

The Dunes Center is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit.

# DUNES CENTER

## The Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center

Promoting the conservation and restoration of the Guadalupe-Nipomo dunes ecosystem through education, research, and the support of cooperative stewardship.

1055 Guadalupe Street  
Guadalupe, CA 93434  
Visitor Center Hours:  
Tuesday through Sunday 10am-4pm

Tel. 805.343.2455  
Fax 805.343.0442  
www.dunescenter.org  
info@dunescenter.org

### Upcoming Events

Wednesday, August 18th,  
5:45pm-6:30pm:  
Volunteer Meeting  
6:30pm- 7:30pm:  
Guest Lecture

Friday, August 20th,  
4:30pm-6:00pm:  
Art Open House

Saturday, August 21st,  
10:00am-12:00pm:  
Guadalupe City Walk and Talk

Tuesday, August 24th,  
6:15pm-8:15pm:  
Dunes Center Moonlight Hike

Saturday, September 11th,  
9:30am-12:00pm:  
Lake Cachuma Wildlife Cruise

Wednesday, September 15th,  
Volunteer Meeting TBD

Friday, September 17th,  
10:00am-8:00pm: Coreopsis  
Cup Golf Tournament

Saturday, September 18th,  
10:00am-12:00pm:  
Guadalupe City Walk and Talk

Sunday, September 19th,  
3:00pm-5:00pm:  
Dunes Center Book Club

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Education is not  
filling a bucket,  
but lighting a fire.  
- William Butler Yeats





J. Martin

## From the Executive Director's Desk

Dear Members, Volunteers, & Friends,

This newsletter marks the wrap up of our education programs for the 2009-2010 school year. Our education programs have educated over 7,000 students in the areas of natural resources, conservation, energy, physical science, math, and technology this year to date. This summer, students in our summer science camp learned about sustainable energy and performed experiments creating energy from wind turbines, solar ovens, biomass, and electrolysis. We also were fortunate enough to provide 25 students with the opportunity to experience service learning through environmental issues in the Fun In the Sun summer program sponsored by the United Way of Santa Barbara. For our program in Santa Maria, our students chose to perform various park clean-ups and ask the Santa Maria Department of Recreation and Parks to place more trash cans in the parks. In Guadalupe, students chose to start a native plant garden on a vacant lot in Guadalupe as their service learning project. You can visit the Guadalupe program's native plant garden on the corner of 7th and Campodonico in Guadalupe.

Please join us for our Lake Cachuma Wildlife Cruise on September 11th!  
RSVP necessary.

### Wish List

- Golf teams for the Coreopsis Cup
- 8.5" x 11" Paper
- Large jug of Elmer's glue
- 35mm round film containers
- Docents

The Dunes Center also submitted a proposal to California State Parks in July for a grant through the Nature Education Facilities Program. Funding for this grant program was made possible through Proposition 84 and will allocate \$93 million towards the construction of education facilities in California. Should the Dunes Center be awarded this grant, it would fund the construction of a new facility from the ground up behind the current Dunes Center.

Our Board of Directors has also been working hard to organize our first ever SummerFest and annual Coreopsis Cup fundraisers. SummerFest featured blues music from our Board President, Greg McGowan, and hula dancers, as well as Hawaiian food and drinks. Thank you to all who came out to celebrate our organization and support our programs at SummerFest. Don't miss out on the annual Coreopsis Cup Golf Tournament and Auction coming up in September!

Cheers,  
Mario Castellanos, Executive Director



From Left to Right: Summer program students on a field trip to the Spooner Ranch Native Garden, Sulema Castro, from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute visits students on the Central Coast

# Board Corner

By John Karamitsos

Greetings to all readers of this newsletter. As summer fades, and we adjust once again to shorter days, a return to school and other schedule adjustments, even here on the Central Coast we are reminded of the constancy of change. While the dynamic nature of the dunes largely ensures their preservation, they would not currently exist in their awesome natural state without the tireless efforts of many individuals and organizations, both public and private. In order to encourage you to get acquainted with and involved in the Dunes Center, I would like to use this opportunity to explain how and why I came to join the Board of Directors for this important non-profit organization.

As I always like to point out, I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to enjoy the dunes and surrounding area in much the same manner as I have since childhood. While I still enjoy nothing more than a day in the dunes and at the beach, I can honestly say at this point in life, I get even more satisfaction observing the pure joy of others in their initial experiences. I believe the Dunes Center plays an essential role in providing opportunities for people's enjoyment and appreciation while also informing them of the delicate resources found in the dunes. To that end, I gladly participated on a Dunes Center committee several years ago and did not hesitate to join the Board of Directors when invited in 2006.

