



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>

Saging the World

By David Bryant, California Native Plant Society



Eaton Canyon was one of the first places I met white sage. Its silvery leaves, near-iridescent sheen, spectacular flower wands and powerful aroma instantly captivated me. Scarcily, over the past 10 years, I've started to encounter white sage in much different locations across the country: grocery stores, yoga studios, online retailers, specialty shops, and outdoor markets. I've also seen sage mainstreamed through movies, reality shows, Instagram, YouTube and celebrity influencers. The practice of saging—burning dried sage leaves to "purify" or "cleanse" the air—has indeed entered popular culture. Yet, cultural appropriation is having the opposite effect, harming both Indigenous communities and the sacred plant in the process.

The white sage used in commercially sold smudge sticks often contains sage poached from the wild. We continue to hear reports from preserves, tribal communities and land managers about large-scale thefts: metric tons of the plant poached to supply an international demand. I was saddened to hear reports that Eaton Canyon also suffers from poaching pressure. This ecologically vital and culturally sacred plant is starting to vanish from its only home in Southern California and northern Baja California.

Indigenous advocates have long cherished and fought to protect this plant. In partnership with Rose Ramirez (Chumash and Yaqui descent) and Deborah Small, authors of The Ethnobotany Project and white sage advocates, the California Native Plant Society is working to stop rampant poaching, foster understanding, and inspire action for white sage. This education and advocacy campaign, "Saging the World," aims to inspire audiences to boycott wildcrafted sage products, raise awareness about the issue, cultivate their own native plants, and connect with Indigenous perspectives. By shedding light on the cultural and environmental truth behind ubiquitous white sage bundles, by dissolving consumer demand, we aim to eliminate the poaching pressures on remaining white sage populations as we amplify Native voices.



At the heart of the campaign is a short documentary of the same name. The Saging the World film was created with Rose and Deborah to bridge the issue with regional and international audiences. The documentary centers

Sage continued on page 2



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 June 2022 issue is May 15, 2022. Send submissions to Brenda Hurst eatonmember@gmail.com.

Contributors: David Bryant, Marilyn Hildebrandt, 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, May 4, 2022, at noon in the Auditorium. **F.U.N. Box Treasures:** Diane Lang leads us in reviewing the old and discovering the new. This month: Reptiles and Plants.

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, at least 2 days prior to the meeting.

Save the Date

**Annual ECNCA Members
Meeting & Elections**

Saturday, June 25, 2022

Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Sage continued from page 1

on indigenous people and perspectives that are deeply interwoven with white sage. It also captures the breadth of cultural appropriation, commercial availability of white sage products across the digital marketplace, and the shocking stories of poaching. We will have many community screenings across California and Baja California, and intend to share the film through festivals in the US and abroad. Stay tuned for opportunities near you, as well as virtual screenings, at www.cnps.org/sagingtheworld.



We hope everyone does what they can to support this vital plant. If you live in Southern California, consider planting white sage and other native plants that share your home. You'll be supporting the rich web of life as you enter into a relationship with the plants that have nourished people and other living beings in this region for thousands of generations.



White sage blooming in a Pasadena garden.

April 6 Bag Lunch—in person! Diane Lang presented "It's Time for Docent Jeopardy!"

Report and photos by Brenda Hurst

ECNCA Docents gathered for the April Bag Lunch for Diane Lang's "It's Time for Docent Jeopardy" on Wednesday, April 6th. Here are a couple of interesting questions from the day:

How old are the San Gabriel Mountains? 50 million years old? 5 million years old? or 100 million years old?

Answer: They are very young—only 5 (or something like 5 - 8) million years old.

A bird might be seen rolling on an ant hill. What's going on?

Answer: It's "anting," getting formic acid from the ants that deters tiny parasites. Some birds will grab ants in their beak and run them through their feathers.



Diane Lang (left) with Bag Lunch Chair, Mary Foltyn.



Docents: (left to right) Pam Edwards, Marilynn Hildebrandt, Sally Ann Olson, Diane Lang with question wheel.



Docents gathered under the oaks.

Plant of the Month

Scarlet Larkspur

Botanical Name: *Delphinium cardinale*

Family: Ranunculaceae, (Buttercup or Crowfoot)

Blooms: Spring, early summer

Lifeform: Perennial herb

Habitat: Coastal sage scrub, foothill woodlands, chaparral

Scarlet Larkspur is a striking spring blooming native perennial wildflower. Bright red flowers are widely spaced on long flower stalks. This is the tallest of the California native larkspurs. The flower stems which typically are two to three feet tall can grow to six to eight feet in height, especially in the improved growing conditions after a fire. Scarlet larkspur grows in Southern California's warm, dry coastal canyons, foothills, and chaparral. They have deep woody roots that grow best in well-draining rocky or sandy soil. They need heat in the growing season and do not want summer watering as they go dormant after flowering. The red flowers are a hummingbird favorite; however, all parts of the plant are very toxic to animals. It can be grown in a garden area that is dry in the summer, otherwise the roots may rot with too much moisture. In Eaton Canyon, look for these bright red flowers in the shade of oaks along the trails that border the steep hillside behind the nature center including the Oak Terrace Nature Trail. They should be blooming during the month of May.

Marylenn Hildebrandt





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.