

Marsh Mailing

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

The Preserve In Review

Finally, after months and months of drought, there is water in the Wetland area of the Preserve! The cattails and tules are still brown but the spike rush, willow trees and the grasses around the wetlands are green. One and one quarter inches of rain fell in December, flooding about 8 acres. Ducks quickly returned. Mallard, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Green-wing teal, Blue-wing Teal and even a few Northern Pintail (like the one pictured here) visited the Preserve over the last two weeks of December! Pintails are



rarely seen on the Marsh. The last pair was spotted in 2004!

On December 8th we held another Arbor Day with the assistance of the Tree People organization. About 75 people came to the Preserve and planted 250 foothill needlegrass plants on the south part of the Kelt area peninsula. The peninsula is located just west of the shed area at the easternmost spot of the

trail that runs from the Madrona Gate through the middle of the Preserve. The Fall 2007 'Introduction to Environ-

Continued on page 2.

Friends of Madrona Marsh Annual Meeting

Sunday afternoon, January 27th, 2008
at 3:00 p.m.

Speaker: Ms. Jana Johnson, Director of
Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly Breeding Program

Hear the remarkable success story of the recovery of the tiny PV Blue Butterfly, for 10 years thought to be EXTINCT! How was it discovered? What happened to its habitat? How was it saved? What is its future?

also

Annual Report from Preserve Manager Tracy Drake

Election of new Directors:

Connie Vadheim

Sarah Noddings

* * plus two open positions * *

Light refreshments will be served.

mental Restoration' students chose the project as part of their class assignment. The class decided to restore the peninsula to grassland and remove the Bermuda grass which had established there. Removing the Ber-



muda grass was no small task! The group worked very hard to complete this project! Once nearly all the grass was planted, the Tree People planted seven trees to replace some of the ones lost as a result of the past few years of drought.

By the end of the month all the plants planted were well established and responded very well to the December rain!

On December 23rd Palos Verdes South Bay Audubon Christmas Bird count was hosted by Madrona Marsh. Nearly 35 citizen scientists participated in the count this year! The participants included birders and non-birders from Los Angeles, Long Beach and Palos Verdes South Bay Audubon Chapters, as well as a local Girl Scout Chapter, students from El Camino biology classes, and visitors to the Marsh! Unofficially, 166 species were counted in our 17-mile count circle. Thank you to all who assisted and helped make this year's count a tremendous success!

December 18, in the afternoon, the weather was brisk, cloudy and there was a threat of rain. Nonetheless, staff member Linda Gonzales hosted an outstand-

The Marsh Mailer 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.

ing tree dedication ceremony. Joanne Smaller and a few close friends came to the Preserve from as far away as Washington State to plant a tree in honor of Joanne's husband, Stanford Smaller. Stan was a true outdoorsman who led trips all over the world, both on land and on sea. Many of the people who participated in the ceremony traveled with him and truly cared for him. The ceremony started in the classroom where the participants enjoyed snacks and learned about the Preserve and the willows of the Marsh, and sang a Tongva/Gabrielino willow song.

Once outside, a small red willow tree grown by Linda from a cutting off the weeping red willow near the corner of Sepulveda and Madrona, was planted near the nursery with the assistance of all the participants. After the tree was planted, and as the rain began to fall, we gave the group a short tour of the Preserve and pointed out the parent red willow. Ford, Stan's grandson, shared a story of one of his grandfather's favorite quotes. Ford explained, "After waking each morning, grandpa would get up and say, 'It's another great day to excel!'" As this group left the Preserve, it became clear to me that the ceremony was a very moving, excellent tribute to Stanford Smaller, and I was reminded what wonderful and truly awesome people visit the Madrona Marsh.

—Tracy Drake
Manager/Naturalist

A Special Thanks

We want to thank all of our FOMM supporters for their dedication this year. Without all your hard work the Preserve would not survive as well as it has.

