

# Lagoon Flyer

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



Jón Baldur Hlíðberg

## THE RUDDY DUCK CLUB

The Board of Directors of the Buena Vista Audubon Society expresses its sincere appreciation to

**JÓN BALDUR HLÍÐBERG**

For his generous support of environmental education programs at the Buena Vista Nature Center.



*Dennis Huckabay*

PRESIDENT, BVAS

### BVAS Launches Ruddy Duck Club

Would you like to join the Ruddy Duck Club? With this issue of the *Lagoon Flyer*, the BVAS Board of Directors officially launches the Ruddy Duck Club as part of its spectrum of activities. The Ruddy Duck Club is a way for local businesses to show their support for important nature center programs by donating \$100 or more each year to BVAS. Businesses which become Ruddy Duck Club members will receive a beautiful, framed certificate of appreciation to proudly hang in their place of business. The certificate has a color reproduction of the family of Ruddy Ducks that you see on the mast head of this newsletter. This art work was donated to BVAS for use as its logo by Icelandic artist, Jón Baldur Hlíðberg ([www.fauna.is](http://www.fauna.is)).

We sincerely thank Mr. Hlíðberg for this contribution. At its January meeting the BVAS Board voted unanimously to make Mr. Hlíðberg the first official member of the Ruddy Duck Club. Local businesses who join the Ruddy Duck Club will receive well-deserved appreciation in our newsletter and on our website. We will also encourage our 1200 plus members to support businesses that are Ruddy Duck Club members. All donations to the Ruddy Duck Club are tax-deductible.

BVAS President Dennis Huckabay was very positive about the possibilities for the new club... "The Ruddy Duck Club is the perfect partner for our already successful Friends group. The Ruddy Duck Club will do more than raise additional operating money for our programs. It gives us a fun and clever way to get out in the community and tell our story to possible business partners. Even if they don't contribute, at least they will be aware of the important nature education work we are doing here in their community."

Do you own a small business or know someone who does? Would you like to become a Ruddy Duck Club member? If so, contact Tom Troy, Chairman of the Ruddy Duck Committee, at 760-967-6915 or leave a message at the nature center. We won't forget you...We promise!!

### *Message From The President...*

I don't know what disease it is that induces the illusion in presidents that members of their organization really want to know about what their great leader does or says. I've succumbed to the same virus. Should you read on, it's your own fault; you should show better judgment (but if you had better judgment you wouldn't have elected me president!).

### **A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF YOUR PRESIDENT**

**MONDAY:** I set out with Jim Goedert, new Buena Vista Audubon Society member and mate from the class of 1960, Oceanside High School, in search of the first pair of bald eagles to nest in San Diego County since 1936. On Hwy 76, at the first emergency phone turnout past Lake Henshaw Resort, we pulled over. We could see nothing through the evaporation fog blanketing the lake basin. We waited for the fog to burn off and then looked away from the lake, west to a tall dead tree with a large stick nest in the top. There they were, one on the nest and one standing guard. What a sight they were! For once Jim believed me (he tends to doubt my identification of any bird less obvious than adult bald eagles). The nesting tree is far enough away that a scope provides a more spectacular view of the eagles than binoculars alone. Even if you don't have a scope, the word is out that the eagles have landed; you will probably find a phalanx of telescopes trained on the nest, one of which you can surely use. Seeing the eagles at their nest is a joy all its own; their return to San Diego County after an absence of 70 years is an extra measure of satisfaction and proof positive that the Endangered Species Act, itself in danger of being gutted by ideologues in Congress, is working effectively.

**TUESDAY:** Andy Mauro, Diane Nygard and I attended a "public scoping meeting" (?) to learn more about what McMillan Land Development Company is planning for the quarry alongside Hwy 78 a few miles up Buena Vista Creek from our beautiful lagoon. Right now it doesn't look good. The project at present maximizes development opportunities at the expense of nature.

