

# 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

*April General Meeting*

**Wednesday, April 18**

## **Native Plants in your Garden**

**with Morgan Vondrak**

**7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program**

How does your garden grow? Do you have a nice lawn? Are you into that lush tropical look? Perhaps you're trying to replicate that pretty English garden we all remember from all those old garden design books. Or maybe your garden is a bit of an embarrassment at present, and you'd love a little inspiration. Here in San Diego there's a growing movement focused on incorporating native plants into our gardens. There are a number of different reasons why people first become interested in native plant gardening, and once they've seen the ceanothus bloom, or watched a pair of bushtits building a nest in the toyon, they often become passionate advocates. Our April program will take a look into the world of native plant gardening through the eyes of a professional garden designer.



Morgan Vondrak owns and runs Argia Designs, and serves as its head designer. She is a native San Diegoan and G3 Certified Sustainable Landscape Designer, who has worked and designed with native plants for over ten years.

Come join us at our April meeting, and get inspired!

*"Imagine transforming your yard from a sterile expanse of green to a living paradise full of birds, butterflies, and lizards. Many people are amazed at the diversity of wildlife that arrives in their gardens, even in urban areas. Birds and butterflies aren't the only things that will be attracted, children and adults alike love to explore, and a garden rich in a diversity of plants and animals provides the perfect temptation to get outside and do just that."*

—from the Argia Designs website: [www.argiadesigns.com](http://www.argiadesigns.com)

*Celebrating Earth Day*

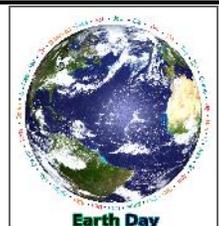
## **NATURE CENTER OPEN HOUSE**

Everyone is invited to the BVAS Open House at the Nature Center on April 21. Planned festivities and simple refreshments will be offered from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be a day before the official Earth Day, 2012, but for a nature-oriented organization like BVAS, it's never felt quite right to single out just one day each year to honor Mother Earth. We're planning a host of nature-oriented activities for the Open House. We'll have stories, crafts, and other activities specially geared toward the younger crowd. A nature art show and sale is also in the works. A mini theater will be set up for visitors to view a series of videos featuring the

plants and animals of the lagoon. Families will be able to pick up their Buena Vista Lagoon Nature Treasure Hunt guides to use along the loop trail. We'll all get the opportunity to have a close encounter with some interesting critters from the lagoon.

The day will also include a special rally in support of the SOS campaign to purchase and preserve more natural open space in our community. There will be displays on hand and a presentation to discuss the need to set aside some important properties for nature. The petition in support of open space acquisition will be available for people to sign.

**SUPPORT MOTHER EARTH!**



## Conservation Matters

**Buena Vista Lagoon Restoration.** The process which hopefully will result in the restoration of Buena Vista Lagoon is now officially back on track. This is the result of a recent decision by state resource officials to move forward with completion of the project's Environmental Impact Report. The change of heart by resource officials came following a formal request by a delegation of local representatives led by Oceanside council member and Coastal Commissioner Esther Sanchez. There is still a question of whether state or local entities will act as the lead agency for the EIR, but the cities of Oceanside and Carlsbad have already pledged to play a more direct role in support of the restoration effort. The impacts of both the saltwater and freshwater restoration alternatives will be fully analyzed in the final EIR. It is widely expected, however, that the final report will reinforce the results of earlier studies and analyses that identified returning the lagoon to a tidal estuary and salt marsh as the preferred alternative. This conclusion may not sit well with certain beachfront homeowners' groups who have been steadfast in opposition to this plan for restoration. One goal of the final EIR will be to find ways to address or mitigate the concerns of those opposed to reestablishing an open inlet between the lagoon and the ocean. Hopefully, the final EIR will ease the fears of the beachfront homeowners and result in support for a restoration that truly maximizes the environmental benefits for Buena Vista Lagoon, the state's first Ecological Reserve.



*Along the Trail at Buena Vista Lagoon*

—John Bryant

### Campaign to Save Open Space in Carlsbad

The Save Open Space campaign (SOS), designed to rally support and bring pressure on the City of Carlsbad to purchase and preserve open space within the city, is moving forward. Volunteers have been making presentations to various civic groups and circulating a petition which will be presented to the Carlsbad City Council. A number of guests at our February Birdhouse Auction event learned more about the campaign and signed the petition. A rally in support of the SOS campaign is scheduled for 1 p.m. during the April 21 Open House at the Nature Center. Speakers will present information and answer questions, and the petition will be available for signing.

Those wishing more information or interested in helping out the campaign are encouraged to email BVAS Conservation Chair Joan Herskowitz: [jmherskowitz@yahoo.com](mailto:jmherskowitz@yahoo.com).

