

Summer 2017

Marsh Mailing

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

Marsh Mailing is also available in full color at www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com

A Life is a Life No Matter How Small

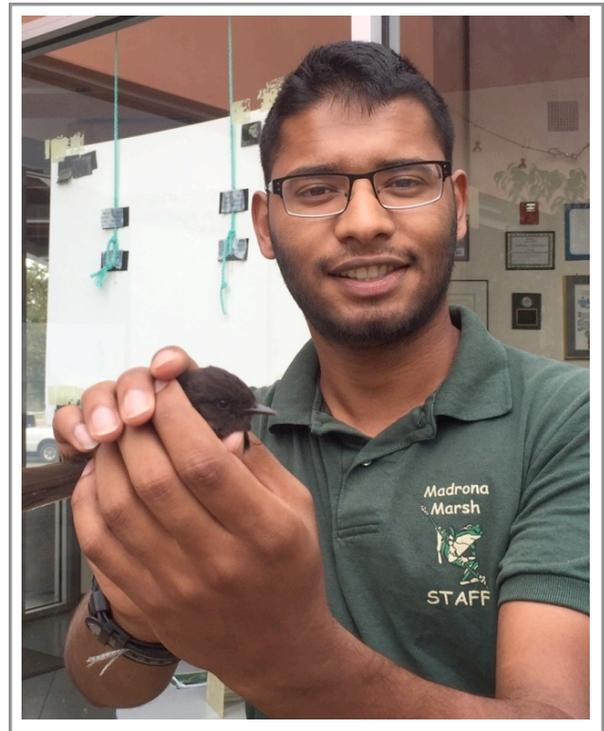
Suzan Hubert, President

John Muir said, when we try to pick out any one thing in nature by itself we find it hitched to everything else in the universe. Thus I ask you to ponder, as you walk through the Preserve, how important is one life? Consider your own life: it's extremely valuable to you and those who care for you. Even people who don't like you will agree your life is valuable.

We are 'people animals' so we sort of understand each other and how we all feel about life. Our harvester ants may or may not have self-awareness as we understand the concept, yet each and every ant has a valuable job in the nest—so don't step on them!

Amazing but true, each ant has a specific job; tunnel builders, cleaners that haul away debris, nurses to care for eggs and larvae, soldiers that patrol and warn of danger and warriors that defend the nest—often with their lives. They might look disorganized to us but every ant does her specialized job diligently for life. Interestingly enough, they are all females; after mating with a new queen the males leave.

When you walk through the Preserve gate it's the same as going through a front door into someone's home. When you do that, are you not respectful of the home and of the lives of the inhabitants? It's the same on the Preserve. Those large holes in the ground are often the front door to a well-organized burrow.



Dinuk with the Black Phoebe

Next time you visit, check out the interpretive kiosk in the Exhibit Hall next to the Snowy Egret display, which shows a Pocket Gopher burrow in detail.

Gopher Burrows are not just tunnels. They have rooms: a kitchen for food storage, a sleeping room and a room which acts as a toilet. When that chamber is full, the gopher covers it over and digs a new

"Life . . ." continued on page 2

“Life” continued from page 1.

one. Those gophers spend a lot of time keeping their homes neat and tidy, so please don't kick dirt in their front door or put your hand into one of those “holes”.

Every now and then, in the Nature Center, we have the opportunity to support the life of one of our wild things. A while back a woman brought a Black Phoebe in a box into the Nature Center. She had found it, unable to fly, and had brought it to us. The tiny bird might have died.

Fortunately, Dinuk Magamma was on duty that morning. He gently scooped up our little visitor very carefully and then discovered it had a bit of goo causing some wing feathers to stick together. Dinuk, the hero *du jour*, clipped off the goo with great caution, allowing the wings to expand. We released it in the Nature Center atrium where it paused and fluttered a bit in front of Dinuk—very like a ‘thank you’. Then off it flew, soaring away and on to live its life.

Was it grateful as it flew away? Did it view itself as valuable? I have no idea, but we did. And I wondered why.

