



# Canyon News

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

Fall, 2014  
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## López Canyon Clean Up

Joleen Tomonaga

During the May fires there was a lot of chatter on nextdoor.com about the canyons in Mira Mesa. People were concerned about the kids that hang out there, worried they might start a fire. My husband and I decided to tour the canyon area at Blythe and Zapata (eastern end of López Canyon) and were amazed to find the amount of trash in there. This was no place for anyone to spend time in. It's believed the homeless live there from time to time as well, although it appeared no one had lived there for several months.

A few weeks before the clean up, Mike Kelly of the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Phyllis McGuire (a neighbor and 20+ year member of the Friends) and I did a walkthrough of the canyon to assess the size of the job. We talked to the kids that were hanging out there that day who were polite and supplied information to us on the lack of homeless usage. They were excited to hear about it getting cleaned up.

On Sunday July 20th, about 35 people appeared to help clean up the canyon from 10:00 until 2:00. They ranged in ages, 12 and up and included 5 or 6 volunteers from City Council candidate Chris Cates' campaign. I was really delighted by that size of a turnout and they did a phenomenal job. We filled a dumpster supplied by City Rangers full of trash big and small. Gift card prizes were given out to 'funniest', 'strangest', and 'largest' finds. One great repurposed find was a playhouse pulled out piece by piece and assembled just for fun. A neighbor driving by saw it and wanted it for their dog. Other neighbors stopped by to check in and get on the mailing list for the next clean up. It was a great day for all .



## New Bat Houses

Robert Quitt

Robert Quitt, a member of Troop 676, recently headed a project to construct and install three bat boxes in the Preserve to earn his Eagle Scout award, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts.

Robert has been a scout for 6 years. He visits the Canyon often and is intrigued by the natural beauty of its scenery and wildlife. On weekends he hikes with his family down the creek to the waterfall. To him, the Preserve is practically his back yard.

When the time came to complete an Eagle project, he decided to do something for the Preserve. After attending a Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon meeting, he decided to build bat houses as per their recommendation. He researched and learned about the benefits of bats and what he could do to help.

Bats have a wide habitat ranging across the world. However, as human populations increase, the habitats of bats and many other animals are put in jeopardy as their typical living spaces are compromised by (See Bats pg. 8)

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## Activities, 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:

##### **Introduction to Wildlife Tracking**

**Sat. 8 a.m.-10 a.m. Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13**

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](http://www.sdtt.org). No reservation necessary. 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. 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. 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. 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.

##### San Diego Tracking Team:

##### **Wildlife Survey Volunteer**

##### **Training**

**Sat., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. July 19, Oct 11**

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](http://www.sdtt.org). Email [info@sdtt.org](mailto: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. Oct 15**

**Field: Sun. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Oct 19**

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, sen-

**Maps** of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Carmel Mountain Preserve and Black Mountain Open Space Park are available at [www.Peñasquitos.org](http://www.Peñasquitos.org)

sory 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](http://www.sdtt.org). Email [info@www.sdtt.org](mailto: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

##### **Intermediate Track/Naturalist Class**

**Class: Wed. 7-9 p.m.. Oct 22**

**Field: Sat. 8 am - 4 pm, Nov 15**

The Tracker/Naturalist series of classes provides 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 in the field for "dirt time" instruction.

Intermediate class topics include: beyond the track - connecting the track to the animal, speculative tracking,, advanced aspects of track identification, additional species, and track aging. Cost \$50 (\$10 discount for SDTT members). Preregistration required. More information at [www.sdtt.org](http://www.sdtt.org). Email [info@sdtt.org](mailto:info@sdtt.org) or call 760-715-4102 to register.

##### **Advanced Tracker / Naturalist Class**

**Class: Wed. 7pm - 9 pm, Nov 12**

**Field: 8 am - 4 p.m., Dec 6**

The Tracker/Naturalist series of classes provides 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 the field for "dirt time" instruction.

Advanced class topics include: advanced gait interpretation, additional species, and further study of track-debris-substrate interaction and track aging.