### 2012 Birdhouse Auction Report—

## What a Tweet Event

Several hundred happy and excited people gathered at the Nature Center in February for the second annual BVAS Birdhouse Auction. By the end of the evening, over 100 new birdhouses were sold and are now gracing the homes and gardens of North County. Not only was it good news for our bird friends, but the event raised a little over \$4,000 to help support the Nature Center and various BVAS programs throughout the year. All that, and it was so much fun!

Great food and beverage were provided by our event sponsors—Stone Breweries, Sprouts Markets, Breakwater Brewery, and Jimbo's Naturally. Our favorite band, Endangered Speciez, graced the evening with its smooth jazz. Martha Barnett of NPR's "A Way With Words" again masterfully emceed the live auction.

The top auction item was a fascinating mixed-media creation by artist Sybill Wooton, which brought in a bid of \$230. Second place honors went to artist Kari Lani, whose decorative piece featuring three miniature birdhouses encased in a goose egg attracted a winning bid of \$150. A

beautiful inlaid-wood birdhouse by artist Angela McDowell sold for \$115. The large array of birdhouses available at the auction represented a full spectrum of artistic styles and ingenious craftsmanship. While some birdhouses and bird-related decorator items attracted bids of \$50 or more, guests were generally able to take home their favorites with winning bids that averaged about \$25. All of the birdhouses had their unique charms, and all contributed to the grand total raised at this, our most popular fundraising event.



**Sold for \$230!**

Thank you to all who donated their time and talents to build birdhouses, provided goods or services to the cause, or volunteered in so many ways to make the evening such a great success. A big thank you also, of course, to the many people who generously participated in the auction this year by purchasing a birdhouse or feeder.

We'll see you all next year.

## April Birding and Special Events

### Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count

with John Haddock  
 Saturday, Apr. 7—8 a.m.

Whelan Lake is a bird reserve with a freshwater lake, riparian-edge habitat, grass-covered hillsides, and an oak grove. The varied habitat results in a nice assortment of bird species in all seasons. It is especially noted for its wintering duck populations and interesting sightings during fall and spring migration.

**Directions:** I-5 to Hwy. 76 East, left at Douglas, continue to light at North River Rd., go left on North River Rd. Pass through the entrance gate and follow the signs to the lake.

Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.



### Camp Pendleton Bird Walk

with Jeff Coker (assisted by Steve Brad)  
 Saturday, Apr. 7—7:40 a.m.

Join us for our once-a-year birding trip to Camp Pendleton. This is your chance to get guided on base by a couple of experienced birders who know just where to go to find some of the most productive birding habitat. April marks the return of interesting summer species like blue grosbeaks and lazuli buntings. We'll visit the herons and great egrets at their nesting colony, look for grebes tending their chicks at the lake, and check out the small remaining population of coastal cactus wrens that nest on the base. There will be lots to see.

We'll meet at 7:40 a.m. at the BVAS Nature Center (2202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside), quickly divide up into car pools (required for our the trip onto the base), and plan to be on the road to Camp Pendleton by 8 a.m. Please be on time!  
 Contact: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639; [stevebrad1@earthlink.net](mailto:stevebrad1@earthlink.net).  
 (Cell phone will also be turned on April 7: 760-274-5256.)



### Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count

with Joan Fountain  
 Saturday, Apr. 28—8 a.m.



Become a citizen scientist! Join the regular monthly bird survey team and get to know the Buena Vista Lagoon. This monthly bird survey has been conducted by BVAS for many years, and our extensive database of bird sightings will be a factor for consideration as officials continue to study the best approach for managing, maintaining, and restoring this ecological reserve.

**Directions:** I-5 to I-78 East, take Jefferson St. exit, turn right and make another right turn onto Lagoon View Dr. Park along road at cul-de-sac.

Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

### Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing

with Tom Troy  
 Saturday, Apr. 28—8:30 a.m.



Are you interested in learning a little more about the birds of our lagoon? Join the friendly group of fledgling birders that regularly turn out for Tom Troy's basic birding class at Buena Vista Lagoon on the last Saturday of each month. Everyone is invited to join the class for some informal, no-pressure birding and lots of friendly tips.

**Directions:** I-5 to I-78 East. From I-78, take Jefferson St. exit and turn right. At the light on Jefferson St. turn right again. Make an immediate right turn into the BVL Landing parking lot. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

### Pelagic Birding Website

Tips, Pics, and Trips

[www.socalbirding.com](http://www.socalbirding.com)

Sponsored by BVAS



## Oceanside Native Plant Garden Tour

Starts at St. Mary's School Parking Lot—515 Wisconsin Street, Oceanside

Sunday, April, 15—2 p.m.



