



FOOTPRINTS

SEASONAL IMPRESSIONS OF THE CLARK COUNTY WETLANDS PARK

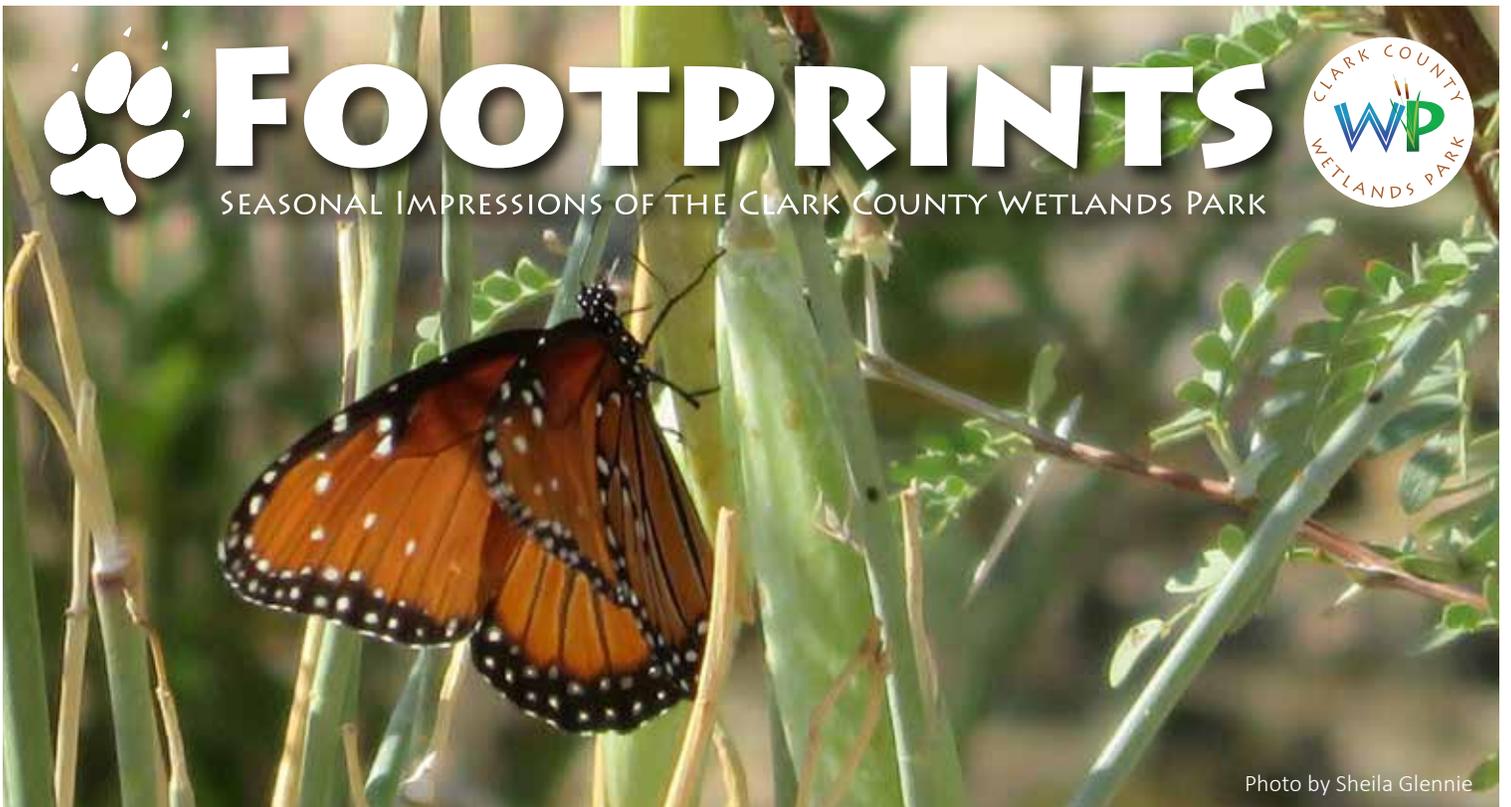


Photo by Sheila Glennie

SUMMER 2016

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CALL FOR PHOTOS!

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

Subject: “Sunrise or Sunset”

Submit your sunrise or sunset photo(s) to: wetlands@clarkcountynv.gov by August 15, 2016 to be considered.

Include your name, age, date the photo was taken, and where it was taken in Wetlands Park.

SUMMER FUN AT WETLANDS PARK

By Sheila Glennie

Even in the hot summer, Wetlands Park offers indoor opportunities that get you out of the heat and in touch with nature.

