



Events Schedule

Volunteer Projects

Friends Restoration Project in Black Mtn. Open Space Park

Sun., Jan. 21, Feb. 4, Feb. 25, Mar. 11, Mar. 25: 1 – 4 p.m.. Join the Friends in continuing our wildlife habitat restoration in the Santa Luz Grasslands of Black Mtn. Open Space. We'll be preparing planting sites for the coming season. Meet in the north-east corner of Black Mtn. Ranch Community Park at 14700 Carmel Valley Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos Park, SD 92029.

Ranger John's Graffiti Warriors

Sun., Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 11: 8:30 – noon. Join Ranger John Garwood for trash cleanups and other types of projects. Meet at the Ranger Station, 12005 Black Mtn. Rd., SD 92129.

Ranger Melanie's Peñasquitos Canyon Restoration Project, Peñasquitos Preserve

Sat., Jan. 21, Feb. 18, Mar. 18: 9-12.
Join City Ranger Melanie Fontana in restoring wildlife habitat sites. Get on the list for the meeting place at: mfontana@sandiego.gov.

Ranger John's Environmental Projects

Sun., Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Join Ranger John Garwood for trash cleanups and other types of projects. Meet at the Ranger Station, 12005 Black Mtn. Rd., SD 92129.



Walks

January

Camino Ruiz Rim to the Creek Hike w Les Braund Saturday, Jan. 20, 8 – 10 a.m.

Join naturalist Les Braund for a new hike location, leaving from Camino Ruiz Park. Most of the hike is in the shade of tall Chaparral vegetation and follows a switchback trail from the rim of the canyon down to the valley floor and stream side. See uncommon native plants such as the Summer holly shrub and others. Les says this is one of the most beautiful walks he's knows of. The park is located at the junction of Camino Ruiz and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa.

Crest Canyon Hike

Sun., Jan. 21: 2 p.m.
Join a Park Ranger for an exploration of Crest Canyon Open Space Park. Learn how to identify unique native plants, visit a habitat restoration site, and discover how you can get involved in projects in your parks. This easy, 2 mile hike has an elevation gain/loss of 200 feet on sandy and uneven surfaces. Please bring water, sun protection and sturdy shoes.
Meet at the trailhead at 2701 Racetrack View Dr., Del Mar, CA 92014.

Darkwood Finger Canyon Hike w Mike Kelly

Sat., Jan. 27, 9 – 11 a.m.
Join Mike Kelly for an easy 2.5 mile round trip hike up a wildlife corridor connecting Peñasquitos Preserve with the Del Mar Mesa Preserve. See early flowers and learn about the rare habitat in this finger canyon. Meet at the kiosk near the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Left. Pacific chorus frog. Photo by Lee BenVau.

Lopez Homestead History Walk w Will Bowen

Sunday, Jan. 28, 3–5 p.m.

Hike into Lopez Canyon to learn about the Ramon Lopez Homestead — a small dairy farm from the 1880s. Visit the orchard, the old Lopez road, and see the remains of the house, barn, milking station, and cistern. Find out about the importance of the Lopez family in early San Diego history. Meet at the West End Parking Staging Area, 4300 Sorrento Valley Blvd.

February

Torrey Pines Loop Trail Hike

Sun., Feb. 4, 9:30 a.m.

Take a hike with a Ranger in beautiful Gonzalez Canyon. On this intermediate, 3 mile hike we will learn about plant communities, Kumeyaay ethnobotany, and local geology. This 3 mile hike has an elevation gain/loss of 300 feet on sometimes steep, rocky and uneven surfaces. Please bring water, sun protection, and sturdy shoes. Meet at Torrey Highlands Park, 4450 Lansdale Dr., San Diego, CA 92130. Look for the trailhead near the Dog Park.

Camino Ruiz Rim to the Creek Hike w Les Braund

Saturday, Feb. 17, 8 – 10 a.m.

Join naturalist Les Braund for a new hike location, leaving from Camino Ruiz Park. Most of the hike is in the shade of tall Chaparral vegetation and follows a switchback trail from the rim of the

canyon down to the valley floor and stream side. See uncommon native plants such as the Summer holly shrub and others. Les says this is one of the most beautiful walks he’s knows of. The park is located at the junction of Camino Ruiz and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. No reservations necessary unless bringing a larger group.

