

Marsh Mailing

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

Wildlife (or Wild Life?) in the Preserve

Suzan Hubert, President



Suzan Hubert

Who knows what adventure awaits when you walk in the gates to the Preserve. I lead docent tours for school study trips. I am still new at this, still building knowledge and confidence, so my tour group last March surprised me—or maybe unnerved is a better word.

As I stood on the steps in my cool, green Madrona Marsh shirt and waved to the school bus that pulled in I thought the kids looked bigger than usual. Sarah Noddings, who organizes our school tours, usually assigns me kindergarten through fifth grade. As people began to exit the bus there seemed to be an inordinate number of adults.

Then it hit me. “Oh my gosh, this is a high school group! However did I miss that detail in the emails?”

Well, there they were—a few of them taller than I—and I somehow had to live up to my cool green shirt. I took a big gulp, a deep breath and a smile. Off I went with my very first tour with ninth graders. I had some strength to fall back on: I taught middle school for awhile, I know how to read an audience’s interests, I am a college graduate All these thoughts gave me hope as I started off through the exhibit hall and Native Garden thinking, “I’ll figure it out.”

As we entered the Preserve we stopped to discuss the Harlequin Bugs on the Bladderpod, many of whom were mating. One young lady asked, “How do these bugs choose a mate? How do they know which one to choose?”

Interestingly enough that was the same agile young lady who so smoothly ducked the young man who kept trying to put his arm around her. I have to thank them for reminding me what all high school students are most interested in: ‘hooking up,’ finding a boy/girl friend. It was spring on the Preserve; the

major activity of all the critters in spring is hooking up, finding a mate, procreation, and continuation of species. Fortunately, I could answer that some animals are selective breeders and some are not. Harlequins are not selective and will hook up with any other bug of the same species (as far as we know), but other animals such as the ducks compete for a mate. Mallards provided a perfect example because they were so cooperative with demonstrations. Suddenly I had 100 percent attention. The young ladies in my group were impressed with the fact that male birds have lovely plumage and special calls just to dazzle prospective females. In bird society it’s the males’ responsibility to entice the females; comparisons were made! Suddenly that young fellow stopped trying to put his arm around his intended.

We had interesting conversations around a Harvester Ant hill as the group digested the details of matriarchal societies. In the end the students and I were engaged in conversations about how other animals choose mates compared to humans. And the comparisons . . . well here are some samples; you draw your own comparisons:

Tree frogs mate from November to July. When courtship time arrives males migrate to water and call loudly announcing their location and availability; sort of an amphibian e-harmony.

Grey squirrels have two courtship seasons, December-January and June-July. The female gives off a scent that attracts males. Ladies, we are not alone with our Chanel #5. Lines of males chase the female. The female concludes that the closest males are the strongest and she will select one that best matches her pace. The wisdom of lady squirrels is worthy of note.

Singing, dancing and magic dust all feature in insect and arachnid love life. Crickets use distinct calling songs. When a female cricket is nearby, the male suitor sings his best courtship song to sweep her off all six of her feet. Jumping spiders are famous for their dancing skills—they perform linear, zigzag and a sort of cancan dance with their forelegs. A male Queen Butterfly spreads an aphrodisiac dust on a prospective mate. If the magic dust works, she will fly to a nearby plant. He dusts her once more, just to be sure, and thus they consummate the union.

“Wild Life . . .” Continued on page 3.

Two New Books Arrive in Gift Shop

Bill Arrowsmith, Past President

Two long-awaited books are coming to the Nature Center, both published by the Friends of Madrona Marsh.

Birds of Madrona Marsh Preserve, now in review, is perfect for the novice birder as it's small, easy to use and describes only the birds likely to be found on our Preserve. Complete with beautiful photographs and a map, it shows where on the Preserve each species is usually found and in what season. It will be reviewed in the next *Marsh Mailing*.

The second book is ***An Anecdotal History of Madrona Marsh***, by David Wong.

