



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

November-December 2019

Editor: Evelyn Vandersande Publisher: Heidi Webber

Dear Nature Friends

It does not seem possible, but this issue of the Rattler is for November/December, so I am sending you my best wishes for joy and happiness during all the different holidays coming your way.

I hope that in the middle of the busy season you will find time to go outside and discover that Fall also comes to California: the nights are cool, the days are shorter, and the foliage is changing color. The acorn crop is plentiful this year, and it is kind of fun hearing the fallen leaves crackling under your feet. After the hot summer, it's wonderful to discover dew on the grass in the early morning. Another little miracle of the season!

Thank you for your support and your interest during the year. Placerita has something to offer for any age group, and we are proud of that. Check out all the different programs that are offered and take advantage of them. We are a little disappointed the Canyon Trail remains closed, but we have great hope it will open in 2020.

Check the Rattler and notice the two flyers included: the Craft Faire is our only fund raiser of the year, but it is so much more than that. It is the only place in this valley where you can create your own holiday decorations using fresh greenery, seeds and pods and you will end up with a very professional result. The children can do many fun crafts while the adults are having a great time too. It has become a delightful tradition for many families.

Docent training is starting in January, and if you have the time, please join. It will change your life in so many good ways that you cannot even anticipate.

And lastly, I will wish you a wonderful new year in advance. We are grateful that you are finding this newsletter interesting, we appreciate the time you took to read it. Your friendship is very important to us. Have a good time in Placerita!

The Saddleridge Fire October 10, 11 and 12

On Thursday October 10, the Santa Ana winds started and were very violent. We had gusts from 45 to 75 mph, and the fire started at 9pm on Thursday in Sylmar. Blowing embers crossed the freeway and ignited fires in Porter Ranch.

By Friday, October 11 in the morning, the freeways 210, 5, 14, and 118 were closed, isolating our valley. The fire grew devastating in Sylmar, Porter Ranch and Granada Hills. All the schools were closed and the situation was volatile as the smoke was heavy in the Newhall pass and north of Calgrove. The decision was made to close Placerita Canyon Park as a precaution, for the safety of our visitors.

On Friday at 4.30pm, firefighting helicopters were working at our neighboring Disney Ranch. There is a small lake certified for helicopter water pick up, and we were grateful that they took advantage of it. The situation was tense in SCV, but no evacuations took place. The smoke was heavy in the mountains on the south side of the Valley, the air quality poor but by Saturday morning, the freeways were open (other than the truck route).

Placerita Canyon Nature Center was reopened on Saturday morning and the full programming planned for that day was not interrupted. However, the bird walk could not take place because of the very poor air quality. We are extremely grateful to all the firefighters who have done a fantastic job saving our valley and open spaces during this disaster.

Latest news from Russ Kimura, Regional Park Superintendent: New Saddle Ridge Fire Closure Areas for Placerita Canyon Nature Center: We will keep open the day use area of Placerita Canyon Natural Areas. The open areas will include the nature center, three parking areas, the amphitheater area, the picnic area, the Walker Cabin area, the Hillside Trail, the Manzanita Trail up to the water tank, the Ecology Trail and the Braille Trail which leads to the Oak of the Golden Dream. The closed areas of the park will include the entire Walker Ranch Area which includes the Canyon Trail, the Los Pinetos Trail and the Waterfall Trail. The order is effective from October 12, 2019 until May 1, 2020.

Volunteer-Naturalist Training Placerita Canyon Natural Area



Become a Volunteer-Naturalist!

- *Learn about the natural environment*
- *Teach children about nature*
- *Make a difference in your community*

No special background needed,
just a willingness to attend training and to volunteer at least twice a month.

Training Starts Tuesday, January 7th, 2020
Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9AM to 12 Noon

Volunteer-Naturalists attend a 9-week training program. Topics include native plants, ecology, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, geology, history, and interpretive techniques. Instructors include noted professionals in the various fields. The cost of the training is \$45, which includes all training materials (instruction manual, field guide, T-shirt, and related items.) Minimum age for Volunteer-Naturalists is 18. Visit our website (placerita.org) for further information regarding the Volunteer-Naturalist program.

Other volunteer opportunities are also available at Placerita Canyon Natural Area that don't require the 9-week training program—call the Park Office at (661) 259-7721 and ask for the Volunteer Coordinator.

**For further information call Placerita Canyon Natural Area, (661) 259-7721
or Email ron@placerita.org**

When do They Sleep?