Chicarita Creek, Sabre Springs Hike w Mike Kelly

Sat., Feb. 24, 9 – 11 a.m.

Moderately paced on flat ground. Visit this little known gem of a creek, with a year round flow of good fresh water, amid a rich Oak habitat. This is also the site of a Native American People’s village site, with bedrock grinding morteros. Learn a bit about San Diego’s older history and about the habitats and important plants along the way. Meet on Evening Creek Dr. South, between Sabre Springs Pkwy and Sabre Hill Dr., San Diego.

Pedro Bovet Adobe History Hike w Will Bowen

Sunday, Feb. 25, 3 – 5 p.m.

Examine some old photos and paintings of the Don Pedro Bovet Adobe in Carroll Canyon, then hike to the ruins. Bovet was a popular chef and wind-maker of early San Diego. He married Ramon Lopez’s sister. One of their daughters married into the Crosthwaite family of Rancho Poway and another married Diego Alvarado’s son. Meet at the corner of Youngstown Way and Carroll Canyon Road.



Fuscia flowering gooseberry, a winter blooming shrub.

March

South Clevenger Canyon Hike

Sun., Mar. 4, 9:30 a.m.

Let's take a hike on an uncrowded trail with fantastic views of the San Pasqual Valley! This area has interesting geology, flora and fauna as well. This hike has an elevation gain of approximately 900 vertical feet on uneven and sometimes steep surfaces. This is a remote location, bring plenty of water, snacks, sun protection, and sturdy shoes.

Meet at South Clevenger Trail, 18259-18313 CA-78, Escondido, CA 92025.

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Board of Directors bimonthly meeting.

Tues., Mar. 6, 7–8:30 p.m.

Members and other visitors are welcome to observe the meeting. Meet at the historic ranch house located on Canyonside Park Driveway off 12020 Black Mountain Rd., San Diego 92129 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos.

Tadpole & Fairy Shrimp Hike w Will Bowen

Sunday, Mar. 11, 4–6 p.m.

Hike the Carmel Mtn. mesa top to look for and learn about fairy shrimp, tree frog tadpoles, and spadefoot toad tadpoles — the short term inhabitants of the ephemeral rain pools and road puddles of early spring. Learn about their life cycles and behaviors. Meet at Fairport Way and Shorepointe Way, Carmel Valley 92130.

Camino Ruiz Rim to the Creek Hike w Les Braund

Sat., Mar. 17, 8 – 10 a.m.

Join naturalist Les Braund for a new hike location, leaving from Camino Ruiz Park. Most of the hike is in the shade of tall Chaparral vegetation and follows a switchback trail from the rim of the canyon down to the valley floor and stream side. See uncommon native plants such as the Summer holly shrub and others. Les says this is one of the most beautiful walks he's knows. The park is located at the junction of Camino Ruiz and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa.

Lagoon Trail Wildflower Walk

Sun., Mar. 18, 9:30 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. Bring water, sun protection, and sturdy shoes Meet at the Sword Way Trailhead, Sword Way at Winstanley Way, San Diego, CA 92130. Leashed, friendly dogs are welcome on this hike.

Birding with all Your Senses w Jeanie Anderson

Sat., Mar. 24, meet 7:45, Hike 8 – 10 am.

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, 1 block west of Black Mtn. Rd. at the Preserve sign at the beginning of the white ranch house fence. 12350 Black Mtn. Rd. Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

El Cuervo Adobe History Hike

Sun., Mar. 25, 4–6 p.m.

Hike into the west end of Peñasquitos Canyon for an intimate look at the ruins of El Cuervo (the crow) Adobe which was built by the Alvarado family. Includes a short side hike to examine Norwood Brown's old roundup corral and to discuss the impact of cattle grazing on the Preserve. Meet at the parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd.

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.

April

Lusardi Canyon Wildflower Hike

Sun., Apr. 1, 9:30 a.m.

Take a hike with a Ranger to search for wildflowers in beautiful Lusardi Canyon. This intermediate 3 mile hike has an elevation gain/loss of 300 feet on sometimes steep and uneven surfaces. Please bring water, sun protection and sturdy shoes. Meet at the parking area on the west side of Camino del Sur between Cerro Del Sur and Paseo Del Sur, San Diego, CA 92127.

