



Canyon News

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

Summer, 2015
Volume 29, No. 3

2015 Annual Meeting Raptors of Peñasquitos Preserve

Jeanie Anderson

The theme of our annual meeting on Saturday, June 13th was RAPTORS OF PENASQUITOS PRESERVE. Our guest speaker, falconer Tom Stephan, shared his life-time experience with birds of prey. Tom treated us to a fascinating presentation on Barn Owls in San Diego County and his positive impact on their populations thru installing barn owl nest boxes, almost 30,000 installed in our County at this writing. In fact, one of his boxes was for the world famous Molly the Owl.

Accompanying his talk, Master Falconer Andrea and her apprentice Dave Metzgar brought beautiful raptors to demonstrate their unique adaptations for hunting.



First, we had close up views of a female American Kestrel named Arwin. In our canyon, you will often see the male and female Kestrels in close proximity, either in the same tree or adjacent. We learned that Arwin's favorite prey is lizard. Kestrels also enjoy grasshoppers and other flying insects.

Next up, we enjoyed meeting a Lanner Falcon from a different part of the world, with similar markings to the smaller Peregrine Falcon, seen at Torrey Pines. More on Lanner Falcons: <http://www.arkive.org/lanner-falcon/falco-biarmicus/image-G33834.html>

And to complete the demonstration, we were treated to a female Harris Hawk. These hawks frequent the deserts of the southwest and are known as Sky Wolves as they hunt in a social group, focusing on desert cottontail as their prize prey item. You can learn more about Harris Hawks hunting strategies at:

http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/hawk_harris

The Thunderbird of Native American lore is named after the Harris Hawk. The tail feathers in this image show some of the distinctive pattern. The leather straps which a falconer affixes to their bird's legs are called "Jesses".



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Peruvian Pepper Trees: San Diego's Signature Historical Tree

Will Bowen, PhD

This past April I went down to CalTrans' offices for a special meeting about the Peruvian pepper trees (*Schinus molle*) of Old Town. The city had invited citizenry to comment on their proposed project to remove and destroy some 18 or more pepper trees as part of their plan to improve sidewalks along Juan Street.

There were a number of people in attendance including city engineers, arborists, archaeologists, and historians. Luminaries included Bruce Coons, the executive director of Save Our Heritage (Soho) Foundation. Almost everyone thought the city should try and save the trees; but if they had to be cut down, then they should be replaced with new pepper trees.

Bruce Coons remarked that pepper trees are our "signature historical tree" and "Pepper trees are how we used to locate old adobes out in the San Diego back country!"

The city agreed to do their best to save trees but they stressed that they could not replace them with like trees because pepper trees are on the State's invasive plant list and hence it would be against the law.

Instead, the city planned on replacing the cut trees, with varieties such (see page 7)

Activities, Hikes, and Volunteer Opportunities

All of our hikes are free. There is a fee for some of 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.

Hike Leaders Needed

Do you have a passion for birds, plants, or animals? Do you find the history of the Preserve fascinating? Do you enjoy sharing your knowledge with others?

Volunteer to be a hike leader for the Friends of Peñasquitos. The Friends are setting up a training program for new hike leaders. We will bring you up to speed on the history of the Preserve, fill in gaps of your knowledge of the flora and fauna of the area, and show you the ins and outs of leading a hike.

The Friends want to offer more hikes in Peñasquitos Canyon and the surrounding open spaces. We need your help to make that happen. If you are interested, or just looking for more information, please contact Mike Kelly at 858-342-8856 or mkelly1@san.rr.com

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.

Monthly:

Introduction to Wildlife Tracking

Sat. 8 a.m.-10 a.m. July 11, Aug 8, Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12

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 coy-

otes, bobcats, raccoon, deer and other wildlife in the area! Information at www.sdttd.org. No reservation necessary. Rain cancels.

