



PAW PRINTS

Volume 42, Number 12

Newsletter of the Eaton Canyon Nature Center Associates

December 2024

PUBLIC CALENDAR

Park Winter Hours: November 1 – February 28, 2025

Gate Hours: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Nature Center Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Park 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.

Nature Center Discovery

Sat. mornings on the Outdoor Patio.
Canyon Chats: 10 am and 12 pm
Nature Discovery: 10 am - 12 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

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

Join us in celebrating the Holidays at
Taco/Social in Eagle Rock, Dec. 4.
See website for more information:
<https://www.sierraclub.org/angeles/pasadena>

Toyon (aka California Holly or Christmas Berry)

By Brenda Hurst

One of the books used for our ECNCA Docent Training class is, "Secrets of the Oak Woodlands" by Kate Marianchild. As the holidays approach I thought I'd share an excerpt from the Toyon chapter.



Toyon - *Heteromeles arbutifolia*

Photo: Carole Scurlock

"In addition to brightening winter landscapes, toyon supplies food to a wide range of animals. Birds and mammals rely on it for winter sustenance and in summer native bees, butterflies, moths, and other insects consume the nectar, pollen, and petals of its tiny rose-like white flowers. A few mammals and insects eat toyon leaves, and many animals use it for cover. Endemic to California and Baja California, toyon is a traditional source of food, medicine and tools for Native Californians.

When Europeans arrived they called toyon "Christmas berry" or "California holly" and harvested it almost to extinction for holiday decorations. To protect the plant, the California State Legislature passed a law in the 1920s prohibiting the harvesting of toyon on public lands." ■

**From all of us at Eaton Canyon Nature Center,
we send you all warm wishes for this holiday season.
Hope you'll find time to take a break, get out,
and enjoy a hike or leisurely walk in Eaton Canyon!
See you in the canyon!**



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 January 2025 issue is December 15, 2024. Send submissions to Brenda Hurst eatonmember@gmail.com.

Contributors: Heidi Friedrichs, Brenda Hurst

Paw Prints Production

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

DOCENT AND MEMBER CALENDAR

Bag Lunch Mini-Inservice

Wed., December 4, 2024, at Noon in Classroom 1. **Dana Stengel**, from Teranga Ranch will present the topic: **Bobcats and Foxes.**

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.

ARTISTS CORNER: BRENDA HURST

Now on view in the Artists Corner at the nature center from November 13 to January 26, 2025—Brenda's hand painted "Black Jays."



Dia de Los Muertos at Eaton

This Eaton Canyon Nature Center event took place on November 2nd with a beautiful Ofrenda, created by Ofelia Esparza, her daughter, Rosanna Esparza Ahrens, and other family members. It was on view in the auditorium through the month of November. 10am-2pm, Wed-Sun.



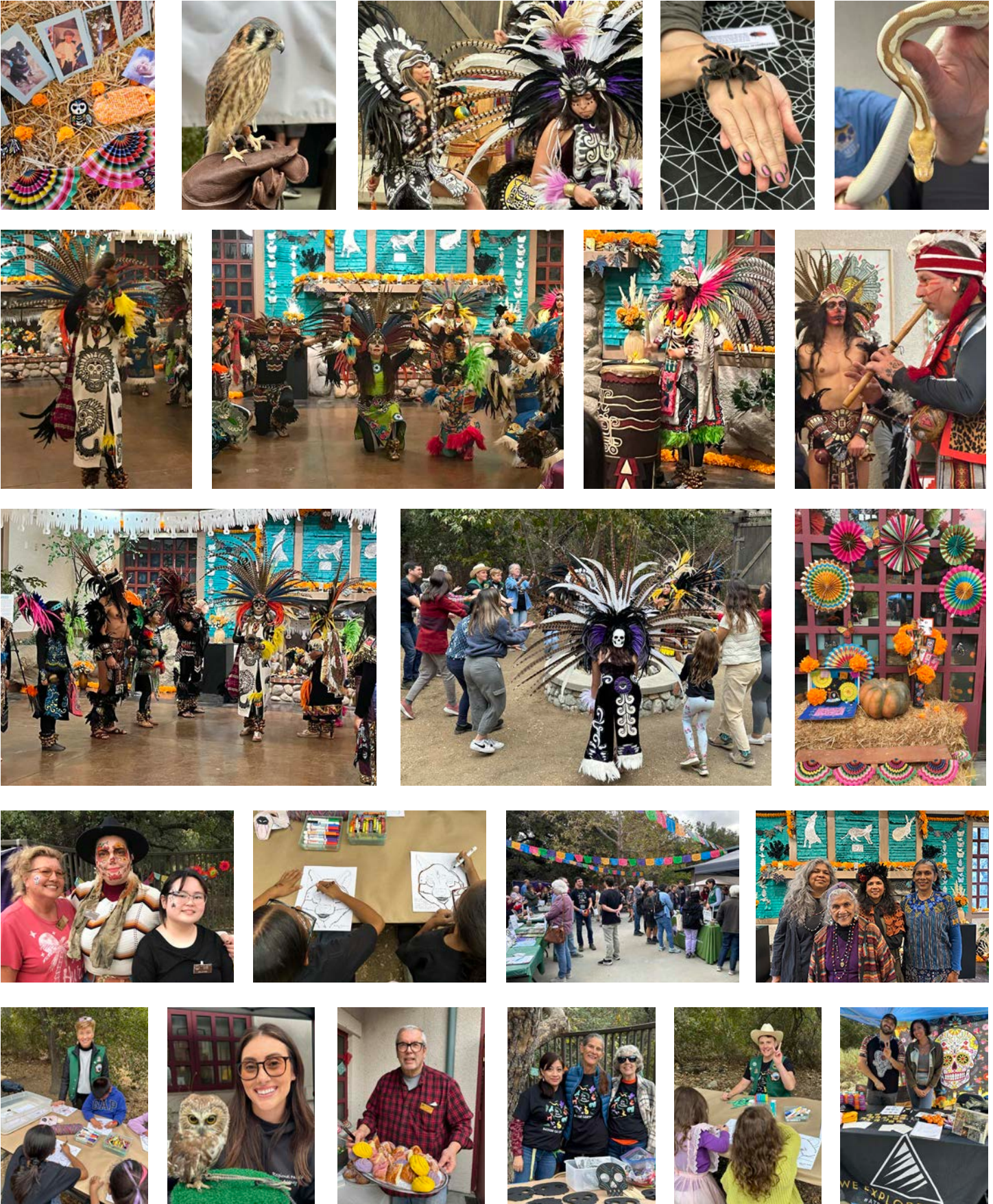
The event on November 2nd included the following amazing participants: We Explore Earth, Altadena Libraries, Loraquin Scholars, Wildlife Sanctuaries, San Dimas Raptor Rescue and Nature Center, Southwestern Herpetologist Society, Arroyos and Foothills Conservancy, California Native Plant Society -San Gabriel Mountains Chapter, dance groups Copali Copili Aztec Dancers and YANKUITITL, and our many ECNCA volunteers. Thank you to all for making this a memorable event at Eaton Canyon. ■



