

Dear Nature Friends

August is a very hot month in California and speaking about fall now seems confusing. However, if you take a very close look around, you will notice some changes starting to occur. Acorns are starting to fall on the ground, leaves are piling up along the trail, new species of flowers are appearing (telegraph weed) and some birds are already gone on their southern migration.

Poison oak is easy to identify right now because the leaves are turning red. The holly leaf cherries are ripening, to the great delight of many birds. The days are becoming shorter and school is starting again. Soon, school groups will come to visit Placerita, and the docents will be ready to welcome them.

It is still going to be very warm for a good long time and rain is not going to be in evidence until the last week of December if we are lucky, but paying close attention to these little changes is one way to enjoy, anticipate and understand how Fall comes so softly in Southern California. Each season should be enjoyed fully.

Happy Fall.

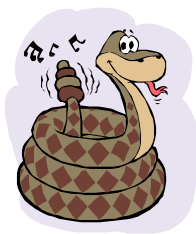
Requirements from the County

by Amanda Carder

The County is requiring all volunteers to do several things:

- (1) Complete Child Protection and Mandated Reporter Training (<https://mandatedreportertraining.com/volunteers/>)
- (2) Complete Safe Spaces: Trauma Informed Care Training (<https://osg.ca.gov/safespaces/>)
- (3) Read and acknowledge County Policy of Equity (<https://ceop.lacounty.gov/policy-of-equity/>)
- (4) Read and acknowledge Volunteer Manual

This requirement must be met by the end of July. Certificates of Completion (1 & 2) and Signed Acknowledgments (3 & 4) should be submitted to Amanda Carder in person or via email. I know that getting through all the volunteer training has been a challenge. You will be able to turn in your paperwork any time after July 31st.



The Rattler

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

Placerita Canyon Nature Center
Over 50 Years of Nature Education

September-October 2026

Editor: Evelyn Vandersande Publisher: Heidi Webber



Pat Coskran, Volunteer of the Year 2026

The Placerita Board elected Pat Coskran as Volunteer of the Year for 2026.

When Pat became a docent in the class of 2020, his son Sean often came along with him. Pat told us right from the start they were a package deal. We soon learned to appreciate and love them both. Pat taught Special Education classes in Santa Clarita for 16 years, wrote and published "Growing up with Sean" about his adventures with his son.

Pat has been a coach for Special Olympics for 30 years.

Pat started leading hikes on Saturdays, taking along folks with special needs. This developed into an ongoing program called "The Challengers." The docents and visitors have become familiar with this very enthusiastic group, who are always delighted to share their discoveries on the trail. It has been heartwarming to see the interaction between the visitors and the Challengers, as they pass one another on the trail.

Along with fellow docents, Pat conducts programs for both Special Ed classes and Adult Day Programs.

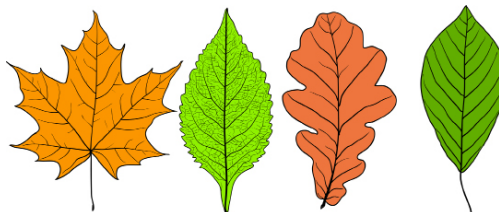
Pat has developed a volunteer work program utilizing members of the Day Programs to participate with Robert Grzesiak in the native plant restoration, and we are starting to see a difference in the park.

Pat is a board member with all the responsibilities that encompasses.

Pat advocates for making Placerita Canyon Nature Center a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone in our community.

I think this is one of the most important factors. Pat acts according to his very high value system, and that reflects in his work and personality. He is friendly, personable, very active but most of all he is a very good human being, doing fantastic projects for the Nature Center. Voting for him was a very small way to acknowledge that. Pat, we are very grateful that you chose Placerita, for being here and starting all these very rewarding programs.

We have been glad to get to know Sean, who has blossomed at Placerita by helping the docents with many small projects. You are indeed a wonderful volunteer team, and what a joy it is to have you on board.



