

**From:** Environmental Volunteers <justyne@evols.org>  
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**Reply-To:** justyne@evols.org



# Environmental Volunteers

Innovative environmental science education that improves student learning

Newsletter for the EV Community

December 2011

## EcoCenter

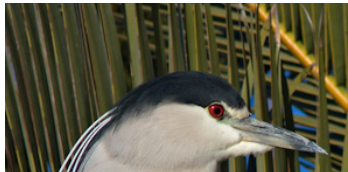


To see pictures of the EcoCenter's restoration journey, click on the photo above.

To learn more about the EcoCenter, click [here](#).

## Fun Facts

Birders...Get your scopes!  
**Christmas Bird Count**



## In This Issue

[The EV Launches a New Smart Phone App](#)

[School Services Update](#)

[Training Update](#)

[Who's News: John Seyfarth](#)

[Join the Conversation: EcoCenter](#)

[Save the Date: Wild Crush](#)

[What about the Wetlands?](#)

[EV Snapshots](#)

[The Gift that Keeps on Giving!](#)

## The EV Launches a New Smart Phone App The EcoCenter's First New Educational Program

by Allan Berkowitz, Executive Director

We are excited to announce the launch of a new smart phone App entitled, Environmental Volunteers Baylands Walking Tour.

This free App is a self-guided walking tour of the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve that allows users to learn



Birders all over North America are given a specific location to go out and count as many birds as they can find. Their lists are turned in and the counts provide an overall view of how bird populations are doing. On

Christmas Day 1900, Ornithologist Frank Chapman (Audubon Society) began a holiday tradition of counting birds (Christmas Bird Census) instead of killing them. **This year, the 112th Count will start on Dec. 14th.** To learn more information or to get involved, click [here](#).

Thanks to our in house birder, Lisa, for sharing! If you have any fun facts to share, please send them to [justyne@evols.org](mailto:justyne@evols.org).

## Quick Links

[Want to Volunteer](#)  
[Read the November Issue](#)  
[Buy EcoCenter Apparel](#)

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**DONATE NOW!**



Black-crowned Night Heron

ecosystem, and the common flora and fauna. Users have a choice of narration or text and can view photographs while learning about each station.

The App was developed by our Education and Training Director, Brittany Sabol, along with a professional App developer. Funding for its development was provided in part by the Whale Tail (License Plate) Program of the California Coastal Commission.

The App is initially available for iPhones through the iTunes store. An Android version will soon be released. Once the EcoCenter opens, preserve visitors without a smart phone can borrow an iPod with the App loaded.

The Baylands Walking Tour is the EcoCenter's very first new educational offering to the community. We are proud of Brittany and the EV organization for developing this exciting new educational tool.

Check it out and let us know what you think.

## School Services Update

by Laurie Lopez, Programs Coordinator

The weather may be cooling down, but our volunteers are getting fired up this school year—they nearly doubled the amount of services this November

Preserve that allows users to learn about the importance of bay marshes, the preserve's flora and fauna, and the history of the preserve and the San Francisco Bay. The App uses printed text, narration, and over 100 vivid photographs to communicate its content.

The App is centered around 8 Baylands stations: Lagoon, Duck Pond, Fennel Forest, Mudflats, Nature Center, Boardwalk, Boat Dock, and the EcoCenter. By touching the requested station on the Preserve map, users can learn about that location, its



Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse

**THANK YOU  
 FOR  
 COMING TO MY  
 CLASS!**

## **Environmental Volunteers**

### **Peninsula Office**

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[info@EVols.org](mailto:info@EVols.org)  
[www.EVols.org](http://www.EVols.org)

compared to last year! Our EVs volunteered **530** hours to teach **1291** students in **49** classrooms and led 17 field trips!

If you break down our service numbers, Early California Indian Life was the most popular program delivered, which is quite appropriate for November, followed by Foothills Ecology and Water Science & Conservation.

### **Keep up the great work, EVs!**



"Thank You" card from one of the children we serve



EV Trainee learning  
Energy and Natural Resources  
Learning Lab.

## **Training Update**

We have some exciting news; we have scheduled the first training course for the new EcoCenter! This Spring, the peninsula training will be conducted in our new building. [Sign up](#) to be in that lucky group.

All Spring Training dates are up. Check them out [here](#).

