

Marsh Education Project Annual Report 2023

“Thank you for giving my kids a wonderful, exciting, eventful week in nature.”

With your support in 2023, our Audubon Naturalists shared the important message of protecting birds and their habitat with over 9,700 adults and children. From interactive science programs for elementary school children and week-long summer camps for youth to exciting night-time bat walks and special guided tours, our 58 adult and 9 teen education volunteers donated over 4,500 hours to help people experience nature at the beautiful San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. We thank everyone who helped us positively impact lives: donors, naturalists, coordinators, generous Anonymous Foundation, and the awesome Irvine Ranch Water District.

<p style="text-align: center;">Outdoor Adventures 1,237 children in 50 classes</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">“This field trip awakens the appreciation and love of nature in young students. They feel they can make a difference by protecting nature.” (teacher)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">New Naturalist Training 10 adults</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">“I am always impressed by their passion for nature- it really carries over to the students.” (teacher)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nature Day Camps 56 children in 4 summer camps</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">“All of (our children) participated in this wonderful program which is an amazing combination of learning and fun and a great time in nature.” (parent)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Summer Bat Walks 70 people on 6 events</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Junior Naturalists 23 teens</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Community Outreach 63 people on 7 tours</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">author Amy Tan (right)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Nature Discovery Kits 4 loans</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Taxidermy Specimens 7,914 people during 23 loans, Audubon House, camp, and tours</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Special Outreach 216 people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird Behaviors presentation at OC Wild’s Docent Day event by Project Director Trude Hurd. • Wonderful World of Bats presentation to Irvine Ranch Conservancy’s naturalists by Ellen Mansour. • Children’s Story Walk at plein air event at the marsh in fall.

Many Thanks to our Audubon Naturalists

- **Adults:** Darrel Airhart, Phyllis Anderson, Sarah Baker, Ann Barbour, Mindy Bergen, Rudi Berkelhamer, Claire Bischoff, Kathy Blackmarr, Dejoie Blumberg, Dawn Bonker, Deborah Brin, Tina Coombe, Teresa Cullen, Linda Daily, Bettina Eastman, Amanda Gaskin, Kate Grabenstein, Sue Henry Hardcastle, Dan Hartman, Chris Holland, Star Howard, Teri Jones-White, Mary Joseph, Christine Kim, Susan Kramer, Babs Levitan, Doug Lithgow, Ellen Mansour, Maya Matkin, Karen McKinley, Jay Miller, Marquita Miller, Mary Naasz, Jodi Newell, Carolyn Noble, Laura Osteen, Linda Reed, Gail Richards, Jean Savage, Pat Sparks, Debbie Spurr, Stephanie Tanton, Dan Trinidad, Pat Vranicar, Marilyn Walter, Megan Watson, Amy Wisneskie, and Mary Ellen Wynn.
- **Youth:** Nina Arnold, Jude Flores, Javier Greenway, Bella Liu, Annabel Meng, Aashay Mody, Owen Noble, Kyle Okino and Lili Sebestyn.
- **New Outdoor Adventures Naturalists in training:** Michael Binder, Deb Gala, Judi Houlihan, Lori Mayeda, Alison Mizera, Paula Monroe, Ellyn Siskind, Sandy Smith, Barbara Wasbin and Irene Wotta.

Financial and in-Kind Support

- We greatly appreciate our extraordinary partnership with the Irvine Ranch Water District for over 31 years.
- Very special thanks to a long-time Anonymous Foundation for their very generous \$50,000 grant.

General Education Fund

\$23,159 raised from 17 donors

Anonymous (2), Ann Barbour, Kathy Blackmarr, Deborah Brin, Judy Gordon (Gordon Generation Foundation), Irvine Community Partnership Grant, Sue Henry Hardcastle, Shirley Johnson (Disney), Paul Klahr, Maya & Gary Matkin, Grace McElhiney, Margaret Renton, Ralph Sugg (Disney), Roger's Gardens, Wickramasinghe Family Fund, and Emma Willsey.

School Bus Fund

\$11,375 raised from 21 donors

Anonymous, Mary Adamson & Nancy Tschiderer, Sonia Appell, Matthew & Carolyn Biller, Kathy Blackmarr, Dejoie Blumberg, Mary Cupp & Thomas Makar (in honor of Amy Newsum), Kate Grabenstein, Ann Harmer, Nancy Kenyon, Patricia Knight, Bev Krassner Bulas, Babs Levitan, Michael Mitchell, Helen Porter, Margaret Renton, Andy & Ellyn Siskind, Bev Spring, Tom & Edith Van Huss, Beth Waterman, and Gloria Widmann.

Participating Santa Ana Schools for Outdoor Adventures

- Adams, Advanced Learning Academy, Diamond, Garfield, Harvey, Heninger, Lincoln, Madison, Martin, Roosevelt, Santiago, Thorpe, and Washington plus Harbor Day from Newport Beach.

New Staff and Leadership



Education Committee Chair – Ellyn Siskind

Ellyn volunteered in 2023 for this Board position to oversee the Project Director of Education, Marsh Education Project activities at the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary and other educational outreach for the chapter. She is a retired high school teacher.



Education Assistant – Diana Terreros

Diana was hired in January 2023 to work 2 days a week supporting our Project Director with Outdoor Adventures and other programs as needed. She is a student at Saddleback College in ecological restoration and also works part-time for City of Costa Mesa at Fairview Park.

Goals for 2024

- Convene an Education meeting in January 2024 to recruit new volunteers and explore new initiatives.
- Rewrite and distribute the Outdoor Adventures Naturalist manual.
- Increase educational displays in Audubon House made possible by a generous donor.

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