Calendar

NO MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN JULY & AUGUST
July 4 Happy Independence Day!
July 15 Deadline for August 15-September 30 Kite Call
Aug. 9 Hayward Shoreline
Aug. 19 Board Meeting, call Evelyn Cormier
Sep. 2 Membership Meeting, Fremont

Membership Meeting

Date: September 2 Time: 7:30 p.m.
Location: Carlton Plaza of Fremont
3800 Walnut Avenue 94538
Topic: “Along the Road to the Birds and Blooms of Alaska”
Presenter: John Bradley

You are invited to come along on a wonderful spring trip to Alaska with our own John Bradley, the former Deputy Project Leader at the San Francisco Bay Wildlife Refuge Complex. —MLT

Field Trip

August 9, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., Hayward Regional Shoreline,
Leaders: Kathy Robertson and Rich Nicholson,
(rsn711@yahoo.com)

Meet at the Grant Avenue staging area in San Lorenzo for a walk along the canal to the shoreline and south to reach Oro Loma Marsh. We expect to see shorebirds such as Red Knots, Short-Billed Dowitchers, Ruddy Turnstones, and Black-Bellied Plovers as well as gulls and terns and maybe a resident Osprey.

From I-880 south take the Washington Avenue exit. Turn right on Washington and right on Grant Avenue. From I-880 north take the Hesperian Blvd. exit. Make a sharp left onto Hesperian and a right on Grant Avenue. In both cases continue west on Grant Avenue to the parking lot near the end of the road. —SF

Good News in Fremont

Tuesday, June 3rd, the East Bay Regional Park District held a press conference announcing the transfer of 296 acres of land on the former Patterson Ranch in Fremont. These lands are immediately adjacent to Coyote Hills Regional Park. The lands support the remnants of a historic willow grove, very rare near the bay, that once stretched all the way to Ardenwood Historic Farm over one mile away. We hope to see restoration of this willow habitat within the new park boundaries, for migratory and nesting song birds, and many other species of plants and animals.

Thanks to all who attended countless and often frustrating meetings and wrote countless letters, it was worth the time and effort involved, and your voices helped to protect most of the lands west of Ardenwood Boulevard. Thanks also to the Patterson Family for the donation of these lands to EBRPD. Coyote Hills Regional Park is an amazing place for those who love the outdoors and birding.

There are still an additional 30+ acres west of Ardenwood Boulevard that could be developed. We will continue to work to see all the lands west of Ardenwood become part of Coyote Hills Regional Park. —CH
In Memoriam

Donald E. Schmoldt

Who can forget the many trips to Sutter Buttes with Don Schmoldt showing you your first Ferruginous Hawk? Or the Ohlone trip to Sacramento NWR with Don pointing out six Tule Geese? How about his excitement at Yolo Wildlife Area seeing the Common Teal? It is with much sadness we note the passing of Don at his home in Sacramento of bladder and a rare form of prostate cancer on April 23, 2014.

Don was born June 30, 1944 and raised in San Jose near Alum Rock Park, the son of San Jose State Chemistry Professor Albert Schmoldt and grade school teacher Ella Mathiesen Schmoldt.

At an early age he became interested in natural history. With his parents he camped throughout the west including Baja California. His interest was honed by the Alum Rock Junior Museum – later called the Youth Science Institute (YSI). At a young age he started collecting and identifying insects, and was known as a bird expert by age 15. He was drafted and sent to Vietnam where he served in telecommunications learning Morse Code, and tried to bird watch when on patrol. He received a BA in biology, a BS in Wildlife Management at Humboldt State University, and a MS in Natural Sciences at San Jose State University. He worked in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks as a backcountry ranger and firefighter. As a professional wildlife biologist and raptor specialist he assessed impacts to wildlife, habitats and endangered species throughout his career with CA State Fish and Game, WA Department of Game, LSA consulting in Point Richmond, and Caltrans. As a well-known bird expert and naturalist he worked for Betchart Expeditions throughout the western US, Alaska, and Baja California, and directed and led natural history tours for the Sutter Buttes Natural History Association. He was a favorite field trip leader for the various San Francisco Bay Area Audubon groups, and President of Sacramento Audubon Society. He contributed to several breeding bird atlases and Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) and was both the founder and, for 26 years, leader of the Mt. Hamilton CBC.

