Volume 36 Number 5 May 2007

Lagoon Flyer

Jón Baldur Hlíðberg

Buena Vista Audubon Society

May General Meeting
Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Animating your Garden with Butterflies

(and maybe some hummingbirds, too!)

Presented by
Pat Pawloski

Social 7 p.m.—Program 7:30 p.m.

Red Admiral Butterflies

Butterflies and hummingbirds are among our most beautiful pollinators. In addition to their pollination duties they bring color, interest and magic to our gardens. It is fairly easy to attract them with the proper plantings. Come join us to hear wildlife garden designer and writer Pat Pawlowski tell us how to attract butterflies, hummingbirds and other wildlife to our gardens. Pat is the author of wildlife gardening articles that have appeared in publications such as California Garden and Monarch Quarterly. She lives and gardens in El Cajon and is the former gardening editor of San Diego Home/Garden & Lifestyles magazine. She will describe and show slides of the flowering plants and beautiful butterflies that can be enticed into our gardens. —Dennis Huckabay

Diane Nygaard Recognized for Outstanding Work on Behalf of Environment

Editor's Note: Everyone in the conservation community knows and appreciates the tremendous job Diane Nygaard has done over the years to help protect open space in our community. The Sherman acquisition, I-5 widening, lagoon restoration, El Corazon, lagoon hotel, Eternal Hills expansion—these are a few recent issues where Diane's involvement has been invaluable. As a token of our appreciation, the BVAS Board recently presented Diane with a plaque formally acknowledging her wonderful contributions.

Diane Nygaard

The Buena Vista Audubon Society is pleased to recognize Diane Nygaard for her dedicated service on behalf of conservation in San Diego County. Her commitment has been expressed in countless hours spent reviewing development plans and environmental impact reports, preparing detailed written comments for consideration by reviewing authorities, serving on numerous special committees, and meeting with developers, planners, and civic officials on a multitude of land use issues. She has served with distinction as a passionate spokesperson on behalf of the cause of nature and the environment in North County.

She founded the conservation organization, Preserve Calavara, and serves as its president. She headed the campaign to raise public awareness, political will, and over $9 million in funds needed to acquire and endow a new wildlife preserve along Buena Vista Creek. She is an active participant on conservation issues for Buena Vista Audubon Society, as well as a number of other environmental organizations.

In all of her endeavors, Diane has effectively brought to bear her many skills and attributes--exhaustive preparation, formidable knowledge, tenacious determination, unquestioned credibility, and unparalleled ability to reach and change minds.

With sincere appreciation we commend Diane for her remarkable accomplishments in furthering the protection of natural open spaces, and promoting environmentally sound land use planning and development throughout San Diego.

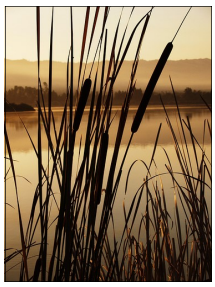
Awarded this 25th day of April, 2007.

Buena Vista Audubon Society Board of Directors

Conservation Corner: Preserving a State Ecological Reserve

by Andy Mauro

Buena Vista Lagoon Restoration



In April, resource agency officials gathered comments from the public as studies continued toward developing and approving a restoration plan for Buena Vista Lagoon. While some adjacent property owners seemed primarily concerned about perceived property values and open water views, BVAS expressed its interest in seeing that the restoration project reflects the fact that this is, after all, California's first State Ecological Reserve. This is a chance to restore a piece of our community's rich natural heritage. We need a project that that maximizes wildlife habitat values of the lagoon, by:

*providing important habitat for endangered species;

*recapturing some of our depleted coastal salt marsh;

*maximizing the biodiversity of plants and animals;

*restoring the lagoon's natural hydrologic regime;

*allowing marine life to move between lagoon and sea;

*maximizing the amount of sand retained on our beach;

*controlling the mosquito population; and,

*providing a full variety of wetland types and habitats.

We all have a voice in how this lagoon should be restored. It's time we began to undo the impacts of past mistakes. *Our earlier position paper on the lagoon restoration can be found at: www.bvaudubon.org.*

Lessons from a Sewage Spill

Over seven million gallons of raw sewage was recently spilled into the Buena Vista Lagoon, a closed fresh water reservoir in the middle of our community. Despite the extensive clean-up effort, it will take months or even years before nature can fully recover from the effects of this spill.

What have we learned?

*If a massive sewage spill occurs in our lagoon and doesn't directly affect the number of tourists on the beach, it hardly raises a stink from city officials.

*Sewage spills are so commonplace now they must be considered inevitable, a normal part of our community's wastewater treatment program.

