

Quarterly issue • SUMMER 2023

THE MARSH INSIDER

Official Newsletter of the Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT THE PRESERVE?

BY SUZAN HUBERT

Visitors frequently stop at the Nature Center front desk to ask, "When is the best time to visit the Preserve?" My answer is always, "it depends on your interests."

Spring is a fine time to see ducks, ducklings, and wildflowers. When we have a lot of rain, thus a lot of water, the native plants are in bloom, providing lots of color and wonderful scents. Insects abound in all their fascinating colors and lifestyles. Frogs, frog eggs, tadpoles, and wolf spiders can all be seen along the shady edges of the ponds.

Harlequin bugs are back and happily living on the bladder pods along the main trail...

THIS ISSUE:

WHEN IS THE
BEST TIME TO
VISIT THE
PRESERVE?

I CALL BULL!

MEET KATIE
SHANKS

NEW WATER
STATION

DONORS

EVENTS

Spring is a wonderful time to walk the preserve's perimeter and savor the renewal of life. Summertime, and there is less water, so more of the Preserve is walkable.



PHOTO BY LANCE HILL

Pictured: A docent tour in the Spring

By summer, the shady and slightly magical willows are accessible for exploring. The egrets, herons, and ducks congregate in the cool willows around the remaining water. Insects are abundant, as are birds and lizards. Our fascinating harvester ants are busily collecting seeds in preparation for closing their nests for the winter.

The Preserve residents prepare for rains and colder, less hospitable weather in the fall. Plants begin producing seeds and cleverly ensure they are widely dispersed in preparation for the rains. The leaves begin to change color as the temperature drops at night. The entire Preserve is accessible to walkers in late fall. A walk through many areas yields a most satisfying crunch of autumn leaves underfoot.

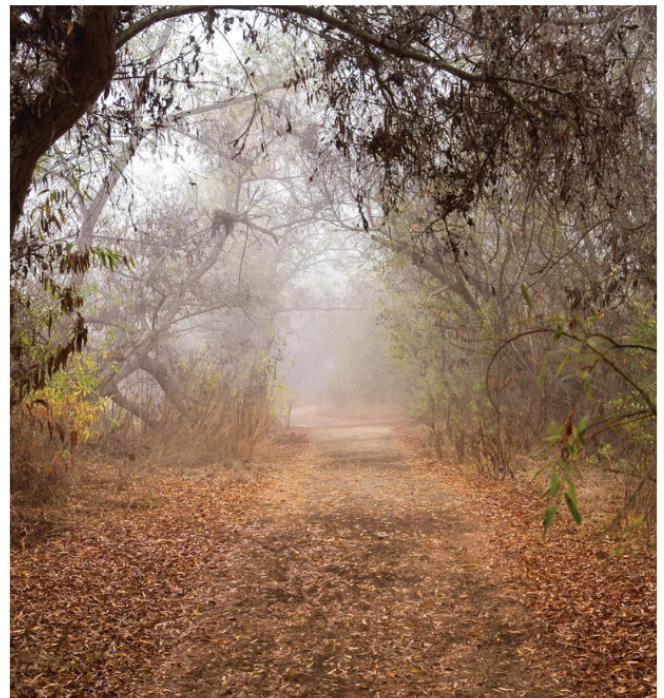


PHOTO BY LANCE HILL

Pictured: A walking path with scattered crunchy leaves in Autumn

Winter and late fall are fine times to see the seeds of each plant. Many insects are about, and they attract a multitude of birds. The harvester ants, however, are snug underground, their nests closed up tight. The Preserve awaits the rains and the coming season of life renewed.

Whenever you choose to wander the Preserve, there is always something interesting to experience. The “best” time to visit is your own choice. Each season offers a different experience. I suggest you visit once each season.



Suzan Hubert

California Naturalist

President

Friends of Madrona Marsh

I Call Bull!

BY MICHELLE SISON

Frogs are by far one of the most popular urban wildlife species found in our Marsh, even being spotted on our merchandise (which can be conveniently bought in our gift shop on weekends). It is difficult to spot these musically inclined creatures unless you head over to our Nature Preserve Center, where they can be seen safely within carefully curated habitats.

Perhaps you've heard our frogs even though you haven't seen them. While at the Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve during the day, you might hear a soft *ribbit* here, there, and everywhere as you walk through the trails. At night, you can hear an entire symphony when you are in proximity to the Preserve or perhaps on one of our monthly night hikes.

If you've heard this symphony, it should be no surprise that the Pacific Tree frog is also known as the Pacific Chorus frog. However, it is not only the frog you might spot in the Marsh. There is also the American Bullfrog.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE SISON

Pictured: A juvenile Pacific Tree Frog

The unfortunate truth is that the American BullFrog is invasive. With a voracious appetite, they eat almost anything, including our beloved Pacific tree frog. It's quite easy to differentiate them. Bullfrogs are huge in size and can grow to weigh over two pounds. Meanwhile, the Pacific tree frog is smaller with distinctly has a large head and

eyes. The American BullFrog is often colored brown to green with dark brown spots. The Pacific Tree frog ranges in coloring from a bronze brown to light lime green.

