

News from the Friends of

The Bernard Biological Field Station

Of the Claremont Colleges

Volume 14 No.1 February 2013

P.O. Box 1101, Claremont, CA 91711

bfsfriends@earthlink.net

www.fbbfs.org

Auction!

Our annual silent art auction is taking place again this March! You can see the pottery, glass, paintings, and jewelry in the window of the Folk Music Center, 220 Yale Ave. The auction is our major fundraising event so please stop by and leave a bid!

Sightings

- ✓ Fluttering by: Sleepy Oranges, Large Sulfurs, Monarchs and Mourning Cloaks
- ✓ Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Mallards, Ruddy Ducks, Coots!
- ✓ Variegated Meadowhawk dragonflies, swooping for prey, resting on cattails
- ✓ Sneaky invasive Sahara Mustard, blooming at 8 inches instead of 2 feet, almost unobserved
- ✓ Common Groundsel, not rare plant but new to us
- ✓ London Rocket, Common Henbit—names to conjur with!
- ✓ Bitter-Cress spreading profusely, narrow seed pods filling, soon to explode!
- ✓ Golden Currant, gorgeous yellow blossoms, drooping cascades of small green fruit
- ✓ Purple Phacelia, uncoiling on hairy stems
- ✓ Yellow blooms of Common Amsinckia, beginning to peak through the grass
- ✓ Wild Cucumber vines, climbing with abandon
- ✓ Small violet flowers and ferny leaves on ground-hugging Filaree
- ✓ Gorgeous Gilia dotted around
- ✓ Fuzzy catkins on Arroyo Willow
- ✓ Carpets of the little red succulent Crassulas coming up in the roads
- ✓ Tree frog tadpoles in the new toad pond
- ✓ Western Fence Lizards out and about
- ✓ Volunteers pruning and tidying, enjoying pizza!

City Council Candidate Statements

Each time there is an election for City Council, we invite the candidates to write something. This time there are only three candidates, but voting on March 5 for the two you want is important!

Mayor Larry Schroeder

The Preservation of Open Space: Claremont has become synonymous with sustainability. One of the foundations of this sustainability is setting aside land in perpetuity for future generations; fortunately, Claremont has open space available to save.

For example, the Wilderness Park started with 1,440 acres in 1996. After passing a \$12.5 million general obligation bond in 2007, Johnson's Pasture was purchased in 2008, adding 180 acres to the park. In 2011, the City received grant funds to add 150 acres by purchasing Gale Ranch.

Today, there is still land available to expand the park and the City Council will continue to work with various groups to acquire this land when possible. However, placing land in a public trust is not enough. In 2006, there were over 33,000 visitors to the Wilderness Park while in 2011 there were over 306,000 visitors. Due to the tremendous increase in the Park's usage, the City Council has concluded that we must develop a master plan for the Wilderness Park. This will be the next step in the development of the Park and securing its existence for generations to come.

Corey Calaycay

Thank you to the Friends of the Bernard Field Station for the invitation to submit a statement for your newsletter.

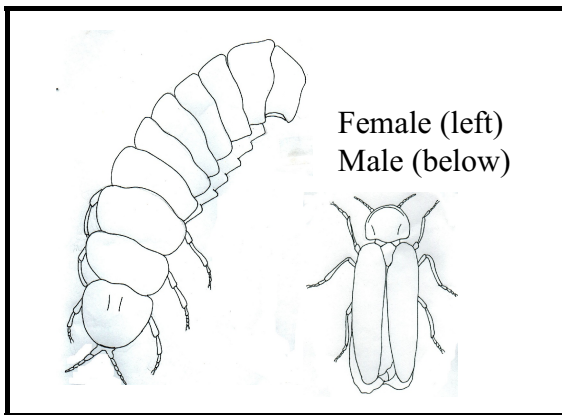
Our mountain and hillside vistas are among the reasons that many of us chose Claremont as our home. In reference to open space, it is important to distinguish between natural open space such as our Wilderness Park and the Bernard Field Station and constructed urban open space areas such as Padua Park. I have always supported efforts to preserve key natural open space that remains in our community through fostering

partnerships between and among land trusts, conservancies, and public and private entities. As a City, we must continue to strike a balance between urban development and the need for and value of open space.

