



MAGPIE CALLS

Newsletter of the Santa Ynez Valley Natural History Society
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*Dedicated to the study, exploration, and appreciation of natural history
in the Santa Ynez Valley region*

Launching the SYV Natural History Society: A Look Back at our Founding Year in 2000

By John Evarts, with history research assistance
from Margie Popper

The Santa Ynez Valley Natural History Society will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2025 (see inside). This is an opportunity to acknowledge our achievements and reflect on the past and future of our small but thriving organization.

When we launched our educational nonprofit, we had an idea, but little else in the way of organizational scaffolding. At the time we invited the public to attend our founding meeting at Sedgwick Reserve in April 2000, we had yet to open a bank account, establish a mailing address, draft articles of incorporation, elect directors, or develop a mailing list from which we could build a membership base. We had not even settled on our name: would we be a society or an association? It would take several more years before we developed a logo. Fortunately, we did have a vision for our mission, and it has not changed since our founding: The Society is dedicated to the study, exploration, and appreciation of natural history in the Santa Ynez Valley region.

Our nonprofit is hardly unique in that its genesis was, in part, a response to events at the time. In 1999, Santa Barbara County was fully engulfed in a political fight over how to limit the loss of oak woodlands due to vineyard expansion. In response to what were known



The group that assembled at Sedgwick Reserve on April 16, 2000 for the founding meeting of the SYV Natural History Society. Photo by Lilian Smith.

as the “oak wars,” civic-minded north county residents embarked on the “Oak Collaborative” process. This series of sometimes contentious meetings was held at St. Mark’s-in-the-Valley in Los Olivos. They brought together conservationists and agriculturalists in an effort to balance oak tree protection with the operational needs of farmers and ranchers. New urgency was injected into these discussions when the Santa Barbara County population of tiger salamanders was declared an endangered species, a listing that would clearly impact some rural landowners.

Margie Popper, Dr. Richard ‘Dick’ Sage, and I were participants in the Oak Collaborative, as were some of you who are reading this. In the aftermath of these meetings, the three of us met several times to exchange ideas and strategies. We shared a belief that natural history education and awareness could be a way to find common ground and to engage people with very different perspectives when it came to issues such as rural land conservation and habitat protection.

We decided to test our theory that a substantial community interest in natural history existed within the Santa Ynez Valley. Dick invited two colleagues who were leading experts on salamanders, Dr. Brad Sherman and Dr. Sam Sweet, to give a public presentation on the Santa Barbara County tiger salamander. We also asked Paul Collins to participate since he had done extensive local field work in his capacity as Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. Sally Isaacson, Director of Education at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, prepared

(Continued on next page.)

Upcoming Lectures, Field Trips, Workshops, and Events

Feb. 1 The Story of the Dibblee Geologic Maps: Workshop

Feb. 26 Stopping the Buzzzzzz: Lecture

Mar. 13 Underwater Photography of the Northern Channel Islands: Lecture

Mar. 20 Spring Equinox Yoga:
Field trip

Apr. 5 Beauty in the Burn:
Field trip

Apr. 19 Spring Birding Along Quiota Creek: Field trip

Apr. 26 SYVNHS 25th Anniversary Celebration

*Pop-Ups: Short-notice events will be posted on the website
and emails will be sent to our members and friends*

California sea lion (*Zalophus californianus*). Photo by Richard Salas.



a slide show to introduce the concept of the Society that would precede the lecture. Bert Etling, editor of the Santa Ynez Valley News, seemed receptive to the idea of this new organization. Our press release about the program carried his catchy headline, "Natural History Society takes Tiger Salamander by the Tail." On March 14, 2000, more than 100 people came to Stacy Hall at St. Mark's to learn about the life history of a local amphibian that most had never seen until that evening when Dr. Sweet presented a live animal from his lab at UCSB.

With a successful first lecture under its belt, the Society's Interim Advisory Board invited the public to an April 16th founding meeting in the Studio at Sedgwick Reserve. The announcement read, in part, as follows:

"We invite you to become a founding member of the Society. Are you interested in lectures, nature hikes, public school outreach, ranch tours, tree-planting, or something else? Come share your ideas. With your help, it promises to be a fun, stimulating, and rewarding first year."

