



PAW PRINTS

Volume 40, Number 2 Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates February 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

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

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>

This issue of Paw Prints is dedicated to the memory of Pat Fairfield.

Patricia Yoshiko Fairfield, ECNCA volunteer for 35 years, passed away on November 17, 2021 at the age of 97.



Pat receiving award for earning 10,000 hours of volunteer service.

Pat Fairfield—Recollections

Pat Fairfield was a special person. One of the very best you meet in life.

She was always doing more but she did it quietly. Her diverse talents ranged from sewing a cloth book cover on an important old library book to preparing the Goody Bags containing items of use for leading trips for all new docent graduates. Compliments were heaped on her but she just moved on to the next chore. One of the chores she assigned herself was bringing in cakes, cookies or some other edibles to share with all, every time she came into the office.

Pat's volunteer work in the Gift Shop goes back to long before the Center fire of 1993, and she went on to manage the store for many years after. As a registered nurse retired from several important jobs, staff could count on her when someone needed quick medical attention. I always felt good about Pat being on duty when a park patron or volunteer took a tumble or came in with any medical need.

She arrived as a Docent-Trainee and volunteered so well she was eventually hired as a part-time staff member. I sometimes told other staff or volunteers that if a UFO filled with space aliens ever lands in front of me and asks to see the best example of a human being, I would show them Pat.

Finally, when I would occasionally mention to nurse Pat that I was feeling like I was coming down with a cold, her quick reply was "try a little shot of whiskey." Pat was the kind of medicine that made people feel better. She is missed terribly. *Mickey Long*

Pat Fairfield Memory

Here is one of my favorite photos of Pat (right). She was demonstrating the Folkman Puppets she ordered for the gift shop. She was so good at finding worthwhile items for the shop! Not only purchasing good quality, but also things that had value for teaching about nature, or useful items like the magnifying boxes. Pat was also the inventor of our rock cards (see page 2). She would take her pick ax and chop off the rocks herself. Pat was a school trip docent, and shared her knowledge with others. Pat was always pleasant to be around, and was one of my good friends on and off the Nature Center. *Cynthia Null*



Pat demonstrating a puppet, 1995.

Memories of Pat continued on page 3



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 March 2022 issue is February 15, 2022. Send submissions to Brenda Hurst eatonmember@gmail.com.

Contributors: Brenda Hurst, Mickey Long, Cynthia Null

Paw Prints Production

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

DOCENT AND MEMBER CALENDAR

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

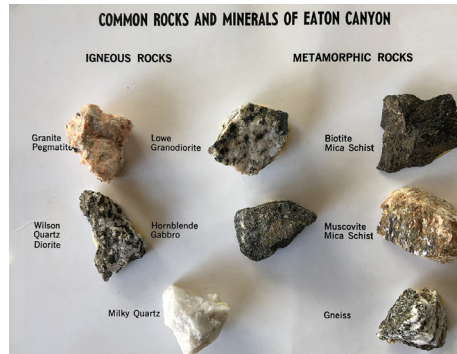
Bag Lunch and Mini-Inservice

Wednesday, February 2, 2022 on Zoom. **Enrique Villasenor** will speak on the Prickly Pear Cactus:

"Opuntia: A Medicinal Cultural and Historical Perspective." Note: The link for the Zoom meeting will be forwarded by email to docents and volunteers. Click on the link a few minutes before noon and follow directions. RSVPs required.

ECNCA Board Meetings

The ECNCA board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m 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.



Rock sample card



Pat Fairfield, left, and Diane Speakman surveying the fire damage at Eaton Canyon in 1993.



Rebuilt Nature Center planning



Docent Inservice, 1997

More memories of Pat

Pat was one of a kind. We were lucky to have had her for so long. *Judy Bass*

She will be missed! *Pam Thomas*

Such a wonderful person. *Madeline Schleimer*

She lived 97 years. Her mind was probably sharp to the end. Although I couldn't wish her a happy birthday in person this year for the first time because of COVID, I was able to leave a hand-written birthday wish for her at the front desk where she was living. She was a wonderful lady. *Chuck Haznedl*

I remember her with fondness and great respect and appreciation. She was such an admirable volunteer and a huge example to follow! *Teresa Jover*

Pat was running the gift shop when I started volunteering 27 years ago. She was the person who ensured that every person graduating from Docent Training received a special goodie bag. Pat became our very first person and only person to date to have volunteered 10,000 hours! She was an amazing gracious fun lady with a lovely smile. She will be missed. *Ramie Case*

I too volunteered in the gift shop with Pat. She has left a wonderful legacy at Eaton Canyon, with all the people she inspired to be of service there and to love the canyon. *Elizabeth Pomeroy*

My memory of Pat was that I would go in and talk to her in the gift shop every Wednesday morning when I arrived for gardening with the gardening group. I also always gave her a report on a Western Redbud that we had just planted in memory of a friend of hers (Nancy Fraser) and also a past volunteer at Eaton. Pat was always pleased to know it was doing well. I'm thinking of going over there today to see how it is. *Brenda Hurst*

Quotes from Staff Past and Current

Where do I begin when it comes to "sentiments" regarding Pat Fairfield? Pat was so kind, friendly, generous with her time and gifts to everyone she knew at the canyon as well as outside of the canyon. The first time I met Pat was the first day I came to work at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. We were working in the trailer (in the Equestrian Area), and Pat was busy, as always, answering the phones and working in the gift shop. When we moved into the newly constructed Nature Center, 5 years after the horrific, dreadful fire, Pat and other volunteers organized the new gift shop. She would come in on Wednesdays and Fridays to answer the phones, provide customer service to park patrons, sell items in the gift shop to the general public as well as to the groups of school children who would participate in the guided and un-guided school tours. This is just a portion of the tasks that Pat performed during her many years as an employee as well as a volunteer at the nature center. Pat was always willing and able to help out with whatever she was asked to do. Pat was the "cookie" lady. She brought "buckets" of Trader Joe cookies for us every Wednesday and Friday. We loved them!

