



Least Bell's Vireo's Voice

Whittier Narrows Nature Center Association Newsletter

August 2015

Volunteer Recognition Awards

**PLEASE COME CELEBRATE WITH US
at Eaton Canyon Nature Center!
Saturday, September 12**

We will be recognizing our outstanding volunteers:

Docent Naturalists:

Ashley Barajas
Maria Cervantes
Peter Dille
Gregorio Gonzalez

Volunteers:

Armando Abedoy
Christina De Vanhoof
Juju Liu
Rebecca Saldana
Gloria Valladolid
Chiyo Yamaguchi

Volunteer of the Year:

Gregorio Gonzalez

Youth Volunteer of the Year:

Rebecca Saldana

This month:
September 5. 8:00 AM. Bird Walk with Ed Barajas.

September 12. 9:30 AM. Volunteer Recognition Awards at Eaton Canyon.

September 16. 10:00 AM. WNNCA Executive Board meeting.

September 19. 8:00 AM. Nature walk. Docent led.
ALSO: 10:00 AM First docent training.
ALSO: 5:30 PM. Night Hike.

September 26. 8:00 AM. Bird walk with Ed Barajas.
ALSO: 10:00 AM. Docent training.

**September 26 - 27.
Second Gift Shop
Spectacular**

Detailed
Docent Training
Schedule Page 2

Our email: [www:wnnca@att.net](http://www.wnnca@att.net)

INTERESTING HAPPENINGS AT WNNC

Docent Training Schedule

- Sept. 19— Entomology (Insects , Arachnids) Terry Young, MS 10:00 AM—12:00
Sept. 26 — Geography Stephen Koletty, Ph. D. 10:00 AM —12:00
Oct. 3 — Birding Mickey Long, BS. 8:00 AM— 10:30 AM ← **Note time**
Oct. 10 — Native Plants ID Ann Croissant, PH.D 10:00 AM —12:00
Oct. 17 — History of the WNNC and the San Gabriel Valley Paul Spitzzery, Ass.
Dir., Homestead Museum 10 :00 AM —12:00
Oct. 24 — Herpetology (Reptiles and Amphibians) Grayson Kent 10:00 —12:00
(Unconfirmed at this time.)



Fire!

Photos of the recent fire in the area of San Gabriel/Lincoln/Rosemead . It caused our natural area to lose of a little over one acre, but it devastated a few more around it. It could have been a lot worse. We are thankful to the firefighters and others that acted so promptly and preventing even more damage.

Photos by Lou Orr



Canceled

Canceled

Canceled

Canceled

Rio Hondo River clean up

☀️ This extraordinary photo was published in the LA Times Southern California Moments, (more info below) proving once more time how privileged we are to have such talent as Lou in our midst.



A black-chinned hummingbird feeds her chicks at the Whittier Narrows Nature Center.

[Lou Orr](#) photographed a black-chinned hummingbird feeding its chicks at the Whittier Narrows Nature Center in South El Monte.

Orr, a volunteer at the nature center, had been watching the nest for four weeks, checking in on the hummingbirds every few days.

Each week, they feature photos of Southern California and California submitted by readers. [You can visit latimes.com/socalmoments](https://www.latimes.com/socalmoments) for more on this photo series.



Recent Field Trip to the Arboretum

Members of the WNNCA enjoying the beauty and variety of the Arboretum, taking advantage of the bird walk led by a very capable member of the Pasadena Audubon.



Photos
By
Jim Odling



We are proud of the fact that Whittier Narrows Nature Center makes a difference in people's lives. Here are just two examples that need no explanation:

Dear Whittier Narrows Nature Center Staff, docents and G.A.I.N. workers,

I would like to thank all of you for having this opportunity for me working here with each one of you. I remember my interview with Colleen. It was Thursday October 23rd 2014, talking about my experience of what jobs I did and talked about myself. It was a crowded day it must have been a field trip day, most Thursdays are field trip days. Colleen asks me, "can you start Saturday"? Of course I said, "yes". I was so happy about this job getting it and everything. I started October 25, 2014. It took me a while to get used to working, because I stayed home with my daughter for the whole first years of my pregnancy. This was the best opportunity for me getting back to work again.

