



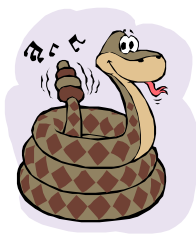
Hello Nature Friends,

Typically as temperatures climb into the triple digits, numbers of visitors to the Nature Center drop. Though we had an especially hot summer, it did not slow us down at all this year and the place is active with new projects.

The visitors showed up early in the morning to use the existing trails or came in the evening to check out the twilight hikes. The docents went on a bus trip to the Getty Villa, a Seeds and Pods presentation was given by Ron Kraus, and on August 28 Sue Wallander gave a tree presentation and shared her personal experience, developed over many years.

Plans for the restoration of the Botany trail are moving along with Omar Pena. The Annual meeting and recognition event will take place at Eaton Canyon on September 9. A fall kick off is planned for September 25, and a trip to Stoneview will happen sometime in October. Stoneview is a new urban Nature Center working hard to become a chapter of NCA and we want to give them some support.

The Braille trail has been completed and the amphitheater is in the starting phase, with the benches arriving on September 19. If your head is spinning reading all this news, mine is too! Schools are back in session and Placerita is in full swing. Enjoy the new fall season.



The Rattler

Sponsored by the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates
19152 Placerita Canyon Road, Newhall, CA 91321
www.placerita.org (661) 259-7721

Placerita Canyon Nature Center
Over 50 Years of Nature Education
September-October, 2017

The 2017 NCA Annual Recognition Event

All the docents and volunteers from Placerita Canyon are invited to join the members from other Nature Centers to attend the Annual Recognition and General Meeting to be held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center on Saturday, September 9. Coffee and juice will be served at 9.30am and the meeting will start at 10.00am. A light lunch will be served afterward around 11.00am. We will ask you to call with your RSVP at 626-398-5420 to confirm you will be attending lunch so food can be ordered accordingly. Business Casual dress is suggested.

Location is:

Eaton Canyon Nature Center
1750N Altadena Drive
Pasadena, CA 91107

The PCNCA docents who have 5, 10 and 15 years of service will receive their gold name tags : Five years :Lanita Algeyer, Jim DeLill, Andrea Donner, Michael Elling, Robert Grzesiak,Irene Heerlein,Laura Skorich. Denny Truger; Ten years: Linda Ioerger, Linda Parr; Fifteen years: Roger Gibson, Ron Kraus.

If you would like to car pool, please be at the PCNCA parking lot at 9.00am.

The Birth of the Amphitheater

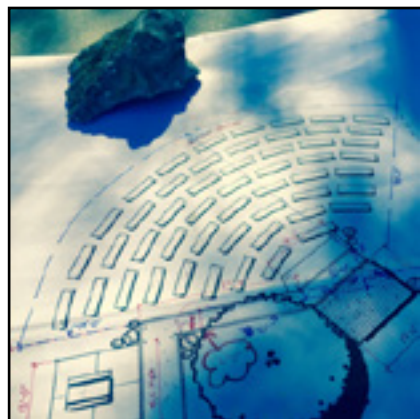
A few years ago, we had a very popular Nature Education program about wolves at Placerita. Because the crowd was so large, it was determined that the meeting should be held outside in the amphitheater to the right of the building.

This amphitheater was built long ago and over a period of time, as a result of several Eagle Scout projects and PCNCA. ADA regulations were not in effect, and we found out there was a problem when Sue Sutton, in a wheel chair, tried to attend the program. A few docents tried to carry her over the stream but did not succeed. She alerted us that a program open to the public should be able to serve anyone who wanted to attend.

Building over the stream or disturbing the stream bed was not possible, so we started to look for another option. With the construction of the Braille Trail, it became obvious that the meadow area, just after the bridge and adjacent to the picnic area, would be a great option.

Construction has begun, and as a result some picnic benches and a large concrete area have been removed. The grading started in June. PCNCA (the docents) will pay for the materials and the County will provide the labor, equipment, etc., necessary to complete the project. The decomposed granite for the walkways and the rock dust for stabilizing the seating area have been delivered. The docents were responsible for buying 52 benches for installation in the new amphitheater; they have been ordered and will be delivered in September.

Congratulations and thank you all. It will be a great addition to Placerita.





