

Southern California Bluebird Club

**November 2, 2013 Minutes**

Irvine Ranch Water District

**Dick Purvis** opened the meeting at 9:10 am. There were 29 people present. New members were introduced: **Randy Franz, son of Bob Franz, Cathy Wolkenhauer, Girl Scouts Kristen Tobelesky and Carly.**

**Bill Wallace** gave a report on the NABS conference held in Aikens South Carolina October 3<sup>rd</sup> to Oct 7<sup>th</sup> of the year. **Bill and his wife, Inga; Dick Purvis, and Jo-Ann Collier** attended. **Bob and Beverly Franz** had to cancel due to health issues. They had field trips to nature preserves on Thursday and speakers on Friday and Saturday.

**Bob Franz** was awarded a plaque for his outstanding Bluebird Conservation efforts over the years, at the conference. **Dick Purvis** received the award for Bob and presented it to Bob at our meeting. Bob was responsible for recruiting Huell Howser into doing a television documentary on our bluebird recovery program.

**Jo-Ann Collier** reported that **Gillian Martin** and she had put together a budget for the club showing this year's expenses and a projection for 2014. Jo-Ann is proposing to set aside \$3000 for the CCI project. Gillian hopes to raise an additional \$4000 in grants and donations. Jo-Ann gave copies to those in attendance and suggested everyone look over the budget and suggest changes, then once we all agree, to put it to a vote of approval at the next meeting. Our current balance in SCBC is \$6926.58 and CCI is \$1814.82.

**Jim Semelroth** took a survey from the members at our October meeting and read the results. It seems most of the members are in favor of keeping our current format and 72% would be in favor of having more guest speakers at our meetings. A copy of the survey is attached to these minutes.

**Susan Bulger** introduced **Jeanne Tiegs**, a High School student who is interested in studying bluebird nests for plastic, Easter grass, and other debris. She needs to study the nests in various locations and become involved in monitoring the boxes for one spring. All of the boxes need to be the same size. Members came up with several suggestions. **Jim Semelroth** took her email and will send it out to our members so Jeanine will have a format to ask her questions and receive suggestions. A few members agreed to allow her to monitor their trails.

**Jim Semelroth, Jo-Ann Collier, Tina Sommers, and Susan McDonald** set up a booth at O'Neal Regional Park for "Acorn Day," October 19<sup>th</sup>. **Gillian Martin** arranged for the booth and planned on giving a presentation, which was cancelled for lack of attendance. There were many children at our booth engaged in the activities we planned for them. We took in \$62 in donations.

**Jo-Ann Collier and Susan McDonald** gave the blanket which **Cheri and Sara Miller** had made showing pictures of the nests at various stages at O'Neal Park, to the Ranger, Diane Wollenberg. Diane said she would hang it in their lecture hall.

**Bob Keeley** read **Gillian Martin's** report for our Cavity Conservation Initiative project in her absence.

**Gillian's October report for SCBC meeting**

Gillian needs help connecting with homeschool programs to promote the snag ecology program. If anyone would like the job of tapping into this network and sending materials to interested homeschool teachers please contact Gillian.

**Jim Semelroth and Gillian** met with rangers at O'Neill Regional Park to make plans to bring snag programs to the park. The first occasion for this will be on November 21 for a group of homeschooler's. The club will have free use of the park's nature center and will also offer a snag walk and craft activity after the presentation.

On 19 October Gillian did a presentation on snag ecology for the annual Orange County Docent Day. About 30 docents were present.

Gillian met with OC Parks senior staff and their new arborist to solidify that snag retention will be part of their goals for the upcoming tree trimming season. This was confirmed. In addition, the arborist will obtain GPS coordinates on snags retained. Gillian also created a partnership promo slide show for OC Parks that she hopes will be used on the OC Parks website.

**Gillian** submitted a grant request for \$1,000 to the Fund for Wild Nature.

**Gillian** delivered more brochures and educational materials to the Turtle Rock Nature Center and while there was consulted about a dead pine that was slated for removal by the City of Irvine. She advocated retaining as much as the pine as possible. It is an ideal candidate and is in a riparian habitat.

**Gillian** contacted CA Audubon to inquire about their interest in supporting the CCI. She received an immediate and positive response. They will be posting information about the CCI on their website for two of their programs and also will post it on Twitter.

**Gillian** visited the Santiago Oak Park Nature Preserve and has arranged to do a snag program for a small group of Hispanic teens that come to the nature center every other week for nature education and to fulfill community service time for academic credit. It will be offered next Thursday Nov 7 from 5-7pm. Gillian hopes to support the teens in developing their own snag program and becoming guides for the center. She also hopes to use the teens to translate some of her materials and a Power Point into Spanish.

The meeting was concluded with bluebird stories from the members.

Respectfully submitted, **Jo-Ann Coller**