

# THE ACORN

American River Natural History Association Quarterly Magazine – Winter 2024



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# President's Message, Winter 2024



Joey Johnson

It is with a heavy heart that I write this message. While the Nature Center continues to be an amazing gem, we are at a major turning point. We, along with many nonprofit organizations, are faced with not enough working capital to maintain day-to-day operations. During the pandemic, the organization received quite a bit of funding to prevent having to lay off employees and close the buildings. Shortly after the pandemic, restrictions were loosened and the community was feeling relief and was very generous with their donations. That is no longer the case. Donations are down and community support has diminished. People have been generous in contributing to

specific causes, such as the surgery for Wek'-Wek. But sadly, these directed donations do not help keep the doors open.

Over the past months we have had to reduce staffing and each remaining employee has had to take a significant reduction in compensation. We have also reduced hours on the weekends this fall and may need to close our doors entirely in December and January. Our Executive Director has resigned, and staff have been laid off. With the resignation of our Animal Husbandry Manager, we have had to rehome our Animal Ambassadors (see the article at the end of this issue).

We continue to look closely at how we can restructure our operations to be efficient and successful within our reduced means. I will be ending my term as President at the end of December and passing the torch on to Greg Dewey, who promises to involve members and volunteers in visioning a new structure that will allow us to survive and thrive.

We need you, our members and community, to help us continue to do what we do so well, bring nature to people and people to nature. Please consider becoming a sustaining member, which entails making a monthly donation. Monthly donations help stabilize our income throughout the year. If you are already a sustaining member, an increase of \$5 or \$10 dollars per month would be very appreciated. And, if monthly giving doesn't work for you, please consider a generous one-time, unrestricted donation. EYNC will not survive without your financial help.

It is with gratitude that I share this message, because I know that ARNHA members and the community of nature lovers who reside in the Sacramento area have always been there for us and will rally to ensure that this wonderful nature education organization can continue to be here for the entire community.

*Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit.* Edward Abbey

Joey Johnson  
President

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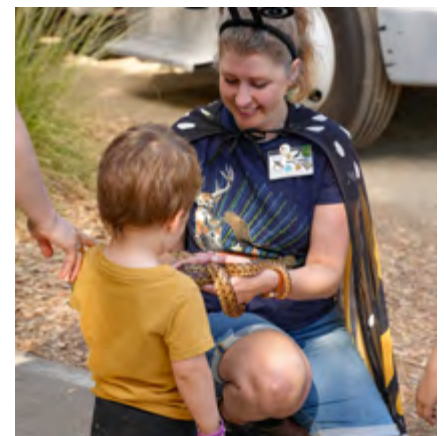
## American River Natural History Association

Effie Yeaw Nature Center  
2850 San Lorenzo Way  
Carmichael, CA 95608

Phone: 916-489-4918

Website: [effieyeawnature.org](http://effieyeawnature.org)

Email: [info@SacNatureCenter.net](mailto:info@SacNatureCenter.net)



Sharing a snake at NatureFest24.  
Photo © Joey Johnson.

# Sharing Nature with Children

By Mary Howard

The Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC) has been in existence since 1976, but for many years before that, educator and activist Effie Yeaw brought her students to the Deterding property to help them commune with nature. The children explored the forest, learned about the flora and fauna, and developed an appreciation for wild places. Almost 50 years later, educators, families, friends, and community members are still coming to EYNC to take advantage of its unique characteristics.

What are some ways that first time and returning visitors, and especially children, can enhance their experience at Effie Yeaw? This article will outline various activities parents can explore with their children, but trying out some of these ideas is likely to improve anyone's experience of the trails.

First, I suggest doing two things when walking the trails: (1) Open your eyes and ears, and (2) slow down. We experience much more when we are aware of our surroundings. Having trouble getting your 5-year-old to stop running? Teach her to walk like a fox—one foot at a time, on tiptoes if possible, on the alert (Figure 1). And when you want to focus on a sound, use your “deer ears”, putting your cupped hands behind your ears and gently pulling them forward (Figure 2). It's amazing how much more you can hear! Let's consider some activities that use your senses of hearing and seeing in a deeper way.

**Listening Time.** Find a place to sit or stand on the trails. This would be a perfect time to utilize one of the many benches placed in the Nature Study Area (NSA). You can close your eyes or allow them to slightly close, unfocused (Figure 3). Spend a minute, or two if you want a challenge, and listen for sounds. Sometimes it helps children if you suggest they count the different sounds they hear on their fingers. Hopefully you'll hear sounds like wind blowing or birds chirping, but don't forget to include human sounds like talking or leaf blowing.