The 40 attendees generated 26 suggestions for lectures and 8 destinations for field trips. (Each recommended topic was subsequently covered by the Society.) Following our brainstorming session, Reserve Director Dr. Mike Williams led a botany walk. Among the participants that day were a number of individuals who went on to serve as directors or to play a role in helping shape the young organization, including Dennis Beebe, Jacqueline Broughton (first Ex. Director of Wildling Museum), Marge Erickson, John Evarts, Carey McKinnon, Margie Popper, Dick Sage, Dr. Evert Schlinger, Brett Stearns, John Schnittker, Mike Williams, and Don Wimpress.

At our next meeting on May 1, attended by 12, we finalized our organization's name and established a three-person steering committee consisting of Evarts (chair), Popper (treasurer), and Sage (secretary) who would guide the Society while we began the process to incorpo-

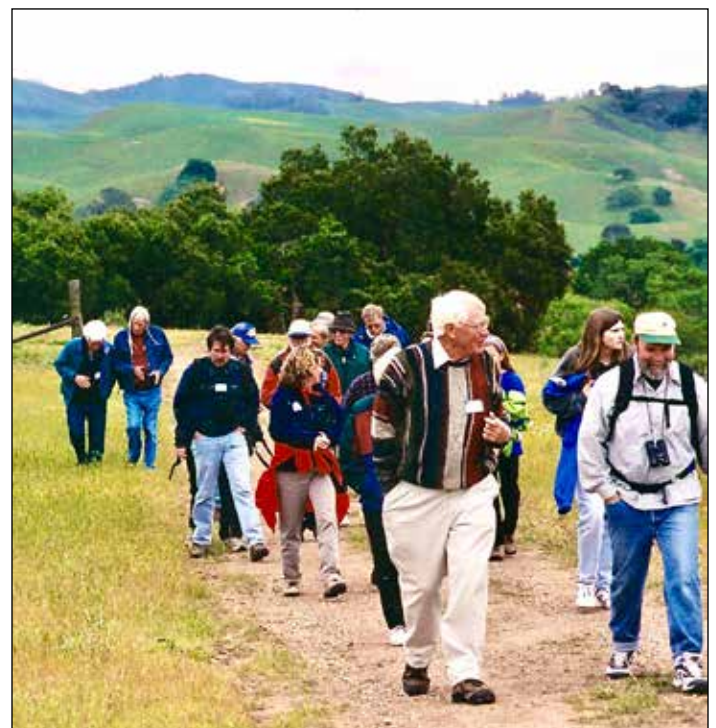


Wildlife biologist Fred Emerson (standing) led the Society's all-day field trip to Zaca Lake in fall 2000. Photo by John Evarts.

rate as a nonprofit. The work of writing our by-laws was soon accelerated with the skilled assistance of attorney Marge Erickson, who helped us complete and submit our Articles of Incorporation; she later served as the President of our board.

Most of the meetings in our first year were held in the Wildling Museum (now California Nature Art Museum), which was then located in the historic Hartley House in Los Olivos. The one exception was a second meeting at Sedgwick Reserve, at which time we announced Santa Ynez Valley Union High student Daniel Lahr as the recipient of our first "Research and Education Award" for students. His project on lichens and oaks trees went on to win First Place in the Life Science category at the Santa Barbara County Science Fair. (For a variety of reasons, the Society later discontinued the student science awards.) We also accompanied this meeting with our first field trip, an informal outing led by Dick Sage to examine plants and rocks at the Little Pine Fault zone near the head of Figueroa Canyon. We launched our fall 2000 season with a lecture in the former Superior Court space adjacent to Solvang Library with the support of Solvang's new librarian, Carey McKinnon. This began our long partnership with the Solvang Library, which has co-hosted dozens of our lectures at this venue.

The lectures, field trips and workshops in 2000 featured excellent speakers and leaders, thereby setting a high standard for the ensuing years. We also covered a variety of topics, which would become another hallmark of the Society. A quick glance at the series of programs
(Continued on next page.)



Evert Schlinger (left) and John Evarts enjoy a botany walk that accompanied the founding meeting of the Society at Sedgwick Reserve in April 2000. Photo by Margie Popper.



