



Join the Monarch Bioblitz, July 23 – August 1, 2021

Join the Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve in surveying for and documenting the location of Monarch Butterflies, their caterpillars, and the milkweed plants they need. Monarch populations have crashed all over the country. The decline of our Western populations has been dramatic according to recent surveys. This is a national effort from July 23 – August 1, 2021. You can volunteer during the weekday or on a weekend, during the daytime or late afternoon into the early evening. No experience is needed.

We will coordinate our efforts in the North City parks and neighborhoods, including Peñasquitos Canyon, Black Mtn. Park, Carmel Mtn., and Del Mar Mesa. Even backyard sightings are welcome! The Friends will survey areas where we have known and historic milkweed population data. We'll try to coordinate teams of 2 or more, but individuals are welcome to go out on your own as well.

Sign up and learn more information at: <https://www.monarchmilkweedmapper.org/> Download pictures of the Monarch butterfly, the caterpillars and two species of milkweed we might find in coastal San Diego. They are Narrow leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fasciculatus*) which definitely occurs here and possibly Woollypod milkweed (*Asclepias eriocarpa*). The non-native and sometimes harmful Tropical milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*) is likely to be found in some backyards and nurseries.

The home page of the website has a simple diagram of the 4-step process involved in



Top: Monarch butterfly on milkweed; Bottom: Monarch caterpillar. Photos by Beth Mather

surveying and submitting your sightings. It will be helpful if you have a smartphone. If you don't you can work with someone that does. A good App to use for this would be iNaturalist. It's free to download from any of the App stores, easy to install and easy to learn. If you're new to it we can help you learn it in about 10 minutes in the field! Photos and IDs from iNaturalist can be easily uploaded to the Monarch website.

Contact Mike Kelly, conservation chair at kelly.mike8388@gmail.com or 858-863-7393 if you want to coordinate with us. We are coordinating the known data on Milkweed populations before the blitz begins.



Tarantula hawk feeds on nectar of Narrow leaf milkweed. Photo by Beth Mather

Event Schedule for July (Partial)

Editor's note. Our full hike schedule for the quarter will be out soon, combined once again with a full newsletter.

Restoration Projects in Black Mtn. Open Space Park

Sundays: July 11 & 25; Aug. 8 & 22; Sept. 5 & 19; 3–5 p.m. No experience needed to weed and water native plantings to restore habitat for endangered birds and butterflies. Service hour credits available. Groups must RSVP to 858-863-7393. Meet at Black Mtn. Ranch Community Park, northeast corner. Walk through the gate and down the hill to the triangle shaped planting site at the trail junction. Take the left fork and look for a big white Ford 150 4x4 truck. That's us. Contact Mike Kelly at kelly.mike8388@gmail.com with questions.

Nature Walk from Peñasquitos Creek Crossing Trailhead w Les Braund

Sat., July 17, 8–10 a.m. Join naturalist Braund for an easy walk on flat ground across Peñasquitos Creek. Besides the "usual" flowers, plants

and animals, learn about lichens, mushrooms, and mosses. Meet at the kiosk near the corner of Park Village Rd. & Camino del Sur. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Full Moon Night Hike w Will Bowen in Peñasquitos Preserve

Fri., July 23, 8–9:30 p.m. Hike the canyon under the light of the full moon. Explore opening the senses as we hunt for spider webs and scorpions and other creatures of the night. Meet in the parking lot in front of 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., Sorrento Valley; this is the last address on the north side of the road.

Birding with all your senses w Jeanie

Sat., July 24, meet 7:45 a.m., Hike 8-10 a.m. Join Ornithologist Anderson for an easy stroll on a path in the canyon with many birds both visible and calling. Bring sturdy shoes, binoculars and coverups. Handouts and checklists will be provided. Meet at the Preserve Sign at the west end of Canyonside Park Driveway, 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

July Walks continued

Owl Prowl w Brian Swanson in Peñasquitos Preserve

Sat., July 24, 7:45 – 9:30 p.m. Join Friends Board member and naturalist Brian Swanson as we enjoy a walk in the dark while searching for the diminutive Western screech owl. Bats, spiders and other nocturnal creatures may also be encountered. Bring a flashlight, light coat and sturdy shoes for this approximately two-mile flat hike. Meet at the west end of Canyonside Park Driveway, 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Wildlife Night Hike with Mike Kelly In Peñasquitos Preserve