Figure 1. These children are walking quietly (“fox feet”) so they won't disturb animals on their hike. Photo © Mary Howard.



Figure 2. If you put your hands behind your ears to make them bigger, (“deer ears”) you'll enhance your hearing. Photo © Mary Howard.



Figure 3. Stop along the trail and insert some listening time into your walk. You might be surprised at what you hear. Photo © Mary Howard.

**Magnify the Moment.** Wondering what to do with that magnifying glass sitting in your kitchen drawer? Bring it on your nature walk. Use the magnifier to look for small insects pollinating the flowers in the garden near the Nature Center buildings or bring it along on a walk to observe the harvester ant colonies on the Natoma Trail (Figures 4 & 5).

In the spring, I like to check out the purple lupine flowers along the trails. Did you know that after the flowers are pollinated, the white parts turn magenta? See if you can find a stalk that has both colors. You might ask why the change in color might be useful and what chemical might cause that change.

Lichens, composed of a symbiotic partnership of an alga and a fungus, are common on the trees in the NSA and are also a good subject for observing with a magnifier. Did you know there are three different kinds of lichen found in our NSA? Crustose lichen are flat types, usually quite small, found on rocks as well as tree bark. They cannot be removed without taking some of the rock or bark with it. Foliose lichen have rosettes of flattened or raised lobes and are leaflike. They are attached to surfaces in multiple locations and can be easily removed without any damage to the surface. The third type of lichens, fruticose, are shrubby either growing erect or hanging down from branches. They are typically attached to a surface at one location only. When you find lichen on a tree, use a magnifying glass to examine it closely and see if you can find identifying features (Figure 6). Can you find all three types on your walk?

**Color Match.** There are so many colors in nature, especially in the spring when plants are sending out new shoots and flowers are blooming. Enhance your stroll by bringing a set of different colored construction paper squares. Different shades of blues, greens, browns, reds, and yellows are good colors to start with. As you are walking, give each person a square and challenge them to find things in nature that are similar in color. You'll be surprised at how many different hues are out there.

**Alone Walk.** A favorite activity of many school children when they visit our NSA is the Alone Walk. This is part of the Maidu Culture program and gives students a window into the life of a Maidu boy or girl. The Alone Walk often takes place on one of two trails—the Woodland Trail or the Bluff Trail. Both of these trails have straightforward paths with no side trails, so there's no danger of veering off trail. The idea is to allow each person in your group to walk by themselves on the path, using their senses to take in their surroundings. To start, organize your group in a single file line. I rec-



Figure 4. Small insects on the yarrow in the EYNC gardens are fun to observe with a magnifying lens. Photo © Melanie Loo.



Figure 5. Take your magnifier along when you hike the Natoma Trail and watch the harvester ants bringing seeds back to their nests. Photo ©M.L. Flint.

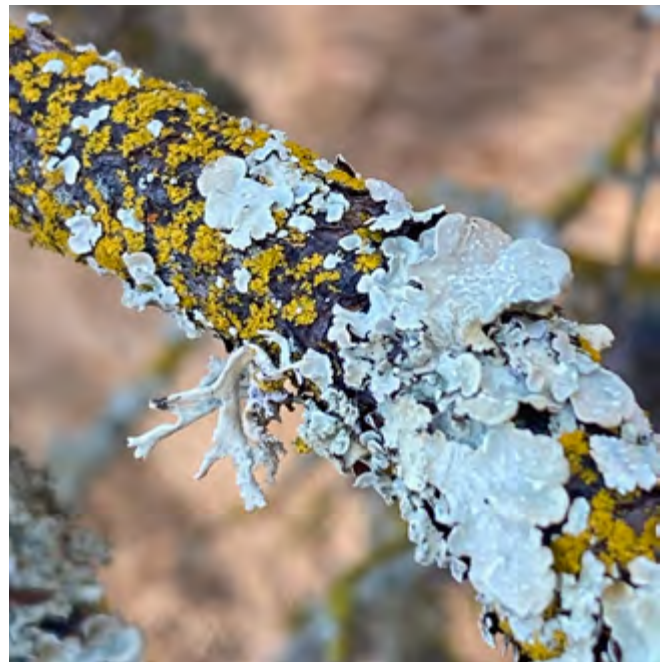


Figure 6. See if you can identify the three types of lichen: the small yellow crustose lichen (left); the branched, shrubby or fruticose lichen (middle); and the leafy, rounded foliose lichen (foreground). Photo © M.L. Flint.

ommend that an adult go first and another adult go last, with children between. Sometimes walking alone can be a little frightening, especially since children nowadays seldom have an opportunity to be alone. Having an adult to greet them at the end of the walk is comforting. Likewise, an adult bringing up the rear can watch for lagging children and also be the timer to let each person know when it's their turn to start the hike. Space yourselves out (I recommend one minute apart); walk quietly without stopping; and see what you notice, wonder about, or imagine.

