

# Friends of the Nature Area Newsletter Fall 2023

## January 2022 - March 2023 Volunteer Sundays

A great big shout out to Boys Team Charity, National Charity League, Scout Troops, OIS Others First, and local high school students. Very capable teenagers from these groups maintained the garden, pond, and trails, promoted wildlife projects, and served as ambassadors of the Nature Area.

## We Heartily Thank our Partners!



## 2023 Board Members

Erica Bains, *President*  
Rebecca Dahlberg, *Vice President*  
Brad McCullough, *Treasurer*  
Kathy Barrett, *Secretary*  
Reg Barrett, *Wildlife*  
William Hudson, *Projects*  
Dan Phillips, *HR & Science*  
Jane Voll, *Programs*  
Steve Danziger, *Community Liason*

## Student Board Members

Aaron Lee - Graduated  
Amelia Chen - Graduated  
Emma Hunt - Graduated  
Tyler Hunt - Graduated  
Ellie Gkatzimas  
Logan Hagendoorn  
Adrian Moll  
Elsa Cooke  
Vivian Tolajian  
Neel Kondapalli  
Olivia Williams

## Committees

Toris Jaeger  
Kim Curiel  
Claire McCullough

FONA/FWRNA P.O. Box 821  
Orinda, CA 94563

## Not Conducted in 2023



Photos by William Hudson

Voices of children have not floated over the trails and streams at the historic Nature Area. Summer Camps, School Programs, Nature Studies after school, garden and trail maintenance, volunteer activities and much more have been put on hold. Stay tuned for our updates!



Photo by Reg Barrett

## Late Spring 2020 - 2023 Fire in the Meadow

For the third year, the Moraga Orinda Fire District conducted a prescribed burn of the meadow. This fuel-reduction method benefits the ecology of the meadow by killing the invading saplings and promoting the diversity of native meadow herbs.

The Ohlone People set fire to the grasslands periodically to promote wild rye grass, soap root and clover that attract wildlife. Fire also opened up the woodlands, making it easier to travel

## High School Students as Citizen Wildlife Scientists April 2021 to June 2022

Under the guidance of UC Berkeley Emeritus Professor of Wildlife Biology, Reg Barrett, 12 students monitored RECONIX camera traps situated in five habitats of the Nature Area: wetland, grassland, shrubland, woodland, and riparian. Students participated year-round on the second Saturday of the month and recorded 22 species of mammals and birds.



Raccoon

Starting at the wetland, they refilled the three bait stations at each camera. Most months, they found the bait pans empty, and re-filled them again with dog chow, fresh blueberries, and hog chow. Students took turns changing the camera chips so that animals visiting the bait had their pictures taken during the following month. Dr. Barrett posted the photos of the species on Google Drive for everyone to study. Students wrote research reports about their findings. Partial funding was from the North American Association of Environmental Educators, (YLACES) Program and Friends of the Nature Area (FONA).



Bobcat