

- **President:**  
Pamela Reyes
- **V.P.:**  
David Marraccini
- **Secretary:**
- **Treasurer:**  
Martha Mallery
- **Recorder:**  
Dave Wagner

**COMMITTEE  
CHAIRS**

- **Animal Care:**  
Darryl Pedro
- **Communications/  
Newsletter:**  
James Rexroth
- **Education:**  
Darryl Pedro
- **Membership:**  
James Rexroth
- **Native Plants:**  
Martha Mallery
- **Publicity:**  
Pamela Reyes

**NATURE  
CENTER  
COORDINATOR:**

**JAMES REXROTH**

# The Dripping Faucet

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## “Native Village Granary”

As this year’s mega-crop of acorns dropped around us, Phil Black, James Rexroth and Martha Mallery began construction of an acorn storage granary in the Native Village. We were attempting to copy the granary we had seen at Effie Yeaw Nature Center where the Native American Maidu once lived. Four support poles of willows and oak were planted in the ground along with an oak log in the middle to hold the base of the “basket.” We then made a frame of grape vine, gathered by James, Martha and David Marraccini from the Wood-

bridge Wilderness Area.

Weaving the grapevine around the frame provided a basket-like appearance to the granary. We soon ran low on vine that was flexible enough to bend and alas, our hour of weaving had achieved only three or four inches of basket! Hopefully, Dale Fleming and his students will come out in the spring and help us finish. We’ll also add an extremely important component to the basket – wormwood, (*Artemisia douglasiana*) to repel invading insects.

Once filled, the granary would be covered with brush to shield the acorns from the weather. Under normal conditions the acorns were stored for about a year before use. When the Indians wanted to make acorn they would simply part the grass and wormwood and allow enough acorns to fall into their basket for what they needed for a meal. Then they would reposition the materials to close up the hole.

By Martha Mallery and James Rexroth



**Left: James and Phil “planting” the support posts.  
Below left: Attaching vertical “basket” ribs.  
Below: Weaving grapevine horizontally to make an  
open framework for the “basket.”**



# Thank You



*"I think someone is watching me."*

Thanks to Frances Quinn for her generous donation of funds for the Native Plant Garden. Next spring many new lupine plants will enchant visitors with their beautiful purple, blue and white blossoms.

Thanks to the San Joaquin Audubon Society and Dr. Robert Tumelty we will have four pairs of binoculars (and a spare) for visitors and school classes to look out the windows into the trees and Native Plant

Garden.

The local Audubon Society wanted to be sure that our young visitors had the best experience possible while viewing the White-crowned and Gold-crowned sparrows that are abundant winter visitors and the Mockingbirds, Scrub Jays and Woodpeckers grace the oaks year round.

Dr. Tumelty donated funds for two pairs of the binoculars in memory of his

daughter Suzanne, who was a pillar of the Docent Council for many years. Suzanne and her son Amerigo were often found at the Center making sure that the doors were open to welcome weekend visitors. The window overlooking the garden she helped to plant and maintain was one of her favorite spots.

Again, thanks to all for enriching our Nature Center this year.

## Fall Butterflies

*"The most exciting though was the 'pair' of Red Admirals that chased each other around the garden..."*

The warm fall days we've been experiencing have allowed some of our local butterflies to hang around longer than may be usual.

As I've strolled in the garden around the Center and gone on the park trails, I've seen a few Cabbage Whites and Orange Sulphurs visiting the Mustard flowers that are still blooming.

A couple of Common Check-

ered Skippers have been nectaring on the asters in the garden and the weedy flowers along the trails. Some yellowish Skippers (maybe Fiery) have been seen doing the same.

I was pleased to see a Buckeye Butterfly along the Yokuts trail last week. I haven't seen them as often as I used to.

A couple of Monarchs passed through on their way to the

coast.

The most exciting though was the 'pair' of Red Admirals that chased each other around the garden, would take a break and sun themselves for several minutes, then take up the chase again. Fun to watch!

So keep your eyes open and you may be surprised by what you find.

James Rexroth

Nature Center Coordinator James Rexroth models one of the new 'Official Vests.'



## Official Vests

Thanks to Nancy Shephard, seamstress extraordinaire, for sewing nine vests in a range of sizes from x-small to x-large. And for the finishing touch, Darryl

Pedro arranged for the addition of our Nature Center logo.

Now we're official!

Volunteers are welcome to wear the vests when leading tours or staffing the Center. Hopefully when youngsters

see that an "official" is watching, they will be dissuaded from picking up the Pacific Pond Turtles or peeking behind the Native American mannequin's loincloth.