**Journaling.** Do you have an artist in your family? EYNC is a great place to draw elements of nature. Going off trail is not allowed for many reasons (for example, to avoid poison oak, ticks and rattlesnakes), but there are benches or wide places on the paths or by the river where visitors can sit down and draw. Think of the various colors, shapes, and textures of rocks found near the river. Not only can you compare them, you can also document your observations in a journal with illustrations and words. Putting down on paper what you observe can hone your observation skills. For instance, if you're drawing the ants you see wandering across the path, your eye may take you to the hole that leads to their underground nest. Or you may notice that some of the ants are carrying items almost twice their size! Just spending time in one area observing nature can lead to further discoveries and questions.



Figure 7. Consider keeping a journal of sketches and words describing what you see on the trail. ©Maica

I've described a few activities you and your family can explore using just your eyes, ears, and hands. If you arrive during the day when the Nature Center is open, there are resources at the front desk that are available to the public. Ask about cards illustrating animal tracks or scat (animal feces). I like to challenge people to find proof that animals are present even when we don't see them. Finding footprints and droppings, which are ever-present on the trails, is a great way to do this. The office also has scavenger hunts available for visitors. Pick one up and see how many of the pictured organisms you can find as you walk. Add pictures of additional things you see. You might bring pencils for this activity.

The Nature Center also has a new program for toddlers and preschoolers called The Mighty Acorns. designed to engage children's curiosity and creativity. There's a theme for each meeting that includes a story, craft, and maybe a visit by an animal ambassador. Check the EYNC website for the next gathering at [effieyeawnature.org](http://effieyeawnature.org).

So, next time you and your friends or family come to walk in the NSA (or if you just need some quiet time by yourself), try one of these activities to make a deeper connection with the flora and fauna that live in this very special place. Enjoy!

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*Mary Howard is a retired elementary school teacher and a docent at EYNC.*

# Bumble Bee Survey at EYNC

By Mary Louise Flint

For the last two years, Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC) volunteers have been participating in the California Bumble Bee Atlas project, which is a collaborative citizen science project coordinated through the Xerces Society, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other agencies. The purpose of the project is to track and conserve California's native bumble bees.

There are at least 25 species of bumble bees native to California, but many are declining, largely due to loss of habitat, pesticides, or competition from non-native bees such as honeybees. The project was launched to identify where each species might be found and assess bumble bee health and habitat throughout the state. Volunteers adopt one of 275 grid cells covering the state of California and agree to follow prescribed guidelines for monitoring and identifying bumble bees in their grid cell.

For our survey, we decided to monitor bumble bees in the dense growth of spring wildflowers in the cobbles along the American River on the southwestern edge of the Nature Study Area. For each survey, guidelines require surveyors to spend 45 minutes checking a hectare of wildflowers. All observed bumble bees are collected using a sweep net, cooled for 20 minutes so they can be identified, and then released unharmed back into the field.

During the two years of our survey, we collected four species of bumble bees at EYNC. Surveys were conducted in April, May, and June—peak wildflower season. The most common bees collected were the yellow-faced bumble bee, *Bombus vosnesenskii*, and the black tail bumble bee, *B. melanopygus*. The black tail bumble bee was found only in April. We also collected the van dyke bumble bee, *B. vandykei*, and the yellow bumble bee, *B. fervidus*. Spider lupine, *Lupinus benthamii*, was the most common flower hosting the bees, although deerweed, *Acmispon glaber*, took over as a prominent host after lupines dried up in June.

This was a fun project. Bumble bees are endearing with their fuzzy black bodies, yellow stripes, and their intense activity. Bumble bees rarely sting. Once cooled to immobility, they are easy to handle and then slowly spring back to life as they warm up. [The California Bumble Bee Atlas Project](#) provides excellent information about bumble bees and allowed us to easily upload our data into the statewide database. Four UC California Naturalist students helped with these surveys: Rose Rey and Azalea Bell participated in 2024 and Jonna Vance and Catherine Anderson in 2023.