In an area that includes a graceful waterfall (El Salto), rocky pools, lots of Luiseno Indian and early California history, a wide swath of scarce and valuable riparian habitat could be restored. Instead the developers are planning for large concrete building pads, an unnecessary road crossing, an enormous grouted concrete riprap drop structure, grouted rock slopes adjacent to the waterfall a la Splash Mountain in Disneyland, and a far too narrow floodplain and buffer zone.

In the next few years we have the opportunity to create a magnificent open space corridor from the coastal mouth of Buena Vista Lagoon inland as far as the waterfall near College Blvd. Years of effort to restore Buena Vista Lagoon are speeding up; negotiations are in their final stages for the Coastal Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Board to purchase 132 acres of habitat along Buena Vista Creek between the lagoon and the quarry. Now we must ensure that the quarry site is reclaimed and restored in an environmentally sensitive way, one which promotes an attractive natural corridor alongside the HWY 78 approach to

the cities of Oceanside and Carlsbad. We can make it happen. We are very lucky to have BVAS member Diane Nygard watching out for Buena Vista Creek with an eagle eye. She needs all the support we can muster.

**FRIDAY:** Our monthly BVAS board meeting turned into something like a pep rally for sales personnel when Tom Troy showed us the Ruddy Duck Club packet. The club, as explained elsewhere in the Flyer, is Tom's idea to convince local business owners and corporate execs to contribute at least \$100 to Buena Vista Audubon. The promotional materials in the packets were beautifully worked up by our techno-whiz Suzann Spann. Way to go Tom and Suzann!!! If you know of a good prospect, stop by the Nature Center, pick up a Ruddy Duck Club packet and go out there and sell, sell, sell! You'll find these packets will make it easy: business owners and corporate executives will be lining up to join this exclusive club in support of BVAS activities and programs. Go Team BVAS!

**SATURDAY:** BVAS hosted Audubon board members from chapters all over Southern California at the Nature Center. I bragged about the successes of our 19 volunteer Nature Guides (they're all booked up from now through April), the launching of our Ruddy Duck Club, the effectiveness of Andy Mauro's efforts to keep our members and the public informed and aware of conservation issues, and that we have a board of directors here at Buena Vista Audubon that would make any president look good. Other chapter reps bragged but I don't think they had as much to brag about as we did. The day-long meeting also considered issues of concern, one of which is the deadliness to birds of wind turbines. Between 30 and 130 golden eagles a year are killed in the wind farms of Altamont Pass near the Bay Area. Nobody knows how many songbirds are killed in turbines rotating at 120mph in winds of 40 mph; any bird weighing less than a pound is just pulverized. Obviously in a world of rising petroleum prices we need more wind energy, but we need to do a better job of locating wind farms away from migratory flyways.

Well - it was an unusually busy week for your president. Look elsewhere in the Flyer for lots more information that doesn't necessarily feed your president's delusions of grandeur.

Spring is rapidly approaching, the best birding time of the year. So get out there, visit the bald eagles if you can but if you can't, keep an eagle eye on your backyard. You may well have a chance encounter with a bird that will brighten your day

Best birding,

Dennis Huckabay

## March Field Trips

**Sat - Mar 4 - 8:00 am - Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count.** - I-5 to 76. Turn left at Douglas and continue to light at North River Rd. Turn left and meet at end cul-de-sac by entrance gate. 48 different species were counted last month. Leader: John Haddock, 760 941-7842

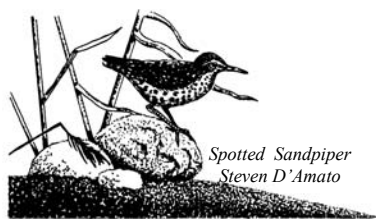
**Sat - Mar 11 - 9:00 am - San Elijo Lagoon.** I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe. West to N. Rios Ave. Turn right and proceed to end of road. Leader: Andy Mauro, 760-753-1266

**Sun - Mar 12 - 9:00 am -Famosa Slough.** I-5 to I-8 west to beaches. At end of freeway, turn left on Nimitz. Turn left again on W. Point Loma Blvd. Proceed about a mile. Watch for Slough on right. Turn on Famosa Ave and Park on Street. Trip Leader - David Kimball. For information, contact Mary Ellen 760-918-6622.

