



Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

January/February 1998
Volume 12 No. 1

Hawks, Owls and the Canyon

Sky Dancing

James Hannan, Ph.D.

“Sky dancing” is one of the great events of spring that canyoneers will be able to watch — but only if you know what to look for! Otherwise, like almost everyone else walking the canyon, you’ll miss one of spring’s most spectacular aerial displays. My first encounter occurred on a clear, crisp spring morning in López Canyon. I was recording hawk movements in an attempt to determine territorial boundaries. Among the raptors was a male Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) who was patrolling a grassy hillside. His flight pattern was typical for the species, sweeping back and forth several feet over the grass. Unlike most other hawks, in addition to looking, Harriers also “listen” for their prey just like owls do. This is why they have a dish-shaped face, like owls. This facial feather pattern funnels sounds to their keen ears located just behind their eyes. Upon locating a prey, they drop instantly into the grass.

This hunting style is unique among local hawks and easily identifies them once you are aware of it. Their prey ranges from insects such as grasshoppers and beetles, to lizards, snakes, birds and, most importantly, rodents. In her landmark book, *Harrier — Hawk of the Marshes* (1986), Frances Hammerstrom found that in the mid-west, Harrier numbers and breeding success are completely tied to the abundance of one mouse — the meadow vole (*Microtus* sp). She thus subtitled her book, *The Hawk That Is Ruled By A Mouse*. Being spring, the male I was observing had more than mice on his mind, for he suddenly climbed 70 feet straight up, seemed to stall, rolled over backwards and went into a steep, fast dive. Ten to twenty feet from the

See p. 9 for more

Sorrento and Peñasquitos Creeks Bulldozed

Mike Kelly

Visit the junction of Peñasquitos and Sorrento Creeks in Sorrento Valley these days and you’ll probably be appalled at what you see. Both have been bulldozed. Sorrento Creek has been bulldozed for some 1,000 feet x 100 feet wide and over 5 feet deep to the edge of Torrey Pines State Reserve. The bulldozing of Peñasquitos Creek has just begun, but will eventually extend from its junction with Sorrento Creek all the way to I-5, again, some 1000 feet x 100 feet by five feet. A new channel is being bulldozed in each creek to alleviate flooding of the Sorrento West Business Park.

To see this go to the north end of Roselle Street in Sorrento Valley. Park and walk behind the buildings on the east side of the street. You’ll see sandbags and the dike and the new channel. If you work your way from the north end of these buildings to the south, you’ll eventually come to a new pond at the intersection of the two creeks. Looking east you’ll be seeing Peñasquitos Creek as it hits Sorrento Creek. Coming in from your south will be Carroll Creek.

Besides detailing the whats and why fors of this for our readers — and our concerns and actions — I also want to put this in the context of Peñasquitos Lagoon and its watershed. The Peñasquitos drainage is the biggest part of this watershed. Along the way I’ll provide a brief — and I think, surprising — history of our creek.

Ridiculous flooding

The Sorrento West Business Park runs between Roselle Street, I-5, Flintkote and Estuary Way. Older parts

See p. 10 for more

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Wildlife Survey Time

Want to help with our quarterly wildlife survey in the Preserve? We’ll teach you basic track and sign identification at our Training, Sat., Jan. 17, from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the ranch house. We’ll then pair you with experience trackers for the actual surveys which are conducted the week of Jan. 24–Feb. 1. You can sign up for 1 or more surveys at your convenience. Call Lani at 565-4586 or Rick at 672-0584 for more details or directions.

Tracking Team 1998 Schedule of Classes

Tracking, Nature, Earth Skills class schedule is now available. First classes begin in March. Write for a brochure:

LPCP Tracking Team
POB 502345
San Diego Ca 92150-2345
or call Lani at 565-4586.

Volunteer Opportunities

Call Michelle (224-4192) and/or see the dates of Jan. 10, Jan. 17, Jan. 24, Feb. 1 and Feb. 22 in our calendar.

Good Bloom Beginning

September rains and warm weather jump started our flower season. Many plants are blooming early this year. It's already a good flower show in our deserts and we can expect the same here along the coast.

Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. **Rain more than a drizzle cancels.** For details or group hikes, call 484-3219 for recorded information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have on-going wildlife and stream surveys, invasive weed removal projects, planting programs and more.

January

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Intermediate Tracking Walk

Sat., Jan. 10, 8–11 a.m. Prerequisite is participation in either the Wildlife Survey or the Nature Awareness and Earth Skills Weekend. Practice your tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Park at the white-fenced, Adobe Ranch House parking lot, located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Then walk up to the Ranch House itself to meet walk leader. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Volunteer Native Grassland Restoration Planting at West End

Sat., Jan. 10, 9 a.m. (3–4 hrs.). **New volunteers welcome**, join the Friends Habitat Restoration Team in planting native grass and other plants to restore the "hill at the narrows." Meet in the west end parking lot in Sorrento Valley. Bring gloves, sun protection and water, we'll provide the training and tools. Call Michelle at 224-4192 to RSVP or for more information. Rain cancels if more than a drizzle.

Waterfall Flower Walk /Northern Staging Area

Sun., Jan. 11, 8 a.m. (2–3 hours). Natural-

ist Les Braund will lead this nature walk to the waterfall and back. See fall colors, mistletoe and Calif. holly. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the southwest corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Sweetwater Revival Volunteers

Sun., Jan. 11: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Help restore wildlife habitat by joining this *Arundo donax* (giant reed) removal project. Meet at the Bonita Driving Range 1 mile east of I-805 on Bonita Road. Call Viviane at 476-1040 for details.

Full Moon Hike

Sun., Jan. 11: 7:30–9:00 p.m. Walk the canyon at night. Observe plants and other natural features bathed in moonlight. Look at the stars and constellations. Special focus on exploring the universal archetypes of the shadow and shadows. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Friends' Monthly Business Meeting

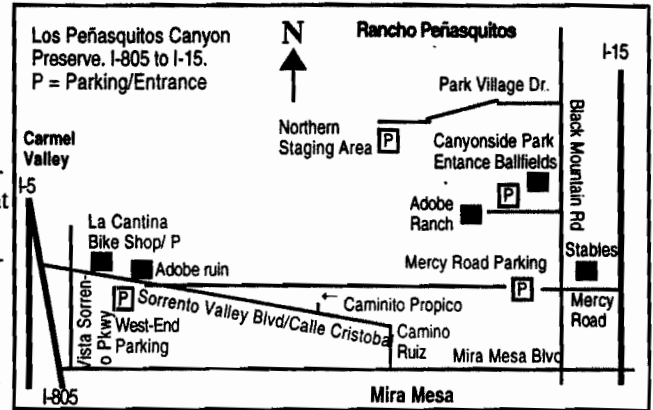
Tues., Jan. 13, 7 p.m. Members are welcome to attend this monthly meeting. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Wildlife Tracking Survey Training

Sat., Jan. 17, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to undergo this 6 hour training for animal track and sign reading and survey protocol in preparation for our quarterly wildlife survey (see below). Training is free. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Volunteer Plant Rescue in PQ Canyon

Sat., Jan. 17, 1–4 p.m.). **New volunteers welcome**, join the Friends Habitat Restoration Team in rescuing plants from the path of the bulldozer, plants that will later be used in restorations in the Preserve. Meet at Ridgewood Community Park where it abuts the Preserve on La Tortola Street in Ranch Peñasquitos. Call Michelle



at 224-4192 to RSVP or for more information. Bring shovels, gloves, if you have them and clothes you can get dirty!

Medicinal Plant Hike

Sun., Jan. 18: 3–4:30 p.m. Learn how the canyon plants were used by Native Americans and early settlers; how native peoples attributed anthropomorphic spirits or energies to plants, which they claimed could be summoned for healing or power. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Fungi of San Diego County

Tues., Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m. Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Tom Zink, SDSU will present a slide show talk on fungi (mushrooms et al) and their ecology. Free. Call 619-685-7321 for more information.

Restore Miramar Landfill

Sat., Jan. 24, 9–noon. Volunteers are needed to help revegetate portions of the Miramar landfill that are ready to be returned to native habitat. From I-163 or I-15 take Hwy 52 west to Convoy St., right on Convoy into the landfill. Bypass the check-in station to the right and continue. Go down a big hill and back up. At the top, take a hard left into the native plant greenhouse. Planting nursery stock, transplanting and starting new plants. Call Megan Enright at 636-4834 for more information. Groups welcomed if less than 40.

Bird Walk at Ranch House

Sat., Jan. 24, 8–9:30 a.m. Join Brian Swanson for this early morning chance to see a variety of residents and winter visitors. Dress warm and bring binoculars and bird book. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

See next page for more

(Calendar cont'd)**Volunteer Restoration Planting.**

Sat., Jan. 24, 9–1. Volunteers are welcome to join the Scripps CHiPS (Committee for Humanity and Public Service) and the Friends Habitat Restoration team in revegetating a native grassland and riparian area at the waterfall in the Preserve. Meet at the western end of Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. Take I-15 to Mercy Road Exit. Then Mercy Road west to Black Mountain Road. Right on Black Mountain Road and up the hill. Take a left at the second light, Park Village Drive and go all the way to the end. Call Michelle at 224-4192 to RSVP or for more information. Bring shovels, gloves, if you have them and clothes you can get dirty! Rain cancels if more than a drizzle.

Wildlife Survey: volunteers welcome

Sat., Jan. 24 – Sun., Feb. 1. This is a quarterly survey of wildlife in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Volunteers walk transects (trails) in the park and record track and sign of certain wildlife species. About 20 different transects are walked over the 9-day period. New volunteers undergo training (required, Jan. 17) and then are paired with an experienced tracker for one or more transects. Call 484-3219 for more information.

Wildlife Observation Walk at Blue Sky Preserve

Sat., Jan. 24, 2 p.m. Blue Sky Preserve Interpreter and long-time Friends' member Susan Potts will lead this walk leaving from the Espola Road entrance to Blue Sky Preserve in Poway. Call 679-5469 for more information or directions.

2nd Annual Imperial Beach Bird Fest

Fri. – Sun., Jan. 30–Feb. 1, Imperial Beach. Call Claude or Mike at 619-282-8687 or 563-6695 for Bird Fest Programs or to offer help as a volunteer.

February**Historic Adobe Ranch Tour**

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Volunteer Restoration Planting

Sun., Feb. 1, 9 – 12). **New volunteers welcome.** join the Friends Habitat Restoration team in revegetating the main entrance to

the Preserve. Meet on the upper level of the Mercy Road Parking-Staging area at the intersection of Mercy and Black Mountain roads in Mira Mesa. Call Michelle at 224-4192 to RSVP or for more information. Bring shovels, gloves, if you have them and clothes you can get dirty!

Bird Walk at East End

Sat., Feb. 7, 8–9:30 a.m. Join Brian Swanson for this cool morning walk. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. Go straight through the intersection into the park entrance. Meet at the new kiosk inside the entry gate at the west end of the lot. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Intermediate Tracking Walk

Sat., Feb. 7, 8–11 a.m. Prerequisite is participation in either the Wildlife Survey or the Nature Awareness Weekend. Practice your tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Park at the white-fenced, Adobe Ranch House parking lot, located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Then walk up to the Ranch House itself to meet walk leader. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Waterfall Walk /Northern Staging Area

Sun., Feb. 8, 8 a.m. (2–3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this nature walk to the waterfall and back. See fall colors, mistletoe and Calif. holly. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the on the southwest corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Geology Walk

Sun., Feb. 8, 9–12. Join Geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Sweetwater Revival Volunteers

Sun., Feb. 8: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Restore wildlife habitat by joining this *Arundo donax* (giant reed) removal project. Meet at the Bonita Driving Range 1 mile east of I-805 on Bonita Road. Call Viviane at 476-1040 for details.

Full Moon Hike

Sun., Feb. 8: 7:30–9:00 p.m. Walk the canyon at night. Observe plants and other natural features bathed in moonlight. Look at the stars and constellations. Special focus will be on exploring the universal archetypes of the shadow and shadows. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Canti-

na Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Tracking & Nature Walk at Ranch

Sat., Feb. 14, 1:30 p.m. (1-2 hours). Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. Right on Black Mountain, then first U-turn, right into Canyonside Park past ball-fields to Preserve sign and new parking lot. Walk up path to ranch. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

San Dieguito River Park Tamarisk Removal Project

Sat., Feb. 21, 8:30–noon. Bring water and gloves to help on this work party. Call Ranger Jason López at 619-235-5440 x5 to RSVP and for directions.

Vernal Pool Walk

Sat., Feb. 21, 9 – 11). Learn about vernal pools on this walk led by Naturalist Mike Kelly. See endangered plants and animals living under extreme conditions. 10 people only, call Mike at 566-6489 to RSVP and receive directions.

Hike to the Narrows with Dr. Northrop

Sat., Feb. 21, 1–3 p.m. (about 4 miles round trip). Join Dr. John Northrop for a walk to the "narrows," a site proposed by John for a possible dam to reduce flooding in Sorrento Valley (see article this issue). Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Volunteer Restoration Planting

Sun., Feb. 22, 9 – 12). **New volunteers welcome.** join the Friends Habitat Restoration team in revegetating Mule Deer meadows. Meet in the parking lot of the Canyonside Recreation Center at Canyonside Park Driveway and Black Mountain Road in Rancho Peñasquitos. Call Michelle at 224-4192 to RSVP or for more information. Bring shovels, gloves, if you have them and clothes you can get dirty!

Medicinal Plant Hike

Sun., Feb. 22: 3–4:30 p.m. Learn how the canyon plants were used by Native Americans, Spanish, and settlers; how native peoples attributed anthropomorphic spirits or energies to plants, which they

★ext page for more

(Calendar cont'd)

claimed could be summoned for healing or power. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

DIRECTIONS

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 Driveway. Go past ballfields & left into white-fenced parking lot. Walk up path to the ranch house. **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal

This intersection is located 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 St. 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. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Cantina Bike Shop Meeting Area

Bike Shop is at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

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.**

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruíz and Park Village Drive

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 Ruíz. Left on Camino Ruíz and park. **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 3/4 mile east of intersection with Vista Sorrento Pky. From east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to bottom of 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, past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Frogs & Toads 1997

Will Bowen, PhD

Introduction

This is my third annual report on the anurans (frogs and toads) of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. I've been studying anurans these past few years because it occurred to me that they are extremely sensitive indicators of the overall ecology of the Preserve. Frogs and toads spend part of their life in water, part under the ground, and part basking in the sun, thus sampling from all the major features of the environment. By monitoring frogs and toads, it's possible to keep a finger on the pulse of the entire canyon.

Worldwide, anurans are in decline, pointing to the seriousness of the threat to our global ecosystem. Part of our duty is to report on any changes in our anuran populations, thus contributing to a very important body of data which is accumulating. We want also to see how we compare with how the rest of the world is doing.

Like last year, 1997 was another poor year for frogs and toads in Peñasquitos Canyon. The vernal pools, road puddles, and the intermittent creek of López Canyon, in which anurans are hatched, though initially very full of water, dried quickly in the unseasonably hot spring, signalling the almost utter demise of frog and toad young.

Hence, although we had a banner year in terms of the birth of tadpoles, almost all of them died before reaching adulthood. The standing water, created by the winter rains, dried up before they were able to mature into froglets and toadlets. On the whole, only a few Spadefoot Toads, Western Toads, and Treefrogs made it to adulthood. The Bullfrog fared a little better, because the wetlands, in which most of them live, tend to hold a little water even under the hottest conditions, but the turn over in population was still way down. True, there was plenty of water in Peñasquitos Creek throughout the year, but unfortunately this is not a very good nursery for anurans. You almost never see any tadpoles in the creek because of waters too deep or fast moving. The presence

of predators, such as bass and bluegill, also precludes the development of frogs and toads. Anurans need relatively shallow, slow-moving, or non-moving waters which dry slowly and do not have predators in order for their tadpoles to mature.

So it was that the deafening roar of Treefrogs, which one usually hears walking down the main trail at night in the winter and spring, was rather absent this last year. So it was that on our spring frog hikes we saw few Treefrogs mating in the stream pools near the López ruins. So it was that hundreds of dead tadpoles lay crisp, like the dried fish of an Asian market, in the parched soil of the vernal pools. But yet, a couple of pairs of huge Bullfrog eyes did stare us straight in the face, gleaming with the light from our flashlights, as we pursued them on our night walks.

Since this is the second year in a row that we have had a very low maturity rate for anurans, it is hoped that we will have standing waters that last longer this coming year. Too many dry years in a row would not be something we would want to see.

Pacific treefrog (*Hylla regilla*)

The Pacific Treefrog began singing down at the West End wetlands right on schedule about New Year's Eve. Many males arrived and began to congregate, in a semi-circle, around the road puddles, there to await the females who would slip into the waters about dusk, ready for mating and egg laying. Even prior to this singing, Treefrog eggs and tadpoles were found at the Mira Mesa vernal pools about the 4th of December 1996. It appears that Treefrogs lay their eggs at the vernal pools before they do so in the canyon. The vernal pool egg hatching was accompanied by the blooming of the white-flowered *Jepsonia parryi*, the growth of Elocharus or Spike rush in the pools, development of flat worms fairy shrimp, and much gopher activity churning up the soil that makes the mima mounds. But the vernal pools, as well as the puddles on the margins of the Wetlands, and those

(Frogs cont'd)

along most of the intermittent stream in López Canyon, dried all too quickly for the tadpoles produced by the mating to survive.

As the season progressed, at the Mira Mesa vernal pool complex, the pools absolutely filled with Treefrog tadpoles, but none were to make it, even though there were several rounds of births following rain, complete drying, and filling with rain again. Still no round made it. The last pool was completely dry by the first of March.

I think only a few Treefrog tadpoles reached maturity in the gray clay road pools of the Del Mar Mesa complex and perhaps some in the shaded stream pools in López Canyon.

One bright point was the discovery of a few tadpoles swimming in the water of the unfenced Miramar Road vernal pools which are surrounded by car lots and automotive shops, and, incidentally, severely compromised by foot and vehicle traffic.

Fortunately, the Treefrog is a very resilient widespread species able to handle variations in climatic conditions. They're also able to cope with increased levels of ultraviolet radiation. However, they don't have a very long lifespan. So several years of drought might affect their population numbers.

Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*)

A great number of Bullfrog tadpoles spawned this year in the West End wetlands. The big pool, just northwest of the tall sycamores, was filled with them. Most dried up as the summer wore on, with only about 20% of the number that made it last year reaching adulthood. I did notice a few second year Bullfrog tadpoles. They were huge! Bull-frog tadpoles may take two seasons to mature! How they made it through the floods of winter and heat of spring I'll never understand. But there they were — up to about five inches long. Judging by the number and spacing of the "Jug-o-rum" and "Moooo" calls that the Bullfrog emits, there must only be a few spread out along Peñasquitos Creek. The largest population is in the wetland under the Calle Cristobal Bridge, and a little ways into López Canyon. This area offers a better water source, greater pro-

tection, and fewer predators. However, Blue herons and cattle egrets will feed upon the Bullfrog tadpoles when the water gets shallow enough. At some point we really should consider trapping and removing our Bullfrogs because they prey on other native frogs. Their presence really lessens the chance of a native Red-legged Frog population returning, if that is even possible, at this late date.

Red-legged frog (*Rana aurora*)

In the late summer of 1996, I discovered a few large tadpoles with reddish underbellies in the West End wetlands. It is a good chance that these might have been those of the Red-legged Frog. The tadpole of the Red-legged Frog looks a lot like that of the Bullfrog but the latter has a whitish not a reddish underbelly. Unfortunately, I did not get a chance to conclusively identify the reddish underbelly tadpoles I had found as *Rana aurora*. I decided I would look again this last summer. Unfortunately, the wetland pools dried so fast all I could find were many dried-up dead tadpoles and a few which were the Bullfrog. This coming year I will continue the search for the Red-legged frog tadpole which is, of course, a rare and endangered species. If the Red-legged frog is found in our canyon it will be an extremely significant event.

Spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus hammondi*)

When the winter rains come and water saturates down into the soil the Spadefoot toad awakens from its long slumber and digs its way back up to the surface of the ground, using the tiny black spade shaped hind legs, for which he is named. Once awake from his extended period of sleep, the Spadefoot will daily dig down, with a backwards heading movement, and come back up for mating and feeding at 8 or 9 at night. We are not sure if the extended sleep is near the mating site or not. I found my first Spadefoot tadpoles on December 8, 1996 on Carmel Mountain. There were only a few of them and they were very small. They were swimming with fairy shrimp. You could not see them as the water was so muddy. Only a sweep with a small net revealed their presence.

This year (1997) there were many Spadefoot tadpoles in the Mira Mesa vernal pools, last year there were only a couple. They dominated the pools on the western edge of the complex, while the Treefrog tadpoles dominated the largest pool, located in the southern sector, as well as those on the east. There were, however, a few small pools that they shared in common on the southern edge. By February 19th, the Spadefoot pools were dry and the tadpoles were dead.

When tadpoles first hatch it's hard to tell if they're Tree frog or Spadefoot. They are so tiny and very similar in appearance. You have to look at the egg sac they wiggled out of to be sure which is which. Spadefoot eggs each have an individual sac in the larger envelope, but all the eggs are mixed together in the Treefrog envelope. Sometimes it is difficult to discern this feature, however.

As the tadpoles grow larger, a difference in size and shape is used to key them out. The Spadefoot tadpole is larger and wider, with a mouse-shaped body, as seen from above. The growth of tadpoles is keyed to increases in water temperature. If the temperature were to remain constant and the water not dry they would grow much slower. In a controlled experiment with a constant cool water temperature a batch of my Spadefoot tadpoles did not transform until over a year later!

The behavior of the Tree frog and Spadefoot tadpoles is different in response to your approach to a pool. The Treefrog tadpole will sense your presence and scurry rapidly to deeper water in the center of the pool. The Spadefoot is oblivious to you and will continue to leisurely swim and eat near the pool margins. Although all the Spadefoot tadpoles died at the Mira Mesa pools for the second year in a row, a few must have made it on Carmel Mountain, where there were at least one or two deep, wide, more lasting road puddles. Many surely made it in the road puddles northeast of the Del Mar Mesa complex, especially at the site of the old wrecked car stuck in the mud. This area is one of the best for Spadefoot and will probably be destroyed by development. Although

Ranch House Roundup

Supervising Ranger Reneene Mowry

Quilting Challenge Exhibit

The Los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House will be the setting for a unique quilt display on Saturday, January 10, and Sunday, January 11, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The show will feature variations of an antique quilt from the San Diego Historical Society's archives. The Historical Society and Quilt San Diego issued a challenge to quilters to submit their impression of a quilt which was stitched in 1841 by Martha J. Ballard. The coverlet features a pattern known as "Reel and Oak Leaves" that was popular on the East Coast at that time.

The challenge has been met locally as well as by out-of-state quilters. Even school children have joined. Each quilter has designed a traditionally quilted piece of any size, which may be a wall hanging, miniature quilt, a small or large bed quilt or even an article of clothing in Martha's Quilt theme.

The quilting exhibit, which is free to the public, is the first event of this type to be held at the historic adobe. For more information about the event, call Chairperson Lois Hammond at (619) 672-1844.

Park Host Opening at Ranch House

If you own an RV, would like to live in a beautiful and peaceful setting, and can put in 20 hours of unpaid labor per week (for a truly wonderful boss!), do I have a deal for you! I will have a park host vacancy at the Ranch House, effective January 12, and am looking for a responsible individual or couple to fill the position. As a County live-in volunteer, you are required to put in 20 hours of work per week at the park. In exchange, you receive a free RV site and utilities (water and electric). This position requires gardening, general maintenance, and public relations skills. Your main duties would be the upkeep of the Ranch House, gardens and grounds. Interested? Give me a call at (619) 484-7504.

Annual Meeting & Election

The Friends' annual meeting and election of officers took place Dec. 5 at the ranch house. More than 70 people crowded the hall to hear wildlife biologist Kevin Crooks give a great presentation on the status of Carnivores in San Diego's canyons.

Officers for the new year were also elected: Mike Kelly returns as President, as does Lani Noreke as Vice-president, and Brian Swanson as treasurer. Edward DiBella replace Les Braund as Secretary. Thanks for the many years of minute taking Les!

1997 Fund Appeal

Before reporting this years results, we invited you to drop by the ranch and watch our New (used) tractor, a Ford N8 in action we bought with last years fund appeal monies. We got a great selection of equipment with it, including two mowers, a discer, a box scraper, rips and a bucket. The only tool left to get is an auger.

For 1997, to date, \$3,615 has been raised in our annual fund appeal. A special thanks go to especially generous gifts from:

Rick Botta & Liz Rozycki

John & Alice Greene

Mike Kelly

Edith Helen Monsees

James & Louise O'Neil

Greg Vines

Phil White

Kent & Lana Wilson

Also generously donating were:

Wendy Dallas

Edward DiBella

Louise Eifert

Marilyn & James Evans

Sharon Gebauer

Dan Gibbs

Gayle Goldman

Jim & Karuna Gordon

Robert & Sharon Greenamyre

Jim Hannan

Elena & Ray Juarez

Mike Kelly & Christine Whitten

Rena Kerwin

Tom Komin

Alison Lawrance & Lowell Tozer

Hans Leenhouts

Paul & Carol Micheletti

Jim & Barbara Peugh

Ann Pogue

Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Reynolds

Roy & Edwina Riblet

Ron Sanders

Triska & Jerry Seeger

Vivienne Seymore

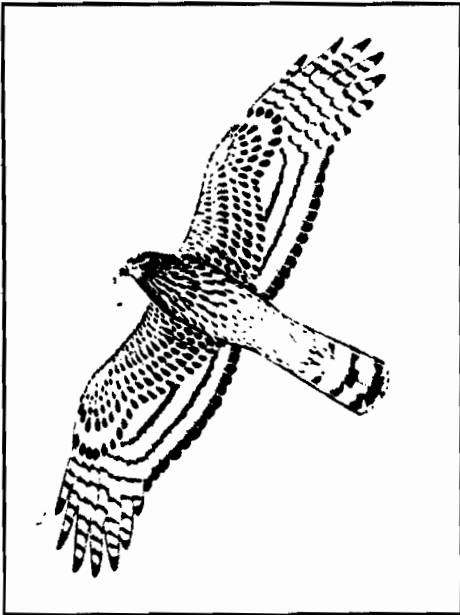
Pat Walsh

Dean Woods

Antoinette & Francisco Wong

Special thanks to Carrie and Bill Barton for donating a Global Positioning System to the Friends. It will be put to good use in our wildlife and plant surveys.

grass he pulled out and swooped over the ground in a graceful arc, his momentum carrying him back up in another steep ascent. In outline it looked like a big "U." This movement was repeated over and over again, in a pattern that has been described as UUUUU (Bent, 1937). This is the courtship/territorial display of the male Harrier. Just like a bird song, it has a dual message: An invitation to the females to join him in the rites of spring, and a warning to the males that "this is my turf." His wings were held outstretched in the entire maneuver. It



was pure grace. I was not the only observer, for at least three other Harriers were within sight; two females and an older male. After about a dozen of these dives, the young male suddenly broke off the dance and dove down the hillside at the older male. I thought for sure the two would collide and fight, but they did not. Instead, they flew almost side by side, calling. It was as if the younger male was escorting the older one off his land. Age in male Harriers can be determined for the first few years by plumage color, and the young male may have been the other's son as North American migratory birds tend to return in the spring, to the proximity of their birth.

Six Nests

Over the next month as many as six Harriers were observed at one time in this section of López Canyon, usually hunting the hillsides. Subsequently a

young male (same one?) established a nest on one hillside, while an older male (his Dad?) established his about 400 meters to the west. I found four other Harrier nests in Peñasquitos Canyon. Like the López nests, all were on the ground, which seems quite surprising for such a large bird. However, their former name was Marsh Hawk, indicating their preferred habitat, where there are few to no trees. Perhaps this is why Harriers usually nest on the ground. Most often they nest in vast acreage's of grass or marsh (Hammerstrom, 1986), but these areas have not been included within the Peñasquitos reserve boundaries and have been lost (preserving grasslands county wide is a problem). Of the six nests I located, three were lost — apparently to predators. Coyotes, bobcats, gray fox, skunks, raccoons, and other ground predators will eat the eggs or young if they locate the nest. These nests must be easy to locate in our small grassy patches, especially when the young start defecating around the nest. Thus it is imperative that people not attempt to locate these nests as the trails that are created stepping on the tall grass will be followed by curious mammalian predators.

... it is imperative that people not attempt to locate these nests as the trails that are created stepping on the tall grass will be followed by curious mammalian

There are, of course, techniques raptor biologists use for visiting nests once or twice in the three month egg-to-fledging cycle, which do not leave trails for predators to follow. The nest built by the young male mentioned above and his female, was on a steep hillside. Each time the female returned to the nest to resume incubation she knocked a bit more of the surrounding grass down. Finally, the nest began to tilt on the steep hillside, and the eggs apparently rolled out. This made four nests where no eggs hatched. At another of the nests I found three healthy, down covered young. The three were of different sizes since they hatched several days apart. There is much evidence that for raptors this is a method to guarantee that one or more will survive if prey populations are

low (Palmer, 1988). (Indeed, the larger nestling may eat the smaller ones.) A week later I was in the area again and noticed that the parents were missing. Several days later I went back and the parents were still missing. Fearing the worse, I went into the nest and discovered that the young had crawled into the tall grass and died, apparently from starvation. The most likely explanation for this event is that one of the parents died and the other then deserted the nest, which is usual in hawks (Newton, 1976). However, in a study of Spanish Marsh Harriers (*Circus aeruginosus*), a male did successfully raise his "nearly grown" young after the female disappeared, but this is the exception and has only been reported in instances where the young are close to fledging when one adult disappears (Fernandez, 1992).

Success

One afternoon late in spring, I noticed a large, dark brown chicken standing in plain site on a hillside. The grass had grown and died by this time of year, and the bird was very exposed not only because of its color, but the tall grass has been fattened, presumably by wind. Of course I knew it wasn't a chicken, but what was it? I trained the scope on it and much to my surprise, there were three of them — not chickens, but fledgling Harriers. A male I had seen on many occasions had indeed had a nest, and here was the family! It took five days of my nervously watching them (how could no one else see this!??). I expected a coyote or perhaps someone's unleashed dog to run after them, but they remained unseen and finally lifted off to float across the canyon on those magical wings. This success, one of six nests (17%) is far below the 76% reported by Hammerstrom (1986) for 252 Harrier nests in Wisconsin (part of a 27-year study). But their nests were in a 50,000 acre tract of grasslands and marshes where nests are easily hidden due to the immensity of the area. In contrast, Peñasquitos Canyon has small, fragmented patches of suitable Harrier nesting habitat.

Hopefully these three young Peñasquitos raised Harriers found suitable winter hunting grounds and

Not Even Rain Stops Our Volunteers

by Mike Kelly

It didn't matter this late fall, sun or rain, volunteers turned out to make every restoration planting. One Saturday it had poured and was now drizzlin' and I didn't expect anyone to show at the meeting point on La Tortola St. I went as a courtesy, but lo' and behold, three die-hards (Edward DiBella, Steve Swenson and Rick Botta) were there. So we got a bunch of Coast live oaks and toyons in the ground. When it drizzled we simply ducked under the canopy of mature oaks and botanized a bit. Wouldn't you know it, but Ranger Bill Lawrence comes by with 5 or 6 Trans County Crew Leader diehards who set about scoping in the new trail. You simply can't keep good volunteers from getting their "fix."

October Wildlife Survey

Volunteers who participated included: Nancy Aguilar, Jamie Alesi, Luanne Barrett, Jeannette DeAngelis, Daniel Evans, Dion Heller, Bonnie Hendricks, Janet Hohler, Pat Holland, Leo Holland, Nick Kellett, Mike Kelly, Wanda Kwiatt, Skott Lanning, Gretchen Morse, Reneene Mowrey, Joanne Parker, Fred Prince, Tarja Sagar, Rose Sanchez, Julie Savary, Scott Stark, Ty Sterns, Steve Swenson, Aaron Thode, Cindy Torgison, and Karin Ingvarsdotter Vaughn.

Nature Awareness and Earth Skills Weekend

The volunteers were: Chris Bader, Rick Botta, Uli Burgin, John Fisher, Lee Kirchhevel, Barry Martin, Erik Noreke, Lani Noreke, Steve Swenson, June Warburton, and Dean Woods.

Newsletter Committee

Helping put the last newsletter together were: Christine Miller, Mike Kelly, Linda King, and Les Braund.

Burn Surveys

Cindy Burrascano, Mel Howe and Mike Kelly conducted plant/habitat surveys in prospective prescriptive burn sites.

1-Mile Marker Revegetation

Mike Kelly, Cindy Burrascano, Suzanne Leining, Jason Mubarak,

Becky Scease, Liz Rozycki, Mike Gagliardi, Carrie Barton, Edward DiBella, Michele Murphree, Dixie Stansell, Rob Hutsel, Christine & Greg Miller, and Barbara Nkele combined to put in protective fencing and native plants, including: Cottonwoods, oaks, sycamores, mulefat, false indigo, goldenbush, artemisia douglasiana.

Volunteer Coordinator

A big thanks to Michelle Murphree who has been our volunteer coordinator the last several months and doing a bang-up job of it.

Also, a big thanks to Ranger Dion Heller for helping coordinate the plantings, hauling plants, and digging a tone of holes.

Marsh Restoration at West End

Frankenia, salicornia, juncus grass and goldenbush were the plants put in the ground with the help of: Cindy Burrascano, Edward DiBella, Michele Murphree, Dixie Stansell, Rob Hutsel, Christine & Greg Miller, Drew DeShazo, Steve Swenson, Joy Rutherford, Kristopher Diulic, Linda Kourtis, Keith Fink, Terry Gaughen, Dean Woods, Sally Trinkka and Mike Kelly. More than 500 feet of a closed trail were "reveged" in this brackish (somewhat saline) marsh just above the El Cuervo Adobe ruin. A protective fence was also installed.

Vista High School Repeats

More than 130 students, along with their wonderful teacher Georgia Austin, returned for two days of restoration work in this their second annual visit. They helped Mike Kelly and Ranger Heller get over 500 plants in the ground on two different sites: a duplicate road we closed northeast of the waterfall and severely eroded trails on the southwest side of the same falls. What will they do next year?

Americorps Team in Again

Ten members of the Americorps spent several days on weeding and planting projects in the Preserve this December. They helped Mike Kelly plant sections of a trail closure above the "narrows," and helped Ranger

New Members

Welcome to the following folks who recently joined the Friends.

Luanne Barrett
Bonnie Bruce
Charles Cogswell
Gloria Carvalho
Sandra del Castillo
Debra & Brian Jones
Kevin Key
Linda Kourtis
Kaitlin Meadows
Gary & Lisa Perlmutter
Bruce Sanderson
Walt & Marlene Shaw
Patricia Warner

Heller work with the Vista High School one day and eradicated eucalyptus and palm trees another day.

Narrows Restoration

On a Saturday, Mike Kelly, Michele Murphree, Edward DiBella, Pat Watkins, Mike Gagliardi, Dave Neubauer, and Linda Kourtis finished the narrows revegetation begun by the Americorps the day before. Good timing!

There was more volunteer activity but I'm out of space!.

Computers & Software Needed

Once again we ask our readers to check you garages for outdated computers and software. Our computer guru, Erik, is often able to scavenge useful parts from them, which we use to build modest systems for use in our work and other non-profit groups.

For software we badly need Page-maker programs such as Pagemaker for the PC or Mac, database programs such as Filemaker Pro for the PC.

Your equipment donation is tax deductible.

Call Mike at 566-6489 on the software and Erik at 565-4586 on the hardware if you have questions.

(Raptor study cont'd)

will return this spring to join in the sky dances. You can also look for the dance up high as I saw one occur at great altitude — probably over 600 feet up along a ridge near Sycamore Crossing. This male kept going for over 30 “U”s and ended it with a dive to the chaparral where he resumed hunting. The Sky Dance is actually a corkscrew. That is, the bird is not just flying up and down as it appears when viewed from the side, but is spiraling.

There are many variations of this beautiful dance — and I hope you get to see them this spring. The best time of day is in the early morning. My notes from 1996 show that they were the most common in February and March, but males that lose a nest or mate will probably perform them into late spring.

Please feel free to stop and discuss your nature watching with me if you see me in the canyon! (Usual garb = binoculars, telescope, notebook, permanent kink in the neck from looking up. . . .)

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**(Frogs cont'd)**

Spadefoot toads are a “protected species” under Fish & Game guidelines, they are not very well protected at all!

Western toad (*Bufo boreas*)

The once common and widespread Western Toad, which is a very good garden dweller, helping to control insects, is now in great decline across the West. This year I only saw one adult, that in the López Canyon parking lot, after a Full Moon Frog Hike in April. I did not see any tadpoles of this species at the Del Mar Mesa complex, as I did two seasons ago. Neither were they there last year, but it was probably too dry, like this year. The Western Toad looks a lot like the Spadefoot, but does not have the spade. You should have a better chance of seeing this species more often throughout the year than the Spadefoot. But you probably will not see it at all. If you do see a toad, try to look at the rear legs for identification. If you pick it up or it jumps on your shoe and pees out of fear, that would be a serious loss of body fluids for the toad, so be gentle.