He is survived by the love of his life Sally Meta Walters, wife of 14 years (also a wildlife biologist), his sisters Jean Guinn and Marjorie Karpen, cousins, nieces and nephews, and many close friends. (Excerpted from “Welcome to a Celebration of Don Schmoldt’s Life” May 31, 2014)

Ohlone has made a contribution the Nature Conservancy in his name. Contributions can also be made to the Mono Lake Committee or YSI in Santa Clara County per the family’s wishes.

—Phil and Pat Gordon

Kids Need Our Help!

We have a great opportunity to connect young families, especially children, with nature in the Pleasanton area. Eric Nicholas, of the Pleasanton Recreational Department, working out of the Alviso Adobe, has asked for our help. He is looking for “birders” to lead bird walks in the Pleasanton area. Walks would be advertised in their activity guide for next spring (2015). He also would like us to help conduct walks this fall. All walks would be in the local area with children and adults on the weekends. Can you help? Please let me know by email to pagpeg@aol.com or phone 510.538.3550. I am building a volunteer list. The volunteers will probably have a meeting to discuss details.

On another note, Eric is looking for advisors to build a birding curriculum for Pleasanton children at the Alviso Adobe. Can you help with this (especially you retired teachers)?

Finally, do you have a special interest about which you would be willing to speak to a group at the Alviso Adobe? You could share your knowledge of butterflies, dragonflies, flowers, or any part of our beautiful natural world. Give Pat a call.

Ann Brown, a middle school teacher in the Livermore area, is also looking for the same type of help. You can contact her at 415.246.7697.

Membership

Ohlone sends a warm welcome and thank you to the following new and renewing chapter members:

Ginnie Boscacci, John and Becky Bradley, Art Carey, Sharon Culp, Alvin Docktor, Julie Eastwood, Ed and April Ellebracht, Janet Ellis, Sandy Ferreira, Christine Hayamizu, Jim Holland, Bruce and Judy Jund, Don and Roberta Lenkeit, Debra Loven-dusky, Richard and Betty Milam, Sheila Mohammed, Linda Patterson, Hans Peeters, Deepthi Puthalapat, Jeanne Robinson, Joy Shonfeld, Joanne Smith, Ron and Lynn Stinnett, Lori Stoneman, Winifred Stirling, and Marilyn Sundberg.

—PAG

Poster Contest Has Grown

This year’s Habitat Means Home poster contest stretched the creativity of the poster display crew as we searched for every possible nook and cranny to hang posters at the Coyote Hills Visitor Center. We received 458 posters from twenty-two, K-6 schools of the Fremont, Newark, and New Haven Unified School Districts. All but a few posters, received long after the awards ceremony had taken place, were displayed on the walls and beams of the visitor center.

A huge “THANK YOU!” to Allen and Jackie Bertillion, Don and Margaret Emery, Howard, Kate and Sam High, Margaret Lewis, Mari and Wayne Miller, and Jana Sokale, for helping to put up and take down the posters with tender loving care.

The winning posters now go on to State Senator Ellen Corbett’s office. We thank the Senator for her enthusiastic and continued support of the contest!

Thank you, Carin, for your many contributions to OAS while working on this 8 year effort and for other organizations! —DE

“Throughout history, birds have been the subjects of poetry and myth, celebrated as stirring creatures whose ability to soar in midair symbolizes freedom, power, and, wonder.”