NOTE: The tracking walk will be combined with the quarterly Wildlife Survey Volunteer Training for the first two hours. Both are free! Anyone who is interested is welcome to stay for the rest of the training day (ends at 3:00 pm)! 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. July 9, Sept 10, Nov 12

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 CAC

Thurs. 6:30 p.m. July 16, Sept. 17, Nov. 19

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. July 7, Sept. 1, Nov 3

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 am-3 pm July 11, Oct. 10

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. Preregis-

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

tration 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.sdttd.org. Email info@sdttd.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. Sept. 16, Oct 14

Field Sat. 8 am- 4 p.m. Sept 19, Oct 17

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 (\$10 discount for SDTT members). Preregistration required. Payment is due by Friday before the classroom session. More information at www.sdttd.org. Email info@www.sdttd.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

Tracker Intensive Dirt Time

Sat. 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Aug 15

Enhance your tracking skills with an experienced SDTT tracker. This free-form dirt-time will focus on advanced tracker/naturalist concepts with topics depending on what type of sign is found. Topics we hope to cover: small mammals like mice, voles, shrews; reptile or amphibian sign; gaits; various bird species; skull identification; and possibility some trailing. This dirt-time session is for new trackers, apprentice trackers (counts toward continuing education requirement), and seasoned trackers alike, and should help anyone who is planning to take a CyberTracker Track & Sign evaluation. End time is approximate, so bring a lunch and be prepared to spend the day outside. Attendees are encouraged to use the SDTT Facebook Group to coordinate ride sharing: tinyurl.com/olrkmr3. Cost: \$10. More information at www.sdttd.org.

Email info@www.sdt.org or call 760-715-4102 to register. Meet at the Historic Adobe Ranch House on Canyonside Park Drive-way and Black Mountain Road, Rancho Peñasquitos

Intermediate and Advanced Tracker/Naturalist Class

Class: Wed. 7 – 9 p.m. Nov 4

Field: Sat. 8 am – 4 p.m. Nov 7, Dec 5

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 the field for “dirt time” instruction. This classroom session combines both intermediate and advanced tracking topics. Intermediate class topics include: beyond the track--connecting the track to the animal, speculative tracking, advanced aspects of track identification, additional species, and introduction to track-debris-substrate interaction and track aging. Advanced class topics include: advanced gait interpretation, additional species, and further study of track-debris-substrate interaction and track aging. **The field sessions for this class are: Intermediate: Saturday, November 7, 8 am – 4 pm. Advanced: Saturday, December 5, 8 am – 4 pm.** Cost: \$50 (\$10 discount for SDTT members). Includes combination classroom session and Intermediate field session. More information at www.sdt.org. Email info@www.sdt.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.

Hike Opportunities

July

Wildlife Night Hike with Mike Kelly

Sat., July 11, 7:15 p.m.

A moderately paced walk on flat ground. Do bring insect repellent and a flashlight. Enjoy the Preserve at night,. On past walks we've seen Mule Deer, bats, tarantulas, owls, and more. Meet at the kiosk near the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Night Walk with Will Bowen

Sat. July 25, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

A walk in the canyon at night. It's an eerie, unusual, and peaceful place filled with many wonders. The senses are enriched at night and are our guides. We will also con-

template the moon, stars, and constellations above. Bring a flashlight, water, and insect repellent. Meet in the parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd.

August

Wildlife Night Hike with Mike Kelly

Sat., Aug 8, 7:00 p.m.

A moderately paced walk on flat ground. Do bring insect repellent and a flashlight. Enjoy the Preserve at night,. On past walks we've seen Mule Deer, bats, tarantulas, owls, and more. Meet at the kiosk near the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Owl Prowl!

Sat.. Aug. 22, 7:00 p.m.

Join naturalist Brian Swanson for an evening in the preserve looking and listening for nocturnal critters. We will be especially looking for our smallest resident owl, the misnamed Western Screech Owl. This owl has a symbiotic relationship with another pint-sized preserve resident, the blind snake. Join Brian to learn about this and other interesting wildlife and historic facts. About two miles, mostly flat. Bring a light coat, flashlight and closed toe shoes. Meet in the paved lot at the far west end of the Canyonside Park ballfields, west of Black Mtn Road on Canyonside Park Drive.