We really should be seeing much more of the Western Toad. The fact that we do not points out how the canyon has been compromised by surrounding development and deterioration of natural habitat.

Home grown observations

Three years ago I took on the time consuming task of raising frogs and toads. My rationale was that I thought we needed to know something about this process in case we might need to take it up to replenish dwindling stocks. Although, I had no inherent attraction to anurans, and my interest was purely scientific, as it turns out, I have really grown fond of frogs and toads.

Currently, I have several varieties of anurans which I am studying. Observing them first hand on a daily basis across the seasons reveals many things about them which you could not get to know very easily in the field.

The results of my studies leads me to believe that we could successfully raise our native species without a great deal of financial expenditure.

You do have to feed the baby frogs and toads with a pair of tweezers until they can fare for themselves and you

need different sized food depending on big your frog or toad is. With the Tree frog you might even have to start out with ants as food, while the juvenile Bullfrog will jump up and eat your finger if it can. The most lovable anuran is the Spadefoot toad — by far. It looks something like Jabba the Hut from Star Wars. But it has very beautiful intricately-patterned eyes and an extremely pleasing personality. It's much easier to become attached to the Spadefoot than any other anuran.

Conclusions

After two dry years and corresponding low birth rates we need our standing water to last for a little longer this season. I do not know how many years in a row our populations can tolerate hot and dry conditions. But if you consider their relatively short lifespans it could be significant if we are undergoing global warming, as many of our scientists have suggested.

The decline in our frog and toad populations, as in the case of the Red-legged frog and Western toad, can only mean that our natural areas are deteriorating, even though we are hard at work restoring them.

Favorable habitat for other sensitive species, such as the Spadefoot, which still exists in respectable numbers, should be monitored or set aside for protection.

For instance, an excellent Spadefoot area exists on the dirt roads of Carmel Mountain very near to stands of Dwarf dudleya, an endangered species of plant. In the same road pools which the Spadefoot uses, near the Dudleya, can be found the endangered San Diego Fairy Shrimp (Isbel Kay of the UC Reserve System has told me that Marie Simovitch, a local expert, has recently confirmed their presence). Here we could protect three rare species. The Del Mar Mesa vernal pool complex could also be extended outward from the front gate 20–30 yards to include an excellent area of ditches in which the Western Toad has been known to breed. It could also be extended to the northeast to include a superior area of dirt road which is one of the best breeding sites for Spadefoot Toads that I've seen.

Your continued support of the Friends of Penasquitos Canyon might make such important work possible.

(Creek bulldozing cont'd)

were built in the 1960s. It's a collection of hi-tech companies, many with expensive infrastructures in leased buildings. This district flooded September 1997, January 1997 and November 1996 (King 1997). You surely remember the famous floods of September of '97? **NOT**. There weren't any in the rest of the city. However, less than 1-inch of rain, a 1-year rain event as they're called, caused Roselle Street to flood with two feet of water, stranding motorists who had to be rescued from their trapped vehicles. I witnessed this last September.

In 1995, rains equivalent to a 10-year event (an event expected to occur once every 10 years) — considered a moderate rain event — caused serious flooding in the interiors of buildings, costing millions of dollars to the businesses flooded. One company went out of business and is suing the City for not preventing the flooding.

Rail transportation was halted through the area because of the flooding and auto traffic had to be rerouted from one of the busiest intersections in the city. The railroad tracks are often under water during the bigger events, requiring a railroad person to walk in front of the trains to be sure the bridges over the creek are still there!

Flooding during light rain events such as those of this past year is ridiculous. Why is it happening?

Four factors identified

Bad land use decisions, urbanization of the watershed, channelization and lack of maintenance all contribute to the history of flooding in this area.

Flood plain development

To put it simply, the Sorrento West Business Park was built in a flood plain. Poor land use decisions by the City of San Diego allowed building in this flood plain and others such as the Tijuana River Valley. Legally, the City justifies permitting this building by saying that these flood plains weren't officially mapped by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) or the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This is technically true. The ACOE didn't officially map our drainage until 1967 (ACOE 1967). This report provides maps showing the intermediate region-

al flood (100-year flood) and the lesser flood (50-year flood) for Soledad Canyon, Carmel Valley, Los Peñasquitos Creek, Poway Creek, Rattlesnake Creek, and Pomerado Valley, the watershed of Los Peñasquitos Lagoon.

I know from personal course work in fluvial geomorphology and hydrology that determining the extent of the flood plain can sometimes be difficult. However, this is not the case in Sorrento Valley. City planners had to know they were permitting development in a flood-prone plain. After publication of the ACOE report, some of the future developments were required to build on higher pads, theoretically lifting them out of the flood plain. The streets surrounding them were still below flood plain level, in buildings surrounded by flood waters (King 1997).

Even back in 1967 the Corps (ACOE 1997) noted that "floodwaters overtop the channels and cause damage to residential and commercial development or to property suitable for such development. **The existing flood-control works in Los Peñasquitos area are inadequate for large flows (emphasis added).**" The report noted that these conditions existed for all six of the creeks they studied in the drainage.

Urbanization

The Corps report was prompted by a request from the City of San Diego as planners looked at the plans for future development, i.e., urbanization of the watershed. Ironically, in 1967, it was the City of Poway that was undergoing the rapid development, while development in Mira Mesa and Carmey Valley was still a gleam in developers' eyes.

Urbanization has a big impact on a watershed. As you convert natural lands or agricultural lands to rooftops, parking lots and streets (impervious surfaces, hardscape), you reduce the capacity of a watershed to absorb water. This water is carried via storm drains — **not into our sewer system and out to the ocean safely as many people assume — but into our canyons**. As urbanization progresses more and more water pours into our canyons than did so historically.

One such impact is an increase in peak flood flows. Prestegard estimated that the 2-year flood would double on major streams, four times on urba-

nized tributary streams, while the 100-year flood event would increase by 1.3 times on major streams and by 3 times on tributaries (Prestegard 1975). Prestegard, in the same report, studied the channels throughout the watershed and stated unequivocally that "The channel in Soledad [the old name for Sorrento Valley] valley cannot contain any but the lowest flows."

A SANDAG (San Diego Association of Governments) report (SANDAG 1982) came to similar conclusions. This report also predicted that the Sorrento Creek channelization could carry only a 15-year flood peak event with urban development in place.

Other impacts expected from urbanization in our drainage have been well studied and include: increased erosion (especially during the construction phase), increased sediment load and declining water quality due to urban runoff pollution (Bradshaw 1968, City of Poway 1990, City of San Diego 1967, Mudie 1974, Prestegard 1975, SANDAG 1982).

Channelization

So, we not only have building directly in the flood plain throughout all of the creeks in the watershed, but we also have large-scale urbanization which increases the size and frequency of flooding. Historically, the reaction to this threat has been to dam, dike and channelize our rivers and streams, whether a flow as large as the Mississippi or as small as Peñasquitos Creek and its tributaries. All of this has been done to creeks in our drainage.

The idea is to take the natural stream beds and deepen them, widen them and, often, line them with concrete or rip rap (large rocks), and sometimes put them inside culverts and carry the water downstream and out to the ocean fast. This works in many cases if you build it big enough for your biggest flood event, maintain the dikes or channel walls and keep them clean of debris, silt and vegetation. Ironically, such channelization is often done on a piecemeal basis, as is the case in our drainage.

Much of the tributaries in the City of Poway that feed Peñasquitos Creek are channelized. This sends more water faster downstream, increasing peak flows and the tendency to flood! It's a

way of exporting your flooding problem downstream. (A San Diego city engineer recently complained in a meeting I attended that it was impossible to get the City of Poway to return calls on this subject.)

Maintenance

Our fourth and last factor is the lack of maintenance. As with many other things in our city (sewers, roads), maintenance of channels is often the first thing to be cut in the City budget, deferred to the "future." The result is crisis management. The channels approaching and in Sorrento Valley were not maintained adequately for decades. Silt carried by the increased erosion due to urbanization in the watershed built up to a depth of 12 feet in some areas. This new land was colonized by native and exotic plants such as *arundo donax* (Giant reed). The latter is well-known to clog channels. The buildup of vegetation (habitat) in turn traps more sediment and slows down flood waters just where they were meant to quickly pass through. Flooding increases. The lack of maintenance also meant that storm drains from Roselle Street that emptied into Sorrento Creek were blocked by the silt buildup, hence the flooding in light to moderate rain events. The water in Sorrento Valley literally had no place to go and created a lake during each moderate rainfall.

Environmental concerns

The Friends have two sets of concerns connected to this flooding and attempts to correct it. First, the only wildlife corridor connection from Torrey Pines State Park to the outside natural world — in this case Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve — is along Peñasquitos Creek from its junction with Sorrento Creek upstream under the I-5/I-805 "merge." This connection is vital for the biological health of the wildlife of both natural parks. Bulldozing these creeks will affect this connection.

In meetings with other environmental groups (Audubon, Surfrider), Sorrento West businesses, State Parks and City Engineering, the Friends pushed to save the wildlife corridor connection by reducing the proposed channel bulldozing. Originally the City proposed a new pilot channel out to the ocean (!) and 200 foot wide in Sorrento Valley. This would have destroyed

the wildlife linkage. Facing stiff opposition from many quarters, the City brought forward a new plan (City of San Diego 1997) calling for clearing a new channel of a 100 foot width in Sorrento Creek, which leaves an adequate, heavily vegetated corridor along the natural creek to the east.

By contrast, it's my opinion, shared by our Tracking Team/Wildlife Survey leader and a wildlife biologist who just completed a study for the State Park, that the bulldozing of the bottom of Peñasquitos Creek, lowering the silt level and reducing the cattail density, can actually improve wildlife movement through that portion of the creek. Currently, the high silt and vegetation buildup, especially the *arundo donax*, blocks wildlife movement in the area. The key here, is maintaining brush cover on the two banks for the animals.

Second, we are concerned with the impacts of urbanization in both our Parks. Erosion is a serious problem in Peñasquitos Canyon, threatening already endangered plants (*Monardella linoides viminea*) and wiping out all vegetation in portions of drainages (López Canyon especially). Increased flows and erosion are causing accelerated incising of the creek, as above the waterfall, with headward erosion and dewatering of the associated wetlands.

Erosion also means too much silt gets carried downstream where it not only clogs the channels, but also causes a buildup in Peñasquitos Lagoon, creating upland habitat in place of salt water marsh. Runoff pollution (non-point source pollution, technically speaking) from development ringing the Preserve reduces our water quality to "fair" in water quality testing the Friends and various agencies have conducted. For instance, too many nutrients, too much nitrogen and phosphorus in the water promotes a buildup of algae and leads to algae blooms in the creek and lagoon to the detriment of fish and benthic organisms.

This situation is exacerbated by the inadequate tidal flushing in the lagoon due to the closing of the mouth of the lagoon resulting from the building of various highways and bridges across it. With the mouth closed and too many nutrients and consequent algae blooms, the lagoon can quickly deplete its oxygen, leading to killoffs of

its fish and mollusk populations. This in turn effects the bird populations that depend on the lagoon for their food.

Urbanization also means more fresh water year round, as well as during storm events, leading to a buildup of freshwater habitat at the expense of salt marsh habitat in Peñasquitos Lagoon. Salt marsh habitat is rarer and a priority for preservation.

A brief history

Name changes

First, some name clarifications. Sorrento Valley and Sorrento Creek are new names. Until the 1960s they were Soledad Valley and Soledad Creek. There is still a Soledad Canyon. It is in the southern (upper) portion of Sorrento Valley and is now only a major finger canyon running northwest to southeast off Carroll Canyon, carrying the Santa Fe Railroad under Miramar Road and across the Marine Air Station. (It's a beautiful canyon with some of San Diego's oldest Coast live oaks, good habitat, mule deer, hawks, etc. It's a good wildlife corridor linkage as well. Access it off of Carroll Road at Scranton.)

Peñasquitos Creek once referred to the entire length of the creek from the foothills of Poway all the way into Soledad Valley. Now, its upper portion in Poway is called Poway Creek.

Watersheds

It's best to approach flood-related issues on a watershed basis. The watershed for Peñasquitos Lagoon ranges from 95 sq. mi. (ACOE 1967) to 98 sq. mi. (Prestegard 1975), depending on whose estimate you use. It includes the drainages of Carmel Valley, Carroll Canyon and Los Peñasquitos Canyon. It may surprise you to know that Peñasquitos Canyon reaches all the way up into Poway and doesn't end at Black Mountain Road or I-15.

The Peñasquitos drainage or subwatershed is the largest of the three, being about 58 sq. m. The major creeks or tributaries flowing in these drainages include Deer Canyon Creek which flows into Carmel Creek in Carmel Valley, Carroll Creek, and then Pomerado, Rattlesnake, and Beeler Creeks which all flow into Poway Creek which becomes Peñasquitos Creek.

The insults begin

I use *insults* as both a technical term for negative impacts on the land and water, and as a perjorative term.

The first major insult to Peñasquitos Lagoon occurred with the building of the railroad in about 1888. This began the process of closing off the lagoon mouth to the influence of the tides (tidal flushing, tidal prism), necessary to maintain it as a healthy salt water dominated water and marsh habitat. Bradshaw (1968) notes that Ellis and Lee reported in 1919 that the "Soledad Streams" were able to keep narrow channels open through the beach, at least during part of the year.

However, the building of Highway 101 across the lagoon in 1932 worsened the situation and the lagoon began to be closed most of the time, causing a die-off of salt-water dependent organisms and vegetation and a shift in vegetation types. For example, no living mollusk species were found in several studies in the 1960s. Only during "exceptionally wet winters" could sufficient fresh water collect to break through the barrier bar that develops in the lagoon mouth.

Sewage flows in creek and lagoon

In the 1980s our daily paper often treated us to news of sewage spills from the infamous pump station in Peñasquitos Lagoon, closing beaches and promoting organism die-offs. However, what most people don't know is that treated sewage (the PR term is "treated effluent") was intentionally pumped into the Lagoon for decades.

The Callan Treatment plant, an old WWII facility located on Torrey Pines Mesa, was reactivated in the 1950s and was pumping 50,000 gallons of treated effluent per day into Soledad Creek and the lagoon. It was joined in 1962 by the Sorrento plant in the Lagoon, which was pumping about 500,000 gallons per day into the same lagoon (Bradshaw 1968). Another facility, the Pomerado Waste Water Treatment Plant, pumped even more treated sewage into Peñasquitos Creek from 1962 to 1972 (City of Poway 1990). In addition, the Peñasquitos Settling Ponds were used for sewage treatment, perhaps as late as 1967. I have yet to find a good report on these. These ponds may still be seen, vegetated now, just west of the Rancho

Santa Maria ranch house off Black Mountain Road. These 14-acres or so of dikes and ponds sit right next to Peñasquitos Creek. What we don't know yet is if any of this effluent was pumped or leaked into the creek. (It's an area we hope to restore soon.) Many folks living downstream during this period in Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos had no idea the stream they were visiting and their kids were playing, in was in large part treated sewage!

Plans for an SDGE Nuclear Power Plant (Bradshaw 1968) in Sorrento Valley and for a new Pomerado Water Reclamation Plant with live stream discharge (City of Poway 1990) were both discarded. Public opposition played a big role in both decisions.

"Effluent" impacts on lagoon

This treated effluent brought two problems with it. One was fresh water way above the historic flows into the lagoon, particularly outside of the rainy season. This effluent flow occurred during a time when urbanization was also adding fresh water to the system, during storm events, but also year round due to irrigation. The second problem was the high nitrate and phosphate levels. This combination of additional nutrient-rich fresh water pouring into a closed lagoon system without adequate tidal flushing led to repeated die-offs and the aforementioned shift in vegetation types. High temperatures build up in the waters of a closed system like this and contribute to the die-offs. Such a die-off occurred in San Elijo Lagoon in the summer of 1997. One problem caused by this infusion of effluent was a tremendous mosquito problem. This prompted significant public opposition to these flows and, combined with studies of the negative biological impacts, led the Regional Water Quality Control Board to oppose continuation of these facilities or building of new ones.

Peñasquitos Lagoon's mouth is now kept open with periodic and expensive bulldozing — but it accomplishes its purpose of permitting tidal flushing.

Impacts on Peñasquitos Creek

Peñasquitos Creek is now a perennial creek, flowing year round. Was this always the case? Dr. John Northrop, a geologist and hydrologist by training, a

charter member of the Friends and well-known to our readers has said that it was a perennial stream, not drying up in the summer. Les Braund, a Mira Mesa resident and long-time Friends' board member remembers the creek not running during the summer in the early 1970s. He remembers standing on the old Black Mountain Road crossing of the creek (pre-bridge) and seeing no water. Another board member, geologist Don Albright also remembers it not running some years.

We have no U.S. Geological Survey data for our creek prior to 1964, the year in which (10/1) a flow gauge was installed on the creek just west of what is now I-15. Bradshaw (1968) referred to the creek as seasonal, while Prestegard (1975) said it flowed "most" of the year. Who's right? Probably both sides.

The flow data we do have (on the web at www.usgs.gov) illustrates the impact of the live stream discharge between 1962-1972. From 1965-1972, the median discharge of treated effluent was .90 cfs (cubic feet per second), ranging from a low of .03 to a high of 3.50 cfs. It also shows a sharp drop off when the plant closed in 1972. From 1973-1979 the median discharge dropped to a low 0.10 cfs, with a range of 0.00 to 25 cfs. In other words, at times, there was no measurable flow in the creek. Thereafter, the median discharge steadily increased, even during the summer months, "probably reflecting increased runoff due to urbanization in the watershed" (City of Poway 1990).

My opinion is that the data and personal observations support the hypothesis that the creek wasn't consistently perennial. In years with above average rainfalls, heavy late seasonal rainfalls or significant summer rain, the creek flowed through the year into the lagoon. In contrast, during years of average to low rainfalls, certainly during periods of extended drought, it was seasonal. This shouldn't be surprising in our arid climate. The springs feeding Peñasquitos Creek are too few and far between to promote a year round flow except in their immediate down-stream area. The largest spring, pumping up to 86,000 gallons per day into the creek, is at the adobe ranch house off Black Mountain Road. Another lays a bit east at the Mohnike Adobe, a relatively

small spring. If you were standing downstream of these the creek would certainly be flowing past you at any given time, probably, but not all the way to the ocean. If you were standing downstream in the lagoon from the 1950s through 1972, you would have been seeing a flow, but mostly of treated effluent.

Now, however, in 1997 we have a strong year-round flow, even during the most recent drought. It's due to excessive irrigation, car washing, etc. in our watershed. Good or bad? These flows tend to bring toxics (oil from driveways), pesticides and fertilizer, all harmful to some extent to our water and the organisms in it. Each significant finger canyon in the Preserve now has a new riparian area in it. This is both good and bad. Riparian areas in the desert tend to be scarce, but extremely important to wildlife. Adding some small acreages here is beneficial. On the negative side, this same runoff brings seeds of exotic plants, which tend to have a negative impact on local flora and fauna. We are spending considerable energies cleaning these exotics out of these same canyons. Constant management can control this.

The worst impact from urbanization, I feel, is the increase in flow and velocity (peak flows) during storms. We are seeing much erosion from this, areas that are denuded and remaining so. beds of cobble or bedrock with no vegetation. We are still grappling with how to mitigate this problem.

Northrop's Dam

In the November/December 1997 *Canyon News*, Dr. John Northrop argued for studying if a dam at the narrows would solve downstream flooding. He also saw it as a recreational plus. This idea has actually been studied several times. Irving Kahn, the developer who wanted to build a subdivision in the canyon at the time he and the Teamster's Pension Fund owned it proposed a dam at this site. Later, SANDAG (1982) studied more than 20 possible flood-retention reservoir sites in the watershed, including the narrows. They considered a 50 foot high by 670 foot long dam with a maximum storage capacity of 4,750 acre feet of water at a 1982 cost of \$7.8 million. They rejected all the sites as

being economically unjustifiable, stating "Neither would the degree of flood protection they provide be sufficient to justify the cost."

I and other Friends' Board members don't like the dam idea for three reasons. One is the biological impacts, losing the habitat this would entail. This would compromise our primary mission in this Preserve to preserve and restore its biological diversity. The hiking and riding, the utilities permitted have enough negative impacts on the biology without constructing a dam and recreational lake.

Second is the aesthetics. I love the narrows. This miniature chasm with its wonderful geology is beautiful. The well-worn trail to its edge testifies to its power to attract and enthrall others as well.

Third, why must we continue to focus on solutions to man-mind problems at the expense of the environment? Why can't we focus on the watershed and reducing peak flows and excessive siltation. Let's restore flood plain with its water retaining and slowing properties by removing the dikes at the east and west ends. Let's slow the waters coming out of the finger canyons down.

Mitigation

Because of its impacts on several acres of salt marsh and fresh water riparian, the City is required to mitigate by restoring or creating similar habitat elsewhere. We and State Parks proposed a mitigation site in Peñasquitos Lagoon as our first priority for mitigating the impacts of the creeks being bulldozed. This was rejected by the Corps as being out-of-kind. Another proposal we made, a project in the park that involves removing old dikes and restoring historic flood plain, while restoring wetlands was tentatively accepted. This is the area we call the bean fields, north and east of the El Cuervo adobe ruins at the Sorrento Valley end of the Preserve. Detailed analysis and plans are being worked up. We wanted to emphasize with this proposal the need to study upstream solutions — where the problems originate — and solutions that deal with the underlying causes of the flooding and the negative impacts on the lagoon.

Conclusion

In the meetings with the City Engineering Dept. we and others emphasized the importance of looking at the flooding and other problems we have identified on a watershed basis. We argued for upstream solutions to reduce the siltation and peak flows that cause downstream problems. We argued that this would be safer and cheaper for the taxpayers in the longer run than the crisis management of the past. We did not feel that the City was responsive in any way to this perspective. We will keep pushing this perspective.

Literature cited

The literature cited here is in my library. Since it is often hard to obtain, anyone wanting a copy can contact me and I'll be happy to have it copied for you at cost.

- Bradshaw, J. 1968. Report on the Biological and Ecological Relationships in the Los Peñasquitos Lagoon and Salt Marsh Area of the Torrey Pines State Reserve. State Div. of Beachs and Parks.
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- SANDAG. 1982. Los Peñasquitos Lagoon Watershed Management Plan. San Diego, Ca.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

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Friends' Directory

Officers

- President: Mike Kelly 566-6489
- Vice-President: Lani Noreke 565-4586
- Treasurer: Brian Swanson 695-2209
- Secretary: Edward DiBella 748-5276

Other Members of the Board of Directors

- Don Albright, Vickie Ausen, Les Braund, Barry Martin, Erik Noreke, Dean Woods

Walks and Committees Leaders

- Bird Walks: Brian Swanson (695-2209)
- Geology Walk Leader: Don Albright (443-5937)
- Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
- Kiosk Designer: Linda King
- Medicinal Plant & Moon Walks: Will Bowen (452-7091)
- Mystery Tree Walks: Vickie Ausen
- Nature Walk: Les Braund (566-3958)
- Newsletter: Mike Kelly
- Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
- Tracking Walk: Chris Bader
- Vernal Pool & other walks: Mike Kelly
- Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
- Voice Mail System: Erik Noreke and Liza Rosenberg
- Tracking Team Coordinator: Barry Martin (484-4007)
- Volunteer Coordinator: Michelle Murphree (224-4192)
- Wildlife Survey Committee: Lani Noreke

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

- Senior (62) or Student \$7.00 Individual \$10
- Family \$15 Sponsor \$25 Patron \$100
- Corporate \$250 Life \$1000
- Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

- Volunteer** to help the committee (call me to discuss)
- Hikes
- Indian Culture 1/98
- Educational Workshops
- School, Family, Youth Programs
- Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

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 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.



Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

March/ April 1998

Volume 12 No. 2

Petition Circulators Needed

Friends Endorse Initiative

Mike Kelly

Feb. 11, the Friends Board of Directors unanimously endorsed the Rural Heritage & Watershed Initiative. The Board also voted to make a donation of \$1,000 to the initiative. We are sending petitions for this initiative to all of our members. Please circulate these among your neighbors and friends and consider signing up to help petition at shopping centers and of making a donation to the initiative effort.

I won't go into a lot of detail about the initiative since we are printing an article below by Linda Michael that gives a good overview of the petition campaign.

You only have to drive into what we use to call the 'back country' to see why this initiative is needed. Row upon row of housing developments now cover what use to be open space. Does anyone consider Alpine 'rural' anymore? Ramona is next for the subdivisions. This initiative will place before the voters the opportunity to draw a line that will restrict urban level development to the existing urbanized areas and allow agriculture and ranching, i.e., rural areas, to have a future in our county. It will also have the effect of preserving large open space areas for wildlife and outdoor recreation.

The County Board of Supervisors has abdicated its legal responsibility to manage future growth in our County. With your help, now we the voters will have the opportunity to exercise this responsibility and provide a sensible framework for future growth.

Please return petitions as you fill them to: POB 26523, San Diego 92196 and return all petitions by April 18. Please read the accompanying article by Linda Michael.

Rural Heritage & Watershed Initiative

Linda Michael

An occasional visitor to San Diego's backcountry can't help notice new urban-levels of development springing up in once rural areas: the Wal-Mart east of El Cajon; tract-housing in Alpine; and the high-density apartment complex on SR-67 north of Lakeside. Much more development is invisible to the backcountry visitor: approved by the County Board of Supervisors, but not yet under construction.

Recognizing this ever-expanding urban sprawl is a serious threat to the quality of life in San Diego County, many organizations have endorsed the Rural Heritage & Watershed Initiative (RHWI), including the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the League of Women Voters, San Diego Surfrider Foundation and many others. Recent endorsements include the mayors of Chula Vista and Lemon Grove and many other elected officials.

The RHWI will prevent misdirected urban development by effectively creating an urban/rural boundary to protect the County's watersheds; enhance agriculture in the County's backcountry; protect wilderness areas and important wildlife habitat; promote the County's tourist industry; and avoid unnecessary and costly extension of public services and facilities to remote areas.

The initiative was drafted by experienced attorneys from the firm of Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger at the request of Save Our Forest & Ranchlands (SOFAR) which promoted the successful Forest Conservation Initiative. A RHWI Committee has formed to organize an intensive signature gathering campaign to gather approximately 100,000 signatures by May

See p.4 for more

Highlights Inside

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Letters Needed

SR56: Decision Point

Mike Kelly

The Draft Revised Environmental Impact Report (REIR) is out for State Route 56. This report corrects deficiencies in the original draft EIR of a year ago and studies two new possible alignments for SR56 called the Modified Northern Alignment D and the Modified Northern Alignment F. The report notes that steadfast opposition from the Resource Agencies (State Dept. of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services) and recognized environmental groups (that's you!) forced the City of San Diego to back off from its preferred alignment, the Central Alignment. As you'll recall, the Central Alignment would have gone through Deer Canyon, San Diego's last undeveloped coastal canyon. The Friends and other environmental groups opposed this route and argued for a northern alignment through the old, disturbed agricultural lands north of the Santa Monica Ridge. With your letters and petitions and the support of the Resource agencies, we were able

See p. 4 for more

Floods Rearrange Canyon

One storm after another has hammered the Preserve. Trails and utility roads are washed out. An entire wetlands several acres in size x more than 5 feet deep was blown out by a flash flood. If you want to witness the awesome power of nature to rearrange habitats, join Les Braund on one of his Waterfall Walks and see the hole where the wetlands use to be. Destruction, but also life giving, see the wildflower show that is the flip side of all this rain. **Be sure to call out hotline a day before any walk to make sure it's happening — since the Preserve is closed after serious flooding.**

Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. **Rain more than a drizzle cancels.** For details or group hikes, call 484-3219 for recorded information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have ongoing wildlife and stream surveys, invasive weed removal projects, planting programs and more.

March

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Intermediate Tracking Walk I

Sat., Mar. 7, 8–11 a.m. Prerequisite is participation in either the Wildlife Survey or the Nature Awareness Weekend. Practice tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Park and meet at the Adobe Ranch House where your tracking training took place.

Intermediate Tracking Walk II

Sun., Mar. 8, 8–11 a.m. Prerequisite is participation in either the Wildlife Survey or the Nature Awareness Weekend. Practice tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Park and meet at the kiosk at the Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Plant Walk at Marian Bear Regional Park

Sat., Mar. 14, 9 a.m. Meet at the end of Limerick Ave, off Clairemont Mesa Blvd. to join the Calif. Native Plant Society on a walk in this regional park.

Tracking & Nature Walk at Ranch House

Sat., Mar. 14, 1 p.m. (1-2 hours). Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. Meet at Adobe Ranch House off Black Mtn. Road. If lot is closed due to flooding, proceed up to red barn and park. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Plant Walk at Blue Sky Reserve

Sat., Mar. 14, 2 p.m. Meet at the entrance to Blue Sky Reserve off Espola Road in Poway. Call 679 5469 for directions.

Native Grassland Volunteer Restoration I: López Canyon

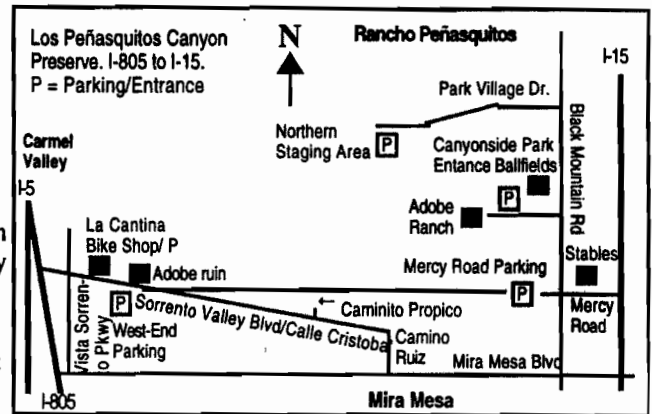
Sun., Mar. 15, 10–1 or 2. Meet at the Old Lopez Road entrance to Preserve in Mira Mesa at the intersection of Pacific Mesa Blvd. and Pacific Center Blvd. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 F6.** Join with us to preserve a native grassland/flower habitat from invading exotics. Working with Cindy Burrascano, Pres. of the San Diego Chapter of the Calif. Native Plant Society you'll learn plants of the native grasslands and the exotics threatening them. Then help collect and destroy seed heads of exotic plants and establish scientific survey transects to measure restoration progress. In April you'll collect seed from native grasses to raise nursery stock for fall plantings. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Friends' Monthly Business Meeting at Ranch House

Wed., March 18, 7–9 p.m. Meet at Adobe Ranch House off Black Mtn. Road. If lot is closed due to flooding, proceed up to red barn and park. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Waterfall Flower Walk /Northern Staging Area

Sat., Mar. 21, 8 a.m. (2–3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this nature walk to the waterfall and back. See lots of native flowers, visit the waterfall and witness the wetlands blown out by the flash flood—an awesome sight. Meet at the Northern



Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Plant Walk at Mission Trails Regional Park

Sat., Mar. 21, 8:30 a.m. See Chocolate lilies, Thorn mint and more on this Calif. Native Plant Society Walk. Call 685-7321 for details.

Tamarisk Bash in Anza Borrego

Sat., Mar. 21 – Sun., Mar. 22. Enjoy the best desert bloom in decades and camp out Sat., Mar. 21, then help bash tamarisk Mar. 22 to keep the flower coming back! Call Mike at 566-6489 or Cindy at 421-5767 for details.

Geology Walk

Sun., Mar. 22, 9–12. Join Geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Full Moon Frog Hike

Sun., Mar. 22: 7:30–9:00 p.m. Learn about and look for the anurans (frogs & toads) of Peñasquitos Canyon. Find tadpoles. Hear frog stories and songs. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley. 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Vernal Pool Walk

Sun., Mar. 29, 9 – 11). Learn about vernal pools on this walk led by Naturalist Mike Kelly. See endangered plants and animals living under extreme conditions. 10 people only, call Mike at 566-6489 to RSVP and receive directions.

See next page for more

(Calendar cont'd)**Herb Hike**

Sun., Mar. 29: 3–4:30 p.m.

Learn to identify the plants and trees of the canyon. Find out how they were used by Native Americans, Spanish, and early settlers. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

April**Historic Adobe Ranch Tour**

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Native Plant Spring Sale

Sat., Apr. 4, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. At Tree of Life Nursery in San Juan Capistrano. Call Calif. Native Plant Society voice mail at 685-7321 for details.

Full Moon Frog Hike

Sun., Apr. 5: 8–9:30 p.m.

Learn about and look for the anurans (frogs & toads) of Peñasquitos Canyon. Find tadpoles. Hear frog stories and songs. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Intermediate Tracking Walk I

Sat., Apr. 11, 8–11 a.m. Prerequisite is participation in either the Wildlife Survey or the Nature Awareness Weekend. Practice tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Park and meet at the Adobe Ranch House where your tracking training took place.

Intermediate Tracking Walk II

Sun., Apr. 12, 8–11 a.m. Prerequisite is participation in either the Wildlife Survey or the Nature Awareness Weekend. Practice tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Park and meet at the kiosk at the Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. See

Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Bird Walk in López Canyon

Sat., Apr. 18: 8–9:30 a.m. Join Brian Swanson for this early morning chance to see a variety of residents and winter visitors. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. Right on Black Mountain, then first U-turn, right into Canyonside Park past ballfields to Preserve sign and new white-fenced parking lot. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking & Nature Walk at Ranch House

Sat., Apr. 18, 1 p.m. (1-2 hours). Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. Meet at Adobe Ranch House off Black Mtn. Road. If lot is closed due to flooding, proceed up to red barn and park. **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Vernal Pool Walk

Sat., Apr. 18, 9–11). Learn about vernal pools on this walk led by Naturalist Mike Kelly. See endangered plants and animals living under extreme conditions. 10 people only, call Mike at 566-6489 to RSVP and receive directions.

Geology Walk

Sun., Apr. 19, 9–12. Join Geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

Native Grassland Volunteer Restoration II: Seed Collecting in 3 Locations

Sun., April 19, 10–1 or 2. Help collect native grass seed at 3 locations in the Preserve. The seed will be grown by volunteers for use in fall plantings in the Preserve. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Wildlife Tracking Survey Training

Sun., Apr. 19, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to undergo this 6 hour training for animal track and sign reading and survey protocol in preparation for our quarterly wildlife survey (see below). Training is free. Park at the white-fenced, Adobe Ranch House parking lot, located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Then walk up to the Ranch House itself to meet walk leader. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Wildlife Transects Apr. 25–May 3.

Wildlife track and sign surveys conducted

over some 20 transects in and about Peñasquitos Canyon and the Del Mar Mesa to collect data on Mountain lion, coyote, mule deer, fox, badger, long-tail weasel and other mammals for use in preserve and wildlife corridor design and management. Wildlife survey training a prerequisite. Call 484-3219 for more details.

Waterfall Walk /Northern Staging Area

Sat., Apr. 25, 8 a.m. (2–3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this nature walk to the waterfall and back. See lots of native flowers, visit the waterfall and witness the wetlands blown out by the flash flood—an awesome sight. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Hike to the Narrows with John Northrop

Sat., Apr. 11: 9 a.m. (about 4 miles round trip). Join Dr. John Northrop for a walk to the “narrows,” a site proposed by John for a possible dam to reduce flooding in Sorrento Valley (see article this issue). Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Earth Tuning Hike

Sun., Apr. 26: 6–7:30 p.m.

A hike for tuning our appreciation and awareness of the earth. Includes awareness exercises, meditations, drumming, song, and story-telling. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

DIRECTIONS**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**.

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal

This intersection is located 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 St. 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

★ext page for more

(Calendar cont'd)

Propico. Park in cul-de-sac on either side.
Thomas Guide p. 1208.

Cantina Bike Shop Meeting Area

Bike Shop is at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

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.**

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive

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 Ruiz. Left on Camino Ruiz and park. **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 3/4 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, past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

(Initiative cont'd)

qualifying the initiative for the November 1998 ballot.

A broad coalition of concerned citizens, planning and conservation experts, business and land owners and political leaders make up the RHWI Committee. Duncan McFetridge is chairman with Dan Brimm (businessman and rancher), Art Madrid (Mayor or La Mesa) and Sheila Cameron (Councilmember of Encinitas) serving as co-chairs. Conservation experts on the RHWI Committee include Dr. Michael Soulé (formerly of UC Santa Cruz), Dr. Ted Case (UCSD), Dr. Mike Gilpin (UCSD), Dr. Ellen Bauder (SDSU), Dr. Greg Pregill (USD), and Dr. Richard Wright (SDSU). Architect Wayne Buss, who has been actively involved in San Diego's downtown revitalization, is an active supporter along with more than 40 community plan-

ners from Alpine, Bonsall, Borrego Springs, Crest, Cuyamaca, Dehesa, Descanso, Granite Hills, Harbinson Canyon, Jamul-Dulsura, Julian, Lakeside, Potrero, Ramona, Sweetwater, Twin Oaks, and Valle de Oro.

The RHWI will affect about 600,000 acres of rural lands by limiting the creation of new parcels that are too small to allow appropriate utilization and protection of the County's backcountry resources. It does this by amending the County General Plan to establish a Rural Resource Overlay. This will restrict urban development in designated rural lands, protecting them from urban sprawl and preserving the county's overall environmental health. It accomplishes this by placing 40 and 80 acre zoning, respectively, on lands designated Rural Development Area and Environmentally Constrained Area in the County General Plan.

