
The Story of Some Random Volunteer Naturalists

by Carolyn Noble



So..... once upon a variety of years, we each came upon the idea that we actually (finally) had time for some fun and learning for ourselves. In fact, we came upon the idea that we actually (finally) had time to make some fun and learning for many children in Orange County, while having fun for ourselves!



For years, we had each lived our overly-programmed lives doing what we knew we had to do, but always still managing to squeeze our love of nature into some catch-as-catch can hours at our beloved San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Would we ever have time in our lives to spend more hours there, we each wondered?

Yes, we had always loved the indigenous plants, animals and birds of our Wildlife Sanctuary! We loved the ponds, the paths and the sunshine! We loved spending moments in Audubon House, marveling at the variety of fabulously taxidermied birds.



We heard from Naturalist, Trude Hurd, that there were myriad children in Orange County schools, who had never been to such a place.

Could it be that there were children in our local schools who had never looked at a Great Blue Heron through a pair of "real" binoculars? Could it be that there were children who had never walked quietly along our pond pathways, smelling the sweet smell of sage? Could it be that there were children who had never looked at the "wiggling" life in our pond water through a microscope?

Could it be that there were children who had never discovered the wonder of our collection of bird nests? Could it be that there were still children who had never beheld the beauty of

our taxidermied birds? Could it be that there were children right here in Orange County who still hadn't heard of a food chain, or the critical importance of our wetlands? Could it be that each of us discovered that we had at least two mornings a month, between October and May, to tell the children of Orange County about the amazing world of our San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary? Could it be that we each were needed to share our love of nature for these few hours each month? Could it be that we could leave a legacy?

We each said, "YES!", when we learned that Trude would teach us everything we needed to know to become Volunteer Naturalists. It was an exciting time of discovery for each of us, as we learned all that we needed to know about our beautiful marsh. We made new and interesting friends as we became part of the Naturalists' Team. We found that we could help the children use the wonderful equipment and educational resources at Audubon House.

We learned that we were who was needed to bring a beginning understanding and wonder of nature into the children's eyes. Yes, it was us! Random Volunteer Naturalists who now had the ability to bring the joy of the discovery of the natural world to some precious school children in Orange County.

Come join our team! Dedicate two mornings (Tuesdays/Thursdays) a month to our children. Call Trude Hurd at 949-261-7963, or e-mail her at seaandsage@sbcglobal.net, or come by the Audubon House for a visit and to ask questions.



We want to meet you and welcome you, as you assist us with something we very much love to do! You'll love it too, we promise!

