



# PAW PRINTS

Volume 40, Number 4 Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates April 2022

## PUBLIC CALENDAR

### Eaton Canyon Gardening Group

Every Wednesday at 9:30 am and second Sundays of the month at 10 am.

#### Current volunteers only.

Meet by Nature Center garage door.

### Nature Tails Story Hour

Every Saturday at 10:30 am. on the Outdoor Patio. Stories and activities for children.

### Saturday Nature Center Discovery

Saturday mornings on the Outdoor Patio.  
Animal Ambassadors: 10 am and 12 pm.  
Nature Discovery Tables: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

### Docent-Led Family Nature Walks

Every Saturday at 9 am. Meet in front of the Nature Center. No dogs please.

**The following events and meetings cannot take place at the nature center due to precautions in response to COVID-19.**

### Calif. Native Plant Society Plant Walk

Plant walks are held on the second Sunday of each month except July and August at 9 am. Meet in the back patio.

### Audubon Bird Walk

Third Sunday of the month, 8 am. Meet leader Hill Penfold in front of the Nature Center.

### Meetings:

#### Pasadena Group Sierra Club

Monthly meetings via Zoom are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Check their website for information: [www.sierraclub.org/angeles/pasadena](http://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/pasadena)

#### Audubon Society

Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm. Check their website for more information: [www.pasadenaaudubon.org](http://www.pasadenaaudubon.org)

### Calif. Native Plant Society

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm via Zoom. Check their website for more information: <https://www.cnps-sgm.org/activities.php>

## Coyote Howls

From *Nature Notes*, Volume 15, Number 1, Winter 2015,  
Pajarito Environmental Education Center  
Permission to use from Katherine Bruell, Executive Director

The coyote is one of the few wild animals whose vocalizations are commonly heard. At night coyotes both howl (a high quavering cry) and emit a series of short, high-pitched yips.



Howls are used to keep in touch with other coyotes in the area. After hearing a family group of coyotes howl, it is easy to get the impression that the woods must be overflowing with coyotes. In reality there are probably five or six animals present (i.e., two adults and young of the year).

Types of coyote vocalizations include the following:

**Howling** – communications with others in the area. Also, an announcement that "I am here and this is my area. Other males are invited to stay away but females are welcome to follow the sound of my voice. Please answer and let me know where you are so we don't have any unwanted conflicts."

**Yelping** – a celebration or criticism within a small group of coyotes. Often heard during play among pups or young animals.

**Barking** – The scientific name for coyotes, "*canis latrans*," means "barking dog." The bark is thought to be a threat display when a coyote is protecting a den or a kill.

**Huffing** – usually used for calling pups without making a great deal of noise.

Long-range vocalizations change form, pitch, and pattern to communicate meanings.

**Challenge howls** – territorial howls, territorial warning howls, laughing and whooping noises for intimidation

**Howls indicating danger** – directional short barks and crying to identify or point out danger or a territory intruder.

**Howls indicating loneliness.**

**Locator howls** – chants that celebrate reuniting with other pack members, chants celebrating a pack kill, mating howls (to attract or compete for a mate).

**Territorial barks** – barks in combination with throat ululations for scolding another coyote (less violent form of territorial communication), yelping to signify submission, yelps to signify distress, yips to taunt.

A few coyotes make a tremendous amount of noise (when they want to). Sometimes, when it is first heard, the listener may experience a tingling fear of primitive danger, but to the seasoned outdoor person the howl of the coyote is truly a song of the west.





**Paw Prints** is a monthly publication of the ECNCA. Articles and photographs are welcome on topics related to natural history and Nature Center activities. If you see something interesting in the canyon, please share it with us! The deadline for submissions to the May 2022 issue is April 15, 2022. Send submissions to Brenda Hurst [eatonmember@gmail.com](mailto:eatonmember@gmail.com).

**Contributors:** Heidi Friedrichs, Brenda Hurst

### **Paw Prints Production**

Content Editor: Brenda Hurst  
Layout: Carole Scurlock  
Copy Editor: Laura Joseph

### **DOCENT AND MEMBER CALENDAR**

#### **Bag Lunch and Mini-Inservice**

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at Noon.  
Diane Lang will present:

#### **"It's Time for Docent Jeopardy!"**

Let's get together, have some fun and review our nature facts. Teams will work together with prizes for all. Location: Weather permitting, we'll be outside at the picnic benches under the oak trees. Layer up if you need to. **Note:** The Bag Lunch will be in person only.

