

FEBRUARY
2023

VOL. 7

CCW QUARTERLY

The Official Education Newsletter of the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park



A Message From Owlie the Owl:

Is love in the air? You-hoo bet there is! I can't wait to show you all the things I love about the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park. I love teaching you about my home, animal friends, plants, and environmental stewardship.

As always, you can download all my activities from this newsletter and previous editions by visiting ieua.org and clicking on "Learn About Water." Visit me at the Park soo(HOO)n!

What's Inside:

[Education Updates](#)

[Water Maze](#)

[Advice From Owlie](#)

[Plant Scramble](#)

[Species Spotlight](#)

[Water Word Scramble](#)

[Wally's Word of the Day](#)

-Owlie



EDUCATION UPDATES

WATER IS LIFE

The "Water is Life" Recognition Event hosted by the Metropolitan Water District was held in December to honor the 2022-23 poster contest winners. Congratulations to IEUA's winners, Veronica Graupner from Colony High School and Ava Salisbury from Magnolia Elementary. Additionally, the **2023 Water is Life Poster Contest** is now open for submissions. Visit the Student Art Poster Contest web page <https://www.ieua.org/learn-about-water/student-art-poster-contest/> for more information.



EARTH DAY 2023



Earth Day Celebration is scheduled to return in-person. IEUA is hosting **Community Day** on **Thursday, April 20th** from 4pm to 7pm. Contact Yvonne Lam at ylam@ieua.org for more information.

Calling all educators! Earth Day Celebration's **Student Day** will be on **Wednesday, April 19th**. IEUA is accepting RSVP's for this fun celebration. Contact Yvonne Lam at ylam@ieua.org to sign-up your class. Spaces are limited.

WATER DISCOVERY FIELD TRIP

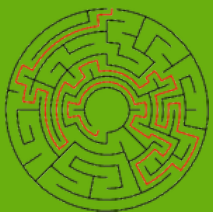
Spread the word! The Inland Empire Utilities Agency is back for free, in-person Water Discovery Field Trips at the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park for K-12 students. Get your date secured by visiting www.ieua.org/water-discovery-program/.



WALLY'S WATER MAZE



SEND A PHOTO OF
YOUR COMPLETED
MAZE TO
@IEUAWATER ON
SOCIAL MEDIA FOR A
PRIZE!



Can you help Wally find the Chino
Creek Wetlands and Educational
Park observation tower?

ADVICE FROM OWLIE

CHINO CREEK WETLANDS BLOG

Q: Dear Owlie,

My family and I enjoy bird watching, but sadly, there are no good sightings around my home. My parents' friends told me they saw a Green Heron at the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park. If I visit next week, will I see them too, or was their visit just a coincidence?

Sincerely,

Brave Bird Watcher



A: Dear Brave Bird Watcher,

Woo-HOO-HOO! I sure enjoy meeting fellow wildlife fans. Bird watching is a great skill and a fun hobby. I'm sure you're always impressing your friends with your sharp eyes. Like me, Green Herons are known residents at the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park. These birds are commonly spotted because of their bright yellow eyes and shorter necks.

To answer your question, I do not believe your friend seeing a Green Heron bird at the Park was a coincidence, but there were probably a few factors that contributed to them spotting these birds. First, guests are asked to stay on the paths. Secondly, guests are encouraged to quietly admire the birds and keep noise down.

The Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park is home not only to Green Herons but other wildlife, and it's important to be respectful of their homes. During your visit, you may come across bird boxes, and sometimes birds will gather around them. Never touch the bird boxes or feed wildlife. Your presence should not disturb the animal's normal behaviors. If it does, it's a sign that you're too close!

After all is said and done, remember to always be patient when bird watching. While some birds sing and announce their lovely presence, other birds tend to be quieter and blend into the wetlands and trees. Spotting a bird might only become obvious when you stay still for a while. My friend, the Green Heron, is commonly spotted around lakes, ponds, marshes, and swamps, but sometimes their color might also make them camouflage, too. My bonus tip is to not walk with binoculars on as you may be prone to tripping. Could be (H)awkward!

Talk to you so(HOO)on!

