

# Canyon News

Black Mountain Park • Del Mar Mesa Preserve

Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

Nov. & Dec. 2004

Volume 18, No.6

## Annual Meeting Reminder:

### Bats Declining Worldwide

Date: Sat., Nov. 6

Time: 7 pm social

7:30 pm annual election

7:45 pm Presentation

Join us for our annual meeting at the Historic Adobe Ranch House in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Enjoy free refreshments. Our featured speaker will be Dick Wilkins of Bat Rescue. He will present a slide show and will probably have a live bat with him. *The program is free.*

Learn why the decline of Bat species and populations worldwide should be a cause for great alarm. Wilkins will describe the different types of bats around the world and here in San Diego. As is our custom, we will have a brief annual meeting and election of our officers for 2005.



Spotted bat on rock. Photo courtesy of Bat Rescue.

## Friends Urge

### Yes on Prop A

The Friends Board of Directors voted to support Proposition A, the TransNet Regional Transportation Plan, on this November's ballot. The Board did this because this plan provides significant benefits for our environment while providing sorely needed congestion relief for commuters.

This November, San Diego voters will have a chance to attack the region's worst traffic congestion by approving Proposition A, delivering over \$14 billion in highway, local road and transit improvements — without increasing taxes.

Proposition A renews the existing local TransNet program that has helped finance every major highway, transit improvement and street repair in San Diego County since 1987. It will generate an additional \$4.8 billion in federal matching funds that will become available for the major highway/transit projects.

### Proposition A is a balanced remedy for San Diego's growing traffic congestion crisis

Proposition A means:

- Major upgrades to key arterial routes commuters depend on every day.
- Major improvements to I-5, I-15 and I-805, the I-5/I-8 interchange, the I-8/SR 163 interchange and many more key freeway pressure points to ease congestion for local residents and visitors alike.
- Additional improvements on State Routes 52, 54, 56, 67, 76, 78, 94, 125, and 905.

See p. 7 for more

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## Restoration Projects

Mike Kelly

### Nov. 6 Restoration Planting in Peñasquitos Canyon

Help plant native plants and remove invasive weeds along the Trans County Trail. Meet at 1 p.m. at the Ranger's Trailer office at Canyonside Stables on the northeast corner of Black Mountain and Mercy Roads. Wear sturdy boots or shoes, sun protection; no experience needed!

### Nov. 7 4-S Ranch Street Fair

Call if you can take a shift between 9-4 to help staff a booth at this street fair taking place on the 4-S Ranch just west of Rancho Bernardo.

### Nov. 14 Invasive Eucalyptus Removal

Only a few dozen large invasive eucalyptus trees are left in the preserve. This project will target one of these groups. No experience needed. A pretty part of the Preserve to work in. Meet at 9 a.m. at Ranger's Trailer office at Canyonside Stables on northeast corner of Black Mountain and Mercy Roads. Wear sturdy boots or shoes, sun protection.

Call Mike at 858-566-6489 for more details on any of these projects.

# Critters in the Canyon

Paul Kucharczyk

Peñasquitos hosts a rich array of birds, reptiles and mammals known to this canyon. It is always fun to see something new, and add it to our life-list. Regularly, hikers and cyclists come to me describing something they have witnessed. Recently, a bobcat has become quite the celebrity by sauntering across the main trail. Unfortunately, most visitors don't know what they are looking at and report it as a mountain lion. Should we have the opportunity, we ask them to compare what they remember to the San Diego Tracking Team's mounted bobcat located at the ranch house. Once they compare their sighting to the mounted specimen, the "lion" becomes a "cat." Regardless, staff informs them Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve is mountain lion habitat and to always hike, bike, or ride with heightened awareness.

Some canyon visitors have had encounters of the exotic variety. During my time here I have personally experienced three different reptile species that either escaped, or were "set free" in the canyon. An eastern box turtle spent a few minutes on my desk as I studied my reptile field guide. On another occasion someone called my office to report a "really big turtle" cruising around the slopes of the canyon. Volunteer Alex Bedoya made a trip out to discover what we later confirmed to be a 50 lbs. African spurred tortoise. Back at the ranch house, "Tank" was all over the courtyard as we waited for a rescue volunteer belonging to the Turtle & Tortoise Society.

