

# 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 Hlíöberg

## Message from the President...

One of the chores that Audubon chapter presidents have to do every summer is submit annual reports to National Audubon. July 2005 through June 2006 was a good year for Buena Vista Audubon, thanks to all the good will and good work of our merry band of nature guides, volunteers, board members and supporters. Here are some highlights from the year past.

We counted 8559 people using our Nature Center, up from 7417 the year before. Visitors came from all over California, 32 other states and eight foreign countries. Our education programs (enthusiastically staffed by unpaid volunteers) catered to 3346 individuals. Most - 2556 - were schoolchildren taking part in nature walks and talks, but we also offered a monthly nature story time, summer art camps, beginning birding and birding-by-ear classes, and nature programs for nursing homes and special needs groups. We also hosted a recycling presentation and monthly lagoon cleanups. Fifty North County third grade classes now participate in Audubon Adventures - at a cost of \$50 to Buena Vista Audubon per class per year. We obtain these kits from National Audubon and, to the extent that we can afford to, send them on to interested teachers for use in monthly nature education programs.

Our other regular BVAS activities were carried out successfully. These included almost weekly field trips and bird counts, monthly (except July, Aug and Dec) evening programs and the publication of our newsletter the Lagoon Flyer, that was very favorably reviewed by journalism professors in a countrywide newsletter competition sponsored by National Audubon. As we have for so many years, we again conducted our annual Christmas Bird Count and Spring Birdathon. For the second year in a row we combined the Birdathon with America's Birdiest City competition, and again Oceanside placed second nationwide in the small coastal city competition. Conservation Chair Andy Mauro spent countless hours alerting the public to environmental issues affecting us locally and regionally and ensuring that the views of Buena Vista Audubon on these issues were well-known. Thanks to Joan Bockman and the Native Plant Club, the Nature Center gardens continue to flourish. Among other things, the gardens have sprouted impressive identifying signage. (Cont'd on p. 2)



**California Native Plant Sale**  
**Saturday Oct 14th**

See back page of newsletter for details.

## October General Meeting

**The Buena Vista Creek Valley/Sherman Property-  
Another Strip Mall or  
Preserved Forever?**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2006**

**Social: 7pm Lecture: 730 pm**

There is probably no other place in San Diego County with the combination of priceless resources that we have right here in the Valley of Buena Vista Creek. From the sacred El Salto waterfall - a focus for the spiritual life of Native Americans for generations - Buena Vista Creek flows past the historic Marron Adobe. Granted to the Marron family by Mexico in 1842, it is the only rancho in California still in the hands of the descendants of the original owners. The creek runs on through healthy willow riparian wetland - the core of the Sherman Property - that filters sediments and reduces pollutants, greatly benefiting the watershed downstream to the Buena Vista Lagoon. The Sherman Property provides habitat for the endangered California Gnatcatcher and Least Bell's Vireo. Many other bird and plant species listed as sensitive can be found in this critical wildlife corridor. It is a place of rare natural, cultural and historical resources. We now have the opportunity to preserve about half of this valley, the Sherman property, but there is a **deadline of December 23, 2006**. Our October program will focus on the resources of this valley and what we all can do to help preserve it. Speakers include Mel Vernon of the San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians, Shelley Hayes Caron of the Marron family, and Diane Nygaard of Preserve Calavera. A video of Buena Vista Creek Valley filmed by students from Cal State San Marcos will be shown.

If you can't attend the program or birder's hike on the Sherman Property scheduled for Saturday morning, October 28th, there is still lots you can do. Tax deductible donations can be sent to Preserve Calavera at 5020 Night-hawk Way, Oceanside, CA 92056 (note that it is for the Sherman acquisition).

**Special Bird Walk**  
**Sherman Parcel, Buena Vista Creek Valley**  
**Saturday, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, 8 – 11 am**

You are invited to join Buena Vista Audubon and the Sierra Club on a walk through the Sherman Parcel. This is a great opportunity to enjoy this natural and historical site. A \$10 donation is requested in support of the Sherman acquisition. For more details, see the field trip section on page 3.

*Message from the President (continued from page 1)***What was new in 2005-06?**

1. Perhaps most exciting was the establishment of our Ruddy Duck Club, an effort to gain financial support and understanding of our environmental education programs from local businesses. This was board member Tom Troy's idea, and he has devoted hours and hours to organizing and selling it. It has been a great success: launched in March, by the end of our year in June we had enrolled 24 businesses and raised over \$3000.

