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Wildflowers and “Bugs” were “In” this Spring

This year we did something that hasn’t been done here for years. We had a wildflower show April 16 & 17! Titled “Wildflowers that Bloom in Spring”, the display was organized by Martha Mallery and James Rexroth, and it came together with a great deal of help from local California Native Plant Society members and the Oak Grove Docent Council who co-sponsored the event (see page 2). The show was well attended, with over 350 visitors coming out for the weekend event.

Then just two weeks later we held our third annual

“BugFest”! Chaired by our own Dr. Kathy Schick with a committee of Docent Council members and many, many other volunteers (see the “Thank You” column on page 2), the months of planning paid off with a well run and well attended event. This year we spread things out a little more and included transportation from the “BugFest” (overflow) parking area to the Nature Center and back. Besides the usual activities, like the “Grasshopper Gourmet”, “Bug Doctor” and insect crafts, we were able

to recruit additional face painters and had more “photo ops” for our guests. With people arriving regularly throughout the day, the attendance this year was approximately 1,400 visitors and everyone seemed to have a good time!

We’re looking forward to next year and we hope you are too!



Photo by Dave Wagner

Astronomy in the Park

We are in our third year of “Astronomy in the Park”, a very successful joint venture with the Stockton Astronomical Society (SAS), held on the first Saturday after the new moon. The attendance at this event has ranged from a low of about 100 to a high of 300+. This year we started in March

and will continue through October. October’s event will be SAS’s premier production, normally held at Micke Grove Park, but being hosted by the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park this year.

Also, SAS has a “solar telescope” that they are plan-

ning to bring out, so come a little early if you’d like to see sunspots and solar flares!

You have two more chances this year to come out and enjoy viewing the stars and planets, September 3rd at 7 pm and October 1st at 5 pm.

Hope to see you there.



Photo by Barbara Bowers

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- **V. President:**
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James Rexroth
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Martha Mallery
- **Publicity:**
Pamela Reyes

Nature Center Coordinator

James Rexroth

“BugFest” Thank You’s

Our third annual “BugFest” was a great success! We had over 1,400 visitors to the event this year and it ran quite smoothly. We wish to thank the following people and organizations for their time, energy and donations:

Larry Allen; American Sign Products; Liz Baker; Randy Baxter; Grover Bethards III & Hannah Bethards; Richard Brown; Boy Scout Troop 148; ; California Native Plant Society; Jill Cauthen; Doug Christensen; Terry Clark; Clark; CSU Stanislaus Biology Department Students; Rebecca & Olivia Douglas; Professor David Dodson; Delta Fly Fishers; Tristan Edgarian; Dominic Estrada; Kasey Foley; Allen Fong; Mary & Melrey Fuhs; David Furukawa; Cherie Gerson; Kathy Grant; Camp Jack Hazard; Kathy Hieb; HeinzSeed; Liane Komure; Aleathea Langone; Lodi Lake Docents & Friends; Martha Mallery; David Marraccini; Middle College High School students; Lisa Mielbrecht; Cindy Milford; Joyce Nakashima; Noah’s Bagels; Oak Grove Docent Council & Friends; Oak Grove Nature Center; Darryl Pedro; Rich & Tory Petersen; Blake and Eric Potter; James & Carol Rexroth, Pamela & Rene Reyes & family; Rexsanimals; Joey Roberts; Win Rogers; San Joaquin Audubon Society; San Joaquin County Parks & Rec. staff; San Joaquin Delta College Natural Resources Students; San Joaquin Delta College Mountain House Campus Students; San Joaquin UC Master Gardeners; Julie Schardt; John and Dr. Kathy Schick; Dale Sanders; Susan Schneider; The Serpentarium; Fred Speer; Nancy Shephard; Sierra Club, Delta-Sierra Group; Patty Smith; Bob Stahmer Photography; Ann Stone; UC Davis Bohart Museum of Entomology; Ben Valencia; Dave Wagner; James Williams; Jesse Wright; Deb Wing; Dan Wolthers; Nowana Wright; Judy Yamada; Hiromi & Marsha Yoneda. Our sincere apologies to anyone we may have missed and “Thank You”!