*We should think twice about placing our sewage pipes in sensitive areas where they can break and spill unchecked for days on end onto the land and into our streams, lagoons, and oceans.

*Buena Vista Lagoon needs to be restored to a fully functioning coastal salt marsh system, with a daily tidal exchange that continually cleans and rejuvenates the lagoon.

*Putting people, buildings, and parking lots on a parcel of low-lying, undeveloped land which borders the lagoon tempts fate and just doesn't make sense. This devastating spill only highlights the need for extensive open space buffers around our lagoon.

*We need to try harder to get it right in the first place. Manmade systems can and will fail, and, when it comes to our coastal wetlands, nature (and ultimately man) is continually at risk from unintended negative impacts resulting from our short-sided decisions.

Lagoon Hotel Project

The landowner says he has done everything right—he's followed the rules. Why shouldn't he be allowed to develop his property?

There is still a serious question about whether or not all of the rules have been followed in the case of the Lagoon Hotel project. We believe that existing municipal, state, and federal laws, rules, and regulations preclude the type of development being proposed for this site. We believe it was the Oceanside Planning Commission that actually got it right in denying this project, and that the City Council's narrow 3-2 vote to overturn the Commission's action was in error. That's why this project is being appealed, not just by Buena Vista Audubon, but by nine different entities, including two Coastal Commissioners.

There are several issues to be considered by the Coastal Commission with respect to this project.

*How much of this parcel is already wetlands (as defined by statute, not the developer) and thus must be protected?

*Would development have a negative impact on endangered Clapper Rails which breed in the adjacent reeds?

*Does a public entity have this land on its target acquisition list, needed to provide mitigation for a public project?

*Would development constrain legally protected view corridors and public access for the community?

*Would development significantly impact the habitat values of the adjacent protected State Ecological Reserve?

*Would development impact the lagoon's potential tidal prism, thus jeopardizing chances of a successful restoration to a coastal salt marsh estuary?

*Doesn't being in escrow define a "willing seller"?

May Field Trips

Sat—May 5—8 a.m.—Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count. Freshwater lake and riparian edge habitat. Directions: I-5 to Hwy. 76. East on Hwy. 76. Turn left at Douglas and continue to light at North River Rd. Turn left and meet at the cul-de-sac at the end of the road by the entrance gate. Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

Sat—May 12—9 a.m.—San Elijo Lagoon. Join BVAS members and San Elijo Lagoon docents on the regular monthly nature hike at this ecological reserve featuring tidal mudflats, coastal wetlands, and five other distinct plant and animal communities. Directions: I-5 to Lomas Santa Fe. West to N. Rios Ave. Right to cul-de-sac at end of road. No facilities.

Sat—May 19—8 a.m.—Camp Pendleton. Meet at the Camp Pendleton Front Gate off of I-5. Plan on car pooling on to the base. Our contact and guide, Camp Pendleton wildlife biologist Eric Kershner, requests we bring as few vehicles as practical on the base to facilitate getting to more birding areas. This has been a popular trip in the past and it is necessary to make advance arrangements to gain access to the base. Leader: Mary Ellen Marquand. 760-918-6622.

Sat—May 26—8 a.m.—Buena Vista Lagoon Count. Directions: 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—May 26—8:30-10:30 a.m.—Basic Birding Class. *NOTE: Due to the effects of the recent sewage spill, the regular meeting place for the monthly Basic Birding Class will be moved to the picnic tables in front of the Nature Center until further notice. Meeting time is still 8:30 a.m.* Contact person: Tom Troy, 760-967-6915.

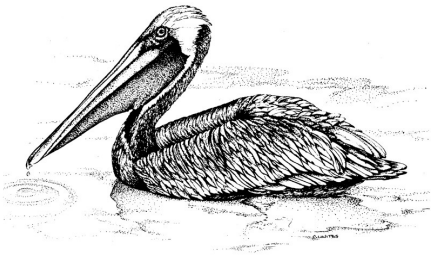
Looking for a family outing on International Migratory Bird Day?

San Elijo Lagoon Day

A Nature Treasure Hunt

Saturday, May 12, 2007

10 a.m.—3 p.m.



San Elijo Lagoon
Nature Center
2710 Manchester Ave.
Encinitas

Lagoon Day is hosted by San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy and the County of San Diego Parks & Recreation, and it's FREE!

*Nature treasure hunt for all ages with prizes
*Hands-on archaeology display and simulated dig
*Discovery stations featuring live birds, bugs, & reptiles
*Bird identification sessions
*Original plein air painting & photography exhibit & sale
*Water-wise native plant gardening & backyard habitat exhibit
*Music, entertainment, & refreshments

For more information call 760/436-3944, or visit www.sanelijo.org

Did You Miss April?