This year our supporters donated \$797 to the FOMM jar located at the Nature Center. That is fabulous!

The recycle bin located at the Nature Center brought in \$687 to FOMM. Thanks to Ron Melin and the Saturday Restoration Group. The group sorts the material and Ron takes it to Palos Verdes Recycling Center.

Thanks to Joannie Spring. Joannie creates a Madrona Marsh Calendar and donates money from the sale to FOMM. This year Joannie has given us \$315 on the sale of her calendars.

These are just some of the examples of the hard work and dedication of the Friends Of Madrona Marsh. Many thanks to all of you.

—Ellen Peterson
Treasurer

from the president

–Bill Arrowsmith

It rained! Finally, we received some measurable rain in December and the Marsh was instantly rejuvenated. Dozens of migrant ducks appeared from nowhere—northern shovelers, wigeons, gadwalls, and teals (blue-winged, green-winged, and cinnamon) all were seen within days along with our mallards and coots. Our drought is by no means over, but what a nice reprieve. It is nothing short of amazing how quickly our preserve resumes its stately posture and restores our hope for the future. Be sure to visit the marsh soon and bring your kids and grandkids—there is no better time!

Can you keep a secret? Usually I can, but the pressure to share these with you is just too great. Besides, if I don't tell you in this newsletter, the next one won't be out for three months and it will be too late. So I will just whisper this report, but please don't tell anybody else.

First, there are the soon-to-be-delivered and installed taxidermy display cases—five of them—for the exhibit hall. These cases are being built for us by Split Rock Studios in Minnesota. Fran Arrowsmith has supervised the effort for the Friends and acted as liaison among FOMM, SRS, and our expert taxidermist, Igor Carogodin.

To be quite frank, this project turned out to be far more difficult than any of us anticipated—partly because of a new approach requested by the Friends, wherein many of the taxidermy specimens in the case dioramas are exchangeable; that is, they can be swapped out periodically with other specimens. This will not only keep our displays more interesting, but will also allow us to display more of our beautiful taxidermy—even new animals we don't have yet. But it has also made the design and build tasks much more difficult. But (here's the secret part) we are hoping to have the initial installation done in January, with perhaps some additional tweaking and more taxidermy in February.

Stop by the exhibit hall and check out the progress. We will have a full report on these new cases in the Spring newsletter.

If you're a real old-timer, you can remember when there was a Chevron filling station on the northeast corner of Sepulveda and Madrona. Even if you're a little younger, you can remember when Cottone &

Sons sold pumpkins in October and Christmas trees in December on the vacated Chevron lot. It has long been our fervent desire to add that three-quarter acre lot to the Preserve. My predecessor, Venora Lee, made numerous requests to Chevron for years suggesting a donation of the parcel.

Although I cannot announce that it is now a 'done deal,' I can assure you that the environmental tests have been successfully passed and we are very close. Watch for an announcement soon by the City. I offer our sincere thanks to Venora and to all the City personnel who have been involved in the negotiations and, (perhaps prematurely) to the current owner.

Another not-so-secret secret which has been years in the making will also soon be visible on the Preserve and in the Native Plant Garden. Gorgeous new interpretive panels will soon be installed by the Acorn Group from Tustin to enhance our visitors' experience.

Our sincere thanks to Tracy Drake and Connie Vadheim for persevering to assure these signs are accurate as well as beautiful, and for supplying many of the photographs used in them. We hope to have this signage in place before our next (spring) newsletter.

Enough of the "secrets," **now for some announcements:**

First, I want to invite you to the **FOMM Annual Meeting on January 27, 2008, at 3 p.m.** in the Nature Center (see announcement on page 1). We are pleased to have **Ms. Jana Johnson** as our speaker. Ms. Johnson leads the highly successful captive breeding program for the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly and will

continued on page 8.