The tortoises on the patio are very perky and even come close to the wall asking to be fed...even if they have just been fed!

When does their hibernation start, and how do we know when to bring them inside? Because we have had these 2 tortoises at Placerita for so many years, we are accustomed to their schedule. We know that some time between Halloween and Thanksgiving, they are going start moving more slowly and will eventually stop eating. They will be brought inside and we will carefully observe their behavior for a few days, then when we're sure they are ready, they will be put into a box with bedding of shredded newspaper, so they can hibernate for the winter.

Sometime in March, we will hear scraping sounds of the newspaper being moved around, and we know it is time to get them out again. It's one of our favorite signs that Spring is here!



The Walker Family Was in Town

A group of four people was looking at the cabin, and docents RuthAnne Murthy and Jim Crowley started a conversation with them. Imagine their delight and keen interest when they found out that the visitors were descendants of the Walker family who had gathered for a family reunion and were visiting their heritage site at Placerita.

The board members were having their monthly meeting at the same time, and the family members were urged to come visit, to introduce themselves and share their memories. We asked many questions to confirm the information that we are passing along during Docent training is totally accurate...and it is, to our great pleasure.

We found out some lovely details about the "summer house" (the plates used, chocolate mugs, gingersnap cookies, the pump for water, the many books and the magnifying glass on the hand-made table) and found out that the Reynier family came from the town of Gap (Hautes Alpes) in France in the Champsaur Valley. Melba Fisher Walker's son went to visit the cemetery in Gap, and saw many family graves from the Reynier family (Hortense Reynier was the wife of Frank Walker).

We told them of our plans for the Centennial Celebration of the cabin and we hope they can visit at that time.

We were so pleased by their friendly visit and happy to see how much they appreciate their heritage.



What is Going on at the Amphitheater?

Some good changes have been made. If somebody comes to the amphitheater in a wheel chair, it would be nice if they could sit together with friends and family.

For this purpose, 3 new picnic tables have been installed, along with a concrete path that is suitable for wheelchairs. We love our wooden stage, and it looks great. However, we found out during some productions that it is too small to accommodate larger groups. So, here we are going back to the drawing board!

The electricity will have to be relocated and the wooden stage is going to be replaced with a larger concrete one. At this stage of the game, the new stage will not be raised above grade, in order to keep the cost down and be very safe...but we are in the preliminary design stage and who knows what the future will allow us to do!

Meanwhile, all the water fountains have been repaired, so that is good news. We still have a few warm afternoons coming up and the school groups are back at the Center, so readily available water is very welcome.



Cleaning Up the Library

by Carole Frocillo

Please take time to check out the new and improved library!

The books have been sorted and labeled by category and new volumes have been ordered based on the suggestions of docents. The check-out process will remain the same so I can track interest levels.

Going forward, donated books will be reviewed by staff and myself according to approved criteria before being placed on the shelves.

Courtesy of Laura Skorich, the remaining books will be donated to a teen shelter in North Hollywood.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this project!



Nature Tots

by Denny Truger

Our Placerita Nature for Tots preschool program was the brainchild of Andrea Donner, from the great class of 2012. This was something that she wanted to put together for several years.

Two years ago, we had our first Nature for Tots preschool program and it was a big success. Due to space constraints, we now have to turn people away, and it fills to capacity about mid-day on the first day of registration.

Approximately two weeks before each Tots program we have a meeting about how we're going to put it together. It's amazing! In one fun-filled hour we have a first class program. This is because of all the great people on our Tots committee.

Our first Tots program was on spiders and our last one was on bees. October's adventure is on ladybugs, and November will be about rocks.

We don't have a schedule for next year, but things that have been discussed are the roly-poly and snails.

Should be interesting.



Teachable Moments

Teachable Moments are golden moments when a person shows curiosity and interest in something and becomes open to learning, and trying something new.

BE AWARE. When leading a hike, for safety reasons we are required to be at the head of the line, but make a point to be aware of what's going on behind you and what catches your group's interest. Patiently stop and take advantage of this by encouraging all the children to observe.

GUIDE BUT FOLLOW THE CHILDREN'S LEAD. Every minute there are 4,497, 420 Google searches, and 4, 500, 000 YouTube videos watched. As leaders, we are "live YouTube videos". Kids are used to selecting what interests them and finding answers. Take advantage of their interests. You may not get to show everything, but kids will be actively learning about things that interest them, rather than passively listening.