By restricting urban growth in the backcountry, the RHWI will shift the focus of development and available tax dollars to urban areas which have been ignored. Preventing leaf-frog development into agricultural and environmentally sensitive areas will allow funding for infrastructure improvements in the established sections of our cities that suffer from deteriorating roadways, broken sewer pipes, lack of park facilities, and lengthening response times for emergencies.

The financial, social and environmental costs of continued urban sprawl have been well documented in recent years. A report called "Beyond Sprawl" sponsored by, among others, the Bank of America, clearly illuminates the high costs of unlimited growth into rural areas. The American Farmland Trust and the Greenbelt Alliance in the San Francisco Bay area also have studied the effects of urban sprawl and noted the destructive result. Early in this decade, the Sierra Club's own "Green State of the State Report on Growth" recommended urban growth boundaries to curtail sprawl and its deleterious effects. The RHWI, if approved by the voters, will provide the urban/rural boundary recommended by these reports to stop urban sprawl in San Diego's backcountry.

**[To find out how you can help,
call the RHWI Committee at
(619) 515-4411.]**

to force this reexamination of northern alignments. Now, we need your help again. We're approaching the next, and probably final, decision point in the route 56 process.

The deadline for comments on the latest REIR is March 9. Your letters are needed once again because there is an active group organizing to push the Central Alignment. This time it's not the Pardee Co. or other developer pushing this Central Alignment — it's the gated communities in the Rancho Santa Fe area.. Several of the homeowner associations of these gated communities organized petitions and letters of comment to the EIR in support of the Central Alignment, despite the environmental damage it would do to Deer Canyon, the largest undisturbed block of habitat in the Multiple Species Conservation Preserve in the north city.

These are the same people who have opposed any road — not just highways — that would allow motorists to cross through their communities from inland to the coast. Hence all the inland roads into these communities are gated and closed to those of us who don't live in those communities. They successfully killed Route 680 two years ago for this reason. Now they're pushing the Central Alignment because they feel the northern alignments come too close to their communities — even though it won't even be visible to them, much less bring "us" through them!

Please send in brief letters expressing your support for keeping Deer Canyon pristine by not building the Central Alignment and expressing support for a northern alignment.

Send comment letters postmarked by March 9 to:

City of San Diego
Development Services Dept.
Land Development Review Div.
1222 First Ave, MS501
San Diego 92101



Ranch House Roundup

Supervising Ranger Reneene Mowry

Water, water, everywhere!

El Niño has hit, and the preserve is saturated. Amazingly, except for some rather deep trenches across the entry road and parking areas, there has been little impact at the historic site. The creek is flowing quickly through the site and seems to be cutting deeper, rather than spreading out. The increased rate of flow can be attributed to Mike Kelly and Fred Buchanan for pointing out that debris (largely palm fronds) in the stream channel was causing the water to back up during flooding, members of the Friends and SDCAS, who braved the treacherous spike-tipped fronds to clear the blockage at the Ranch House, and to Dion Heller for bringing in a probation crew to remove a second major blockage several months ago. As a precaution, we have sandbagged the lath shed; but, so far, the floodwaters have not reached it.

Arrivals and departures

You'll be seeing several new faces at the preserve when you come to visit; they are the new park hosts. Andy Creson has moved his silver stream trailer into the east-end staging area, and Steve and Suzanne Onorato are the new residents by the Ranch House. We were sad to see Guy and Aggie Relaford, who graced so many with their warmth and kindness during their tenure as park hosts, leave the Rancho, but they promised to drop by from time-to-time. Victor and Kym Anaya have transferred to the Spring Valley area; however, Kym will still be patrolling with the LPCP Volunteer Patrol.

A facelift for the rancho spring house

Susan Hector, County Parks Department Chief of Open Space, has announced that restoration work will begin on the crumbling spring house at the end of March. She is using the limited funding available to secure the services of a historic architect to oversee the project and has arranged for the NCCC to provide the labor. She used the same technique in the restoration of the County-owned Vallecito Stage Station, which received an Orchid Award for Historic Preservation in 1997. The County also plans to restore the duck pond that is adjacent to the spring house when funding permits.

Call for rancho ranch hands and docents

The next docent training has been scheduled to begin on Saturday, April 18, at 9:30 a.m. The first meeting will feature Belinda Romero, who will present a program on interpretation. The following sessions will feature archaeology, Native Americans, architecture and landscaping of the Ranch House, history of the Ranch House and its residents, and tour presentation. These sessions will take place on Thursday evenings, 6–8 p.m., and Saturdays, 9–11 a.m. The Ranch House Docents give tours of the Ranch House or participate in the 3rd and 4th grade school programs. Ranch hands help in other ways, such as working in the heritage vegetable garden, creating exhibits, helping with the gift shop, and assisting with special events at the Rancho. Our costumer, Lois Hammond, is creating a proper "uniform" for our ranch hands, which will consist of a period western shirt, vest, blue jeans and flat-top western hat. Call me for further details at 484-7504.

Here comes the bride

We are now permitting small weddings, on a case-by-case basis, on the Rancho grounds. Our most recent wedding was a Yaqui ceremony held in a nearby meadow, complete with horses, drums, and singing. Unfortunately, for the wedding party and guests, the skies opened up and rain began to fall, just as the ceremony got underway. Up went the umbrellas, and the ceremony continued. Upon hearing the chanting, one of our park visitors joked that maybe the Indians had conjured up a rain dance by mistake!

Mark your calendars

This year, Park Day will be held in conjunction with the Rancho Peñasquitos Fiesta on May 3. Unlike past years, there will not be exhibits at the Ranch House. We do, however, plan to have docent tours and a military encampment on the front meadow by the historic group, Company K. We also plan to have a campfire, storyteller, and possibly, music, Saturday or Sunday evening. The Friends and the Friends' Tracking team will be leading events in the preserve during the day. Full details will be published in the next newsletter.

Vernal Pools 1997

Will Bowen, PhD

Introduction

The "wetting" and "aquatic" phases of the vernal pool cycle are now upon us. The winter rains have poured from the sky, filling road ruts and earthy depressions around mima mounds. The resultant standing water — as ephemeral pools and puddles — now house a very specific, and currently endangered, habitat with a fascinating and unique mix of rare fauna and flora.

In the micro-habitat of the vernal pool one can find famished Treefrog and toad tadpoles, mustached-male and egg-laden female fairy shrimp, slow-cruising flat worms, boiling molecules of water fleas, and angry dragonfly larvae ready to snap, all swimming amidst an elf's forest of stiff spikerush and floating water starwort.

Bounding the activity, on the pool's edge, are popping up green crewcut-haired wild onion, doggy-eared Shooting Stars, and the beginnings of the intoxicatingly fragrant Mesa Mint.

Peacefully paddling migratory ducks, circling raptors, gentle deer, nervous coyote, brazen bobcat, and curious racoons will all be making visits to the pools; there they will be serenaded by the twittering of sparrows, phoebes, and towhees, the "chi ca go" call of quails, the squawk of ravens, the croaking of frogs and toads, and the chirping of crickets.

It's hoped that the reader may become intrigued and that an interest in vernal pools will be kindled or re-ignited. A visit to the vernal pools offers much reward and many startling insights. The Friends will be offering vernal pool hikes this spring which should not be missed. They are a wonderful opportunity to explore this little known habitat and see the laws of ecology at work on a first hand basis. One may spot some not too often seen species and amazingly beautiful colors, as the vernal pool plants begin to bloom.

An ongoing study

For the past three years I have been visiting the local vernal pools on a regular basis because they have intrigued me. This last year I stopped by about twice a week from late November through April, once a week from May through July, and every couple of weeks from August through October.

With some chagrin, I must admit that five years ago I did not even know what a vernal pool was! I was first introduced to vernal pools in the winter by Dave Hogan, a local naturalist now living in Arizona. At that time vernal pools did not seem like much to me at all — just a donut-shaped depression around a raised mound of earth covered with a clump of dead or dried up colorless plants and grasses.

Hogan told me I really needed to see the vernal pools in the early spring before I passed judgement. I returned in the ground-moist spring as suggested and was much more impressed, especially by the pools of translucent water, which at that time were filled with Treefrog tadpole/froglettes, which were at the stage of having tails and thus looking like little salamanders.

My next trip back was in the late spring when the Mesa

Mint, Downingia, and Brodiaea were blooming. The colors of the flowers, which seemed to be splashed on the landscape, really impressed me. When the flowers are at their height, which is only for a couple of weeks each year, they can only be described as having the beauty of a French impressionistic painting, such as one by Monet. The view was completely different than what I had seen in the winter. I was utterly impressed and became completely infatuated with their ephemeral beauty.

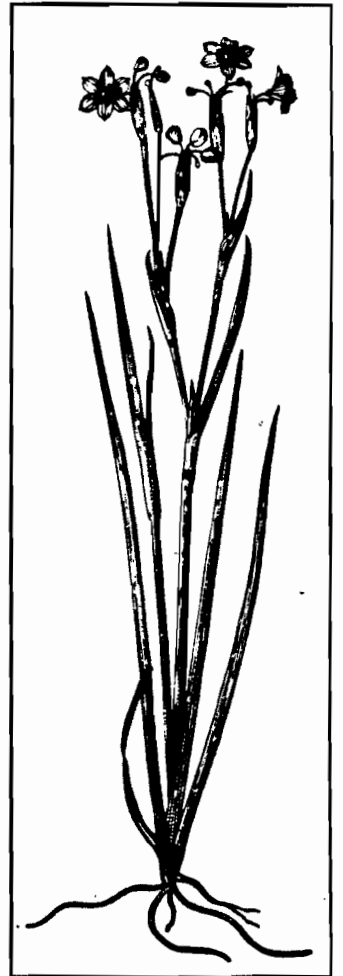
Gradually my appreciation for the vernal pools has grown and broadened. The more often you go the more you see and you await the appearance of things that you have seen before. It's a treat to narrow your focus and feel your eyes change as they begin to gaze in a very special, precise, and microscopic way at what is so very transitory and fleeting, with many changes taking place quite rapidly. The fact is, that if you are remiss, you can miss something which will take another year to come around again.

The 1997 season

This past 1997 vernal pool season started off with good amount of rain, which is what is needed to fill the pools. The rain was, however, not quite enough to fill the larger pools, such as at the Del Mar Mesa complex. Smaller pools, such as those at the Mira Mesa complex, and the road puddles at Del Mar Mesa, did fill with water. But their standing water dried quickly in the hot dry spring.

The larger empty pools and fast drying waters of the smaller ones and the road puddles severely restricted the birth and survival rate of the frogs and toads which grow up there. Oddly enough, the beautiful flowers of the pools, such as Downingia, Mesa Mint, and Brodiaea did make an excellent though somewhat brief showing. In fact, Downingia was much more apparent than last year at Del Mar Mesa and there was an excellent showing of Brodiaea at Mira Mesa.

In general, however, this last year, like the year before, was not moist enough long enough for the vernal pools to really flourish. Three years ago they were outstanding, with a great deal of plant growth and much activity of indigenous species. I can remember being



Blue-eyed grass
(*Sisyrinchium bellum*)

amazed at all the Rusty Skimmers (a type of dragonfly) winging about at the large pool, or all the marvelous toad-lettes sunbathing under Coyote Thistle umbrellas in the road rut pools at the Del Mar Mesa.

Del Mar Mesa

None of the regular pools at the Del Mar Mesa complex filled up enough to hold water. The road puddles, in the gray clay soil did hold water, however. The road pool by the front gate was the largest and clearest, with a good showing of tadpoles. The smaller road pools moving west along the trail through the complex were quite muddy. They contained small numbers of Treefrog tadpoles and fairy shrimp. No Spadefoot or Western Toad tadpoles were present in the fenced area. Spadefoot tadpoles, doing quite well, were found northeast of the pools in some very large road puddles.

The *Downingia* made a good showing filling the pool depressions or sharing them with Mesa Mint, which displayed a normative growth pattern despite the heat and dryness. A small number of *Brodiaea* did pop up as a garnishment.

It soon became much too hot to be out there so far from the city road, especially without water in the midpart of the day, and I had to cut back on my visits, lest I risk heat prostration.

The walk in, which three years ago was filled with the red-violet of a sea of Storkbill flowers, was dry, hot, and empty. A great deal of construction, especially of a road close to the pools, created a threatening, noisy, and worrisome presence, which all but destroyed the solace of this complex. I fear that we are in store for increased damage to the Del Mar Mesa.

Mira Mesa

Here the pools held water. A great number of both Treefrog and Spadefoot tadpoles were born; more Spadefoots than I have ever seen here before. However, none of them made it to adulthood. They all died as the pools dried much too soon for their maturity. What I did notice was that, in most cases, one or the other species tended to dominate a particular pool. It is not as common for both the Treefrog and Spadefoot to share a pool.

At Mira Mesa I was able to watch the succession or unfolding of pool species and processes. First comes the rain, and then a lot of gopher activity. In the standing water, the first born are the flat worms, then Treefrog egg envelopes stuck to grass shoots barely above the water line, then a few fairy shrimp are born, then freeways of water fleas busy about their business, more fairy shrimp, and then dragonfly larvae — true nasty little samurai. A strange type of tiny wiggling red worm fits also in there at the beginnings of the fairy shrimp cycle.

The fairy shrimp are born in stages, with some eggs hatching later than others. Fairy shrimp only have a lifetime

of a week or two — yet they are in the pools much longer than that — pointing to staggered births.

The succession of plants seems to start with the prostrate-leaved *Jepsoni parryi*, with its single white flower, Shooting Stars, a tiny yellow composite (whose name I forgot), wild onion, Popcorn Flower, Water Starwort, and then Spikerush, Blue-Eyed Grass, the vernal pool species of Golden Stars, Owl's Clover, and Blue Dicks. The last to bloom are the Mesa Mint, Loosestrife, *Brodiaea*, Skunkweed, and Wooley Marbles, which need a mud-cracked dry pool depression to plant their feet.

Last year I thought that the Wild Onion, which grows in the pools and on the borders, was a Quillwort. This year I smelled the plant and knew it was an onion by the onion-like odor. It is probably *Allium haematociton*.

This year there was a great showing of *Brodiaea*, much better than the last two years. What are usually interspaced plants was this year largely-populated small stands displaying the *Brodiaea*'s brilliant purple flower.

To my excitement I found one *Brodiaea* with a white flower. Two knowledgeable individuals told me it was probably an albino, which is said to occur occasionally. However, although the flower was white, it had purple ribs which would mean it might have been *Brodiaea kinkiensis*, which is a species usually found at an elevation of 1200-1600 feet or on San Clemente Island!

Another plant species I was finally able to identify after 2-3 years of trying is called Nostoc. It is a species of algae in the family Cyanophyceae. It looks like an emerald green marble of kelp-like feel and texture. It is semi-transparent and hollow inside.

You find it lying under water on the bottom of the pools. When I first saw it I wasn't sure if it was an egg or seed or what. I thought maybe some bug was being raised within it. Although I feel that I finally have the name, at this point I do not know how it fits into the overall vernal pool ecology.

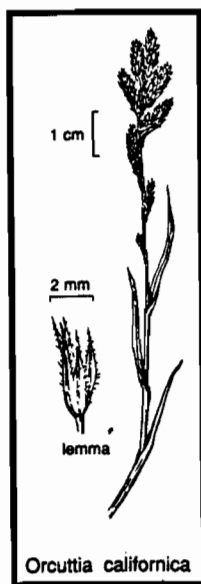
On a final note, I attempted to test water temperature here over time but had some trouble with trusting the accuracy of my thermometer. I do believe that over the course of the season the water raised from about 60 degrees to near 80. Additionally, I spotted a horned lizard just outside the complex on the western side on April 9th.

Miramar Road

I was happy to discover Treefrog tadpoles in the unfenced unprotected complex across the street from the pools that are fenced. The unfenced pools have been neglected the last several years. No one seems to care about them. Trucks drive over them and people walk through them creating foot paths. I suspect that the endangered Mesa Mint growing there will be slowly destroyed.

Sorrento Hills

I did not get a chance to visit this small fenced complex up on the mesa top near the SDG&E Power Station. It's quite a time-consuming proposition to get up there. Last year this pool was almost completely choked with exotic grasses which seem to be destroying it.



Carmel Mountain

An ongoing controversy is whether there are or have been vernal pools at this location. Some say there are irregular pools. Some say all the existing pools have been disturbed. One cannot find the vernal pool indicator plants of Mesa Mint or *Downingia* here. However, other plants associated with vernal pools are there, such as *Loosetrife*, *Skunkweed*, and *Broadiaea*. There is also a healthy population of Spadefoot toads, which are often associated, although not exclusively, with vernal pools.

Recently information has come forth that indicates some of the fairy shrimp in the road pools here are San Diego Fairy Shrimp, and not just the Common Fairy Shrimp. The San Diego Fairy Shrimp is an evolutionary adaptation to vernal pools. Its presence seems to indicate that there were once pools here. However, it is possible that the eggs of this species were brought in from true vernal pools complexes by birds or other critters.

I suggest this would be a good area to restore vernal pools or to build them as a mitigation project.

Conclusion

Although the vernal pools complexes are not part of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve proper, I believe they should be. They are indirectly related to the ecology of the canyon. Many of our canyon species such as deer, racoon, bobcat, and hawks visit the pools seeking food and water. The birth of many of our Treefrogs and most of our toads occurs here. I believe it would add a lot to the integrity and value of the preserve if vernal pools were included.

Please make it a priority to come on one of the vernal pool hikes early this spring before they dry up, so you can see this marvelous endangered habitat in full flower for yourself.

[*Editor's note:* Will Bowen's concerns are well founded. Vernal pools are easy to damage. There is good news on this front: the Del Mar Mesa and López Ridge vernal pools are planned to be included in the new federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Vernal Pool Wildlife Refuge — this will afford the pool complexes a higher legal status and provide for better management opportunities.]

Preserve Closure and more

Senior Ranger Bill Lawrence

The Preserve closed on February 10 because of severe flooding from rains on Feb. 6 (over 1 inch in 45 minutes) and on Feb. 8. The rangers have kept the Preserve closed anticipating more rains, and sure enough, more rain keeps falling. The flooding has caused over two acres of wetlands above the falls to be washed away. If you want to see the extent of the flooding, park at the Cantina Bike Shop and walk east on Sorrento Valley Blvd. You can see the flows up to a day after the rains.

A special thanks from the rangers to all the many people who turned out to complete 13 restoration projects this fall and winter. Your efforts have helped kick our restoration into high gear. We hope you'll all return next fall.

The National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) will be starting in March to complete removing exotic plants, a project they worked on last year. We are looking for people to work with these crews Monday through Friday.

Ranger Dion Heller recently completed a trail construction and maintenance training conducted by state parks. So he is ready to work with all of the many trail crew leaders and volunteers to begin the trail corridor east from Black Mountain Road to I-15. When this section is completed, it will link the Preserve to the Poway and County trails easterly through national forest and state parks to the desert, all part of the Trans County Trail.

We want to welcome on board a new park intern, Todd Stepian, and a field studies student, Steve Waldman. Both are from San Diego State University.

1997 Fund Final

With the help of: Suzann Leininger, Dan Evans and Barry Martin, the final total for the 1997 Fund Appeal reached **\$3720. These monies earmarked for erosion control will be especially useful in light of the recent flooding.**

Volunteer Opportunities

Wildlife Surveys

- Training: April 19
- Surveys: April 25–May 3.

Call Lani at 565-4586 for details.

Voice Mail Coordinator

We recently lost our Voice Mail/Hotline Coordinator and badly need a replacement. This involves recording the Friends weekly hikes and taking messages off the voice mail system. About 30–45 minutes a week. Call Mike at 566-6489 or Erik at 565-4586 if you would like to try it.

Endangered Butterfly Surveys

We'll survey for Hermes Copper, Purple Hairstreak and perhaps others, possibly beginning in April. Timing depends on when rainy season ends and butterflies emerge. **Call Mike at 566-6489 for more information.**

Endangered Plant Surveys

Late March or early April San Diego thorn mint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*) will be at its peak bloom and ready to count. Call Mike at 566-6489 to participate in 6th annual census. Date depends on plant!

Native Grassland Restoration

Wonderful native grasslands and native wildflowers are under siege from invasive exotic plants in López Canyon. **Call Cindy at 421-5767 or Mike at 566-6489** to help preserve these grasslands by:

- Weed removal Sun., Mar. 15 10 a.m. Collect exotic invasive plant seeds to prevent reseeding
- Native grass seed collection for growing plants for future restorations, Sun., Apr. 19, 10 a.m.

Weed Bashes

It's the time of year we move into high gear eradicating invasive exotic weeds. We'll be organizing small work parties of 4–6 people on an ad-hoc basis. To help out call Mike at 566-6489. One date is firm:

- Sat., Mar. 21–Sun., Mar. 22, Tamarisk Bash in Anza-Borrego. Chance to see wildflowers. Call Cindy at 421-5767 for details.

Spring Brings Rebirth to Preserve and a New Map

City Ranger Dion Heller

Spring is just around the corner and the Preserve is already showing signs of its rebirth. The willows and sycamores are starting to leaf out. Shooting stars, lupine, and adolphia are in bloom. The creamy, yellowish-white flowers of the adolphia have the most fabulous fragrance. Be careful not to get too close while enjoying this shrub's scent—you might end up with one of its many spines in your nose!

Mr. El Niño has also come alive this spring bringing high water, erosion, and saturated conditions throughout the Preserve, causing its temporary closure. Please abide by the closures—our impacts during these saturated times can greatly damage the Preserve by increasing erosion and destroying sensitive young plant growth.

As the Preserve goes through its spring rebirth, what better time to introduce the new park brochure. The Ranger staff felt that the park visitors needed a more detailed map so that they could successfully guide themselves through the Preserve. Also, the brochure reflects new knowledge regarding the Preserve's history, natural features, and park facilities, and gives credit to an extremely dedicated team of volunteers and organizations who donate their valuable time to further enhance the quality of this Preserve.

The cover of the new brochure depicts not only Peñasquitos Canyon, but its entire watershed, from the Mount Woodson range in the east of Poway in the background, to the rock outcroppings of the falls in the foreground. It's important to view the entire watershed as a single system and not just focus on small individual problem sites within that system. Many of the problems that we're grappling with in the Preserve today can be attributed to much larger scale problems found throughout the whole watershed, some 100 square miles of it.

The updated cultural and natural resources section of the brochure reflects some of the new knowledge that we are continually expanding. Archaeological research is always providing new insight into what life was really like so many thousands of years ago

and the order in which events took place. For instance, the Ruíz-Alvarado Adobe is the name most of us have called the adobe ruin at the west end. This has now changed to El Cuervo due to who was thought to have built it. Recent research has uncovered that this adobe was built around 1857 instead of the 1823 date which was originally thought.

Ongoing biological studies continue to discover new information on the flora and fauna of the Preserve. Several recent studies have found the Preserve to be home of at least 165 moth species, at least 22 different fungi, and at least 39 species of grasses just to name a few. (I say at least, because we expect to identify more species in each of these categories!) As environmental conditions and people's impacts con-

New Map

Copies of the new map are available at the City Ranger office in the Adobe Ranch House or from the Rangers themselves. If you see them on patrol in the canyon, stop them and ask for a copy of the map. Maps will also be available on Friends hikes.

tinue to change, so will the Preserve and it's inhabitants.

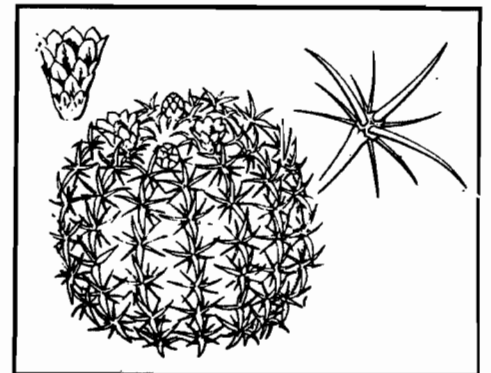
The new brochure map provides more detailed information as to where the trails are located using various landmarks found within the Preserve. The staff has seen a dramatic increase in park visitors leaving the established trail system and creating new pathways. This activity not only fragments the wildlife habitat, but also severely damages sensitive plant communities. For these reasons, a trail closure and signage program is being implemented with this more detailed map being an intricate part of this program. Hopefully, all these steps will help clarify which trails and creek crossings park visitors should be using.

If you look closely at this map, you

will see that there are five designated creek crossings located at approximately one mile intervals. These crossings will enable the visitor to utilize a series of loop options. I should mention that these crossings are seasonal. Every winter, the deluge of water that rushes through the Preserve tends to washout these crossings, especially the bridged ones. When the rains subside, we'll be in performing our usual repairs.

You may also look at the trails indicated on the map and think, there are many more trails in the Preserve than this. This is where the trail closure and signage program comes into play. The closing, revegetation, and resigning of these unauthorized trails will help restore the fragmented wildlife habitat and damaged sensitive plant communities. An eagle scout hopeful is preparing to renovate the brown and yellow mileage markers and creek crossing signage which will be useful landmarks when exploring the Preserve. When he is finished, this new signage will coincide with that designated on the map.

The Ranger staff feels that measures such as these are going to need to take place if we are to try and balance recreational use in a sensitive resource based park. All you have to do is drive Scripps Poway Parkway or look towards the northwest rim of the Preserve and you'll see, it's not going to get any easier. With all of us continuing to work together, we can preserve the Preserve and the many residents that claim this unique place as their home.



Coast barrel cactus

Not Even Rain Stopped Our Volunteers

by Mike Kelly

1998 saw the Friends rolling into another year of exciting wildlife surveys and habitat restorations. The Friends Tracking Team has taken a difficult task of organizing scientifically based wildlife transects and turned it into an interesting and exciting opportunity for volunteers to help preserve our wildlife.

On the restoration front, more than a hundred volunteers, including many repeat 'offenders' from all walks of life brought the habitat restoration season begun last October to a successful conclusion with several thousand native plants and protective fencing in the ground. A core cadre of 'repeat offenders' is already meeting to plan out next years projects!

Narrows Restoration Part 2

It poured buckets the night before and that morning, but 8 hardy volunteers showed up anyway to close and revegetate a duplicate road at the narrows site below the wildlife tunnel. Michelle Murphree, Jeff Lohman, Rob Hutsel, Lisa Gray, Mike Gagliardi, Suzanne Leininger, Mike Kelly and Dion Heller put over 100 native bunchgrass, sagebrush and chaparral broom into the ground. They also raked into some 5 species of seed for the site. It was quite an adventure getting in at the west end, with Mike's truck managing to bull through water that came up over the hood! Despite some sprinkles, all had a great day. A week later Suzanne, Michelle and Brian Glenn and Anna Noah from the San Diego County Archaeology Society completed the portion of this site that included a Native American Cultural Site. The Archeo Society members helped screen for and identify potential artifacts found in digging the plant holes.

January Wildlife Survey

Our wet and muddy quarterly wildlife survey couldn't have been done without a large cast of trackers including: Chris Bader, Rick Botta, Uli Burgin, Dion Heller, Leo Holland, Pat Holland, Navroop Jassal, Ann Keenan, Tom Keenan, Mike Kelly, Lee Kirchhevel, Wanda Kwiatt,

Linda Kourtis, Nola Lamken, Barry Martin, Erik Noreke, Lani Noreke, Tarja Sagar, Julie Savary, Steve Swenson, June Warburton, and Dean Woods.

Newsletter Committee

Thanks to the Dingemans for helping put the January newsletter together.

Thanks Scripps CHiPS!

A special thanks goes to the members of the Scripps Committee for Humanity and Public Service (Scripps CHiPS) for their help on two volunteer projects. On Jan. 17 they helped the Friends rescue some 450 plants from the path of the bulldozers along the new County Aqueduct right-of-way. Then, on Jan. 24, some 27 of them turned out to help put these same plants in the ground at a restoration near the waterfall. The group included: Scripps Institute of Oceanography (SIO) and SIO affiliates: Nancy Aguilar, Meriah Arias, Nancy Bowers, Alex Curtis, Claudio DiBacco, Geoff Edelmann, Catherine Johnson, Andy Juhl, Katherine Kim, Melissa Lerch, Arja McCray, Myra Medina, Rona Medina, Graham Mortyn, Kevin Page, Rob Rhew, Ed Snook, Aaron Thode, Karen Watson; Biomedical Sciences: Matt Zimmerman, Kendall Powell; Physics: Jason Smart, Aaron Sweeney; Chemistry: Anissa Elayadi, Kip Nalley; Electrical and Computer Engineering: Mark Wang; Biology: Nora Ghbeish.

Friends volunteers on these dates included: Edward DiBella, Carrie Barton, Lisa Gray, Pat Watkins, Jeff Lohman, Kevin Fields, Matt Zimmerman, Mike Gagliardi, Paul Micheletti, Robb Hutsel, Melissa Mersy, Mike Kelly, Jan and Ian Eads, Janice McKalson, Liz Rozycki, Walt Murray, Carol and Ivan Cooper, and Suzann Leininger.

San Marcos High Interns

Five interns from San Marcos High School are working with the Friends on a variety of projects. They include:

Romel Bernales, Brandon Porter, Mike Angeles, Carlos Garcia, and David Alspach. They've already helped out on salvaging native bunch grass and restoring a meadow to native plants.

Waterfall Reveg/UCSD International Relations

Thanks to the UCSD International Relations volunteers who helped reveg a portion of the waterfall. They included: Sylvia La Croix, Anna Rodgers, Nadja Marinova, Ken Anders, Jeanette Cambra, Chris Martinez, and Josh Rosenberg. Friends volunteers included: Michelle Murphree, Liz Rozycki, Mike Kelly, and Edward Di Bella.

East end entrance revegation

Edward Di Bella, Carol & Ivan Cooper, Drew Deshazo, Steve Swenson, Joy Rutherford, Mike Kelly, Becky Scease, and Randy Reid combined to replant a denuded area inside the main entrance to the Preserve.

Meadow Restoration

Mike Kelly, Mel Howe, Suzann Leininger, and Pat Watkins turned out on a weekday to brave and ford the raging creek waters to bring tools and plants to a meadow badly in need of restoration. The meadow had probably once been used as a truck garden and was now overrun with exotic weeds including Poison Hemlock, deadly to people and wildlife alike.

Deer Meadows 'Screening'

Robb Hutsel, Mike Gagliardi, Dixie Stansell, Michelle Murphree, Dion Heller, Joy Rutherford and Mike Kelly planted some 70 trees and shrubs to screen off some sensitive meadows used by deer that are exposed to the lights and noise of sports activities at the nearby Canyonside Park.



If You Care About Wild Animals, Please Don't Feed Them

Barry Martin

As one interested in the outdoors from my earliest years, I remember learning many things about wildlife while still quite young. While growing up my concepts of certain values and assumptions became entrenched and I, like all of us at one time or another, have encountered frustrating situations involving others who act in ways contrary to what I always thought was clearly appropriate.

As I accumulate years and (hopefully) wisdom, I finally see that sometimes a more charitable approach on my part is what is really appropriate. In other words, nobody sees the world through the same eyes, and I can accept that. It was, however, difficult for me to contain my rage a couple of years ago when visiting the Grand Canyon. We were leaving the area by car when we came around a bend in the road just a mile or two from the visitor center and encountered a line of cars stopped in the road. It was no big deal, we weren't in a huge rush or anything, but then a shudder went through me when I realized why we were stopped. Looking ahead a few cars to the one in front I was shocked to see a young mule deer doe standing tentatively alongside the passenger side of the car eating from the hand of the woman inside the car. Visions of a horribly sick deer flashed in my mind, in a split second I was out of the car running toward the deer clapping my hands to scare it off. As I approached I could see the lunch meat slathered in mayonnaise falling all over the road. I could not understand how a person could be so moronic, especially in a park plastered with "Don't Feed The Wildlife" signs. The woman looked at me as if I were totally crazy, which at that point was an accurate description of my state of mind.

She asked me what the big deal was, and in that moment I realized she just had no concept of the potential ramifications her actions held for that deer. I calmed down enough to let her know that feeding wildlife was not merely against the rules of the park,

but was tantamount to poisoning these animals. My smart mouthed remark before running back to my car was something along the lines of why not just shoot the animal and spare it from the agony it will suffer after eating bologna or getting hit by a car trying to get more free food.

I learned two important things from this experience, one is that I might want to modify my approach in situations like this and two, we live in a culture that is so far removed from nature that ignorance is the norm. How often have you heard about the bears in various national parks ripping cars apart to get food or tearing up campsites. The fact is we do not meld well with our wild neighbors due to our ig-

norance and yes, arrogance as "dominant species."

I think that is changing because I see more and more people expressing a desire to learn more about their natural surroundings and what they can do to help preserve the biodiversity that is so important to all of us. I've taken the approach that the more you know about your natural surroundings the more you tend to value them.

Please take time to learn more about your wild neighbors and how we can all coexist more comfortably. Please read the following item from the Friends of Monterey County Wildlife and the SPCA of Monterey for a little more perspective and knowledge on how you might be able to do that.

Eight Good Reasons Why You Shouldn't Feed Wildlife

One of the ways we can help is by observing these 8 reasons why not to feed wildlife:

1. Providing an artificial food source can cause adults to produce large families which the natural food supply can't support. Overpopulation leads to starvation and epidemics of disease, some of which are dangerous to humans too: bubonic plague, salmonella and rabies to name a few.
2. Animals have specialized diets and can die from the wrong foods. If a baby animal receives the wrong diet even for a day or two, it can damage developing bone and muscle forever. The wrong foods cause disease, mouth injuries, throat obstructions and death.
3. It is illegal to feed wildlife. Most cities in California have ordinances that prohibit feeding wildlife.
4. Feeding causes wild animals to lose their natural fear of humans. Wildlife can become an easy target, or the bold advances of an animal may be misinterpreted as an "attack."
5. Feeding changes behavior, often with catastrophic results. Feeding can cause death by preventing a species from migrating. It can also cause harmful interaction between species who usually don't compete for food.
6. You risk injury when you do not keep a respectful distance from wild animals. Wildlife can misinterpret your actions. They may not know where the food stops and your fingers begin. Once again, animals lose when people complain of being bitten or "attacked."
7. Feeding ground squirrels that burrow along the shoreline causes overpopulation and erosion. Banks weaken from the tunneling of too many squirrels. Waves pound the hole-riddled banks, causing shoreline loss.
8. Providing food in residential areas often leads to property damage and unwelcome "house guests." Sometimes people feed wildlife inadvertently when they leave pet food dishes outside or do not secure garbage.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.
 P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196
 619-484-3219

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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: Mike Kelly 566-6489
 Vice-President: Lani Noreke 565-4586
 Treasurer: Brian Swanson 695-2209
 Secretary: Edward DiBella 748-5276

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Vickie Ausen, Les Braund, Barry Martin, Erik Noreke, Dean Woods

Walks and Committees Leaders

Bird Walks: Brian Swanson (695-2209)
 Geology Walk Leader: Don Albright (443-5937)
 Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
 Kiosk Designer: Linda King
 Medicinal Plant & Moon Walks: Will Bowen (452-7091)
 Mystery Tree Walks: Vickie Ausen
 Nature Walk: Les Braund (566-3958)
 Newsletter: Mike Kelly
 Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
 Tracking Walk: Chris Bader
 Vernal Pool & other walks: Mike Kelly
 Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
 Voice Mail System: Erik Noreke
 Tracking Team Coordinator: Barry Martin (484-4007)
 Volunteer Coordinator: Michelle Murphree (224-4192)
 Wildlife Survey Committee: Lani Noreke

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

Senior (62) or Student \$7.00 Individual \$10
 Family \$15 Sponsor \$25 Patron \$100
 Corporate \$250 Life \$1000
 Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

- Volunteer** to help the committee (call me to discuss)
 Hikes
 Indian Culture 3/98
 Educational Workshops
 School, Family, Youth Programs
 Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

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 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.



Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

May/June 1998
Volume 12 No. 3

Not All Bees Are Social Bees Are Back!

Mike Kelly

We're hiking into López Canyon on our native grass seed collecting expedition when we hear a sound we haven't heard for several years — intense, loud buzzing. Bees. Thousands of them. They're exiting a large cavity in a Sycamore tree. We're all excited. For several years now the numbers of bees have been way down. Not only the European honey bee, but also our native bee species, have been decimated by an Asian mite. The impact on agricultural crops has been well documented, The impact on native plants has not. One impact I'm sure of has been on our native shrub, Lemonade-berry (*Rhus integrifolia*). Relatively little fruit has developed on this shrub for the last three years, probably due to a lack of pollination. This in turn has deprived wildlife (and hikers!) of a plentiful, tasty fruit. I'm sure many other plants have been similarly affected. This year, however, the numbers of bees are on the upswing. The big unknown is whether we are going to be seeing a "see-saw," boom and bust pattern between bees and this Asian mite. Discovering this comeback of bees reminded me of an article I wrote on a native, solitary, vernal pool species of bee. We're reprinting that article below.