Recognition Ceremony

by Sandra Cattell, NCA Vice President

Our Annual Volunteer Recognition Ceremony is on September 26, 2026. This ceremony recognizes the Volunteer of the Year from each nature center. Placerita is celebrating Pat Coskran as our Volunteer of the Year. We will also recognize new docents, and 5-year milestones of service. Additionally, the meeting will finalize the elections of NCA Board Officers and by-law changes. This year we will be holding the Meeting/Ceremony at:

The L A County Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007

Invitations and ballots are scheduled to go out in August. Each Nature Center must supply an accurate guest list of their NCA members, staff, and the immediate family members of the Volunteer of the Year recipients that will be attending. NCA guests will be admitted for FREE at the East Gate, but EVERYONE MUST BE ON THE GATE LIST! NCA must use their catering, and each Nature Center will pick up part of the costs of their members that attend. We need an accurate count for food and a gate list. Please note that your RSVP will be accepted up to September 9 (to Brienne Kelly).

After the event, NCA guests are cordially invited by the County of LA to enjoy the Arboretum.

Docent Recognition

Saturday, September 26

At the L.A. County Arboretum

PAT COSKRAN was elected Volunteer of the Year for 2026 by the Placerita Canyon Board of Directors. This is the highest honor given to a docent. Pat Coskran personifies the very best that Placerita works to implement: education, compassion, understanding, and an adult role model. Congratulations and thank you for all you do for Placerita.(see article)

The following docents will get special recognition and a gold name tag for the number of years they have been active at Placerita Canyon Nature Center.

Our warmest congratulations to all and thank you for your dedication.

10 YEARS

HERB BROUTT

ALAN NUEMAN

MARIE SCHERB

LORI WOLF

15 YEARS

CHARITHA ERAGODA

BILL KAHL

RAY ORLOFF

JACKIE THOMASON

30 YEARS

HEIDI WEBBER

BILL WEBBER

40 YEARS

EVELYNE VANDERSANDE



A New School Tour Coordinator

by Judie Davis

I've been a docent at PCNC since 2024, and as someone who's always loved the outdoors and nature, I'm thrilled to share that enthusiasm with kids. Since becoming a docent, I've been involved in several programs here at Placerita, including the Craft Fair, Open House, Outreach, and Gift Shop.

I jumped right into the School Tours, eager to share my knowledge and excitement about the wonders of nature with young children.

When I heard that our amazing coordinator, Lori Wolfe, was stepping aside, it felt like another exciting challenge was waiting for me, and I decided to take it on! I know this is a big commitment, but I'm excited to work with the schools and other docents to keep the high level of respect and excellence our program has achieved.

I'm truly blessed to be part of this organization and to be surrounded by such passionate and caring individuals

Thank You So Much!

Lori Wolf must stop managing the school programs. She started doing this just after Covid, when we were in the middle of new school requirements and the situation seemed hopeless. Lori dug in her heels, worked hard, and this program is working very smoothly now. Thank you so much Lori, we are so grateful you gave us the chance to do what we love. Judie Davis is now in charge of the school programs (see article).

Brianne Kelly was planning Docent Enrichment, but she has many other important responsibilities at the Nature Center, and she is also going back to school. We thank her greatly for all her efforts and wish her well. Stephanie Dorroh will take over (see article).



Best Wishes Dave Stives

by Denny Truger

I stopped by PNC to give Dave his retirement gift and a card signed by more than 50 PNC docents and staff. He's just waiting for his retirement documents to be completed and then he's gone. He said he may come back to visit us, but for certain will come visit the animals that were under his care. He certainly will be missed.

Best wishes on your retirement and thank you for all you have done for the animals at PCNCA for so many years. We noticed and we appreciated it. You were one of the reasons it became such a special place.



Movie Night and Much More

by Sue Murachanian

We had an amazing turnout for our movie night under the stars at Placerita's Acorn Amphitheater. With at last count 130 in attendance we began the evening with a Disney sing along led by Lea Jefferson. She did a fantastic job engaging the kids and parents alike, and she has such a beautiful voice! Followed by our featured movie Disney's Hoppers. It was the perfect movie for all nature lovers!