Why were we so delighted that we saved the life of this little bird? Why do we ask you to avoid stepping on the ants; to view the gopher burrows with respect? We ask you to be respectful of all life—inside the Preserve and out. Every living thing has its place, its job, its position in the Universe.

That Black Phoebe Dinuk saved might be eating mosquitos in your backyard this summer. The ant you didn't step on may become food for a lizard—who could become dinner for a snake or an owl or a hawk; that is, if they can't find a gopher, a rat or a mouse.

When you walk through that gate and put your feet on the Preserve, you are in a Living Room of Life—where every life, no matter how small, matters. Because we are all part of a greater system. That's why we cared.

The Friends of Madrona Marsh and the Preserve Staff are continually seeking new and interesting ways to educate our community about the value of a healthy, successful ecosystem like the one we have on the Preserve.

Walk on the Preserve; go deep into the willows and pretend you're lost among all the lives being lived around you. Feel your stress slide away—at least for a while. It's a wondrous opportunity to consider your own place in the natural world. Don't step on the ants; and be sure to watch for a Black Phoebe. It might be the one Dinuk saved.

See you on the Preserve



Donations of \$100 or more Summer 2017

Date	Donor	Donation
April	Cal. Native Plant Society	\$500.00
April	Doris Kitson	\$530.00
April	Clark Mitchell	\$147.00
April	Steven Katz	\$100.00
June	Hermosa Garden Club	\$300.00
June	Diane & Arlindo Gonsalves	\$100.00
June	Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Vinter	\$100.00
June	June Kagdis	\$100.00
July	Elaine Endres	\$100.00

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 Editorial Advisor, Bill Arrowsmith, FrاندBill@att.net or Editor, Diane Gonsalves at gonwild2@yahoo.com or may be dropped off or mailed to the Nature Center, P.O. Box 5078, Torrance, CA 90510.

The Man and the Dove

Tracy Drake

The familiar whirring sound of the motion drew my attention. I could not see the bird I heard as a coyote bush blocked my view. Slowly, quietly, I inched toward the path—careful not to step on brittle sycamore leaves, which the day’s wind had dislodged from under shrubs.

Then I saw them—a family of doves. The young were huddled, motionless, near the path; well camouflaged against the sandy-colored soil. Mom stood tall and alert, eyes blinking against the setting sun—ready to spring into action to protect her family.

“Were they his birds?” I wondered. Maybe.

It was just about a month earlier when Matthew had called. He lives near the Nature Center and calmly shared his concern for a dove that had built a nest in a hanging basket at his home. I explained that all native breeding birds in the United States were protected under the Migratory Bird Act and that to remove them—or hassle them—in any way was illegal. This is a common concern, and one we often get calls about, especially in spring.

He understood and I thought that was the end of the call—but the silence on the other end of the line made me hang on.

With anxiety he explained that his Homeowners’ Association was meeting soon—in preparation for termite tenting. Now I understood; I knew what he was up against—and the courage he would need to ensure the dove family survived.

“What can I do?” Matthew asked.

“You have to let them know that the nesting dove is protected,” I said.

He responded, but I was not listening. Instead my mind raced into the future with potential scenarios being played out in accelerated speed on parallel tracks. With a major project pending, saving the birds would be a very low priority for most involved. My heart went out to the dove and dread began to overtake me. It was not likely that we could save the nest.

He said he would do what he could, but I could hear the despair in his voice.

A few days later, I heard from Matt again. The homeowners were getting anxious that a “stupid dove” might hold up the fumigation.

Again I felt dread. But this time, I was ready.

“Call South Bay Wild Animal Rescue; Ann will know what to do. Or alternatively, you could call our local US Fish and Wildlife warden—he may have options, too.”

In seconds he had said goodbye, and I knew he was on it—knew he cared enough to put himself ‘out there’ to save a dove. Inspirational behavior to be sure.

A couple of days later I was surprised to hear from him again.

“They’re going to be tenting in a couple of days,” he explained.

“What’s going on with the doves?” I asked.

“There are eggs!”

The situation was now critical. “What did Ann and the warden say?” I asked.

“Move the nest—incrementally each day so that mom will follow,” he said.