Personally, I loved Pat! She was like a member of my family—a second mother to me. Many times during my employment at Eaton Canyon, Pat would surprise me with a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch. When the Natural Areas staff threw me a surprise "Grandma shower" for my first grandchild, Pat hand-made my granddaughter a stuffed animal. My grandson also played with it. However, she specifically told me NOT to let the dog play with it. I could go on and on about all of the things Pat did for me and for others at Eaton Canyon, but it would take up too much space in the Paw Prints.

Due to the Pandemic, I was unable to visit with or speak to Pat. When I was informed that Pat passed away, I couldn't believe it. Pat was supposed to live FOREVER! I am so sad that Pat is no longer with us and angry that the Pandemic kept her away from us. "I will always love you Pat and will never forget you." *Susan Martorana*

Pat was such an integral part of the Eaton Canyon community for so many years and leaves behind a tremendous legacy at the nature center. I fondly remember her laugh, smile, and generous spirit and feel so fortunate I got to work with her. *Kate Lain*

Pat always treated me with kindness and would do anything for me. I would do anything for her. She was the most genuine person that I have ever met at Eaton Canyon. *Anthony Withers*

Pat was a very special volunteer. She was very patient, always willing to work and teach our youth workers. She made the Center a very welcoming place to everyone. *Kenia Estrella*

Pat was like a rare medicinal plant that supported our well-being and enriched our lives. She showed us how to be a good human by sharing her authenticity, dedication, and passionate actions. I am a better human having the blessing to have known her. *Helen Wong* ■

Excerpts from Ramie Case's announcement of Pat Fairfield as 2016 Volunteer of the Year:

- She started volunteering in 1985.
- She graduated docent training in 1987.
- She was awarded the 2016 Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates Volunteer of the Year.
- She was a very smart classy person with a "neat quiet sense of humor."
- She led Nature Walks for Children. The children on her walks came back inspired with enthusiasm and stories of their adventures!
- Even in her 60s, she was in better shape than volunteers that were 20 years younger. Being a retired nurse, she always made sure they were okay!
- She was very "crafty." She made the original ECNCA banner (lost in the fire), repaired things in the children's corner, made different things she needed to display items in the gift shop...and she made costumes for the Living History Days...as well as preparing study skins.
- She was an active board member since at least 1991 (25 years) as well as being part of the planning committees for the building, the outdoor classroom and many events such as Creatures of the Night, Rubber Duckie Races, Open Houses, and more.
- When something needed to be done she would quietly say, "I can do that."
- She was best known by most people for running the ECNCA Gift Shop. She planned, organized, ordered all the items as well as organized the money and reported to the board. She took her job very seriously—at one point, she went out on the trail to find a volunteer that had bounced a check!
- She also organized cash boxes for all the special events, as well as helped sell tickets, answer phones, and staff the information desk.
- Did you get a "Goodie Bag" at the graduation for Docent Training? That was her's too!
- She was also a county employee—in 2007 she received the Los Angeles County Employee of the Month Award!
- After receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2016, she was again recognized by the County of Los Angeles on February 23, 2019, with a beautiful scroll, in appreciation of Pat's amazing accomplishment of 10,000 hours of volunteer service. She was the first to reach this goal. She was also active as a volunteer into her 90s! ■



Post fire clean-up team

Plant of the Month

Plant: Desert Marigold (aka Desert Bailey, Paper Daisy, Showy Marigold)

Botanical Name: *Baileya Multiradiata*

Family: Asteraceae—aster, sunflower or daisy family

Blooms: Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter (in lower elevations)

Lifeform: Perennial herb, Annual herb

Habitat: Desert flats, washes, slopes and inland valleys

One of the longest-lasting-bloom-season plants in our nature center's demonstration garden, is the Desert Marigold. Although named this, it is only a remote relative of the true marigolds of the genus *Tagetes*. This plant is a North American species of sun-loving wildflowers native to the deserts of northern Mexico and Southwestern United States.

This small cheerful herbaceous native grows in clumping patches of silvery-green and woolly foliage. The leaves are deeply lobed. Tall, nearly leafless flower stems grow up to be topped with bright yellow marigold-like flowers up to 2" across. Flowers have between 25 and 50 ray petals, overlapping and on several layers, while at the center are many small, orange-yellow disc florets. One plant can bear as many as 20-50 flowers most of the year. When the ray florets are lost, a nodding stalk is left behind holding the disc florets where the seeds develop. This plant reseeds prolifically.

The Desert Marigold tolerates full sun, heat, cold and drought. It provides an abundance of color in a desert or rock garden. Give it fast drainage, not too much water and lots of surface rocks (no organic mulch or fertilizer). It makes a vibrant, colorful display when picked and used in flower arrangements. Deadheading, or cutting for flowers, will spur more flowering so you will enjoy this little accent plant over a long season. This plant will also attract many insects, including bees and butterflies.

You can find Desert Marigold growing along the rock wall along the north side of the nature center's staff parking lot. When I was taking photos of this plant in January, bees and a beautiful Painted Lady Butterfly were not deterred from visiting the flowers.

Brenda Hurst





Stream at Eaton Canyon, January 2022

Photo: Carole Scurlock

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.