David Wong is a studious young man, and a gifted writer. During his sophomore year in high school he asked Manager Tracy Drake if there were any writing projects that he could undertake at Madrona Marsh. Tracy suggested that we don't have a very good record of the many people who were involved in the preservation of the Marsh, or of the many volunteers who have worked so hard to make it a success. She gave him a list of some of the people who had been involved in one or the other, or both.

Over the course of several years David interviewed all those people and several more, including Ms. Drake herself, as well as her predecessor, Walt Wright. Last fall, David, still a sophomore—but now at some school in Connecticut named Yale University—showed his completed manuscript to Tracy and the Friends' Board of Directors. We were unanimously impressed with the result, and we decided to help him publish it.

Reading the book, we all agreed, was surprisingly easy—more like reading one's favorite newspaper columnist (think John Bogert of the *Daily Breeze* or Steve Lopez of the *L.A. Times*—or if you're old enough, Jack Smith) more like that than the dry, factual history we were expecting.

As you read this book you'll meet, along with the gently inquisitive author, many of the people (at least

those still living) who were involved in the early history of the struggle to preserve this urban wetlands—people like Sam Suitt, the first president of the Friends of Madrona Marsh and Virginia Hilker, on the original Board of Directors and still a vital force in our environmental community. You'll also meet the Friends who later picked up and carried the baton—Georgean Griswold, Venora Lee, Jane Nishimura, Bart Tendick, Dan Portway and the incomparable Shirley Turner.



David Wong with Shirley Turner

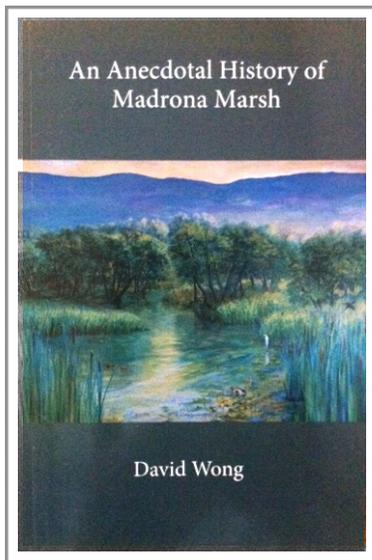
You'll meet Mark Wirth, the only remaining member of the four-person City Council majority who voted to deny the original Park del Amo Development—the act that preserved our precious wetlands. David is genuinely inquisitive about the history of the Preserve, and as Mark answers his gently probing questions, we all learn the inside story of what happened and how.

As David interviews more and more of those involved in the history of the Preserve, past and recent, he unveils the new focus of “Marshans” restoration and education. And he does it all in a light, conversational dialogue that makes you feel you've just stopped by to visit an old friend or two. Or twenty four, by the time you finish this, his first professional book.

Note that the book is very appropriately titled. It is, indeed, anecdotal—relying on its subjects' vivid but perhaps fading memories; but it captures, I think, the essence of the spark that inspired each to her or his contribution. And as Virginia Hilker so keenly observed, this book itself has become part of the legend and story of Madrona Marsh.

The book has been printed (by Ron Libbrecht's APC). Stop by the Gift Shop and check it out, and be sure to read the foreword by Tracy Drake and the author's introduction as well as his reflection on the interviews.

David Wong has set the price at a very affordable \$11.99, and has quite generously donated his share of all sales to the Friends of Madrona Marsh. That's right—100 percent of the purchase price of these books will be used to support the educational and restoration programs of the Friends. Thank you, David! And thank you for capturing the heart and spirit of a few of the many people who have contributed to the history and success of the Madrona Marsh Preserve.



Chicken Endangers Boom in Oil and Gas

Shirley Turner

Investor's Business Daily newspaper March 18 front page editorial had an unusual picture of a chicken. The wild kind, the lesser prairie chicken, late as child in season in Montana. I saved the paper for this issue of *Marsh Mailing*.

