Each year in the pitiless ice deserts of Antarctica, in the most inhospitable terrain on Earth, a remarkable journey takes place. In autumn Emperor Penguins of breeding age—five years old and over—leave their ocean home and clamber onto the ice to walk and slide inland some 60 miles to their ancestral breeding grounds. After a ritual courtship of intricate dances and ecstatic song, the penguins pair off and mate. The females remain only long enough to lay a single egg, and then make the long journey back to the fish-filled sea. The male Emperors remain to incubate the eggs on top of their feet, huddled together for warmth against ferocious winds and polar winter temperatures approaching -80 degrees Fahrenheit. After two months the eggs hatch, and both fathers and chicks wait for the mothers to return from the ocean with food. If they are late the chicks will die.

Once the families are united, the roles reverse. The mothers remain with their young while their mates, exhausted and starved, head for the sea and food. For four months the parents alternate between guarding their young from attacking giant petrels and Antarctic skuas, and shuttling back and forth to the faraway sea to bring food for the chicks. Finally the young penguins are ready to fend for themselves, and trudge across the ice to take their first faltering dives into the deep blue waters of the Southern Ocean.

Please join us for this Academy Award-winning documentary produced by the National Geographic Society. It will be our last program before we close down our general meetings for the summer. I hope to see you at the Nature Center Wednesday evening June 27th, and again at our first meeting after the summer recess, in September.

May your summer days be enjoyable, some lazy and some productive but with some birdsong in each!

—Dennis Huckabay, President
Conservation Corner

Editor’s note: BVAS has been active on a number of conservation issues over the last few months. This summer we will be acting as the lead agency on an application to get a comprehensive Buena Vista Creek Watershed Plan placed on the California Wetlands Recovery Group Work Plan, the first step on the road to funding this important planning project.

The following update on the status of the Coastal Lagoon Hotel Project has been adapted from the group letter recently sent out by the Friends of Buena Vista Lagoon.

Dear Friends of Buena Vista Lagoon,

As you probably have already heard, the California Coastal Commission has found substantial issue with the Coastal Lagoon project. This means they will research the project further and a public hearing will most likely occur in October. We are asking everyone to please sign the online petition at http://wwwpetitiononline.com/7369/petition.html, and if able, to donate to the BVAS "Conservation Fund". This fund was specifically created to provide funding to fight inappropriate development proposals. You can donate by checking the appropriate box on the BVAS donation form (page 5), and sending the form and your check to: BVAS; P.O. Box 480; Oceanside, CA 92048.

If you are interested in helping with preparing for the upcoming hearing, please do so. We expect to host another fundraiser at the BVAS Nature Center sometime during the summer months. In the meantime, please write a letter to the Coastal Commission voicing your disapproval of the project. The letters are a part of the record, and there are some very passionate ones already on record. Comment letters can be sent to:

San Diego Coast District Office
Sherilyn Sarb, Deputy Director
7575 Metropolitan Drive, Ste. 103
San Diego, CA 92108-4402

We need to let the Commission know that the community does not want the hotel at this proposed location and feels it will be a detriment to the health of the lagoon, endangered species, public access, public views, and to the neighborhood in general. We welcome any questions, or comments.

Sincerely,

Dan and CJ Di Mento
Friends of the Buena Vista Lagoon
2116 Broadway
Oceanside, CA 92054

On the Issue of Climate Change

Have you and your family had a chance to see Al Gore’s Academy Award-winning documentary, An Inconvenient Truth? Rent it on DVD, and let us know what you’re doing on a personal level to address the issue of climate change. We’ll print your suggestions in future editions of the Lagoon Flyer.

Sam Sapienza’s Eagle Scout Project

New Potting Bench at Nature Center

The Buena Vista Native Plant Club is now enjoying the use of a fancy new potting bench to help in the propagation and nurturing of new native plants for use in the gardens. The well-built structure was the Eagle Scout project of Sam Sapienza of Troop 752. Sam consulted with Native Plant Club president, Joan Bockman, in the design of the potting bench. Lowe’s Building Supply of Oceanside made a generous donation of materials in response to Sam’s formal request. Colin Gaynor, also known as Omar the Master Craftsman, provided technical assistance and labor in the construction of the building block base of the structure. The BVAS Board of Directors and membership would like to thank Sam, Lowe’s of Oceanside, Omar the Master Craftsman, and all the other friends, family, and fellow troop members who helped make this project such a wonderful success.