Douglas McCreary, part of the University of California's Integrated Hardwood Management team, helped lead this oak-tree planting workshop at Sedgwick Reserve that was hosted by the Society in late 2000. Photo by John Everts.

that followed our inaugural lecture on tiger salamanders is illuminating: "Western Pond Turtles and other Reptiles and Amphibians of the Santa Ynez River" with herpetologist Larry Hunt; "Seismology of the Santa Ynez Valley Region" with seismologist Dr. Elizabeth Cochran (a graduate of Solvang Elementary and SYV Union High School); "Natural History of Zaca Lake" with wildlife biologist Dr. Fred Emerson; "Hiking the Little Pine Fault: Geology of the upper Sedgwick Ranch" with geologist Helmut Ehrenspeck; "Valley Oak Regeneration in Santa Barbara County" with oak experts Drs. Frank Davis, William Tietje, and Claudia Tyler.

In November we submitted our finalized Articles of Incorporation to the state and appointed seven Directors who were also signatories on our application. Since then, our by-laws have only been amended in very minor ways, which is perhaps a testament to the care and forethought that went into their original wording. To date, 35 individuals have served on our Board of Directors. We now operate with a member-elected nine-person board. The current directors come from all walks of life (including three individuals with a Ph.D.) They work closely with our Membership Coordinator and current Board President (Marion Schlinger), Chief Financial Officer (Margie Popper), and Website Manager (Liz Gaspar).

It is especially rewarding to take stock of what we have offered to our members and the public at large during the last 25 years. Since its founding, the Society has hosted about 150 lectures, of which 25 or more have been author events associated with newly published natural history books. A skilled corps of naturalists drawn from within our organization and the region have led nearly 160 field trips, ranging from the Channel Islands to Morro Bay and inland to the summit of Mount Pinos. We've given 20 workshops



Geologist Helmut Ehrenspeck (left) and arborist Duke McPherson display a Dibblee geologic map at the start of the Society's hike across the Little Pine fault zone in fall 2000. Photo by John Everts.

with hands-on projects, such as building bluebird boxes and planting oak trees. The scope and diversity of natural history subjects featured among our nearly 350 lectures, trips, and workshops is truly impressive. Each of these learning opportunities has been free or low-cost, and all of this has been orchestrated by a grass-roots nonprofit that is almost entirely dependent on volunteers.

Like most organizations, we have changed to keep up with advances in technology. After meeting in person at various locations around the Valley, our board now convenes online. Our newsletter, which began as a single one-color page sent via U.S. mail, was expanded to its current multi-page full-color format by past board President Marc Kummel, who named it "Magpie Calls." The first iteration of our website, designed by past board President Ken Doud, went live in about 2010. Our lectures are now offered to in-person audiences and simultaneously live-streamed. Since 2020, most of them have been recorded and posted on our website.

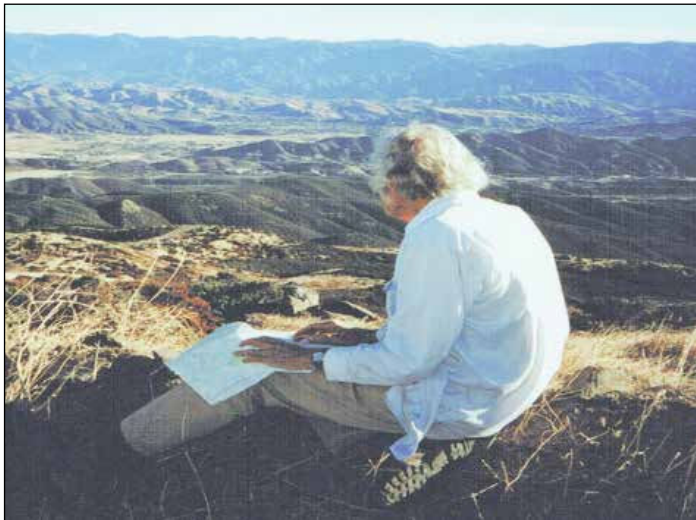
One of the long-term challenges we face is the aging demographic among our trip leaders, members, and directors. This problem is not unique to the Society. It does, however, raise the question of how we can stay viable and relevant for another 25 years. Accessible science-based natural history education is needed now more than ever. With the ongoing and much-appreciated support of its members, trip leaders, and partners in the community, the SYVNHS could well prosper for another 25 years.

