



# Canyon News

Black Mountain Park · Del Mar Mesa Preserve  
Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve  
Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

May/June 2007  
Volume 21, NO 3

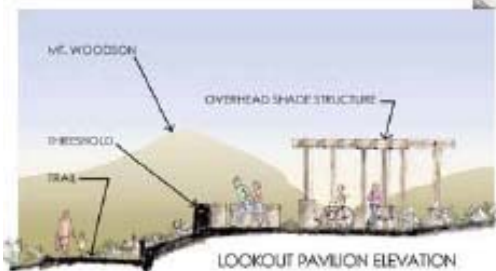
## Your help needed Trail for ALL People

Mike Kelly

As the former Chairperson of the Black Mountain Open Space Park's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) I'm excited to introduce this new project to our Friends' members. The Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve voted to enthusiastically support this trail on Black Mountain. We also voted to act as the fiscal sponsor for any tax-deductible donations and to kick in the first donation, \$1,000.00! This project was initiated by the Black Mountain CAC.

The trail will be accessible by wheelchair and baby stroller and will sport fantastic views from

than \$100,000 to build the trail itself and the amenities along it such as handicapped parking, shade structures, and informational kiosks. The land it will be on is already slated to be a donation to the City by the Black Mountain



the mountain. We also plan to make it attractive and accessible to other handicapped groups. The article that follows these words is taken from the in-house newsletter — Rick Rap — of the Rick Engineering Company. My fellow CAC member, Jas Arnold, has taken the lead on this project and is an employee of Rick Engineering.

We are already receiving promises of in-kind donations of skills, site preparation, aerals, discounts on materials, etc. However, we still need to raise more

Ranch developers, who are supporting the project. We are in the preliminary planning stages and expect to have a detailed budget in 3-4 months.

***If you would like to donate your time or money to this project, your help is definitely needed and welcome!***

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## The Science of Conserving Vernal Pools

Dr. Ellen Bauder

[Vernal pools are one of California's most endangered habitats. They're seasonal pools that form in certain soil types during the rainy season when there is sufficient rainfall to fill them (not this year in San Diego). It's estimated that 97% of our vernal pools are gone, lost to development or agriculture. Organisms that inhabit these pools include both animals and plants found no where else, organisms adapted to extreme fluctuations of climate (prolonged droughts), temperature, and rainfall. Some call them extremophiles and well worth studying because of this. There are vernal pools in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, both on López Ridge and on the Del Mar Mesa, the northern rim of the Preserve. Mike Kelly of the Friends leads limited public walks into vernal pools in years when they fill and function. Read this newsletter for future tours. One of the big problems in conserving vernal pools is the lack of scientific knowledge about them. Much is

See **Vernal Pools** p. 6 for more

## **Upcoming Hikes/Events**

The summer is fast approaching. Be sure to bring adequate water and sunscreen as you prepare for your hikes. 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, Ranch Santa Maria 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.

### **May**

#### **Lopez Canyon Flower Walk with Mike Kelly**

**Saturday, May 5, 9 a. m**

Sponsored by the California Native Plant Society. Mike Kelly will lead a flower and plant identification walk in Lopez Canyon. Expect to see the endangered Willoway monadella, Mountain mahogany, Holly-leaf cherry, hybrid oak tree, *Quercus X Acutidens*, and more. This will be a slow-paced walk with one steep dirt road on a hill to come up and down. Meet at Lopez Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa.

#### **Tracking Walk**

**Saturday, May 12, 8 a.m.**

Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch

House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Penasquitos. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

#### **Tracker / Naturalist Classes Two-day event**

**Wednesday, May 16, 7 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 19, 8 a.m.**

Visit [www.sdt.org](http://www.sdt.org) for more info. Meet at the Peñasquitos Ranch House.

**Thomas Guide p.1189 (C7).**

#### **Volunteer Weed Bash on Luzardi Creek (north city)**

**Sat., May 19, 9 a.m.**

Help protect native habitat along beautiful Luzardi Creek in Santa Luz, part of Black Mtn. Open Space Park. by removing invasive weeds such as tamarisk and arundo. Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off San Dieguito Road, opposite Montien Rd. Contact mike at [mkellysd@aol.com](mailto:mkellysd@aol.com) for more info.

