



PAW PRINTS

Volume 40, Number 10 Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates October 2022

PUBLIC CALENDAR

Creatures of Halloween

Saturday, October 29th, 2022

10:30 am - 3:30 pm

Free Admission

Come explore natural history exhibits focusing on wildlife associated with Halloween. Enjoy educational activities, "Grab and Go" craft, Animal Ambassador appearances and much more. Make a special memory by snapping a photo with our Halloween Décor. Children in costumes are welcome.

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.

Meetings:

Audubon Society Meeting

Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm.

California Native Plant Society Meeting

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm.

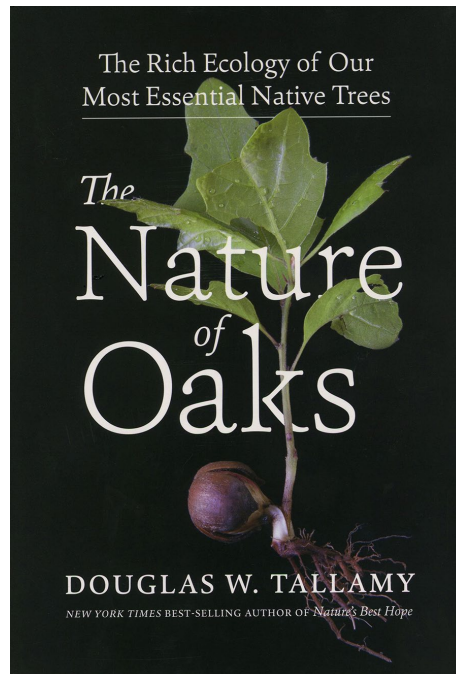
Pasadena Group Sierra Club Meeting

Monthly program meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Nature Center Auditorium. October 5 program: "Iceland and Svalbard, an Arctic Journey"

The Nature of Oaks, by Douglas W. Tallamy

Timber Press 2021, Portland, Oregon, 197 pp., \$27.95

Book Review by Mickey Long



The subtitle for this work is "The Rich Ecology of Our Most Essential Native Trees" and author Doug Tallamy has become a big name across the country for his talks and writings campaigning for the real restoration of disturbed lands. Tallamy's other popular books include *Bringing Nature Home* (now in 2nd ed.) and *Nature's Best Hope*. All his works drive home, backed with factual details, why everyone needs to plant locally native plants in their yards.

This book is heavily illustrated with color photos of insects and plants that help highlight the ecological stories he tells. Tallamy takes us through the year, month by month, on his 10-acre property in southeastern Pennsylvania. We see the changes occurring with the growth, maturing

and falling of leaves and the ecology of so many insects that use the plants. All the bird, mammal, insect and plant interactions, the ecosystem functions apply out here in the west so there is everything to learn here. Western species, like the Acorn Woodpecker are discussed.

One theme throughout the book is that caterpillars are critical for supporting birds, especially in the nesting season, when birds feed their young this critical protein source. As a species, Oaks (genus *Quercus*) are the most important trees for supporting biodiversity across North America. Tallamy has collected 242 species of caterpillars from one White Oak tree in his yard—so far. He and his students have designed and conducted field studies to compare the insect use of native vs horticultural plants. The results are striking. He tells us oaks support the development of 897 species of moths alone. But that where introduced plants have replaced natives, they found 96% less caterpillar food for birds and other animals.

The book ends with a complete list of all the oak species of the U.S. and a separate listing of oaks native to all U.S. regions, including the southwest, as a planting guide.

I had heard long ago that our California oak species support in one way or another over 200 species of vertebrate animals alone. I often worry about putting all the eggs in one basket. That is, planting a bunch of one tree species all over then waiting to see if we have saved the world. So, plant oaks, and then plant understory natives to form small communities and ecosystems.



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

Contributors: Deb Squared Photo, Brenda Hurst, Mickey Long, Cal Walsten

Paw Prints Production

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

DOCENT AND MEMBER CALENDAR

Bag Lunch and Mini-Inservice:

Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at Noon in Classroom 1. Kat High will present: "**Acorns and Tunas-Time to Start Gathering!**" It will include handouts, food tasting, recipes, and updates from Topanga.

