



Canyon News

Black Mountain Park • Carmel Mountain Preserve
Del Mar Mesa Preserve • Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

Winter, 2014
Volume 28, No. 1

Lusardi Creek Acquisition Who Were the Lusardis?

Mike Kelly, conservation chair

An important acquisition of land containing part of Lusardi Creek was announced by the County in December, 2013: the acquisition of a 31.15 acre parcel adjacent to the existing 192 acre Lusardi Creek Preserve. Besides having rare Southern maritime chaparral and the endangered California gnatcatcher, the land contains the confluence of Lusardi Creek with the San Dieguito River.

The purchase price was \$1,456,100 to willing sellers. The park is just south-east of Rancho Santa Fe. Lusardi Creek Preserve itself is adjacent to City owned land that is part of Black Mountain Open Space Park. The Preserve can be reached via I-15 to Camino del Norte west. Then you can access either of two entrances. For one take a right on Camino Santa Luz and proceed to the entrance. For the 2nd, take a right on Artesia Rd. and a left on Rio Vista and proceed to the entrance. I've hiked the Preserve and it's in the beautiful Lusardi Gorge.

Who were the Lusardis?

Lusardi Creek and the Preserve are named after the Lusardi family that bought the first of several parcels of land in the valley immediately north of Black Mtn. Park, near the western edge of Rancho Bernardo, and south of 4S Ranch. What we now call the Santa Fe Valley use to be called Lusardi Valley. The name change was made, I believe, by the developers who ultimately bought the valley.

A "Lusardi Family History" from all4webs.com is my main source of information, augmented by the cemetery records from Oak Hill Memorial Park, the San Luis Rey Pioneer Cemetery, and the Mission San Luis Rey de Francia cemetery. All of these records are online and easily accessible.

Pietro Lusardi and Marco Bruschi are said to have been the first Italian pioneers of significance in San Diego. In any case, Lusardi arrived in 1866 and Bruschi in 1869. They were childhood friends from Parma, Italy. Like many settlers they first were motivated by the gold rush fever. Although each arrived in a different year in San Francisco, it was in 1864 that the two partnered in a successful mining business near Coulterville, California.

Later, Bruschi decided to invest in a partnership with a large grocery firm owned by G. Ginocchio in San Francisco that intended to open another store in San Diego. He move to San Diego in 1869.

Lusardi came to San Diego in 1866. He invested some of his mining earnings in San Diego real estate at the urging of none other than "Father" Horton. Records show Lot 772 in Horton's addition was assessed at \$200 to a "Pete" Lusardi in 1872. Pietro had become Pete. After some more mining ventures he gave up mining and bought a large sheep ranch on the slopes

Highlights Inside

Hikes and Volunteer Opportunities	2-3
Election Results	3
Tarantula Hawk	3
Christmas Bird Count	4
Trail for All People Update	6
Membership Application	8
Friends Directory	8

of Smith Mountain, now known as Palomar Mountain. His brother Francisco joined him in San Diego and they homesteaded government land there. Eventually, a canyon was named after them. It runs north and southerly west of the old San Jose Honor Camp.

Both men returned to Italy to take brides, who came back to San Diego with them. Both men became naturalized citizens.

Black Mountain and the Lusardis

The brothers sold out their sheep business and homesteaded government land on a ranch located between the present day Rancho Santa Fe and Black Mountain. The creek on the property is now known as Lusardi Creek. It flows from the flanks of Black Mountain and the western edge of Rancho Bernardo through the valley and into Rancho Santa Fe. The Lusardis bought out neighbors and eventually owned 3,000 acres of the valley where they raised hay and grain.

The ranch and surrounding properties became a small community named after the brothers, leading to the formation of the Lusardi District. Such districts were not uncommon. Like the community around the Peñasquitos Ranch just to the south, they had their own school house. Even the names of the teachers of the Lusardi Community are recorded in the family history! A Post office was formed on September 18, 1889 with Pietro as the first (See page 7)

Hikes and Volunteer Opportunities

All of our hikes are free. There is a fee for the Tracking survey classes. See below for details.

Wear good trail sneakers or boots and sun protection (hat, sunscreen or both), and bring plenty of water. Call 858-484-3219 for more information.

Repeating Events

Every Saturday and 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. The Ranch House is located on Canyonside Park Driveway off Black Mountain Road between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos.