#### **Volunteer Trash Pickup**

**Sat., May 26, 9 a.m.**

Meet at Lopez Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. This is now a regular, 4th Saturday of each month event.

**Thomas Guide, p. 1208 (D5).**

#### **Herb Walk**

**Sunday, May 27, 5 — 6:30 p.m.**

Learn to identify the different trees, plants, and shrubs of Penasquitos Canyon. Find out how they have been used for food and medicine. Start: West End Parking Staging Area.

**Thomas Guide p.1208 (D5).**

#### **Geology Hike with Don Albright**

**Sun., May 27, 9 a.m.— noon.**

Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at the intersection of Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa, in the cul-de-sac on the south side of Calle Cristobal. Wear good boots for steep trail and bring water and sun protection.

**Thomas Guide p. 1208**

### **June**

#### **Tracking Walk**

**Saturday, June 14, 8 a.m.**

Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Penasquitos.

**Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

#### **Canyon Favorites Hike**

**Saturday, June 16, 5 — 7 p.m.**

Join Pat for a moderately paced hike to Walden Pond, Carson's Crossing, the waterfall, and back. Good chance of seeing wildlife. Meet at the end of Park Village Road in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring water and wear hiking boots.

**Thomas Guide p. 1189 (J7).**

#### **Volunteer Weed Bash on Luzardi Creek (north city)**

**Sat., June 16, 9 a.m.**

Help protect native habitat along beautiful Luzardi Creek in Santa Luz, part of Black Mtn. Open Space Park. by removing invasive weeds such as tamarisk and arundo. Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off San Dieguito Road, opposite Montien Rd. Contact mike at [mkellysd@aol.com](mailto:mkellysd@aol.com) for more info.

#### **Volunteer Trash Pickup**

**Sat., June 23, 9 a.m.**

Meet at Lopez Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. This is now a regular, 4th Saturday of each month event.

**Thomas Guide, p. 1208 (D5).**

#### **Herb Walk**

**Sunday, June 24, 5 — 6:30 p.m.**

Learn to identify the different trees, plants, and shrubs of Penasquitos Canyon. Find out how they have been used for food and medicine. Start: 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd

**Thomas Guide p.1208 (D5).**

**Geology Walk with Don Albright Sun., June 24, 9 a.m.– noon.**

Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at the intersection of Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa, in the cul-de-sac on the south side of Calle Cristobal. Wear good boots for steep trail and bring water and sun protection.

**See Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).**

**Directions**

**Carmel Mountain Trail Head**

From Carmel Valley take El Camino Real south. At intersection with Carmel Mountain Road, proceed straight on Carmel Mountain Road. Go up the hill to East Ocean Air Dr. Go left and park at Fairport and Shorepointe. Wear hiking boots. Bring water/sun protection. Moderate hill to climb.

**Thomas Guide p.1208 (C2).**

**Mercy Rd 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 ball fields 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 Blvd 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).**

**New Map Placards at Black Mountain Open Space**

Senior Ranger Lori C. Gerbac

Aspiring Eagle Scout, Ian McFarland, recently designed, constructed and installed four map placards for the Black Mountain Open Space trails surrounding the Santaluz community. Working diligently on planning this Eagle Scout project for the last year, Ian worked with the Ranger staff on the design and specific need requirements. He obtained the pertinent approvals, designed the placards and raised funds to purchase all materials. Ian pre-fabricated the placards. He and his father, Scott, rode their bikes on the 10 mile Santaluz trail system to determine GPS map coordinates. To prepare

April 15th, the project day, Ian recruited family and friends to assist him.

Although winds were high and rain threatened, they were able to



*Eagle Scout candidate Ian McFarland (center) with friends is pictured next to a map placard he designed, constructed, and installed for the Black Mountain Open Space trail.*

install the placards that day. Maps were created and supplied by the Park & Recreation Department and the placards were installed at the northwest, northeast, southwest and southeast quadrants.

