



# 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**

**January-February 2023**

Editor: Evelyn Vandersande Publisher: Heidi Webber

Dear Nature Friends,

The year is ending, and we want to send you all our best wishes for the New Year 2023. We hope it will bring you joy and good health. And also allow you to enjoy many days of blue skies and lots of happy hikes. The past 2 years have been disruptive and difficult in many ways, with a few of our programs going into hiatus because of the Covid restrictions. The situation at the end of December 2022 seems somewhat better than last year, but we have learned to be flexible and adapt to whatever comes.

The Craft Fair was a wonderful success, and the Docent training classes will start in January (check the flyer). That always brings a lot of excitement to Placerita. We are delighted to be able to operate again in a more normal way! Check the Nature Education programs on the 3rd Sunday of the month, at 2pm, those are exceptional.

One happy reminder; Winter in our chaparral climate is really the beginning of Springtime. The few winter showers bring all the spring blossoms, so the time to check the trails is now. Enjoy!



**January 10: Docent Training Begins at  
Placerita Canyon Nature Center**  
**PRESS RELEASE | FRIDAY, DEC 9, 2022, SCVNEWS.COM**

If you love nature and want to learn more about the natural areas of the Santa Clarita Valley, consider volunteering to become a Docent Naturalist for the Placerita Canyon Nature Center, 19152 Placerita Canyon Road, Newhall, CA 91321. Docent Naturalists lead hikes for elementary school groups and conduct other nature center activities. Training for this program will begin on January 10, 2023.

The Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates administers the Docent Naturalist Program, which requires a 10-week training class. For information about volunteering at Placerita Canyon Nature Center, call (661) 259-7721 and ask for the Volunteer Coordinator or send an email to [ron@placerita.org](mailto:ron@placerita.org).

The Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates is a 501c3 non-profit volunteer group that assists the County of Los Angeles in the operation and programming of the Placerita Canyon Natural Area.

For more information about the Placerita Canyon Nature Center visit [www.placerita.org](http://www.placerita.org).

### Dues are Due

by Glenda Perl, Membership Person

Greetings of the season, PCNCA members. It's hard to believe that 2022 is almost over, but that's how the world turns. One day at a time, and suddenly it's a new year!

In a few weeks, we will ring in 2023. You know what that means: It's time to renew your PCNCA docent membership! Renewal of your membership is due by the end of January of each year. The payment schedule is listed below. (And such a bargain! These prices have remained the same for many years.) Dues are as follows:

Student Naturalist	\$15
Senior Citizen (over 62 yrs.)	\$15
Individual or Docent	\$30
\$30 Family	\$45
Lifetime	\$1000

Please remit your dues by January 31, 2023.

Thank you! Happy Holidays to everyone and wishing you all good things in 2023.

### Animal Shows are Cancelled

Our Saturday Animal Shows have been canceled until further notice because of Avian Flu. Call the Nature Center at 661-259-7721 for further information.



### Outreach to Sierra Vista Jr. High school

by Glenda Perl

Docents-on-the-go Bill (Will Webber), Jack Levenberg, and I visited Sierra Vista Jr. High School for PCNC's Creepy-Crawley lunch in the library, held annually until the Covid interruption – we were glad to be back!

About 70 students filled every seat. They ate their lunches while Bill walked the room with a black widow spider (in an enclosed container, of course!), followed by a tarantula (also in its enclosure). Jack showed them the big, plastic replica tarantula, for a better understanding of the physiology of a spider. Then, Bill and I brought out Clarence the king snake (me) and Dirty the gopher snake (Bill). The kids were enthralled!

For the Grand Finale (we had only 30 minutes), Jack walked and talked about Sierra the great horned owl. And then it was over!

The Sierra Vista crowd is always enthusiastic about our visits. The librarians love the PCNC visits, too.



### The Last Days of Filming

Perfection requires work! Lori Wolfe is running her lines. "That's good," exclaims director Cindy Gold. "Let's do it again!" And again, and again, and...

