



PAW PRINTS

Volume 42, Number 2 Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates February 2024

PUBLIC CALENDAR

Park Hours:

Nov. 1, 2023 - Mar. 31, 2024

Gate Hours: 8 am - 5 pm

Nature Center Hours: 9 am-5 pm

Gate & Nature Center are closed on Mondays

Contact: ECNC 626.398.5420

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

Conservation Group Work Day

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

Audubon Bird Walks

1st Sat. of the month - 8 am-10 am
Next one: February 3, 2024
Meet at the Outdoor Classroom

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 in the Nature Center Auditorium.

<https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/pasadena>

In Memory of Diane Speakman

March, 1934 to December, 2023

Our past ECNCA President from 1998 - 2001

Diane is survived by her husband, John, and four children—Linda, David, Beverly and Donald.

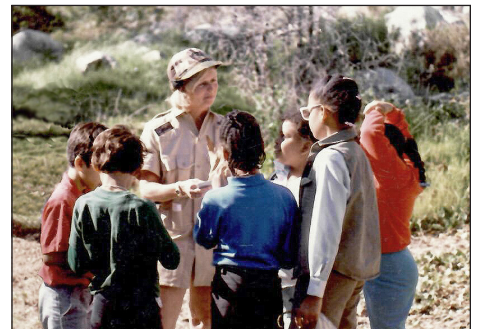


Cynthia Null left and Diane Speakman

Diane was a close friend as well as a partner docent. She was very smart and was always an outdoor person, enjoying outdoor sports, especially tennis. John and Diane, with George and I, went on many trips and vacations together, including to Golden Trout Camp in the Sierra and to Argentina and Chile. We will miss her. I used to finish her sentences for her. That's how much we understood each other. - Cynthia Null

Diane was one of the first people I met when I took docent training. She loved hosting events at her house, and always had a holiday party of some kind. When she was president, Diane was the first to plan the thank-you dinner for all the volunteers, and she worked her butt off to make it welcoming and festive. - Judy Bass

It was very sad to learn about Diane's passing. She was very enthusiastic about volunteering at Eaton Canyon with a lovely smile and sparkle in her eyes spread to all Docents, Volunteers and Staff. When Diane stopped by the Nature Center, she made sure to extend friendly greetings to all. Diane was a cheerleader to me especially in the early days of doing Bag Lunch Mini in-services, always encouraging and just by her frequent attendance gave me the confidence to continue sponsoring the monthly get togethers. Sincere condolences to John and Diane's Family. - Mary Foltyn



My interactions with Diane have been many throughout the years, from Living History Day, Bag Lunches, NCA meetings, School Tours, and so much more. Diane was a mentor to many of us, helping and encouraging us, and always with a hug and a smile. I particularly remember having her shadow me when I first started leading school tours and her helpful critique—she kept telling me not to rush with the kids with all of the informa-

Diane 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 March 2024 issue is February 15, 2024. Send submissions to Brenda Hurst eatonmember@gmail.com.

Contributors: Judy Bass, Ramie Case, Pam Edwards, Mary Foltyn, Brenda Hurst, Diane Lang, Cynthia Null

Paw Prints Production

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

DOCENT AND MEMBER CALENDAR

Bag Lunch mini-in-service:

Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at Noon in Classroom 1. **Leigh Adams** will present the topic "**Regenerative Gardens.**"

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, at least 2 days prior to the meeting.



Diane continued from page 1



tion we got in docent training. It's still true today for new docents—heads are busting with info and we think we need to impart it all. My very first introduction to Diane was in 1997 when I dropped by the old trailer that served as the temporary office after the '93 fire, to see if I could be of any help answering the phones or offer direction to visitors. Diane, in her persuasive manner, had other ideas and soon I was sitting in Docent Training! I, and several of my fellow graduates from that 1998 class, are still active at the canyon. I've made many friends throughout the years at Eaton Canyon and I have Diane to thank for that. - Pam Edwards

2017 Volunteers of the Year

The following are excerpts and paraphrases from Ramie Case's introduction to Diane and John Speakman when they received the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates' 2017 Volunteers of the Year.

Diane started volunteering in 1985. John started volunteering in 1996. Diane has led more school tours than just about anyone! She has coordinated, led, and participated in trail walks for scouts groups and school children. She also led walks for campers in Summer Nature Camp, Student Naturalists, Fieldtrip in Nature Programs and Journey into the Wild Trail walks.