I hope you get an opportunity to explore the trail system and see this terrific work. I'd like to recognize and thank Ian for his leadership and project management skills; his parents Scott and Janine for their additional logistics support; Kyle McFarland (Ian's younger brother) for his hard work, and additional volunteers Greg Clark, Steve Burfield, Glenn Burfield, Matthew Schulze, and Robert Heaslet for their support, and hours of labor. It was a terrific team effort to improve our open space trails. The placards are an attractive, useful tool to help people navigate the trails and explore nature.

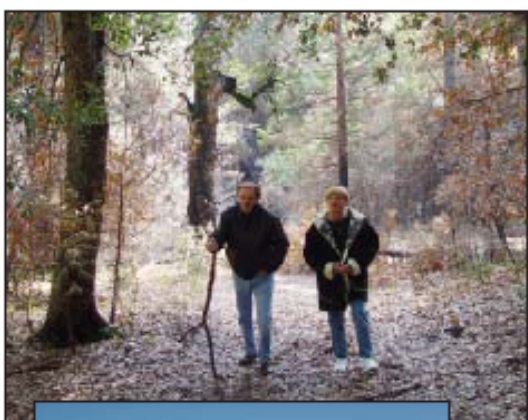
# Celebrate 150 Years of Trails

in San Diego County  
and *National Trails Day*

**Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve – Ranch House**

End of Canyonside Park Drive, San Diego

**Saturday, June 2, 2007 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.**



**Bring the family and join in the fun:**

- Mail Delivery Along Historic San Diego – San Antonio Stage Line
- Trail Construction Demonstrations
- Mountain Bike and Equestrian Rides
- Children's Activities
- Trails Fair with Vendors and Exhibitors
- Live Music

**FREE** parking and admission



For event information, please call 858-484-7504 or visit [www.sdparks.org](http://www.sdparks.org)  
For vendor information or sponsorship opportunities, please call 858-966-1367

## Fund Drive Results Tops \$5K Again!

Mike Kelly

The more than 60 members listed below donated \$5,235

Special thanks to Geof Smith and Camille Armstrong for their Lifetime Membership commitment of \$1,000. Geof is Chairperson of the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee. He and Camille were recently celebrated in the Union-Tribune for their long-commitment to achieving Wilderness designation for large swaths of California's remaining open spaces.

Another special thanks goes out to the Anonymous Donor who contributed \$1,000 for trails work. This is the second year in a row they made this large donation. City Ranger Gina Washington

draws upon these funds when she needs fencing, materials, or tools for her volunteer trails crew.

Gary Harman and Diane Greening doubled their generous \$250 donation with a match from their employer of an equal amount, for a total of \$500!

Anonymous, 3  
Donald E. Albright  
Mary K. & Gerard Antekeier  
Mona Baumgartel & John Debeers  
Judy Bayer  
Mitchel Beauchamp  
Dave Bilak  
Rick Botta & Liz Rozycki  
Leslie C. Braund  
Cheryl S. Brehme  
Mark & Kathie Bulley  
Mrs. Uli Burgin  
Ivan & Carol Cooper  
K. Crampton  
Jeff & Rose Dillon  
Lenore Edidin  
Bruce & Lowra Eidelson