Cost: \$50 (\$10 discount for SDTT members). Pre-registration required. More information at [www.sdtt.org](http://www.sdtt.org). Email [info@sdtt.org](mailto:info@sdtt.org) or call 760-715-4102 to register.

## Hike Opportunities

### October

#### Birding with all Your Senses

Sat. Oct. 18, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Join Jeanie Anderson, bird photographer, for an early morning hike. We will bird with all our senses along a tree-lined "less traveled by" trail that follows Peñasquitos Creek. The birds of summer may have migrated, so we will seek the denizens of the Canyon including Red-shouldered Hawks, Coopers Hawks, Acorn Woodpeckers, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow,, and more. Bird lists and maps will be provided. Please bring binoculars and sturdy shoes. Meet at the trailhead at Canyonside Park, 12350 Black Mountain Road, San Diego, CA 92129

#### Waterfall Loop History & Nature Hike with naturalist Mike Kelly

Sat. Oct 25, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Flat terrain. Learn what some of the major trees in the Preserve are, see wildflowers, and visit the waterfall. On the return hike we'll walk the original "immigrant" trail, the first transcontinental mail delivery, and the road Kit Carson took after the battle of San Pasqual. Meet at the kiosk on the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

#### Sensory Awareness Hike with Will Bowen

Sun., Oct. 26, 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

A hike to quiet the mind and deeply explore the senses - what we hear, touch, taste, smell, and feel 0 out in nature. This practice can help one have a more profound and rich connection with the natural world. Meet at the West End Parking Staging Area.

### November

#### Miner's Loop Trail

Sat., Nov. 15, 9 - 11:00 a.m.

A moderately difficult hike with naturalist Mike Kelly. Learn about the arsenic-gold mine and the colorful characters that built and ran it almost a century ago. Learn about the plants and animals of the chaparral. Meet at the Parking-Staging area at 14850 Carmel Valley Road, about 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Black Mountain Road in Rancho Peñasquitos.

#### Shaman's Hike with Will Bowen

Sun., Nov. 23, 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

A short hike to a power spot where we will explore shamanic traditions of the Americas. We will learn about saging, calling the directions, creating sacred space, and harnessing the energies of nature for healing, insight, and wisdom. We will do some healing work, sharing and story-telling, and make some shamanic art. This is a good opportunity for self-healing and connection with spirit through nature. Please bring a blanket to sit on and a drum or rattle. Meet West End Parking Staging Area.

### December

#### Miner's Loop Trail

Sat., Nov. 15, 9 - 11:00 a.m.

A moderately difficult hike with naturalist Mike Kelly. Learn about the arsenic-gold mine and the colorful characters that built and ran it almost a century ago. Learn about the plants and animals of the chaparral. Meet at the Parking-Staging area at 14850 Carmel Valley Road, about 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Black Mountain Road in Rancho Peñasquitos.

#### Shaman's Hike with Will Bowen

Sun., Dec. 14, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

A short hike to a power spot where we will explore shamanic traditions of the Americas. We will learn about saging, calling the directions, creating sacred space, and harnessing the energies of nature for healing, insight, and wisdom. We will do some healing work, sharing and story-telling, and make some shamanic art. This is a good opportunity for self-healing and connection with spirit through nature. Please bring a blanket to sit on and a drum or rattle. Meet at the West End Parking Staging Area.

## Special Event

### Arch in the Park

Sat. Oct. 18, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

As part of National Archaeology Day and California Archaeology Month, the San Diego County Archaeological Society is hosting the annual **Arch (aeology) in the Park** event, an educational day of archaeology and fun at the Los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House in Los Peñasquitos Canyon. Find out what archaeology is all about; dig in a mock excavation; play games; speak to local archaeologists; see archaeology exhibits, demos on stone tool making, and more.

To reach the Adobe, from I-15 take the Mercy Road exit and go west until Mercy Road ends at Black Mountain Road. Turn right and make a left at the next traffic light, at Canyonside Park, and continue past the ball fields.

