

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

March General Meeting

Wednesday, March 14

Tracking Animals in San Diego County with Karen Larsen Gordon

7 p.m. Social—7:30 p.m. Program

We know that San Diego County has a healthy population of wild critters, but when was the last time you actually saw a bobcat in the wild? Come to think of it, how do we know the animals are really out there in the numbers that wildlife biologists claim? The San Diego Tracking Team is a consortium of regional volunteer tracking teams supporting the monitoring of wildlife in San Diego County. In order to regularly verify the presence (or ab-



Karen Larsen Gordon

sence) of certain species that reflect the health of the ecosystem, citizen scientists are recruited and trained to track animals.

Our March program will give you an overview of common animal species found within the county,



Mule Deer

and how you can easily enhance your outdoor experiences by identifying the tracks, scat, and other interesting signs of animals that you encounter along the trail.

Karen Larsen Gordon founded the Friends of Gooden Ranch and Sycamore Canyon Preserve, was a docent at Blue Sky Ecological Reserve for many years, and is currently an active docent for the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy. While exploring nature in San Diego and honing her skills as a naturalist, Karen also developed a particular interest in learning how to read animal tracks and other trail signs. She became very active with the San Diego Tracking Team, and has served as executive director, president, and board member of that organization.

Come join us and learn how to tell what wonderful creatures were walking down the trail last night.

Nature Guide for Dogs

Many dogs enjoy visiting our wonderful natural open space preserves here in the North County. What's not to love? After a week of loafing around the house, a trip out to the fields or along our lagoons promises a lot of excitement. Dogs especially seem to enjoy the intriguing scents carried in the gentle breezes wafting over the chaparral-covered hillsides or our musky wetlands. There's the expectation of exciting nature discoveries around every turn. And past treks have always resulted in chance reunions with old trail buddies, or stimulating encounters with a new tail-wagging friend. A trot along the trail provides the opportunity to rub up against the sagebrush for an intoxicating infusion of rich earthy smells. Of course, it's always fun to leave a mark to cause later trekkers to take note of the passage of such a noble beast!

Which brings us to the issue of dog owners. Since we all love our dogs and want the best for them, and since we all

want to peacefully coexist with our neighbors, there are some simple guidelines, regulations, and common courtesies to keep in mind when we're taking out best friend outdoors for some quality time. For example, wouldn't it be nice if everyone properly disposed of their dog's waste?

Proper Disposal of Dog Waste

- *Protects other dogs and people from stepping in your dog's droppings*
- *Prevents the transmission of diseases and parasites commonly present in dog droppings*
- *Protects the habitat from high levels of leached nutrients*
- *Improves water quality in creeks, lagoons, and ocean*
- *Enhances the aesthetic value to all users.*



Doggie waste bag dispensers are now installed along the Nature Center trail.

Memo to the City of Carlsbad:

Buy Open Space!



The presently undeveloped hillsides of Buena Vista Creek Valley, looking over the Buena Vista Creek Ecological Reserve.

Join the campaign! A coalition of citizens and conservation groups, including BVAS, are petitioning the City of Carlsbad to acquire and preserve more natural open space within our community. Our natural lands are an important part of what makes this area so special, but unfortunately Carlsbad is rapidly losing the few special places that have escaped the bulldozers. The land we are most concerned about is adjacent to the 134-acre Buena Vista Creek Ecological Reserve which BVAS helped purchase in 2007, about four miles upstream from our Nature Center.

The undeveloped land is located west of the Quarry Creek shopping center near Highway 78 and College Boulevard. The City of Carlsbad asked the developer (McMillin) to increase the number of proposed units in order to help meet the city's requirements for affordable housing. McMillin was happy to comply, submitting an application for 656 homes, a four-fold increase over what the current zoning would permit. Development of the old, disturbed quarry site in this area seems to be a foregone conclusion following a long review process. Fortunately, however, a 150-foot buffer on both sides of Buena Vista Creek will provide protection for riparian habitat close to the creek and the area around the iconic El Salto Falls. What is at risk now is the so-called "Panhandle", an undeveloped, natural area of 60 acres on the south side of Buena Vista Creek, across the stream and immediately adjacent to the ecological reserve.

