



The Rattler

Sponsored by the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Associates
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Placerita Canyon Nature Center
Over 50 Years of Nature Education
September-October 2024

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Hello Nature Friends.

Fall is here! We had a hot summer at Placerita, but it did not slow us down at all. The Canyon Trail is officially reopened. The bridge is being repainted, and there is progress on the amphitheater stage.

In the past two years, we had large docent training classes, and those enthusiastic docents have started many different new programs that have kept the Center very lively and interesting.

Fall in California is a season that creeps up on us slowly, so we must take notice: the days are becoming shorter, the air is cooler in the morning even though September is one of our warmest months. Suddenly you see different acorns on the ground, poison oak leaves turning red, and more Dark-eyed juncos are flying around.

It is one of the most beautiful seasons at Placerita, come walk the trails and enjoy!



Meet the Beetles!

by Gary Freiburger

Have you ever been hiking along a trail and noticed a small, black, armored insect crossing in front of you? If you're like me, you've bent down and watched this small insect cross, fascinated by a beetle. Of course, they're not all black, not all small, and many don't seem armored at all. How do you tell one from another? Check out "Introduction to California Beetles", a new donated title in the Docent Library.

Why is Glenda Perl Volunteer of the Year?

As soon as you meet Glenda, you notice her bubbly personality and her smile. She is always positive, fun and friendly. That is obviously an important point in a volunteer organization, and it serves the Nature Center very well, especially because Glenda works in the gift shop every Sunday morning. Being the volunteer of the year is the highest form of recognition given to a docent. Glenda's achievements form a long list, so get ready to be impressed!

Glenda participates in most of the events at Placerita. She is the wreath wrangler for the craft fair, handing straw bases and stickpins to the eager wreath makers.

She is a mentor during Docent Training, and she helps Ron Kraus with the administrative duties.

She is the Membership Chairperson, keeping track and regularly updating the members' contact information. She collects the annual membership dues. She sends condolence cards and flowers when one of our Placerita family members passes away.

She takes photos of many events, and posts them on the Placerita Facebook page to provide publicity. She writes articles for the Rattler when some event needs to be covered.

She handles school tours and is part of the outreach team.

She shows animals during the weekends, and every other opportunity she gets.

Glenda has been called Ms. Sparkle, because she likes to wear shiny tags on her uniform vest. However, that also applies to her wonderful sparkling personality.

Thank you, Glenda, for all you do at Placerita, we are so lucky and grateful to have had you for 9 years as a volunteer. Congratulations, you can be extremely proud of this award that you richly deserve. Big hugs from all the Placerita docents.



Election Committee

Every year, half of the Board needs to be elected. It is a great way to provide continuity to the Nature Center, while at the same time a way to welcome new members with new ideas. The board members spend a huge amount of time and effort to make things happen around the park. Thank you to the Election Committee for taking care of this process: Jim Crowley, Mara Cohen and Beth Higby.

These board members were elected on June 1st: Herb Broutt, Rick Brammer, Ron Kraus, Jack Levenberg, Sue Murachanian, and Fred Seeley. Denise Allen and Jennie Marsh were elected as alternates.



2024 NCA Annual Recognition Event

All the docents and volunteers from Placerita Canyon are invited to join members from the other Nature Centers to attend the Annual Recognition and General Meeting to be held at Eaton Canyon Nature Center on Saturday, September 14.

The meeting will start at 10AM, a light lunch will be served afterward around 11AM. The shaded patio will be available for lunch.

We ask that you call Sandra Cattell at 661.259.0433 (please leave a message) with your RSVP to confirm that you will be attending lunch, so food can be ordered accordingly.

You will have to vote for the NCA board. So please, look for your ballot coming by email before the event.

Business Casual Dress is suggested.

The location is:

Michael C. Long Auditorium
Eaton Canyon Nature Center
1750 Altadena Drive
Pasadena, CA 91107

The parking lot is tight, so we recommend that you carpool from Placerita leaving at 9AM.

Docents Recognition at Eaton Canyon September 14.

Glenda Perl will receive special recognition as the Volunteer of the Year for Placerita, the highest distinction given by a Nature Center.

The Junior Volunteer of the year is Ashley Marianne Harley. She was selected by Frank Hoffman who supervises the younger volunteers.

The following docents will get special recognition 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.