Every month:

Wildlife Tracking Walk

Sat. 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Jan. 11, Feb. 8, Mar. 8, Apr. 12, May 10, June 14

Join a knowledgeable San Diego Tracking Team instructor for FREE informal "dirt - time" lessons in the art of wildlife tracking. All experience levels are welcome. Learn how to identify the tracks and scat of coyotes, bobcats, raccoon, deer and other wildlife in the area! Information at www.sdtt.org. Rain cancels. Meet at the Historic Adobe Ranch House on Canyonside Park Drive and Black Mountain Road, Rancho Peñasquitos.

Every two months:

Black Mountain Open Space Park Citizens Advisory Committee

Thurs. 6:30 p.m. Jan. 9, Mar. 13, May 8, July 10, Sept 11, Nov 13

Public is welcome to attend this meeting to plan park activities. Meet in the Canyonside Recreation Center at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Park Driveway, Rancho Peñasquitos.

Peñasquitos Canyon Citizens Advisory Committee

Thurs. 6:30 p.m. Jan. 16, Mar. 20, May 15, July 17, Sept. 18, Nov. 20

Public is welcome to attend this meeting to plan park activities. Meeting is at the Historic Adobe Ranch House on Canyonside Park Driveway and Black Mountain Road, Rancho Peñasquitos.

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors

Tues. 7 p.m. Jan. 7, Mar. 4, May 6, July 1, Sept. 2, Nov 4

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 Park Driveway, Rancho Peñasquitos.

Quarterly:

Wildlife Survey Volunteer Training

Sat. 8 am-2 pm Jan. 25, July 19, Oct. 18

This FREE class prepares you to participate in surveys that monitor the wildlife in major open space preserves and other critical areas. Learn about basic track and scat identification animal gaits, habitat fragmentation, survey transects, data collection protocols, and conservation. At the end of the class, you can sign up to join experienced trackers on some of SDTT's wildlife surveys throughout the San Diego area; please bring calendars to class. Preregistration is requested to reserve your spot. Dress prepared to spend time outdoors and bring a sack lunch and water. More information and preregistration at www.sdtt.org. Email info@sdtt.org or call 760.715.4102 to register. Meet at the Historic Adobe Ranch House on Canyonside Park Driveway and Black Mountain Road, Rancho Peñasquitos.

Beginning Tracker/Naturalist Class

Class: Wed. 7- 9 p.m. Feb 12, Mar 12

Field Sat. 8 am- 4 pm Feb 15, Mar 15

The Tracker/Naturalist series of classes provides you with information and skills to identify tracks, scat, and other sign from wildlife that inhabit our local nature preserves. Classes involve one weekday evening of classroom instruction and one Saturday in field for "dirt time" instruction.

Beginning class topics include: levels of tracking, the six arts of tracking, sensory awareness, journaling, the process of track identification, common species encountered locally, and introduction to gaits. Cost \$50. Preregistration required. More information at www.sdtt.org. Email info@www.sdtt.org or call 760-715-4102 to register. Meet at the Historic Adobe Ranch House on Canyonside Park Driveway and Black Mountain Road, Rancho Peñasquitos

Maps of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Carmel Mountain Preserve and Black Mountain Open Space Park are available at www.Peñasquitos.org

Volunteer Opportunities & Hikes

January

Cactus Wren Restoration Volunteer Work Party

Sat., Jan 11, 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Help restore coastal sage scrub habitat for the endangered Coastal Cactus wren in the Santa Luz part of Black Mountain Open Space Park. Eligible for community service hours credit. Meet in the cul-de-sac off the east side of Camino del Sur, about 1 mile north of its intersection with San Dieguito Road in the Santa Luz development area. Groups and individuals welcome. Groups please RSVP! Call Mike Kelly at 858-342-8856 or email mkelly1@san.rr.com for information, maps, and directions.

Birding with all Your Senses

Sat., Jan. 18, 8:00 a.m.

Join Field Ornithologist Jeanie Anderson on a path in the canyon with many birds both visible and calling. Bring sturdy shoes and 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

Waterfall Restoration Volunteer Planting

Sat., Jan. 25, 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Join the Friends in planting more natives at the waterfall. Bring water, sun protection, and gloves if you have them. Meet at the kiosk across from 7107 Park Village Road, Rancho Peñasquitos.

Lopez Homestead History Hike

Sun. Jan. 26, 3 - 5:00 p.m.

Hike into Lopez Canyon with Will Bowen, PhD, to learn about the Old Lopez Homestead - a small turn-of-the-century dairy farm. Visit the orchard, the Old Road, and see the remains of the barn, house, and milking station. Discover the importance of the Lopez Family in early San Diego history. Meet at the West End Parking Staging area.

