March General Meeting

Wednesday, March 26

John Muir

“Empowered by Passion”

A Live Enactment by Reverend Don Baldwin

Plus a showing of the short film: “John Muir Walks His Beloved Yosemite”

6:30 p.m. Social—7 p.m. Program

The Reverend Don Baldwin, noted John Muir character actor and former resident minister in Yosemite National Park, is returning to the Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center for a first-person portrayal of the famed naturalist. This dramatic performance will focus on the powerful events and experiences that transformed Muir from a machine specialist to the world’s foremost environmentalist. As early as 1845, when only a youth in Dunbar, Scotland, the drawings of

J.J. Audubon left an indelible mark on Muir. In his grammar school reader, the writings of American bird life by Audubon similarly kindled Muir’s imagination for the wild lands that would soon be his home. Don’s program dramatically presents how the people in Muir’s life, along with his wild adventures, inspired both a passion for nature and a heart committed to protecting it.

In addition to Don’s first-person portrayal, he will also be showing a recently completed DVD, “John Muir Walks His Beloved Yosemite.” Photographed and filmed entirely in Yosemite, this 17-minute journey transports the viewer into Muir’s beloved Sierras, with stunning visuals and soaring music, all accompanied by a narration drawn entirely from the inspired writings of Muir. Please join us!

Note: Our March and April General Meetings have been moved to the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Gift Shop is Susie’s New Domain

Susie Martin started volunteering at the Nature Center over a year ago. She’s now joining the BVAS Board and taking on the job of Gift Shop Manager, after long-time volunteer Ros Dong decided to retire. Welcome aboard Susie! Susie has a passion for wildlife education and conservation. She sees the gift shop as a means to help inspire and feed an appreciation for nature among visitors. It’s also an opportunity to build the BVAS identity among visitors and provide memories of an exciting and entertaining visit. Susie plans to offer gift shop specials throughout the year to help generate interest. Birdhouse Auction guests in February were able to purchase tee shirts at half price. In March, the large assortment of children’s backyard nature guides and Audubon pocket nature guides will be on sale for only $5 each. Items perfect for stocking Easter baskets will be on sale in April.

Susie has been a volunteer at Project Wildlife since 2001, with a focus on birds. She describes herself as a self-taught birder, first inspired by the sight of a cedar waxwing, and happily supported by her dad who bought her a pair of Nikon binoculars.

A very special thank you goes to Ros Dong, who has faithfully managed the gift shop since 2005—a job well done!
**Conservation Matters**

**Buying Land for Conservation**

BVAS is not a property owner. For over 25 years, the chapter has been the proud and responsible leaseholder and operator of the Nature Center, but the land under the Center is actually owned by the City of Oceanside.

The 73-acre Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary, a nature preserve with which BVAS has always had a close relationship, is owned by a special non-profit corporation, not Buena Vista Audubon Society, and governed by its own board of trustees.

It is true that over the years, BVAS has raised funds and sought grants to help purchase and manage various natural preserves in the North County, most recently the 134-acre Buena Vista Creek Ecological Reserve, but it has never sought to purchase land in its own name.

That may be about to change.

Two particular parcels of vacant land are currently on the market in Oceanside. Both parcels have special significance to BVAS due to their locations and value as natural habitat. Both properties, however, have also attracted the attention of potential developers.

BVAS would like to see these properties acquired for conservation, but has thus far been unable to convince several different resource agencies and public entities to take that step, primarily because of various administrative constraints.

The Board is now considering the possibility of a BVAS purchase of these two properties. BVAS has recently engaged the services of an environmental land consultant to help negotiate purchase option agreements with the property owners. The consultant has also been meeting with various grant providers in an attempt to line up funding to cover the cost of the land purchases, as well as restoration and management expenses. A campaign to raise supporting funds from other organizations and individuals to help with the acquisitions is also in the offing.

At this point, the Board is optimistic it will be able to enter into these two purchase option agreements, allowing BVAS the time needed to secure the grants and matching funds.

In the months ahead, we hope to be able to make a formal announcement, including specifically identifying the properties involved and reviewing the significant habitat values to be gained by their acquisition.

Stay tuned!  
—Andy Mauro

---

**Stalwarts on the Monthly Buena Vista Lagoon Count**

**Father/Daughter Team Knows Its Birds**

This month Buena Vista Audubon would like to extend our sincere thanks to two of the unsung heroes of our birding team. For over five years **Mike and Morgan Shoemaker** have been dedicated and valuable contributors to our monthly Buena Vista Lagoon bird counts. Along with Joan Fountain and myself, Mike and Morgan show up every month and boost our species count significantly. While Joan and I are helping beginning birders adjust their binoculars, Morgan is out on the trail finding and photographing the bird of the day.

