



The Rattler

Sponsored by the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates
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www.placerita.org (661) 259-7721

Placerita Canyon Nature Center
Over 50 Years of Nature Education

January-February 2020

Editor: Evelyn Vandersande Publisher: Heidi Webber

Hello Nature Friends,

There are many organizations with volunteers...why is it that the Nature Center keeps on standing out, time and time again? I truly believe one reason is that we have docent training every year. How does that work? We welcome a group of about 20 new students from every age group and background, we give them a high-level education about nature, we expose them to the positive ways of learning at Placerita, and we give them all the tools to succeed. We also welcome them with open arms.

Those new docents, once they have graduated, are ready to start new projects, expose us to their own new ideas, change the routine, test what can be done, and so many other things enabled by their fresh eyes. This new blood revitalizes Placerita Canyon Nature Center and keeps our organization very lively, friendly and interesting. Welcome to the docent training and all the new changes it will bring!

The New Year is about to start. 2020 has a nice ring to it! We wish you a year filled with happiness, many walks outside, looking at birds in a blue sky, enjoying the fresh new grass poking up everywhere, and the excitement when you sight your first spring flower.

The stream is filled with water for a short while and will be again soon, the air is crisp in the morning, and the Los Pinetos trail is open so that is a great challenge to start the year.

Come for a visit - you'll be glad you did!

Logos From the Past and the Present

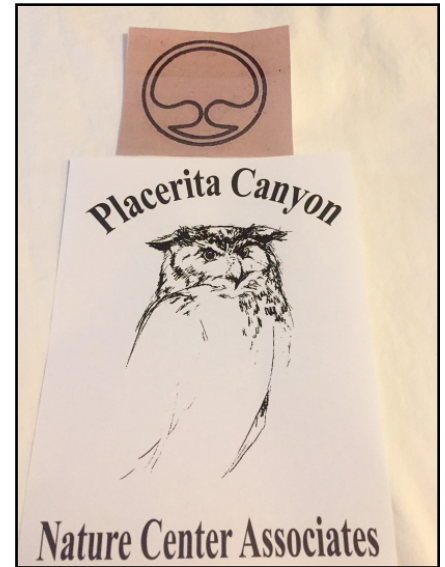
The Craft Faire banners went up on the patio, and a recently-graduated docent asked me "Why is there the head of an owl on it? Is that our mascot?" I realized it was time to write the story of our logo one more time. I started to write the Rattler in 1997, and I have come to know it is handy to have those memories close at hand, allowing me an occasional memory aid, as the facts fade from easy recall as the years pass.

The first logo I encountered at Placerita was an oak tree in a circle. How did that come about? As usual, creativity happens very fast when pressed against a deadline.

We were told we needed a logo for the next morning. What could we do? No artist was part of our small group, and we had no time to think very long. Nancy Allen took a dime from her wallet (yes, that was the time when we still carried cash with us!), traced a circle and made a very simple tree outline looking like an oak. That was the first logo for Placerita, and it served us well for many years.

The inspiration came in part from the NCA logo with an adult showing an oak tree to a group of children, with the inscription "We exist so Children and Oaks can grow together". Cheesy, maybe, but I still find it very moving and true to the message we try to send to docents and visitors.

In 2004, we decided to adopt OJ (Owl Junior, our great horned owl) as our mascot, and Jill Goddard designed a logo representing OJ's head. It was not an easy task, and she spent many hours refining her design so it could be easily printed on our banners, letterhead, name tags, flyers (and many other things!). She did another version in 2006 with the name of the Nature Center around it. Placerita is proud to be represented by a great horned owl, and we were so grateful to Jill Goddard for her work and dedication. OJ left us that year, and it was a difficult time because he was a wonderful bird with an interesting personality, but he was getting very old and his time had come. We are proud to honor his memory and all the other great horned owls who will come to Placerita, by using this very special logo.





The Craft Fair by Glenda Perl

The very informal Holiday Craft Fair Planning Committee would like to thank the DOZENS of dedicated docents who donated their time, energies, and weekend to making sure the Fair went smoothly.