Johnathon, Socorro's grandson was the first person I worked with my first day. He comes and volunteers sometimes. The first day was definitely interesting because I was back to work, new and changing. The things I like about the nature center was the animals. My favorites are the raccoons, "Rufus" and "Magoo". They are the lazy animals at the nature center. The things I love to do is go to the outreaches. Those were lots, and lots of fun. Bringing the birds, snakes, toads and lizards, etc. The work outside was cool, but the animals were the best part. I love feeding the raccoons, especially "Rufus" with his raw egg in the morning. "Rufus", and "Magoo", I will miss you very much. "W.S.I" every Friday with Lou Orr's presentation for "Professor Woody Owlbert", pelts and the walking trails. Grace and Socorro in charge of the gift shop, bought lots of sodas, helped make wreaths at Christmas time, arts and crafts for each holiday. The staff for this whole eight months has been great. Thank you Colleen, Joseph (Joe), Christopher (Chris), Julio, Whittier Narrows Staff. My last day was Thursday June 25, 2015.

Thank you,

See you later alligators, Love always,

Delta

Ruben Castaneda, B A in Biology from U C Davis

My youth and adolescence took place in Montebello, CA. where trickery, fun and games were taking hold. Not so far away, Montebello High School, was from Whittier Narrows Natural Area yet a veil shimmered between us. Out of high school I attended Rio Hondo College then transferred to the University of California, Davis with Animal Biology as my field of study. Ever since I was a child, and as far back as my memory permits me, my devotion to learn about life had vastly increased to my thoughts of today. With enormous vacillation, deciding between General Biology as my major or Animal Biology, my love for the Animal Kingdom took its reign.

My love for life has been inside of me since my first memories. And my actions and perseverance have guided me to the Whittier Narrows Natural Area. And they keep bringing me back! My first time in Whittier Narrows was during my Fall semester of 2008. Whittier Narrows is located only a few miles from home. Before that, I would just imagine skyscrapers, homes, stores, cars. Trees were only on the sidewalks. Not until I arrived at the WNNA did I start viewing LA as a diverse community where you have these beautiful pieces of land right at the step of our Los Angeles big city backyard.

My first time at Whittier Narrows I would ask myself, "Why is this place so dry, where is all the green you'd normally see in natural areas?" As I have learned that many factors have played into what WNNA is today. One thing is for sure, the WNNA is located in Southern California, a mediterranean type of climate, nowhere near the equator with its rain forests. The best thing about it here is my imagination that one day I will encounter a coyote! The Whittier Narrows Natural Area has not only taught me about biology, but it has also guided me in life. As I have gathered my thoughts here about planning my future and getting past my personal struggles. Whittier Narrows has influenced me to strive for the greater good for myself, my family and my community. Being part of Rio Hondo College, two of my Biology courses had ties with Whittier Narrows. The WNNA has empowered my journey as a Biologist, providing a hands-on experience for my field of study: animal behavior.

Thank you, Delta and Ruben

Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians — Kizh Nation 6th Annual Family and Friends BBQ



This event was well attended in spite of the heat blanketing the area . There were artifacts and native plants on exhibit, food, a raffle, information, drumming, singing, crafts and cold “raspados”.



Chief Ernie Salas offered a blessing , after which he addressed the gathering, stating the importance of the Whittier Narrows area for the Kizh Nation. This area was site of an ancestral village and hunting ground and considered sacred. Chief Salas also stated that the Kizh Nation has been, and continue to be, against the proposed development of the Discovery Center



Chief Salas with friends



Drumming, including a guest drummer from the Cherokee Nation



Crafts



Our dear expert, botanist Matt, with his beloved medicine plants.

**Join the fun. Join the Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates.
Membership includes out monthly newsletter and a 10% discount in our gift shop.**

The Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates is a volunteer 501(c)3 nonprofit organization actively looking for new members. WNNCA is a chapter of the Nature Center Associates, a nonprofit support organization of the natural area park system of Los Angeles County.

We were founded to help enrich educational and scientific knowledge in the community. Our primary mission is to help foster an appreciation of the natural world in children and adults and to help preserve the Whittier Narrows Natural Area and the county's other natural areas for future generations.

Our activities include leading school group tours, answering visitors' questions, arranging and leading classes, planting and maintaining plants around the nature center, helping in the nature center museum and in the gift shop, performing light office work and answering phones, and more.

Membership application

Date: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Annual membership levels (circle one)

\$30 - Individual \$15 - Senior (Over 62)

\$45 - Family \$15 - Student

\$75 - Friend Associate

\$100 - Patron Associate

\$250 - Supporting Associate

\$1,000 - Golden Oak Associate

Send with check, payable to the address below.

The Whittier Narrows Natural Area and Nature Center are located within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County in the Supervisory District of Gloria Molina. The natural area and nature center are operated by the County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the Whittier Narrows Nature Center Associates.



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