For more information call 858-538-0935, visit [www.sdacas.org](http://www.sdacas.org), or email [info@sdacas.org](mailto:info@sdacas.org)

### Trail for All People Update

Jas Arnold

As noted in previous updates, construction may start in the early part of next year. Three informational sign exhibits will be placed along the trail. The content theme for each of these three exhibits are:

- Panorama
- Local Critters. The list includes red diamond rattlesnake, two stripe garter snake, Western Pacific rattlesnake, Western fence lizard, California gnatcatcher, greater roadrunner, California quail, desert cottontail, bobcat, coyote
- Historical Topic such as the arsenic mine.

The signs are at the formulation stage so any thoughts regarding content, location, and size are welcome. Email your thoughts to [ziphel@san.rr.com](mailto:ziphel@san.rr.com).

The construction documents and contract are currently being finalized.





## Trust and Trails

Mike Kelly, conservation chair

The photo accompanying this article depicts a legal mountain bike race in Black Mountain Open Space Park. The races, some with runners as well as bikers, have been taking place for many years. Permits are obtained by the sponsoring groups and the routes chosen under the direction of the Senior Park Ranger, Ed Christenson. I'm not aware of any controversy over these racers or mountain biking in general in BMOS.

### The "Tunnels"

However, this is not the case in other city open space parks. Controversy has been raging for several years now over mountain biking on the Del Mar Mesa, both on top of the mesa and in the eastern part of the mesa in and out of the "tunnels" section of the Del Mar Mesa Preserve. The "tunnels" are named for trails that go through the scrub oak chaparral in Deer Canyon. The scrub oaks, the rare *Quercus dumosa* (Nutall's scrub oaks), are tall enough that trails through them end up having a canopy of oaks over them. They are a favorite place to ride for many bikers. The California Native Plant Society and other conservation groups have raised issues with the use of these trails due to the presence of the rare Nutall's oak and other rare species of plants.

Several small trails, deer or migrant campers', existed back to the 1980s. Since then these trails have been illegally cut back to widen them both laterally and verti-



cally, while whole new segments and connections have been cut allegedly by the mountain bike community. Such trail work is in violation of city codes since it must be done under the direction of Park rangers, which didn't happen here.

### Other user groups and illegal trails

The "tunnels" controversy is reminiscent of the illegal trails cut by equestrians back in the 1980s-1990s on the western portion of the Del Mar Mesa Preserve and on Carmel Mountain Preserve.

I have personally witnessed illegal trails created by the running group, Hash House Harriers: one through a pristine native grassland on the nose of López Ridge in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. A similar trail has recently been created in the Camino Santa Fe bridge area of López Canyon by the same group. I personally witnessed this group start a race at my end of a cul-de-sac in Mira Mesa down into a finger canyon that is part of the Preserve —where there was no trail — then into the main canyon. I and others have reported these incursions but I'm not aware of any action taken by the authorities to investigate these. This may be due to a chronic shortage of Ranger staff or the difficulty of proving who did these incursions or, more troubling, the reluctance of Park authorities to issue citations for infractions of regulations.

### Mission Trails Regional Park

Mission Trails Regional Park is a current hot spot for trails controversy and mountain bikes; a big enough controversy to make the papers and TV recently. The

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife cracked down on the City Dept. of Parks and Recreation that manages MTRP for not protecting endangered plant species and sensitive habitats from illegal trails in the newly acquired portions of the park in Sycamore and Spring Canyons. Trails into these areas were

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*Pictured are mountain bikers in a race held July 2, 2014, in Black Mountain Open Space Park, organized by Quick 'n Dirty MTB Racing. Four such races are taking place in BMOS Park and four at Lake Hodges, all on Wednesday evenings. The races start at Black Mountain Community Park and run through the Santa Luz portion of BMOS. Photo by Connie Hatfield of Pink Shorts Photography.*

closed which prompted the protests organized by the mountain bikers that made the news.