There are too many to name individually (you know who you are!), but special kudos must go out to Heidi and Bill Webber. Heidi keeps track of the inventory and orders a multitude of supplies as needed every year, just to mention ONE aspect of Heidi's involvement with PCNC over the decades. And we have Bill to thank for preparing ALL of the Yule logs! He cuts and shaves all of the pieces (so they have a flat bottom), as well as drilling thousands of holes for the candles! What an awesome couple!

"Honorable Mention" thank-you also go to the kitchen crew, who kept the hungry docents well-fed during brief breaks; and the patio crew, who worked tirelessly in the cold and rain, keeping all of the fresh greenery in order; and the clean-up crew, some who continually swept up the floor of fallen greens, and others who arrived late in the day to help with the BIG clean-up, especially Sunday afternoon.

We also must thank the entire County Staff for pitching in and helping with the crowds and rain issues. The door to the Gift Shop had to be closed due to imminent flooding! There was so much water pouring down that it almost reached the Museum entrance doors. Thanks to Ranger Frank Hoffman for commandeering staffers and volunteers to divert the water, thus saving the buildings from water damage.

We look forward to doing it all over again next year!





Holiday Party at Placerita Canyon Nature Center by Lori Wolfe

Saturday, December 14th, docents and their guests arrived in Placerita Canyon under a lovely almost-full moon. The mood was set with candles, beverages, scrumptious appetizers as well as fun squirrel and nutcracker holiday decor. This was our final social event of the year, and it was good to see so many people join in the fun.

After filling their plates at the dinner buffet, everyone sat down to enjoy updates from Frank Hoffman and be introduced to his newest employee Victoria, who is also a graduate of the 2019 docent class.

President Fred Seeley let Ron Kraus take over the program, who in turn invited Cindy Gold to present our Special Recognition awards. Our worthy recipients this year are: the very likable and capable Gary Freiburger; Linette Brammer, who graciously lets no moss grow under her feet in her tireless efforts for Placerita Canyon Nature Center; Carole Fricillo, our tireless champion for the docent library; Chuck Lingo, a hard working board member and all around great guy and last but not least, Richard Barsky who unassumingly makes a huge difference in our nature center. Linette and Richard were not present but Cindy Gold accepted their awards for them. Good job, docents!

Suzy Hermann, the recipient of the 2018 Paul Levine Cup, presented the 2019 Paul Levine award to the amazing powerhouse of ideas, Cindy Gold. Cindy has brought organization, monthly teaching tips, leadership training and much more. Not to mention being a great docent who does it all from interpretation to animal handling with our students.

Congratulations to all our fantastic docents!

Finally, Ron shared a fun video he made with all the highlights of 2019. It was both entertaining and a nice reminder of how lucky we are to share this special place with our fellow Placerita Canyon Nature Center docents.



Photo Walk

by Fred Seeley

Following in the footsteps of our many wonderfully successful weekend community programs, we launched our newest one: a monthly "Photo Walk" throughout the nature center.

Carol Mercado, Barbara and Jim Wyrozumski, Ron Kraus, Dennis Goff, Charitha Eragoda, and Bill Algeyer joined me and three guests (who heard about the "Walk" on Facebook), starting our walk at around 8:30 am. As usual, Ron Kraus had scouted out what he thought was interesting the day before, so we followed him to see what he'd found. It worked out great; we found a surprisingly large number of flower types in bloom and other things that were photo-worthy.

Carol Mercado had another volunteer commitment so she didn't make the photo this time; I'm the shadow in the lower right (my best side). Please join us for our next Walk on January 18th to enjoy the park, the people, and the photographic opportunities that await.



Hoary Ceanothus
Ceanothus Crassifolius

like lilacs from a distance. The individual flowers are very small about 1/10 of an inch.

The flowers yield to the 3-lobed seedpods. When ripe, the seedpods explode launching the seeds with an audible pop. Isn't that fascinating?

The native Californians had several uses for hoary ceanothus. They ate the seeds and used the flowers for soap and shampoo. The red roots were utilized to make dye for basketry. The strong trunks were cut into digging sticks. They made a bark tea that given to stop bleeding when applied to a wound.