The story title was "A Chicken Endangers Boom in Oil and Gas." It is about the suit filed by Oklahoma's Attorney General which could become a landmark suit against U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). It argues the so-called "sue and settle" procedure for listing animals and plants on the endangered and threatened species list violates (i.e., not enough research is done) the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Included as a plaintiff in this suit is the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA), a national network of oil and gas producers.



This is the first time a state has taken legal action to break the FWS "sue and settle" cycle. Under sue and settle, environmental groups, including the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and Wildlife Guardians, petition FWS to list a species as endangered or nearing extinction and then shortly thereafter, sometimes in a matter of days, sue the federal government for inaction. Although this process was used earlier under the Clinton and G.W. Bush administrations, the number of suits filed during President Obama's first term, 60, was about double the number filed in any of the previous three terms.

The impact of this suit on the state economy could be great. The state of Texas has approved \$5 million for research on three species. If Oklahoma and DEPA lose their suit it could impact the U.S. energy boom, halting exploration and drilling on huge tracts of land. They seek relief from what they claim

are violations of the ESA through sue and settle process. Many energy officials believe that the green environmental groups are using the ESA as an excuse for (and method of) shutting down oil and gas drilling to combat climate change.

The suit will certainly make the public aware of the issues involved, including the question: "Is a lawsuit a legitimate way to implement the ESA?" Legislation is pending in congress to modify the sue and settle process. It has passed the House and is in a subcommittee in the Senate. There are many angles to think about. Google "sue and settle" Endangered Species Act for some of them.

Here is the link to the newspaper:

<http://elbertcounty.net/blog/2014/03/18/a-chicken-endangers-boom-in-oil-and-gas/>

"Wild Life..." Continued from page 1.

We don't have Dung Beetles in the Preserve, but I just love their unique take on family. Together the pair rolls a ball of dung which serves as a nursery for their offspring. We do have Wolf Spiders and (with a nod to Mother's Day) the mother Wolf Spider keeps her babies with her and carries them on her back. If you look closely you might see the tiny spiderlings on these small spiders that, much like many mothers, walk on water.

Consider, are we humans really so different? A research project demonstrated that human males respond best to the smell of cinnamon buns, so I may switch from my Chanel.

Keep the Faith

Artists Corner

Works of local artists and photographers inspired by the beauty of the Madrona Marsh are regularly on display at the Nature Center.

April 8 - May 23, **"Doug's Transparent Watercolor Paintings," A Watercolor Exhibit by Douglas Stenhouse.** Artist Reception, April 25, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

May 27 - July 11, **"Beautiful Marsh," An Exhibit of Sketches and Paintings by Jennifer Siegel.** Artist Reception, Friday, June 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

July 15 - August 22 - **"Through the Eyes of Children," An Exhibit of Paintings by Suzanne Gibson.** Artist Reception Friday, August 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center*

Schedule of Events for April through July 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders <u>1</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders 7-9 pm-Audubon Board Meeting <u>2</u>	10 am-Tyke Hike-donation 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>3</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** Stansbury Exhibit Ends <u>4</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 am-12 n-"Fabulous Fruits"-Dr. Vadheim <u>5</u>
<u>6</u>	CLOSED	10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30- pm, "Fabulous Fruits"-Dr. Vadheim Doug Stenhouse Exhibit Begins*** <u>8</u>	8 am-Bird Walk/ 1-pm-Sr. Naturalist 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30 pm-FOMM Mtg. <u>9</u>	10:30--12:30-Propagation Society <u>10</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** <u>11</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10am-Kids Story Time (fee) 1-3pm-Annual Tea Party hosted by FOMM 1:30-3:30-Origami <u>12</u>
<u>13</u>	CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg. <u>15</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>16</u>	10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>17</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** <u>18</u>	8:30am-12n-Earth Day 9-11am-Bird Stories <u>19</u>
<u>20</u>	CLOSED	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>22</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>23</u>	10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>24</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** 6:30-Stenhouse Reception*** <u>25</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 am-Nature Walk <u>26</u>
10 am-Nature Walk <u>27</u>	CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders <u>29</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>30</u>			

