

Southern California Bluebird Club

**August 1, 2015 minutes**

Irvine Ranch Water District

**Bill Wallace** opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. There were 35 people present. New members, **Emily Davis** and her mother from Brea were introduced. **Sherry Miller** introduced Brownie Troup 2581. Their troupe leader, Victoria led thirteen Brownies in the construction of five nest boxes, which they donated to the club. **Bill Wallace** awarded each girl with a bluebird patch.

**Jo-Ann Coller** read the treasurer's report: CCI has received a Honoria of \$250.00, \$60 in sales and \$1280.00 in donations for hiring a mediator for a task force seminar on the trimming and preservation of dead and dying trees for wildlife. She paid the mediator \$1440.00 and a web consultant \$637.50, plus \$146.84 in miscellaneous expenses, leaving a net balance of \$7305.49.

SCBC received an additional \$500.00 from Chevron Oil, thanks to **Floyd Sabin's** volunteer hours making nest boxes for the club. **Jo-Ann Coller** received a referral check from Verango for \$750.00, which she signed over to the club, as promised. **Bob Keally** was the referral and now has solar panels. **Jim Simelroth** also agreed to pass on referral checks to the club from Solar City. If you are considering solar panels, check with Jo-Ann and Jim.

SCBC also received \$502.00 in donations, a \$50 honoraria and \$60 in sales. The net balance for the club is \$4239.05 which makes a combined total of **\$11544.54**.

**Dick Purvis** made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the State and National bluebird clubs. The members agreed. Jo-Ann will send them each a check.

**Gillian's CCI report for June and July 2015**

Gillian was unable to attend this meeting because she is attending a meeting at the Peter and Mary Muth Center in NB about the invasive pests that are affecting local trees.

The Newport Beach bird tragedy was eventually turned into an event in which five rescued birds were released and the public was invited. Following that, a large photo banner of an egret was placed on the entrance to the island. The banner reads 'It takes a community to protect birds.' The names of several supporting groups were listed on the banner. It included the SCBC and the CCI. The City of NB has approved the banner for 30 days. The DA of the City of NB announced that multiple charges have been filed against two employees of Tim Greenleaf Company. We are waiting the outcome of this.

In recent months Gillian has written articles about the value of dead trees for several publications. They have been:

American Birding Association's Conservation and Community  
Bluebird Magazine

Sign Post (CA Park Ranger's Association)

Surf to Sand (the CA Association of golf course superintendents)

In October another piece will be published in The Arborist (International Society of Arboriculture).

The first workshop for tree pruning for wildlife was held at the Fullerton Arboretum on 16 July.

Twenty-five people attended representing Fish and Wildlife, Edison and SDGE, several OC cities, conservation groups, Audubon groups and tree trimming contractors. All considered it a great success. A Steering Committee of seven people was formed and five actions were agreed upon as priorities for the group. Volunteers will be assuming the responsibility for each. The topics of the five action groups are:

- Compile and share natural history and scientific information about birds
- Develop and adopt Best Management Practices
- Develop educated and certification program for professionals
- Develop public education program
- Obtain funding for projects

The next meeting for the task force is estimated to be in three months. Funding will be sought to cover the costs of these meetings and expenses of the various projects.

The cost of the meeting moderator's fee was shared by the CCI, WCA and the SD Urban Forest Council and Sea and Sage Audubon. The CCI spent about \$544 in support of this event. This covered part of the moderator's fee, breakfast and lunch, signs and materials.

Gillian has been working with webmaster, **David Salahi** to create a new website for CCI. The fee agreed upon is \$1,000. The website is expected to be launched by the end of August.

**Bob Franz** encouraged monitors to submit their nest box data to the State, California Bluebird Recovery Program data base at :

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1haZZCx2HM\\_n8zg\\_yKJrMlnAbsLulCRQorvFi1vi3Wil/edit](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1haZZCx2HM_n8zg_yKJrMlnAbsLulCRQorvFi1vi3Wil/edit)

Data Entry Instructions: <http://cbrp.org/EndOfSeasonReport.htm>

Bob also advised monitors to move boxes where grass has been replaced with artificial turf or drought resistant plants. Bluebirds need grass to find bugs to eat.

**Susan Bulger** advised monitors to contact supervisors of parks or golf courses and provide them with information regarding tree trimming and preserving a few dead and dying trees for wildlife.

The meeting was concluded with members sharing stories of their bluebird trails as well as a bird video.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jo-Ann Coller**