The Panhandle includes the grassy rolling hillsides which make up the south side of the Buena Vista Creek Valley. Hawks regularly soar over the hillsides hunting for rabbits and ground squirrels. The property serves as an important wildlife corridor and buffer, sitting between the extensive residential neighborhoods on the south, and the ecological reserve and riparian habitat along Buena Vista Creek on the north. Acquisition of this land would also ensure an important scenic corridor along the I-78 freeway.

**We do not inherit
the earth from
our ancestors, we
borrow it from
our children.**

—Navajo proverb

The City of Carlsbad has substantial reserve funds specifically allocated for open space acquisition. This dedicated fund was the result of a city-wide proposition in 2002. In the ten years since that proposition was approved by a majority of Carlsbad voters, not one penny has been spent by the city for open space acquisition. Over the years, a number of properties have been evaluated by various conservation groups, resource agencies, and a citizen's committee appointed by the City Council. The City Council adopted these recommendations, including a priority ranking of parcels to acquire for open space which placed the Buena Vista Valley at the top of the list. All to no avail.

The reluctance of the City Council to support any proposals for open space acquisition has been difficult for conservation groups to understand or accept. As we've pointed out, the necessary funds are available and authorized for this purpose. Open space acquisition continues to receive the highest priority rankings in periodic surveys among Carlsbad residents. The slowdown in the housing market and the economy over the last few years has created willing sellers and a unique opportunity to purchase land at reasonable rates. The remaining supply of large blocks of undeveloped land with significant conservation value is very limited. Continuing to pass up chances of acquiring these lands during windows of opportunity runs the risk of losing these lands forever.

What can we do? Sign the petition in support of preserving natural open space in Carlsbad. The petition, a fact sheet, and suggestions for writing a letter to the newspapers are available at the Nature Center. Plan to attend a gathering at the Nature Center on Saturday April 21 (the day before Earth Day) to publicize our *SOS for Open Space* campaign. There will be artwork, videos and speakers to inform you about these special lands. For more info or to help now, contact Joan Herskowitz at 760-942-5167 or jmherkowitz@yahoo.com.

March Birding Schedule—Join Us!

Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count

with John Haddock
Saturday, Mar. 3—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.



Encinitas Riparian Area Bird Walk

with Steve Brad
Sunday, Mar. 11—8 a.m.

Join us on our visit to a little-known riparian area in Encinitas featuring tall willows, a year-round stream, and large eucalyptus trees. The area is quite scenic in an idyllic neighborhood setting. Expect an assortment of the usual riparian species, several different raptors, and residential song birds. This should also be a good spot to check for early spring migrants. Time permitting we will visit another nearby Encinitas park.

Directions: I-5 to Birmingham Dr. off-ramp. Go west on Birmingham Dr., right on Somerset Ave. (as soon as you make the turn from Birmingham you will see the road split, take the left road which is Somerset). Turn left on Warwick Ave. Drive to end of street and park.

Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639; stevebrad1@earthlink.net. (Cell phone will also be turned on March 11: 760-274-5256).



Save the Date

Oceanside Native Plant Garden Tour

Sunday, April, 15, 2012

Take a Walk
Meet Your Neighbors
Get Inspired!

Sponsored by
 Buena Vista Native Plant Club
 and the Oceanside Coastal
 Neighborhood Association

Look for more details next month.



Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count

with Joan Fountain
Saturday, Mar. 31—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, Mar. 31—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

Sponsored by BVAS



San Diego Bird Festival

March 1-4, 2012



Kenn Kaufman

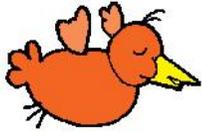
- *Field Trips*
- *Workshops*
- *Tradeshow*
- *Banquet*
- *Keynote Speaker: Kenn Kaufman*

For more info and online registration, go to:

www.sandiegoaudubon.org

Preschool Nature Storytime

Monday, March 26, 10 a.m.



