



"Conk-a-reeeee"
is the sound of
the male
Red-winged
Blackbird.

Friends of Shipley Nature Center

*"The Friends are land stewards for
Shipley Nature Center in Huntington
Beach's Central Park."*

June, 2010—Volume 7, Issue 1

SPRING FESTIVAL

Community Sharing and Enjoyment

It takes a community to manage the nature center. On May 1, in a fitting tribute to May Day, the Friends of Shipley Nature Center hosted our annual Spring Festival. Seasonal rains took care of the pond and flourished new growth. The Huntington Beach Explorers took care of the hungry visitors. They grilled hamburgers and hotdogs donated by Beef Palace. There was plenty of orange drink from McDonald's. Hot brewed coffee, fresh fruit and baked goods was sold by Community Services Program, Inc. to raise funds to support its youth shelter and programs.



Matt Kollar and His Angry Band performed upbeat and lively music. Children enjoyed getting their faces painted and playing games.

Some families explored the paths on their own, and some received interpretation with a docent.

The Spring Festival was a celebration for the community to share and enjoy the ultimate Southern California weather, flora and fauna. We hope to see you next year at this wonderful celebration.

DEDICATION BECAUSE OF YOU

"Many of YOU — Members, Donors, Sponsors, Scouts, Volunteers and Partners — have contributed to the success of the Center," said Kathryn Goddard, who has just completed three terms as President for the Friends.

Our new restroom facility has just been completed, financed by a grant from the City Block Development funds and donations and fund raising by the Friends. This was greatly needed to serve the 12,000 school children who visit Shipley Nature Center through a contract with the Orange County Department of Education, Inside the Outdoors program.

DANCING WITH THE CHILDREN

Around the Maypole

Little girls with flowers in their hair and little boys with sashes, outstretched their ribbons from the maypole in a wide circle. Traditional folk music played as the children skipped around weaving the ribbons. Board Member, Juana Mueller, cheered them into rhythm "under, over, under, over!" After the pole was fully braided, the children marched it through the Shipley gates with pride.



Photos by Marcia Napoli

CONTACT US — FRIENDS OF SHIPLEY NATURE CENTER

Location: 17851 Goldenwest Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1052, Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Phone: 714-842-4772

Web: www.shipleynature.org

E-mail: info@shipleynature.org

Operating Hours: Monday thru Saturday, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

We will be phasing out printed and mailed newsletters.

Please send us your e-mail address for future newsletters. Or, check our website for posted newsletters. Thank you very much!



LOOKING FORWARD

Now that the majority of the 18 acres and pond have been enhanced, the Friends are committed to continue maintaining the habitat, operating the Center and managing educational programs.

The City of Huntington Beach and the Friends have renewed its Memorandum of Understanding through 2014. Huntington Beach Mayor, Cathy Green and several City officials attended the festival. Mayor Green proclaimed that had the



Friends not assumed stewardship of the Center back in 2002, the fate of this urban oasis would be unknown.

4,000 GALLONS OF RAINWATER

Captured and Stored

This past rainy season, 4,000 gallons of rainwater were captured and stored in an underground cistern. Stephen Engel, the Friends' current President, said "that stored water will be used to irrigate the Demonstration Gardens. Most importantly, that water sustains a wide variety of wildlife who now visit the re-circulating stream."

Back in November, Aquascape donated the materials and a team of highly-skilled volunteers to install the cistern and build the stream.

Now, blooming native plants adorn the rocks beside the flowing water. The stream is officially named "Angel Stream."

HABITAT RESTORATION DAY

Community Service, Scouts, Adults

Come join your neighbors and help us with a variety of tasks needed to keep Shipley Nature Center looking great. Some of the tasks include, weed removal, planting natives, spreading mulch, clearing debris and watering. Please wear closed-toed shoes and dress for the outdoors. Groups of ten or more, please call ahead to sign-up and ask for Juana Mueller, (714) 842-4772.

