

Canyon News

Black Mountain Park • Del Mar Mesa Preserve
Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

Jan. & Feb. 2005
Volume 19, No.1

Effects of Illegal Dumping in Park

Senior Park Ranger Lori Charett and Park Ranger Tom Miller

One of the biggest problems we have is illegal dumping of household trash, automotive parts/fluids, construction materials and/or landscape trimmings in our parks. These unsightly trash heaps are damaging to the environment and are potentially dangerous to the public and wildlife. Ultimately the city has to spend millions of dollars every year to remove the dumps, properly dispose of them, and prosecute violators. This results in higher taxes for everyone.

We have found dumps with personal information leading us to the origin of the trash. In some cases we have returned the trash to its origin, only to find out that the person hired someone to cleanup and haul it away. Many people don't realize that their hired help is pocketing the money for dump

See p. 7 for more



Illegal dumping at the entrance to Black Mountain Open Space Park

Why is the Preserve Closed?

Senior Park Ranger Gina Brown

It's a gorgeous Southern California winter day. The sun is shining, it's 70 degrees outside everything is green from the recent rain, and you decide to spend the afternoon at Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Once you get everyone and their gear in the car you head to the Preserve but the gate to the parking lot is closed. "Why is the Preserve closed, it hasn't rained for days?" you ask yourself.

The answer lies in the primary objective of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, which is "the preservation and enhancement of the natural and cultural resources. Recreational . . . use by the public [is] the secondary

See p. 7 for more



Flooding around the historic ranch house in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve during the October rains. Photo provided by County Rangers.

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Restoration Projects

Sat., Jan. 22, López Canyon

Sun., Jan. 30, Peñasquitos

Sat., Feb. 12, Peñasquitos

See Calendar for details.

Rains Often Close Preserve, But Flowers Thrive

Warm weather and the early rains have stimulated many native shrubs to bloom early. Early bloomers include Mountain lilac (*Ceanothus tomentosus*), California spine bush (*Adolphia californica*), Mission manzanita (*Xylococcus bicolor*), Spice bush (*Cneoridium dumosum*), Winter currant (*Ribes indecorum*), even some Monkey flower (*Mimulus auranticus*) and others. Lots of bulks are pushing their leaves up high, foreshadowing a great flower show this winter and spring.

Since the preserve is closed during and after heavy rains, be sure to call the park numbers (858.484.7504 and 858.538.8066) to make sure the preserve is open for visitors.

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 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)**.

January

Beginner & Intermediate Tracking Walks

Sat., Jan. 8, 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**.

Geology Hike with Don Albright

Sun., Jan. 9, 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 (H3)**.

Black Mountain Trail Work Party

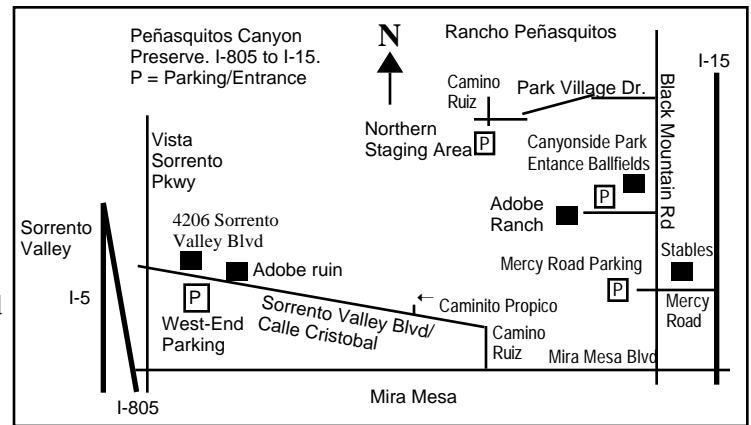
Sat., Jan. 15, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Join a Black Mtn. Park Ranger and help restore public trails. Meet at the Parking Staging area above the old dirt Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 E7** or call the Rangers at 858-538-8021.

Black Mountain Nature Walk

Sat., Jan. 22, 9–11 a.m. Join a Black Mtn. Park Ranger and see native flowers, wildlife, and great vistas. Meet at the Parking Staging area above the old dirt Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 E7** or call the Rangers at 858-538-8021.

Restoration Planting in López Canyon

Sat., Jan. 22, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Join The Friends and the Calif. Native Plant Society in planting the endangered mint plant, the Willowy monardella, grown especially for this project. Meet at López Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Call Mike at 858-566-6489 for more details.



Thomas Guide p. 1208 (H3).

Black Mtn. Park Citizens Advisory Cte.

