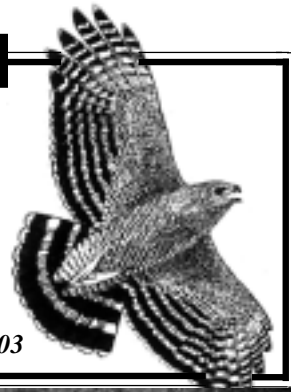


Friends of Starr Ranch Sanctuary



Volume V • Issue 6

Spring 2003

Spring, 2003



Cal State, Long Beach "field methods in ecology" class



Jeff Eickwort, Jon O'Brien, Thad Miller, and Jeff Rau get ready to plant CA Sagebrush seedlings in restoration sites in the rain.



Mary Sadler's Loop Trail walk at Family Nature Workshops



Dave Bontrager's bird class starts out on a walk.



Small mammal trap and release with Chris Farmer at Family Nature Workshops



Starr Ranch Junior Biologists, School Days on their way to study insects, small mammals, and herps in different habitats.



Starr Ranch homemade native plant nursery

Weed Control and Restoration

Volunteer Opportunities

We're once again ready for volunteer help with weed control and restoration. Spring-summer work includes seed collection and artichoke thistle hoeing and bud cutting. We also need help with data entry (good indoor work on hot summer days). This winter we've had enough rain for a great seed crop. If you're interested in coastal sage scrub seed collection, artichoke thistle hoeing and bud cutting, and/or data entry please contact Sandy at 949-858-0309 or sdesimone@audubon.org.

Thanks to ...

- ...Dominic DeWitt for designing our beautiful new Starr Ranch Field Ecology Programs exhibit
- ...Mary Harding for finding Dominic for us!
- ...Al and Janet Baumann for sending our field assistants to the Sea and Sage annual dinner
- ...Jerry Belzer's former company, Bently Nevada, for truckloads of office furniture
- ...Christiane Shannon for an aquarium with accessories for Dave's stream class

Welcome & Thank You to our New "Friends of Starr Ranch Sanctuary"



*Bill & Kathy Ambrosius
Cynthia Coccia
Barbara Cole
K.T. Forbush
Susan Heinz
Peter and Susan Horvath
Eileen and Garth Klinger
Robin Leenhouts
Donald & Rosemary Liegler
Bill and Carolyn Meronek
Barbara Metzger
Stanley & Marianne Miller*

*Margit & Charles Mills Family
John Moore
Margery Nicolson
Cheryl Ann Quigley
Sandra and Donald Romoser
Diane Schaller
Don and Sheila Segien
Adair Small
The Kinoshita Family
The Weber Family*

Lifetime Members

<i>Bertram & Phyllis Baker</i>	<i>John Harper & Judy Curtin</i>
<i>Neil Baker</i>	<i>Don & Carolyn Honer</i>
<i>Al & Janet Baumann</i>	<i>Mitzi Kafesjian</i>
<i>David & Karla Blinn</i>	<i>Fay Neuls</i>
<i>Roc & Andee Burrell</i>	<i>David Reynolds</i>
<i>Pete & Sandy DeSimone</i>	<i>& Felicity Kurr-Reynolds</i>
<i>Bill McKee</i>	<i>John & Kimberlee Staff</i>
<i>& Mary Ann Desmond</i>	<i>Stephen Stackpole</i>
<i>Mark Frazier</i>	<i>Karen & George Thagard</i>
<i>Sylvia R. & Jim Gallagher</i>	<i>Jorge & Corie Wong</i>

Friends of Starr Ranch Sanctuary

100 Bell Canyon Road • Trabuco Canyon, CA 92679

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E-mail: pdesimone@starranch.org • Web Site: www.starr-ranch.org

Pete DeSimone Sanctuary Manager
Sandy DeSimone Director, Research & Education
Gail Hall Biologist-Educator
Jerry Belzer Ranch Maintenance
Dave Bontrager Biologist-Educator, part-time
Dana Kamada Biologist-Educator for Bird Programs, part-time

Helen de la Maza Coastal Sage Scrub Restoration, part-time
Thad Miller Field Assistant
Jon O'Brien Field Assistant
Jeff Rau Field Assistant
Sandy DeSimone Newsletter Editor

Starr Ranch Sanctuary is owned and operated by the National Audubon Society under the Audubon California state office. We preserve 4000 acres of some of the last remaining southern Californian mosaics of coastal sage scrub, grassland, oak woodland, riparian woodland, and chaparral. Our mission is to stimulate, coordinate, and perform scientific research on the biology and conservation of the unusual mediterranean climate ecosystems at Starr Ranch and to extend our science to the local community in the form of unique natural history education programs and conservation activism.