Owlie



PLANT SCRAMBLE

SEND A PHOTO OF
YOUR COMPLETED
ACTIVITY TO
@IEUAWATER ON
SOCIAL MEDIA FOR
A PRIZE!

Unscramble each word to reveal the
name of the native plants below!

1 yrbae mnaas



2 ttacsails



3 gniat dere



SPECIES SPOTLIGHT

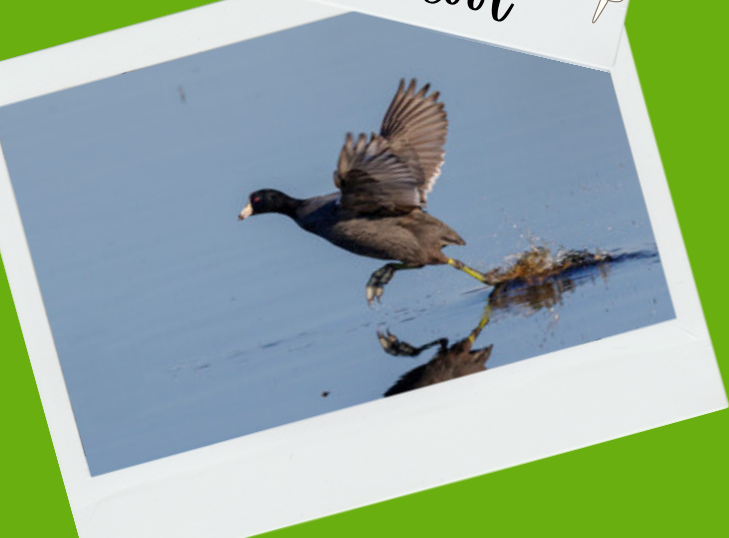
PLANT: COYOTE BRUSH

The Coyote Brush is part of the sunflower family and is drought-tolerant. Native to California, the plant flourishes in sun and shade. It can reach between 4 - 6 feet in length. With its late bloom of August - December, the Coyote Brush's small flowers are an essential nectar for wasps and small butterflies within the wetlands.



ANIMAL: AMERICAN COOT

The American Coots are dark-gray to black birds with a recognizable bright-white bill and forehead. This bird is commonly mistaken as a duck due to their body size, but the Coot is part of the Rallidae family. However, similar to ducks, they can be found in ponds, marshes, and wetlands, as this is where they form their habitats and forge their food. The American Coot redefines the saying: If it looks like a duck and walks like a duck, it must be a duck.



WATER WORD SCRAMBLE

D B R I _____

F F O R N U _____

O S T R M _____

T A R L I _____

SEND A PHOTO OF
YOUR COMPLETED
WORD SCRAMBLE TO
@IEUAWATER ON
SOCIAL MEDIA FOR
A PRIZE!

