



PAW PRINTS

Volume 42, Number 6 Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates June 2024

PUBLIC CALENDAR

Park Hours: March 1 - Oct. 31, 2024

Gate Hours: 8 am - 7:30 pm

Nature Center Hours: 10:30 am - 7 pm

Saturdays: 9 am - 7 pm

Gate & Nature Center closed 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
Meet at the Outdoor Classroom

CNPS Plant Walks at Eaton - 3rd Sunday of the month 10-11:30 am

Moonlight Walk - June 21st, 7 pm

More info: www.ecnca.org

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

June 15, 4 to 7 pm: Potluck picnic in a member's backyard. Bring an entree, salad or dessert. **RSVP:** Bill Joyce, rollingtherock@verizon.net.

Cynthia Null Outdoor Classroom Bench Renovation!



Original construction of outdoor classroom - 2000

For those of you not familiar with the history of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center, prior to the 1993 we did not have an outdoor classroom until the Kinneloa wild fire destroyed the Eaton Canyon Nature Center and the mountains around us. After the fire, Walt Teilmann, one of our Eaton Canyon docents at the time (and prior ECNCA President), saw the need for an outdoor meeting place for school groups and for other uses and suggested building one as part of the nature center rebuild.



Restoration job in progress - 2024

Photo: Dan Kale

However, FEMA (The Federal Emergency Management Agency) did not include an Outdoor Classroom in their rebuild support, as they would not cover

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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 July 2024 issue is June 15, 2024. Send submissions to Brenda Hurst eatonmember@gmail.com.

Contributors: Elaine Brown, Brenda Hurst, Dan Kale, Lorraine Lazarus, Max Yasuda

Paw Prints Production

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

DOCENT AND MEMBER CALENDAR

Bag Lunch Mini-Inservice:

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 at Noon in Classroom 1.

Topic: "Regenerative Gardens"

Leigh Adams will present the benefits of recycling carbon into our gardens and environments. The visuals will include gardens that she has created with Studio Petrichor and data based on her work at the LA Arboretum/Studio Petrichor and Metabolic Studio.

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.



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the cost of an item not destroyed in the fire. So the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates agreed to fund the bulk of the cost of the project which came to over \$45,000.

From 1999-2000 the planning phase took place for an outdoor classroom project that would seat 100-120 people, include a small open area fire ring, a small stage/platform and outdoor "screen" with electricity for slide programs and safety lighting at the site. The primary use of the site was originally designed for daytime introductory talks for school groups and occasional evening programs. Organizational groups would also be able to reserve the facility.

In June of 2000, the ECNCA contracted with Toyon Design Landscape Architecture to design the project and with Horizon Landscape (contractor) to install the project. The outdoor classroom site was dedicated on October 7, 2000, and was named the "Cynthia Null Outdoor Classroom" in honor of Cynthia's long-time docent-naturalist volunteering. During the dedication it was noted that she had given "over 20 years of service to Eaton Canyon." And as it turns out, she had just gotten started! Cynthia still volunteers here so her years of volunteer service are now over 44 and counting! She was also the ECNCA President from 1993-1998.

On April 10, 2001, Supervisor Antonovich presented the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates with a scroll honoring their efforts in completing this long-desired addition to the Natural Area Park. Also at that time, The ECNCA donated the Eaton Canyon outdoor classroom to the LA County Dept. of Parks and Recreation's Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Valued at \$46,634 at that time, this would equal about \$82,000 in today's dollars.



Erin receiving the County Scroll from Lorraine Lazarus - May 1st, 2024

Photo: Brenda Hurst

The outdoor classroom has been an important fixture at the nature center since then but unfortunately it has been in need of major repairs due to years of weathering and little use during the pandemic. Recently we were lucky enough to meet a Scout, Erin Makenna Kale, from our local Troop 1, who decided to take on the project of renovating all the benches as part of the process of earning her Eagle Scout rank. With donated help from other Scouts, her friends, family, and local businesses, the job was completed. On May 1st, we held a celebration recognizing her wonderful accomplishment at the Cynthia Null Outdoor Classroom! On April 24th 2024, Erin Kale became the first female to earn her rank of Eagle Scout in Altadena.