On this warm SCV night, Kona ice was on hand to everyone's delight! We couldn't have asked for a more perfect summer evening, the crickets and frogs were loud, the bats were overhead and fun was had by all!

As always, a big thank you to all who made this magical night happen!



Stephanie Dorroh,

In Charge of Docent Enrichment

I decided to take on docent enrichment because I have a deep love for nature and believe there is always something new to learn and share. My goal is to create engaging docent enrichment that helps us slow down, become curious, and develop a deeper appreciation for the incredible plants, animals, and ecosystems that make Placerita so special. I hope to inspire others to see the wonder in the natural world and encourage stewardship through education.

I look forward to working with everyone!



Docent Enrichment to the California Botanic Garden

by Glenda Perl

In June, a busload of docents, family, and friends toured the CA Botanic Garden in Claremont for a great trip. A special thank you to the City of Santa Clarita for providing the bus and our excellent driver Freddy.

We had a docent guided tour of a small portion of the 86-acre property. We broke up into three groups and followed our leaders along the pathways filled with native California plants, trees, bushes, grasses, and flowers.

After the tour, we enjoyed the sack lunches that we brought along.

Thank you, Brianne Kelly, for your hard work in arranging these fun adventures!



What to Do If You Find a Baby Bird

Ken Yasukawa

Recently there have been many notices on Nextdoor asking what to do with a baby bird found on the ground. Your first impulse is to help the bird, but in most cases, it doesn't need help and "helping" can make things worse. So, what should you do?

The first thing to do is to figure out if the bird is a nestling or a fledgling.

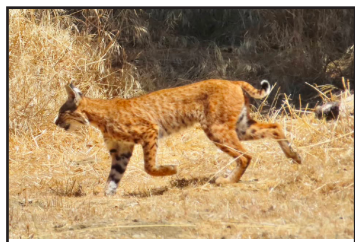
Your baby bird is most likely a fledgling, which is a young bird that has left the nest and can't fly yet, but its parents are still caring for it. Fledglings are fluffy (feathered) with a stub of a tail, and they can hop and grip your finger or a twig. Don't try to put it back in its nest because it will hop right back out. The most helpful thing to do is to put on a nearby perch

out of harm's way and to keep your pets indoors. The parents may be taking care of several other fledglings in different directions, but they will return to care for the one you have found. You can watch from a distance to make sure the parents are returning to care for the fledgling.

If the baby bird is sparsely feathered and not able to hop, walk, flit, or grip your finger, it's a nestling from a nearby nest. If you can find the nest, which may be well hidden, put the bird back as quickly as possible. The parents won't abandon it because you touched it. If the nest has been destroyed, you can make one, put the nestling in it and watch to see if the parents come back.

If you have found both parents dead, the young bird is injured, or you can't find the nest, then your best bet is to bring it to a wildlife rehabilitator. You can find one by doing a Google search for your location and "wildlife rehabilitation." The wildlife rehabilitator can advise you on how to keep your injured or orphaned bird safe until you can get it to the rehabber.

Finally, be aware that most wild birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal for you to possess a protected bird, its feathers, nest, or eggs, without the proper permits.



Nikki Dail Saw a Bobcat Close to the Nature Center

A few months ago, the parking lot was full by early Sunday morning, and the upper lot brought some relief to the situation. Now, barely two or three cars can be seen. What changed?

The heat is on, and the creek is dry close to the Nature Center. We still have some dedicated visitors and on this particular Sunday, Nikki Dail visited the hummingbird garden with a friend to observe and take photos of hummingbirds.

Nikki is a dedicated birder with an impressive bird list. Nikki is also a wonderful photographer, and she has learned to be ready at all times. This served her well on that day! She was enjoying a bit of shade and chatting with Dan Duncan who was doing a Red-tail hawk presentation, when they were both surprised and delighted to see a bobcat walk through the park a few hundred feet away. Of course, Nikki did not miss this opportunity and took a photo.