She lays sleeping, perhaps a foot beneath the ground, in a little chamber dug by her mother. It's been a long sleep, perhaps three or four years in all. She emerged from her egg three years ago and found some tasty pollen next to her broken egg shell. After eating the pollen she pupated and then

(Bees continued on page 8)

Nesting Boxes The Western Bluebird

Ryan Bessey

As a member of the Boy Scout Troop 644 I have recently completed the task of building five nesting boxes for the Western Bluebird for my Eagle project. My purpose for building these boxes was to increase the number of nesting sites available for Bluebirds and to raise as many young birds as possible. One thing that prevents them from having a successful nesting season is the non-native European Starling. The Starlings are fully equipped to expel the bluebirds from the nesting box. To avoid this from occurring, the entry hole of the bluebird box has to be exactly 1 and 9/16 inches across. We make it that precise measurement because the Bluebirds and Starlings are so close in size that if it is a sixteenth of an inch too small then the bluebirds can't get in. If it were the other way around where the opening was bigger, the Starlings would win the nest.

The Bluebirds nesting period is from March to August and in that time they will take care of their precious eggs. Their eggs are normally a pale blue and a pair can have up to eight eggs, but they usually have 4-6. Nest materials normally consist of dried grass, weed stems, pine needles, twigs and sometimes lined with hair and feathers. Building the soft nest can take from a couple days to sometimes a week. When the babies hatch the mother covers the practically naked birds to keep them warm while the male brings the food to the hole. The

(Bluebird continued on page 7)

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Sycamore

Please don't forget to return your copies of the Rural Watershed Initiative and/or make a donation to the Initiative.

Preserve To Reopen in Early May

After three months of closure, the Preserve is expected to reopen in the first part of May. Flood damage made many roads and trails impassible by Ranger or emergency vehicles. An attempt at road work in early April proved fruitless as rains quickly bogged down the roads. Once open, expect to see a good flower show underway, the best in years.

Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. For details or group hikes, call 484-3219 for recorded information.

May

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Intermediate Tracking Walk I

Sat., May 9, 8-11 a.m. Prerequisite is participation in either the Wildlife Survey or the Nature Awareness Weekend. Practice tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Park and meet at the end of Park Village Drive near the SDG&E power lines.

Intermediate Tracking Walk II

Sun., May 10, 8-11 a.m. Prerequisite is participation in either the Wildlife Survey or the Nature Awareness Weekend. Practice tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Park and meet at the kiosk at the Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking & Nature Walk at Ranch House

Sat., May 16, 1 p.m. (1-2 hours). Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Hike

will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. Meet at Adobe Ranch House off Black Mtn. Road. If lot is closed due to flooding, proceed up to red barn and park. **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Power Animal Spirit Guide Hike

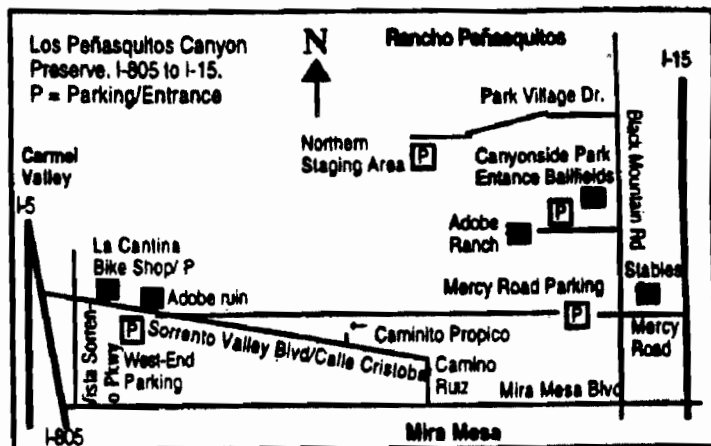
Sun., May 17: 8-9 p.m. Learn about the symbolic significance of animals, birds, reptiles and insects in Native American tradition. Find your own personal animal spirit guide and an indian name. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Inaugurate and Help Cleanup the New Lower San Diego River Preserve

Sat., May 23, 9:30 a.m. Meet at Western Police Division, 5215 Gaines St. at Friars Road. Nature Walks begin at 9:30 a.m., led by docents from the Calif. Native Plant Society and Univ. of San Diego Botany Dept. Nature and Historical displays. Cleanup of trash and exotic weeds threatening native plants and animals 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Cosponsored by Councilmember Valerie Stallings, Western Police Division, Calif. Native Plant Society, Univ. of San Diego, area organizations and merchants. This day will kick off the new nature preserve forming on the lower San Diego River. Call Marilyn Mirrasoul at 236-7756 for more details.

Waterfall Flower Walk /Northern Staging Area.

Sat., May 23, 8 a.m. (2-3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this nature walk to the waterfall and back. See lots of native flowers, visit the waterfall and witness the wetlands blown out by the flash flood- an awesome sight. Meet at



the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Feng Shui Hike

Sun., May 24: 6-7:30 p.m. Feng Shui, meaning "Wind and Water," is the ancient Chinese art of geomancy. It is concerned with the study of place and placement. Feng Shui considers mountains and hills, water, soil, and the wind to understand the flow of vital energy through the landscape. Come explore the energies of the canyon through the lens of this fascinating discipline. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Nature Walk in Lopez Canyon

Sat., May 30, 9 a.m. Join naturalist Barbara Moore for a look at the critters and plants of Lopez Canyon. Moore is the co-author of *Walking San Diego*. Meet at West End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Raptor and Grosbeak Walk Canyonside Park

Sat., May 30: 8-9:30 a.m. Join Brian Swanson for this early morning chance to see a variety of raptor species, their young and grosbeaks. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. Right on Black Mountain, then first left into Canyonside Park. Go past ball fields

(Continued from page 2)

to Preserve sign and new white-fenced parking lot. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Geology Walk

Sun., May 31, 9-12. Join Geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

June

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Dusk Wildlife Walk from Adobe Ranch House

Fri., June 5, 7 p.m. Join naturalist Mike Kelly for an evening under the stars and a chance to see nocturnal wildlife, including deer, owls and coyotes. Bring flashlight and insect protection. Meet in white-fenced parking lot for Adobe Ranch House. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Living the Stars Hike

Sun., June 14, 8-9:30 p.m. Observe the moon, stars, planets, and constellations. Learn about how ancient peoples saw the night sky. Hear their stories and songs. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Raptor Nature Walk in Lopez Canyon

Tues., June 16, 6 p.m. Join naturalist Barbara Moore for a look at the raptors of Lopez Canyon and their young. Moore is the co-author of *Walking San Diego*. Meet at West End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Waterfall Walk /Northern Staging Area

Sat., June 20, 8 a.m. (2-3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this nature walk to the waterfall and back. See native flowers, visit the waterfall and witness the wetlands blown out by the flash flood - an awesome sight. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking & Nature Walk at Ranch House

Sat., June 20, 1 p.m. (1-2 hours). Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. Meet at Adobe Ranch House off Black Mtn. Road. If lot is closed due to flooding, proceed up to red barn and park. **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Summer Solstice Hike

Sun., June 21, 5:30-7 a.m. Watch the sunrise and dawn break on this the longest day of the year. Learn about the importance of the solstice in ancient cultures. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Geology Walk

Sun., June 28, 9-12. Join Geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

DIRECTIONS

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.**

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal

This intersection is located 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 St. 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. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Cantina Bike Shop Meeting Area

Bike Shop is at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

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.**

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive

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 Ruiz. Left on Camino Ruiz and park. **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 3/4 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, past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

RANCH HOUSE ROUNDUP

Supervising Ranger Reneene Mowry

Another Barn Owl Rescue

For the second time in recent months, there was a barn owl rescue in the preserve. A Park Village resident greeted me as I arrived at work one morning, and informed me that he had seen an owl on the ground in the old sewer pond area, just west of the ranch house. He was concerned because it didn't appear to be able to fly. After confirming that the bird was still there, I called Fund for Animals. Carol, the rescue worker, responded quickly. This rescue was much easier than the previous one, primarily because the owl was on the ground rather than at the top of a palm tree, the area was much more accessible, and the owl was too weak to fly away. Unfortunately, this time there was not a happy ending. When I called to check on its status, I was told that it had died that afternoon. Although the cause of death was not confirmed, their educated guess was that it was due to secondary poisoning, i.e., that it had ingested a rodent that had poison in its system from something that a local resident may have put out in their yard (perhaps Decon or gopher pellets). Concerned about this possibility, I called the County Veterinarian, who claimed that over-the-counter pesticides could not have this effect on a predatory bird unless it were to eat several poisoned small mammals consecutively. He added that gopher pellets, which contain strychnine, could have this effect; but as they also pose a threat to pets and children, people would not normally use them in areas where they could be accessed. I'm interested in learning more about this subject and would welcome any information you can provide.

Spring House Update

The preliminary steps have been taken toward the restoration of our dear, old spring house. It took two entire days of NCCC (National Civilian Conservation Corps) labor, as well as several additional hours by the ranch house crew, to remove the roof and clear the inside and exterior perimeter of a dense jungle of sedges. The NCCC team's anxiety level went up a few notches after a rattlesnake made an unexpected appearance in their midst when it was flushed out of the vegetation! Work finally resumed after the frightened critter had been captured and relocated to a less populated area. Wayne Donaldson, one of San Diego's foremost historic architects has been given the award to draw up the plans for the actual reconstruction, which will, hopefully, begin this summer.

Park Day is Cancelled

The planned events in the preserve for the weekend of May 2 and 3 have been cancelled. Citizen's Advisory Committee chairman, Geoff Smith, was unable to generate the needed man-hours and support from the already overly busy committee members. And, as Geoff was scheduled to be leading a Sierra Club outing in southern Utah the same weekend, it was decided that trying to put on the event was unfeasible. I cancelled Company K, although they, and several other historic military groups, held an encampment here on the weekend of April 18-19. I hope those of you who were interested got the word and were able to attend this fascinating event.

Coming Attractions

California Archaeology Day will be celebrated at Rancho Los Peñasquitos on Saturday, May 16. "Ark in the Park," as it has been affectionately dubbed by SDCAS members, begins at 10:00 a.m. and runs until 2:00 p.m. This year's event will feature archaeologist, author, and SDSU instructor Richard Carrico, who will speak on "The History of Archaeology in San Diego County" at 1:00 p.m. at the ranch house. Other activities that day will feature: Steve Bouscaren, City College professor, and his class, who will be excavating the La Jollan period site on the knoll behind the adobe; and stone tool-making demonstrations by proficient flintnappers who will give anyone wishing to learn this ancient craft an opportunity to give it a try. There will also be docent-led tours with an emphasis on the archaeological features on the grounds. SDCAS Summer Evening Programs in the ranch house courtyard will begin on Saturday, June 27. As in years past, there will be a docent-led tour of the ranch house at 6:00 p.m., with a talk at approximately 7:30, and SDCAS will be providing free cake and beverages. The June program will feature San Pasqual Battlefield historian Ron Hinrichs, who share with us the details of the bloody battle between the local Californios and General Kearny's Army of the West. Gather up a folding chair, warm jacket, picnic lunch (optional); and join us for this always enjoyable event.

TRANS-COUNTY TRAIL: PUBLIC PROPERTY CORRIDOR

The Trans-County Trail will be approximately 110 miles in length. Nearly 70% of this route utilizes existing trails.

TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE: 1,750 ACRES

State of California, Parks and Recreation Department

- Habitat: beach, lagoon, salt marsh estuary, coastal sage scrub, maritime chaparral, pine woodland
- Staging area and beach access at McGonigle Road parking lot
- Nearly 14 miles of existing trails
- Connected to Peñasquitos via public road right-of-way
- Some right-of-way trail construction is needed to connect Torrey Pines to Peñasquitos

LOS PEÑASQUITOS CANYON PRESERVE: 3,720 ACRES

City of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Department

- Habitat: freshwater marsh, grassland, riparian, oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, chaparral
- Staging area and west end trail access off Sorrento Valley Road
- Staging area and east end trail access off Black Mountain Road
- Nearly 18 miles of trails. The main trail stretches from staging area to staging area
- Abuts an open space corridor and the City of Poway
- Some trail construction is needed within Peñasquitos

CITY OF POWAY: 25,088 ACRES

- Habitat: coastal sage scrub, chaparral, neighborhood park, business park
- An existing trail connects Peñasquitos to a vast network of multi-use, non-motorized, public pathways
- Over 60 miles of a 75-mile trail master plan have been completed
- In Poway, the Trans-County Trail will run through the City and skirts a business park
- Some trail construction is needed within Poway to connect the City to Sycamore Canyon

SYCAMORE CANYON OPEN SPACE PRESERVE: 1,819 ACRES

County of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Department

- Habitat: oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, chaparral
- Staging area and north side trail access, from the City of Poway, via Sycamore Canyon Road
- Staging area and east side trail access off Highway 67
- 10 miles of trails, including several loop routes
- No more than one mile from the public property that surrounds San Vicente Reservoir

SAN VICENTE RESERVOIR - 3,405 ACRES

City of San Diego, Department of Water Utilities

- Habitat: open water, oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, chaparral
- No trails at this time
- Adjacent to Oak Oasis
- Trail construction is needed to connect Sycamore Canyon to Oak Oasis

OAK OASIS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE - 397 ACRES

County of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Department

- Habitat: oak woodland, mixed chaparral
- Staging area and trail access off Wildcat Canyon Road
- 3 miles of existing trails
- Connected to El Capitan by public trail right-of-way

ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK: 640,000 ACRES (not all shown)

State of California, Parks and Recreation Department

- Habitat: badlands, desert floor, riparian, palm oasis, piñon pine, desert transition, chaparral, montane
- The largest state park in the contiguous United States
- Over 500 miles of trails, including dirt roads

CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK: 25,000 ACRES

State of California, Parks and Recreation Department

- Habitat: meadow, chaparral, oak woodland, mixed conifer forest
- 120 miles of existing trails
- Connected to Anza-Borrego by the California Riding and Hiking Trail and by the Pacific Crest Trail

CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST: 421,000 ACRES (not all shown)

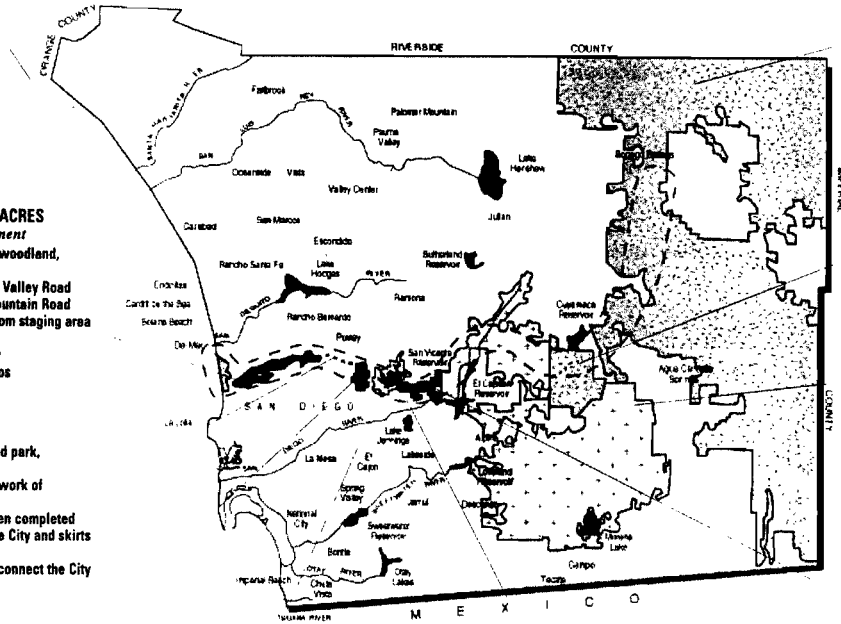
United States of America, Department of Agriculture

- Habitat: coastal sage scrub, chamise chaparral, mixed chaparral, oak woodland, mixed conifer forest
- Nearly 358 miles of existing trails
- Adjacent to Cuyamaca Rancho
- Some trail construction is needed to connect El Capitan to Cuyamaca Rancho

EL CAPITAN OPEN SPACE PRESERVE: 2,839 ACRES

County of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Department

- Habitat: oak woodland, coastal sage scrub, mixed chaparral
- Staging area and trail access off Wildcat Canyon Road
- 8 miles of trail over rugged terrain
- Some of the most scenic vistas in San Diego County
- Abuts the Cleveland National Forest



LEGEND	
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	COUNTY PARKS
	S.D. CITY PARKS
	S.D. WATER UTILITIES
	PIÑON PINES
	CORRIDOR

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT COUNTY PARKS AT (619) 694-3042

Federal, State, and Local government working together to connect existing trails using public lands and public right-of-way.

Spines to Pines: The Trans-County Trail

A County Wide Celebration of Trails...from California Trails Day, Saturday, April 25 through National Trails Day, Saturday, June 6. Over 90 activities, hikes, and volunteer opportunities are scheduled throughout the six weeks.

The celebration, co-sponsored by San Diego County and City Parks and Recreation Departments, the San Diego County Parks Society, the San Diego Natural History Museum, the San Diego County

Trails Council, and Adventure 16 has been scheduled in support of the Spines to Pines Trans-County Trail. The Spines to Pines is a 114 mile multi-use trail that bisects the county starting at Torrey Pines State Reserve and ending at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

If you participate in a Spines to Pines activity, you will receive a fund raising letter and a raffle ticket. The fund raising letter will explain the Spines to Pines Trail

and provide opportunities for you to make tax deductible donations to construction and maintenance of the trail. Raffle ticket holders are eligible for some outstanding prizes to be awarded at the final celebration on June 6 in Balboa Park.

Call the Friends for Spines to Pines hikes and information on how to receive a free copy of the Trans-County Trail brochure.

Open Space, Ecosystems, Bikes, Horses, Dogs!

Barry Martin

Back when I was a boy, my family acquired a dog. I considered the dog mine since I spent the most time with him. It was my job to feed him and pick up after him (in one end and out the other, both my responsibility). My dog's name was Sam. Certainly Sam had to be one of the most pathetic looking Basset hounds known to man. He was born with one blue looking eye while the other was a normal brown color. He also had a hernia in his belly area which had to be repaired shortly after we got him. We all know Basset hounds are so homely looking that they somehow seem lovable, well, Sam was exceptionally homely looking which made him exceptionally lovable, at least in my eyes.

What Sam lacked in good looks he made up for in a good nature and as a great companion. I remember working towards my Dog Care merit badge for Boy Scouts with Sam's help. I'll never forget the friendly veterinarian who was my merit badge counselor during that project, and how hard he laughed when he first saw me with Sam. I really loved that goofy dog and sure enjoy all those memories.

Sam and I used to spend a lot of time in the outdoors. There was a field of tall grasses across the street which transitioned into a riparian area along a little stream called Dry Creek. Beyond the creek was a huge walnut orchard. Sam would accompany me on occasion to the field where I would let him run. What a sight that was, Sam's ears would be visible just above the grass tops as they flew up over his head every time he bounded along.

Usually Sam was on a leash when we went out because I was always working on the Heel command and getting him trained to respond correctly to the leash so we would be able to demonstrate our competence for the merit badge. But I thought it would be such a good thing to be able to give him some freedom every so often and let him run in that field. Those were the "good old days" for me. I could run out the front door and cross the street into an open field which led to so much open space I could walk all day and not see another person and very few structures.

Several years after moving away from that area I was back visiting relatives one day and decided to take a run by that house where we used to live when we had Sam. I was amazed but not surprised to see the entire area where Sam and I once freely roamed totally filled with houses. Dry Creek is now hemmed in on both banks by development, oh! the hours of time I used to spend along the banks of that creek! Now to hike along the creek is to be nearly walking through the back yards of all the homes along there.

We have a similar problem here with dwindling open space. Our challenge becomes how to maintain what is left in as pristine a condition as possible in the face of more users of less. It boils down to a modification of our previous behaviors in these open areas. What a natural ecosystem can take in the way of abuse is often proportional to the size of that area. What Sam and I could get away with back when that open space area was huge would not be tolerable to what is left of that area now.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve seems like a pretty large chunk of open space at first glance. As an ecosystem however, it is only a fraction of its former self due to the development that has occurred and is planned all around it. Thanks to the efforts of a few dedicated souls, we may be able to keep what is left of this greatly disturbed and altered ecosystem from dying totally. Wildlife corridors have been planned which will connect us to open space to the north. You can not isolate an ecosystem, it must connect to other ecosystems or it will die without gene pool interchange.

You would think since we have the corridors now all that gene pool stuff should be taken care of right? Well maybe... you see we have the corridors but in some places they will be very narrow and lined with homes, sort of like Dry Creek. Also, in the preserve where homes line the edges and in some cases actually spill into the preserve many of the people who live in those and surrounding homes are drawn to the beauty and peace of these natural areas, which is

Water Testing

The Peñasquitos Creek: The Good and The Bad

Milena Andzelm

Over the past 3 months, I have been regularly testing the waters of the Peñasquitos Creek, right next to the Peñasquitos Creek Crossing. It was this year's science project, probably next year's too.

I chose this project because as many people in this area, I enjoy walking through the Peñasquitos Park Preserve. Often the trails take me next to the creek. Walking there, I have observed many animals such as deer, ducks, and fish in or near the water. This water looks very pristine and clear, but there's more than what meets the eye. Therefore I decided to observe the water in depth.

I did seven standard chemical tests, using a water quality testing kit Mr. Mike Kelly was kind enough to lend me. I tested the main creek and a little creek that's mostly made up of runoff water from the houses across the street where I live. For comparison, I also tested drinking water and tap water.

The tests were relatively simple, but accuracy was very important. The seven tests were: temperature, pH (the acidity or alkaline of the water), Dissolved Oxygen (how much oxygen the water has), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (how much oxygen the water needs), Nitrites (high levels can be harmful to very young children), Turbidity (the clarity of the water), and Hardness (how many dissolved minerals there are in the water).

The good news is that by chemical standards, the water is clean. No showing of nitrites, a well balanced pH, an acceptable level of Biochemical Oxygen Demand, a high level of Dissolved Oxygen, and only occasional turbidity (after rains we've all seen the brown water). Our water is very hard, but hardness, doesn't equal toxicity, thank goodness. So our creek appears healthful for animals and plants. The little creek has much harder water and more microorganisms, as evident from significantly larger level of Biochemical Oxygen Demand.

The bad news is, as most people already know, that you can't drink the water flowing through the canyon. There is the vast difference between the creek waters, and the waters we normally drink. Also, Mr. Kelly informed me that a harmful microbe, the Giardia Lamblia, is present in our waters. Even though I didn't find it, there's a strong possibility it's there.

I did a microbiology test to look for the Giardia Lamblia and other microorganisms. The things I found supported my conclusion that you can't drink the creek water. I found some harmless paramoeciens and plasmodeons, and some algae. I also found a worm. Now who would want to eat a worm? Of course the worm and other microbes could be filtered out with special, precise equipment, but I don't usually take it with me walking. So when you go for a hike, be sure to take a water bottle, since the creek is not something to drink.

(Bluebird continued from page 1)

male Western Bluebird has a deep blue throat, a gray belly, a red-brown chest, and occasionally it can have some red-brown on his back. By the time the chicks are about 22 days old they leave the nest completely feathered and maneuverable in flight. In one group of eggs approximately half survive to adulthood. One thing you have to remember about installing nests is to make sure that they are



Western Bluebird

from 50 to 400 feet apart from neighboring nests. This is normally the same with most birds. Bluebird likes open and brushy areas that have a couple of shrubs, bushes, and trees here and there.

With the help of Jim Hannan, I have placed five Bluebird houses in the Canyon Preserve, and hope to have a successful breeding season for a few families of Bluebirds. I have learned a lot of things from this project, for example meeting a deadline. I was notified about one month before the birds breeding season and so I really had to work fast to get these nests up and ready for the birds. I also learned quite a bit about these birds such as their habitat, nesting materials and patterns, and their competitors for nesting places and natural predators. I invite you to come and observe these magnificent birds from a distance.

(Bees continued from page 1)

went dormant. While Cinderella needed but a kiss from her prince charming, our underground "princess" needs the right combination of both warmth and moisture to awaken her from her deep slumber. At one year after birth her genes refuse to trigger the wakeup call. It's warm enough for her survival, but it hasn't been wet enough.



Lemonadeberry

Thousands of years of evolution in Southern California have shaped her genes for survival in a desert climate. Droughts are normal. Her genes wait them out. Nature has selected her genes to wait for the right degree of moisture in the soil. If not, she might emerge from her underground chamber and not find the flowers she needs for survival. It hasn't been wet enough for the flowers either.

It's now 1991. It's been another dry year up to now. Suddenly, the clouds build up overhead and open up, drenching the parched soil with inches of water. Some call it a "March Miracle." It's enough. Our little princess receives the wake up call. She digs her way out of her underground room, crawls up the tunnel shaft towards the daylight and fresh air. She emerges from the hole, stands on the surface of the soil. She's a bit unsteady. This is all new to her. She lifts the things attached to her side, fluffs them in the wind. She experiments a bit with them and then launches herself into the air. Her wings carry her aloft, above the tunnel her mother dug years before. She rises above the chaparral bushes surrounding her, above the mound of earth holding her nest.

She's hovering over a mimia mound surrounded by vernal pools. The water is almost gone now, just a few puddles left. Urgent impulses drive her flight. Time is short. She must find food, for herself and her unborn young. She tests the air. She flies through the chaparral, hovers around the vernal

pools. Many flowers are blooming. The white ones hold no interest for her. The purple ones, however fragrant, trigger no response. Nor do the red ones. She flies on, searching. Something catches her eye. Yellow flowers. She changes course. As she nears them, however, she knows something's not right. The yellow isn't rich enough, the odor is wrong.

She flies on. Another burst of yellow catches her attention. As she nears the new flower the color and the odor trigger her genes. She hovers over the flower head and settles upon the dense disk of florets at the center of the ring of petals the color of bright spun gold. She gathers pollen. When she has a full load of pollen she flies to a nearby chaparral covered mound. Like countless generations before her she digs her tunnel, as much as a foot beneath the ground. She digs a chamber in one side of the tunnel. She forms her pollen into a ball the shape and size of a small pea. She lays an egg on it. She leaves on another pollen gathering trip to the nearby vernal pool.

She'll commute between her new nest and the vernal pool in the following days. She may dig as many as two dozen egg chambers off her main tunnel. Into each she'll deposit just one pollen pea and one egg. She'll enclose each in a case of wax. Her babies will hatch in a few days. She'll never know them, for they will lay dormant as she did, and she will die well before the next spring. In fact, her brief life cycle will come to an end when the flowers she depends on wither away under the approaching summer sun.

Although evolution has produced some wonderful genes that carry her species of bee through droughts, it has also made her dependent on the pollen

of just one subspecies of plant. She is of the genus of bees called *Andrena*. Unlike her well-known and social cousins, hers is a solitary species. There are no hives for *Andrena*. Her species is destined to live alone. She will only gather pollen from this one plant species, goldfields (*Lasthenia* spp.). Her relationship with the goldfields is one of co-dependency. The flower is largely dependent on a few species of *Andrena* to pollinate them and allow their reproduction. No act of will can break this co-dependency, only nature and the process of coevolution can do that. Their fates are inextricably intertwined, not only with each other, but with that of the vernal pools. For this species of goldfields is one of several that live only in and near vernal pools. Other species of vernal pool plants, including the spectacular blue *Downingia*, are also pollinated by "host-specific" bees. The future of our declining number of vernal pools is also the future of these flowers, bees and uncounted other plants and animals that call vernal pools home. This winter and spring join us in our explo-



Andrena (Diandrena) blennospermatis is shown collecting pollen from *Blennosperma nanum*. It is closely related to the native bees that pollinate our local Goldfields. Photo from: *Fremontia*, Vol. 23, No. 2.

rations to see these and other wonders of our area vernal pools.

For more information on vernal pool species see *Pacific Discovery*, Spring 1990 and *Fremontia*, Vol. 23, No. 2.

Volunteer Accomplishments

by Mike Kelly

Newsletter

A new editor, Steve Swenson, is taking over Canyon News. F I N A L L Y, the old editor, Mike Kelly, has been put out to pasture! Helping out with recent issues of the newsletter: Christine Miller, Gaye Dingeman, Suzann Leininger, Bruce Binder, Mike and Steve.

Conservation Projects

The following volunteers eradicated weeds, planted native species and collected seed from native grass and other species for propagation for plants for use in next season's restoration projects:

Rick Botta
Cindy Burrascano
Ivan & Carol Cooper
Drew Deshazo
Edward DiBella
Mel Howe
Robb Hutsel
Mike Kelly
Suzann Leininger
Jeff Lohman
Bianca McCrae
Dave & Jennifer Robinsons
Liz Rozycki
Pat Watkins
Dean Woods

Grateful thanks to the folks who turned out on multiple occasions in this past period, including Cindy, Drew, Edward, Mel, Mike, Suzann, Jeff, Liz, and Pat.

San Marcos Interns

Five interns from San Marcos High School have been working with Mike Kelly on a variety of restoration projects since January. They include: Mike Angeles, David Alspach, Bomel Berna-

les, Carlos Garcia, and Brandon Porter.

Raptor Study

Dr. Jim Hannan, who is conducting a study of raptor nesting and breeding success in the Preserve is thanked for his quick and enthusiastic sharing of his information in planning restoration activities around the birds.

Volunteer Opportunities

by Mike Kelly

Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have ongoing wildlife and stream surveys, invasive weed removal projects, planting programs and more.

Endangered Plant Surveys

San Diego Thorn Mint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*) Survey will be conducted the first two weeks in May, probably during the week, after work. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489 if you want to help. Willowly Mint (*Monardella linoides* ssp. *viminea*) Survey will be conducted the first two weeks in June, probably during the week, after work. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489 if you want to help.

Inaugurate and Help Cleanup

New Lower San Diego River Preserve. Sat., May 23, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Help found the new Lower San Diego River Preserve (temporary name only). Meet at 5215 Gaines Ave at Friars Road. A coalition of local citizens, civic organizations and merchants is organizing to create a new nature preserve on the lower San Diego River,

New Members

Welcome to the following folks who recently joined the Friends.

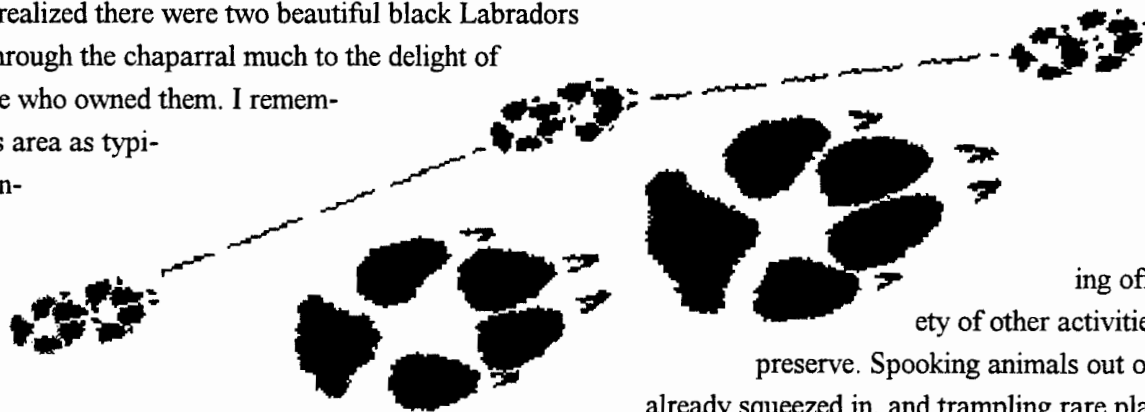
Andzelm Family
Don Brown
Cederquist Family
Donna Cherverton
Ivan & Carol Cooper
Jim Frazier
Ellen Hamlin
Kathryn Heaney
Ann & Tom Keenan
Fred & Linda Kramer
George & Mary Leitner
Lawrence Ludlow
Devee Miell
Carol Rayes
David & Jennifer Robinson
Lisa Rosenberg
Ian & Joan Stuart
Wally & Mickey Swenson

from Sefton Park to I-5. Your help is needed! On May 23, there will be nature walks, nature and historical displays, and a cleanup. Get involved. Volunteers needed! Nature walks led by Mike Kelly from Calif. Native Plant Society and Mike Maher of Univ. of San Diego Botany Dept. will begin at 9:30, 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. A cleanup of trash and exotic invasive plant species will run from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Help restore native plants and wildlife to the lower San Diego River. Cosponsored by Councilmember Valerie Stallings, Calif. Native Plant Society, Western Police Division, Univ. of San Diego, MTDB and local civic organizations and merchants. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489 for more details.

(Open Space continued from page 6)

great. But remember, the use and abuse an area can handle and still regenerate (some refer to this as "carrying capacity") is limited.

What does all this have to do with Sam? Plenty, when I had Sam I rarely encountered other people much less other people with dogs out in the open areas we traveled together. I thought of Sam one day recently as I was on a tracking run through the preserve. Up ahead I saw a couple of people off trail watching something going on in the bushes. As I drew nearer, I realized there were two beautiful black Labradors ripping through the chaparral much to the delight of the couple who owned them. I remembered this area as typically abun-



dant in Quail, sure enough, a covey was in the process of scattering every which way as the dogs gleefully pursued. I asked the man if he were aware of the leash rule in the preserve, he shrugged, smiled and turned his back on me. I wouldn't have thought much of this incident if it were not for the fact that it is so common now. I've seen the havoc dogs in pursuit will reek all too often. For example, as I surveyed my area for wildlife tracks and sign a few months ago I was alarmed to find a huge old rare barrel cactus which I had been using as a landmark knocked over, completely ripped from the ground. I looked at the ground for tracks or signs of what or who might have done this and could clearly see a swath of destruction left by a rather large dog who was allowed to run free. The dog had been chasing rabbits through the area which is one of the few places left in the preserve to have the Black Tailed Jackrabbit along with other once abundant, now rare, native plants and animals. I've seen many other situations like this as they occur in our preserve, not just with dogs, but with cyclists, equestrians, running groups (hash house harriers), even hikers, crashing through sensitive areas where they probably would not be if they knew better.

The key point I would like to make here is this: given the heavy influx of people using what is left of our natural areas we really can't afford to take advantage of these places like we used to and expect them to survive. We need to become more educated about what is appropriate and in the best interest of maintaining these natural places and less self centered. Riding your mountain bike through an area off limits to bikes, letting your dog scare the bejeepers out of all the wildlife in the vicinity as it races through the chaparral, running or hik-

ing off trail and a variety of other activities are killing our preserve. Spooking animals out of areas they are already squeezed in, and trampling rare plants does not promote the maintenance of any preserve in its natural state.

What is the answer? How about education, with enforcement. Or should I say aggressive enforcement combining education. Perhaps our volunteer patrols should be more visible, working during the week, not just weekends. If the rangers were more aggressive in enforcing these rules that are set up to preserve these open spaces maybe things would be different. What do you think?

It is unfortunate that we have to talk using terms like "enforcement." If we really lived like caretakers or the good stewards we were meant to be, then it would not be necessary to speak of enforcement. That is a whole other philosophical issue that I won't get involved in here, but I do hope that what I've mentioned gets you thinking a little about your approach to the last of the open and natural areas we have here in San Diego County. Feel free to send us your thoughts on this subject or any other subject of interest related to preserving our natural areas.

Next newsletter, I will get off the soapbox long enough to discuss how to tell the difference between a dog track and a coyote track, stay tuned, and stay on track!

Western Bluebirds

by Barbara Zepf

[Apropro of the article on page 1 by Byan Bessey on building bird boxes for Western Bluebirds, we're reprinting this article on this same bird.]

Just east of the white fence [near the Canyonside ballparks], there is a small low, weedy depression in the dirt field which collects water during the rainy season. If you park your car opposite this spot (just past where the chain closes the road to the creek) you will have yourself a front-row seat to a good bird show. Your car will act as a "blind" and the birds seem oblivious to your presence. This tiny oasis attracts an inordinate numbers of birds. As the water tends to remain in this depression for many days after the rains stop, the show will continue for quite some time. Frogs, rabbits and birds are drawn to this tiny place. I've even seen a Lesser Night-hawk swoop low over this spot on several occasions at dusk. On this particular day, I saw some of the most beautiful birds in the canyon — Western Bluebirds.

The Valentine bird

It's nice that Valentine's Day comes during these usually bleak winter months. It puts us in a warm loving mood and lifts us out of our doldrums. Many valentines are adorned with this month's bird — the symbol of hope — the "bluebird of happiness." Bluebirds are unique to North America and are found nowhere else in the world. There are three species of bluebirds — the Eastern Bluebird, the Mountain Bluebird and the Western Bluebird.

We don't get the Eastern Bluebird in the canyon. We occasionally get the Mountain Bluebird (once every few years or so). However, we get the Western Bluebird every winter. I often wonder that if someone erected nesting boxes in the canyon, we might attract them all year-round. That would be a real treat! Most bluebirds return to their breeding grounds in March or April, so you should have a chance of spotting these beauties for another six weeks or so.

In the winter, bluebirds form flocks which contain several families that roam and feed together. The Western Bluebird is the least migratory of the bluebirds, with very little north-south migration. Instead, they tend to fly short distances to areas where they find abundant winter food.

This is often an altitudinal migration to the milder weather associated with an lower elevation. The fields in the west end of the canyon around the adobe house attract these birds. The east end of the canyon is a reliable place to spot them also. You can usually find them in the playground near the slides and swings of Canyonside Park, in the large dirt field at the end of the ball-field and in the parking lot on the left before you reach the ranch house.

