

Dear Nature Friends,

During my last survey it became clear that many of our readers wanted a short version of the Rattler that they could easily download on their phone. We are always eager to provide the information in ways that suit your needs, so here is the new version of the Rattler that you are going to find every month on our web page.

Long articles and many photos won't be possible any more. Heidi Webber remains the Publisher and Evelyne Vandersande is the editor. We have been a close team for 19 years and we hope that the new Rattler will please you.

The purpose of the Rattler is to introduce you to the activities of the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates and to show you what an interesting and lively organization it is...maybe even to bring you for a visit to the Park!

I am here to help; I have been a docent at Placerita for 30 years, so if you want to reach me, please send me an email at evandersande@gmail.com.

So as you can see, this is a huge change from the traditional Rattler. We hope you will enjoy it as much in this new, easier-to-read format as you did the old. We will continue to strive to squeeze as much information as possible into each one-page issue as possible.

End of

"On the Road with the Rattler"

As photos take a long time to download on your phone, this will be the end of "On the Road with the Rattler" Thank you all for your past participation, it was fun to see all the places that Rattler could be seen.



They took the Rattler on a hike to Fish Canyon: Dennis Truger, Maria Elena Christensen, Andrea and Richard Donner, Robert Grzesiak, Ron Nichols, Sylvia Altamirano and Helen Sweany.



The Rattler

Sponsored by the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates
19152 Placerita Canyon Road, Newhall, CA 91321
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Placerita Canyon Nature Center Over 50 Years of Nature Education January 2016

Holiday Events

The Craft Faire in December was a great success. It was held inside the building and the weather cooperated on those 2 days. For the first time, the docents brought food to have a potluck and that was also a good idea. Proceeds were good, which is heartwarming to know as it is the only fund raiser of the year. Thank you so much for all your help and thank you to Mari Carbajal who was in charge of the event.

The Holiday Party is always much fun and a way for the docents to socialize. The gift exchange was a new idea that went smoothly. Four docents received special recognition for their efforts during the year: Sandra Cattell, Ingrid Brown, Erica dePooor and Karen TS Gubert.

Finally! Rain!

We finally got some heavy rain in Placerita and we are pleased to report that the waterfall is running again. On January 7 the Canyon Trail was closed to the public because the risk of fallen branches and rock sliding was too great. Please call the Nature Center at 661-259-7721 to check for the current status if you intend to hike in the area.

Paul Levine Pot Luck

On January 25 a pot luck lunch has been organized to celebrate the memory of Paul Levine. The arthropod box will be dedicated to him on this occasion. RuthAnn Murthry, Andrea Donner and Evelyne Vandersande are organizing this event.



Mike Elling sent us photos from all around the world. His final picture is of a great time on the island of Fiji.

KHITS Radio Visit

On January 4th we were delighted that KHITS 1220 AM invited us again this year to be the first participant in the Non-Profit spotlight show, giving us the chance to advertize the docent training starting on January 12. Janice Murray was our delightful host, Ron Kraus and Frank Hoffman (Recreation Services Supervisor) were interviewed, Fred Seeley and Jack Levenberg gave their support.

Docent Training Starts

January 12 is the start of docent training and 20 students have signed up. We are delighted to have each class taught "in house" by docents who are professional or very knowledgeable in the field. Paul Levine, our arthropod instructor and fellow docent will be missed terribly as he passed away in December. A big thank goes to Ron Kraus who is in charge of docent training and the committee who have helped him since December putting this fantastic educational program together.

Taxidermy Update

Olivia Miseroy has been working on the taxidermy in the classroom and finished a beautiful skunk specimen to upgrade our display. Now she is starting on a rabbit. It is a long and delicate process so we are delighted to see the result of her artistic creation.



Evelyne Vandersande went to Tanzania on her "trip of a life time" It exceeded all her expectations