2. Again thanks to the initiative and perseverance of Tom Troy, we began in November offering basic birding classes at the Lagoon Landing on the last Saturday morning of each month, to coincide with our monthly Buena Vista Lagoon count. Last month Tom initiated 12 novices into the mysteries and pleasures of birding.

3. Our webmaster Larry Spann tremendously improved our website ([www.bvaudubon.org](http://www.bvaudubon.org)) over the course of the year. If you haven't visited it recently, do so. You're in for a treat.

4. Similarly, if you haven't visited our gift shop in the Nature Center for awhile, plan to do your holiday shopping there. Board member Ros Dong has greatly expanded the inventory; sales have increased dramatically.

5. Board member Mary Ellen Marquand organized our first for-fee birding trip, to the Kern River in April. Fifteen of us paid to go, we enjoyed ourselves, spotted 98 bird species and a tidy profit was earned for Buena Vista Audubon. Watch for more such trips in future, to such birding hotspots as southeastern Arizona.

6. Thanks to Ruddy Duck Club member Wild Birds Unlimited in Carlsbad and the efforts of board member Mary Jane Roberts, a humming bird feeder was put into operation at the Nature Center.

7. Board member - now Vice President - Bill Jones sacrificed a lot of time that he could have been birding compiling an archive of 2668 photos (as of June 2006) of 689 North American bird species. Bill expanded the archive to 3187 photos of 720 species over the summer. Only 219 species to go to depict every North American Species on the American Birders' Association checklist.

8. Treasurer and Conservation Chair Andy Mauro made the effort to get the native plant gardens at the Nature Center certified by the National Wildlife Federation as Backyard Wildlife Habitat. An attractively mounted certificate was displayed at the May Open House, when owner/manager Don Everett of Wild Birds Unlimited showed us how to attract birds and butterflies to our backyards.

9. Last and far from least, the Nature Center stepped into the electronic age with the acquisition of a digital projector, laptop, desktop computer and printer, followed by Internet access. Thanks to all you computer geeks - and there were many of you - who helped make this happen!

**What was lost in 2005-06?**

Sue Sharon stepped down after several very successful years as Chair of the Education Committee. We are very proud of our educational programs for children - of all ages - and salute Sue and all her dedicated volunteer Nature Guides. They have built up this public service which we, in all modesty, provide better than anyone else. And for free! Renee Racine has stepped up to replace Sue and together with Nancy Miller will lead our covey of dedicated volunteers to still better nature programs. I hear rumors that a program for sixth graders is being planned.

Stalwarts Larry and Suzann Spann have left us for the Piney Woods of East Texas.

As mentioned above, Webmaster Larry has taken our website to new heights. Fortunately Larry has agreed to continue as our webmaster, at least until his many interests distract him and cause him to focus more closely on his new Texas surroundings. For now Suzann has kindly agreed to continue as editor of the Lagoon Flyer, but it is unthinkable that Suzann will not soon be deeply involved in all sorts of things back there. We will have to find a replacement for her; surprisingly there are some promising possibilities afoot.

Thank you Suzann and Larry. We wish you well and hope that you will soon come back to visit us. We can only hope that in years to come when you do return, you will find Buena Vista Audubon as strong or maybe even stronger than when you left us in 2006.

-Dennis Huckabay

**San Diego Bird Festival**

**February 7 – 12, 2007**

**Keynote Speaker Kevin Karlson**

**Co-Author of "The Shorebird Guide"**

San Diego is famous for the variety of birds attracted to the area's diverse habitats. Last year 186 species were recorded during the festival. In addition to the ever-popular trips to the desert, mountains, seashore and pelagic trips this year there will be two overnight opportunities to bird in northwestern Baja California. There will be a behind-the-scenes tour of San Diego Natural History Museum's avian collection and a bonus bird walk in Balboa Park with Phil Unitt, the museum's curator of birds and mammals. Fourteen workshops will include Birding by Ear, Shorebird ID with Kevin Karlson, and Butterfly ID with Mike Klein, Gardening for Birds and the very popular Raptor Rap. A day-long digiscoping workshop with Clay Taylor including in-field application is featured. The optic and vendor fair will be Friday thru Sunday. For information and registration go to [www.sandiegoaudubon.org](http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org) or call 619-682-7200.

