



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 2024

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 2024. We hope it will bring you joy and good health, and allow you to enjoy many days of blue skies and happy hikes.

The Craft Fair was a wonderful success, thank you to all our visitors and docents who participated. The Docent training classes are starting on January 9th (check the flier). That always brings a lot of excitement to the Nature Center.

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



Photo by Gary Park

Eponymous Bird Names to be Replaced

Ken Yasukawa

The American Ornithological Society (AOS), which is responsible for naming birds in the Americas, has announced that 70–80 bird species in the US and Canada will have their English common names replaced with new ones that are based on their habitats and traits rather than people's names. The AOS wants to remove harmful and exclusionary English bird names and has chosen to replace all eponymous names rather than consider them case by case.

"Exclusionary naming conventions developed in the 1800s, clouded by racism and misogyny, don't work for us today, and the time has come for us to transform this process and redirect the focus to the birds, where it belongs," the society's Executive Director, Judith Scarl, said in a statement. Some offensive common names have already been changed (e.g., the common name Old Squaw was replaced with Long-tailed Duck).

Placerita birds that will be renamed include Anna's Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Cooper's Hawk, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Bewick's Wren, and Bullock's Oriole.

The AOS will create a committee comprising a diverse representation of experts in the social sciences, communications, ornithology, and taxonomy to choose new bird names. The public will also be involved in the process. Once eponymous names have been changed, the committee will then consider changes to other English common names. This committee, which is yet to be staffed, will pilot the process in 2024.

In contrast, the National Audubon Society decided to retain its name even though James John Audubon, a famous American naturalist and wildlife illustrator, owned slaves and held racist attitudes toward Black and Indigenous people. The NAS decided that the Audubon name represents a broader love of birds, nature, and conservation rather than a particular person.

Dues are Due

by Glenda Perl, Membership Person

Greetings of the season, PCNCA members. It's hard to believe that 2023 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 2024.

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 2024





Ken Yasukawa

Docent Class of 2020

Since I became a Docent in 2020, I have been trying to find ways to support the Placerita Canyon Nature Center. The CoViD-19 shutdown that began the day after the Class of 2020 completed Docent training made it difficult to be an active Docent, but I gradually found ways to contribute. First, I volunteered to lead Bird Walks on the second Saturday of each month, then I was elected to the Board of Directors of the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Association. I also helped with Docent training in 2023. At the December meeting of PCN-CA Board of Directors, I was honored to become both the Chapter Secretary of the Board and its representative to the Nature Center Associates of L. A. County.

Although I know I cannot replace Cindy Gold and Sandra Cattell in these roles, I hope to follow their examples. Thanks so much to my colleagues for this honor.



New Tee Shirts for the Challengers

By Pat Coskran

On our weekly hike this morning we got to try out our new shirts, anonymously donated by one of our families. The back reads, "Mr. C's Challengers". I am so proud of this group, and honored to lead them on our adventures. Please, note Jack photo bombing with Sierra in the background!



**Being Part of the Hiking Challenge
Planned by HikeSantaClarita**

by Glenda Perl

On this beautiful fall day, PCNC docent Ron Kraus led a group of at least 30 hardy hikers on a challenging trail hike sponsored by the City of Santa Clarita (Outdoor Recreation). People of all ages trudged up hills and through oak tree woodlands to walk around East Walker Ranch Open Space. Ron stopped numerous times to fill us in on the history of that area, including when the property was occupied by SDI, a company that manufactured the device that activates car air bags to explode in an accident! Along the way, PCNC docents Ellen Coleman, Barb Heinzl, and Jessica Grosh promoted their recently developed Books and Hikes program. We even had kids and dogs on leashes! Thanks, everyone!



Touch a Truck festival

by Glenda Perl

Will Webber and I set up our Placerita Canyon Nature Center display tables at the 2nd Annual Touch a Truck festival at Central Park.

Hundreds of families stopped by to ooh and aah at the snakes and tarantula, as well as touch the animal pelts. What does a skunk's fur feel like? Pet our pelt!

