



Citizen Science With Cornel Lab of Ornithology Nest Watch

The Girl Scouts have been the latest to join Jenny Cole in monitoring nesting boxes on the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. On February 28, 2016, Jenny and Sue gave the Scouts and their parents a brief introduction to monitoring nest boxes and then entering the data into NestWatch online. In this long running citizen science program, people from all over can help keep track of the status of nesting success of birds in their very backyards.

In their own words, “NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track status and trends in the reproductive biology of birds, including when nesting occurs, number of eggs laid, how many eggs hatch, and how many hatchlings survive. Our data basis is intended to be used to study the current conditions of breeding bird populations and how they may be changing over time as a result of climate change, habitat degradation and loss, expansion of urban areas, and the introduction of non-native plants and animals” (nestwatch.org)

HOW CAN YOU HELP? “Participating in NestWatch is easy and just about anyone can do it. Simply follow the directions on our website to **become a certified NestWatcher**, find a bird nest using **our helpful tips**, visit the nest every 3-4 days and record what you see, and then **report this information** on our website. Your observations will be added to those of thousands of other NestWatchers in a continually growing database used by researchers to understand and study birds. Simply put, without your help it would be impossible to gather enough information to accurately monitor nesting birds across the country.



Images from the NestWatch website. NestWatch is a nationwide monitoring program designed to track the reproductive biology of birds. Girls Scouts visiting the San Jacinto Wildlife Area have been participating in the program. Clockwise from top left: Barnswallow, American Goldfinch, Mountain Bluebird and Mourning Dove.

And while you are contributing extremely valuable information to science, you will learn firsthand about birds and create a lifelong bond with the natural world.” (nestwatch.org) [The staff at the SJWA should be notified of all scientific research projects on the area {951-928-0580} and children should always be accompanied by an adult when observing bird nests.]

Friends wanted the Scouts and all others monitoring the nestboxes to use a rigorous scientific method that not only

taught them something important about birds, but also taught them something about the scientific method of investigation. We chose NestWatch to gather and enter our data online because you must first become a Certified NestWatcher by studying the learn-how-to-nestwatch booklet and passing a comprehensive quiz before visiting the nest every 3-4 days, recording what you see and then reporting the information on the website.

As the first 20 nest boxes are already being monitored, please contact Friends before starting your project. We will then coordinate with the staff at the SJWA and other monitors to make sure that the boxes are in good condition and that the best information possible can be gathered. (Sue Nash 909-228-6710; snash22@earthlink.net)

IF YOU RECEIVED A HARD COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL AND HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE EMAIL northfriends@northfriends.org ASAP. If you do not give us an email, we will continue to send you a hard copy.

Calendar of Walks at the SJWA & Lake Perris

All walks are free and open to everyone. No reservations are needed. Children are welcome. Binoculars and birding books provided. To all walks, wear comfortable shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring water, snacks and binoculars, if you have them. We hope you can join us and invite your friends and family to learn more about all aspects of nature and how we are connected to and dependent upon the well being of our environment for our own well being. All Friends walks are free and open to all. Children are welcome. (See Audubon's student policy <http://www.sbvas.net>)

Board Meetings

We do not have regular public meetings at this time, but if you think you might be interested in joining our board, the meetings are second Tuesday at 6pm, every other month. Call or send Sue Nash an email to confirm we are meeting and location. 909-228-6710, snash22@earthlink.net

Nature Walks

Audubon Beginning Bird Walk At SJWA

Sunday, March 6, 2016, 8-10am

Meet at SJWA Parking Lot. Matt Grube (909) 253-3867

Visiting the wildlife area allows great opportunities to view waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. For those of you who are just beginning the wonderful pastime of bird watching, please join us for a fun, slow-paced morning of birding. Our goal will be to teach you enough basic birding techniques and identification skills so that you will feel comfortable birding on your own or joining longer birding trips.

Plants And Wildflowers

Saturday April 16, 9am to 12 noon

Meet at SJWA Parking Lot. Sue Nash (909-228-6710)

David Bramlet and Patrick Temple, botanists and rare plants of the SJWA specialists will introduce you to the main plants of the coastal sage scrub, grasslands, riparian and wetland habitats of the SJWA. We hope to see the San Jacinto Crownscale, Spreading Navarretia and Threadleaved Brodiaea, all rare plants hard to find outside of the SJWA. You will learn not only the plants, but also the soil type and moisture regime of each of their unique habitats and their relationships to each other, and to their pollinators and to those who feed on them.

