

## Quarterly News

### ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

#### Six Great Hikes in Orange County, CA

By Kevin Bollman

Orange County, California is home to some great trails. From ocean vistas at sunset, waterfalls in the wilderness and wind-swept mountain peaks with 360-degree views, there are many diverse habitats to experience. There are hikes for all skill levels that lead adventurers through creek beds, tree-lined paths and wetlands full of wildlife. OC Habitats would like to introduce six amazing Orange County hiking spots just waiting to be explored.



Top of the World by Cris Hazzard (hikingguy.com)

**Top of the World:** The view is second to none on this short but steep 2.4-mile hike in Laguna Beach. You'll climb through the coastal sage scrub of Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park until you reach the panoramic vista with a terrific view of Saddleback Mountain. From there, you'll have views of Catalina Island, Mt Baldy and even Angeles National Forest on a clear day. There's even a bench where you can sit and soak in the breathtaking scene. Parking for the hike is at the end of Canyon Acres Drive in a residential section of Laguna Beach. The parking is limited, but the trail is rarely busy so finding a spot is not difficult.

**Black Star Canyon:** Black Star Canyon Trail in Silverado is a local favorite for hikers seeking more of a challenge. The 7.1-mile trail follows Black Star Creek to Black Star Canyon Falls, and there's a haunted history to ponder as you trek through this breathtaking section of Black Star Canyon Wilderness Park. The hike up this stretch can get difficult as you climb up boulders upstream. The big payoff is the waterfall that emerges from an abandoned mine shaft. Hiking on

## Spotlight Species

### Belding's Savannah Sparrow



Picture of a Belding's Savannah Sparrow in a salt marsh.  
Photo by Christopher L. Christie from CalPhotos

By Mady Goetz

In the local salt marshes found along the California coast ranging from Santa Barbara to Baja California, the Belding's Savannah Sparrow, *Passerculus sandwichensis*, lives a small non-migratory bird (California Fish and Game Wildlife Department, 2010). The Belding's Savannah sparrow is a medium-sized sparrow identifiable by the small yellow patch around its eye and its small bill. On average, this bird will have light brown feathers with streaks of black on its back, which contrasts the bright white feathers underneath.

Within the saltmarshes, there are various native plants and wildlife that are all interconnected to one another. Some of the commonly found plants consist of pickleweed (*Salicornia virginica*), saltgrass (*Distichlis spicata*), fleshy jaumea (*Jaumea carnosa*), Salt Marsh Bird's beak (*Cordylanthus maritimus*), California sea lavender (*Limonium californicum*), and sea blite (*Suaeda californica*). These plants are adapted to grow in a high salt concentrated area because the water source of the area is connected to the ocean. Salt marshes typically receive an influx of water twice a day and run concurrently with the tides of the ocean nearby.

In 1974, the Belding's Savannah Sparrow was placed on the endangered species list as an endangered species in the State of California. This Belding's Savannah Sparrow is being threatened in two ways. The first is that the salt marshes that the bird is native to are slowly disappearing. Approximately 75% of the salt marshes on the west coast have been destroyed and developed into residential or commercial areas (Avian Conservation and Ecology). Of the few salt marshes that remain, there is an issue of visitors on the land, such as hikers, that have caused significant damage to the nesting areas of the Belding's Savannah Sparrow. Typically, as hikers walk through the area, they do not pay attention to this bird's nesting grounds and can cause unintentional harm to the plants that the Belding Savannah Sparrow creates its nest in.

The second threat to the Belding's Savannah Sparrow is the rapid growth of invasive species, such as Algerian sea lavender (*Limonium ramosissimum*). California sea lavender is the native species to the salt marshes along the west coast, however around

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the Black Star Canyon Trail can be a challenge, especially when the terrain is wet. There are really two parts of the trail on the hike up Black Star Canyon: the first half is a fairly easy trek on dirt roads, while the second half follows the Black Star Creek bed and is much more difficult. Toward the end of the hike, you will have to pull yourself up more rocks and boulders, so dress accordingly. The trailhead is easy to find and ample parking is available.

**Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve:** An easy 4.5-mile scenic loop full of wildlife, Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve walk in Huntington Beach takes you through over 1,300 acres of protected wetlands. The scenery includes fresh and saltwater marshes, seabird nesting islands, mudflats and active riparian river banks. Over 200 species of birds have been spotted here and it's a popular stopover on bird migration routes. You can expect to see lots of ducks, shorebirds, herons, hawks, owls and lizards. You may even catch a glimpse of the endangered western snowy plover and California least tern. Due to the abundance of wildlife, dogs are not allowed on the reserve. The hike starts at the north parking area of Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, which is easy to reach from all directions. There is also a south parking area that can be accessed when going north on Pacific Coast Highway.



Red Rock Canyon by Cris Hazzard (hikingguy.com)

**Red Rock Canyon:** Red Rock Canyon trail in Foothill Ranch has a unique esthetic compared to most hiking spots in Orange County. The gently climbing 4.2-mile trail goes up an oak woodland canyon, eventually ending in a smooth red rock canyon formation that feels transplanted from Arizona. The hike is easy, relaxing and great for families. The whole area is rich with wildlife, including squirrels, lizards and mule deer. There have occasionally been sightings of mountain lions, so use caution and stay on the trail. Sunset is a

2006, large populations of Algerian sea lavender began to appear (Romberg Tiburon Center of Environmental Studies San Francisco State University). It is unclear how this plant species came to the California salt marshes, but since its introduction, it has grown at an aggressive rate impacting the native species.



Algerian sea lavender by Stacey Chartier-Grable

Algerian sea lavender tends to grow right up to the low tidal zone in the salt marshes, where the native species of pickleweed tends to grow. Unfortunately, because pickleweed grows lower to the ground than the Algerian sea lavender, the two are in direct competition for resources. Over the years, it has dramatically decreased the number of native pickleweed plants found in those same areas. This is a problem because the Belding's Savannah Sparrow's nesting area of choice is within the pickleweed, low to the ground, but high enough to avoid damage from the salt marsh's flooding. However, the Algerian sea lavender's height impairs the birds' ability to make a nest in any area that it grows. But, not only does the Algerian sea lavender threaten the native pickleweed species, it is pushing out the California sea lavender, the native sea lavender species to the coastal salt marshes.

Recently, there have been efforts to help the Belding's Savannah Sparrow with several removal projects along the California coast. Many wildlife conservancies have placed the removal of this invasive species as a top priority in the salt marshes of the area. One example of this is in the San Francisco Bay, where the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation set out to help remove the Algerian sea lavender populating the area to help protect the Belding's Savannah Sparrows in the area. Some environmental protection organizations in California have begun to form groups to go out into the salt marshes and remove the Algerian sea lavender. These organizations include, but are not limited to California Native Plant Society, the Golden Gate Audubon Society, The Nature Collective, Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation's Discovery Center, and locally, OC Habitats, Project Grow and the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy.

There are lots of great reasons to get involved in helping preserve the California salt marshes and the native species that live there. Whether you are an expert in the field of environmental science or just someone who wants to get involved in the preservation of your community, there are many great to help out. You can find more information regarding habitat protection in Orange County and how to get involved at the OC Habitats website.



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really great time to do this hike: when the sun gets low, it hits the exposed sandstone red rocks and fills them with even more spectacular color. Arrive early as this hike is popular and does get crowded.

Santiago Oaks Regional Park: A hidden gem in the eastern outskirts of the city of Orange, Santiago Oaks Regional Park is a unique and historic area ripe with exploration opportunities. There are 10 moderate trails ranging from 1.6 to 7.3 miles long that are accessible for hiking, mountain biking and horseback. There are a wide variety of trail options with easy, moderate and difficult hikes available. The park trails also provide access to the Anaheim Hills Trail System and offer spectacular views of northern Orange County. Visitors routinely come across deer, birds, squirrels and rabbits on the hillsides. The park features a nature center that offers exhibits and programs on various natural history topics. Park Rangers provide a variety of interpretive activities including nature walks, slide programs and films (park office and nature center are currently closed due to COVID-19). Parking is easy but does get a little crowded on sunny days.