Easy to observe

Small birds usually have small territories and don't roam far away. If you wait for awhile in one fairly reliable place, the birds will complete their feeding circuit and come to you. Just be patient. Bluebirds are loved for their tameness. They are not particularly disturbed by human presence and they allow you to approach close enough to watch their behavior and to enjoy their beauty at close range.

It is interesting to watch them feed. They often dart into the air from high perches to catch insects in flight. From low perches they just flutter to the ground to eat. I've even seen them hover like a kite or kestrel above the grassy fields where they are feeding. They eat large insects, mostly grasshoppers, caterpillars and beetles. They also eat ants, spiders earthworms, snails and sow bugs. In the winter, they also feed on berries, such as the mistletoe, the elderberry and the pepper tree berries in the canyon.

The Western Bluebird is a striking bird — probably one of the most brilliantly-colored birds seen in Penasquitos Canyon. The adult males have deep blue, almost purplish hood, wings and tail with chestnut on the breast and flanks. Their belly is grayish. Adult females have the same color of blue on the wings and tail; otherwise they have duller brownish upperparts, a grayish throat and pale chestnut on the breast and flanks. Their belly is grayish. They have a distinctive white eye ring. Juveniles are heavily spotted on the breast and have blue in the wings and tail with no chestnut markings anywhere.

Western Bluebirds are a bit larger than a sparrow — about seven inches long. They appear hunched or round-shouldered when perched. They are long-winged with rather short tails which are usually held down

when perched. They give a soft call that sounds like "pew" and a harsh "chuck". They prefer open woodlands and pasturelands. They nest in holes in trees or posts and are one of the birds which will accept man-made nesting boxes. Females are attracted by the vivid blue of the male and by the availability of nesting holes. The male's red breast is a signal of aggression towards other males.

Breakup time

In March, the flocks break up into pairs. Their pale blue eggs are laid in April or May, commonly four to six eggs. The male brings bits of material to the nest during courtship but the female generally does all of the final nest building. Nests are made of fine grasses, weed stalks, pine needles and occasionally fine rootlets. The birds construct a nest cup in the center, which is sometimes lined with hair or feathers. The eggs are laid, one per day. The female does all the incubation after all the eggs are laid. The male brings her food and guards the territory. After twelve to fifteen days the eggs hatch. The female will then brood the hatchlings for the first few days until they can regulate their own body temperatures. The hatchlings will stay in the nest for about 20 days.

After the young leave the nest, they're called fledglings. They're still dependent on parents for food and a certain amount of protection. The family will stay close together through the rest of the season and sometimes even through fall and winter. Occasionally young from previous broods will help feed young birds from the next brood. Western Bluebirds may reneest after their first brood is hatched and a pair may raise up to three broods in a single season.

Once you've seen a bluebird, it's love at first sight. Its rich blue color, soft musical notes and gentle ways have endeared it to Americans and Canadians alike who deplore its decline. When European Starlings pushed westward, they took over nesting holes and devoured the berries on which the bluebirds depended for cold-weather survival. Bluebird lovers are now putting up countless nest boxes to help this beleaguered bird. The Western Bluebird is the perfect gift from the canyon to you in this month of love.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

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

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Vice-President: Lani Noreke 565-4586
Treasurer: Brian Swanson 695-2209
Secretary: Edward DiBella 748-5276

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Vickie Ausen, Les Braund, Barry Martin,
Erik Noreke, Steve Swenson, Dean Woods

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Geology Walk Leader: Don Albright (443-5937)
Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
Kiosk Designer: Linda King
Medicinal Plant & Moon Walks: Will Bowen
(452-7091)
Mystery Tree Walks: Vickie Ausen
Nature Walk: Les Braund (566-3958)
Newsletter: Steve Swenson & Mike Kelly
Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
Tracking Walk: Chris Bader
Vernal Pool & other walks: Mike Kelly
Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
Voice Mail System: Erik Noreke
Tracking Team Coordinator: Barry Martin (484-4007)
Volunteer Coordinator: Michelle Murphree (224-4192)
Wildlife Survey Committee: Lani Noreke

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

Senior (62) OR Student \$7.00 Individual \$10
Family \$15 Sponsor \$25 Patron \$100
Corporate \$250 Life \$1000
Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

- Volunteer** to help the committee (call Mike to discuss)
 Hikes
 Indian Culture 5/98
 Educational Workshops
 School, Family, Youth Programs
 Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

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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 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.



Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

July/August 1998

Volume 12 No. 4

Rural Heritage and
Watershed Initiative Campaign

Dispatch from the Front

Edward G. Di Bella

I am pleased to inform the Friends that the effort to obtain sufficient signatures to qualify the Rural Heritage and Watershed Initiative for the ballot has succeeded. It appears virtually certain that the citizenry will vote upon the measure this coming November. Reflecting upon my own participation in the campaign these past few months, several salient thoughts and concerns come to mind that I wish to convey to you.

The most remarkable aspect of the experience was, without doubt, the bitter anger and frustration shown by many of those signing our petitions. The relentless grazing of our hills and the ensuing construction of more houses is generating a great deal of unease and opposition. People frequently expressed a profound sense of loss over the disappearance of the beautiful landscape that they had admired and appreciated. Some lamented the displacement of wildlife and the mounting toll of dead creatures visible on the roads. Almost all manifested

(RHWI continued on page 5)

Help the Friends through United Way!

If your workplace has a United Way campaign, you can contribute to the Friends, even though we are not listed. Just write us in on your designee form.

Prescriptive Burning

Mike Kelly

The on-again, off-again plan to begin a prescriptive burn program in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve is on-again. The Friends have put much time and effort into promoting the idea of prescriptive burning as a way to create natural fuel breaks in Peñasquitos Canyon and reduce the risk of a big, catastrophic fire. Fire is a natural, occasional occurrence in our coastal ecosystems. Many habitats are dependent on it for "rejuvenation." Many individual species, including *Ceanothus* (Mountain lilac), require a fire to germinate their seeds.

The danger in our canyon is that after decades of fire suppression, our chaparral and coastal sage scrub hillsides are overgrown with a lot of dead wood and leaf litter building up. The vegetation tends to be of one age: old. Why is even-age, old vegetation a problem? It means that when a fire does get started, such as from a cigarette butt in the grasslands at the west end (cause of the September 1992 270-acre blaze), and especially under Santa Ana conditions, the fire can burn hot and fast. San Diego has had its share of fires of 5,000 acres or more -- bigger than our entire canyon. The east to west trending nature of our canyon also means that prevailing winds can drive a fire the length of the canyon.

The goal of a prescriptive burn program in wildlands is to restore fire to the ecosystem, but in modest doses. In the process, carefully planned burns can create a mosaic of uneven vegetation age classes. For example, once

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Victory on 56

Deer Canyon Saved!

Mike Kelly, President

Deer Canyon has now been saved from the bulldozers. The San Diego City Council voted unanimously Tuesday, June 16, to adopt an alternative alignment for State Route 56, rejecting the Central Alignment. The Central Alignment would have gone through Deer Canyon, San Diego's last undeveloped coastal canyon and the northern boundary of the Del Mar Mesa Core Preserve of the Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). The Friends were supported in opposition to the Central Alignment by the Sierra Club, Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society, Endangered Habitats League, Carmel Valley Planning Group, Del Mar Mesa Planning Group and others. A big thank you to all of our members who circulated petitions, wrote letters and made phone calls. You made it possible. We also want to thank Councilmembers Mathis and Warden, who, along with the Mayor, helped us negotiate a solution to the routing of SR56.

Cool Hours Best for Enjoying Preserve

Wouldn't you know it. The Preserve re-opens from months of closures due to flood damage only to have summer finally arrive with its hot days. That means it's best to plan your forays into the Preserve for the earlier morning or dusk hours. You'll find most of our walks scheduled for these hours. Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. For details or group hikes, call 484-3219 for recorded information. Volunteer Opportunities Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have ongoing wildlife and stream surveys, invasive weed removal projects, planting programs and more.

July

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk
Sun., July 5: 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Meet in parking lot at Mercy & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Full Moon Power Shield Hike

Wed., July 8, 8-9:30 p.m. Hike under the stars, hear Indian stories about the night sky, then create a mythic tale about some aspect of your life which you will paint on your own personal power shield. Materials provided. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Waterfall Walk / Northern Staging Area

Sat., July 11, 8 a.m. (2-3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this nature walk to the waterfall and back. See lots of native flowers, visit the waterfall and witness the wetlands blown out by the flash flood - an awesome sight. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Nature Walk in López Canyon

Mon., July 13, 6 p.m. Join naturalist Barbara Moore for a look at the critters and plants of López Canyon. Moore is the co-author of *Walking San Diego*. Meet at West End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Dusk Wildlife Walk from Adobe Ranch

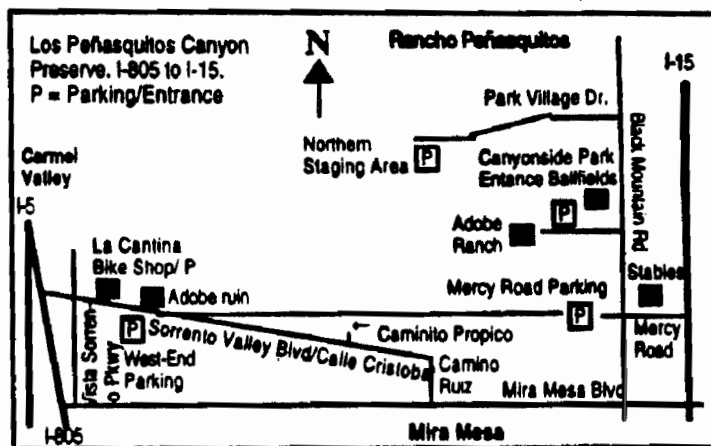
Wed., July 15, 7:30 p.m. Join naturalist Mike Kelly for an evening under the stars and a chance to see nocturnal wildlife, including deer, owls and coyotes. Bring flashlight and insect protection. Meet at the corner of Park Village Drive and Camino Ruiz in Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Volunteer Wildlife Tracking Survey Training

Sat., July 18: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to undergo this 6-hour free training for animal track and sign reading and survey protocol in preparation for our quarterly wildlife survey (see below). Park at the white-fenced, Adobe Ranch House parking lot, located off Black Mtn. Rd., near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Then walk up to the Ranch House for the training. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking Walk at the Ranch House

Sat., July 18, 8 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Practice your tracking skills. Beginners on up welcome.



Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader of the Peñasquitos Tracking Team. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. Right on Black Mountain, then first U-turn, right into Canyonside Park past ball fields to Preserve sign and new parking lot. Walk up path to ranch. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk
Sun., July 19: 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Meet in parking lot at Mercy & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Feather Healing Hike

Sun., July 19, 7-8:30 p.m. Hike to a power spot and then make a shaman's healing feather which you will learn to use for diagnosis, healing, and remote viewing. Materials provided. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Ft. Guijarros During the Mexican Period: San Diego County Archaeology Society Summer Evening Program

Sat., July 25, 6 p.m. Archaeologist Ron May will give a slide presentation on the fort and its original owner, Francisco Maria Ruiz, the original owner of Rancho de los Peñasquitos and also the Commandant of the San Diego Presidio and in charge of Ft. Guijarros in the 1820s. Ron will show how archaeology was used

(Continued from page 2)

to learn more about the architecture and the people who inhabited the old Spanish fort. Ranch house tour and picnicking in the courtyard begin at 6 p.m.; the slide show will be presented at 7:30 p.m. Bring a picnic supper and folding chair; SDCAS will provide dessert, coffee, and soft drinks. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Volunteer Wildlife Survey

Sat., July 25-Sun., Aug. 2. If you have helped out with previous surveys and/or gone through the Friends' Wildlife Tracking Training, your help is needed for this quarterly survey of Mountain lion, Mule deer, coyote, fox, bobcat, long-tail weasel and other critters. Data collected on these surveys is used in wildlife corridor design studies and preserve management. Call Dean at 672-1120 (eve) for more details.

August

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Evening Walk in López Canyon

Mon., Aug. 3, 6 p.m. Join naturalist Barbara Moore for an evening nature walk in López Canyon. Bring water and insect repellent. Moore is the co-author of *Walking San Diego*. Meet at West End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. In Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Waterfall Walk /Northern Staging Area

Sat., Aug. 8, 8 a.m. (2-3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this nature walk to the waterfall and back. See lots of native flowers, visit the waterfall and witness the wetlands blown out by the flash flood - an awesome sight. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in

Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Full Moon Hike

Sun., Aug. 9, 8-9:30 p.m. Hike under the silvery light of the moon and stars. Look at constellations and other heavenly bodies. Explore the nightlife of the canyon on a warm summer evening. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking Walk at the Ranch House

Sat., Aug. 15, 8 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Practice your tracking skills. Beginners on up welcome. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by the Peñasquitos Tracking Team. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. Right on Black Mountain, then first U-turn, right into Canyonside Park past ball fields to Preserve sign and new parking lot. Walk up path to ranch. **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Dusk Wildlife Walk from Adobe Ranch

Wed., Aug. 19, 7:30 p.m. Join naturalist Mike Kelly for an evening under the stars and a chance to see nocturnal wildlife, including deer, owls and coyotes. Bring flashlight and insect protection. Meet in white-fenced parking lot for Adobe Ranch House. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Nature Walk in López Canyon

Sat., Aug. 29, 8:30 a.m. Join naturalist Barbara Moore for a look at the critters and plants of López Canyon. Moore is the co-author of *Walking San Diego*. Meet at West End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Feng Shui Hike

Sun., Aug. 23: 6-7:30 p.m. Learn about Feng Shui, meaning "Wind and Water," the ancient Chinese art of geomancy. Experiment with this fascinating method of divination and discover the energies of particular places, sites, and formations in

the canyon. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

DIRECTIONS

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**.

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal

This intersection is located 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 St. 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. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

Cantina Bike Shop Meeting Area

Bike Shop is at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

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**.

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive

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 Ruiz. Left on Camino Ruiz and park. **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 3/4 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, past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

(Burn continued from page 1)

burned, chaparral usually won't support a significant fire for 20–25 years. That means that a fire that begins upwind eventually meets a patch of habitat too young to burn. The fire stops itself or is easy to stop there.

Fire is generally good for the biology of San Diego wildlands -- if not a large, catastrophic burn. Old vegetation is often of low diversity, fewer species, than new vegetation. After a fire, many native species resprout from their crown or underground tuber. Many others germinate from seed, seed that often lay dormant for decades. A flush of millions of wildflowers is common. Wildlife like and frequent burn areas for the flowers and succulent young growth to eat.

Animal casualties from prescriptive burns tend to be few if any, whereas unplanned Santa Ana fires often kill many more animals. Prescriptive burns are cooler, slower moving fires -

- easy to get underground from or away from. With the support of the Watershed Division of the County of San Diego, the Friends are once again hoping to schedule our first burn for late next fall.

This division of the County does prescriptive burning in the County. To our knowledge their has not been a prescriptive burn in the City of San Diego in anyone's recent memory. Such burns are carefully planned for a cooler, wetter season, with fire equipment and specially trained crews standing by -- to avoid such a burn from getting out of control.

The approximately 50-acre site we're eyeing for this burn is located opposite the September 1992 fire. If we're allowed to do this burn, it will give us a natural fire break on either side of the canyon just west of the waterfall, making it more difficult for a wildfire to sweep up the canyon from the grasslands (flash fuel) in the west.

Many different agencies and permits are necessary to do a prescriptive burn. The Navy has done it on Miramar a number of times, as has Torrey Pines State Park.

As part of the process, we are mapping the habitat types, plants and wildlife in the proposed burn site. I've been joined by Cindy Burrascano and Mel Howe of the California Native Plant Society in this effort. We also plan to establish scientific transects in the burn area to document the before and after vegetation and changes it undergoes. We'll keep our readers apprised of our progress. Wish us luck!



Sheila Loftin Memorial

By John Northrop

Friends mourn the passing of Sheila Loftin, who died on May 4th at her home in Del Mar Mesa at the age of 52, after a seven-year battle with cancer. Sheila, a skilled equestrienne, was indeed a "Friend of Peñasquitos." A long time San Diegan, she rode with the first Volunteer Patrol along with the Randalls, Wendy Shannon and myself in the Canyon she loved. She also drove draft horses and, in the lingo of the carriage trade, was known as a "good whip." She made use of this skill in participating in the plowing and planting of the vegetable garden at the Old Adobe Ranch House, along with her husband, Bob, and friend, Ed Sher. In that effort, they used an unusual three-horse hitch to pull the hand-held plow and other farm equipment.

On other occasions, Sheila drove her carriage to the Ranch House for the annual Park Day festivities. Indeed, she had a fine collection of authentic horse-drawn farm equipment, including wagons, discers,

harrows, mowers — even a manure spreader — which are displayed at Loftin's Stable on Del Mar Mesa. Sheila acquired many of these rare farm implements during her "scouting" trips to Missouri.

Several of Sheila's friends have suggested naming the trail that goes from Del Mar Mesa to Peñasquitos Canyon via Walden Pond the "Sheila Loftin Memorial Trail." Others have nominated the new trail being built on the south side of the Bougainvillea Golf Course (formerly bean fields) in Shaw Valley. Park Ranger Reneene Mowry has suggested that the old hitching posts at the Adobe barn in Peñasquitos be replaced and marked with a Sheila Loftin Memorial Plaque.

As she would have wished, Loftin's Stable is still operating on Del Mar Mesa above the Canyon she loved. The Friends extend sincere sympathy to her husband, Bob, daughter Karen, and grandsons, Kyle and Sage.

(RHWI continued from page 1)

disgust with the congestion and stress that increased urbanization has brought into our lives. It came as no surprise that individuals who uttered such sentiments were eager to help qualify a measure that would preserve open space and places of sanctuary for both people and wildlife. Indeed, a handful came up to sign their names before being asked.

While such responses were gratifying, I could not help but privately wish that more would translate their displeasure into positive action. We never had enough volunteers. Without the aid of paid signature gatherers, the campaign would have faltered. With dedication and perseverance, we surmounted the numerical obstacle before us. I must tell you, however, that the hardest phase of the struggle is yet to come. It is no secret that certain elected officials, as well as development and real estate interests, oppose the initiative. You can be sure that they will undertake to defeat it with all the means at their disposal. If you do not want them to prevail, then you must take action! Inform yourself more fully about the initiative and what it seeks to do. Discuss it with your family, friends and colleagues. Write a letter to your local newspaper urging support. If possible, please make a generous financial contribution to the initiative campaign. Finally, make sure you vote in November!

Rural Heritage and Watershed Initiative
P.O. Box 1298
La Mesa, CA 91944
(619) 515-4411



125,000 Signatures Support the Rural Heritage Initiative

Linda Michael

[Editor's Note: Reprint from most recent issue of the Hi Sierran]

Culminating a five month signature gathering campaign, the Rural Heritage & Watershed Initiative Committee submitted 125,000 signatures to the County Registrar of Voters on June 1st. An astounding number, nearly 60,000, of the signatures were gathered through the industrious work of more than three hundred volunteers. Qualification of the initiative for the ballot is expected (pending results of the validation process which was underway as this issue of the Hi Sierran went to press).

After validation, it is anticipated that the RHWI will be docketed on the agenda of the County Board of Supervisors July 14th meeting. The RHWI committee believes that the only responsible action by the Board would be to place the initiative on the November ballot. However, the supervisors, as individuals, have already expressed their strong opposition to the RHWI and it would not be surprising to see some sort of attempt by the Board to thwart the initiative. It is very important, therefore, that supporters of the initiative attend this public hearing and express their strong desire that the RHWI be placed on the November ballot.

The supervisors have already demonstrated their desire to undermine the RHWI. In May, they authorized the widespread circulation of a report (which could more accurately be called a hit piece) on the effects of the initiative. The report, done the County Department of Planning and Land Use, was patently biased and inaccurate. For example, an early letter to public agencies soliciting information for the report was misleading in its de-

scription of the impacts of the initiative on communities; three pages of corrections to the portion on traffic impacts were belatedly attached to the report on the day it was presented to the Board for approval; and, portions of the report discussing the relationship of the RHWI to the Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) lacked input by biologists and experts familiar with the MSCP.

The RHWI expects a continuing barrage of lies and distortions from opponents of the initiative as the campaign continues. But, if the experience of hundreds of volunteer signature gatherers these past few months has any validity, the San Diego public is very supportive of the goals of the RHWI.

Numerous times, volunteers circulating the RHWI petitions were thanked by petition-signers for being out there doing the work to qualify the initiative for the ballot. In the east county, people complained about the proposed Fanita Ranch development in Santee and the Target shopping center rising at the intersection of Jamacha and Campo Roads in Rancho San Diego; in Bonita, people were sorry that the initiative would not stop SR-125 from cutting through their community; in Jamul, people gladly signed in hopes that their rural existence would not be destroyed; in Encinitas, people hoped that backcountry ranchlands would not succumb to the development pressures that devastated flower fields in their area; people from Alpine lamented that the initiative was too late to help their country town but hoped it would help others; people in Poway who once enjoyed their equestrian-oriented community expressed support for the initiative.

Now, as the ballot campaign heats up, out-reach to the voters is essential. As usual, the success of the campaign will depend on generous contributions of time, energy and money. For more information about how you can help, contact the RHWI Committee at (619) 515-4411.

Coyote or Dog, How Do You Tell?

Barry Martin, Tracking Team

After the start-up of our wildlife study a few years ago I was discussing tracking with one of the people who volunteered to help gather data. In an exasperated tone he said, "Barry, I see all these tracks that I'm pretty sure are dog family, but I haven't got a clue as to which ones might be coyote tracks."

This is a problem common to novice and even some relatively experienced trackers, that is, having a difficult time differentiating between the tracks of some domestic dogs and those of coyotes. There are times when a domestic dog's foot size and shape will closely resemble the coyote's and cause confusion if not downright frustration.

If you are armed with knowledge of some key facts concerning the physiology, habits, typical gait patterns and common reference points to look for in comparing the tracks of the coyote and dog your chances of a correct call when you come across a track will increase substantially.

Of course 100% accuracy is something to strive for but rarely achieved, and in tracking animals the more information you have the better. For example, if you have other indicators that would confirm your initial findings such as scat, kill site or other sign that would indicate presence of the animal whose track you suspect lies before you, then so much the better. Certainly there are many pieces to the puzzle and your capacity to assimilate all that is presented to you is crucial. Your ability to properly identify a track is directly proportional to your degree of awareness. Combine superior awareness with a wealth of background study on the species likely to be found in your area and you raise the probability to a nearly 100% accurate call on most of the tracks you see.

One more thing is necessary to top it all off, and that would be experience. The more dirt time you invest, the better you will get at seeing those little subtleties that may be common only to the coyote.

Dog Family Traits

Let's address a few facts on the dog family (*Canidae*) in general then get into those key points on coyotes versus domestic dogs. First, think of the evolution of dogs in general. It is commonly held that the dog family originated with wolf-like, pack oriented animals long ago. As time went by branches split off and human intervention in breeding took hold. The survivors of all this evolution on the wild end of the spectrum would be the wolves, coyotes and foxes, all of which have species variation depending on where they live and various other factors.

On the domestic side of the picture, there are a multitude of dog breeds that are used for different types of work, show and companionship. These animals are still very much related to their wild ancestors when you consider their basic behavioral and instinctual reactions to various stimuli. However Fido has a very nice existence compared to his wild neighbors and this is reflected in his tracks.

As an example, think of your typically spoiled domestic pet dog (we'll refer to him as Fido) out for a walk. In many instances Fido may not get out all that much and quite possibly has a lot of excess energy to burn. He may be doing a lot of sniffing and wandering and really be kind of eager to burn that energy, tugging at the leash (especially if he and his owner flunked puppy kindergarten) and zigzagging along the trail. Or worse, off leash, tearing

through the habitat with the reckless abandon of an adolescent without a care.

Contrast that with the coyote, who's survival depends upon stealth and conservation of energy. Perhaps you've seen a coyote as it trots down a trail, do you remember it's demeanor? Usually a coyote in transit is very purposeful in its gait and all business. Awareness is very high, often looking over the shoulder as he goes, perhaps stopping to sample the wind and look around a bit, always with an air of caution even if somewhat bold and curious on occasion. It is this demeanor that has allowed the coyote to survive, despite massive campaigns to extirpate them.

In both cases you see these attitudes reflected in the gait patterns and the individual tracks, i.e. domestic dogs who are not worried about where their next meal is coming from or whether or not there is a predator out to get them versus the coyote who is.

Despite these differences it may still be difficult to differentiate between the two primarily because of the similarity-

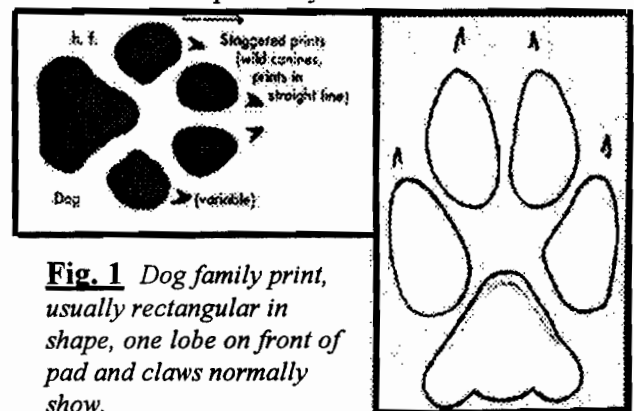


Fig. 1 Dog family print, usually rectangular in shape, one lobe on front of pad and claws normally show.

ties in track characteristics of the dog family. Namely, the overall shape of the dog family track tends to be rectangular, or longer than wide, true for both coyote and dog. They both generally will show claws and their feet ap-

(Tracks continued on next page)

(Tracks continued from previous page)

pear very symmetrical with toes evenly distributed, two middle and two outer, in relation to the pad. Often, dog family members have a fifth vestigial toe, but only four toes register in the track. The pad is triangular in shape with a somewhat rounded point or single lobe on the leading edge and three uneven lobes on the trailing edge (the two outer lobes tend to be prominent particularly on the front feet). Front feet are larger than rear feet. These are, in a nutshell, the general qualities you look for in the dog family's tracks (Fig. 1).

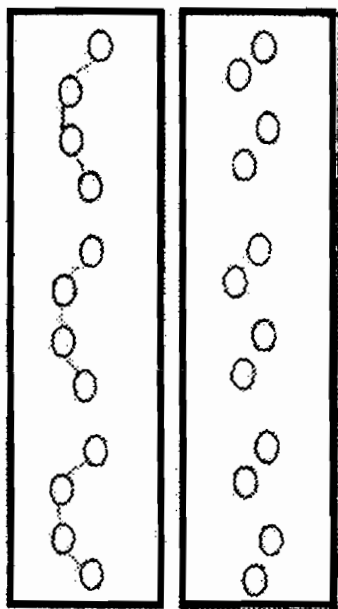


Fig. 2 The C shaped pattern of tracks in a group of 4 is the most common gallop pattern of the dog family and the 2x trotting pattern is also common to the dog family. The 2x pattern is the one most frequently left by coyotes around Peñasquitos.

The gait patterns are also diagnostic, so if you can see a series of tracks and they display a "C shaped" gallop pattern or a "2x" trot pattern as in the illustration (Fig. 2) that will give you additional confirming information.

Domestic or Wild?

Suppose you've found a track and have narrowed it down to dog family using the above key characteristics as a guide. The next step is to figure out whether it is domestic or wild, as in

coyote or even fox (no wolves in our area). This is where it gets interesting!

First, look at the overall character of the track. I know this will sound a little ethereal to some, but the track of a coyote or fox has a wild, crisp look that isn't apparent in a domestic dog track. When looking at a coyote track, you'll notice a compactness of shape and size versus the domestic dog who often displays a more widened or splayed apart look to its footprint. If you see a series of tracks consider that coyotes will leave a straight trail that appears quite purposeful. Domestic dogs will leave a sloppier trail that goes all over the place.

If you were to draw an axis line through each toe of the coyote track, the resulting four lines would tend to be parallel under most circumstances (Fig. 3). Speaking of toes, the coyote track often gives the impression that the outer toes are slightly larger than the inner toes. Conversely, Fido will consistently appear to have larger inner toes. Frequently the outer claws of the coyote tracks will not register while the inner claws appear quite clearly.

The coyote has distinct differences between front and rear foot pads. On the rear feet the leading edges of the pads tend to be more convex which has the effect of reducing the size of the outside lobes. This in turn will often cause the smaller ends of the pad not to show, consequently the pad of the rear foot will register round in shape. This characteristic shape of the rear pad is common to all dogs but is most apparent in the coyotes (Fig. 4).

Another feature of the coyote track is what I call the "pyramid." If you look at the illustrations you will see that in each coyote print there is an almost circular area in the middle of the track just forward of the leading edge or

rounded point of the pad, aft of the two middle toes and between the two outer toes. This creates an interesting interplay with the substrate, especially

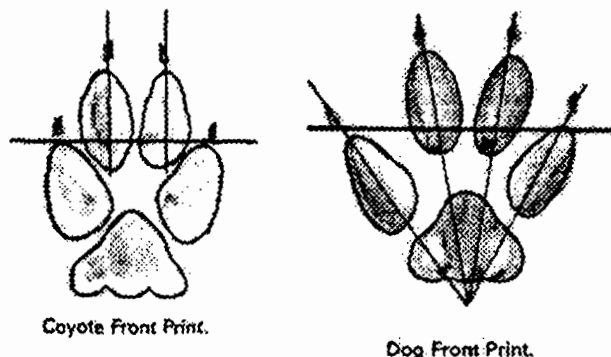
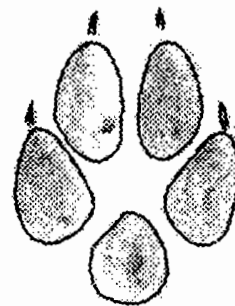


Fig. 3 Axis lines drawn through the toes of coyote remain parallel or nearly so under most circumstances.

soft dirt or mud, where a dome or pyramid shape results in the middle of the track. This typically is not apparent in domestic tracks where you tend to find more of an elongated ridge line running between the toes and the pad.

One more thing, look at the illustration (Fig. 5) and note the "X" drawn in the middle of the track. Notice that the track is so symmetrical that the X does not touch any toes or pad. This is common to coyotes nearly all the time and to domestic dogs much of the time but not always... does that make sense?

Fig. 4 Due to the convex rear pad the outer lobes (I like to call them wings) often will not register and then you get a small rounded looking pad impression.



These are the more common features I look for that tend to distinguish coyote tracks from domestic tracks. Measurement is also useful, the coyote front foot tracks in our area tend to average 2 1/2" in length and 2 1/4" in width, often slightly smaller.

(Continued on next page)

(Tracks continued from previous page)

Having all this information will certainly help you, but realize that patterns and traits found in wild canids can also be found in domestics. As James Halfpenny says, "There is no single trait or combination of traits that will absolutely distinguish dogs from wild canids. Rather, you must separate one from another based on

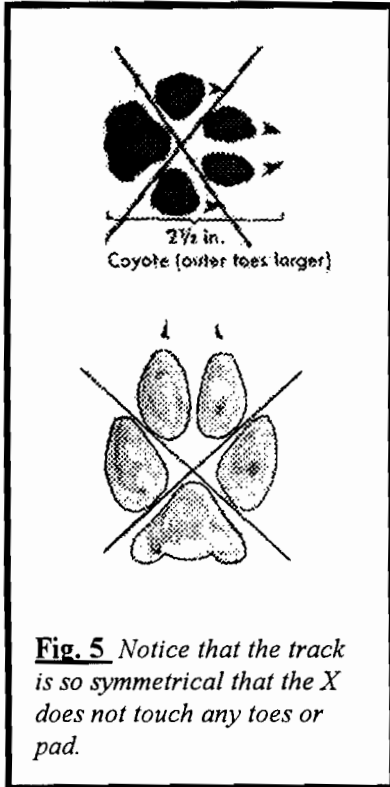


Fig. 5 Notice that the track is so symmetrical that the X does not touch any toes or pad.

the summation of clues, especially those showing behavioral adaptations." Remember that domestic dogs are provided for by owners, their tracks tend to be sloppy and much more splayed compared to their wild relatives. Fido tends to have relatively larger tracks for his size than do wild canids.

Homework

I hope this helps you with some good starting points as you puzzle over those dog shaped tracks you come across on your next hike. It is one thing to read about this but quite another to see it and put it into practice. So my recommendation is to take this article along with your field guides, such as the Peterson Guide to Tracks by Murie, A Field Guide to Mammal Tracking in North America by Half-

penny, The Pacific Coast Mammal Finder by Russo and Olhausen or if you've participated in any of our wild-life transects, the little pocket sized guide we compiled and find as many tracks as you can. Use all the information presented in this article and the field guides to determine which animal made the track. After doing that over and over you will begin to see consistent patterns that your mind will key on. This will help you raise the probability of a correct call towards that 100% goal. Above all, have fun out there and **Stay on track!**

Bat Habitats Installed

Scott Kaiser, Life Scout member of Boy Scout Troop 622, recently completed his Eagle Project in the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. His project involved the design, construction, and installation of bat habitats, commonly referred to as "bat boxes." A total of four bat boxes were constructed over a three-month period by Scott and members of his troop. Each box was built to precise specifications and can house up to 250 bats. The design of the boxes was based on plans provided by Bat Conservation International, Inc., a wildlife conservation group based in Austin, TX. Each box is approximately seventeen inches wide, thirty inches long, and five and one-half inches deep. Interior partitions divide the box into chambers, each having a three-quarter inch opening. This allows bats to enter and leave while prohibiting birds and other animals from trespassing.

On the first Saturday in June, many long hours planning and hard work came to fruition when the boxes were installed in pairs at two pre-selected sites in the canyon. The sites were se-

lected by Scott, Mr. Drew Stokes (a member of the San Diego Bat Conservation group), and Park Ranger Dion Heller. Criteria for choosing the sites included proximity to water, unrestricted aerial approach for the bats, accessibility for researchers, and low visual impact for canyon users. The first site is on the north side of the creek about one-quarter mile east of Carson's Crossing. The second is on the north side of the creek just east of the waterfall. Each pair consists of one brown- and one beige-colored box. The color is a factor in determining the interior heat of the boxes, and is part of a study to determine the best color for bat boxes in coastal Southern California. Each box is mounted twelve feet above the ground on a four by four post.

Bats play a key role in maintaining the diversity of life on earth. Nearly a thousand kinds of bats comprise almost a quarter of all mammal species, and their presence in large numbers is essential to the balance of nature. They are very important to the local plant life, as they are often the main source of pollination. Bats also consume vast quantities of insects, including many agricultural and backyard pests. There are two species of bats that are indigenous to the Los Peñasquitos Canyon: the Mexican Free-Tailed Bat (*Tadarida Mexicana*) and the Yuma Myotis (*Myotis Yumanensis*). Both species have been observed to roost in expansion joints under the old 395 bridge where it crosses the canyon near Mercy Road. It is hoped that these bats will set up housekeeping in Scott's boxes, providing an opportunity for both bat researchers and the general public to observe these unique and wondrous creatures.



Mountain Lions in the Preserve

Out of ... Peñasquitos

Chris Bader

It was a dark and stormy night ...
no, that's Snoopy's opening line --
here's mine --

On a cool, breezy day in January of 1994, I set out to hike through region I of the Preserve. I had just joined Barry Martin and several others in forming the Peñasquitos Tracking Team, and we had divided the Preserve into 10 regions. My responsibility was for Region I, from Black Mountain Road to the Ranch House.

It had rained a few days earlier, and since the creek water had subsided, passage was possible through the underpass under Black Mountain Road to the Horse Stables. I decided to check it out, as tracking conditions should be excellent. The tracks I found exceeded my wildest expectations.

Tracks were everywhere! Deer, raccoon, squirrel... conditions were indeed excellent because of the recent rain. There was a thin covering of moist sand on the concrete walkway through the underpass. Then my heart jumped as I saw a series of large paw prints. Could it be? I quickly took out my trusty Peterson Field Guide on Animal Tracks and began to measure. Let's see ... 3 1/4 " long, 3 1/2 " wide, heel pad a little over 2" wide, no claws showing ... IT'S A MOUNTAIN LION!!

Felis concolor, what a magnificent animal! Known variously as cougar, puma, catamount, panther, or mountain lion, the "cat of one color" ranges throughout Western North America, South America, and Florida. The Guarani Indians of Brazil called them cuguacuarana, hence cougar. Puma comes from an Inca language and means "powerful animal". The Cherokee Indians called it Klandagi "Lord of the forest," and the Chickasaws called him Koe Ishto or Ko Icto, the "Cat of God".

The Mountain Lion is a tawny-colored large cat with a long, flowing

tail. The tail is probably the lion's most distinctive feature, and is nearly two-thirds the length of the body. The tip of the tail is usually black, but can be dark brown. Its head appears somewhat small in proportion to the rest of its body. The lion is the largest native North American cat. Males and females look alike, but males can be as much as 40% larger. Males typically weigh from 110 to 180 pounds and females from 80 to 130 pounds. There are exceptions, but these are rare. Lengths of males vary from 6 to 8 feet (nose to tail tip) while females vary from 5 to 7 feet. Life span in the wild is from 8 to 12 years, but long life for a wild predator is not too common. Young kittens usually stay with the mother for 12 to 18 months, then disperse to find their own territory, which in Southern California ranges from about 15 to 40 square miles. Mountain Lions hunt primarily by stalking their prey -- lying in wait hidden behind a bush, tree, or rock until they can pounce on their prey. They kill swiftly with a bite to the back of the neck. The Lion's favorite meal is deer, but they will also prey on smaller mammals such as rabbits and squirrels. Also, they are one of the few predators that will take a porcupine. In desert regions, they will prey upon Bighorn Sheep, which has become a concern for conservationists, since the numbers of Bighorn Sheep are declining.