The FOMM Board of Directors

- Bill Arrowsmith, President
- Connie Vadheim, Vice President
- Ellen Peterson, Treasurer
- Carol Roelen, Recording Secretary
- Venora Lee, Corresponding Secretary
- Jeanne Bellemin
- Bill Forrest
- Bobbie Snyder
- Sarah Noddings
- Eric Carson
- Archie Phillips
- Mary Garrity

Ex-officio:

- Jack Knapp
- Maxine Trevethen
- Shirley Turner

Shirley's Turn

—Shirley Turner

About Children's Books

While watching television I came across the Quill Awards program where recent authors win prizes for their work. Authors Isabella Hatkoff, Craig Hatkoff and Paula Kahumbu were among the nominees for their book, **Owen and Mzee: The Language of Friendship**.

This book was chosen as a birthday gift for my granddaughter who had already received the first picture book from an uncle about a hippopotamus and tortoise entitled, **Owen and Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship** released in February 2006 and published by Scholastic Press. It was on the *New York Times* Best Sellers list at number five in its first month. It has been translated into 13 languages. World wide celebrities, these animals are subjects of several media offerings and have their own website.



Baby hippo, Owen, left, has been adopted by 130 year-old tortoise, Mzee, at Heller Park where the young hippo was taken when he was rescued in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Kenya, following the 2004 earthquake and tsunami.

Owen, a 600 pound hippopotamus, was orphaned in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Kenya during the 2004 earthquake and resulting tsunami, and rescued by villagers. He was taken to Heller Park, released into penned area with a 700-pound 130-year old Aldabran tortoise named Mzee (Swahili for "old man") who taught him what to eat and where to sleep. The pair has surprised scientists with the strength of what appears to be a genuine bond, as well as a unique vocal commu-

nication that has developed between them.

I'm looking for children's musician Marla Lewis's song, "Will You Be My Mom," released on her 2007 album *I Love to Talk To Plants*.

The most recent book by these authors is **How One Little Polar Bear Captivated the World**. Children can be exposed to nature in many ways. They catch our love for the whole world in their many experiences.

Second Sunday Science

On January 13 learn from Rachel Schaar about the shark rescue program which has been ongoing for the last 10 years at the Sea Lab in Redondo Beach. They raise Horn Sharks for release on our beaches. The Horn Shark is oviparous. The 5-6 inch spiral egg that may float up to beaches can hatch into a shark that grows to about three feet.

It is a member of the the bullhead shark family which ranges from central California to the Gulf of Mexico and is among the smallest sharks. Its eyes being sensitive to light, they hide in the dark. *The Red List of Threatened Species* includes information about the Horn Shark.

Look forward to learning about Spiders with Janet Kempf from the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History on February 10.

Check *Seasons* for some exciting new spring programs.

What the World Needs Now . . .

. . . besides love, of course, is more rain—particularly in Southern California. Early fall drought conditions continued, although in December we had more rain than normal.

Precipitation as reported by Torrance Airport since September is as follows:

Sept. 22:	0.60 inches
Oct. 13:	0.22 inches
Nov. 30:	0.88 inches
Dec. 01:	0.16 inches
Dec. 08:	0.02 inches
Dec. 09:	0.13 inches
Dec. 19:	0.62 inches
Dec. 20:	Trace
Dec. 21:	0.05 inches
Month-to-date:	1.59 inches
Normal Month to date:	1.11 inches
Season-to-date:	3.23 inches
Normal Season to date	3.04 inches

The grasses are growing fast. The ducks were not back in quantity for the Second Sunday Science program on Dec. 8, so Ron Melin drove everyone to Alondra Park. Some learned of the lake/swimming pool in the park where ducks are year-round residents.

Continued on page 8.



The Comedy and Magic Club

1018 Hermosa Avenue, Hermosa Beach

Proudly presents an evening of

Laughter for the Environment

To benefit the Madrona Marsh Foundation

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Doors open at 6 p.m., show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 and 100 percent of the ticket price will be donated to the Madrona Marsh Foundation. Full dinner and bar are available. Reservations are required.