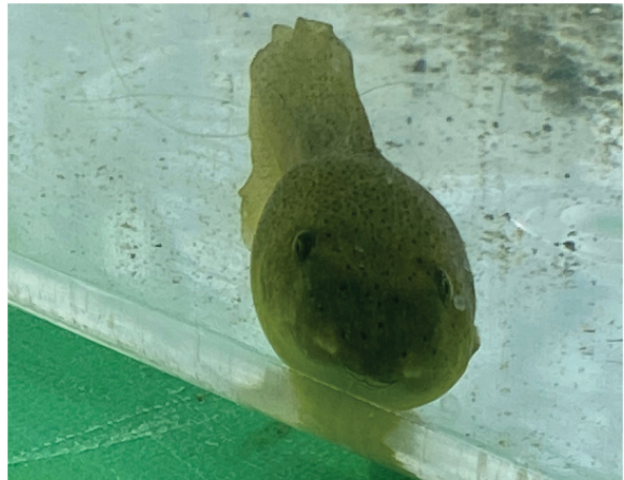


PHOTO BY MICHELLE SISON

Pictured: An American Bullfrog tadpole

Whether you're an esteemed naturalist or a casual visitor of the Marsh, it is important to consider the distinction and variety of our wildlife at the Marsh.



Michelle Sison

Volunteer

Media Director

Friends of Madrona Marsh

¿WILD? SPRING 2023 ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROFILE



Shanks has enriched their practice by taking scenic byways through millinery, fashion, installation, and performance—embracing the multifaceted nature of the work and always pursuing new mediums to communicate feeling best and convey meaning. Their work has long been inspired by the natural and urban landscapes surrounding them in their vast and varied home state of California. Accepted into Tulane’s MFA Program in Sculpture in the Fall, it will be necessary to say goodbye in order to close this chapter to open and begin writing the next.

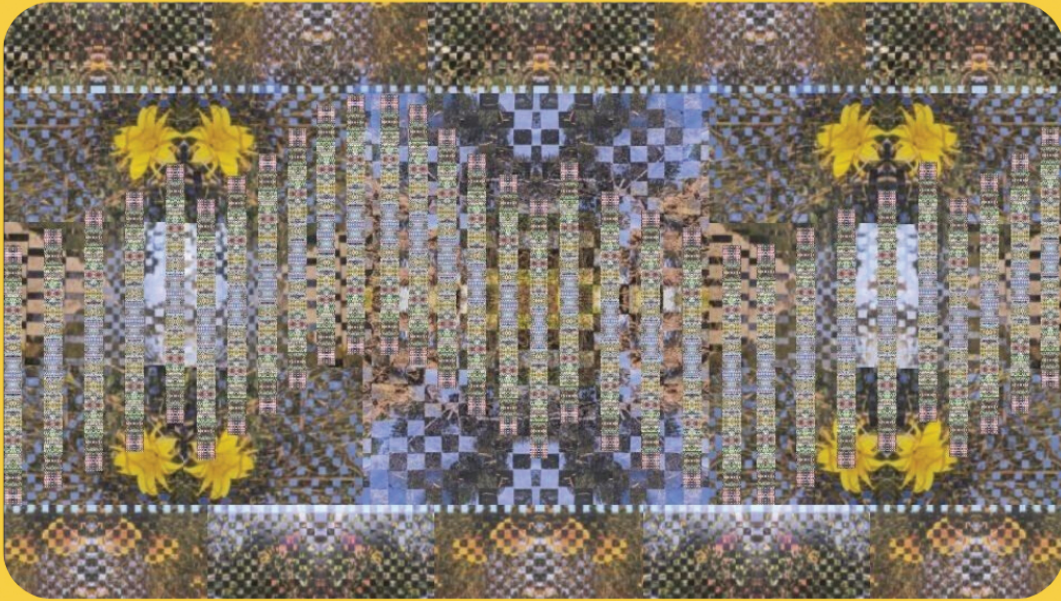
Meet Katie Shanks

Katie Shanks (They/Them) is a Los Angeles-based fiber artist. Since receiving their BFA in Drawing and Painting from California State University Long Beach in 2010, they have emphasized the cultivation of community and connection—as a founding member of the art collectives Somewhere in LA, Level Ground, and Acceptable Risk Los Angeles and taking part in artist-run initiatives and exchanges such as High Beams, BLA Connect, NOMAD, and TAM Forum.



For more content:
@art.kshanks
<http://www.kshanks.com/>

**¿WILD? SPRING ARTIST RESIDENCY
OPENING RECEPTION
KATIE SHANKS**



Please join us for an in-person reception to celebrate the inaugural ¿WILD? artist in residence: LA-based fabric artist Katie Shanks.

