



Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

July–September 2019

Volunteer Projects

Friends' Volunteer Restoration Projects in Black Mountain Open Space Park: NEW Meeting Days

Sat., July 6 & 20, August 3, 17, & 31: 1 – 4 p.m. Join us at Black Mtn. Ranch Community Park at the northeast corner, 14700 Carmel Valley Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Ranger John's Graffiti Warriors

Sun., July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8: 8:30 – noon. Meet at the Ranger Station, 12005 Black Mtn. Rd., SD 92129.

Ranger Melanie's Peñasquitos Canyon Restoration Project

Sat., July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21. Join 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., July 28, Aug. 25, Sept. 22: 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.

July Walks

Hey! Pollinator Walk

Sat., July 6, 10–11:15 a.m. Join Ranger Michelle for a family-friendly pollinator activity and hike. Children will role play bees visiting a flower patch and learn about the many kinds of pollinators that help flowers make seeds, fruits, and more! Visitors can then sing along to a pollinator "love song" before enjoying an easy 1 mile hike through the park. Meet at the historic Peñasquitos ranch house at 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Wildlife Survey Introductory Class

Sat., July 13, 7:45 am – 12:30 pm. This free course prepares you to



*Girl Scouts and other volunteers at Black Mtn. Open Space Park restoration site, June 2019.
Photo by Beth Mather.*

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**. Meet at the historic Peñasquitos Ranch House, 12122 Black Mtn. Rd. Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Camino Ruiz Rim to the Creek Hike w Les Braund

Sat., July 13, 8 – 10 a.m.

Join naturalist Les Braund for a hike leaving from Camino Ruiz Park. Most of the hike is in the shade of tall Chaparral vegetation and follows a switch-back 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 11489 Camino Ruiz in Mira Mesa, 92126.

Moonlight Hike w Will Bowen

Sat., July 20, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Join Anthropologist Dr. Will Bowen for a walk in the canyon at night, an eerie, unusual, and peaceful peradventure. IoT's very quiet out there and one's vision is absent of the colors of the day and filled with all sorts of shades of gray. We find our way by following fragrances and the kinesthetic jumble of perambulation. On clear nights the moon and stars dance brightly above and remind us of the things we've forgotten. The moist amazing thing we'll see are the orb spiders building beautiful, symmetrical webs, in stark contrast to the dizzy fractal webs of their cousins the black widow. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., San Diego.

Nighttime Wildlife Viewing Walk with Mike Kelly

Sat., July 27, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

A moderately paced walk on flat ground. Bring insect repellent and a flashlight. Chance to see deer, owls, bats, spiders and enjoy the smells and atmosphere of the Preserve at night. Meet at the kiosk at the END of Park Village Road in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

August Walks**Ranger Kory's Creek Crawl**

Sun., Aug. 4, 10–11:30 a.m. Join Ranger Kory for a slow and easy walk along Los Peñasquitos Creek. During the 1 mile hike you'll learn about canyon habitat, creek life, and crtawdads. Meet at the historic Peñasquitos ranch house at 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Owl Prowl – Creatures of the Night w Brian Swanson

Sat., Aug. 10 & Aug. 17, 7:30 – 9:15 p.m.

Join naturalist Brian Swanson as we experience the pungent smells and intriguing sounds of some of the many denizens of the preserve which are active at night. Expect to hear one or two species of owls, and with luck, see the elusive Western screech owl. Bring a flashlight, light jacket, and bug protection. No pets please. No restrooms. 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. 12122 Black Mtn. Rd. Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Let's Goat for a Walk

Sun., Aug. 11, 3–3:30 p.m. Join park staff for a leashed walk with our Nubian goats, Popcorn and Base. Learn about goat behavior, care, and personality during this interactive experience. Meet at the historic Peñasquitos ranch house at 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Moonlight Hike w Will Bowen

Sat., Aug. 17, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Join Anthropologist Dr. Will Bowen for a walk in the canyon at night, an eerie, unusual, and peaceful peradventure. IoT's very quiet out there and one's vision is absent of the colors of the day and filled with all sorts of shades of gray. We find our way by following fragrances and the kinesthetic jumble of perambulation. On clear nights the moon and stars dance brightly above and remind us of the things we've forgotten. The moist amazing thing



Clydene, 80 years young, enjoying Hooker's Evening Primrose, on Jeanie's bird walk.

we'll see are the orb spiders building beautiful, symmetrical webs, in stark contrast to the dizzy fractal webs of their cousins the black widow. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., San Diego.