Nature Center Exhibits Update—Work on the project to upgrade the exhibits in the Nature Center classroom has begun with the painting of a new background mural for the Children’s Den corner. Plans call for an expanded base for the mountain lion sculpture, a sound system featuring bird and animal calls, mounted specimens, and child-sized built-in library shelves and benches. The project will also include a new and expanded “discovery table” display. The summer-long project is being funded by a much-appreciated $15,000 grant from the City of Carlsbad.
Summer Field Trips

August Field Trips

Sat—June 2—8 a.m.—Whelan Lake Monthly Bird Count. Freshwater lake and riparian edge habitat. Directions: 1-5 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—June 9—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: 1-5 to Lomas Santa Fe. West to N. Rios Ave. Right to cul-de-sac at end of road. No facilities.

Sat—June 16—8 a.m.—Cuyamaca State Park. Habitat in the Park has changed considerably since the fire of 2003. There are pockets that were untouched, and the burned areas have recovered with different flora types which should provide some interesting birding. We will meet at the intersection of Rte. 79 and Stonewall Mine Rd. Directions: Take Rte. 79 south out of Julian. Stonewall Mine Road is on your left 1.3 miles from the Cuyamaca Restaurant and Store (brown building). It is north of the campground. Pull off Rte. 79 into Stonewall Mine Rd. The gate is open by 8 a.m. For car pooling meet at the Nature Center at 6:30 a.m. Leader: Andy Brumbaugh. 760-434-3334.

Sat—June 30—8 a.m.—Buena Vista Lagoon Count. Freshwater coastal lagoon. Directions: 1-5 to 78 East. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and take another immediate right onto Lagoon View Dr. Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

Sat—June 30—8:30-10:30 a.m.—Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing. NOTE: The Basic Birding Class will return to its customary location at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing. Directions: 1-5 to Hwy. 78. Exit Jefferson. Turn right and go to stoplight. Turn right and park in Landing parking lot on the right hand side of road. Contact person: Tom Troy, 760-967-6915.

July Field Trips  Note: All July field trips repeat locations visited in June. See directions listed above.


Sat—July 14—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.

Sat—July 28—8 a.m.—Buena Vista Lagoon Count. Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

Sat—July 28—8:30 a.m.—Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-967-6915.

August Field Trips  Note: All August field trips repeat locations visited in June and July. See directions listed above.


Sat—Aug 11—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.

Sat—Aug 25—8 a.m.—Buena Vista Lagoon Count. Leader: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379.

Sat—Aug 25—8:30 a.m.—Basic Birding Class at the Buena Vista Lagoon Landing. Leader: Tom Troy, 760-967-6915.

Birders of all skill levels are always welcome to join us!

Basic Birding with Barbara Moore
A Nine-Part Comprehensive Introduction to Birding

Saturdays, June 9 – August 4, 2007
9:00 am - Noon

Agua Hedionda Lagoon Discovery Center
1580 Cannon Road, Carlsbad, CA 92008
760/804-1969
www.aguahedionda.org

Cost: $50 for members, $75 for non-members
Pre-registration is required.

SDBIRDS:
Your Link to Birding San Diego

BVAS members interested in the birding scene in San Diego County might want to investigate SDBIRDS. Over 1,000 area birders currently participate in this free listserv. Subscribers post their interesting bird observations via e-mail to SDBIRDS, and receive the daily postings of other members. It’s a great way to learn which birds are being seen locally, and where to see them. Interesting birding questions and observations are also discussed. Check out the rules and learn how to subscribe by googling “SDBIRDS” on the internet.
Preschool Nature Storytime

We'll be looking for you at our next storytime on Monday, June 25th at 10 a.m., when Mr. Frog will be our star attraction. Our June storytime will be our last before we break for summer activities. We reserve our storytime in the Fall, beginning on the 4th Monday, Sept. 24th.