The City of Santa Clarita provided many different vehicles for the kids to climb on and explore. It was a huge event. Even Spider-Man and Wonder Woman made an appearance!



wooly blue curl

Blooms of the Season--Spring in Fall?

By RuthAnne Murthy

Taking a botany walk at Placerita in the late fall should be predictable. Not too many plants are expected to be in bloom. This year is very unusual, the two late-season rainfalls turned everything upside down, and we see some plants that are supposed to bloom in the spring in full flower right now.

For a plant, survival of the species is their reason to be, and when the situation is favorable, blooming to produce seeds will take place. We are used to seeing this in the desert. After rainfall, many of the plants are adapted to produce blooms and seeds quite quickly. We are not used to rain at the end of the summer in the Chapparal so this adaptation of many plants took us by surprise. What we see now is rather exceptional, and we are not sure what will happen when spring starts and it is the actual blooming time for all these species. RuthAnne Murthy leads a hike at Placerita on the 4th Saturday of every month at 9.30AM to learn about native plants, and showed us many examples on the trail of this very unusual situation.





Under the Oaks

Sue Murachanian

We held our last movie night of the year in the Acorn Amphitheater. I would like to start by thanking everyone who worked to make this special event happen. A shout out to Beth Higbee for the beautiful flyer she created. To everyone on the team for promoting this event and getting the flyer out in the community by hanging flyers, posting on social media platforms and local press! Our goal was to bring more people from the community into the park and share our wonderful outdoor theater with a special family event. I think we accomplished that!

We began the evening with a "Batty for Bats" presentation given by Dana Stangel. Dana kept it interesting and informative. I'm sure her presentation contributed to our great turn out. I counted 75 people at one point!

It was decided Since Hocus Pocus was going to be our main feature that we would go with a Halloween themed event. The bridge leading to the amphitheater was decorated with orange twinkle lights and ghosts to set the mood.

In between the Batty for Bats presentation and our featured movie a costume contest was held. I would say we had around 20 participants. Some of the cutest little goblins you have ever seen! Herb and I introduced the kiddos and handed out candy and prizes. I think fun was had by all!

As the sunset in the canyon our tech guys got the movie going. Hocus Pocus has long been a Halloween favorite in our home. Based on our turn out I think a lot of families feel the same way!

The Amphitheater Committee is looking forward to 2024 and hosting more family fun movies and events under the oaks in Placerita Canyon!



Los Encinos State Historic Park

by Glenda Perl

A group of PCNC docents were treated to a personalized tour of the Los Encinos State Historic Park, which is in the heart of the Valley right on Ventura Blvd. in Encino. Who knew? I'm a Valley Girl and must have driven by this hidden gem countless times, but I never noticed the property.

Our very own Park Superintendent Russ Kimura conducted the tour (along with Park Ranger Karen) because he was positioned there before landing at Placerita Canyon Nature Center! Russ is a fountain of information about the area.

We saw the original eight-room de la Ossa Adobe, the two-story limestone Garnier building, a blacksmith shop and the pond. Russ told us so much of the history of the San Fernando Valley. Incredibly, there is a natural hot spring on the land, which is the source of all the water that flows down the Los Angeles River to the ocean! Thank you, Russ! (P.S.: If you want to know more about Los Encino's, just ask Russ!)

Thank you so much to RuthAnne Murthy, Maria Elena Christensen and Russ Kimura for making this visit such a success.



The Answering Machine is Working!

The answering machine at Placerita Nature Center has not been working properly for 13 years. This problem has finally been resolved, and we are very glad to announce that you can (at last!) leave a message on the answering machine.

To add to this wonderful news, wonder of wonders, we finally have Wi-Fi at Placerita...we are really doing a world of improvement and we hope it will help communications at many different levels.

Thank you to all who made these very welcome improvements possible.



Nature Tots

by Dennis Cain

The PCNC Nature Tots program is drawing an increasing number of excited children and families to our monthly festival of learning about animals and nature! The kids have been flapping their wings a lot in the past few months, since we focused activities on owls in October and turkeys in November. Over thirty children were registered for the November session - and they enjoyed making craft turkey necklaces, hearing (and making) the different calls, searching for (pictures of) turkeys on the trail, listening to stories and turkey facts, and picking colorful lollipops from a toy turkey on the way out.