Full Moon Walk with Will Bowen

Sat. August 29, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

A walk in the canyon under the eerie light of the full moon. Moonlight's photoelectric effect affects all plants and animals, including ourselves. Discover it! Bring a flashlight, water, and insect repellent. Meet in the parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd.

September

Owl Prowl!

Fri., Sept 4, 6:30 p.m.

Join naturalist Brian Swanson for an evening in the preserve looking and listening for nocturnal critters. We will be especially looking for our smallest resident owl, the misnamed Western Screech Owl. This owl has a symbiotic relationship with another pint-sized preserve resident, the blind snake. Join Brian to learn about this and other interesting wildlife and historic facts. About two miles, mostly flat. Bring a light coat, flashlight and closed toe shoes. Meet in the paved lot at the far west end of the Canyonside Park ballfields, west of Black Mtn Road on Canyonside Park Drive.

Wildlife Night Hike with Mike Kelly

Sat., Sept 12, 6:30 p.m.

A moderately paced walk on flat ground. Do bring insect repellent and a flashlight. Enjoy the Preserve at night,. On past walks we've seen Mule Deer, bats, tarantulas, owls, and more. Meet at the kiosk near the corner of Park Village Road and Camino del Sur Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Birding with all Your Senses

Sat., Sept. 19, 7:45 a.m.

Join Ornithologist Jeanie Anderson on a path in the canyon with many birds both visible and calling. Bring sturdy shoes, binoculars and cover-ups. Handouts and checklists will be provided. Meet at the west end of Canyonside Park Driveway, 1 block west of Black Mtn. Rd. at the Preserve sign at the beginning of the white ranch house fence. 12350 Black Mtn. Rd. Rancho Peñasquitos

Owl Prowl!

Fri., Sept 25, 6:30 p.m.

Join naturalist Brian Swanson for an evening in the preserve looking and listening for nocturnal critters. We will be especially looking for our smallest resident owl, the misnamed Western Screech Owl. This owl has a symbiotic relationship with another pint-sized preserve resident, the blind snake. Join Brian to learn about this and other interesting wildlife and historic facts. About two miles, mostly flat. Bring a light coat, flashlight and closed toe shoes. Meet in the paved lot at the far west end of the Canyonside Park ballfields, west of Black Mtn Road on Canyonside Park Drive.

Full Moon Spider Hike with Will Bowen

Sat., Sept. 26, 7 - 9:00 p.m.

In late summer and early fall, in the early hours of evening, Orb spiders build huge beautiful webs across the trail. This is a hike to look for and admire these webs. We might find other spiders too, like Black and Brown Widows. Bring a flashlight, water, and insect repellent. Meet in the parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd.

As the weather warms up, please remember to bring plenty of water and sun protection (hat or sun screen or both) when you visit the parks and canyons. Hiking boots or trail sneakers are recommended.

Coastkeeper Watchdogs Local Waters

Will Bowen, PhD

For three days after it rains, the Department of Public Health routinely closes our local beaches. That is because the rain waters wash down through our local creeks and streams picking up pollutants and bacteria which are carried out to the ocean at the estuaries and lagoons. The pollutants and bacteria, which end up in the surf, can make people sick until they dissipate.

Public Health isn't the only organization that monitors our local waters. Coastkeeper, an organization with offices at Liberty Station in Point Loma, enlists an army of over 200 volunteers, who watchdog the creeks and streams of our inland watersheds which flow down to merge with coastal waters.

Once a month, Coastkeeper volunteers go inland and collect water samples at three different sites along each of 9 of our 11 watersheds, which are large areas that drain runoff and rain water into the ocean at specific locations. Last year, volunteers devoted 1888 hours to water sampling.

The two watersheds that Coastkeeper does not sample, Santa Margarita and San Juan, cannot be easily accessed because they include restricted areas on the Camp Pendleton Marine base.

On March 11, Coastkeeper released the results of its testing for 2014, giving us a good indication of county wide trends of water quality. Coastkeeper rated or graded the water quality of each of our watersheds from 0-100 and gave each a correlated score from "Poor" through "Excellent", much like you might give a student a grade in a high school class.

