

Marsh Education Project Annual Report 2022

"Audubon Camp inspired me to become a better birder and be more aware about nature around me."

Thanks to your support in 2022, our Education Team was able to re-connect people with nature after the pandemic. From interactive science programs for elementary school children to exciting night-time bat walks for adults, Sea and Sage Audubon created a safe environment for people to enjoy nature at the beautiful San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Our 52 adult naturalists and 7 teen volunteers donated over 3,500 hours to make these accomplishments happen. We thank everyone who helped us to share the important message of protecting birds and their habitat: donors, naturalists, coordinators, and the Irvine Ranch Water District.



- **Outdoor Adventures** (1,168 children; 1,124 Title 1): We enrolled 48 elementary school classes (46 Santa Ana scholarships) for the 2022-23 school year which included a science field trip, loan of field trip curriculum kit and 3 nature newspapers for each student.
- **Outdoor Adventures New Naturalist Training.** Nine new recruits attended our 7 training classes. They are now observing and practicing how to lead and assist the science programs. We welcome them!
- **Nature Walk** (46 people): Visitors learned about the marsh ecosystem from 6 naturalist-led walks and 4 seasonal nature displays in kiosks in the parking lot and Pond B.
- **Nature Day Camps** (58 children): Children and teens enjoyed 4 week-long, half-day camps at the marsh with daily nature walks, nature journaling, art projects, and more. Habitat themes for Advanced Bird Camps were coastal sage scrub and oak woodlands.
- **Summer Bat Walks** (60 people): Participants marveled as hundreds of insect-eating bats flew over us during 5 evening walks in August and September. They also learned about the superpowers of bats.
- **Junior Naturalists** (24 teens): Teens connected with each other through field trips, bird surveys and stewardship projects.
- **Nature Discovery Kits** (321 children and 17 adults): Children saw nature specimens close-up through loan of our kits. Seven educators borrowed kits on owls, nests, bats, butterflies and reptiles.
- **Children's Book Walk - NEW:** We displayed pages from "Paddle Perch Climb: Bird Feet are Neat" by Laurie Ellen Angus for two weeks in the meadow plus had fun activities on opening and closing days.
- **Taxidermy Specimens.** Over 8,620 people viewed our birds during science programs, at community events, and in Audubon House.
- **New Chapter Website:** We completely rewrote all education pages and our new website launched in fall 2022. You can visit and take a look at <https://wp.seaandsageaudubon.org/>. Let us know if or how you used any of the educational materials!



What the Community Says about our Programs

- “This program is TOP NOTCH. The quality of the materials and experiences this program is true and tested. As a teacher of 24 years, I found myself a learner as I taught the provided lessons and as I participated in the field trip. Our guide knew the scientific material extremely well. My students and I benefited so much from it.” Santa Ana fifth grade teacher attending Outdoor Adventures.
- “Audubon Camp is really fun and you get to learn a lot, not just about birds. You learn about plants and habitats, animals, and everything else in nature.” Child enrolled in Advanced Bird Camp 2.
- “My daughter has been to 3 or 4 camps. Her love for nature and birds increases annually. She participates in conservation activities as a result.” Parent of child in Coastal Bird Camp.
- “These nature kits are wonderful! They provide hands on learning materials for the children to grasp different concepts. Most important they learn to love and respect nature.” Nature Kit borrower.

Thanks to our Audubon Naturalists

- **Adults:** Darrel Airhart, Phyllis Anderson, Ann Barbour, Rudi Berkelhamer, Dejoie Blumberg, Deborah Brin, Jeannette Bush, Teresa Cullen, Linda Daily, Bettina Eastman, Amanda Gaskin, Susan Gibb, Jenny Golden, Beverly Hargrove, Chris Holland, Star Howard, Mary Joseph, Susan Kramer, Babs Levitan, Doug Lithgow, Gloria Markussen, Maya Matkin, Jay Miller, Marquita Miller, Deb Meyers (Woods), Jodi Newell, Carolyn Noble, Laura Osteen, Claire Readey, Karla Reinhardt, Margaret Renton, Gail Richards, Brenda Sabin, Jean Savage, Pat Sparks, Bev Spring, Debbie Spurr, Stephanie Tanton, Linda Thomas, Dan Trinidad, Pat Vranicar, Marilyn Walter, and Mary Ellen Wynn.
- **Youth:** Nina Arnold, Ray DeVente, Nicholas Earnhart, Annabel Meng, Aashay Mody, Kyle Okino.
- **New Outdoor Adventures Naturalists in training:** Mindy Bergen, Claire Bischoff, Kathy Blackmarr, Dawn Bonker, Holly Frank, Kate Grabenstein, Sue Henry Hardcastle, Mary Naasz, and Amy Wisneskie.

Financial and in-Kind Support

- Special thanks to the long-time Anonymous Foundation for their very generous \$50,000 grant.
- We appreciate our extraordinary partnership with the Irvine Ranch Water District.
- We gratefully received donations from Anonymous (2), Mark Adamson & Nancy Tschiderer, Cindy Allen, Ann Barbour, Rudi Berkelhamer, Matt & Carolyn Biller, Kelsi Black, Kathy Blackmarr, Dejoie Blumberg, Armida Brashears, Deborah Brin, Sue Bruns, Mary Cupp & Tom Makar, Daily Family Foundation (in memory of Sophie Wickramasinghe), Disney VolunteARS (thanks to Ralph Sugg), Debi Forsythe, Judith Frant, Judy Fritts, Amanda Gaskin, Gordon Generation Foundation (Judy Gordon), Kate Grabenstein & Steven Papiian, Beverly Hargrove, Trude Hurd, City of Irvine Community Partnership grant (Vice Mayor Anthony Kuo), Susan Kay, Nancy Kenyon, Paul Klahr, Patricia Knight, Bev Krassner Bulas, Babs Levitan, Kung Lin, Bing Liu, Donna Mackiewicz, Robin Maguire, Gary & Maya Matkin, Jay & Marquita Miller, Paula & David Monroe, Carolyn Noble, Carol Paquette, Charlene Pinder, Helen Porter, Margaret Renton, Ann Sakai & Stephen Weller, Pat Sparks, Bev Spring, Doug Tolbert Estate, Tom Van Huss, Kumar Wickramasinghe, Tod & Linda White, and Gloria Widmann.
- In memory of Sophie Wickramasinghe: Daily Family Foundation, Kumar Wickramasinghe.
- In memory of Doug Tolbert: Janis & Thomas Betts, Margie Buckingham, Nancy Hadley, Kung Lin, Lucien & Ann Plauzoles, James Stewart, and Nadine Turner.

We welcome new volunteers and donations to help teach the importance of birds and their habitats.
Contact Project Director of Education Trude Hurd by email: seaandsage@sbcglobal.net.