Nature Tots continues to be held on the second Saturday of each month for kids aged 3-6 years. However, since we have recognized that older children who have been regular participants remain very interested and now have younger siblings in our target age range, we have instituted a separate docent-guided hike for the older ones - which seemed to work out well.

There are many dedicated and talented docents who work very hard to plan, prepare, and pull off these great classes, and the excitement level in the planning meetings almost matches that of the programs! That spirit has been noticed...a mom registering this month wrote that her daughter "loves these events and we love how kind and nice everyone is".

Our next program in January will focus on spiders.

Edison Turned the Power off at the Nature Center, Due to High Winds

This is not a fun email to get at 3PM, when the holiday party is due to start at 6PM! We all went into high gear, to reach all the docents who usually attend parties. Our experience has been that people do not read their email, so we used the telephone list (thank you Glenda Perl for keeping those up to date). Ron Kraus, Maria Elena Christensen, RuthAnne Murthy and Evelyn Vandersande split the list. We also found out that people's voice mail is often full so we could not leave a message, so we had to send texts. Three docents were reached while they were buying food for the party, one was even at the check-out counter!

Sue Murachanian canceled the guard for the evening, and explained the emergency. She contacted her hospitality committee. Dennis Cain contacted the docents from Book and Hike. A Trail and Nuggets was sent to all the docents to try to reach them in time. RuthAnne Murthy posted a message on the Placerita Facebook page.

We all did our best trying to prevent docents from preparing food for a party that was not going to take place in a very dark Nature Center!

It was impossible to reschedule for Sunday, the attendance would have been poor. December is a very busy time of the year. We will all try to make the best of it, and reschedule for a later date after the holidays, when schedules are more flexible.



Docent Enrichment

This program was started by RuthAnne Murthy so docents can continue learning about different topics, while at the same time reinforcing the important ties of friendship and camaraderie between one another.

In November, we went to visit the Griffith Observatory. It was a beautiful clear and sunny day, and many of us took numerous photos of the Hollywood sign and downtown LA. The museum was crowded because of the Thanksgiving holiday, but the traffic on the freeways was very light. Win some, lose some...

Some of us went to see different shows in the wonderful planetarium, others visited the renovated lower level, but we all had a fantastic time. We were definitely immersed in the wonder and meaning of the cosmos. We will be back!

Thank you, RuthAnne, for planning this trip.



Weeding Along the Braille Trail

by Robert Grzesiak

Placerita's docent weeding/planting group which meets Thursdays has taken on the rewarding task of weeding the Braille Trail's native woodland field. We are weeding out mustard, star thistle and filaree. Or at least limiting weed seed production. The abundant winter rains and Rene Rojas mowing efforts revealed a dormant seed bank of American lotus and chick lupine (important butterfly host plants) in the sunny part of the woodland field.

Our docent weeders encouraged the growth and reseeding of these significant native annuals by weeding this summer. With the rains we had this summer, weeds re-sprouted again. This has delayed planting and sowing of low growing perennial herbs and shrubs that normally grow in woodlands and grasslands.

Watch for future reports on the gardeners of wild Placerita. We will give snapshots of the gardening team and their wide-ranging efforts.



Renovating "Adventure in Animal Tracks"

by Pat Coskran

Our "Adventure in Animal Tracks" display needed some sprucing up to make it more engaging and instructive. The original, colored dots were becoming faded and showing signs of Rugsrats scratches.)

Creative Docent Jessica Grosh eagerly volunteered for the assignment. She painted numbers on each of photo/description cards in various colors and added colored numbers near the tracks of the corresponding mammal. Next step is adding Braille lettered animal names.

Stop by and check out the new and improved display of the tracks of the eight most common mammals in Placerita Canyon. It's on the observation deck next to Violet and the telescopes.

Thanks for sharing your talents, Jess.



A Few Words from Maria Elena Christensen

In January 2010, after seeing an ad in the Signal newspaper announcing Docent Training at PCNC, I called the office to inquire about it. The lady who politely answered the phone, told me “Come, you won’t regret it!”

