12th Annual BVAS Film Festival

Wednesday, June 15
6:30 p.m. Social—7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting
7:15 p.m.—Birders: The Central Park Effect

In the urban wilds of Manhattan, 843-acre Central Park provides a rare oasis of green space for nearly 275 species of birds. Birders: The Central Park Effect takes us through all the seasons, but showcases many of the colorful warblers who take a break from their Atlantic Flyway migration each April and May. Join the equally colorful New Yorkers whose lives are transformed by the wonder that birdwatchers worldwide know so well. This charming documentary transports the viewer to the dazzling, less-known world of America's most famous park.

Ultimately, this documentary is about the effect of green spaces on birds and about the effect birds have on us. It is about the persistence of nature, despite our seemingly irresistible impulse to pave it over.

Bring your family and friends and join us for this engaging film about nature and nature-lovers finding each other in the midst of our nation’s iconic urban jungle. We’ll supply the popcorn!

In the land of concrete, steel and glass where nature has been paved over, lies a hidden world. What draws these birds to NY City? It’s called the Central Park Effect.

Chestnut-sided Warbler
**IT’S BEEN BUSY!** by Bruce Montgomery

**Look, a Baby Bird. Now What?**

Marion Stacey shared with us a lifetime of hummingbird stories and insights during her May program at the Nature Center. What should you do if you find a baby bird you think needs help? First, make sure you’re right. *If the bird is uninjured and has some feathers, put it in the nearest tree. If it can’t perch and has fallen out of the nest, put it up in the tree in a berry basket or shoebox lined in shredded tissue. The parents will find it and feed it after people leave.*

*If the bird runs around and is chick-like (covered with short, fuzzy down) it may be a duckling, baby quail, or another species that is able to leave its nest soon after hatching. The parents are probably nearby, waiting for a chance to reclaim their chick. Place the chick out of harm’s way and leave the area.*

*If it is obvious that a bird needs help, intervention may be needed. This might be the case if the parents have been killed, the bird is newly hatched and the nest is out of reach, the bird has an injury, or a cat or child has brought it in from places unknown.*

In these cases, only those properly trained can provide the care needed by the bird. Place the bird in a towel-lined box and call for help. Raising an orphaned songbird is a demanding task requiring specialized training. It takes from 4-8 weeks and a lot of daytime commitment. Don’t attempt to do this without proper guidance. Contact Marion or another rescuer as soon as possible.

**Hummingbird Rescue Center:** 619-420-5156
**Project Wildlife:** 619-225-9453

“**Surf, Sand, and Stone”—Did You Miss It?**

Everyone attending Keith Meldahl’s April presentation at BVAS was treated to the nerve rattling and often side-splitting topic of California geology, including tectonic plates and earthquakes. Sometimes over millions of years and sometimes in a violent minute, California has morphed into the golden state of today. Here’s the “CliffsNotes” version of Keith’s talk.

*We all have our faults!* In fact, there are hundreds crisscrossing the 200-mile wide boundary zone between the North American (think Yuma) and Pacific Plates (think Oceanside). The king of them all is the San Andreas, stretching from the Salton Sea north toward Eureka.

*We’re all moving north!* At least, all of us on the San Diego County coast who are catching a ride on the Pacific Plate. At about two inches a year, we should be off San Francisco in 14 – 15 million years. Be patient.

*Claim dual-citizenship!* The journey north doesn’t begin here. In fact, some of the round pebbles and cobbles on our beaches and in our cliffs began in Sonora, Mexico. They tumbled down the ancient rivers to the sea, and have been slowly carried north ever since. Se habla español?

*Shake, rattle, and roll!* It’s been over 100 years since the 1906 San Francisco quake, but more than 300 years since the big one on the southern San Andreas. Such events open like a zipper; in this case the force likely travels north through Palm Desert and goes left through the faults and unstable soils of the LA basin. We lose Grandma’s china; LA loses LA.

*In the meantime, just relax.* Go to the beach perhaps, which will continue to be covered in sand as long as our rivers flow freely, our cliffs erode naturally, and wetlands like the Buena Vista Lagoon are open to the sea. In this, we can make a difference. Choosing the best restoration plan for the Buena Vista Lagoon will directly impact the amount of sand naturally deposited on our North County beaches. More sand equals better coastline protection, as well as enhanced recreational opportunities.