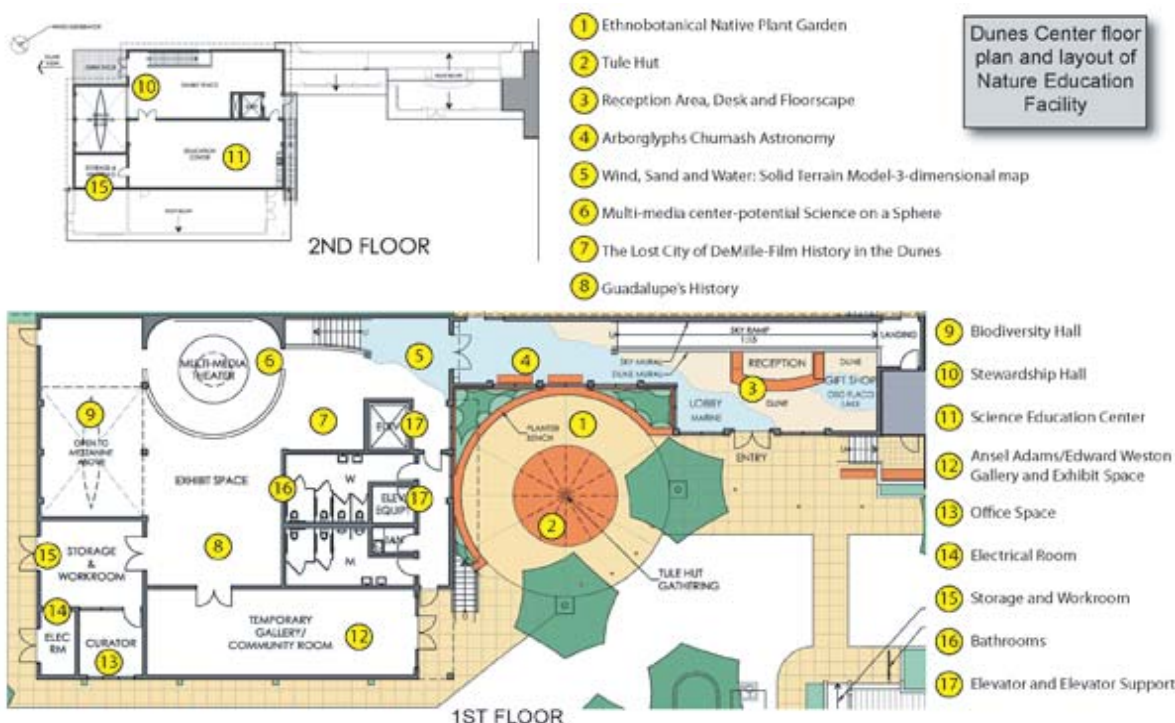
Serving on the board is an incredible opportunity to work with a group of passionate individuals pursuing the goals of the Dunes Center. As with all successful Boards, our group includes a diverse range of professions and opinions. We work hard to support the organization in providing the vision for the future as well as making ends meet in the present. There is always much to be done and we can most definitely use any help you might provide. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss this further. In the meantime, I'll look forward to seeing you in the Dunes.

## Nature Education Facility

The Dunes Center recently submitted a proposal for the construction of a new facility under the Nature Education Facilities grant program. The proposal included plans for a LEED-certified building containing an education center, multimedia theater, viewing deck, laboratory, and museum. The building would contain items relevant to the dunes, conservation, and the Chumash culture, including a tule hut and tomol (canoe) built by tribe members. The facility would allow for the Dunes Center to provide education programs and other educational opportunities on-site in Guadalupe.

A special thanks goes out to Don Avery, of DLA Architecture, and Paul Halsell, of Halsell Builders, for helping us create the site plan and donating over 80 hours of time! In addition, thank you to Dan McElhinney, Frances Romero and Greg McGowan, for their hard work completing this project. Also, a thanks is in order to Joe Talaugon and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts and Education Center for their collaboration on this project.

We will learn if our proposal was accepted and move on to the second phase of the grant process in December 2010. We will keep you posted on the results!



# Thank You from FITS

By Chris Franske

The Fun In The Sun (FITS) program has finished up (in what was possibly the fastest six weeks of my life) and was a success for everyone involved. Of course there were challenges and frustrations during the summer, but that's how we know that we all learned something. The participants have taken some time to write about what they have done for service projects here in the newsletter and I encourage you to read about their hard work directly from the source. Before you start reading their articles, I want to recognize and thank all of the sponsors and partners listed below that have put time and effort into making FITS a success this summer. Without their help and support the participants would not have had the same experience.