Map Reading and the Story of the Dibblee Geologic Maps

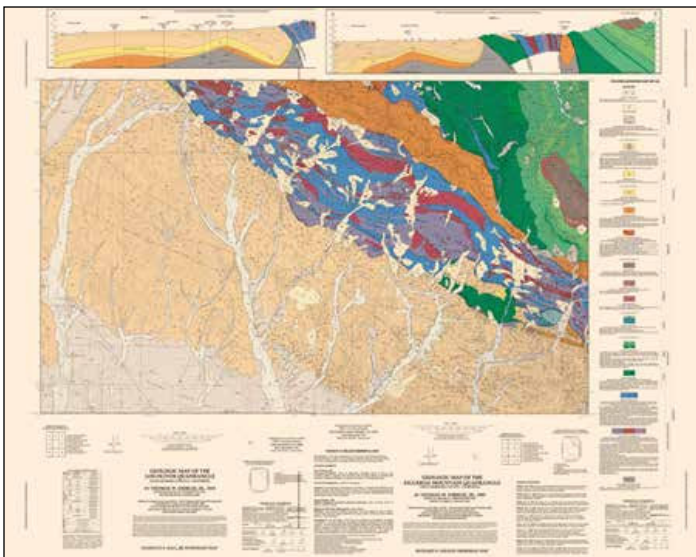
Free workshop with Susie Bartz and Sabina Thomas
Saturday, February 1, 2025, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Tipton Meeting House at UC Sedgwick Reserve

Attendance is limited to 42 participants aged 14 and up. Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. on January 15 for members and January 27 for non-members. Please email the Santa Ynez Valley Natural History Society at syvnhs@syvnature.org or call (805) 693-5683 to reserve your seat. Directions will be emailed to participants after they register.

Geologic maps are fun, colorful, and informative. One of the most famous geologic mappers anywhere — Thomas Wilson Dibblee, Jr. — was born in Santa Barbara County in 1911. Tom's work in field mapping spanned over six decades. He left a legacy of over 500 beautiful maps which



Tom Dibblee mapping on a ridge in the Sierra Pelona of the Transverse Ranges, Southern California. Photo by Susie Bartz.



A Dibblee map of the Figueroa Mountain Quadrangle. Image courtesy of the Dibblee Foundation.

have been published by the Dibblee Geological Foundation in association with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

Susie Bartz worked closely with Tom Dibblee, and she will tell tales of Tom and his amazing mapping career. As their friendship grew over the years, Susie often drove Tom to various meetings and field events, with occasional outings to field-check his maps before final publication. After he died, she worked as a technical review assistant for John Minch at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and together with Jason Minch, they completed the publication of some 500 Dibblee quadrangles, finishing in 2009. Sabina Thomas will add basic information on how to read geologic maps including what the colors and symbols mean, and what information can be gleaned from the maps' margins. Attendees will also be introduced to the geology around Sedgwick, using two Dibblee maps that cover the area in the vicinity.

The presentation will end with a brief tour of a map mosaic in the Sedgwick studio and an exercise showing participants how to read a geologic map. Bring a pencil and eraser to participate in this activity.

Susie Bartz grew up in rural Pennsylvania playing in the wooded hills and rocky creeks outside her house. She came to Santa Barbara in 1974, where she later enrolled in Santa Barbara City College to study geology. As a student there, she met Tom Dibblee on numerous field trips where he shared his knowledge of the local geology.

Sabina Thomas grew up in Germany where she received her PhD in Geology. Since she left Berlin for the U.S., she has taught at colleges and universities in Texas and Ohio until she moved to Santa Barbara in 2010. In addition to teaching earth-science courses, she has also worked at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

Event date: Saturday, February 1, 2025, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Attendance limited to 42. Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. on January 15 for members and January 27 for nonmembers at syvnhs@syvnature.org or call (805) 693-5683.



Susie Bartz. Courtesy photo.



Sabina Thomas. Courtesy photo.