As you well know, the last video about the different trails at Placerita was in the making, and it has demanded lots of effort from the whole crew. But we have learned what an extremely professional job they can deliver, after watching the previous videos.

A big celebration is planned for January 28 with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of "Know your Nature Center", where the new videos will be displayed. We want to make sure it gets all the attention and planning it needs, so it has the recognition and official celebration it deserves. (Please see the invitation) Congratulations to the whole team for your effort, you all worked long hours (sometimes under the hot sun), but the result is outstanding.

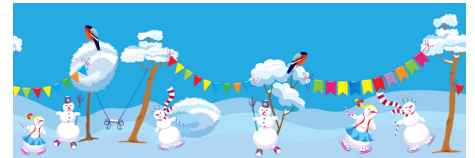


### Docent Enrichment at Eaton Canyon

by RuthAnne Murthy

On Tuesday, October 25th, a group of 12 Placerita docents braved the crowded freeway to visit Eaton Canyon, one of our sister parks. It was a gorgeous sunny fall day, perfect in every way! We were treated to a walk around the park to see the trails, plants and birds that flew overhead. Inter-dispersed along the trail there were stations with friendly and knowledgeable Eaton Canyon docents describing the mammals, insects, birds, etc. There were even games to help us remember things we learned.

Afterward, we ate our sack lunches under the oaks and were treated to desserts and drinks. If you were unable to attend, you missed a great day!!



### The Holiday Party

by Linette Brammer

The Holiday Party on Dec 10 was wonderful. A big thank you to the Hosting Team. They really set the mood. Sue Murachanian brought the lights, the rounds of wood, the tablecloths, and runners – and even made sure we turned the tablecloths right side up! She also brought the owls from the gift shop.

Linda Jensen, with help from Sue's husband, did the video and music. I think it really got us into the Holiday spirit!

Mara Cohen and Linette Brammer were two of our worker bees. Mara kept us all laughing (and brought wine). Rick Brammer brought

plates, bowls, coffee, beer, water, and ice etc. Rene Rojas and Monica Chocooj set up tables and swept up the leaks. Most importantly, everyone brought delicious food.

Evelyne Vandersande took pictures, so we can remember this special evening. Ron Kraus was a great MC and helped remind us what a great year we had in 2022. Cindy Gold was our entertainment: I had forgotten how much fun singing "the 12 days of Placerita" was - and she looked so cute, too.

And the awards team did a great job making the difficult decision about who would get an award this year. Thank you all. Life at Placerita Canyon is alive and well - and well fed!



## The Squirrel Whisperer

By Heidi Webber

Around 23 years ago, during a board meeting at Placerita, a call came in saying they had two baby opossums. Since our resident opossum was rapidly aging, I had said that I'd love to get a young female to replace our older Gini when the time came. This person was told to bring them in and a message was given to me to expect them.

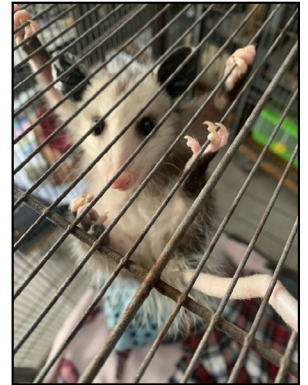
Well....it turned out that these opossums were newborn fox squirrels. Their umbilicals were still attached. I took them home and Bill fell in love. We researched as much as was possible (not much of an internet in those days) by going to the library and pet stores. We found some information, just enough to keep those babies alive.

As a result of these successfully raised and released babies, word started getting around that Bill (and I) could take and rehabilitate orphaned squirrels. At first it was just a couple a year, but after a few years, Bill connected with a licensed rehabber based in Thousand Oaks and became a satellite facility as it seemed he was the only one in this area. Business started picking up.

Raising baby squirrels (and a lot of other babies) can be difficult. We have to make special formulas to help prevent metabolic bone disease, which is prevalent in squirrels and opossums, mainly in captivity as there is almost no way to perfectly mimic their "wild" diet.