Terry Gaughen  
Sharon & Ben Bebauer/Eberle  
Camille Armstrong & Geoffrey Smith  
Diane Greening & Gary Harman  
Rick & Diane Hanson  
Anne Hegwer  
Linda Henning  
Leo & Patricia Holland  
Linda Johnson  
Deborah & Brian Jones  
John & Peggy Keating  
Mike Kelly  
Tom & Connie Komin  
Fred & Linda Kramer  
Jon Labaw  
Bob & Linda Leiter  
Steve Lister  
Jim & Imelda Maniquis  
Patty & Tim McFarland  
Richard & Ruth Mellen  
Neil & Jill Meyer  
James & Linda Michael  
Paul and Carol Micheletti  
Edith Helen Monsees  
Sara Moser  
Catherine Nash  
Sharon & Joel Pankey  
Bill & Christi Papworth  
Jim Powers  
Ann & John Richards  
Scott & Carole Rieker  
Erwin & Mary Rose  
Lisa & Bill Ross-Woolson  
James W. Royle, Jr.  
Virginia Sabella  
Robert Schmidt & Faith Barnett  
Carrie J. Schneider  
Ernie Schnepf  
Walt Shaw  
Don Steele  
Pam & Jeff Stevens  
Paula & Mike Svoboda  
Mary Toomey  
Mario, Nancy, Alex & Tony Trejo  
Greg Vines  
Beth Williams  
Toni & Frank Wong  
Anthony & Rebecca Wood



March 18 of this year more than 20 volunteers rallied to continue our cleanup of López Canyon. Three overflowing pickups of trash were delivered to the dumpsters! The volunteers came from Poway High School (organized by their biology teacher, Ryan Moccock), Mt. Carmel High School, and the Friends. Key onsite organizers were Neil and Jill Meyer who live off López Canyon. The volunteers included: Tori Thomas, Kristen Kapitzke, Sarah Morris, Keith Hughes, Claire Gosen, Gabrielle Sciuto, Jared Parks, Taylor Woodruff, Eric Eyer, Allison Haase, Sarah Moon (Turetto), Cassandra McLead, Kayla Acosta, Lucy Slattery, Kristen Kort, Stephanie Panlasigni, Robyn Lin, Rebecca Lee, Heidi Davis, T.J. Demo, Mike Kelly, Neil Meyer, Jill Meyer, Ryan Moccock.

## New Ranger at Black Mountain Park

Hello everyone! My name is Matt Sanford. Well, it's my second day on the job and already I've learned so much and heard so many great stories about the people and places in this area. I'm proud to be working alongside all of you and look forward to meeting you as time goes by, so if you see me out and about or on the trail please wave me down for a chat or to say hello.

I'm proud to say that I was born and raised in San Diego County (we're so few and far between these days!) and I had an early interest in exploring and having fun in the outdoors. I think this general enthusiasm led me to want to protect the environment, not only in California but also in my backyard of San Diego. So fast forward to my college years at the "Harvard of the west," San Diego



State University, where I obtained a Bachelor in Science degree in Outdoor Recreation Administration (not to mention where I met my lovely wife). While at "State" I

worked/interned as a Backcountry Ranger in Yosemite National Park, and also with the Student Conservation Corps as a Fire Education Specialist. Before working for the City of San Diego I worked at the Lake Poway Recreation Area and Blue Sky Ecological Reserve as a Park Ranger, and before that I worked as a Park-Aide at Torrey Pines State Reserve. There are so many reasons why I love being a Park Ranger, but I suppose the biggest reasons are the daily interaction it gives me with the people, the plants, and the animals. Each day always brings a new surprise and I absolutely love that about this job.

In my free time I love to play and watch soccer, work on design and music (music is a huge part of my life!), and of course hang out with my wife and our two kitty-cats by the beach.

**County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department  
is accepting applications for  
VOLUNTEER DOCENT TRAINING  
for Rancho de los Peñasquitos Adobe**

A visitor to **Rancho Los Peñasquitos** will discover, in one place, more than 8,000 years of San Diego history. Its bountiful natural resources made it ideal not only for the millennia of Native American habitation, but also for 19<sup>th</sup>-century settlers. A portion of the ranch house was built in 1823, making it one of the oldest, existing structures in San Diego. Much of the rest of this elegant ranch house was built in the 1860's. The Rancho is situated within the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve that features miles of trails through riparian and grassland habitats. Rancho los Peñasquitos is a National Register Historic and Archaeological District.