—  
Mary Louise Flint, Ph.D., is Professor Emerita at the UC Davis Department of Entomology and Nematology and a former volunteer at EYNC.



Cal Nat student Azalea Bell collects a bumble bee. Photo © M.L. Flint



Cal Nat students Rose Rey and Azalea Bell identify a bumble bee. Photo © M.L. Flint



The yellow-faced bumble bee has a yellow face and shoulders and a yellow stripe on its 4th abdominal tergite. Photo © M.L. Flint.



The yellow bumble bee has yellow stripes on its shoulders and abdomen, but its face is black. Note the big red pollen basket on this bee. Photo © Jonna Vance.



The black-tailed bumble bee has yellow stripes on its face, shoulders, top of its abdomen and above its tail. Photo © Rose Rey.



The van dyke bumble bee is similar to the yellow-faced bumble bee except the yellow stripe is on the 3rd abdominal tergite. Photo © M.L. Flint.

# Make a Difference, One Light at a Time

By Jennifer Johnson



Figure 1. Reducing exterior lighting can have great benefits. Image courtesy of Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge.

In anticipation of spring bird migration, start planning now to reduce light pollution in your community. Over a billion birds are estimated to fly over California during April when migration peaks. Most birds navigate through the night sky and can become disoriented by artificial lights. The re-

sulting confusion causes exhaustion and makes birds more vulnerable to fatal collisions with buildings or windows.

To start your assessment, check your home to see if output of any exterior lights can be reduced with down-shielding, dimmers, and timers. Avoid over-lighting and choose bulbs with color temperature of 3000K or below. Turn off or dim decorative landscape lighting. If safety is a concern, consider motion sensors for the element of surprise. Fully shielded fixtures target light only where necessary, reducing glare and shadows.

Next, reach out to neighbors, local elected officials, and building managers to help raise awareness of the risk artificial light poses to migratory birds. Share the changes you have made to your home. Does your city have an exterior lighting ordinance? Ensure it is being enforced or ask if they are will to adopt one. The National Audubon Society has developed a Lights Out Program for communities and provides guidelines including sample letters. Ask your city to make a proclamation to go Lights Out during migration seasons.

Your efforts will not only benefit birds and other migrating species but will save money and reduce energy usage. Plus, everyone will have an increased opportunity to marvel at the beauty of our Milky Way galaxy, stars, planets, and more. Homeowners, building managers, and communities can make a difference, one light at a time. Take the pledge to go Lights Out!

Figure 2 provides five main principles for responsible outdoor lighting. Additional suggestions to reduce light pollution and decrease bird collisions include:

- Turn off non-essential lights from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. during critical migration periods.
- Turn off or dim interior lights, close curtains or blinds to prevent light escaping.
- Create patterns on reflective glass surfaces to reduce collisions.
- Explore the following resources: [BirdCast](#), [DarkSkyInternational](#).

Also, check out the [Sacramento Audubon Society's website](#) for local guidelines and a list of birds migrating through our area.

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Jennifer Johnson is a DarkSky International Advocate and Member, and a member of Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge. [jisonwa@gmail.com](mailto:jisonwa@gmail.com).

Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting		DarkSky	Illuminating Engineering Society
Responsible outdoor lighting is	<b>1 Useful</b>	<b>Use light only if it is needed</b> All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.	
	<b>2 Targeted</b>	<b>Direct light so it falls only where it is needed</b> Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.	
	<b>3 Low Level</b>	<b>Light should be no brighter than necessary</b> Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.	
	<b>4 Controlled</b>	<b>Use light only when it is needed</b> Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.	
	<b>5 Warm-colored</b>	<b>Use warmer color lights where possible</b> Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.	

Figure 2. Five lighting principles for responsible outdoor lighting. Image courtesy of Darksky International.

# Goodbyes and Hellos

By Carrie Sessarego

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Natoma, our northern Pacific rattlesnake. Natoma moved into the Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC) as a young rattlesnake and spent thirteen years greeting visitors in the lobby. She was a gentle snake who rarely rattled and who showed a great deal of curiosity about visitors. Natoma gave people a rare opportunity to see a rattlesnake up close and to learn how to co-exist with these amazing animals safely. Her presence in our museum will be greatly missed.

As we say goodbye to Natoma, we also say hello to two new snakes. Slater and Zipper came to the Nature Center within a few weeks of each other. Both snakes are around four or five years old.