Unfortunately, the results were not very good. The 9 watersheds ranged from fair through marginal, with one poor. Gradewise, this would be from a C+ down to an F grade. These results, which appear to be worsening, indicate we need to pay much more attention to our waters and hopefully try to clean them up.

WATERSHED SCORES

San Luis Rey	77	Fair
Carlsbad	72	Fair
San Dieguito	76	Fair
Los Peñasquitos	76	Fair
San Diego	62	Marginal
Pueblo	64	Marginal
Sweetwater	62	Marginal
Otay	53	Marginal
Tijuana	12	Poor

Besides the poor overall scores, which worsen as you move from North County to the South Bay, Coastkeeper encountered more specific problems with the water quality.

One big problem involved the amount of dissolved oxygen in water. It was determined that 30% of the water samples collected contained mean levels of dissolved oxygen below what is considered to be a healthy level.

Dissolved oxygen is important for life in the streams and creeks. When it gets too low life begins to die. Coastkeeper thinks that low levels of dissolved oxygen may explain the fish die offs they encountered in the San Luis Rey River last spring.

Coastkeeper also found that in 57% of the samples the level of Enterococcus bacteria exceeded healthy standards. Enterococcus is a lactic acid type of bacteria similar to Staph infection. Enterococcus measurement has recently been joined with the measurement of E.coli bacteria as the new standard for measurement of unhealthy bacteria in water.

It was also determined that 8 of 9 of the watersheds were marginal or poor in terms of level of E. Coli, which is bacteria related to fecal matter (animal, bird, and human feces).

The presence of higher than normal levels of Enterococcus and E Coli bacteria means that there is a potential for staph, ear and eye infection, hepatitis, rashes, diarrhea, and cysts from exposure to our waters.

Coastkeeper thinks that our worsening water quality scores may be related the drought we have been having for the last three years. Our normal rainfall is 10.34 inches a year. For the last three years it has been averaging about 7.77. This means that pollutants and bacteria have less flushing and more time to build up to higher levels. Water levels have been lower and higher in temperature, facilitating the bacterial process.

California State Parks recently put out a brochure describing how the park system is preparing for an expected global warming. Global warming may also contribute to worsening of water quality locally because it will warm our waters and contribute to lower water levels due to evaporation.

Coastkeeper also looked at each watershed for individual problems.

The San Luis Rey watershed which uses the San Luis Rey River and flows out to the ocean near Oceanside Harbor showed problems with water pH being too acid and having low oxygen levels.

The Carlsbad watershed, which is fueled by Escondido Creek and drains into San Elijo Lagoon, had high levels of nitrates and a substantial amount of algae bloom.

The San Dieguito watershed flows down the San Dieguito River and out to the sea right next to the Del Mar racetrack. It measured high in ammonia and phosphorus, and excess turbidity or sedimentation.

The Los Penasquitos watershed, utilizing Penasquitos Creek, flows out into the ocean at Torrey Pines State Beach. This year it dropped from a Good rating to a Fair rating.



Peñasquitos Creek flows out to sea at Torrey Pines State Beach.

The San Diego watershed, which uses the San Diego River, flowing out to the sea near Ocean Beach, dropped two levels from Good to Marginal this year and showed high levels of phosphorus and ammonia, as well as lowered levels of oxygen.

The Pueblo watershed ends up as Chollas Creek, which drains into the bay right next to 32nd Street Naval Station. Chollas Creek is fueled by urban runoff and was found to have a high content of phosphorus and ammonia due to fertilizers and pesticides.

The Sweetwater watershed, fueled by Sweetwater Creek and draining into the bay near Pepper Park, had very low levels of oxygen which threatens all life in the creek.

Otay watershed, which uses the Otay River and flows into the south bay at Imperial Beach had high bacteria levels.

The Tijuana watershed makes use of the Tijuana River and flows out to the ocean just south of Imperial Beach through the Tijuana Estuary. This watershed had very low scores in all the tests categories. Consequently, when it rains the ocean waters become very polluted near Imperial Beach.

Coastkeeper says the burden of responsibility for water quality rests with all of us. Urban runoff or rainwater which passes over and through man made areas such as lawns, gardens, roads, and buildings is the chief cause of pollution.