I had moved to Santa Clarita from Argentina about eighteen years before, soon after graduating from college. I was raising my children, but even after so many years, I often found myself longing for ‘home’.

I grew up in a small colorful city in the north of the country, by the Paraguay river. The landscape is flat, it is hot and humid most of the year, and mosquitos are plentiful. Hiking was not an option there but I always loved plants and being outdoors.

During docent training I got introduced to some of the local plants, and that immediately sparked my interest. Ron Kraus, Helen Sweany and many others generously shared their love for California native plants and hiking with me. I irremediably fell in love with the native plants, their uniqueness, and how resilient, diverse, and beautiful they are.

Hiking to look for and at native plants became my passion, and my hobby as well, since they complement each other perfectly.

In 2013, we moved to a home that had a very large backyard, a downhill slope covered at the time primarily with dry mounding grasses. Fortunately, it had some large valley oaks and pine trees as well. That provided the perfect ‘yellow canvas’ to start learning to grow native plants. It became my never-ending quest to transform this landscape into a habitat garden.

I embraced the Calscape motto: “Restore nature one garden at a time.” And there’s no way to hide the fact that I became a bit of a native plant collector along the way. It’s hard not to!

It is very enjoyable to watch the garden develop, thrive, fail at times of course, and go through the seasons changing colors and textures, and being home to and/or visited by a variety of animals. We see coyotes, road runners, hawks, bobcats, American robins, northern flickers, scrub jays, hummingbirds, butterflies, and many other local and migrant birds, reptiles and small mammals.

Now, I can say I feel at home in California, and I am forever grateful to the people of Placerita that made me feel so welcome, shared their knowledge and time with me, and opened my eyes to the wonderful environment that surrounds us. It is a pleasure as well to get to share what I have learned to appreciate throughout these years with the visitors of all ages that come to the Park.

Certainly, I do not regret joining and becoming a docent, the wonderful lady who answered my call was right!

Books & Hikes

by Barb Heinzel

The Book of Hope by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams was featured in two November outings! On 11/18/23, Books and Hikes collaborated with the City of Santa Clarita Outdoor Recreation to lead the monthly Community Hike at Elsmere Canyon. This was an exciting outreach activity, and a good time was had by all!! The next day (11/19/23), B&H held their regular PCNC book club meeting at which eleven participants hiked the Hillside Trail and a lively discussion ensued.

B&H was dark for December, but will resume in January (1/28/24), with our very special book pick, The Mountain in the Sea, by Ray Nayler. Join us, from 9:00-10:30 am, for a fascinating conversation about this wonderful work of fiction!



First Visit From People’s Care

Day Program

by Lori Wolfe

People’s Care Day Program has put Placerita Canyon Nature Center on their list of places to visit!

Pat Coskran, our leader, introduced our docents and presented many interesting ideas for the audience to ponder. Jack wowed the audience with Sierra, the Great Horned owl and sweet Violet, the skunk. Denny was dynamic showing the majestic Red Tailed Awk, Aiyana. Marietta brought talkative and rambunctious Stevie, the crow, out and Herb brought out the always popular Malibu, our colorful gopher snake.

Looking forward to another visit from our friends at People’s Care Day Program!

B&H 2024 Book Picks and Schedule

January 28 - The Mountain in the Sea by Ray Nayler

February 25 - Finding the Mother Tree by Suzanne Simard

March 24 - As Long as Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice from Colonization to Standing Rock Dina Gilio-Whitaker

April 28 - A Year in the Woods: Twelve Small Journeys into Nature by Torbjorn Ekelund

May 26 - The Other Family Doctor: A Veterinarian Explores what Animals can Teach us About Love, Life and Mortality by Karen Fine, DVM

Books can be enjoyed in many formats such as audiobooks, ebooks or large print or traditional books. Check out websites and phone apps like Audible, Spotify, Kindle, City of Santa Clarita or LA County Libraries, or your favorite bookstore.



Common Fiddleneck
Amsinckia menziesii var. intermedia

dleneckes are found in areas below 5000 feet. Depending on the soil conditions and water availability, they grow from 4 inches to 24 inches tall.