So, the renewal of Spring starts early here in Placerita Canyon including the hoary ceanothus. It is not easy to ignore this beautiful early bloomer. It is there for us to enjoy and is truly a trail treasure.

Trail Treasures

By RuthAnne Murthy

Those of us who love the wildflower are anxiously awaiting the early bloomers. The 6-10 foot tall shrub, hoary ceanothus, is one of those we welcome. They bloom from January to April. Hoary ceanothus is part of the large buckthorn family with over 40 species. They grow in the chaparral below 3000 feet. Their hairy, gray branches are a species identifier. They are one of the plants in the chaparral that need fire to germinate.

The evergreen leaves of hoary ceanothus are about 1 inch, elliptical to roundish. The tops are olive green whereas the undersides are white and woolly. The leaves are ribbed and finely toothed.

Their nickname is California Lilac because the flowers grow in clusters, racemes, that look



Thank You Linda

Linda Kopatz passed away on Thursday, October 31st 2019.

She was deeply loved at Placerita and will be profoundly missed. Linda was from the class of 2008 and was very involved doing publicity for Placerita for many years. She would also take many photos of our events, with great enthusiasm. To honor her, we would like to publish her interview from the October-November 2018 Rattler one more time. Our sincere condolences to Bill, her husband. Our thoughts are with you and your family.

“I was born July 13, 1932 in London U.K. I was 7 years old when World War II began, and that changed the everybody’s life forever. To avoid the bombing, children were all shipped out of the big cities to foster parents around the countryside. I was sent to live with my grandparents who lived in a small village in the south of England.

I completed my entire schooling in a small village school, and like all the other kids during the war, we carried a gas mask to school every day and thought that our war time environment with all the food rationing, etc., was perfectly normal!

I finished my education in a 2-year college in London, training to work as a top-flight secretary. I worked for the American Embassy in downtown London, before migrating to the United States with my first husband in 1953.

In the late 1970’s Bill and I were married and in 1994 we moved to California where I put my secretarial skills to work at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. My favorite job of all time!

Bill retired a few years before I did, and discovered the Placerita Canyon Natural Area. So, when I retired, we decided it would be even more fun if I joined the PCNC too, and we could work/play together!

I took the annual training course in January 2008, and fell in love with everything the docents and leaders all do to make the place hum.

I started out taking the school kids on the various trails during the school year, and also attended most of the monthly training sessions to keep enlarging my skills and knowledge.

These days we work on less strenuous tasks, like staffing the beautiful museum and the gift shop. Bill’s favorite activity was showing the resident turtles and spiders to the school kids!

More recently I have chosen to use my secretarial skills behind the scenes and do the publicity for the Nature Center. What’s so great about the PCNA there is something for everyone to do regardless of age, time limitations and skills.

Perhaps my favorite part of the Placerita Canyon Nature Center are the wonderful people I have met and who have become friends over the past 10 years. We all love to eat and there are several fun pot luck events to get everybody together throughout the year.

It is also the pleasure we docents all get from serving our community and making a real difference, not only to the school children who come to the park by the bus load to learn about nature, but also to the families and many visitors that frequent the park with their kids and pets to experience nature, explore the park, the museum, or just enjoy viewing the animals/birds outside the main building.”

Tip of the Month – Encouraging Good Behavior

By Cindy Gold

Giving children the opportunity to hike and explore nature is an extremely valuable experience. Here are some tips to ensure that they are safe, engaged and behave appropriately.

Explain your expectations: Stay on the trails, Follow the adult who is leading, Leave all plants, seeds, etc. in the park and cause no damage, and Address any fears about nature children may have.

Use positive reinforcement and Catch kids doing something right: Use statements like: I like how... Thank you for being ... Great thinking! You’re really good at...

Address bad behavior right away: Explain why the behavior is unacceptable and give an appropriate consequence if it continues

Keep kids engaged: Understand the age and focus on what interests them, present new ideas and explanations simply and briefly, answer all questions and encourage safe exploration.

Give kids a job: They can be a birdwatcher, bug finder, acorn/seed/stone collector, scat finder, leader behind the adult. Rotate jobs so everyone gets a turn.