This wonderful, family-friendly event has become an Oceanside favorite, now attracting upwards of 200 people each year. People begin gathering a little before 2 p.m. at the St. Mary's School parking lot at 515 Wisconsin Street in Oceanside. As groups of 10 or so people gather, a volunteer guide leads them off on a leisurely 1.5-mile stroll along the neighborhood, stopping at a number of gardens featuring native plants and usually an interesting assortment of gardening accents. It's a free guided walk, although a donation is requested for a map and plant list. Some people opt to pick up their map and go off on their own self-guided stroll. Neighborhood children set up stands to sell lemonade and other goodies along the way. It's a great excuse to get outdoors, meet some friendly folks, and get some good ideas for your own garden.

Sponsored by the BVAS Native Plant Club and Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association.



## Preschool Nature Storytime

Monday, April 23, 10 a.m.

What is all that croaking about? And who is doing it? Aha! Possibly frogs ... but if so, what kind? Come to our April Nature Storytime and learn about our noisy, slippery friends. We will have songs, games, and a story and craft for the children. If you have any questions please call Mary Ellen at 760-918-6622.



## Follow BVAS on Facebook and Twitter



## BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD\*, AND CHAIRS

President	Dave Billings*	760-753-7925
Vice-President	Dennis Huckabay*	760-757-6437
Secretary	Kathy Billings*	760-753-7925
Treasurer	Sandy McMullen*	760-944-5690
Audubon Adventures	Ruth Gransbery	760-729-2240
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	760-945-8891
Christmas Bird Count	Terry Hunefeld*	760-908-3453
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Conservation Co-Chair	Joan Herskowitz*	760-942-5167
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	E-mail: <a href="mailto:ekindsvater1@gmail.com">ekindsvater1@gmail.com</a> .	
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Field Trips	Andy Brumbaugh	760-434-3334
Field Trip Leader	Steve Brad*	760-633-1639
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Membership	Harvey Hart*	760-945-9601
Native Plant Club	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401
Native Plant Garden	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401
Nature Storytime	Mary Ellen Marquand	760-918-6622
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Pelagic Birding	Terry Hunefeld*	760-908-3453
Programs	Dennis Huckabay*	760-757-6437
Publicity	Kelly Deveney*	760-721-2441
Ruddy Duck Club	Kelly Deveney*	760-721-2441
Volunteers	Bob Crowell*	760-207-3884
Webmaster	Larry Spann: E-mail: <a href="mailto:larry@spannweb.net">larry@spannweb.net</a>	

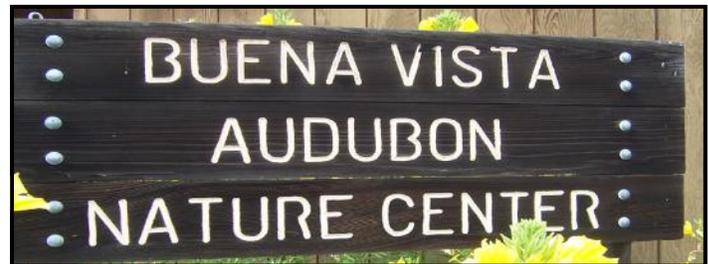
Sign Up Now!

## Summer Nature Camp

It's time to start thinking about the summer! Starting the first week of April, BVAS will begin accepting applications for its popular Summer Nature Camp. We'll be learning all about our Buena Vista Lagoon, from the days of its early indigenous inhabitants to the present day natural world of plants and animals. Camp leaders and Nature Guides will provide lessons, stories, songs, crafts, and walks around our lagoon trail. We'll catch bugs, examine things with our magnifying glasses, and have some live animals for the children to visit up close.



The first week of camp will be June 18--22, and is geared for children from kindergarten through fourth grade. The second week of camp will run from June 25-29, and will be just for the younger children from kindergarten through second grade. Each week-long session will run from Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon. Tuition is only \$80 per child per week. Don't wait too long—our summer camp is very popular.



### Location:

2202 South Coast Hwy.  
Oceanside, CA  
(East side of street on  
north shore of lagoon)

### Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 480  
Oceanside, CA 92049

**Phone:** 760-439-2473

### Hours:

Tuesday-Saturday —  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Sunday—1 p.m.-4 p.m.  
**Closed Monday**

### Website:

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

### E-mail:

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

### Field Trip Hotline:

760-688-0660

## 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. The BVAS Nature Center and its educational programs will receive 100% of my contribution. Minimum donation suggested: \$25.

I would like to donate \$ 25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$ 100 \_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_

Send me info about the BVAS Legacy program.: \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\*Send me my newsletter by e-mail.

### Ruddy Duck Club Membership

My business would like to join the Ruddy Duck Club. Enclosed is our check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. (\$100/year min.) Please send me a Ruddy Duck Club membership packet and certificate. Fill out the contact info on this form.

