



# PAW PRINTS

Volume 41, Number 3 Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates March 2023

## PUBLIC CALENDAR

### Eaton Canyon Natural Area Park

**Winter Hours:** 8 am - 5 pm.

**Nature Center Hours:** 9 am - 5 pm  
(includes restrooms)

### 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

### 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:

#### Pasadena Audubon Society Meeting

Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Auditorium. No meeting in December.

#### California Native Plant Society Meeting

Meetings are held in the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Auditorium, the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm, except for November and December.

#### Pasadena Group Sierra Club Meeting

Program meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, 7 times a year, at 7:30 pm in the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Auditorium. Check their website for more information: [www.sierraclub.org/angeles/pasadena](http://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/pasadena)



## Valentine's Day: The Nature Way

On Tuesday, February 14th, a group met in front of our Eaton Canyon Nature Center for our first Valentine's Day Docent Guided Hike! The hike was free and open to the public. After gathering, the participants split up into two docent led groups with Bob Dollins and Chuck Haznedl as our Docent Naturalists. Our sweeps were Diann and Mikaela Shue and Mary Lou Langedyke. After the hike, Recreation Service Leader, Kenia Estrella, presented a California king snake to the hikers.



Kenia showing king snake



**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 April 2023 issue is March 15, 2023. Send submissions to Brenda Hurst [eatonmember@gmail.com](mailto:eatonmember@gmail.com).

**Contributors:** James Griffith, Marilynn Hildebrandt, Brenda Hurst, Sequoia

**Paw Prints Production**

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

**DOCENT AND MEMBER CALENDAR**

**Bag Lunch and Mini-Inservice:**

Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at Noon in classroom 1. **Diane Lang** (ECNCA Docent) will present: "**Let's Meet Oak Trees! Come Play and Learn**".

**Guided School Tours**

School tours are conducted from October to the end of the school season. For reservations 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](mailto:eatonmember@gmail.com), at least 2 days prior to the meeting.



Art Credit: Courtesy of artist, James Griffith

**Sestina for a Raven**

by Sequoia, age 16

Member of Los Angeles Birders - Students

A symbol of death, and a lowly, dark forager  
Who feeds upon carcasses and upon human trash  
Who struts down the street like a lost and strange foreigner  
My feathers the color of coal and dark ash.  
I see all your glares at this creature so low  
Waiting for me to take off and go...

Oh, that I know,  
I know it, I know.

Yet when the clouds darken  
And the wind slowly moans  
To my cries you may hearken  
As the bough 'low me groans.

Then as the rain starts, all the hawks will go hide  
And the warblers will cease their melodious singing.  
But I'll calmly perch, up high in a pine  
In the eye of the storm, and the silence it's bringing.

My deep, tuneful croak cuts through the gray sky  
And as rain hits my feathers, I reign like a queen  
Sunlight, so dim, seeps through clouds way up high  
And dazzles my plumage with a shimmering sheen.

And yet, I know that when the storm ends  
Out come the raptors, the larks, and their friends.  
You all will ignore me or shoot looks of disgust  
Because I'm a raven, I'm not one you would trust.

But one day I'll soar on a thermal so high  
My primaries will brush the edge of the sky.  
The flames of the sun will dance over my back  
And snowflakes of ash flutter down, just as black.  
And then when I glance at the world down below  
I know you'll all watch me...  
I know it, I know.



# The ECNCA's Docent-Naturalist Training Class of 2023 started on February 21st at our nature center!



Photos by Brenda Hurst

## *Plant of the Month*



### **Western Tansy Mustard, Yellow Tansy Mustard**

**Botanical Name:** *Descurainia pinnata*

**Family:** Brassicaceae, (Mustard family)

**Blooms:** February to June

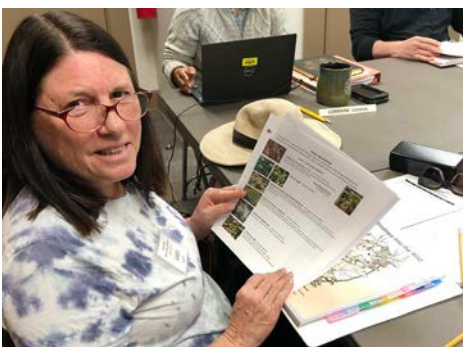
**Lifeform:** Annual herb

**Habitat:** Widespread, including Chaparral, Foothill Woodlands, Grasslands

The Western or Yellow Tansy Mustard is a California native and has the distinction of being the only native mustard growing in Eaton Canyon. It is an annual plant which means it grows, flowers, set seeds and dies in a single year. This plant only reproduces from seeds. There are a number of subspecies that vary in appearance depending on the environment where they are growing. The variant in Eaton Canyon is a small delicate short-lived wildflower that rarely grows more than 18 inches tall.

Western Tansy Mustard has grey-green finely dissected leaves with tiny yellow flower clusters at the tips of the stem branches. The flowers are attractive to butterflies. It is easily distinguished from the non-native mustards by its small size and slender feathery leaves which resemble the European herb Tansy. The slender flat seed pod seen along the stem is called a silique. The seeds are edible, though tiny, but the rest of the plant is toxic to eat. Our little native mustard, thanks to ample rains, is blooming profusely in many areas around the garden and in open areas around the natural area. Look for it and see how it differs from all the prolific non-native mustards that also grow in the canyon.

Marilynn Hildebrandt



Welcome New Docent Trainees to Eaton Canyon!





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

**Bag Lunch Chair:** Mary Foltyn

**Bus Grants Co-Chairs:** Mary Foltyn, Judy Jenkins

**Conservation Group Chair:**

**Gardening Group Chair:** Marilyn Hildebrandt

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

**Membership Chair:** Brenda Hurst

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

**School Trip Docent Chair:** David Kristoff

**Twilight Program Chair:** Mike Regan

**Weekend Docent Chair:** Ramie Case

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

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**Nature Center Director:** Lorraine Lazarus

**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 of \$\_\_\_\_\_

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

You may also join and/or donate online at [www.ecnca.org](http://www.ecnca.org).