Now, are you ready for the third exotic encounter? I received a radio call from our staging area volunteer Dick Stevens on a Sunday afternoon informing us a visitor saw a "10" python" crossing the main trail at Eicher's grave site. Sure enough, there was a 5" wide track in the dirt leading me to the biggest tail I ever did see belonging to something that wasn't from around these parts. We beat the bushes to drive the snake until I could see the head and determine what I was getting myself in to. So, there I was (I always wanted to say that) poised at the ready

waiting for the opportunity to grab behind it's head and reel it in. The next day we identified it to be a red-tailed boa constrictor, over 6' long. Extremely emaciated and showing signs of pneumonia, I ultimately delivered it to an animal clinic where the experienced veterinarian accepted it as a rescue.

The next time you're in the canyon remain aware of your surroundings. You never know what could be seen. And take your digital camera!

Project Wildlife Presents

## San Diego Wildlife Day

Celebrate San Diego County's Native Wildlife & Natural Areas

Sunday, Nov. 14, 2004

11 a.m - 4 p.m.

Where: Balboa Park—Corner of Park Blvd and Presidents Way

Project Wildlife's largest environment education festival of the year, San Diego Wildlife Day features appearances by Project Wildlife's education animals, family activities & education booths from environmental and animal organizations

. Enjoy this free community event and learn about our county's wild species & natural places.



Trail crew hard at work on Old López Road Trail.

## Volunteers Needed Old López Road Trail Reroute

Ranger Gina Brown

The trail crew is at it again. The first of October found the Los Peñasquitos Trail Crew working on the lower portion of the Old López Road Trail. The existing trail runs along the bottom of the slope in the riparian area. The vegetation is quite lush, growing rapidly, making maintenance difficult. Also, the trail is so near the creek bed, that the slightest bit of rain causes the trail to flood and it remains muddy for quiet some time after the rain has stopped. The Old López Road Trail is highly used by commuters and lunch-time joggers; it's also the link to excellent birding habitat. Many of these users expressed a desire to have the trail repaired or moved. These factors contributed to the decision to reroute the nearly 700 foot section of trail a little higher up the slope through the non-native mustard and thistle. It is estimated that the trail will be completed by the end of December 2004, not bad considering all the work is being done by hand. As of printing of this article the Trail Crew has completed construction of nearly half of the trail, if you would like to join the crew on this exciting project, call the Ranger office at (858) 538-8066.



**(Prop A cont'd)**

- Pothole repairs and synchronized traffic signals.
- Improvements to bus and trolley transit service including major investments in bus rapid transit routes along the coast, I-15, City Heights, and Chula Vista.
- Construction, improvement and maintenance of bike trails and pedestrian paths including a significant smart growth program that provides incentives to local jurisdictions willing to approve smart growth projects.

**Environmental benefits**

In addition, Proposition A generates \$880 million for environmental mitigation. The measure commits highway and road mitigation funds for acquisition of key open space areas and to perpetual maintenance of a large and connected network of habitat preserves from Oceanside to San Ysidro and eastward to the desert. By pooling the money that would be used for mitigating highways and roads construction and by committing those funds in advance, Proposition A offers an unprecedented opportunity to ensure implementation of the San Diego region's four regional habitat conservation plans, including the MSCP South County, MHCP, MSCP North County, and MSCP East County programs.

In endorsing Prop A, Barry Martin, president of The San Diego Tracking Team (SDTT) said: "we train community volunteers in how to conduct wildlife surveys, surveys that also document the unfortunate collisions between people, their vehicles, and wildlife. Such collisions cause a tremendous mortality of deer, coyotes and other animals on area highways, as well as expensive damage to our cars and trucks, and sometimes injuries to drivers and passengers. The tracking team has surveyed key area highways, such as Route 67, to identify where future wildlife undercrossings could reduce these human/animal collision. The widening of roads such as Route 67 under the new TransNet will not only provide traffic congestion relief, but it will be also done with retrofitting of safe passages for wildlife,

benefitting public safety and our wildlife. This is why we support passage of TransNet."

**Endorsements**

As a far-sighted, comprehensive and balanced plan for the entire San Diego region, Proposition A has earned the endorsement of the League of Women Voters of San Diego County, the Automobile Club of Southern California (AAA), the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce,

It's also supported by the San Diego County Taxpayers Association because of its fiscal safeguards and because it requires no tax increase.