2022 Volunteer and Staff

Thank You Picnic:

Sunday, October 16, 2022, 12 noon
Eaton Canyon Nature Center
(at the picnic tables by the pond)
By invitation only

Creatures of Halloween

Sat, Oct 29, 2022 10:30 am to 3 pm
Volunteer Opportunities
Please contact Ramie to sign up.
ramie.case@juno.com

Guided School Tours

School tours are conducted from October to the end of the school season. To make a reservation call the office 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 NCA Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition

By Brenda Hurst

The Nature Center Associates of Los Angeles County held their 2022 Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition on Saturday, September 10, at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Supervisor Kathryn Barger presented the ECNCA Volunteer of the Year scroll to Diane Lang!



Left to right: Brenda Hurst, ECNCA President, Diane Lang, 2022 ECNCA Volunteer of the Year, Supervisor Kathryn Barger.
Photos: Deb Squared Photo

David Harrod, Julie Furmidge, and Brenda Kyle received their 10 year volunteer badges. Hartmut Wisch received his 20 year badge and Laura Nicholson received her 35 year badge!

Others receiving years of volunteer service badges, but not present at the event, are: Teresa Jover (5 year), Katy Mann (5 year), Mary Veselich (5 year), Mike Veselich (5 year), Diana Gonzalez (10 year), Ann Regan (15 year), and Mike Regan (15 year).

Thank you all for being such an important part of the ECNCA family.



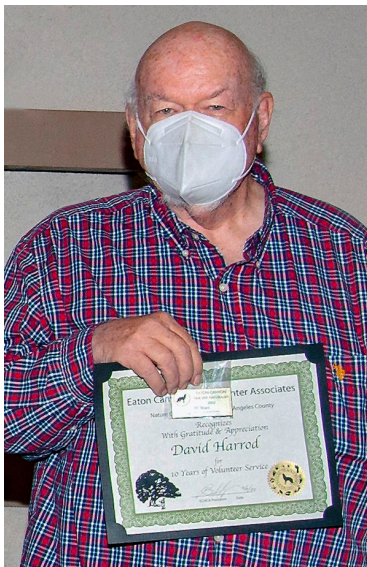
Laura Nicholson, 35 years



Hartmut Wisch, 20 years



Julie Furmidge, 10 years



David Harrod, 10 years



Brenda Kyle, 10 years

Plant of the Month

California Goldenrod

Botanical Name: *Soldago velutina* ssp. *Californica*

Family: Sunflower

Bloom: Yellow flowers Summer, Fall

Type-Form: Perennial herb

Height: 1.5 - 3 ft

Habitat: Coastal sage scrub, chaparral, oak woodlands and riparian forests/woodlands.



California Goldenrod, *Soldago velutina* ssp. *Californica*

This winter deciduous plant dies back after blooming (late fall/winter) and re-grows in the spring.

It is a nectar plant for Monarchs and Skippers, as well as many other pollinators and supports a variety of insects and moths. Birds eat the plant's seeds.

Native Californians used powdered, dried leaves as a disinfectant for skin sores, wounds, burns and rashes. A tea made from the leaves was traditionally used as a wash for skin sores and as a hair rinse.

As garden plants, they are a natural looking flowering perennial that is very showy in late summer and fall. They have clusters of composite (combination of yellow ray and disc) bright yellow flowers that vary in size from 25 to several hundred flower heads! Easy to grow, this plant is great for bird and bee gardens, attracting pollinators, and is a wildlife food source.

California Goldenrod tolerates sand, clay and seasonal flooding. It grows best in areas where the ground is seasonally wet, almost dry in summer, tolerating partial to full shade.

You can find California Goldenrod growing along the path behind the Eaton Canyon Nature Center staff parking lot. We've found that it needs to be trimmed after blooming and because it spreads easily, it also needs to be kept from growing into our pathways.

Cal Walsten



County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation



Eaton Canyon Nature Center Presents

CREATURES OF HALLOWEEN

Come meet & learn about these
AMAZING, not-so-spooky animals

October 29th, 2022
Saturday, 10:30am - 3:30pm

Come explore natural history exhibits focusing on wildlife associated with Halloween. Learn with our animal experts & naturalists from various nature groups. Animal Ambassadors will be making appearances throughout the event. Enjoy "Grab and Go" nature craft & fun, educational activities. Make sure to grab a photo with our Halloween Decor for a special memory!

Halloween Costumes Encouraged!
Free Admission



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Photo: Carole Scurlock

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.