A special “Thank You” to the “BugFest” committee chair Dr. Kathy Schick and all those that served on it. Their efforts helped ensure the success of this year’s event.

Wildflowers that Bloomed in the Spring

In mid-April we celebrated California’s first Native Plant Week with a wildflower show that attracted around 350 visitors. It turned out to be a multigenerational event. A few parents brought their children but most brought their parents. And many grandparents even brought their parents.

Inside the Nature Center visitors of all ages were delighted with the display of more than a hundred species of flowers collected from the Valley grasslands, Sierra foothills and Coast Range. Unfortunately the educational displays of native grasses and oaks went largely unnoticed as they were outdazzled by the myriads of colorful blossoms.

Outside in the Native Plant Garden folks wandered along the trail featuring plants of the Great Central Valley. Poppies decorated the native grassland, and the goldfields that cir-

cled the vernal pool were just coming into bloom. The streamside habitat was a jungle of blackberries, wild roses and elderberries thanks to this year’s generous winter rains. The new “Native Village” sign, installed by volunteer Ryan Ruiz, at the entrance to the oak woodland habitat invited visitors to walk along the path to see the tulle hut, pounding rock and acorn granary.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of the weekend: collectors Grover Bethards III, Kathy Hieb, David Marraccini, James Rexroth, and Maxine Schwab, and Bob Stahmer, arrangers Barbara Bowers, Pamela Reyes and Maxine Schwab; and our I.D. people David Marraccini, Dr. Dale

McNeal, James Rexroth, Dr. Kathy Schick, and Bob Stahmer.

And thanks to James Rexroth, who brought plants from local nurseries for sale, many enthusiastic visitors went home to begin their own native gardens.

-- Martha Mallery



Photo by Barbara Bowers

Indian Baskets to return to the State

After a two year visit to the Oak Grove Nature Center, the Miwok and Yokuts baskets are returning to the State Indian Museum/ California Indian Heritage Center. It has been wonderful to have been able to display the treasures of our Native California Peoples' cultural heritage. I hope you all had a chance to see them while they were here.

We wish to thank Ileana Maestas, Curator I, with the

State Indian Museum for her assistance in making this loan to the Nature Center possible.

On display were baskets of both coiled and twined construction. They included bowls, cooking basket, winnowing basket, burden basket, and a gambling tray.

It is hoped that in the near future we may again arrange for the loan of Miwok and Yokuts material culture items from the museum.



Here are a few of the baskets that were on display.

Special Focus: Oak Gall Wasps

In California and the other western states there are over 200 gall inducing arthropods. We will cover briefly those that affect oaks and are gall wasps (*Cynipidae*). In Oak Grove Park our most common oak is the Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*). There are also a few Interior Live Oaks (*Q. wislizenii*) and Blue Oaks (*Q. douglasii*). There are over 90 cynipid wasps known to cause galls in oaks in California. The most commonly observed is the Oak Apple Gall caused by the cynipid wasp *Andricus quercuscalifornicus*. The gall looks like a green apple as it is developing, becoming dry and tan as the larva inside are pupating. The galls can be as large

as 4 inches and house a dozen or more larva. This is one of the largest of the cynipid wasps at about 5 mm (3/16 inch) long. Different species of cynipid wasps cause different size and shape galls. They may be tiny 1 mm galls like those of the California Jumping Gall Wasp (*Neuroterus saltatorius*), red and cone-shaped like those of the Red Cone Gall Wasp (*Andricus kingi*), or fuzzy like the Yellow Wig Gall Wasp (*Andricus fullawayi*). All galls are made wholly of plant tissue that has been manipulated by chemicals produced by the gall inducing insect. This may take place at the time the eggs are laid in the plants tissues, by the larva after hatching or a

combination of both. Cynipid wasps are also interesting in their reproductive strategies. The California Gall Wasp (*Andricus quercuscalifornicus*) is parthenogenetic, meaning they are self-fertile (the species is only females). The California Jumping Gall Wasp (*Neuroterus saltatorius*) has two generations per year, the first hatching out of leaves in early spring are bi-sexual (males and females) and produce a parthenogenetic second generation that hatch from the jumping galls.