WATER WORD SCRAMBLE ANSWERS: BIRD | RUNOFF | STORM | TRAIL

WALLY'S WORD OF THE DAY

con · den · sa · tion

noun

1. The process that changes water vapor to liquid water. Condensation is a water phase change.

CONDENSATION



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



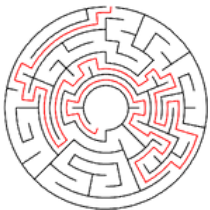
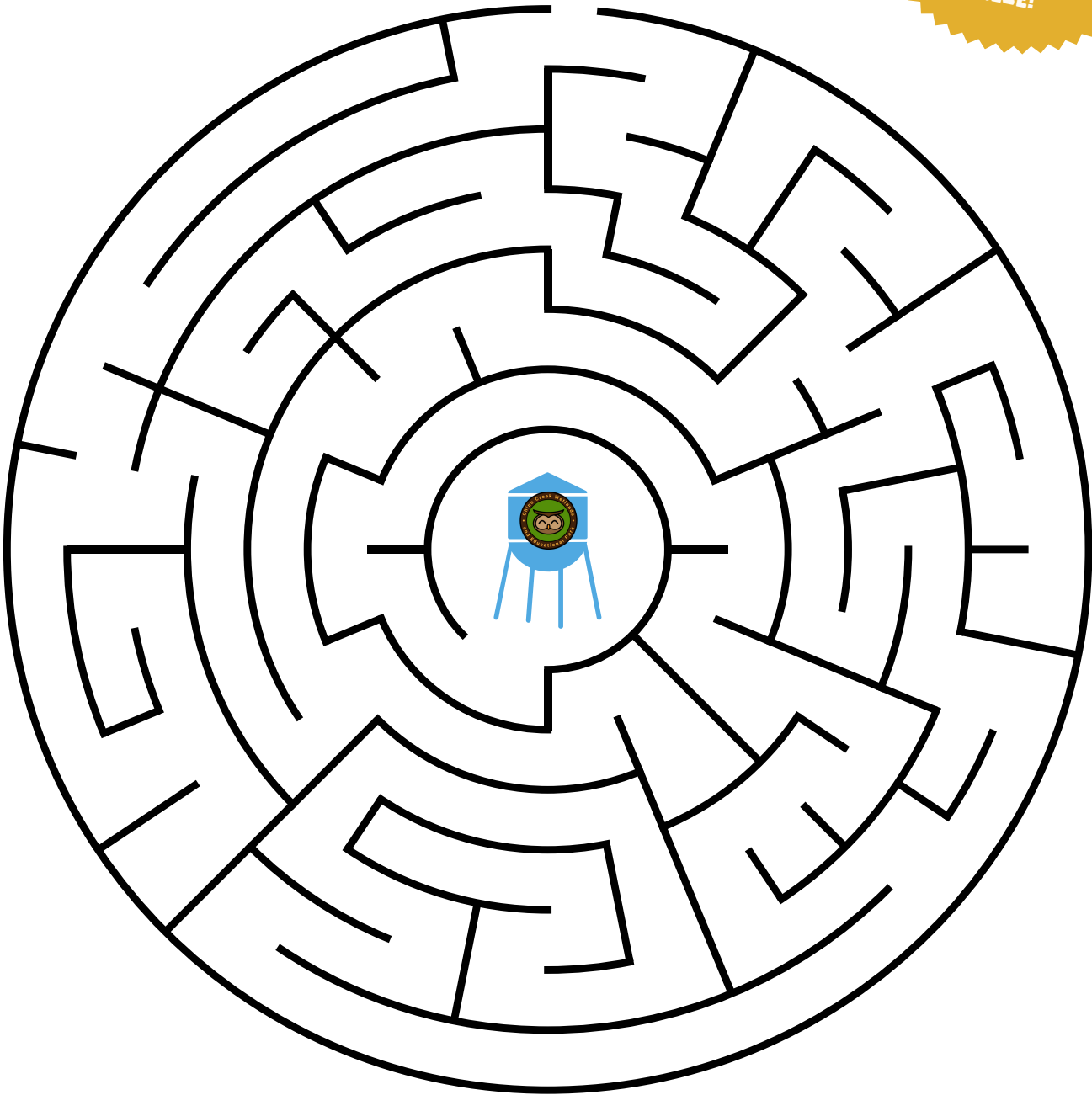
@chinocreekwetlands

@IEUAWater

WALLY'S WATER MAZE



SEND A PHOTO OF
YOUR COMPLETED
MAZE TO
@IEUAWATER ON
SOCIAL MEDIA FOR A
PRIZE!



Can you help Wally find the Chino
Creek Wetlands and Educational
Park observation tower?

PLANT SCRAMBLE

Unscramble each word to reveal the name of the native plants below!

SEND A PHOTO OF
YOUR COMPLETED
ACTIVITY TO
@IEUAWATER ON
SOCIAL MEDIA FOR
A PRIZE!

1 yrbae mnaas



2 ttacsails



3 gniat dere



WATER WORD SCRAMBLE

SEND A PHOTO OF
YOUR COMPLETED
WORD SCRAMBLE TO
@IEUAWATER ON
SOCIAL MEDIA FOR
A PRIZE!

D B R I _ _ _ _

F F O R N U
_ _ _ _ _

O S T R M _ _ _ _

T A R L I _ _ _ _

WATER WORD SCRAMBLE ANSWERS: BIRD | RUNOFF | STORM | TRAIL