Stopping the Buzz: Novel Approaches to Pest Control

Free live lecture and Zoom webinar with Dr. Craig Montell
Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The itch from a mosquito bite is the least of the problems those insects can cause. Not all mosquito species spread diseases; however, a particular mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*) can carry the viruses that cause dengue fever, yellow fever, Zika, and additional diseases that have devastated other parts of the world. *Aedes aegypti* has arrived and is spreading in California with considerable potential impact



Dr. Craig Montell. Courtesy photo.

on public health. High tech, cutting-edge research in the lab of UCSB professor Dr. Craig Montell is revealing the mosquito's world, including how these insects find each other and their human hosts. His surprising results suggest novel approaches to stymieing the spread of these insects and the diseases they can transmit. How do you unravel the sensory world of a small insect and use it as a means of pest control? Dr. Montell's presentation opens a bright window on that tiny and critical world.

Dr. Montell received his B.A. from UC Berkeley in 1978, his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1983, and was on the faculty of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for almost 25 years before coming to UCSB as a Duggan Professor of



Mating mosquitoes. Photo by Craig Montell.

Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology. He has received numerous awards for his ground-breaking work on the nervous systems of mammals, fruit flies, and mosquitoes, and most recently has begun developing strategies for the biological control of *Aedes aegypti*.

How to Attend

Event date: Wednesday, February 26, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Lecture location: Stacy Hall, St. Mark's in-the-Valley Episcopal Church, 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos
Register for the Zoom screening at [Stopping the Buzz](#).
The presentation recording will be posted online after the event.

Underwater Photography of the Northern Channel Islands: A Marine Biosphere Tour

Free live and Zoom presentation and book signing with Richard Salas

Thursday, March 13, 2025, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The marine waters of our Northern Channel Islands support more than 5000 species of plants and animals. This stunning biodiversity is made possible by a complex environment of rocky intertidals, underwater reefs, giant kelp beds, sea caves, seagrass beds, and sandy seafloor, together with both cold and warm ocean currents. Richard Salas has been diving and photographing this underwater world since the 1970s. In this photographic tour, Richard takes us through a marine biosphere where we encounter marine life in its best light. We also see that humanity's impact is an undeniable force, even in these pristine waters—while many new endemic species are discovered every year, others have disappeared completely. The striking power of Richard's images conveys the unique vitality that resides in every organism he encounters.

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Spanish shawl nudibranch (*Flabellina iodinea*). Photo by Richard Salas.

Richard Salas is a California native and graduate from Brooks Institute of Photography, where he was mentored by Ernest Brooks II and was first introduced to diving and underwater photography. Richard has worked professionally in digital media for over 31 years and his unique approach to bringing out the texture and depth of his underwater subjects is informed by years of experience in photography lighting of products and people. He has authored three coffee table books, including *Sea of Light: Underwater Photography of California's Channel Islands*; *Blue Visions: Underwater Photography from the Mexican Border to the Equator*, and *Luminous Sea: Underwater Photography from Washington to Alaska*. View Richard's work at www.askphotography.com.

How to Attend

Event date: Thursday, March 13, 2025, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Stacy Hall, St. Mark's in-the-Valley Episcopal Church, 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos
Register for the Zoom screening at [Underwater Photography with Richard Salas](#). The presentation recording will be posted online after the event.



Two-spot octopus (*Octopus bimaculatus*). Photo by Richard Salas.

Spring Equinox Yoga/Nature Awakening

Field trip with Laurie Burnaby and Marion Schlinger
Thursday, March 20, 2025, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Join Marion and Laurie for an experience of awe and wonder. Awe deactivates the part of our brain that is always thinking about ourselves. It opens us to things that are bigger than ourselves. The benefits are slowing down, strengthening our immunity, and regulating our nervous system. As we walk, we will notice the beauty of nature and explore the intimate details on our gentle walk, taking in a sensory appreciation for what we observe. You will find that awe is inescapable.

This yoga/nature walk will enhance the physical and mental experience of being in a natural environment. You will be refreshed and perhaps find some yoga poses to bring into your everyday life. Please wear comfortable clothing and walking shoes (no sandals) and bring water and sunscreen. A hat is optional.