Migratory time for the birds flying north along our Pacific Coast flyway is just about to get into full swing. Do you know the three things that make a bird a bird? And why do birds migrate? We'll find the answers to these

questions at our March Nature Storytime at the Nature Center. Come for some fun songs, a story, and a craft that we will use to help us find our own birds.

If you have any questions please call Mary Ellen at 760-918-6622

Follow BVAS on Facebook and Twitter

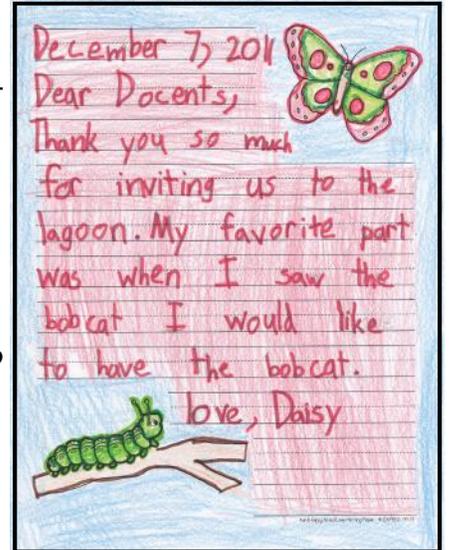


BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD*, AND CHAIRS

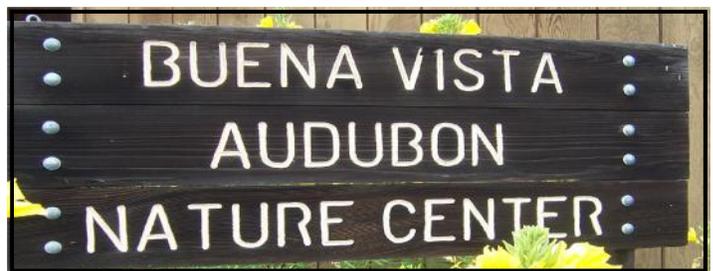
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Vice-President	Dennis Huckabay*	760-757-6437
Secretary	Kathy Billings*	760-753-7925
Treasurer	Sandy McMullen*	760-944-5690
Audubon Adventures	Ruth Gransbery	760-729-2240
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	760-945-8891
Christmas Bird Count	Terry Hunefeld*	760-908-3453
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Field Trips	Andy Brumbaugh	760-434-3334
Field Trip Leader	Steve Brad*	760-633-1639
Gift Shop	Rosalyn Dong	760-806-1430
Library	C. J. DiMento	760-231-9096
Membership	Harvey Hart*	760-945-9601
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Ruddy Duck Club	Kelly Deveney*	760-721-2441
Volunteers	Bob Crowell*	760-207-3884
Webmaster	Larry Spann: E-mail: larry@spannweb.net	

"I would like to have the bobcat."

The BVAS Nature Guides make a lot of friends each year. Over 2,500 young students come to the Nature Center to see the exhibits, walk the trail, and learn firsthand about the nature that exists right here in their community. And good teachers, like Mrs. Rangel from Grapevine Elementary School in Vista, often follow up their nature lessons by having the students write thank-you notes to the docents after the kids get back to their classrooms. The sentiments expressed frequently reflect the refreshing honesty of youth, like the



straightforward note from 2nd-grader Daisy (above). The mounted specimen of the bobcat at the Nature Center is a favorite with many of our young visitors. Honestly now, who wouldn't want to take this cute little bobcat home?



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
E-mail:
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.

Create A Lasting Legacy

Join many of our founding members and make BVAS a part of your estate plan. Your legacy gift goes directly to the Endowment Fund, providing lasting support for our Nature Center. Please call Dennis Huckabay at 760-757-6437 for more info.