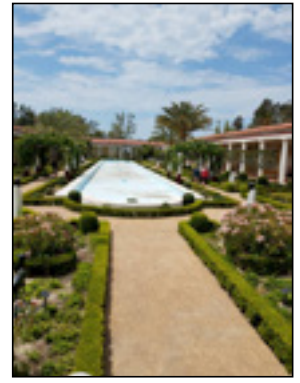
A Day at the Getty Villa

by RuthAnne Murthy

On July 24th, Placerita docents boarded a coach for a fantastic trip to the Getty Villa. The coach was supplied by our Los Angeles County Supervisor, Kathryn Barger. Thank you Ms. Barger!

We toured the art collection and many docents went on the garden tour or the architecture tour. We ate lunch outdoors at the café and some even enjoyed a class of wine. It was a delightful day and offered an opportunity for us to get to know each other better.

Thank you so much RuthAnne for planning such a fun day for the docents and thank you Fred Seeley for your help taking care of the reservation (photos by Glenda Perl)



Large Raptors Presentation

by Fred Seeley

Father's Day, 2017, was a great day for me as I felt privileged to be a father and I felt very privileged to attend the June Community Nature Education Series Large Raptor presentation.

Kudos to Frank Hoffman for arranging for his friend and fellow Master Falconer, Tony Suffredini, to show us his beautiful and LARGE birds and answer many, many questions about them.

He started off with his very smart Raven, and after that he worked with a Eurasian Eagle Owl, a huge African White Back Vulture, and finished his presentation with a fantastic Golden Eagle. Wow, what beautiful and powerful animals; true rulers of the sky!

We had a full house that was very respectful of Tony and the birds and asked many quality questions that enhanced the educational aspect for everyone in attendance.



Scrub Oak
Quercus dumosa
var. *gabrielensis*

Trail Treasures

By RuthAnne Murthy

This time of the year many hikers are discouraged by the lack of wildflowers. It is a time to look at the amazing transformation that is occurring along the trail. This month's Trail Treasure is the scrub oak.

Scrub oaks generally grow up to 10 feet tall and are thicket-like. They prefer dry slopes and don't like "wet feet". The catkins occur from March–May, and male and female catkins share the same plant. The leaves are stiff and leathery which is the adaptation that allows them to be evergreen. The margins are spine-tipped, heavily toothed. The hairy undersides of the leaves and twigs along with the convex shape of the leaves help with identification. The acorns start forming in June. They grow to about 1 inch in length, and the caps are short and warty.

This variety is endemic to the San Gabriel Mountains. The tiny Beaked Sprindle Gall Wasp lays her eggs on a twig, and the scrub oak responds by producing a bright red gall as shown in the photo. The galls do not harm the shrub. The acorns are food for many birds including the Scrub Jay, California Towhee, and Acorn Woodpecker. It is also a larval plant for the California Hairstreak and California Sister butterflies. So slow down and look for this amazing Trail Treasure.

Weed Celebration (No, not that kind of weed!!!)

By Fred Seeley

It was a beautiful day under the oaks in the PCNC picnic area for the "End of Weeding Season Luncheon" held on June 5, 2017.

The pizza lunch was held after a team of 8 spent several hours clearing invasive plants from the stream bed, and enjoying the wildflowers blooming among the weeds. The Teams statistics since beginning in November of 2015 through May of 2017, are very impressive: 41 individual Docents volunteered a total of 528 hours of service! Several Docents had very impressive individual hours, for example, Ingrid Brown had 60. Team leader, Robert Grzesiak reported only 57 but we all knew he puts in far more than that. Certificates of Appreciation were presented at the luncheon and the other team members will find theirs in their folders in the Docent desk.

The next activities will begin when the weather cools off. Please join us next season!



Thank You for the Water Fountain

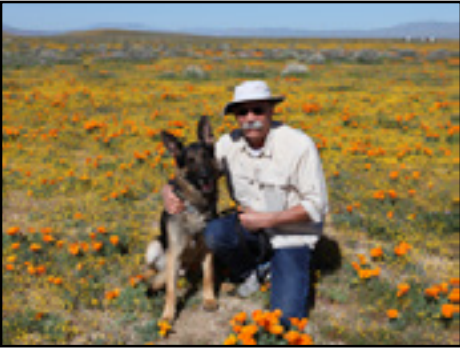
One water fountain has been repaired on the trail leading to the cabin, and we are very grateful. It is one of the most popular trails and in these hot summer days, our visitors appreciate having a cool drink.