Full Moon Hike

Sun., Apr. 29, 7 p.m.

Join a Park Ranger for a hike at Black Mtn. to view the full moon and learn about natural and cultural resources. We will be hiking a total of 4 miles on rocky, steep and uneven surfaces with an elevation gain of 900 feet. Bring a flashlight, warm clothes, water and sturdy shoes. Leashed, friendly dogs are welcome. Meet at Hilltop Community Park, 9711 Oviedo Way, San Diego, CA 92129.

Special Events

Free Wildlife Survey Class

Sat., Jan. 20, 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

This free course prepares you to participate in surveys that monitor wildlife in San Diego's major open space preserves. You will learn about conservation, habitat fragmentation, basic track and scat identification, data collection protocols, and survey transects. Upon completing the class, you will be eligible to join experienced trackers on SDTT's wildlife surveys throughout San Diego County. **Cost: Free** Check-in: 7:45 to 8 a.m. Location: The Ranch House in Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, 12122 Canyonside Park Drive, San Diego, CA 92129. Please RSVP at sdttinfo@gmail.com.



Girl Scouts help plant natives at restoration work party.

Beginning Tracker/Naturalist Class

Sat., Feb. 24, 8:00 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.

This class is structured to give the prospective tracker a base of tracking knowledge and strategies for developing a sharp eye for detail.

We concentrate on basic mammal track and sign identification to determine who made the track and briefly introduce the concept of track patterns and gaits as a means to interpret how an animal moves. Students are introduced to sketching and field journaling to reinforce learning objectives. At the end of this class you will: •Understand how awareness and naturalist skills are integrated with tracking. •Be able to identify the tracks, track patterns and other sign of several commonly found mammals in San Diego County and differentiate between tracks of animals in the same family. •Be introduced to journaling and field sketching as a way to better remember and recall details and experiences observed in nature. •Gain a basic knowledge of gait and track patterns and learn simple methods of analysis and interpretation. This course begins on Wednesday... Cost: \$50 (\$40 for SDTT members) Please RSVP at sdttinfo@gmail.com

Intermediate Tracker/Naturalist Class

Sat., Mar. 24, 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The second course in the Tracker Naturalist series will expand your ability to identify a wider range of wildlife tracks over a variety of substrates, and comparing and contrasting tracks that are often confused by beginning trackers. Sign identification is enhanced by the introduction of skulls and jaws. We go deeper into the interpretation phase through additional track pattern and gait analyses and field experience (=dirt time). The basics of "aging" (=estimating age of) tracks and signs aging will be presented.

At the end of this class you will be able to identify a wider range of tracks, track patterns and other signs of several commonly found mammals and birds in San Diego County and to better differentiate between tracks of animals in the same family; be able to recognize from track patterns the relative speed at which an animal was moving; develop the ability to interpret a variety of tracks and track patterns and better understand how they relate to the movement, intent, and behavior of the animal; understand how to identify animals of our local area by their skulls, dental patterns, and jaw structures ; understand how weather and substrate affect the rate at which scat and other sign deteriorate; and know how to perform basic track aging. This

course begins on Wednesday... Cost: The cost for each class in the series is \$50 (\$40 for SDTT members). Please RSVP at sdttinfo@gmail.com.

Every Month

A Tour for All People

Sat., Jan. 13, Sun., Feb. 11, Sat. Mar. 10, Sun., Apr. 15, 9:30 a.m.

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 ¼ mile loop trail participants will learn about native plants, wildlife, and the geology of Black Mtn. Open Space Park. This free event is accessible for those with mobility issues and people of all ages and abilities. Leashed, friendly dogs are welcome.

Meet at the Miner's Ridge Loop Parking Area, 14895 Carmel Valley Road, near Valle del Sur Ct., San Diego, 92129. Call Ranger Office for more information (858) 538-8021. *Rain cancels.

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.



El Cuervo Adobe as painted by Alan Rothero circa late 1940s – early 1950s. Join Will Bowen for a guided tour of what remains of the ruins of this adobe on March 25.