Dia de Los Muertos at Eaton Canyon

November 2, 2024

Photos: Carvel Bass, Heidi Friedrichs, David Kristoff, Terri Jover *and* Brenda Hurst



November Bag Lunch Mini-Inservice: "Spreading the Spores" with presenter Aaron Tupak



At our November Bag Lunch Mini-Inservice we were introduced to Aaron Tupak, who presented the fascinating topic: "Spreading the Spores: Highlighting Fungal Awareness for Ecologically Focused Conservation."

Aaron Tupak is a mycologist, educator, community organizer, and speaker based in Los Angeles. Aaron

is the organizer of the fungi-focused community education group Exploring the Mycoverse. Aaron works for the Fungal Diversity Survey, the only non-profit focused on North America's fungal biodiversity and conservation. They serve as a fungi collector for the California Fungal Diversity Survey, the first government-funded state-wide project of its kind. Aaron is also the founding chair of the North American Mycological Association's Conservation and Stewardship Committee.

Aaron is passionate about fungi conservation advocacy, ecological restoration, and making fungi education accessible for all ages and demographics. Aaron encourages everyone to visit Exploring the Mycoverse at Arlington Garden in Pasadena. ■

ART at Eaton! Kalli Arte Collective

These beautiful pieces are on view through mid-December in the nature center Auditorium. 10 am-2 pm, Wednesday - Sunday.

"We started Kalli Arte Collective in 2004 as a means to express ourselves and understand our own identity. The collective is made up of myself (Alfonso Aceves), my wife Adriana Carranza and our 4 children Sara, Lone, Diego and Emilio. My wife and I are the grounding force of the collective taking on most of the work.

As community artists, we found that printmaking is the best way to speak to our community. We taught ourselves how to print and produce work that we present to our community. Throughout learning this practice we are able to support our family." ■



Kenia Estrella

Photo: Heidi Friedrichs

Kenia Estrella Farewell Luncheon

On November 14th, the ECNCA held a Farewell Luncheon for Kenia Estrella, our LA County Parks & Rec. Recreation Services Supervisor at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. For over ten years we've worked together and now she'll be sorely missed. Lucky for us, however, she has taken a job at our sister nature center in San Dimas, so we'll still be able to keep in contact with her. Here's a little bit about Kenia.

In the summer of 2013, Kenia started in the Careers in Conservation program and shortly after that she was hired at Eaton Canyon Nature Center as a youth worker (now known as a park aide). In 2014, she graduated our ECNCA Docent Training Class! During this time Eaton Canyon was her home base, but as a youth worker, she was able to work at other nature centers as well (Whittier Narrows, Stoneview, and San Dimas). She was then promoted to a full time LA County Parks & Rec. staff position as a Recreation Services Leader. In February of this year, she was promoted to Recreation Services Supervisor and will continue in that position at San Dimas.

Kenia, the ECNCA wishes you all great successes in your new job! You've been a joy to work with. We'll miss seeing you at your desk at Eaton. ■



ECNCA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

President: Brenda Hurst
Vice-President: Diane Marcussen
Recording Secretary: Sarah Richart
Corresponding Secretary: Mary Veselich
Treasurer: Terry Ginsberg

ECNCA APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS:

Ramie Case
 Rose Haig
 Susan Hopkins
 Judy Jenkins
 David Kristoff
 Diane Lang

Nature Center Director: Richard Smart
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)

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.