Since my "find" in that winter of '94, I have been on a quest to find the actual animal that left those tracks for me to find. I have also developed mixed feelings about the animal that made the tracks. A picture of the track is framed, and hangs on the wall of my study. At various times, I look at the picture and clearly see the Cougar walking along the trail. At other times, the picture looks more like a large dog. To this day, the track still evokes discussion among members of the Tracking Team as to its origin. As it happens on occasion, we may never

know for sure. But we do know that *Felis concolor* is present in the Preserve.

The Wildlife Survey conducted by the Tracking Team has turned up definite signs of Lion activity at several locations in the Preserve. Most often, this has been in the Del Mar Mesa area north of the waterfall. Recently, however, there have been confirmed signs in López Canyon, where I am now responsible for two of our 22 current transects. The signs found have been tracks and several samples of scat. Most of the scat clearly contained deer hair, the Lion's favorite prey. I am somewhat concerned, as the number of deer in López is relatively small, but I also know that the Lion will not take every deer that's there.

Since the signs of Lions in López are fairly recent -- I have been hiking in López for nearly four years without finding lion signs until just recently -- I am also now interested in how the Lion will interact with the other predators already there. Fortunately, the latest issue of the National Wildlife Federation's magazine contains an article on that very topic. The article, titled "When Carnivores Clash: What happens when hunter becomes hunted?" states, in part: "Competition may determine when predators hunt, what they kill, how often they eat, where they live and whether their young survive... Over

time, most predatory species establish their own individual niches, and this helps minimize competition... Generally, large carnivores such as wolves and cougars kill deer, elk and other big prey while leaving the smaller rabbits and rodents for their subordinates."

Mother Nature will surely take care of things as she usually does, and all of our wild friends will live together in that delicate balance we enjoy watching so much. On your next trip to the Preserve, walk slower, watch carefully. Perhaps that shadow in the brush is one of our friends watching us!



Ancient Chinese Art of Geomancy

FENG SHUI

Will Bowen, PhD

[Editor's note: Part one of a two part article.]

INTRODUCTION

Feng Shui is the ancient Chinese art of geomancy. The term Feng Shui literally translates from the Chinese as "Wind and Water." The western word "geomancy", which categorizes Feng Shui, is derived from the Greek word "geomanteia" meaning "divination from signs obtained from the Earth."

Hence, Feng Shui is an art or means of divining from aspects of the earth or environment, including studying the wind, water, mountains, and soil of a particular location in order to determine or predict the auspiciousness of that location. Feng Shui is how all the physical attributes of a place come together to create an energy or atmosphere or ambience which effects all the things or people living or existing there.

MY FIRST INKLINGS

I first started to think about Feng Shui after visiting Tijuana, Mexico for the first time in many years. I noticed that as I walked from my car, which I had parked at a small shopping complex in San Ysidro, I was bathed in a pleasant sea breeze. But as soon as I passed through the clanking prison-like iron gate which separates our two countries and stepped into Mexico the wind completely subsided. I experienced an uncomfortable stillness, dusty dryness and heat. Past memories of the feeling of being in Tijuana flooded into my mind. I tried to understand this radical difference in feeling which had arisen so quickly. It occurred to me that the city of Tijuana is blocked from the pleasant and refreshing sea breeze coming off the Pacific Ocean by a line of coastal hills that begins right around the Bullring-by-the-Sea. I think this blockage has something to do with the ambience of Tijuana.

I began to consider the effect of other places upon me. I had taught some classes out in Poway. Poway is a valley which is also windless and very hot in the late summer and especially in the early fall. Even though Poway has an excellent

school system I always felt somewhat uncomfortable and devoid of nourishment in what seemed to me to be a conservative backward atmosphere out of touch with more modern culture and not so open to new ideas. One student of mine had captured the feeling quite well with her statement, "People in Poway would sooner pay for a massage for their horse than for themselves."

My thoughts turned also to La Jolla, which has a European flavor and is very wealthy. Could that be in part the result of being on a rare rocky coast, which sits on the edge of a deep water canyon? Then there is the first wooden bench under a Torrey Pine tree at the foot of the Guy Fleming Trail at Torrey Pines State Reserve—a place that has always seemed very spiritual to me.

Then too, I have always felt good in the west end of Peñasquitos canyon, relieved of all my worries, perhaps due to a nice marine flow which occurs even in the summer. I have never been drawn to the east end of the canyon where I have often felt tired and drained of ambition.

My reflections of the impact of places caused me to think that maybe Feng Shui, the study of the energy of places, had something to it. I suspect that what underlies Feng Shui is the same thing that drives people to pilgrimage to Stonehenge, the Pyramids, or Manchu Pichu. Inherently, we know that places have an ambience, atmosphere or an energy which can have a profound effect upon us.

ORIGINS IN CHINA

Currently, Feng Shui has been popularized in this country as a method of interior decorating—how to arrange things inside your home for favorable outcomes.

This is quite far removed from the original purpose in China which was for finding the ideal locations for tombs. The happiness of ancestor spirits has always been very important in China. An auspicious burial site for the physical body of a deceased elder relative shows your respect and makes the spirit of the ancestor happy. If the ancestor is happy in the spirit world they will favorably influence your success in this life.

The famous General Chang Kai-Shek was supposed to have been so initially successful in the Chinese revolution because of a favorable burial spot for his mother. However, Mao's communists

found the body and moved it to a bad location and it was downhill from there for Chang Kai-Shek—Mao drove him out of China to Taiwan.

To this day, especially in Hong Kong and Singapore, Feng Shui is still influential, both for burial sites and for the arranging of new development. New buildings and other development sites must be informed by traditional Feng Shui practitioners before they are approved by the city fathers.

BASIC FENG SHUI PRINCIPLES

I am writing about such an odd topic as Feng Shui because it is my hope that this discipline may in some way increase or add to our awareness of the natural areas of the canyon. New perspectives often contribute to our store of knowledge or help us to rethink or reinvent what we already know. I trust this may be the case for Feng Shui. But to understand Feng Shui we have to step back and understand the philosophic context and principles which inform it.

The first principle that informs Feng Shui is the Chinese notion of Tao. Tao is the natural law and order of the universe. Tao is what is natural verses what is forced or constrained or artificial. Tao is the way things would be if they were left to nature and not the human hand. The Tao of Peñasquitos Canyon would be the order that would have evolved if it had not been effected by outside forces of development.

Tao can be divided or dichotomized into Yin and Yang, which are complementary polar opposites, such as male and female, night and day, sun and moon, dark and light. Yang is the male principle, like a south-facing sunny slope. Yin is female, like a cooler more shaded north-facing slope.

Chi is the Chinese word for energy—literally vapor, breath, spirit, or charge. Each place has an energy or a chi which flows in a certain manner through the landscape. A place with good chi confers health, success, and good luck. Such a place would have robust vegetation and much animal presence. A place with bad chi, either "evil" or "stagnant" would produce sickness and misfortune-like a stagnant pond in López Canyon choked with algae and exhibiting a high pH. Some places have strong chi, what shamans call a "power spot"—for instance

(Feng Shui continued on next page)

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the ancient Indian village site on the knoll overlooking the west end wetlands. On the other hand, flat areas devote of features or wildlife have weak chi—such as some of the exotic grassland areas in the central canyon.

According to Feng Shui, the universe can be divided into the archetypal Five Elements. These elements are, fire, as in the sun, water, as in streams, earth, as in the soil and rocks, wood, as in the plants and trees, and air, as in the wind and air quality.

The Five Elements are always in the process of change and transmutation. Indeed, the only thing constant about the universe is change. Everything is always changing. Change is cyclical—it goes in cycles. There are eight basic positions in any cycle called the Eight Trigrams or the Pau Kuo.

We can see a typical cycle in the seasons, each of which has a different energy and effect on the canyon. In the spring the canyon is rising or blooming, in the summer flourishing, in the fall dying back, in the winter rather dormant.

The Four Directions—north, south, east and west have characteristic energies. A south facing hill has a different energy than a west facing hill. A wind from the west off the ocean is quite different in effect than a Santa Ana blowing in from the northeast deserts.

The stars and constellations overhead, which are rotating around the heavens, also effect the energy below. From the canyon, you can see Orion signaling the start of winter. In the summer you can make out Scorpio in the southern skies.

Mountains and hills have energy. This energy is determined by the size, shape, and direction of the hill. The tops of mountains and hills are also significant. Are they round, jagged, flat, pointed, or cylindrical? The overall shape of a hill is looked at as if it were an analogy. If the hill looks like a sleeping bear it will have quite different energy than one that looks like a swooping hawk.

The wind influences the energy of a place. Of importance is the wind's direction, speed, duration, force, variability, and time of day it blows.

Water sources, streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, wells, and springs also confer different energies. Consider the water's direction, speed, clarity, depth, and temperature. Look for both underground and

surface water.

The soil, earth, ground, rocks, stones, pebbles, and overall geology have energy, too. One should contemplate the soil of a place, considering its color, texture, moisture content, particle size, clarity, and uniformity. Is the soil fine, firm, rich, shiny, yellow-colored, powdery, compact, or wet?

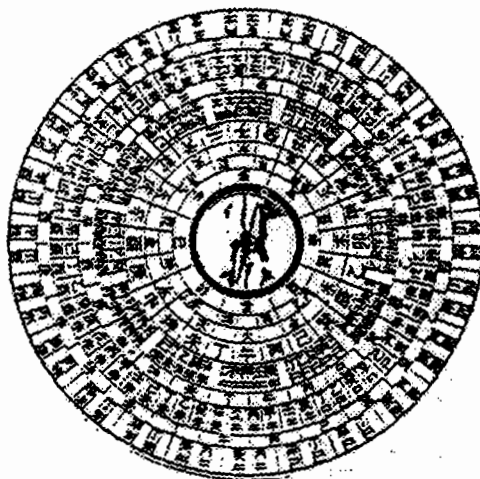
Feng Shui looks also for trees and plants which lend energy to an area. What type of trees are present? How many? Are they robust? Look also for evidence of wildlife. What is the population level and behavior of the insects, birds, fish, reptiles, and animals frequenting an area?

Trails and roads will effect the energy of the surrounding areas. New trails should be carefully constructed so as to not destroy natural positive flows of energy through the land.

The Feng Shui practitioner should also consider his overall sense impressions. What smells, colors, sounds, movements are discernable? He should also ask himself questions such as, "What is the chi of this place? How do I feel here? What do I feel like doing here? How am I effected? Am I energized, relaxed, sluggish, tired, sick, confused, overwhelmed, or scattered?" Try to separate out the feelings of the day that you brought with you to your study site from those that are induced by the energies of the place you are studying.

THE FENG SHUI COMPASS

Feng Shui practitioners often use a Feng Shui compass. It is circular and has a needle which is effected by magnetic north just like a western compass. The only difference is that it has from two to nine rings around the needle. Each of these rings is for measuring a different



feature of the environment. I have been able to determine the function of six of these rings:

- Ring #1--measures the direction of underground water
- Ring #2--measures the direction of the wind
- Ring #3--measures surrounding mountains
- Ring #4--measures the direction the site faces
- Ring #5--is for positioning the direction of a coffin at a tomb site
- Ring #6--predicts the auspiciousness of the coffin direction

FENG SHUI AT A PRECISE SITE

Feng Shui practice at a precise location requires the following steps:

1. Define the site: What exactly do you wish to know the Feng Shui of?
2. What direction does the site face?
3. Where or what are the high points and low points (elevations) of the site? What is the slope of the site?
4. How is water related to the site?
5. How does the wind blow over the site?
6. What is in front of the site?
7. What is the geology, rocks and soil characteristics of the site?
8. What are the hills and mountains around the site like, especially their body and top shape. What animals are these shapes analogous to? A bear, hawk, or dragon? What is the symbolic energy of the animal analogy?
9. What trees, plants, birds, reptiles, insects, and animals are present?
10. How does the sun, moon, and stars move in relation to the site?
11. What sense impressions impinge upon you at the site?
12. What feelings are induced in you by the site?

[Editor's note: Part two of Dr. Bowen's Feng Shui article will be in next newsletter.]

Volunteer Accomplishments

by Mike Kelly

Spring Wildlife Survey

This spring's transects were in some cases, miserable to hike. High water in the creek, water logged trails and overgrown vegetation made the tracking team's job especially difficult. But we had a great bunch of enthusiastic volunteers who helped the Tracking Team complete this quarterly survey. Next training class is on July 18th. Volunteers in the spring survey were:

Participants: Les Braund, Cheryl Brehme, Matt Brooker, Lorie Carlson, Sean Connelly, Kelly Day, Valerie Gregerson, Dion Heller, Janet Hohler, Lee Holland, Pat Holland, Amy Huber, Mike Kelly, Lewis Montoya, Lindsey Kirchhevel, Marti Martin, AJ Ortega, Tamara Oxley, Joanne Parker, Erika Poulin, Amy Savage, Dixie Stansell, Steve Swenson, and Phoenix Von Hendi.

Transect Leaders: Chris Bader, Rick Botta, Uli Burgin, Lee Kirchhevel, Wanda Kwiatt, Barry Martin, Lani Noreke, Steve Swenson, June Warburton, and Dean Woods.

Black Mountain Ranch

Endangered Species Work

Mike Kelly, Cindy Burrascano, Dean Woods, Drew DeShazo, Suzann Leininger, and Liz Rozycki spent a glorious day working a native grassland on the privately owned Black Mountain Ranch project, north of Rancho Peñasquitos. Much of this land will become public open space in the near future. With permission of the owner, these volunteers

were getting a head start protecting several endangered species in a native grassland threatened by artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*). This is the second year of eradicating this weed from the area. The group also conducted a census of two endangered plants: the San Diego Thorn Mint (*Acanthominta ilicifolia*) and Variegated Dudleya (*Dudleya variegata*). The artichoke thistle is a highly invasive perennial that is one of the few weeds capable of invading and taking over habitat in heavy clay soils, the soils the thorn mint and the dudleya favor. Special thanks to Dean Woods for coming out on two other occasions with Mike Kelly to work the same area. Many other native grassland species in the same area drove home to the volunteers the importance of this exotic weed control work.

Endangered Butterfly Survey

Mike Kelly was lucky enough to tag along with an accomplished lepidopterist, Tomas Mustelin, PhD, MD on a recent survey in López Canyon for the endangered Hermes Copper (*Hermelycaena hermes*). When not engaging in his medical research, he volunteers in his free time at the Natural History Museum, working with the butterfly and moth collection. He is authoring a booklet for the Museum on an order of moths he specializes in. He also does field collecting to help extend our knowledge of this prolific order of animals. As a resident of Mira Mesa who lives on the rim of the Preserve, he has also been compiling a list of butterfly and moth species. He also recently helped on the ground-breaking moth and butterfly survey on Miramar, where more than 500 species were

New Members

Welcome to the following folks who recently joined the Friends.

Kevin & Linda Bessey

Russ Bird

Lawrence Ludlow

Ann Robinson

David & Jennifer Robinson

identified, several new to science. While Tomas has spotted the Hermes Copper in the same location two years ago, it wasn't seen on this particular outing. However, a number of other species were observed despite the poor weather conditions (cloudy and cool). Perhaps we can persuade Tomas to write about his hobby for our newsletter?

Annual San Diego Thorn Mint Survey

Six volunteers conducted the annual survey of the endangered San Diego Thorn mint (*Acanthominta ilicifolia*). The population is doing quite well with all the recent rain and numbered over 2,000 individuals. However, some yahoo types busted down part of the fence protecting the population to make a bridge to allow their off-road

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vehicle to cross a washout area. Of course, they were in the park illegally. The volunteers were: Mike Kelly, Cindy Burrascano, Carol & Ivan Cooper, Pat Watkins, and Mahlon Wilkes. Some of these names are becoming "regulars!"

Chainsaw Trainees Take First Cuts

Michelle Murphree, Drew DeShazo and Edward DiBella got their first opportunity to sharpen their chainsaw skills Sunday, June 14. The three recently completed a Chainsaw Safety Class sponsored by the City's Parks Dept. They joined Ranger Dion Heller, Mike Kelly and Robb Hutsel in thinning a grove of eucalyptus trees a bit west of the sycamore crossing. Later this summer, the group will have a chance to take down some additional eucalyptus, as well as work on tamarisk in another park. Native cottonwoods, sycamores and Coast live oaks are being planted in place of the Australian eucalyptus species.

Prescribed Burn

Cindy Burrascano, President of the San Diego Chapter of the Calif. Native Plant Society, helped Mike Kelly and Dean Woods lay out a research transect, one of a series, for research on the proposed burn site in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. The goal is to do comparisons of the before and after species composition and cover in the area to be prescriptively burned.

Volunteer Opportunities

by Mike Kelly

Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have ongoing wildlife and stream surveys, invasive weed removal projects, planting programs and more.

July Wildlife Transects

Training will be held on Saturday, 7/18/98. The transects will be hiked from Saturday, 7/25/98 through Sunday, 8/2/98.

Sweetwater River Arundo Removal

The Sweetwater River arundo removal effort passes the 18-month mark thanks to the tireless efforts of Vivian Marquez. It might be possible to finish this massive undertaking in 2-3 more sessions! Saturday, June 6, saw 47 students from Eastlake High School turn out with teacher John Hinkle to spend a half day working the arundo. There was great enthusiasm and a lot was accomplished. This was the sec-

Data Entry Person Sought

Wildlife Survey data entry person needed. PC preferred.

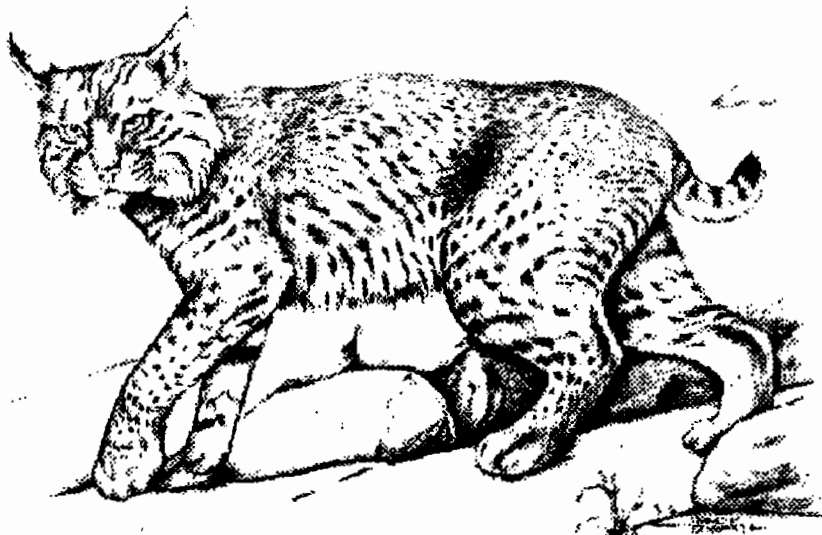
ond such outing for John and students from the school. He threatens to bring them back this fall if we can't finish it by then! Thanks Viv and John.

Endangered Monardella Plant Survey, July

No experience needed. Call Mike at 566-6489 if you would like to help. Will be weekday evenings.

Peñasquitos Upper Lagoon Exotic Plant Survey

If you would like to help on this survey in preparation for a volunteer exotic control effort, call Mike at 566-6489. Will probably take place beginning in August.



Articles for Sept/Oct Newsletter
Articles for the next newsletter are due to Steve Swenson (488-1253) by Wednesday, August 12.



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 MIKE KELLY
 11875 RIVER RIM RD
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 Voice Mail System: Erik Noreke
 Tracking Team Coordinator: Barry Martin (484-4007)
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 Wildlife Survey Committee: Lani Noreke

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

Senior (62) OR Student \$7.00 Individual \$10
 Family \$15 Sponsor \$25 Patron \$100
 Corporate \$250 Life \$1000
 Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

- Volunteer to help the committee (call Mike to discuss)
- Hikes
- Indian Culture
- Educational Workshops
- School, Family, Youth Programs
- Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

7/98

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

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 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.



Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

Sept/Oct 1998
Volume 12 No. 5

November Ballot Key Progress on Carmel Mountain (8A) Mike Kelly, president

Ten years of fighting to save Carmel Mountain came to a head Tuesday, August 4. On that recent day the San Diego City Council unanimously approved a Precise Plan for Neighborhood 8A, popularly known as Carmel Mountain. 8A is a future neighborhood in southwestern Carmel Valley. The Precise Plan — if a related November ballot measure is approved — would save about 280 out of the 390 acres involved for a new open space preserve. Acre for acre, this land is the most sensitive undeveloped and unprotected land left in the City. It's so sensitive and so vital to the future of Torrey Pines State Reserve that the State Park publicly offered to manage the future open space as an eastern extension of the State Park. This land has been the center of a classic battle between developers and environmentalists over the past decade. Our readers have been able to follow this through the many articles by Dave Hogan, Mike Kelly, and John Northrop. Some readers have also taken the opportunity to visit the area on hikes led by the Friends, Dave Hogan and the Carmel Mountain Conservancy.

Prop M

The related ballot measure mentioned above is Proposition M in the November 3 election. Proposition M asks the voters to approve a Subarea Plan for Pacific Highlands, formerly known as Subarea III of the North City Future Urbanizing Area (NCFUA). Pacific Highlands is owned by the Pardee Co., a well-known homebuilder. Pacific Highlands, besides providing several thousand new homes, schools and related community facilities, will also establish a system of open space that will help connect up Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Carmel Mountain and Black Mountain Open Space Park to the San Dieguito River Park to the north. This will allow wildlife access to corridors to safely carry them between preserves; vital to maintaining healthy wildlife populations in our

(Carmel Mountain continued on page 4)

Fall Wildlife Survey, New Lecture Series and Beginning Tracking / Earth Skills Class

Upcoming Tracking Team Events

Barry Martin

Wildlife Survey

This fall promises to be loaded with exciting tracking team sponsored activities in and out of the canyon. Our next quarterly wildlife survey training will be held October 17 and precedes the October 24 through November 1 survey period. The purpose of this survey is to gather data for an ongoing wildlife study we are conducting in the Preserve. We depend on volunteers from the community to assist in gathering data during the survey period. It is an excellent way to learn the naturalist approach to tracking and awareness while getting to know other like minded and interesting people.

The October 17 training will be at the Adobe Ranch House in the Preserve from 10 am to 4 pm, bring a bag lunch, sunscreen and an eagerness to learn. Then on the same day, sign up for one of the 20 survey transects to be held during the subsequent 9 day period. You can pick a convenient date from the variety of transects offered. They all start early in the morning and typically you are finished in plenty of time for the lunch hour.

Birder Claude Edwards to Kick Off New Lecture Series

We are pleased to announce a quarterly lecture series featuring accomplished individuals who have dedicated themselves to helping make this a better planet through their work on behalf of nature. Our first evening, scheduled

(Tracking Team continued on page 3)

Help the Friends through United Way!

If your workplace has a United Way campaign, you can contribute to the Friends, even though we are not listed. Just write us in on your designee form.

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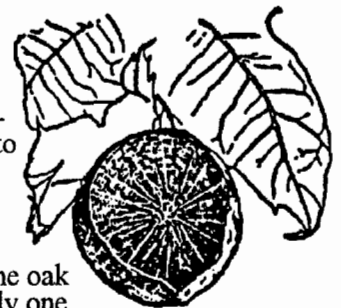
Do Apples Grow on Oaks?

Dr. Elberta Fleming

[This article on oak galls by our deceased founder, Dr. Fleming, is as timely as ever.]

The mystery of Galls presents questions that are inevitably brought up on almost all the hikes conducted by the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, as the hikers pass through the oak woods. Someone usually discovers a red and yellow round ball resembling a ripe apple. But apples don't grow on scrub oaks. What are these odd formations attached to the branches? This unusual plant growth found on oaks, especially on the scrub oaks, is known as an oak apple or plant gall. While these mysterious odd natural structures are fascinating to discover: what is the explanation for their existence?

Close examination of the oak apple introduces you to nature's miniature world of master architects. The oak apple is only one kind of diverse variety of plant galls which range in a broad spectrum of color and hundreds of queer shapes and textures.



(Oak Galls continued on page 3)

September

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three-foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Full Moon Hike

Wed., Sept. 9, 8-9:30 p.m. Experience the canyon at night. Observe the stars and moon. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Waterfall Walk /Northern Staging Area

Sat., Sept. 12, 8 a.m. (2-3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this nature walk to the waterfall and back. Learn about native plants and their uses. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking & Nature Walk from Mercy Parking Staging Area

Sat., Sept. 19, 8 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Beginners on up welcome. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by the Peñasquitos Tracking Team. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd and cross intersection straight into parking lot. Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Dusk Wildlife Walk: Mercy Road Parking Staging Area

Tues., Sept. 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Join naturalist Mike Kelly for an evening under the stars and a chance to see nocturnal wildlife, including deer, owls and bats. Bring flashlight and insect protection. Meet in the Mercy Road Parking-Staging area at the intersection off Black Mtn. Rd. and Mercy Rd. in Mira Mesa. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Fall Equinox Hike

Sat., Sept. 26, 6-7:30 p.m. Observe the end of summer and beginnings of fall in the canyon. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Lopez Canyon Walk
Sun., Sept. 27, 9 a.m. Join Linda King for a short and slow nature walk in Lopez Canyon. Meet at West End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

October

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three-foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Full Moon Hike

Sat., Oct. 3, 7:30-9 p.m. Experience the canyon at night. Observe the stars and moon. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Nature Walk of Ranch House Area

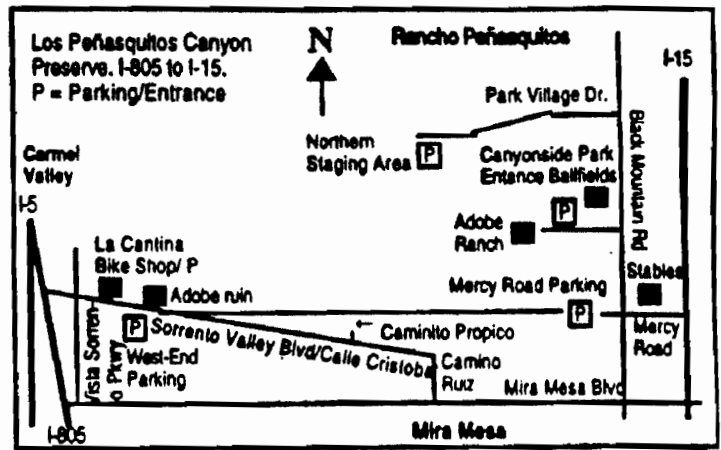
Sat., Oct. 10, 8 a.m. (2-3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this nature walk, exploring the area around the Ranch House. Meet at the white fenced parking lot near the Ranch House. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking & Nature Walk from Mercy Parking Staging Area

Sat., Oct. 17, 8 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Beginners on up welcome. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by the Peñasquitos Tracking Team. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd and cross intersection straight into parking lot. Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Volunteer Wildlife Tracking Survey Training

Sat., Oct. 17, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to undergo this 6-hour free training for animal track and sign reading and survey protocol in preparation for our quarterly wildlife survey (see below). Park at the white-fenced, Adobe Ranch House parking lot, located off Black Mtn. Rd., near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Then walk up to the Ranch House for the train-



ing. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Volunteer Wildlife Survey

Sat., Oct. 24 - Sun., Nov. 1. If you have helped out with previous surveys and/or gone through the Friends' Wildlife Tracking Training, your help is needed for this quarterly survey of Mountain lion, Mule deer, coyote, fox, bobcat, long-tail weasel and other critters. Data collected on these surveys is used in wildlife corridor design studies and preserve management. Call Dean at 619-6722-1120 (eve) for more details.

Acorn Gathering for Restorations / Northern Staging Area

Sat., Oct. 24, 9 a.m. (2-3 hours). Help gather acorns for planting projects in Peñasquitos Preserve. Date and place are tentative since they are dependent on the acorn crop. RSVP to Mike at 619-566-6489. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Halloween Sensory Hike

Sun., Oct. 25, 5-6:30 p.m. The end of October brings cool air, pumpkin orange sunsets, inky dark star filled nights, and spooky feelings on this sunset hike. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

New Members

Welcome to the following folks who recently joined the Friends.

David Bainbridge
Lois Hammond
Janet Hohler
Dolores Ledesma
John Nauman
Mike Schooling
Elizabeth Sterrett
Don & Linda Tipon
Dan & Robin Vilotti
Stella Woolridge

DIRECTIONS

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.

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal

This intersection is located 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 St. 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. Thomas Guide p. 1208.

Cantina Bike Shop Meeting Area

Bike Shop is at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. Thomas Guide p. 1208.

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.

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive

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 Ruiz. Left on Camino Ruiz and park. Thomas Guide p. 1189.

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 3/4 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, past the curve. Thomas Guide p. 1208.

Articles for Nov/Dec Newsletter

Articles for the next newsletter are due to Steve Swenson by Monday, October 12. (619-488-1253).

(Oak Galls continued from page 1)

Galls are tumorlike growths composed of wild plant cells that produce an object greater in size than normal plant cells. Usually they are found on branches or leaves. Sometimes it is the fruit or bud whose development or growth has been altered. One good example is the willow gall. The weird and fantastic shapes that evolve from the otherwise normal plant cells "gone astray" is a phenomena that puzzled scientists for centuries.

What really causes these abnormal growths? Unfortunately, not enough research in the irritant-producing gall formation has been conducted to know the precise operating mechanism of most gall organisms, and there are still theories which need further verification to unravel one of nature's best kept secrets.



Cynipid wasp (*Andricus* sp.)

Actual size is 4mm

Plant galls are abnormal growths of plant tissues produced by a stimulus external to the plant itself. This stimulus may result from a mere mechanical irritation or some substance secreted by an insect in the many types of galls.

"Stranger than fiction" are the life histories and habits of insects who stimulate the plants to create an "insectan living environment" that furnishes the insect with everything necessary, including abundant food supplies and protection from enemies.

Oak apples are created by the larvae of small 1/16 inch long wasps of the family *Cynipidae*. These "tiny" wasps are less well known than the strange and unusual growth they produce.

If an oak apple is opened, the large gall is filled with fibrous among which may be a cell in the center cradling the larva of the Cynipid wasp.

The larval wasp inside the oak apple transforms into a pupa, and eventually into an adult wasp. After emerging from the gall and mating, the female will lay her eggs in oak twigs, stimulating the growth of other oak apples. Some galls become insectan condominiums as there are many different types of gall wasps.

(Tracking Team continued from page 1)

for Friday, October 9 will be with Claude Edwards from 7 to 9 pm, at the Adobe. Mr. Edwards is the vice president of the San Diego chapter of the Audubon Society, he is well known as one of the pre-eminent birders in Southern California and is the bird walk leader as Volunteer In Park at the Cabrillo National Monument. Mr. Edwards is also the coordinator of the highly acclaimed Annual San Diego Bay Bird Festival and has been featured in San Diego Union articles which have described his work. If you are the least bit interested in birds and their relationships to the environment, you won't want to miss this highly entertaining and informative gentleman speak about his passion.

Beginning Tracking and Earth Skills Class

Our fall Beginning Class promises to be the best one yet, since we are working out the details on using one of the Boy Scout facilities up in the mountains for a weekend that you won't forget. The dates will be November 13 through the 15. We will meet at the camp Friday, late afternoon, get set up and kick off the class that night and finish up on Sunday afternoon. You will be able to spend the night out under the stars (brrr!) or in a cabin. We expect to have cabin space available but there will be a limit to the overall class size. Please call Rick for more details at 672-0584. We already have a lot of people signed up for this one and it will be first come first served as we approach the limit so don't wait!



Restoration Volunteers Needed

The Friends will resume restoration plantings beginning in November and continuing through the winter. If you would like to volunteer to help in replanting areas with native plants, please call Michelle at 224-4192 to be put on the call list. We had a lot of fun out in the field last year and can be proud of the many plants, shrubs and trees that survived the summer drought!

(Carmel Mountain continued from page 1)

area open space parks. A trail system will also allow equestrians, hikers and bike riders to travel the entire north city area. The relevance for those of us who have been fighting to save Carmel Mountain is that if the ballot measure is approved, Pardee Co. will donate its 150 acres on Carmel Mountain to the City as open space. This is the bulk of the land on top of Carmel Mountain and absolutely key to preserving the biological integrity of the whole area. So, although Carmel Mountain/8A is not part of Pacific Highlands, its future as open space depends on the will of the voters come November.

Public vote required

Pacific Highlands must come to the electorate for approval of the subarea plan because the entire 12,000 acres of the NCFUA were put off limits to urban level development by the voters in a growth management initiative (Prop A) put on the 1984 ballot by a coalition of environmental and community groups. The ballot measure succeeded in preventing costly "leapfrog" development in the area. The measure also required holistic planning for the entire NCFUA and detailed subarea plans for each of its separate subareas. A Framework Plan for the NCFUA was adopted by the City Council several years ago. This plan called for setting aside about 50% of the land as dedicated open space, creating a necessary balance with development — often lacking elsewhere in the City. Since then, Subarea V landowners elected to develop their subarea at rural density levels, not requiring a vote of the public. Their plan, however, did follow the Framework Plan footprint and actually called for about 60% of the land to remain as open space. Subarea IV (Torrey Highlands), supported by environmental and community groups who helped craft the plan, came to the voters in November of 1996 and was handily approved. The landowner of Subarea II, the smallest subarea, forced the City to put ill-conceived projects before the voters on that same 1996 ballot. Opposed by environmental and community groups, these plans were readily defeated. Subarea I (Black Mountain Ranch) landowners divided their land into Phase I and Phase II. Phase I was developed at rural densities not requiring a public vote. About half the project was donated as open space. Phase II will come before the voters this November and is endorsed by the Sierra Club, the Friends, the Carmel Valley Planning Group, the Rancho Peñasquitos Planning Group and others. Our next newsletter will carry more information on this for our readers.

Sensitive landforms and biology

Carmel Mountain is located above the southeast corner of the intersection of Carmel Valley Road/SR56 and I-5. It is the rugged looking, white-colored sandstone bluffs you see as you look east as you travel south on I-5. What makes it so special is the sheer number of rare habitats and individual plant and animal species present in such a small place. Disappearing habitats such as Southern maritime chaparral and Coastal sage scrub intertwine in a unique assemblage not found elsewhere because of the rare soils and undulating nature of the topography. Although Carmel Mountain is about 1/10 the size of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and 1/15 the size of Mission Trails Regional Open Space Park, it has equally as many rare, endangered or endemic species as the far bigger parks. As San Diego approaches "build-out" Carmel Mountain became the symbol of the cost of poorly planned development and the lack of a balance between preserving the environment and necessary development. A previous plan put forward by the landowners for this area, called the "Manager's Compromise Plan" would have permitted development on the critical top of the mesa. Only a concerted mobilization of the Carmel Valley community and environmental Groups prevented passage of this disastrous plan several years ago.

About a year ago, with the good will and support of Councilmember Harry Mathis and Mayor Golding, a coalition of environmental groups, the Carmel Valley Planning Group, the City Planning Dept. and the Carmel Mountain landowners began meeting on a regular basis to try to come up with a consensus plan for 8A. A parallel effort began with Pardee over their Subarea III/Pacific Highlands Plan. Agreement was eventually reached with Pardee on Subarea III and the related donation of their Carmel Mountain acreage. However, where Pardee felt the pressure of the need to have environmental and community support for its ballot measure, the other substantial landowners on Carmel Mountain felt no such pressure. A consensus proved impossible and a showdown at the City Council loomed before us on August 4.

In the two weeks leading up to this vote, critical help came from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service put its regulatory foot down on two important issues involving two of the remaining large landowners. First, they told one landowner, Jerry Elder, that vernal pools and their related watershed on his property had to be avoided. This measure came after loud protests were raised by environmental groups and scientists over the loss of some 64 vernal pools on the Mira Mesa Market Center Site. When the City of San Diego passed its Multiple Species Conservation program a year ago vernal pools were not included since the City and governmental agencies claimed other existing wetlands laws would protect them. In addition, they said the City's policy is "No net loss" of vernal pools and that impacts by development to them should be avoided wherever practical. However, in practice, some 18 projects were in the development "pipeline" in which avoidance of vernal pools had become "impractical." Under pressure, the Service stepped in and demanded avoidance. This had the effect of moving this developer's footprint off the critical mesa top.

The Service also stepped in and required that another developer, Jack Ingar, provide his MSCP equivalency (sensitive land boundary adjustment) on site. This had the result of pressing the second developer to preserve sensitive acreage on the critical mesa top again. Ingar did help solve one vexing problem on the mesa top. This involved some 13 one-acre landowners on the mesa top. Only one of them had accepted a City offer to buy them out. The rest were holding out for more money than the City thought the property was worth. Since the City gave up its right to condemnation for lands in the MSCP, this left these landowners in the proverbial driver's seat. Ingar arranged to transfer their density to this land so that their land could be offered as mitigation for his and their impacts on Ingar's property. Eleven of the property owners participated in this arrangement.