OC Habitat team on a hike through Santiago Oaks Regional Park in Orange, CA.

Carbon Canyon Regional Park: Upstream of the Carbon Canyon Dam in Brea lies 124-acre Carbon Canyon Regional Park. This sprawling park is particularly scenic when the wildflowers are in bloom, offering grassy areas for picnicking and a 4-acre lake with two piers for fishing. The park is home to several species of birds, including California quail, California towhees, black phoebes, western bluebirds and American robins. The park features pleasant nature trails that are perfect for families, casual hikers and amateur naturalists. One of these trails leads to the park's crown jewel: 3 acres of majestic coastal redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*). This is

## Volunteer of the Year



We have already honored **Ross Griswold** with the Volunteer of the Month in the past, but it is high time that we honor him as our Volunteer of the Year. Stacey met Ross before she began OC Habitats and found friendship easy with him as we have our love of the environment and birds in common. Ross' commitment to the preservation of our listed Coastal Dune species, the Western Snowy Plover and the California Least Tern, is unwavering and unmatched by anyone I have met in any other organization thus far. He volunteers with a variety of organizations throughout Orange County and has become a local expert on our sweet little SNPLs. He works under the permit of Tom Ryan and because he is able to get ME (mini-exlosures) on these little critters, probably has helped the survival of many of our newest plover chicks in the last 10 years. Ross is not only a passionate birder and environmental advocate he is a loving father to three grown sons and is active in several other organizations including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bolsa Chica Conservancy, and the Griswold Family Foundation. Ross somehow finds time to paint and cook, some of his other passions and talents. Ross recently took a board position with OCH and is in the process of taking over the monitoring portion of our organization. His willingness to do this and give us even more time than he already has is greatly appreciated and has made our organization that much stronger. We hope to keep Ross with us as long as we can and that we will all continue to learn from his vast resource of knowledge and experience.

## Volunteer of the Months

October 2020



**Michaela Coats** came on with us in June of 2020. She is currently working on her Masters of Conservation and Resource Science at



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one of Orange County's few redwood groves and a natural marvel, considering that Southern California doesn't possess a redwood-friendly climate. The trailhead that leads to the redwood grove begins at the east end parking area of the park.

While we listed six great hiking spots in Orange County, California, there are many more just waiting to be explored. Hiking is a great way to get out, get fresh air, and be in nature. It is proven to have many health benefits, ranging from physical exercise you get when out on the trail, to emotional or mental relief that comes from being immersed in nature. OC Habitats encourages you to get outside and enjoy!

## Intersectional Environmentalism

By Jackie Tran

For decades, environmentalism has aimed to seek the welfare of the environment. We have grown up learning about conservation, recycling, and many other aspects of environmentalism that promote the well-being of our planet. We learn about climate change, how plastic is bad for the environment, pollution, cars and many different ways of how our actions have an impact on our planet. We are taught to care deeply about our environment and our planet's well-being. Wanting to be an environmentalist means that you want to help the greater good. However, many often recognize that environmentalism not only severely affects the planet's environments and ecologies but also plays a major role in people's everyday lives. This doesn't just mean that the planet is getting warmer or there's more smog in the air. There tends to be a lack of recognition that some lives are being disproportionately affected by environmental issues.