Zipper is a California kingsnake. He is very active, curious, and friendly. Zipper was found in the road after being struck by a car. Because his jaw was injured, he can only eat small prey. As a result, he is an unusually small snake. However, we are pleased to report that he's been gaining weight since coming to live at Effie Yeaw! Zipper's name comes from a scar on his neck.

Slater is a corn snake. He is around four years old and was raised in captivity. Corn snakes are native to the East Coast. They got their name not from eating corn but from eating the rodents that eat corn and other grains. Slater is very well socialized. His favorite game is to climb into Animal Husbandry Manager Alyssa's hair or to pretend to be a belt!

We are often asked why we would have snakes at EYNC that are not native to California. EYNC staff members use Slater to teach about the damaging impact of invasive species. We also use him to share general information about snakes. Both of our new snakes have been great additions to the Nature Center!

—  
*Carrie Sessarego is Development Associate at Effie Yeaw Nature Center.*

With the temporary closing of the Animal Care facility at EYNC, the snakes have found new homes. See the article at the end of this issue for more information.



Natoma, a northern Pacific rattlesnake, passed away last summer after 13 years at EYNC. Photo © Hannah Steurer.



Zipper, a California kingsnake. Photo ©Alyssa St. John.



Slater, a corn snake. Photo ©Alyssa St. John.



## Of Christmas Trees and Climate Change

Since early times evergreen trees and foliage have been a symbol of nature's persistence and a promise of spring during the dark days of winter. In the 1500s Germans began decorating cut trees and bringing them indoors during the Christmas season (Figure 1). Now, in addition to their ornamental value, trees and plants of all kinds are recognized as valuable allies combating climate change caused by our increased release of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

As part of the carbon cycle (Figure 2), plants take in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and water from the ground and build glucose using energy from sunlight. A byproduct of this photosynthetic process is oxygen gas released into the atmosphere. Glucose is then used by plants as a source of chemical energy and to build other organic molecules essential for life's structures and functions. Carbon dioxide is considered to be "sequestered" when it is part of these organic molecules in plant tissues living or dead and thus kept out of the atmosphere. However, when a plant or consumer of a plant uses glucose for energy in the process of cell respiration, carbon dioxide is released back into the atmosphere.

While plants carry out both photosynthesis and cell respiration, they take in about twice as much carbon dioxide as they release. According to a 2020 report from the US Forest Service, forests and their intact wood products sequester about 14% of the carbon dioxide released in this country. Fully developing forests and adding trees to our surroundings has the potential to sequester even more.

The trees and other plants in Effie Yeaw Nature Center's Nature Study Area (NSA) contribute just a small amount to carbon dioxide sequestration, but they provide a good illustration of the many interactions that can affect climate change. For example, carbon is sequestered not only in the living plant tissues we see above ground, but also in the roots underground, dead branches, and leaf litter on the ground. The US Environmental Protection Agency estimates that a 40-acre stand of trees can sequester the carbon dioxide produced by about 109 cars per year. Of course, the amount of sequestration varies with the species, ages, and health of the trees. Should any parts of the trees be consumed by microbial decay or fire, carbon dioxide would be one of the products released into the atmosphere. So, healthy stands of trees are useful carbon dioxide sinks but become potential sources of greenhouse gases if burned or decomposed.

Now, to get to those Christmas trees, there has been much discussion about how our choices might affect climate change. All choices have pluses and minuses. Some people favor artificial trees because they do not involve killing live trees. But most artificial trees are made of plastic and require fossil fuel combustion to be produced, marketed, and transported.



Figure 1. Live Christmas trees sequester carbon dioxide but release some of it if disposed of in a landfill. Photo © Joey Johnson.

