

# Canyon News

Black Mountain Park • Del Mar Mesa Preserve

Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

July & Aug. 2005

Volume 19, No. 4

## Fawning Time

Rick Botta

If you've been out and about in Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, or other coastal areas inhabited by our Southern Mule Deer, you may have been fortunate enough to notice that it's fawning time again!

The fawning season in San Diego County typically begins in June and can extend into August, with the fawning season starting earlier nearer to the coast. Based upon my previous sightings over the years along with information gathered using our remote sensing cameras, the fawning season in Penasquitos Canyon usually begins in May. My first fawn sighting in Penasquitos Canyon this year was on May 13th near the waterfalls where I sighted a doe and her new fawn drinking from the creek. I ran into this same doe in the same area about a week earlier. She was bedded down, but based upon the way she bolted and the direction she headed, I suspected she had a fawn hidden nearby and was trying to lead any potential threat well away from her newborn.

The spots on this fawn were just beginning to fade, from which I estimated it being born in late April – a bit earlier than normal. In past years, we have evi-

See p. 3 for more

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Golden Eagles

## An Eye to the Sky

Doug Schanzenbach

It's that time of year again: Spring. The renewal of the life cycle. The desert flowers have been sensational this year thanks to our heavy rains. The rains also translate into a population explosion for small mammals and therefore raptors as well.

We are blessed with many raptors in San Diego county; hawks, owls, and eagles to name a few. I've had the privilege the past couple of years of assisting in banding baby Golden Eagles with Wildlife Research Institute (WRI) in Ramona. May is the crucial month in this banding process.

The number of active Golden Eagle pairs in San Diego county is somewhere in the mid forties. Nests are monitored on a continuing basis throughout the year. Some nests have records of being occupied every year for almost a hundred years; other pairs have multiple nests and they choose between them each year. Generally these multiples are within a few hundred yards of each other.

The mating process starts at the

See p. 7 for more



Rick Botta took this picture of a fawn eating Bristley Oxtongue (*Picris echioides*) near the historic ranch house off Black Mountain Rd. Despite the rough, bristley surface of the plant, it's a favorite of mule deer.

## Cool of Evening Best Time for Walks

With the hot weather upon us, you'll find that early morning, late afternoon, and evenings are the best times to enjoy the preserve. And we've scheduled our walks accordingly. Evening walks are a very good time to see wildlife such as deer, coyotes, owls, snakes, tarantulas, and more.

All hikes are free to the public. If you're bringing an organized group please call 858.484.3219 to make arrangements. Rain cancels hikes. Be sure to wear hiking boots and bring water, insect repellent, and sun protection. See you on the trail.

### Every Saturday & Sunday

#### Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

San Diego County Park docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's second oldest standing residence, Rancho Santa María de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds.

**La Cocina Gift Shop Hours:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sundays. The Ranch House is located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7)**.

### July

#### Beginner & Intermediate Tracking Walks

Sat., July 9, 8–10 a.m. Tracker/naturalists from the Friends' Tracking Team will lead two walks, one suitable for beginners (children welcome!) and intermediates. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Wear shoes that are good in mud. Meet at the historic ranch house. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take 1st left into Canyonside Dr., proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, walk west on trail to ranch. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 C7**.

#### López Canyon Nature Walk with Barbara Moore

Sun., July 10, 3–5 p.m. Enjoy the birds, beasts and blossoms of López Canyon with the co-author of *Walking San Diego*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing by the author. Meet in West-end Parking- Staging area off Sorrento Valley Road, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5)**.

#### Black Mtn. Park Citizens Advisory Cte.

Thur., July 14, 7 p.m. Public is welcome to attend this meeting to plan park activities. Meeting is at Canyonside Recreation Center at Black Mountain Rd and Canyonside Driveway. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (D7)**.

#### Del Mar Mesa & Waterfall Walk

Sat., July 16, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Join Pat Watkins for a moderately paced to Walden Pond, Carson's Crossing and the waterfall and back. Good chance of seeing wildlife. Meet at the kiosk at Camino del Sur (the old Camino Ruiz) and Park Village Drive in Rcho Peñasquitos. Bring insect repellent, water and wear hiking boots. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (J7)**.

