



# PAW PRINTS

Volume 41, Number 8 Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates August 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  
**Contact:** Eaton Canyon Nature Center 626.398.5420

**Docent-Led Family Nature Walk**  
Every Saturday at 9 am. Meet in front of the Nature Center. No dogs please.

**Conservation Group Work Day:**  
Second Saturdays from 9 am-12 pm  
Sign-up to receive notifications:  
<https://tinyurl.com/eatoncanyonconservation>

**Moonlight Walk**  
Friday, August 25 - 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 Trails 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.  
<https://www.pasadenaaudubon.org>

**California Native Plant Society**  
Meetings are held in the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Auditorium, the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm. <https://www.cnps-sgm.org>

**Pasadena Group Sierra Club**  
Program meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month. Programs resume in September.  
<https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/pasadena>

## A Significant Herbarium Donation

By Mickey Long



Herbarium sheet sample

logical place.

After getting concurrence from both Kim Bosell, Natural Areas Administrator and Lorraine Lazarus, Eaton Canyon Superintendent, I planned to plow into the job. Upon hearing about it, docent Susan Hopkins jumped in right away to help. We met at the Center on four different days in May to sort through over 1500 specimens of pressed plants and pull all the ones not from Eaton Canyon. We'd agreed to leave a set of Eaton Canyon plants in place. Sadly, we had to discard a number of specimens that had been badly bug-damaged, but the majority were in good shape. We counted them all, bundled them by locality and awaited the best time to transport them. The final total to donate: over 1270.

For more than two decades, long before I retired, it was bothering me that there were hundreds of carefully collected, pressed and labeled plant specimens from all over Los Angeles County, resting in two herbarium cabinets and in some unsecured (from insect pests) cupboards at the Eaton Canyon Nature Center. They were collected from at least ten Natural Areas in our system and had value to serious botanists, but were not serving any real purpose at the Center. They dated from at least 1948 through 2022. A major collector, in addition to myself, was Ian Swift, former Placerita Canyon Superintendent. I knew these specimens belonged in a major scientific Herbarium collection, where these "vouchers" could be studied by botanical researchers, and California Botanic Garden Herbarium was the



Mickey's first plant collection

Herbarium 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 September/October 2023 issue is August 15, 2023. Send submissions to Brenda Hurst [eatonmember@gmail.com](mailto:eatonmember@gmail.com).

**Contributors:** Pam Edwards, Kenia Estrella, Doris Finch, Susan Gilliland, Brenda Hurst, Mickey Long, Tom Mills

**Paw Prints Production**

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

**DOCENT AND MEMBER CALENDAR**

**Bag Lunch and Mini-Inservice will be on hiatus until October.**

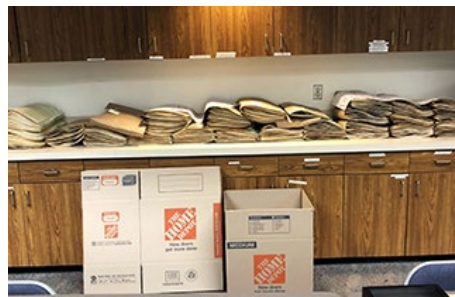
**Eaton Canyon Gardening Group**  
Every Wednesday at 9:30 am and second Sundays of the month at 10 am. Current volunteers only. Meet by Nature Center garage door.

**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 6:30 pm in the Nature Center. 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.



**Herbarium** continued from page 1



Herbarium sheets donated

On June 13, 2023 we loaded up the five large boxes of sheets and drove them out to CBG Herbarium in Claremont. Mare Nazaire, Herbarium Curator, gratefully accepted the boxes of specimens and we placed them near a big freezer into which all incoming specimens go for about two weeks to ensure no living pests are left. They will eventually be checked for accurate ID, catalogued into the CBG collection (currently 1.25 million specimens), photographed, and added to the statewide Consortium of California Herbaria, where anyone can view the records and photos online for study.

This project, like so many, took about twice as long as I'd figured, as there were over twice the number of plants I'd guessed were involved. However, it's a good feeling to know these collections are where they belong and serving a real purpose. ■



Photo: Brenda Hurst

**U.S. Senator Alex Padilla and Representative Judy Chu visit Eaton Canyon**

On June 26th, Eaton Canyon Nature Center hosted local and state leaders, including U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla, Rep. Judy Chu, Calif. State Secretary for Natural Resources Wade Crowfoot, L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, and Tongva Gabrielino Chief Anthony Morales for a news conference to urge President Joe Biden to expand the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. In May, Padilla and Chu introduced legislation that would expand San Gabriel Mountain National Monument, with Padilla's Public Lands Act. On June 8, they sent a letter to the White House urging the administration to take executive action through the Antiquities Act.

