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Native American Display

The Oak Grove Nature Center has had a small display of Native American artifacts and replicas for years. Recently some changes have occurred in the collection.

Last year saw the start of a mannequin “Native Family” for the Center to depict the daily life of a Miwok or Yokuts family 200 or more years ago. The male or ‘father’ figure was completed then. This year the female or ‘mother’ figure was completed.

The waterfowl diorama has been dismantled and a new diorama is being developed to house the “Native Family” display. This display is open but work continues in its

development.

Last year we also received on loan for a year several baskets and other artifacts of Miwok and Yokuts origin from the State Indian Museum. We were able, with the kind generosity of the State Indian Museum, to extend the loan for an additional year. If you have not seen them yet be sure to get out to the Center and view them before they have to go back.

Along these lines the Nature Center is seeking baskets, projectile points, bows and any other artifacts that are held privately, whose owners might be willing to allow the Center to display them. If you



“Native Family” display is under development in the ‘old waterfowl’ diorama.

have or know someone who has such items, please consider contacting us about a possible loan for display. JR

“Bug Fest” a Great Success

This year’s “Bug Fest” was a huge success. We had about 350 participants last year and had figured on doubling the turnout this year. Well, we were in for a surprise!

Several minutes before 10 AM that morning we already had several visitors showing up for the festivities. By 11 AM we had counted over a hundred visitors and

they were ‘pouring’ in. We were swamped.

As the day went on more and more people arrived to participate in the activities. Some of the activities, like the “Bug Safari”, took on a life of their own.

As the day concluded we had had 1,762 visitors come through the Nature Center for “Bug Fest”. The raffle and

snack bar helped cover expenses.

As we anticipate next year’s event we feel a little tinge of fear creep over us. What will happen then?!

Please mark April 30, 2011 on your calendars for the 3rd Annual “Bug Fest” and if you can, plan to volunteer to help out! JR

Oak Grove Docent Council Officers

- President:
David Marraccini
- V. President:
Tristan Edgarian
- Secretary:
Ben Valencia
- Treasurer:
Martha Mallery
- Recorder:
Dave Wagner

Committee Chairs

- Animal Care:
Darryl Pedro
- Communications/Newsletter:
James Rexroth
- Education:
Darryl Pedro
- Membership:
James Rexroth
- Native Plants:
Martha Mallery
- Publicity:
Pamela Reyes

Nature Center Coordinator:

- James Rexroth

Come Volunteer with Us



Sheldon, one of the Nature Center Docents showing a gopher snake to a group of visitors.

The Oak Grove Nature Center is a fun place to be. There are lots of things to do and see. We have live animals, animal artifacts, dioramas, and displays of Native American artifacts.

We also have a library with books on the plants and animals found in the region as well as surrounding areas. We have literature on the Native Americans of California.

We have a native plant garden that demonstrates

the different habitats found in the valley. It also serves as an ethno botanical garden with plants that were used as food, medicine, and for construction by the local Indians.

We have two nature trails in the park, the Miwok and the Yokuts, which take you through the natural area of the park where you can see a valley oak woodland as it might have appeared 200 years ago.

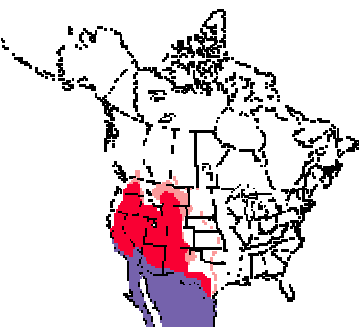
We are interested in having you join us at the Na-

ture Center to enjoy these things and help us help others to enjoy them as well. We will provide the training and materials you need. (Tentative training date September 18, 10-2.)

So if you have a few hours a week or a month and would like to learn more about the region and its natural history and share it with others, we will get you started. For more information, please contact us at 209-953-8814 or at jrexroth@sjgov.org. JR

Special Focus—Common Poorwill

"The male shares the incubation and care duties and is sometimes caring for the first brood while the female starts incubating the second."