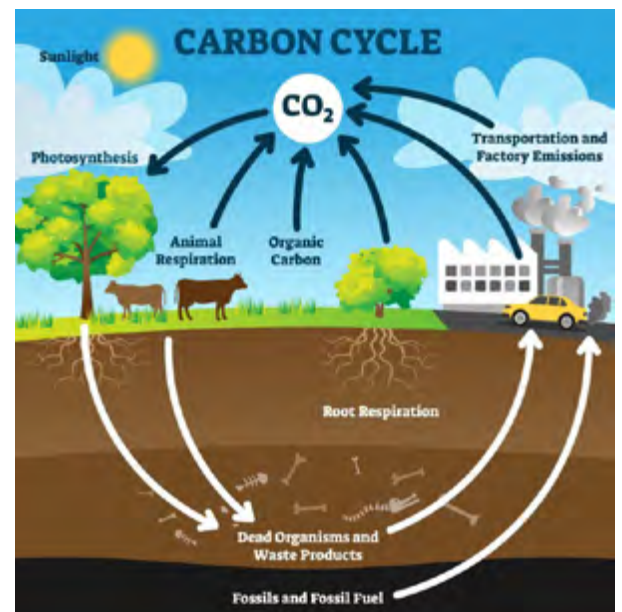


Figure 2. A diagram of the carbon cycle from [An Interactive Introduction to Organismal and Molecular Biology, 2nd ed.](#) Copyright © 2021 by Andrea Bierema, licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#), except where otherwise noted.

Other people favor live farmed trees because they are constantly replenished, capture carbon dioxide, and contribute to a habitat for other organisms. Of course, there can be environmental downsides with farmed trees such as use of pesticides or fossil fuels burned during transport. Also, once the holiday season is over, they often end up decomposing in a landfill. If you do use a live tree, be sure to take advantage of the Sacramento Christmas Tree Recycling programs, which pick up trees and chip them for mulch.

It is estimated that the sale of an artificial tree results in release of 7 to 10 times more greenhouse gases than the sale of a farmed tree. On those grounds, if you use your artificial tree for 7 to 10 years, it does no more harm than a farmed tree.

Still other options are to obtain a live tree and keep it growing in a container or to construct your own tree substitute. You can always visit the trees in our NSA to rejoice in their grandeur, think about coming seasons, and thank them for their service. Our interior live oaks will greet you with their greenery year-round (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Leaves of an interior live oak in the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Nature Study Area. Photo courtesy of Dennis Eckhart.

—  
*Melanie Loo, Ph.D., is a retired Professor of Biological Sciences at CSU Sacramento and volunteers at EYNC as a trail steward and a member of the Habitat Restoration Team.*

## Upcoming Events at the Nature Center

**December 3: Giving Tuesday**

**December 10: Mighty Acorns**

9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Designed for ages 2 – 5, siblings of all ages welcome!

**Closed first 2 weeks of January**

**January 5: Under The Oaks Book Club**

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Discussing: "Copy Boy" by Shelly Blanton-Stroud

Featuring: Author Visit!

**January 14: Mighty Acorns**

9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Designed for ages 2 – 5, siblings of all ages welcome!

**Events Calendar**

Check out our monthly [calendar of events](#) to find out more!

# Staff Profile: Belle Manchaca

By Carrie Sessarego

## Meet Belle Manchaca, Deputy Director/ Operations Manager.

Walk into Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC) and you are likely to see Belle Manchaca, our Deputy Director and Operations Manager, busily moving from room to room making sure that everything is running smoothly! Belle's list of responsibilities is long and complicated, including running the Finance Office, managing purchase orders for the Discovery Store, program needs, and Animal Care, ensuring that our bills are paid, managing AB rentals, helping with events, keeping track of the budget, attending Board Meetings, and filling in for Rachael Greve, our Executive Director, on the rare occasions that Rachael is unavailable.

Even with her busy schedule, Belle is always available to offer encouragement and answer questions – unless her headphones are on, a sign that she is running payroll and needs to concentrate. Those are the days when her fellow staff members ply her with her favorite candy – Peanut M&M's – to keep her energy up!

When Belle first arrived at Effie Yeaw in July of 2023, her first task was to clear off her desk, which was piled with stacks of papers and boxes. Since then, she has brought that same sense of order to many areas of EYNC's operations, making sure our paperwork is in order and that money is spent efficiently and without waste. When asked what she is most proud of accomplishing since she came here, Belle says, "I am most proud of the professionalism and culture that we have worked to develop over the past year."

When asked what keeps her motivated, Belle replied, "The Nature Center is gorgeous, and I love seeing the wildlife every day. Really though, it's the people that keep me motivated." From her office she can hear the birds in Animal Care yelling for their lunch and see deer out of the window. In her spare time, she enjoys "spending time with my kiddo and trying to get in one of my hobbies. Some of my go-to activities are crocheting, reading, video games, and painting."

—  
*Carrie Sessarego is Development Associate at Effie Yeaw Nature Center.*



Belle Manchaca. Photo by Joey Johnson.

