



PAW PRINTS

Volume 41, Number 5 Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates May 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.

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.

Moonlight Walk

Friday, May 5th - 7:00 p.m.
\$2.00 per person donation
Free for ECNCA members, or if you wear an Eaton Canyon T-shirt or hat. Reservations required for groups of 10 or more. Wear sturdy walking shoes and bring water. No dogs are allowed on the walk (except service dogs).

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

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

2023 ECNCA Docent-Naturalist Students Graduate!

A graduation ceremony was held at the nature center on Thursday, April 13, for the 2023 Docent-Naturalist class. Held in the auditorium, the graduates received their graduation certificate from Diane Lang (ECNCA Docent Training Chair), ECNCA gifts, and a delicious lunch from Green Street. Congratulations to the following graduates and welcome to the Eaton Canyon Nature Center family!

James Gabriel Aragon
Alondra Nieto Arredondo
Diego Blanco
Brian Broders
Karla Caprari
Michael Coppess
Brian Gonzales
Elvis Guinac
Jacky Lau
Courtney Lavender

Lorraine Lazarus
Kris Majich
Tom Mills
Tony Mizgalski
Beth Mueller
Dana Plasterer
Xavier Ramos
Sarah Richart
Sophia Sandman
Don Weaver

A special thank you to all the class teachers (Lois Brunet, Mickey Long, Will Mason, Karen Mateer, Cliff & Gabi McLean, Auxenia Privett-Mendoza, Bill Selby, and Chris Spurgeon) and the ECNCA Docent Training Committee volunteers (Mary Foltyn, Roger Gray, Rose Haig, Bonny Hidas, Susan Hopkins, David Kristoff, Diann Shue, Mikaela Shue, Briann Shue, and Mary Veselich). All of you are the reason why this is such a successful program!



Photos by Susan Hopkins

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

Contributors: Ramie Case, Chuck Haznedl, Susan Hopkins, 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, May 3, 2023, at Noon in Classroom 1. **Dana Stangel** (founder and director of Teranga Ranch which educates people about native wildlife) will present "**Batty About Bats.**" Join us to learn about our native bats! Which bats live in our area, what do they eat, and how do they communicate will be some of the key points in the presentation.

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.



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Jacky Lau receiving his certificate.



Two graduates that couldn't attend the graduation, Diego Blanco and Beth Mueller, with Diane Lang, Docent Class Chair.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, June 4, 2023

2023 Annual ECNCA

Membership Meeting and Elections

More Details to Follow Soon.

Eaton Canyon Nature Center

Moonlight Walks 2023!

By Ramie Case



Photo: Chuck Haznedl

On April 7th, 24 Docents and Volunteers attended our Docent/Volunteer Moonlight walk. I reviewed the guidelines and then split the group into three smaller groups. During the walks, everyone shared tips and information on how they do a walk at night. Thank you to the folks that were our walk leads and sweeps! It was too early for the moon to come up but it was a pretty evening and it was really good to see everyone!

Public walks start in May!! All walks start at 7:00 p.m. and end no later than 9:00 p.m. (Docents/volunteers should arrive by 6:45 p.m.). For public walk attendees, we ask a \$2.00 per person donation but if you wear an Eaton Canyon T-shirt or hat, or if you are an ECNCA member, the walk is free! Groups of 10 or more must make advance reservations with the Nature Center. Wear sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots, bring water and dress appropriately for the weather. No dogs are allowed on the walk (except service dogs). Walks will be canceled without prior notice due to rain or adverse canyon conditions. People cannot be in the park after the park closes (park closes at 7:30 p.m.) unless they are with an official canyon program.

2023 Moonlight Walk Schedule:

Friday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, June 2nd at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, June 30th at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, July 28th at 7:00 p.m.
Friday, August 25th at 7:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you in the Moonlight!

Plant of the Month

Common Phacelia

Botanical Name: *Phacelia distans*

Family: Boraginaceae (Borage)

Blooms: Spring

Lifeform: Annual Herb

Habitat: Native to much of California including the coastal mountain ranges, valleys, and deserts, adjacent sections of Nevada and Arizona, and parts of northern Mexico. It grows in many types of habitats.



Andrena palpalis male in *Phacelia distans*
(Andrenidae, mining bees)

along a coiled stalk (a "scorpioid cyme") with developing buds in the center of the coil. As the stalk unfurls, new flowers open at the base of the coil while seedpods develop along the older stalk, often giving the stalk the look of a caterpillar.

Common Phacelia can be found in many plant communities, including woodlands, coastal sage scrub and chaparral, grasslands, meadows and deserts. It is a common wildflower in its range. Here at Eaton it can be found in disturbed areas along the trails. Native Americans gathered and steamed the leaves and stems during the spring, and ate them as greens. There are many species in the genus Phacelia so you can also find Branching and Large-flowered Phacelia in the canyon.



Xylocopa tabaniformis orpifex female, right, is all black. Male is left.
(Xylocopini, carpenter bees)

and many botanists have now accepted the revision that Phacelia should be found listed in a separate waterleaf family.

A few years ago, I met Hartmut Wisch, who is a local native bee expert and photographer. He showed me some native bees landing on Common Phacelia flowers in Eaton Canyon. Some of these bees can be seen in the beautiful photos included here. Butterflies and honey bees are also attracted to this plant. So keep these plants in mind for your pollinator habitat and wildflower garden, where it is grown from seed, in full sun, with good drainage, and with no irrigation once established.

It was spring when I first started volunteering at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center, and had my first encounter with this beautiful pale lavender to violet-blue flowering plant, growing along many of our trails. I was fascinated by the way the clusters of flowers were arranged in a coil that, to me, resembled a caterpillar. This plant turned out to be the Common Phacelia. It is also known as wild scorpionweed because others have thought the coil reminded them of a curled scorpion's tail.

While doing some research on this plant, I discovered that if you look closely, the individual flowers have five round petals and stamens that extend slightly beyond the petals. The flowers are produced



Lasioglossum (subgen. *Lasioglossum*) female
(a sweat bee - Halictidae)

For those of you who like to know about family backgrounds, I found that, as others in the borage (Boraginaceae) family, Phacelias are coated by small, stiff hairs, and have flowers that are often located along a coiled stalk. Species of Phacelia were previously placed in the waterleaf (Hydrophyllaceae) family, which has similar plant characteristics, but due to the availability of molecular data, this family was then merged into the Borage family. This is the system currently used by Jepson, the authority for this Plant Guide. However, in 2016, this was reevaluated

Brenda Hurst



County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks & Recreation



Mother's Day Hike

Join us for Mother's Day weekend and enjoy a guided nature hike.

Registration will include an animal presentation and a nature craft to take home!

Saturday, May 13, 2023

9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.

**All Ages Welcome
Cost: \$7 per person**

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

Eaton Canyon Nature Center and Natural Area
1750 N. Altadena Drive, Pasadena, CA 91107 / (626) 398-5420





Moonlight Walk Photo: Chuck Haznadi

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

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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.