**Sat - Mar 18 - 8:30 am -Mast Park (Santee) & Lindo Lake (Lakeside).** I-5 South to Hwy. 52 East. Exit at Mission Gorge Rd. Turn left on Mission Gorge Rd. and continue to Carlton Hills Blvd. Turn left and Mast Park will be on your right approx. a block or two. Meet in parking lot. Restrooms available. Leader: Doug Dunn 760-781-1227.

**Sat - Mar 25 - 8:00 am - Buena Vista Lagoon Count.** I-5 to 78 East. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and take another immediate right onto Lagoon View Dr. Leader: Joan Fountain 760-729-1379

**Sat - Mar 25 - 8:30 - 10:30 am Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing.** I-5 to 78. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and go to stop light. Turn right and park in Landing parking lot on the right hand side of road. Contact person: Tom Troy 760-967-6915.



### Field Notes...

Our Guajome Park walk on Jan.21 was quieter than usual, but did yield just over 30 species. Of the ducks, the Northern Shovelers, Ruddys and Redheads were the stand-outs. A male and female Phainopepla gave us good looks as they whistled back and forth. Flitting Bell's Vireo, Orange-crowned Warblers, and Ruby-crowned Kinglets kept us busy with identifications throughout the morning.

At Whelan Lake on Feb. 4th, we had a visiting group of five birders from Santa Barbara Audubon join us. We identified over forty-eight different birds. One of these birds led to a lively discussion and much comparing of field marks from our different guide books. After getting two wonderful looks through our scopes in various perch positions, we all agreed that it was a Sage Thrasher. He was our rare find of the day.

Mary Ellen Marquand

### Kern River Valley Trip

April 21-23, 2006

Our Kern River Valley Trip is filling fast. If you want to join us for a birding excursion at the Kern River Preserve and beyond with well-known leader, Bob Barnes, please sign up soon. We will carry a waiting list until all fees are in. Reminder for those who have signed up: \$50 non-refundable reservation fee due by March 24, and full payment of \$160 (\$50 added for single occupancy room) by April 14. You will be receiving a letter of confirmation and further details of the trip upon full payment. Checks can be made out to Buena Vista Audubon Society, P.O. Box 480, Oceanside, Ca. 92049 or brought in to the office at our center. Please contact Mary Ellen Marquand if you plan to car pool or have questions. 760-918-6622.

## MARCH GENERAL MEETING

### BIRDING SAN DIEGO: THE MYSTERY AND MAGIC

Speaker: Barbara Moore

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

Social: 7pm; Lecture: 7:30pm

Don't you wish you were a better birder? Have you ever felt frustrated when confronted with an unknown bird? Do you find it overwhelmingly impossible to sort out individual species within the sparrows or sandpipers? Have you been struggling to simply take that first step in becoming a birder? Don't you find know-it-all birders intimidating? Are you just having trouble understanding your spouse's obsession with birds?

Our March meeting is designed to help you learn a little more about the magic of being a birder in San Diego County, and give you tips on how to meet your own personal birding challenges. Barbara Moore has been leading bird walks and teaching birding skills workshops for many years in San Diego. Her weekly field birding classes held at birding hotspots throughout the county have become a friendly tradition for a large group of regular participants. Her gentle style of teaching puts beginners at ease, while her vast knowledge of San Diego's bird life carries lessons for even the most passionate of birders. Barbara is programs manager for the Chula Vista Nature Center, and co-author of Walking San Diego, a guide to the many hiking trails around our county.

Come join us, and put all those fears of the flying to rest.

## **BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB**

The Plant Club will meet on Sunday, March 19, at 2pm for the regular monthly meeting. The club meets the 3rd Sunday of each month at the BVAS Nature Center. The meetings are free and open to the public.