After about 18 years, Bill decided he wanted to be his own licensed rehabber and started the process with Fish and Wildlife. He already had legally-sized cages, including a large outdoor pre-release cage. He had a vet that would see the squirrels as needed. He got letters of support and need from his mentor and Russ Kimura. He obtained knowledge through various classes and teachings through his mentor. He went to a city hall meeting and obtained written permission to have the squirrels.

Then, Covid. That pretty well stopped the progress of his licensing, but this year, things started moving again. On November 3, he passed his on-site inspection with flying colors. He is official! Squirrel Whisperer Rehabilitation aka Bill Webber, now has a permit for small animals from F&W. Which means we can rehab other small critters. He even has the T-shirt to prove it (Thanks Sue Wallander, who had no idea this was happening and sent him the shirt just last week) And guess what? About a week ago, I took possession of a very young opossum—the critter that started it all!



## Winter Programs

**Animal Show:** Has been cancelled.

**Bird Walks:** First Saturday of every month with Rosemarie Regis. Second Saturday of every month with Ken Yasukawa. From 8am to 10 am. For all levels of birders. Bring binoculars, water, and field guide.

**Blooms of the Season with RuthAnne Murthy:** Learn about native plants. Meet in the patio at 9.30 for a one-hour stroll on the 4th Saturday of every month. Bring your camera and questions.

**Family Nature Walk with Judy McClure:** Every Saturday from 11.00am to noon. An easy 1-hour walk exploring the area's natural and cultural history.

**Hike with the Downhill Sliders:** Canyon trail hike going downhill. The third Wednesday of the month at 10.00am. Meet at the Nature Center, then we will drive to the Walker Ranch parking lot. Program for docents and friends. Please bring water and poles.

**Placerita Nature Tots:** Placerita Canyon Nature Tots For 3-to-6-year-olds. Meets second Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Program lasts 45 min to an hour and will involve learning about the environment. To register: Nature\_tots@placerita.org  
January, the topic is skunks. February, the topic is Gophers.

**Grand Opening of the "Know Your Nature Center"** Saturday, January 28 at 2.00pm (see invitation)

**Docent Training:** Starts on January 10 and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-12.00 through March. (See flyer)

**Nature Education:** Every 3rd Sunday of the month at 2pm, PCNCA provides a free educational program open to the public. January is Tarantulas presented by Olivia Miseroy and February is Falconry by Ranger Frank Hoffman, Recreation Services Supervisor



## The ADA Toilets are In!

On December 15 and 16, the workers started, and this big project was finished in two days. We wanted people in wheelchairs to be able to attend the events in the amphitheater.

Those toilets are located close to the bridge and the handicapped parking lots. The ADA walkway still needs to be installed from the parking lot but that should take place in the next few days.

Check the exhaust tube on the roof, toilets in many National Parks have adopted this design for ventilation and it is very successful. It looks like a little cabin, much better than we had anticipated



## Getting to Know John Whitaker, Class of 2018

I was raised in La Crescenta. Following graduation from Glendale High School, I attended Stanford University and then USC, where I obtained my law degree. I met my wife at USC, and we have lived in Northridge, her hometown, since 1970. We have a daughter, Shawna, who lives near the Nature Center with her four kids and many animals. Our son, Mike, lives in Boulder, CO with his two kids. We have a second home in Keystone, CO which is where this picture was taken.

After 50 years of full-time practice of real estate and land use law in Downtown Los Angeles, I retired in January 2018. I have since joined another law firm on a part-time basis. During the fall of 2017, our daughter noticed the sign advertising the 2018 docent training program which was exactly what I wanted to do with my newly-found free time. My desire was to spend more time in nature and to share my love of nature with young kids.

Pre-Covid, I led hikes with the elementary school kids when their classes visited the Nature Center, and I also assisted with the newly-created monthly Nature Tots program for 3–5-year-old pre-school kids. My grandson, Jack, was a member of that first Nature Tots class and I believe Herb will always remember his interaction with Jack during story time.

During Covid I, along with Andy Donner, Carol Mercado, Sandy Holloway and a few others continued the Nature Tots program by Zoom. That was extremely well received and attended by several families living outside the area. Sandy’s crafts and Carol’s fun activities for the kids were special highlights.