Use an easy competition or safe activity: Run like a coyote in a play area, Pretend to be your favorite animal and we’ll guess who you are, Hop around like a bunny, Mimic bird calls

Modify the hike: If children are hot, tired, out of shape, etc. be flexible - less can be more.



Research shows that children who spend time in nature are more relaxed, confident and willing to learn about the world around them. This time spent together can create memories and bonds that last a lifetime.



Braille Trail Planting

by Denny Truger

It's been a long 6 years since the conception of the Braille Trail. Three years ago, a group of us formed a Braille Trail Planting Committee thinking we'd have the planting completed as soon as the concrete pathway was placed. We were wrong.

There were a number of road blocks on that journey, but a month and a half ago at the Board of Directors meeting we got the go ahead to plant along the trail. From that day on, we've been busy buying the native plants, transporting, storing, building gopher cages and finally last week we started to plant. On December 11 we should have the last of the plants planted.

I invite you all take a little stroll down the trail to check out the native plants. Ron Nichols was our committee leader with Helen Sweeny, Robert Grzesiak, Maria Elena Christensen, RuthAnne Murthy, Dan Kott, Jim Harris, Jack Levenberg, Sue Sutton, Omar Pena and James Kochan. If you were there helping and I did not mention your name, I apologize. My head was down and I was busy digging!



A Trip to Rancho Camulos

As part of the Docent Enrichment program, RuthAnne Murthy planned a trip in November to Rancho Camulos, which is a National Historic Landmark and one of the best remaining examples of a Spanish-Mexican rancho in its original rural environment.

It was a pretty setting on a bright sunny day. We enjoyed walking in the beautiful garden with many Monarchs flying by, persimmon trees covered with fruit, a lovely fish pond, and the little chapel decorated with bouquets of flowers.

We had a terrific docent-led tour of the adobe buildings (one docent was previously a docent at Placerita!). We watched the silent movie "Ramona" with great interest, because Rancho Camulos was the setting for the famous novel. We also enjoyed checking out the new Tataviam Interpretive village.

Thank you, RuthAnne, for planning this visit.



Walker Cabin Centennial

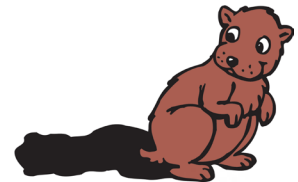
By Herb Broutt

We have been very busy with the Centennial. The plan is for it to be an old-time barbecue on Saturday October 24, 2020 with all the fixings.

We have all been working very hard. Jill has designed a T-shirt for the Centennial that looks great! Thank you Jill! Joan Fincutter and Carole Frocillo have made great progress in researching games that were played in the 1920's. We may even have a square dance.

I have been in contact with several of the Walker Family. They are all eager to be involved and provide memorabilia. They have agreed to be our guests of honor. Ron Kraus and I are planning to visit Bob Walker at his home to learn more about the family and hopefully bring back some mementos.

That's all for now.



The Tick Fire

On Thursday, October 24, at 1:30P I noticed some white smoke, far away to the east. At 2:51 Barbara Wyrozumski posted this scary picture. Thank you, Barbara.

The wind was strong and the helicopters were going back and forth non-stop in different directions. Soon people were told to evacuate. 40,000 in total would have to leave their homes, including several Placerita docents.

Some people were coming back from work to rescue their animals, the traffic was very congested and the situation became worse as everyone was trying to find out which roads were open or closed. Facebook was a very useful tool at that time to get some answers or some help.

Highway14 was closed over night, when the fire jumped the freeway. On Friday, all the schools were closed, and so was Placerita Canyon Nature Center. The road was closed but



the park was not damaged. However, the fire was in Sand Canyon which also had to be evacuated.

We learned that 24 residences were destroyed, and that is very traumatic.

On Saturday morning, October 26, Placerita Canyon Nature Center was open and RuthAnne Murthy was first in line to make her monthly program "Bloom of the Season" available to our visitors.

Hats off to the docents and the county employees at Placerita who kept the programs going as planned, in spite of all the issues from the previous difficult days.

Our gratitude goes to all the firefighters for their incredible efforts.



Who is Carole Frocillo, Class of 2019?