Audubon All Day At The SJWA

Sunday April 24, 7am to sunset

Meet at the SJWA Parking Lot

Tony Metcalf (951-242-7038) Chet McGaugh (951-781-3699)

As both Tony and Chet are both big fans of shorebirds, and

Overview Schedule of Walks & Events

Date	Event	Time
2016		
March 6	Beginning Bird Walk	8am - 10am
April 16	Plants and Wildflowers	9am-Noon
April 24	Audubon All Day	7am-Sunset
April 30	Butterflies, and other "Bugs"	Dragonflies 6pm-9pm
May 21	Moonlight Walk	6pm-9pm

the date is excellent for a good migration experience, most of the time will be spent searching mudflats, marshes, ponds, wet fields and open sky. They hope to provide some knowledge about this fascinating bunch of birds, stimulate appreciation and interest in them, and mitigate some of the phobias. The study of shorebirds is greatly enhanced by the use of spotting scopes, so we hope there will be plenty besides our own.

Butterflies, Dragonflies And Other "Bugs"

Saturday April 30, 2016, 6pm to 9pm

Meet at the SJWA Parking Lot.

Sue Nash (909-228-6710)

On the evening walk (sunset is 7:30pm) Gordon Pratt, entomologist and butterfly specialist, will help you identify the butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies and moths you can see on the SJWA. We will go to the wetlands during the day and at night to capture (with nets, lights and sheets) and observe them close up. This walk is excellent for students of all ages who want hands on experience. Bring hand lens and butterfly net, if you have one.