# Saying Goodbye to Our Animal Ambassadors

By Joey Johnson

A sad reality of the fiscal crisis we are in is that all of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC)'s Animal Ambassadors have had to go to new homes. The federal regulations for wild animal care became extremely rigid in 2019 and now require a certified staff member at the facility. Our certified animal husbandry manager left in November, and we cannot afford to hire a replacement at this time. The cost of care for a wild animal is substantial, and it was determined that we could no longer provide the level of care that these animals need.

The Animal Ambassadors are all either in or on their way to highly qualified facilities. A great deal of research and care was put into finding new homes. The local facilities that could legally take the raptors are full and not available. Time was of the essence because space fills quickly.

Everyone acknowledges that our Animal Ambassadors were a key component of what makes EYNC special, but the decision was best for the animals. When we have restructured, planning for a qualified animal care person is essential. Through the years we have added new animals when we had space, and we hope to rebuild our Animal Ambassador program when we have the capacity.

All of our birds, reptiles and amphibians have been placed with educational organizations. One of these organizations is the Lindsay Wildlife Experience, a large nonprofit in Walnut Creek. They also have the oldest turkey vulture in the world, Lord Richard. When EYNC was first establishing our animal care program, staff visited Lindsay to see their exhibits for inspiration. Lindsay Wildlife will be the new home for our turtles (including Einstein), toads, lizards/skinks, and frogs; they will be on view to the public starting late February.

Two of the snakes, Callie and Sunflower, will be merged into private collections of two of our naturalists. The other two king snakes and the corn snake will go over to our partner, Sacramento Splash.

Wek-Wek is now at Tri-County Wildlife in Jackson, CA. She will be in a larger outdoor aviary than she had with us. Other placements are going through the federal transfer process.

Tears were shed as these beloved animals moved to their new home. As the Nature Center rebuilds and becomes more sustainable, one of the first things to be restored will be our capacity to welcome Animal Ambassadors.



Orion, EYNC's Swainson's hawk, will be moving to a new facility. Photo ©James Hargrove.

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- Susan & Keith DeVore
- Nick Docous
- Dora Dodson
- Ann Doersch
- John & Marlys Donohue
- Diana Dooley
- Lily Douglas
- Krystin & David Dozier
- Beth & Joel Dubois
- Robin Durkee
- Jeannette Eagan
- Carol Eckersen
- Dennis & Terese Eckhart
- Samuel & Mary Ellen
- Lauren Elmendorf
- Gina Engman
- Annette Everlove
- Nathan Fairman
- Rogaski Family
- Anna Farnsworth
- Peter & Christine Fickenschner
- Gin Fierro
- Adele Fife
- Carolyn Fisher
- Kathy Fleming
- Mary Lou Flint
- Folsom Zoo Docents
- Thomas Freeburger
- Larry Fritz
- Joseph Gallegos
- Regina Gandour-Edwards
- Barbara Gardner
- Maile Gardner
- Sarah Gardner-Kerss
- Frankie Gary
- Mary & Richard Gaspari
- Fatih Gencer
- Connie George
- Randy Getz
- Jennifer Gille
- Jim Gingrich
- Girl Scouts Heart of Sacramento
- Emily Giza
- Ted & Mary Glum
- Sharon Godske
- Aspen Golden
- Janice Gott
- Gary Gravier
- Judi & Stephen Green
- Tim & Celeste Grennan
- Lori Gualco
- Sylvia Gude
- Wanda & Mark Guess
- Aditya Gune
- Dona Hall
- Chuck Halnan
- Matthew & Gail Hancock
- Peter Hansel
- Catherine Hanson
- Gary & Mildred Hanson
- Jim Hargrove
- Ed Harper
- Linda Hatch
- Ellie Henderson
- Charlene Henwood
- Austin Herrell
- Kim Herrell
- Lucy Higginbotham
- Elaine & Michael Hill
- Carmen Hirkala
- Louise Hirsch
- Teri Hofstetter
- Kathleen Hopkins
- Teri Hottman
- Rich & Mary Howard
- Peggy Hower
- Silvana Hughes
- Elaine Hujambojoie
- John & Ellen Huls
- Michael Hunt
- Marti Ikehara
- Marlene Ishihara
- Deborah Rose Jane
- Mary Jennings
- Joey Johnson
- Kathleen Johnson
- Maya Johnson
- Harry & Carol Jones
- Pat & Rich Jones
- Richard Jones
- Roxalie Jones
- Teresa Kahl
- Simran Kaur
- Virginia & Eli Kazer
- Herbert & Elizabeth Kelly
- Ann Kempees
- Michelle Kerr
- Allen & Kathy Ketchum
- Bertilde Khang
- Jane Kirkland
- Charles & Donna Klaiber
- Larry & Donna Klink
- Nancy Kniskern
- Suzanne Krale
- Lawrence Kuhlman
- Natalie Kuhn
- Peter Kunstler
- Keith Kwan
- Michael Kwong
- Greta Lacin
- Janice Ladish
- Nancy Lapp
- Jennifer Larson
- Karon Larson
- Janet Lavenda
- Margaret Leavitt
- Rita & David Lehman
- Julian & Bruce Leonard
- Christina Marie Lewis
- Jane Lewis
- Kenneth Lewis
- Barbara & Chris Lezon
- Robert Lincoln
- Jason Lindo
- Maria Livingston
- Thomas Louis
- Loveall Foundation for Children
- Donna J. Madeira
- Denni Mador
- Alison Mahin
- Tim & Annette Manolis
- Jean Marcy
- Ian Markham
- Jane Markwart
- Rosemary Mayfield
- Gail McClain
- Lynn McCook