You never know what is waiting for you around the corner!



Fires at Placerita

If you are a new docent, you might not be aware of previous fires at Placerita. We have had many, but I must say with great gratitude in my heart, that the Nature Center, the Oak of the Golden dream and the Walker cabin survived each time.

In one of the recent grass fires, the flames came inches from the cabin. The last major fire was the Sand Fire in July 2015, eleven years ago. That destroyed all vegetation in East Walker Ranch and in the Eastern part of the park. It was sad walking that part of the Canyon trail for about 5 years, then nature renewed itself.

At the Nature Center buildings, we are very lucky to have running water, a fire hydrant and restrooms. As a result, the fire crews often use the parking lot as a staging station and remain in the park in case of flare ups, giving us an extra layer of protection.

Infrequent, natural fire is a vital part of Southern California's ecosystem. It triggers native seed germination, recycles nutrients back into the soil, and clears dead brush to maintain habitat diversity.

In the aftermath fires, we learn what plants grow back first, and what fire adaptation they have. Many animals survive by running away, flying or burrowing themselves, so we develop a whole new method of learning about the park and the changes that are taking place. Because we have had many tragic experiences in that area, I can safely say it takes about 5 years for an area to show a good amount of regrowth. Each time, plants and trees grow again, and Mother Nature takes over, doing what she does so well.



Children's Group in August

by Colleen Moulay

In August, PCNC hosted a large private group from Stough Canyon Nature Center in Burbank. They were welcomed on the steps by Wheelie the Harris Hawk and Jack Levenberg.

It was a little "toasty," so we split up into small groups for a short history and nature walk on the park grounds. Lori Wolfe, Carol Mercado, and Marc Alva organized and greeted everyone, keeping everything running smoothly.

On our walk, Brienne Kelly highlighted our acorn granary and how it is used by the acorn woodpeckers. She shared the importance of acorns to various animals and the differences be-

tween the 3 varieties of acorns.

Before heading back to the courtyard, we stopped at The Walker Cabin where Denise Allen gave a history lesson and tour, and answered questions.

Next, we headed to the classroom where our docents put on a very informative animal ambassador presentation, answering the many questions asked by our visitors and docents alike.

Denny Truger presented Aiyana, our Red-tailed Hawk, and Ghost our resident Barn owl. On cue, Ghost coughed up an owl pellet, allowing a teaching moment as Pat Coskran broke it open and showed the contents to everyone. Jack Levenberg presented Sierra the Great-horned owl, and precious Violet the adorable striped skunk.

Doug Levy did a terrific job presenting Clarence the King snake, sharing facts and answering questions on stage.

Dave Taylor, Doug Levy, Lise Meyers and I helped by being sweeps, handling Clarence, and interpreting facts including the differences between venomous and non-venomous snakes. Thank you, Dave, for the training and tips.

I have to say that every time I volunteer, I learn at least a couple of new animal or plant facts. Yesterday was no different.

I learned:

- 1) Deer eat acorns and the Tataviam people would allow the deer to eat what they needed first...harvesting thoughtfully for their own use.
- 2) Ghost the Barn owl has about 10,000 feathers.
- 3) Great-horned owls have 3 eyelids.

It was a great day for everyone involved!



Downhill Sliders

Fall is nearly here, but September is often a very warm month so it could be too hot to hike the trails 9am. RuthAnne Murthy who oversees this program, decided to put it into a summer hiatus. Keep your eyes wide open because it will start again in October. Get your hiking boots ready!

It will be on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9am at Placerita. Meet on the patio area, the group usually goes to lunch after the hike, but it is a personal choice.



In Search of the Northern Lights

by Helen Sweany

It was a wonderful afternoon at the July Community Nature Series! About 60 people enjoyed "In Search of the Northern Lights" with Greg Lewis and Fern Zalin.