It's supported by police and fire chiefs – including the San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association – who say it is needed to ensure that gridlock doesn't delay response to emergencies.

Most environmental organizations in the county support Prop A because of its environmental safeguards. A partial list of the supporting organizations, both local and national, reflects the depth of commitment within the environmental community to Proposition A's ambitious goals:

Buena Vista Audubon Society  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 Conservation Biology Institute  
 Endangered Habitats League  
 The Conservation Fund  
 The Trust for Public Land  
 Anza-Borrego Foundation  
 Back Country Land Trust  
 Batiquitos Lagoon Foundation  
 Friends of Goodan Ranch and  
 Sycamore Canyon Open Space  
 Preserves  
 Friends of Hellhole Canyon Open  
 Space  
 Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon  
 Preserve  
 Lakeside's River Park Conservancy  
 San Dieguito River Valley  
 Conservancy  
 San Diego Tracking Team  
 San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy  
 Tierra Miguel Foundation  
 Volcan Mountain Preserve  
 Foundation

National Wildlife Federation  
 California Oak Foundation  
 San Diego Conservation Resources  
 Network

San Diego Conservation Resources Network (CRN), a coalition of more than 20 community-based, non-profit organizations working to conserve San Diego's natural lands for future generations, enthusiastically supports Proposition A. The coalition has noted Proposition A marks the first time conservation groups were invited to participate in planning the region's transportation projects. "This participation resulted in a good balance between transportation projects and the sensitive lands they pass through," says Mike Kelly, CRN's manager. "Voting for Prop A is a vote for relieving traffic congestion, a vote to preserve our quality of life."

In 1987 it only required a majority to pass the first Proposition A. Now it takes two-thirds voter approval to renew the program. That's a tough hurdle in any election. But local supporters have organized San Diegans for Congestion Relief to conduct the campaign to pass Proposition A.

A two-thirds vote is within reach. Polling shows that if we can let voters know the details of Proposition A – how it affects them in their homes, what projects are planned for their community – we can win in November. We can win, however, only if we can get our message out.

Your support is critical to the success of the campaign and ultimately to the future of our. Get involved. Go to [www.sdcongestionrelief.com](http://www.sdcongestionrelief.com) to see how you can help pass Proposition A. And then Vote Yes on Proposition A on November 2.



**Costa's hummingbird**

## Tracking Classes

### Nov. 10 & 13. Beginning Class

Wed., Nov. 10: 7 – 9 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 13: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

### Sponsored by the San Diego Tracking Team.

AN intensive evening and Saturday devoted to developing the skills of tracking and awareness, with emphasis placed on techniques for recognizing habitat and associated flora and fauna, wildlife physiology and habits, movement in nature, and establishment of a pattern of awareness. This course offers the opportunity for one to acquire the tools to become proficient in the art and science of tracking animals, people, and most anything that leaves a mark on the landscape. Your powers of observation will improve tremendously, as will your overall awareness. Exercises in journaling, track and sign identification, discerning concentric rings, track/sign aging, gait patterns, and awareness philosophy will round out the busy weekend.

Class will meet from 7– 9 p.m. on a weeknight and on Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Bring a bag lunch. The class will meet at the Adobe Ranch House in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve off Black Mountain Road. Be prepared to take notes, do some hiking, and have fun. Bring water, hiking attire, sun protection, something warm for the evening activity, and a desire to learn. Call 858-672-0584 for cost and registration.

## New & Renewing Members

Mr. And Mrs. Daniel Allen  
 Judy Alvarez  
 Janet Anderson  
 Jeanie Anderson  
 Richard L. Barber  
 Carrie & Bill Barton  
 Judy Bayer  
 Garrett & Leana Beaumont  
 Linda & Jonathan Beretta  
 Dave Bilak  
 Adeline Black  
 Ken & Kathy Bowman  
 Mike & Sandy Boyles  
 John & Dolores Bradshaw  
 Leslie C. Braund  
 The Burke Family  
 Susan Califa  
 Lynne & Larry Carleton  
 Arthur Casey  
 Pamela & Keith Coates  
 Bruce & Cyndy Collins  
 Edith & Madison Cooper  
 Penny Coppernoll-blach  
 K. Crampton  
 Wendy Dallas  
 Dennis Driscoll  
 Jeanne & Glenn Dunham  
 Teri Egenberger  
 The Fraser Family  
 Camille Armstrong Geoffrey Smith  
 Richard Gibbons  
 Pat Gilbert  
 Mr. & Mrs. Marc Gittelsohn  
 Char Glacy  
 Doug Hansen  
 Jeannette Hartman  
 Ann Harvey  
 Chip & Nancy Hatch  
 Linda Henning  
 Don Hoffman  
 Timothy Ann Hunt  
 David Jacobson  
 Ron & Linda Johnson  
 Peter Kasaty

