



The Rattler

Sponsored by the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates

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Placerita Canyon Nature Center

Over 50 Years of Nature Education

November-December

Editor: Evelyn Vandersande Publisher: Heidi Webber



Hello Friends

As the holiday season approaches, I want to send you all our warmest wishes. Thank you for your continued support of the Nature Center and for reading our newsletter. This issue of *The Rattler* looks a bit different than usual. I would like to extend a special thank you to Chapter Secretary Ken Yasukawa for

stepping in to rescue the November-December edition. Our regular publisher, Heidi Webber, suffered a severe fall and broke her tibia. She will require a few surgeries, and while her first surgery was successful, she is moving to a convalescent home for recovery. Because several key articles needed to be published now, we have put together a shortened edition.

We appreciate your understanding and want to ensure you are aware of our upcoming annual fundraiser, the Holiday Craft Fair. We are the only local source providing fresh greenery, seeds, pods, and dried berries for your holiday decorating. Simply purchase a straw wreath, use a glue gun, and create something beautiful. It is a wonderful, fun event where everyone helps each other out. Additionally, docent training begins Tuesday January 12, 2027. A flyer with complete details will be available in December, or you can call the office for more information. We hope you will visit the Nature Center soon to attend a program or hike the trails—the recent rain has made everything especially fresh and inviting.

Enjoy the season!



Nature Center Associates of Los Angeles County Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition

The meeting began with the wonderful news that Sandra Cattell was elected as the new NCA President. Congratulations to Sandra! We were then introduced to several County officials in attendance. We are very grateful that they took time out of their busy schedules to honor us with their presence and support. It was engaging to hear them speak and to get to know them better. Additionally, we were introduced to the Nature Center superintendents. With several new faces and recent transfers between centers, staying connected and maintaining these relationships is key to our shared goals and success.

The recent docent graduates from the class of 2026 were recognized by name, with Colleen Moulay and Lise Meyers serving as the class representatives. Herb Broutt received his 10-year gold name tag. Other docents were recognized for 10, 15, and 30 years of service, including Heidi and Bill Webber for their 30-year milestone, though they were unable to attend. I was honored to be present to receive my 40-year name tag and a beautiful bouquet of flowers, for which I was extremely grateful! The Volunteers and Youth volunteer of the year were recognized (see article about Pat Coskran) The ceremony concluded with a lovely lunch at Ayers Hall, providing a relaxed opportunity for everyone to chat and celebrate together. Afterward, many docents took advantage of the event perks to explore the gorgeous County Arboretum, enjoying the peacocks, blooming plants, fountains and little streams on this very warm day.



**Pat Coskran, Volunteer of the Year
at Placerita.**

This is the highest honor given to a docent and Pat was recognized at the Ceremony on September 26, 2026, at the LA Arboretum. Pat came to receive his recognition with his son Sean that we have all learned to appreciate at Placerita. Pat and Sean are a team, we were told that from the start, so it was very fitting that they were together for this big day.

We all had a chuckle when we saw Pat coming to accept his award wearing his T-shirt with Mr. C's + Challengers (Mr. C is Pat, the Challengers are his group of special needs young adults).

During the ceremony, Russ Kimura, Placerita Superintendent, gave a heartfelt

speech highlighting Pat's incredible work and contributions. Russ shared how Pat initially asked permission to bring special needs groups to Placerita. Following that initial success, Pat expanded the program to include various organizations, giving participants the opportunity to explore the trails, cross the stream, assist with trash cleanup, and enjoy the outdoors. The positive response from

both the participants and our visitors is a direct result of Pat's dedication and compassion. Pat Coskran has done amazing work and brought many projects to Placerita. It was a very special moment for a very special docent. Pat has gained our respect, admiration, and love at Placerita.

Thank you, Pat!



Paul Levine Award for Excellence in Interpretation
by Carol Mercado

Paul Levine was a well-loved Docent-Naturalist at Placerita who was also a cardiologist, educator, author, butterfly lover and a leader. This award, presented every year, is in his memory to recognize excellence in classroom presentation, trail interpretation, docent training and animal education.

This year the Paul Levine award was presented to Brienne Kelly. She has been a docent since 2024 and during that time has led school tours, helped with the older kids hike during Nature Tots, organized Docent Enrichment outings, is a PCNCA Board Member and has worked tirelessly on many flyers to promote our programs in addition to many other things. She is always willing to jump in and help. Congratulations Brienne!

Upon receiving the award, Brienne was very appreciative of the many docents who have helped her along the way and said all of us at Placerita were like a family.



Judie Davis Received the Bob Moss Award
by Ellen Coleman

The Bob Moss award is for that special Docent who “has shown initiative, done one or a few creative projects, or started a new program.” In 2025, Barb Heinzl and I were proud recipients of the Bob Moss Award. Now, during 2026 Fall Kick Off, it was time to pass the torch. We chose Judie Davis, a graduate of the 2024 docent class. Judie has made an incredible impact at PCNC, and is always willing to step-up and volunteer for activities. For example, Judie is on the Amphitheatre Committee, the Education Committee, and the Hospitality Committee. She spent time in the Interpretive Center cleaning all of the displays, leads school tours, and shows nature boxes to PCNC visitors. While performing these activities, Judie sparkles with positivity and always has a smile. She also helps at the Gift Store, is the Logistics Coordinator for our Annual Open House, and was elected as an Alternate Board Member, where she attends every Board meeting and provides school tour updates. Judie is a role model and a mentor. She personifies the PCNC spirit of volunteerism and is an asset to this community. Barb and I are proud to present the Bob Moss award to Judie Davis!



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF

**Parks &
Recreation**



Placerita Canyon Nature
Center Associates
Presents it's Annual
Fundraiser



Holiday Craft Fair

**DEC 05 & 06 10:00AM-
3:00PM**

Create your own wreaths, centerpieces,
Yule logs, and ornaments using fresh
greenery, pinecones, and natural
treasures. Kids' crafts, too!

*Don't forget to visit the gift shop for
unique holiday finds.*

Craft fees apply - cash, checks, and credit cards accepted.

**Fundraising for a Great Cause!
All activities support the Placerita
Canyon Nature Center Associates, a
non-profit dedicated to nature
education and animal care.**

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