If you participated in our most recent Christmas Bird Count you may recall that Morgan found and photographed the least bittern in the cattails by the ditch right in front of the Nature Center. This was definitely a high point in a day already full of excitement. She also found three different species of warblers in the same tree at Maxton Brown Park.

Not only is Morgan one of our best birders, she is also one of our youngest. Not yet old enough to drive, Morgan has taken her interest in birding to a very high level. If you have not yet seen her birding blog—ICA[Link removed for privacy]—you must check it out. With excellent photos and insightful narrative, Morgan recorded over 90 entries for 2013. Her blog has been a valuable resource for both local and visiting birders.

And let's not forget Mike. He is way more than proud dad and driver. Mike is a raptor enthusiast and is also a valuable member of our team. While Morgan is seeking out the elusive small birds, Mike always has an eye on the horizon. The best part for me as a teacher has been to watch the wonderful father-daughter relationship that has developed through the amazing joy of birding. It has also been a great joy to see two of my students become better birders than me!

Thank you Mike and Morgan for all you do for us. The next Basic Birding Class and Lagoon Count will be Saturday, March 29 at 8 a.m. Come meet Mike and Morgan and join the fun!

—Tom Troy

---

Tom Troy and the Beginning Birder Class.
Springtime in Texas

April 22-May 3, 2014—Spring migration and Texas specialty birds with Steve Shunk and Paradise Birding.
Fee—$2,705/person dbl. occupancy, includes 11 days of Texas lodging, food, guides, entry fees, and tour van.

Contacts—Steve Shunk: steve@paradisebirding.com; or BVAS MBA Coordinator Janine Free: janinefree@gmail.com, 760-753-8336.

Only one space left!  

Black-capped Vireo

San Dieguito River Park Bird Walk
with John Haddock—Saturday, Mar. 15—8 a.m.
John leads this bird walk on the third Saturday of each month. The location rotates month-to-month between the wetland area at the San Andres trailhead in Solana Beach and the lagoon overlook and upland coastal sage scrub habitat at the Crest Canyon trailhead in Del Mar.

March Walk: San Andres trailhead—From I-5, take Via de la Valle east; turn right (south) on San Andres and go to end of road.
Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

Basic Birding Workshop and Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count
with Joan Fountain and Tom Troy
Saturday, Mar. 29 —8 a.m.
Join the BVAS fledgling birders for our basic birding workshop and bird count at Buena Vista Lagoon. No experience necessary. We meet at the Nature Center at 8 a.m. and then caravan around the lagoon to a series of selected stops for some friendly, informal, no-pressure birding.

Directions: Meet at the Nature Center parking lot, 2202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside.

Join Mike and Morgan! (See p. 2.)

Sunday, April 27—7 a.m.-3 p.m.

BVAS Pelagic Bird Trip
The first BVAS pelagic bird trip of the year will be on April 27. This 8-hour excursion is designed as a great beginner’s trip, with a mix of early-spring migrants and lingering winter birds. April is peak season for seeing the newly split Scripps’s murrelet. We’ll also be looking for regularly-occurring shearwaters (pink-footed and sooty), phalaropes (red and red-necked), jaegers (pomarine and parasitic), and alcids (common murre, Cassin’s auklet, rhinoceros auklet).
Early Bird Fee is $45 on or before 05/15. Reserve early for best price! Sign up at Pt. Loma Sportfishing: 619-223-1627.

Birding with BVAS

Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Walk
with John Haddock—Saturday, Mar. 1—8 a.m.
Directions: I-5 to Hwy. 76 East; turn left at Douglas Dr.; continue to the light at North River Rd.; go left on North River Rd. Pass through the entrance gate and follow the signs to the lake. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy at the picnic tables after your walk.
Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

Coastal Carlsbad Bird Walk
with Steve Brad—Sun., Mar. 9—8 a.m.
This month we’ll visit a little-known but often birdy riparian drainage in Carlsbad, near the RR tracks. We’ll look for warblers, sparrows, raptors, and early spring migrants.
Directions: From Pacific Coast Hwy., go east on Cerezo Dr.; south on El Arbol Dr. to end of street and park (nearby house address: 5540 El Arbol Dr.).
Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639.
Day-of-trip cell phone, 760-274-5256.