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Erin's Celebration (l-r Cynthia Null, Erin Makenna Kale, Lorraine Lazarus)
Photo: Brenda Hurst

We thank Erin for all that she and her volunteers have done in repairing the benches so we can once again enjoy using the beautiful revitalized Outdoor Classroom for school groups and programs to come.

Note: The ECNCA contributed to Erin's fundraising for this project. ■

New Native Plant Nursery Club (Conservation Group)

Eaton Canyon Conservation Group will now be hosting a native plant nursery club on most **Wednesdays from 5:30 PM-7:00 PM.**

For exact information and notice of cancellations, please subscribe to the Conservation Group Email List: <https://tinyurl.com/eatoncanyonconservation>

Participants will grow and propagate plants that are native to Eaton Canyon to use in the native species restoration process. This plant club is a great way to work with our Conservation Corps if you're not able to make it on weekends, have a green thumb, or prefer a less physically intensive volunteer event.

For more information ask Max Yasuda: maxosmail@gmail.com

New Interpretive Signage at Eaton Canyon!

By Brenda Hurst

Last month in May, L.A. County Parks and Recreation completed the installation of most of the new interpretive signage around the the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Demonstration Garden and along our trails. Some are even past the stream and on the way to the falls. They have been working on these for a few years with the help of our Eaton Canyon staff (most notably Lorraine Lazarus and Kenia Estrella) and ECNCA volunteers (Marilynn Hildebrandt, Karen Mateer, Diane Marcussen, Gabi and Cliff McLean, Tom Mills, Mickey Long, Hartmut Wisch, and myself). Hope you'll take some time to check them out! There are 33 signs already installed for you to see and enjoy, and 4 more in the works. ■



San Gabriel Mountains National Monument

By Elaine Brown

Volunteer Naturalist-Docent (class of 2024)

On May 11, 2024, locals celebrated a big win at the Larios Staging Area in Azusa, in response to President Biden's signing off on expanding the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. With an addition of roughly 106,000 acres of land, we are seeing not only the protection of natural



Brian Gonzales in center with Senator Alex Padilla and Representative Judy Chu.
Photo: Lorraine Lazarus

wildlife and spaces but the protection of lands important to the native tribes who have long been—and continue to be—stewards of the land. Eaton Canyon Nature Center was proudly represented by park staff member and Nature For All's Brian Gonzales at the celebration that saw excited community members and politicians gathered in honor of the victory. Thanks to this expansion, 18 million people who live nearby the San Gabriel mountains can look forward to exploring even more protected natural areas in our urban environment. ■

SAVE THE DATE

2024 ECNCA Membership Meeting & Elections
Saturday, June 15

2 pm - Reception
2:30 pm - Program starts
Eaton Canyon Nature Center

(Invites and ballots will be mailed soon!)



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF
**Parks &
Recreation**

Eaton Canyon Nature Center
A Day in Nature
Where Art & Nature Unite

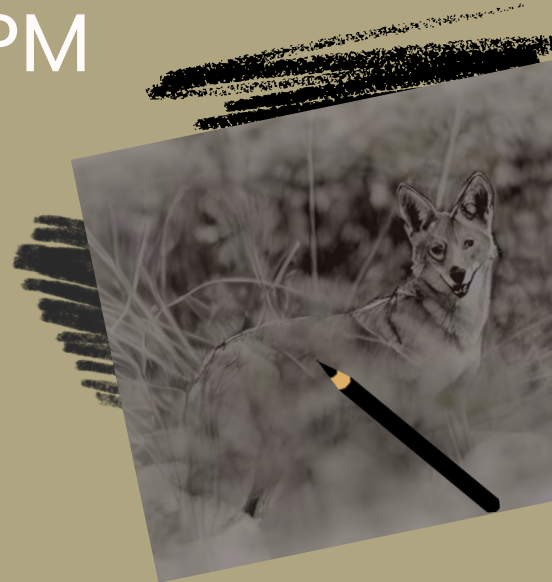
Spend a day in nature at
Eaton Canyon Nature Center.
Enjoy educational nature groups,
art exhibits, animal presentations,
guest speakers, crafts and
so much more!

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024

9:00AM - 2:00PM

Free Event!

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



EATON CANYON NATURE CENTER



Thank you to our partners!



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: Marilynn 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.