Again, I have personally witnessed the events in MTRP and adjacent properties belonging to the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. For almost five years my company, Kelly & Associates, worked as sub-contractors on the Marine Corps base, much of the time in Sycamore, West Sycamore, and Spring Canyons. Our work focused on protecting the *Monardella viminea* (Willow monardella). This plant federally listed as endangered and is down to about 2500 individuals left in nature. Its numbers continue to drop.

We worked on parts of MCAS Miramar East that had many illegal trails that often wound through the Monardella habitat. We saw individual plants damaged by bikes. It was rare, way out there, to see anyone other than bikers. These trails are considered illegal because the Marines have signage warning trespassers that they are trespassing on Marine Corps lands. In fact, when the Marines first took NAS Miramar, they patrolled the eastern perimeter aggressively, stopping and citing trespassers, almost all bikers, and seizing their bikes. This proved to be an effective deterrent for several years. But the Marines pulled back behind a new perimeter fence, well inside their borders, leaving the lands outside "open," although still signed against trespassing.

Some of the new trails we saw developing over the years were what I call opportunistic trails, following a deer trail and widening it. Others were cut by a crew with tools, professionally done. In any case they were cut through Willow monardella habitat. My crew and I personally witnessed damage to this diminutive, beautiful shrub. The result of these observations and our reports, along with pressure from regulatory agencies: trail closures in these habitats in MTRP. Mountain bikers organized a protest at MTRP, denouncing the trail closures, but they remain closed.

### **A way forward?**

In Black Mountain Open Space we have largely avoided this illegal trail building issue. Part of this is luck I think. The park was a relatively small one up until a few years ago. This meant the Rangers and us park users could easily travel the entire park and notice illegal trail building if it was to occur. Part of this is a close working relationship with several park user groups and community members living on the mountain.

We have a very active Citizens Advisory Committee for the park. I've been part of this committee for over 20 years, heading it up for a number of years. Other parks have similar advisory committees. The principal user groups on our committee are the San Diego Hang Glider Association, the San Diego Mountain Bike Association, and hikers. Both the Hang Glider and SDMBA groups have been active in planning the park's future, including trails, and enthusiastic participants in clean-ups and trail maintenance.

We just finished a lengthy planning process to adopt a new Natural Resources Management Plan for the park. It was unanimously adopted by the City Council this month. The plan includes the trail system, trails to be closed, new connector trails to be opened, etc. Trails are being rerouted, where necessary, to avoid sensitive habitat and species. At every step of the way our CAC and its user groups have been consulted. SDMBA, in particular, was quite active and helpful in the trail planning process. Many hours were spent by the Ranger staff, City biologists, and users hiking existing trails or siting new ones.

One community group, from a neighborhood bordering the park on the south, came to the CAC and asked that a trail connector and trailhead be rerouted a short distance from their central street. They already have a parking problem with a deficit of parking spots when the local church had services. Moving the trail head a short distance avoided possibly exacerbating this problem. The newly proposed location was surveyed and the committee and the city adopted the proposed change.

When the Santa Luz grasslands were added to the park there was already a good trail system in place due to advance planning. Park users, especially bicyclists who use the trails more than any other user group, seem content with the system.

We have a good planning system in place in BMOS. But it didn't hurt that we didn't start the process only to find that someone had secretly built a system of trails through sensitive habitat.

## Imagining the Future Past

Will Bowen, PhD

It would difficult to find anyone around who has been walking Penasquitos Canyon for more than 25 years. That's about how long ago the Preserve started up and The Friends began.

What this means is that there is no one around who really knows what Penasquitos Canyon looked like back in the old days. Where this can be significant is in habitat restoration. What should the canyon look like? How do we want it to be?

For instance, imagine you were restoring the habitat around the waterfall? What plants should be there, with what frequency? How many coast barrel cacti should you plant?

Or maybe you might want to restore the bobcat population, or red leg frogs, or determine if there were an appropriate number of deer in the canyon.

The answers to these types of questions generally come from biologists and ecologists who base their decisions and evaluations on their experience and training. But are they looking far enough back in time? Are they consulting "Deep History"?