“We don’t have days,” I said. “Move the basket, but call Ann again and explain that we may need someone to remove the eggs and incubate them for the mother. At least then mom will fly away. She will mourn the loss of her young, but they will live.”

“Okay,” Matthew agreed.

The next morning I again heard from Matt. “She is not following the nest. She is frantically looking for it in its original location, and it has been a while—and the eggs have all hatched!”

“Put the nest back,” I said, “Now! Or they will not live.”

Silence. He hung up—apparently hurrying to put the nest back.

Later in the afternoon, Matt called again, “The fumigators have started tenting on the other side of the complex,” he lamented. He went on to explain that he had moved the nest back near the original spot; the mama dove had watched from another tree—and the young stayed silent in their nest.

“I have to leave,” said Matt with both resignation and hope in his voice.

“I hope you spoke to the fumigators and asked them to be careful,” I added.

“Yes,” he said, “And they said they would try.”

“You’ve done all you can do, Matthew,” I said, “against all odds and maybe even against

“Man and Dove” continued on page 4

“Man and Dove” continued from page 3.

the wishes of a lot of homeowners. You may not be a popular person there, but to the family of doves, you're a real hero; and it matters—what you did matters, and is important.”

After Matt hung up, I sat in silence offering a prayer for all involved.

Two days later, when the tents were gone and residents were returning home, I heard from Matt again.

“How are they?” I asked, not even waiting for him to offer.

“They are all alive,” he said. “All of them!”

I was overjoyed at his words. Matt took his time, sharing what he had done in carefully moving the doves back, and then watching them as long as he could. He shared, also, the attitudes of his neighbors—both the positive and the negative. He shared his joy in expressing gratitude that all the people he called were willing to help. For him, this event had been an amazing journey.

Three weeks later I called him and inquired about his dove family.

“They flew over to Madrona!” he said, pride and joy clearly audible in his voice. “Another successful generation.” He shared what this experience had awakened in him. Something about knowing that he had made a huge difference in their lives, and that he had learned to interact with nature rather than just to be a witness of it.

In reflecting on his story, I realized that his brief experience with the doves and his neighbors, and

my decade-and-a-half experience at Madrona had many similarities. Both experiences had profoundly changed our lives and our perspectives about nature. Matt's story provided me with an opportunity to reflect upon how much nature enriches one's life—and has specifically enriched my life. I can now walk on the Preserve, anywhere really, and see the wonder of it. I quickly sense the connections between plants, soils, water, animals, and weather. It's like walking through life with 3-D glasses on—I can see the richness and brilliance and beauty all at once and I am in the scene, not a witness of it. That depth of sensing and knowledge can only come by being with nature, a part of it and aware, for thousands of hours.

Matt's experience put him on that same path of awareness. And it is now easy for me to see that there is an interesting parallel between his story and my promotion, because like the doves, I had fledged—I am no longer the Manager and Naturalist at Madrona Marsh Preserve. I was promoted to the City's Park's Services Manager Position. While my position has changed, I know that there will always be people at Madrona who will be able to help out in situations such as Matt's. The Madrona Staff and volunteers are continuing our programs and enriching the community with their passion for the Preserve. For each person at Madrona I feel much gratitude. It is truly an honor to have been a part of such an amazing place.

In my new position, my mind wanders sometimes through the wetlands, through the wind gliding through new green leaves and down dry paths spotted with gopher holes, footprints and flowers. Then, up into the sky to soar with Red-tailed Hawks, and from there to listen to whirring wings of flying doves. At the end of our conversation, I asked Matt if his dove family stays around his house—if he ever saw them again.

“Well,” he said, “the young, I think, are at Madrona and Mom—she's on the nest. There is a new egg....”

“Ah,” I thought, “time passes; things change; generations continue, and adventure begins anew. Even though I am not as involved in the day-to-day operation of Madrona, I am still grateful to be part of such an amazing place. The adventure continues....”—T.D.

Artist's Corner

View the works of local artists portraying the beauty of the Madrona Marsh. Exhibits are on display daily in the Nature Center. To display your art at Madrona Marsh, call 310-782-3989.

