

## SCBC Minutes

### Irvine Ranch Water District

January 4, 2014

The meeting was opened by Bob Franz 9:05 am. New attendees were introduced. Daniel and Sandra Craven from Alabama had contacted Dick Purvis through the web site. They have bluebirds in their yard and wanted to meet other bluebird lovers in California while they were here for a football game. Ann Marie was introduced by JoAnn Coller as a new monitor at Stone Crest Park. Seth Watkins and his father Peter were introduced by Dick Purvis. Seth is an Eagle Scout and is going to show us a slide show of his project.

**Bob Keally** brought 17 milkweed plants for anyone who wanted one. Milkweed is the one plant the Monarch butterfly will feed on.

**Jim Semelroth**, our web site manager, reported spam report problems and some names that begin with "A" had been dropped from the email list. It was mentioned that the date of our meetings was on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month instead of the 1<sup>st</sup>. He is going to correct these issues. Jim said that the domain is listed with him at a cost of \$21.90. He is going to have in writing where everything is in case he is incapacitated

#### **Treasurer's Report by JoAnn Coller:**

**BUDGET FOR SCBC:** Year End Income for 2013 was \$14,044.29, total expenses \$7,409.92. Net balance for beginning of 2014 is \$6,634.37.

**BUDGET FOR CCI:** Total Year End Income for 2013 was \$5,348.90. Total Expenses for 2013 was \$3,178.88. Net Balance for beginning of 2014 is \$2,170.02

**Seth Watkins**, an Eagle Scout, from Troop 842, presented a slide show of his project. His project was named The Spirit Project. It was named for the American Bald Eagle at the Santa Ana Zoo. His project was to take down the old mesh that surrounded Spirits habitat. It was old and unsafe. With the help from adults, his troop and donors from the Orange County Register and the Ucaring web site he was able to raise \$10,000.00, construct a new enclosure made of stainless steel mesh, and put in a drip line to water the new plants in front of the structure. It was an impressive undertaking and we all were greatly impressed by this young man!

**Gillian Martin**, presented her report for the CCI. Gillian announced that she had received a grant for \$1,000.00 from the Fund for Wild Nature. The Ex Director said they were very impressed with her dynamic and forward-thinking work and look forward to reading all about her successes.

Gillian thanked the club for their generous financial allocation for the CCI for the coming year's budget.

The snag inventory at OC Parks is ongoing. Cooperation from the rangers has been encouraging. Five parks have been done. Most have required two or three visits to complete. To date, Gillian has

identified about 70 trees for retention. The large wilderness parks have not yet been inventoried. A volunteer from Sea and Sage Audubon, Starr Howard, will be helping Gillian with these remaining parks.

Gillian did a training program for two groups of foremen of West Coast Arborists (WCA), the company which has the contract for OC Parks. Susan Bulger helped Gillian with one of those programs. Gillian is providing WCA with information and photos to advertise their participation in the CCI on their website.

Gillian has created a few new handouts. The first is a quick photo guide to help tree trimmers select and manage wildlife trees. It was well received by WCA. The second was created with the help of Susan Bulger. It is designed to help tree trimmers effectively manage trees in the spring in which nest boxes as well as other active nests are present. Club members are encouraged to distribute the latter handout in their regions. Gillian also has a handout to promote a woodpecker program. She shared a customized material she made for Santiago Oaks Nature Preserve which allows their park visitors to go on a self-guided snag walk through their property.

Two bird replica skulls were purchased as additional tools for snag walks and classroom instruction. One is of a Pileated woodpecker and the other of an American Kestrel. Gillian donated the kestrel. These will show students the difference in the bills of the birds and illustrate why woodpeckers are suited to cavity excavation and American Kestrels are not. It will also serve as a basis for discussion about the other unique cranial and anatomical adaptations of woodpeckers.

Gillian announced that her grant request of \$1,000 to the Fund for Wild Nature was awarded. A letter of congratulations came from the Ex Director and said, "We are very pleased to support your dynamic and forward-thinking word and look forward to reading all about your successes." This is a great honor because of the high competition for these grants and would not have been possible without the help of Andrew Mackie. The funds are designated for the school program. Gillian asks members to promote this opportunity with teachers. Flyers are available for doing so.

**Park Passes:** Those that need to purchase Park Passes to monitor their bird houses can get reimbursed by the club.

Now is a good time to start checking your boxes for loss or damage.

**Don Berard** showed the bird boxes that he built. He will bring more next month and offer them at cost.

**Next meeting** is February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

Respectfully submitted by

Danette Davis