Range of the Common Poorwill

Photo of a Common Poorwill



The Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*) is a member of the Night Hawk or Goat Sucker family. These highly cryptic birds are mottled gray and brown with a white band on the chest and white on the tips of the outer tail feathers. Like other members of the family, Poorwills have large heads, short necks, and wide mouths. The sexes are similar.

Common Poorwills typically inhabit dry, open places such as deserts, grasslands, and open woodlands. The foothills around the valley are typically where they occur in our area.

These birds are nocturnal and hunt for flying insects at night. In general they sit on the ground looking up until a moth or beetle flies by and then fly up after it.

Poorwills were the first bird discovered to enter a state of torpor or hibernation during cold weather. Their body temperature can drop to 41 degrees and breathing can slow by 90%. They can maintain this state for weeks if necessary.

Their call sounds like a whistled "poor-WILL-ip" and is almost always made from the ground.

Breeding starts in April or May and two clutches are common. The male shares the incubation and care duties and is sometimes caring for the first brood while the female starts incubating the second. If disturbed the parents will move the eggs or young to a new location. (Editor's note: This may be accomplished by cradling the egg or youngster on top of the feet, holding it

against the chest while flying a short distance to a safer location, though I could not find specifics.) Young hatch after 20 to 21 days and can fly at about 20 to 23 days of age.

The Common Poorwill migrates in late March and April from Mexico and portions of the Southwest into much of the western United States. It makes its return journey starting in late August and September.

The Common Poorwill is in fact fairly common and is not in trouble in the wild.

There is currently a Common Poorwill at the Nature Center that came to us because of a bad eye. It is on display in the main room near the Pacific Pond Turtles.

JR

Kids Activity Page



WORD SEARCH: Words relating to the local Native Americans.

- ACORN
- CALAVERAS
- CLAPPER STICK
- ELDERBERRY
- FLUTE
- MIWOK
- MORTAR
- MUGWORT
- OBSIDIAN
- PESTLE
- TULE HUT
- YOKUTS

A JOKE FOR YOU

Joe: "What do you call old berries?"

Tom: "I don't know. What do you call old berries?"

Joe: "Elder Berries!"

MAZE—Get the Indian safely back to his village!



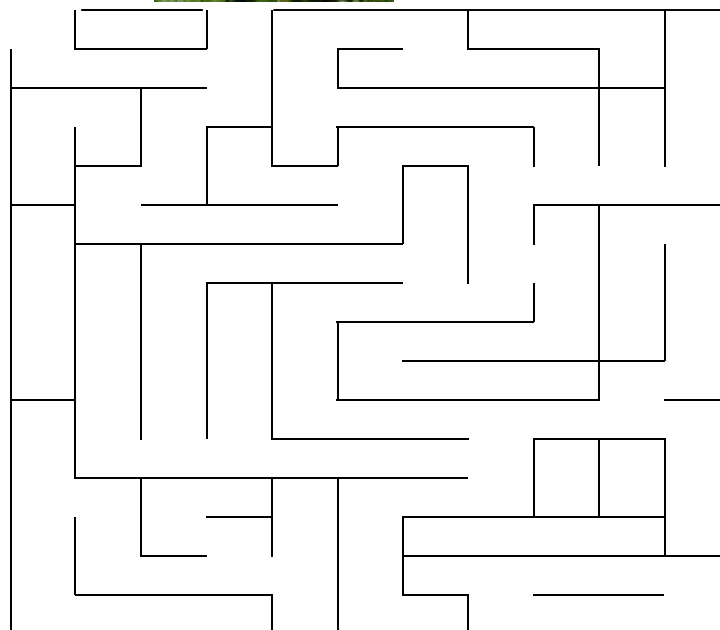
**POISON OAK!
GO BACK!**

**RATTLESNAKE!
WATCH OUT!**



Help me find my village!

