



FOOTPRINTS

SEASONAL IMPRESSIONS OF CLARK COUNTY WETLANDS PARK

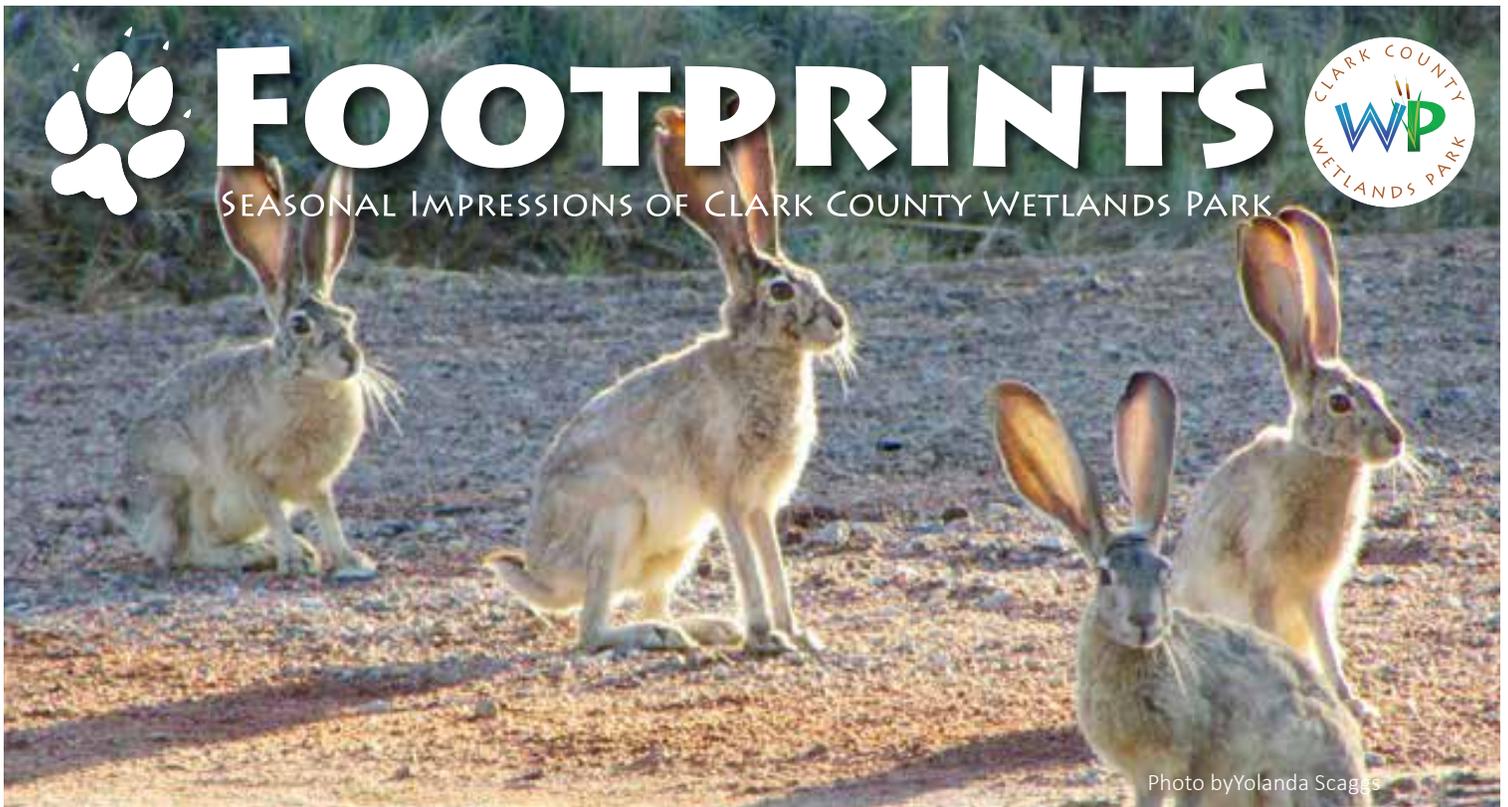


Photo by Yolanda Scaggs

WINTER 2016-17

CONTENTS

- Partners Make a Difference 1**
- “Hands On” in October 2**
- Volunteer Spotlight 3**
- Mitigation Wetlands 3**
- Flora and Fauna Forecast . . 4**
- Barnaby 4**

Footprints is the quarterly newsletter of Clark County Wetlands Park. Staff contributors include CC Carlson, Michelle Baker, Sheila Glennie, Alice Hulslander, and Jody Walker.

CALL FOR PHOTOS!

Want to see your Wetlands Park photo featured in the Spring newsletter?