Back in 1995, Dr. Daniel Pauly at the University of British Columbia put out a warning that the biologists who were mapping out our marine reserves, meant to protect the fish, mammals, fowl, and flora of the coastal waters, were not thinking far enough back in time, and that was leading to failures of their management plans. He called the problem the "Shifting Baselines Syndrome".

According to Pauly, each new generation of biologists took an assessment of the stock of nature derived from when they began their careers as the ideal state we needed to return to or restore.

Thus the baseline of abundance shifted over the years as environmental resources subtly deteriorated. Pauly's answer to the problem was that it was important to look farther back and take seriously the anecdotes, stories, and data from much earlier times.

Here in San Diego, Dr. Todd Braje, a new professor of archaeology and historic ecology at San Die-

go State University (SDSU) has taken up Pauly's banner. Braje wants to do something to right our vision of the natural world by bringing it into historical focus.

"Mine is a call to arms," says Braje. "We have embraced a skewed view of the environment and have come to accept living in a 10% world, where we think 10% of our possible resources is normal. We need to rethink our resource management plans."

"Pauly was right when he argued that our resource management plans have been based on shallow historical records that do not reach back far enough in time. Effective resources management must be built on data sets that extend into a deeper past and take into account the impacts and sustainability practices of ancient peoples."

"Archaeology, for instance, can provide good data to help us assess ecological changes going back 12,000 years, to the start of the Holocene era, when mankind first appeared in this area. The problem is to get the management biologists to listen because the data archaeology can provide is different in form and scope from what they are used to."

Braje thinks that what is needed is more collaboration and interdisciplinary communication between the disciplines, which take into account Deep History and has a long term view of ecological relationships and change, both natural and man made.



SDSU Professor of Archaeology and Historic Ecology Dr. Todd Braje

SDSU is also thinking along the same lines because they are going to build a research center to address such issues called: "The Center for Climate Change and Sustainability Studies (C2 S2)". C2S2 will focus on interdisciplinary collaboration and build visions of "Desired Future Conditions" for our varied environments.

So bringing this all home; what is *your* image of a "Desired Future Condition" for Penasquitos Canyon Preserve?

To be able to adequately address this problem it is important not only to talk to ecologists and biologists but also to bone up on history, through such activities as looking at old photographs and drawings, reading historical accounts of the canyon, studying the archeological record, and finding out how Native Americans and Spanish/ Mexican colonialists interacted with the Canyon.

These activities can help better prepare Friends of the Canyon to be a part of the dialogue on the issues of resource management and restoration of Penasquitos Canyon Preserve.

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## **Friends Provide Support Del Dios Habitat Preservation Receives Major Funding from NRCS**

Stacy McCline

In October 2007, the San Dieguito River Valley was ravaged by the Witch Creek Fire. The community of Del Dios lost 23 homes on the hills along the north/west shore of Lake Hodges, including my family's. Eucalyptus trees played a significant role in and around our community by spreading fire.

Post-fire, Eucalyptus seedlings popped up where coastal sage scrub had been burned to charred nubs. All around the north shore of Lake Hodges, eucalyptus sprouted up from the blackened earth. The habitat destroyed had supported the rich bird diversity of the region, including the California Gnatcatcher, a well-known endangered native. A merry band of dedicated local volunteers took action in 2010. Through the years, many local residents have lopped, dragged and loaded dumpsters full of eucalyptus. The grass roots

efforts made a difference — over 6 acres of seedling eucalyptus were removed and the Coastal Sage Scrub plant community returned.

As a self-reliant grass roots effort, the Del Dios group did not have the status or stature to move the project to the next level – there is a lot of eucalyptus around Lake Hodges! The San Dieguito River Park/San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy already had plenty of excellent conservation work in progress and couldn't take on ours. The solution was Mike Kelly, Conservation Chair of the Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, to step in and ask FLPC to act as the non-profit sponsor of the Lake Hodges Eucalyptus Removal Project.