Leah Thomas from [www.christydawn.com](http://www.christydawn.com)

The term "intersectional environmentalism" was coined by Leah Thomas, inspired by Kimberle Crenshaw who coined the term intersectionality in relation to feminism. Leah Thomas started the movement so that environmentalism takes a more inclusive perspective of sustainability, recognizing the interconnect-

UCI. She joined us as an intern and hit the ground running by getting trained and approved to start monitoring our Coastal Dune Habitats this summer. She has a deep interest in both the environment and nonprofit work and has been open to helping in many areas of our organization. She has been working diligently on our Education and Outreach Programs and just launched our pilot virtual Marine Education program in late September. Her attention to detail and professionalism have shown through in all areas of her work and have earned her a leadership position with OCH. Michaela has recently developed our Blog page and is managing all our posts on our website. We have been getting great responses from this new feature and she has taken all the challenges with enthusiasm. Michaela definitely walks the talk and is at most of our events including all our recent restoration programs in both Hungtington Beach and Upper Newport Bay. On top of all this, she has taken on some administrative roles by helping with the monthly schedule and newsletter and editing other volunteer and intern articles before they go to Blog or Newsletter "print." We are thrilled to have Michaela as part of our team as she is intelligent, resourceful, hard-working, and friendly. Michaela has been a pleasure to have on our team and we are thankful we found each other.

November 2020



**Sam Grable**, my daughter, has been a volunteer with OCH since the very beginning. She started off helping out mom but has grown to be quite an environmentalist and advocate for the environment and her interest, commitment and advocacy are all her own. She started showing strong environmental awareness in the last couple of years and made the decision to be vegetarian and reduce her consumption in all areas of her life. While in school and helping out with OCH she founded an environmental club at her school with her buddy Gina Thompson. With her love of science and nature, she is planning to pursue a degree in chemistry and environmental science. She is an intelligent, hard-working, reliable, funny, and kind person. She has been a strong contributor and supporter of OC Habi-



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edness of social justice and sustainability. The goal of intersectional environmentalism is to uplift underserved communities, preserve cultures, and protect our planet. To be intersectional means understanding that different factors overlap and contribute to interdependent systems of disadvantage. What this means is that by including intersectionality in our practices of environmentalism, we are aware that environmental issues impact some groups more than others and that we are actively practicing sustainability in ways that will include these communities who may not have the privilege to act sustainably. Some groups are unable to act sustainably because they have no other option than to make choices that may be unsustainable. For example, some families may not be able to afford to purchase clothes from local businesses, are ethically made, or have sustainability in mind. These clothes tend to be a lot more expensive than clothes that are made cheaply in bulk by popular retail companies that often use cheap labor for a fast and inexpensive product.



Residential housing intermixed with oil fields by Universal Images Group.

Environmental issues also impact marginalized communities. An example of this is occurring is the Wilmington Oil Field. In Wilmington, there are 90 active oil wells from the Warren Energy and Power company. These oil wells are so close to residential areas, being as close as 200 feet from residential homes, creating concerns over the health and safety of families. Health effects, such as eye irritation, chronic migraines, and respiratory illnesses arise due to the oil wells' close proximity. The company uses carcinogens, acidization, and gravel packing as well as pulling from offshore wells and drilling in onshore sites, dramatically impacting the environment. Alongside the environmental effects, the air pollution puts parts of neighborhoods in Wilmington among the top five percent of communities with the highest pollution exposure in California as nearly 60,000 residents suffer from overall poor health, asthma, and cardiac

tats and our mission to educate and get involved to conserve our precious habitats. It has been my pleasure to have her on our team and we hope that as she nears college entrance that we won't lose her entirely.

**Gina Thompson** has been volunteering with OCH for at least two years. She started by attending restoration projects through our NextGen program and this summer became one of our interns. She is a dedicated environmental advocate who co-founded the environmental club at her school with Sam Grable. At her young age, she is already making decisions about how she wants to live her life sustainably and has made an impact on those around her to reduce consumption and waste and not use animals for food. She is an excellent student and public speaker and is already proving that she has what it takes in the professional world by taking on big projects such as an hour-long discussion on voting and the impacts it has on the environment, sustainable shopping, and sustainable eating for the holidays. We are so happy that she has chosen OC Habitats to call "home" and that we get to be part of the process of her environmental development.