During my tenure on your City Council, the City has collaborated with public and private partners to acquire and incorporate Johnson's Pasture and Gale Ranch into our Wilderness Park. On March 2, 2013, we will unveil a new trail and entry point into the Wilderness Park with the opening of Sycamore Canyon. The City Council has authorized preparation of a Master Plan for the Wilderness Park. The plan process will address current issues and future needs of the Wilderness Park, and how to best utilize the resource.

I remain committed to these types of endeavors and am grateful for what our City has been able to accomplish in reference to natural open space preservation during my tenure as your Councilmember.

Meet the Inhabitants!



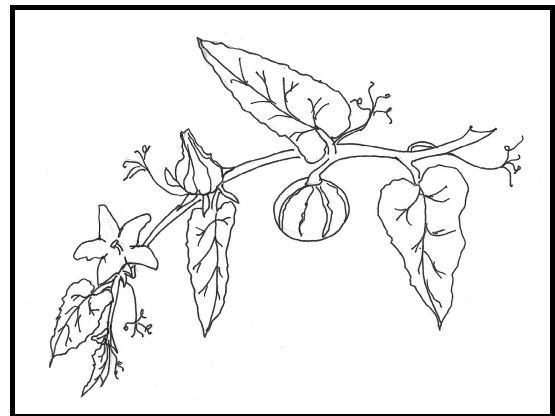
The Pink Glowworm

Microphotus angustus

The pink glowworm (Order Coleoptera, Family Lampyridae) is one of the more unusual insects found at the Field Station. These uncommon beetles are found mainly in dry grassy areas in late spring and early summer. They have been seen on a number of occasions around the area near the outdoor classroom at the Field Station. The males look like an ordinary, pinkish-tan beetle about a quarter to a third of an inch long. The very bright

pink females, however, are wingless and elongated like the beetle larvae (think caterpillar) and are about half an inch long.

During the day, males can be found on the underside of leaves and the females under rocks in leaf litter. Unlike eastern fireflies, these beetles do not flash on and off. However, the female lets the male know her whereabouts by glowing a continuous soft, intense, luminescent green at night. The males emit a little, weak light when disturbed but don't use it to communicate. Although the feeding habits of the adults are not known, the larvae, gardeners will be happy to know, prey on snails and slugs.



Calabazilla, coyote gourd

Cucurbita foetidissima

Calabazilla is a perennial vine well-adapted to dry areas like ours. The plant dies down after the fruits are ripe in late summer, and then explodes into growth again in late winter. Mature plants have a storage root that can weigh up to 200 lbs. The plant sends out many stems up to 20 feet long and covers a lot of ground! The triangular grayish green, rough leaves are shaped like long, narrow hearts, up to 12 inches long and 4 inches wide. They smell unpleasant if crushed. The plant produces a branched tendril opposite each leaf. Like other squashes, calabazilla produces separate bright yellow, trumpet-shaped male and female flowers. The young green fruits are about 4 inches in diameter, and are said to be edible, as are the seeds which contain considerable protein, and these and the leaves can be used as animal feed. The seeds are high in oil and are being considered as a

possible biofuel. Native Americans used the gourds and other parts of the plant to make soap.

Tours of the BFS:

Community and school groups can take tours of the BFS. If you are interested in bringing your group up to learn about what is there, please call or send an email (909-398-1751, wallace.meyer@pomona.edu).

BFS Volunteer Days

First Saturday of the month, 10:00 a.m. until noon, followed by a tasty pizza lunch! You can see photos of some of the hardy volunteers on the BFS blog (click "News" at www.bfs.claremont.edu).

For questions or to be added to the volunteer list, please contact the BFS Volunteer Coordinator, Nancy Hamlett (hamlett@hmc.edu) or 909-964-2731.

Sustainable Claremont Garden Club

Free and open to everyone interested in any type of gardening. Info at sustainableclaremont.org or email gardenclub@sustainableclaremont.org.

The BFS website news page

showcases plants, animals, and volunteers with terrific photos and entertaining descriptions—go take a look (www.bfs.claremont.edu)! You'll be glad you did!