## Cleaner Parks for FITS

By Santa Maria FITS program students

The main focus of our service-learning project was cleaning up the local Santa Maria Parks. We cleaned up Preisker Park, Jim May Park, Centennial Rotary Park, Buena Vista, and Minami Park. At the park clean ups, we mapped the parks and took before pictures. We took before and after photos in order to compare our impact on the park after we picked up trash. We counted the amount of recyclables and made observations about the trash we found. At all of the parks we found cigarette butts and wrappers. After we cleaned the parks, we decided to take our findings to the community. We showed our presentation to Jim Davis. Jim Davis is the Parks Services Manager of Santa Maria and is in charge of the parks in Santa Maria. He liked our presentation and suggested we take our presentation to the Recreation and Parks Commission. We also worked at the fair where we had games for kids and trivia questions for adults on water and litter. We also made a skit for kids who visit the Discovery Museum. In the skit we taught the kids about the dangers of littering to ocean animals and the community. Our families came to the skit too. We tried hard to reach out to our community and get them involved. We also kept track of all our activities on our blog with Cailin's help. In the program, we all learned a lot and had a lot of fun and earned a \$500 scholarship.

## Thank You To Our FITS Sponsors & Partners

- United Way of Santa Barbara
- Northern Santa Barbara County United Way, Inc.
- Community Action Commission
- Cancer Center of Santa Barbara
- City of Santa Maria Recreation & Parks Department
- Santa Maria Discovery Museum
- Guadalupe School District
- Santa Maria Natural History Museum
- Miner's Ace Hardware in Grover Beach
- Two Feathers Fencing
- Nipomo Native Gardens
- California State Parks, Oceano Dunes District
- Dana Adobe Nipomo Amigos
- Native Sons Nursery
- The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County
- Guadalupe Hardware Company
- Food Bank of Santa Barbara County
- California Conservation Corps, Santa Maria
- Student Transportation of America
- The Better Builder Company of Santa Maria



Above: Images from the Santa Maria FITS Program at Jim May Park in Santa Maria, CA



## Native Garden for FITS

By Roma Forest, Vanessa Ramirez, & Alina Ramirez

The Fun in the Sun (FITS) students of Guadalupe built a native garden on the corner of Campodonico and 7th Street. The program provided a limited amount of students in grades 6-9th with a six-week summer program. Students who completed one hundred hours of community service (which they did during the program) earned a \$500 scholarship for college from the Untied Way. Students did all of the work on the native garden with very little help. This was fun but sometimes hard. We personally liked it because it was a great experience for adult life.

We put just native plants into the garden. Invasive plants were taking over the lot we were provided. Plus, native plants require low maintenance and little water. Also, we put in a path made of gravel because the sidewalk ended right before our lot and used to force people in wheelchairs or with strollers to walk in the one-way street. Because of donations from different stores and people, this native garden came to life. We are excited about all of the different types of native plants in our garden and hope that our garden will teach people about different native plants as well as make the lot a safer place.

At the end of the program, with the help of many generous donors and volunteers, we completed our native garden. Once we had weeded the lot, the Santa Maria California Conservation Corps came out for one day and broke up all of the dirt and outlined our path for us so that we could begin planting. We were then able to plant some California poppy and black sage seeds that we collected at the Dunes Center along with over thirty plants that were donated to us by Native Sons Nursery and California State Parks. The plants in our garden may look small right now, but they will grow to make a very full, beautiful native garden that we hope members of the community will enjoy. So far, we've already been told that our path has been used by pedestrians and that the picket fence that we placed around the garden now causes motorists to slow down as they approach the lot, making the street a safer place.



Above: Images from the Guadalupe FITS program native plant garden on 7th & Campodonico Street in Guadalupe, CA

# The Dunes Center Welcomes New Interns

By Kanani Fox

Sherry Pogorzelski is one of our newest summer interns and comes to us from the Cal Poly Geography Department. Her interests are in sustainability and will be researching local plants and birds within the dunes ecosystem. Ms. Pogorzelski has been tasked with a unique project this summer. She will be using her knowledge to create a local bird and plant guide that addresses those species seen at Oso Flaco Lake. With the help of other volunteers during summer, we should see the final product in early fall. In addition to the new guides, Ms. Pogorzelski will also be working with volunteers to deliver the weekly Education Station at Oso Flaco Lake. You can meet her on the bridge every Sunday through August from 10:00am to 1:00pm at Oso Flaco Lake.

Scott Carlisle who comes to us from Exeter, California (near Tulare and Visalia), is a Agricultural Science major at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He has worked with FFA and 4-H programs in his home town and is a welcome addition to our summer team. Mr. Carlisle is an energetic intern with experience teaching in high school classrooms and numerous years of experience working with school age children. Mr. Carlisle has been working with Sarah Alarcon in the Guadalupe program and has acclimated nicely to the ever changing classroom environment. During his free time you can see Scott hitting the links at the Morro Bay Golf course and at this year's Fourth Annual Coreopsis Cup Golf Tournament, September 17th at Monarch Dunes.