February

Cactus Wren Restoration Volunteer Work Party

Sat., Feb. 8, 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Help restore coastal sage scrub habitat for the endangered Coastal Cactus wren in the Santa Luz part of Black Mountain Open Space Park. Eligible for community service hours credit. Meet in the cul-de-sac off the east side of Camino del Sur, about 1 mile north of its intersection with San Dieguito Road in the Santa Luz development area. Groups and individuals welcome. Groups please RSVP! Call Mike Kelly at 858-342-8856 or email mkelly1@san.rr.com for information, maps, and directions.

Pierre Bovet Adobe History Hike

Sun., Feb. 23, 3 - 5:00 p.m.

Hike into Carroll Canyon to visit the ruins of the Don Pedro Bovet Adobe. Pedro Bovet, a noted chef and wine-maker of early San Diego was married to Ramon Lopez's (of our Lopez Canyon) sister. One of his daughters married into the Crosthwaite family of Rancho Poway and another married the son of Diego Alvarado (of the Peñasquitos El Cuervo Adobe). Meet at the corner of Youngstown Way and Carroll Canyon Road.

March

Vernal Pool Walk

Sat., Mar. 15, 9 a.m.

Join naturalist Mike Kelly for an easy walk and learn about vernal pools, perhaps San Diego's rarest ecosystem. Meet the rare and endangered plants and animals, some extremophiles, that live in and near them. Meet at Lopez Ridge Park in Mira Mesa, at 7245 Calle Cristobal.

Tadpole and Fairy Shrimp Hike

Sun. Mar. 16, 4 - 6:00 p.m.

A hike to look for and learn about fairy shrimp, tree frog tadpoles, and toad tadpoles - the short term inhabitants of the ephemeral rain pools and puddles of early spring in the dirt roads of the Carmel Mountain mesa top. Learn about their life cycles and behaviors. Meet at the Carmel Mountain Trailhead, 4730 Fairport Way at Shorepoint Way.

Birding with all Your Senses

Sat., Mar. 22, 8:00 a.m.

Join Field Ornithologist Jeanie Anderson on a path in the canyon with many birds both visible and calling. Bring sturdy shoes and 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

Miner's Loop Trail Walk, Black Mountain Open Space Park

Sat., Mar 22, 9 - 11:00 a.m.

Join naturalist Mike Kelly to hike the Miner's Loop trail on the north face of Black Mountain Park. Meet at the parking staging area at 14850 Carmel Valley Road, about 1/4 mile east of the intersection with Black Mountain Road in Rancho Peñasquitos.

El Cuervo Adobe History Hike

Sun., Mar. 30, 4 - 6:00 p.m.

Hike into the West End of Peñasquitos Canyon for an instant look at the ruins of the "El Cuervo" Adobe build by the Alvarado family. Includes a short side hike to examine Norwood Brown's sold roundup corral and to discuss the impact of cattle grazing on the Preserve. Meet in the parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd.

Board of Directors Election Results

The nomination period passed quietly, the ballots were mailed and returned, and the election has been completed.

The officers for the 2014- 2016 period are:

President: Les Braund
Vice President: Don Albright
Secretary: Edward Di Bella
Treasurer: Pat Watkins

Directors-At-Large for the 2012 - 2014 period are:

Jeanie Anderson
Anne Harvey
Mike Kelly
Mary Lueking
Janet Nelson
Brian Swanson

Tarantula Hawk: A Serious Threat To Humans?

Photos and Story by David Cooksy

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in a recent edition of Mission Trails Trail Talks. It has been reproduced with David's permission.

One would think, and logically conclude, that a flying predator which hunts tarantulas is a serious danger to humans. However, tarantula hawks may appear intimidating but are generally mild-mannered towards humans. Nonetheless, one should never attempt to pick up or molest a tarantula hawk as the sting is extraordinarily painful! The safest way to enjoy this beast of flying beauty: look but do not touch.

The tarantula hawk, while neither a tarantula nor a hawk, is a spider wasp which hunts tarantulas as food for its larvae. Tarantula hawks belong to any of the many species in the genera *Pepsis* and *Hemipepsis*, in the family Pompilidae (spider wasps).

The more familiar species are up to 2 inches long, with blue-black bodies and bright, rust-colored wings, making them among the largest of wasps. The coloring on their wings warns potential predators that they are dangerous (aposematism). Their long legs have hooked claws for grappling with their victims. The stinger of a female tarantula hawk can be up to 7 mm (1/3 in) long, and the sting is considered the second most painful insect sting in the world.