In early April over 80 participants took part in the Grunion Greeter Workshop at the nature center. Later, several of us saw thousands of grunion spawning on Tamarisk Beach. In mid-month, over 200 people joined the Native Plant Club's Native Garden Tour around Oceanside. BVAS gardens were in spectacular bloom in April!

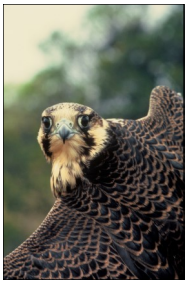
During our April Birdathon, a flock of happy birders took off to find over 100 different bird species in Oceanside. We may not have set any records for birds spotted, but we still hope to set the mark for most money raised from a Birdathon. (Send in your check!) Our Earth Day Open House was a wonderful event—loads of family fun and a strong sense of love for the wild things still found in our community. The April meeting taught us all about our breeding birds.

Now don't go kicking yourself for missing April—there's still time to make it right. We'll see you in May!

Endangered Species Day

Last year, California Senator Diane Feinstein introduced a resolution establishing "Endangered Species Day," the first ever national celebration of America's commitment to protecting and recovering our nation's endangered species. The resolution won unanimous support in the U.S. Senate.

On May 18th, 2007, America will again celebrate endangered species success stories, including the American bald eagle, peregrine falcon, gray wolf, grizzly bear, humpback whale and many of our nation's wildlife, fish and plants. San Diego County is home to more endangered species than any other county in our nation. Recently, we've been pointing out that our very own Buena Vista Creek and Lagoon provide critical habitat for a number of endangered species, including Bell's vireo and clapper rail. For the last two years, a pair of bald eagles have nested at Lake Henshaw, and in April this year a California condor briefly soared once again over Mount Cuyamaca.



Peregrine, Falcon

The goal of Endangered Species Day is simple—to educate people about the importance of protecting our rare, threatened, and endangered animal and plant species. For more information, check out this website: www.stopextinction.org.

Preschool Nature Storytime

Monday, May 21st, 10 a.m.

Little Bear finally awoke from his long hibernation in the cave and realized it was Spring. At first the boys and girls had trouble finding him as he had decided to explore our nature center. Once he was discovered, we all settled down for our story about The Butterfly and The Tadpole. We hope you will join us next month when we explore the habitat of Mr. Frog.

PLEASE NOTE: Since the fourth Monday is on Memorial Day, we will be changing our storytime to the third Monday, May 21, 10 a.m. Thank you for making this adjustment.

—Mary Ellen 760-918-6622

We Want YOU!

Officers and Directors Elections In June

One of the things that makes BVAS such an exciting and successful organization is the many wonderful people we have who are willing to step up and get involved. Take a look at our officers and committee chairs in the list below. That list is just the tip of the iceberg. We have another 100 or so volunteers who regularly perform host duties, serve as nature guides, help with programs, work on the gardens and grounds, participate in our bird surveys, etc. It's time for you to step up your level of involvement! If you think you might be interested in serving on the Board, joining a committee, or volunteering in any capacity, please contact Mary Ellen at 760-918-6622. We'll be announcing nominations for new directors and officers soon.

Ruddy Duck Club

Help us show our appreciation of our Ruddy Duck Club members by stopping by and saying "Thanks for supporting BVAS". For more information about joining our local business "Friends" group and becoming a "Ruddy Ducker", please contact Tom Troy at 760-967-6915

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

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD* AND CHAIRS

President	Dennis Huckabay*	757-6437
Vice-President	Bill Jones*	944-1775
Secretary	Mary Jane Roberts*	231-8148
Treasurer	Douglas Schanzenbach*	726-3531
Audubon Adventures	JoAnne Schontzler	431-0953
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	945-8891
Christmas Bird Count	Dennis Wysong	754-1264
Conservation	Andy Mauro*	753-1266
Circulation	Mary Jane Roberts*	231-8148
Director	Doug Dunn*	781-1227
Education (Co-Chair)	Renee Racine	635-0867
Education (Co-Chair)	Nancy Miller	929-2869
Field Trips	Andy Brumbaugh*	434-3334
Gift Shop	Rosalyn Dong*	806-1430
Library	Norma Handy	634-2120
Membership	Elle Schubert	729-4061
Native Plant Club	Joan Bockman*	433-9401
Native Plant Garden	Joan Bockman*	433-9401
Newsletter	Andy Mauro*	753-1266
	E-mail: akamauro@cox.net	
Programs	Dennis Huckabay*	757-6437
Publicity	Judi Wilson*	439-3649
Ruddy Duck Club	Tom Troy*	967-6915
Taxidermy	Joyce Anderson	746-3995
Volunteers	Mary Ellen Marquand*	918-6622
Webmaster	Larry Spann E-mail: larry@spannweb.net	

Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center

Tue-Sat 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sun 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
Closed Monday

760-439-2473

2202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside, CA
East side of street just north of lagoon bridge

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049-0480

Website: www.bvaudubon.org

E-mail: bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net

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 ___ $50 ___ $ 100 ___ Other: ___

Friends Membership: New ____ Renewal ____

Name_____
Address_____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone_____
Please bill my VISA or MASTERCARD
Card Number _____ ***CRN #*** _____
Expiration Date _____ ***Special Instructions:***
_____

I would like to make a special donation to the BVAS **Conservation Fund** to help support land conservation and the fight against ill-conceived development projects.
Amount: $_____

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

Thank You!

Dear Ruddy Duck Club Members,

Over the last twelve months you became charter members of our new Ruddy Duck Club, a special group of business leaders in our community who are proud to show their support for the BVAS nature programs and activities. Your partnership made it possible for us to educate, inspire, and inform thousands of children and adults on the wonder and importance of nature in our lives.

Is it now time for you to renew or increase your support? Please contact Tom Troy at 760-967-6915, and Tom will take care of all the details. Thank You!

Dear Friends of Buena Vista Audubon,

Have you renewed your "Friends" membership for 2007? Is that Birdathon donation envelope still sitting on your desk? Please don't wait for a mailed reminder—we try not to bother you with multiple solicitations during the year. Any 2007 donation of $20 or more to BVAS entitles you to receive our monthly newsletter, a "no-sales-tax" discount at the BVAS gift shop, and the wonderful knowledge that you are doing something good to help preserve nature in our community. All donations are fully tax-deductible and directly support our many programs of nature education and advocacy.

Feel free to use the convenient "clip out" form above, and send in your membership renewal today. Thank You!

BUENA VISTA NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Wild Rose

Over 200 people turned out for our Native Plant Garden Walk in April, picking up tips and inspiration to finally take the plunge and go native! Is it finally time for you to add a little more interest and a lot more nature into that tired old back yard? We invite you to join our friendly group to talk, share, garden, and learn at our regular "Third Sunday" meeting at the Nature Center.

May meeting: Sunday, May 20th, 2 p.m. —"Love your lawn and then replace it." It takes some love to get it right! Learn the best techniques for lawn replacement.

For more information, click on our "Native Plant Club" link at www.bvaudubon.org, contact us by e-mail at BVNPC@sbcglobal.net, or call the Nature Center at 760-439-2473.

Monthly Nature Center Grounds Cleanup

Join us on the first Saturday of the month from 8-10 a.m. as we tend the gardens at the Nature Center. Bring work gloves and gardening tools.

Sign up now!

Kids' Art & Nature Camp 2007

Camp Ruddy Duck: Ages 5-6; July 9-13; 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Camp Crawdad: Ages 7-8; July 16-20; 9-11:30 a.m.

All camps are taught at the Nature Center.

Neat stuff to do, like cork snakes, nature weavings, leather nature journals, docent-led nature walks...

*"This is the best camp ever! I'm going to buy it so it will never go away!" —Robert, Age 7 (*Kids' Art and Nature Camp, 2006)

For fees and more info, call the Nature Center, 439-2473, or e-mail: kids.art.nature.camp@gmail.com

Lagoon Flyer

BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 48O
OCEANSIDE, CA 92049-0480

DATED MATERIAL
Please Deliver Promptly

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OCEANSIDE,
CA 92054

QUICK CALENDAR

Fri. May 4—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. May 5—Whelan Bird Count—8 a.m.
Sat. May 5—Nature Center Garden Clean-up—8 a.m.
Mon. May 7—Nature Guides—10 a.m.
Sat. May 12—San Elijo Nature Walk—9 a.m.
Sat. May 12—SAN ELIJO LAGOON DAY—10 a.m.
Sat. May 19—Camp Pendleton Birding—8 a.m.
Sun. May 20—Native Plant Club—2 p.m.
Mon. May 21—Preschool Nature Story Time—10 a.m.
Wed. May 23—General Meeting—7 p.m.
Sat. May 26—Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
Sat. May 26—Basic Birding at Nature Center—8:30 a.m.

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By The Printery, Carlsbad, CA

BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR GARDEN!

Wednesday, May 23rd

Preserving an Ecological Reserve

See page 2

Camp Pendleton Birding

Saturday, May 19th

Preschool Nature Storytime
with Mr. Frog
Monday, May 21st