#### Night Hike with Will Bowen

Sat., July 16, 8–9:30 p.m. A hike to look for nocturnal critters such as owls, deer, bats, and coyotes. We'll also take time to contemplate the moon, stars, and constellations. Find out how the ancients saw the night sky. Bring a flashlight, insect repellent, and hiking boots. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/4 mile east of the Coaster station. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

#### Night Wildlife Walk w. Mike Kelly

Sun., July 17, 7–9 p.m. Join Mike Kelly for evening walk. Chance to see wildlife. Meet at the end of Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots, bring insect repellent, and water. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (J7)**.

Map of Preserve is available at [www.penasquitos.org](http://www.penasquitos.org) or go to [www.cityofsandiego.com](http://www.cityofsandiego.com) & navigate to the open space park link & Los Peñasquitos.

#### Peñasquitos Preserve Citizens' Advisory Comm.

Thurs., July 21, 7 p.m. Public is welcome to attend this business meeting to plan park activities. Meeting is at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Driveway, past the Canyonside Rec Center. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (D7)**.

#### Nature Walk from Mercy Road

Sun., July 24, 8:30 a.m. Join naturalist Linda King for this moderately paced nature walk. Learn native plants and their uses. Meet in Mercy Road Parking-Staging area, upper level at the junction of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

#### Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors

Tues., July 26, 7 p.m. Members are welcome to attend this business meeting to plan Friends' activities. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Driveway. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7)**.

### August

#### Volunteer Arundo Bash in Peñasquitos Lagoon

Sat., Aug. 6, 9 a.m.– 1 p.m. Join us in cutting down several stands of the giant reed (*Arundo donax*) in Sorrento Valley. Tools supplied. Bring water, wear long sleeves and long pants. No experience needed. Meet at 11230 Sorrento Valley Road. Call Mike at 858-566-6489 for more details. **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (H3)**.

#### López Canyon Nature Walk with Barbara Moore

Sun., Aug. 7, 3–5 p.m. Enjoy the birds, beasts and blossoms of López Canyon with the co-author of *Walking San Diego*. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing by the author. Meet in West-end Parking- Staging area off Sorrento Valley Road, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento

Parkway in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5)**.

### **Beginner & Intermediate Tracking Walks**

Sat., Aug. 13, 8–10 a.m.

Tracker/naturalists from the Friends' Tracking Team lead two walks, one suitable for beginners (children welcome!) and an intermediate. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Wear shoes that are good in mud. Meet at the historic ranch house. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., right on Black Mtn. Rd. and 1st left into Canyonside Dr., proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, walk west on trail to ranch. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 C7**.

### **Night Hike with Will Bowen**

Sat., Aug. 13, 8–9:30 p.m. A hike to look for nocturnal critters such as owls, deer, bats, and coyotes. We'll also take time to contemplate the moon, stars, and constellations. Find out how the ancients saw the night sky. Bring a flashlight, insect repellent, and hiking boots. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/4 mile east of the Coaster station. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

### **Nature & Flower Walk from Mercy Road**

Sun., Aug. 14, 8:30 a.m. Join naturalist Linda King for this moderately paced nature walk. Learn native plants and their uses. Meet in Mercy Road Parking-Staging area, upper level at the junction of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

### **Night Wildlife Walk with Mike Kelly**

Sun., Aug. 21, 7–9 p.m. Join Mike Kelly for evening walk. Chance to see wildlife. Meet at the end of Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots, bring insect repellent, and water. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (J7)**.

### **Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Bd. of Directors**

Tues., Aug. 23, 7 p.m. Members are welcome to attend this business meeting to plan Friends' activities. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch

House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Driveway. **Thomas Guide p. 1189-C7**.

## **DIRECTIONS**

### **Mercy Road Parking-Staging Area**

In Mira Mesa. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. and straight across intersection into parking lot. Meet on upper level. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (D7)**.

### **Northern Parking-Staging Area**

Located in Rancho Peñasquitos. From I-15 take the Mercy Road exit west to Black Mountain Road. Right on Black Mountain Road and up hill, left on Park Village Drive, about 1 mile to Camino del Sur. Left on Camino del Sur and park by the kiosk. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7)**.

### **Park Village Drive Meeting Area**

Located in Rancho Peñasquitos. From I-15 take the Mercy Road exit west to Black Mountain Road. Right on Black Mountain Road and up hill, left on Park Village Drive and take it all the way to the end at the white barricades and park entrance. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 – 1188 (J7)**.