5 years

Gary Freiburger
Sandy Holloway
Melissa Rocha

15 years

Sima Bernstein
Linette Brammer
Rick Brammer

10 years

Bill Algeyer
Mara Cohen
Dan Duncan
RuthAnne Murthy

20 years

Janet Kubler

25 years

Nikki Dail

Docent Recognition Awards

By Cindy Gold

At our annual Summer Potluck dinner, six docents received Docent Recognition Awards for their dedication, initiative and hard work. Congratulations to:

Lori Wolfe, who has taken on the important and demanding responsibility of managing our School Tours. She takes reservations and organizes docents to do the presentations, demos and hikes. She is also our "Master of the Butter Churn" where every year at the Open House she provides the fun opportunity to make butter the old-fashioned way. She also oversaw the other activities around the Walker Cabin. She is on the Hospitality committee helping with social events and was a mentor during Docent Training.

Helen Sweany, who organizes our very popular Community Education Series. She works hard to bring in interesting and relevant speakers, and create fun, educational experiences such as the Drum Circle that was well attended. She is a regular teacher of the Ethnobotany class for Docent Training. We have all enjoyed her tasty treats filled with unusual natural ingredients. Also, every year at the Open House she creates hands-on activities for children to learn more about nature.

Sue Sutton, who is the knowledgeable and entertaining on-camera docent expert in our new nature video Honeybees. She also gives presentations about bees and had an information table at the Open House. She has been chairperson of the Exhibits and Displays Committee for many years, and is currently creating a new bulletin board in the courtyard that will feature Insects. She works to ensure our park facilities are ADA accessible.

Jennie Marsh, a newly graduated docent, who helps plan and carry out the monthly Nature Tots program. She organized a table for tots at the Open House which provided educational activities and games about Toads and Frogs. She also is active on the Walker Cabin committee. She compiled a photo album of vintage photos illustrating their family history and helps maintain the Walker Cabin.

Marc Alva, a returning docent, who took the initiative to shoulder the difficult job of deep cleaning, refreshing, and maintaining the Walker Cabin. He is active in learning about the historical significance of the Walker family and bringing the magic of the past to park visitors.

Carol Mercado, who has been on the Nature Tots team since its inception in 2018. She chairs the meetings where they plan the programs for each session. Carol loves to do the "movement" segment, where she guides the children in mimicking the behavior and sounds of the selected animal. She will get down on the floor and crawl, slither, hop, jump, leap, prance, flit, run in place, and flap her arms. The kids love it because Carol puts her heart into it.



My Story (Glenda Perl)

Like most retired people, I was looking for something productive to do with all of my new-found free time. I remembered the full-page ad I saw in our local newspaper, The Signal: You, Too, Can Be a Docent Naturalist! or words to that effect. I went through the training and graduated with the Great Class of 2015.

I have one daughter, Heather, and two black cats. Heather is 38 and still trying to find her place in the world. She lives close by, and we have a great mother-daughter relationship. We are terrific travel companions, and we recently spent a week exploring Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia.

For more than 25 years, my mother Eleanor was a volunteer with the George C. Page Museum (aka the Los Angeles Tar Pits) at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. I truly believe that my spirit of vol-

unteering came from Mom.

In the working world, I was a legal secretary/paralegal/ "Personal, Private, Executive Assistant" for my entire career (I stole that phrase from the fabulously funny film, Heaven Can Wait and proclaimed it throughout my career). I worked in entertainment, corporate, probate, and bankruptcy law. My career ended when technology made my job obsolete. I think of and thank my parents silently every day for their wise financial planning. I was able to retire early and not have to work ever again!

In the 1990s, I committed to trying something new. I wanted to know how to defend myself physically using only my body. I settled on the traditional Japanese martial art of Jujitsu. (I also tried the very aggressive Israeli martial art of Krav Maga for six months, until I developed severe tendonitis and had to take a break for a few months. I returned to Jujitsu, but with a new sensei (teacher).) After 32 years of dedicated practice, I attained a 2nd Degree Black Belt in Budoshin Jujitsu. (Don't mess with me!)

It's been nine years since I became a Docent Naturalist at PCNC. Not only have I made lots of friends there, but, more importantly, I feel that every person at the Nature Center is now part of MY FAMILY (L.A. County colleagues included)!

Thank you, Placerita Canyon Nature Center, for rocking my world!



