

## **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BLUEBIRD CLUB**

**March 5, 2016**

**Bill Wallace** opened the meeting at 9:00 am. There were 43 present. New comers were invited to introduce themselves: Patsy Thayer and her friend Marian Ryan saw an article about SCBC in the paper. Marian is from Cerritos. Cathleen Carpenter is from Newport Heights. Karen Olba is new but has already taken 5 sites with about 30 boxes.

**Bill Wallace** mentioned Green Scene at Fullerton Arboretum (beautiful and unique plants for your garden) on April 16-17<sup>th</sup>. Requested volunteers.

**BILL WALLACE** mentioned the Veggiepalooza (vegetable plants and info) at the Fullerton Arboretum on March 19-20. Hours 9 am to 4 pm. Bring your wagons, carts and totes to carry you plants home.

**Treasurer's Report by Jo-Ann Collier:** SCBC income \$640.00, expenses \$366.06, Net total \$3007.91.  
**CCI** income \$1600.00, expenses \$908.14, Net Total \$6919.14.

### **CCI FEBRUARY REPORT BY GILLIAN MARTIN:**

Gillian did a presentation for about 35 volunteers of the Santa Ana Botanic Gardens.

A program was provided at Santiago Oaks Regional Park by Gillian and Jo-Ann Collier and volunteers from Sea and Sage Audubon and Laguna Hills Audubon.

The Tree Care for Birds and other Wildlife task force met in February. The project's Charter, BMPs and other materials were further polished. Gillian helped write a grant proposal for \$10,000 to the Britton Fund to cover some of the costs of the project in 2017.

Author, Nancy Lawson, who is writing a book on "Humane Gardening" on the east coast, interviewed Gillian by telephone for her chapter on dead wood. Gillian connected photographer, Peggy Honda, with the author so that one of Peggy's Nuttall's Woodpecker photos will be included in the Chapter.

Gillian attended an all day workshop on Tree Failure and Tree Hazards. She found it very informative and made a new contact with a scientist who specializes in fungi in dead trees. Gillian hopes he will be a resource for the CCI.

Gillian has been researching and compiling a spreadsheet on woodpecker tree nest preferences in the hope of this being an important resource for arborists and conservationists when trying to identify and protect woodpecker nests in the USA. Meanwhile Gillian hired a consultant to convert some of the scientific data from metrics to inches and lay this out in a spread sheet.

Sea and Sage Audubon has asked Gillian to help update their owl loaner kit for elementary school teachers. Currently Gillian is converting her slide show for this purpose and will also be providing newly developed activities for the classroom.

Dessi Sieberth asked Gillian to write a recommendation to the Gloria Bannon Prize for youth heroes of conservation.

Gillian is working with professional illustrator, Monica Edwards, to create tree management illustrations for use in her June presentation to arborists at a conference in Portland.

**EAGLE SCOUT PRESENTATION:** Mitchel Rhine built 20 bluebird houses for his project. He got interested in Bluebirds when a man gave a talk to his troop years ago.

**TOMAS DARDIS** is an 8<sup>th</sup> grade member of our club. Last year he had 18 boxes, 15 were active, 93 eggs, and 83 fledglings. This year he has 21 boxes. For his 8<sup>th</sup> grade project he made a story board with pictures and facts. His presentation included fun facts, differences between Jays and bluebirds, importance of snags and information about competitors such as starlings. He donated \$225.00 to the club from selling boxes he made and sold.

**DICK PURVIS** gave a demonstration of how to use the Purvis lifter to get a nesting box out of a tree. He emphasized keeping it perpendicular to the ground. If you don't, the box becomes too heavy to control. Also for safety the ground should be level to ensure you are able to keep your balance.

**Sue Bulger and Jim Semelroth** reminded us to check the hook on the boxes, make sure they are sufficiently bent with an extra curve at the end to help stabilize them on the branch and not get blown off during a wind storm.

**BOB FRANZ, SUE BULGER, AND BEVERLY WHITE** went to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy small film festival. A film about a citizen scientist in Idaho who managed 300 nest boxes was presented and they requested that some from our club would attend. They were invited to talk to anyone that was interested after the showing. Charmon Knotts has volunteered to start training for the Palos Verdes Golf Club. Jana, high school student, agreed to work with Charmon. Charles Meyer had two trails, Palos Verdes Golf Club and Lakewood Country Club. He is unable to monitor them at this time. Sue Bulger is looking for someone to take the Lakewood Trail.

**AMAZON.SMILE.COM** order from Amazon and 5% of your purchases will be donated to the non-profit of your choice (Southern California Bluebird Club).

**GILLIAN MARTIN** presented a power point presentation about "**Woodpeckers Matter**". There are nine woodpecker species in SW California. Four are active in our area and are here all year: Acorn, Downy, Northern Flicker, and Nuttall's Woodpecker. Three come in the winter time: Red-naped and Yellow Bellied Sapsuckers, Lewis's Woodpecker. Woodpeckers are the keystone species in North America. Woodpeckers create cavities for those that can't make their own. Forty-five species of birds use those cavities. They help to keep down pests. A Northern Flicker will eat 3 – 4,000 insects a day. They help Oak regeneration, help spread fungal spores which help the tree decay and then add nutrients to other trees. Safer helmets have been improved due to the research on Woodpeckers and their ability to create cavities without hurting themselves.

Respectfully Submitted by

Danette Davis