I grew up in Detroit, Michigan and I am a city girl at heart who thrives on the sights and sounds and rhythms of the city. As a child, my comfort zone was in the presence of brick and concrete buildings in every direction. Our areas of childhood exploration were the city alleyways, where we found innumerable treasures. Even more plentiful than the found treasures were the ever-present rats, roaches, beetles, an occasional feral cat, and bees, wasps, and hornets would nest in the most unexpected places.

My professional life in the Midwest was spent mostly in the public-sector long-term care industry where I had advanced certifications in the areas of infection prevention, wound management and incident command.

I married my best friend and we spent forty three years together before his death in 2010. We were blessed with one daughter who migrated to California to pursue her Masters Degree. I moved here in 2017 to begin a new chapter of my life.

I am an artist who is fiber based as I am drawn to the variety of colors, textures and patterns not possible with other mediums.

Because I find the world to be a very noisy place, I love creating work that speaks to the quiet songs of the earth. That is what drew me to Placerita and the docent program. This land is far different than any I have ever known and I wanted to learn more about its rhythm.

At Placerita, I am not only learning about the rhythm of the land, but I have met the most interesting and committed people, have had various opportunities to use my skills, and my art is starting to reflect my understanding of what surrounds me.



What is Going to Happen in the Amphitheater?

We found out that there were too many restrictions to use the amphitheater because of the size of the stage. We want to be able to handle bigger productions with many actors or musicians, so it's out with the old, and in with the new.

The old stage is going to be dismantled and the new stage will be much larger. The shape will be a half-circle, so it will have wings. It won't be as high, which is much safer for dancers and people running on the stage. It will have poles into the back to accommodate backdrops, giving us much-needed flexibility and a more professional look.

Some electrical work will be required after the construction, in order to light up the stage. This is a very exciting development, and we will keep watching all the progress.



Placerita Native Gardening/Nursery

by Brian Broders

The Placerita Canyon Nature Center has a new program to help people learn about our native plants by volunteering. The program has been tailored to the Placerita Canyon Nature Center volunteers, and is open to all the docents. There is a need to get more volunteers involved with nursery as well as for planting and watering of the native plants within the Placerita Canyon Park. In addition, it would be beneficial for the volunteer to learn native plants within Placerita Canyon.

The aim of the program is for a volunteer to learn and identify native plants that are located within Placerita Canyon and their habitats. In addition, they will learn about seed collection and propagation of the native plants. Native planting techniques and how to properly plant a native plant will be covered, along with protecting the native plants from animals like gophers, rabbits and deer. The program will teach the use of deep watering until the plant has been established. In addition, pruning (if any) that may be required for a native plant will also be taught.

We already had our first successful day learning about native plants. We planted three Chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*) that were grown in the nursery from Placerita Canyon native seeds. Collected on a field trip were the following: Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus bedifolius*) seeds, Woolly Blue Curls (*Trichostema lanatum*) cuttings and Flowering Ash (*Fraxinus dipetala*) cuttings.

We learned the techniques for planting the collected cuttings into planting trays in the nursery. Instructors: Robert Greziak, Rose Krueger, Brian Broders, and special guests Omar Pena and Ron Nichols. Attendees in the class were Richard and Andrea Donner, and James Harris.



A Short History of AM Radio

by Richard Donner

In 1921, there were 5 commercial AM radio stations in the USA. Locally, KHJ broadcast in Los Angeles for the first time in 1922. By 1925, there were 571 stations across the USA.

How could the Walker family listen to news on the radio? Maybe they could have purchased a radio.

The 1920s factory-made radios for the home were very expensive. For example, RCA offered the battery-powered AR-812 radio in 1924 for \$235. In today's dollars that would be \$3,500. Since less-affluent families could not afford to own the early tube radios, newspapers and magazines carried articles on how to build a crystal radio using common household items.

Crystal radio sets were inexpensive and did not use batteries. To further minimize the cost, many of the plans suggested winding the tuning coil on empty pasteboard containers such as oatmeal boxes, which became a common foundation for homemade radios.