Loma Sorrento: a Heartbreaker

One remaining property, the Loma Sorrento property, owned by an investment group proved to be the toughest to work with. Their 52-acre parcel was one of the most sensitive portions of all of Carmel Mountain, equal in biological value to the Mesa Top 40 acres optioned by the City for open space 1-1/2 years ago. Loma Sorrento has some 13 rare and endemic species on its 52 acres, equal to the number of rare and endemic species found spread throughout Mission Trails Regional Park's 6,000 acres and a tad under Peñasquitos Canyon Preserves' 16 rare and endemic species spread out over 3,700 acres. In other words, extremely sensitive and important biology. What we wanted to save of this property was a prominent ridge running east to west below the locally named Cougar Rock and the valley below this ridge to the south. These sandstone ridges and slopes are where the sensitive species are most concentrated. Reaching an agreement with this investment group proved impossible. We simply lacked

(Continued on page next page)

(Continued from previous page)

the leverage such as the ballot that we had with Pardee or the support at the City Council for severely reducing these developers' development footprint.

Just hours before the City Council vote, Councilmember Chris Kehoe offered to support an amendment to pull the Loma Sorrento development off the ridge below Cougar Rock and part way down the slopes of the southern valley. It was an agonizing decision to make. Should we support this and by implication the rest of the "deal?" We knew we didn't have even one vote on the Council for the Community/Environmental alternative, which would have saved most of the sensitive biology on Loma Sorrento. We also knew that a legal challenge to a bad Council footprint on 8A under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was unlikely. We also knew that there was no recourse under the MSCP guidelines or the Endangered Species Act.

The only option we might have had after a "bad" Council decision would be a referendum on the Council decision. We investigated this option with political consultants experienced in successful referendums. You only have 30 days after a Council decision to gather 45,000 signatures of registered voters to force an election and vote on a Council decision. This is difficult, but can be done when you have the right issue and broad public support and financial angels who can help fund professional signature gathering. Exercising this option, however, would probably have caused the deal with Pardee for ballot support for Subarea III to be lost, and with it, the 150 acres on the mesa top. We might have been shooting ourselves in the foot by doing a referendum. Finally, the Friends, the Endangered Habitats League, the Sierra Club and the Southwest Center for Biodiversity agreed to the amendment and to the overall "deal." Councilmember Valerie Stallings seconded the motion and Juan Vargas quickly went on the offensive in support of it. Mayor Susan Golding also supported it. After a vigorous debate it became clear the amendment and fight over saving the Loma Sorrento ridge was the only remaining issue in the overall package. Counting votes, Councilmember Mathis graciously accepted the amendment and the Council voted unanimously to adopt the Precise Plan.

We saved a lot more land on Carmel Mountain than any of us thought possible two years ago, but failed to save a biologically precious valley and slopes, "only" another 6-10 acres. There is an outside chance that funding can be found to purchase these acres that would make the victory "complete," now that we aren't looking for the 40 million necessary to buy the whole 390 acres, but "only" 1-1/2 million for these few acres.

Tireless commitment

A core group of activists made possible this victory on Carmel Mountain and deserve recognition. Of course we have to start with Dave Hogan, now with the Southwest Center for Biodiversity, who introduced many of us to the wonder that is Carmel Mountain. Despite working in Arizona for the Center, Dave has been in constant touch with folks here and the process and managed to come back and survey various plans over the past year. Also with the Center, but based in San Diego, is Alison Rolfe, who played a key role throughout the last two years. Alison is also a member of the Executive Committee (Ex-Com) of the Sierra Club.

Janet Anderson represented the Club at the negotiating table for many months, with Carolyn Chase, Sierra Club Chair, and Paul Blackburn, the Club's new Conservation Director, playing vital roles in the closing months. They were also responsible for negotiating additional concessions from the developers in both Subareas I and III with respect to pollution,

hydrology, mass transit commitments and more. We'll detail these in our November newsletter.

Mike Beck of the Endangered Habitats League was in his best form as a negotiator, enduring endless meetings with the Resource Agencies, landowners and others, finding critical support at key junctures to produce breakthroughs. He also helped produce a credible alternative plan for Carmel Mountain as a counterbalance to the developer's plans.

Without Ann Harvey, Lisa Ross, and Jan Fuchs of the Carmel Valley Planning Group, Carmel Mountain could not have been saved. We in the environmental community could not have done it by ourselves. Have solid community support throughout the process gave us a powerful coalition.

Cindy Burrascano of the California Native Plant Society and myself, representing the Friends, contributed on several important levels, but especially on the biological plane, making the scientific case for the unique numbers and assemblages of rare and endemic species and habitats that make up Carmel Mountain and preserve design issues. We also hammered at the regional importance of 8A with its connections to Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Torrey Pines State Reserve, the Del Mar Mesa and the Carmel Valley River Improvement Project (CVRIP) to the north. Ollie Ryder, geneticist with the Center for the Reproduction of Endangered Species at the San Diego Zoo, unlike many academicians, threw himself into the often messy political process, bringing his knowledge of wildlife, genetics and preserve design, and his considerable prestige, into many meetings.

Isabel Kaye and Diana Gordon of the Carmel Mountain Conservancy organized timely hikes on Carmel Mountain over the last 2-3 years, an absolutely vital way of introducing people to the beauty and diversity of the area. If they don't know it, they can't love it. If they don't love it, they won't fight to save it.

Our fight to save this unique coastal ecosystem would have been infinitely harder, and likely doomed to failure, if Councilmember Harry Mathis and Mayor Susan Golding hadn't lent their good offices to finding a better balance for Carmel Mountain. Karen Scarborough, the Mayor's environmental aide, played a vital role in keeping the parties talking to each other and finding solutions to the many problems that had to be overcome. On the developer side, Stephen Coury, representing Pardee organized what became a grueling, but fruitful process between the community, environmental groups and his client.

I took the time to detail these contributions because many of our members may not be aware how much of their lives activists such as these give to achieve a goal such as this. The many field trips to Carmel Mountain and Subarea III were fun, the endless meetings were not, but were a necessary part of the process.

It's up to you

The next necessary step for saving Carmel Mountain is voter approval of Proposition M in November. We think the development proposed in Subarea III, the Pacific Highlands development stands on its own in terms of good planning and a workable balance between development and saving open space. But it also brings us the benefit of the donation of Pardee's 150 acres on Carmel Mountain. Your support is needed to bring this about. Support Proposition M and explain to your friends, neighbors and coworkers why it's important.

It's A Tick! No, Make That 20!

Barry Martin, Tracking Team

The air was still cool and moist at 6:30 a.m. as we got out of the car to start our first Transect of this past spring's wildlife survey. I took a deep breath and tried to sort out the different scents as I listened to the birds and swept the area with my eyes. The typical morning overcast seemed very thick and I realized we would have to contend with the flat light for at least the first hour of tracking (the least of our worries). The birds were seemingly unconcerned with our presence and provided a symphony of various sounds as we started down the trail. It is always an ordeal for me to get up so early since my work schedule has been of the nocturnal variety lately, but once I get out onto the trail I feel energized.

This is going to be remembered as the year El Niño went loco. We've all heard about the many byproducts of this phenomenon and I realize it is getting old hearing about all the stuff El Niño is blamed for, but what the heck! In this article I'm going to add my two cents worth about one of the smaller creatures in the preserve that seems to be thriving as a result of the heavier than normal El Niño induced rainfall we've received this year.

As we came to the starting point I stopped to read the transect description to my two volunteers... As usual I mentioned that it would be a real good idea to check often for ticks on this transect since they always seem to be fairly prolific through here (a mild understatement). Also don't forget to watch for poison oak and be alert for rattlers. Most of the people who sign up to assist with our transects are pretty outdoor savvy and some tend to kind of nod off a bit when we do our mandatory "watch out for the hazards" routine. I gazed at my two intrepid volunteers and noticed they were not exactly paying rapt attention to my spiel, but I realized that if I were them I wouldn't either, so off we went.

During our tracking surveys, particularly in this area, it isn't long (not even a step) before we are kneeling down looking at a track or some other sign. Of course this was the case that day and as my two compadres knelt down on either side of the trail to look

at a track, an alarm went off in my mind as I noticed how they both brushed against the broom baccharis on one side and lemonadeberry on the other. I remember thinking that the trail was much more overgrown now than it was last quarter. We identified the track and got up to move on and again the movement against the brush occurred. I was reminded of when I'd brushed through plants like that in the past, judging from the conditions here I knew we might be in for an interesting day as I glanced up and saw my partners' backs.

Sure as the sun rises in the east, it was tick city on both of them. As I got up I asked if they would like me to help remove the ticks they just picked up. I wasn't speaking very loudly so they didn't really hear all of what I said.

Volunteer 1; "I have a tick?"
Volunteer 2; Looking at her back,
"Oh My God! You have about 20!"

I didn't have the heart to tell V-2 that she had about 30 or 40 after I heard her reaction to seeing V-1's mere 20. I just got busy flicking them off and mentioned that this was about as bad as I've ever seen it through here. Sure enough we had a long day of flicking ticks.

and studying the hazards of your area. Of course ticks were high on the list of unsavory hazards around here so I contacted Jim Lang, M.S., Ph.D. at the County of San Diego Department of Health Services Vector Surveillance and Control Division (what a mouthful). We had an interesting conversation over the phone and being surprisingly helpful, he sent me information regarding ticks, which I have found very educational.

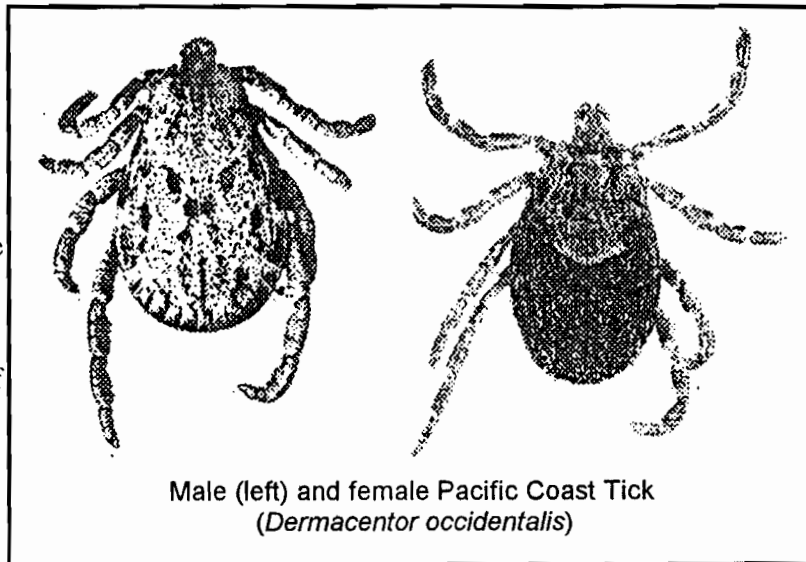
I discovered that in January of 1991 the Vector people began conducting tick surveillance in San Diego County with the purpose of finding out what species of ticks occur in the county, the mammalian hosts most likely to harbor them and their geographical and seasonal abundance. Perhaps their most important objective has been to determine the location and prevalence of the ominous sounding *Borrelia burgdorferi* which happens to be the causative agent for Lyme disease. Ticks have been known to carry a variety of other diseases and the Vector troops have been testing for potential vertebrate reservoirs of these diseases through-out the county.

What they found is that the Western Black Legged tick, *Ixodes pacificus* (the family *Ixodes* is also generally known as Wood Ticks), and the Pacific Coast tick, *Dermacentor occidentalis*, are the two most commonly occurring ticks found in this county. Also, according to researchers, Naverson and Gardner 1978, and Lane and Lavoie, 1988, *I. Pacificus* is the primary vector for Lyme disease. If that is not enough, *I. Pacificus* has also been shown to harbor an unclassified spotted fever group rickettsia.

That sounds pretty bad, Lyme disease has a very nasty reputation but get a load of this, *Dermacentor occidentalis*, which I tend to see most often in our area is a proven vector for

such maladies as Colorado Tick Fever, Q Fever, tularemia, bovine anaplasmosis and can cause tick paralysis. Additionally, a San Diego County survey (Philip et al. 1981) revealed that 11% of the *D. occidentalis* population was positive for the Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever group rickettsiae.

(Continued on next page)



Male (left) and female Pacific Coast Tick (*Dermacentor occidentalis*)

Time to Talk Ticks (!?!)

A few years ago I started taking a naturalist course. This course was designed to improve your knowledge of the natural areas around where you live. One of the first subjects of the course is concerned with identifying

(Continued from previous page)

I know how creepy it is to discover a tick on me and certainly all this makes them sound even creepier than before, but wait! Knowledge is power against ticks and as creepy as they are I have actually found that the more I learn about them the less threatening they seem to be (that goes for snakes, poison oak, lions and just about every other creature that creeps along in the wild). Once you learn about them and how to take the appropriate precautions they don't seem so intimidating.

So What Should I Know To Protect Me From Ticks?

A little Habitat knowledge would be helpful, something like "where am I likely to find these little critters." I hate to say it, but this year, everywhere... however the County Vector researchers have found that you can expect to find ticks on mammals at elevations representing the Upper Sonoran and Transition Life Zones occurring in San Diego County.

Great! What does that mean? Well, the majority of tick infested mammals occur in areas comprised of chamise, scrub oak, buckwheat, and various chaparral plants (sound familiar?). The S. D. County researchers found that the three localities in this life zone consistently yielding more mammals with higher numbers of ticks are Tierrasanta Canyon, Lake Wohlford and our own Los Peñasquitos Falls area.

Next thing to consider might be seasonal abundance and the Vector people found that the majority of adult *D. occidentalis* and *I. Pacificus* occur most commonly from November through May with peak numbers for adult *D. occidentalis* occurring from January through March when temperatures were lowest and humidity higher. These studies showing that adults from both species preferring colder weather may be due to lack of availability of smaller hosts which are mostly in hibernation during these months.

Findings regarding seasonal abundance for ticks infesting humans indicate that the two species were more common during the cooler months of from October to March for *I. Pacificus* and January to as late as June for *D. occidentalis*.

There are 8 other species of ticks that were found to exist in the county by the Vector folks and the one that should be mentioned here is the American Dog Tick, *Dermacentor variabilis*, which commonly infests domestic dogs, sylvatic carnivores and humans. It is a primary vector for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and is prevalent during the months April to

June (62%) and from July to September (33%) as compared to January to March (5%). This one I have found recently on my dog (June and July) along with the Pacific Coast Tick (*D. occidentalis*).

By the way, you may be interested to know that there are 49 species of ticks that occur in California's multiple habitats. Ticks have three active life stages; Larvae and nymphs who feed primarily on small rodents, rabbits, lizards, birds and occasionally large animals. Adults feed on large mammals, including deer, dogs and humans. All stages feed by imbedding their mouth parts into the host's skin and taking a blood meal.



Western Black Legged Tick
(*Ixodes Pacificus*)

Ticks will be found on the tips of vegetation along animal trails waiting for a host to brush against them. When in the nymph stage ticks are most likely to transmit disease because they are so small they may go unnoticed (less than 2mm). Also important is the fact that ticks are most likely to transmit infection after approximately 2 days or more. So if you find one attached, don't panic, chances are it hasn't really started feeding in earnest yet and if you have been good about checking frequently for them you will be O.K. since it probably won't have been on you long enough.

Actions I Can Take

Get to know where ticks are likely to be, if you know that an area is heavy with ticks, avoid it or dress appropriately. Wear light colored clothing so you can spot them easily.

Ticks will tend to travel upwards, against gravity, so if you tuck your pant legs into your boots or socks you might look a little geeky but at least you won't have ticks in your ... well you know where, by the time you get home.

I always wear a wide brimmed hat

when out in the preserve, mainly for sun protection, but it also helps keep ticks off the back of my neck and head.

A long sleeved shirt is not a bad idea, keeps the ticks from your armpits.

Always try to avoid rubbing against brush, which is tough lately after all the growth we've had this year. If you are involved in one of our wildlife transects or other activities which require some exposure to tick infested areas, check yourself and your hiking partners often. When you see a tick on you or a partner, just flick it off (after identifying it of course!). Make sure it doesn't flick onto someone else though!

After being out, wash and dry your clothes at high temperature, inspect your body carefully for ticks (this is where the intimate partner would be helpful). Take a shower and lather up really well all over and wait awhile. Run your fingers through your hair as you lather up with shampoo and check for ticks on the scalp. I've found that the ticks will usually detach themselves due to all the soap suffocating them and you will see them washing down the drain as you rinse off.

If you find a tick attached then you can use tweezers to grasp it as close to the skin surface as possible and slowly pull straight back. Avoid crushing the body and make sure you get the whole head. I recommend putting a glob of soft soap on the tick first and often it will come right out due to the suffocating effect. Out in the field, if you are doing frequent tick checks, chances are they will not have had much of a chance to attach. If they do, often they aren't really imbedded to the point where you can't just pull them off in the same manner with your thumb and forefinger. Typically, if you are alert and aware of what you're moving through you will almost "just know" when ticks have brushed onto you. At times like that you can usually just flick them off quickly, as above, way before they've had any time to attach to skin.

Successfully Running the Tick Gauntlet

Well, we finished our transect with a much greater appreciation if not disdain for the presence of ticks and how to avoid them. Once we adjusted to the fact that we just had to deal with them in order to successfully complete our mission we adapted using many of the techniques described above, and we successfully ran the tick gauntlet!

If you would like a list of my references concerning ticks, feel free to give me a call. My number is on the back of this newsletter.

Ancient Chinese Art of Geomancy

FENG SHUI

Will Bowen, PhD

[Editor's note: This is part two of two-part article. Part one was in the previous newsletter.]

FENG SHUI OF THE LOPEZ HOUSE

On the last Feng Shui hike a group of about 20 of us made it out to the old Lopez house ruins in Lopez Canyon to practice Feng Shui. We wanted to try and understand the Feng Shui of this site and to see if the Lopez house had been placed in the most auspicious

location for the success, well-being, and prosperity of its

inhabitants and, similarly, if it was placed in the most harmonious relationship with the overall environment or Tao of Lopez Canyon so as to beneficially effect both?

If you are unfamiliar with the Lopez ruins, they are about 1/3 to 1/2 of the way up Lopez Canyon on the northern side of Lopez Creek. The ruins consist of a cement foundation and a pile of old wood which is all that is left since the house has fallen down, supposedly in some terrible storm.

Old square nails can be found in some of the wood planks along with more modern round nails indicating that the site was built upon over the years. The last edition to the homestead was the bathroom. Señor Lopez wrote his name and the date, October 1953, inside a fish-shaped figure on the cement wall. There is also a greeting in Spanish carved into the concrete front steps.

To the west and up the hill from the house is a circular cistern for storing water. It also has a date of 1953. An old cement well used to be visible in the Lopez Creek bed about ¼ of a mile east of the house.

Grape vines were supposed to have been above the house out to the cistern. The gully to the east of the house was used for corralling horses, pigs, and chickens. The remains of an orchard of apricots and quince sit to the south across the creek bed and a little to the west. Only about four trees are left alive. They still produce fruit!

There are two pepper trees within a few feet of the west side of the house. In previous years many artifacts were scattered all around the grounds of the site. I noted old locks and car parts strewn about. These have disappeared over the years. I once saw a group of people with a metal detector leaving the area.

They appeared to be in a very happy mood.

Señor Lopez and his sister were the last residents of the house. He died of a heart attack and then she died soon after that. Señor Lopez built a dirt road down from Mira Mesa after a water rights dispute with the owners of Peñasquitos Canyon who had blocked his way out the west end.

I have long labored under the notion that this was the second Spanish land grant, after Rancho Peñasquitos, and that the Lopez family had lived there since the late 1700s or early 1800s. After the Feng Shui hike I began to doubt my knowledge of the site. For instance, there is no adobe present, which was the building material of the early haciendas. Was the modern cement foundation built upon adobe? The pepper trees are associated with early haciendas, but they are in the wrong location. They are normally placed in a patio facing the east and offering protection from the sun, as at El Cuervo and Rancho Santa Maria. But here they are on the west side of the house—not the front. They are also fairly young trees in comparison to some of the old Spanish period ones I have seen.

The foundation of the house and the front porch and steps face south so they would get the sun's rays most of the day. The sun would pass a little above the top of the broad steep hill that the house faces and which appears to close it in. Hence, in the summer the house it would have been extremely hot. In the winter it would have been more pleasant.

A night the full moon passes across sky in front of the house. The Lopez family must of sat on the front porch and watched it. The Big Dipper is in the eastern skies, Orion passes around from left to right, and Scorpio may be visible to the south west in the early summer.

Lopez creek runs west intermittently past the house. It is pretty far down the hill from the porch offering protection from flooding. In very rainy seasons mud would slide down the horse pen gully to the east of the house into the creek bed. Flooding would also come down the finger canyon from Mira Mesa where on the walls Lopez built his road.

While the creek runs west past the house the wind blows opposite to the east, especially in the afternoons, dropping near dusk. The house itself slopes slightly downward to the east. It rests about half way up a hill on about a 15 to 30 degree grade headed toward the canyon bottom. The immense hill the house faces looks like the huge side of a sleeping bear. It completely blocks any southern view of the distance. Energy flows down the finger canyon near the bear's behind and up sweeping past the

house to the west.

The soil around the house is a light beige, fine and very dry, and hard packed in the summer. Some dark black-gray soil can be found in the animal gully, perhaps the result of years of organic matter build up from the livestock.

There is a large patch of *opuntia* spp. cactus down the hill from the house near the creek bed. I wonder if Indians or Lopez planted it for the tuna fruits and pads or if it is a natural occurrence. The pads are very large and the stems can be overhead. I noticed that the stand has begun to rapidly die off in the last year. Is that due to too much water from the El Niño rains? I suspect the stand will soon be completely dead. It seems to parallel the destruction of the Lopez canyon stream bottom where the topsoil has been radically washing away leaving millions of cobbles.

I have never seen any animals around the Lopez house. It seems a perfect place for rattlesnakes, however, with all the wood offering good cover. One year we did see a large musky king snake nearby. A little girl grabbed it as it went down a hole. Her hands were stinky with the musky odor after that.

The Lopez house is a nice destination and offers an interesting visit and a surprise for many canyon goers. It is hard to stay there very long as it is so exposed. Usually you have to fight tall grasses and dried out mustard plants to get up to it. I have in the past wished that I could of lived there. Lately, I think that it should have been build closer down to the creek, more near shade and trees.

The result of our Feng Shui study of the Lopez house leads me to call for a re-thinking, updating, and redefining the history and archaeology of this site. I feel we need to get much more clear on the background and importance of this site. We need to consider what to do about what remains of the artifacts and foundation and see what is under all the rubble and perhaps the cement foundation. The remains need some form of protection and we also need to consider trying to save the nearby once huge and beautiful cactus patch which has rapidly begun to die. The only one similar to it in the canyon was bulldozed on Easter Sunday some years ago at the east end.

Finally, I'd like to add that Feng Shui, even though an exotic and esoteric topic has improved how I look at the canyon and has renewed my interest in the Lopez House, which has always held a fascination for me even if it has at times been dormant. I encourage you to keep renewing and reinventing your commitment to the canyon by viewing it through multiple perspectives which give new life to your on-going interest.

Volunteer Accomplishments

by Mike Kelly

Upper Peñasquitos Lagoon Surveys

July saw a long-delayed project get off the ground, a survey of exotic species in the upper Los Peñasquitos Lagoon area. Once the entire area has been surveyed a report will be prepared for State Parks cataloging the exotic species, estimating the threat to native habitat they pose and offering suggestions for prioritizing control efforts. The Friends hope to be able to make this exotics control project a high priority partnership with State Parks and the Torrey Pines Docent Association. We already know there is a tremendous amount of work to be done there. The surveys have been a lot of fun, revealing high quality native habitat supporting a wide variety of plants and animals. A sizeable deer population is using the upper lagoon area, as evidence by track, scat and sightings. Volunteers had a close-up view of the endangered Orange-throated whiptail lizard on one survey. Mike Kelly, Cindy Burrascano, Rob Hutsel, Drew Deshazo, Dean Woods, Jeff Lohman, Edward DiBella, Steve Swenson, and Linda Parady have all participated to date. Thanks to Jamie King, an ecology intern with the State Parks system, for joining us and helping to coordinate the effort.

Restoring Grasslands

Dean Woods, Drew Deshazo, Liz Rozycycki and Mike Kelly continued the process of restoring native grasslands on the west end of Lopez Ridge by eradicating the highly invasive weed, fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*). This is year four of an effort to preserve and extend these grasslands above the wetlands. Thanks to Jerry Hittleman and his volunteers for coming out Sunday, June 28, to help Mike Kelly plant native rose bushes (*Rosa californica*) and cleanup trash around Lopez Creek.

Newsletter Committee

Thanks to the Dingeman Family for assembling the last newsletter and to Mike Kelly for running the labels and mailing it.

Trash cleanups

More than 20 volunteers from the Laird-Norton Co. helped take more than a pickup load of trash out of the creek area in the wildlife preserve below the South Sabre Springs Parkway. The volunteers were attending the company's annual meeting in Rancho Bernardo. Each year the company likes to adopt a local project in the city they're having their annual meeting in. What a great tradition!

Goodbye to Lani and Erik Noreke

They are moving to Erik's native Sweden this summer. We'll miss them both. They have been very active members of the Board of Directors of the Friends and especially active with the Friends Wildlife Tracking Team. Lani was the key organizer of the quarterly surveys (sure you don't want to fly back for the surveys guys?), while Erik was our resident computer guru, making working systems of all those computer parts our members donated to us.

Riparian weeding

Cub Scout troop 641 turned out with some 20 scouts and moms to help weed our riparian restoration project near the adobe ranch house. They all did a great job on a hot day with lots of prickly plants to handle. When they finished, our trees and shrubs planted over the last year had some breathing room and greater access to water and sun and minerals: the 3 Basics of plant life!

Willow Mint Survey

Our annual survey for the Willow mint (*Monardella linoides* ssp. *viminea*, also known as the Poway mint) was conducted over two sessions in July. Volunteers helping out included Mike Kelly, Cindy Burrascano, Jeff Lohman, Pat Watkins, Reneene Mowry, Linda Parady, Dean Woods, Drew Deshazo, Clay, Dan and Robin Vilotti. The *Monardella* has been hard hit over recent years by excessive erosion of the bottomland terraces the plant is found on. Several populations of this perennial plant have disappeared. This erosion has been caused by the greater velocity and quantity of water flows during and after rain events due to urbanization of the immediate watershed. The Friends hope to be able to begin a series of remediation measures in a major finger canyon off Lopez Canyon to test our ability to slow down and ameliorate these flows. Look for a future article providing data on the status of this and another endangered species, the San Diego thorn mint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*).

Summer Wildlife Survey

Tracking conditions this quarter were quite good as the dry dusty trails revealed amazing animal activity in the canyon. The presence of small rodents and especially rabbits was very prevalent, possibly due to an increase in population because of heavier than usual rains this spring and an increased food source. Opossum and raccoon were observed in their usual locations and the higher order predators; coyote and bobcat were also recorded. Numerous deer were also sighted during the early morning hours.

Barry Martin, Tracking Team founder, reported a marked increase in animal activity close to the riparian area east of Interstate 15 near the Saber Springs community. With all the new construction activity along the edge of the canyon in the Scripps Villages area immediately east of I-15, it is most likely wildlife is being forced out of its typical home ranges and down into the canyon.

The Tracking Team was assisted by an energetic group of volunteers consisting of new participants, the Friends and the Iron Mountain Conservancy. A special thanks to you all for your ongoing support of this project. Our next training class will be held October 17th.

Participants:

Dan Evans, Janet Hohler, Pat Holland, Leo Holland, Ann Hunt, Mike Kelly, Lindsey Kirchhevel, Gretchen Morse, Reneene Mowry, Jolene O'Leary, James O'Neill, Joanne Parker, Ann Robinson

Transect Leaders:

Chris Bader, Rick Botta, Uli Burgin, Wanda Kwiatt, Barry Martin, Lani Noreke, Steve Swenson, June Warburton, Dean Woods

Volunteer Opportunities

by Mike Kelly

Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have ongoing wildlife and stream surveys, invasive weed removal projects, planting programs and more.

October Wildlife Transects

Training will be held on Saturday, 7/18/98. The transects will be hiked from Saturday, 10/24/98 through Sunday, 11/1/98. If you would like to help with the wildlife survey, please call Dean at 619-6722-1120.

Invasive Plant Conference

If you have been working with the Friends or others in restoring native habitats, you know one of the biggest challenges is controlling exotic, invasive plant species. A good place to get up to speed on this issue is the annual conference of the California Exotic Pest Plant Council (CalEPPC). This year it will be held at the Ontario Airport Hilton Hotel, in nearby Ontario, California (1-3/4 hours up I-15). The dates are Friday, Oct. 2 through Sunday, Oct. 4. For more information and a brochure, call Mike Kelly at 619-566-6489.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.
 P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196
 619-484-3219

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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.

Friends' Directory

Officers

President: Mike Kelly 566-6489
 Vice-President: Lani Noreke
 Treasurer: Brian Swanson 695-2209
 Secretary: Edward DiBella 748-5276

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Vickie Ausen, Les Braund, Barry Martin,
 Erik Noreke, Steve Swenson, Dean Woods

Walks and Committees Leaders

Bird Walks: Brian Swanson (695-2209)
 Geology Walk Leader: Don Albright (443-5937)
 Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
 Kiosk Designer: Linda King
 Medicinal Plant & Moon Walks: Will Bowen
 (452-7091)
 Mystery Tree Walks: Vickie Ausen
 Nature Walk: Les Braund (566-3958)
 Newsletter: Steve Swenson & Mike Kelly
 Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
 Tracking Walk: Chris Bader
 Vernal Pool & other walks: Mike Kelly
 Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
 Voice Mail System: Erik Noreke
 Tracking Team Coordinator: Barry Martin (484-4007)
 Volunteer Coordinator: Michelle Murphree (224-4192)
 Wildlife Survey Committee: Lani Noreke

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 Mike to discuss)
 Hikes
 Indian Culture
 Educational Workshops
 School, Family, Youth Programs
 Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

9/98

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

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 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.

ATTENTION!! DON'T MISS THESE TRACKING TEAM SPONSORED EVENTS!



AN EVENING WITH CLAUDE EDWARDS

October 9, 7:00- 9:00 PM
Adobe Ranch House

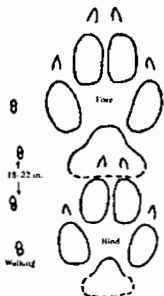


Do You Like Birds? Who Doesn't?

You won't want to miss our first in a series of talks by accomplished people who have dedicated their lives to making a difference on behalf of the natural world. We are proud to announce that Claude Edwards, one of the pre-eminent birders in Southern California will kick off the series. Mr. Edwards is the VP of the San Diego chapter of the Audubon Society, the principal bird walk leader at Cabrillo National Monument and Coordinator of the Annual San Diego Bay Bird Festival. He is very entertaining and you will surely learn a great deal from this extraordinary man. Please join us for an evening with Claude Edwards, refreshments will be available.

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FALL WILDLIFE SURVEY



Take an active part in the effort to preserve the last of San Diego's natural biodiversity

Training Saturday October, 17th
10:00AM to 4:00PM
Adobe Ranch House



Would you like to learn how to track animals, meet some interesting people and contribute to our data gathering effort? We are studying and keeping track (pardon the pun) of the wildlife of the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and surrounding areas. We are encouraging community involvement through this program which we believe will help ensure the integrity and viability of this, our last vestige of open space. During the training session sign up to hike one of 20 transect routes on a day that fits your schedule. Transect routes average slightly over a mile in length and will be done between October 24th and November 1st. Call Dean 672-1120 to sign up for training.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Tracking Team Presents

AN INTRODUCTION TO
NATURE AWARENESS
&
EARTH SKILLS

Including:

- Tracking
- Awareness Techniques
- Movement in Nature
- Survival Shelter Construction
- Fire Making
- How to Find and Purify Water
- Survival Hunting and Cooking
- Cordage Making
- Plant Uses
- Earth Philosophy

JOIN US FOR AN INTENSIVE WEEKEND OF NATURE SKILLS

Friday, November 13 through Sunday, November 15

Check-in begins at 5:00PM, Friday

Class starts at 6:00PM, Friday

Class ends at 4:00 PM, Sunday

This class will be held at a Boy Scout camp near Warner Springs. Registration is \$65 per person and includes membership in the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve or automatic renewal and meals during the weekend. There is a \$5 discount for registrations postmarked by November 6. Call Rick at **672-0584** for more information. This is a bargain! Don't hesitate since we will be limiting the class size.

November 1998 Nature Awareness and Earth Skills Weekend

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Are you already a Friends Member? yes no

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Please send registration to the Tracking Team at PO Box 502345, San Diego, CA 92150-2345.



Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

November/December 1998
Volume 12 No. 6

Save Carmel Mtn! Conservation Ballot Picks

Mike Kelly, president

A number of land-use initiatives will appear on your November ballot that will vitally affect the future of open-space in both the City and County of San Diego. The Friends' Board of Directors voted unanimously to urge a Yes vote on the following initiatives and phase shifts. Friends' Board members helped negotiate several of these and have been working hard on behalf of all of them. Previous newsletters have carried lengthy articles on these and you've undoubtedly received campaign mailers, so we won't repeat the information here.

YES ON PROP M: PACIFIC HIGHLANDS RANCH Phase Shift

Will save 150-acres of the most biologically diverse land, Carmel Mountain, left in the City. In addition, saves 1,300 more acres in Northern Carmel Valley, which is an open space "hub" connecting up San Dieguito River Valley Park, Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Deer Canyon, Black Mtn. Open Space Park, Carmel Mountain, Peñasquitos Lagoon and Torrey Pines State Park. Will complete SR56 on the alignment the Friends fought for. The housing units are clustered to save this open space and will be phased in over 15-20 years with an overall density less than any of the surrounding communities. There will be 15 miles of trails. Developer will also be restoring degraded agricultural lands to create wildlife habitat.

**YES ON PROP. B:
RURAL HERITAGE AND
WATERSHED INITIATIVE**
Help save the backcountry. Initiative maps out where development should and shouldn't occur in the rural areas. Will help ensure family farmers,

ranchers, and open space have a future in San Diego County. Don't believe the rhetoric from the "developers in overalls" who want to sell off our agricultural lands for urban level development. Keep development where it belongs, in the Cities.

YES ON PROP K: BLACK MOUNTAIN RANCH Phase Shift

Will save an additional 250-acres of open space to be added to the Black Mountain Park in Rancho Peñasquitos. This is in addition to an earlier dedication of 1,650 acres from the same developer. Developer is also contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Black Mtn. Open Space Park Fund for habitat restoration and trails improvements in the park. Substantial contribution to traffic improvements on I-15 and housing is phased in over 15-20 year period.

YES ON PROP N: SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK

This proposition has received little attention. It is a straightforward land swap of a developer owned parcel in the highly sensitive San Dieguito River Valley for a City-owned, isolated parcel near Nobel Drive and I-805. This will help the River Park acquire a biologically valuable parcel in the west end of the river valley.

Help the Friends through United Way!

If your workplace has a United Way campaign, you can contribute to the Friends, even though we are not listed. Just write us in on your designee form.

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Rural Heritage Initiative is Prop B

Linda Michaels

Having qualified for the ballot, the Rural Heritage & Watershed Initiative has been designated as Proposition B for the November election. The RHWI campaign committee is gearing up for an intense campaign. To ensure victory at the polls, the campaign is seeking volunteers who will donate time and energy, and contributors who will donate the needed funding for voter education. We need to make sure that San Diego voters understand how and why Prop B will enhance their quality of life.

It is expected that development interests in the county will be waging a bitter war against our effort to stop the destruction caused by urban sprawl in San Diego's backcountry. The opposition, consisting of property-rights advocates, speculators and developers, has already organized. They have hired a political management company and claim to have mailed over 75,000 letters and received over 400 contributions.

Our task ahead is to broadcast the

(Rural Heritage continued on page 8)

Fall is Planting and Restoration Time in Preserve

Late fall is the time we get our dash of fall color in the sycamores, cottonwoods, willows, and poison oak. It's also the time when we do our restoration plantings. Unlike colder climates where planting is done in the spring, here in San Diego we do it at the beginning of the rainy season and try to get our plants in the ground well before the rains end. Join us on our restoration work parties this fall!

Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. For details or group hikes, call 484-3219 for recorded information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have ongoing wildlife and stream surveys, invasive weed removal projects, planting programs and more.

November

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three-foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Rose Canyon Restoration Project

Sat., Nov. 7, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Help kick off a monthly project to restore Rose Canyon. This month: Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) removal. Mostly lopper work. Bring gloves, jeans, water, eye protection, and sun protection. Cutting and stacking this highly invasive, bamboo-like plant. Take Route 52 to Regents Road exit, Regents Road north to dead end. **Call Drew at 453-4587** for details.

Sweetwater River Arundo Project: Final Session?