PCNCA was responsible for this repair as well as donation for the fountain. You might not have noticed but at the foot of the fountain you can read a plaque: Donated by David and Joycelyn Turner Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates 1985.

We have discontinued the use of plaques to preserve the natural aspect of the park but we do not forget.

Two more fountains are pending installation, but the pipes must cross the bridge, so all construction must be finished first to be able to repair those pipes.

An Interview with Dan Duncan



Where did you grow up? Lancaster, not only did I grow up there, I'm still there! I can remember in the mid-70's getting on the Antelope Valley Freeway at 5:30 AM in Palmdale and driving down to Sand Canyon without seeing another car. There have been a lot of changes.

What was your education? Initially, I wasn't sure so, I took all the science classes they offered at the junior college in town. Following those, I completed the general education courses needed to transfer and I went on to get a BA, then an MBA in Business. In between those I attended UCLA's first Environmental certificate program.

What was your work experience? Magic Mountain (maintenance and then safety and environmental for 25yrs), private developers (environmental permitting for 6yrs), and currently an environmental consultant (10yrs). I work with biologists, botanists, archaeologists, and the Tataviam tribe on many different projects associated with Santa Clarita and the Santa Clara River, as well as its tributaries.

How did your love for nature get started? As a kid I spent a lot of time in the desert around my home and over the holidays in the Death Valley area. I really love the desert, the more remote the better. Places like the Saline Valley are paradise. I've spent a lot of time exploring ghost towns and mines.

What is your family life? Married (36 yrs.) with a son.

When did you come to Placerita for the first time? In the late 1970s.

What is your title at Placerita? Teacher of nature, e.g., Docent Naturalist.

Do you have a passion? Animals! Whether domestic or wild, I place a high value on animal welfare. We've rescued many animals over the years such as injured Mourning Doves and Ravens. We rescued two pot-bellied pigs and some people thought we were nuts when they'd see one stretched out on the couch. The little pigs are amazing creatures; smart and full of personality. I've never been without a dog, and German Shepherds are my favorite (but there are no bad dogs).

Hobbies? Hiking and photography. There's a 3-1/2 mile section of the PCT I hike every week. Other than in April and May, when the through-hikers are passing through, it doesn't get a lot of use. I've hiked this trail over 500 times and have seen many wild animals and wildflowers. Hiking re-establishes my balance after spending too much time in the office.

What is your diet? Vegan; it's great for my health and even better for the animals I'm not having an impact on.

Pets? One dog, German Shepherd (rescue) and one cat (adopted us). We recently lost our amazing diabetic cat; he taught us much over the four years of treating his diabetes.

Aspects of being a Docent?

Most enjoyable – the expression of wonder and excitement from young kids when they connect with nature through wildlife or other experiences.

The messages I seek to convey – all of nature, including people, are connected through an intricate system; we need to take good care of each other!

Whiteboard Ecology Talk with the students – opportunities to demonstrate the importance of conservation and maintaining nature's balance.

Favorite place at the Park – the Oak Woodland. To the quiet observer much is going on. I try to end my hikes with the kids there.

Favorite activity – that's a hard one to nail down, I enjoy many of them. High on the list is "wandering snake interpretation". When the weather and temperature is right taking a snake for a walk and visiting with Park visitors is really great. The contacts range from a passing nod to a 30 minute discussion. Snakes are the topic and many ideas are shared. I hope the time together shows everyone that snakes aren't so bad.

Favorite time at the Park – Evening twilight. Walking the trails under a full moon feels magical.

Benefit of being a docent – the other docents! I've come to learn that many of the docents have some interesting things to share. The best part though is the kindred spirit we share for nature.

Funniest question – is your mustache real? (Yes it is, but you don't want to eat soup with it...)

I really enjoyed the docent training; I found it very informative and interesting. I look forward to having more time one day to attend more training and get more involved.