We do not know if the Walker family who used to live in the cabin at Placerita had a radio, but if they did, the expense of battery-powered tube radios represented quite an economic challenge. So a radio like we have constructed from an oatmeal box, would have been an ideal way to listen to AM radio. As it turns out in the 1920s, most of America was making crystal radios. Today making crystal radios is a great hobby and learning tool for children, future engineers and hobbyists.

A working version of this radio will be on display at the Walker Canyon Centennial.



It is called a KITC

(the pronunciation is keech)

This is the official name of the round hut used by the Tataviam, the Native American tribe living in the Santa Clarita Valley. Tataviam-speaking people lived in a round cone shape house made out of a wooden frame covered with reeds and brush. The name of the Tataviam village near Placerita was Tobimobit so that is a pretty fantastic fact to know.

This information was given to the Placerita docents by the Fernando Tataviam Band of Mission Indians. It is a coalition of tribes associated with the San Fernando Mission.

On December 14, 2019 a Phase 1 decision is due on Tribal Recognition for 900 tribal members. We wish them the very best and we were delighted to learn these facts from such a reliable source.



After a Hike in Placerita

By Vanessa Ivansmith, Daisy Troop Leader

The girls had a blast! They are telling everyone specifically about the acorn woodpecker storage tree and of course the sycamore leaves being used as diapers and toilet paper!

Our Girl Scout troop is Daisy Troop 132. We are a Saugus-based troop and our girls go to various elementary schools in Saugus. They had their choice of first field trip and they chose the hike in Placerita Canyon over visiting a fire station, so they really love the outdoors and the hike, I think, only added fuel to their love of nature.

Most of the girls haven't been to Placerita Canyon or on a hike. This hike also enabled the girls to earn their Eco learner badges which teaches them to take memories from your hike in nature and leave only footprints and I thank you for helping teach that.

Docent Training 2020 Begins January 7th

By Ron Kraus

Twenty-twenty is the 16th year I have been involved in organizing Placerita's Docent Training Program. It's been an amazing journey and my all-time favorite thing to do at the nature center. I've met so many awesome people over the years, made an incredible number of friends and have actually learned a lot about nature!

Docent training is mostly about learning the skills required to interpret nature to the public, primarily during the many school field trips we host at Placerita Canyon. The program is spread over nine weeks and trainees learn about native plants, ecology, insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, geology, history, interpretive techniques and other relevant topics. 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 docents is 18.

The first day--January 7--is an orientation session and there is no obligation to continue on with the training, so I encourage anyone with a passing interest in the program to drop



by and check it out. Who knows, you too may fall in love with Placerita Canyon Nature Center and start down the path to a 16-year (or longer) career as a docent!



The Docents Aim to Please

Dear PCNCA,

Thank you so much for arranging the perfect field trip for our 2nd graders. We ALL loved it. Please thank your volunteers. Their kindness and enthusiasm really made it a great day for the kids.

Their teacher, Julie Curtis, got permission from the parents to publish their photo and we hope it will be a nice addition for your news letter. Thank you again.

*Sincerely,
Tamara Mitchell*

Look at those happy faces! Thank you so much for your letter, it means a lot of all of us at Placerita.

Those 2nd graders from Sherman Oaks Elementary Charter School came well prepared for the school trip. Katherine Bautisa, one of the parents and chaperones, found out that our mascot at Placerita is OJ, a great horned owl that is on our letterhead. She had 30 shirts made for the big day: 26 for the children, 1 for the teacher and 3 for the parent chaperones. What a sweet idea!

At the end of the hike, one of the girls in the group told her teacher that it was the most fun day of her life. This is why we became docents and why it gives us so much joy. Thank you again and come back any time.

WINTER PROGRAMS

- 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** First Saturday of the month from 8 am to 10am. For all levels of birders. Bring binoculars, water and field guide.
- 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. January is "How to use rocks" by Christopher Nyerges. February is "Plants and Tataviam History" by Dr. Adams
- TWILIGHT HIKES** This program is offered on the 3rd Saturday of each month. This program begins at 6pm in January and February 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** 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)
- DOCENT TRAINING** Tuesday, January 7th from 9am to 12 noon (see flyer)
- LOS PINETOS TRAIL IS OPEN** You can have access from the east gate. There is no access from the Nature Center because the Canyon Trail is closed.

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

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**