Behavior

The female tarantula hawk captures, stings, and paralyzes the spider, then either drags her prey back into her own burrow or transports it to a specially prepared nest where a single see page 5)



Christmas Bird Count ~ Why Birding in Place Makes Sense

Jeanie Anderson

What is a Christmas Bird Count? It's the National Audubon Society's annual census of birds in a given 15 mile diameter count circle that occurs on a specific day between mid-December and early-January. Called a CBC for short, this event has the distinction of being the longest running citizen science project, having started 114 years ago. The collection of data on species and location is invaluable to scientists in trending over time the impacts of urbanization, climate change and other changes on bird species.

Birds are the poster child for climate change. This link is to the Audubon report titled: *Birds and Climate Change: On the Move* <http://birdsandclimate.audubon.org/>

Nearly 60% of the 305 species found in North America in winter are on the move, shifting their ranges northward by an average of 35 miles. Audubon scientists analyzed 40 years of citizen-science **Christmas Bird Count** data — and their findings provide new and powerful evidence that global warming is having a serious impact on natural systems. Northward movement was detected among species of every type, including more than 70 percent of highly adaptable forest and feeder birds.

San Diego's CBC circle has been the **#1** count circle in the State of California for the past 2 years. One of the reasons, is the count circle encompasses the shore and ocean, bringing extra species that some inland counts do not have. It's still too early to call the race this year, but 100s of San Diego birders have put in 1,000s of field hours and their best efforts to keep our ranking. It's important to note here that we are in a birding paradise. Per San Diego Field Ornithologists website --

<http://www.sandiegofieldornithologists.org/resources.html>

San Diego County is one of the most productive birding counties in the country with 506 ABA-countable bird species on record. Bird life abounds in a wide variety of locations and climates, including the Pacific Ocean, San Diego Bay, coastal wetlands, marshes, inland valleys, mountains and desert.

As the team leader for the Balboa Park East area, I have been leading a group of intrepid birders for the past 8 years covering Morley Field, Disk Golf Course, Florida Canyon, the Balboa Park Rose Garden and environs east of the San Diego Zoo. Having an assigned area allows us to specialize in finding the likely species, learn the territory in depth to understand where "unlikely" species may be, and see the impacts of changes over time. This concept of birding in place can be extended to any flora/fauna and PQ

Canyon Preserve. You may find that a stroll in the canyon at dusk rewards you, for example, with views of the hovering White-tailed Kites and Mule Deer herds on the move. Over time, you can track your observations and make sense of patterns of behavior relative to weather, habitat and seasonal changes. Case in point, for the past 7 years we had reliable counts of Red-shouldered Hawks and Dark-eyed Juncos. This year, sadly, there were no sightings... which may be due to Park's thinning of trees in the Florida Canyon - Upas area where they have been observed.

Weeks before the CBC, we begin surveying the areas and keeping posted on the SDBIRD listserv of any unusual bird sightings. We report our surveys to eBird, an online database application designed by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. You can log in from a computer or mobile device and identify a particular area where you have birded. The list of most frequently seen bird species will be presented for you to input your counts with comments. Your list stays with your eBird profile along with your life list data. If for example, you counted Western Bluebirds at a particular locale, that info is available online for others seeking Western Bluebirds.

This year we had early reports of a wintering Summer Tanager in the area near the San Diego Blind Center at Florida and Upas. The lovely festive orange-red Summer Tanager truly looks like a Christmas Bird so we were happy to have it once more to count. It's considered to be an "unusual" suspect for our area and time of year, but not a rare bird.



The morning of the CBC, I arrived extra early at 6:10 am, and stepped out of my car to hear repeated "**hoot-a-hoot; hoo-hoo**", the mnemonic for the Great Horned Owl's call. This was truly exciting to have owls on our count for the first time. It pays to be an early-birder! In fact, at the San Diego CBC compilation meeting, we learned we were the **ONLY** team to observe Great Horned Owls.

Rare Birds add a level of excitement and sporting adventure to the CBC, a la The Big Year. On count day, our team was headed to the Rose Garden to count Anna's and Allen's hummingbirds at the grove of pink flowering eucalyptus trees when we received the call from our San Diego CBC leader dispatching us to a dog park at Grape Street to find, count, and document a rare Orchard Oriole that had been seen in the Coral Trees. We were told to stay until we found him (a stake out!) - AND that the bird only visits every 45 minutes to feed on the nectar of the flowers. We were lucky! Within 15 minutes of arriving, we had him in our binoculars... all 4 of our teammates were able to view a live bird together, and images proved the identification to the leaders. My photo below captures this young male Orchard Oriole giving us his best side... quite hamming it up for the bird paparazzi! With the Orchard Oriole, our species count this CBC came up to 51, our best year since I have done this count. A truly exceptional end to our 2013 CBC.