A Very Smooth Road to Placerita by Ron Kraus

Check out this bad boy. It's a VÖGELE Super 1700-3 paving machine, specifically an asphalt paver, produced by VÖGELE, a leading manufacturer in the paving industry.

This machine is used for laying asphalt on roads, parking lots, and other surfaces requiring a smooth, durable pavement." It is not a flying saucer, but state of the art machine to redo Placerita Canyon Road which is super smooth by now...just in time for the rainy season.



Fan to the Rescue! By Cindy Gold

When you visit the Know Your Nature Center to watch a nature video, look at the displays or say "Hi" to Violet our skunk, it will feel a bit cooler. We've installed a large ceiling fan to keep the breezes flowing during this hot summer. You're welcome to come in and take a break while learning more about our beautiful park.



QR Code in Placerita by Pat Coskran

A reminder that I've placed QR codes (quick response codes) on about 30 plant signs around the Nature Center and ecology trail. Just set your smart phone to camera, and zoom in on the little white box with the squiggly black lines. When the banner pops up, click on it and it will take you to the Calscape site. That site has photos and interesting info about that plant.



RIP BILL KOPATZ, Class of 2003

Bill Kopatz- So many memories about a wonderful man, and a very active docent for many years. I was in touch with him a few months ago, and he was complaining of "being stuck in Friendly Valley instead of being useful in Placerita." My answer was: You did more than your share Bill, you are 95, it is time to relax!

He was a very good man, and will be sorely missed, he absolutely gave us his best. He helped with every event with a smile, and wrangled the school groups when needed. He had such a very positive attitude, and was deeply loved at Placerita. Bill and his wife Linda were a wonderful team working as docents, now they are reunited.

Bill was supporting various homeless food distributions centers, and the docents made a donation in his name.



The Docents Went to the Huntington Gardens

Once a year, we have a wonderful treat from LA County Supervisor, Kathryn Barger, who provides the docents with bus transport to a great place of their choice.

This year, we decided to splurge and visit the gardens at the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens in San Marino. Cindy Gold is a weekly volunteer at the Huntington and specializes in the bonsai. She gave us a wonderful education and took us to some behind-the-scenes locations so we could have a more complete demonstration of the process. Thank you so much, Cindy.

RuthAnne Murthy was in charge of planning the day and it went very smoothly. She was delighted with the bus driver who was doing his first group trip.

The Huntington gardens are truly a beautiful place, and it was a gorgeous day with great company. Some of us looked for shade in the different museums, there was even a concert in the Chinese garden. The restaurants were perfect, the gift shop a delight...and the lotus were in bloom!



Breakfast of Champions for 2024

by Glenda Perl

Congratulations to the winners of the annual Breakfast of Champions trivia contest, "Are You Smarter than a Placerita 5th Grader?!"

A big Thank-You to the awesome artist who dreams up and creates the adorable "winners-only" hats every year, Jill Goddard! (Jill always makes extra hats for non-winners.)

As usual, the tables were loaded with scrumptious goodies. After everyone was filled with food, we assembled into 4 teams for the trivia contest (The Greenies, Yellow Jackets, Blue Bird Brains, and Pink Flamingos).

Thanks to Ron Kraus (and Jill) for coming up with all the questions. They were not easily answered! Coincidentally, and comically, one of the questions that my team chose was about ME!

Sadly, our team, the Blue Bird Brains, did not win the contest. But I did snag one of the highly collectible Acorn Woodpecker hats!



That Was a Very Large Limb!

In mid-July, guests were gathering and parking their cars, getting ready to listen to the wonderful Community Nature Series presentation about Kenya from Nikki Dail.

Some parking spots were still available close to the center, and that might have avoided a disaster. A loud crack was heard first, then a huge limb from the oak tree fell, barely grazing a white pickup truck parked close by.

We were all taken by surprise, but Frank Hoffman told us it is a natural occurrence in oak trees in the summertime. This is due to transpiration: On hot days, trees may not release water through their leaves, but they still take in water through their roots. This can cause limbs to become heavier, which can lead to branches breaking.

Another huge oak branch broke off and blocked both the Botany and Heritage Trails but was quickly cleaned up....Summer Time!.