If you found this interesting join us in September for Dr. Kathy Schick's "Galls of the Oak Grove" walk and talk.

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

Puzzle Answers

Complete the sentences about "Space" using the words above:

The moon orbits the earth every 28 days.

The Milkyway galaxy is where our solar system is located.

Jupiter is the fifth planet from the sun.

An astronaut would ride in a spacecraft.

When a star explodes it may become a supernova.

A crater is where a meteor crashed into the moon.

The asteroid belt is located between Mars and Jupiter.

A comet is a "dirty snowball" orbiting the sun.

The word satellite describes an object that orbits another.

OUTERSPACE WORD SEARCH

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

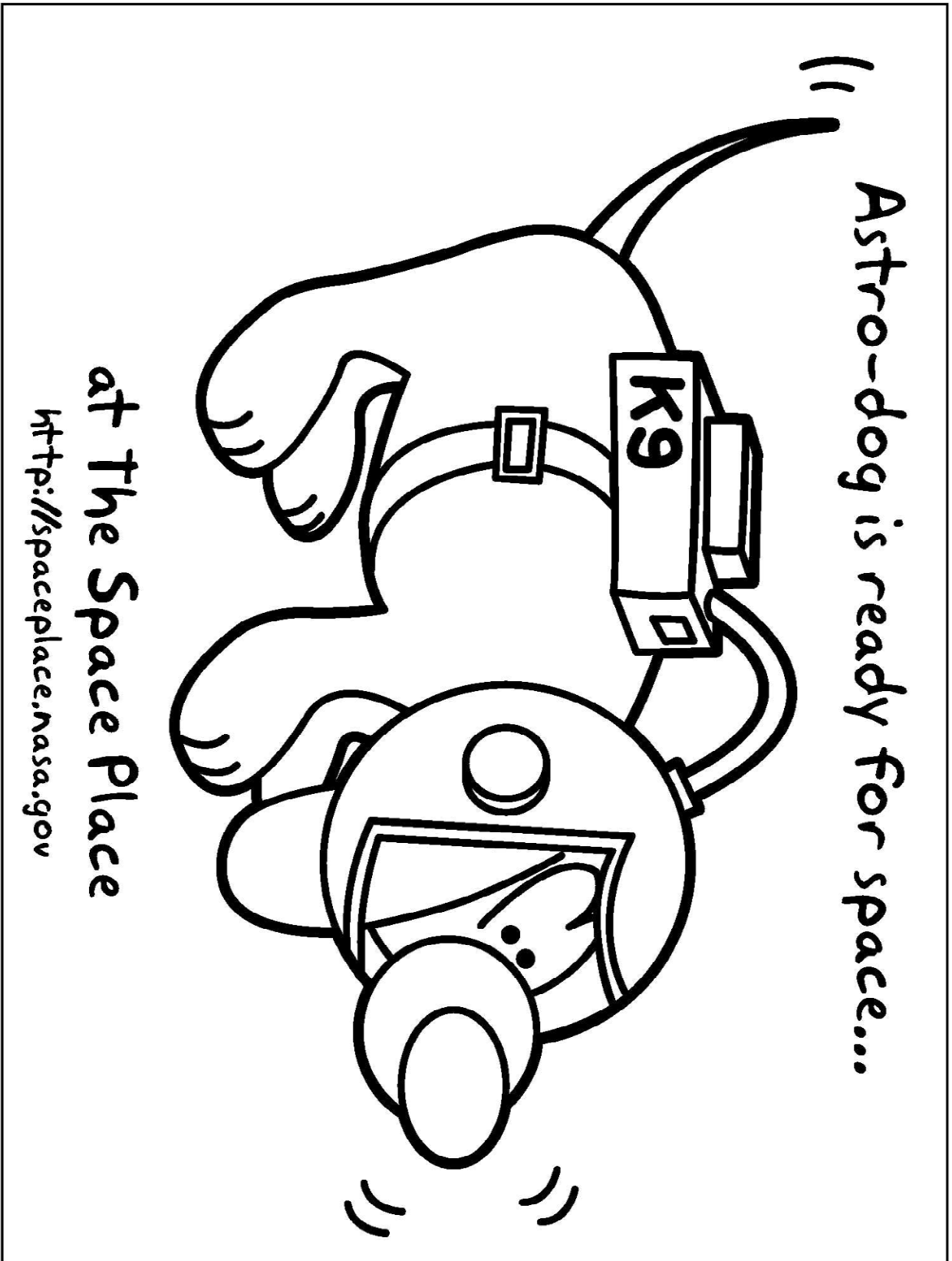
FIND

THESE WORDS

ASTRONAUT
 SPACECRAFT
 SATELLITE
 PLANET
 EARTH
 MARS
 JUPITER
 MILKYWAY
 COMET
 GALAXY
 SUPERNOVA
 ASTEROID
 MOON
 METEOR
 CRATER

Complete the sentences about “Space” using the words above:

1. The _____ orbits the _____ every 28 days.
2. The _____ is where our solar system is located.
3. _____ is the fifth _____ from the sun.
4. An _____ would ride in a _____ .
5. When a star explodes it may become a _____ .
6. A _____ is where a _____ crashed into the moon.
7. The _____ belt is located between _____ and Jupiter.
8. A _____ is a “dirty snowball” orbiting the sun.
9. The word _____ describes an object that orbits another.



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

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By Rene Reyes

We're on the web!

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:

August 4 through September 25-
"Seaweed, Salmon and Manzanita
Cider", a display at the Haggin
Museum. Special "Second Saturdays
for Families" activities on September
10, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Call 209-940-