START

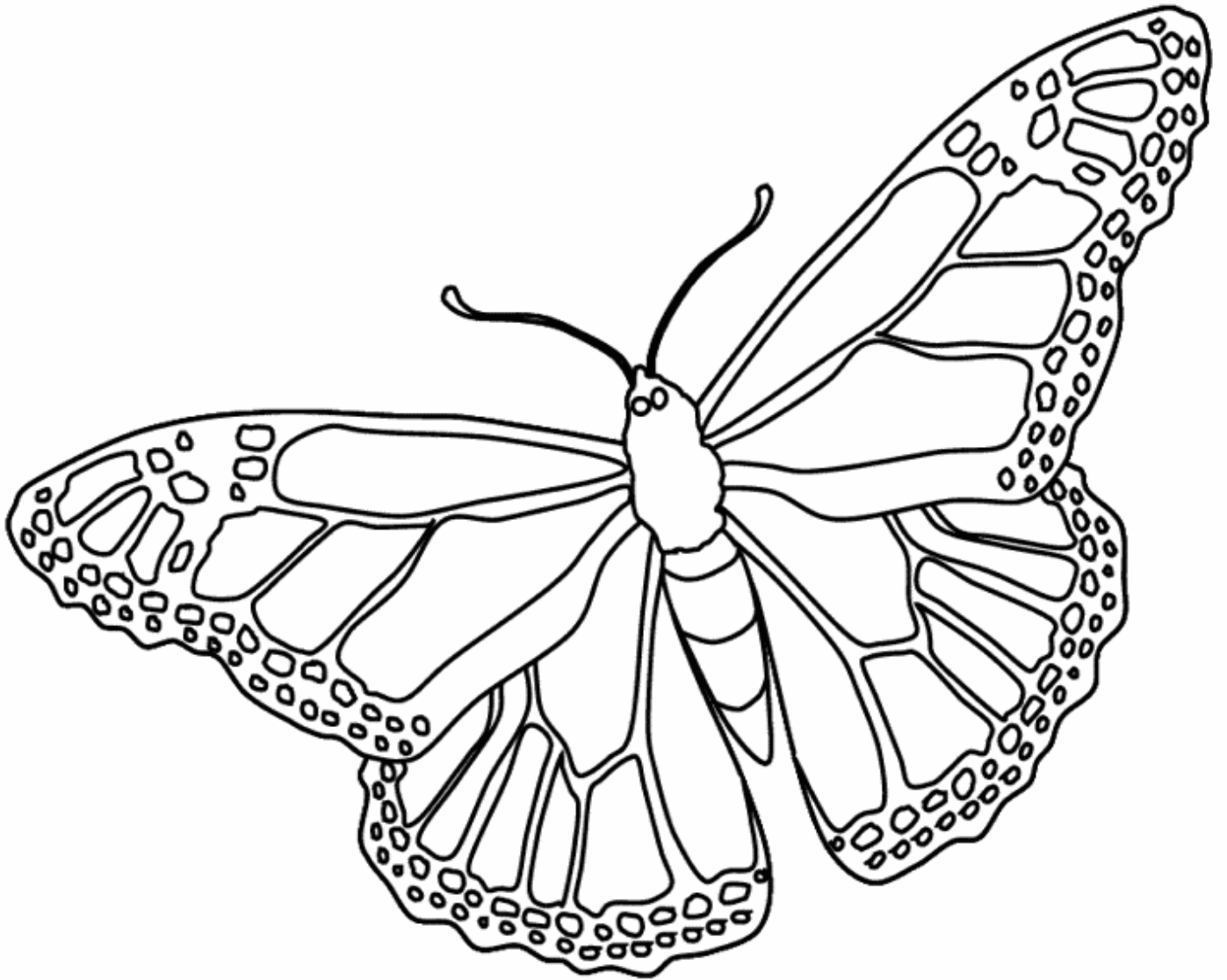


FINISH I'M HOME!



**A GRIZZLY BEAR!
OH NO!**





Monarch Butterfly

New this year at "Bug Fest"



Gourmet Volunteer lunches by Judy



The "Grasshopper Gourmet" by Grover



I ate a "bug."