### **Ranch House Walks/Tours**

Located in Rancho Peñasquitos. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Road. Right on Black Mountain. Left at first light, Canyonside Park Dr. Go past ballfields to the white-fenced parking lot. Left into the lot. Walk up path to the ranch. house. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7)**.

### **Sorrento Valley Meeting Area**

Meet in parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Sorrento Valley Road. **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5)**.

### **West-End Parking-Staging Area**

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of intersection with Vista Sorrento Pky. From east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to bottom of the hill. Entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east, pass last building on the right. Preserve entrance is on right. **Thomas Guide p. 1208, (D5)**.

## **(Fawn cont'd)**

dence of fawns in Penasquitos Canyon being born as late as August and as early as the end of April. Twin fawns are common, but this depends on the age of the doe and nutritional factors. You can roughly estimate the age of a fawn from its spots. Spots begin to fade at about 3 weeks and will be completely gone in as early as 6 weeks, 8 at the outset.

So, as you're out and about, look for evidence of these new arrivals to our wildlife community. Remember that fawns will spend a great deal of time bedded down and under cover in their early weeks while the mother is feeding. So if you happen to run into a fawn that is bedded down, remember to leave it alone. You would be surprised at the number of people who find what they believe are "abandoned" fawns and turn them into wildlife rescue agencies.

We will be performing our next deer survey in Penasquitos Preserve in July, so we'll be able to get a better idea of what this years fawn population looks like.

## **Volunteer Arundo Bash in Peñasquitos Lagoon**

**Sat., Aug. 6, 9 a.m.– 1 pm**

Join us in cutting down several stands of the giant reed (*Arundo donax*) in Sorrento Valley. Tools supplied. Bring water, wear long sleeves and long pants. No experience needed. Meet at 11230 Sorrento Valley Road. Call Mike at 858-566-6489 for more details. **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (H3)**.

# Thoughts of a New Ranger

County Ranger Autumn Acker

As one of the true historic, cultural, architectural, and environmental gems within San Diego County, Los Penasquitos Canyon and the Adobe Ranch House have been a draw to me since I arrived here four years ago from the Bay Area. I couldn't be happier than to be working in such a unique and beautiful environment with such an exceptional staff. This is officially my 2-month anniversary here at Penasquitos, and I look forward to learning more about the canyon every day.

I have a deep love for history, and my background is reflective of this interest. I graduated from Humboldt State University in 2000 with a BA in History, and moved to San Diego with the hopes of finding a career in historic preservation and parks. I worked as both a volunteer and Head Docent for Save Our Heritage Organisation (or SOHO), at the Whaley House and Museum Gift Shop in Old Town San Diego. This afforded me some wonderful opportunities to experience historic preservation first hand and participate in some fabulous workshops. I attended a Conservation and Museum Exhibition Workshop presented by The Getty Center, L.A., and completed courses presented by the Balboa Art Conservation Center on Disaster Response and Preparation, Protecting Collections on Display and in Storage, and Surveying and Evaluation Preservation Needs. I continue to volunteer for SOHO in my spare time.

I was hired by the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department as a Seasonal Ranger at Heritage Park in 2001. My duties included interpretation of a historic site, implementing docent training programs and special events, grounds maintenance, and assisting the Site Supervisor in all aspects of running the park. In 2003 I was hired as a full-time Park Ranger at Heritage. During that time I received my Wilderness First Responder and Peace Officer Standardized Training Certifications.

Here at Penasquitos, I am looking forward to many new experiences. Paul Kucharczyk, Supervising Park Ranger at Penasquitos, is a wealth of information on the native species of this canyon, and I hope to improve upon my interpretive skills from him. I am thrilled to be working with P.J. Piburn, our wonderful live-in volunteer, on the La Vida Del Rancho school program, which brings history alive to 4th graders from all over the County. I am equally thrilled to be working with Lynne Christenson, our County Parks Historian, on implementing a program to furnish the adobe with period pieces. I also have much to learn from the rest of the volunteers and staff at Penasquitos: Alex Bedoya, Kelly Kwast, Dick Stevens, and Gale Withrow.

Most of my fondest memories as a young child involve camping and hiking with my family all over the Western United States. I remember going to "Ranger talks" and being fascinated by all of the information. I feel so lucky to be Ranger today in such a beautiful preserve. It is a absolute pleasure to come to work everyday. Please stop in to say hello and introduce yourself anytime!