USE OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS. "What do you think ...?" or "Why do you think...?" Whatever the kids show an interest in, guide them to a deeper understanding.

PRIORITIZE THINKING FIRST – ACCURACY NEXT. Make it safe for kids to share ideas, to come up with answers, and to ask further questions.

CREATING TEACHABLE MOMENTS. Sometimes a group may not readily show interest or ask questions, so a docent can create Teachable Moments by encouraging observation. For example: "Look at the ground and find something that is a mystery to you."

As docents, we enjoy hikes in different ways – we may stop to check out plants, landforms, animal signs, birds or just forge ahead. Some like to socialize, others get into a quiet "zone". Kids are the same, so take advantage of their interests.

Trail Treasures

By RuthAnne Murthy

Sugar bush is a sturdy shrub from the cashew family that grows in both the chaparral community and the oak woodland community under 4000 feet elevation. Other related plants are laurel sumac and lemonade berry. Sugar bush can grow up to 30 feet tall but is most often under 15 feet tall. It is both frost and drought resistant.

The leaves are dark green, shiny, waxy, leathery and ovate (oval) with a pointed tip. They are folded along the midrib and because of that, are nicknamed "taco leaves". The leaves are usually about 2 ½ inches long.

The white or light pink flowers begin to bloom in December or January. Sugar bush flowers grow in panicles (clusters) along the tips of the branches.

The fruit of the sugar bush are round, flat drupes about ¼ inch wide. They are red and covered with sugary hairs. They are bitter to the taste.

The leaves were used by Native Californians to make a tea to treat colds and lung infections. The tea was also used to facilitate child birth. The dried berries were eaten or mixed with water to make a sweet drink.

As you hit the trail this winter, you will see sugar bush all around you. The red buds and fruit are a bit of color while many of our plants are awaiting the first rain to rejuvenate. As you hike along, I hope you stop to appreciate this trail treasure.



Sugar Bush
Rhus ovata



PCNCA Fall 2019 Kickoff

by Lori Wolfe

The first day of fall brought many of our docents out to learn about the new happenings at Placerita Canyon Nature Center.

Cindy Gold kicked off the meeting with a great presentation about recognizing teachable moments:- “that golden moment when a person shows curiosity or interest and is open to learning new things.” Many helpful hints were shared, and Cindy has promised to share her slide presentation in a future Trails and Nuggets for reference.

Touchdown, Cindy!

Ron Kraus carried the ball for the rest of the meeting. We were brought up to date on projects happening in the park. Ron filled us in on the upcoming activities, and did not fumble once while showing us the highlights around our trails. Using Cindy’s ideas, we looked for teachable moments and saw just how much there is to see even when the trail is pretty dry.

Ron and Cindy both gave us a blitz of information and really pushed it over the goal line,



Highlight of My Resume

by Lori Wolfe

I retired fairly early, and have tried to make every day count by doing what I call “adding to my post-retirement resume” - taking college classes, climbing mountains, volunteering, fundraising and generally keeping out of trouble.

In the fall of 2015, I ran into a friend while hiking in the local mountains and asked what she had been up to. She conveyed to me her experience at the Placerita Canyon Nature Center: going through the docent training, becoming a docent and all the great things she was doing with the school tours, fun parties and much more. I signed up right away.

From the first day, I was hooked! Every day was something new, exciting, and professionally planned. Our instructors were top-notch environmentalists, college professors, and even some senior docents who shared their expertise in a wide range of areas. Many senior docents were present during the training days - those friendly, helpful faces that cheered us along as my class attempted to absorb the wealth of information presented. Senior docents graciously provided the most delicious snacks every day, and even big meals a few days, which added to the feeling of welcome and hospitality.

Before I knew it, docent training was over and my new life as a Placerita Nature Center Docent/Naturalist began. What a fun and special place this is to me now. I get to continually share information and learn about the environment we enjoy here at the Nature Center and beyond and I have friends to join me who like to do the same.

This is a place for everybody who loves nature and the Placerita Canyon Nature Center!



The Canyon Trail Update

Last year, we had obtained a Stream Alteration permit from Fish and Wildlife. We have now been told that this permit is obsolete because the people who handled the permit are no longer there.

Fish and Wildlife now requires a 3-part permit to be able to reopen the Canyon Trail. One of the 3 requirements is that the docents will be in charge of replanting native plants along the Canyon Trail and will be in charge of watering those plants. Also, we should weed and remove invasive plants.