Our Nature Tots Zoom program filled a need during Covid, but we are pleased to be back in person now on the second Saturday of each month. We decided to open the program to 3–6-year-old kids and limit each program to a maximum of 20 kids. We still have fun crafts, kids’ participation activities and of course story time.

Jack is a proud alumnus of the program and my youngest grandson, Jayce, is a regular attendee now. Please spread the word to family members and friends with 3–6-year-old kids. Registration opens on the first day of each month on our website, and all registrations are forwarded to me for response and coordination.

I am still an avid sports fan of USC football and all Stanford men’s and women’s sports teams, and love being able to again enjoy the beach, the CO mountains and rivers, and all the activities at the Nature Center and Park.



## Getting Ready for Spring

The weather was cold and damp, but those conditions are perfect for thinking about Spring. Barbara Marxmiller, Henry Cuaz and Judy McClure spent a few hours in the butterfly garden on December 15 getting ready for Spring, which will be here before we know it. (We had frost the same morning!)

The task at hand was to help Robert Grzesiak to prepare the soil and plant wildflower seeds. We will be grateful for their efforts when the soil gets warmer, and we see the wildflowers coming up. Thank you for planning ahead.



## Placerita Docents are Showing Support by Sandra Cattell

Placerita Canyon Nature Center docents showed up at the L A County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, December 6, to support the Park Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+) (Barger/Solis). It will be the county's 30x30 plan and enable the county to obtain additional funding for park support and restoration, as well as additional parklands and other enhancements in under-served communities. Thank you to our Supervisor Kathryn Barger.

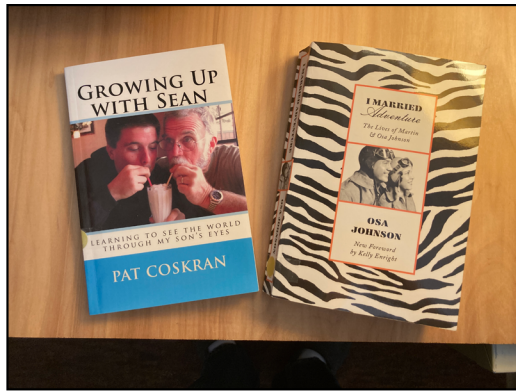


## Fighting the Mustard by Frank Hoffman

The Girl Scouts (Troops 862 and 2472) came in to help eradicate some mustard as part of their Community Service hours. Robert Grzesiak and Judy McClure gave them some pointers and supervision, so they were better prepared to handle these invasive weeds. They did a very good job - see all the bags they ended up with!

They had a great time, and will come back again in January to do some more.

Thank you so much, you are welcome any time and we appreciate your help!



### A PCNCA Author and a Link to Placerita History by Gary Freiburger

Two books have been added to the library.

One of them, *Growing up with Sean*, (also available for purchase on Amazon) is by our own Pat Coskran. Pat describes the book this way: "I began writing this book about my autistic son Sean, and the adventures I have shared with him over the years. I was focusing on how he has grown and developed but discovered that I had done a lot of growing along the way myself. I realized that as I began to let go of my expectations and need to control, he became the guide, and it opened my eyes to his dreams and a new perspective for me. I thought that only readers with "special need" family members would relate to the book, but it seems that there are some universal connections to be had. I hope that you enjoy! "

The second book, *I Married Adventure: The Lives of Martin and Osa Johnson*, was originally published in 1940 but appeared in a new edition in 1997. It describes the world travels of a couple whose marriage ended with the death of Martin in the plane crash above Los Pinetos.

Both books are shelved in the "General Interest" portion of the library, with gold dots on the spines.

### Trail Treasures By RuthAnne Murthy

This common perennial California native is a woody shrub that is also called coastal sagebrush. The stems are a greenish-gray, and the plant grows up to 7 feet tall but is most commonly about 3 feet tall. California sagebrush grows on the coastal sage scrub and the chaparral below 2500 feet in elevation. It is not a true sage, (*Salvia*) but rather a part of the sunflower family (*Asteraceae*) It prefers well-drained soil. It is a very aromatic plant, especially after a rain. Its range is from San Francisco to Baja California along the coast and to the coastal ranges.