## **Who's News: John Seyfarth**

by Jan Whitmer

**John Seyfarth's** lifelong enthusiasm for nature and the environment is contagious. His passion dates back to camping trips in the Rockies as a kid and, later, working summers for the National Park Service in Yellowstone, Olympic, and Rocky Mountain National Parks. One of his most vivid memories is from his first summer job as part of a survey crew, standing on the Continental Divide in Wyoming's Shoshone National Forest, thinking, "I can't believe I'm getting paid for this!"



Growing up in Denver, John claims that...

What is John claiming? Click [here](#) to find out.



John taking the Living in California Course

## Join the Conversation: EcoCenter Focus Group



The EV Board would like to hear from you. As promised at the EV Annual Meeting in June, and to accommodate our South Bay volunteers, we will host a second Focus Group (a repeat of the Focus Group held in Palo Alto on November 10th) at a place to be determined in the South Bay. We invite you to join us on **January 5th**, from **1:30 to 3:00**

**p.m.**, for coffee, dessert, and a discussion of our imminent move to our new home at the EcoCenter. If you have a suggestion for a meeting place, please let Justyne know.

Specifically we want to know:

1. What are your hopes and expectations for the EcoCenter?
2. What are your fears about the EcoCenter?
3. What are your ideas and suggestions for moving forward?

Your perspective is valuable to us. We hope you can come. Your RSVP to Justyne Schnupp at [justyne@evols.org](mailto:justyne@evols.org) will help us plan.

Ellen Turbow  
EV Board Chair

John Northway  
EV Board Governance Chair

## Save the Date

### Wild Crush: A Wine and Chocolate Adventure

*Join us for a festive evening to benefit the Environmental Volunteers*

**Sunday, April 29, 2012**  
**5:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

Oshman Family Jewish Community Center,  
Palo Alto

For ticket or sponsorship information, or for more details, contact (650) 961-0545 x335, or [WildCrush@EVols.org](mailto:WildCrush@EVols.org)



## What about the Wetlands?

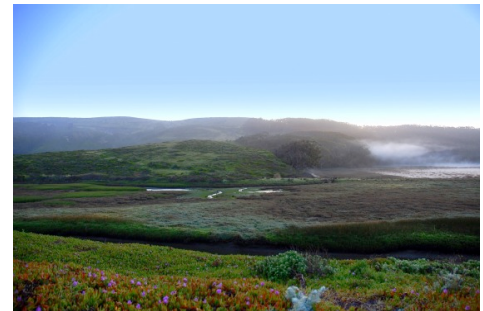
by Lindsey Tillisch, Intern



Wetlands are ever present in the Bay Area, but many forget the importance of these large, grassy buffer zones. The vegetation, grasses and trees among wetlands provide a vast variety of benefits for humans and wildlife alike. There are more living species in a single acre of wetland than any other type of habitat.

Wetlands have dense vegetation that provides a safe habitat and a bountiful food supply for many species including small fish and crabs. Wetlands also provide a nesting habitat and food source for a large variety of birds, including...

Who else uses wetlands for nesting and a food source? You can find out [here](#).




## EV Snapshots

**The weather might be frightful,  
but these pictures are delightful!**



**Deanna Walston** had this Egret in her backyard.



**Bob Dodge** found this Red Cage Fungus (don't let the color fool you) in Stevens Creek County Park before a field trip.



**Lisa Myers** has this Harris' Sparrow visiting in her backyard.

**Lisa** also helped save this Western Screech Owl found on a birder's driveway.



**Thanks to EVs Bob, Deanna and Lisa for sharing these AMAZING shots!** If you have any images from EV services, field trips or your own excursions, and would like to share them with the EV community, please send them to [justyne@EVols.org](mailto:justyne@EVols.org).

## The Gift that Keeps on Giving!



Student learning about surface tension at an EV Program.

Still searching for that perfect gift? This holiday season, consider a donation to the Environmental Volunteers in honor of special friends and family on your list. We'll include them in our list of supporters, and let them know a gift was made in their name, from you. **Your gift will help more young students build an early love of science and nature.** You can make your donations [here](#).

### Photo Credits

EcoCenter Update: Andrei Sarna-Wojcicki

Who's News and Training Update: Laurie Lopez

Fun Facts: Information and image from Audubon Society

What about the Wetlands: Lindsey Tillisch

Save the Date: Chocolate Weekend NYC

The Gift that Keeps on Giving: Judy Kramer

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