Come **DISCOVER** the Park during our **Summer Open House** on July 2. This will give you an opportunity to experience our **Exhibit Hall** which has four different habitat displays, along with interactive displays that let you touch, hear, and smell the natural world. Kids can enjoy our **Book Nook**, participate in **Nature Tales**, a nature themed story time and craft activity, or just relax and take in a **movie** about the Park in the auditorium.

Chip-chip-chip, crear-crear, kaa!
What is that I hear in the bushes? To
LEARN about the Park’s flora or fauna, try a **Wetlands U** class about the watershed or the common plants of the Nature Preserve. Sign up for one of our **Studio WP** art programs and experience nature through art.

Something just dive bombed your backyard pool? Is it a bird, a plane? Or is it a bat? Bats are nature’s pest exterminators. Bats help keep the

mosquito population in the Park under control. Come **EXPLORE** the world of bats during our guided **Discovery Night Walks**. Or for the budding scientist in your family, explore **Wild Science** through hands-on math and messy science-based lessons and activities.

Not one for joining fitness clubs? A walk in nature is better than a treadmill any day. We have many trails, both paved and unpaved, so your walking experience can be unique with each visit. **GET FIT** with **Wetlands Walkers** program and come early in the morning to avoid the heat. Walk with friends, family, or on your own. Keep track of your mileage and we’ll add it to the Wetlands Walkers group mileage. The challenge is to collectively walk the distance that a species migrates. This is the year of the bats. Help us meet the challenge and walk the distance that our native bats migrate.

Pick up a Program Guide for details about all our program offerings at the Nature Center or on our website: www.clarkcountynv.gov/wetlandspark. 🌿

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR OF FIELD TRIP PROGRAMS

PARK ANNOUNCES PLANS TO RAMP UP PROGRAM FOR 2017

By CC Carlson

If you happened by the Park most Tuesday and Thursday mornings during the 2015-2016 school year, you likely saw a fleet of yellow school buses in the main parking lot and groups of students, teachers and chaperones being guided by our dedicated team of Education Facilitators and staff throughout the preserve and Nature Center. This effort to provide “on the ground” education to area elementary school kids is just another way that the Park engages with our community.

“It has been gratifying to see how much students and teachers have enjoyed our Field Trip Program,” notes Margot van den Acker, Wetlands Park program assistant. “We have to thank our loyal team of Education Facilitators who volunteer their time, experience, knowledge and enthusiasm for making this program special.”

“REAL NATURE... ISN'T A REGULAR PART OF MOST KIDS' EXPERIENCES IN THE VEGAS VALLEY.”

Nancy Erlanson, who has been an educational facilitator on the Wetlands' school program for over nine years, says it's the “wow factor” that keeps her coming back to lead more school groups. “I never get tired of hearing, ‘wow, this is the best field trip ever!’ To experience real nature in the Park isn't a regular part of most kids' experiences in the Vegas Valley.”

Many teachers in the Clark County School District couldn't agree more. “This place is awesome,” said April Crawford, a second-grade teacher at Glen Taylor Elementary School in Las Vegas who brought her class here in April. “This was my first trip to the



Clark County School District students looking for wildlife on a Field Trip

Park as well. We saw so much wildlife, and our guide was so informative. The kids and I loved it. I sure hope to bring another one of my classes for a group visit in the future.”

Van den Acker said that more than 3,700 students in grades 1 through 5 participated in this year's program. They hailed from 135 classes in 30 area schools. “Our schedule for these programs fills up quickly. Typically by the middle of September we are completely booked for visits from October through May.”

She added that next year, “We have exciting plans to ramp up our school program. We will be focusing on teachers and their students in grades 3 through 5. The goal is to actively engage the teachers and students in a realistic science project leading up to and continuing after their visit to the Park”

Through the Field Trip Program, students will participate in an initial period of discovery with their teachers

in their classrooms, where they will be given their assignment and project background information. They will brainstorm hypotheses to support their mission. Then, when they come to the Park for their group visit, they will collect data and bring it back to the classroom for analysis. Finally, back at school, they will review their collective findings and make adjustments to their hypotheses, much like real scientists do.

“We hope Wetlands Park Field Trips will make students' visits to the Park more interactive and stimulating here and in the classroom,” van den Acker stated. “We will launch the program in 2017. At that time, we also will be reaching out to prospective volunteers to become educational facilitators.”