Ashley Marianne Harley, Youth Volunteer of the Year 2024 for Placerita

Ashley is 16 years old and has been coming in regularly 3 to 4 days a week for at least four hours a day, practically every week since March, including during her normal school schedule. She travels between Crescenta Valley and Santa Clarita, attending Crescenta Valley High School; her mother and father have been bringing her in and picking her up. As part of her school activities, she and others created an Environmental Club holding Fund Raisers in front of various stores and businesses near there, educating passing folks on everything from Water Conservation to today's contemporary environmental issues including Global Warming, Loss of Habitat, Co-existing with Wildlife and anything else they can think of to present the views of the modern highschool-

er. I believe they've grossed over \$600.00+ in doing that with Ash always presenting her Bearded Dragon as well. At home they have a variety of animals including that lizard and a bunch of kitties.

At Placerita, she works very hard and quickly finishes assignments given to her, both independently and in team efforts. She's a natural teacher and quick learner. Once given a job to do, does it in an expedient manner, having to be taught to do things only once before she adopts a routine and then does things on her own afterwards without me prompting her. Ashley has assisted me on three County Programs, cleans enclosures and crates, prepares our tortoise diets when she's here and able to, sweeps, mops, digs holes, interacts with the public about our Animal Ambassadors in both the courtyard and classroom. She works for our turtle in the classroom in as much as making sure he has the right water levels and a clean tank – that's every week! She's strained and cleaned pea gravel for our numerous bird mews, helped me move wood and rock in the park, and helps survey the picnic area and parking lot whenever I need assistance with that as well. She has helped me set up rentals and is very detail oriented, spending extra time on things to make sure they're done just right. In addition to all this, she's also recommended another young man to us, Shiv, who also comes from Crescenta Valley High to volunteer here and who has also done a great job for us!

All in all, she's been a major asset to our operations as a volunteer in that limited capacity, and in my opinion, couldn't have been a better pick for Placerita's 2024 Youth Volunteer of the Year!!

Thank you, Ashley, you're the bomb!!

Respectfully and with deep appreciation,
Ranger Frank Hoffman
Recreation Services Supervisor
Placerita Canyon Natural Area



New Birds on Display at the Nature Center By Ken Yasukawa

In June, Jim Crowley and I installed four new bird models at Placerita. A California Quail and an Acorn Woodpecker were placed in the Classroom and a Spotted Towhee and Black Phoebe joined the California Scrub-Jay and Greater Roadrunner in the Interpretive Center. These six species are the first of a number of bird models that will be installed in the next few months and are the work of a talented wood carver, Jim Durow of Marine City, Michigan (<https://www.facebook.com/jim.durow.75>). Keep an eye out for our next models of a Wren-tit, Dark-eyed Junco, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Tanager, and Oak Titmouse.

We wanted to replace the taxidermic mounts that have been on display in the Interpretive Center since 2009 because they have degraded over the years from insect damage and aging. We considered three types of replacements: taxidermic mounts like the ones to be replaced, freeze-dried mounts, and recreation models.

Taxidermic mounts are preserved skins that are stuffed or stretched over a life-like framework or form. In contrast, a freeze-dried mount is essentially a mummified specimen created by removing the internal organs and then freezing the skeleton, muscles, skin, and feathers in a vacuum chamber. We chose to use wood carvings (models) because, unlike taxidermic or freeze-dried mounts, they are not subject to damage from insects and exposure to the uncontrolled environmental conditions in the Nature Center and require minimal maintenance. These new models are beautiful and life-like, so come to the Nature Center to see them.

We are Getting Thinner

After a few frustrating years with Covid restrictions, the Nature Center had two large and very successful docent training classes. These enthusiastic docents started many new programs, revamped some old ones and the energy was in the air.

The Rattler, with passion, tried to cover it all with articles and photos, but there was a price to be paid. The last Rattler was too large a file to be sent easily, and had to be seriously trimmed down. With regret, we have to accept that we cannot cover every program, and some difficult choices have to be made. Special events will remain covered.

We ask for your understanding.

In Memoriam List for the Annual NCA Recognition

We were asked by NCA to make the list of the docents who passed away since 2020, because they will receive special recognition on September 14th. It was heartbreaking to collect those names and search for their photos, but also heartwarming to remember all those great docents and friends who helped shape Placerita for so many years, each one with their special gifts and personality. This list is not complete because we were asked by one family to give them privacy during their time of grief.