Subject: “Beautiful Blooms”

Submit your photo(s) to: **wetlands@clarkcountynv.gov** by 5pm on February 10, 2016 to be considered. Include your name, date and location of the photo.

PARTNERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HOW PARTNERSHIPS HELP WETLANDS PARK THRIVE

A common definition of the word partnership is an arrangement where parties agree to cooperate to advance their mutual interests. Unquestionably it is through that arrangement that drives much of the programming and activities here at Wetlands Park.

“Wetlands Park was conceived and developed on the basis of collaborative relationships between the community and government,” said Liz Bickmore, Park Program Administrator. “Today it continues to operate – and flourish – based on ongoing partnerships in the community and beyond.” While many Park relationships run behind the scenes on the operational level, Bickmore attributed some of the more visible partnerships to a burgeoning number of programs and activities offered to Park visitors and area residents. Among them are programs with the library systems throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

“The Las Vegas-Clark County Library District is excited to partner with the

Wetlands Park through programming and outreach. Partnerships like these enable both entities to reach patrons that they would not have been able to engage before and our community will learn about new resources both of these wonderful places have to offer,” noted Shana Harrington, Youth Services Manager for the network running 13 urban libraries in Las Vegas and 12 outlying libraries in Clark County. She added that commencing this winter, librarians from the Whitney Library are presenting storytimes and crafts at the Park and that Wetlands Park staff are staging tabletop exhibits and programs at the libraries. The Park is also developing initiatives with the Henderson Libraries as well.

Many other organizations are also getting involved. “Through our partnership with the Park, Red Rock Audubon Society can work towards a common interest in preserving and enhancing the Las Vegas Wash so that wildlife and people can

“PARTNERS” CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

COMMUNITY GETS "HANDS ON" AT OCTOBER CLEAN-UP

What happens when Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani, Senator Mark Manendo, the Metropolitan Police Department, and Clark County Park Police, with support from the Clark County STOP Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Outside Las Vegas Foundation, Three Square, Einstein Brothers Bagels and Starbucks join forces with one of Wetlands Park's monthly Wetlands: Hands On! (WHO!) events? The short answer is *tons!*

"THE CLEANUP IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS TO GET INVOLVED IN EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE THIS BEAUTIFUL TREASURE."

- COMMISSIONER GIUNCHIGLIANI

On October 8, with the help of 182 community volunteers, 9 WHO! team leads, over 20 police officers, and five Wetlands Park staff, over 3,500 pounds of trash were removed from about 70 acres of Wetlands Park adjacent to the Duck Creek trailhead. The cleanup was part of an ongoing, inter-agency effort to crack down on crime and vandalism in Wetlands Park while at the same time inspiring additional community connection to the Park. "We are making good progress in our efforts to make Wetlands Park cleaner and safer for the entire community to enjoy," said Commissioner Giunchigliani, whose district E includes the Park. "The cleanup is a great opportunity for residents to get involved in efforts to protect and preserve this beautiful treasure."

Commissioner Giunchigliani and the Wetlands Park have been working with Metro, Clark County Park Police and other local law enforcement agencies to address vandalism, graffiti, illegal shooting, off-roading, under-age



More than 200 participants removed over 3,500 pounds of trash from Wetlands Park during the October 8th Wetlands: Hands On! event.

drinking and violence that has occurred in the park. At 2,900 acres, Clark County Wetlands Park, combined with its rustic nature, creates challenges for law enforcement. Because issues tend to occur on holidays, evenings and weekends when school is out of session, efforts have included getting the word out to youth in the community that illegal activity won't be tolerated.

Events such as the October 8 WHO! volunteer event, as well as ongoing educational programs, family programs, guided walks and the other stewardship events offered by Wetlands Park work to encourage community investment in protecting and preserving the tremendous resource that this Park represents. 🍄

"PARTNERS," CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

easily connect. We share education and conservation by jointly creating workshops and people events, including International Migratory Bird Day, BioBlitz, Java Jaunts, and Photography and Master Birder workshops," said Doug Chang, President of the National Audubon Society chapter that is actively involved in local communities across southern Nevada.

Park partner Jess Brooks, Conservation Educator for the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW),

agrees. "Having responsible and intelligent partnerships in the Las Vegas community further supports the mission of each organization involved. Without the support of the Clark County Wetlands Park, NDOW wouldn't have access to such a unique island of wetland wildlife. We've participated in events, shared knowledge and shared the wonder of the park to visitors and locals; we look forward to new projects and programs." 🍄

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Volunteer Linda Wiltberger has volunteered at Wetlands Park for over 16 years.