Beautiful Arctic photos, amazing science and a chance to learn why the aurora glows green, red and purple/blue made for a fascinating presentation.

We learned a great deal.

Thanks to everyone who joined us!



Western Vervain or
California Vervain
Verbena lasiostachys

Trail Treasures

By RuthAnne Murthy

Western vervain is a perennial herb that has recently been reclassified to the mint family. It prefers moist areas and morning sun. It often grows under the shade of other plants. Square and hairy stems are two of the defining attributes. It grows on the coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and oak woodland. It is winter dormant and falls back to dry woody sticks in the autumn. Depending on the habitat, it can be either sprawling or upright. It can be found from coastal elevations and up to 8,200 feet. Western vervain grows throughout western California and into Southern Oregon.

The $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch leaves are a bright green. The opposite leaves are coarsely saw-toothed.

The flowers grow on 2-8 inch long terminal spikes that bloom from April to September. They range in color from pink, to lavender, to purple. The individual flowers are about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter.

Western vervain has several uses. Bees, hummingbirds and butterflies are supported by this plant. It is also useful for erosion control. The Indians used a tea made from the leaves to reduce fever and to treat smallpox. They also used it to make shampoo.

Is this showy plant? No. But it is a plant worthy of the hunt. The delicate flowers thrive after many of the winter/spring flowers have faded. It is a lovely trail treasure.





Fun Time at the Overnight Family Camping Event Held at Castaic Lake

Even in the heat Placerita's Outreach Team came out for Castaic Lake's Family Campout and Movie Night! Awesome volunteers and friends!

They had so many activities for guests, and having the Placerita Canyon display close to the lake was so wonderful on a nice summer night. Many people used the canoes on the water. Thank you to Heidi and Bill Webber, Judie Davis, MaryAnne Martin and Colleen Moulay for taking care of the booth and answering all the questions about Placerita and our animals.

The County has notified us that any use of live animals at outreach activities requires a County staff member to be in attendance, so we were extremely grateful that Amanda Carder, Recreation Service Supervisor, could attend the event. Being able to bring the snakes always attracts a crowd with many questions around the booth.



Pride Month

by Amanda Carder

On June 20th, Placerita Canyon Nature Center celebrated Pride month by hosting a Pride Event in partnership with the SCV LGBTQ center. Event participants enjoyed planting, guest speakers, a craft, and a night hike.

The night hike was the highlight of the event, led by Docents Colleen Moulay and Beth Braunstein. Docent Judie Davis opened the gift shop after hours so participants could buy black lights.

The event was a success with 40 overall participants, and 27 hikers (that happened to find 27 scorpions).

Thank you to staff member Monica Chocooj, for reaching out to the SCV LGBTQ Center to partner with us, which truly made this event possible.



Learn About Bees with Sue Sutton

The subject of Docent Enrichment for July was "Honeybee Biology"

While this information was a review for some of our experienced docents, it was brand new for our newer docents.

Our Observation Apiary, installed 15 years ago, fascinates our visitors, young and old. With school visits starting and increasing numbers of visitors in the coming cooler weather, our docents will be ready to answer visitor's questions about our amazing honeybees.



July with Book and Hikes

by Ellen Coleman

July 2026 was hot!!! But that didn't stop Books & Hikes members from braving 102-degree temperatures to discuss Playground by Richard Powers. Playground is a book about an island called Makatea, located in French Polynesia waters, and the surrounding marine life that comprises this location. 82 islanders must vote to decide if they want their island to become a hub for the manufacture of floating sea cities. With its incredibly vivid and beautiful descriptions of the island and ocean, Playground was the perfect book to read during the summer heat.

Since this book was about the sea, on 7/26/26, four Docents and seven B&H members spent our July hike in search of water and we found it! We encountered tadpoles and baby frogs in a few small pools off the Canyon Trail, while discussing Playground at length. For "Snack Time," and also in honor of Discovery Channel's Shark Week, Debbie Cain made an incredible "Sharkcutterie" Board that was devoured in minutes.

