

The Dripping Faucet



OAK GROVE NATURE CENTER AND DOCENT COUNCIL

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Winter 2008

Bear Creek High School contributes to the Nature Center



Bear Creek students preparing the mounds for planting back in September.

Students from Bear Creek High School's AP and CP Environmental Science classes are working on a project at the Nature Center. As an extension of the Native Plant Garden, a new section representing the Foothill plant communities is being developed by them for us. With the help of their instructor Isabel Cuerdo, docent Steve Stocking and Nature Center

Coordinator James Rexroth, the students are learning about the foothill environment, researching plant communities, developing planting plans and planting and caring for the plants.

On November 22 they put all the pieces together and planted the mounds between the entry road and the existing Native Plant Garden. James acquired plants from Hartland Nursery and Annie's Annuals based on the students lists and they laid the plants out according to the plans they developed. After a few minor adjustments they proceeded to plant. It was quite a sight seeing the students working together and accomplishing this task. They will continue to come out to help care for the

plants and planting additional plants (not all plants on the lists were available now) in the future. We look forward to their continued support for the Nature Center and the development of community spirit in their lives.



Students from the AP class above and the CP class below are busily planting the foothill plants they selected for their projects on November 22nd.



Special Focus—Northern Flicker

The Northern Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*) is a large brownish woodpecker often seen feeding on ants on the ground. As it flies away from you, you'll notice the large white rump and a flash of red under the wings that clearly means you're seeing a Flicker.

The Northern Flicker has two distinct forms, the 'Red-shafted' and 'Yellow-shafted'. The Red-shafted Flicker is the western form which is seen most often in our area. Their numbers increase in the fall as individuals come down out of the mountains to winter in the

valley. A few pairs remain here in the spring to nest.

The Flicker was an important bird to most of the native peoples of California. The red feather shafts were used in the making of ceremonial costumes that were important to their religious ceremonies.

President's Message

I'm looking forward to our holiday get together this year. As part of this event we will be selecting new officers for the Docent Council. It's been a pleasure to serve as your President and I've enjoyed being a part of the successes that the Council and the Nature Center have experienced over this last year and know there will be continued success in the future. I want to thank all of you who have supported the Nature Center with your time and money. It is greatly appreciated. On that note a quick reminder that it's time to send in your dues/donations and updated contact information for 2009. Now, lets party!

David Marraccini

Nature Nights

Nature Nights is taking a break during the holiday season. Look for its return in January. In the coming year we hope to have a 'Star Party', a presentation on bats and much, much more. Thank you for making this years Nature Nights a success.



Oak Grove Docent Council's Holiday Potluck Get Together Thursday, Dec. 4th at 6 PM

Please join us on **Thursday, December 4th at 6 PM** for the Oak Grove Docent Council's Holiday Potluck Get Together at the Boat-house at the west end of Oak Grove Regional Park. Bring a salad or main dish and the Council will take care of the drinks, dessert and the entertainment. We hope you'll be able to join us and as always, bring your family and friends and let's all have a great time together. Please help us be prepared by **RSVP-ing to 209-953-8814 by Dec. 2** if possible.

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

OAK GROVE NATURE CENTER AND
DOCENT COUNCIL
4520 W. EIGHT MILE ROAD
STOCKTON, CA 95209-

Phone: 209-953-8814
Fax: 209-953-8814
E-mail: jrexroth@sjgov.org



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