

PAW PRINTS

Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates

Docent /Member Calendar

BAG LUNCH MINI-INSERVICE:
 Bag Lunch is on hiatus indefinitely.

ECNCA Board Meetings

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.

Public Calendar

■ **Pasadena Audubon Society**

For meeting info see their website: www.pasadenaaudubon.org

■ **California Native Plant Society**

For meeting info see their website: www.cnps-sgm.org

■ **Pasadena Group Sierra Club**

For meeting info see their website: www.sierraclub.org/angeles/pasadena

■ **We Explore Earth**

For meeting info see their website: <https://weexploreearth.com/>

Paw Prints Production

Editor: Amanda Getty

Graphic Designer: Diana Gonzalez

Contributors: Elaine Brown, Lindsay Bremner

Paw Prints is a monthly publication of the ECNCA. The deadline for submissions to the July 2026 issue is June 20, 2026. Send submissions to ajgetty@gmail.com.



Photo: Diana Gonzalez

PARK IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Photo: Diana Gonzalez



Altadena's Largest Mural Unveiled at the Crest Trail by AMANDA GETTY

On Sunday, May 31 more than 200 members of the Altadena community gathered in celebration of *From Rails to Trails: Echo Mountain*.

The massive work, recently completed by local muralist Austin Scott with the help of more than 80 community volunteers, faces the Altadena Crest Trail at the top of Canon Blvd near the Cobb Estate. It was commissioned by Waleed and Erin Delawari, who lost their family home and a beloved pet in the Eaton Fire, to cover a newly built wall on their property.

From Rails to Trails "is the result of an extraordinary collaborative effort," Scott said. "More than a historical depiction, the piece serves as a symbol of unity and resilience in the wake of the Eaton Fire, inviting the fire-affected community to heal through shared creativity and storytelling."

Sunday's unveiling was presented by fire relief nonprofit 24LA, and featured a Gabrielino-Tongva dance performance and remarks from community leaders. Scott dedicated the work to the ancestors of the indigenous Hahamog'na people, and Christie Loera of the San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians Gabrielino Tongva accepted the dedication on their behalf.

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1. A small section of the mural showing portions of Altadena's historic trails, non-native parrots that live in the SGV, and Barry Bear, the bear who was hiding under an Altadena resident's home for several months. 2. The bench commissioned by the Delawari family for hikers to stop and admire the mural. 3. Austin Scott and the Delawari family being presented with certificates of recognition by United States Congresswoman Judy Chu. 4. Paw Prints team member Diana Gonzalez was one of the eighty volunteers to help paint the mural. (She painted the bunny!)

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From Rails to Trails, which event organizers noted is the community's largest public mural to date, stretches nearly 100 feet along the Delawari's wall, and is a "sweeping tribute to the history of Mt. Lowe," Scott explained. He and his volunteer team—many of whom also lost their homes in the fire—spent nearly 1,000 hours completing the work over the course of 36 consecutive days.

The Delawari family had a bench installed at the site with a plaque reading: "In memory of what was, in hope of what will be. January 7th, 2025."

Scott's other local works since the fire include *Altadena Forever*, part of the Unincorporated Mural Project at 3045 Lincoln Ave, and *Beautiful Altadena* at Eagles Hall on Woodbury and Los Robles.



Photo: Ruth Catchen

A Perfect Morning on the Trail

by RUTH CATCHEN

I started walking, slow at first on the street, and as I got nearer to the trail, faster as I felt it calling me, compelling me to leave the world behind.

Most of the time we aren't in the moment of what we are doing. We are reviewing the past or thinking about what's next. One of the reasons for all of us to connect with nature is that it erases this rush of the world.

I am still me when I walk on the trails. I bring all of it with me, like it or not. The overthinking doesn't stop simply because my surroundings compel me to participate with them. But I have gotten better at hitting the pause button. Not every time. Sometimes.

This morning was one of those times. There has been a lot going on in my life—construction, displacement, life questions, kids' lives changing, and on and on with daily uncertainties. Some of it good, some of it hard. Today was not different, but I had time to reflect and perhaps let go of looking for answers to my many questions.

The sky was blue with some puffy clouds. The air was crisp and there was a cool breeze—a bit unseasonal for this time of year, but exactly the kind of day I would have chosen if I could. I did not have to hurry to the next whatever. I could be purposeful but leisurely about my trail adventure.

As I got deeper into the Gabrielino Trail, the water became more obvious. I found myself thinking about it, wondering how the change of seasons would affect it. The trail is shaded when you get deeper into it, and there the stream runs alongside you—sometimes hard to reach, paralleling the path, running in places and stopped in others. I left the trail and walked down to the water to get a sense of my movement with it.

I looked up through the tree canopy to the sky, noticing the imprint and shapes the trees made against the backdrop. I dropped my head back farther. The perspective tilted. I felt slightly dizzy, the view distorting as I stared up into the canopy. I found it hard to look away and reenter the world in front of me.

My theme and variations of that moment took me out of myself and into the picture. The coolness of the air and the rushing sound of the water swept me into their world. It was just a few moments—but then, time stood still.

We see things all the time. We are constantly stimulated with new environments, new information, new demands. There is almost no time to step back and appreciate—I see what I am experiencing as art in nature, each new scene a different composition.

What I understood, standing there under the canopy with the water running beside me, is that there is a difference between seeing and looking—and that looking is the fullest expression of seeing. The deepest form of it.

Seeing is the aspiration. The sky is there. The trees are there. The sound of water is there. It is real, and it matters, and it is more than most of us manage most of the time. But it lives on the surface. It doesn't quite land.

Looking is what it feels like when you actually get there. To look—in the way I mean it—is to immerse yourself. To become part of the picture rather than a witness to it. It requires time, or at least the feeling that time is not chasing you. It requires the willingness to let your perspective tilt, to stop moving long enough for the world to include you.

My time on the trails has been teaching me this. It doesn't ask you to leave yourself behind. But if you're willing—if you can hit the pause button long enough—it will show you what it feels like to finally be where you are.

Not passing through the picture. In it.

First published at <https://ruthcatchen.substack.com/p/a-perfect-morning-on-the-trail>

Call for Submissions!

Paw Prints welcomes (and encourages!) text and visual content submissions from the ECNCA community at large. We're a small editorial team here at PP and we want to hear from you! Juicy nature gossip to share? What fascinating research about native plants and animals has been keeping you busy? How are you staying connected to our natural neighborhood while Eaton Canyon remains closed?

Please send submissions to Amanda Getty at ajetty@gmail.com. Questions? Please reach out! Help us keep your monthly newsletter filled with great local nature content in the months to come.

Photo: Diana Gonzalez



A white-lined sphinx moth caterpillar spotted recently on a habitat restoration day.



ECNCA Executive Board Members

President: Diane Marcussen
Vice-President: Karen Mateer
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NCA President: Laura Nicholson

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)

To join the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates, visit www.ecnca.org/become-a-member, or fill out the form below and mail with your check, **payable to the ECNCA, 1355 N. Mentor Avenue, Box 40167, Pasadena, CA 91104-9998.**

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 \$25 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 \$_____

All contributions are tax deductible.