Tuesday, July 28 - September 8- **“PAG Paints the Marsh Again,” An Exhibit of Various Mediums by Pacific Arts Group.** Artist's Reception Saturday, July 29, 1 - 3 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12 - Friday, October 20, **“The Cat and the Crows,” a Children's Story.** Illustrations by **Kathryn Babcock** and **Tracy Drake** of a children's book about an event that happened at Madrona. Artist's Reception - Saturday, September 16 from 1-3 p.m.

Through Friday, July 21 - **An Exhibit of Paintings by Ron Libbrecht.**

Docents Wanted and Needed for Next Year's School Tours

Sarah Noddings

Please consider becoming a Friends docent and enjoy the fun and adventure of leading students (pre-school through college) on nature

Nature Center and the entire docenting experience. Or, some of you may wish to just be part of our outreach program at tables set up at different environmental events. Whatever and however you can assist will be greatly appreciated.



Enjoying the June 2017 Docent Appreciation Luncheon; from left, Bobbie Snyder, Suzan Hubert, Sarah Noddings and Karen Peters.

walks through our Nature Center, Native Plant Garden and Preserve. And at the end of the school year you can share all your favorite memories at a docent luncheon as we just did (see photo). We have a great group of docents—12 to be exact, who will warmly welcome and familiarize you with the Marsh,

To learn more about all of this, we invite you to attend the training sessions listed below. There is no charge for any of the sessions, and they all either start at, or are held inside, the Nature Center at 3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance 90503.

Note that all sessions are from 10 a.m. to noon except for the 8 a.m. Bird Walk on Wednesday, September 13. We also invite you to go on a Nature Walk at the Marsh on Saturday, August 26 or Sunday August 27.

Our docent and outreach programs have been a wonderful success, educating over 2000 students annually about the Marsh and its plants, animals and ecosystems—and how all are important for life. For more information please contact the Nature Center at 310-782-3989.

Docent Training Schedule Fall 2017

Sat. August 26	10am - noon	Introduction to Marsh Nature Walk Tour
Tues. Sept. 12	10am - noon	History of Friends of Madrona Marsh – Bill Arrowsmith
Wed. Sept. 13	8am – 10am	Bird Walk – Bob Shanman
Thur. Sept. 14	10am - noon	Water Lab & Nature Center Tour – Dinuk Magammana
Tues. Sept. 19	10am - noon	Marsh Birds - Dinuk Magammana
Thur. Sept. 21	10am - noon	Marsh Plants – Tony Baker
Thur. Sept. 28	10am - noon	Interpretive Techniques – Tracy Drake

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center*

Schedule of Events for July through October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<u>1</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor.&StudentServ. 10am-".Magic Dragons" -Dr. Vadheim
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> CLOSED	<u>4</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike 10:30Prop.Soc- 6:30- Dr. Vadheim	<u>7</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>8</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10:30am-Sunsations
<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> CLOSED	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30pm-FOMM Mtg	<u>13</u> 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	<u>14</u> 10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>15</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 9am-H.B.Nature Walk 1pm-Butterfly Count Class
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> CLOSED	<u>18</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>19</u> 10 am-Adult Weeders	<u>20</u> 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	<u>21</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation** Libbrecht Exhibit Ends	<u>22</u> 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10 am-Nature Walk
<u>23</u> 10 am. Nature Walk	<u>24</u> CLOSED	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	<u>28</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation** PAG Exhibit begins***	<u>29</u> 7-9pm-Night Hike 1-3 pm-PAG reception
<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> CLOSED					
JULY						

*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. **Reservations are required for Friday Fun. ***See Artists Corner, page 4. For latest event information, see our newly upgraded website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<u>1</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike- 10:30-Prop. Soc.	<u>4</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>5</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10am-"Water Features" Dr.Vadheim
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> CLOSED	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	<u>10</u> 10:30 a.m.- Prop.Society 6:30pm- Dr.Vadheim	<u>11</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>12</u> 8:45am-12 n-Hab.Restor. Student.Service
<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> CLOSED	<u>15</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> 10:30-12:30- Propagation Society	<u>18</u> 10 am--12n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>19</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Res 9 am-H.B.Nature Walk 9-11am-Nature Photo\$ 7-9pm-Night Hike \$
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> CLOSED	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> 10:30-12:30- Prop. Society	<u>25</u> 10 am--12 n- Friday Fun- donation**	<u>26</u> 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-Hab.Restor. Student.Service 10 am-Nature Walk
<u>27</u> 10 am- Nature Walk	<u>28</u> CLOSED	<u>29</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>		
AUGUST						