For further information call

Comedy and Magic Club (310) 372-1193

or

Lucia Johnson, Executive Director,
Madrona Marsh Foundation (310) 316-9364



The Madrona Marsh Foundation Report

—Jack Ludwick, President

Mark Your Calendars! The Foundation has scheduled two exciting fundraising events for early 2008. The first is a special night of fun and laughter at the Comedy and Magic Club in Hermosa Beach. This great function will be held Wednesday evening February 6, 2008 at 7 p.m. One hundred percent of the ticket price will be donated to the Madrona Marsh Foundation (thanks to my big-hearted friend, Mike Lacey, the owner of the Club). Don't miss this one! For more information, see the ad above in this newsletter.

The second event will be held at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center on Saturday May 17, 2008. This will be a sale and auction of art – paintings, photographs,

etc. featuring the Madrona Marsh and all of its flora and fauna. These one-of-a-kind pieces of art have been lovingly created and donated by the artists so that all of the proceeds will benefit the Marsh. We will have more information about the auction in the Spring newsletter.

I encourage all of you to attend these super fundraisers to help sustain the health of our Marsh. Our long term goal for the Foundation is to raise enough money to establish an endowment fund that will help provide long term benefit for all of the programs at the Marsh. We are getting a good start with these two events, so come out and help us achieve our goal.

Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center

Schedule of Events

January-April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<u>1</u> New Years Day	<u>2</u> 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Habitat Restoration	<u>3</u> 10 a.m.- Tyke Hike	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> 9 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration 10 a.m. - 12 noon- "Beyond the Lawn,"(native lawn substitutes) Dr. Connie Vadheim
<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> CLOSED	<u>8</u> 9-11 a.m.- Mornings on the Marsh 10 a.m.-12 noon Habitat Restoration	<u>9</u> 8 a.m. Bird Walk /Bob Shanman 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Habitat Restoration 7:15-9 p.m.-FOMM Board Meeting	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Jess Morton Artist's Reception	<u>12</u> 9 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration 6-8 p.m. - Star Party
<u>13</u> 10 a.m.-3 p.m.- Painting Outdoors/ Ron Libbrecht 2 - 4 p.m.-Second Sunday Science- "Horn Sharks"	<u>14</u> CLOSED	<u>15</u> 8:30 a.m.- Tour de'Torrance-Bird Walk 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Habitat Restoration 7 p.m. Audubon Get-together	<u>16</u> 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> 9 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration 10 a.m.-12 noon - A Brief Summary of Our Solar System
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> CLOSED	<u>22</u> 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration	<u>23</u> 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> 9 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration 10 a.m. Nature Walk 6:30-8:30 p.m.-Night Hike
<u>27</u> 10 a.m. Nature Walk	<u>28</u> CLOSED	<u>29</u> 8:30 a.m.- Tour de'Torrance-Bird Walk 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration	<u>30</u> 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration	<u>31</u>		

