



PAW PRINTS

Volume 41, Number 4 Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates April 2023

PUBLIC CALENDAR

Nature Center Hours: 10:30 am-7 pm
(Saturday 9 am-7 pm)
Gate Hours: 8:00 am-7:30 pm
Closed Mondays

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
Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Auditorium.

California Native Plant Society
Meetings are held in the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Auditorium, the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm.

Pasadena Group Sierra Club
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

Native Bees of Eaton Canyon

Photos and information by Hartmut Wisch. Introduction by Brenda Hurst.

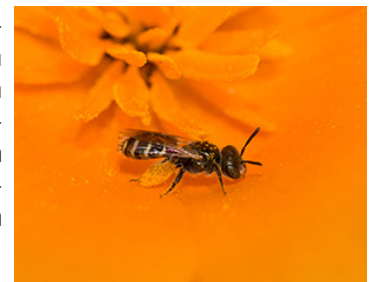
As spring has now arrived, I was thinking of bees, native bees, especially the native bees living in Eaton Canyon. I decided to email **Hartmut Wisch**, our local native bee expert and native bee photographer extraordinaire, about our bees and which ones we would be more likely to find in Eaton Canyon. Before giving me some bee suggestions, he reminded me that all the native bees he's listed, except for bumble bees, are solitary ground nesters. Also, if you go out looking for them, you might want to take along a magnifying lens or good macro photo lens. Many of our native bees are tiny. Also, note that there are many more native bee species at Eaton Canyon. This is only a little introduction.

Diadasia australis (Apidae) is a solitary ground nesting bee, collecting cactus pollen and nectar to furnish nest cells with food for her offspring. One female may dig one to a few burrows, each with several nest cells. Individual burrows of many females may often be found in large aggregations.



Diadasia australis

Perdita interrupta (Andrenidae, solitary ground-nesting mining bees), a bee frequently seen in our poppies, is an oligolege (a pollinator with a narrow plant preference) of *Eschscholzia californica*. Males of this species typically wait in a poppy for female arrivals. California poppies attract many native bees for collecting pollen. Fun fact: Poppies have no nectar.



Perdita interrupta

The yellow-faced bumblebee (***Bombus vosnesenski***), though a pollen generalist forager, is one of several bumblebee species landing in poppies for pollen. Bumblebees are social, with previous year's mated queens founding their new colonies, typically using old rodent burrows. The founder queen provides the initial food, lays eggs from which workers will emerge. Males, then new queens, will emerge later. Workers die at the end of the season, so will males after mating, and also the old queen. The new queens overwinter to found their own colonies.



Bombus vosnesenski

Bees 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 May 2023 issue is April 15, 2023. Send submissions to Brenda Hurst eatonmember@gmail.com.

Contributors:

Brenda Hurst, Hartmut Wisch

Paw Prints Production

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

DOCENT AND MEMBER CALENDAR

Bag Lunch and Mini-Inservice:

Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at Noon in Classroom 1.

Mickey Long will present **"Snakes and Rattlesnakes. Best time to see snakes, other than Rattlesnakes, at Eaton Canyon."**

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, at least 2 days prior to the meeting.



Bees continued from page 1

Dufourea mulleri (Halictidae) is a pollen specialist of Phacelia species. Burrows with nest cells are dug in the ground.

Dufourea oenotherae (Halictidae) females collect pollen principally from California suncups (*Camissoniopsis bistorta*).

Masarinae (Pollen wasps) are a subfamily of true wasps (Vespidae) with an independently evolved dietary habit like bees, using for food and nest proviant nectar and pollen of flowers. Pollen wasps are found in areas with a Mediterranean climate, including the Chilean Matorral, the Mediterranean Basin, the Western Cape of South Africa, the southwestern United States and parts of South Australia, as well as in California and extending to parts of Texas, and Baja California.

One of three species known from Eaton Canyon is **Pseudomasaris vespoides**. Females are oligoleges of Penstemon (blue and purple-flowered species). They don't have exterior apparatus for the collection of pollen (similar to the bee genus *Hylaeus*), so females ingest pollen and nectar, then regurgitate it into individual nest cells. They build aerial nests attached to hidden parts of rocks or on stems of shrubs.

Most of our other pollen wasps collect pollen and nectar from Phacelia species.

The dark form of **Anthophora pacifica** can be found in the San Gabriel foothills, including at Eaton Canyon. In this photo, (right) females collect pollen and nectar from golden currant (*Ribes aureum*). They are solitary ground-nesting bees seen when their pollen source is in flower, usually by early February. The great entomologist Charles Duncan Michener, born in Pasadena, observed and collected a specimen of this bee in early February 1935, when he was a 16 year-old.

The male **Anthophora pacifica** (right) has light colored hair that looks similar to the northern population of this species. Note the long hairs on the mid-tarsi, the 'mid-tarsal brush,' which the male uses for stroking the female during mating. The entomologist-photographer Rollin Coville calls it the "clydesdale bee".