December 2020



**Kevin Bollman** has been with our team since August 2020 as a public-relations, marketing, and fundraising intern. Kevin has proven he is a talented individual that is hard-working, reliable, and motivated to make a difference in the projects and programs that he is committed. Kevin is about to graduate with his bachelor's from CSULB and will wrap up his internship in February 2021. He has spent most of his time working on fundraising efforts such as his big project of GivingTuesday, grant writing, and sponsorship programs. He is not afraid to try new things and take on challenges and is showing growth and development through all the meetings, writing, correspondence, and teamwork. I have especially liked his "go-get-'em" attitude and his confidence to speak to others on the team and in the public. With Kevin's background, he has given a different perspective to our mission and goals and OCH and it has been a welcome addition. He has certainly made a difference on our team and has cemented OCH's commitment to continue to seek



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disease.

With many different holidays around the year, it is important to consider the effects of what we're buying and who we're buying from. For example, many holidays focus on consumerism. Examples include Christmas, Valentine's day, and Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving where many stores give large discounts to encourage shopping for Christmas. This day has transformed over the years into Black Friday weekends, Cyber Mondays, and whole weeks dedicated to heavily discounted items. Holidays tend to promote heavy consumerism and the exploitation of people and the planet. American consumerism feeds into overconsumption, generating more and more waste with every purchase. Many of the packages ordered contain synthetic fabrics that shed microfibers or microplastics that end up in our oceans, unable to biodegrade, and affecting the species that reside in these habitats. Alongside a heavy contribution to pollution, heavy consumerism exploits workers, especially vulnerable workers such as undocumented immigrants and youth in third world countries. For example, the average worker in the LA Fashion District earns around six dollars per hour, which is less than half of Los Angeles's minimum wage (Mayer, 2020). The workers are often subjected to poor health and safety conditions and long hours with very little pay. Despite there being laws in place to protect safety standards and a minimum wage, companies are able to get away with these injustices because these laws are not strictly enforced. A large reason why workers are continually exploited is American consumerism. Fast-fashion companies such as Forever21 rely on quick production rates and cheap labor to quickly mass produce cheap/inexpensive items and to keep up with demand.

## Sustainable Shopping



With Abby

In order for us to fight the exploitation of people and the planet, we must try to consume less and to be mindful of the effects of what we buy. We also must pay attention to the role in which industries play in this exploitation. Intersectional

interns in his field to continue and add to his good work. We look forward to seeing what Kevin's future holds and hope that he will always stay connected with us in some way.

## What's New

### NEW STAFF MEMBERS



We welcomed two new staff members to our crew in the late winter: **Joyce Vu** and **Michaela Coats**.

Joyce graduated from California State University, Fullerton with a bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Ecology and Evolution in August 2020. From her classes, her interest in the environment arose when she learned about how healthy the Earth used to be and how it has slowly changed over time. She joined OC Habitats as an intern in the Spring of 2020 with the interest to create and develop a project where she could share her knowledge about the different animals and habitats that she has studied in school. She managed to do that much and more during her time with OC Habitats and her efforts have proven her an invaluable member of our team and she is officially our first employee. She will continue to work on conservation and preservation on our team and provide a source of leadership in our programs and projects with the end goal of continuing to conserve the natural environment for future generations to enjoy. Joyce will be taking on a variety of tasks. As she takes on projects, she will introduce herself to the existing or new teams.

Michaela graduated from UC Santa Barbara with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and is currently part of the master's program in Conservation and Restoration at UC Irvine. Her educational goals, work experience and passion for endangered species management, outdoor education and outreach, and new interest in wildlife photography brought her to OC habitats as an intern in 2020. Her main projects were developing a marine education program for 9th graders and managing our OCH blog. Her time and effort at OCH proved to be indispensable and she has become our second employee. She will continue to work on education and restoration and will now lead our social media team and provide leadership in a variety of other aspects of our organization to promote conservation of our precious habitats and species.