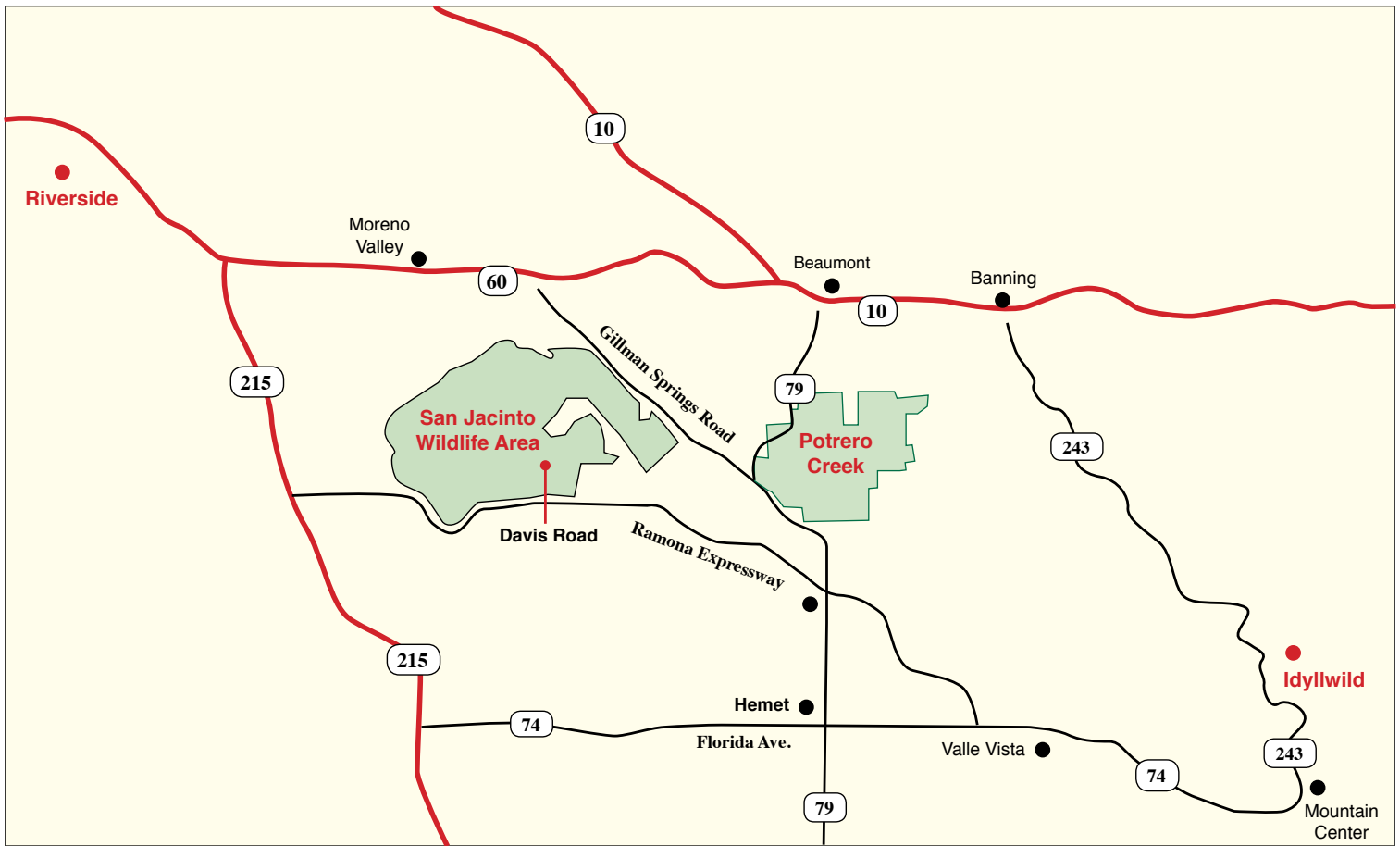
Moonlight Walk At The Sjwa

Saturday May 21, 2016 6pm-9pm

Meet at the SJWA Parking Lot.

Sue Nash (909-228-6710)

To our delight, for the first time in many years, there is a full moon on a Saturday night in May! The sun sets behind the mountains to the west at 7pm and the full moon rises from behind the mountains to the east at 7:45 pm. We will be walking and driving to areas where these views are most spectacular and observing and learning about the birds, animals and insects which are most active in the late afternoon and after dark. The most astounding thing will be the sounds you hear, especially from the ponds, with the frogs, ducks and other creatures at their loudest!



Directions to the SJWA

All walks begin in the San Jacinto Wildlife Area headquarters parking lot, 17050 Davis Road, Nuevo CA. Tel. (951-928-0580) Because Davis (Theodore) Road is closed from Moreno Valley the only access is north off the Ramona Expressway — despite what your GPS may tell you. There is now a traffic light on Davis Rd.

From Moreno Valley: go south on Perris Blvd; east on Ramona Expressway; north 2.3 miles on Davis Rd.

From San Jacinto/Hemet: go west on Ramona Expressway; north 2.3 miles on Davis Rd.

From Interstate 215: go east on Ramona Expressway; 2.3 miles north on Davis Road.

USE EXTREME CAUTION. If raining, call area office for road conditions: (951) 928-0580.

Information About the San Jacinto Wildlife Area

The San Jacinto Wildlife Area is 19,000 acres of wildlife habitat managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Its lands are partial mitigation for the State Water Project, the project that brings water from northern California to southern California so that we can live and work here.

It is a Stephens' kangaroo rat reserve for the Riverside County Habitat Conservation Agency (RCHCA); it is a cornerstone reserve in the Riverside County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Agency (MSHCP), the county reserve system which is supposed to protect and preserve the county's endangered ani-

mals and plants.

Tens of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds winter in the northern San Jacinto Valley. It is a known resting point and/or wintering site for migrating birds traveling the Pacific Flyway. The northern San Jacinto Valley is known for its large number of wintering birds of prey (peregrine falcon, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon).

The SJWA is considered one of the premier hunting areas in southern California. All state-owned wildlife areas allow hunting. Hunting fees help support the acquisition of wildlife habitat throughout the state of California. The northern San

Jacinto Valley is considered a Significant Natural Area by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The northern San Jacinto Valley and Mystic Lake are considered Important Bird Areas by the National Audubon Society. The San Jacinto Wildlife Area represents an \$80 million investment of the taxpayers' money. The San Jacinto Wildlife Area includes the 10,000 acre Davis Road Unit (includes 2,000 acres of Mystic Lake) plus the 9,000 acre Potrero Creek Conservation Unit. San Jacinto Wildlife Area, 17050 Davis Road, Lakeview; (951) 928-0580; <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/San-Jacinto-WA>

“Return Service Requested”

Membership/Donation Form

I would like to become a member of the Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley. I will contribute:

__ \$10 __ \$20 __ \$50 __ \$100 \$_____ Other

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

YES! I want my next newsletter via email:

Email address: _____

Make checks payable to:

Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley

Mail to:

Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley

P.O. Box 4266 • Idyllwild, CA 92549

e-mail: northfriends@northfriends.org

The Friends is a 501(c)(3) organization.

___ I would like to volunteer for the Friends

Or donate online!

Just go to

<http://www.northfriends.org>

and click the Donate button.

A yellow button with the word "Donate" in blue text.

Make sure we have your email address.

We hope this is the last issue of the newsletter that will be mailed to you. Please help us save money and view pictures in living color.

IMPORTANT!

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Send the email to:

northfriends@northfriends.org