Hartmut Wisch has many photos in the book, "The Bees in Your Backyard," by Joseph Wilson and Olivia Carril, that can be found in the Eaton Canyon Nature Center's gift shop.



Dufourea mulleri



Dufourea oenotherae



Pseudomasaris vespoides



Anthophora pacifica



Anthophora pacifica

Let's Meet Oak Trees! Come Play and Learn

On Wednesday, March 1, the Brown Bag lunch group became learners, and teachers, about oak trees. Diane Lang led the group in exploring acorns, bark, galls, and leaves of 20 species of oaks that are found in California. We identified many animals that use the oaks for shelter, nesting, or food (shown in the photo). Each participant talked about an aspect of the oak woodland (with a little help from cards) and added the appropriate picture to what was to become a large mural of this plant community. Meanwhile, a voluntary Scrub Jay "buried" acorns and then tried to locate them when warned that another jay had been watching! We all became raccoons, trying to identify, by touch, roundish objects buried deep in a sock, out of sight. We decided that identifying by feel is best done by raccoons.



Diane Lang

These were parts of the capstone project that Diane developed several years ago when taking the California Naturalist class in northern California—an oak tree program geared to elementary school students. It was fun, she said, to be able to try out the various parts of the program. Next time? Maybe the photosynthesis play, or forming the courses of roots and mycorrhiza.



Malinda Miller

Photo: Brenda Hurst

Meet Malinda Miller

I'm sure many of you know Malinda but I thought you would be interested in knowing a little bit more about her. We are so lucky to have her at the Eaton Canyon Natural Area as a Los Angeles County staff Senior Grounds Maintenance Worker. Born in Los Angeles, she worked most of her county career at the Santa Fe Dam Recreational Area in Irwindale where she was given a promotion

and came to work at Eaton 8 years ago. During the COVID lockdown of the nature center, Malinda stepped up to taking over some of the much needed animal care responsibilities and is now continuing to do so, on top of her other duties.

I asked Malinda what she likes most about working here in the canyon, and she said, "Being around nature, the beautiful scenery, and meeting new people from all over the world that visit the canyon." When asked what is her favorite place in the canyon, she replied that, "after the rain, I like to go to the wash and watch the water flow in the stream. It is so peaceful and relaxing to me." She enjoys working at our nature center and hopes to retire from here someday.

Malinda spends her free time listening to music (R&B oldies, Charlie Wilson, and Mary J. Blige, to name a few) and reading novels. A recent read was, "The Coldest Winter Ever" by Sister Souljah. She also enjoys spending time with her family, going shopping, taking her grandkids to the park and attending concerts. She's planning on taking a vacation cruise this summer to the Bahamas with her sisters. She says she wants to continue traveling the world and experience different people and the way they live. Maybe New York or even Paris next?



(l-r) Melanie Symonds, Susan Gilliland, Karen Mateer, Judy Bass, and Pam Edwards.
Photo: Lorraine Lazarus

The **ECNCA Museum Committee** is back at the nature center and hard at work with improving the museum and lobby displays. Some changes have been fairly simple and aimed at improving sight lines and removing clutter, such as the removal of the bulletin board behind the brochure table in the lobby to allow a clear view into the patio, and raising up the deer and bear in the museum so you can see them from the lobby. Other more extensive projects aren't yet visible but are definitely in the works. Please stay tuned for further developments.



Malinda Miller

Photo: Brenda Hurst



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF

**Parks &
Recreation**



PLANT CAMP 101

Botany Edition

Naomi Volain

Go to Plant Camp to learn about the science of plants! Learn about structure, function, classification, soils and fundamental plant ecology. Plant Campers will take interpretive plant walks and do guided art on Eaton Canyon's trails. (Note: this is not a plant identification course)



Register now!

**EATON CANYON
NATURE CENTER**

1750 N. Altadena Dr
Pasadena CA 91107
(626) 398-5420

TUESDAY – THURSDAY

4/18-4/20, 5/2-5/4, 5/9-5/11,
5/23-5/25

Time: 9am-11am

Cost \$60 per session plus \$10
material fee.

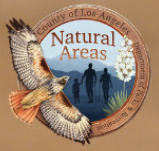
Register online at:
reservations.lacounty.gov

@parks.lacounty.gov @LACountyParks

Find more classes at: parks.lacounty.gov/springclasses



County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks & Recreation



Earth Day

Eaton Canyon Beautification

Saturday, April 22, 2023

8:45a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Care for the Canyon that you love!

Volunteer for some exciting
beautification projects!

Please make sure to bring closed toe
shoes, long pants (no shorts),
hat, water bottle and garden gloves.

Ages under 18 must be accompanied by a
parent/guardian. The day will end with

Live entertainment!

Register Today

[Reservations.lacounty.gov](https://reservations.lacounty.gov)

Thank you to our partners: ECNCA, The
Music Center, We Explore Earth, and CNPS!

Eaton Canyon Nature Center and Natural Area

1750 N. Altadena Drive. Pasadena, CA 91107 / (626) 398-5420





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: Max Yasuda
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

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.