# OCH News

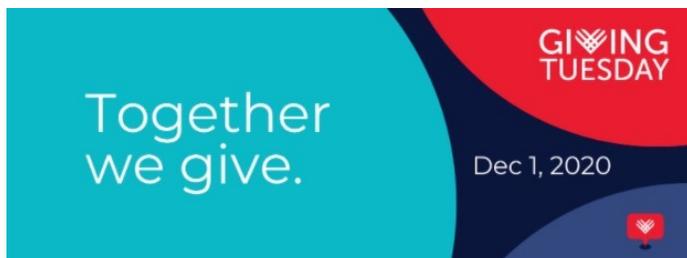
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environmentalism calls for us to support one another, especially vulnerable communities who may not have the privilege to act sustainably. We can practice intersectional environmentalism in our everyday lives by committing to consume less and to support local or BIPOC (Black, indigenous, and people of color) businesses. Some examples of not participating in fast fashion is to buy clothes from thrift stores, such as Buffalo Exchange or Goodwill. A list of thrift stores in Orange County includes Goodwill, Salvation Army, Mariners Church, Sav-More Thrift, Orange Circle Antique Mall, and so many more. There are also contactless options, such as Depop, Etsy, and Rent the Runway. Interested in learning more about sustainable shopping? Watch this presentation by Abby Foster for some tips and tricks!

By purchasing from these stores and buying second-hand, we are not supporting fast fashion and its exploitation. We are also reusing clothes that are already made and ready for rewear, reducing the amount of materials and fabrics put into the environment through the creation of new items. Together, we can help the planet *and* its people.

## OCH & Giving Tuesday

By Kevin Bollman



In this unprecedented year in history, GivingTuesday, the largest global generosity movement, reported an equally unprecedented showing of giving, kindness, and unity by millions of people worldwide. Created in 2011 as a response to commercialization and consumerism in the post-Thanksgiving season, GivingTuesday unleashes the power of our shared humanity to transform our communities and our world. Whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor in need, or giving voice to a cause that matters, every act of generosity counts and everyone has something to give.

## INTERNS

During the fall, we welcomed two interns to our team: Josh Ball and Jackie Tran. New incoming interns that we will welcome to our OCH crew are Kyle Fructuoso and Kim Yumul. Interns that are wrapping up their internship are Mady Goetz, Tom Riley, and Amanda Savage.

## RETURN TO RESTORATION

Depending on the status of COVID-19, OCH will continue our restoration events every Wednesday and periodically on Saturdays, starting on January 6 at the Upper Newport Bay and Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy. OCH is looking for committed restoration volunteers, especially for the Upper Newport Bay location.



## ENVIRONMENTAL BOOK CLUB

OCH will begin a new book club where we will share our insights on a variety of topics from the environmental world every other month. If you have any book recommendations, feel free to email us at [och@ochabitats.org](mailto:och@ochabitats.org). Join our mailing list to get involved in our meetings. Happy reading!

## Upcoming Events & Opportunities

### January 2020

- Dec 21st - Jan 3rd: OCH Closed for Winter Holidays
- Jan 5th, 4:30 pm: Virtual Volunteer Orientation (new volunteers)
- Jan 16th, 9 am–12 pm: HBWC Restoration\*
- Jan 23rd, 10 am–11 am: Virtual Happy Hour—Fires and the Impact on Local Wildlife
- Jan 28th, 7:30 pm: 1st Environmental Book Club Meeting

### February 2020

- Feb 6th, 10:30– 1 pm: MPA Hike
- Feb 20th, 9 am–12 pm: HBWC Restoration\*
- Feb 27th, 10 am–11 am: Virtual Happy Hour—Partner Highlight (tentative)



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Over the past nine years, GivingTuesday has grown into a year-round global movement that inspires millions of people to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity. GivingTuesday now has a distributed network of entrepreneurial leaders who have launched more than 240 community campaigns across the U.S. and national movements in more than 70 countries. At the local level, people and organizations participate in GivingTuesday in every single country across the world. Twelve countries participated for the first time on GivingTuesday 2020 as official GivingTuesday national movements: Chile, Ghana, Guam, Ireland, Lebanon, Nigeria, Paraguay, Philippines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Korea, and Turkey.