Nature Center & Gift Shop

(310) 782-3989

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service Dr. Vadheim-no class
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> CLOSED	<u>5</u> 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike -donation 10:30 Prop.Soc. Dr.Vadheim-no class	<u>8</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun-donation** PAG Exhibit Ends***	<u>9</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service
<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> CLOSED	<u>12</u> Babcock/Drake Exhibit Begins***	<u>13</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	<u>14</u> 1pm-Sr. Naturalists 10:30-12:30-Prop. Society	<u>15</u> 10 am--12n-Friday Fun-donation**	<u>16</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 9 am-H.B.Nature Walk 1pm-Babcock/Drake Reception
<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> CLOSED	<u>19</u> 8:30 am-Tour d' Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> 10:30-12:30-Propagation Society	<u>22</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun-donation**	<u>23</u> 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am-Nature Walk
<u>24</u> 10 am-Nature Walk	<u>25</u> CLOSED	<u>26</u> 10 am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$	<u>27</u> 10 am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$	<u>28</u> 9am-NatureJournal. 10:30-12:30-Prop.Soc.	<u>29</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun-donation**	<u>30</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab. Restor. & Student Service

SEPTEMBER

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. **Reservations are required for Friday Fun. *See Artists Corner, page 4. For latest event information, see our newly upgraded website, www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com.*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> CLOSED	<u>3</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> 10 am-Tyke Hike -donation 10:30 Prop.Soc.	<u>6</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun-donation**	<u>7</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 10am-Turtle/Tortoise Day Dr. Vadheim-no class
<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> CLOSED	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> 8 am-Bird Walk/ Bob Shanman 6:30-8:30 pm-FOMM Board Meeting	<u>12</u> 10:30 Prop.Soc. 1pm- Naturalist Dr.Vadheim-no class	<u>13</u> 10 am--12 n-Friday Fun-donation**	<u>14</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. & Student.Service 7-9 pm-Night Hike
<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> CLOSED	<u>17</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance 7 pm-Audubon Mtg.	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> 10:30-12:30-Prop. Society	<u>20</u> 10 am--12n-Friday Fun-donation** Babcock/Drake Exhibit Ends***	<u>21</u> 8:45 am-12 n-Hab. 9am-H.B.Nature Walk 1-pm-SpectacularSpiders\$ 1:30-pm-Nature's Origami
<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> CLOSED	<u>24</u> 10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$	<u>25</u> 10am-Home School Nature Class/Reid-\$	<u>26</u> 9am-NatureJournal 10:30-12:30-Prop. Society	<u>27</u> 10 am-Friday Fun-donation**	<u>28</u> 8:30 am-Bird Walk 8:30am-Make a Difference 8:45 am-12 n-Hab.Restor. 10 am - Nature Walk 7-9pm-Star Party
<u>29</u> 10-NatureWalk	<u>30</u> CLOSED	<u>31</u> 8:30 am-Tour d'Torrance				

OCTOBER

Birds of Madrona January-July 2017

This list was compiled through the effort of a lot of volunteers and staff including Mark Rubke, David Moody, Anthony Strangarity, Tommye Hite, Jeanne Bellemin, Eric Hansen, Tracy Drake, Dinuk Magamma, and members of both PV South Bay Audubon and Tour d' Torrance