End of the School Year Party



On the first Saturday of June, PCNCA has a tradition of gathering all the docents for a celebration dinner before the long summer. We still have school groups scheduled after that date, but we try to celebrate before the docents disappear on their vacations. We had a delightful pot luck dinner. It was great to see Roger Gibson and Shirley Moreno, who we have missed. We had a very brief meeting to report the results from the Board vote. Thank you so much Jim Crowley and Vicki Cunningham, for handling the voting process so smoothly. Here are the members that were elected for the term ending in May 2019: Mari Carbajal, Joan Fincutter, Ron Kraus, Sue Sutton, Denny Truger and Evelyne Vandersande. The two alternates who were elected for one-year terms were Herb Broutt and Ron Nichols.

We were sad to see Vicki Cunningham and Heidi Webber step away from the board due to other commitments. Heidi Webber had been a board member for 21 years, so she gave much time and effort to PCNCA! We want to thank them both very warmly for their love and commitment to PCNCA.

I also want to give you the rest of the board members working on your behalf: Rick Brammer, Andrea Donner, Jack Levenberg, Ruth-Anne Murthy, Fred Seeley and Bill Webber. Those board members will see the end of their term in May 2018.

It was then very fitting to recognize special docents for their commitment and accomplishments: Heidi Webber for 21 years of active participation on the board. Vicki Cunningham was also recognized for the work she did on the tunnel (Read the article on this topic) and the many school tours she volunteers for. Denny Truger was recognized for the many projects he started and completed at the center. As soon as one project is done, Denny comes up with another fantastic idea! Now Denny is comfortable with taking the school children on hikes and he is unstoppable!

Irene Heerlein was recognized for the work she does in the gift shop and all the help she provides for the museum docents, on top of her full time job. Thank you all for your efforts--we notice!

RuthAnne Murthy received the Paul Levine Cup 6 months ago, and she selected Don Ducan to receive this honor for Excellence in Interpretation and to be the next recipient (be sure to read his interview).

Ron Kraus showed us one of his earlier movies. That is always a delight because Ron is so creative. We laughed, but we were also moved to see faces of docents that are no longer with us. This time, it was really a treat to see the "old" museum again, in its past glory!

Thank you to all who came to share this evening, your friendship is a very special gift.



Thank you Vicki Cunningham

We are very lucky that we don't often have vandals painting graffiti at Placerita, but it did happen once in a very delicate spot just under the mural in the tunnel. Vicki has been trying to find artists to restore the mural, and she was horrified to see this very large graffiti. No picture will be posted as not to make publicity for such a stupid act, but Vicki knew she had to move quickly while the paint was still fresh. She spent days removing the graffiti with strong chemicals. But after all her hard work, the shadows from the letters could still be seen. So she carefully mixed up colors to match the stones and did a slow and careful job with a small sponge covering the whole length of the tunnel so it would be totally covered.

Vicki is an artist and also a very dedicated docent. Thank you for having the knowledge to be able to do this and also the perseverance to spend days to make the repair. A last note to add: on May 19 our history mural has been cleaned and a protective coating was applied.

Thank you Vicki Cunningham for managing this project!

The Braille Trail

We are very proud to announce that the Braille Trail is finished. It is a wonderful addition to Placerita. You will be pleased to know that the docents have been active participants in the design of the final product. The budget called for decomposed granite on the trail, but the docent wanted a concrete surface to be sure that wheel chairs and strollers could be used easily on the trail in all weather. A grant, given to the docents, allowed them to upgrade the surface of the trail. They are also responsible for the funding of the Arthropod Station on the trail. Both of those projects are very good investments in the future of Placerita.

Sometimes history repeats itself: 40 years ago, there was a "Mommy and Me" group very active at Placerita, and the trail leading to the Oak of the Golden Dream was a dirt trail, making it difficult to push their strollers. Those young ladies did some fund raisers and asked large corporations for help. They were well received and they were able to have a concrete trail installed from the nature center to the Oak of the Golden Dream.

Some fragrant plants and trees will be planted along the Braille Trail in the fall, they are already on the back patio and they are well cared for.

Do come to visit Placerita and check this new addition to the park.





The Placerita Fire; Sunday, June 25.

It was a very hot and windy day, and the fire started with an accident on Placerita: an overturned vehicle sparked nearby brush, and soon the fire was spreading out. To get information rapidly, we have learned to go to Facebook right away. Leon Worden, President at SCVTV was making important updates in rapid succession... "1:50pm 300 acres burning, expected to meet Sand Fire burn area near Placerita Nature Center. Small production sets burnt at Disney Ranch." That got our attention very fast!