The leaves of the California sagebrush are alternately placed on the stems. They are a medium green that fades to a gray-green with the summer temperatures. They form in clusters with each leaf growing between 3/8 inch to 2 inches in length. The thread-like leaves are covered with tiny gray hairs but are surprisingly soft to the touch.

The minute flowers form in disciform (without outer ray pedals) in compound racemes (clusters). The flowers are easily overlooked because they are the same green as the leaves. They bloom from August to February.

The Spanish explorers called the plant "Romerillo" because it was a panacea for all ills. The native Californians used the plant for tools, construction, medicine and rituals. A tea was brewed to cure bronchial troubles and a wash was applied to heal wounds and swelling. It was used to deter fleas in their homes, and a necklace of the leaves was worn to ward off insects. They chewed leaves to relieve toothaches. Homes of the recently deceased were smudged to purify the home and the leaves were also used to burn the deceased's belongings. Offerings of the branches were part of the Winter Solstice rituals.

Those of us who appreciate native plants might take California sagebrush for granted if it weren't for its glorious fragrance. We delight in the story of the cowboys using the plant to freshen-up after weeks on the range before meeting their gals. "Cowboy Cologne" we call it. But California Sagebrush deserves a bit more of our time because it is a faithful Trail Treasure always there to greet us.



### The Challengers Take Charge by Pat Coskran

The Challengers team started mapping the signs (26 of them) that were installed by an Eagle Scout in 2012, identifying native plants/trees along the Ecology Trail. My Challengers were tasked with finding the signs and helping create a map of their locations.

Over the years plants have not stayed put, so there are a lot of misidentifications. This photo shows three of the signs that will be relocated to a home near their appropriate species.

RuthAnne Murthy is providing guidance so that we get this right. We'll keep you posted.



California Sagebrush  
*Artemisia californica*



Photo by Gary Park garyparktookthese.com

## Anna's Hummingbird

By Ken Yasukawa

One of the birds that we can see at Placerita Canyon is the Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*). If you sit quietly on the bench in the Hummingbird Garden behind the Nature Center, they will soon arrive to drink from the feeders and flowers around the fountain. It is a medium-sized hummingbird with iridescent, bronzy green feathers on the back and grayish feathers below. Adult males and some young ones also have a rose-colored crown and "gorget" (brightly colored throat patch) with elongated feathers projecting to the sides. Adult females may have some rose feathers in the center of their gorget, and the body may show hints of yellow.

Anna's Hummingbird has expanded its range dramatically since the mid-1930s. It now breeds north to Vancouver Island, British Columbia and

east through southern Arizona and into West Texas. This bird's effective use of widely cultivated urban and suburban exotic plants and hummingbird feeders has contributed to this range expansion. It is an important pollinator of plants such as heartleaf penstemon (*Keckiella cordifolia*) and California fuchsia (*Epilobium cana*), and has been implicated in the speciation of several plants in its range.

Male Anna's Hummingbirds attract attention through their elaborate dive displays. They fly up over 100 feet and then plummet toward their target—a female Anna's Hummingbird or other bird. Females associate with males only long enough to copulate. The female then constructs the nest, incubates the eggs, and cares for nestlings, typically in winter and early spring when winter rain arrives in our Mediterranean climate. Males sing more conspicuously than any other North American hummingbird, and their songs are learned and complex, which is unusual outside of the perching birds.

Anna's Hummingbirds are highly aggressive—they defend feeding territories, nests, and breeding territories. Aggressive interactions usually involve an individual flying at or attacking an opponent. The attacked bird often flees, the attacker pursues and then returns shortly after, although chases can sometimes be protracted.