6315 for more info.

August 26, 6:30 PM- "Butterflies" a
walk & talk presented by Dr. Kathy
Schick. At the Nature Center

September 2,3,4; 6 PM Friday, Noon
Saturday & Sunday: 30th Annual
Stockton Community Pow-Wow,
University of the Pacific, 3601 Pacific
Ave. Stockton. For more info call 209-
933-7452 ext. 8069 or 209-373-3655.
For more Pow-Wows in the area go to
[http://500nations.com/
California_Events.asp](http://500nations.com/California_Events.asp)

September 3, 7:00 PM- "Astronomy
in the Park". At the Nature Center &
Park.

September 6, 6:30 PM- OGDC
Board & General Meeting. All wel-
come.

September 10, 3:00 PM- Waldo Music
Fest, 3536 Rainier Ave. Stockton. \$20
proceeds benefit the "Waldo Holt San
Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy" For
more info call 209-463-0216.

September 23, 6:30 PM- "Galls of the
Oak Grove", a walk & talk presented
by Dr. Kathy Schick. At the Nature
Center.

September 24, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm: 1st
Annual Smart Gardening Conference
Presented by the SJ UC Master Gar-
deners at the Robert J. Cabral Agricul-
tural Center, 2102 E. Earhart Ave.
Stockton 95206. Cost: \$20.00
(includes lunch). Call 209-953-6112
for more info.

October 1, 5 to 11 PM—"Astronomy
in the Park" Special Event. Extra ex-
hibits & displays, special guest. At the
Nature Center & Park.

October 4, 6:30 PM- OGDC Board &
General Meeting. All welcome.

October 24 through November 4-
Nature Center Closed for HVAC re-
placement work. No tours or meet-
ings.

November 8, 6:30 PM- OGDC Board
& General Meeting. All welcome.

November 4,5,6, Lodi Crane Festival,
Hutchins Street Square, 125 S Hut-
chins Street, Lodi. Call 800-581-6150
for more info. (The Nature Center
will have a table there, volunteers are
needed to staff it. Please call the Cen-
ter if interested in helping. 953-8814.)