Meanwhile at Placerita, Frank Hoffman, Recreation Services supervisor, had a busy morning attending to 60 visitors from the Michael Hoefflin Foundation who had a reservation, giving a nature hike and an animal show. The show was almost finished when Jeff Crosby, Maintenance worker, came to tell him that smoke could be seen coming from Disney Ranch. The visitors were advised to quickly get to their cars and leave the park. Once the visitors were taken care of, the first order of business is always to plan the evacuation of the animals. They were methodically put in their traveling cages, and held in the classroom where they would have AC. Suzy Herman and Bill Webber showed up on their own, and by then Placerita Canyon Road was closed. Thank you so much for your help and your efforts, it was very much appreciated. However, Russ Kimura, Regional Park Superintendent, does not want to put any volunteers in dangerous situations, so volunteers won't be called to help during emergencies.

At 1:30, Rachael Komulainen, Park Animal Keeper at Hart Park and Eric Reifman, Park Superintendent at Hart Park saw the smoke in the air and got a bad feeling about Placerita. They came quickly and helped with the staging of all the animals. It was done swiftly and in a professional manner. By then the electrical power was lost at Placerita, so the trucks were started and cooled off by AC. The cages were carefully loaded and the animals were taken to Vasquez Rocks by Rachael and Eric. Thank you for your help! The traffic by then was horrendous so I was curious how Rachael and Eric managed to drive to Vasquez Rocks.

Here is her answer: "You know I love the critters and will always help them as much as I can. Since both 14 freeway & Sierra Highway were closed, we took the long way around. Everywhere was a parking lot of cars. We had to go back to Newhall Ave, over by the high school (because Railroad was so badly congested), to McBean, to Newhall Ranch, to Bouquet, to Vasquez Canyon, to Sierra Highway, to Davenport, to Agua Dulce Canyon Road, to Vasquez Rocks. It took forever! But everyone arrived safe & sound.

Russ Kimura, Regional Park Superintendent, had also a difficult time with the traffic, but he was finally able to reach the Center. Russ and Kim Bosell, Natural Area Administrator, were there to check on the situation and inspected the park all the way up to the Oak of the Golden Dream to make sure the situation was under control.

Frank Hoffman and Jeff Crosby took the big fire hose to the back patio of the Nature Center and sprayed the hill around the Botany trail to help with fire prevention. Around 3:30pm, the fire that was across the street from Placerita jumped the road. Because the vegetation was short, it did not progress very fast, but a water tender truck saw the dangerous situation, took the turn to enter the park, stopped near the cabin and started spraying. It was soon joined by a large group of firemen coming from the road to help with the effort, and they staged in the parking lot.

It is always a great comfort for us when they do that. They can use the rest room and have fresh water, plus we feel protected. They kept on checking the embers for two days after; to make sure the flames would not start another fire.

The park was reopened on Tuesday June 27 and the animals were brought back the next day. What was the extent of the damage? 760 acres were burned and three small production set buildings on Disney Ranch burned, but the Ranch is fully open. At Placerita, the fence next to the entrance of the park is burned and the Butterfly Garden is gone, but by a miracle the cabin is untouched. You have to understand that the fire was about 25 feet from the building, so much too close for comfort.

The Lyons Oak and the new drinking fountain on the Heritage trail are untouched, while the fire went all the way up to the side of the Heritage trail. We were extremely lucky and we are deeply grateful for the efforts of all fire personnel on our behalf. It was a very hot and windy day, not a good combination. Let's hope that the rest of the summer will be a safe one for all of us.



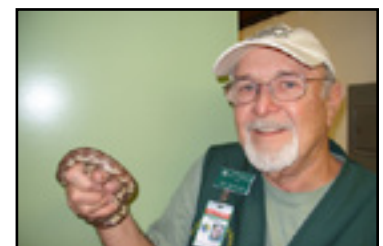
Open House 2017

On behalf of the Open House Committee, we would like to thank everyone who participated in the event. We were amazed that so many people gave up their Saturday, and came and helped. We could not have done it without everyone's help. We hope everyone had a fun and educational time.