(**HAWK** cont.) egg is laid on the spider's abdomen. When the wasp larva hatches, it creates a small hole in the spider's abdomen, then enters and feeds voraciously (avoiding vital organs for as long as possible to keep the spider alive). After several weeks, the larva pupates. Finally, the wasp becomes an adult and emerges from the spider's abdomen to continue the life cycle.

Tarantula wasps are also nectarivorous. The consumption of fermented fruit sometimes intoxicates them to the point that flight becomes difficult. While the wasps tend to be most active in daytime summer months, they tend to avoid high temperatures. The male tarantula hawk does not hunt; instead, it feeds off the flowers of milkweeds, western soapberry trees, or mesquite trees. The male tarantula hawk has a behavior called hill-topping, where he sits atop tall plants and watches for passing females ready to reproduce.



Distribution

Worldwide distribution of tarantula hawks includes areas from India to Southeast Asia, Africa, Australia, and the Americas. Tarantula hawk species have been observed from as far north as the state of Washington in the United States, and as far south as Argentina in South America. Nine species of tarantula hawks are found in the deserts of the southwestern United States, with *Pepsis formosa* and *Pepsis thisbe* being common. The two species are difficult to distinguish, but the majority of *P. formosa* have metallic blue bodies and reddish antennae, which separates them from *P. thisbe* (both species have bright orange wings that become transparent near the tip).

Trail for All People Update

Jas Arnold

Trail completion is in sight! A meeting of the design team which is comprised of the city of San Diego and RBF/Rick Engineering was held on Tuesday, December 10. A four-page set of drawings has been submitted to the city. These drawings will be the basis from which contractors will formulate their construction bids.

Significant changes made to previous plans include the addition of four shaded bench pop outs and the removal of the cross path and viewing pavilion due to the lack of a view. I think these are changes that will improve our final product.

We have been given the task of composing the plant and animal signage to appear along the trail plus a larger exhibit at the beginning. This is where **your input is sought**. Seven plant and three animal signs with verbiage in English and Spanish plus a companion Braille brochure need to be created. Mike Kelly and I are working on the flora and fauna list. A sample is shown here.

WHITE SAGE

Salvia apiana
Mint Family
Habitats: Sage Scrub, Chaparral

White to pale lavender flowers bloom in spring and summer. White sage has a strong scent and is an important honey plant. Fuzzy, near white foliage reflects hot summer sun and prompts the name *white sage*.

Illustration by Cynthia E. High

SALVIA BLANCA

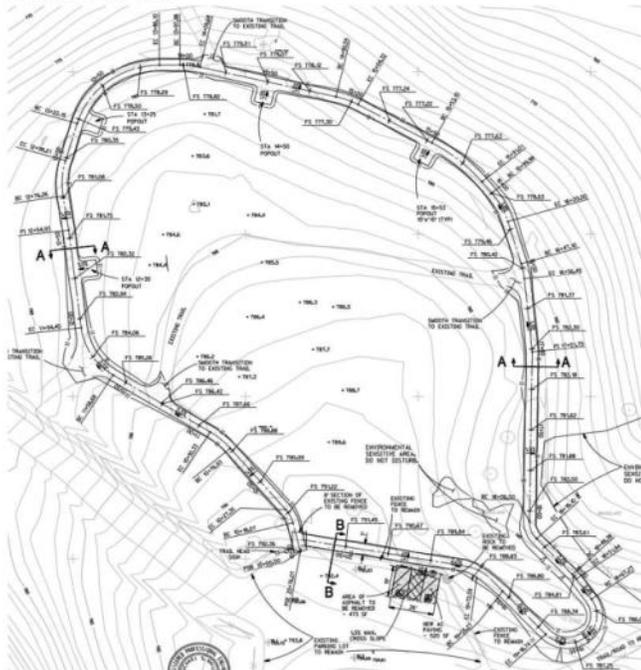
Salvia apiana
Familia de la menta
Hábitat: matorrales de salvia, chaparral

Blanco con flores de lavanda pálido florecen en primavera y verano. Salvia blanca tiene un olor fuerte y es una planta importante de miel. Fuzzy, cerca de follaje blanco refleja el sol de verano caliente y le solicita el nombre de Salvia blanca

For the larger exhibit, Beth Mather started discussion of the composition with "discusses the interaction of the plants and the animals. It could discuss the importance of open space and maintaining native environments." I'm collecting samples from similar exhibits. Please send any samples so I can get this underway. These compositions are due January 20, 2014.