Mon., Jan. 24, 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)**.

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Bd. of Directors

Tues., Jan. 25, 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)**.

Restoration Planting in Peñasquitos Canyon

Sun., Jan. 30, 9 a.m.–noon. Help us plant natives along the Trans County Trail. No experience necessary! Meet on Branicole Lane at Mercy Road in Mira Mesa. Call Mike at 858-566-6489 for more details. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (E7)**.

López Canyon Nature Walk with Barbara Moore

Sun., Jan. 30, 1–3 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)**.

López Homestead History Hike

Sun., Jan. 30, 2–4 p.m. Join Will Bowen for a hike out into the beauty of

López Canyon to learn about the Old López Homestead—a turn-of-the-century dairy farm. Visit the orchard, the Old Road, and the remnants of the barn, house, and milking station. Find out about the importance of the López family in early San Diego history. Meet at the west end parking-staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/3 mile east of its intersection with Sorrento Valley Road, **Thomas Guide 1208**.

February

Beginner & Intermediate Tracking Walks

Sat., Feb. 12, 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**.

Restoration Planting in Peñasquitos Canyon

Sat., Feb. 12, 9 a.m.–noon. Help us plant natives at the Preserve's waterfall. No experience necessary! Meet at the Parking-Staging area at Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads. Call Mike at 858-566-6489 for more details. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (E7)**.

Black Mountain Trail Work Party

Sat., Feb. 19, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Join a Black Mtn. Park Ranger and help restore public trails. Meet at the Parking Staging area above the old dirt Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (E7)** or call the Rangers at 858-538-8021.

López Canyon Nature Walk with Barbara Moore

Sun., Feb. 20, 1–3 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)**.

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Bd. of Directors

Tues., Feb. 22, 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**.

Black Mountain Nature Walk

Sat., Feb. 26, 9–11 a.m. Join a Black Mtn. Park Ranger and see native flowers, wildlife, and great vistas. Meet at the Parking Staging area above the old dirt Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 E7** or call the Rangers at 858-538-8021.

Pierre Bovet Adobe History Hike

Sun., Feb. 27, 2–4 p.m. Join Will Bowen for a hike out into the lushness of Carroll Canyon (once known as Soledad Canyon) to visit the ruins of the Pierre Bovet Adobe. Find out about the factors that contributed to the decline of so many such wonderful adobes that once stood in San Diego County. Learn about who Pierre Bovet was and his role in San Diego history. Find out about the relationship, through marriage, of the Bovets to our canyon's Lopez and Alvarado families. Note: Hike may involve a stream crossing or an ascent up an easement. Meet at Fire Station near the corner of Scranton and Carroll Canyon Road. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (E7)**.

DIRECTIONS

Black Mountain Open Space Park

From I-15 take SR 56 (Ted Williams Parkway) west to Black Mountain Road. Go right (north) on Black Mountain Road and follow it all the way until you see the last houses on the right and open space beyond. Look for a dirt road to the right and take it. Proceed about 1 mile, going beyond the bare hangliding area on the right and down a hill to a big curve and a sign for the park and paved road on the right. Proceed up the road to the staging area. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (E7)**.

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. From the west (I-5/I-805 merge) take Sorrento Valley Boulevard east. It becomes Calle Cristobal as it

passes Camino Santa Fe. The next street is Caminito Propico. From the east, take Mira Mesa Boulevard to Camino Santa Fe. Go right on Camino Santa Fe, then right on Calle Cristobal to Propico. Park in cul-de-sac on either side. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (H3)**.

Canyonside Park Staging

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 parking lot on their (far) west end. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7)**.

Carmel Mtn. Meeting Place

From Carmel Valley take El Camino Real south. At intersection with Carmel Mountain Road, proceed straight on what has become 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. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (C2)**.

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)**.

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)**.

See p. 4 for more

(Calendar cont'd)

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) (D5).**

Tracker/Naturalist Classes

Beginning Training – February 24 & 26, 2005;

Intermediate Training – May 19 & 21, 2005;

Advanced Training – June 24 & 25, 2005;

Each training consists of one weekday evening and a Saturday.

Contact for registration and information: (858) 672-0584

Develop your tracking and awareness skills, learn how to move in nature, and develop techniques for recognizing habitat and associated flora and fauna—all this and more as you become better in tune with our environment in our Beginning Class. The Intermediate Class delves into the finer details of tracking, awareness, and philosophy, and the Advanced Class is devoted to in depth track analysis and interpretation. There is a small fee for each of the three classes. Pre-registration is required.

