



Least Bell's Vireo's Voice

Whittier Narrows Nature Center Association Newsletter

October 2017

One of the WNNCA ambitions is to label **all** our native plants in an effort to learn, and also teach. Jesse has been an enthusiast promoter of this project and has done most of the legwork. You see him with Lou in this photo, placing the very first label on the beautiful yucca (*Yucca whipplei*) right on the edge of the parking lot.



We have a lot more labels to place because fortunately (although Jesse and Lou might not agree) the Nature Center has a great collection of native plants, ready to be admired and loved. Come to enjoy their beauty and learn their characteristics that made them indispensable to our first inhabitants of the area.

This month:

October 7. 8:00 to 9:30 am.

Docent training: Bird ID class with Mickey Long . **Be prompt!**

Also: 9:50 Power Point presentation.

October 14. 8:00 Nature walk. Docent led.

ALSO: 10:00 am. Docent training. All about bees.

Beekeeper William Seoznoff.

October 21. 8:00 AM. Bird walk. Docent led. **ALSO: 9:00 am board meeting.**

ALSO: 10:00 AM. Docent training. Plants of the Whittier Narrows Natural Area with Dr. Ann Croissant

ALSO: 5:30 pm. Halloween Night Hike

October 28. 8:00 AM. Nature walk. Docent led.

ALSO: 10:00 am. Docent training. Introduction to Entomology with Terry Young

Complicated!!!

Hope is clear enough

Web site access:

WNNCA.org

Our email: wnnca@att.net

**Every Friday:
Water Squad Investigators
Program**

2017

NCA Volunteer Recognition

Volunteers and docents from every Nature Center were honored last September 9 at Eaton Canyon during the NCA annual general meeting. This is an annual event in which a few of the amazing people that keep the heart of every Center beating is recognized. It probably is a difficult choice every year. For our own Whittier Narrows, we recognized Ilse Arciga as our adult volunteer of the year. She appears below just after receiving her certificate with (L to R) Colleen, Lou, her mother, her father, Jack Levenberg, president of NCA and Kim Bosell, Natural Areas administrator. Our youth volunteer of the year was Griselda Espinosa. who was unable to attend.



Ilse proudly displaying her certificate, flanked by her justifiably proud parents.



Socorro and Lou received the volunteer award certificate in behalf of Griselda, who regrettably could not attend the celebration.



Some of our WNNCA members enjoying the event. Food after adjournment was great as well.

Fall Means Docent Naturalist Training



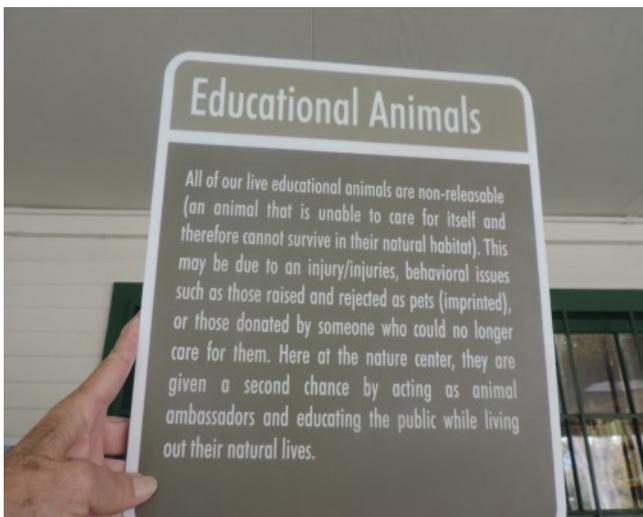
View of our Open House and Introduction to Docent Naturalist training on September 16. Great food and even better camaraderie.

Trainings coming in October:
October 7: Birding
October 14: Honeybees
October 21: Plants
October 28: Entomology

But wait: there will be more!



**Halloween
Night Hike
October 21
5:30 pm
Costume contest
(Ages 12 & under)**



INTERESTING DETAIL

This sign is to be displayed every time animals are presented to the public. It is self-explanatory but necessary to make clear that animals belong in the wild, and only those that have become unable to sustain themselves due to injuries or other reasons are used for education.

Launching Docent Training



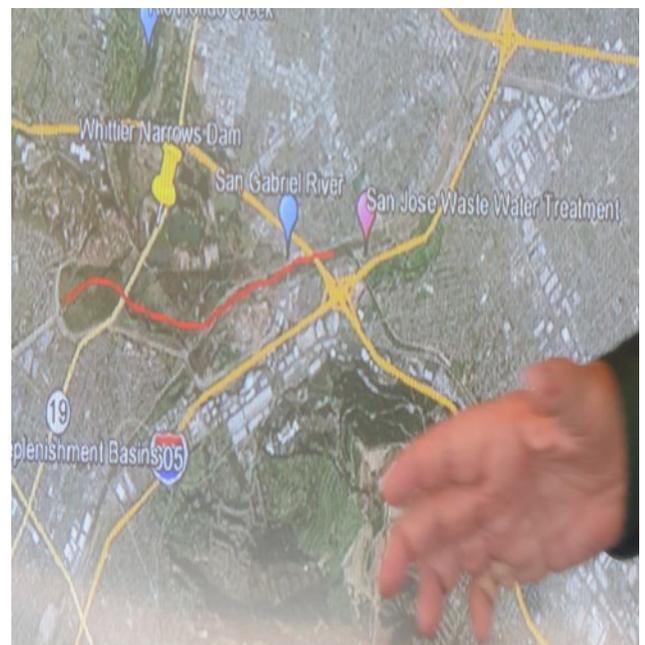
Our first class of the present course for prospective docents proved to be very interesting and extremely informative. Thomas Keeney, pictured to the left, is a Senior Terrestrial Ecologist with the Army Corp of Engineers. His topic was “What is Happening to the Whittier Narrows Natural Area.” This proved to be a very complex and multilayered topic, centered on the projected repairs to the Whittier dam. As he explained, this is a question of repair and modify the dam for the next 50 years and also natural resources management.



An extreme storm could put in danger all the Area from Pico Rivera to Long Beach. The dam was open in 1957 and is one of five in the San Gabriel river. The dam will be raised and the footprint widened.

The operation is made more complex due to the area is critical habitat for endangered species, such as gnatcatchers and vireos and the presence of numerous exotic plants, requiring a comprehensive restoration plan.

Mr. Keeney emphasized that the project has several ramifications: dam safety, water conservation and maintenance, recreational uses, and resource management.



**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 Hilda Solis. 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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