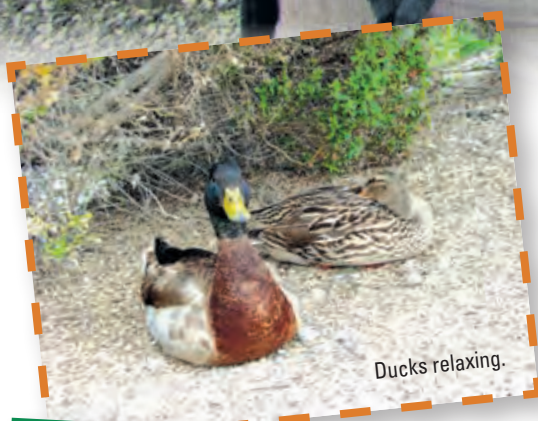


Angel Gomez, Club Director of Sales

# Angel's *Be Alive!*



Angel Jr. is by the information sign.



Ducks relaxing.



Our new friend looks for birds, too.



There are many trails to choose from.



Kathy, Angel Jr. and Aden are in front of the Sea and Sage Audubon Chapter House.



## Hello everyone!

This month we are going to the city of Irvine. I thought, let's take it easy this month and just walk on flat ground. With that in mind, I looked around and found the perfect spot – Irvine's Ranch Water District San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. This is a truly hidden gem in Orange County. The relaxing atmosphere is apparent the moment you park your car. The volunteer staff is so helpful – they almost forced us to take binoculars and checked the sizes for my boys, and gave us the rundown on the area and sent us on our merry way.

### The Sanctuary Walk

Wow! This wildlife sanctuary is right in the middle of Irvine, with about 12 miles of trails. The place is amazing for bird watchers, joggers and walkers, and serves as a living laboratory location for students, teachers and the general public.

As you park your car, you will see a few structures like homes that serve as educational rooms. The San Joaquin Marsh Campus houses the Audubon House; the Duck Club; the IRWD Visitors Center at the Marsh House; the IRWD Learning Center; the Sea and Sage Audubon House; and the Caretaker's House. The Marsh House, a 1920s-era farmhouse from the original Irvine Ranch, is now home to an interpretive center where visitors can learn about the marsh, water conservation and environmental protection. The first building you will see will be Audubon House. Next to that is the Duck Club, which is adjacent to Audubon House. Go inside each

one and spend some time looking around and finding out what wonderful animal life is just a few steps away.

**Important information:** The wetlands are a critical component of IRWD's Natural Treatment System, as they naturally clean urban runoff from San Diego Creek and help to

protect the environmentally sensitive Upper Newport Bay. After interacting with the bulrush and other plants for seven to ten days, up to 70 percent of the nitrogen is removed. The cleaner water is returned to the creek to continue its journey to Upper Newport Bay and the ocean.

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 safe and *Be Alive!*, Angel**



The Irvine Ranch Water District San Joaquin Marsh Campus.

## San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary

5 Riparian View • Irvine, CA 92612

- Acreage:** more than 300
- Length of trails:** 12 miles
- Difficulty rating:** easy walk
- Duration:** 1 to 2 hours or longer
- Activities:** walking, bird watching, photography
- Not permitted:** bicycles, dogs, horses and other animals
- Hours:** dusk to dawn every day

**Parking:** free at location  
**Directions:** From downtown Los Angeles, take the I-5 south until you reach the I-605 south, then take CA-73 toward San Diego Freeway. Exit on University Drive, turn left onto University Drive. Turn left onto Campus Drive, then slightly right onto Riparian View. Destination will be on your left. You can also take the I-5 Freeway to the CA-55, then CA-73 south and follow the same street directions.