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, March 18, 2 p.m.—The Buena Vista Native Plant Club meets at the Nature Center at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month. Everyone’s welcome, regardless of their native plant knowledge or gardening expertise. Club members answer your questions and help solve your gardening issues, as well as offer tips for native gardening activities appropriate for the season. We always spend some time among the native plants in the demonstration gardens or along the trails at the BVAS Nature Center. Our March meeting focuses on telling the difference between native plants and invasive “weeds.” This can sometimes be confusing for newcomers to native plant gardening. For more info, follow the Native Plant Club link at www.bvaudubon.org.

Notable Donations

In last month’s newsletter we thanked our members for their generous support of our year-end fundraising appeal. It was our most successful year-end campaign ever! A \$1,000 donation from Agnes Cralley needs special recognition, as does the \$500 donation from John De Beer and Mona Baumgartel. We received an extra special \$2,500 gift for garden equipment from a dedicated supporter who shall remain anonymous (but you know who you are and how much we appreciate you!). And shoppers at Jimbo’s Naturally placed 14,961 wooden nickels into the BVAS box, resulting in a donation of \$748. Thank you all!



“Garden Crew” Maintains the Grounds

Buena Vista Native Plant Club president Joan Bockman relies on a diverse group of volunteers to help with the upkeep and maintenance of the native plant demonstration gardens and nature trails around the Nature Center. It’s a big job, and Joan has been successful in marshaling multiple resources to keep the grounds looking so good. She relies on a few regular volunteers who often show up for the monthly Native Plant Club meeting or the Monday morning garden work parties at the Nature Center. Much-appreciated casual volunteers also drop in to join the group from time to time. Every few months a local church, service organization, or company decides to send a group of volunteers to us as their form of community outreach and service. Joan generally gets an advance notice that these groups will be coming, allowing her time to plan special projects for them to tackle. Occasionally, BVAS gets help from local high school and college students who choose to get community service credits by working here. Joan has even had a few helpers who have chosen to work off their traffic citations by performing community service at the Nature Center. Many thanks to Joan and her Garden Crew for all their volunteer hours and a job well done!



Garden Crew members Greg, Katherine, Harry, Patrick, and Robert trim out the overgrown lemonade berry bushes next to the parking lot at a recent work day at the Nature Center. The lemonade berry bush is an excellent native shrub for North County gardens. Once established, it is quite drought tolerant and doesn’t require much care other than a little shaping every few years. It has dark green, glossy leaves that look great all year long, and interesting lemonade-glazed berries in late spring and early summer.

S.O.S. for Open Space—

Saving the Natural Lands of Carlsbad

(See Page 2)

Lagoon Flyer



BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY
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BVAS Quick Calendar

March

- Thur.-Sun. Mar. 1-4—San Diego Bird Festival
- Fri. Mar. 2 —Board Meeting—9 a.m.
- Sat. Mar. 3—Whelan Lake Bird Walk—8 a.m.
- Fri. Mar. 9—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
- Sun. Mar. 11—Encinitas Bird Walk—8 a.m.
- Wed. Mar. 14 —General Meeting—7 p.m.
- Sun. Mar. 18—Native Plant Club Meeting—2 p.m.
- Mon. Mar. 26—~~Preschool Nature Storytime~~—10 a.m.
- Sat. Mar 31 —Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
- Sat. Mar. 31—Basic Birding at BVL Landing—8:30 a.m.



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New Girl in Town

The latest new bird species to show up in San Diego County (# 505 on the county list!) was discovered in early February hanging out with her cousins up in Julian. Mike Goldhamer was checking out the birdfeeders behind The Birdwatcher store in Julian and noticed a bird he was familiar with from Alaska. A female **Common Redpoll** was sitting amidst the usual assortment of lesser goldfinches and pine siskins, casually nibbling on thistle seed. This species is a very rare visitor to California and had never previously been seen south of Fresno. It was a completely unexpected sighting and quickly caught the attention of the birding community. The town of Julian has experienced a burgeoning “welcome committee” ever since, as area birders have flocked to town hoping to pay their respects to Julian’s latest winter tourist.



—Mike Goldhamer