We can help by not using fertilizers and insecticides on our

lawns and gardens and making sure our vehicles are not leaking any fluids onto our driveway or the street.

On a larger scale, the building industry needs to find ways design building complexes that trap rainwater and recycle or reuse it rather than just let it run over their property and out to the sea.

Coastkeeper is in need of more volunteers who can go out in the field and collect water for testing in the lab. They will be holding trainings on July 18, September 26, and November 21 at their Liberty Station Office. You must first signup online at their website www.sdcoastkeeper.org. You can also call Jamie Hampton at 619-758-7743 or email jamie@sdcoastkeeper.org.



New Preserve & Open Space Ranger Station

Mike Kelly

A new Ranger Station nears completion at the intersection of Black Mountain Road and Mercy Road. It will be home for the rangers of both Black Mtn. Open Space Park and Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. This building will replace dilapidated trailers inside the equestrian center that lay in the flood plain and did get flooded during big flood events. The new station is funded in large part by monies from the old Park Village Estates funding from about 1988, set aside for Black Mountain Open Space Park. The Citizens Advisory Committee for the park voted to spend the remaining hundreds of thousands of dollars on this facility, being important for the morale and well being of our Rangers who are doing a great job in our parks!

Strangers in a Stolen Land Indians of San Diego County from Prehistory to the New Deal

Mike Kelly, Conservation Chair

(Ed. Note: This is part two of a two part series. Part 1 was in the Spring, 2015 edition of the Friends newsletter.)

Statehood Period

1850 to 1860 saw the formation of the future state of California. The votes in 1849 to form a state weren't recognized by the federal government, but it mattered little to the locals. As Carrico characterizes it, there was a rush to establish new institutions, new laws, and the domination of the new white settlers over both the Mexican population and the Indians.

Sadly for the Indians, many of the new Indian Acts were directly copied from the Black Codes of the slaveholding south, not surprising since most of the American settlers were coming from the southern states and territories. The same California legislators passed Fugitive Slave Laws.

Indentureship of both Indian minors and adults became more common. Laws to supposedly protect Indian rights to remain on their lands weren't enforced. Anglos could buy Indian "vagrants" out of jail and force them into indentitude and the Anglos got to set the length of the indenture period and the pay rate! Another expression for this is "a cheap and steady labor supply" as Carrico correctly describes it, and: "Throughout the 1850s and 1860s, Los Angeles County held Sunday auctions of Indians on a regular basis."

Indians were not allowed to apply for the California bar, to testify in court or any legal proceedings, or to have native counsel. Floggings of Indians, common under the Mission system, was legalized in the new California state laws and was liberally applied. Laws were passed making it illegal for firearms to be sold to Indians, thus depriving them of the ability to hunt game in an environment increasingly depauperate of game that could be hunted with antiquated bow and arrow.

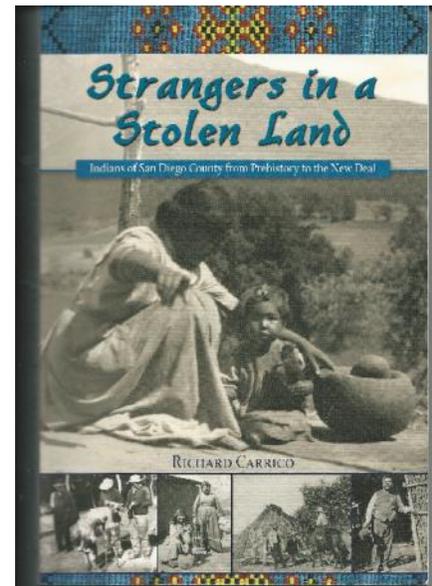
The Common School Act was modified in 1860 to exclude Indians, along with Negroes and "Mongolians" from the schools. Later, the Catholic Church established some Indian schools.

Indian land tenure, supposedly recognized under the Treaty of Guadalupe, was gutted in practice. The best land was quickly lost to the new Anglo settlers.