Teachers and volunteers who might be interested in participating in the Wetlands Park Field Trip Program are asked to call the Park at 702-455-7522 or email wetlands@clarkcountynv.gov. 🐾

NEWS FROM WETLANDS WATCH

By Michelle Baker

So far, 2016 has been a great year for the **Wetlands Watch** volunteer program. This spring, we were proud to receive a Program Excellence Award from the Nevada Recreation & Parks Society at the 2016 Annual Conference, showcasing the efforts of our wonderful community of citizen volunteers.

The dedication of our Watch Volunteers means that Park trails and parking lots are cleaner. Bike trails have been swept of debris, making riding safer for our visitors. Graffiti has been documented, reported to law enforcement, and has been covered or

eliminated shortly after being spotted.

As of May 15, 272 Wetlands Watch reports have been submitted this year and over 436 volunteer hours were logged on the trails. The majority of the reports documented volunteers picking up trash while in the Park, ranging from a few small items to multiple 13-gallon trash bags.

The effort is ongoing, and we are always looking for volunteers. For more information on this program, email us at **WetlandsWatch@ClarkCountyNV.gov** and help us care for this jewel in the Las Vegas Valley. 🌱



Park Staff accepting the Program Excellence Award for the Wetlands Watch Volunteer Program from County Commissioner, Lawrence Weekly at the 2016 Nevada Recreation & Parks Society Annual Conference

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Exhibit Hall Volunteer, Anita Toso, holds a yellow warbler outside the Nature Center

By CC Carlson

Volunteers at the Park make a difference every day. There are many ways to pitch in and help. We sat down with Exhibit Hall Host, Anita Toso, to get her perspective on what it is like to volunteer at the Park.

How long have you been volunteering at Wetlands Park?

I have been volunteering since November 2012, before the Nature Center opened. I started volunteering

at the Park's Information Kiosk and then moved over to the Exhibit Hall.

What does a typical volunteer shift at Wetlands Park look like?

Mostly I greet Park visitors and orient them to the Exhibit Hall, the Auditorium, and the many outdoor opportunities related to the Nature Preserve and Park.

Why do you like volunteering at the Park?

I like the educational benefits such as learning about wildlife. But mostly I like the idea of giving back to others in a positive way and volunteering at the Park is a fun thing to do!

What advice would you give someone thinking about volunteering at Wetlands Park?

I would say, look at volunteering as a way to grow personally. Participate in the many outstanding educational programs offered to volunteers every year. Also take advantage of the Park refresher courses, too.

How long have you lived in the Las Vegas Valley?

Having worked as a nurse my entire

career, I moved to Las Vegas when the company I was working for in Southern California offered me an attractive career advancement here. That was in 1991. So I've lived here for 25 years.

Where did you live previously?

I was born and raised in Larchmont, New York; I also began my nursing career in New York before moving to the Carson/Lakewood, California area (Long Beach vicinity).

How did you come to volunteer at Wetlands Park?

I actually live in a community right next door to the Wetlands! Over the years, I saw the Park evolve from "clouds of dust" into an organized, state-of-the-art center. That evolution piqued my interest. About four years ago, I saw an article in the paper describing the Park, its goals and features. It was then I reached out to volunteer.

What is your favorite spot in Wetlands Park?

The Turtle Pond! It's so serene and easy to reach. But frankly, I love the entire park. It's so not Las Vegas. 🌱

FLORA AND FAUNA FORECAST

By Sheila Glennie

Summer may be hot, but there are still lots of plants and animals to see at Wetlands Park. The following is a sampling of what you may encounter in the park this time of year:

FLORA: Look for blooming plants, such as sacred datura, salt heliotrope, sunflower, and desert willow. Look for plants to be green, such as salt grass, tamarisk, and Goodding's willow.

FAUNA: Look for lots of insects, such as ants, aphids, bees, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, funnel web spiders, tarantula hawks, and wasps.

Look to the ground for Gambel's quail, greater roadrunner, and desert cottontail.

Look to the water for American coot, common gallinule, green and great blue herons, and turtles.

Look to the trees and the sky for black-tailed gnatcatcher, great-tailed grackle, hummingbirds, northern mockingbird, verdin, and turkey vultures. 🌿

SACRED DATURA



Photo by Jody Walker

CABBAGE WHITE BUTTERFLY AND SALT HELIOTROPE



Photo by Philip Martini

RED-EARED SLIDER TURTLES



Wetlands Park

Summer Open House

Saturday, July 2, 2016

10:00 am—1:00 pm

Family Friendly

Activities for Kids & Adults

Live Animal Encounters

& More!

Free Indoors Drop In

Clark County Wetlands Park
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Las Vegas, NV 89122
(702) 455-7522

wetlands@clarkcountynv.gov
www.ClarkCountyNV.gov/WetlandsPark

By Alice Hulslander



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