

Lagoon Flyer

Buena Vista Audubon Society



B u e n a V i s t a A u d u b o n **O p e n H o u s e a S u c c e s s**

Buena Vista Audubon Society celebrated several milestones on the weekend of June 11-13th. At a get together on Friday, **Buena Vista Audubon Society** members celebrated the club's 53rd birthday. After enjoying an abundant choice of hors d'oeuvres and greeting past friends and leaders, the group gathered in the meeting hall at the Nature Center. We heard Paul Grigsby recount stories from the early days of the **Buena Vista Audubon Society**. Occasionally, one of the other early members would chime in with some details. We heard stories of how Cora Wilson, Dave Rorick, and others worked to develop support and plans for building the Nature Center.

Saturday morning, a group gathered for the official opening of the newly installed Landscape Demonstration Garden. The Mayors and city officials of Carlsbad and Oceanside joined the officials from the Metropolitan Water District to celebrate the completion of the \$75,000 project located around the Nature Center. This garden emphasizes the use of native plants and the conservation of one of our most important resources, water.

A third milestone celebrated this weekend was the completion of several important maintenance projects at the Nature Center, paid for by a \$66,000 grant from the California Park Bond, also known as Proposition 12. The center received new Roofing and complete exterior staining and painting, a slurry seal on the driveway and parking lot, and new carpeting. As the re-carpeting required the moving of every display and exhibit, these were reconfigured to provide a better flow for visitors and a new look for the Nature Center. Additional interpretive text was added where appropriate. A reorganization of brochures and new shelving in the gift shop coupled with an overall pickup of clutter resulted in a nice "new" look to the Nature Center.

Saturday's events were completed by walks along the lagoon, courtesy of Dave Dyer and Joan Fountain and garden tours led by Joan Bockman and Native Plant Club volunteers.

Sunday was planned as a Family Day, with more nature walks, garden tours, a taxidermy presentation by Joyce Anderson and two special programs. One by Bill Haas, a biologist and herpetologist on the snakes of San Diego County, and another by Meryl Faulkner of Project Wildlife who let people see an egret and an opossum up close while learning more about the importance of each of these members of our wildlife community

President's Message for the September Issue

The celebration of the refurbishment of the Nature Center and the opening of the new Native Plant Garden occurred at an open house weekend early in June. Now seems like a good time to look back and learn from the steps that led to these milestones.

Early in the course of my first term as president of BVAS, it became clear there were a number of projects begging for attention at the Nature Center. These all required money to accomplish. In an Executive Committee meeting discussing sources of income, Bob Turner suggested we place a notice in the Lagoon Flyer that we needed the help of a grants writer. We received two responses, one from **Joni Ciarletta**, who has helped us obtain funding for a new sign that gives us more visibility along Coast Highway and funding for some Center events and improvements, some still in process. A second responder was **John Lundblad**, working with the City of Oceanside. John put us in contact with Oceanside Parks and Recreation, and other significant contacts. More importantly, John became familiar with our Center and programs, so that when opportunities arose that might benefit us, John was calling me about them. John wrote and submitted both of the grant proposals that resulted in the grants of \$66,000 for maintenance and \$75,000 for the garden. These were administered by the City of Oceanside, providing a great service for BVAS.

In retrospect, we took two important steps:

1. Setting Goals
2. Networking

We are now looking to the future, with goals of adding significantly to the exhibits at the Center and of finally getting the interpretive boardwalk funded and built. We have been laying the groundwork for future opportunities by meeting with CDFG (discussing mutual concerns, goals, and how we can work together more effectively.) We also continue to work with our Grants writing volunteers.

We welcome input and help in this process from our entire membership and from anyone outside that circle who would like to become involved. If that's you, please call me, Dennis Wysong (760) 754-1264. By the time you read this, your Board will have gathered in late August to focus on the biggest needs of BVAS and the Nature Center selecting priorities and goals for us to focus on in the coming year. We hope to follow this up with effective networking that will enable us to have another effective year of progress.

BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB

The Buena Vista Native Plant Club, who's effort have turned the Nature Centers gardens into a wonderful example of native Flora will meet Sunday Sept 19th at 2pm at the Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center, 2202 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside. Topics for September are garden design and a little weeding of the new patio garden.