WINNERS OF THE FESTIVE RAFFLE

A new kind of raffle was held at the festival this year. There were boxes for your to choose, which were labeled with the prize you were hoping to win. And the winners were:

Ryan Johnson	All Paws Dog Day Care—\$150
Bill Moore	Birds of CA & Local Birds of OC Book
Sandy Rivera	BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse—\$25
Angela	CA Native Plants for the Garden Book
Peggy Price	Worms Eat My Garbage Compost Therm
Amelia	Gloves, Seed collection, Moisture Meter
Marty Felts	REI Gift Certificate \$20 Value
Robin Vigil	REI Stoke 19 Pack
Ruth Gigoux	REI Hiker First Aid Kit
Deb Schlanser	Succulent Pot Arrangement
Carol Williams	Trader Joe's Bag of Treats

FRIENDS OF SHIPLEY, BOARD & OFFICERS

Upon voting by the members at large and by Board of Directors' acclamation, the following volunteers have agreed to serve during 2010:

President:	Stephen Engel
Vice-President:	Chuck Glenn
Secretary:	Denise Ruocco
Treasurer:	Phil Ridout
Past-President:	Kathryn Goddard
Director:	Ron Schnorr
Director:	Luanne Cook
Director:	Shirley Dettloff
Director:	Nancy Harris
Director:	Betty Reinertson
Director:	Juana Mueller
Director:	Jean Nagy
Director:	Dan Kanne
Director:	Jake Hoffman
Director:	Steve Holden

The General and Board Meeting is held the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at Huntington Beach Central Library. Members are welcome to join the General Meeting.

FACILITY RENTALS

Beautiful Outdoor Settings Available

Are you planning a spring wedding? Looking for the perfect spot to hold your corporate meeting? Searching for a special place to celebrate Grandma's birthday? The Shipley Nature Center may be the answer to all of your "Dream Locations." Unique locations inside Shipley include the Amphitheater, Demonstration Gardens, Observation Deck, Gathering Circle, Oak Forest Path, Interpretive Building and soon to be opened Courtyard. Locations are available to groups up to 75 people for weddings, parties, corporate events and more.

CONVERSATION WITH STEVE ENGEL

President 2006 and 2010

In January of 2002, Steve acted upon a notice in the newspaper calling for volunteers to help Shipley Nature Center. The notice sparked Steve's interest because he had been a student of Professor Donald D. Shipley, for whom the Center is named. Prof. Shipley was an advocate for nature spaces and made a great impression upon him. Help the Center, but why?

BECAUSE INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES HAD DESTROYED THE NATURAL BALANCE

Long ago, sprawling water from the Santa Ana River with seasonal rains fed native willows, sycamore, and coast live oak. That canopy of trees vitally supported coastal scrub, wild grasses and herbs. Combined with the natural pond, that native habitat provided cover and nourishment to migrating birds, rabbits, coyotes, lizards, turtles, opossums and raccoons.

BECAUSE CITY BUDGET RESTRAINTS CUT FUNDING FOR MAINTENANCE

Park Ranger, David Winkler, was no longer assigned to operate the Center.

Once the word went around that the Center would close, many people became concerned.

Not only for losing access for education and enjoyment, but for allowing invasive plants to

completely destroy what natural habitat remained.



"It was a tremendous call for help because the Center had really become rough around the edges," said Steve.

It was that "friend-of-a-friend phenomenon" which brought volunteers of all ages and skills to tackle the restoration. Once the Friends formed as a non-profit, we began membership and applied for private and corporate funding.

CURRENT CHALLENGE FOR THE FRIENDS

"Well is it is something Juana Mueller, our Habitat Manager, always tell us "we can never go back!" We need to diligently keep the invasive plants at bay. Another is to gain funding to cover the operational costs of maintaining the habitat and managing the programs. **This years' challenge is to raise \$25,000. If we do, Foundation for Global Community will match us \$25,000.**

BEST REWARDS SINCE JOINING

Enjoying the smiles on the visitors' faces because they appreciate us!