(And remember to designate BVAS as your Smile Amazon charity!)

**On the Road Again...**

**Local Children Hit the Beach to Protect the Snowy Plover**

It was just last year that San Diego Audubon asked BVAS to join it in mobilizing our youngest naturalists. Our Nature Guides accepted the challenge, and Sharing Our Shores came to local schools. Since that time, nearly 200 third and fourth grade children have learned how hard it is for snowy plovers and least terns to share the sand with people and their dogs. Through that process, the students have come to see their beaches in a whole new light, and realize they can make an important difference.

Most recently, Foussat Elementary third graders were treated to both in-class and out-in-the-field experiences. At school, students received background on snowy plovers and the unique challenges they face. Art projects led to re-creations of plover nests, called scrapes, and to posters for educating the public at local nesting and roosting spots. Once at South Ponto State Beach, the students explored a variety of topics, including the kelp ecosystem, migration, geology, and human influences (positive and negative).

We’ll be out again in the fall, with a new crop of students anxious to learn and lend a hand.
**WHelan Lake Bird Sanctuary Walk**
*Saturday, June 4, July 2, Aug. 6—8 a.m.*
Join BVAS for our regular monthly walk and bird survey at this very popular and productive birding hotspot.
**Directions:** From I-5, take Hwy. 76 East; turn left at Douglas Dr.; continue to the light at North River Rd.; go left on North River Rd. Pass through entrance gate and follow signs to the lake.
**Leader:** John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

**Palomar Mountain/Doane Pond Bird Walk**
*Sunday, June 5—8 a.m.*
**Note:** Steve’s bird walk this month has been moved to the 1st Sunday of June. There will be no 2nd Sunday bird walks in June, July or August.

The Upper Doane Valley in Palomar Mountain State Park is especially beautiful this time of year. The trails meander between forest and meadow, offering a nice mix of mountain birds.
**Directions:** Take Hwy 76 east. Turn left (north) on the scenic and winding Hwy S6; turn left on Hwy. S7, and follow signs to Doane Pond. An $8/car day use fee is required at the entrance. Meet in the Doane Pond parking lot. Bring water and snacks.
**Leader:** Steve Brad, 760-633-1639.

**Monthly Surprise Bird Walk**
**NOTE:** No 2nd Thursday Surprise Bird Walks are scheduled for June, July, or August. If a good birding opportunity presents itself, Steve may decide to hold a special summer session, and everyone on the notification list will get an alert.

To get on Steve’s Second Thursday Walk notification list, send your name and phone number to: stevanbrad@gmail.com.

**San Dieguito River Park Bird Walk**
*Saturday: June 18—“Lagoon Day” (San Andres Drive), July 16 (Lower Crest Canyon), and Aug. 20 (San Andres Drive)—8:30 a.m.*
Early summer finds breeding stilts and avocets with long-legged chicks still in tow. By August, shorebirds begin to trickle in as they return from their northern nesting grounds.
**Directions:**
*San Andres Dr.—*From I-5, take Via de la Valle east; go right on San Andres Dr. to end of road.
*Lower Crest Canyon—*From I-5, take Via de la Valle west; left on Jimmy Durante Blvd.; left on San Dieguito Rd. Drive east 1 mile to trailhead.
**Leader:** John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

**San Diego Pelagic Birding with BVAS**
*Sunday, June 12—6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.*
Our early summer pelagic trip focuses on San Diego County waters out to the 30-Mile and 60-Mile Banks. Past trips in June have found black-footed albatrosses, red-billed tropicbirds, south polar skuas, and Leach’s and ashy storm-petrels.
**Pelagic Birding Information and Trip Registration**
Visit the BVAS pelagic website at [www.sandiegopelagics.com](http://www.sandiegopelagics.com) for details about all pelagic birding activities, including trip schedules, charter boat landing locations, prices, target birds, prior trip lists, and photos. Sign up early for early bird trip prices.

