On Friday, March 15, I had the pleasure of hosting the Evergreen Rotary Club meeting at the Evergreen Audubon Education Center. During the meeting, Evergreen Audubon volunteer and Rotary Club member Mendhi Audlin, and her daughter Jenna, presented a program about the importance of getting children outside and active in nature. They also highlighted the wonderful work that the Rotary Club did, providing both funds and many hours of manual labor to renovate the Education Center. Mendhi and I were honored to present a plaque to the Club in appreciation of their support.

Since many of the Club members were not familiar with Evergreen Audubon, I gave a short presentation about our various programs and my own environmental education philosophy. Then I invited the Rotary Club members into our classrooms and let them experience some environmental science learning first hand: The microscopes, owl pellets, furs, bones and rocks were set up for study and much of our taxidermy was on display. Judging from their active engagement, the Rotarians thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained a real sense of what children experience in our programs. Finally, this fun-filled morning was finished off with a “meet and greet” with our ambassador bullsnake, Jennifer!

It was a pleasure to meet the members of Evergreen Rotary Club, most of whom were new to me, and to learn about their work in the community. I was pleased to discover how many of them are passionate about youth education and the environment and look forward to continuing our partnership with them.

Dina Baker