John & Peggy Keating  
 Linda King  
 Lee & Betty Kirchhevel  
 John Knoll  
 Fred & Linda Kramer  
 Jon Labaw  
 Suzann & Bill Leininger  
 Rob & Linda Leiter  
 Karen Malfara  
 Dr & Mrs Herbert Mccoy  
 Richard & Ruth Mellen  
 Neil & Jill Meyer  
 James & Linda Michael  
 Paul And Carol Micheletti  
 Karen P. Miller  
 Maurice & Ree Miller  
 Nadine Misiaszek  
 Amy & Kent Moser  
 John Mullen  
 David R. Nagel  
 Josh Oliver  
 Ralph & Kathleen Paige  
 Bill & Christi Papworth  
 Harriet Pellar  
 Jim & Barbara Peugh  
 Ann Pogue  
 Jack Pomeroy  
 Lynne F. Preisser  
 Ann & John Richards  
 Scott & Carole Rieker  
 Allison Rolfe  
 Erwin & Mary Rose  
 James W. Royle, Jr.  
 Maria Cecilia Ruiz  
 Richard Savary  
 Linda, Rick & Laura Schneider  
 Carrie J. Schneider  
 Robert Sewekow  
 Walt & Marlene Shaw  
 Melissa A. Sherrod  
 Loren Spaulding  
 Erica J. Specht & Family  
 Jeff Storey  
 Dave Stout  
 Paula & Mike Svoboda  
 Melvin & Ellen Sweet  
 James & Maria Thayer  
 The Tomich Family  
 Mary Toomey  
 Mario, Nancy, Alex & Tony Trejo\*  
 Tim & Deborah Tweeten  
 Derry & Evelyn Van Nortwick  
 Greg Vines  
 Mr & Mrs Winfield Wagner  
 Robbie Walters  
 Pat Watkins & Family  
 Kirsten Winter  
 Toni & Frank Wong

\*also made a donation.



## In memory of Barbara Gandolfo Memorial Benches Replaced

Eagle Scout Jason Cooper organized the replacement of the benches you see (and perhaps use) in the County's parking-staging area at Black Mountain and Mercy Roads. The old benches had fallen apart over the decade or so they were in place. They were originally installed in memory of Barbara Gandolfo by her friends.

Barbara was an equestrian who lived in Rancho Peñasquitos and boarded her horse at Horseman's Park (Canyonside Stable). She enjoyed Peñasquitos Canyon's trails on horseback and on foot. In 1991, Barbara suffered an untimely death from cancer at the young age of 42. Donations from her friends paid for the original benches. Some of these same friends, including Marvin Gerst and Sally Waldorf, joined the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve in donating the funds to purchase the materials to replace the benches. A new synthetic wood-looking material was chosen that should last longer.

Raising the funds was the easy part. The tougher part was done by Boy Scout Jason Cooper who organized the project and friends and family to remove the old ones and build and install the new ones.

Besides the donors, thanks go to Tri County Drilling and Sunstate Equipment Rental for their support and to County Ranger Paul Kucharczyk for his help.

**Photos, top to bottom.  
Barbara Gandolfo (left) and  
friend Clarice getting ready  
for a ride.**

**Jason Cooper and helpers  
with cement mixer.**

**One of the new benches.**



## Early Rains ‘Clean’ the Plants

Rains are good for plants in more than one way. We’re use to thinking of plants’ need for water at the root level. But, as you hike along our trails notice how clean the plants look. That’s because dust accumulates on the leaves, particularly along the trails where vehicles and park users stir up the dust. This dust also clogs the leaves, inhibiting the transpiration of the plants. Heavy rains do a good job of cleaning these leaves — and the plants look better too.

With the preserve closed during and after heavy rains, be sure to call the park numbers (858.484-7504 or 858.538.8066) to make sure the preserve is open.

