

Southern California Bluebird Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Saturday, November 3, 2007
8:30 AM

I. Call to order

The monthly meeting of the *Southern California Bluebird Club* was called to order on Saturday, November 3, 2007, at *The Corner Bakery*, 13786-D Jamboree Road, Irvine, CA 92602.

II. Members Present

Dick Purvis	Howard Rathlesberger
Mike Spohn	Pat Huff
Tom Croom	Mike & Launa Gould
Sully Reallon	Ben Broderick
Linda Violet	Damon Masaki
Susan Bulger	Bill & Inge Wallace

III. California Bluebird Recovery Program (CBRP)

Mike Spohn requested feedback from everyone about the CBRP online reporting system. Many members said they completed the data entry for all their trails. Several members stated they have had problems getting to the web site and/or could not log on.

Dick Purvis asked what to do with handwritten statistics provided by several trail monitors. He will

The Fall 2007 issue of *Bluebirds Fly!* is at the printer and should be mailed very soon.

IV. Non-Profit Status

Our application to become a project under the International Humanities Center so we can obtain a non-profit status (501(c)(3)) was submitted. We received a very enthusiastic response from Steve Sugarman the Director of IHC. We hope to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) completed before the next meeting.

There was a discussion about the acceptance of donations for nestboxes and lifters. It was agreed by all we need to raise funds for the club and requesting donations from people we provide equipment to is a good way to fund our mission. We need to be cautious about the tax implications. It was suggested we ask the IHC for advice in this area.

V. Golf Course Project

Dick Purvis gave an update on the Golf Course program. He is still focusing on LA County and he found a monitor for one of the courses.

VI. Hand's On Presentations

- Mike Spohn presented two ideas from Bob Franz who was unable to make the meeting. Bob has had a lot of trouble with vandalism and he is suggesting we create new warning stickers for nestboxes to warn vandals. One of the stickers will be placed on the bottom of the box with big type. This

will allow vandals to see it when they are on the ground. A second label on the back or side will assist rangers, tree-trimmers, etc. to return a box if it is found.

Linda Violetta advised she seriously reduced the vandalism incidents on her trails by bending the end of her hanger wire so vandals cannot knock the nestbox out of the tree. This also protects the nestbox from high winds.

Susan Bulger agreed with the bent hook idea but felt it would be a good idea to place a visible sticker on the bottom of the box. Mike Spohn agreed to contact Bob Franz and have him present prototypes of the labels he has in mind and bring them to the next meeting.

- Bob Franz also suggested we consider renting small spaces at nature events around the County such as the OC Fair, Home and Garden Shows, etc. Once we receive our non-profit status, this would be a good way to raise funds. This idea was very well-received by all members present. Everyone agreed they would identify potential events in their communities and get on the calendar if possible.
- Susan Bulger gave an update on her effort to fight the trash problem around nesting sites. Easter grass, monofilament fishing line, and other trash is extremely dangerous to nesting birds. Susan had very large reprints of a deceased Oriole hanging from a nest tangled in fishing line. She is planning on using the large photos to create warning notices and educational displays. Trust me when I tell you – this photo is very poignant.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Southern Californian Bluebird Club will be Saturday, December 1, 2007. Same location.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 AM.

Minutes submitted by: Michael G. Spohn