**Friends' Redesigned  
Website at  
[www.penasquitos.org](http://www.penasquitos.org)**

(Rattlesnake cont'd)

knowing exactly what kind of snake it is.

If your pet is bitten, reactions vary with the size of the animal, where on the body they were bit and how much venom was injected. It's important to get your pet to a Veterinarian immediately; there is an antivenom for pets as well. Know where the emergency clinics are in your neighborhood or the area you may be visiting.

Don't let your fear keep you from enjoying the outdoors. For all their fearsome reputation, rattlesnakes are quite shy and do not come after people. They'll strike only in self-defense. If you can learn to behave in a way that does not frighten snakes, you will greatly reduce your chances of a confrontation. Here are some common-sense suggestions:

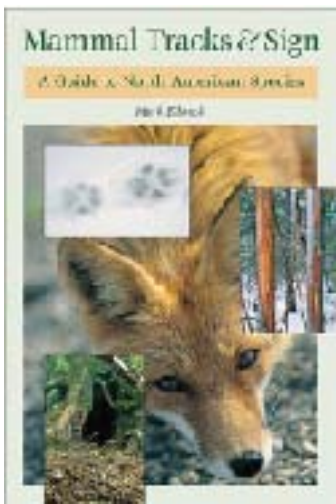
- Stay on the designated trails, this enables you to see where you're walking, preventing you from surprising a snake and/or stepping on one.
- Keep pets leashed (it's the law); Dogs are curious and fascinated with rattlesnakes, they will take every opportunity to put their nose in a hole. If they're off leash, their chances of encountering a snake are greater and the results can be both costly and deadly.
- If you'll be hiking in a remote area, don't hike alone.
- Always wear sturdy shoes with socks when you are out walking in grassy or rocky areas. Don't allow children to run outside barefoot.
- Don't ever put your hands or feet anywhere you aren't looking. Don't put your hands on rocks or branches over your head, and don't put your hands or feet under anything. Snakes usually pick up the vibrations of feet and walking sticks and get out of the way, but sometimes don't.
- If you have to turn over a rock or log, turn it toward you, keeping your hands on your side of the log, not reaching over it. If it's in your path, walk around it; don't step over it (a snake might be lying on the other side).
- Don't try to catch snakes. This may sound obvious, but most snakebites happen this way. Wild snakes do not make good pets and should never be killed. Remember that collecting or harming any wildlife in parks and open spaces is against the law and hazardous.

Common sense is the best defense. Cultivate an attitude of alertness. The more you know about snakes and how they live, the more aware you will be of where you would expect to encounter them.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding City of San Diego Open Space Parks, policies, wildlife, volunteer opportunities, etc., please contact Senior Park Ranger Lori Gerbac at 858-538-8082.

# The San Diego Tracking Team

Speaker Series Presents



## Mark Elbroch

Tracker, Naturalist & Author

Friday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2005

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

refreshments & books for purchase from 6:30 pm

Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center  
One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, 92119

donations appreciated



Mark Elbroch will be presenting a visual and anecdotal account of the emerging field of wildlife tracking in North America. Using images which stir the mind and spirit, and his stories of traveling and tracking with traditional Bushman and Shongaans hunters and professional trackers, he will explore how we, as a country, might move forward in creating a greater recognition for what wildlife tracking might offer today's American communities. Explore Bushman culture, the southern and central Kalahari and meet the real people who live there today. See and feel the Kruger National Park as Mark recounts adventures trailing lions and leopards-of tracking right in on them! Learn of how birds communicate danger and how tracking is being revived in a modern economy where conservation and ecotourism are gaining greater momentum. Learn also of the tracker evaluation, the system recognized by African governments to sift out the most competent native trackers for employment in various jobs, a system Mark works to help bring to North America in the coming year. Please join us as Mark shares his excitement and passion for wildlife tracking with the San Diego community, and better understand how tracking and organizations such as the San Diego Tracking Team might better contribute to science, to people, and to communities such as our own.

