



Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority

Endowment Provided by the Puente Hills Landfill

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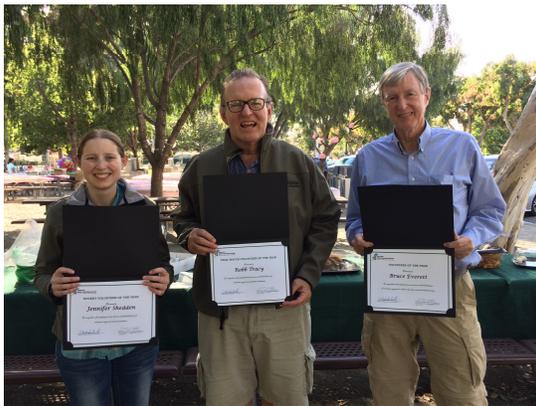
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Annual Volunteer Awards

The Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority) is a local government agency which manages the Puente Hills Preserve, 3,870 acres of hillsides in Whittier, Hacienda Heights and La Habra Heights. On December 9, 2017, the Habitat Authority presented awards to three special volunteers.

The Habitat Authority volunteer program is made up of a group of very talented and conscientious individuals that are helping to promote the agency's mission and stewardship of the Puente Hills Preserve. The Habitat Authority volunteers' time is extremely valuable in helping us to maintain trails and provide quality outdoor educational programming to the surrounding community. Trail Watch volunteers help with acting as our rangers' eyes and ears on the trails, alerting us to important information on the trails and much more. Also, our Docent volunteers are a critical element in our free community outdoor educational programming. Since the beginning of the docent program, the Habitat Authority has tripled the amount of people it annually reaches.



This year the three award recipients are Jennifer Shedden, Docent Volunteer; Robb Tracy, Trail Watch Volunteer; and Bruce Everett, Overall Volunteer.

Docent Volunteer of the Year 2017

Jennifer Shedden is a La Habra Heights resident, and became a docent September 2016. She has a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from UCR, and is our resident authority on western fence lizards. Jen started out visiting the Preserve as a girl scout, and another Habitat Authority volunteer, Tracy Wittman, recommended her highly as a docent. Her outgoing personality and enthusiasm shine in all she does. In addition to her many internships and volunteering, she still finds time to train her dog, Badger, and has made leaps and bounds with him since his paws hit

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the trails a year ago. This year Jen has been a big help in leading many of our programs, especially our Girl Scout programs, Hills Alive and Dog Pack hikes.

Trail Watch Volunteer of the Year 2017

Robb Tracy lives in Whittier and first began volunteering for the Habitat Authority in 2013 as a docent. Following a recent hiatus, Robb rejoined our group in January 2017 as a trail watch volunteer and has been a dedicated and tireless participant all year! His trail watch reports are descriptive and help the rangers manage the Preserve. Robb loves our trails and giving back to the community. He is a very valuable asset to our Preserve, and we are so happy to have him back with us!

Overall Volunteer of the Year 2017

Bruce Everett is a Whittier resident and retired neurosurgeon. He has been a volunteer with the Habitat Authority since 2010 and has a great story about wanting to volunteer. He says that he volunteers because he doesn't want to sit around in his bathrobe during his retirement. That said, we can't imagine Bruce sitting down at all! Bruce is continuously traveling the world, and allowing us to live vicariously through his beautiful photographs. Bruce also provides many photographs to staff of the happenings in the Preserve, and each year generously donates calendars with Preserve photographs. Despite his travels, he still has time for the Habitat Authority and has accumulated over 135 volunteer hours this year. He is active in nearly all our programs, trail watch, 10,000 Steps, Hills Alive, monthly hikes, and even special presentations. He is a wealth of knowledge, and captivates his audience with each hike he leads.

The next volunteer training opportunity is in January, and it is offered once a year. We are currently accepting applications. Visit www.HabitatAuthority.org for more information.

The Habitat Authority is a joint powers authority with a Board of Directors consisting of the City of Whittier, County of Los Angeles, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and Hacienda Heights Improvement Association. The Habitat Authority came into existence in 1994 as a condition of approval for the Puente Hills Landfill. It is dedicated to the acquisition, restoration, and management of open space in the Puente Hills for preservation of the land in perpetuity, with the primary purpose to protect the biological diversity. Additionally, the agency will endeavor to provide opportunities for outdoor education and low-impact recreation.

For more information about the Habitat Authority visit www.HabitatAuthority.org. ###