

The Southern California Bluebird Club
Minutes December 6, 2014
Irvine Ranch Water District

Bill Wallace, as our new President and Chairman, opened the meeting at 9:00 am. New members were introduced; **Raul Renteria**, a new monitor, **Steve Osaki** and his daughter, **Maddi**, also new monitors and **Kate**.

Jo-Ann Collier read the Treasurer's report: Our CCI program took in \$120.00 in donations and spent \$1089.32 for printing and professional Development. The net balance is \$2375.90. SCBC received a second check from Chevron Oil for \$500.00, thanks to the volunteer hours building nest boxes that **Floyd Sabins** has put in. **Bob Franz** did a presentation to The Diggers garden club and took in \$155.00 in donations. The Native Plant Sale at the Fullerton Arboretum on November 15th and 16th took in \$310.00. There was a charge of \$4.59 for credit card interest. The net balance is \$8336.19. The combined net balance is \$10712.09.

Jim Semelroth added a "Buy Now" button to access PayPal from both our web sites. He will send out a letter to our club list to seek donations and purchases. Jim also suggested we donate money to a scholarship fund for students who are interested in conducting a nature study. There was some discussion but no decision as to how we would do this.

CCI program report by Gillian Martin:

Gillian Martin did a program for a 4th grade class at the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Bellflower and one for a garden club in Dana Point.

Contact was made with OC Parks to discuss their tree trimming schedule for the fall. Gillian subsequently met with the lead arborist of the County's tree contractor. A plan was agreed upon to allow her an opportunity to review trees slated for trimming. There was also extensive discussion on the growing infestation of the Shot Hole Borer which is present in several OC Parks.

A letter was written to the Mayor of Fullerton to request an opportunity to do a presentation on the management of dead trees but has not received a reply.

Gillian birded with a number of Pasadena Audubon members and youngsters at the Santa Fe Dam. This was arranged so she could meet two young men who might be interested in a snag project at Whittier Narrows. The outcome of this contact is not yet known.

An article was written on the value of dead trees for Eaton Canyon's newsletter.

Pasadena Audubon is attempting to facilitate a meeting with lead naturalists at Deb's Park in Los Angeles with the hope of getting them to adopt the goals of the CCI.

Several more wildlife tree posters have been donated or sold. **Jim Semelroth** added a donate button to the CCI website and will soon add a buy now button to allow people to easily obtain our merchandise for donations.

The poster has been made in to a wooden puzzle that can be used to engage kids at public events when the club has a booth.

Gillian announced that she is seeking a new intern for 2015.

A design for a t-shirt is in process.

American Birding Association will list the CCI as one of their Conservation Milestone programs for 2015

Jo-Ann Coller moved to transfer an additional \$5000.00 to the CCI program to cover the expenses for this worthwhile program. **Jim Semelroth** and others seconded the motion and the vote was passed.

Bill Wallace reported on the success of the Native Plant Sale and proposed we reserve another booth at the Green Scene again April 18th & 19th. The booth cost is \$145.00. The club agreed to do this event again. **Jo-Ann** Coller will send a check and form to the Fullerton Arboretum.

Sheri Miller was disturbed by the removal of 10 trees at Rancho Santa Margarita, which included one of her nest boxes she was monitoring. She wrote a letter and sent it to all of the cities in Orange County advising them to be aware of our nest boxes and call one of our contacts if a removal is necessary. She also included tree-trimming guides from our CCI program. Sheri has received 25 responses out of 66 letters sent, most of them positive.

Bill Wallace reminded monitors to pass on our year end nesting totals to the places we monitor our nest boxes. This is a way of giving them some positive feed-back on our monitoring efforts.

Dick Purvis brought a nest box to show the members which is made from boards 5 ½" wide. He demonstrated how to build the box so it still has a 5" bottom.

Bill Wallace and Gillian Martin have designed a new vinyl banner that has both the SCBC Logo and the CCI logo and no longer reads, "Bluebird Recovery". Since **Sully Realon** also needs a replacement banner, it was decided to purchase three banners for \$50 each.

Jim Semelroth reminded the members to submit bluebird trail tales for the next January issue of the club newsletter.

Next meeting, January 3, 2015

Respectfully submitted, **Jo-Ann Coller**