# Eine Kliene Nachtmusik

By Doris Finch

We are beginning the concert season, especially if you live near one of our many canyons and washes. Summoning the musicians early in Spring is the low call of the Poorwill [*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*], over and over. Soon enough the first chorus will arrive. California Tree Frogs [*Pseudacris cadaverina*] surge and pulse with long carrying vibrato. Every now and then you may hear the rude comment of the American Bullfrog [*Lithobates catesbeianus*]. Not a native here, he seems compelled to add an opinion during the concert.

All around during the night the more harmonious burbles of the Screech Owl [*Megascops kennicottii*] and the melodious Great Horned Owls [*Bubo virginianus*] in mating duet insert gentle lines into the background chorus. As the first chorus leaves the stage they are gradually superseded by the summer singers and string players, some loud and raucous, others high and faint. Crickets [*Gryllus spp*] are cheerful and familiar. Their cousins, Tree Crickets, [*Oecanthis spp*] go high, their volume belying their small size. A possible cicada, [*Okanogan vanduseii*] may surge above and around them for sustained moments. A couple of Katydid species may add a pulsing high vibrato, though unlike their Eastern sisters, they don't go on about whether Katy did or didn't. They don't care and just sing on.

This night concert attains a crescendo in late summer or Autumn. Keeping things interesting, at any moment like a crowd of Valkyries barreling in to the chorus with a Hojotoho Hojotoho! overriding everyone, here comes the coyote pack. Don't worry, it isn't a kill song but mostly "Hey, how ya doin', I'm here, You here? You good?" etc. Never mind the lyrics, enjoy the song. Enjoy the concert, it's free and there's plenty of seating. ■



California Tree Frog Photos: Tom Mills



American Bullfrog



Screech Owl



Great Horned Owl

# ECNCA's Volunteer-Supported Gift Shop

By Pam Edwards

If you haven't been to the nature center recently, you're in for a refreshing delight! We have a new drinking fountain that is outfitted with a fountain for your reusable water bottle! To support that, we have our own ECNCA water bottle for sale. The bottle is BPA-free, lightweight, and imprinted with our own gift shop logo.

We also have in stock "Make Tracks" and "Moonlight Walk" t-shirts in many colors and most sizes; a wonderful selection of children's nature books and activities; field guides and a new addition (generously donated by Hartmut Wisch)—Stephen Buchmann's book, "What a Bee Knows."

Members of ECNCA receive a 10% discount on non-sale items and GIFT CERTIFICATES are available. Gift Shop Hours are generally Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday (10:30-2:30 pm), Saturday and Sunday (10:00-2:00 pm). To be sure a volunteer is on duty and the shop is open, it's a good idea to call the center first. ■



Marge Mayotte-Hirn Photo: Brenda Hurst

In June, **Marge Mayotte-Hirn** was awarded a recognition plaque as a heartfelt acknowledgement and thank you for her 16 years(!) as the ECNCA Executive Board's Recording Secretary. Her term ended as of June 30th, but lucky for us, she will continue volunteering with us!



Photos by Brenda Hurst and Kenia Estrella





Photos by Susan Gilliland





COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PARKS & RECREATION PRESENTS



# EATON CANYON SUMMER NATURE CAMP HALF DAY

Eaton Canyon Summer Camp provides an opportunity for school-age children to explore various themes related to nature, hiking, cultural arts, natural history, and conservation. Activities promote positive youth development by providing access to caring staff that lead experiences designed to promote physical and mental well-being, socialization and leadership.

## **DATES:**

**AUGUST 1-4**

## **TIMES:**

**TUESDAY-FRIDAY/9AM -12PM**

## **AGES:**

**7-12 YEARS OLD**

## **FEE:**

**\$110 PER WEEK**



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A Day in Nature Photo: Brenda Hurst

## ECNCA BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Brenda Hurst  
**Vice-President:** Diane Marcussen  
**Recording Secretary:** Sarah Richart  
**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](http://www.ecnca.org).