-9 | Big Morongo bird Walk 7 am |
| Apr 9 | San Elijo Lagoon Walk 9 am |
| Apr 16 | Birding By Ear Class 8 am |
| Apr 17 | Native Plant Tour 2 pm |
| Apr 23 | Birdathon 8 am |
| Apr 25 | Nature Story Time 10:00 am |
| Apr 27 | General Membership Meeting Social 7 pm / Lecture 7:30 pm |
| Apr 30 | Buena Vista Lagoon Count 8:00 am |
| Apr 30 | Birding By Ear Class 8 am |

The *Lagoon Flyer* is published nine times a year.
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Moving?

Notify Suzann Spann for address changes
760-231-9709 Or email bvaudubon@cox.net

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...and much more

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

Yuma AZ Birding & Nature Festival
April 13-17, 2005
1-800-783-3061

4th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua
June 17-19, 2005
760-647-6595 or birding@monolake.org

Buena Vista Audubon online
www.bvaudubon.org