Resistance to the new rules and practices was met with force that Carrico describes as harsher and more violent than that of the Spanish or Mexicans.

At the Local Level

The author details the local lives of San Diego County tribes over the decades in great detail, painting a de-



pressing picture of the lot of the different tribes. Many individual stories are told and referenced. Labor offered to Indians was menial: ". . . in his 1875 annual report, Special United States Commissioner Charles A. Wetmore found the employment of southern California Indians to be just a niche above slavery"

Carrico sums up things succinctly: "In many ways, the Kumeyaay, Luiseno, Cahuilla, and Cupeno in San Diego County were in limbo, caught between a rich, cultural past and a bleak, dismal future determined in large part by others. They were indeed becoming strangers in their own land."

By the 1870s Federal neglect of the Indians began to change with the development of a system of reservations, ten being authorized in the County by late 1875. Carrico spends quite a bit of interesting time on the major Indian leaders at the beginning of the reservation epoch. Establishment of the reservations was fought by local whites and the *San Diego Union*, who didn't want Indians to get permanent land tenure. The final push came when a local Indian leader, Olegario, one of those covered by Carrico, traveled to Washington, D.C. and visited with U.S. President Grant. Grant promised relief for the Indians and was true to his word. Land was identified and some of it bought for future reservations (see map). The Indians were granted 52,400 acres for 9 of the reservations, a fraction of the lands they once controlled. Lands the Indians were living in at the time were often not included in the new reservations. Indians were still not allowed to become citizens of the U.S. or to vote.

Lest I make it seem that Carrico is anti-white, he pays homage when it's due to the people who treated the Indians well, whether as individual rancher or reformer such as Helen Hunt Jackson. (Continued page 5) (Review from page 7) Jackson was the author of the run-a-way best seller *Ramona*. She championed the cause of the Indians and inspired others to become part of a reform movement on behalf of the Indians. And praise goes to the effort of anthropol-

ogists and their students to document fading cultures and languages of our local tribes in decades past.

Reservations or not, a powerful national movement existed to Americanize the Indians, to detribalize them. It was often disguised as something else: the Dawes Act of 1887, a.k.a. the Allotment Act. Individual Indians or families could apply for an allotment of the tribe's reservation lands. All over the country some reservations, in San Diego it was four, voted to allot some part of their lands. Threats of a federal takeover of the lands and the promise of citizenship were inducements to apply for these allotments. Of course, these lands, owned by poor Indians, were soon sold to whites who coveted the lands.

From the 1890s on, the historical record didn't improve. While new reservations were being established on poor tracts of land, others, like the prime real estate near Warners Springs, was stolen from the Cupeno Indians living on it. Later, Kumeyaay were to be expelled from the Capitan Grande reservation to make way for the future dam and El Capitan reservoir. Ironically, on a historic scale, each tribe bought land destined to become the site of the Barona and Viejas casino reservations.

In an Epilogue, Carrico brings us up to date with modern realities, more promising than in any time in decades. The book, especially the second half, is well populated by period pictures.

Peruvian Pepper Trees cont. from page 1

as Cork Oak, which is on the approved list, even though Cork Oak is not native to this area and has nothing to do with Old Town history.

I walked the sidewalks of Juan Street where they had already marked the trees to be felled with orange Day-Glo paint. Some of them seemed very old. The sidewalk didn't look that bad to me. With a little work and a good steam cleaning they could be as good as new.

The problem, however, is that all the trees seemed in very poor health, with very little foliage and a build up of dead leaves obstructing all the branches. No one cares for the trees and they are not watered. The only water they get comes from the watering of the small nearby Old Town golf course.

Another problem is that there are numerous 6 inch stumps of cut pepper trees all along the sidewalk which could cause people to trip or stub their toe. These stumps should be leveled.