All hikes are free to the public. If you’re bringing an organized group please call 858-484-3219 to make arrangements. Rain cancels hikes. Be sure to wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. See you on the trail.

### Every Saturday & Sunday

#### Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

San Diego County Park docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego’s second oldest standing residence, Rancho Santa María de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. **La Cocina Gift Shop Hours:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sundays. The Ranch House is located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

### November

#### Nov. 6 Restoration Planting in Peñasquitos Canyon

Help plant native plants and remove invasive weeds along the Trans County Trail. Meet at 1 p.m. at the Ranger’s Trailer office at Canyonside Stables on the northeast corner of Black Mountain and Mercy Roads. Wear sturdy boots or shoes, sun protection; no experience needed!

Call Mike at 858-566-6489 for more details.

#### Under the Mistletoe Walk

Sat. Nov. 6, 3–5 p.m. Mistletoe, a holiday standby, is commonly found growing near the top of our sycamores. These tall, mottled trees shed their leaves each autumn, effectively pulling “back the curtain” of leaves and revealing hidden treasures such as packrat nests to those willing to venture out in cooler weather. Join Friends’ presi-

dent and naturalist Brian Swanson as we seek out these and other winter treasures. This is a good time of day to see wildlife too.

Meet on the western side of the ballfields of Canyonside Park. **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

#### Bats Declining Worldwide – Friends’ Annual Meeting

Sat., Nov. 6, 7 p.m. Social. 7:30 p.m. Presentation by Dick Wilkins of Bat Rescue. He’ll present a slide show and live bats at the Adobe Ranch House. Learn everything you ever wanted to know about bats! But, especially about why they are in decline worldwide. Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. The whole meeting is free! Free refreshments and free Presentation. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

#### Beginner/Intermediate Tracking Walks

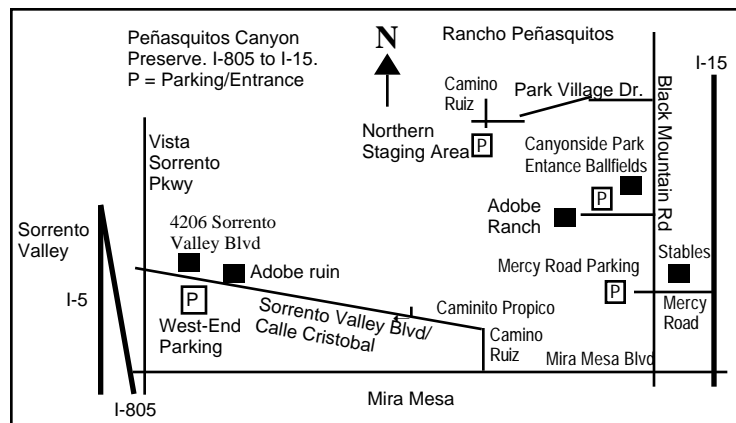
Sat., Nov. 13, 8–10 a.m. Tracker/naturalists from the Friends’ Tracking Team will lead two walks, one suitable for beginners (children welcome!) and intermediates. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Wear shoes that are good in mud. Meet at the historic ranch house. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take 1st left into Canyonside Dr., proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, walk west on trail to ranch. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 C7.**

#### Geology Hike with Don Albright

Sun., Nov. 14, 9 a.m.–noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve’s waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at the intersection of Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa, in the cul-de-sac on the south side of Calle Cristobal. Wear good boots for steep trail and bring water and sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (H3).**

#### Nov. 14 Invasive Eucalyptus Removal

Only a few dozen large invasive eucalyptus trees are left in the preserve. This project will target one of these groups. No experience needed. A pretty part of the Preserve to work in. Meet at 9 a.m. at Ranger’s Trailer office at Canyonside Stables on northeast corner of Black Mountain and Mercy Roads. Wear sturdy boots or shoes, sun protection. Call Mike at 858-566-6489 for more details.