The leaves grow in an alternate fashion, one on this side and then one on that side. They have hairs on both sides of the leaves that can cause irritation when touched. The lower leaves are linear (straight and thin) and the upper leaves are lanceolate (arrow-shaped). The 2 ½ to 4 ½ inch leaves cling to the stems.

The golden yellow flowers are in coiled racemes (groups) and the racemes range from 2-6 inches long. The racemes are shaped like the neck of a fiddle, hence the name. Later in the season, they develop nutlets, (seeds) at the base of the pollinated flowers. These nutlets provided food for the native Californians. They had good flavor and added color to their food.

As one of the early wildflower bloomers, they are a welcome sight with their cheerful sunny flowers. They are a Trail Treasure and a promise of the wildflower season to come.

Trail Treasures

By RuthAnne Murthy

There are 14 species of fiddleneck in California, but only 2 species grow in Placerita Canyon, small-flowered and common. Common fiddleneck will be considered in this article because it is the most observed species in Placerita Canyon. It is an erect annual that finds its home in grassy areas, burn areas or along roadsides. It is a member of the borage family. It is an annual flowers blooming from February to May. Fid-



Publicity for Docent Training

Placerita used to do publicity in many venues to give information about Docent training. Expansive ads were posted in different newspapers (do you remember the Daily News?). Piles of flyers were brought to schools, libraries, and senior centers but the rules changed, and we could not do that anymore.

We came up with the bright idea of asking the visitors coming to take the docent training, about how they heard about the program. Their overwhelming response was that they saw banners in front of the Nature Center and in front of Green Nursery in town that piqued their interest.

We still post information on social media, by printing flyers posted at the Nature Center and passed around at different events, but the most important part is done by the banners.

We are very grateful to Denny Truger who takes care of updating the banners every year and who hangs them, in a very sturdy manner, so they do not get ripped by the wind. Thank you so much Denny, you do a very important job for the Docent Training.



“You’re never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.” By C. S. Lewis

By Cindy Gold

Our PCNC Board Members and Committee Chairpersons met for a one-day retreat to refresh our knowledge and skills about how our minds work and personal growth. Professional trainers Debora Perez and Jim Kalagher from NY Life Insurance led the retreat. Through a series of videos and discussions we explored how the power of your perceptions and attitudes greatly determine your happiness and success in life. We shared experiences and learned from each other. Breakfast and lunch were provided, and it was fun to get together, enjoy each other’s company and even learn a little. Docents commented that it was thought provoking, inspirational and worthwhile. As Albert Einstein said, “Life is like riding a bicycle, to keep your balance, you must keep moving.”



The SCV Sheriff’s Haunted Jailhouse

by Glenda Pearl

BOO! My goodness, how the time flies by. Fall is in the air, the winds are blowing, and Halloween is right around the corner, so to speak.

October also brings us the annual SCV Sheriff's Haunted Jailhouse, which took place on Sunday. Longtime Docent Extraordinary Will Webber and I set up our Placerita Canyon Nature Center display tables and waited for the crowds to come. Elaborately costumed kids brought their families to enjoy themed music, dance routines by local youth groups, food and ice cream trucks, trick or treating at each booth (so much sugar was handed out!) and, of course, the traditional costume contests (separated into 4 age groups). A great day was had by all!



New Rabbit Skins.

Even a rough and rugged Tataviam dwelling needs some maintenance. The rabbit skins hung next to the entrance went through a lot of rain last winter, and became bleached by the sun in the summer. Denny Truger took care of the situation and ordered new skins for replacement.

Thank you, Denny, for noticing and improving the situation.



Photo by Gary Parks

Orange-crowned Warbler!

We have two bird walks each month, and sometimes a little miracle takes place. A bird was seen on the last bird walk that nobody could ID. Bird books were consulted, information was requested on ID sites, but no answers could be found.

A hunt was started to discover the identity of this mystery bird. Ken was able to use his professional connections and it took even more research, but Gary Park (garyparktookthese.com) finally made the ID. Ken used his Merlin Bird ID and was able to verify that identification.