A P R I L

*All activities and classes meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center, located at 3201 Plaza del Amo (between Maple and Madrona) on the north side of the street. **No charge for Friday Fun, but reservations are required. ***See Artists Corner, page 3. For the latest event information, consult website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				10 am-Tyke Hike-donation 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>1</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** <u>2</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 am-12 n-"Lester Rowntree"-Dr. Vadheim 8-10 pm-Star Party <u>3</u>
<u>4</u>	CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30- pm, "Lester Rowntree"-Dr. Vadheim <u>6</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>7</u>	10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>8</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** <u>9</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 am-Microscope Explorations-fee 1:30-3:30 pm-Origami <u>10</u>
<u>11</u>	CLOSED	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>13</u>	8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting <u>14</u>	10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>15</u>	10 am--12n-Friday Fun** <u>16</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 9-11 am-Intro to Birding <u>17</u>
<u>18</u>	CLOSED	8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg. <u>20</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>21</u>	10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>22</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** Stenhouse Exhibit Ends*** <u>23</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 am-Nature Walk <u>24</u>
10 am-Nature Walk <u>25</u>	CLOSED	10 am-Adult Weeders Jennifer Siegel Exhibit Begins*** <u>27</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>28</u>	10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>29</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** <u>30</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 6:30 pm-Night Hike-fee <u>31</u>

M A Y

Nature Center & Gift Shop

(310)782-3989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders <u>3</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>4</u>	10 am-Tyke Hike-donation 10:30-Prop. Society. <u>5</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** <u>6</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10 am-12 n-"Ban Those Bugs"-Dr. Vadheim <u>7</u>
<u>8</u> 2-4 pm-2nd Sun.Science, "Stories of Stones," fee	CLOSED <u>9</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30- pm, "Ban Those Bugs"-Dr. Vadheim <u>10</u>	8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting <u>11</u>	10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>12</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** <u>13</u>	8:45am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service <u>14</u>
<u>15</u>	CLOSED <u>16</u>	8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg. <u>17</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>18</u>	10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>19</u>	10 am--12n-Friday Fun** <u>20</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 9-11 am-Intro to Birding 7-9 pm-Nightlife on the Preserve <u>21</u>
<u>22</u>	CLOSED <u>23</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>24</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>25</u>	10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>26</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** 6:30 pm-Siegel Reception*** <u>27</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10 am-Nature Walk 10 am-Art in Nature-fee 1-3 pm-Nature's Rhythm <u>28</u>
10 am-Nature Walk <u>29</u>	CLOSED <u>30</u>					

JUNE

*All activities and classes meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center, located at 3201 Plaza del Amo (between Maple and Madrona) on the north side of the street. **No charge for Friday Fun, but reservations are required.

***See Artists Corner, page 3. For the latest event information, consult website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders <u>1</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>2</u>	10 am-Tyke Hike-donation 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>3</u>	CLOSED <u>4</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 10 am-12 n-"...Beautiful Butterflies"-Dr. Vadheim 8-10 pm-Star Party <u>5</u>
<u>6</u>	CLOSED <u>7</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30- pm, "...Beautiful Butterflies"-Dr.Vadheim <u>8</u>	8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 10 am-Adult Weeders 6:30 pm-FOMM Mtg. <u>9</u>	10:30--12:30-Propagation Society <u>10</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** Siegel Exhibit Ends*** <u>11</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Re- stor. & Student Service 10 am-12-Butterfly Count Class-ages 16+-fee <u>12</u>
<u>13</u>	9 am-12 n-Junior Naturalist-fee <u>14</u>	8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 9 am-12 n-Junior Naturalist-fee 10 am-Adult Weeders 7 pm-Audubon Mtg. Gibson Exhibit Begins <u>15</u>	9 am-12 n-Junior Naturalist-fee 10 am-Adult Weeders <u>16</u>	9 am-12 n-JuniorNaturalist-fee 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>17</u>	9 am-12 n-Junior Naturalist-fee 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** <u>18</u>	All Day- Butterfly Count 8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service 9-11 am-Intro to Birding <u>19</u>
<u>20</u>	CLOSED <u>21</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>22</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>23</u>	10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>24</u>	10 am--12 n-Friday Fun** <u>25</u>	8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Re- stor. & Student Service 10 am-Nature Walk <u>26</u>
10 am- Nature Walk <u>27</u>	CLOSED <u>28</u>	8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 10 am-Adult Weeders <u>29</u>	10 am-Adult Weeders <u>30</u>	10:30-12:30-Propagation Society <u>31</u>		

