

# 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

### Backyard Barn Owls

#### Build a box and they will come....

**Presenters: Bert and Sharon Kersey**

**Date: Wednesday, May 25, 2005**

**Time: Social 7pm, Presentation 730pm**

Come take a look at one of our most beneficial birds with videographers Bert and Sharon Kersey, who have been hosting a pair of barn owls in their Fallbrook backyard for the last ten years.

Follow four little owlets from their first meal in winter through a comical "flight school" in spring. Barn owls rid our neighborhoods of thousands of rodents every year, and what goes on in the dark of night will amaze you.

Learn about owl pellets too and how to build your own backyard owl box.

In 2004 "Backyard Barn Owls" was judged the Video of the Year by North County Videomakers and Best Educational Video at the San Diego County Fair

*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.*

## Painted Lady

We recently experienced a large number of butterflies flying through the area in a northerly direction. The butterfly is called the Painted Lady. It is considered by most entomologists to be the most widespread butterfly in the world, as it is found on every continent but Antarctica.

The butterfly is found year round in small numbers in the Sonora Desert and nearby areas. In years of abundant winter rains, host plants for the larval stage become very abundant, allowing for a population explosion. At the same time, the rains result in an abundance of plants that provide nectar for the adult stage.

Favorite host plants for the larvae are malva, nettle, fiddleneck, lupine and thistle. As the weather warms up in March, host plants dry up in the deserts, and adults spread outward until the entire United States experiences their presence. However, they are unable to tolerate cold weather, so most of North America is devoid of the butterfly from first heavy frosts until spring.

Here in California, we see the adults all flying in a northerly direction as warm weather dries up host plants to the south. The adults may be seen nectaring on flowering plants during their northward journey. Most experts do not class these flights migratory in nature but rather dispersal flights. Many insects make dispersal flights, but few are as dramatic as those of the Painted Lady.

*Dave Dyer*

## KIDS ART & NATURE CAMP

JULY 2005

Registration is now open. See the Education Committee article on page 4 for more details.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS AT MAY  
GENERAL MEETING - PROPOSED SLATE ON PAGE 5**

## What should be done with the Buena Vista Lagoon?

The conservation mission of Buena Vista Audubon Society, as well as the location of our nature center on the edge of Buena Vista Lagoon, dictates a keen interest in any restoration plan ultimately approved for the lagoon.

A recent study shows that returning the wetlands to a saltwater estuary and marsh would best meet the habitat and wildlife preservation goals of an ecological reserve. The saltwater alternative would maximize species diversity, overall habitat value, and protection of endangered species. It would recreate one of the most critically impacted habitats in California, the coastal salt marsh. And, as Audubon members, we can attest that existing waterfowl would readily accept the conversion of the lagoon to a saltwater estuary.

The saltwater alternative would also best meet several other stated goals of the community at large. These include mosquito abatement, reed reduction, and beach sand replenishment.

The study states a saltwater alternative would provide the greatest gain in habitat value per dollar of expenditure. Extra cost to keep the mouth of the lagoon open to the ocean would be largely offset by the significant economic and recreational value of the dredged sand. The annual dredge spoils would provide a regular natural source of sand replenishment for local beaches.

Historically, Buena Vista Lagoon was a natural estuary where the fresh water of Buena Vista Creek met and mixed with the salt water of the ocean. This natural connection to the ocean allowed for the cleansing effect of regular tidal flushing of the lagoon, the movement of sand downstream for deposit on our beaches, and the

use of the lagoon by a multitude of ocean organisms that rely upon the estuary for a portion of their life cycle. Many years ago a decision was made to dam off the lagoon from the ocean and turn it into a freshwater reservoir.

Over 90% of coastal wetlands have been lost in California. All of the plants and animals that rely on this habitat are now relegated to the small amount of saltwater marsh that remains. While freshwater lakes are relatively easy to replicate, a coastal salt marsh is a limited resource which can only exist in proximity to the ocean.