**Volunteer Docents:** Work with the general public and school groups to promote a greater understanding of the cultural and natural resources for the San Diego area. Volunteers may perform a variety of tasks including:

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Leading tours of the historic Adobe | Helping furnish the historic Adobe          |
| Coordinating special events         | Creating public presentations and brochures |
| Working with school children        | Building stewardship for future visitors    |

**Who:** Potential volunteers should possess an enthusiastic attitude toward people and nature and enjoy being out-of-doors. Some prior knowledge of California history and natural history is desirable. You must be able to work independently, exercise good judgment and be willing to share your knowledge and enthusiasm with visitors. Volunteers are expected to provide a minimum of 8 hours service each month. (Please note: State law requires a background check on all volunteers placed in County Parks.)

**When:** The eight-week training course begins Saturday, April 28, 2007. It consists of Saturday morning lectures, a brown bag lunch, and afternoon field training.

**Cost:** A \$25 non-refundable materials fee is required at the first class meeting.

**For information or to request an application, call Cheryl Wegner 858-966-1335**

### (Vernal Pools cont'd from pg 1)

still not understood about the organisms inhabiting them or how they function. Dr. Ellen Bauder, a long-time Friends supporter, has been studying them for many years. Here's what she has to say about her most recent surveys.]

For over 5 years now, Ellen Bauder (Research Professor, SDSU) and a group of vernal pool experts (the "A" Team = Assessment Team) have been working on a research contract with the Environmental Protection Agency through the SDSU Research Foundation. They are developing a draft HGM (Hydrogeomorphic) Guidebook to Southern California Vernal pools.

Guidebooks can be used to support an Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) 404 project permit and what level/kind of mitigation would be required for a loss of pools or whether a loss should

even be permitted. Guidebooks can also be used to evaluate the efficacy of a restoration effort, for monitoring purposes or to estimate the degree of disturbance to one or more pool functions. They are intended to be used by agency personnel, land managers, et al. so that the assessments must be repeatable, relatively quick and doable by people who are knowledgeable but not necessarily experts. Field testing is a critical part of developing this guidebook.

To test the draft guidebook, they visited pools in various parts of the County during the latter part of January 2007. On January 25th Ellen met with representatives of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, City of San Diego, Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, and the California Dept. of Fish & Game to look over the vernal pools on the northern edge of Los Peñasquitos Canyon to determine the best areas for testing. Given



*Dr. Andy Bohonak of SDSU Biology Dept. surveys vernal pools on the Del Mar Mesa, January 2007.*

the limited time for the team to collect data, they decided to focus on a group of pools (aka "bowtie") at the western edge of the preserved area.

They would like to express their appreciation to these agencies that oversee the vernal pool preserves and Mike Kelly and Cindy Burrascano of Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve who assisted in the assessment process.

Guidebooks are used to assess various vernal pool functions such as water storage and support of characteristic flora and fauna. The general methodology was developed by the ACOE. Guidebooks are being developed for all classes of wetlands in all regions of the country and the already-completed guidebooks have been used for some years now. Ellen and team are developing a guidebook tailored to the Southern California landscape and climate. None of the assessment work is destructive. Below are some of the data typically collected:

- ◆ Dimensions of the pool(s) (l x w x d )
- ◆ Determine the inlet and outlet elevations
- ◆ Locate of the pool in the landscape (headwaters, part of a network, etc.)
- ◆ Estimate the disturbance level and type in the basin, pool periphery,
- ◆ Catchments and landscape
- ◆ Verify the soil type
- ◆ Take plant species lists



*Part of vernal pool assessment team, representing different vernal pool parcel ownerships on the Del Mar Mesa, left to right are: John Martin, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Refuges; Senior City Ranger Gina Washington (back to camera), Tim Dillingham (partially blocked in picture by Washington), Senior Wildlife Biologist, Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game; Mike Kelly, Conservation Chair, Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve; and City Ranger John Garwood. January 2007.*



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

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

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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.

**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: Carol Cooper  
Tracking Team Coordinator: Rick Botta,  
858.672-0584  
Conservation Chair: Mike Kelly,  
858.566-6489  
Webmaster: Beth Williams  
Wildlife Surveys: Patrick Campbell,  
760.471-9197

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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.