JULY

WALSER'S Passes Milestone-- Perhaps Its Final

Bill Arrowsmith, Past President

WALSER'S has been performing valuable services for the South Bay community for over thirty-eight years.

Since 2006, the store has also been collecting electronic waste and other materials for recycling with over 500,000 pounds—that's 25 tons!—which has been diverted from landfills each year. Jack Walser also partnered with Henry Trejo of Salient Computers in San Pedro to test and refurbish some of the collected materials that would otherwise have become hazardous electronic waste, turning them into useable, tested electronics at far more affordable prices.

As regular readers know, Jack and Henry are also strong supporters of the Friends of Madrona Marsh, and have donated 25 percent of the gross revenue from their electronics refurbishment project to the Friends for the last five years, making quarterly donations right through the Great Recession.

Their last contribution, in April 2014, was given to the Friends even as Walser's Art Supply and Digital Printing Store conducted a giant liquidation sale. That donation, ironically, lifted the project over an impressive milestone: \$10,000 for the Friends' educational and restoration programs!

Thank you, Jack and Henry, for all that you have done for Torrance and for the Friends!

Post Scriptum: as we note above, the recession has not been kind to WALSER'S, and the art supply and digital store is being forced to relocate, or perhaps close. But Jack and Henry would like to continue their community service waste reduction program, hopefully with the help of a corporate benefactor. All they need is a location with about 10,000 square feet of space, provided either gratis or at reasonable rent from a local business interested in helping them to help keep our environment safe and clean.

If you are that business, or know of one, please contact Jack at 310-891-3325, or stop by 23145 Kashiwa Court during their Liquidation Sale going on now (10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Wednesday/Friday/Saturday).

Marsh Mailing is a quarterly newsletter designed to provide information about activities and upcoming events at or relating to the Madrona Marsh Preserve. Contributions are welcome and may be e-mailed to Diane Gonsalves at gonwild2@yahoo.com or Bill Arrowsmith, TheArrowsmiths@sbcglobal.net, or dropped off or mailed to the Nature Center, P.O. Box 5078, Torrance, CA 90510.

Save the Date To BAG-IT!

May 24, from 2-4 p.m.

**at the Nature Center 3201 Plaza del
Amo, Torrance 90505**

This is a program to educate the public about the damage single-use plastic has on the environment. Hint: plastic bags aren't the only ones to blame!

NOTE: This is not an entertaining program and it is not recommended for children.

The program includes a one hour video about the damage single-use plastic is doing to our world followed by a discussion about how individuals can make a difference.

To prevent an ecological crisis, we must become alarmed. That is when we will act. "Bag It!" is an alarming movie with a challenging message.

Hosted by Friends of Madrona Marsh and SEA Lab, Redondo Beach.

Please call 310-326-2774 and register so we can plan enough refreshments.