Dublin Landmark Decision

Land Use Planning History

The Dublin City Council just adopted the citizens’ initiative to create an urban limit line on their eastern edge. The following information was gleaned from an article by Nate Gartell in the San Jose Mercury, June 4, 2014:

The Dublin City Council passed a landmark decision, adopting the Dublin Open Space initiative that would establish an urban limit line along the eastern edge between Dublin and Livermore. This will slow development in the Doolan and Collier Canyons area. The area will be maintained as agricultural zoning without the potential for large development. Any development proposal would need voter approval. Two thousand homes had been proposed for this area prior to this vote.

The council also let it be known that they oppose the conflicting “Let Dublin Decide” initiative, sent it along with the to be placed on the November ballot, with the opposition to be written by the current Dublin Mayor, Tom Sbranti, and Councilman, Abe Gupta. This opposing initiative allows for land development in the area with traditional approval by the city council only. In this eastern area, Livermore has applied to LAFCO (Alameda County Local Agency Formation Commission) for control, with the intent to keep it as a permanent greenbelt buffer between the two cities. This is per Livermore Mayor John Marchand.

Many environmental groups in the area worked on the Dublin Open Space Initiative, and gave support, including Ohlone Audubon. Our recently retired eastern county conservation chairman Rich Cimino, along with many others should be congratulated. From Nate Gartell, “SEEMS LIKE A WATERSHED MOMENT IN ALAMEDA COUNTY’S LAND USE PLANNING HISTORY!” —PAG

Swallow Festival Poem

The following is one of the poems entered in the 2014 Poetry Contest of the annual Chabot College Return of the Swallows Festival that was held in April. Read and enjoy! —DE

Swallows

Airborne beyond
Any other bird,
Swallows are master aviators,
Migrating thousands of miles
Annually,
Able to eat through the air—
Breakfast, lunch, dinner,
Diving, darting,
Picking off insects
With appetite unerring,
Nourishing their young
On the wing,
And—a feathery Mile High Club—
Making love,
Mid-flight!

Yet for all those aeronautical achievements,
The swallows’ greatest deed
Is earthbound,
Returning year after year
To the same spot,
Same shelter,
Bringing small mud
To the same eave
And slowly, lovingly, creating a nest—
Attached,
Anchored,
No darting, no diving
Safe haven for babies,
Life,
Lessons to be learned,
Much as
I always return
to you.
—Bruce Roberts, 2010

Update Your Email Address

If you have shared your email address with the Membership Chair, is the one she has still current? Send your up-to-date address to Pat Gordon, Membership@OhloneAudubon.org.

Remember, Ohlone does not share our mailing list or your personal information with others. —PAG

Are You Expired?

Look at your mailing label - it will tell you. For example: “Pd Thru 7/1/14” indicates that you are paid thru July 2014. A red “RENEW?” indicates that /this is your last Kite Call! If you see a “JOIN LOCAL?” on your label this indicates that you have joined the National Audubon Society, but alas, not your local Ohlone chapter.

To renew or join us please send a $20 check to Pat Gordon, Membership Chair, 1922 Hillsdale Street, Hayward, CA 94541.

Thanks! —PAG

Donations

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to Michael Christopherson, Alvin Docktor, Sheila Mohammed, Ron and Lynn Stinnet, Winifred Streibling, REI Corporation and Leanne Vinson for their gifts to Ohlone Audubon. —PAG

Future Field Trips

Everyone wants to know about next year’s field trips. When will they be? Where will they go? Who will lead them?

The Field Trips Planning Committee, under the leadership of Stephanie Floyd has developed a masterplan, the details of which will appear in the next issue of the Kite Call. —DE
Please renew your Ohlone membership by the date shown on your address label.
Direct questions about Kite Call Delivery to the Membership Chair.

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Yes, I want to Join Ohlone Audubon Society!

Please sign me up today.

Name: _________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________
_________________________________________________

Phone: __________________ E-mail: _______________________ 

[ ] I prefer to receive the Kite Call by e-mail. [ ] Please send me e-mail updates and action alerts.

Ohlone Audubon Society does not share our mailing list or your personal information with others.
National Audubon Society membership dues are separate from those of Ohlone Audubon Society.
All are welcome to enjoy any of our events, meetings or field trips.

Thank you for your support!

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