**Notice:** The following events and meetings temporarily cannot take place at the nature center due to precautions required in response to COVID-19.

#### **Guided School Tours**

School tours are conducted from October to the end of the school season. Call the office for reservations. 626-398-5420

#### **ECNCA Board Meetings**

The ECNCA board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm via Zoom. If you are interested in joining a meeting, please send an email to [eatonmember@gmail.com](mailto:eatonmember@gmail.com), at least 2 days prior to the meeting.

## Heidi Friedrichs' Journal

By Brenda Hurst



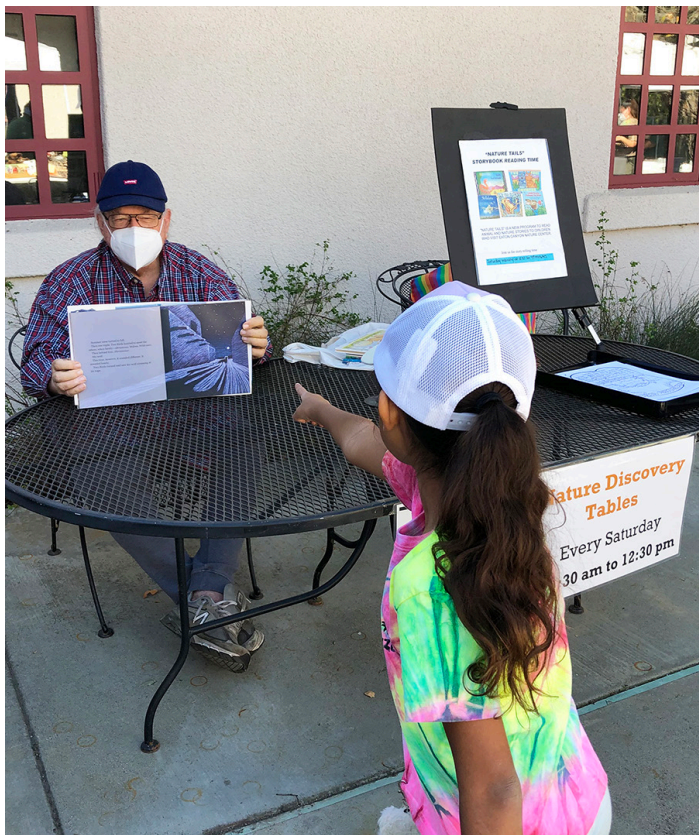
Heidi Friedrichs graduated from the ECNCA Docent Training Class at Eaton Canyon in 2014. She is still here volunteering. She has been most active, before the pandemic, with outreaches and docent led walks for children and adults, and she is one of the first to start leading Saturday Morning Family Nature Walks again as the COVID threat has waned a bit.

During one of these walks the other day, she was carrying a small journal with her. She allowed me to look through it. It starts with notes from her docent class that have since been embellished with delightful little paintings. She said she was inspired to keep up with her journaling

because of another class she had taken here at Eaton, "Nature Journaling with Annabelle Aylmer." She gave me permission to share some of these lovely images with you. Enjoy!







ECNCA volunteer, Dave Harrod, reads "Whispers of the Wolf" by Pauline Ts'o at a Saturday Nature Tails Story Hour to an enthusiastic listener.  
Photo: Breanda Hurst

## At Last! Docent Training for Spring 2022

We're back at it! After a hiatus of two years, we are able to offer a training class for new docents. And with changes: classes will be two mornings a week, Wednesday and Friday from 9 – 12 am instead of one evening. That schedule, from May 4 to June 17, enables us to finish by summer. Please join us if you'd like to learn more about local flora, fauna, geology, and history, and share that knowledge, and an enthusiasm about nature, with others. Docents and other volunteers can choose from a variety of tasks, from gardening to greeting visitors at the front desk, and we would especially love to have more docents to do tours with school classes. For more information, contact Diane Lang at [diane@langs.cc](mailto:diane@langs.cc)

If you are not available for weekday classes but would still like to learn about nature and volunteering on weekends, we have a way! Again, contact Diane Lang, [diane@langs.cc](mailto:diane@langs.cc).