Sat., July 31, 7 – 9 p.m. A moderately paced walk on flat ground. Do bring insect repellent and a flash-light. Enjoy the sounds and smells of the Preserve at night. On past walks we've seen Mule Deer, bats, tarantulas, owls, and more. Meet at the kiosk near the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

August

Nature Walk from Peñasquitos Creek Crossing Trailhead w Les Braund

Sat., Aug. 7, 8 – 10 a.m. Join naturalist Braund for an easy walk on flat ground across Peñasquitos Creek. Besides the “usual” flowers, plants and animals, learn about lichens, mushrooms, and mosses. Meet at the kiosk near the corner of Park Village Rd. & Camino del Sur. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Owl Prowl w Brian Swanson in Peñasquitos Preserve

Sat., Aug. 14, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Join Friends Board member and naturalist Brian Swanson as we enjoy a walk in the dark while searching for the diminutive Western screech owl. Bats, spiders and other nocturnal creatures may also be encountered. Bring a flashlight, light coat and sturdy shoes for this approximately two-mile flat hike. Meet at the west end of Canyonside Park Driveway, 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Miner's Loop Trail in Black Mtn. Park w Beth Mather

Sun., Aug. 21, 9 - 11 a.m. Explore the history of Black Mountain with native plant enthusiast Mather. Enjoy the flowers and learn about the native habitats, plants, and animals. Learn a bit about the history of gliding and hanggliding off the mountain. Bring water and sun protection and sturdy hiking shoes. Meet in the parking lot at the north staging area. The hard to find entrance is off Carmel Valley Rd., on the south side of the road, about 0.7 miles east of its intersection with Black Mtn. Road, Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.



Full Moon Night Hike w Will Bowen in Peñasquitos Preserve

Sat., Aug. 21, 7:30 – 9 p.m. Hike the canyon under the light of the full moon. Explore opening the senses as we hunt for spider webs and scorpions and other creatures of the night. Meet in the parking lot in front of 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., Sorrento Valley; this is the last address on the north side of the road.

Wildlife Night Hike with Mike Kelly in Peñasquitos Preserve

Sat., Aug. 28, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. A moderately paced walk on flat ground. Do bring insect repellent and a flash-light. Enjoy the sounds and smells of the Preserve at night. On past walks we've seen Mule Deer, bats, tarantulas, owls,

and more. Meet at the kiosk near the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

September

Owl Prowl w Brian Swanson in Peñasquitos Preserve

Sat., Sept. 11, 7 – 9 p.m. Join Friends Board member and naturalist Brian Swanson as we enjoy a walk in the dark while searching for the diminutive Western screech owl. Bats, spiders and other nocturnal creatures may also be encountered. Bring a flashlight, light coat and sturdy shoes for this approximately two-mile flat hike. Meet at the west end of Canyonside Park Driveway, 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Full Moon Night Hike w Will Bowen in Peñasquitos Preserve

Sat., Sept. 18, 7 – 8:30 p.m. Hike the canyon under the light of the full moon. Explore opening the senses as we hunt for spider webs and scorpions and other creatures of the night. Meet in the parking lot in front of 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., Sorrento Valley; this is the last address on the north side of the road.

Miner's Loop Trail in Black Mtn. Park w Beth Mather

Sat., Sept. 25, 9-11 a.m. Explore the history of Black Mountain with native plant enthusiast Mather. Enjoy the flowers and learn about the native habitats, plants, and animals. Learn a bit about the history of gliding and hangliding off the mountain. Bring water and sun protection and sturdy hiking shoes. Meet in the parking lot at the north staging area. The hard to find entrance is off Carmel Valley Rd., on the south side of the road, about 0.7 miles east of its intersection with Black Mtn. Road, Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Wildlife Night Hike with Mike Kelly In Peñasquitos Preserve

Sat., Sept. 25, 6 – 8 p.m. A moderately paced walk on flat ground. Do bring insect

repellant and a flash-light. Enjoy the sounds and smells of the Preserve at night. On past walks we've seen Mule Deer, bats, tarantulas, owls, and more. Meet at the kiosk near the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.



Tarantula hawk nectaring on Milkweed in Friends of Peñasquitos restoration site in Black Mtn. Open Space Park. Photo by Mike Kelly

Every Month

Historic Adobe Ranch Tours

For now tours are self-guided of San Diego's second oldest standing residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos. **Call the County Parks office at 858-484-7504** and request the museum be opened for you. Museum is available 7 days a week. 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.

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 more information.