Shirley Morano – June 13, 2020

She was one of the original volunteers. For over 20 years she came in one day a week to answer phones. She was an amazing woman and is truly missed!

Linda Ioerger – October 13, 2020

Linda was our owl lady, and she loved to show Orion, the Great-horned Owl and Catori, the Barn Owl.

Deen Matthew – April 2020

Deen was the Treasurer for Placerita in the 80's until 1995.

Robin Lee Day – October 4, 2021

She was a docent in the 80's and developed a puppet show about the circle of life. She took the docent training again in 2018.

Richard Norton – February 2022

Richard had a vibrant personality and lots of knowledge about many topics.

Allan Wallander – February 2, 2023

Allan was happily involved with every event at Placerita, and loved to bake large quantities of delicious food to feed the docents.

Suzy Herman – June 18, 2023

Suzy loved to show the snakes, she was an amazing bundle of energy with a great sense of humor.

Sue Wallander -September 2023

Sue was a wonderful teacher, vice president in 2004 and built her own program to teach about the Native Americans.

Bill Kopatz – June 2024

Bill was a great docent and friend of Placerita. He was always ready to help with a big smile and was loved by all who knew him.



PCNC Tree Survey Status

by Dennis Cain

A survey is currently underway to assess tree health in the woodlands area near the picnic area and amphitheater, extending to the western park boundary. The effort is being led by Cristhian Mace, the LA County DPR Natural Areas Biologist and supported by PCNC docents. It began on June 12th, 2024, with a training session, and data collection for this first phase will be completed by mid-August.

The purpose of the survey is to establish a data-driven baseline to support development of a site-specific Resource Management Plan (RMP) by Cristhian over the next couple of years. The RMP will incorporate an adaptive Ecosystem Management strategy aimed at sustaining the natural and cultural resources of the park. This project is the first of many to come to assist that effort - others will include additional tree surveys, vegetation mapping, trail assessments, and watershed analysis. Continued docent support will be essential in helping to make the PCNC RMP an effective tool to ensure that our park will be preserved, protected, and improved.

You have probably noticed the aluminum tags now adorning 170 of the trees in this initial zone. Three quarters of these are Coast Live Oak, twenty percent are Western Sycamores, and a few Red Willows, a Black Walnut, and two Sugar Bush (tree) round out the set. The sample trees were selected due to proximity to randomly placed points throughout the designated initial area. Each tree is assessed for size (Diameter at Breast Height, Height, Crown Spread) and condition (defoliation, dieback, pest presence, soil situation, sunlight competition). No sign of the Gold-spotted Oak Borer has been seen. Preliminary data analysis indicates that the average oak trunk diameter is about 19 inches with a height of 36 feet. A third of the trees have been assessed as "Good", sixty percent are seen as "Fair", and four of them have been labeled as "Poor". No "Excellent" trees were identified, according to the standards employed. The largest oak tree diameter was for the Oak of the Golden Dream!

The data analysis phase is just starting, but we are already realizing the benefit of identifying potentially hazardous trees to our Park Maintenance staff. In light of the recent parking lot limb failure and to inform park maintenance, we expect to expand tagged tree population in the next phase to include those around the parking area and those noted as hazards by the emerging Docent Trail Team. We envision that the analysis of the trees in this first zone will result in a map showing tree health to enable comparison with future surveys of the same area.

Volunteers (including at least 12 docents) have contributed about 200 hours to the project thus far, hiking through some rugged territory.

We will organize a meeting to brief the docent community on the results of the data analysis for this first phase and the updated RMP support plan. Thanks for all the great docent support!



Eremocarpus setigerus
Turkey Mullein or Dove Weed

Trail Treasures

By RuthAnne Murthy

Every year from May to November a common annual flat mat of grey-green dove weed can be seen in the sage scrubs, grasslands and oak woodlands from Washington to Lower California. It is heavily scented especially after a welcome summer shower. It thrives in dry disturbed areas.

The plant grows from 1-8 inches tall and up to 3 feet in diameter. All parts of the plant have stinging, bristly hairs. The leaves are arranged alternately, one this way, one that way. The 1/3 to 1½ inch leaves contain a narcotic poison.

The flowers are tiny and are the same color as the leaves so it is easy to overlook them. The seeds that the flowers produce are shiny and dark gray. The plant gets its common names because both wild turkeys and doves eat the seeds.

