



Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

February–March 2017

Notes & Highlights:

- Rains mean trails are closed, hikes cancelled, and restoration work parties postponed. Frustrating, but rains also mean lots of mushrooms are up and flowers to come!
- Les Braund, president of the Friends is also Vice-president of the S.D. Mycological Society (think mushrooms) and will lead walks (for the first time in years), focusing on wildflowers, mushrooms, lichens and liverworts.
- Rains mean our vernal pools are full and Mike Kelly will lead walks there.
- Will Bowen had hip replacement surgery and can't lead walks this quarter. Best wishes to Will.



Volunteers Beth Mather (left) and Cecile Cowan (right) harvest cactus pads for Friends' restoration projects. Photo by Mike Kelly

February

Wildflowers, Mushrooms, Mosses, Lichens and other small things of nature walk with Les Braund

Sat., Feb. 25, 8-10 a.m.

Join Les Braund, mushroom and flower expert on this easy walk in the park. See some of our wildflowers and learn about lichens, mushrooms and other little things of nature. Les is Vice-president of the San Diego Myxological Society and President of our Friends of los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. Bring water and sun protection. Meet at the kiosk at Park Village Rd. and Camino del Sur in Rancho Peñasquitos.

Ranger John's Peñasquitos Canyon Environmental Projects

Sun., Feb. 26, 8:30 a.m. – noon.

Join Ranger John Garwood for trash cleanups and other types of projects. Meet at the Ranger Station, 12005 Black Mtn. Rd., SD 92129.

Restoration Work Party at Black Mtn. Park

Sun., Feb. 26, 1 – 4 p.m.

Friends' volunteers will be planting native plants at a restoration site. Bring water, sun protection, and gloves (if you have them). Meet in the northeast corner of the park, at 14700 Carmel Valley Rd., Black Mtn. Ranch Community Park, Rancho Peñasquitos. Contact Mike Kelly at mkelly1@san.rr.com if you have any questions.

March

Vernal Pool Walk with Mike Kelly

Sat., March 4, 9 – 11 a.m.

Vernal pools are our most endangered habitat. Learn about them and the extremophile plants and animals that live in them. Should be good wildflowers too. Meet at 11125 Taloncrest Way, San Diego, 92121. Contact Mike Kelly at mkelly1@san.rr.com if you have any questions.

Flower Walk with a Ranger in Gonzalez Canyon

Sat., March 11, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Take a hike with a Ranger to search for wildflowers in beautiful Gonzales Canyon. On this easy, 2 mile hike we will learn about plant communities and plant families and seek out unique varieties of local flora. Meet at the Sword Way Trailhead, Sword Way at Winstanley Way, San Diego, CA 92130. Leashed, friendly dogs are welcome on this hike. For more information call the Black Mountain Ranger Office: (858) 538-8021.

Ranger John's Graffiti Warriors

Sun., March 12, 8:30 a.m. – noon.

Join Ranger John Garwood for graffiti cleanups in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Meet at the Ranger Station, 12005 Black Mtn. Rd., SD 92129.

Restoration Work Party at Black Mtn. Park

Sun., March 12, 1 – 4 p.m.

Volunteers will be planting native plants at a restoration site. Bring water, sun protection, and gloves (if you have them). Meet in the northeast corner of the park, at 14700 Carmel Valley Rd., Black Mtn. Ranch Community Park, Rancho Peñasquitos. Contact Mike Kelly at mkelly1@san.rr.com if you have any questions.

Birding with All Your Senses with Jeanie Anderson

Sat. March 18, 8 – 10 a.m.

Join ornithologist Jeanie Anderson on a path in the canyon with many birds both visible and calling. Bring sturdy shoes, binoculars, and cover-ups. Handouts and checklists will be provided. Meet at the west end of Canyonside Park Driveway, 12350 Black Mtn. Rd., San Diego, 92129, then 1 block west up the drive to the sign at the beginning of the white ranch house fence.

Ranger Melanie's Peñasquitos Canyon Restoration Project

Sat., March 18, 9-12.

Join City Ranger Melanie Fontana in restoring habitat sites. Get on the list for the meeting place at this URL at the City's volunteer portal to sign up: (<https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicEnterprise/e7ef01a2-fd5d-40e9-a8d0-78324d817ec7>).

Wildflowers, Mushrooms, Mosses, Lichens and the small things of nature with Les Braund