New Bridges Funded by Donors

A special thanks to Michael Sockell and Steven and Debra Schmidt for their donations to buy the materials used to make the new bridge at the Peñasquitos Community Park creek crossing site.

Volunteers Needed Wildlife Survey Training

Date: January 15
Time: 9:45 a.m. until 4 p.m.
Location: Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Contact for information: (858) 513-0359 or (619) 892-7620

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!

Prop A Passage Land Conservation Benefits

Mike Kelly, Conservation Chair

Passing by only about 3,400 votes out of more than one million cast, the reauthorization of the Regional Transportation Plan, TransNet "Prop A," the one-half cent portion of our sales tax dedicated to transportation will produce \$880 million for desperately needed habitat protection in San Diego County. This huge amount came as the results of a complex, multi-year negotiation led by the Endangered Habitat Leagues' Michael Beck.

TransNet will fund a mix of highway and transit projects, although no new highways. In addition to the habitat mitigation funds, it will retrofit key roads with wildlife undercrossings, and reduce road kill. The non-profit environmental community is expected to participate in expanded management and monitoring of acquired lands. The importance of these funds for wildlife and San Diego's natural heritage cannot be overstated. Passage means that the Multiple Species Conservation Program can be completed. The funds are also vital for a successful update of the County General Plan, now in progress.

The genesis for this accomplishment lies in years of consensus building by the Quality of Life Coalition. Convened by San Diego Dialogue, it included business and environmental interests, and the San Diego County Taxpayers Association. EHL's Lynne Baker, and many others, played important roles in the process. TransNet was supported by EHL, The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, National Wildlife Federation, California Oak Foundation, Buena Vista Audubon Society and over a dozen local groups from the Conservation Resources Network. The Sierra Club, however, led a misguided effort to defeat the measure.

Black Mountain Open Space is Expecting!

Senior Ranger Lori McBride

Black Mountain Open Space is expecting many additional visitors! A new community park, located directly across from the Glider Port at Black Mountain, will be opening soon, luring many additional hikers and mountain bikers to Black Mountain Open Space Park.

In anticipation of the new comers, twenty five members of the San Diego Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association and other committed volunteers gathered recently to improve a trail that begins at the glider landing zone and leads up to the existing viewpoint and launching area at the top of the 300 foot peak of Black Mountain (Black Mountain has a 300', 500' and an 800' peak). The newly improved trail ties into the existing trail system that allows enjoyment of the spectacular views of San Diego from all three peaks (Definitely worth the hike!).

The improvements to this trail began last summer with the efforts of Arne Johanson and Bill Witzel. They are dedicated volunteers who are often seen on week ends, working to maintain and improve our lovely open

space. Under the guidance of City Park Ranger Tom Miller, volunteers worked to correct and prevent further erosion of the old, existing jeep trail by building water bars, rip-rap dams and drains. They also began the process of habitat restoration. "I was very pleased with the very large and enthusiastic turn out of volunteers. Every one worked very hard and we accomplished more than I had hoped for." reported Ranger Tom. Hang glider pilot Mike Marcott's advice was especially helpful and appreciated. He is a member of the Laguna Mountain Volunteers Association and has a great deal of experience with trail building projects. He is very enthusiastic about working on the restoration of Black Mountain. "Repairing this old trail and others like it, will be a long term, on going project which will require many volunteer hours. But, the end result will be well worth the effort. You can count on my help in the future."

Walter White, a paraglider pilot and resident of Rancho Penasquitos was eager to help with the project, "I have enjoyed the park for years and work-

ing to improve the trail was a way of giving something back. The views and especially the sunsets from the trail up to the paraglider launch are breathtaking, and now with better access more people should be able to enjoy it." Black Mountain Park has been a unique place to hang glide and paraglide for decades and people from around the world visit to fly here. Walter added, "I respect the Sierra Club mantra of 'take only pictures, leave only footprints', in paragliding I get to glide silently like a bird and do not even leave footprints. It is a great way to relax after a days work and makes me feel close to nature. I plan to continue to volunteer and want to help to repair some of the erosion the old jeep trails on the west face have caused. The park is a special place and volunteers can help to keep it special."

If you would like to volunteer, (its fun!) please contact Senior Park Ranger Lori Charett Gerbac at (858) 538-8082 or Ranger Tom Miller at (858) 538-8021. We also need donations of planting and erosion control materials.



Volunteers reworking a heavily eroded area on Black Mountain into a trail and revegetated area.