Members of Friends of Starr Ranch Sanctuary receive four issues of our quarterly newsletter, monthly opportunities to visit Starr Ranch, and first notification of nature classes and special events. You also become a member of Audubon and receive Audubon magazine quarterly. Your contribution provides financial support for our research, education, and conservation programs. Your support is critical to Starr Ranch. Please join us today by filling out the membership envelope in this newsletter and mailing it to us. Change of address information can be e-mailed to sdesimone@audubon.org.

We thank John Schmitt for designing our Starr Ranch t-shirt and newsletter logo.

O'Connell Landscaping Crew

O'Connell Landscaping is nearing the completion of a second year of work on artichoke thistle control at Starr Ranch. With the help of leader Francisco Carrillo and his crew and our own Starr Ranch field assistants, we are now working in 300 acres of invaded grassland. This year the crew also helped us prepare the Ranch grounds for our April Family Nature Workshops. Thanks to Tom Baker, Francisco, and the crew for all their hard work. Next time you're at the Ranch take a look at the sloped site across from the main house. The O'Connell crew worked on the site last year and this year we've begun restoration to coastal sage scrub.



Starr Ranch Junior Biologists Spring, 2003

We have expanded our popular "Starr Ranch Junior Biologists" summer program into the school year. This spring, we offered kids 8-12 years old the opportunity to study Starr Ranch wildlife over the course of five Saturdays or Wednesdays. Our research project couldn't be more fun – we are comparing the reptile & amphibian, small mammal, and invertebrate communities living in grassland, woodland, and coastal sage scrub habitats. So far we have completed our invertebrate sampling in all three habitats. The junior biologists used three different techniques to collect their

invertebrates — pit-fall traps, sweep nets, and beating sheets. They caught the most invertebrates in the grassland, including pallid band-winged grasshoppers, wolf spiders, cabbage looper larvae (a pretty green caterpillar), ladybird beetles, and a crane fly. Next we'll conduct our small mammal sampling in each habitat using live-capture Sherman traps, followed by reptile and amphibian sampling using pit-fall traps with drift-fences. On the last day, the junior biologists will summarize their findings by making a poster, writing a report, or giving an oral presentation recorded on video tape. As you can see, our research project is intense and we are likely to learn a lot; but I think the junior biologists and I would agree that we are out here first and foremost because we are having fun! Many thanks to our great volunteer assistants, **Sue & Drew Bruns, Gwen Demetria, Mary Harding, & Stacey Lockard.**

Gail Hall, Biologist-Educator

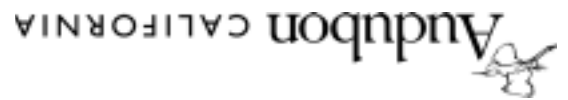




--THANK YOU!

---PLEASE CHECK YOUR ADDRESS LABEL---
TIME TO RENEW YOUR FRIENDS OF STARR RANCH MEMBERSHIP?
THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER UNLESS YOU RENEW NOW!

Starr Ranch Sanctuary
100 Bell Canyon Road
Trabuco Canyon CA 92679



Friends of Starr Ranch Sanctuary is a quarterly publication of the National Audubon Society's Starr Ranch Sanctuary.
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Website: www.starr-ranch.org • E-mail: pdesimone@starranch.org

Friends: Visit Starr Ranch This Spring-Summer

To be arranged

Weed Control and Restoration Volunteers

Friends of Starr Ranch Sanctuary

Become a part of our effort to control weeds and restore native habitat. Once again, we're ready for volunteer help with our weed control and restoration projects. For more details see article inside or call Sandy at 949-858-0309.

Wednesday, June 11

Nature Walk with Dave Bontrager

Friends of Starr Ranch Sanctuary

We like to give our Friends special opportunities to come enjoy the peace and beauty of Starr Ranch. Biologist Dave Bontrager will lead a nature walk that focuses on insect-plant relationships. Meet at the lab at 8 am and bring a picnic lunch if you wish. For reservations, call 949-858-0131.

Wednesday, July 16

Nature Walk with Dave Bontrager

Friends of Starr Ranch Sanctuary

Mid summer is the "brown" season at Starr Ranch, with many plants dying back or losing leaves during the summer drought. Dave will lead a summer walk that focuses on plant/drought relationships. Meet at the lab at 8 am and bring a picnic lunch if you wish. For reservations call 949-858-0131.