Please bill my credit card:

Card # \_\_\_\_\_  
CRN \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to:**  
Buena Vista Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 480  
Oceanside, CA 92049

## Buena Vista Native Plant Club

**Sunday, April 15**—The Buena Vista Native Plant Club regularly meets at the Nature Center at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month, except for April. April is set aside for the Annual Oceanside Native Plant Garden Tour (see P. 3).



We encourage everyone to join the garden tour on April 15, regardless of your native plant knowledge or gardening expertise. You're sure to get inspired by the beautiful native gardens on this year's tour, and there will be plenty of knowledgeable native plant people available to answer your questions and give you helpful pointers. For more info, follow the Native Plant Club link at [www.bvaudubon.org](http://www.bvaudubon.org).

## A Shout-Out to Our Volunteers!

Lots of people pitch in to help in so many different ways each month at BVAS. It's such a regular occurrence that sometimes we forget to mention just how indebted we are to all those wonderful folks. This month we'd like to single out the eleven dedicated members who helped welcome and guide the 62 students from El Camino High in March. Our volunteer team consisted of: Annette Schneider, Bob Crowell, Kayla Schoos, Joan Fountain, Arleen Hammerschmidt, Steve Lacy, Ellen Kindsvater, Greg LaFreniere, Leonard Finkel, Mary Matava, and Joan Bockman. Thank you, folks, for all you do.

## El Camino H. S. Visits Nature Center

Early in March, 62 freshman and four teachers from El Camino High School paid a very active and productive visit to the BVAS Nature Center. The students were participating in the Energy Career Pathways Program at the high school, and their visit was designed to teach them some valuable lessons about natural history and working around plants. The students rotated among six different learning and work stations that had been set up by BVAS volunteers. The various activities included a nature walk, a soil science exercise, plant identification and propagation, viewing a real beehive, learning about insects, some basic restoration work, and visiting the exhibits in the Nature Center. The kids were put into groups of ten and labeled with Latin plant names. They then went in search of those plants using plant key techniques. Cuttings were taken from the plants and potted up to be taken back to El Camino High School's greenhouse for further care. Over 60 plants were propagated by the students. The potting soil used by the students was a compost mixture from Oceanside's green waste program, supplied by Agri Service from El Corazon. Also of note, by the end of the



*BVAS Volunteer Coordinator Bob Crowell talks with El Camino High School students at the Nature Center.*

morning the restoration teams had completely filled the BVAS dumpster with weedy grasses!

BVAS was delighted to have the Energy Career Pathways Program students and teachers from El Camino High School visit the Nature Center. We thank the students for their interest and enthusiasm, and we thank the eleven BVAS volunteers who pitched in to make the day such a big success.

—Joan Bockman

*Celebrate Mother Earth*  
**Nature Center Open House**  
**Saturday, April 21**  
**10 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
*Activities, Crafts, Walks, Wildlife,*  
*Nature Art Show, Open Space Rally*



## OPEN SPACE RALLY

SAVE  
OPEN  
SPACE!

AT THE  
**NATURE CENTER**  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 21—1 P.M.

PRESERVE  
BUENA VISTA  
CREEK!



**SIGN THE PETITION!**

## Lagoon Flyer



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

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## BVAS Quick Event Calendar

### April

- Fri. Apr. 6 —Board Meeting—9 a.m.
- Sat. Apr. 7—Whelan Lake Bird Walk—8 a.m.
- Sat. Apr. 7—Camp Pendleton Bird Walk—7:40 a.m.
- Fri. Apr. 13—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
- Sun. Apr. 15—Oceanside Native Plant Garden Tour—2 p.m.
- Wed. Apr. 18 —General Meeting (Native Plant Gardens)—7 p.m.
- Sat. Apr. 21—Nature Center Open House—10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 —Open Space Rally at Nature Center—1 p.m.
- Mon. Apr. 23—**Preschool Nature Storytime**—10 a.m.
- Sat. Apr. 28 —Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
- Sat. Apr. 28—Basic Birding at BVL Landing—8:30 a.m.



*Printed on Recycled Paper*

## Bald Eagle Over Mission Bay

An adult bald eagle was seen and photographed over Mission Bay in March by Gerry Tietje. The bird sported wing tags which identified it as a bird hatched from a nest at Two Harbors on Catalina Island in 2008. The bird was hatched from an egg placed in the nest by wild-life biologists, and successfully raised and fledged by its foster parents.



—Gerry Tietje

The dramatic recovery of the bald eagle from its former critically endangered status is cited as testament to the success of the Endangered Species Act. Several pairs of bald eagles are now nesting in San Diego County, most notably around Lake Henshaw and Lake Cuyamaca. Coastal sightings are still uncommon, however, and cause for excitement.

You can access live camera footage of active eagle nests, including the Two Harbors nest, at this webpage:  
[http://www.iws.org/interactive\\_nestcams.html](http://www.iws.org/interactive_nestcams.html).