A restored saltwater estuary would have great visual appeal to the general public. Residences overlooking existing coastal salt marsh land are among the most sought-after properties in the state. A dredged-out central channel would provide an open water view over much of the lagoon.

Finally, we believe mitigation funding would most likely only be available for a project which restored a saltwater estuary and marsh at Buena Vista Lagoon. The selection of either of the other project alternatives would run the risk of not being able to move forward for lack of adequate funds.

For these reasons, we strongly endorse the selection of the saltwater alternative for the proposed restoration of the lagoon. Let's recapture a bit of our natural heritage by reconnecting our lagoon to the ocean.

Andy Mauro, Conservation Chair

*This article was submitted to the North County Times for the Community Forum.*

### Buena Vista Audubon Joins Conservation Resource Network

Buena Vista Audubon was officially voted in as a charter member of CRN at its annual meeting in March. Also voted in was the San Diego chapter of California Native Plant Club. CRN members now include a total of 26 separate non-profit, conservation-oriented organizations operating throughout San Diego County.

Among other things, CRN serves as an advocacy and education voice on conservation issues within the county. A major function will be monitoring and participating in the implementation of TransNet mitigation funding for habitat acquisition and enhancement. Additional services being developed for member organizations include resource/land management consulting, land acquisition assistance, staff training, grant procurement and identification of other funding opportunities, and technical and administrative resources for non-profits.

### Easy to Grow California Native Plants Showy Island Snapdragon (*Galvezia speciosa*)

Native to the canyons of the Channel Islands, this evergreen shrub with light green leaves grows to 3' tall and 5' wide. Since its tubular scarlet flowers attract hummingbirds, plant it within viewing distance of a window or patio seat. Showy island snapdragon assumes a happy round shape, but can also spread on a slope or be trained on a trellis – it's one of the lowest maintenance plants you can have in your garden. A smaller version, *G. speciosa* 'Firecracker', grows about 3' tall and 3' wide.

Plant in full sun; in hottest areas, give it part shade. *Galvezia* thrives in any well-drained soil, and needs little water once established. Easy to propagate from cuttings. Although the best bloom time is April to May, it frequently blooms in cycles throughout the year. After it flowers, brown seeds remain on the shrub; prune these for a tidier appearance or leave them for birds to discover.

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

## May Field Trips

**Sat - May 7 - 8:00 am - Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count.** This month should be a good opportunity to see warblers. A Black-throated Gray was spotted last month. The Red-tail nestlings should be ready to fledge. East on 76 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



*Eared Grebe  
by Daniel S. Kilby*

**Sat - May 14 - 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

**Sun - May 15 - 8:00 am - Batiquitos Lagoon.** Leader- Steve Brad. Steve has invited us to join Sea n' Sage Audubon as he leads a walk at Batiquitos. Take I-5 to Aviara/Poinsettia exit. Go east to Batiquitos Dr. Turn right and take the next right on Gabianno. Go to end and park on cul-de-sac. Meet at entrance to trail and Nature center.

**Sun - May 22 - 7:30am - Camp Pendleton Marine Base.** Leader: Bill Berry, base wildlife biologist. Birders are requested to have a valid photo I.D., and car registration and insurance with them. We will meet at the West gate off I-5. Going North on I-5 take the next exit (54B in Thomas Guide) after the exit to Hwy 76. Proceed to gate at Vandergrift Blvd. There will be parking on the right after you enter. We will meet there and arrange carpools if necessary. Mary Ellen Marquand (760)918-6622

**Sat - May 28 - 8:00 am - Buena Vista Lagoon Count.** Counters are needed to ensure complete data can be collected each month. 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

## FIELD NOTES...

**Anza-Borrego Bird & Plant Walk** - The combined Anza-Borrego trip with our bird group and plant club began with 21 hardy souls ready to contend with the 92 degree heat in order to spot birds and revel in blooming desert plants. Due to time of day and the heat, our birders did not have many bird sightings. However, the plant club, led by the park's botanist, Larry Henrickson, viewed many wonderful desert blooms. The drive to and from Borrego Springs was particularly beautiful thanks to all the winter rains.