When Frank Hoffman, Recreation Services Supervisor, heard the news, he was also excited and confirmed the fact that the Orange-Crowned Warbler was on the Placerita bird list, but he had never seen one himself. Great detective work everybody, and a wonderful discovery at Placerita!



What are Our Nature Center Buttons?

By Dave Taylor

Placerita has a button making machine, and we need some help making them, if you are willing. Once you have the machine, it is a very simple process and sort of fun!

Each button has a graphic cover featuring various animals found at Placerita. We sell them in the store, and give them away to those who complete the NATURE HUNT program on Saturdays.

Buttons are also made for the Nature Tots program with a cartoon character of the animal that is the focus of that month's program. Buttons can also be made for almost anything we need, such as ASK ME buttons, Volunteer buttons, etc.

If anyone has any questions, contact Dave Taylor, especially if you would like to help make the buttons. You can find him every Saturday on the patio of the Nature Center. He welcomes visitors, and gives them a short tour of the Interpretive Center, introduces the birds on the patio, and helps children interested in the treasure hunt. Sometimes, he gets the Nature Boxes out and gives a little talk about those. Come and visit, Dave will be there, and he will be glad to chat.

Check out the buttons and the gift store before the holiday season, you will be surprised at what you can find. We have many stocking stuffers!

The Craft Fair

by Glenda Perl, Chairperson for the Event.

We had another fantastic Holiday Craft Fair at Placerita Canyon Nature Center. It is always held the first weekend in December, on Saturday and Sunday.

Our visitors created and decorated holiday wreaths, centerpieces and ornaments with greenery and natural treasures. It is the only Placerita fund raiser, and the profit goes to take care of the animals.

We have a lot of family traditions at this event. Kids who came way back when, now bring their children and even grandchildren to the Craft Fair.

Fathers who have never done a craft are surprised and delighted with their fantastic results. Children enjoy their special crafts with glue, paint, bows, and candles. Their little faces were a delight to see.

Photos show many proud and happy smiles, people helping each other, giving ideas, and exchanging greenery. As it passed into the history books, 2023 was our most successful Holiday Craft Fair so far! We were packed with happy visitors both days.

All in all, everyone had a terrific opening to the holiday season. I extend my gratitude to every docent who participated in our weekend of wonder! The animals will be well fed and taken care of.

Thank you all.



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 9th, 2024
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/) 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**

WINTER PROGRAMS

Docent Training: Tuesday, January 9th from 9am to 12 noon (classes meet Tuesday and Thursday) see flyer.

Book and Hike: 4th Sunday of the month from 9AM to 10:30AM. The book for January is “The Mountain in the Sea” by Ray Naylor. The book for February is “Finding the Mother Tree” by Suzanne Simard. Please register booksandhikes@placerita.org

Bird Walks: First Saturday of every month with Rosemarie Regis. Second Saturday of every month with Ken Yasukawa. 9:00AM to 11:00 AM in January and February. For all levels of birders. Bring binoculars, water, and a field guide.

Blooms of the Season: Learn about native plants with RuthAnne Murthy. 4th Saturday of every month, meet on the patio at 9:30AM for a one-hour stroll. Bring your camera and questions.

Family Nature Walk: Every Saturday from 11AM to noon with Judy McClure. An easy 1-hour walk exploring the natural and cultural history of the area.

Hike with the Downhill Sliders: The third Wednesday of the month at 10AM. Program for docents and friends. Docents, please check your Trails and Nuggets for the latest information.

Placerita Nature Tots: Second Saturday of the month at 9:30AM. For 3-to-6-year-olds. Program lasts 45 minutes to one hour and will involve learning about the environment. The topic for January will be Spider and February will be Raccoon, to register: Nature_tots@placerita.org

Nature Education: Every 3rd Sunday of the month at 2PM, PCNCA provides a free educational program open to the public. January program will be “Wildlife in the Winter: How Plants and Animals Survive the Cold Months” by Olivia Miseroy

Native Plant Renewal and Restoration: Every Thursday from 8AM to 10AM, led by Robert Grzesiak.

Closing Time for Placerita will be 5:00pm in January and February. Change to be expected with daylight saving time.