Fund Results

A big thank you to the 47 members who responded to our annual fund appeal with over \$2,300 in donations. We know this total will climb as others finalize their taxes for the year. And thanks to other members who renewed their membership for another year.

Anonymous (3)
 Nancy Acevedo
 Janet Anderson
 Judy Bayer
 Mark & Kathie Bulley
 Chae-Banks Family
 Charles Cochrane
 K. Crampton
 Bob & Gaye Dingeman
 Paul & Liam Dulary
 Jeanne & Glenn Dunham
 Terry Gaughen
 Sharon & Ben Gebauer/eberle
 Don Hoffman
 Mike Kelly
 Michael & Susan Killen
 Alan & Judith Kiraly
 H. William Kuni
 Simon K Lawrance
 Hans Leenhouts
 Suzann & Bill Leininger
 Rob & Linda Leiter
 Patty Mcfarland
 Richard & Ruth Mellen
 Neil & Jill Meyer
 James & Linda Michael
 Paul And Carol Micheletti
 Maurice & Ree Miller
 Barbara Moore
 Karl & Laura Olsen
 James & Louise Oneill
 Jim Powers
 Erwin & Mary Rose
 Lisa & Bill Ross-woolson
 James W. Royle, Jr.
 Gustav & Irene Segade
 Vivienne Seymore
 Don Steele
 Melvin & Ellen Sweet
 Judy Swink
 Ms. Brenda Terry-hahn
 Mary Toomey
 Greg Vines
 Beth Williams
 Toni & Frank Wong

Biological Invasions

Mike Kelly, Conservation Chair

Longer-term members of the Friends will have noticed that we spend a lot of our volunteer work time on invasive plants, on weeds. This is because we recognized that these weeds are a serious threat to our Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. This is the first in a series of articles I'll write on this subject in *Canyon News*.

On a personal note, this issue was an epiphany for me back in the 1980s. Along with many other activist volunteers I fought to protect Peñasquitos Canyon from the threat of developer bulldozers. We won some battles and lost others. But we recognized that you can also lose the battle to save what's special about our canyon to other threats, in this case, invasive weeds. We realized that we had habitats being taken over by monocultures of invasive weeds, including Saltcedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*), Giant reed (*Arundo donax*), Eucalyptus trees, Palm trees, Artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*), Sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), mustard (*Brassica nigra*), and others. We had endangered species of plants and animals threatened with extinction by these weeds. It is now generally recognized by conservationists and biologists that invasive weeds are second only to development as a threat to our biodiversity.

Founding of Cal-EPPC

Recognizing the seriousness of this threat I began to study up on invasive weeds and their impacts. I learned of others similarly concerned in other parts of California and we gathered together in Morro Bay in 1992 at a conference on invasive weeds. There I became a founding member and the first Secretary of the California Exotic Pest Plant Council (Cal-EPPC), later renamed the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC). This group was formed of professionals and volunteers, but especially managers from all levels of the park and wilderness system determined to learn about the impacts of invasive weeds and how to control them. An obscure issue at the time, it is now on the radar screen for the public at many levels, including our daily papers, radio, and TV. I

served on the Cal-EPPC board for about 12 years and served two terms as its president — a measure of how important I consider this issue to be.

Biological Invasions

Invasive weeds are part of a bigger problem, the problem of *Biological Invasions*. Invasive plants or weeds are just one form these invasions can take. Invasive animals are increasingly being found and recognized. These include newsmakers such as the Zebra mussel, the Snakehead fish, or the Brown tree snake. They include reptiles and birds. Many invasive insects are destroying forests. The Glassy-winged sharpshooter is threatening California's vineyards. We even have invasive diseases that have already wiped out entire species such as the American chestnut tree or threatening to eradicate the American elm tree.

Invasive or exotic diseases are here now that threaten our public health and safety — especially the West Nile Virus. This exotic disease from overseas was unknown in the U.S. as recently as ten years ago. Now it is sweeping the country via mosquitos and birds. It's a big threat to certain bird species such as the crows and ravens, as well as horses.

While many of these invaders are alien or exotic in that they originate outside the borders of the U.S., some are simply from another region of the U.S. such as the bullfrog or the Glassy-winged sharpshooter. What they tend to have in common is that they moved across regional or national borders without the natural enemies and other limiting factors that keep them in check in their home region or country.

These invasives come into new ecosystems where they are able to reproduce faster and in greater numbers absent their natural enemies. Local animals that didn't involve with them may find invasive plants unpalatable, even poisonous to them.