*Mary Ellen Marquand*



*John Top??*

**Big Morongo Canyon Preserve Birding Trip, 9 Apr 05** Nine Buena Vista folks had a very good birding experience at the BMCP. Dee Zeller, the Preserve Ranger, took us on an interesting and productive four hour walk to see some beautiful birds, plants and flowers. About 10 other birders joined the walk. The weather was cool and clear and the birds were plentiful. We saw 43 species. The Lawrence's Goldfinch, Nashville Warbler, Virginia Rail, Myrtle Warbler, Gambel's Quail and Ash-throated Flycatcher were among the stand-outs.

Of particular interest were the nests and young of the Annas Hummingbird, Hooded Oriole, Vermillion Flycatcher and Phainopepla. A Preserve favorite and bold Western Scrub Jay landed on John Top's hat, then begged some trail mix from some generous birders.

We stayed at the Yucca Inn Friday night. The Inn gives a \$10 discount to birders if they present a card provided by the Preserve Ranger. The Inn was also good enough to open the restaurant early Saturday morning to accommodate our need for an early breakfast.

Friday evening most of us went to the Las Palmas Mexican restaurant in Yucca Valley for some good food and serenading by two musicians playing the guitar and harp.

All in all, a pretty good trip.

*Bill Jones*

**BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB**

The next BV Native Plant Club meeting will be Sunday, May 15th, at 2 pm at the Audubon Nature Center. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Native Plant Garden tour was as a great success. More than 50 people turned out to enjoy the walking tour of approximately 10 gardens.

**Monthly Nature Center Grounds Cleanup**

**WHEN:** Saturday May 7, 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 and a friend or two!

**Tuesday Gardening**

Join us at the Nature Center every Tuesday afternoon at 1:30 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.*

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The BVAS Nature Center Library has an excellent selection of books on California native plants.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The calls keep on coming!! The Education Committee is fully booked for tours from April- June and we have stopped taking requests for class visits. However, we will need assistance from Audubon members to assist with tours, since we have so many requests and some of the guides will be away, etc. Please call Sue at 757-6461 if you are available. Most tours are from 10 AM-11:15 and it's as easy as assisting on a trail walk or holding up a raccoon! Even if you could help just once or twice, we would be very appreciative.

The Kids Art & Nature Camp will be held again this summer at the Nature Center in conjunction with the Oceanside Museum of Art. Dates are: Ages 5-6, July 5-9, morning. Ages 7-8, July 11-15, morning. Ages 9-12, July 5-9, afternoon. Children experience a wide variety of art mediums using the beautiful lagoon as inspiration. Registration is from April 1 - June 28 and class size is limited, so reserve your space early. Call Oceanside Museum of Art for more information

*Sue Sharon*

**Little Bear Comes Out of Hibernation!**

Our April storytime had an attendance of 14, and very appropriately, "Little Bear" came out of hibernation. The children had to hunt for him when it was discovered he was not in his cave. The mischievous cub was found hiding above the hands-on science table. Spring is here! Preschoolers nature storytime is on the 4th Monday of each month. There is no charge and the public is invited

**BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD AND CHAIRS**

President	Open		Membership	Suzann Spann	231-9709
Vice-President	Dennis Huckabay	757-6437	Publicity	Carol Roberts	439-6244
Secretary	Suzann Spann	231-9709	Taxidermy	Joyce Anderson*	746-3995
Treasurer	Andy Mauro	753-1266	Volunteers	Petey Tade	438-1058
Director	Dennis Wysong	754-1264	Webmaster	Dana Fore*	721-9579
Director	Bill Fischer	435-0046	Audubon Adventures	JoAnne Schontzler	431-0953
Director	Bill Jones	944-1775	Flyer Editor	Suzann Spann	231-9709
Director	Nestor Ramos	598-7248		email: <a href="mailto:suzann@cox.net">suzann@cox.net</a>	
Director	Tom Troy	757-4563	Nature Center		439-2473
Director	Mary Jane Roberts	231-8148			
Endowments	Andy Mauro	753-1266			
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	945-8891			
Conservation	Andy Mauro	753-1266			
Circulation	Peggy Dyer	945-2163			
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			

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](http://www.bvaudubon.org)

\* Board Members

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

**Highlights of the April BVAS Board Meeting**

- Nominating committee will submit proposed slate for publication in May *Lagoon Flyer*.
- Chapter is operating in accordance with budget
- A scout working toward Eagle rank will be making signage for our native plant garden.
- Bill Fischer, Facility & Space Planning Committee, is working with the City of Oceanside concerning the remaining portion of the grant monies.
- Nature guides are fully booked for April and May. The board extended thanks to Sue Sharon and the education committee for doing an excellent job.
- BVAS has joined the Conservation Resource Network (CRN) as a charter member

**Kitty Garner, Long Time BVAS Volunteer, Dies**

Please excuse any spelling or punctuation errors at the Nature Center. Kitty Garner is no longer there to point them out.

Mrs. Garner was a WAVE in the Navy during World War II. When she returned to San Diego she began her career as a counselor for the San Diego School District. After retirement, she began her life as a volunteer. She volunteered at Tri-City Hospital and also assisted in various retirement homes. In 1994 Buena Vista Audubon was thrilled to get her as volunteer receptionist. In 1995 she became a member of the board and served until she took over as the Nature Center Librarian. She served as our librarian until she moved north to help care for her sister. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to a gracious woman who had the perfect personality for a librarian. The work she put into the library is still evident today. She will be missed by all who knew her.

**Election of Officers and Directors  
May 25<sup>th</sup> General Meeting**

We will be electing new officers and directors at the May general meeting. The proposed slate is listed below.

Officers, June 2005-2006

President: Dennis Huckabay  
 Vice President: Andy Mauro  
 Secretary: Susan Fischer  
 Treasurer: Nestor Ramos

Directors, June 2005-2008

Andy Birnbaum	Bill Jones
Rosalyn Dong	Mary Ellen Marquand
Doug Dunn	Mary Jane Roberts
Bill Fischer	Tom Troy
Dana Fore	

Continuing Directors, 2004-2007

Joan Bockman  
 Suzann Spann  
 Dennis Wysong

Continuing ex-officio Director

Annette Schneider, Nature Center Manager

**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 its local nature programs. Thanks for your support!

Joni Ciarletta  
 Karen Hutchinson  
 Charlotte Rees

**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 \_\_\_\_\_:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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



BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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OCEANSIDE, CA 92049-0480

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## QUICK CALENDAR

May 1	Nature Guides Meeting 10 am
May 3	Gardening at the Nature Center 1:30 pm (Join us each Tue. for gardening)
May 6	Board Meeting 9 am
May 7	Garden Clean-up Day 8 am
May 7	Whelan Bird Count 8 am
May 14	San Elijo Lagoon Walk 9 am
May 15	Batiquitos Lagoon Bird Walk 8 am
May 15	Native Plant Club 2 pm
May 22	Camp Pendleton Walk 8 am
May 23	Nature Story Time 10:00 am
May 25	General Membership Meeting Social 7 pm / Lecture 7:30 pm
May 28	Buena Vista Lagoon Count 8:00 am

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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*...and much more*

## UPCOMING FESTIVALS

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua  
June 17-19, 2005  
760-647-6595 or [birding@monolake.org](mailto:birding@monolake.org)

*Buena Vista Audubon online*  
[www.bvaudubon.org](http://www.bvaudubon.org)

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