This is a complex demand, considering the fact that the Canyon Trail is 3 miles long and the only source of water is at the Nature Center. This watering needs to be done by hand, carrying buckets of water.

The Canyon Trail is not smooth and has steep inclines here and there. Even leaving from the Nature Center with a wheel barrow filled up with water buckets, it is impossible to cross the stream due to all the rocks. The rainy season is on its way and we might get some help that way with the watering but additional delays might happen as the stream bed is naturally altered every spring.





The Placerita Canyon Nature Center
Presents its Annual

Holiday Craft Fair

December 7 and 8, 2019

10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

at

Placerita Canyon Nature Center

19152 Placerita Canyon Road, Newhall

1 1/2 miles east of the 14 freeway

Create and decorate your own holiday wreaths, centerpieces,
and ornaments using a large assortment of fresh-cut
greenery, pine cones and other beautiful natural treasures.

Please note that this is a fundraising event for the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates (a non-profit corporation) and that there is a charge for all activities (cash and checks only, credit and debit cards cannot be accepted.) Make your own Wreath, Yule Log, or other craft as you desire. Children's crafts will also be available. For those with allergy concerns, please note that peanut butter is used on some craft items.

(661) 259-7721 • www.placerita.org



Gary Freiburger, Docent Class of 2019

I was born in Chicago but grew up in Northern Virginia, just outside of D.C. It was a great place to grow up with all of the museums and historical sites in the area.

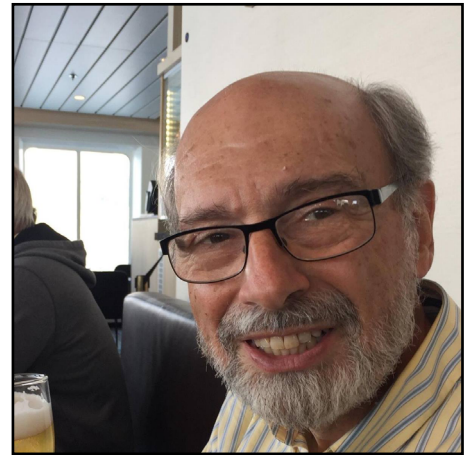
I went to college at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois where I majored in music theory and composition and where I met my wife-to-be, Natalie. I received my Master's degree in Library Science from the University of Texas in Austin and began a career as a librarian in college and university libraries that would take us to several states across the country. Our son was born in Charlotte, North Carolina when I was a reference librarian at Barber-Scotia College. From there my career path led us to Maryland, then Kentucky and finally to Tucson, Arizona in 2001. I retired as Director of the Health Sciences Library at the University of Arizona in 2015.

It was in Tucson where I first really connected with nature. The environment was so different from anything I'd experienced on the east coast. The desert plants, creatures, skies, mountains and canyons, immediately fascinated me. When I retired I didn't waste a minute before taking the docent class at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. I spent two and a half years leading tours and explaining "nature boxes" to visitors while also enjoying hiking in the mountains surrounding Tucson.

In addition to nature, my other passion is art. In Tucson I became a docent at the University of Arizona Museum of Art and enjoyed touring school groups and presenting art education to adults through the Outreach Program in the community. Each new exhibit brought another opportunity to learn and expand my enjoyment of art.

In 2018 Natalie and I decided that it would make sense to move closer to our son who lives in Glendale. Long distance house hunting was a challenge but we were excited to find Santa Clarita, a community in which we feel very much at home. We visited PCNC even before we moved here. I cornered Barbara and Jim Wyrozumski on that first visit and asked about the docent program. I was excited to hear that applications would be accepted soon and that classes began in January. My training at Placerita was very similar to that at the Desert Museum, but with all new facts for a completely different ecosystem!

I was recently accepted into the docent training program at the Getty Center. This means that I can now enjoy my two passions, art and nature. I can experience the pleasure of helping others to share those passions, and can feel really at home in California.



Taxidermy Problems

by Jim Crowley

A meeting of the Interpretive Center Docent group took place on September 30, chaired by Sue Sutton.

As you probably know or can see we have a problem with the taxidermy animals in our exhibits, the birds in particular. It seems the Interpretive Center comes to life at night, visited by pesky critters with Mickey Mouse ears.

Adding to that, other unwelcome micro sized beetles and assorted bugs never take a break. The meeting consisted mainly of a discussion about solutions.

