

SCBC MEETING NOTES

February 7, 2015

Bill Wallace, President, opened the meeting. He requested that we check the spread sheet of the trails in Orange County to verify that it is correct. Bill also requested that we check our boxes because of the winds that we have had recently. Make sure they are not over walkways or over cars. He called for introductions of newcomers. **Annette Collins** has a trail in Hancock Park in Orange. **Claire Kropko** from Irvine wanted to find out how she could get bluebirds in her yard. **Steve and LeAnn Marcy** came from Whittier. Steve is doing his Senior Project on the Bluebird Club. He is a student at La Serna High School. Tomas and his father **Seth Darvis** have 9 boxes and wanted to find out more about bluebirds. **Mark Newport** is taking over a trail in Diamond.

JoAnn Collier's Treasurer Report for SCBC and CCI

SCBC: Income: \$77.00 Expenses: \$208.64 Net Income: \$2998.98
CCI: Income: \$810.00 Expenses: \$1448.59 Net Income: \$8,030.21

Sunday School Presentation

Jim Semelroth, Gillian Martin, Bob Hodgins and Joan Miller presented last Sunday to the Travesty Church Sunday School group. They had three stations. Jillian had the Taxidermy table with an owl, a wood duck, and a woodpecker. There was an art table with puzzle and games and a table for nest boxes and a variety of nests. They plan to go back in April and meet in O'Neil Park. The children will read "A Logs Life" at a later time.

El Modena High School Nature Center (Orange Unified School District)

Sue Bolger told us about a bird that died after hitting her window. She believes it was a Ruby Crowned Kinglet. She donated it to the Nature Center. When they have the funds they will have it stuffed. The center is built on El Modena High School site. It has about an acre of land with a pond and 200' stream. It has several designated areas such as a cactus garden, a Japanese garden, and a native species area. The students from the high school lead younger students from area schools on tours and help them fill out their paperwork. Because of their work in educating students about water conservation and the environment Susan wanted to inquire whether the club would donate something to help them. Bob Franz suggested \$500.00, **Gillian Martin** seconded it. It was decided to add a t-shirt and a CCI classroom Kit. Jeanne Carter, the director, will be invited to tell us more about the center and receive the gifts at a later date. The public is invited to tour on the first Saturday of April, May, June, September, October, and November from 9 – 12. Most Saturday's volunteers do maintenance and the public is welcome.

Gillian Martin's CCI report for January 2015

Gillian attended a meeting with 4 docents at Eaton Canyon Nature Center in Pasadena to share with them the teacher's loaner kit. They have decided to reproduce it, adding it to their many other nature kits for loan.

At a later date Gillian also provided a program on dead trees for all 28 naturalists for Eaton Canyon Nature Center. The kit was left with the naturalists who used it that evening at a school science event. They estimated 400 adults and 600 students to have learned something from seeing and using the kit.

Letters promoting the Wildlife Tree City designation went out to the Arbor Foundation but no response has been received. It was also sent to 17 Orange County cities that already have a Tree City designation and to six others that do not. Thus far three responses have been received. Gillian is seeking someone to find a venue for the club for Arbor Day so that the Wildlife Tree City program can be promoted.

A meeting with chief arborist at WCA headquarters has been set at their request. They have expressed an interest in supporting the Wildlife Tree City program.

Gillian invited club members to view the new interpretive teaching tools she has created for kids. Jo-Ann was complimented for contributing her wonderful art work for these tools.

We now have a customized shipping label for use on our poster tubes and large envelopes.

A hands-on program was provided for 18 youngsters at Tapestry Church in Mission Viejo. **Gillian, Jim Semelroth, Bob Hodgin and Joan Miller** provided this event.

Gillian reported a conversation with her Edison contact person in which she shared the many ways that Mr. Edison is being incorporated into the program. Photos as well as the song were reported as sent up the chain of command.

Retaining dead trees in LNRP proved challenging this year due to the reluctance of Sr. Supervising Ranger. However, due to persistent diplomacy, Gillian was able to persuade him to allow six trees to remain. Gillian not only wrote a letter of thanks to the ranger and his staff but sent a letter of commendation to the ranger's supervisors. Gillian also requested that the Conservation Committee of Sea and Sage Audubon send him a letter of praise as well because this ranger has been criticized by birders in the past for his land management practices. And finally, to shore up support for OC Parks, Gillian has submitted a short piece for Audubon's newsletter, *The Tattler*, asking birders to praise park staff for retaining dead trees.

One hundred 1 GB flash drives were ordered in order to electronically deliver the materials for the condensed teacher's kit. The flash drive will be customized and have Mr. Edison's

embroidered patch image on one side and the CCI web address on the other. Gillian is hopeful that the Edison Company will cover the cost of this purchase.

New CCI T shirts are available for kids and adults. This and other items for sale will become a Store page on the CCI website which is still in progress.

Gillian has submitted a request to Kimball Garret, the curator of the LA Museum of Natural History that Club members be allowed to tour the back rooms of the museum to see the preparation of bird skins and to view the skins of some cavity nesting birds.

A \$1,000 Grant from from Fund for Wild Nature was awarded. Gillian gave the check to Jo-ann for deposit.

Gillian seeks volunteer help for Caspers Park April 11 event.

Gillian Martin is to receive a letter of commendation at Sea & Sage's annual awards dinner for her work with CCI. It will be March 20th, \$45.00 per person and the public is welcome.

Bill Wallace had several suggestions for suggested activities that we could do on Saturdays that we are not meeting:

1. LA History Museum back room to see preparation of the dead birds
2. Fullerton Arboretum tour of gardens
3. Tucker Wildlife tour
4. Bolsa Chica wetlands
5. The Coves, Santa Ana River
6. Prader Dam

Respectfully submitted by **Danette Davis**