Wednesday, September 22, 2004 General meeting
Social 7pm, Lecture 730pm
Speaker: George Vourlitis Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences
California State University, San Marcos
Topic: No Ecosystem Left Behind:
Global Climate Change and Current and
Future Ecosystem Responses

The greenhouse effect and climatic change are the focus of Dr. Vourlitis' research. He is interested in exchanges of energy and trace gasses between the earth's surface and the atmosphere. More specifically, he has been monitoring energy fluxes and carbon dioxide and water vapor as they cycle through the atmosphere and terrestrial ecosystems in the Alaskan Arctic, Southern Californian chaparral, and Brazilian transitional tropical forest (I had to track him down to a remote corner of Brazil to get him to agree - willingly - to come speak to us). Don't be put off by any of the above jargon which is more my fault than his. I have heard him talk to a general audience about global climate change and ecological response and he was terrific. No doubt that's why he was put in charge of the biology component in Cal State San Marcos' highly regarded teacher education program.

I can assure you it will be an interesting and informative evening, and since Wednesday September 22 is the autumnal equinox, what better way to observe this marker of seasonal change than to come to the Nature Center for Dr. Vourlitis' talk on climate change.

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS AND CHAIRPERSONS

PRESIDENT	Dennis Wysong	754-1264
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VOLUNTEERS	Petey Tade	438-1058
WEBMASTER/EDITOR	Dana Fore	613-9579
AUDUBON ADVENTURES	Joanne Schontzler	431-0953

BVAS CHAPTER FIELD TRIPS

Sat. Sept. 11 - 9:00 a.m. SAN ELIJO LAGOON
I-5 to Loma Santa Fe exit. West to Rios Ave. Turn right and continue to end of road. Meet birding guide there. No facilities

Thurs, Sept. 16 - 8:00 a.m. WHELAN LAKE
76 to Douglas Road, north on Douglas to River Road, west on River Road to gate.

Sat, Sept 18 - 9:30 a.m. CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT, Point Loma.
Point Loma Navy gate on Point Loma opens at 9 a.m. Anyone arriving early can bird around Point Loma Nazarene College. I-5 south to Rosecrans. West to Canon, turn right, go uphill and merge onto Catalina Blvd. Continue through Navy gate to end of point. Meet in front of gift shop @ 9:30 for guided bird tour with Claude Edwards. Minimum entrance fee. Restrooms available.

Sat, Sept. 25 - 8:00 a.m. KIT CARSON PARK, Escondido.
I-5 to Via Rancho Parkway exit. Go east past North County Fair as it becomes Bear Valley Parkway. Continue to 2nd entrance of park on left, (stoplight and fire-station). Turn left, go straight, turn right at end of road. And proceed to El Arroyo Picnic area on left where we will meet. Restrooms available.

<BONUS> Anyone wanting to visit the sculpture garden by Niki St. Phalle after birding can find it there at the park.

Sat, Sept. 25 - 8:00 a.m. Buena Vista Lagoon Count
All birders are encouraged to join this field trip around the different areas of our lagoon. From I-5 take 78 to Jefferson Exit. Turn right onto Lagoon View Way and look for gathering.

REGIONAL EVENTS

NATURE HIKE –
Dawson-Los Monos Reserve
WHEN:
Sunday – Sept. 26, 2004
TIME:
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
WHERE:
Dawson-Los Monos Reserve
of UCSD in Vista
Led by Reserve Manager
Isabelle Kay.

Annual Kern River Valley Turkey
Vulture Festival
Weldon, CA

September 24 - 27, 2004

UPCOMING EVENTS

BUENA VISTA CREEK CLEAN-UP SEPTEMBER 18, 2004

10 a.m. TO 12:30 p.m.

Volunteers will receive community service hours, refreshments, and a free t-shirt. Groups with 15 or more participants can have their logo printed on the cleanup t-shirt. For more information, call Linda Isakson at 760-435-5807. Participate in the International Coastal Cleanup Day by choosing one of the following sites or log onto www.oceansidecleanwaterprogram.org.

*At the end of Haymar St,
east of the El Camino Real
Shopping Plaza*

*2170 Vista Way,
Oceanside*

*2570 Vista Way,
Oceanside*

*Lagoon View Way and
Jefferson St., parallel to
Highway 78*

*2183 Vista Way,
Oceanside*

*2100 W. Vista Way,
Oceanside*

*East Vista Way near
Wildwood park, behind
the Henry's Market*

*2024 Oceanside Blvd,
Oceanside*

*2255 El Camino Real,
Oceanside*

Come to Where the Birds Are! Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 14-17, 2005

MORRO BAY, CALIFORNIA -- Migrate to one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots and join the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for the 8th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. Morro Bay -- located on California's scenic Central Coast -- is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway, and is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds. At last year's festival, 213 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is sponsored by MCAS and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

For more information about the Festival, check out our website at www.morro-bay.net/birds, where you can request that your name be added to the mailing list for our 2005 brochure, due out in October. Registration deadline is December 31, 2004 and early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.