Olivia Miseroy, our local taxidermist, was there to offer some insight. There was also supposed to be a representative from the LA County Natural History Museum. Unfortunately, she was ill and could not attend. Olivia did indicate that the LA County Museum was leaning towards a solid model vs taxidermy in their displays also.

Two solutions were reviewed. A professionally wood-carved naturally-painted bird versus going high tech using 3-D image printing and Olivia doing the fine painting.

Both approaches have merit and it was decided we should build one each of an Acorn Woodpecker and a California Scrub-Jay to do an evaluation comparing cost, quality, delivery time, etc.

Depending on the evaluation, consideration was given to the possibility of simultaneously utilizing both methods to speed the process once they were evaluated.

Jim Crowley borrowed a Black Capped Chickadee from a highly recognized bird carver to show the quality that can be acquired at a cost similar to a taxidermy model. Both solid model methodologies should help us in several ways.

The solid display birds would last virtually forever, requiring some dusting occasionally. The other consideration for the taxidermy birds is they require maintenance and offer a very limited life span due to bug infestations. An OK was given to Jim and Olivia to each pursue a bird for the evaluation.

The Nature Center will benefit by displaying several new local birds to show the public.



Los Pinetos Trail Was Open

by Helen Sweaney

Be warned, this hike begins straight uphill, and you'll go the first two miles before you reach shade. Los Pinetos ascends to 1,824 ft, ending at Wilson Saddle (6.6 miles RT). It's been widened, but you still need to be alert for mountain bikers coming around bends, as well as horses on the trail. The shady part is hit or miss and the gnats will be out in the shade. A head net is about \$5 and is strongly suggested. If you don't need it, great!

The change from chaparral to shady fairy-tale woodlands alone is worth the climb.

For the more ambitious, Wilson Saddle gives you option of continuing to A) Camp Nine (the fire station), B) The firebreak ridge with 11 hills that will eventually lead you to Placerita Nature Center, C) The Beast [by the Park and Ride off Newhall Road], D) an overlook of Sylmar, E) Wilson Canyon trail that will lead to Olive View Medical Center in Sylmar, F) a separate junction that leads to several radio towers.

The picnic tables and outhouse are still pretty much the same as they were three years ago before the trail closed.

The wildflowers have changed a bit. The trail has about one-quarter the poison oak it once had, being replaced with wild sweet peas (a springtime flower). Another spring flower that became prolific is snapdragon and giant stinging lupine. There may still be sunflowers blooming, along with holly leaf cherries and other year-round things for the wildflower pros to discover.

I hiked this trail about two weeks ago with friends, and we were joined by a hawk screeching at us for invading his or her domain. Be mindful of the critters that call this place home. This trail is definitely one of Placerita's treasures.

Note from the Editor: Please read the article on the first page regarding closures in the park until May 2020. This trail is included in the closures. Thank you.



Craft Faire

by Heidi Webber

That time of year is rapidly rolling around again! I am talking about Placerita's annual Craft Faire. Bill and I have been helping to pull it together for more than 22 years and it has come a long way since then. It has always been a very popular event here in Santa Clarita and we even have had visitors that come from Arizona and other states to attend. The line is often out the door for a good part of the day. Why you may ask. Well, while there are many Craft Fairs around this time of year, they are all pre-made items that you buy. As you know, OUR Craft Faire is a do-it-yourself enterprise with supplies harvested, collected and bought just for the patron to use in making their craft, whatever it is, with an emphasis on nature.

While many of you know of this as a two-day event, in actuality it starts at least two months before. For example, I start ordering supplies, the hardest of which is obtaining the straw wreaths. It feels like I start earlier each year and it can still be difficult some years. Bill starts drilling holes for the Yule logs and we are checking inventory and notes from last year to see what needs to be replaced. Sue and Alan Wallander have been dehydrating various fruit slices for the wreaths and Yule logs for the last several years. Sandra Balarum usually makes the big bucket of peanut butter bird food for the pine cone feeders and Jill Goddard's artistic talent is ready to deliver on the many posters we need. It really is an enterprise!

We also try out new kids crafts and decide if we need to drop an old craft. We are always searching for new things to make that are inexpensive for us and affordable to the patrons, even though this is a fund-raiser. The amount of time needed to make the kids craft is also important, as is safety.

For all the years Bill and I have worked on this to the point we can probably do it in our sleep, we have never chaired it, which is how we like it. We really would rather be behind the chairperson than in front. This year a committee is running the faire for the first time as Mari Carbajal had to step away. Somehow we ended up as co-chairs with Glenda Perl, Sue Sutton and Sandra Cattell.