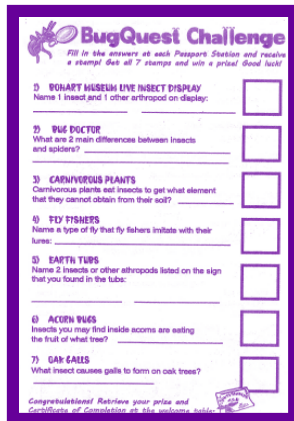
Photos by Alan England & James Rexroth



I am a "bug."



Tristan's new toss game.



And his new "mind" game.



Face Painting by Rene' and Nowana inspired long lines.

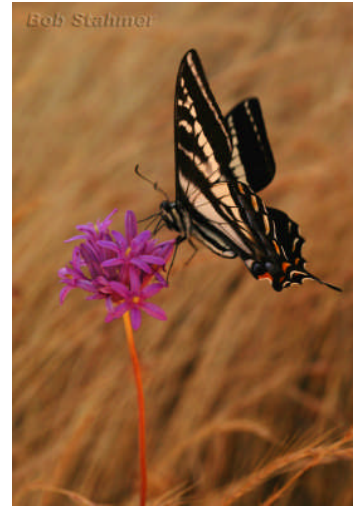


Lots of people inside.....
.....and outside.
1762 Visitors!





Raffle donation prizes included...



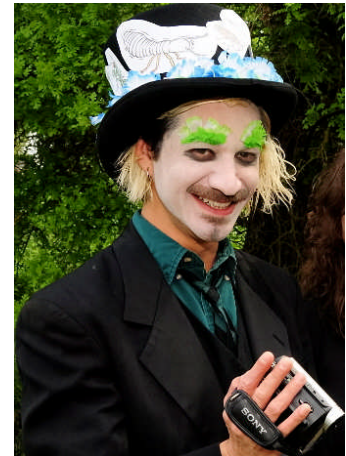
**A butterfly photo
by Bob.**



**James released some newly
morphed butterflies.**



Pamela morphed too!



**The Mad Hatter (Ben)
and associates caught it
all on tape!**

A Big "Thank You" to Our Contributors and Volunteers

Thanks to all the scientists, students, community contributors and Docent Council volunteers whose generous donations of time, energy and goods made Bug Fest a great success.

Dale Sanders, Randy Baxter, Sam Brown, Richard M. Brown, Win Rogers, Carlos Jiminez, Subaida Thommil, Amal Thommil, Selina Perez, Alicia Hernandez, Nicholas Castanon, Adriana Godinez, Stephanie Noriega, David Lagesse, Sharyl Beard, Daryl Beard, Sahira Khan, Ben Her, Paul Bann, Venturing Crew 148, H. J. Heinz Company, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Costco Wholesale, California Native Plant Society, Rexsanimals, Bob Stahmer Photography, American Sign Products, Professor Dodson's Delta College Natural Resources Students, Trader Joe's, Bohart Museum of Entomology, Noah's Bagels, San Joaquin Audubon Society, Stanislaus State Students, Girl Scout Troup 741, Delta Fly Fishers, Boy Scout Troup 148, The Serpentarium, San Joaquin County Parks Workers, Alan Mooney, Jimmy Blann, Austin Eggers, Ryan Louie, Erin Louie, Melissa Louie, David Beadles, Mary Fuhs, Melrey Fuhs, Pamela Reyes, Rene Reyes, Tina Moran, Grover Bethards, Hannah Bethards, Darryl Pedro, James Rexroth, Carol Rexroth, David Rexroth, David Marraccini, Ann Stone, Nancy Shephard, Judy Light, Martha Mallery, Alan England, Deb Wing, Kasey Foley, Rich Petersen, Susan Schneider, Nowana Wright, Tristan Edgarian, Dominic Estrada, Cherie Gerson, John Schick and Ben Valencia. (Thanks also to the volunteers who helped out but didn't have time to sign in or whose names we could not decipher.)

A special thanks to entomologist Kathy Schick whose knowledge of invertebrates guided our 2nd Annual Bug Fest to a new level of success.