Picnic with Goats

Sun., Aug. 18, 12-1 p.m. Bring your lunch for a pen-side picnic with our goats, Popcorn and Base. During the picnic, park staff will discuss 1860s ranch life, animal care, and Nubian goats. At the end, there will be an opportunity to interact with the goats and tour our nearly 200 year old ranch house. Meet at the historic Peñasquitos ranch house at 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Camino Ruiz Rim to the Creek Hike w Les Braund

Sat., Aug. 24, 8 – 10 a.m.

Join naturalist Les Braund for a hike leaving from Camino Ruiz Park. Most of the hike is in the shade of tall Chaparral vegetation and follows a switch-back 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 11489 Camino Ruiz in Mira Mesa, 92126.

Nighttime Wildlife Viewing Walk with Mike Kelly

Sat., Aug. 31, 7:15 – 9:15 p.m.

A moderately paced walk on flat ground. Bring insect repellent and a flashlight. Chance to see deer, owls, bats, spiders and enjoy the Preserve at night. Meet at the kiosk at the END of Park Village Road in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

September Walks

Owl Prowl – Creatures of the Night w Brian Swanson

Sat., Sept. 7, 7 – 9 p.m.

Join naturalist Brian Swanson as we experience the pungent smells and intriguing sounds of some of the many denizens of the preserve which are active at night. Expect to hear one or two species of owls, and with

luck, see the elusive Western screech owl. Bring a flashlight, light jacket, and bug protection. No pets please. No restrooms. 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. 12122 Black Mtn. Rd. Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Camino Ruiz Rim to the Creek Hike w Les Braund

Sat., Sept. 14, 8 – 10 a.m.

Join naturalist Les Braund for a hike leaving from Camino Ruiz Park. Most of the hike is in the shade of tall Chaparral vegetation and follows a switch-back 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 11489 Camino Ruiz in Mira Mesa, 92126.

Moonlight Hike w Will Bowen

Sat., Sept. 14, 7 – 9 p.m.

Join Anthropologist Dr. Will Bowen for a walk in the canyon at night, an eerie, unusual, and peaceful peradventure. IoT's very quiet out there and one's vision is absent of the colors of the day and filled with all sorts of shades of gray. We find our way by following fragrances and the kinesthetic jumble of perambulation. On clear nights the moon and stars dance brightly above and remind us of the things we've forgotten. The moist amazing thing we'll see are the orb spiders building beautiful, symmetrical webs, in stark contrast to the dizzy fractal webs of their cousins the black widow. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., San Diego.

Picnic with Goats

Sun., Sept. 15, 12-1 p.m. Bring your lunch for a pen-side picnic with our goats, Popcorn and Base. During the picnic, park staff will discuss 1860s ranch life, animal care, and Nubian goats. At the end, there will be an opportunity to interact with the goats and tour our nearly 200 year old ranch house. Meet at the historic Peñasquitos ranch house at 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Birding with all Your Senses w Jeanie Anderson

Sat., Sept. 21, meet 7:45 am, 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. 12122 Black Mtn. Rd. Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.



Girl Scouts pulling weeds at restoration site at Black Mountain Open Space Park, June 2019.

Every Month

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 12122 Black Mountain Rd., San Diego 92129 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos.

Visit www.penasquitos.org for lots of information on hikes, volunteer activities, meetings, and decades of newsletters, videos, and more.

Reach Mike Kelly at kelly.mike8388@gmail.com or call 858-863-7393 for questions or more info.



Justin Daniels, president of the California Native Plant Society, examines the root structure of the endangered Willow Monardella (Monardella viminea) in Lopez Canyon, with Mike Kelly, Conservation Chair of the Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. The two were part of a team of 8 volunteers surveying this species June 2019. They were joined by Cindy Burrascano, Les Braund, Brian Swanson, Vivien, Rose & Lauren Gustafson.