Anna's Hummingbird is the best-studied hummingbird with respect to hovering and forward flight. It can beat its wings up to 90 times per second (fastest of all hummingbirds) and can reach 60 mph in level flight. It flies and hovers well and can even back away while hovering. Hovering uses a forward-and-backward, figure-8 movement in which lift is produced throughout the stroke by rotating the wings. Potential predators include birds of prey, shrikes, Greater Roadrunners (*Geococcyx californianus*), California Thrashers (*Taxostoma redivivum*), and house cats. Argentine ants (*Linepithema humile*) are also potential nest predators.

If you have a hummingbird feeder, you can mix your own sugar water by adding 1 cup of sugar to 5 cups of water.



## Job Fair

by Herb Broutt

On November 15, we had a Job Fair at the Nature Center. The last time we had a Job Fair was two years ago, before the pandemic. With all the changes that have occurred, we thought it was time to have another one.

We had over 25 docents attend. There were more than 20 jobs they could sign up to do. The two biggest changes were that after many years, Fred Seeley is no longer serving as chairperson for the Community Nature Series and Lanita Algeyer will no longer be handling the school tours. We want to thank both Fred and Lanita for their dedication and long service in both these positions! Helen Sweany will now be the chairperson for the Community Nature Series and Lori Wolfe is taking over the school tours.

We are sure they will dedicate themselves just as their predecessors did!



## Community Nature Education

These programs are provided for you, free of charge, on the third Sunday of the month at 2PM at Placerita Canyon Nature Center.

They are given by experts in the field but are designed for the whole family. The programs are extremely interesting, fast-paced, and entertaining. Time for questions is always available at the end of the program.

Sunday, January 15 2023: Tarantula. Program given by Olivia Miseroy who raises Tarantula and has studied them for many years.

Sunday, February 19: Falconry. Program given by Frank Hoffman who is a master falconer and who is the Recreation Services Supervisor at Placerita. Many years of training are needed to become a Master Falconer, both in the field and in classes. Frank is involved in the largest Falconry institution in the Western US.

Put those dates on your calendar and be prepared for a great learning experience!

*Please save the date.  
Join us for this important and fun event!*

*Our new Know Your Nature Center is an information center where park visitors can watch short videos and learn more about nature and the park.  
Funded by a Community Service Grant from the City of Santa Clarita.*



**YOU ARE  
INVITED**



**PREMIERE OF 3 NATURE VIDEOS**

**GRAND OPENING**  
**Know Your NATURE  
Center**

**Sat. January 28, 2023 2:00 pm**  
**PLACERITA CANYON NATURE  
CENTER**  
**19152 Placerita Canyon Rd**  
**Newhall**

## The Craft Fair 2022

by Glenda Perl

What a fantastic weekend everyone had at the Holiday Craft Fair. After being on hiatus for two years, a huge crowd turned out to create beautiful and unique holiday wreaths and yule logs, along with many craft items for the kids. Preparation for the event was started months ahead. Committees were formed and orders for the wreaths were sent in September. The week before the event, the docents did a massive cleanup of the rooms, getting rid of items that piled up during Covid. Classes were held for the docents and helpers to learn the crafts for the children. Kitchen duties were assigned, and the greenery, seeds and pods started to appear in abundance on the outside patio.

Saturday was sunny but Sunday is usually a slow day, and this time it was raining. We were concerned that we'd have no takers, but visitors were waiting at the door and the rooms quickly became just as crowded as they were on Saturday! It is the only fund raiser of the year and being able to accept credit cards made a fantastic difference.

The whole community was thrilled to have this wonderful event return after two years of Covid shutdown. Once again, kudos to all the docents for your hard work with the kids' crafts, organizing the greens, seeds, pods, and other shrubbery on the patio, to Santa giving candy canes, to the docents in the Gift Shop and kitchen, and, of course, to our County official, Ranger Frank Hoffman. Many first timers said they would see us again next year... that's how much they loved it!

The very best part was walking through the rooms and hearing all the happiness, the joy of creating, the joy of perfect strangers encouraging each other and giving tips on how to make their masterpiece. It is love all around.

.... Yes, it is a fundraiser for Placerita, but it is much more than that for our many visitors, and we are grateful for that.