From 1998 to 2001, Diane served as president of the ECNCA, while John became president of the NCA for 8 years. She also served as Hospitality Chair for the NCA, and was often the person responsible for urging Mike Antonovich and other County officials to show up for our Annual NCA celebrations. She was always our gracious host, ensuring there was enough food at ECNCA and NCA events, sponsoring lovely volunteer holiday parties, ensuring everyone felt welcomed—unless of course you didn't RSVP!



Diane and John Speakman

Diane and John were heavily involved in the planning of the "new" Eaton Canyon Nature Center, (after the Robert M. McCurdy Nature Study Center burned to the ground in the 1993 Kinneloa Fire) as well as the Outdoor Classroom. They coordinated countless scout walks, church walks and special group walks. They also coordinated NCA "Golden Weekends"—that got us all out camping and exploring together. They've done it all!

To paraphrase Cynthia Null and Mickey Long "Diane and John have been two of the most dedicated supporters of Eaton Canyon and the volunteer program EVER." For both Diane and John it has always been important to honor and appreciate volunteers and the hard working center staff. The fact that the NCA and the ECNCA is still here, is due in no small part to the dedication and hard work of these two amazing people.

Cal Walsten was awarded the Canyon Star Award at the 2023 Thank You Dinner



Cal started our Docent-Naturalist Class in 2020 but the class was put on hold due to the COVID epidemic that closed our nature center. Finally, the class started up again and Cal became a 2022 graduate. Right away he went into gear volunteering at Eaton Canyon using his landscape design background.

In 2023, Cal submitted a proposal for the board to pay for custom aluminum signs for our Jr. Nature Trail sign posts. The proposal was approved and spearheaded a much larger project that involved cleaning up the Jr. Nature Trail, Fire Ecology Trail, and Oak Terrace Trail. The

latter had become very overgrown and desperately needed sign post repairs. Much of this project was completed with the help of Earth Day Beautification volunteers on April 22, 2023. Among other ongoing volunteer activities, he is also a member of our Gardening Group and the volunteer design consultant for the California Native Plant Society's Becky Rothenberg garden, located at Eaton Canyon by the staff parking lot.

Cal, you are so appreciated for all the dedicated volunteer work you do for the ECNCA. Congratulations. Cal, you are truly a Canyon Star.

Evening Walk at Eaton Canyon

Thursday, February 1
5 - 7 pm

A guided walk led by Pasadena Audubon and Eaton Canyon Nature Center bird and nature guides.

Participant limit:
30, chosen by lottery.

Signup deadline:
6 PM Tuesday, January 30,
two days before the walk.

Registration will open in
January, 2024

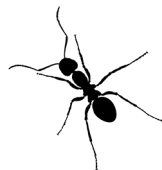
Please contact
fieldtrips@pasadenaaudubon.org
for questions or accommodations.

Seven Laws of Nature as Interpreted by Children

(Brian Doyle, Orion Magazine, 2014)

Contributed by Diane Lang

1. Insects rule the world, but they don't talk about it.
2. Dad says every time you go for a walk in the woods you ought to get credit for a full day of college.
3. Plants are smart because they can eat sunlight and we can't.
4. If you find poop in the woods and it's tiny round balls, it's a rabbit. If the balls are larger, it is a deer or elk. If they are really large, you should come home.
5. Eagles can see so well they can see what you did yesterday.
6. Dad says some kinds of trees can drink clouds.
7. If you can't make a new spider, don't kill an old one.



Docent Naturalist Training begins February 20th!

We'll study the ecology, geology, biology, and history of the canyon over 8 weeks—Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am - noon.
Interested?

Please email
ecanyontraining@gmail.com
for more information.

There will also be an information session at the Nature Center on Tuesday, February 13, at 10 a.m.



Photo: Carole Scurlock

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
Docent Training Chair: Diane Lang
Gardening Group Chair: Marilyn Hildebrandt
Gift Shop Chairs: Pam Edwards, Karen Mateer

Membership Chair: Brenda Hurst
Moonlight Hike Co-Chairs: Ramie Case, Teresa Kirkland
Museum Committee Chair: Melanie Symonds
Nature-in-a-Box Chair: Laura Nicholson
Park Stewards Chair: Susan Hopkins
School Tour Docent Chair: David Kristoff
Weekend Docent Chair: Ramie Case
Members-at-Large: Judy Jenkins, Rose Haig

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.