### **Monthly Nature Center Grounds Cleanup**

Join us on the first Saturday of every month from 8-10am. We will do hand weeding and pick up trash around the Nature Center and along the trail. Bring your hat, gloves, sunscreen and hand gardening tools. We'll look forward to seeing you on February 4th.

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

### **Spring Native Plant Sale Saturday, March 11, 9am – 4pm**

The sale will be at the Tree of Life Nursery located at 33201 Ortega Highway – 7 miles east of San Juan Capistrano on Ortega Highway (Highway 74). Enter at the green gate on the north side of the highway. For more information, please contact the Tree of Life Nursery at [www.treeoflifenuresery.com](http://www.treeoflifenuresery.com), or 949-728-0685

Books, posters, seeds and free advice will also be available. CNPS members will be available to help you choose plants and give free native plant gardening advice. Some of the proceeds benefit the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

info@cnpsd.org , www.cnpsd.org, 619-685-7321 (voice mail)

**Imagine being able to attract beautiful birds and butterflies to your yard and save water at the same time!**

## ***San Diego County Native Plants, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, including the flora of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park*** **by James Lightner**

Usually the original is better than the sequel, but I guess that is only true for movies. For James Lightner's second book, the second edition of *San Diego County Native Plants*, is a major improvement over the first edition. It features more than 1,000 native and naturalized species and can be your field guide from the coast to the desert. Multiple images of each plant, including close-ups and whole plant shots, help the botany student identify plants. For the amateur botanist or avid nature-lover, the expanded introduction provides important background information on the county to get you started and keep you hooked on our fascinating native plants. There is a detailed list of where to find San Diego native plants, a brief introduction to plant taxonomy, and some information explaining the threat of invasive non-native plants. It also includes a glossary with diagrams to explain the botanical terms. Another great addition is the geographical key telling where the plant is generally found and specific information to help distinguish it from closely related plants. For the entomologist or organic gardener looking to attract more insects to their garden, there is an index of birds, insects and spiders shown in the photos – including more than 30 local butterflies. The native plant historian will be delighted with the expanded index of pioneering botanists. The second edition includes useful information for the amateur or professional botanist and the avid nature-lover. It is available for purchase from the gift shop at the Nature Center. It is also available through the bookstore at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

*Written by Carolyn Martus, president of the San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society*

### **BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD AND CHAIRS**

President	Dennis Huckabay	757-6437	Publicity	Carol Roberts	439-6244
Vice-President	Andy Mauro	753-1266	Taxidermy	Joyce Anderson	746-3995
Secretary	Open		Volunteers	Judy Wilson*	439-3649
Treasurer	Andy Mauro	753-1266	Webmaster	Larry Spann	231-9709
Director	Bill Fischer	435-0046	Audubon Adventures	JoAnne Schontzler	431-0953
Director	Bill Jones	944-1775	Christmas Bird Ct	Dennis Wysong	754-1264
Director	Tom Troy	967-6915	Flyer Editor &	Suzann Spann*	231-9709
Director	Andy Brumbaugh	434-3334	Membership	email: <a href="mailto:suzann@cox.net">suzann@cox.net</a>	
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	945-8891	Nature Center		439-2473
Conservation	Andy Mauro	753-1266		Tue - Sat 10 am - 4 pm	
Circulation	Mary Jane Roberts*	231-8148		Sun 1pm - 4 pm	
Education	Sue Sharon	757-6461		Closed Monday	
Education	Nancy Miller	929-2869		2202 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside CA	
Field Trips	Doug Dunn*	781-1227		East side of street just north of lagoon bridge	
Field Trips	Mary Ellen Marquand*	918-6622		<b>Mailing Address:</b>	
Native Plant Club and Garden	Joan Bockman*	433-9401		PO Box 480	
Gift Shop	Rosalyn Dong*	806-1430		Oceanside CA 92049-0480	
Library	Norma Handy	634-2120		<b>www.bvaudubon.org</b>	

**RARE BIRD ALERT 619-688-2473**

### 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 \$ 25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 40 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100 \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

*Please bill my VISA card*

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to:**

**Buena Vista Audubon Society**

**P.O. Box 480**

**Oceanside, CA 92054**

### Conservation Corner

BVAS has always tried to take an active role in local conservation issues, but what about the larger national and global issues we all read about every day? The BVAS Conservation Committee regularly writes letters to political leaders and resource agency officials on proposed legislation in such areas as energy policy, global warming, clean air, endangered species, national park management, wetlands protection, etc.