**Basic Birding Workshop and Buena Vista Lagoon Bird Count**
*Saturday: June 25, July 30, and Aug. 27—9 a.m.*
Join the BVAS birders for our basic birding workshop and monthly bird count at Buena Vista Lagoon. No experience necessary. We meet at the Nature Center at 9 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.
**Leaders:** Joan Fountain; Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

**Costa Rica Bird Trip in January**
Join BVAS Migrating Birders next January on a 10-day tour of Costa Rica birding hotspots. The trip includes 2-night stops at La Selva OTS Biological station, Arenal Volcano area, Carara National Park, and Cerro de la Muerta. Each one of these areas is home to a tremendous variety of species.
This trip has something for everyone, novice and seasoned birders, whether or not you’ve ever visited Costa Rica before. We’ll be visiting some of Costa Rica’s best birding spots, staying in top-rated resorts, comfortably transported by private minibus, and led by an expert bilingual birding guide. And while birding is primary, we have included some other fun things along the way.

The trip cost is $2,815 per person, double occupancy, not counting air transportation to Costa Rica. Single supplement fee is $530. The price includes 11 nights of lodging, most meals, bus transportation, and guides. The trip is limited to 14 people, and is expected to fill up quickly. A deposit of $500 is required to hold your space.
A detailed trip itinerary is attached to the Summer digital edition of the newsletter and is also available at the Nature Center. For further information or to register, email Marilyn Hendron at mhendron@pacbell.net or call 760-730-1966.

**Ridgway’s Rail Release and Monitoring at Buena Vista Lagoon**
*July/August—BVAS will be participating in the release and monitoring of 10 radio-tagged Ridgway’s rails at Buena Vista Lagoon this summer. Teams of volunteers will plot the locations of the rails twice daily for 8 weeks, using radio telemetry equipment. We’re looking for nature lovers interested in signing up to cover one or more 2-hour shifts each week. You’ll be trained and invited to participate in the release. Interested? Contact Andy Mauro (akamauro1@gmail.com). This will be a fun and extremely rewarding project!"
2016 Annual Meeting and Election of Directors

The election of new BVAS Board directors for the coming fiscal year will take place at the Annual Meeting on June 15 at 7 p.m. The 15-minute meeting will precede the showing of our movie. All of the present directors have indicated a willingness to continue to serve on the Board. The slate of candidates to be voted on will also include former director Kelly Deveney, who is returning to the Board after a brief sabbatical, and Jane Mygatt, a new director recently appointed by the Board. Two additional nominees are also expected to be on the ballot. Members will also be voting on an amendment to the BVAS Bylaws which would increase the number of directors on the Board to a maximum of 20. The new Board of Directors will elect its officers and make committee assignments at the first Board Meeting of the 2016/17 fiscal year, July 1, 2016.

Are you ready to get more involved with BVAS? We could use your help! Find out how you can pursue your interests and give back to the community by becoming a part of the BVAS volunteer family. Call Bob for more info: 760-207-3884.

Amaranta’s BioBlitz— Friends of BVAS Nature Guide

Amaranta Kozuch gathered in late April to conduct a special survey of the flora and fauna living around the BVAS Nature Center, easily identifying about 200 different species of plants and animals. Called a BioBlitz, the survey was a special tribute to Amaranta, whose passionate work on behalf of Nature’s smallest creatures was tragically cut short in a traffic accident in 2014, when she was 29 years old. Amaranta’s colleagues at the S.D. Zoo’s Institute for Conservation Research and her volunteer family at BVAS came together to experience the beauty and wonder of Nature as Amaranta would have done, and to remember the goodness and grace of a special friend.

“A bird might love a fish, but where would they live?”
—Drew Barrymore

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD*, AND CHAIRS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Andy Mauro*</td>
<td>760-753-1266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Dennis Huckabay*</td>
<td>760-757-6437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Judi Wilson*</td>
<td>760-439-3649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Sandy McMullen*</td>
<td>760-944-5690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>Dave Billings*</td>
<td>760-753-7925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bird House Auction</td>
<td>Kelly Deveney</td>
<td>760-721-2441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Kathy Billings*</td>
<td>760-753-7925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Patty Montgomery*</td>
<td>760-931-6678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Bruce Montgomery*</td>
<td>760-931-6678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Jane Mygatt*</td>
<td>505-249-5333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center Manager</td>
<td>Annette Schneider</td>
<td>760-945-8891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Chair</td>
<td>Joan Herskowitz*</td>
<td>760-942-5167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Chair</td>
<td>Fran MacNeel</td>
<td>760-929-9158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities/Exhibits</td>
<td>Danny DiMento*</td>
<td>858-688-6891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trips</td>
<td>Steve Brad*</td>
<td>760-633-1639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift Shop</td>
<td>Denise Riddle*</td>
<td>760-439-0256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>C. J. DiMento</td>
<td>760-231-9096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership/Mailings</td>
<td>Janice Osborne</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BVAS DONATION MINI-FORM (Clip and Send)