Trail construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of next year! Please contact me (ziphel@san.rr.com) / 619-889-4348 with those samples, your comments on anything about the trail, and for a clearer rendition of the trail plan shown in this newsletter.

30% DESIGN



(Lusardi cont.) postmaster. This little post office survived until 1911 when it was moved to Del Mar.

Even the names of the many families that lived in the District are recorded. The Lusardi family history has great detail on the numbers of children the brothers had, when the principals and many of the children died, where they're buried, etc. But our history of the land takes an interesting turn in 1896.

Rancho Zorro

It was in 1896 that Francisco traded his share of the Lusardi District for 160 acres in Aliso Canyon, southwest of Escondido. Francisco's land was in turn sold to a famous movie star of the era, Douglas Fairbanks, Sr. He was building a big ranch that became known as Rancho Zorro, named for one of his most famous movies. He and his wife, the also famous Mary Pickford, already lived in Rancho Santa Fe. The Lusardi District and other properties were the lands adjacent to Rancho Santa Fe.

After buying 800 acres in Rancho Santa Fe in 1926, the couple then went on to buy out Pietro or Peter Lusardi's 2,000 acres. They publicly announced they had bought the "Sheep King" holdings for \$125,000, a princely sum in those days. They are the ones who damned the creek to form one of the two small "lakes" on the creek. They had big plans for a big home on the edge of the lake, a small village for ranch workers and much more. The dream came crashing down when the couple divorced on January 10, 1935. Fairbanks died in 1939 and so did his dreams of the giant Rancho Zorro.



A rare 1920s photo of Fairbanks' "Rancho Zorro" home
Photo courtesy of douglasfairbanks.org

The land development fight

Now the story gets complex. The land passed through several owners. At one point some of the land was sold to a developer syndicate of which the famous UCSD Scripps scientist, Roger Revelle, was a prominent partner. A block of 4,660 acres, then known as the La Jolla Valley, was sold

to the Teamsters Pension Fund. The latter was also the funding source for Irvin J. Kahn, the mobbed-up developer who tried to pave over Peñasquitos Canyon. Beset by scandal, the Teamsters Pension Fund withdrew. They sold the block to Dr. William R. "Bill" Bright, a well known evangelical Christian and founder of the Campus Crusade for Christ. He proposed building a major university campus, complete with thousands of student housing units, and thousands of residential units, the latter to subsidize an endowment for the university.

Opposition quickly developed during the 1960s. By now there was a vibrant conservation community that already had several fights and victories under its belt — such as Pauma Valley. Groups like the Sierra Club and C3 (Citizens Coordinate for Century 3) joined the fight to save the Lusardi/Santa Fe Valley and the Peñasquitos from development. The fight continued on into the 1990s and even the new century! The Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, formed officially in 1984, joined the fight at that time.

In the 1970s, San Diego was coming off the disaster that was Mira Mesa, an unplanned, big community that was considered to be in the "boonies" at the time. (I live here now!) There were few public services, no parks, schools, fire, police; not even a supermarket. The disaster led Republican mayor Peter Wilson to declare a moratorium on development in the city. He directed a planning effort to make sure that all future developments would pay their own way and provide the needed public services any community should have. New laws required Finance and Benefit Assessment

Districts be formed that would develop a detailed financial projection for all of the infrastructure needed in a new community. Each new home built in the new development would be assessed a fee sufficient to pay for this infrastructure. It was adopted into law and has worked pretty well since in the new communities north of SR52. In newer north city developments those fees are now more than \$100,000 per house!

In 1976 The City of San Diego General Plan was adopted, creating, in part, a geographic area of undeveloped land in the northern part of the city called the North City Future Urbanizing Area (NCFUA). In 1983, the city council approved a "phase shift" for the Campus Crusade for Christ's parcel to "Planned Urbanizing." Now the big fight came.

The conservation community saw that this type of development, called "leapfrog development" because it's far from existing infrastructure, was a threat not only to city and community finances, but a threat to the environment. These developments were fragmenting the open space all over the north city area, threatening wildlife corridors that connected open space parcels.