If you would like to become better informed and perhaps lend your voice on issues affecting our global environment, a number of organizations maintain excellent websites detailing current conservation issues in the news. These organizations also provide environmental action alerts by e-mail, with suggestions on how to let your policy makers know how you feel about a matter before them. They also often provide an opportunity for individuals to sign-on to a group letter which has been drafted by the organization's team of environmental scientists. The National Audubon Society has a long history of helping to promote environmental awareness and involvement among its members. Go to their website: [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and click on "Issues & Actions" for more information. Other national organizations whose websites you might like to check out include the National Resources Defense Council at [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org) and the Sierra Club at [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org).

--Andy Mauro, Conservation Chair

#### **San Diego Area Environment Events Calendar**

View the calendar online or sign up for email.

[www.sdeln.org](http://www.sdeln.org)

### Friends of BVAS

BVAS extends our sincere appreciation to the following "Friends" for their recent contributions. Because of your generous support, we are able to continue to offer our programs to thousands of visitors each year. Thanks for your support! We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

*Be sure to identify yourself as a "Friend" to received tax free purchases from the Nature Center gift shop.*

Scott Woods

Marc Ordman

Gervais Pimentel

Miles Katayama

Thanks to the following BVAS members for volunteering at San Diego Audubon's Bird Festival.

Victoria Calhoun

Joan Herskowitz

Mary Ellen Marquand

Andy Mauro

Mary Jane Roberts

ElleSchubert

Ed Weber.

### **Nature Storytime**

#### **for Preschoolers**

**Monday, Mar 27th at 10am**

**BVAS Nature Center**

Such an enthusiastic group of preschoolers at our last storytime! Thanks to the help of Mary Doris Powers, our transition to the craft was smooth and not QUITE so messy this month. Little Bear continues his hibernation in peace in his cave in the big meeting room. Come join us for the fun on the 4th Monday of each month at 10am. For more information, call Mary Ellen. 760-918-6622.

# Lagoon Flyer



BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P O BOX 480  
OCEANSIDE, CA 92049-0480

DATED MATERIAL  
Please Deliver Promptly

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CA 92054

## QUICK CALENDAR

- Mar 3 Board Meeting 9 am
- Mar 4 Whelan Bird Count 8 am
- Mar 4 Garden Clean-up Day 8 am
- Mar 6 Nature Guides 10 am
- Mar 11 San Elijo Walk 9 am
- Mar 11 Native Plant Sale at the Tree of Life  
Nursery 9 am
- Mar 12 Famosa Slough 9 am
- Mar 18 Mast Park & Lindo Lake 8:30 am
- Mar 19 Native Plant Club 2 pm
- Mar 22 General Membership Meeting  
Social 7 pm / Lecture 7:30 pm
- Mar 22 - Beginning Birding Class (Wednesdays  
through Apr 12)
- Mar 25 Basic Birding at the Landing 8:30 am
- Mar 25 Buena Vista Lagoon Count 8:00 am
- Mar 27 Nature Story Time 10:00 am

Barbara Moore  
author, birding instructor and guide, discusses birding  
in San Diego  
at the March General Meeting.  
The public is invited to enjoy this free program.  
Details on page 3

### ***Beginning Birders Class*** ***March 22– April 12*** ***Details inside.***

The *Lagoon Flyer* is published nine times a year.  
Annual non-member subscription is \$10.00.

Moving?

Notify Suzann Spann for address changes  
760-231-9709 Or email [bvaudubon@cox.net](mailto:bvaudubon@cox.net)

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