--Oak Grove Docent Council & Oak Grove Nature Center Staff

A Big Thank You

Again, we wish to thank those that have contributed to the Docent Council and Nature Center monetarily. Your membership or donation is greatly appreciated and helps us carry on the business of the Council and contribute to the overall care of the Nature Center and its collections. We would like to recognize the following folks:

Muriel DeSelm
 Kasey Foley/Rich Petersen
 Alice Hunter

Beverly McCarthy
 James & Carol Rexroth
 Kathy & John Schick
 Dave Wagner

We wish to express our great appreciation to Alice Hunter for her very generous membership.

And to Frances Quinn for the additional donation to the Native Plant Garden.

And to all those that give their time and energy, Thank You very much!! D.C.B.

Sandhill Crane Festival

I know it seems early but November will sneak up on us quickly. The Crane Festival is scheduled for the 5th through the 7th this year. As always we would like to have a presence there to help get the word out about the Nature Center. Judith Light has agreed to Chair our table this year and is looking for volunteers to staff it during the event. If this sounds interesting to you, please contact us at 209-953-8814. D.C.B.

Prop. 84 Nature Education Facility Grant

Recently, the State of California announced that through Prop. 84 (from 2006) funds totaling \$93 million would be available for Nature Education Facility development.

The available funds were divided into 5 tiers and grant applicants would only compete for funding with those in the same tier.

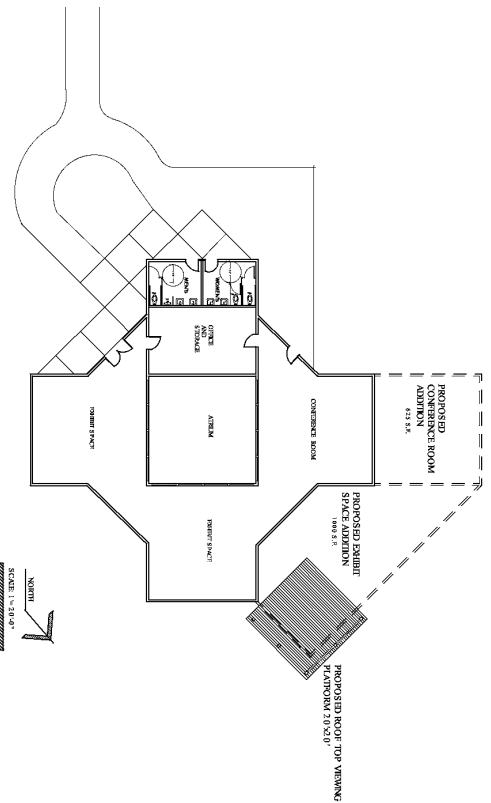
The Nature Center has applied for one of these grants for expanding and

renovating the Center. Plans include a viewing deck above a new wing and expanded classroom/meeting room.

The estimated cost for this development is slightly less than \$1.2 million dollars and is what the Center applied for in the grant.

We will find out soon if our grant application has been accepted and then in January we will find out if we have been awarded the

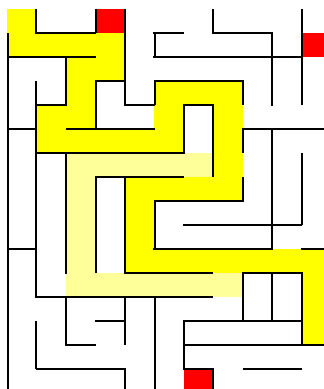
grant. We will update you as we know more. Below is the proposed expansion layout for the Center.



WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

A	C	O	R	N	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	T	P	L	K
N	M	M	N	A	B	V	C	X	Z	A	S	D	F	U	G	H	J
B	V	C	M	I	W	O	K	X	Z	L	K	J	H	L	G	F	D
K	J	H	G	D	P	O	I	U	Y	T	R	E	W	E	Q	A	S
L	Y	T	R	I	E	W	Q	A	S	D	F	G	H	C	V	Y	
W	Q	P	E	S	T	L	E	M	N	B	V	C	X	U	Z	A	O
E	R	F	G	B	H	C	L	A	P	P	E	R	S	T	I	C	K
C	V	B	N	O	M	K	D	J	H	G	F	E	F	R	A	T	U
Q	S	X	C	F	T	H	E	N	M	L	O	I	J	L	Y	U	T
Z	S	E	R	G	B	N	R	J	I	U	H	V	A	E	U	V	S
O	I	U	Y	T	R	E	B	W	Q	R	B	V	C	X	Z	T	B
P	L	K	J	H	G	F	E	D	A	S	E	A	Z	X	C	V	E
J	B	M	U	G	W	O	R	T	N	R	K	O	P	L	M	N	B
I	U	H	V	C	G	Y	R	T	A	R	D	X	Z	S	E	W	A
G	H	J	K	L	P	O	Y	S	O	I	U	Y	T	R	E	W	Q
A	X	D	V	G	M	B	H	M	K	L	U	Y	T	R	E	A	S

MAZE ANSWER



Oak Grove Nature Center and Docent Council
San Joaquin County Parks and Recreation

4520 W. Eight Mile Road
Stockton, CA. 95209

Phone: 209-953-8814

Fax: 209-953-8814

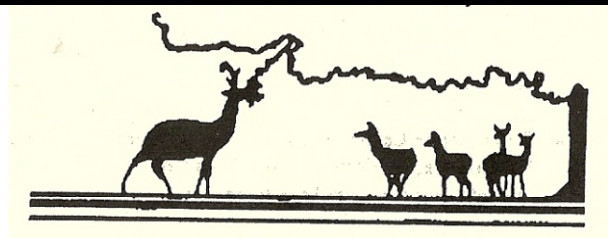
E-mail: jrexroth@sjgov.org

The Oak Grove Docent Council had its earliest beginnings in 1979, giving tours of what would become Oak Grove Regional Park and officially adopted its name in 1980. 1990 saw the Council become a charitable corporation and receive 501(3)c status from the Internal Revenue Service. For 30 years now the Oak Grove Docent Council has provided and continues to provide nature education opportunities to the people of San Joaquin County.



Check out our website:

www.mgzoo.com



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

Dates to Remember

July 11, 8:30 AM: Park Bird Census—volunteers park free.

July 17, 8 to 11 PM: Astronomy in the Park.

July 23, 7 to 8:30 PM: Nature Nights—Kids Crafts Night

August 3, 6:30 PM: Oak Grove Docent Council General Meeting. All welcome.

August 8, 8:30 AM: Park Bird Census—volunteers park free.

August 14, 8 to 11 PM: Astronomy in the Park.

August 20, 7 to 8:30 PM:

Nature Nights—"Galls" a Walk and Talk by Dr. Kathy Schick

September 7, 6:30 PM: Oak Grove Docent Council General Meeting. All welcome.

September 12, 8:30 AM: Park Bird Census—volunteers park free.

September 18, 10 to 2 PM: Docent/Volunteer Training—tentative date.

September 18, 7:30 to 10:30 PM: Astronomy in the Park.

September 24, 7 to 8:30 PM: Nature Nights—TBA

October 5, 6:30 PM: Oak Grove Docent Council General Meeting. All welcome.

October 9, 8:30 AM: Park Bird Census—volunteers park free.

October 16, 7 to 10 PM: Astronomy in the Park. Tentative.

October 22, 7 to 8:30 PM: Nature Nights—TBA

November 2, 6:30 PM: Oak Grove Docent Council General Meeting. All welcome.

November 6,7, all day: Sandhill Crane Festival. Staffing needed for Nature Center table.

November 12, 7 to 8:30 PM: Nature Nights—tentative.

November 14, 8:30 AM: Park Bird Census—volunteers park free.

December, Docent Christmas Party—date TBA

December 12, 8:30 AM: Park Bird Census—volunteers park free.

January 4, 2011, 6:30 PM: Oak Grove Docent Council General Meeting. All welcome. Tentative.

January 9, 8:30 AM: Park Bird Census—volunteers park free.

More details will be available in the Fall newsletter and on the website, www.mgzoo.com, as information becomes available.