



## Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

September 2019

### Volunteer Projects

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

Sat., Sept. 15 & 29, 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., Sept. 8: 8:30 – noon. Meet at the Ranger Station, 12005 Black Mtn. Rd., SD 92129.

#### Ranger Melanie's Peñasquitos Canyon Restoration Project

Sat., Sept. 21. Join Ranger Melanie Fontana in restoring wildlife habitat sites. Get on the list for the meeting place at: [mfontana@sandiego.gov](mailto:mfontana@sandiego.gov).

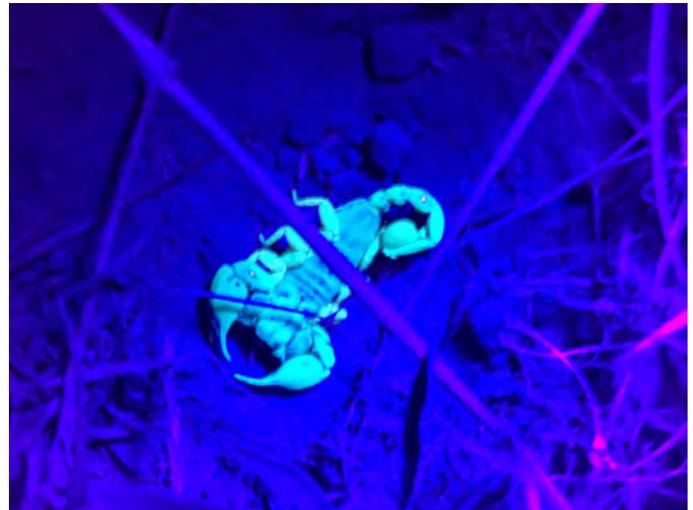
#### Ranger John's Environmental Projects

Sun., 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.

### 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.



*Native species of scorpion under grass thatch in Peñasquitos Canyon. Scorpion is caught up in a UV light at night on a Will Bowen hike.  
Photo by Will Bowen.*

#### 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.

#### 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.



A pair of juvenile Redtail hawks in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

*Photo by Mike Kelly*

### **Hike w Will Bowen**

Sat., Sept. 28, 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 most 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.

### **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](http://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](mailto:kelly.mike8388@gmail.com) or call 858-863-7393 for questions or more info.



Rattle snake swallowing a mouse or rat whole after killing it with its poisonous fangs on a trail in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

*Photo by Rose Gustafson.*