#### Shaman’s Holiday Hike

Sun., Nov. 14, 3–4:30 p.m. Help celebrate the holiday season naturally by exploring the healing power of nature in a sacred way. Find presence, inner balance, and your center in the Sacred Hoop. We will take a short walk to a power place for Native American-inspired ceremony, drumming, song, story, ritual, prayer, and healing trance. Bring a drum, rattle, or other musical instrument and a blanket or towel to sit upon. Hike is for spiritually-minded adults. Meet at the west end parking-staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/3 mile east of its intersection with Sorrento Valley Road, **Thomas Guide 1208.**

#### Black Mountain Trail Work Party

Sat., Nov. 20, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Join a Black Mtn. Park Ranger and help restore public trails. Meet at the Parking Staging area above the old dirt Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 E7** or call the Rangers at 858-538-8021.

#### Carmel Mountain Walk with Diana Gordon

Sat., Nov. 20, 9–11 a.m. Visit some of San Diego’s rarest coastal habitats with this accomplished naturalist. Learn about the wildlife that make Carmel Mountain their home. Meet at the Carmel Mtn. Meeting Place. Wear hiking boots, bring water and sun protection. Small hill to climb. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208, C2.**

#### Del Mar Mesa & Waterfall Walk

Sun., Nov. 21, 2:30–4:30 p.m. Join Linda King for a moderately paced walk up on the Del Mar Mesa, then on to Walden Pond and the Waterfall. Meet at the end of Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and water. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (J7).**

#### Black Mtn. Park Citizens Advisory Cte.

Mon., Nov. 22, 7 p.m. Public is welcome to attend this meeting to plan park activities. Meeting is at Canyonside Recreation Center at Black Mountain Rd and Canyon-

side Driveway. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (D7).**

### **Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board**

Tues., Nov. 23, 7 p.m. Members are welcome to attend this business meeting to plan Friends' activities. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Driveway. **Thomas Guide p. 1189-C7.**

### **Black Mountain Nature Walk**

Sat., Nov. 27, 9–11 a.m. Join a Black Mtn. Park Ranger and see native flowers, wildlife, and great vistas. Meet at the Parking Staging area above the old dirt Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 E7** or call the Rangers at 858-538-8021.

## **December**

### **Beginner/Intermediate Tracking Walks**

Sat., Dec. 11, 8–10 a.m. Tracker/naturalists from the Friends' Tracking Team lead two walks, one suitable for beginners (children welcome!) and an intermediate. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Wear shoes that are good in mud. Meet at the historic ranch house. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., right on Black Mtn. Rd. and 1st left into Canyonside Dr., proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, walk west on trail to ranch. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 C7.**

### **Under the Mistletoe Walk**

Sat. Dec. 11, 8–10 a.m. Mistletoe, a holiday standby, is commonly found growing near the top of our sycamores. These tall, mottled trees shed their leaves each autumn, effectively pulling "back the curtain" of leaves and revealing hidden treasures such as packrat nests to those willing to venture out in cooler weather. Join Friends' president and naturalist Brian Swanson as we seek out these and other winter treasures. This is a good time to day to see wildlife too. Meet on the western side of the ballfields of Canyonside Park. **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

### **Del Mar Mesa & Waterfall Walk**

Sun., Dec. 12, 2:30–4:30 p.m. Join Linda King for a moderately paced walk up on the Del Mar Mesa, then on to Walden Pond and the Waterfall. Meet at the end of Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and water. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (J7).**

### **Black Mountain Trail Work Party**

Sat., Dec. 18, 8 a.m.–12 p.m. Join a Black Mtn. Park Ranger and help restore public trails. Meet at the Parking Staging area above the old dirt Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and

bring water and sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (E7)** or call the Rangers at 858-538-8021.

### **Geology Hike with Don Albright**

Sun., Dec. 19, 9 a.m.–noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at the intersection of Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa, in the cul-de-sac on the south side of Calle Cristobal. Wear good boots for steep trail and bring water and sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (H3).**

### **Shaman's Holiday Hike**

Sun., Dec. 19, 3–4:30 p.m. Help celebrate the holiday season naturally by exploring the healing power of nature in a sacred way. Find presence, inner balance, and your center in the Sacred Hoop. We will take a short walk to a power place for Native American-inspired ceremony, drumming, song, story, ritual, prayer, and healing trance. Bring a drum, rattle, or other musical instrument and a blanket or towel to sit upon. Hike is for spiritually-minded adults. Meet at the west end parking-staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/3 mile east of its intersection with Sorrento Valley Road, **Thomas Guide 1208.**

