

## Southern California Bluebird Club

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Minutes

Irvine Ranch Water District

**Jim Semelroth** opened the meeting in place of our President, **Bill Wallace** at 9:00 am. There were 42 people present. New members were **Phil & Sara Gustavson** from North Tustin, **Carolyn Vance**, President of the El Dorado Audubon, and **Linda Armbruster**.

**Gillian Martin** introduced the Daisy Girl Scout troop, comprised of 30 young girls and their troop leaders. The girls donated a total of \$100.00 of the money they raised from selling Girl Scout cookies to the club. Gillian awarded each scout a Mr. Edison badge and gave their troop leaders a certificate of appreciation and a wild life tree poster.

A second Girl Scout troop #1175 earned their Silver Award by monitoring nest boxes in Yorba Regional Park. They donated a check for \$100.00 to the club and received a nest box and bluebird patches.

Jean Carter, director of the El Modena Nature Center, gave a presentation, with slides, on the development and care of the Nature Center which began in 1970. Most of the trees and plants are native and use little water. Jean uses the nature center as an educational tool for the El Modena High School students. Jean gives tours to scout troops and other community groups. **Gillian Martin and Susan Bulger** gave Jean a teacher's kit from CCI and a check for \$300.00 for the nature center.

### Gillian's CCI report to SCBC for March 2015

**Jo-Ann, Tina, Beverly and Gillian** held a booth at the **LA Arboretum for the LA Environmental Educators Fair**. The booth was very well received by the 168 visitors. Three kits and several posters were given to nature educators.

Gillian did a 3 hour program at **Pitzer College** for a class of Environmental Studies students. It seemed to be very well received.

Gillian and Star Howard (from Sea and Sage Audubon) attended the **quarterly meeting with OC Parks** to discuss park use issues and other concerns held by various conservation-minded community groups. Stacy Blackwood, the Director of OC Parks said that she and staff had been very pleased at the lack of complaints about the growing number of snags in the parks.

Jo-Ann and Gillian attended **Sea and Sage Audubon's annual dinner** at which time the CCI received a letter of commendation for its efforts for wildlife conservation. Gillian thanked Jo-Ann for her supportive attendance and for talking with visitors who came to see the CCI's table display.

Gillian did a program for about **45 docents at E Dorado Nature Center** in Long Beach. The response and level of interest in the subject exceeded all other others. The lead docent is interested in taking up the issue of snag retention in Long Beach Parks because the former Parks Superintendent Gillian had partnered with has since retired.

Gillian received feedback from a naturalist in LA County that she had used our new kit to provide a training program to **30 docents who work at Malibu Creek Park**.

Gillian is working on organizing a **Urban Forests Cooperative**. Its purpose is to bring together tree contractors, city Park and Recreation Supervisors and bird advocates to discuss the issue of tree trimming during nesting season. The hope is to arrive at a list of best management practices which will meet some of the needs of all parties concerned. Several members of Audubon's Conservation Committee have agreed to participate and to provide input. WCA is enthusiastically working with Gillian on the plan.

---

At a previous meeting, the club voted to donate \$300.00 to the student scholarship fund at California State Fullerton. There were two ways to donate the money, so after a brief discussion, it was decided to designate the money to the Biology Science department for students studying cavity nesting birds. **Jo-Ann Collier** will mail the check today.

**Jo-Ann Collier** announced that **Bill Wallace** and she filed a document with the County Clerk Recorder to add the name, "Cavity Conservation Initiative," as a Fictitious Business Name (FBN) or what used to be referred to as a DBA (Doing business as) to the Southern California Bluebird Club. It is required that our club advertise this additional name in a local newspaper once a week for four weeks, which Jo-Ann has submitted. This will add legitimacy to our club and allow us to receive tax deductible donations written out to CCI or SCBC.

**Jo-Ann Collier** said that **Floyd Sabins**, who builds nest boxes for the club, has submitted an additional request for a charitable donation for our club to his former employer, Chevron Oil. They approved his request and will send an additional check for \$500.00 to our club.

**Jo-Ann Collier** announced that **Bob Keally** purchased solar panels on his home from Verengo Solar. Verengo offers \$750.00 for a Venango customer who recommends their company as a provider. Since Jo-Ann and her husband have solar panels from Verengo, she will receive the check and agreed to sign it over to the club. This offer is good for any member choosing Verengo as a solar panel provider and mentioning Jo-Ann as the referrer. .

**Jo-Ann Collier** read the treasurer's report: CCI received \$1162.55 in donations and sales. The expenses were \$2488.77, leaving a net balance of \$7652.74. SCBC received \$344.00 in donations and sales and had expenses of \$623.41, leaving a net balance of \$2542.15. The club's combined balance is \$10,194.89.

**Susan Bulger** referred members to CAHFS Connection. This organization tests birds that have died for diseases other than West Nile. She recommended contacting them if anyone finds a bird less than 24 hours dead. They charge \$100.00 per bird, however the club would not be willing to cover the cost. **Jim Semelroth** will add their contact information to our web page.

**CAHFS - Davis**  
**University of California**  
**620 West Health Sciences Drive**  
**Davis, CA 95616**  
**Phone: 530-752-8700**  
**Fax: 530-752-6253**  
[cahfsdavis@cahfs.ucdavis.edu](mailto:cahfsdavis@cahfs.ucdavis.edu)

**Jim Semelroth** ended the meeting with trail tails. The bluebirds seem to be nesting early this year with warmer weather. Jim reported one box that had chicks ready to fledge, which would put their first egg at the end of February.

Respectfully submitted, **Jo-Ann Collier**