Second Thursday Surprise Walk
with Steve Brad—Thurs., Mar. 13—8 a.m.
Join our weekday surprise-location bird walk on the second Thursday of each month. Where we go is based on recent reports and Steve’s personal surveying. If you’d like to get on the Second Thursday Walk notification list, please send an e-mail with your name, phone number, and e-mail address to:
stevebrad1@earthlink.net.
Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639.
Day-of-trip cell phone, 760-274-5256.

BVAS Migrating Birders Association
BVAS “MBA” trips go to birding hotspots across the U.S. The trips feature small, friendly groups, expert guides, and very competitive fees. We generally offer two MBA trips each year. Trips can fill up fast, so please reserve your spot ASAP.
Our exciting 2014 trip to eastern and central Texas in April still has one spot left, so act now! The May trip to Ohio’s Magee Swamp is SOLD OUT.
We’re now looking at the possibility of a “Yosemite Specialties” trip in August—look for details in next month’s newsletter. On the drawing boards for 2015 are trips to Maine and the Jasper area of Canada.

For information about upcoming trips, to suggest a future trip destination, or to place your name on a future trip early-notification list, please contact our BVAS Migrating Birders Association coordinator, Janine Free, at: janinefree@gmail.com, 760-753-8336.
Native Plantings at El Corazon

In February, BVAS Native Plant Club and Friends of El Corazon teamed up with the Oceanside Parks Department to plant a native landscape along the western border of the park. Many of the plants used had been propagated at the BVAS Nature Center. The project involved considerable planning and a coordinated effort by volunteers from the two non-profit groups and city employees.

City crews had earlier hydro-seeded a 500-foot slope along the street with California bush sunflower seeds. The plants have taken hold, and the area now sports an impressive show of bright, yellow flowers. With the sunflowers established as a base, the team set out to satisfy the overall goals for the project. They sought a landscape that combined seasonal color with year-round green vegetation, required minimal maintenance, used drought-tolerant local native plants, and discouraged loitering and trash accumulation.

The plan was accomplished by first planting toyon and saltbush, which eventually will grow to cover much of the block wall at the site. Plants on the upper portion of the slope include native cactus and the prickly-leaved Nevin’s barberry (an endangered plant species), both ideal for being evergreen and discouraging foot traffic. Coyote bush, sages, and deer grass will take hold, and the area now sports an impressive show of bright color throughout. Soon, mulch from composted green waste will be applied to control weeds and retain moisture. The city will provide “drive by” watering from a water truck when needed to establish and maintain the new plantings.

El Corazon is over 450 acres, and there are many similar slopes throughout the park. This cost effective landscape solution can be repeated elsewhere to achieve a park landscape that is beautiful, sustainable, ecologically friendly, wildlife-supporting, low maintenance, and low on water use. Nice job everyone!

—Joan Bockman
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: ___

Name_______________________________________
Address_____________________________________
City, State, Zip  ______________________________
Phone______________  E-mail__________________

*I choose to receive the digital edition of the Lagoon Flyer by e-mail each month. It’s a week earlier, in full color, has extra features, and saves BVAS and the environment the cost of printing and postage. Sign me up!
*Please send me my newsletter by e-mail.

BVAS Native Plant Club

Support Group: Sunday, Mar. 16—2 p.m.
Garden Work Party: Every Monday—9 a.m.
The Buena Vista Native Plant Club support group meets at the Nature Center on the third Sunday of each 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.

Monday Morning with the Natives—Interested gardeners are invited to join the gardening group at the Nature Center every Monday at 9 a.m. for some casual gardening and friendly chatter.

Cubs on Deck

The Cub Scouts from Pack 752 had fun visiting the Nature Center and walking the nature trail in early February, led by BVAS Nature Guide Joan Fountain. They tasted lemonade berry, made animal tracks, and briefly stood mostly still for this picture on the lagoon viewing deck. The pack meets at the First Presbyterian Church in Oceanside.

Response to Year-end Appeal—Wow!

In December we sent out a simple letter asking for donations to help meet this year’s Nature Center expenses and fund the various activities we sponsor. Your response has been so gratifying—over $10,000 in donations have come in so far this year, the most we’ve ever received from our year-end appeal. Most of the donations we receive are for less than $100, so it takes a lot of good friends to make a total of $10,000. Thank you all!

Preschool Nature Storytime

Monday, March 24, 10 a.m

Their winter time is over now, and gray whales are traveling north to their summer home in the cold waters off Alaska. The baby whales are only a few months old, but they’re big enough now to make the long trip, staying close to their mothers. This month we’ll learn about our gray whales, read a special story, sing a song, and make a take-home craft. Questions? Call Mary Ellen: 760-918-6622.