JANUARY

*(For the very latest on events visit www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com;
Also, see Artists' Corner, page 8.)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Habitat Restoration 10 a.m.-12 noon-"Beautiful in Blue. . ."/Dr. Connie Vadheim 10 a.m.-12 -Bugs Kids Love
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> CLOSED	<u>5</u> 8:30 a.m.-Tour de' Torrance-Bird Walk 10 a.m.-12 noon. Habitat Restoration	<u>6</u> 10 a.m.-12 noon Habitat Restoration 7:30 p.m.-Comedy Benefit (reservations required)	<u>7</u> 10 a.m.-Tyke Hike	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> 9 a.m.-12 noon Habitat Restoration 2-4 p.m.-A Closer Look at Dinosaurs
<u>10</u> 2 -4 p.m. Second Sunday Science- "Spiders of the South Bay"	<u>11</u> CLOSED	<u>12</u> 9 a.m.- Mornings on the Marsh 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration	<u>13</u> 8 a.m. Bird Walk/Bob Shanman 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration 7:15 - 9 p.m. FOMM Board Meeting	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> 6:30-8:30 p.m. Holly Gray Artist's Reception	<u>16</u> 9 a.m.-12 noon Habitat Restoration 6-8 p.m.- Star Party
<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> CLOSED	<u>19</u> 8:30 a.m.- Tour de'Torrance-Bird Walk 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration 7 p.m.- Audubon Get-together	<u>20</u> 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> 9 a.m.- 12 noon- Habitat Restoration 10 a.m.- Nature Walk 10-11 a.m.-Bugs, Birds and Animal Action Show
<u>24</u> 10 a.m.-12 noon. Nature Walk 10 a.m.-12 noon- Ex- ploring Nature Through Pictures and Poetry	<u>25</u> CLOSED	<u>26</u> 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Habitat Restoration	<u>27</u> 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Habitat Restoration	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	

FEBRUARY

Nature Center (310) 782-3989
 Gift Shop (310) 320-8255

Brought to you by
 Friends of Madrona Marsh

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						9 a.m. - 12 noon. <u>1</u> Habitat Restoration 10 a.m.-12 noon-Native Plants in the Wild and in Your Garden /Dr. Connie Vadheim
10 a.m.-3 p.m.- <u>2</u> Painting Outdoors- Plein Air Workshop- fee	<u>3</u> CLOSED	8:30 a.m.-Tour de' <u>4</u> Torrance-Bird Walk 10 a.m.-12 noon. Habitat Restoration	10 a.m.-12 noon <u>5</u> Habitat Restoration	10 a.m. <u>6</u> Tyke Hike	<u>7</u>	9 a.m.-12 noon <u>8</u> Habitat Restoration 6:30-8:30 p.m.- Night Hike-fee
2 -4 p.m. <u>9</u> Second Sunday Science-Exotic Wildlife Rescue Workshop	<u>10</u> CLOSED	<u>11</u> 9 a.m.- Mornings on the Marsh 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration	8 a.m. <u>12</u> Bird Walk/Bob Shanman 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration 7:15 - 9 p.m. FOMM Board Meeting	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	9 a.m.-12 noon <u>15</u> Habitat Restoration 10 a.m.-12 noon.-Biodiesel Fuel/Dr. Frank Navratil 2-2:45 p.m.-Nature Stories
<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> CLOSED	8:30 a.m.- Tour <u>18</u> de'Torrance-Bird Walk 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration 7 p.m.- Audubon Get-together	10 a.m. - 12 noon <u>19</u> Habitat Restoration	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> 9 a.m.- 12 noon- Habitat Restoration 10 a.m.- Nature Walk
10 a.m- <u>23</u> Nature Walk	<u>24</u> CLOSED	10 a.m.-12 noon. <u>25</u> Habitat Restoration	2-4 p.m. <u>26</u> Exotic Wildlife Rescue Workshop 10 a.m. - 12 noon. Habitat Restoration	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	9 a.m.-12 noon <u>29</u> Habitat Restoration
<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> CLOSED					

