



# NATURE NEWS

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## Welcome to Nature News

Through this quarterly newsletter we hope to encourage you to **CONNECT** with us through our many programs, **EXPLORE** the wonders of nature, and help us **PRESERVE** Orange County wildlands. Enjoy!

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## Earth Day Festival

**THINK GLOBAL. ACT LOCAL.**

April 13, 2024 | 2:00PM to 6:00PM | The Pavilion

Join the Fun!

## Rambles About Nature

### Natural Collaboration

“It comes with its own mycelium!” shouted Marsha as she made her way up the driveway of Nature Reserve Headquarters. Behind her, her husband Bill carried a coast live oak sapling – a gift to The Nature Reserve. She had



## Volunteer Corner



Volunteer Opportunities

grown the beautiful young tree from an acorn and now it stood five feet tall with leafy green leaves, and as announced upon arrival, a couple of young mushrooms growing in the soil surrounding the tree. These mushrooms were the fruit of the mycelium.

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## Laura's Line

### Spring 2024

This newsletter is all about collaborations: collaborations in nature, collaborations with community, collaborations with partners. I'd like to tell you about collaborations in monitoring. I have mentioned in the past that The Nature Reserve does its species monitoring on a cycle; some species are monitored every three years, some yearly, some when the conditions are appropriate.

This year we will be monitoring one of our threatened bird species, the California gnatcatcher. This species we monitor every three years for two years in a row to determine how many gnatcatchers occur on the Nature Reserve.



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The Nature Reserve depends on dedicated volunteers like you. This earth month, give back by volunteering at one of our many opportunities including community outreach events, trail stewardship days, and summer day camps.

Students may earn service hours for school.

Corporate volunteers groups are welcome too!

**Saturday, April 13**

**Earth Day Festival**

Volunteers: Ages 16+

**Saturday, April 20**

**Earth Day Stewardship**

Volunteers: Ages 8+

**Mondays - Thursdays**

**June 10-13, 17-20, 24-27**

**Summer Day Camp**

Volunteers: Ages 16+

[I CAN HELP!](#)

## Species Spotlight



### Many-stemmed Dudleya

Many-stemmed dudleya (DM) is a low, succulent perennial originating from a corm that grows in open-habitat soils associated with coastal sage scrub and grassland plant communities in southern California. It usually grows in shallow weathered cobbly loam or clay soils, and open barrens associated with rock outcrops and ridgelines. The plant is endemic to southwestern California, and is known only from southeast Los



## Staff Picks

OC parks



**O'Neill Regional Park**

## Favorite OC Parks

The Nature Reserve staff share our favorite OC Parks. With numerous regional and wilderness parks, historical sites, and coastal resources, there is so much to explore in Orange County. Our favorite OC Parks and



Angeles County, Orange County, western Riverside County, extreme southwestern San Bernardino County, and the northernmost portion of San Diego County. Orange County supports the majority of the known populations of this species.

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## Community Connections



### OC Astronomers

We thank our lucky stars for the years of community service OC Astronomers have provided to The Nature Reserve's nighttime programs such as Astronomy Nights and Observe the Moon Nights. The Nature Reserve relies on the support of our volunteers to help us offer a wide range of community programs. With help from a group of these dedicated volunteer astronomers, The Nature Reserve has been hosting monthly Astronomy Nights and other related programs for over 15 years.

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what we love about them are listed here.

Please visit [ocparks.com](http://ocparks.com) for specific park information.

[STAFF PICKS](#)

### Outdoor Explorers



### Springtime Friends!

Spring is here! Flowers are blooming as they await their pollinator partners like bees, butterflies and birds. Step outside and notice how plants and animals work together in spring. Use your binoculars to watch for birds carrying nesting materials in their beaks and butterflies sipping nectar from colorful wildflowers.

Look for plant and animal partners working together with this Springtime Friends scavenger hunt.

[SPRING  
SCAVENGER HUNT](#)





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