The Spanish immigrants called Dove Weed, Yerba del Pescado because the Indians taught them to use the poison from the plant to stun fish by throwing the leaves into rivers. The Indians also used the poison on their arrow points. They made a poultice from the leaves to relieve internal chest pains. A tea made of the leaves was used to treat asthma and fevers.



Photo by Gary Park

Update on the English Common Names Pilot Project

By Ken Yasukawa

AOS Fellow, PCNC Docent-Naturalist

In a previous Rattler, I reported that the American Ornithological Society announced a Pilot Project to change the eponymous names of birds within its purview. Since that announcement in November 2023 there have been many reactions, both supportive and critical, from AOS members and the public. These reactions can be categorized into several themes.

- Supportive feedback that changing eponymous English names will be more welcoming and inclusive and will put the focus on birds rather than on people.
- Neutral responses or questions, which often included suggestions for new names for specific species or questions about timelines and processes.
- Criticism that this decision was too broad and would promote taxonomic instability, waste resources, and erase history.

• Criticism over the lack of an open and democratic process for making decisions. In March 2024, AOS received a formal public petition to reconsider the decision to change all eponymous names and instead return to a case-by-case method to remove offensive names. In April 2024 a formal resolution signed by 231 AOS Fellows and Honorary Fellows encouraged AOS to proceed with the Pilot Project but requested that AOS defer replacing eponymous names until a more inclusive approach is undertaken. In addition, almost all members of the South American Classification Committee of AOS, which maintains the checklist of South American birds, moved to the International Ornithologists' Union as a regional committee.

The Pilot Project will focus on four species of North American birds with eponymous names: Townsend's Solitaire, Backman's Sparrow, Scott's Oriole, and Townsend's Warbler. The Inca Dove will also be included because its name is deemed culturally unsuitable. A sixth, the Maui Parrotbill, which was previously recommended for changing to a local Hawaiian name, Kiwikiu, will also be included. A new ad hoc committee will be appointed to oversee the Pilot Project and will be tasked with (1) developing partnerships with ornithological checklist committees, scientific societies, birding organizations, and other interested groups, (2) developing a platform for engaging the public, (3) soliciting suggestions for names and educating the public about conservation challenges, (4) seeking a diversity of perspectives on suitable replacement names, and (5) following appropriate naming conventions to ensure stability. The committee will also assess the new structure and process.

Open House 2024 a Huge Success!

By Cindy Gold

We had a record crowd attend our Open House this year! Children, families, and overall nature lovers had fun doing over fifteen different hands-on activities from butter churning to panning for "gold". Visitors saw owls, hawks, and other raptors, as well as a variety of snakes and other reptiles up close.

Fifteen different vendors from the Astrology Club and the Audubon Society to the Sierra Club and Tree People offered information and educational activities. Many thanks to SCV water for keeping us hydrated and happy.

For history buffs, there were activities around the Walker Cabin and Frank Walker's 1935 Ford truck was brought in and parked nearby. All activities were free to the public. There were food trucks, and many families brought a picnic lunch and relaxed along the flowing creek. We raffled off two beautiful Fender guitars and the proceeds went to maintaining the programs of the Nature Center. The weather was perfect and community spirits were high!

Special thanks to all the organizations, clubs, county staff and docents who made this day so very special!



Fall Schedule

Books and Hikes: 4th Sunday of the month from 9AM to 10:30AM. Please register at booksandhikes@placerita.org

Bird Walks: 1st Saturday of every month with Rosemarie Regis. 2nd Saturday of every month with Ken Yasukawa. For all levels of birders, from 8AM to 10AM. 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 9AM 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: Downhill Sliders is on the 2nd Monday of the month. Program for docents and friends. Docents, please check your Trails and Nuggets for the latest information.

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. To register, go to Nature_tots@placerita.org

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

Native Plant Renewal and Restoration: Every Thursday at 9AM, led by Robert Grzesiak. Bring garden gloves and water.

Upcoming Events for Docents

Saturday, September 14: Annual Recognition and General Meeting at Eaton Canyon Nature Center at 10AM.

Tuesday, September 17: Fall Kick off and presentation of the Bob Moss and Paul Levine cups, 9AM.

Wednesday, October 23: St. Francis Dam tour with Dan Kott.

Thursday, November 21: Trip to the Antelope Valley Indian Museum.

