

MARCH 2015 NEWSLETTER

Here are some ways you can get involved:

What Do You See Hidden in This Photo?*



Our thanks to Jennifer Jacobs for a great birding hike at Calavera last month. We found 38 species of birds, (a new record) including many of our long term residents and a few just passing through. See updated bird list on our [website](#) and let us know when you see something new out there!

The City of Carlsbad is seeking input on next year's spending plan, focusing on how residents think the city could best fulfill the nine core values that make up the Carlsbad Community Vision. If parks and open space are part of your vision for Carlsbad be sure to let them know that at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KVVFJZQ>.

Gnatcatcher Protection Challenged Again



Photo courtesy of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Our little California Coastal Gnatcatcher is again the center of controversy. Since it was first identified as a potential species at risk of extinction back in 1982, the building

industry has launched a thirty year challenge to its protection. This latest challenge is based on faulty science and is really just about putting development first. To date, according to the National Resources Defense Council, southern California has lost 70-90% of its coastal sage scrub habit "largely due to development". Without gnatcatcher protection under the Endangered Species Act we can expect that the majority of the coastal sage scrub habitat necessary for its survival will be lost to development. With that loss we would lose not just this single species, but our sense of place as coastal southern California - a place that is unique and irreplaceable.

But this one bird is just the tip of the iceberg. Climate scientists predict that 50% of the species on earth could become extinct by 2050 if we do not take serious action to address climate change. President Obama took an important step by vetoing the Keystone XL pipeline. This month we have several opportunities to make a difference locally- from a workshop in Vista on how to reduce your energy bill and tap in to thousands of dollars in rebates, to a lecture by Rear Admiral (ret.) Len Hering on national security impacts, to a march and rally in San Diego. Together we can make a difference- but the time to start is now.

(Vista residents- let us know if you would like to get involved with our work in your community).

*Bushtit nest- looks like a long narrow stick hidden in plain sight.

Our all-volunteer organization can't do what we do without your help. Your time, talent and donation can make a difference - right here in your own backyard. Call or email us to see how else you could get involved.

March Activities

March 7 Sat 9 AM - 12 Noon

San Luis Rey River Cleanup

Help remove trash from the San Luis Rey River and Oceanside beaches. Participate at any of the designated sites. Volunteers receive cleanup supplies, refreshments, one free give-away item and community service hours. Bring your own bucket (for trash), reusable gloves and a reusable water bottle. Site locations and event information can be found at City of Oceanside website [here](#).

March 11 Wed 6 - 7:30 PM

Home Energy Upgrade Workshop

Looking for ways to lower your energy bill and make your home more sustainable? Experts from the Center for Sustainable Energy will help you become an informed consumer and put you in touch with rebates available to make costly upgrades affordable. Workshop will be held at the Vista Civic Center- Community Room at 200 Civic Center Dr in Vista.

Mar 14 Sat 8:30 - 11 AM

Volunteer Trail Work at Carlsbad Oaks North

This is the regular monthly Carlsbad trail volunteer work session. Wear sturdy work shoes, long pants, long sleeved shirt, sunscreen and a hat. Bring water and gloves. Supplies and refreshments will be provided. Work will include weeding, erosion repairs, and filling ruts with dg. Meet/park next to the pump station on El Fuerte near Faraday.

March 15 Sun 2 PM

People's Climate Walk & Rally

This is the first of four walks/rallies planned for this year to mobilize people to transition the U.S. Government from fossil fuels to renewable energy: solar, wind, hydroelectric and wave action. Meet at San Diego City Hall Plaza (3rd Ave. and C St downtown) and walk to the Federal Building. For more info see [The Climate Mobilization](#) or call 619-225-1083. Co- Sponsored by Sierra Club, The Environmental Health Coalition, and others.

March 18 Wed 7 – 9 PM and March 21 Sat 8 AM – 4 PM

Beginning Tracker/Naturalist Class

Tracker/Naturalist series of classes provides the skills to identify tracks, scat, and other sign of our local wildlife. Class includes an evening of classroom instruction and Saturday "dirt time" instruction. Cost: \$50 (\$10 discount for SDTT members). Reserve space by March 13. More information at www.sdtt.org

March 21 SAT 10:30 to 11:30 AM

New Host Orientation, Anstine-Audubon Nature Preserve, Vista

Learn about opportunities to volunteer as a host in one of our little known treasures - the Anstine-Audubon Reserve. More info: anstine@sandiegoaudubon.org. 437 Hutchison St., Vista.

Mar 21 Sat 2:30 - 4:30 PM

Special presentation by Rear Admiral (ret.) Len Hering: National Security and Climate Change

Len Hering is a prominent military and sustainability leader who currently heads the Center for Sustainable Energy. This special north county presentation will focus on the national security impacts of climate change. Event will be held at the Vista Library Community Room.

Mar 21 Sat 5 - 8 PM

5th Annual Birdhouse Auction Open House and Fundraiser

Please join our friends at Buena Vista Audubon for another great event! Enjoy silent auction of amazing birdhouses, feeders and bathouses made by local artists; hosted bar with specialty beers by Stone Brewing Co; live music by 'The Endangeres Speciez Project'; wine cheese and gourmet treats- all this for a \$10 donation. For more info see the BV Audubon [website](#) or call 760-439-2473.

Upcoming Events:

TBD - Hearing on City of Carlsbad General Plan

April 11 Sat

Earth Day Fair at Alta Vista Gardens in Vista

April 19 Sun

Earth Day Fair in Oceanside

May 9 Sat

Trail work at Lake Calavera

May 16 Sat

Endangered Species Day Event at BV Nature Center