## **DIRECTIONS**

### **Black Mountain Open Space Park**

From I-15 take SR 56 (Ted Williams Parkway) west to Black Mountain Road. Go right (north) on Black Mountain Road and follow it all the way until you see the last houses on the right and open space beyond. Look for a dirt road to the right and take it. Proceed about 1 mile, going beyond the bare hangliding area on the right and down a hill to a big curve and a sign for the park and paved road on the right. Proceed up the road to the staging area. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 (E7).**

### **Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa.**

From the west (I-5/I-805 merge) take Sorrento Valley Boulevard east. It becomes Calle Cristobal as it passes Camino Santa Fe. The next street is Caminito Propico. From the east, take Mira Mesa Boulevard to Camino Santa Fe. Go right on Camino Santa Fe, then right on Calle Cristobal to Propico. Park in cul-de-sac on either side. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 (H3).**

### **Canyonside Park Staging**

Located in Rancho Peñasquitos. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Road. Right on Black Mountain. Left at first light, Canyonside Park Dr. Go past ballfields to parking lot on their (far) west end. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

### **Carmel Mtn. Meeting Place**

From Carmel Valley take El Camino Real south. At intersection with Carmel Mountain Road, proceed straight on what has become Carmel Mountain Road. Go up the hill to East Ocean Air Dr. Go left and park at Fairport and Shorepointe. Wear hiking boots, bring water/sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 (C2).**

### **Mercy Road Parking-Staging Area**

In Mira Mesa. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. and straight across intersection into parking lot. Meet on upper level. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (D7).**

### **Northern Parking-Staging Area**

Located in Rancho Peñasquitos. From I-15 take the Mercy Road exit west to Black Mountain Road. Right on Black Mountain Road and up hill, left on Park Village Drive, about 1 mile to Camino del Sur. Left on Camino del Sur and park by the kiosk. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7).**

### **Park Village Drive Meeting Area**

Located in Rancho Peñasquitos. From I-15 take the Mercy Road exit west to Black Mountain Road. Right on Black Mountain Road and up hill, left on Park Village Drive and take it all the way to the end at the white barricades and park entrance. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 – 1188 (J7).**

### **Ranch House Walks/Tours**

Located in Rancho Peñasquitos. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Road. Right on Black Mountain. Left at first light, Canyonside Park Dr. Go past ballfields to the white-fenced parking lot. Left into the lot. Walk up path to the ranch. house. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

### **Sorrento Valley Meeting Area**

Meet in parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Sorrento Valley Road. **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).**

### **West-End Parking-Staging Area**

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of intersection with Vista Sorrento Pky. From east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to bottom of the hill. Entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east, pass last building on the right. Preserve entrance is on right. **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).**



**Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.**

P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196  
858-484-3219

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### Check Your Label

Take a moment to examine the address label on this newsletter. Check to see if your expiration date has come and gone. If so, please take the time now to send in a renewal check for your membership dues. This will enable you to keep receiving our newsletter, recognized as one of the best conservation newsletters in San Diego. That way you'll keep learning about the family walks; the plants and animals that inhabit the Preserve, and the many conservation projects open to you and your family or friends.



### Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

Senior (62) or Student \$10 Individual \$15

Family \$20 Sponsor \$30 Patron \$100

Corporate \$250 Life \$1000

Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I/We are interested in the following:

**Volunteer** to help the committee (call to discuss)

Hikes

Indian Culture

Educational Workshops

School, Family, Youth Programs

Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ 11/2004

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196

Thank you for your support! Your donation is tax deductible.

Call **858.484.3219** or **858.566.6489** for more information.

### Friends' Directory

**Officers**

President: Brian Swanson 760.739.5451

Vice-President: Don Albright 619.443.5937

Treasurer: Pat Watkins 858.538.2527

Secretary: Rick Botta 858.672.0584

**Other Members of the Board of Directors**

Les Braund, Edward DiBella, Mike Kelly

**Walk Leaders**

Brian Swanson, Don Albright, Will Bowen, Mike Kelly,

Les Braund, Pat Watkins, Linda King and Barbara Moore.

**Committees:**

Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman

Newsletter: Mike Kelly

Plant Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki

Stream Survey Committee: open

Voice Mail System: Pat Watkins

Tracking Team Coordinator: Rick Botta, 858.672-0584

Volunteer Coordinator:

Conservation Chair: Mike Kelly, 858.566.6489

Webmaster: open

Wildlife Surveys: Patrick Campbell, 760.471.9197