

Southern California Bluebird Club

April 5, 2014 Minutes

Irvine Ranch Water District

Bob Franz opened the meeting at 9:00 am. There were **34** people present. **Valerie Sinex**, owner of “Wild Birds Unlimited,” in Yorba Linda was present.

Bob Franz was joined by Jo-Ann Coller for a presentation on March 10th for the South Coast Fuchsia Society in Palos Verdes. They gave Bob an honorarium of \$75 and members gave donations for nest boxes and purchased books for a total of \$498.00.

Jim Semelroth and **Sully Reallon**, gave a presentation for the Tree of Life Nursery on March 15 and received a donation of \$104.00.

Jo-Ann Coller did a book signing at Wild Birds Unlimited on March 15th and sold \$60 in books and took in \$113.00 in donations.

Jo-Ann Coller gave the treasurer report: SCBC took in a total of \$826.00 in donations and \$100 in book sales. \$181.43 was reimbursed for nest box supplies and \$120.00 for the cost of caps including the set-up fee. Our current net balance is \$4731.82

Our CCI program took in \$120.00 in donations and spent \$500 in professional services, \$108 for printing, \$434.99 in Teaching materials, and \$129.21 in office supplies. CCI’s net balance is \$4731.82.

Bob Franz invited **Valerie Sinex** to step forward. Bob had the honor of awarding Valerie a plaque from our club to show our appreciation for her generous support of our club through checks totally \$600 for the last few years for Bob’s bluebird presentations at her store in Yorba Linda. Valerie has supported book signings at her store and helped sell club merchandise.

Bob Keeley and Bob Franz read Gillian Martin’s CCI report. Gillian was busy at a presentation at Casper’s Park and could not attend our meeting.

Gillian Martin’s SCBC report on the CCI for March 2014

Gillian has submitted a grant proposal to Edison for a total of \$4,150. This is considered a capacity building grant. Among other items requested, it would allow us the funds to develop a teacher’s loaner kit to expand our reach into schools without increasing the need for more volunteers. The goal is that the kit will be kept at Sea and Sage Audubon and promoted out of their Education Program where other such kits are offered for loan to teachers. Trude Hurd, the Education Director wrote a very supportive letter to be submitted with the grant. There are about 500 applicants for this grant so Gillian is not optimistic that we will be awarded it.

Gillian wants to thank **Susan Bulger** for recommending Edison’s Community Grants as a possible source for the CCI. She also thanks **Bob Franz, Jim Semelroth and Susan Bulger** for editorial input on the text and adds special gratitude to **Jo-Ann Coller** for providing the necessary figures in order for her to create an

organizational budget for the grant proposal. Much credit also goes to Gillian's mentor, Andrew Mackie of the Land Trust of the Upper Arkansas, for helping her with the fiscal component of this proposal.

The partnership with Sea and Sage Audubon is growing and is helping with the expansion of the CCI.

- Gillian is now allowed to provide a short lesson on the importance of snags at every education field trip she leads at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. This helps the CCI meet some of its projected goals for which she is accountable to funders. Since the start of the year Gillian has delivered the lesson to students from 17 schools. This already puts us ahead of meeting our projected goals.
- She also created and donated eight copies of a large laminated photo flip chart for the Outdoor Adventure program at Sea and Sage that will enable every Audubon naturalist to use when they lead tours. The content of the flip chart capitalizes on the Tree Swallow nest boxes that are at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. They offer an ideal rationale to deliver the message of the CCI.
- And for Audubon's youth Summer Camp program, Gillian created a number of student activities and materials for the same purpose.
- Gillian's intern, **Lexy Stanley**, is now participating in the international Tree Swallow research project at Audubon headquarters. She will attend our June club meeting to report on her work with the CCI.
- Gillian is responsible for the taxidermy display at Audubon House and she has recently included a small display on Tree Swallows there emphasizing their need for dead trees.

Gillian attended the Arbor Day Celebration at Casa Romantica in San Clemente and was invited to provide materials for that event.

Bob Franz assisted Gillian in providing snag ecology programs for two classes at Golden Elementary in Placentia. Both teachers were highly complimentary about the program and expressed an interest in promoting it within their school district.

Jennifer Meyer, the journalist from The OC Register, is planning on doing a piece on woodpeckers as a means of educating the readership about the value of dead trees. She interviewed Gillian earlier this week and expects the article to be in the paper in a couple of weeks.

Gillian submitted an article for the on-line newsletter of the California Regional Environmental Educators Community to inform them about the CCI and to ask for support in promoting snags in their work as environmental educators.

Gillian did a program for a small group of the San Clemente Tree Foundation on March 27. They showed strong interest in getting the city educated about the value of dead trees.

Gillian is seeking a volunteer driver who would be willing to be available when needed to deliver or restock CCI materials at locations in Orange County. Interested persons can contact Gillian via email.

Jim Semelroth tallied up the first egg contest for our club nest box monitors. There were five or more members with bluebirds that had eggs laid in March, but **Susan Bulger** took the prize for March 3rd as the first egg of the season. Susan was awarded a club t-shirt.

Bob Franz announced the next NABS National Bluebird conference which will be held in Boise Idaho, June 13th – 15th. Go to their web site for forms and additional information. www.nabbluebirdsociety.org.

Jeanie Tiegs, student from California State University, Fullerton, gave a brief summary of her science project. Several members have loaned Jeanie their bluebird trails for this spring so she can test the nests for the types of material the birds choose to make nests with, such as plastic Easter Grass, fishing line, string, plastic wrappers, etc. Jeanie wants to determine the extent of damage this material has on the birds. She monitors 63 boxes each week. She will give us a report at the end of the season.

Susan Bulger handed out additional envelopes for the “Rubber Ducky” race on April 19th. The grand prize is \$2,500 cash and half of the money donated will be paid to our club.

Bill Wallace reminded the members of “The Green Scene,” at the Fullerton Arboretum on April 12th & 13th. Our club will have a booth and be taking donations and selling books and t-shirts. Set up will be Friday at 2:00 pm on the 11th.

Jo-Ann Coller passed around a sign-up sheet for our booth at the OC Fair July 11th – August 10th. The booth needs a minimum of two people in the booth between the hours of 10:00 am – 8:00 pm on Weekends and from 12:00 noon – 8:00 pm on weekdays. There are two four hour shifts on weekdays and two shifts on weekends: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Guest speaker, **Gordon Outhier** gave a presentation on his Wood Duck trail. Gordon has been interested in Wood Ducks for over twenty years. To date he has fledged over 4,000 ducklings. Gordon has been asked to remove boxes from some parks because they don't like the ducks messing their park ponds. Therefore he has found ideal places along waterways to place his boxes. Gordon has worked with 10 Scouts, earning their Eagle Scout awards by helping build and monitor the duck boxes. He has found a couple surprises in his boxes; one Hooded Merganser and a nesting Northern Saw-whet Owl with four nestlings. Our club gave Gordon an honorarium of \$100 in appreciation for his entertaining and educational presentation.

Bob Franz showed a poster that **Gillian Martin** made for him to incorporate dead and dying trees into his presentations.

Respectfully submitted, **Jo-Ann Coller**