Especially the day Huell Howser from the KCET's California Gold showed up to document the Center's transformation.

Sharing the same vision with what I call the "Shipley Family." Volunteers on the Board, Docents, Nursery crew, the Bird surveyors and Wild Gardeners.

And working side-by-side with our employees, Derek Perez, Habitat Groundskeeper and Carol Williams, Office Administrator. They all are wonderful, unique pieces that form the "Shipley Family" puzzle.

SUMMER NIGHTS WITH STEVE & SHARI

Steve is a long-time resident of Huntington Beach, employed at Boeing and is married to Shari. His two college-age boys and other family members also volunteer at the Center. He spends his evenings and weekends there tending his wild gardens—one in the Redwood forest and another in the Riparian woodland.

During the summer evenings, he encountered many people in Central Park asking why the Center was not open. So he created and hosts the "Summer Nights" program. Through friendships made over the past eight years, he has been able to bring in volunteers to make nature-related presentations. Each program is free; with donations optional. See the schedule of events on page 5 in this issue.

In closing he said, "It is very gratifying for me each time I hear a squeal of excitement from a child making a new discovery. And that is why I do this."

MONTHLY BIRD SURVEY

Conducted by Lena Hayashi

On May 28th, we had 14 surveyors come out. The grounds at Shipley have never looked so beautiful.

One group watched a female Hooded Oriole feed a fledgling. Another group observed a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks come into Shipley and fly over the channel to feed their fledgling in a palm tree at a private residence.

Of note was an Olive-sided Flycatcher, and a Cassin's Vireo.



Full monthly surveys from 2005 to current are posted at www.shipleynature.org.



Make it a point to spend time at Shipley. It just makes you feel good.

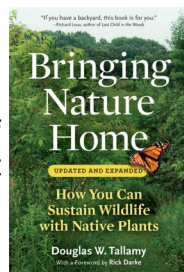
We invite you to join fellow nature enthusiasts. Participate in our monthly bird survey, which is conducted the last Friday of each month. Email lena@shipleynature.org or call the Center.

RESTORE ECO-BALANCE TO YOUR HOME

Recommended Reading from Board Members

Jake Hoffman, has read and recommends Douglas W. Tallamy's book "Bringing Nature Home" after hearing about it from Nancy Harris. Steve Holden, said "I had read the book and highly recommend that you read it too."

The book describes in detail as to why native plants that are region correct are vital to the survival of the local insect populations that nourish the local and migrating bird populations.



Long ago, Jake, Nancy and Steve had removed all of the non-native plants in their home landscape. They added creative designs of carefree native plants. Now, there is a balance to the natural world and peace with the neighbors. Please visit the Demonstration Gardens at the Center for ideas and resources.

See details of the book at www.plantanative.com and about CA native plants at www.cnps.org.

DOCENTS

Serving Your Community

One of our most valuable resources is our great group of docents, who are at Shipley working on projects rain or shine. They are at Shipley every Saturday, lead children's tours throughout the year, man our booths at events, and do anything they are called upon to do.

They are what makes Shipley the success that it is. Without them the gates would be locked and the public would lose an important resource. How many times do our docents hear "I used to come to Shipley when I was a child and now I am bringing my children to visit." If the volunteers hadn't stepped in when the city was going to close Shipley, we would have lost this invaluable resource forever.

Being a docent is fun, interesting, and a great opportunity for serving your community. Besides all of that you make wonderful new friends. Docents are trained at training sessions throughout the year. If you are interested in joining with us, please call the Center and let Carol know of your interest. She will let our trainer know of your desire to become a docent. California friendly plants are available for sale year-round. Nature-related gifts and books too.

CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE

Through a donation from The John C. Griswold Foundation, we commissioned and printed a full color booklet titled "The Mystery of Blackbird Pond." It features the animals and vegetation of Shipley and explains what happens in a drought, and what humans can do to conserve water.

Many families are connecting their children with nature by sharing a slice of Shipley together. While immersed in the urban oasis, they tend their wild gardens. We provide the tools, guidance and plants. You provide the "labor of love."



