



'SPARKS' OFF THE ROTARY WHEEL
An Award-Winning Newsletter



**The Rotary Club of Altadena meets Thursdays at noon
 at the Altadena Town and Country Club**

Rotary Club of Altadena - #772
 Chartered: February 14, 1949, P.O. Box 414, Altadena, CA 91003
 RI Pres: Stephanie Urchick, Dist. 5300 Gov: Michael Driebe



THIS WEEK: PAULINA McCONNELL
High School Student Winner of District 5300's
4-Way Speech Contest

Altadena Town and Country Club, Thursday at noon
 Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal



Paulina McConnell (she/her) is an incoming senior at Pasadena High School and an outstanding student. As an avid naturalist and an admirer of all living organisms, she works to raise environmental awareness and promote appreciation for the earth, through

volunteer work for a local conservation nonprofit, AltadenaWILD. She is also the president of the Green Club at her high school. When she's not taking pictures of birds or hiking local trails, Paulina spends a lot of her time working within the PUSD Student Think Tank, an equity-centered student initiative that works to empower students across her district. Outside of advocacy, she is passionate about musical theater, and trains on the varsity volleyball team at her school.

Paulina recently won 1st place in the Rotary 4-Way Test Speech Contest, District 5300, where she wrote and performed a speech highlighting the disproportionate effects of climate change. The prize included a \$5,000 scholarship. Paulina hopes to pursue environmental science or ecology at a 4-year university and is currently in the college application process.

AUGUST 08, 2024

AUGUST IS: MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT

Officers

President: Maricela Viramontes
 Vice President: Dawn Digrius Smith
 President Elect: Brad Roeber

Treasurer: Mike Noll
 Bus: 626-657-2287
 Secretary: James Gorton
 Bus: 626-793-6215

Directors

Craig Cox
 Maria Perez-Arton
 Mark Mariscal
 Sarah O'Brien
 Lisa Rickard
 Doug Colliflower
 Brad Roeber

Chairs

Executive Club Secretary: Mark Mariscal
 Membership: Maria Perez-Arton & Brad Roeber
 Foundation: Steve Kerekes
 Service Projects: Mike Zoeller

Subcommittees

Community Service: Craig Cox
 Vocational Service: Steve Kerekes
 Youth Contests, Scholarships, Awards: Mike Zoeller
 Youth Activities: Tony Hill
 International Service: Sarah O'Brien

LAST WEEK: KENIA ESTRELLA NATURE IN OUR OWN BACKYARD Eaton Canyon Natural Area & Nature Center

Speaker Chair: Mark Mariscal

Review: Dawn Digrius Smith



<https://www.ecsforseniors.org/montecedro/>



Today's speaker, Kenia Estrella, Recreation Services Supervisor, shared with us the wonderful resource we have locally in the Eaton Canyon Natural Area [ECNA] and Nature Center!

Located on N. Altadena Drive, the ECNA is open from 8AM to 7:30PM [closed on Mondays] Tuesday through Sunday during the Spring and Summer months, and from 8AM to 5:30PM during the Winter months. It is FREE to the public. ECNA is a 190-acre zoological, botanical, and geological nature preserve where visitors can hike, ride horses, picnic, and view beautiful scenery and local wildlife. The Eaton Canyon Nature Center is a 7600 square foot facility, which reopened in November 1998 after the previous building was destroyed in the Kinneloa Fire of October 27, 1993. It features live animals, information displays, exhibits, collections, and a gift shop. The building also has offices, classrooms, an auditorium, and restrooms.



A little about our speaker: Kenia is an Altadena/Pasadena local, attending Loma Alta School and graduating from John Muir High School. A program on the campus that exposed students to the outdoors was the inspiration for Kenia to explore a career in nature preservation and conservation, and soon after graduation she began working for the LA County Parks at ECNA in 2013.

In her presentation, Kenia shared with the membership ECNA offerings designed to educate and inform about how best to co-exist with our natural environment. Programs range from Moonlight walks [the next one is August 16, 2024] to Docent-led Family Nature Walks [Saturdays, 9AM]. to Bird Walks [1st Saturday, 8-10AM with Pasadena Audubon Society], and Plant Walks [3rd Sunday, 10-11AM with CA Native Plants Society].