We were successful. What has been an all-volunteer effort has now been funded by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), a branch of U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, to the tune of about \$252,000 for a 3-year project. The continuity with the San Dieguito River Park/ River Valley Conservancy habitat restoration work both below the dam and into the San Pasqual Valley make this project a great fit for the NRCS funding for creating habitat for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, another small endangered bird. Research suggests as we re-introduce willows, and other native trees, we will have both endangered gnatcatchers and flycatchers nesting here and feeding on the abundant gnats, flies and other insects that grace Lake Hodges.

Our goal is to remove eucalyptus and plant native trees and shrubs: Oaks, Sycamores, Willows, Mulefat, Toyon and Lemonadeberry. We are balancing the removal of the non-native invasive eucalyptus with keeping nesting and perching sites for our native Raptors, and shade on our trails for hikers. There are 70 acres earmarked for eucalyptus removal, and 8 acres where we will be planting this spring. The long range plan is to see native trees growing along the many water courses feeding the north shore of Lake Hodges.

(Bats cont.)

human development.

Peñasquitos Canyon has the Lesser Long-Nosed Bat, along with a few other species that migrate here in the winter. For their size, bats have one of the slowest reproduction rates of any mammal, with mothers having just one pup each summer. Most bats that frequent the Peñasquitos area consume insects and are prey for some birds. They are helpful in maintaining a balanced ecosystem.

Building the boxes was not an easy job. Robert started by discussing the project with different authorities. He found a design, surveyed the site, and made trips to the Park Rangers' office to make the plan a reality. The Rangers were very helpful and cooperative in his project, for which he is thankful.

Robert used many resources to figure out the specifications for the boxes. The initial design was from Bat Conservation International and was modified to accommodate the local needs. The dimensions came from a Caltrans sign reference sheet to protect from high winds. The bat houses were made of exterior-grade plywood mounted on telescoping, galvanized steel poles with a concrete footing. Each box can house a small colony of bats.

It took 25 volunteers from Troop 676 and parents and 157 hours of work to get these bat houses in place. Completion of the project would not have been possible without their help. The project was delayed due to the mating season of the California Gnatcatcher, but the bat boxes now provide shelter to bats within the Canyon and help to keep them here. This was a great leadership experience. Robert is now submitting his application for his Eagle Scout Award.

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If you are receiving a printed version of this newsletter, it may be because we don't have a good email address for you. If you have an active email, and don't mind getting emailed newsletters, please help the Friends by providing us with your email address. We don't sell or share our lists, nor do we send endless email to clutter your mail boxes. We will continue to send you a printed newsletter if we don't get an email, but we would rather spend the time and money on habitat restoration. Send your address to [pqcanyonfriends@gmail.com](mailto:pqcanyonfriends@gmail.com). The wildlife will appreciate it. Thanks.

## Membership Application

Membership category: (circle 1 below)

Senior (62) or Student \$10	Individual \$15
Family \$20	Sponsor \$30
Corporate \$250	Life \$1000
Patron \$100	
Contribution \$ _____	

I/We are interested in the following:

Volunteer to help a committee (call to discuss)

Hikes

Indian Culture

Educational Workshops

School, Family, Youth Programs

Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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 **858.342.8856** for more information.

## Friends' Directory

### Officers

President: Les Braund - home	858-566-3958
	858-204-7142
Vice-President: Don Albright	619.443.5937
Treasurer: Pat Watkins	858.538.2527
Secretary: Edward DiBella	619.563.0717

### Other Members of the Board of Directors

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

### Walk Leaders

Don Albright, Will Bowen, Les Braund, Arne Johansen, Mike Kelly, Mary Lueking, Brian Swanson, Pat Watkins

### Committees

Conservation Chair: Mike Kelly, 858.342.8856  
 Newsletter: Janet Nelson, 619.519.3150  
[pqcanyonfriends@gmail.com](mailto:pqcanyonfriends@gmail.com)  
 Tracking Team Coordinator: Rick Botta,  
 858.672.0584  
 Webmaster: Beth Williams