Thank you,
Joan Fincutter
Sandra Balaram
Andrea Donner



Jim Crowley has taken over as the PCNCA Procedures Manual Coordinator. We want to thank him warmly for taking on this responsibility. Those rules need to be updated, and all changes need to be carefully recorded after any vote by the board. This is a "behind the scenes" responsibility that allows the Nature Center run smoothly, and for all the docents to be aware of what needs to be done on a regular basis.





Docent Enrichment Training Field Trip to the Devil's Punchbowl.

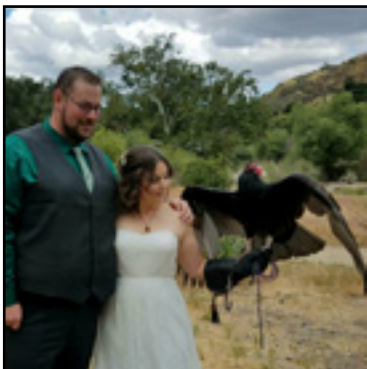
PCNCA docents went on a fascinating trip to the Devil's Punchbowl. We were greeted by our friend Olivia Miseroy and the park supervisor David Numer. They gave us a tour of the nature center, and we enjoyed seeing the similarities and differences between the flora and fauna of the Punchbowl and Placerita Canyon. We then walked the Pinyon Pathway enjoying the wildflowers. Most of us went on the Loop Trail down to the creek where the water was rushing down the rocks. Some of our docents stayed to enjoy lunch under the trees. We had a great day!

A Trip with Dan Kott

Dan Kott is a docent at Placerita and former employee of Power Plants 1 and 2. He took us on a very private tour of those plants, which are located in San Francisco Canyon. Those tours are not open to the public and we needed to have a security check one month in advance.

Dan is a terrific source of technical and historical knowledge. Thank you to the plant operators and supervisors who so generously provided their knowledge and assistance, and kindly answered the many questions from our large group.

Then Dan Kott took us on a tour of the remains of the St Francis Dam, which is close by. Dan has become an expert on the topic and has done much research; it was a very interesting and moving visit, in a beautiful and wild location...so many lives lost.



Thank You Shirley

It is rare to have a volunteer like Shirley Morano. She just turned 96 years old (Happy Birthday!) and she drives to the Nature Center on a weekly basis to provide the important service of answering our phone.

On Easter Sunday, she had a car accident on the freeway returning home from the Center. She was very lucky, nothing was broken but she was badly bruised and sore for many long weeks. She put all her will and determination to be back in time to answer the phone for Open House. She made it, and Herb Brout was kind enough to give her a ride.

This is a quote from Shirley "My life is going to have to change. At 96, I think I cannot drive on the freeway at night any more." When I answered her that I had stopped doing that much sooner, her answer for why she continued to do it was "Well, I have those tickets for a concert and the matinee was full."

Shirley, we love you. Thank you for your dedication.



Good bye Agustín

Agustin Hernandez has been Ground Maintenance worker at Placerita for 10 years. He was hired by Ian Swift for the job, and started as a shy young man. However, soon Agustin was able to gain confidence, and it was a joy to see him maturing and taking initiative. When Agustin promised something would be done, it always was done - and not just done, but done on time. We were always very pleased and relieved to find tables and chairs organized for each docent training and party! We saw him developing a great approach using the court referral program to help with maintenance in the park.

And Agustin demanded from them the same strong work ethic that he has.

A good bye party was held on June 28 by Andrea Donner, Sylvia Altamirano, RuthAnne Murthy and all the docents who participated in a potluck lunch for Agustin. Russ Kimura gave a heartfelt speech explaining how he tutored Agustin to help him pass his interviews - and he did so with flying colors. Agustin was first choice for both jobs he applied for.

Agustin is getting a promotion and will work at the Ford Theater. He will miss Placerita and we will miss him, but we wish him good luck in his new job. Congratulations, Agustin!

Jessica is All Grown Up

Jessica Nikolai came to the Nature Center when she was barely a teenager. We all fell in love with her sweet face and happy personality. I think she fell in love with Placerita too. The years passed by, and it was time for college. She chose Moorpark with an eye on their animal programs. The docents went to visit her there and she planned a tour of the animal facility for us. It was quite a treat to be able to see her walking a mountain lion on a leash.