## Plant of the Month

**Palmer's Indian Mallow** (aka Palmer's Abutilon)

**Botanical Name:** *Abutilon palmeri*

**Family:** Malvaceae (hibiscus, mallow)

**Blooms:** Spring, Summer, Fall

**Lifeform:** Perennial herb

**Habitat:** Creosote Bush Scrub

Palmer's Indian Mallow, is a native of California and can be found primarily growing in dry eastern slopes and canyons of the Peninsular Range, within the desert transition areas of the chaparral and creosote bush scrub of the Western Sonora Desert, and in San Bernardino County, in the low foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains.

This tough and easy to grow medium sized shrub is covered with soft, velvety grey-green leaves. It will display a profuse amount of pretty flowers that can be apricot, orange, or yellow in color, with a dark calyx. They are cup-shaped with 5 petals, and are about 1" in size. It produces a small fruit which is covered with silky fine hair similar to the foliage. The slender red-brown branches and stems are also hairy.

This sun loving plant is great for a drought-tolerant, desert, or butterfly garden. It will attract the White Checkered-Skipper and Mallow Scrub-Hairstreak butterflies, along with moths, bees, and hummingbirds. For best results, plant in a rocky or sandy well-draining soil. It will tolerate occasional light summer watering. It can be deadheaded if a tidier appearance is desired or tip pruned to encourage a more compact growth and flowering.

This mallow can be seen growing in the patio tortoise enclosures at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center as well as out front by the building, near the flag pole.

For further reading, look up Malvaceae, and discover how this mallow is related to marshmallow and hibiscus.

Brenda Hurst



*It's with sadness that we announce the passing of long-time  
EC Docent-Naturalist, Eva Morgan on March 12, 2022.*

*During her years at EC, Eva led scores of school tours and CNPS plant walks,  
focusing on the anatomy of our local flora and specifically  
the catkins of our Coast Live Oaks. Eva also helped mentor newer docents.  
I have many memories of traipsing up and down  
the poison oak-covered hills with her, knapsacks on our backs!  
Having been a career botanist with Cal State Los Angeles,  
Eaton Canyon was the perfect place to enjoy her retirement.*

*Eva's family would like to invite you to her memorial  
at Eaton Canyon's Auditorium  
Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm*



## ECNCA BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Brenda Hurst

**Vice-President:** Mary Foltyn

**Recording Secretary:** Marge Mayotte-Hirn

**Corresponding Secretary:** Mary Veselich

**Treasurer:** Terry Ginsberg

**Membership Chair:** Brenda Hurst

**School Trip Docent Chair:** David Kristoff

**Weekend Docent Chair:** Ramie Case

**Twilight Program Chair:** Mike Regan

**Bus Grants Committee Chair:** Marge Mayotte-Hirn

**Gardening Group Chair:** Marilyn Hildebrandt

**Conservation Group Chair:**

**Gift Shop Chairs:** Pam Edwards, Karen Mateer

**Bag Lunch Chair:** Mary Foltyn

**Moonlight Hike Co-chairs:** Ramie Case, Teresa Kirkland

**Members-at-Large:** Judy Jenkins, Rose Haig, Susan Hopkins

**Nature Center Director:** Helen Wong

**NCA President:** Laura Nicholson

**NCA Representatives:** Diane Lang

Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates (ECNCA) is a chapter of the Nature Center Associates (NCA), a non-profit support group of the natural area park system of Los Angeles County. Founded for educational and scientific purposes, its primary mission is to develop in children and adults an appreciation of the natural world and to preserve Eaton Canyon as a natural area for future generations.

The Eaton Canyon Nature Center and Natural Area Park are located within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County in the Supervisorial district of Kathryn Barger. The Natural Area and Nature Center are operated by the County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates.

## Become A Member of the ECNCA (Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates)

Membership benefits include the ECNCA newsletter, program announcements and a 10% discount at the gift shop. To join the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates, fill out the form below and mail with your check, payable to the ECNCA, 1750 North Altadena Drive, Pasadena, CA 91107.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please check appropriate box and mark return envelope "Membership"

☐ Individual \$30 ☐ Family \$45 ☐ Senior \$15 ☐ Senior Family \$30 ☐ Student \$15

☐ Friend of the Canyon \$75 ☐ Sage Saver \$100 ☐ Chaparral Contributor \$250 ☐ Riparian Guardian \$500

☐ Oak Woodlands Protector \$750 ☐ Wildlands Angel \$1000 ☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

Enclosed is my MEMBERSHIP in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my additional DONATION in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the ECNCA. All contributions are tax deductible.