



PAW PRINTS

Volume 42, Number 5 Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates May 2024

PUBLIC CALENDAR

Park Hours:

March 1 - October 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 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
Meet at the Outdoor Classroom

CNPS Plant Walks at Eaton Canyon

3rd Sunday of the month 10-11:30 am

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>

ECNCA Docent-Naturalist Training Classes of 2024 Have Graduated!

Articles by Elaine Brown, new docent graduate



ECNCA Docent-Naturalist Weekday Class of 2024 with certificates of completion!
Photo: Pam Edwards

We're proud to announce that both the weekday and weekend docent-naturalist students have graduated. We are super thankful for the volunteers that regularly lead Family Nature Walks and support the gift shop, so having yet another group of new volunteers ready to build on this community is very exciting! The class is planned and led by Diane Lang and includes many talks and conversations with guest speakers who share their knowledge on arthropods, climate, geology, plants, and more. Please reach out to ecanyontraining@gmail.com to learn more about how you can be prepared for next year's class.



ECNCA Docent-Naturalist Weekend Class of 2024

Photo: Brenda Hurst

Graduating classes 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 2024 issue is May 15, 2024. Send submissions to Brenda Hurst eatonmember@gmail.com.

Contributors: Elaine Brown, Pam Edwards, Kenia Estrella, Brenda Hurst

Paw Prints Production
Content Editor: Brenda Hurst
Layout: Carole Scurlock
Copy Editor: Laura Joseph

DOCENT AND MEMBER CALENDAR

Bag Lunch Mini-Inservice: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 at Noon in Classroom 1. **Edgar McGregor** will present the topic: **"Santa Ana Windstorms and Their Effect in Altadena and Pasadena."** The topic will do a deep dive into Santa Ana Windstorms, how they form, the different types, how strong they can be and how we forecast them.

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.



Graduating classes continued from page 1

2024 ECNCA Docent-Naturalist Class Graduates: Maria Aparicio, Linda Chapman Babcock, Joanne Bartkus, Lindsay Bremner, Elaine Brown, Al Buennagel, Isabel Cardenas, Tim Curl, Sean Downing, Amanda Getty, Ethan Hedrick, Carla Hakewessell, Alice Konitz, EJ Marcus, Ever Mainard, Edgar McGregor, Lulu Marin, Kristen Ochoa, Yasmin Rios, Laura Young-Shehata.

Earth Day Recap



Recycling project

Photo: Kenia Estrella

Eaton Canyon Nature Center celebrated Earth Day this year on Saturday April 20th. We had an amazing turnout—so much so that the park even had to close temporarily! The day started off with Family Nature Walks led by our volunteer docents and a trash pick-up hosted by our partner We Explore Earth. At the same time, We Explore Earth was also working with the nature center's staff on a recycling project, sorting and prepping the many cans and bottles that have been stored in the maintenance yard. Afterward, they even tackled



Animal booth and CNPS mini plant sale

Photo: Elaine Brown

Earth Day Recap continued on page 3



CNPS mini plant sale

Photo: Elaine Brown

removing some of the invasive Mediterranean mustard that has been blooming profusely since spring rolled around.

In addition to all the amazing Earth Day activities that were happening on the trails, multiple booths were set up in the nature center to educate visitors about our native plants and animals. There were also fun crafts and games for children, including painted rock tic-tac-toe, rock-painting, and bag toss. California Native Plant Society hosted a mini plant sale and gave out pots with planted seeds, educating people on the needs and habitat preferences of the native species that we can grow in our gardens. We also had an awesome Yerba Mate drink booth where visitors could learn about its benefits and nutritional value. The event was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for the Eaton Canyon community to connect and learn together. We were so happy to see so many of our volunteers supporting the event!

New Invasive Plant Spotted



Malta starthistle

Photos: Elaine Brown

Conservation Corps Chair Max Yasuda led volunteers in a mini removal session of a new invasive that has been sprouting up in Eaton Canyon: the Malta starthistle. At first glance, they may not be easy to notice within the



(l-r) Robert Lang and Tomas Martin-Mur

Invasive Plant continued

sea of invasive mustard crowding the canyon right now. Malta starthistle is characterized by yellow flowerheads, a bulbous spiny receptacle, and long leaves with tiny hairs. They reproduce through both self-pollination and cross-pollination, and their seeds may live in the soil for four or more years, UC Davis reports. There is also some evidence that points to this plant being toxic for horses. Similar to the origin of invasive mustard in California, the Malta starthistle was introduced by Spanish colonists. ■

Eaton Canyon Moonlight Walks start in May!

All walks start at 7:00 p.m. Check in at the nature center by 6:45 pm.

\$2.00 donation per person (including children). Members are free.

For more information visit our website, www.ecnca.org. Scroll under Trails to Tours, Walks & Hikes.

May 24th (Memorial Day weekend), June 21st, July 19th, August 16th and September 13th.





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.