

# WHO ARE THE FRIENDS OF MADRONA MARSH?

*The Friends of Madrona Marsh is a non-profit, volunteer organization. Our goal is preservation, restoration, community environmental education and appropriate use of the Madrona Marsh Preserve.*

## 2018 Annual Report



# THE FRIENDS OF MADRONA MARSH



## NEW FOR 2019

- SENIOR STROLLS
- NATURE STORY TIME
- WALKIN' THRU TIME: A GALA FUNDRAISER CELEBRATING THE MURALS AND NEW EXHIBITS WE ANTICIPATE BEING INSTALLED IN THE NATURE CENTER.

WATCH OUR NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE FOR A DATE.

## SAVE THE DATES

- APRIL 27 EARTH DAY
- OCTOBER 26 MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
- JULY 4, 11, 18, 25 FUNDRAISER AT SMOG CITY BREWERY



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- SUZAN HUBERT, PRESIDENT
- BOBBIE SNYDER, VICE PRESIDENT
- CAROL ROELEN, SECRETARY
- ELLEN PETERSON, TREASURER
- BILL ARROWSMITH, MARSH MAILER EDITOR
- STEVE GRIFFIN, WEBSITE LIAISON
- SARAH NODDINGS, DOCENT TOUR COORDINATOR
- BOB SHANMAN, BIRD ADVISOR
- JEANNE BELLEMIN, ZOOLOGY ADVISOR
- VINCENT LLOYD, INVENTORY CONTROL
- DONNA WENDEL, MEMBERSHIP
- MELISSA LOEBL, NATURALIST/MANAGER OF THE PRESERVE AND LIAISON TO THE BOARD



## The Numbers in 2018

- **40,618** people visited the Preserve and Nature Center
- There were a total of **4600** volunteers contributing to the Nature Center and Preserve
- Volunteers donated **14,243** working hours to the operation and maintenance of the Preserve. At \$29 per hour (the standard hourly amount used by the City to calculate volunteer hours) these volunteers saved the City of Torrance the extraordinary sum of **\$414,329** in 2018.

### 2018 Income



### 2018 Expenses



## With Gratitude

*It is with sincere gratitude that we publish this Annual Report for our supporters. Many people have the chance to enjoy this magical Preserve because of support from the Friends, the City and business partners. On behalf of the plants and the animals that live on the Preserve we offer our heartfelt thank you.*

*If you are interested in joining our efforts please contact Suzan Hubert by calling (310) 782-3989*



# MEMBERSHIP

380 members  
\$11,049 dues



## POLLINATOR HOUSE



A Pollinator House was designed, constructed and donated by Ken Fall at the local BioQuip Products Company for the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

It was installed in the garden behind the Nature Center and subsequently filled with cut logs, yucca stalks, reeds and 4x4s, all drilled with holes. These materials provide nesting sites to encourage native bees and other pollinators to nest in the native plant garden. Most endemic bees are ground nesting, but this structure was built to support cavity-nesting species like leaf-cutting bees and mason bees.

It will take months or even years for the native bees to establish residence in our new Pollinator House and we intend to do everything possible to insure their success.

## RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Restoration and maintenance in the Preserve and Native Gardens continue under the guidance of Dan Portway and Tony Baker.



**NEIL KALENAK**, who works with Dan and Tony, started volunteering when he was a high school student. He went on to join the Advanced Restoration Crew (ARC) as one of the original members. The ARC assists staff in the supervision of the Saturday restoration student volunteers.

As an ARC member Neil works hard on the Preserve but finds time for a bit of fun.

Once, while working on the Preserve, when a fellow ARC said he was thirsty his pals dumped the entire water container on him, ice included!



According to Neil, helping with supervision of the Saturday volunteers takes a little something extra; "Being with ARC is about making the volunteer work interesting and giving the kids reasons to care about what they are doing". Finding inspiration in the work on the Preserve and lighting an inspiration in others is Neil's favorite part of his work on the Preserve. We are grateful for his dedication.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**SMOG CITY BREWERY** hosted a fundraiser for the Marsh in July resulting in over \$1500 for the Friends. We will repeat this fun event every Thursday from 6:00-9:00 during July 2019.

**SOUTH BAY MARRIOTT** The Marriott's restaurant serves a Madrona Burger and donates \$1.00 to the Friends for every burger sold. In 2018 the Marriott donated \$4,623.

**ARCONIC** provided \$5500 for the production of a virtual docent tour of the Nature Center and Preserve. The film is designed to replicate an actual docent tour for elementary students. It will be used as a docent outreach to classrooms. Arconic was formally known as ALCOA.

**TORRANCE REFINERY** is a long-time supporter through sponsorship of educational activities and donations to various events.

## HONORS AND RECOGNITION IN 2018

- 2018 Rose Float featuring the Madrona Marsh won the Mayors Trophy
- Al Muratsuchi Environmental Stewardship Award
- Kiwanis Celebration of Community Award





# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



## OUTREACH

- 34TH ANNUAL WHALE OF A DAY
- DEANE DANA FRIENDSHIP PARK ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR
- TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR
- ECOFEST AT DEANE DANA FRIENDSHIP PARK



## DOCENT TOURS FOR STUDENTS

This year our Docents led 116 student tours.

These tours included a grand total of 1365 STUDENTS and 225 ADULTS including teachers and parent chaperones. TORRANCE SCHOOLS participating included Anza, Carr, Hickory, Seaside, Towers and Victor. NON-TORRANCE SCHOOL students came from schools in Carson, Gardena, Lomita, Hawthorne, Manhattan Beach, Palos Verdes and Temple City.

## PARTICIPANTS IN DOCENT TOURS FOR THE COMMUNITY



- Tyke Hikes was attended by 244 infants, toddlers and their parents. Tyke Hikes is a monthly program for young children aged birth-3
- Friday Fun was attended by 1921 young children and their parents. Friday Fun is a weekly science-based program for 3-6 year olds
- 243 Community members, adults and children, participated in Tour de Torrance
- 145 Participated in Nature Walks
- 122 Individuals went on a Birding with Bob walk

In addition to docent led tours for students, young children and the community, the Friends also publish a quarterly newsletter, THE MARSH MAILER, for members. Members may continue to receive their newsletter in the mail or it is now available by request in full vibrant color via email.

## CONNIE



**Connie Vadheim-Roth** has been a volunteer at the Madrona Marsh for the past 14 years and has served on the

Friends Board of Directors for much of that time. She is perhaps best known for her series of classes on California native plants, "Out of the Wilds and Into Your Garden", which has introduced many Friends to the importance and the beauty of the plants that have lived here longer than humans. Connie and her husband, Jim, are retiring to Colorado (and Arizona, in the winter). We wish them our very best as they start new adventures there, and are extremely grateful to Connie for the immeasurable gift she has given to the Friends and the Madrona Marsh.