- Tom McFadden
- Phyllis McGrath
- Diane McKernon
- Kyle McNeil
- Myra McPherson
- Linda Melching
- Mary Messenger
- Julia Michaels
- Jessica Misquez
- Deanna Mohorich
- Michelle Monteforte
- Sheila Montgomery
- Mirai Morinaga
- Mary Morris
- Emily A. Moulton
- Robin Murphy
- Judy Murray
- Suzanna Naramore
- Deborah Nelson
- Mark Neuburger
- Emily Newton
- Mark & Jamie Nichols
- Martha May Nolan
- Gregg Nulton
- M.A. Nunes
- David Nunley
- Mallory O'Connor
- Rose O'Grady
- Mariah Palmer
- Carol Passovoy
- Lizzy Paul
- Gerald & Barbara Pauly
- Jill & Michael Pease
- Gail Phillipart
- William Phillips
- Joanne Pierce
- Ben Poh
- Jeannine Powell
- Pat Poyner
- Marsha Prillwitz
- Jennifer & Kirk Purdue
- Nancy Raleigh
- David Reed
- Ellen Reller
- Janet Rezos
- Ruth Rezos
- David Rial
- Karin & Eric Richardson
- Felice Risling
- Katherine Roberts
- Michael Rogawski
- Cindy & Tom Rogers
- Marcia R Rogers
- Paula Ruud-Kuhlman
- Antoinette Sabelhaus
- Sacramento Area  
Creeks Council
- Tovah Salcedo
- Lidia Sanchez
- SavATree
- Save the American River
- Charlotte Saylor
- Renee Schaffer
- Flo Schodtler
- Sue Schoneman
- Elena Scott
- Stefanie Seastrand
- Tommy & Barbara Silver
- Patricia Simms
- Melissa Skow
- Christopher P Smith
- Jennifer Smith
- Scott Smith
- Susan & Bruce  
Notareus Solarz
- Etta Sorelle
- William & Anne Spaller
- Lu-Anne Spencer-Hartle
- Julie Spezia
- Norma Springsteen
- Carrie Stafford
- Morna Stephens
- Kristie Stevens
- Sarah Stoltz
- Marsha Strode
- Chris & Bill Swars
- Linda & Tom Sweetman
- Harvey & Jane Swenson
- Norma &  
Masoud Tabatabai
- Patrick Taillon
- Sharon Tapia
- Glen Tarr
- Paul Tebbel
- Jaclyn & Jon Teofilo
- MIL Tielman
- Bohdan & Motria Tomkiw
- Nancy & Chris Tooker
- Walter Trivett
- Kyriakos Tsakopoulos
- Marjorie Tuckerman
- Autumn Turner
- Delfina Vadi
- Colleen Valentine
- David Vanicek
- Sharon VanLiew
- Lisa & Robert Velazquez
- Jay Verhaag
- Morgan Vought
- William L Walker
- Diana Wallace
- David Wands
- United Way
- Kathy Webb
- Richard Weisberg
- Megan Welsh
- Jane Wheaton
- Jennifer White
- Lori White
- Pamela Whitmarsh
- Todd & Minna Wieck
- Liz Williamson
- Joyce Wilson
- Mary Jess Wilson
- Shiomi Wilson
- David Winchell
- Lucinda Woodward
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- Harold & Suzanne Yackey
- Lynne Yamane
- Christina Yasi
- Stephanie &  
Robert Zanardino
- Tracey Zavala



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