

# Nature Center News

Quarterly Newsletter for the Nature Center and Oak Grove Regional Park



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## We Welcome Kevin Hertell

### Welcome to our new Team Leader!

Kevin Hertell is the manager of the Micke Grove Zoo and the Oak Grove Nature Center. He has a bachelor's degree in wildlife conservation and management, and earned a master's degree in biology with an emphasis on animal behavior.

He's had the chance to work with more than 300 species of animals in several states, from white-tailed deer in Missouri—his first paying job working with animals - to spotted owls in the Sierra Nevada mountains to sea turtles and panthers in Florida.



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## **Upcoming Events**

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### **Astronomy in the Park**

Saturday, April 1

Indoor activities at the Nature Center start at 6:30

Sunset is at 7:30pm/telescopes up

The Moon, Mercury at sunset, Mars, Jupiter will join us late in the evening, Orion Nebula, The Pleiades,

9:30 pm - Deep Sky Object: M81 & M82 (Bodes Galaxies)

### **Astronomy in the Park**

Have you ever looked up at the stars and wondered what's out there? Do you think shooting stars are really aliens travelling in hyperspace? The members of the Stockton Astronomical Society love learning about the universe, and they'd like to share what they know with you. Telescopes are provided.

They'll be offering several opportunities this year for you to come to the Nature Center and Park to check out the night sky.

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### **Nature Nights**

**BEARS - Friday, April 7th**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Dr. Paul Ustach**

**Biology professor at San Joaquin Delta College**

### **BEARS**

Dr. Paul Ustach will give a presentation on the behavior characteristics of both the grizzly bear and the black bear.

B.S. University of California at Davis

M.S. University of Texas at Arlington

PhD. Utah State University

"I spend my summer field seasons as a National Park Ranger. The last six seasons I have been stationed in Yosemite National Park."



## President's Message

Greetings from all the dedicated volunteers and staff at the Oak Grove Nature Center. The center is now really coming alive after its annual period of winter hibernation! Over the past five years the Nature Center has hosted over 23,000 visits. Not too surprisingly, however, the visitations during the three winter months of December, January, and February contributed to only about 10% of that total. So we're excited, gearing up and ready to welcome the advent of spring, the next nine months and the expected 90% increase in visitors. We've already seen an upward trend in weekend visits (we're open 12-4 on Saturdays and Sundays), but also in scheduled school and scout tours. We will soon be hosting evening activities prior to events such as Astronomy in the Park nighttime telescope viewing and Nature Nights presentations. Be sure to check out these upcoming dates in this newsletter.

We currently have 16 active volunteers at the center planning and hosting events. It keeps us busy, but we enjoy it. We would love to have more volunteers. We encourage any of you interested in becoming a Nature Center docent to please e-mail either myself or the center. If your schedule doesn't permit you becoming a volunteer then consider becoming a contributing member of the Oak Grove Docent Council. The application is shown in this newsletter. One of the benefits of becoming a member is not only knowing your contributions support all our educational efforts but also grants you free entrance to Oak Grove Regional Park on days and evenings having Nature Center activities; and of course your contribution is tax deductible.

We look forward to your future visits, and like you, we're ready for spring!!!

Stan Carson - President

### Officers

President:

Stan Carson

Vice President:

Harry Welte

Treasurer:

Carol Rexroth

Secretary:

Evie McCarty

Recorder:

Stan Carson

Emeritus:

James Rexroth

### Committee Chairs

Newsletter:

Susan Scott

Education:

Jenny Wade

Native Plants:

Harvey Horner

Publicity, Facebook:

Jenny Wade

Board Members at Large:

Darryl Pedro, Aracely Benavides,

Liz Escotto, Jenny Wade,

Harvey Horner, Susan Scott

### County Staff

Nature Center/Camp Teacher:

Emma Hopson

Animal Care Specialist:

Megan Blomquist

Zoo Interpretive Services Manager/

Team Leader

Kevin Hertell

Please consider contributing to the Nature Center!  
We welcome new volunteers and members!



Oak Grove Nature Center—Oak Grove Docent Council

**Membership Renewal Time!**  
With your support we will continue to be able to provide educational programs for the people of San Joaquin County. In 2010 we reached over 4500 visitors with our nature conservation oriented educational message.

YES...Please list me as a friend of the Oak Grove Nature Center and enroll me as a member of the Oak Grove Docent Council in the category indicated below:

- Individual \$25
- Family \$35
- Supporting \$50
- Contributing \$100
- Sponsor \$500
- Oak Patron \$1000

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

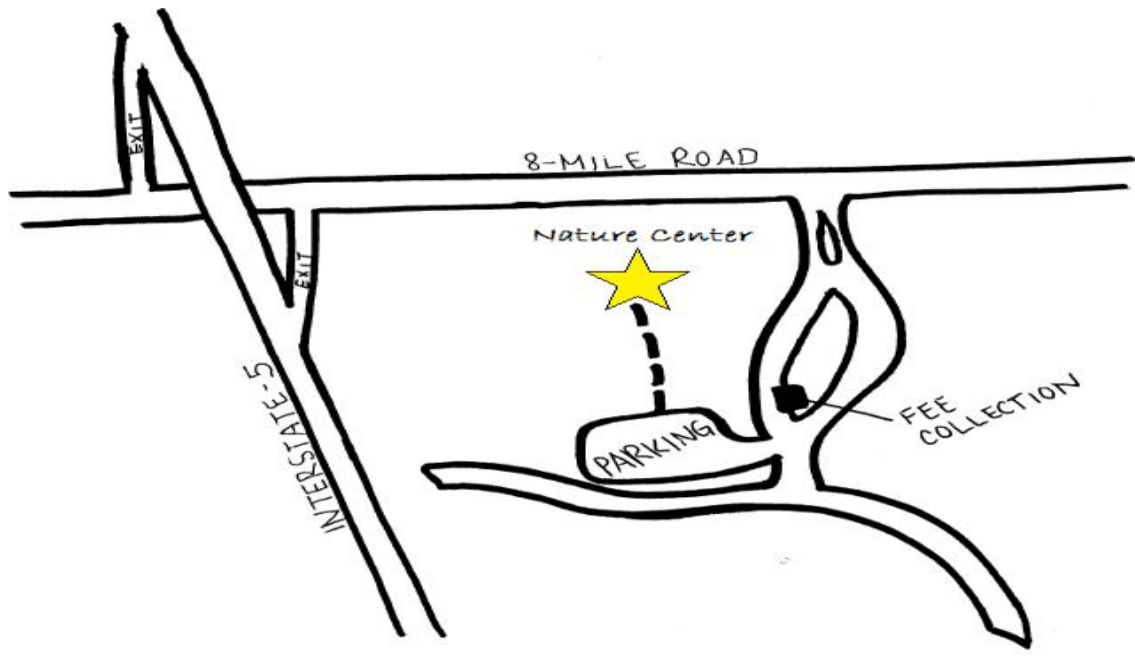
**THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!**

Please make checks payable to:  
**OAK GROVE DOCENT COUNCIL**

*COMMITTED TO PRESERVING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE OAK GROVE AND EDUCATING OTHERS TO THE VALUES OF CONTINUING SUCH PRESERVATION.*

Please send us your updated contact information for our records. Your membership or donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. The OGDC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Oak Grove Docent Council  
4520 W. Eight Mile Road  
Stockton, CA. 95209-8701



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