

Angel Gomez, Club Director of Sales

Angel's  
**Be Alive!**



# SHIPLEY NATURE CENTER

— Huntington Beach

**Hello everyone!**

This month we went to Huntington Beach and the Shipley Nature Center. This was my first time at the nature center; there was so much to see. However, it seems with the rain we just had, some of the trails were submerged and were closed. So, if you are planning on going, I recommend you call them especially after a rainfall.

There were many birds flying around and lots of plant life all around us. I think I will have to go back and see the entire park and trails in a few weeks. There is also an area for Frisbee throwing and a dog park just walking distance from Shipley Nature Center.

Let's begin.

**History**

Shipley Nature Center opened in 1974. It's an 18-acre fenced natural area named after former Mayor Donald D. Shipley.

After years of neglect, the Nature Center became overrun with invasive, exotic plant species that crowded out more desirable native plants on which local native wildlife depends. Non-native tamarisk and giant reeds depleted the ground water. Dead Monterey pines and giant reeds were a fire risk and needed to be removed. The Blackbird Pond suffered from lack of oxygen, especially during the summer months. With donations and grants and both paid and volunteer labor, the Friends of Shipley Nature Center and the City of Huntington Beach spearheaded a complete restoration. Included in the restoration were the removal of invasive, non-native plants, upgrading of the trail system, installation of a drip irrigation system to enhance water conservation, and the planting of 50,000 California native plants.

Water-feature restoration included the creation of a freshwater stream to provide pond circulation and aeration. The stream will



A Northern saw-whet owl and a butterfly.



Kathy, Angel Jr. and Aden walk on the path.

**Shipley Nature Center**

17851 Goldenwest St.  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

**Area:** 18 acres

**Difficulty Rating:** causal walking

**Activities:** bird watching, animal and plant life education

**Hours:** Mon. – Sat.: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Closed on Sundays and all major holidays.  
Parking available.

**Directions:** Take the I-5 south, then merge with the I-605 south. Take the I-405 south, then exit Bolsa Avenue toward Goldenwest Street. Turn left onto Westminster Mall. Take the first right onto Goldenwest Street. Destination will be on your right.

provide a powerful lure for migrating and resident birds. Restoration will greatly enhance habitat value for wildlife and will provide improved opportunities for environmental education.

The center has more than 4,000 feet of well-maintained trails that walk you through several habitats, including oak woodlands, Torrey pines, meadows, and Blackbird Pond, a natural freshwater wetland with mature willows and sycamores. Within the Nature Center is a 1,500-square-foot interpretive building



West Meadow Freeman Creek loop.

with exhibits on local wildlife and ecology.

I liked this area; it was very quite and relaxing. The staff and volunteers at the park were also helpful and willing to answer my questions. We all liked the wildlife and ecology exhibits in the building. There is a lot of educational information with models and hands-on games for children, plus programs offered on animal and plant life in the area. I would recommend this area for your kids and of course the adults, too.

Let's make 2013 another great year filled with outside activities! Get outside have fun with your family and friends.

Don't forget to bring your camera and take lots of photos, and send them to me at [agomez@cityemployeesclub.com](mailto:agomez@cityemployeesclub.com). Bring water, snacks and maybe some sunscreen.

**As always, Be Alive!,  
Angel**



Angel Jr. and a bobcat.



Wildlife Exhibit at Shipley Nature Center.



Angel Jr. and Aden learn and play at the puppet station.



The Shipley Nature Center sign.



A nice lake area next to Shipley Nature Center.

Northern Saw-whet Owl