

Southern California Bluebird club

December 7, 2013, minutes

Irvine Ranch Water District

Dick Purvis opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. There were 36 people present. New attendees were introduced: Tim and Judd Honadel, Jea Ye Cheng Levine, and Rebecca Knoll attended from the College of the Canyons in Valencia; Susanne Hoffman, Girl Scout Katie Toblesky and her mother, James Ritchey from troop 319 in Huntington Beach who is working on his Eagle project, and father, Jeff Retchey.

In November of 2006 a few people met at It's A Grind coffee shop in Laguna Hills to discuss the possibility of forming a bluebird club. To honor the anniversary of this event the following put on a short skit: **Bob Franz, Dick Purvis, Mike Spohn, Susan Bulger, Tom Croom** (representing **Sully Reallon**), and **Jo-Ann Coller**, (representing **Linda Violet**). **Joan Miller** played an It's a Grind hostess.

Bob Franz gave a short history of our club. Since meeting at It's A Grind, the meetings have been held at various parks, Strawberry Farms golf course, the Corner Bakery Café, and finally at the Irvine Ranch water District. The Huell Howser program brought in many new members, while doing presentations at community gatherings, schools, garden clubs and Wild birds Unlimited, has increased our membership even more. Doing booths at the Fullerton Arboretum, OC Fair, Kiwanis Club, and OC park events has increased the club's funds.

Bob Keally read **Gillian Martin's** report for the Cavity Conservation Initiative program:

Gillian and Sue MacDonald did a snag program for a dozen teens at Santiago Oaks Park Nature Center in Santa Ana this month. The park is maintained in a natural condition and therefore has a significant number of snags. Gillian created and printed 50 copies of a self-guided walk pamphlet for this park to help visitors appreciate the value of the snags in the park.

Gillian spent several hours with the Sr. Environmental Scientist, David Pryor, of Crystal Cove State Park. They drove around Moro Canyon to observe how the land was managed and for Gillian to learn about the snag management policy in CA State Parks. A supply of the CCI educational materials were given to David and his staff. They indicated an interest in making them available to visitors of their nature center and for programming for youth.

David referred **Gillian** to several of his CA State Park colleagues in other counties in order to accomplish the same thing. Gillian has since had a long and positive phone conversation with Ken Keitzer who is David's counterpart in the Inland Empire. **Gillian** also emailed Ken some

educational materials. She hopes to accomplish the same goals with State Park scientists in San Diego County and in the Santa Monica Mountains.

The program for homeschoolers at O'Neill was cancelled due to rain. It is rescheduled for January.

Gillian is currently coordinating her schedule with Orange County Parks to review for snags in each park prior to tree trimming. She is collecting data on snags worthy of retention, including GPS coordinates and discussing management of the trees with the supervising rangers and the regional foremen. West Coast Arborists, the tree contractor for the county, will be keeping a list of all trees managed for wildlife in a separate column on their data sheet. Gillian is scheduled to do a presentation on snags at the foremen's meeting next week. Anyone interested in helping Gillian with this task is invited to contact her.

The magazine, *Watching Backyard Birds*, (a sister publication of *Bird Watcher's Digest*) published Gillian's article titled *The Will of a Dying Tree*.

Jo-Ann Coller gave the treasurer's report: The club spent \$751.68 for additional club t-shirts with collars and our club logo. Our current balance is \$6995.58 in our SCBC funds and \$1639.82 for our CCI program. Jo-Ann passed out copies of our proposed budgets for 2014 for both the club funds and CCI (**see copies following the minutes**). There was some discussion regarding the budgets and then Jim Semelroth moved to accept the budgets as is and Bill Wallace seconded the motion. The members voted unanimously to accept the budgets.

Dick Purvis opened the floor to nominations for our three officers of the club for 2014. **Susan Bulger** nominated **Bob Franz** for President, **Danette Davis** was nominated for Secretary and **Jo-Ann Coller** was nominated for Treasurer. All three were voted in unanimously.

Dick Purvis announced that the Orange County Register is offering free advertising again for non-profit organizations. Members who take the newspaper were encouraged to send in their coupons, designating our club as the non-profit to receive the free advertising. When members receive their coupons they should give them to **Jo-Ann Coller** to collect them.

Bill Wallace gave a short slide show from the NABS 36th annual bluebird conference held in Aiken, South Carolina. There were 150 bluebird enthusiasts that attended the conference, four members from our club: **Dick Purvis, Bill & Inge Wallace & Jo-Ann Coller**.

The meeting was concluded with bluebird stories from the members.

Respectfully submitted, **Jo-Ann Coller**