If you would like to help during the festival please call Ann Hannon 760-602-0030 or [afhannon@sbcglocal.net](mailto:afhannon@sbcglocal.net).

## October Field Trips

**Sat – Oct 7 - 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. Leader: John Haddock, 760 941-7824 (*In October, the count will revert to the usual 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month.*)

**Sat – Oct 14 - 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

**Sat - Oct 21 - 8:00 am - San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary.** After birding the Sanctuary we will have a picnic lunch at Huntington Gardens Park, do some birding there, and bird Bolsa Chica in the afternoon. Bolsa Chica has recently been opened to the ocean-should be interesting to see the changes this will bring. Should return by 4:00 pm. Directions: 5 to 405 north to Jamboree Rd. Go south, turn Lt. at 1st signal-Michelson. Continue on Michelson to riparian Vista-Turn Rt.-follow signs to Wildlife Sanctuary. Meet at Sea and Sage Audubon House at 8am. Call Andy B. at 760-434-3334 for further info and car pooling. Car pooling should leave Nature Center by 7 am.

**Sat – Oct 28 - 8-11 am - Special Buena Vista-Sierra Club Birder Walk on the Sherman Parcel, Buena Vista Creek Valley.** The Sherman Property is 134 acres of open space upstream from Buena Vista Lagoon that we are trying to preserve for its great biological, cultural, and historical value. At 78, take College Blvd. south one block and then go west on Haymar Drive past the Nissan dealer to the Marron Adobe. A ten dollar donation is requested in support of the Sherman acquisition. Leader: Andy Mauro

**Sat – Oct 28 - 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 – Oct 28 - 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.

***Heavy rain cancels field trips.***

**Birders of all skill levels are always welcome to join us!**



*Hooded Merganser by Daniel S. Kilby*

### Continued Cooperation between Buena Vista Audubon Society (BVAS) and Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation (BVLf)

For many years Petey Tade represented BVAS on the board of our sister organization, the BVLf. For some time now I have been standing in for Petey at their monthly board meetings, and I have recently been asked to take on Petey's place on their board.

The BVLf was established in 1981 to conserve and restore Buena Vista Lagoon; to coordinate the efforts of individuals, groups and government agencies involved with the lagoon; to stabilize the drainage basin of the lagoon; to acquire by gift or purchase environmentally sensitive lands within or adjacent to the lagoon; and to promote public awareness of the benefits and beauty of the lagoon.

Long-time BVLf President Reg Antle also chairs the Buena Vista Lagoon Joint Powers Committee, whose meetings at the Nature Center every other month or so are open to the public. Members of the committee consist of city council members from Oceanside and Carlsbad, supported by their professional staffs. Usually attending is Kim McGee from California Fish and Game and a representative from the County Vector Control Department. Reg knows more than most anyone else about the progress

of plans to restore Buena Vista Lagoon, so meetings of both the BVLf board and the Joint Powers Committee are always informative.

For some time now the choices for restoring Buena Vista Lagoon have been perceived to be between freshwater, as is the case now, a mix of fresh and salt water, or a saltwater lagoon open to tidal flushing. Since the Buena Vista Lagoon Ecological Reserve is run by Cal Fish & Game, they will be the ones to decide the chosen alternative. It seems likely that Fish & Game will opt for saltwater as the best environmental choice, so the choice will most likely not be between fresh and salt but between a deep saltwater lagoon similar to Bataquitos or a shallow one more like San Elijo.

An engineering study of the various options for restoring the lagoon will soon be completed. Then the Environmental Impact Review process starts. Later this year or early next year public meetings will be held to present the various options and to obtain public participation in the environmental review process. While that process lurches

*(cont'd on page 4 - BVLf)*

**BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB**

.Please join us on October 15 at 2 pm and learn more about the beautiful, drought tolerant plants that are native to our area. The BVNPC always meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the Nature Center. All meetings are free and open to the public.

***Thank you!!***

Special thanks go out to the following for Audubon Adventures classroom sponsorships:

- Joanne Schontzler (Joanne also serves as our Audubon Adventures chairperson.)
- Miles Katayama (Miles is sponsoring his wife's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class at the San Luis Rey school.)