Above: Intern Scott Carlisle on a field trip with Guadalupe program student at the Pismo Nature Center



Above: Volunteer holds rattlesnake pods for a photo. Photo by C. Papthakis

## Volunteer Corner

By Cailin O'Meara

A special thank you goes to Jerry Martin, Volunteer of the Month! Jerry is our newest docent at the Dunes Center. He has great enthusiasm and an eye for detail. This issue highlights many of Jerry's photographs taken at Oso Flaco Lake at a recent volunteer hike. His photographs will also be featured in the upcoming Dunes Center Pocket Plant and Bird Guides for Oso Flaco Lake. Recently, Jerry led hikes for Cub Scout Troop 93 and a local church group at Oso Flaco Lake. Jerry's walk focuses on the rich history of our coast. Come see Jerry in action at the next moonlight hike on August 24th!

Our volunteer group meets on the third Wednesday of every month. At our next meeting, local biologists working in the dunes will speak about the sensitive plants and animals they work with, including information regarding wetland creation and coastal dune scrub restoration on Wednesday, August 18th, 2010 at 6:30pm, following the meeting at 5:45pm. All are welcome to attend.

### Thank You to our 2010 Dunes Center Volunteers!

<b>1,000 Hours+</b> Refugio Hernandez Shirley Boydston Ken Wolf	<b>200 Hours</b> Sarah Alarcon	<b>50 Hours</b> Pat Holz Pat Wells Carl Gurney Scott Carlisle Apryl Skahill
<b>600 Hours</b> Josh Peterson	<b>150 Hours</b> Julio Castellanos Rose Castellanos	<b>25 Hours</b> Bonell Kopke Laura Cornett Susannah Roberts Jerry Martin
<b>400 Hours</b> Ariana Sariñana	<b>100 Hours</b> Lindsay Whitaker Sherry Pogorzelski	



Above: Longtime volunteer, Refugio Hernandez, on a Dunes Center hike at Black Lake

Photos in this newsletter by Jerry Martin, Caitlin Papathakis, & Dunes Center Staff

## ExSightings

This is where we list the animal sightings from the local area. Thank you to those who stopped by to share your exciting sightings, especially Georgia Simpson! Please stop by the Dunes Center and share yours!

- painted lady butterfly
- blue-winged teal
- black crown night heron
- red-tailed hawk
- osprey
- Northern rough-wing swallow
- great blue heron
- ring-billed gull
- California vole
- least tern
- barn swallow
- tree swallow
- pied-bill grebe



# Fourth Annual Dunes Center Golf Tournament

Friday, September 17th, 2010  
Monarch Dunes Golf Course  
Shotgun Start at 12:00pm

Golf Games & Contests  
Food & Wine Tasting  
Cocktail Hour  
Live & Silent Auctions

To register, please contact the Dunes Center at 805.343.2455 or visit us online at [www.dunescenter.org](http://www.dunescenter.org)



## Board of Directors President

Greg McGowan

Vice President

Frances Romero

Treasurer

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Directors

Barbara Hauck

David Hosking

John Karamitsos

Jules Reuter

Robin Hayhurst

Veronica Forest

Advisors to the Board

Christina Holenda

Ken Wolf

Sharon Kayser

## eNewsletter

The Dunes Center is transitioning to an eNewsletter to save money, time, and the environment! Please share your e-mail address with us so that we may send you our eNewsletter as well as invitations to special events online. If you do not provide us with an address, please expect phone calls from Dunes Center representatives in the near future. Thank you!

## Staff

Executive Director

Mario Castellanos

Education and Administrative Coordinator

Kanani Fox

House Host

Carol Daniels

AmeriCorps Member

Cailin O'Meara

Education and Outreach Specialist

Chris Franske

FITS Program Leaders

Elysha Oyler & Lindsey Whitaker

Education Program Interns

Ariana Sariñana, Karl Gurney, Scott

Carlisle, Apryl Skahil,

Sarah Alarcon, Sherry Pogorzelski  
& Nayvette Chavez (SYEP)

The Dunes Center is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit. Our newsletter is printed on recycled paper. For more information regarding our programs, hikes, or events, please contact us at 805.343.2455 or visit our website at [www.dunescenter.org](http://www.dunescenter.org).

The Dunes Center  
1055 Guadalupe Street  
Guadalupe, CA 93434



**DUNES  
CENTER**



J. Martin

A special thank you to **ConocoPhillips** for mailing our newsletter.



Yes! I want to become a Dunes Center Member.

Membership benefits include: quarterly newsletter, quarterly special events calendar, 10% off book store purchases, access to monthly educational forum, reduced facility rental fees. Please accept my payment of:

- \$2,500.00 Lifetime Membership
- \$60.00 Family Membership
- \$45.00 Couple Membership
- \$35.00 Individual Membership
- \$20.00 Student Membership (student ID required)

Check Enclosed

Please Charge my Visa or Mastercard

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