Volunteers truly make a difference by doing what they enjoy. We spent some time talking with Linda Wiltberger, a long-time volunteer, to see what keeps her coming back to Wetlands Park.

What is your background?

I am retired now, but in my previous life I was a public administrator for a park

district and school district in Northern Illinois. Not quite ready to retire after moving to Las Vegas, I became a part-time grant writer for several local non-profits.

How did you come to volunteer at the Park?

While scouting the Valley one day, I saw a giant soccer ball and sign that said “Future Site of Wetlands Park.” I couldn’t believe there was a wetlands in Las Vegas! Next thing I knew, I was signed up to volunteer at a park that didn’t exist yet.

In what capacities have you been volunteering at the Park?

I’ve been a volunteer for 16 years now, primarily as an Education Facilitator, but I also participate in Wetlands Watch, Wetlands Walkers, Exhibit Hall, and special events.

What kinds of things do you do during a typical volunteer shift at the Wetlands Park?

I love sharing nature with children. On school field trips, I engage a group of energetic students for two hours, hopefully giving them an educational experience in the Wetlands Park. I think programs like this are especially important for children who spend little or no time outdoors, enjoying nature.

Why do you like volunteering at the Park and what advice would you give someone else thinking about volunteering?

If you’ve been to the Wetlands Park and love it, you want to share it. There are so many different ways to be involved. The saying is “birds of a feather flock together.” I have found my flock.

What is your favorite part of the Wetlands Park?

From the Nature Preserve, I like to go off the beaten path along the east side of the Las Vegas Wash, or start out at the Pabco Trailhead. 🌿

MITIGATION WETLANDS PLANT FOR SUCCESS

As the Las Vegas Valley has developed over the years, some wetland and riparian areas were destroyed. In exchange, developers contributed funds to the creation of wetlands within the Park. These wetlands flank the northeastern side of Dragonfly Divide near Duck Creek and were originally developed to add more riparian and aquatic habitats in the Park. Now that the general park infrastructure

has stabilized, park management is addressing the water levels in three of the ponds to attract more migrating birds in our area.

Liz Bickmore, Park Program Administrator explains, “Under contract with Clark County, Southern Nevada Water Authority is managing these important wetland areas. In October, we lowered the water so traveling birds can forage

for food more easily. In spring, we will raise the water levels in time for nesting season. The result, we hope, will be an increase in numbers of bird populations in the area.”

Bickmore noted that among some of the more interesting birds spotted during the Fall migration season have been American avocets, lesser yellowlegs, killdeer, and sandpipers. 🌿



FLORA AND FAUNA FORECAST

Winter brings shorter days, longer nights, and colder weather. It is a time of rest or dormancy for many plants and animals. Many animals develop adaptations and different behaviors to survive the winter. Some migrate, some hibernate, some store food, and some even change color or thickness of fur or plumage. Some plants let their upper part go dormant, but their roots are still protected underground. There are very few plants that bloom in the winter.

The following is a sampling of what you may encounter in the park this time of year:

FLORA

Look for plants to **transition from browning to dormant**, such as the marsh fleabane, iodine bush, honey mesquite, screwbean mesquite, and desert willow.

Look for a ball growing on stems of the creosote bush that look like dried flowers. It is often referred to as a **gall** and is caused by a small flying insect called a midge.

Look for the female **desert mistletoe** plant to produce white to red berries that are eaten by the **phainopepla**.

FAUNA

Look to the **ground** for Gambel's quail, great-tailed grackle, and northern flicker.

Look to the **water** for American coot, common gallinule, mallard, ringed-neck duck, great egret, and American wigeon.

Look to the **trees and the sky** for northern mockingbird, phainopepla, loggerhead shrike, white-crowned sparrow, northern harrier, and red-tailed hawk.

GREAT EGRET



Photo by Sheila Glennie

CREOSOTE BUSH AND GALL

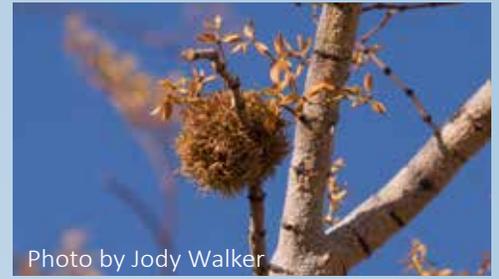


Photo by Jody Walker

DESERT MISTLETOE IN A SCREWBEAN MESQUITE



Photo by Jody Walker

PHAINOPEPLA



Photo by Sheila Glennie



"GET DIRTY AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!"

WETLANDS: HANDS ON!

**Saturday,
January 14, 2017
9am - 11am
@ Sunrise Trailhead**



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