# Docent Council's Holiday Get Together



**It's that time again! Bring your acorns and grubs and join us!**

The Oak Grove Docent Council will be hosting its Annual Holiday Get Together on December 7th, 2009 at

6:30 p.m. at the Boat House here at Oak Grove Regional Park. As always, family and friends are welcome to attend.

In honor of the hard work that the docents and other volunteers have done for the park and Nature Center, the Parks Department will be furnishing the meal and beverages.

If you would like to, bring a dessert to share with the group.

**Please RSVP by noon December 3rd**, call 953-8814 or e-mail [jrexroth@sjgov.org](mailto:jrexroth@sjgov.org).

# The Passing of a Center Friend

Donald "Bushy" Crump who, with his son Kit, ran Five Mile Creek Raptor Center, passed away recently. "Bushy" and his wife Cathy would bring hawks and owls out to the park for release as part of past Nature Nights. He was very friendly and enjoyed sharing the raptors with visitors on the evenings of releases. We will miss him. Our condolences to Cathy and their sons, Kit and Ed and their families.



"Bushy" and Cathy attending a talk at the Nature Center a few years ago.

# Wish list

The Nature Center and Docent Council could use the following items:

Chest-type freezer for specimen storage, about 18 to 20 cubic ft.

New (to us?) computer system and printer; 17" flat screen, 2-4 gig Ram, 100+ gig hard drive, dvd read-write drive, Windows

2003, Microsoft Office Pro, web ready, photo quality printer-all-in-one type (scan, print, copy.)

2 - 24" flat screen monitors with built-in speakers for showing 'canned' programs in the center.

2 - Mini DVD players for above named monitors.

Children's Nature, Natural History, Native American stories and Science books, with an emphasis on California where possible, for our new 'Kids Reading Corner.'

# Membership Renewal Time

The Oak Grove Docent Council wants to remind everyone that it's membership renewal time. Your memberships and donations this last year have helped us reach over 4,000 visitors. With your help we can continue to reach out to the community with our conservation oriented educational programs.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

### Membership Categories:

- Individual.....\$25.00
- Family.....\$35.00
- Supporting.....\$50.00
- Contributing.....\$100.00
- Sponsor.....\$500.00
- Oak Patron.....\$1,000.00

Your membership allows you FREE

PARKING at all Nature Center Events and sponsored activities.

**Please make checks payable to the OAK GROVE DOCENT COUNCIL.**

Your membership or donation is tax deductible as allowed by law. The OGDC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

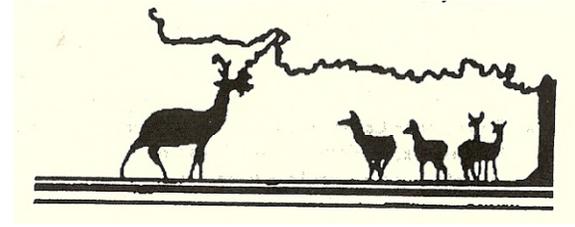


Some of the students that have enjoyed the Center.

# The Dripping Faucet



**Oak Grove Nature Center and  
Docent Council  
San Joaquin County Parks and  
Recreation**



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**Committed to preserving the natural environment of the Oak Grove and educating others to the values of continuing such preservation.**

## Dates to Remember

December—The Clever Planetarium at Delta College has re-opened and has programs scheduled for this month. Call (209) 954-5313 for more info.

December 7, 6:30 P.M.—Oak Grove Docent Council Holiday Get Together. RSVP by Dec. 3rd

December 8, 7:30 P.M.—Annual Christmas Bird Count Program. Join San Joaquin Audubon at Central Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Ave. for this informative presentation by David Yee. Contact Kasey Foley at (209) 473-3904 for more info.

December 10, 12 P.M.—Parks and Recreation Holiday Party. Docents and volunteers (and their guests) are invited. \$10 per person, paid by Dec. 2 at 5 P.M. please.

December 13, 8:30 A.M.—Oak

Grove Park Bird Census. Come practice what you learned on the 8th as we check out what's in the park. Meet at the Nature Center.

December 14, 9 A.M.—School Tour. Docents and volunteers welcome to tag along and observe you colleagues in action.

December 20, all day—Stockton Christmas Bird Count. Call Jim Rowoth at (209) 956-2648 for more info. or to sign up.

January 2, all day —Wallace Bellota Christmas Bird Count. Call Kasey Foley at (209) 473-3904 for more info or to sign up.

January 10, 8:30 A.M.—Oak Grove Park Bird Census. Meet at the Nature Center.

January 30, 8 A.M. to 4 P.M.—City of

Galt 3rd Annual Winter Bird Festival. Come up to Galt and have some fun. The Nature Center will have a table there. Go to [www.ci.galt.ca.us](http://www.ci.galt.ca.us) or call (209) 366-7220 for more information.