MARCH

(For the very latest on events visit www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com
 Also, see *Artists' Corner*, page 8.)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		8:30 a.m.-Tour de' <u>1</u> Torrance-Bird Walk 10 a.m.-12 noon. Habitat Restoration	<u>2</u>	10 a.m. <u>3</u> Tyke Hike	<u>4</u>	9 a.m. - 12 noon. <u>5</u> Habitat Restoration 10 a.m.-12 noon- Native Plants in Your Garden/Dr. Connie Vadheim
10 a.m.-3 p.m.- <u>6</u> Painting Outdoors- Plein Air Workshop- fee	<u>7</u> CLOSED	9 a.m.-Mornings on <u>8</u> the Marsh 10 a.m.-12 noon. Habitat Restoration	8 a.m. <u>9</u> Bird Walk/Bob Shanman 10 a.m.-12 noon Habitat Restoration	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	9 a.m.-12 noon <u>12</u> Habitat Restoration 7:30-9:30 p.m.- Star Party/Paul Livio
2 -4 p.m. <u>13</u> Second Sunday Science- Spring Migration/Bob Shanman	<u>14</u> CLOSED	8:30 a.m.-Tour de' <u>15</u> Torrance-Bird Walk 10 a.m.-12 noon Habitat Restoration 7 p.m.-Audubon Get Together	10 a.m. - 12 noon <u>16</u> Habitat Restoration 7:15 - 9 p.m. FOMM Board Meeting	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	9 a.m.-12 noon <u>19</u> Habitat Restoration 9 a.m.-12 noon Earth Day Planting 10-11 a.m.- Bugs, Birds & Animals Action Show
<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> CLOSED	<u>22</u> 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration	<u>23</u> 10 a.m. - 12 noon Habitat Restoration	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	10 a.m-1 p.m. <u>26</u> Turtles & Tortoises 9 a.m.- 12 noon- Habitat Restoration 10 a.m.- Nature Walk 2-4 p.m.-Building Ponds for Dragonflies-fee
10 a.m- <u>27</u> Nature Walk	<u>28</u> CLOSED	<u>29</u>	10 a.m. - 12 noon. <u>30</u> Habitat Restoration			

APRIL

Artists' Corner

Works of local artists and photographers inspired by the beauty of the Madrona Marsh are regularly on display at the Nature Center. Everyone is invited to attend each artist's reception where the artist talks about his/her work or gives a demonstration. Snacks and beverages are included.

Jess Morton, Photographer-*Photography of the Madrona Marsh Preserve*, through Feb. 9. Artist's Reception-Friday, Jan. 11, 6:30-8:30 p.m., free.

Holly Gray, Photographer-*Photography of the Madrona Marsh Preserve*, Feb. 9-March 29. Artist's Reception - Friday, Feb. 15, 6:30-8:30 p.m., free.

Redondo Beach Art Group, Various Artists-March 29-May 17. Artists' Reception - Friday, May 10, 6:30-8:30 p.m., free.

Shirley's Turn

continued from page 4.

Now the weeds are outstripping the recently-planted grasses. It is fortunate that 30 to 75 high school volunteers choose the Preserve every Saturday. They receive a good example of work ethics from Ron Melin.

What a Difference a Day Makes

On October 27 Make a Difference Day, sponsored by the City, 236 willing workers cleared and planted grasses along the Sepulveda and Crenshaw side walks.

Arbor Day, December 8, Tree People assisted planting trees and shrubs in the Kelt Area.

Boy Scout Eagle Service Projects

November 10 Jake Palmquist and his Troop worked in the Arbor.

December 8 and 21 Ray Suh and his Troop 851 painted 30 panels of fence along Plaza Del Amo. His hours totaled 239.

All of these people are greatly appreciated. Their love of the planet is truly evident.

Wednesday Weeder, Susie Jakosh, is now battling lung cancer. Our prayers are for her. She watched over me. She carried my pulled weeds to the cart and saw that I could get to my feet along with Ruth and Libby.

We all enjoyed each other and appreciated others who came occasionally. Jane and Neil do the early morning shift on Monday and Tuesday. Ruth, Mary and Beth carry on the Tyke Hikes.

We are thankful that the Preserve is available and that there are so many who serve it in so many ways.

—S.T.

from the president

Continued from page 3.

share her experiences with us. Please mark your calendars for this afternoon program, which will also include a report from Preserve Manager Tracy Drake and election of our new board members. Light refreshments will be served.