Join us at 9:00 a.m., on Sunday, 9/27/26, at the Acorn Amphitheatre, where we will hike and discuss the book Wild Dark Shore, by Charlotte McConaghy. Hope to see you there!



Nature Tots

by Jennie Marsh

Nature Tots will resume its popular program on Saturday, September 12 with the fun topic of Tortoises and Turtles. The Center's tortoises, Turbo and Speedy, are awake and eager for visitors (as eager as a tortoise can be!) We can always use help so please reach out to Carol Mercado if interested.



Animal Care Grant – SCV City Government

by Jennie Marsh



PCNCA is applying a second time for the Animal Care Grant sponsored by the SCV City Government. You may recall last year that we won a grant from this program to replace our aging washer and dryer. This time around we are requesting \$5000 to replace the aging freezer and refrigerator/freezer that store our animal ambassadors' food. The door handle has been broken for a long time and replaced with a sad looking rope. It is time for an upgrade! The deadline is August 21.

Please keep your fingers crossed for success this time around too!

Tree Condition Assessment

by Dennis Cain

The second round of our Tree Condition Assessment began in June and continued through July and August, led by Cristhian Mace, LA County Natural Areas Biologist. The primary purposes are to reassess trees tagged in 2024, expand the set of tagged trees, monitor for expanded GSOB (Goldspotted Oak Borer) infestation, document structural and canopy condition, identify trees that may warrant further professional evaluation, and establish a current picture of woodland condition to support long term resource management planning.

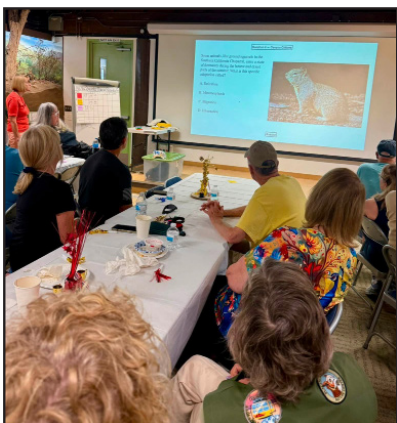
There are now over 340 trees tagged, including most of the trees near the main parking areas and extending the set upstream along the Canyon Trail, where canyon and coast live oaks occur in proximity alongside willows and cottonwoods. An oak was newly tagged near the Acorn Granary sycamores that shows many shallow woodpecker holes, not deep enough to store acorns - but what were they looking for? It's an interesting feature that will continue to be observed as part of the tree's condition record. While the GSOB infestation seems to be concentrated within the original few trees near the western border, there are some suspicious holes in nearby oaks closer to the Oak of the Golden Dream. The plastic protective covering used to capture any emerging adult GSOB on one of the infested trees has since been removed, and no adult GSOB beetles were observed. Since Imicide treatment targets larvae feeding inside the tree, this is an encouraging sign, although it is still too soon to know how well it worked.

The number of surveyors now on the roster exceeds 50, several of whom are docents. Cristhian has streamlined the surveying process into a phone app that makes it much easier to record and will help with data analysis.

There are several elements of this study that can help Docents communicate tree condition to the public. We know that full canopies of green leaves and full sun exposure is generally a good sign, while dead branches or significant defoliation suggest that the tree is stressed. One with heavily extended branches, trunk lean greater than 20 degrees from vertical, and cavities or decayed wood near the base may need closer expert inspection for hazard assessment. However, we have many trees with obvious fire damage that continue to grow vigorously and cover over old wounds, a good reminder of just how resilient our native trees can be!

After this year's survey, the data will be combined with that taken in 2024 and analyzed to provide a current picture of tree condition across our woodlands and how it may have changed in the last two years. An update will be provided and feedback requested at an upcoming Docent Enrichment session this fall, where we hope to attract Docent observations regarding desired future woodland conditions and discuss potential interpretation themes. We also plan to make a presentation for the public via the Community Nature series.