### **About Mark Elbroch**

Mark is the author of *Mammal Tracks and Sign: A Guide to North American Species*, lead author of *Bird Tracks and Sign: A Guide to North American Species*, and coauthor of *Animal Tracks of New England*. He has an additional four books on the way, including: Coauthor, *Peterson's Field Guide to Animal Tracks and Skulls: A Guide to North American Species*. Mark has contributed to numerous research projects in North America, from monitoring collared black bears, to capturing and collaring cougar, to live capturing and censusing small mammals. Mark is also providing the Cybertracker Conservation tracker evaluation tests, to certify qualified trackers in North America. In the creation of the first international standards for wildlife trackers, Louis Liebenberg in South Africa and Mark here in the U.S. hope to see trackers contribute more to field research in the future.

San Diego Tracking Team (760) 715-4102 [sdtt.org](http://sdtt.org)

# Rattlesnake Awareness

Lori C. Gerbac, Sr. Park Ranger

[Editor's note: San Diego County is home to one other venomous snake other than Rattlers, a little-known snake named the Lyre Snake (*Trimorphodon biscutatus*). Because its venom is injected through grooved teeth that are at the back of its jaw and it has a small head it's thought to be no danger to humans. Largely nocturnal, this editor has only seen one in 20 years, a dead one at that! – Mike Kelly.]

Rattlesnakes are not as dangerous as most people think. They're actually shy and secretive animals that choose to avoid confrontations with people and are seldom seen. That does NOT mean, however, that you shouldn't be cautious when hiking, back-packing, or exploring open space areas. If you do see one, leave it alone because, if cornered, it will defend itself.

How most people feel about rattlesnakes is based on the fact that they are not "cute and cuddly." Because they are fierce looking and can bite, and because their warning rattle can startle us, we fear them as a threat and a menace . . . to be avoided and, sometimes killed at all cost.

Rattlesnakes, however, have been on this earth quite a bit longer than humans and serve a very important function in the natural cycle of things. Without them, for example, we just might be over-run with rodents. Eighty percent of a rattlesnake's diet is made up of rodents and, in any given year, they might eat as much as 25% of the rodent population in any given area.

In our area the only venomous snakes dangerous to people are rattlesnakes. In the coastal and mountain regions of San Diego County there are three kinds: the Southern Pacific Rattlesnake, Southwestern Speckled Rattlesnake, and the Red Diamond Rattlesnake. In the desert there is the Colorado Desert Sidewinder.

The Red Diamond Rattlesnake (see photo) is one of the largest rattlers in the region. The longest on record measures a little over 5 feet, but most



**Red Diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber ruber*). Note the 'coon tail': black and white rings. This species is becoming rare in some areas. Photo taken in Peñasquitos Lagoon by Mike**

individuals are in the 2½ to 3½ foot range. Their diet typically consists of rodents, rabbits, and other small mammals, but can include birds.

Its coloration sets it apart from other rattlesnake species in our area, and makes it easy to recognize. The body is a reddish or tan color with a light edged diamond pattern on its back. A distinctive black and white ringed tail finishes the effect, sometimes called a 'coon tail'. The young start their lives gray, and become redder as they mature. Some individuals from the inland valleys develop a striking brick red color.

It's temperature, not time of day that determines how active a rattlesnake is. In southern California, we don't have that much of a temperature differential between winter and summer, so you could see rattlesnakes at just about any time (though they do get lethargic in the cooler months of January and February). Reptiles do not go into true hibernation. The short version is: if it's warm enough (over 50°F), the snakes will be out, no matter what time of day or year it is.

If you think you hear a rattlesnake : **STAND STILL!** Avoid jumping or running blindly. Look carefully until you locate the snake and then make your move. Remember that harmless snakes, moving in dry leaves and grass, can sound a lot like rattlesnakes rattling.

If you, or someone you know is bitten, immobilize the affected area and don't panic. Get the bite victim to a doctor immediately. Don't try any of the old remedies like cutting the bite and sucking out the venom, or using a snakebite kit (research has shown these techniques to be counterproductive). Your best bet is a doctor and anti-venom. If you are unsure if the snake is a poisonous species, treat it as a medical emergency anyway. Don't chase the snake. The antivenom treatment for a rattlesnake bite does not require knowing what species of rattlesnake it is. Therefore, the emergency medical staff should be able to identify the characteristics of a bite without

(Sky cont'd)

beginning of the year and mating takes place in the first quarter. Eggs are laid for the most part in March and incubation averages 41–45 days, both parents taking part (although the female performs over 80% of it). This brings hatching time to the last half of April.