***You are making a difference!***

(cont'd from page 3) **BVLF**

forward over the next 4 to 5 years, CalTRANS will proceed with its plans to widen Interstate 5 to 10 lanes in each direction for 20 miles between Oceanside and Del Mar to accommodate 400,000 cars a day by 2009, up from 260,000 a day at present. CalTRANS may pony up as much as \$800,000,000 to mitigate environmental damage along that 20 mile stretch; perhaps as much as \$200,000,000 will be earmarked for restoration of Buena Vista Lagoon. Work might well begin within 5 years!

To promote closer ties between BVAS and BVLF, the foundation has mailed the latest issue of its newsletter, The Gathering Call, to readers of the Lagoon Flyer.

- Dennis Huckabay

**Monthly Nature Center Grounds Cleanup**

Join us on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month from 8-10am as we do hand weeding and trash removal at the Nature Center. Remember to bring your hat, gloves, sunscreen and hand gardening tools.

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



**RUDDY DUCK CLUB**

*The following businesses are supporters of BVAS through their membership in the Ruddy Duck Club. Help us show our appreciation by stopping by and saying "Thanks for Supporting BVAS". If you would like to become a member of the Ruddy Duck Club, please contact Tom Troy at 760-967-6915*

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Anderson's La Costa Nursery       | North County Radiology                  |
| Beach Break Café                  | North County Times                      |
| Bob Baker Volkswagen-Subaru       | Oceanside Photo & Telescope             |
| Carlsbad Paddle Sports            | Pelly's Fish Market and Cafe            |
| Carlsbad Inn Beach Resort         | The Printery                            |
| Cream of the Crop Deli and Market | Rorick Buick and Cadillac               |
| Hatter and Associates             | Scott T. Woods Contracting & Remodeling |
| Hoehn Honda                       | Seth R Sharon, Prudential CA Realty     |
| Hunter Steak House                | Wild Bird Center - Encinitas            |
| I Love Life Window Cleaning       | Wild Birds Unlimited - Carlsbad         |
| Jón Baldur Hliöberg Art           | Worldwide Express                       |
| Longboarder Café                  |   |
| 101 Café                          |   |

**BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD AND CHAIRS**

President	Dennis Huckabay	757-6437	Webmaster	Larry Spann	larry@spannweb.net
Vice-President	Bill Jones	944-1775	Audubon Adventures	JoAnne Schontzler	431-0953
Secretary	Douglas Schanzenbach		Christmas Bird Ct	Dennis Wysong	754-1264
Treasurer	Andy Mauro	753-1266	Flyer Editor	Suzann Spann	903-769-2927
Director	Doug Dunn	781-1227		email: suzann@spannweb.net	
Ruddy Duck Club	Tom Troy*	967-6915	Nature Center		439-2473
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	945-8891		email: bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net	
Conservation	Andy Mauro	753-1266		Tue - Sat 10 am - 4 pm	
Circulation	Mary Jane Roberts*	231-8148		Sun 1pm - 4 pm	
Education	Renee Racine	635-0867		Closed Monday	
Education	Nancy Miller	929-2869		2202 S. Coast Hwy, Oceanside CA	
Field Trips	Andy Brumbaugh*	434-3334		East side of street just north of lagoon bridge	
Native Plant Club and Garden	Joan Bockman*	433-9401		<b>Mailing Address:</b>	
Gift Shop	Rosalyn Dong*	806-1430		PO Box 480	
Membership	Open	429-2473		Oceanside CA 92049-0480	
	email: bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net			<b>www.bvaudubon.org</b>	
Library	Norma Handy	634-2120		<b>Email: bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net</b>	
Publicity	Judy Wilson*	439-3649		<b>RARE BIRD ALERT 619-688-2473</b>	
Programs	Dennis Huckabay	757-6437		* Board Members	
Taxidermy	Joyce Anderson	746-3995			
Volunteers	Mary Ellen Marquand*	918-6622			

**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**

**November Ballet: Vote NO on 90**

Leading conservation groups are united in their opposition to Proposition 90 on this November's California ballot. Hidden in the fine print of this measure are provisions that would significantly erode our ability to pass laws that protect natural resources, support wildlife and habitat, ensure water quality and adequate water supplies, and regulate growth and development. This measure is being sold as eminent domain reform, but its real agenda appears to be strictly anti-environment.

