

Dear Nature Friends,

The big news right now at the Center is that Docent training is in full swing. PCNCA is delighted to welcome 17 new students. Also, preparations are beginning for our Open House day on Saturday May 14. I hope you are enjoying the short version of the Rattler on our web page! Please send me some feed back (evandersande@gmail.com)



Museum Upgrade

The panels in the Interpretive Center were starting to be damaged after only one year, and they all have been refinished. The new panels are smooth and protected by a plastic finish. New security and maintenance issues are being addressed by the County staff and the docents, to make sure the place is better protected and looks clean at all times.

Olivia Miseroy installed 4 beautiful butterflies, entirely made by her in memory of Paul Levine. Thank you Olivia!

Pond Cleaning

Spring is on its way. On February 22, Fred Seeley is going to head the team in charge of the yearly cleaning of the educational pond before the birth of the tadpoles. Dead cattails need to be removed, leaves, moss and some rocks need to be buried so they do not end up in the pond each week end.

Tataviam Dwelling

Denny Truger was in charge of the sign explaining about the dwelling; it is ready and soon will be installed. Denny is planning to build a small structure next to the dwelling. That new structure will represent one that would have been used for shade by the Tataviam. Way to go Denny!

Strategic Planning

Jim Southwell is going to take this program under his supervision. Strategy planning helps the docents to determine various goals that they want to accomplish for the Nature Center. Some will be short-term and some will be long-term, but the docents will be able to better focus their energy in those directions if the goals are clearly spelled out.



The Rattler

Sponsored by the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates
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Placerita Canyon Nature Center

Over 50 Years of Nature Education

February, 2016

Twilight Hikes

This very popular program is back, starting April 16 at 7pm. Frank Hoffman, Recreation Services Supervisor, with the help of a few docents, is going to take you on a short hike in the dark at Placerita. You might hear some frogs' mating calls. Call Placerita for more information

Blooms of the Season

by RuthAnne Murthy

Soon the Wild Cucumber vines will be blooming with 1/4-inch creamy white flowers. They will become seed pods that are golden and prickly in the summer. All parts of the plant are poisonous in spite of its name. (Check events schedule on our web page for this great program)

CPR Training

Linette Brammer is going to give a class this spring to teach the docents to do basic first response and CPR. She follows the training of the American Heart Association. Her classes are always extremely informative and we are so grateful for her instruction.

Bill Sutton's Bench

We do not place plaques in the park any more, but Sue Sutton wanted to honor her husband's memory. She ordered a bench which will be placed close to the bridge, one of Bill's favorite places. It will be a special place to rest for all.

Poisonous and Potentially Dangerous plants of Placerita Canyon and the Santa Clarita Valley

Nature Education program on Sunday Feb. 21st at 2pm (check the flyer on our web page)

Arthropod Box

Andrea Donner was delighted to see many docents and new students wanting to help with the arthropod box dedicated to Paul Levine.

Thank you to Mark Hershey from the class of 2015 who stepped up to be in charge of the project.

Trail Maintenance

We had some rain and very strong winds but all the trails are open and in pretty good shape. Jim Hazard had some cleaning to do as usual. A new student, Raven, asked to help on the trail and Jim welcomed her warmly. If we have a huge amount of rain, the condition of the trails could change significantly so please check with the office if you are uncertain of their condition.



Memorial Pot Luck Lunch for Paul Levine

A large crowd enjoyed the lunch and shared memories of Paul with his wife Susan. After lunch, people told of their feelings of love and loss about Paul, who was deeply cherished and appreciated. Ron Kraus, president of PCNCA announced that Paul's estate left a large donation to the Nature Center. Paul was always such a generous man sharing his knowledge, his passion and his time. We all miss him dearly. Every time we see a butterfly, Paul will be with us.

The Weeding Team

Monday February 1st was a cold and windy day, but Robert Grzesiak motivated a group of 11 hearty docents to remove non-native grasses on the Hidden Trail. After an hour of hard work, 8 large trash bags were filled. After the weeding, came the planting of milkweed in the butterfly garden and on the slope between the walkway and the garden. Those plants were donated by Sue Wallander. Milkweed seeds are also going to be sold in the gift shop. As a grand finale, Robert cooked up some fillerie (non native and invasive) for all to taste, and it was called "the new kale". With cheese and crackers, it was excellent! Thank you all for your efforts.