Sun., Nov. 8, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. This may be the last volunteer work party as we close in on the last of the arundo on the Sweetwater River. This has been a two-year effort to date! Join us for the final bash. **Call Viviane at 476-1040** for more details.

Canyoneer Nature Walk/Mercy Rd.

Sat., Nov. 14, 10-11:30 a.m. or 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Join Natural History Museum Canyoneers on either a short or long walk. The longer walk will go to the Preserve's waterfall and back. Learn about wildlife, native plants and their uses. Meet at Mercy Road staging area at intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Park, walk in main entrance to the kiosk. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

López Homestead Hike

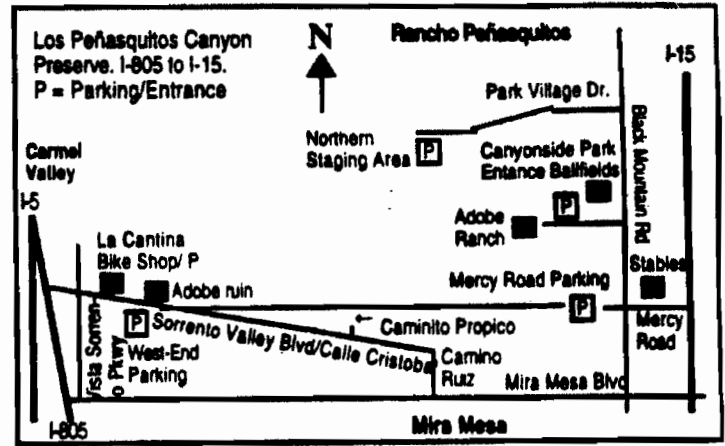
Sat., Nov. 14, 3-5 p.m. Hike out to the old homestead in López Canyon. Visit the remains of the orchard, house foundation and cistern. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Calif. Native Plant Sale

Sat., Nov. 14. Sponsored by the Calif. Native Plant Society, your only chance this fall to purchase native plants for planting during the right season. At Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. **Call 619-685-7321** for time and more details.

Nature Walk from Mercy Rd.

Sun., Nov. 15, 9 a.m. (2 miles). Join naturalist Linda King for a fall walk. Learn native plants and their uses. Meet at the Mercy Road staging area at the intersection of Mercy and



Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Park and walk in main entrance to the kiosk. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Lake Hodges Aquatic Project

Nov. 15, Sun., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Special Weed Action Team will boat to remote locations to remove invasive Giant reed (*Arundo donax*). Space limited to 1st 12 volunteers. **Call Michele at 224-4192.**

Black Mountain Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee

Mon., Nov. 16. Public is welcome to attend this business meeting at Canyonside Park & Recreation Center, Canyonside Drive and Black Mountain Road, Rancho Peñasquitos. **Call Mike at 566-6489** to confirm time since meeting is occasionally postponed.

Cara Knott Memorial Oak Planting

Sat., Nov. 21, 10 a.m. The public is invited to help plant an oak memorial garden at the eastern end of Peñasquitos Canyon, northeast of the intersection of I-15 and Mercy Rd./Scripps Poway Freeway: in memory of Cara Knott and other victims of violence. Take I-15 to the Mercy Road/Scripps Poway Freeway exit, exit and look for traffic monitors and signs directing you where to park. Bring gloves, water and sun protection. **Call Mike at 566-6489** for more details.

Geology Hike

Sun., Nov. 22, 9-noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal

(Continued on page 3)

in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208** or **call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Nature Walk from Mercy Rd.

Sat., Nov. 28, 8–10 a.m. Join naturalist Les Braund for a fall walk. Learn about native plants and their uses. Meet at the Mercy Road staging area at the intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Park and walk in main entrance to the kiosk. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189** or **call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Stargazing Hike

Sat., Nov. 28, 7–8:30 p.m. Hike under the stars. Identify constellations and planets. Learn how ancient and primitive people saw the night sky. Hear their stories and legends. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208** or **call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

December

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three-foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189** or **call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Vista High School Restoration Project

Tues., Dec. 1, 9 a.m.–noon. Revegetation of a duplicate road with native plants. Adult volunteers welcome to work with Ranger, teachers. Also learn how to build protective fencing. **Call Dion at 538-2480.**

Herbicide Safety Class for Volunteers and City Rangers.

Dec. 5, Sat., 8 a.m.–noon. This free training is for volunteers who use herbicide as part of weed removal proj-

ects in City parks. **Call Ranger Dion Heller at 538-2480** for directions and to RSVP.

Nature Walk from Mercy Rd.

Sun., Dec. 6, 9 a.m. (2 miles). Join naturalist Linda King for a fall walk. Learn about native plants and their uses. Meet at the Mercy Road staging area at the intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Park and walk in main entrance to the kiosk. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189** or **call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Lake Hodges Aquatic Project

Dec. 6, Sun., 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Special Weed Action Team will boat to remote locations to remove invasive Giant reed (*Arundo donax*). Space limited to 1st 12 volunteers. **Call Michele at 224-4192.**

Vista High School Restoration Project

Tues., Dec. 8, 9 a.m.–noon. Part 2 of a revegetation of a duplicate road with native plants. Building protective fencing. Adult volunteers welcome to work with Ranger, teachers. **Call Dion at 538-2480.**

Nature Walk from Mercy Rd.

Sat., Dec. 12, 8–10 a.m. Join naturalist Les Braund for a fall walk. Learn about native plants and their uses. Meet at the Mercy Road staging area at the intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Park and walk in main entrance to the kiosk. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189** or **call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Geology Hike

Sun., Dec. 13, 9–noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208** or **call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Old López Canyon "Bring Back the Natives" Grass Planting

Dec. 13, Sun., 9 a.m.–1 p.m. We've been fighting invasive weeds on this

slope for three years, now it's time to bring back the natives. Our goal is to plant 5,270 (!) plants this season, mostly perennial bunchgrass (*Nasella pulchra*). This is the first of several sessions. Meet at the Old López Trailhead in off Pacific Heights and Pacific Mesa Blvd. intersection in Mira Mesa. **Call Cindy at 421-5767** for more details.

Falls South Native Grass Planting

Dec. 20, Sun., 9 a.m.–1 p.m. This is a follow-up to last year's Vista High School project on this site. Our goal is to put 290 plants in the ground, including native bunch grass, sage, sagebrush and Toyons. Meet at Mercy Road parking-staging area off intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads. **Call Mike at 566-6489** for more details.

Winter Solstice Sunrise Hike

Tues., Dec. 22, 5–6:30 p.m. Watch the sunrise on the solstice — the shortest day of the year. Learn about the importance of solstice rituals in ancient cultures. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208** or **call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Nature Walk in López Canyon with Barbara Moore

Sat., Dec. 26, 8:30–10 a.m. Join naturalist Barbara Moore for a look at the critters and plants of López Canyon. Moore is the co-author of *Walking San Diego*. Meet at West End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208** or **call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

New Year's Eve Karma Cleaning Hike

Thurs., Dec. 31, 7:30–9 p.m. A hike with stops to review your life in the past year. We'll consider the nine domains of consciousness, including work, creativity, and relationships. Release the old, learn from the past, make plans for the coming year. Includes a releasing ritual and drumming. Bring your memories, a notebook, or clipboard, a small light, and a pen to write with. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208** or **call 484-3219** for recorded directions.



DIRECTIONS

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, Canyon-side 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.**

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal

This intersection is located 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 St. 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. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Cantina Bike Shop Meeting Area

Bike Shop is at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

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.**

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruíz and Park Village Drive

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 Ruíz. Left on Camino Ruíz and park. **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 3/4 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 en-

Letter to the Editor of the San Diego Union Tribune

Re: Lawsuit Challenges Route 56 Alignment

From Mike Kelly, August 25, 1998

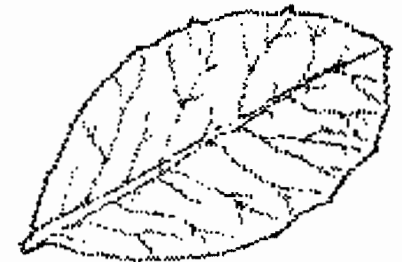
Homeowners from Rancho Glens Estates and San Diegans for Responsible Freeway Planning quoted in the article "Lawsuit challenges Route 56 alignment" make it seem that only the action of government agencies blocked the central alignment for Route 56 from being adopted. This gives a false impression. The Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon preserve led the opposition to adoption of the central alignment and in favor of a more northern alignment in order to save San Diego's last undeveloped coastal canyon, Deer Canyon. We were joined in this stance by the Sierra Club, the Endangered Habitats League, the California Native Plant Society, the Carmel Valley Community Planning Group, the Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Group and many others. We were pleased to have the support of the State Dept. of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They recognized Deer Canyon as a vital component of the future Multiple Species Conservation Plan (Naturelands) in the north city area. These homeowners and others from the gated communities to the north argue in their lawsuit that the central alignment would be the least environmentally damaging and that the adopted northern alignment "will bring tons of silt into the highly sensitive Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, damaging an important and delicate ecosystem," and cause other environmental damage. While it is true that any alignment of Route 56 would have environmental impacts, expert testimony from scores of conservationists, biologists and habitat planners made it clear that the central alignment would be by far the most damaging alternative alignment to adopt. For this reason, the San Diego City Council, balancing the need for this regional freeway with a desire to con-

serve pristine habitat, unanimously adopted the less damaging northern alignment. Why the focus on environmental damaged in the lawsuit then?

Lawsuit proponents represent the exclusive, often gated enclave communities of the north. They have a history of blocking through roads in or near their communities (Route 680) or pushing them as far away as they can. This clear NIMBYism may be perfectly understandable, but makes for a lousy basis for a lawsuit -- hence the resort to unsubstantiated claims of negative environmental impacts.

Mike Kelly, president

The Friends of Los Peñasquitos
Canyon Preserve
11559 Polaris Dr., San Diego, CA
92126
619-566-6489



Pots Needed

The Friends need one-gallon or smaller pots or planting cubes, etc., for starting thousands of seeds for our restoration projects this fall. Call Mike at 566-6489 if you have some to donate.

RANCH HOUSE ROUNDUP

Supervising Ranger Reneene Mowry

Christmas at the Adobe

Mark your calendars, the annual Christmas at the Adobe party will be held on December 19 from 5 to 9pm. Anyone who has volunteered at the Ranch House or in the Canyon over the past year is invited to attend.

Welcome Home

Former park hosts Guy and Aggie Relaford, have reclaimed their post at the Ranch House, and I couldn't be happier! Many of you will remember this warm and friendly couple (Guy was Santa at our last Christmas party) who always go out of their way to help out park visitors. They arrived just in the nick of time to help Kaitlin Meadows with her new seedlings for the heritage vegetable garden. Kaitlin, who undertook the task of single-handedly resurrecting the defunct garden, had grown the plants at her Julian home; and they were ready to be moved to their new home. Hopefully, Guy's prior experience with our bugs, birds, ground squirrels, rabbits, mice, and deer, will insure that her tender seedlings grow up into mature and robust plants. If you would like to join our gardening "crew," give me a call at (619) 484-7504. I have a supply of gloves and hoes with your name on them!!

Spring House Update

If you've been by the ranch house lately, you may have noticed that the crumbling walls of the spring house have been resurrected and stabilized. As part of the project, the concrete slab floor was removed, with the expectation there would be a stone or bedrock floor beneath it. We were disappointed to find no such thing--just gravelly dirt. Several members of the San Diego County Archaeological Society wanted to dig through the rubble (you know how curious those archaeologists are) to see if there were a floor buried underneath. After receiving approval from the County, they launched a two-day volunteer work party to explore the floor and also to process artifacts that had been removed from the pond. On the first day of digging, they uncovered an array of round cobblestones just under the surface and thought they had discovered their floor. However, on the second day of their dig, archaeologist Ron May, from the Fort Guijarros dig, stopped by to view their work and exclaimed, "you are uncovering an old Spanish wall." When they stepped back from their work, they realized it did, in fact, appear to be a wall that was parallel to the spring! The area has been backfilled for safekeeping, but now they are more curious than before they started! The second phase of the spring house restoration will begin on November 9 and will include replacement of the windows, door, and gable roof. And, to add to the excitement, we are planning to begin the restoration of the duck pond! Eventually, we hope to restore the original water system between the spring house and the duck pond, and into the rear

meadow which contained an orange grove. As in the first phase, historic architect Wayne Donaldson will oversee the project, and the NCCC will be assisting him.

Ranch House Gift Shop

"La Cocina," the new Ranch House gift shop, is scheduled to open early in November. It will be located in the Ranch House kitchen and will contain period kitchen furniture and accessories as well as merchandise. We will be serving a warming herbal tea to our patrons and will have benches situated outside the shop for relaxing and enjoying the peaceful environs. Originally, the gift shop will be open in conjunction with our Saturday tours, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and for special events. Members of the Friends will receive a 10% discount off books. We will be carrying a variety of nature books and field guides, as well as books pertaining to the history of the San Diego area and will be glad to special order books if they are available from our distributor. Ranch Hand Sherry Simmons can use help manning the gift shop so please call me if you are interested in volunteering two or more hours a month. We are seeking donations of furniture and artifacts of pre-1880 vintage to help furnish the kitchen. For those items deemed appropriate and accepted by our furnishings committee, a letter from the Park Society will be provided for tax purposes.

Calling All History Buffs

The Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties and the California Council for the Humanities are presenting a series of six seminars exploring the literary history of the greater San Diego, Tijuana and Ensenada area. Some of you may have attended the first seminar, held at Mission Trails in October, which focused on the Kumeyaay-Luiseño period. I am delighted to announce that the third seminar, which features the Mexican Rancho Period (1820-1846), will be held right here at our very own adobe, on December 12, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Papers will be presented by Dr. Sue Earnst, author of a work on the early history of the theatre in Southern California; Dr. Therese Muranaka, archaeologist of Guadalupe Valley, B.C., and Old Town San Diego; Professor Antonio de Jesús Padilla Corona, Instituto de Investigaciones Históricas, Tijuana; and Rosaura Sánchez and Bernice Pita, both from the Department of Literature, UCSD. Also, a program of relevant children's literature will be presented by Joanne Hickey, Curator of Education, Serra Museum. Please mark your calendars--More complete information will be available at the Ranch House closer to the event. Oh yes! In case you were wondering, the second seminar will center upon the Spanish/Mission Period (1535-1821). It will be held in the California Room at Mission San Diego de Alcalá on November 21, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Restoring the Preserve

City Ranger Dion Heller

Everyone has been wondering what all the colored flagging is that is turning up in the Preserve. The first horror that enters into a lot of our heads is construction, which usually means destruction. To a small extent, this is the case but not the type of construction we all fear. It's construction of a mitigation site.

Mitigation is a term meaning measures added to a project to reduce, prevent or correct its impact. Mitigation includes any one or more of the following approaches with an emphasis on attempting those measures in the sequence in which they are listed: A) avoiding the impact altogether by not taking certain actions; B) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree of the action; C) rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the impacted environment; D) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and E) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

In the perfect environmentalist's world, definition A of avoiding the impact altogether would be the most desirable choice. Unfortunately, this isn't the world that we currently live in.

The Ranger staff is reviewing plans for six proposed mitigation sites to be located within the Preserve. The bad news is the reason for these mitigation measures is definition E, impacted resources are being replaced or substituted for. The good news is projects that do impact the natural resources are usually required to enhance or create like resources at a ratio greater than that of which was impacted. This ratio can vary depending upon numerous characteristics such as type and quality of resources, type of impact, etc., and can be as high as 13 to 1 (13 replacement acres per 1 acre impacted). Other good news is that the ones doing the impacting are looking to the Preserve for their mitigation sites. The result is we benefit by getting some of our depleted habitat enhanced or restored.

The largest of these proposed mitigation sites is to be located at the west end of the Preserve along the main Peñasquitos Creek channel between the El Cuervo Adobe Ruin and Wagon Wheel Crossing. This site is to mitigate damage incurred by the City of San Diego during the Sorrento Creek drainage channel dredging project just downstream last

year. Evidence from historic aerial photos show that this proposed site of Peñasquitos Creek was straightened and diked to allow agricultural usage in the fertile flood plain sometime between 1928-29 and 1953. The goal of this mitigation plan is to restore 9.8 acres of riparian/wetland at this location. This will be attempted by removing the artificial berms to help restore the natural flood flow and meander of the creek while encouraging natural recruitment of native riparian/wetland species. In addition to the berm removal, the flood plain will be cleared of encroaching non-native plant material and replanted with native plant species. The access roadway/trail through the wetland area will be relocated directly over the sewerline and raised to provide better access during wet winter conditions.

Other proposed projects include a linear 1+ acre eucalyptus/non-native plant removal project located in the canyon directly north of Mercy Road by the San Diego County Water Authority. This is mitigation for their impacts while installing the recent p5EII pipeline. A 3+ acre site of oak woodland in the Carson's Crossing area and a 5+ acre riparian enhancement site between the Narrows and Wagon Wheel

Crossing are both being proposed by the Metropolitan Waste Water Department. The two remaining approximately 1 acre sites are mitigating for private construction activities adjacent to the park. As you can see, the Preserve could be receiving an extensive face-lift in the near future if these projects are approved.

In addition to these proposed projects, the Preserve's dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer restoration team has been doing some restorations of their own, completing 14 project sites this last year alone. The ideal planting season is quickly approaching and the team is scheduling various restoration activities. If you think you might be interested in joining them in their efforts of restoring the Preserve, check the activities calendar the newsletters or call Volunteer Coordinator, Michele at (619) 224-4192.

Finally, a visit to the Preserve this time of year shouldn't be missed. The cottonwoods, willows, and sycamores are starting to display their golden and bronze. The fall chill in the air carries the many fragrances of the season. The waterfalls call louder and louder with each passing rain. Come experience fall in the Preserve.



Feather Healing

Will Bowen, PhD

INTRODUCTION

If you have been to an Indian pow-wow and seen the traditional costumes and all the dancing and drumming, you know how important bird feathers are to Native American culture and ceremonial life. At the pow-wow you undoubtedly saw clothing adorned with feathers, magnificent feather headdresses, or people carrying feather wands. No doubt, it was readily apparent that bird feathers were significant to Native Americans with many spiritual, ceremonial, social and symbolic functions:

Perhaps not so apparent, is the fact that feathers are also an important part of traditional Native American healing. In this article I want to share some healing methods utilizing a feather which I have learned from traditional Native American healers.

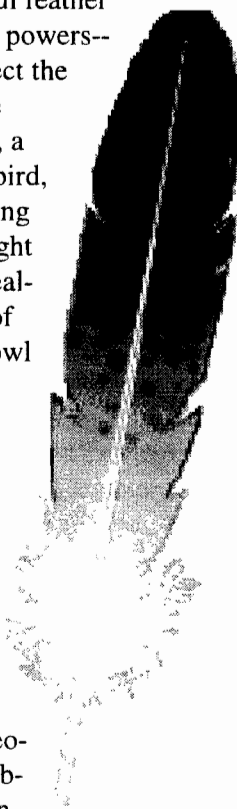
I am very interested in healing in other cultures and times. I am also interested in nature, especially how nature is viewed in different times and places by different people. The study of healing with bird feathers is thus particularly interesting because of the interface of these two important topics. A study of feather healing points out how Native Americans utilized nature as the basis of their healing practices.

BIRD SYMBOLISM

We have many birds in our canyon, which we look at through western eyes. We admire their beauty according to our western aesthetic standards or consider them scientifically in terms of their classification or behavior. We naturally assume that this is the only way or the superior way or the most practical way to look at them.

According to my research with Native American informants ours is not the only way to view birds. In traditional culture, Native Americans saw birds symbolically, especially in terms of the metaphorical aspects of their behavior or physical attributes.

Hence, the feather from an eagle, which is a large powerful bird, which flies high in the heavens, was seen to be the most powerful feather possessing spiritual powers--or the ability to effect the spiritual world. The feather of the hawk, a smaller passionate bird, often heard screaming or crying, was thought to be effective in dealing with disorders of the emotions. The owl feather, from a bird that often hunts at night and flies silently, was thought to be useful in psychic pursuits. A feather from a crow or raven, a highly social bird, was believed to be useful in treating people problems or problems arising from an inability to deal with people or the social group. The feather of the woodpecker, which drills holes into the tree bark for storing his acorns, was utilized for healing deep complaints where a deep focused penetration to a specific site was needed. The turkey feather, which one of my informants told me has excellent hearing and eyesight, was seen to be the best all round healing feather because of the turkey's heightened ability to sense or pick up things.



THE SAGE BLESSING

A feather is used to brush smoke from burning dried Sagebrush (*Artemis californicus* or *A. tridentata*) or White Sage (*Salvia apiana*) over the body. The fragrant smoke has a relaxing, cleansing, purifying, and blessing effect. Both Sage and Sagebrush are thought to remove negative energies. Fanning the smoke from Sweet Grass will call in positive energies, however. As you brush the smoke, you can repeat..."May this sacred smoke bless and purify me." Make sure the smoke passes over all parts of the body, including the arms and the legs.

MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS WITH A FEATHER

The feather is used as a diagnostic aid to help diagnose illness. You look at the feather with "central fixation" (the focusing part of the eye). But you look past the feather at the person with your peripheral vision (vision out of the corner of your eye). Stare at the feather. But have your attention on the periphery. Be aware of colors or darkness around the patient's body. You may see black smoke wafting up from the problem areas of the body. Again--look at feather with central fixation but look at the person with peripheral vision. Don't blink. Be open to impressions.

HEALING WITH THE FEATHER

A feather is used for healing the body. You can brush the energy aura around the body or actually brush the physical body itself. Touch, tap, snap, waver, comb, or flip energy with the feather. You can also dip the feather in water and toss the water droplets on the body.

VIEWING SUBPERSONALITIES

(Continued on next page)

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OR "PAST LIVES" WITH A FEATHER

As in feather diagnosis, look at the feather but be aware of the person with your peripheral attention. Stare, breathe deep, relax and do not blink. Be aware of changes that pass in waves over the person's image. You may see fluctuations in clothing, hair, or expression that reflect a past life, a subpersonality, or even a spirit possession.

REMOTE VIEWING: THE OWL'S FLIGHT

Here two owl's feathers are held out like wings to the side. You beat your wings up and down and then glide with your eyes closed. In you mind's imagination you are Astral Traveling or engaged in Remote Viewing. This is going to another place in your mind and trying to see what is happening there. Hold the feathers outward to the side, close your eyes, and choose a place you want to go to. Beat the wings up and down slowly and softly as you repeat..."So lo nila""I am free". Travel in your imagination, as an owl glides silently over the landscape, through arroyos, gliding over the cactus until you reach your destination. When you get where you are going look around. Fly back.

THE TALKING FEATHER

A feather is used for spirit-guided speech. This is similar to speaking in tongues, in that it is spontaneous, and comes from the spirit or from deep within, but different in that it is slower, clearer, and understandable. Hold the feather in front of you. Begin to speak, letting your truth be spoken without censorship or second-guessing. Find out what you have to say. Let it come through you or out of you, invoked by the feather's power. Let the feather be the medium through which the spirit draws the speech out of you.

THE FEATHER GUIDE

The Feather Guide is used while walking on the trail or confronted with difficult choices. Hold the feather in front of you. Allow the feather to guide you on the trail. You may feel it leading you or pulling you along the trail.

MAKING YOUR OWN HEALING FEATHER

Purchase a turkey feather at a pow-wow or an Indian store or find a seagull feather on the beach. It should be about ten inches long. Cut a piece of red cotton about 2 by 2 & 1/2 inches. Apply Elmer's Glue to the cloth and wrap it around the bottom of the feather. Wrap a 12-inch piece of sinew around the red cloth with a crisscross pattern. Apply colorful beads to the two hanging ends of the sinew, which dangle slightly below the feather's bottom end. Then tie the ends so the beads remain in place.

CONCLUSION

I am very happy to have been taught some of the healing and spiritual uses of feathers by my Native American informants. I often use them in times of trouble or indecision. Do they work? If they help you to feel better they certainly do. If they are a tool to awaken your own self healing powers, inner wisdom, or intuition, that is wonderful. You may discover that feathers are very sensitive to energy and can help you to sense things better. I hope you will explore them for yourself or think about the powers in feathers when you view the birds of our canyon preserve.



(Rural Heritage continued from page 1)

truth about Prop B. The Rural Heritage & Watershed Initiative will solve the problem of urban sprawl by effectively creating an urban/rural boundary, something our County General Plan has failed to do. On one side of the boundary, misplaced urban zoning in the backcountry is replaced with proper rural zoning that prevents costly, inappropriate development.

Prop B is an extraordinary opportunity for us to prevent San Diego's beautiful backcountry from being bulldozed for more sprawling development that saps public resources and prevents us from revitalizing our existing urban areas. Voters need to know that if development patterns of the past continue unchanged, not only will our remaining wildlands, agricultural lands, and watershed be destroyed, but our cities will be damaged too. Instead of using finite tax dollars to improve and replace aging infrastructure in existing urban areas, we end up spending our scarce resources to subsidize new infrastructure for inappropriately-located developments that exacerbate the problems of traffic and pollution while destroying our rural areas.

We believe we can educate the voters without spending millions on glossy campaign mailers. But, we still need a substantial amount of volunteer help for voter outreach and money for effective media coverage. We must make sure the public hears the truth about Prop B.

What you can do: Call the RHWI Office at 462-7032 to volunteer.

Fall 1998 / Winter 1999

Habitat Restoration Opportunities: Your Help is Needed!

The Friends are working with the City and County Parks Depts. to restore a number of sites in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. These sites are usually degraded by human activity, including historic grazing, farming, development, trails or roads. In areas where there are duplicate trails or roads, for example, we are closing them and revegetating them with native species. Many areas are degraded by exotic weed infestations, requiring both the removal of the exotics and re-planting with natives. Wherever possible, we gather our own acorns and seeds and grow our own plants for restoration work. In addition, we salvage native plants from the path of the bulldozer when we know a project is going in or near the Preserve. Our goal for the next restoration season is 16 projects (11 followups, 5 new ones) and to grow more than 7,000 plants of more than 15 species. Why not "put something back" by helping us this fall and winter? Call Michele at 224-4192 or Mike at 566-6489 to sign up. Groups, families and individuals are all welcome. Weekdays or weekends. We promise to put you to work. Don't get left out!

Restoration Projects

Oct. 25, Sun. 1-4 p.m. West End Salvage and Planting

Salvaging native Bunch grass (digging, potting), planting native California rose bushes (*Rosa californica*) and planting willow (*Salix spp.*) poles. A followup to last year's marsh restoration.

Nov. 7, Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Rose Canyon Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) Removal

Take Route 52 to Regents Road exit, Regents Road north to dead end. Mostly lopper work. Gloves, jeans, water, eye protection, sun protection. Cutting and stacking this highly invasive, bamboo-like plant. Call Drew at 453-4587 for details.

Nov. 15, Sun., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lake Hodges Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) Removal

Working from boats on this weed. Call Michele at 224-4192. Chainsaw and lopper work.

Dec. 1., Tues., 9 a.m. - noon. Vista High School Road Revegetation Project

At Sycamore Crossing northwest. Planting of hundreds of plants, including native bunch grass along 1/2 mile stretch of a duplicate road being closed. Some fence building. This is a brand new project. Call Mike at 566-6489 to help.

Dec. 5, Sat., 8 a.m. - noon. Herbicide Safety Class for Volunteers and City Rangers

This free training is for volunteers who use herbicide as part of weed removal projects in City parks. Call Ranger Dion Heller at 538-2480 for directions and to RSVP.

Dec. 6, Sun., 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lake Hodges Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) Removal

Working from boats on this weed. Call Michele at 224-4192. Chainsaw and lopper work.

Dec. 9., Wed., 9 a.m. - noon. Vista High School (Part 2) Road Revegetation Project

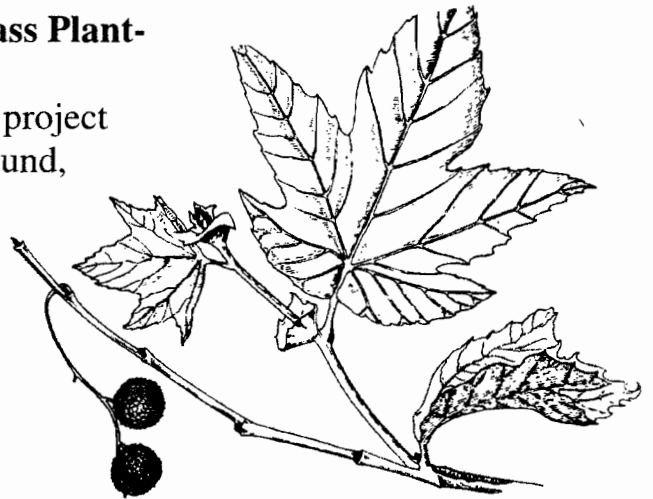
At Sycamore Crossing northwest. Planting of hundreds of plants, including native bunch grass along 1/2 mile stretch of a duplicate road being closed. Some fence building. Call Mike at 566-6489 to help.

Dec. 13, Sun., 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. Old López Canyon “Bring Back the Natives” Grass Planting

We’ve been fighting invasive weeds on this slope for three years, now it’s time to bring the natives back. Our goal is to plant 5,270 plants this season, mostly perennial bunchgrass (*Nasella pulcra*). Meet at the Old López Trailhead in off Pacific Heights and Pacific Mesa Blvd. Intersection in Mira Mesa. Call Cindy at 421-5767 for more details.

Dec. 20, Sun., 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. Falls South Native Grass Planting

This is a followup to last year’s Vista High School project on this site. Our goal is to put 290 plants in the ground, including native bunch grass, sage, sagebrush and Toyons. Meet at Mercy Road parking-staging area off intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.



**Dates to be Announced in January Newsletter
For the Following Projects:**

- Carson Crossing trail revegetation, 100 plants
- Coastal Sage Scrub restoration at ranch (Year 4) 160 plants
- Falls east revegetation (Year 2), 240 plants
- Powerline Road revegetation (Year 2), 190 plants
- Narrows (Year 3), 145 plants
- Trans County Trail Mitigation (Year 2) 155 plants (especially oaks).
- East end gate (Year 2), 27 plants
- Stockpile site (Year 2), 85 plants
- Falls viewpoint (Year 3), 28 plants
- Falls triangle (Year 2), 85 plants
- El Cuervo salt marsh trail revegetation (Year 2), 26 plants.
- Sycamore Crossing, south side to Narrows. (Year two), 30 plants
- Equestrian center field (Year 2), 43 plants.

Volunteer Accomplishments

by Mike Kelly

As always, late summer heat and dry conditions limit the number and type of volunteer projects compared to other seasons. Still, we managed to mount the following activities in September and October.

Special Thanks to Hike Leaders

We treat our frequent nature walks in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve as so routine we don't often thank the leaders. Standouts in this respect are Will Bowen, Les Braund, and Mike Kelly, who have been leading monthly walks for seven or more years! Also leading frequent, seasonal walks have been Don Albright and Brian Swanson. Thanks to our newest hike leaders, Linda King and Pat Watkins.

New Transect Added & Wildlife Survey Training

The Friends Tracking Team continued its unbroken record, going on three years now, of training volunteers on a quarterly basis for our wildlife surveys. The Oct. 17 training produced a new batch of volunteers eager to hit the transect trails the week of Oct. 24-Nov. 1. A new transect has been added, running from the new Peñasquitos Lagoon undercrossing at the north end of the lagoon to the I-5/I-805 "merge" undercrossing at the south end of the lagoon. This new undercrossing, made possible by the completion of the State Route 56 flyover to I-5 south, has reopened a long dormant wildlife corridor. Wildlife biologist Kevin Crooks and State Parks Ecologist Mike Wells reported even mule deer were occasionally using it. Barry Martin met with another State Parks person, Chad Franks and ecology intern Jamie King to plan out wildlife survey work, including this new transect. Both these undercrossings are highly constrained, not even close to an ideal undercrossing, but represent the only connections from the lagoon and Torrey Pines State Reserve to other open space parks. With the deer population of the park unable to replace its numbers loss to road and railroad kills, replacements must come from the outside. Already, loss of habitat, habitat fragmentation and isolation have resulted in a loss of 7 reptile species, all snakes, since the 1930s.

Luzardi Creek Tamarisk Removal

The Special Weed Action Team of the Friends and the Calif. Native Plant So-

ciety visited Luzardi Creek on Black Mountain Ranch to remove tamarisk this past August. Tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*) is a highly invasive shrub that takes over riparian (creek and stream) areas, causing a decline in native plant species and wildlife habitat. Participating in the survey were Mike Kelly, Cindy Burrascano, Rob Hutsel, Dean Woods, Mel Howe, and Jeff Lohman. Thanks to the Black Mountain Ranch owners for allowing us on their property. Luzardi Creek is a part of almost 2,000 acres of this property that will be dedicated to the City as open space very shortly. The Friends have been working to defend the small parts of the property that are islands of native habitat in the midst of the agricultural lands that make up the bulk of the property.

Marian Bear Teasle Control

The Special Weed Action Team's Drew Deshazo, Mike Kelly and Cindy Burrascano continued year three of a control effort on a weed known as teasle (*Dipsacus sativus*) that is taking over grasslands in Marian Bear Regional Park.

Prop N Survey

Proposition N on the November ballot involves a swap of city-owned land near Nobel Drive and I-805 that is being swapped for a parcel in the San Dieguito River Valley that is privately owned. This latter parcel, if the swap is approved by the voters, will become part of the River Valley Park. It is a highly sensitive and strategically placed parcel and important to acquire. Mike Kelly and Cindy Burrascano, at the request of the Sierra Club, investigated the City-owned parcel at Nobel Drive to be sure that both ends of the proposed "deal" worked. They found vernal pools that had not been mapped as part of the Nobel Drive Extension EIR/EIS (Environmental Impact Reports). With 97% of our vernal pools lost to development, this was an important find. The City and the future developer, however, agreed to avoid the pools and preserve them. Thanks to the Sierra Club -- which had been asked to sign the ballot proposition for N -- for taking the time to do due diligence and make sure no one was "giving away the store!"

Volunteer Education

A mark of dedicated volunteers is when they spend their own money to acquire more knowledge to better participate in projects. Drew DeShazo, Dean Woods, Edward DiBella, Cindy

Burrascano, Mike Kelly, Suzanne Leininger, and Mel Howe did this attending either the California Exotic Pest Plant Symposium in Ontario, California or the Calif. Native Plant Society Symposium on Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS) Restoration held at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, or, in some case, both! We were particularly pleased to see City Ranger staff from all the City parks attending the CSS symposium. This portends well for our partnership projects in area open space parks.

Native Plant Planting and Growing

As our fall/winter restoration season approaches, collecting seed and acorns to grow our own native plants is a priority. We'll be trying to grow more than 7,000 plants, mostly native bunch grass (*Nasella pulchra*), but including more than 15 other species. We expect -- with your help (see article in this issue) -- to put all of these in the ground in different projects this fall and winter, as soon as the rainy season starts. Helping collect, clean seed and plant them into containers were Liz Rozycki, Mike Kelly, Mel Howe, Drew Deshazo, Cindy Burrascano, Christine Miller, Gaye Dingeman, Dion Heller, Pat Watkins, and Michelle Murphree.

Friends' 'Nursery' Manager

Thanks to Liz Rozycki for lending her expertise as a commercial nursery manager to experimenting with and growing a great variety of native species for Friends' restoration projects. Liz, with the help of husband Rick Botta, have turned part of their house and yard into a nursery with hundreds of native plants. The Friends may not have a fancy nursery, but between Liz Rozycki's back yard and Mike Kelly's we expect to produce more than 7,000 natives this fall.

Sweetwater Arundo Removal

Even after 22 months, a dedicated core of volunteers shows up every month (or almost!) to cut giant reed (*Arundo donax*) on the Sweetwater River. This project, led by Viviane Marquez is only a month or two away from completion, an awesome task! Regular Friends volunteers have included Robb Hutsel, Mike Kelly, Drew DeShazo, and Cindy Burrascano.

Voice Mail Coordinator

Thanks to Pat Watkins for taking over as the Friends' voice mail coordinator, a big help for us and for the many people calling in to find out about activities.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.
 P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196
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Friends' Directory

Officers

President: Mike Kelly 566-6489
 Vice-President:
 Treasurer: Brian Swanson 695-2209
 Secretary: Edward DiBella 748-5276

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Vickie Ausen, Les Braund, Barry Martin,
 Steve Swenson, Dean Woods

Walks and Committees Leaders

Bird Walks: Brian Swanson (695-2209)
 Geology Walk Leader: Don Albright (443-5937)
 Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
 Kiosk Designer: Linda King
 Medicinal Plant & Moon Walks: Will Bowen
 (452-7091)
 Mystery Tree Walks: Vickie Ausen
 Nature Walk: Les Braund (566-3958)
 Newsletter: Steve Swenson & Mike Kelly
 Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
 Tracking Walk: Chris Bader
 Vernal Pool & other walks: Mike Kelly
 Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
 Voice Mail System: Pat Watkins
 Tracking Team Coordinator: Barry Martin (484-4007)
 Volunteer Coordinator: Michelle Murphree (224-4192)
 Wildlife Survey Committee: Dean Woods (672-1120)

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 Mike to discuss)
 Hikes
 Indian Culture
 Educational Workshops
 School, Family, Youth Programs
 Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

11/98

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

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 Call 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.