Proposition 90 would encourage lawsuits claiming a new law or regulation has impacted the value of private property, no matter how far-fetched the claim. Under Prop 90, even new decisions reached under long-standing land use and environmental protection laws would be subject to excessive claims for compensation based on the most hypothetical high-value land uses that a landowner might envision. Taxpayers would be burdened with millions of dollars in extra legal fees and settlement costs in order to continue to protect coastal wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, old growth forests, endangered plants and animals, and natural open space.

Buena Vista Audubon Society is a member of the California Resource Network, a coalition of 23 environmental land trusts and conservation groups in San Diego County who are urging a **NO vote on Proposition 90**. Please help protect California's precious natural heritage.

*Note: As a 501 c-3 non-profit corporation, BVAS may not endorse individual political candidates or parties. We are, however, allowed to take positions on propositions placed before the voters. We urge our members to educate themselves on the various candidates and propositions on this November's ballot, and cast your vote in support of the environment. More information can be found on-line from the League of Women's Voters at <http://ca.lwv.org> and the League of Conservation Voters at [www.ecovot.org](http://www.ecovot.org).*

--Andy Mauro, Conservation Chair

**Preschool Nature Storytime**

Welcome back old friends and new! The children related their summer experiences, and we talked about time spent at the beach and all the fascinating creatures that live in the ocean. Our story and craft revolved around these sea wonders. Please join us this month with your 3-5yr.old on Monday, Oct.23, at 10:00am as we explore more of our natural world. (There are 5 Mondays this month-please remember we always meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Mon. ) Mary Ellen 760-918-6622

**S.O.S**

- Who:** More volunteer Hosts/Hostesses
- What:** Greet visitors, Learn more about BVAS, Help keep our doors open!
- Where:** Buena Vista Audubon Center  
Oceanside, California
- When:** Mornings - 10:00am-1:00pm or Afternoons - 1:00-4:00pm
- How:** Meet with Mary Ellen Marquand for an orientation, and sign-up for 1 or more shifts a month. Questions? 760-918-6622

**EARTH CHARTER SUMMIT 2006**

**Environmental Fair**

**MiraCosta College, Oceanside**

**Saturday, Oct 7, 9 - 5**

**A FREE event for the entire community!**

Be sure and visit the booth BVAS will be sharing with the Sierra Club and Preserve Calavera. For more info, visit [www.earthchartersandiego.org/index.html](http://www.earthchartersandiego.org/index.html)

# Lagoon Flyer



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

DATED MATERIAL  
Please Deliver Promptly

NON-PROFIT  
ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #193  
OCEANSIDE,  
CA 92054

## QUICK CALENDAR

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Oct 6  | Board Meeting 9 am                              |
| Oct 7  | Garden Clean-up Day 8 am                        |
| Oct 7  | Whelan Bird Count 8 am                          |
| Oct 7  | Earth Charter Summit                            |
| Oct 9  | Nature Guides 10 am                             |
| Oct 14 | San Elijo Walk 9 am                             |
| Oct 14 | Native Plant Sale                               |
| Oct 15 | Native Plant Club 2 pm                          |
| Oct 21 | San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary<br>Walk 8 am     |
| Oct 23 | Nature Story Time 10:00 am                      |
| Oct 25 | General Membership Meeting 7 pm                 |
| Oct 28 | Sherman Property/Buena Vista Creek Walk<br>8 am |
| Oct 28 | Buena Vista Lagoon Count - 8 am                 |
| Oct 28 | Basic Birding at the Landing - 9 am             |

---

*Buena Vista Audubon online*  
**www.bvaudubon.org**

## Native Plant Sale

**Balboa Park, Casa del Prado Courtyard,  
San Diego**

**Saturday October 14**

**Open to CNPS members 9:15 am – 2 pm**

**Open to Public 10 am – 2 pm**

***Come early for best selection-Come late for best deals!***

**For more info – [plantsale@cnpssd.org](mailto:plantsale@cnpssd.org)  
or 619-685-7321**

**Sponsored by and benefiting the San Diego Chapter of the  
California Native Plant Society**

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

Moving?

For address changes call 760-439-2473

Or email [bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net)

Printed on Recycled Paper  
By The Printery, Carlsbad CA