Rekindle your spirit with a short walk along the Shipley trail.

Like the So-Cal native plants, which are free to stretch out and soak up the sunshine—you are too!

Shipley Nature Center

Cool Summer Nights 2010



The Center is open Every Thursday Evening during July and August from 4 pm to 8 pm (except where noted)

Spend your vacation right here in HB and enjoy some super programs! Programs are Free



- July 1, 4 to 7 pm **Get Inside the Outdoors** – Inside the Outdoors (ITO) Naturalists will bring animals and talk about the outdoors experience.
- July 8, 6 to 7 pm **The Raptors of Orange County** – Peggy Chase will share her experiences and knowledge of the wide variety of raptors that visit here and call Shipley home. Watch for surprise visitors!
- July 15, 6 to 7 pm **What's All the Buzz about Bees** – Wallie & John Weidhaas will share their knowledge and enthusiasm about these pollinating wizards.
- July 22, 6 to 7 pm **Lizards and Snakes and Bugs – Oh My!** – Everyone's favorite critter guy "George" returns by popular demand with his favorite creepy, crawly friends
- July 29, 6 to 7 pm **Urban Wildlife, Our Neighbors Too** – Join presenter Julie Morrison as she discusses our wildlife friends and their impact on our neighborhoods.
- August 5, 8:30 to 9:30 pm **Explore the Skies above Shipley** – Join us as we are visited by the Orange County Astronomers who will help us explore nearby planets and star systems light years away! Our evening hours will be extended to allow for this not to be missed event.
- August 12, 4 to 8 pm **Ride Your Bike to Shipley Night & Campfire Songs with Don** – Help Shipley "Go Green" by riding your bike to the center. Campfire Sing-along and stories with Don. Free Refreshments for all riders!!
- August 19, 6 to 7 pm **Save Money & Water with Native Plants** – Our very own Nursery Coordinator Carol Williams will share with us the wonders of our favorite native plants and take us on a guided tour of the Waterwise Gardens to see the plants in action.
- August 26, 6 to 7 pm **Insects – The Good, the Bad & the Beautiful** – Entomologist Greg Bartman will enthrall us with lore of the insects all around us.



Shipley Nature Center
Huntington Central Park
Parking at 17851 Goldenwest St. south of Slater
714-842-4772 • www.shipleynature.org



Friends of Shipley Nature Center
P.O. Box 1052
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Nonprofit Org
U. S. Postage
PAID
Huntington Beach, CA
Permit No. 1033

The kids are back! By the thousands...



Shipley Nature Center

Dear Members, Supporters and Volunteers,

I hope you enjoy this June edition of interesting happenings at the Center.

Cool Summer Nights is back starting July 1st. Spend your vacation right here in Huntington Beach and enjoy some super programs! All programs are free—schedule is inside.

Please watch your City of Huntington Beach utility bill for the Friends of Shipley Nature Center remittance envelope. We have invested in that printing to raise operation funds.

Membership and donations strengthen our ability to win grants for maintenance and programs.

We have a fantastic opportunity to double our money. But only if we can raise \$25,000. If we do, Foundation for Global Community will match us \$25,000.

We believe it crucial that the public realize the tremendous importance of biodiversity both worldwide as well as in our local park.

Please consider the impact which your conservation dollars will do on the local level.

Sincerely,

Friends of Shipley Nature Center

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP IT OPEN!

Please join us, become a Friend, and make a tax deductible donation. Friends of Shipley Nature Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, I.D. # 68-0517856

I want to donate: \$20 \$50 \$100 \$_____

I want to be: New Member Renewal Member

\$20 Individual \$30 Family \$5 Student

\$15 Senior \$500 Patron

\$100 Lifetime Individual \$150 Lifetime Family

Make check payable to FSNC and mail to:

P.O. Box 1052, Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Credit card is accepted through PayPal. Log onto www.ShipleyNature.org and click "Donate."

Please provide the following information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Print Email: _____