Laurie Burnaby has been a yoga teacher and yoga therapist for many years. While recovering from a hip replacement in 2010, she developed the Mindful Yoga Walk as a means of recovery and healing. Her main interest is in the therapeutic aspects of yoga and her strength is an ability to accommodate each person where they are and offer practices that will meet their needs.

Marion Schlinger is a naturalist/entomologist and loves being out in nature enjoying the plants, birds, and critters, including insects, that she finds either in her garden or on long walks with her labrador, Max. Marion has served on the board of the Santa Ynez Valley Natural History Society for many years and is currently board president.



Marion Schlinger.
Courtesy photo.



Laurie Burnaby.
Courtesy photo.



Enjoying yoga outdoors. Photo by Laurie Burnaby.

How to Register

Event date: Thursday, March 20, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Participation limited to 20. No prior yoga experience is necessary. Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. on February 20 for members and March 6 for nonmembers at syvnhs@syvnature.org or 805/693-5683. Field trip walk location will be emailed to registrants.
Members \$10 / Nonmembers \$25 / Children \$5

Beauty in the Burn: Fire Ecology at Sedgwick Reserve

Field Trip with Bryant Baker

Co-sponsored by UC Sedgwick Reserve

Saturday, April 5, 2025, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Join us for a unique opportunity to experience a land recovering from wildfire alongside a local expert on post-fire regrowth, Bryant Baker, Director of Conservation and Research for Los Padres ForestWatch. This hike will take us into the heart of Sedgwick Reserve, which was burned in the July 2024 Lake Fire. Bryant will teach us about the unique adaptations and survival strategies of local natural communities as we look for fire followers and assess the conditions of trees and shrubs that experienced fire. We will also go through some unburned areas. This is a chance to contemplate the effects, role, and future of fire in our region. The hike is three miles with 350 feet of elevation gain. It is rated moderate.

As Director of Conservation & Research for Los Padres ForestWatch, Bryant manages scientific, technical, and volunteer projects. He is currently researching old-growth chaparral as well as successional chaparral in post-fire forests in California. His research interests revolve around biodiversity in these ecosystems and the role of shrubs—especially nitrogen-fixing species—in complex early seral forests. He has several publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. Bryant is also a naturalist and photographer, spending most of his free time hiking the rugged public lands of the Central Coast region with his dog.

How to Register

Event date: Saturday, April 5, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Participation limited to 20.

Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. on March 5 for members and March 19 for nonmembers at syvnhs@syvnature.org or 805/693-5683.

Field trip walk location and information will be sent to registrants. Hike difficulty is rated as moderate.

Members \$10 / Nonmembers \$25 / Children \$5



Lupines (*Lupinus* species) growing among resprouting shrubs less than two years after the Thomas Fire in Ventura County. Photo by Bryant Baker.



Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) resprouting five months after fire in the Santa Ynez Mountains. Photo by Bryant Baker.



Canyon sunflower (*Venegasia carpesioides*) growing alongside greenbark ceanothus (*Ceanothus spinosus*) almost four years after the Whittier Fire in the Santa Ynez Mountains. Photo by Bryant Baker.



Hike leader Bryant Baker. Courtesy photo.

Spring Birding Along Quiota Creek

Field trip with Rebecca Coulter

Saturday, April 19, 2025, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Rebecca will share a favorite location for birders on this field trip. We will wander along Refugio Road as it follows Quiota Creek, which is always a joy of spring birding in the Santa Ynez Valley. We will spend a couple of hours along this quiet stretch of road, looking for and listening to the signs of migrants as they arrive on breeding grounds or stop over as they move north. Target species include migrants such as Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, Western Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Warbling Vireo, and Bullock's Oriole, while resident breeders such as Western Bluebird are already well on their way in the nesting season.

Rebecca Coulter has been birding in the Santa Barbara region for over 30 years. She leads field trips and birding classes at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and occasional birding tours at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. She was head compiler for the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count in Santa Barbara for 11 years, and enjoys sharing Santa Barbara's rich bird diversity and wide range of habitats with new birders. She is particularly interested in teaching how bird sounds can help build identification skills and enjoyment in the field.

How to Register

Event date: Saturday, April 19, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Participation limited to 20.

Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. on March 19 for members and April 5 for nonmembers at syvnhs@syvnature.org or 805/693-5683.