Pepper trees are very important in San Diego history. They were brought here by Spanish sailors in colonial times and planted around many of our earliest dwellings. The oldest pepper tree is said to be up at San Luis Rey Mission in

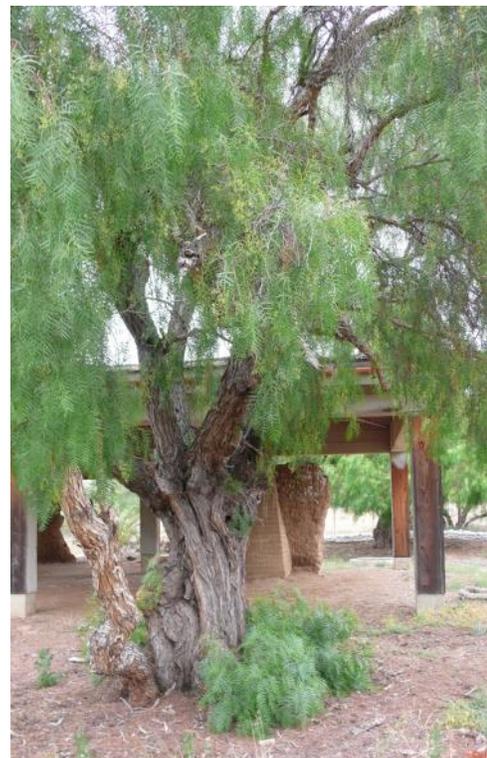
Oceanside, but there is a very large and very old tree right next to the old CalTrans building in Old Town.

In Penasquitos, there are pepper trees around the El Cuervo adobe, the Lopez homestead ruins, and the Johnson Taylor ranch house. They were planted for shade and as a wind break. They are hardy and drought resistant and do well in this climate.

There are also lots of pepper trees in nearby Sorrento Valley because Andrew Cassidy, the first tide keeper of the bay, planted a large orchard of them on his ranch, which was built on the ruins of Bonafacio Lopez's country adobe.

In Peru, where the trees come from, they are revered as a sacred plant. The Incas planted them around their temples and made "chicha", a native beer from their berries--which look and taste a lot like peppercorns. The Spirituality movement in Mexico adopted the tree and used the frowns to sweep over the body in ritual cleansings called "limpiadas".

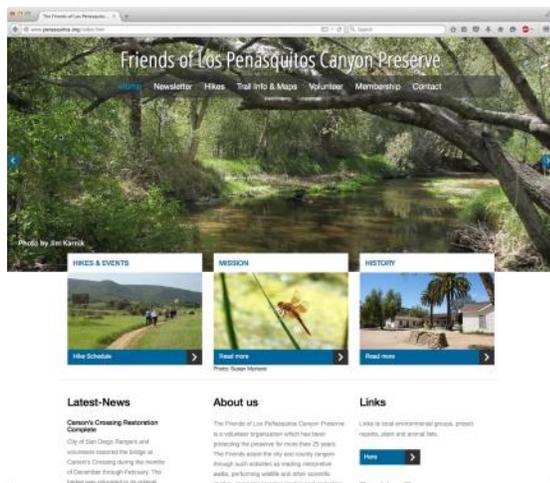
We here in Penasquitos Canyon are confronted with the same issue as in Old Town. Pepper trees are part of the historical past of the canyon and were planted around all of our old dwellings. If something were to happen to our pepper trees or if they were to die of old age or disease we would not be able to legally replace them. It seems to me that we might need some special legislation to help protect these symbols of our past and keep our historic pepper trees flourishing into the future.



There are six old pepper trees in association with the El Cuervo Adobe.



Visit www.penasquitos.org and click on the video link to see the Friends' latest video: "A Long Tradition of Flying at Black Mountain." The video was financed by the San Diego Hang-gliding Association and produced in collaboration with them. Although it's short, it covers the history of gliders, hang-gliding, and paragliding from 1932 to the present!



The long-discussed redesign of the Friends' website has been completed. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our webmaster (webmistress??), Beth Williams, the Friends website has been completely updated making it Google search compliant and scalable for mobile devices. The design is very attractive, but that's just my opinion. What's yours?

Visit www.penasquitos.org to see it.

-- Mike Kelly

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. 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
Contribution \$ _____	Patron \$100

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, 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, pqcanyonfriends@gmail.com
Tracking Team Coordinator: Rick Botta,
858.672.0584
Webmaster: Beth Williams