### Hunting for Juniper

by Denny Truger

It was way back in 2019 when Jack Levenberg, Robert Grzesiak, Maria Elena Christensen and I last got together to harvest juniper for our Holiday Craft Fair. Maria Elena missed out this year because of back problems, but Dan Kott happily took her place. I am fortunate to live in an area called Juniper Valley in Agua Dulce with plenty of junipers; so we had no problem filling Robert's pickup truck with to donate to the Craft Fair. It was a good excuse to get together with the best of friends and have lunch.





# Docent Training

## Placerita Canyon Natural Area



### Become a Docent!

- *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 10th, 2023**  
**Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9AM to 12 Noon**

Docents 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 Docents is 18. Visit our website ([placerita.org/docents-volunteers/](http://placerita.org/docents-volunteers/)) for further information regarding the Docent 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](mailto:ron@placerita.org)**



## Docent Recognition Awards

By Cindy Gold

At our Holiday Potluck Dinner, we honored nine docents with Recognition Awards for their dedication to the PCNCA, highlighting our veteran docents:

**Fred Seeley** has been a member of the Board of Directors for many years and is currently the president. He skillfully liaisons with County officials and has facilitated many docent projects. He helps with assessment at the end of Docent Training. He's crewed on the videos produced this year. He supervises the yearly maintenance of the Butterfly Pond, which he was instrumental in creating. Fred may seem tough on the outside, but he has a heart of gold.

**Denny Truger** is truly a jack-of-all-trades and has become the go-to person whenever docents have ideas that need a skillful pair of hands and a creative mind. He does the electrical work for most docent projects and faithfully maintains many park areas, such as the Tataviam Village and Hummingbird Garden. He's also a bird handler. He's been a Board Member for many years, and always provides a much-needed sense of humor.

**Jack Levenberg** is the chairperson of the Amphitheater committee who has organized many fun movie nights and is overseeing the stage expansion project. He's been a Board Member for many years and sometimes helps Denny with park maintenance jobs. He's crewed on all the videos produced this year. For many years, Jack has delighted park visitors by showing Sierra, our great-horned owl.

**Heidi Webber** is instrumental in organizing our annual Holiday Craft Faire. She oversees, with her husband Bill, the School Outreach program, giving presentations at schools and representing the PCNC at local fairs. Heidi expertly co-edits our newsletter The Rattler which informs and inspires our park community. She has been a member of the PCNCA for 26 years and has helped shape our volunteer organization into what it is today.

**Bill Webber** works side by side with his wife Heidi to organize the Holiday Craft Faire by providing the materials needed for the craft projects and seeing that everything runs smoothly. They work together to oversee the School Outreach Program. Bill is a quiet force behind the scenes, using his construction skills to maintain various aspects of the park. His love of animals has inspired him to become a registered Animal Rescuer for small mammals.

**Evelyne Vandersande** understands the importance of having well-informed docents and a park community that is aware of activities and accomplishments. She works hard to co edit The Rattler, gets the word out over social media and emails, and is ever present to take photos, write text and solicit articles from docents. Evelyne has been a PCNCA member for over 36 years, and informally acts as a valued park historian, offering helpful perspectives and advice.

**Lori Wolfe** works behind the scenes to help facilitate our social events. She did a fantastic job as the On Camera Docent in the recently produced short video Choose A Trail, taking viewers on a virtual hike along five of our most popular trails. During our Open House, she teaches visitors how to **churn butter** the old-fashioned way. She is on the committee to oversee making reservations for school tours. Lori is a passionate hiker who inspires us to get out on the trails.

**Joan Fincutter** is the Vice President of the Board of Directors and has been a member for many years. She is also an officer in the Nature Center Association and has been our PCNCA representative. She has helped organize many Open House events. Joan often speaks her mind, and offers different and valuable perspectives on issues, ensuring a variety of aspects are considered.

**John Whittaker** is involved in the Nature Tots program, handling parent communications and taking reservations. He also reported on their activities to the Board. John worked as crew on our newly produced videos and is a dependable, valued member of the PCNCA.