Thank you for remembering to call if you are bringing a number of children, such as a playgroup. We want to make sure we have enough crafts for all the children in attendance.

—Mary Ellen  760-918-6622

BVAS Annual Meeting and Election

In addition to our annual “Night at the Movies”, the June general meeting will be Buena Vista Audubon Society’s official “Annual Meeting”, as called for by our bylaws. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect new officers and directors for the coming year, and conduct any other official business of the organization. While the election takes only a few minutes, it represents a serious commitment by those who have agreed to serve. At this time, nominations have been received for two new directors, Dan Di Mento and Steve Brad. Dan is a founder of the “Friends of Buena Vista Lagoon”, and has spearheaded the campaign against the proposed hotel project adjacent to the lagoon. Steve is a skilled birder who is a regular contributor to bird surveys in San Diego, and has led a number of bird walks on behalf of BVAS and other organizations.

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  Terry Hunefeld  942-5388
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
This summer, the Buena Vista Native Plant Club will continue to hold its regular meetings at the Nature Center on the third Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. Join us for a full summer of garden fun!

**June**—Come see the blooms! We have a fantastic collection of plant photos. We'll go through the archives and identify any plant you want to see.

**July**—No chance for rain and the fire season is in full swing. Learn from a firefighter who loves native plants the steps you can take to protect your home. We'll watch the Rick Halsey chaparral video and then discuss the ideas in his book "Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California" (2005), published by Sunbelt.

**August**—Extra! Extra! Winter is in August in Southern California! If you are still thinking like an Easterner, it is time to learn the true seasons. Plants are going dormant and we need to start pruning. Bring work gloves and tools.

More information, click on our “Native Plant Club” link at www.bvaudubon.org, contact us by e-mail at BVPNPC@sbcglobal.net, or call the Nature Center at 760-439-2473.

**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

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**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
__________________________

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

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: $ ______________

Thank You!

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**Thanks**

"Friends" Members

**Check your Mailing Label**

Those of you who receive the Lagoon Flyer as a result of your BVAS “Friends” membership, please note the following new policy. Beginning with this issue, the expiration date for your Friends membership will be listed on your mailing label. (Your membership is good for approximately 12 months following a donation of $20 or more to BVAS) A red slash across your mailing label indicates that your membership has expired and that this will be your last newsletter. To renew your membership and continue to receive your newsletter and other benefits, please clip out the donation form above and send in your renewal check. Being a member in good standing of the National Audubon Society also entitles you to your Lagoon Flyer subscription.

—Elle Schubert, Membership Chair
QUICK CALENDAR

Fri. June 1—Board Meeting—9 a.m.
Sat. June 2—Whelan Lake Bird Count—8 a.m.
  Repeats July 7th and August 4th
Sat. June 2—Nature Center Garden Clean-up—8 a.m.
  Repeats July 7th and August 4th
Mon. June 4—Nature Guides—10 a.m.
Sat. June 9—San Elijo Lagoon Nature Walk—9 a.m.
  Repeats July 14th, and August 11th
Sat. June 16—Cuyamaca State Park Bird Walk—8 a.m.
Sun. June 17—Native Plant Club—2 p.m.
  Repeats July 21st and August 18th
Mon. June 25—Preschool Nature Storytime—10 a.m.
Wed. June 27—Movie: March of the Penguins—7 p.m.
Sat. June 30—Buena Vista Lagoon Count—8 a.m.
  Repeats July 28th and August 25th
Sat. June 30—Basic Birding at BVL Landing—8:30 a.m.
  Repeats July 28th and August 25th

Audubon Movie Night!

March of the Penguins
and
Annual Meeting and Elections
June 28th—7 p.m.

Cuyamaca State Park
Bird Walk
June 16th—8 a.m.

Register Now!

Kid’s Art and Nature Camp
July 9th-13th and 16th-20th
See page 5.

Our next Lagoon Flyer will be the September issue. Have a great summer!