Canada Goose	Eurasian Collared-Dove	Orange-crowned Warbler
Gadwall	Mourning Dove	Nashville Warbler
Eurasian Wigeon	White-throated Swift	Common Yellowthroat
American Wigeon	Black-chinned Hummingbird	Yellow Warbler
Mallard	Anna's Hummingbird	Palm Warbler
Blue-winged Teal	Allen's Hummingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Cinnamon Teal	Belted Kingfisher	Black-throated Gray Warbler
Northern Shoveler	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Townsend's Warbler
Northern Pintail	Downy Woodpecker	Hermit Warbler
Green-winged Teal	Northern Flicker	Wilson's Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	American Kestrel	<i>Yellow-breasted Chat</i>
<i>Bufflehead</i>	<i>Rose-ringed Parakeet</i>	Chipping Sparrow
Hooded Merganser	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Lark Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Western Wood-Pewee	Fox Sparrow
Pied-billed Grebe	Hammond's Flycatcher	Dark-eyed Junco
Eared Grebe	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	White-crowned Sparrow
Double-crested Cormorant	Black Phoebe	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Great Blue Heron	<i>Eastern Phoebe</i>	Savannah Sparrow
Great Egret	Say's Phoebe	Song Sparrow
Snowy Egret	<i>Vermilion Flycatcher</i>	Lincoln's Sparrow
Green Heron	Ash-throated Flycatcher	California Towhee
Black-crowned Night-Heron	Cassin's Kingbird	Western Tanager
<i>White-faced Ibis</i>	Western Kingbird	Black-headed Grosbeak
White-tailed Kite	Warbling Vireo	Blue Grosbeak
Sharp-shinned Hawk	California Scrub-Jay	Lazuli Bunting
Cooper's Hawk	American Crow	<i>Indigo Bunting</i>
Red-shouldered Hawk	Common Raven	Red-winged Blackbird
Red-tailed Hawk	North. Rough-winged Swallow	Western Meadowlark
Sora	Tree Swallow	<i>Yellow-headed Blackbird</i>
American Coot	Barn Swallow	Great-tailed Grackle
Black-necked Stilt	Cliff Swallow	Brown-headed Cowbird
<i>Semipalmated Plover</i>	Bushtit	Hooded Oriole
Killdeer	House Wren	Bullock's Oriole
Whimbrel	Marsh Wren	House Finch
Least Sandpiper	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Purple Finch
Long-billed Dowitcher	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Lesser Goldfinch

"Species" continued from page 8.

Wilson's Snipe	Western Bluebird	American Goldfinch
Spotted Sandpiper	Swainson's Thrush	European Goldfinch
<i>Solitary Sandpiper</i>	Hermit Thrush	House Sparrow
Greater Yellowlegs	Northern Mockingbird	Northern Red Bishop
Ring-billed Gull	European Starling	Scaly-breasted Munia
Western Gull	American Pipit	
California Gull	Cedar Waxwing	Bold = Breeding
Rock Pigeon	Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Italics = unusual occurrence</i>
Butterflies		
Monarch	Painted Lady	Grey Hairstreak
Gulf Fritillary	West Coast Lady	Umber Skipper
Western Tiger Swallowtail	American Lady	Fiery Skipper
<i>Pale Swallowtail</i>	Mourning Cloak	Funereal Duskywing
Anise Swallowtail	Acmon Blue	Cabbage White
Dainty Sulphur	Marine Blue	
Dragonflies		
Common Green Darner	Variiegated Meadowhawk	Pacific Forktail
Blue-eyed Darner	Rosette Skimmer	Damsel sp. (bluet or dancer)
Flame Skimmer		

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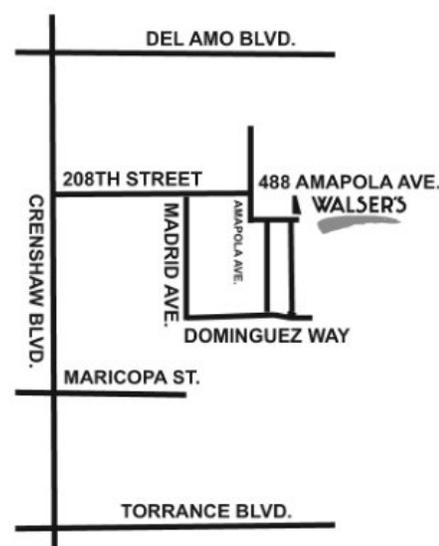
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FOMM Joins Ralphs Reward Card Program

Ralphs Markets has a Community Contributions Program that donates a portion of the money you spend at their supermarkets to local charities who sign up for the Ralphs Reward Card Program.