Secondly, I encourage you all to support our sister organization, the **Madrona Marsh Foundation** in its first money-raising event: An evening of fun at the **Comedy and Magic Club** in Hermosa Beach on Wednesday, **February 6, 2008.**

This promises to be an entertaining night and I am told the food is quite good, also. Admission tickets are only \$15 and the full purchase price will go to the Madrona Marsh Foundation to support the Preserve and its programs. Our sincere thanks to club owner Mike Lacey for his generosity. See the ad on page 5. in this newsletter for details. This will be fun! I hope to see you there! (P.S. You may buy tickets when you come to our annual meeting on Jan. 27th!)

Finally, I would like to say *a special word of thanks to Sarah Noddings*, who is now scheduling docents for the dozens of school tours we give on the Marsh. This is an extremely important and demanding job, which has been performed like clockwork for many years by Bill Forrest. We thank Bill for his tremendous effort and are happy to have Sarah carrying on at the same high level. Now, if we could just ease her burden a bit with some new docents. If you have been a docent in the past or would like to learn how to lead tours of the Marsh, please contact Sarah at 310-532-7631 or me at 310-325-1442 or Tracy Drake at 310-782-3989. Leading the school tours is really quite easy and it's always fun!

—Bill Arrowsmith

Recent Donations- \$100.00 or more

September 2007	Earle and Derith Casler	\$100
October 2007	Torrance Womens Club	\$200
October 2007	Mabel A. Schroeder	\$100
October 2007	Karen & Bill Plourde, Jr	\$1,000
December 2007	Maxine Trevethen	\$500
December 2007	Sharon Angelos	\$120
December 2007	Lois Medina, for son Howard	\$1,000

Birds, Butterflies and Dragonflies of the Preserve

December 2007

Peregrine Falcon



This list was compiled through the efforts of David Moody, Ron Melin, Fran Arrowsmith and Tracy Drake

Birds

Mallard	Killdeer	House Wren	Lincolns Sparrow
Gadwall	Ring-billed Gull	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Blue-winged Teal	Glaucous-winged Gull	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	White-crowned Sparrow
Green-winged Teal	California Gull	Hermit Thrush	Red-winged Blackbird
Northern Shoveler	Western Gull	Northern Mockingbird	<i>Tri-colored Blackbird</i>
Northern Pintail	Rock Pigeon	European Starling	Western Meadowlark
Ruddy Duck	Mourning Dove	Cedar Waxwing	Brown-headed Cowbird
Pied-billed Grebe	White-throated Swift	Orange-crowned Warbler	House Finch
Double-crested Cormorant	Anna's Hummingbird	Yellow Warbler	Lesser Goldfinch
Great Egret	Allen's Hummingbird	Yellow-rumped Warbler	American Goldfinch
Snowy Egret	Downy Woodpecker	Black-throated Gray Warbler	House Sparrow
Green Heron	Northern Flicker	Townsend's Warbler	Orange Bishop
Cooper's Hawk	Black Phoebe	Common Yellowthroat	Nutmeg Manikin
Red-shouldered Hawk	Say's Phoebe	Spotted Towhee	
Red-tailed Hawk	Cassin's Kingbird	California Towhee	
American Kestrel	Western Scrub-Jay	Chipping Sparrow	
<i>Merlin</i>	American Crow	Lark Sparrow	
<i>Peregrine Falcon</i>	Common Raven	Savannah Sparrow	<i>Italics = rare species to Madrona Marsh</i>
American Coot	Bushtit	<i>Fox Sparrow</i>	BOLD = Breed in 2007

Butterflies

Monarch	West Coast Lady	Gray Hairstreak
Gulf Fritillary	Western Tiger Swallowtail	Western Pygmy Blue
Mourning Cloak	Checkered White	Fiery Skipper
Red Admiral	Cabbage White	Funereal Duskywing

Red Admiral Butterfly

Dragonflies and Damselflies

Common Green Darner	Cardinal Meadowhawk
Blue-eyed Darner	Black-fronted Darner
Variagated Meadowhawk	Pacific Fork-tail

South Bay Native Plant Corner

—Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSUDH

Lemonadeberry

Rhus integrifolia



Winter seems an unlikely time for blooming. Yet several of our native berry-producing shrubs – notably the Gooseberries (*Ribes*) and Sumacs (*Rhus*) – bloom profusely at this time of year. Both genera belong to the Sumac Family, which also includes the popular Cashew nut. Winter blooming allows plenty of time for berries to develop prior to the hot, dry summer. An excellent example of our local winter-blooming native shrubs is Lemonadeberry, *Rhus integrifolia*, blooming now on the north side of the Preserve.