When:

Saturday, June 3rd, 2023
3 PM-6 PM

Where:

Madrona Marsh Preserve &
Nature Center

Fundraiser:

Wine \$5 a glass w/
snacks

Dress Code:

Casual

Let's raise money (and a glass)!



NEW WATER STATION AT THE NATURE CENTER



The partnership between the Friends of Madrona Marsh and the City of Torrance has resulted in a new water station at the Nature Center. This will allow visitors to refill their water bottles and contribute to another plastic pollution solution. The Friends purchased the water station, and the City handled the installation. Morgan Griffin, the City staff pictured with the new water station, was very helpful in securing the installation.

2023 DONATIONS

\$100.00 OR MORE

January	Gail & Richard Cole	\$100.00	
January	Francis & John Hunter	\$100.00	
February	Ashok Gupta	\$100.00	
February	Ashok Gupta	\$100.00	Scholarship Fund
February	Bill & Barb Ailor	\$100.00	
February	Norman & Suzanne George	\$200.00	
March	Judy Haueter	\$100.00	
March	Paul De Alieaume	\$100.00	
March	David Wilson	\$150.00	
April	Joan E. Sontag	\$200.00	
April	Rebecca Moore	\$200.00	
April	Patrich Brown	\$100.00	
April	Susan Ann Babcock	\$100.00	
April	Barbara & Raymond Bonesteele	\$100.00	
April	Virginia Massey	\$100.00	

2023 DONATIONS

\$100.00 OR MORE

April	Cynthia Kondon	\$100.00	
April	Craig & Anne Foy	\$100.00	
April	Mr. & Mrs. Ted Kotzin	\$200.00	
April	Tom McGivern	\$300.00	
April	Mr. & Mrs Juno Uyematsu	\$100.00	
April	Karen Greenberg	\$100.00	
April	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Vinter	\$150.00	
April	Chris & Laurie Spacone	\$100.00	
April	John & Louise Bye	\$100.00	
April	LaVonne Wuertz	\$100.00	
May	Frank & Marilyn Miles	\$150.00	
May	Sally Jackson	\$100.00	

JUNE 6

*Adult Supervision required

** Registration required

*** Adult supervision & registration required

To register for events, call (310) 782-3989

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 <u>Tyke Hike*</u> Ages 3 mos-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	2 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM-12:00 AM	3 <u>¿WILD? Art Reception</u> Wine & snacks fundraiser 3:00 PM-6:00 PM
4	5	6	7	8 <u>Nature Story Time & Craft***</u> Ages 2-5 yrs 10:30 AM-12:00 PM	9 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM-12:00 AM	10 <u>Nature Walks</u> All ages 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM <u>Night Hike***</u> 6:30 PM-8:30 PM
11	12	13	14	15	16 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM-12:00 AM	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM-12:00 AM	24 <u>Bird Walks</u> All ages 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
25	26	27	28	29	30 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM-12:00 AM	

Occasionally events are canceled due to weather. Cancellations are announced on FaceBook and Instagram.

JULY 7

*Adult Supervision required

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To register for events, call (310) 782-3989

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6 <u>Tyke Hike*</u> Ages 3 mos-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	7 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM-12:00 AM	8 <u>Nature Walks</u> All ages 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM <u>Night Hike***</u> 6:30 PM-8:30 PM
9	10	11	12	13 <u>Nature Story Time & Craft***</u> Ages 2-5 yrs 10:30 AM-12:00 PM	14 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM-12:00 AM	15
16	17	18 <u>Insects of the Coastal Sage Presentation</u> Speaker: Bob Allen 7:00 PM	19	20	21 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM-12:00 AM	22 <u>Bird Walks</u> All ages 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
23/30	24/31	25	26	27	28 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM-12:00 AM	29

Occasionally events are canceled due to weather. Cancellations are announced on FaceBook and Instagram.

AUGUST 8

*Adult Supervision required

** Registration required

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 <u>Tyke Hike*</u> Ages 3 mos-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	4 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM-12:00 AM	5
6	7	8	9	10 <u>Nature Story Time & Craft***</u> Ages 2-5 yrs 10:30 AM-12:00 PM	11 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM-12:00 AM	12 <u>Nature Walks</u> All ages 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM <u>Night Hike***</u> 6:30 PM-8:30 PM
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20	21	22	23	24	25 <u>Friday Fun***</u> Ages 3-6 yrs \$5.00 per child 10:00 AM-12:00 AM	26 <u>Bird Walks</u> All ages 9:00 AM-11:00 AM
27	28	29	30	31		

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VOLUNTEER AT MADRONA MARSH

Join the team!
Open to
applicants 18
years & older.



Positions Available

- Reception Desk
- Preserve Entry Greeter
- Gift Shop
- Animal Care



Scan QR Code
For information



Contact for information
nature1@torranceca.gov
(310) 782-3989