New Subscription Fees Announced

At our January 26, 2014 Annual Meeting, the Friends unanimously approved a new fee structure, our first change in 40 years:

Individual	\$20	[was \$10]
Family	\$30	[was \$20]
Youth/Senior	\$10	[was \$5]
Patron	\$50	[was \$35]
Clubs/Orgs.	\$75	[was \$50]
Business/Industry	\$150	[was \$100]
Lifetime Membership	\$500	[no change]

Winter 2014 Donations of \$100 or More

<u>Date</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
January	Karoline Snakenborg	\$100
January	Rebecca Moore	\$100
January	Peter & Pamela Major	\$100
January	James & Yoko Justiss	\$400
January	The Shibata's	\$500
January	Frank Miles	\$200
January	Norman & Suzanne George	\$250
January	The Bailey's	\$100
January	Torrance Women's Club	\$300
February	Samuel Suitt	\$100
February	New Horizons Conserv.Club	\$100
February	Barbara A. Pavliscak	\$100
March	Joan Roach	\$250

Ellen Peterson

South Bay Native Plant Corner

Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSU, Dominguez Hills



California Encelia (Bush Sunflower) *Encelia californica*

Plants in the Sunflower family brighten our gardens and preserves throughout the year. They also provide food for a number of garden visitors, including the Goldfinches. For a splash of spring gold that lasts for months, consider planting a Bush sunflower or two in your home garden.

California Encelia grows on coastal bluffs/slopes and in coastal sage scrub from Santa Barbara to Baja California. A perennial shrub, California Encelia is uniquely suited to our coastal Mediterranean climate. It has net-like roots that utilize available water--and are also good for stabilizing banks and slopes. Like many native shrubs, California Encelia loses its leaves with summer drought, then grows them back quickly with fall rains. In the home garden, Encelia can take an occasional watering in summer (once a month) to keep it green longer. But don't overwater. This is a drought-tolerant native.

California Encelia has simple leaves that are somewhat sticky and have a strong 'sunflower' odor. The flowers include yellow ray flowers (look like the 'petals') and dark brown disk flowers (the 'center'). Each flowering head is borne on a slender stalk above the foliage. Mature plants produce hundreds of flower heads, so this is a showy daisy indeed! You can probably still see some blooms in the garden or on the Preserve.

Because it blooms early, Encelia's flowers are magnets to native pollinators including bees, bee-flies and even beetles. Even an occasional early butterfly will partake of the nectar. Seeds are eaten by many birds and small animals, including the charming native Goldfinches. The foliage is caterpillar food for Metalmark butterflies. California Encelia makes a good all-purpose habitat plant for home gardens, attracting many visitors.

Encelia thrives in full to partial sun, in any of our local soils. It tolerates seaside conditions and alkali soils, and needs no added fertilizer.



In nature California Encelia forms a mounded shrub two to four feet tall and three to six feet wide. In the garden it can be pruned to a more manageable size, and should be cut back yearly to keep it vigorous and bushy. Plants can be pruned back to one foot tall in fall, just before the growth season. Other than that, our native Encelia requires little care. Plants live about five to ten years, but you can easily grow replacements from seed. Like all sunflowers, contact with the foliage can cause a mild skin rash in some people. For more see: <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/2013/03/plant-of-month-march-california-bush.html>

Learn more about local native plants at our "Out of the Wilds and into Your Garden" series on the first Saturday of each month. [Plant Information Sheets](#) and [Plant Lists](#) are also available at the Nature Center.

Friends of Madrona Marsh

a non-profit organization est. 1972

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.214
Torrance, California

P. O. Box 5078
Torrance, CA 90510

(310) 32MARSH

Return Service Requested



Membership Application

We appreciate your support. Thank you!

Annual Membership: _____ New _____ Renewal

Individual _____ \$20 Family _____ \$30 Youth (under 18)/Senior (over 65) _____ \$10

Patron _____ \$50 Club/Organization _____ \$75 Business/Industry _____ \$150

Lifetime Membership _____ \$500 Amount Enclosed _____

Please send your donation or offer of services to:

Friends of Madrona Marsh, P.O. Box 5078, Torrance, CA 90510

FOMM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. Your donations are tax deductible.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E:Mail _____

I will volunteer for: (Gift Shop, Reception Desk, other) _____