Banding baby Golden Eagles takes place in the nest itself before the eaglet fledges. Eagle nests are generally quite large — large enough for a human to stand in most of the time. Fledging takes place around the tenth week. They're too young until the third or fourth week. Thus the crucial month of May. Forty plus pairs are a load to survey for such a short time frame.

To make the process “easier” the nests are located on high rocky cliffs or in very high trees. Cliff nests can be reached by climbing up the rock faces

or rappelling down. Tree nests require climbing spikes to reach. Of course both types of nests are mostly located in remote parts of the county. Long hikes are needed to get to many of them, although a few can be driven to.

The best news for the hiker, tracker, naturalist —outdoors people of all types, comes after the babies fledge. For the next few months, through mid-fall actually, the parents will be teaching their young the intricacies of hunting — of survival. When being schooled in the fine art of tracking by Barry, Lee, Ann, and Karen each has mentioned the need to keep an occasional eye to the sky. This will be especially rewarding in the next few months — especially in a year of a population explosion of small mammals and raptors.



Photo  
courtesy of  
Dave  
Bittner,  
Wildlife  
Research  
Institute.

## Volunteers Needed Wildlife Survey Training

**Date:** July 16

**Time:** 9:45 a.m. until 4 p.m.

**Location:** Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Contact for information: (760) 715-4142 or visit [www.sdt.org](http://www.sdt.org).

Take part in a countywide track and sign survey to monitor the wildlife of major open space areas and other critical habitats. Learn basic track, sign and habitat recognition, as well as details on the implementation of survey protocol. This training is required for transect volunteers. In exchange for this free training, it is expected that trainees will also participate in at least one transect. Pre-registration is not required for individuals but requested for groups.

The training will be at Los Peñasquitos Adobe (Ranch House), located behind Canyonside Community Park near the intersection of Black Mountain and Mercy Roads. If you have participated in last quarter's survey and do not wish to participate in the training, you may come by between noon and 2 p.m. to sign up for your transects.

It's expected that trainees will also participate in at least one wildlife survey in the weeks following the training. A survey usually averages 4 hours at locations around San Diego County. Trainees will be paired with experienced surveyors for the transects.

**Note:** Pre-registration for the training class is not required. You can just show up.

### Purpose of the surveys

These wildlife surveys have provided important data on the presence or absence of certain species of wildlife such as mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, mule deer, etc., as well as their frequency in a given area. The data has been used in policy making decisions concerning wildlife tunnels, linkages, undercrossings, road opening/closures and more. Your help is needed to expand these surveys to more places in the county. Join us!



**Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.**

P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196  
858-484-3219

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## Check Your Label

Take a moment to examine the address label on this newsletter. Check to see if your expiration date has come and gone. If so, please take the time now to send in a renewal check for your membership dues. This will enable you to keep receiving our newsletter, recognized as one of the best conservation newsletters in San Diego. That way you'll keep learning about the family walks; the plants and animals that inhabit the Preserve, and the many conservation projects open to you and your family or friends.



## Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

Senior (62) or Student \$10 Individual \$15

Family \$20 Sponsor \$30 Patron \$100

Corporate \$250 Life \$1000

Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We are interested in the following:

**Volunteer** to help the committee (call to discuss)

Hikes

Indian Culture

Educational Workshops

School, Family, Youth Programs

Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 7/2005

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196

Thank you for your support! Your donation is tax deductible.

Call **858.484.3219** or **858.566.6489** for more information.

## Friends' Directory

### Officers

President: Brian Swanson 760.739.5451

Vice-President: Don Albright 619.443.5937

Treasurer: Pat Watkins 858.538.2527

Secretary: Rick Botta 858.672.0584

### Other Members of the Board of Directors

Edward DiBella, Ann Harvey, Mike Kelly

### Walk Leaders

Brian Swanson, Don Albright, Will Bowen, Mike Kelly,

Pat Watkins, Linda King and Barbara Moore.

### Committees:

Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman

Newsletter: Mike Kelly

Plant Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki

Stream Survey Committee: open

Voice Mail System: Pat Watkins

Tracking Team Coordinator: Rick Botta, 858.672-0584

Volunteer Coordinator:

Conservation Chair: Mike Kelly, 858.566.6489

Webmaster: open

Wildlife Surveys: Patrick Campbell, 760.471.9197