Kids’ Corner At the Nature Center

Joey’s and Johnny’s Clubhouse

Kids and parents are invited to stop by the Nature Center for some informal nature fun.

Third Sunday
March 16—1-4 p.m.
The First Day of Spring, the Vernal Equinox—March 20, 2014

“Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn.” ~ Lewis Grizzard

“In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.” ~ Margaret Atwood

“Spring is Nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s Party!”’ ~ Robin Williams

Lagoon Flyer
BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 480
OCEANSIDE, CA 92049

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #193
Oceanside, CA 92056

BVAS Quick Calendar
Sat. Mar. 1—Whelan Lake Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Fri. Mar. 7—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sun. Mar. 9—Coastal Carlsbad Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Thur. Mar. 13—Second Thursday Surprise Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Fri. Mar. 14—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
Sat. Mar. 15—San Dieguito River Park Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Sun. Mar. 16—Joey’s and Johnny’s Clubhouse—1 p.m.
Sun. Mar. 16—Native Plant Club Meeting—2 p.m.
Mon. Mar. 24—Preschool Nature Storytime—10 a.m.
Wed. Mar. 26—General Meeting—6:30 p.m.

A great blue heron with chicks sits on its nest last year at the heron colony in Oceanside Harbor.

“John Muir—Empowered By Passion”
Sat. Mar. 29—Basic Birding & Lagoon Count—8 a.m.

Heron Colony at Oceanside Harbor
In February, perhaps 20 pairs of great blue herons were once again building and occupying nests in two tall pine trees near the Jolly Roger Restaurant at Oceanside Harbor. An even greater number of black-crowned night-herons were also nesting and roosting in the smaller fig trees located in the restaurant’s parking lot. Heron colonies, as you might expect, are very messy affairs. There was a much-publicized effort several years ago to discourage the herons from nesting over the parking lot by removing or drastically pruning many of the trees. Herons, it turns out, are not so easily discouraged.

“The First Day of Spring, the Vernal Equinox—March 20, 2014

“Springtime is the land awakening. The March winds are the morning yawn.” ~ Lewis Grizzard

“In the spring, at the end of the day, you should smell like dirt.” ~ Margaret Atwood

“Spring is Nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s Party!”’ ~ Robin Williams

Lagoon Flyer
BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 480
OCEANSIDE, CA 92049

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #193
Oceanside, CA 92056

BVAS Quick Calendar
Sat. Mar. 1—Whelan Lake Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Fri. Mar. 7—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sun. Mar. 9—Coastal Carlsbad Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Thur. Mar. 13—Second Thursday Surprise Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Fri. Mar. 14—Nature Guides Meeting—10 a.m.
Sat. Mar. 15—San Dieguito River Park Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Sun. Mar. 16—Joey’s and Johnny’s Clubhouse—1 p.m.
Sun. Mar. 16—Native Plant Club Meeting—2 p.m.
Mon. Mar. 24—Preschool Nature Storytime—10 a.m.
Wed. Mar. 26—General Meeting—6:30 p.m.

A great blue heron with chicks sits on its nest last year at the heron colony in Oceanside Harbor.

“John Muir—Empowered By Passion”
Sat. Mar. 29—Basic Birding & Lagoon Count—8 a.m.

Heron Colony at Oceanside Harbor
In February, perhaps 20 pairs of great blue herons were once again building and occupying nests in two tall pine trees near the Jolly Roger Restaurant at Oceanside Harbor. An even greater number of black-crowned night-herons were also nesting and roosting in the smaller fig trees located in the restaurant’s parking lot. Heron colonies, as you might expect, are very messy affairs. There was a much-publicized effort several years ago to discourage the herons from nesting over the parking lot by removing or drastically pruning many of the trees. Herons, it turns out, are not so easily discouraged.
"Blooming Consciousness"
Sat & Sun, March 29-30, 2014

Garden Tour 2014

Visit 15 gorgeous gardens featuring California native plants, inspirational designs, and creative conservation solutions!

Tickets $25, kids 12 and under are free!
Purchase at GardenNativeTour.org

SPECIAL EVENT: “A Night in the Garden,” a celebration and fundraiser with artisan wines, Stone beer, and live jazz! Special presentation by Nan Sterman and Rick Halsey. Tickets are $125.

Special thanks to: Hunter®

Garden Native is a project of the California Native Plant Society, a 501c3.