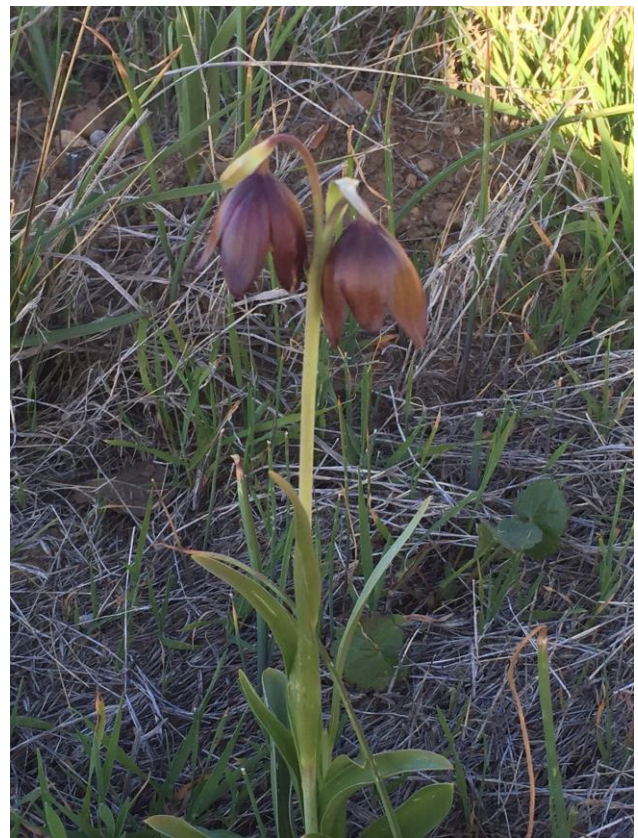
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Tour for All People.

Sat., March 25, April 29, May 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Join a City Ranger for a tour of the Jas Arnold Trail for All People, San Diego's first wheelchair accessible trail. At this .5 mile trail participants will learn about the plants, animals, and geology of Black Mtn. Open Space Park. Meet at Miner's Loop Trail Parking Lot at 14895 Carmel Valley Rd. at



Chocolate lily (Fritillaria biflora) blooming now in Black Mtn. Open Space Park. It's been called the "Cleopatra of the Fritillaries – the darkest and the loveliest." It's one of several lily species in the park. This will be a good year for our wildflowers.

Photo by Antonella Zampoli.

Ranger John's Peñasquitos Canyon

Environmental Projects

Sun., March 26, 8:30 a.m. – noon.

Join Ranger John Garwood for trash cleanups and other types of projects. Meet at the Ranger Station, 12005 Black Mtn. Rd., SD 92129.

Tour for All People.

Sat., March 25, April 29, May 27 at 9:30 a.m.

Join a City Ranger for a tour of the Jas Arnold Trail for All People, San Diego's first wheelchair accessible trail. At this ¼ mile trail participants will learn about the plants, animals, and geology of Black Mtn. Open Space Park. Meet at Miner's Loop Trail Parking Lot at 14895 Carmel Valley Rd. at Valle del Sur. See following flyer.

Girl Scout Restoration Work Party at Black Mtn. Park

Sun., March 26, 1 – 4 p.m.

Girl Scouts and their families from Mira Mesa Troops will be planting native plants at a restoration site. Contact Mike Kelly at mkelly1@san.rr.com if you have any questions.



Ranger Goldstein interpreting during a recent hike on Black Mtn. He leads a variety of hikes, including the full moon, geology, and the Trail for All People.

Every Saturday & Sunday

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Saturdays at 11 a.m, Sundays at 1 p.m.

San Diego County Park docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's second oldest standing residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos. See an historic Mexican rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The ranch house is located on Canyonside Park Driveway off 12020 Black Mountain Rd., San Diego 92129 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos.

Every Two Months

Black Mountain Open Space Park Citizens Advisory Committee

Thurs., Mar. 9, at 6:30 p.m.

Public is welcome to attend these planning meetings which advise Park officials on park matters. Meet in the Canyonside Recreation Center located on Canyonside Park Driveway off 12020 Black Mtn. Rd., San Diego 92129.

Friends' Board of Directors Meeting

Tues., Mar. 1, May 3, July 5 at 7 p.m.

Friends' members are welcome to attend these planning meetings for our varied activities. At the ranch house at Canyonside Park Driveway off 12020



Black Mtn. Rd., San Diego 92129.

Fuschia flowering gooseberry (Ribes speciosum) on Black Mountain, Rancho Peñasquitos. Photo by Jeanie Anderson.

Full Worm Moon Vernal Pool Walk w Brian Swanson at Carmel Mtn.
Sun., March 12, 8:26 a.m. (moonrise) - 10a.m.

This moon is named for the worm castings that are visible once the ground thaws in our colder climes. Join naturalist Brian Swanson for a look at some of Carmel Mtn. Preserves rare vernal pools, bustling with life after life-giving winter rains. Expect to see spadefoot tadpoles, frog tadpoles, vernal pool specialized plants, and possibly fairy shrimp. We'll also look for a variety of colorful wildflowers in the chaparral habitat. Meet at moonrise (8:26AM) on the west edge of Ocean Air Park, located on Fairport Way. Rain at time of hike cancels.

A TOUR FOR ALL PEOPLE

Join a Park Ranger for a tour of the Jas Arnold Trail For All People, San Diego's first wheelchair-accessible hiking trail. On this 1/4 mile loop trail participants will learn about native plants, wildlife and the geology of Black Mountain Open Space Park.

March 25th, April 29th and May 27th at 9:30 am

Black Mountain Open Space Park

This free event is ADA accessible and suitable for people of all ages and abilities. The trail has shade structures throughout and fantastic views. Meet at the Miner's Ridge Loop Parking Area, 14895 Carmel Valley Road, at Valle Del Sur Ct., San Diego, 92129.

Directions: <https://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/trail-for-all-people>

Friendly, leashed dogs are welcome. *Rain cancels this event

Call the Ranger Office for more information: (858) 538-8021