Lemonadeberry is a large shrub found at lower elevations of coastal S. California from Santa Barbara into Baja. Commonly seen on dry north- or ocean-facing slopes in coastal sage scrub or chaparral, it can even occur on the coastal strand or bluffs away from the immediate shore. It grows as solitary plants or forms dense thickets in favorable sites. An important habitat plant, Lemonadeberry provides shelter, perching sites, nectar and berries for food. Crows, Red-shafted Flickers, Scrub Jays and Cactus Wrens particularly relish the fruit.

Native Californians used this plant extensively. Lemonadeberry fruits can be used to make a tart lemonade-like drink or placed in the mouth for a refreshing snack. The roasted seeds and leaves

make a soothing tea (particularly for colds) and the hard wood was used for firewood.

Lemonadeberry can be a welcome addition to the home garden. It is evergreen and the dense, waxy aromatic foliage looks good all year long. Plants can be pruned and sheared to shape - appropriate for large hedges/ screens or espaliered against a wall or fence. It is unequalled as a shrub on dry slopes. Just remember that it **will** become large – up to 8+ feet tall and 10+ feet wide.



Lemonadeberry does fine in full sun or partial shade. It likes a well-drained soil and even grows in sandy, alkali soils. Once established it is very drought tolerant, requiring only a few deep waterings during the dry season. And of course, it requires no extra fertilizer.

Lemonadeberry requires little management once established. It is usually pest and disease-free (unless over-watered). Prune to shape and remove broken branches (branches are somewhat brittle). Hedged plants will require regular shearing to maintain. You can start new plants fairly easily from cleaned seeds in fall.

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.

Great Nature/Biology Classes In and Around South Bay

At the Madrona Marsh Preserve/ Nature Center- Introduction to Nature Interpretation



The Madrona Marsh Preserve and Nature Center, in collaboration with El Camino College and CSUDH offers a college level course on nature interpretation. Classes meet Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m., beginning Jan. 30 and the class may be audited for free or taken for college credit. There is a \$25 course materials fee.

1/29	Introduction to Interpretation
2/05	Humans in the South Bay
2/12	Geology, Water & Soils of South Bay
2/19	Teaching & Learning in a Lab Setting
2/26	Plants, Flowers & Trees of South Bay
3/5	Historic Vegetation/Teach About Insects

Topics focus on South Bay natural history and nature teaching/interpretation and include class and field experiences. Classes will also give you tips and experience on presenting natural history topics to students of all ages.

Open to everyone interested in South Bay natural history – recommended for prospective docents at Madrona and other local preserves, teachers, college students interested in careers in natural history/ecology teaching.



“Out of the Wilds & Into Your Garden”

The only native plant gardening class focused on the South Bay – and it's free. All sessions are on the first Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon (repeating on the following Tuesday, 6:30-8 p.m.)

2/02/08	Blue/purple Annual Wildflowers
3/01/08	Coastal Prairie Palette
4/05/08	Gourmet Delights (native greens)

At El Camino College-

Call 310-660-3354

Field Entomology – MW 6-10:15 p.m.
Marine Biology – TTh 8-9:25; 9:30-10:55 a.m.

At CSU Dominguez Hills-

Call 310-540-9624

Introduction to Plant Physiology – TTh
Ecology – TTh/lab F
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Interested in learning more about these and other classes? Information available at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

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