Now, the Friends of Madrona Marsh are a registered community charity in that program. So you can support the Preserve simply by buying your normal groceries.

Ralphs will pay each organization on a quarterly basis based on the following monthly qualifying purchases per household:

Up to \$200 per month of eligible purchases – 1 percent of total amount

Between \$201.01 and \$350 per month of eligible purchases – 2 percent of amount over \$200

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How to Register for the Donations:

The donations are tied to your Ralphs Rewards Card.

If you have not registered your Rewards Card online

(NOTE: Ralphs has a secured website. These procedures apply to everyone who has not entered their email address and assigned a password).

Login to www.ralphs.com

Click on 'No Account' Register

Follow the easy steps to create an online account.

You will be instructed to go to your email inbox to confirm your account

After you confirm your online account by clicking on the link that has been emailed to you, return to:

www.ralphs.com and click on 'Sign In', then enter your email address and password.

View all your information and edit as necessary

Link your card to Friends of Madrona Marsh by clicking on:

Community Rewards - Enroll

Type Friends of Madrona Marsh

Remember to click on the circle to the left of your organization's name

Click on Enroll to finish your enrollment process.

If you have already registered your Rewards Card on-line:

(This means that you have already entered your email address and assigned yourself a password)

Login to www.ralphs.com

Click Sign In

Enter your email address and password

Click on 'Your Name' (In the top right hand corner)

View all your information and edit as necessary

Link your card to your organization by clicking on:

Community Rewards – Re-Enroll

Type your NPO number or Name of your Organization

Remember to click on the circle to the left of your organization's name

Click on Enroll to finish your enrollment process

That's it! It's that easy... and now every purchase you make at Ralphs will support the Friends of Madrona Marsh. Thanks for participating, and Bon Appetit!

Editor's note: a big "Thank You!" to Ellen Peterson, for alerting the Friends Board to this great opportunity for painless fundraising and

South Bay Native Plant Corner

Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSU, Dominguez Hills



Northern water plantain
Alisma triviale

What a difference a rainy winter makes! If you haven't been out to the Preserve recently, I urge you to do so. You'll be amazed by the riot of green foliage. One of the standout plants is the Northern water plantain.

Alisma triviale is a local member of the Water Plantain family. As you might expect, it grows in wetlands, with a range that stretches from Alaska to Southern California. It's a common member of wetland communities, particularly those that dry out at their edges. The Madrona Marsh is a good local example of this habitat.

While Northern water plantain grows in water, it prefers the shallows (less than 6 inches of water) and really takes off in the moist soils of late spring. An herbaceous perennial, it dies back to the ground in late summer/fall, emerging again in the warm spring. It has large, oval leaves (blades up to 7-8 inches long) with long stems (petioles). The elongated petioles allow the leaves to grow up, above the water.

But what really makes *Alisma triviale* special are its flowers, which grow on branched flowering stalks above the leaves. The flowers are small and simple (see photo), but they provide food for a number of small pollinators. This includes flower flies, small bees (usually Halictid bees) and small beetles. While we don't

usually think of wetland plants as pollinator habitat, this plant is a great one.

Large patches of Northern water plantain can be seen in the Preserve. Spreading by rhizomes (underground stems), it forms large colonies in favorable conditions. Right now the leaves are bright green. They will turn brilliant shades of yellow, orange and purple before drying to brown—one of Madrona's dramatic dry season groundcovers.

Alisma triviale can be grown in garden ponds, particularly in shallow water. It does best when contained in a pot—preventing it from taking over. You can even grow it as a regular pot plant—just keep the soil moist. It's an unusual accent for sunny containers.



Wear gloves when handling Northern water plantain, as skin allergies are possible. And **never eat this plant raw—it's toxic**. All parts of the plant produce antibacterial compounds, so dried plants have been used to treat skin and other infections.

For more on this plant see: <https://www.slideshare.net/cvadheim/gardening-sheet-alsima-triviale>

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

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