It is a long haul to the faire, a tiring, exciting and fulfilling job, but we all support each other and it pays off with our results. So if you think this is the sort of thing to perk up your organizational skills, seriously think about it for next year—we have your back! Promise!



Where is Buddy, the Raven?

If you come to Placerita on a regular basis, you might be wondering about the whereabouts of Buddy, the raven, who was in one of the enclosures on the patio.

Buddy is healthy and doing well. The question arose whether she could be released back into the wild, but she has been imprinted by humans for many years so we were skeptical.

However, we were willing to give it a try. Buddy was returned to the bird rehabilitator who brought her to Placerita in the first place.

She is enjoying the company of a few older ravens who, we hope, are going to teach her to act like a raven again. If the process is successful, she will be put into an enclosure with a few younger ravens and we will see how she reacts to this challenge. One step at a time for Buddy, along with the bird rehabilitator who will observe her progress.

If Buddy cannot handle being released back into the wild, we will give her a comfortable life at Placerita. She will be returned to her enclosure, but she will have a new friend. A blind raven will come with her. Ravens are gregarious animals and a blind raven won't give her too much competition, so we hope she will be less lonely and it will keep her more mentally stimulated.

Having a friend is always a good thing!



Outreaches

Creepy Crawley Lunch Brunch on October 24 at Sierra Vista Junior High during lunch hour and

Sheriff's Haunted House on October 27

The season of Halloween brings Placerita in contact with the public in a fun way. We show them real snakes and tarantulas!

At first, people are a little apprehensive but with the help and explanation from the Placerita docents, their fear and anxiety vanishes and their interest increases...at least, this is our hope!

A little education brings more questions, a desire to understand, and this is why the docents bring the animals (and their ready answers) to so many places to reach out to the visitors and share their passion.



Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates

PHOTO WALK

3RD SATURDAY of the Month at 8:30 am

The Placerita Canyon Natural Area provides many opportunities to enjoy the wonders of Nature. One way to capture these moments is through photography. To this end, the PCNCA is adding a monthly "PHOTO WALK" to the existing monthly schedule of community programs.

The Photo Walk will include PCNCA Volunteers and Docents, who are very experienced with both the Natural Area and photography. Everyone is invited to participate, from beginners to experts! The Docents and Volunteers will be there to help as needed and to show you some of their favorite spots to get the best shots.

The Walk will be very leisurely and there will be no requirements to stay with the group nor any limitations on the time you choose to stay in the Natural Area and Nature Center -- except that the Park closes at Sunset!

The Walk will begin with a short briefing at the Acorn Amphitheater near the bridge at 8:30 am, and then out into the Park.

Please join us! It is free and the whole family is welcome. Donations are always appreciated, of course.



FALL AND WINTER PROGRAM

FAMILY NATURE WALK

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

ANIMAL PRESENTATION

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

BIRD WALK

Second Saturday of the month from 8 am to 10am. For all levels of birders. Bring binoculars, water and field guide. (This schedule will change in January and the bird walk will take place on the first Saturday of every month, same time)

BLOOMS OF THE SEASON

Learn about native plants and what is blooming along the trails. Meet in the patio at 9:30am 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

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 call the center at 661.259.7721 to verify. November is Bees presented by Sue S. and Chip Vanoye, coordinated by Jack Levenberg.

December is vacant due to the Craft fair. January is "Rocks as tools" by Christopher Nyerges.

TWILIGHT HIKES

This program is offered on the 3rd Saturday of each month. This program begins at 6pm in November and December and runs for about an hour. Park staff and the Nature Center Docents split groups and courses through the different trails in the dark.

PLACERITA NATURE TOTS

Age 3-5 and one adult companion for each child. Saturday from 9.30am to 10.30am. Registration open the 1st of each month, program limited to 15 children. Register at nature_tots@placerita.org

PHOTO WALK

NEW PROGRAM 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30am in the Acorn Amphitheater. Learn how and where to take some of the best photos at Placerita. Docent and volunteer led. For more information, contact Fred Seeley via the Nature Center. (See article in this issue)

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

December 7 and 8, from 10am to 3pm (see flyer)

HOLIDAY DOCENT PARTY

Saturday, December 14 at 6pm in the docent room at Placerita (you can bring a guest)

DOCENT TRAINING

Tuesday, January 7th from 9am to 12 noon (see flyer)

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