Our global economy with its modern transportation system and porous borders has increased the rate of these invasions. **Next: some Peñasquitos examples.**

(Black Mountain cont'd)

fees and dumping their trash in our parks. Please remember that you are responsible for where your trash ends up, regardless of who you hired to remove it. If it's illegally dumped, you may be cited and the fines are far more than if it were to be legally disposed of. A person is guilty of a misdemeanor crime (punishable by jail and/or fines) according to San Diego Municipal Code 63.0102 (b)6 which says: It's unlawful to deposit or dump any garbage, refuse, dirt, ashes, broken glass, crockery, bones, tin cans, or like substances, or any animal or fowl. There are cases when the dumping qualifies as a felony, where hazardous materials are involved. Hazardous materials can consist of car oil, batteries, pesticides, chemicals, etc.

Landscape trimmings are especially troublesome to deal with. Not only do they make a mess that has to be removed, but they introduce seeds from exotic plants into the park. These exotic plants destroy the habitat and create an imbalance in the ecosystem by displacing the native plants and animals dependent on them. It can take years to get rid of non-native species.

If you have a large amount of trash to get rid of, here are some suggestions.

1. Always use reputable contractors, gardeners, and cleanup companies. Insist that they always take it to an authorized landfill.
2. Have a dumpster delivered to your home. This is very convenient for people who don't have access to a pickup truck. This can cost as little as \$79 for a 3 yard dumpster with larger ones available.
3. If you are unsure about the person doing the cleanup, require that they show you a dump receipt before you pay them.

If you see someone dumping, report it to the police immediately. Don't confront them directly but get their license plate number, description, and make and model of their vehicle and notify the Police of the location the dumping is taking place.

With your help, we can put an end to these unsightly dumps and experience our parks as more beautiful than ever.

(Closed Preserve cont'd)

objective." Just a small amount of rain can cause large flows of water through the canyon bottom. This is due to the fact that all the water off the streets surrounding the Preserve flows down into the creek. The creek then rises and covers the trails. This can cause severe washouts, trees fall down, and large puddles of mud are left. Most recreational users do not want to go through the mud, so they find a way around, thus widening the trails and trampling the natural and sometimes sensitive plants.

The Preserve is closed to protect those resources; public safety is also a consideration. Wet roads are often impassable to patrol or emergency vehicles, making rescues difficult. Just because the sun has been shining doesn't necessarily mean the trails are dry. Many of the trails are located at the bottom of the Canyon covered by a lovely oak canopy, the sun cannot reach the trail and the days are too short for the heat to evaporate the water, so it takes a while for the trails to dry out to the point where recreational use is sensible. As soon as it is determined that the trails are sufficiently dry, the Preserve is then opened.

The City and County Park Ranger staff appreciate your cooperation in reaching our objective of preserving the natural resources of Los Peñasquitos Canyon. To find out if the Preserve is open or closed please call the City Ranger voicemail at (858) 538-8066 and listen to the message, it is updated to inform you of trail closures and openings.

Friends' Election

At the Friends' Annual Meeting held Nov. 6 elections were held and the members present voted unanimously to re-elect

Brian Swanson	President
Don Albright	Vice President
Pat Watkins	Treasurer
Rick Botta	Secretary

New Senior Ranger

Gina Brown, Park Ranger at Los Peñasquitos Preserve, has been promoted to Senior Park Ranger at Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Gina worked for the Army Corps of Engineers as a Park Guide for 2 years, as a Park Aide for Oregon State Parks and Recreation for 6 years, and has been a Park Ranger with the Open Space Division at Los Peñasquitos since 2001. Due to periodic vacancies in the Preserve's Senior Ranger position, Gina has actually had lots of experience running things out there in the last 3 years!

Volunteer Accomplishments

Thanks to nature hike leaders:

Will Bowen	Pat Watkins
Diana Gordon	Barbara Moore
Brian Swanson	Mike Kelly,
Linda King	Uli Burgin
Don Albright	

for taking hundreds of people on their varied walks.

Other volunteers who worked on erosion control, street fair booths, invasive weed control, or planted native plants included:

Cindy Burrascano	Neil Meyer
Carrie Schneider	Dean Woods
Mike Kelly	Terry Gaughn
Liz Rozycki	Edward DiBella
Erik Noreke	Craig Lorenz
Brian Swanson	Erik Basil
Jas Arnold	Arne Johanson
Bob & Gaye Dingeman	
Lynne & Alex Preisser	
Carol & Ivan Cooper	

2005 Bird Festival

February 9-13. Marina Village at Mission Bay Park. Info: www.sandiegounaturefestivals.org



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: _____ 1/2005

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