Recent posts:

Ho, Ho Mistletoe

Volunteers help sample arthropods

We'd like to be able to send out newsletters by email rather than snail mail. If you'd like to get yours electronically, please send a note to bfsfriends@earthlink.net

Favorite quote:

"Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man."

- *Stuart Udall*

A bit more on the Redford Conservancy

Some info from Lance Neckar, Director of the Robert Redford Conservancy:

Students in "Sustainable Place", one of the environmental analysis courses, are starting to investigate programming ideas. Detailed programming is expected to occur next fall. Designer selection should take place in the spring of 2015, with construction complete by fall 2016 or spring 2017. There is still much analytical and design work to be done and money to be raised. In preparation for the call for designs, the Conservancy has scanned the original drawings for the 1930 building, which comprises about 8000 sq ft on the main floor, with a basement underneath the lobby and the corridor spaces; the 1956 building has an additional 900 sq ft.

Planning grant for BFS

Faculty in the Field Station Advisory Committee (which includes Dr Neckar) have applied for an NSF planning grant to envision, among many other things, how the Redford Conservancy programming can be adapted to and support the current field station programs. Marty Meyer, the BFS director, is the principal author of the grant application. Let's wish them all luck! Movement towards a clear plan for the future is something that has been missing from talks about the BFS.



"A tour of the property readily convinces visitors of the importance of keeping such a beautiful expanse of land, shrubs, and trees for scientific purposes."

Robert J. Bernard in "An Unfinished Dream" pg 708

Friends of the Bernard Biological Field Station
P.O. Box 1101
Claremont, CA 91711
The Friends is a non-profit, grassroots organization.

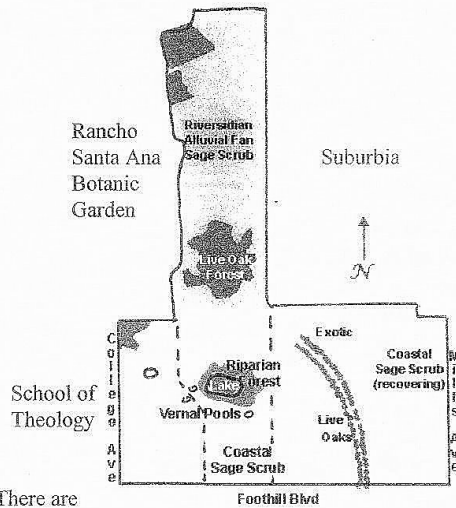
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and the Environment”***

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Claremont Colleges: www.claremont.edu
The Claremont Courier : 1420 N. Claremont Blvd., Suite 205B,
Claremont, CA 91711 Phone: 621-4761
Inland Valley Daily Bulletin: 2041 E. Fourth St, Ontario CA 91764



There are 3 parts to the BFS:
Owned by HMC ← Owned by CUC ⇒
Temporary protection No protection

Note: west part now owned by CGU and HMC;
eastern part to be sold to Pitzer, HMC and Scripps
Limited protection on narrow center strip
See fbbfs website for map showing divisions

How big is big enough?

A field station is land left in its natural state for use in the study of complex interactions between plants and animals. The usefulness of such natural laboratories depends on size and shape. Extinctions occur frequently in small areas, due to smaller populations. The current 85 acres is just large enough to maintain reasonable stability in the existing ecosystems. Narrow shapes increase the amount of pollution by noise, air, water, and pesticides from surrounding areas, and increase the chances of competition from exotic (non-native) species, so the center bit of the BFS alone would not be sustainable.

Who uses it?

The BFS is used by Claremont Colleges faculty and hundreds of students every year, as well as by many schoolchildren from Claremont and the surrounding areas. It has also been used by college classes from as far away as Long Beach, by scout troops, and by members of the public.

What's there?

There are over 30 acres of the fast-disappearing coastal sage scrub community along with a number of species of state or federal concern.

Since much of Claremont was originally covered with coastal sage scrub, it is a fascinating window into our past.

There is a stand of oak woodland in the north where water wells up along an earthquake fault, there is annual grassland slowly returning to coastal sage scrub in the east, and there is a one-acre, man-made lake excavated in 1978 which is a sanctuary for western pond turtles displaced by development.