Club Guests: Linda, Dennis, Diana and Justin

Altadena Rotary Projects and Events Calendar

Craig Cox

- August 10, 17, 24, Sept 7 - Summer Concerts
- August 31 - Melodia Mariposa Concert

To register for any event go to DacDB, Login, elect the My Club, tab, go the the Calendar icon, and go to the date.

*** VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - check emails from Craig Cox**

CONCERTS IN THE PARK
Presented by The Rotary Club of Altadena in Cooperation with LA County Parks & Recreation

27TH ANNUAL CONCERT SERIES 2024

All concerts are FREE and start at 7:00 p.m. on the following Saturdays at the Amphitheater at Farnsworth Park (568 East Mt. Curve Avenue, Altadena, CA 91001)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10
UPSTREAM

In addition to enjoying the flora and fauna of the natural area, you can also volunteer in several ways: you can become an Eaton Canyon Conservation [Volunteer](#); you can become a Docent naturalist; you can become a Garden Volunteer. Educators can partner with the ECNA and bring the ECNA to their students with the [Nature in a Box](#) Teacher Loan Kit Program. The Learning modules on their website include lists of Animals, Birds, and Plants of Eaton Canyon, and a link to a Eaton Canyon Mission on the [Agents of Discovery](#) game using the free app.

Partners include the Pasadena Audubon Society, CNPS San Gabriel-Mountains Chapter, We Explore Earth, Sierra Club, Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy, Pasadena Society of Artists, Southwestern Herpetologists Society, Pasadena Humane Society, and Lorquin Scholars.

The Pasadena Community Foundation recently gave a \$10,000 grant to the ECNA to support the purchase of two bear-proof garbage cans, wildlife cameras, and taxidermy services for teaching tools. Kenia let us know that the busiest month at the natural area is June; this past June the ECNA sponsored a Barkfest [583 adults, 106 youth, 188 dogs], and A Day in Nature [585 Adults, 180 youth]. The barkfest was designed to educate dog-owners about proper use of the natural area with dogs and dog safety in the natural area. A Day in Nature is an annual event to expose the wider community to the natural area and all it has to offer. With a biologist now on staff, plans are to track wildlife using the natural area and create use plans.

The Q and A session saw informed questions and showed that we Rotarians appreciate and support our natural areas!

Save the Date- On November 2, 2024, the ECNA will host a Dia de los Muertos event from 2-7PM.



For more information, to donate, and to access all of the resources available on Eaton Canyon Natural Area [ECNA] check out their website at <https://www.ecnca.org/>

SUMMER CONCERT FUN... (from Altadena Rotary FB post)

🎸🎤 Thank you to @naesfotos for the pictures! Check out these amazing images of Phat Cat Swinger putting on a show!



Olympics Volunteer Finds Togetherness at Games and in Rotary By Jason Keyser (edited)



As a child in the 1950s, Ernie Peterson remembers watching the Olympics on TV. "I sat there absolutely

fascinated and thought, 'You know, it would be nice to attend one day.'" This summer in Paris, Peterson is attending his sixth Olympic Games as a volunteer. Since 2002, Peterson, a retired property appraiser and a member of the Rotary Club of Deland (Breakfast), Florida, has helped at the Games in Salt Lake City, Torino, Vancouver, Sochi, and Rio, mostly as a media assistant accompanying athletes to post-event interviews. One of his most memorable moments was seeing two skiers in Sochi, Russia, embrace their mothers after downhill runs, one finishing with a gold medal and the other coming in fourth or fifth, their parents equally proud. "You could not tell from the reaction of the parent which one won gold," he says. "It was just incredibly moving."

This year, Peterson has what might be his sweetest gig yet: working the opening ceremony and at the outdoor beach volleyball matches beside the Eiffel Tower. Another bit of luck — when he couldn't find a place to stay, a fellow Rotarian offered to host him. And this isn't the first time; he's stayed with Rotarians at other Olympics and, in return, has hosted them in Florida.

The Olympics and Rotary, Peterson says, have a lot in common: cultural exchange, internationality, and a "desire to do something good for the world."

This story originally appeared in the August 2024 issue of *Rotary* magazine.