



PAW PRINTS

Volume 40, Number 8-9 Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates Aug/Sep 2022

PUBLIC CALENDAR

Docent-Led Family Nature Walk

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

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

Nature Knowledge Nights

Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday Drop in
At Patio or Lobby 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

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.

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

Audubon Bird Walk

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

California 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.

Meetings:

Audubon Society Meeting

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

California Native Plant Society Meeting

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>

Pasadena Group Sierra Club Meeting

Monthly program meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. Check their website for more information:
www.sierraclub.org/angeles/pasadena

Plant of the Month

California brickellbush

Botanical Name: *Brickellia californica*

Family: Asteraceae (Sunflower family)

Blooms: August - November

Lifeform: Perennial herb

Habitat: Coastal sage scrub, chaparral, foothill woodlands

California brickellbush is native to California and western North America growing in dry areas and on slopes in many habitats. The genus *Brickellia* is named for Dr. John Brickell (1749-1809), early naturalist and physician of Georgia who came to the U.S. in 1770 from Ireland (hence the double-L in the name). It grows 3-6 feet tall with small hairy grey-green leaves that are heart-shaped with serrated edges. The flowers grow in small clusters of flower heads along the branches and



Brickellia californica

Photo: Ana Figueroa

are a pale creamy yellow or reddish color. It has an elongated flower head with only ray flowers, no disk flowers. While it is a rather nondescript looking plant, it is one of our best smelling natives when its fragrant flowers are in bloom. This plant increases its odds of pollination by having flowers open both day and night. Butterflies and bees find it by day and moths are attracted to it in the evening, perhaps by its strong scent. California brickellbush flowers provide nectar for these pollinators through late summer and into autumn, which allows these insects to live in our area all year around. It is worth having in the garden for the amazing fragrance of its flowers and for its importance to insects as a food source. It is best planted in an unnoticed dry area, but where you can appreciate its evening fragrance. It is very drought tolerant after it is established, but may grow into a much larger plant if given supplemental water. California brickellbush can be found in the Eaton Canyon garden, on the patio, and south of the dry stream bridge sidewalk to the Nature Center. Wild plants grow in many locations, look for some near the main stream crossing in spots along the slope.

Dr. Seuss, in his storybook, "What was I Scared of", includes this brickellbush stanza! "*I ran and found a Brickell bush, I hid myself away, I got bricks in my britches, but I stayed there anyway.*" Since he lived many years in La Jolla, CA, maybe he was familiar with the shrub?

Marilynn Hildebrandt

SAVE THE DATE

2022 NCA Annual Meeting & Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

Saturday, September 10, 2022

Outside at Eaton Canyon Nature Center

9:30 am: Reception (coffee & pastries)

10 am -12 noon: Meeting

12 noon: Light lunch



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 October 2022 issue is September 15, 2022. Send submissions to Brenda Hurst eatonmember@gmail.com.

Contributors: Carvel Bass, Ana Figueroa, Marilyn Hildebrandt, Brenda Hurst, Helen Wong

Paw Prints Production

Content Editor: Brenda Hurst
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Copy Editor: Laura Joseph

DOCENT AND MEMBER CALENDAR

Bag Lunch and Mini-Inservice

Bag Lunch Mini-Inservice will be on hiatus for July, August and September. Bag Lunches will resume in October.

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, at least 2 days prior to the meeting.



2022 Annual ECNCA Membership Meeting and Elections and "A Day in Nature: Wildlife in an Urban Interface"

By Brenda Hurst

On June 25th, the ECNCA held its Annual 2022 ECNCA Membership Meeting and Elections at Eaton Canyon. Diane Marcussen was elected as our new Vice President, Terry Ginsberg will continue on as our Treasurer, and Mary Veselich will continue as our Corresponding Secretary. Congratulations to them!



L to R: Diane Marcussen, Mary Veselich and Terry Ginsberg

The meeting was held in conjunction with the wonderful Eaton Canyon Nature Center's event, "A Day in Nature," which was held on the same day at the Center. Participants included children's book authors (Diane Lang, Natalya Eastepp, and Dilek Mir), Dana Stangel of Teranga Ranch (Coyotes!), Kim Bosell (Bears!), The Pasadena Audubon Society, Insert Music Here, The California Native Plant Society (CNPS), The Southwestern Herpetologists Society (SWHS), Beekeepers Association of Southern California (BASC), Los Angeles County Beekeepers Association (LACBA), Sierra Club (Pasadena & Forest Committee), The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks & Recreation Natural Areas, and the ECNCA! What a beautiful day in the canyon for families to visit and learn from and about all these fascinating participants.





Moonlight Walks are Back!

By Ramie Case

On Friday, July 15th we had our first Moonlight Walk in two years! The moon came up later than our walk but it was a lovely evening. Fourteen people attended the walk. Most of the attendees were volunteers and docents, so it gave everyone a chance to refresh their evening walk skills. We saw bats (that's what everyone is pointing at in the picture!) and heard Great Horned Owls. And Ramie's right elbow in particular spent a lot of time with the mosquitos! It was so good to see everyone!!

Our next walk, and the only remaining Moonlight Walk of the season, will be Friday, August 12th at 7:00 p.m. We hope you'll join us!

We ask a \$2.00 per person donation but if you wear an Eaton Canyon T-shirt or hat, or if you are an ECNCA member, the walk is free! Groups of 10 or more must make advance reservations with the Nature Center. Masks are not currently required but this may be subject to change. Wear sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots, bring water and dress appropriately for the weather. No dogs are allowed on the walk (except service dogs). Walks will be canceled without prior notice due to rain or adverse canyon conditions. People cannot be in the park after the park closes (park closes at 7:30 p.m.) unless they are with an official canyon program. We hope to see you under the moonlight in August!





July Moonlight Hike participants. Photo: Helen Wong

ECNCA BOARD MEMBERS

President: Brenda Hurst

Vice-President: Diane Marcussen

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:

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 Representative: Terry Ginsberg

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.