Directions will be emailed to registrants.

Members \$10 / Nonmembers \$25 / Children \$5



Bird-watching leader Rebecca Coulter. Courtesy photo.



Lazuli bunting. Photo by Rick Skillin.



Ash-throated flycatcher. Photo by Nikki Evans.



A diverse avian fauna is found in the riparian forest that grows along Quiota Creek. Photo by John Everts.

**Santa Ynez Valley Natural History Society
25th Anniversary Celebration
Natural History Walks, Tours, and
Outdoor Activities for all ages**

Free to members and the public

UC Sedgwick Reserve

Saturday, April 26, 2025, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

The Santa Ynez Valley Natural History Society will celebrate its 25th Anniversary on Saturday, April 26 at UC Sedgwick Reserve from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of outdoor activities, including a variety of natural history hikes, a nature walk for all ages, a tour of the Reserve's Field Station, and opportunities for nature journaling. A visual retrospective of our 25 years of trips and lectures will be ongoing in the Reserve's Clarke Hall.

This celebratory event offers you a chance to spend time among family, friends, neighbors, and members of the Society, including some of its founders and field trip leaders. It's a day to learn new things and share your knowledge and observations of the natural world with others.

The gates to the Reserve will open at 2:00 p.m. and organized walks and hikes will begin at 2:30 and last until 4:00 or 4:30. Following the hikes and walks, everyone is invited to enjoy the picnic area under the oaks, where cold beverages (for adults and kids) and snacks will be available at no cost. At 5:00 p.m. we'll honor five individuals who have had a major impact on our educational programs over the past 25 years and follow that with servings of our special anniversary cake. You are welcome to bring a picnic supper, and you can stay up until 7:00 p.m.

The following short hikes and activities will be offered, and all of them begin at 2:30 p.m.

"Family Friendly Nature Walk" with Nikki Evans. This stroll to various sites around the Field Station will introduce a variety of topics to naturalists of all ages, including animal tracks, bone identification, and feathered friends.

"Fire Ecology and Recovery at Sedgwick" with Tina Collins. A level 2-mile roundtrip hike on Figueroa Canyon Road will examine burned and unburned areas at the edge of the Lake Fire, with ample time to discuss the role of fire in Mediterranean climates.

"Oak Tree Natural History" with Margie Popper and John Evarts. This moderate 2-mile hike — with one steep uphill section over the highly scenic Arroyo Willow Trail — will cover basic oak identification, oak woodland ecology, and an overview of California's oak habitats and the challenges they face.

"Sedgwick Field Station Tour" with Dennis Beebe. Here's a chance to learn about the rich history and fascinating research at Sedgwick on a tour that includes the Sedgwick family house, historic barn and history room, and the LEED certified Tipton House.

"Bird Life at Sedgwick" with Tim Matthews. Bring your binoculars or spotting scope to join this birding walk to the Sedgwick pond, home to the County's largest population



The Society's anniversary celebration will offer activities for naturalists of all ages, including a walk to the pond to look for birds, similar to this Family Birding Day hosted by UC Sedgwick staff and docents in February 2024. Photo by John Evarts.



Our 25th anniversary celebration will be held at the nearly 6000-acre Sedgwick Reserve. The southwest part of the Reserve, shown here, is outside of the footprint of the Lake Fire, which burned about 3000 acres of Sedgwick in July 2024. Photo by John Evarts.

of tri-colored blackbirds, as well as other species such as soras, rails, and common yellowthroat. You will also bird around the ranch house and other nearby spots to sample the rich avian fauna at this recognized birding hotspot.

"The Rocks Tell a Story" with Susie Bartz and Sabina Thomas. This 1-mile hike will introduce the geologic processes that have helped define the Sedgwick landscape and will focus on the stream bed of Figueroa Creek, which holds rocks from various origins dating back nearly 200 million years.

"Nature Journaling" with Jim Farnum. Gather under the oaks by Tipton House to get guidance and share ideas for starting or adding to a nature journal. Bring your own materials.

How to Register

Event date: Saturday, April 26, 2025, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.
Advance Registration is required at syvnhs@syvnature.org or 805/693-5683 beginning March 26.