She decided to further her studies, and she chose Humboldt University. She loved the forest, the water and when she graduated, she wanted to stay close to the water. She was lucky to find a great job at the Ventura Hillside Conservancy where she works hands on with projects dealing with plants and animals.

We have seen photos of the love of her life for many years, Dave West, and when the time came to get married, Jessica and Dave wanted to tie the knot in Placerita, of course.

They had a lovely ceremony on May 7 at the picnic ground, and one requirement was that Apollo, the turkey vulture, would somehow participate to their big day. Apollo was proud to be the guest of honor!



**RuthAnne Murthy, Placerita Canyon Nature Center.
Volunteer of the year 2017**

RuthAnne Murthy used to be a teacher for the Castaic school district, and we knew we had found a rare pearl when she started her docent training at Placerita in 2014. She brought the same dedication, the same intense focus and beautiful sense of organization to her new job of volunteer.

She decided rather quickly that her interest was native plants and she immersed herself in research, asking questions of all the experts and quickly getting acquainted with all the plants in Placerita. Because she is a true teacher at heart, she wanted this knowledge to be shared with visitors at Placerita, so RuthAnne happily started a new program called “Blooms of the Season” where the visitors could learn about native plants and what is blooming on the trail at the time of their visit.

They meet on the patio on the fourth Saturday of every month at 9:30am for a one-hour stroll.

Come and join the walk, bring your camera and your questions. As it turns out, a few visitors are becoming regulars and have bit bitten by the same desire to learn and become expert. Everybody shares their knowledge and gives each other support. It is quite an extraordinary development and a fun group too; they really have a great time!

RuthAnne had conquered one topic, but she did not stop there. She noticed the docents also needed a support group to keep on learning the whole year around, to become more at ease with new topics, to give each other support and to have the possibility to see each other and become friends. She started a program called “Docent Enrichment Training” where some docents come to explain a topic that they have special knowledge about and are able to share in depth.. She plans trips to expose them to new plants and new environments.

Five different names were proposed as candidates for “Volunteer of the Year for 2017” for Placerita: RuthAnne Murthy, Glenda Perl, Sue Wallander, Robert Grzesiak and Sue Sutton. All these volunteers worked hard to make Placerita a better place, and the choice was not easy. However, we are delighted that RuthAnne was voted “Volunteer of the Year” by the board, and we give her our warmest congratulations.

She will officially receive her recognition at a special ceremony at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in September.

FALL PROGRAMS

FAMILY NATURE WALK

Every Saturday from 11 to noon. An easy 1-hour walk exploring the area’s natural and cultural history.

ANIMAL PRESENTATION

An easy 1-hour walk exploring the area’s natural and cultural history.

Every Saturday from 1 to 2 pm. See, learn and ask questions about live native animals of the area.

BIRD WALK

See, learn and ask questions about live native animals of the area.

Second Saturday of the month from 8 to 10am. For all levels of birders. Bring binoculars, water and field guide.

BIRD WALK, CASTAIC

The Placerita Canyon Natural Area docents lead a monthly bird walk **at Castaic Lake Recreation Area** on the first Saturday of the month at 8:00AM.

BLOOMS OF THE SEASON

Learn about native plants and what is blooming along the trails. Meet in the patio at 9:30 for a one-hour stroll on the fourth Saturday of every month. Bring your camera and questions. For more information about this free program, call 661.259.7721 or 259.7832.

NATURE EDUCATION

An exciting new program at Placerita Every 3rd Sunday of the month at 2pm the PCNCA will provide a free educational program open to the public. Changes may be made, so please the center at 661.259.7721 to verify. Sunday, August 20 – Tataviam: Myths and Mysteries by Helen Sweany and Jim Bloch. Sunday, September 17 – A view of Santa Clarita History by John Boston. Sunday, October 15 – Taxidermy by Olivia Miseroy.

TWILIGHT HIKES

This program is offered on the 3rd Saturday of each month. This program begins at 7pm and runs for about an hour. Park staff and the Nature Center Docents split groups and courses through the different trails in the dark. Come howl at the moon--if there is one that night!

JUNIOR RANGERS

Second Saturday of each month from 11:30 to 12:30 for children 6 years and above. Nature topics and a small hike, this new program is provided by Ranger Frank Hoffman.

For more information, please call 661.259.7721 or visit our website at Placerita.org.