And although these are not yet in the survey, approximately 20 seedlings were planted as part of a separate effort last fall and are being tended to help ensure that we have a healthy forest far into the future!



Breakfast of the Champions

There were three teams competing. Cindy kept score for all three teams. Not an easy task! Incredibly, it ended in a three-way tie, so all the teams won! Jill Goddard, as always, was ready with extra hats. This year, she handmade the most adorable California Scrub Jay caps. Her prizes quickly become collector's items.

Ron Kraus did an incredible job creating the questions using AI. He even used animation to get all the little children from the Walker family to walk. That is quite a sight! You can check out the Facebook page to see his comments.

Thank you to the hospitality committee for decorating the room with trophies, doing the set up and clean up, and to all the cooks who brought food. A special thank you to Linda for cooking pancakes during breakfast and bringing two kinds of syrups.

It was nice to see so many friendly faces, we always have such a fun time together and it was a good way to review a few facts about the Nature Center before our big visitor season starts.

Be there for fall kick off as our last big push.

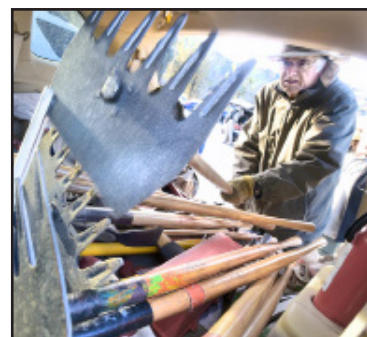
Steve Ioerger

We were saddened to find out that Steve Ioerger passed away peacefully on August 13. Steve was the husband of Linda, the Barn owl lady, who also left us a few years ago.

Steve was more involved with the outdoor scene at the Nature Center, and his passion was to keep the trails in great shape. He started a group of volunteers to do trail maintenance in many natural areas in this valley. He was also involved in the efforts to preserve the local Forest Service Fire Lookouts. Ron Kraus remembers a memorable hike with him to the Slide Mountain Lookout, years ago.

He was part of CERT, the Community Emergency Response Team. They perform light search and rescue, including light extrication during disasters. He was highly regarded for his ability to communicate (using ham radio) during disasters. Steve came with some members of his CERT team during special events at Placerita to handle the parking situation and direct traffic.

He will be greatly missed by our community.



FALL SCHEDULE

Books and Hikes: 4th Sunday of the month from 8AM to 9:30AM. Please register at booksandhikes@placerita.org.

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

Bird Walks with Docent/Naturalists: 1st Saturday of every month with Ellen Coleman, and the 2nd Saturday of every month with Ken Yasukawa. It starts at 8AM from March-November and 9AM December-February. Bring binoculars, water, and a field guide.

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

Hike with the Downhill Sliders: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 9AM at Placerita. Meet on the patio area.

Nature Education: Every 3rd Sunday of the month at 2PM, PCNCA provides a free educational program. Check the webpage to learn about the topic.

Native Plant Renewal and Restoration: Every Thursday at 8AM, led by Robert Grzesiak. Bring garden gloves and water. Just show up to work, do not send email.

Placerita Nature Tots: 2nd 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 theme for September will be Turtles and Tortoises. To register go Nature_tots@placerita.org

Walker Cabin: Summer hours are Tuesday through Friday: 9:00 – 12:00, Saturday 8:30 – 12:30, and Sunday 10:00 – 12:00. The summer hours will last until September 5. The fall hours are from 10 to 2, every day that the park is open.

Docent Enrichment: In September (TBD). Fall kickoff is a way for the docents to refresh their knowledge before the school tours start again at Placerita.

The next Movie Night Under the Stars will be held on August 22, 6.30pm, Spy Kids. There will be live music by Lise Meyers and Nancy Lee, plus Kona Ice and face painting. Bring a picnic and a jacket.

Docent Recognition Ceremony; September 26 (see article)