Name: ___________________ Email: ___________________
Address: ___________________
Amount: _______ Check (enclosed) _______ or *Credit Card _______
*Credit Card Info: # __________________ Exp. _______

Please indicate how you’d like your donation applied:

Nature Center & Programs/BVAS Nature Endowment: _______
NOTE: For a limited time, donations of $100 or more to support the Nature Center and BVAS conservation and nature programs will be doubly-matched by a special grant, with the combined funds placed in the new BVAS Nature Endowment to create a dependable source of support for generations to come. Donations of less than $100 will go into the general operating account to fund current expenses.

**Please note: Donation can only be matched through credit card at this time.**

“Smile, You’re on Amazon!”

Maybe you’re not Bill Gates, but you still like the idea of being able to dole out charitable grants. Just go to www.smile.amazon.com and designate Buena Vista Audubon as your favorite charity. It’s like Amazon.com in every way, except that a half percent of what you spend gets donated by Amazon to BVAS and helps support the Nature Center. We may get just a handful of pennies for each of your purchases, but a bunch of handfuls can fill a pail, and a bunch of pails can fill a wheelbarrow. You get the idea!

—Drew Barrymore

Bill Gates
DR. DUCK’S BIRD SCULPTURES EXHIBIT

BVAS Nature Center—August 6-21

BVAS and the Oceanside Museum of Art (OMA) are co-hosting an exhibit of 25 fanciful metal bird sculptures in August at the BVAS Nature Center. The fascinating works of art were created by Oceanside sculptor Paul Weber, sometimes known as “Dr. Duck.” The free exhibit will run for two weeks, August 6-21. Guests will be able to view the sculptures during the Nature Center’s regular operating hours (Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun. 1-4 p.m.; closed Mon).

Preview Reception—A preview reception at the Nature Center on Friday, August 5, from 6:30-8:30 p.m., will give guests a chance to meet the artist. Light refreshments will be served.

Kids’ Art Project—The construction of a giant bird sculpture will highlight the exhibit’s opening day festivities on August 6. The artist will be on hand at 1 p.m. to help interested children construct the sculpture using paper, various other materials, and glue guns.

The Hatching of Dr. Duck—Paul’s alter persona was created almost 20 years ago after several of his metal bird sculptures began to mysteriously appear around the grounds of the Nature Center. Each morning following the appearance of a new sculpture, a note would be found with the message, “Dr. Duck was here.” This public exhibit finally gives BVAS a chance to officially recognize Paul and thank Dr. Duck for the art that has delighted Nature Center visitors for so many years.

BVAS NATIVE PLANT CLUB

NATURE CENTER GARDEN WORK PARTY

Mondays at 10 a.m.—Every Monday morning, the garden crew gathers at the Nature Center to do a little maintenance work around the native plant garden and trails. Interested gardeners are invited to join the group for some casual gardening and friendly chatter.

Summer is the time for Buckwheat

The summer section of a native garden should have lots of buckwheat. There are more than 100 species of buckwheat native to California, many with distinctive, long-lasting, summer flowers and seed heads. Native insects are readily attracted to buckwheats, and serve to bring a small garden alive. One buckwheat plant can have a hundred or more insects visiting at any one time, offering an up-close view of many different pollinator and predator insects interacting. They are especially important butterfly plants, as well. And it’s not just about insects. Buckwheat flowers, leaves and seeds are used by all the smaller animals.

Editor’s Note: We’re sorry to report that Las Pilitas Nursery, long a favorite with North County native plant gardeners, has closed the doors at its Escondido location. Much of the info in this story was taken from the Las Pilitas Nursery website.

KIDS’ CORNER AT THE NATURE CENTER

Joey’s and Johnny’s Clubhouse—“Shell Games”

Sunday—June 19, July 17, August 21—1-4 p.m.

Kids and parents are invited to attend the summer sessions of Joey’s and Johnny’s Clubhouse for some informal nature fun. We’ll have a special treasure trove of native shells on hand at the Clubhouse, perfect for creating a personal shell collection or stringing together a necklace. Come join the fun!

