

## **Southern California Bluebird Club**

**Minutes of July 2, 2016**

### **Irvine Ranch Water District.**

Bill Wallace opened the meeting at 9:00 am and introduced the new members: **Dawn Ostgard** from Mission Viejo, **Diane Mello** who will be taking over **Steve Perry's** trail, and **Don & Terry Deschenes** from Newport back- bay.

Bob Franz brought the club's archive book to share. It's a collection of newspaper clippings, pictures and events dating back to 2007. Bob copied items from the book to complete four separate folders with information that pertained to **Dick Purvis, Sully Reallon, Susan Bulger, and Jim Semelroth**, then gave them a copy.

**Tomas** and his father, **Seth Dardis** have put up a Facebook page advertising our club and soliciting new monitors. They have received many inquiries and two people came to our meeting as a result of the ad.

**Susan Bulger** has put together a package for new monitors. It is available on our web page.

**Bill Wallace** put together a tool for cutting small branches which includes a saw-tooth blade attached to a PVC fitting that can be inserted into our extension poles.

The CCI provided a booth at Riley Wilderness Park's Bugs and Butterflies Day event. Four hundred visitors came to the booth to learn about the habitat value of dead trees. **Tomas Dardis** and a member of Sea and Sage Audubon helped to cover the booth.

Gillian transported two rescued Acorn Woodpeckers from the Songbird Care and Education Center to the California Wildlife Rescue Center in Calabasas. The birds will be kept there in a portable aviary for a month before release. It is hoped that this period will allow the resident Acorn Woodpeckers to get acquainted with their prospective neighbors, thereby decreasing the chance that the young woodpeckers will be attacked upon release.

Riley Wilderness Park rangers accepted a snag log from Gillian and have installed it upright in the park as means of educating park visitors about the value of snags. One of the CCI's Wildlife Tree signs was installed adjacent to it.

The CCI has received an unusual number of orders for Wildlife Tree signs in the past month. Most of the signs are for individuals out of state.

Gillian showed photos of forest fragmentation in Oregon due to clear cutting for wood production. She distributed a list of wood products and urged members to reduce their use of such products.

**Gillian and Susan Bulger** requested that the SCBC and the CCI jointly contribute to a monetary donation to the favorite charity of photographer, **Peggy Honda**, as a way of acknowledging her

generous contribution of hundreds of photos and videos of birds to benefit the club's education efforts. Members voted on and approved a donation of \$300 split between CCI and SCBC accounts to the German Shepherd Rescue Center. Susan suggested that a book (which she had already selected) could also be given as a personal gift to Peggy. Members voted on and approved this book also. Cost \$20.

**Dick Purvis** has built an additional 40 nest boxes for replacement use for monitors.

**Emily Davis**, a student of Cal State Fullerton did a study on the begging sounds of bluebird chicks in the nest. She presented the study in a power point slide show along with audio. She found the chicks changed the sound and tone of the begging as they developed each week, sounding more like the adults just before fledging.

**Jeannie Tiegs** finished her study, also from Cal State Fullerton. She studied the material bluebirds used to build their nests with. She found the boxes located in parks and cemeteries used more man-made materials such as Easter grass, scraps of cloth, and plastic wrappers more than boxes in rural areas. She found two birds which died from entanglement in Easter grass.

**Susan Bulger** has put together a small library of books pertaining to woodpeckers and bluebirds which she made available to members to borrow and return.

**Susan Bulger** also suggested ways to keep the bluebirds cooler during hot days. She suggested drilling holes in the sides for cross ventilation, keeping the boxes in shade whenever possible, and painting the boxes with light colors. She has also experimented by adding a second roof, separated a quarter inch from the original roof as a heat shield.

The meeting was concluded with trail tails from the members.

Respectfully submitted

**Jo-Ann Coller**