The GivingTuesday Data Commons states that nearly 34.8 million people participated in GivingTuesday 2020, a 29% increase over 2019. Further, total giving this year increased from \$1.97 billion to \$2.47 billion in the United States alone, representing a 25% increase compared to GivingTuesday 2019. These totals are in addition to the surge of generosity represented by the #GivingTuesdayNow campaign launched earlier this year, with more than \$503 million online donations in the U.S. alone.



An #UNSelfie posted in support of Giving Tuesday. Photo by Michaela Coats.

GivingTuesday 2020 was a big day for OC Habitats as we spent an entire month galvanizing our community for our 3rd annual fundraising drive. During the week leading up to GivingTuesday, we launched the first ever OCH GreenFast Challenge, asking our community to adopt one environmentally-friendly practice for a single week. We promoted our challenge across social media by asking participants to create a short selfie video describing their environmentally-friendly practice. We were thrilled with the amount of challenge videos shared across social media and gained

## March 2020

- Mar 7th, 10:30– 1 pm: MPA Hike
- Mar 18th, 7:30 pm: Book Club Meeting (tentative)
- Mar 20th, 9 am–12pm: HBWC Restoration\*
- Mar 27th, 10 am–11 am: Virtual Happy Hour (tentative)
- Mar 28th: Beach Clean Up (tentative)

\*All restoration events are tentative due to COVID For new and upcoming events, join our mailing list.

[Join our Mailing List](#)

## OCH HABITAT VIDEO SERIES

We have several habitat video series projects in the works. We are hoping for the publication of several of them by the end of 2021. There will also be an in-depth look into the tide pool habitat and their species coming soon. Keep your eyes open for a notification about these videos about our habitats of Orange County.

### THE NATIVE HABITATS OF ORANGE COUNTY

#### ORANGE COUNTY HABITATS OVERVIEW

#### COASTAL DUNES

## OCH SPOTLIGHT INTERVIEWS 2021



We concluded our Spotlight Interview Series for 2020. We interviewed sixteen different volunteers with our organization. Our volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds, experience, and cultures and we embrace them all. In the upcoming year, we will be posting new videos that will interview our new volunteers. [Check out our videos to](#) see how the OCH culture is diverse and welcoming.



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lots of new followers on OCH social media during the week.

On the day of GivingTuesday, OCH shared #UNselfies across social media to encourage participation and promote our fundraising drive to close out the year. The #UNselfie is a simple yet powerful way to give a voice to an organization or cause that matters by taking a selfie with a piece of signage that states how and why you are giving. We were so grateful to see such a strong showing of #UNselfies voicing support for OC Habitats and other excellent organizations across the world.

Because of our generous supporters, OCH raised \$3045 in donations to support our education, restoration, and monitoring programs. As part of a matching grant we received, each of these donations will be doubled to total \$6090. We graciously thank all of our supporters and staff who made our GivingTuesday 2020 such a success!

We are so grateful to everyone who has supported OC Habitats throughout the year. We simply could not do this without you and look forward to 2021 as we continue our mission to protect our precious habitats in Orange County through education, outreach, monitoring and restoration.



## Join the OCH Crew!



OCH is looking for people who want to share their talents and time to improve their local environment and habitats. We have many opportunities to get involved, check them out below.

### Volunteer:

- Become a Habitat Monitor
- Join our Habitat Education Team
- Help with Administrative Tasks
- Help with Outreach and Marketing
- Become a Tide Pool Docent
- Work on OCH's Social Media Outreach
- Help with ongoing Restoration Projects
- Work with our Grant Writing Team to secure funding for our organization, programs, and projects.
- Click Volunteer above for application.

### Internships:

- College Level Students earn credit through CSUF and UCI
- Gain experience in the conservation field, a grassroots nonprofit, business administration, public speaking, education, and more.
- Become a film or art intern for OCH.
- Click Internships above for application.

**We look forward to hearing from you!**

## Volunteers of the Year

2017



**Tom Ghee**

2018



**Bianca Borja**

2019



**Crystal Ryan & Trevor Stocking**