Preschool Nature Storytime on Summer Break—

Preschool Nature Storytime will be on summer vacation for June, July, and August. Our next Storytime will be September 26. In the meantime, bring your children on a personal visit to the Nature Center when you’re looking for a nature-related outing this summer. Pick up the self-guided Nature Treasure Hunt map, check out the children’s library of nature books, look at neat stuff through the microscope at our Nature Discovery Lab. Our hosts will help you get started.
Hey, it’s summer. Get out there and have some fun!
BVAS INVITES novice, casual and life lister birders to our first Costa Rica trip! We have teamed up with Costa Rica Sun Tours to bring to you a trip designed to hit at least 4 key birding hot spots. Along the way we will see volcano’s, farms, orchids, frogs, monkeys, iguanas, butterflies, sloths, bats and crocodiles. January is a perfect time of year for fruiting trees that both endemic and migratory birds need.

We have arranged to have an excellent local Costa Rica birding guide with us on all of our adventures. He/she will have scope available. In addition, at critical places like OTS La Selva we will be joined by a resident guide who knows the terrain well and can explain more about the reserve, the research taking place and of course will help us to find some cool birds.

The itinerary includes most meals, all park entrance fees, boat tours, and of course hotels. And while this looks like a jammed packed itinerary, there will be time to relax, go to the pool or spa, compare bird lists and talk with guide(s) about what makes Costa Rica so special.

Itinerary – January 11-22
For the next 10 days our group will be accompanied by one of the top birding guides to ensure a memorable trip and a great list of birds. We will be traveling in our own comfortable bus. The cost includes all indicated transportation and guide services accommodations and meals as indicated: B=breakfast, L=lunch, D=dinner.

January 11 arrive in Costa Rica. There will be a representative from Costa Rica sun tours to welcome you after you clear customs and get your luggage.

See itinerary details on next page…
Hot Spot Birding Costa Rica Itinerary – January 11-22

Jan 11-12 BL
2 nights at the Hotel Bougainvillea- http://www.hb.co.cr/en/
• Over 10 acres of gardens, ponds and home to over 60 species of birds.
• Wake up to a chorus of bird song and start your list with the Clay Colored Thrush, Blue Gray Tanager and with a little luck the Blue Crowned Motmot.
• Excursion: Poas Volcano and Hummingbird Café

Jan 13-14 BLD
2 nights at Ara Ambigua Lodge http://www.hotellaraambigua.com/website/
• This cozy hotel has great food, a gift shop, pool and some small trails to explore on your own. This will be our “base camp” as we explore OTS La Selva. http://www.ots.ac.cr/index.php?option=com_wrapper&Itemid=838
• Excursions: Quebrada Gonzalez, Nature Pavilion Eco Observatory, OTS La Selva

Jan 15-17 BL
2 nights at Arenal Observatory Lodge http://www.arenalobservatorylodge.com/
• Historic Arenal Observatory Lodge is world famous for its views of the Arenal volcano and lake. With 7 miles of trails and close to 900 species of birds (no, we won’t see them all), we promise you won’t be bored.
• Excursions: Arenal Hanging Bridges, Danaus Eco Center, Vida Campesina.

Jan 17-19 BLD
2 nights at Cerro lodge http://www.hotelcerrolodge.com/
• Using Cerro as our base we will explore the mangroves and hike in Carara National Park (the first in Costa Rica). It will be an action packed couple of days!
• Excursions: Solimar Ranch, Tarcoles Rover and Mangrove Tour, hike through Carara National Park

Jan 19-20 BLD
2 nights Highlands of Cerro De la Muerte. Sueno del Bosque or similar hotel http://www.bosquesangerardo.com/en/
• With some great hikes we will be rounding out our lists. Our goal will be the Resplendent Quetzal.
• Excursions: Morning and afternoon nature walks, Tapanti Lancaster Gardens

Jan 21 DB
1 night at Hotel La Rosa de America https://larosadeamerica.com/
• Our final night with a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.
• Time to get your bird lists nailed down, contact info from the rest of the group and pack.
• The hotel is located only 15 minutes from the airport.

Rate based on a maximum group size of 12-14 trip participants and double room occupancy $2850. Single room supplement is $530.

For further information or to sign up, please contact me at:

Marilyn Hendron
Phone: 760-730-1966
email: mhendron@pacbell.net