



Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

Jan./Feb. 1997
Volume 11 No. 1

Exchange of Letters

The El Cuervo Adobe

[Editor's note. Dr. Will Bowen published an article "Save the El Cuervo Adobe" in Canyon News, Vol. 10, No. 6 (Nov. 1966). Dr. John Northrop, a frequent contributor to Canyon News over the years, wrote the following letter concerning Bowen's article. Bowen, in turn, responds to Northrop's letter with a letter on page 10. The "Johnson-Taylor Ranch house" referred to by Northrop is now called "Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos," following the original name on the Mexican land grant. Readers are referred to "Rancho Peñasquitos — A Brief History," a flyer available at the ranch house.]

Nov. 19, 1996

Dear Editor:

Re: "Save the El Cuervo Adobe," Canyon News, V 10, No.6, (Nov. 1966).

First, I would like to congratulate Will Bowen for his efforts to get funding to save the El Cuervo Adobe. However, there are a couple of points that should be made clear. For example, the El Cuervo adobe was built by Captain Francisco María Ruíz, *Commandante* of the San Diego Presido, circa 1835 (Ref. 1). He chose this homesite at the "south westernmost portion of his land grant, the end nearest San Diego, to be near his friend (Don Francisco Maria) Alvarado" whose Rancho Soledad adjoined Rancho Peñasquitos. In his declining years, *Commandante* Ruíz was cared for by Don Alvarado and his wife, Tomasa Pico de Alvarado. "Records do not disclose the extent of his (Ruíz) ranching activities, but he did raise cattle on the rancho and constructed a large adobe house" (Ref. 2). On March 15, 1837, two years before his death, Ruíz willed Rancho Peñasquitos, including his adobe *hacienda*, to Don Alvarado (Refs. 1,2). In 1859, Capt. George A. Johnson married Don Alvarado's daughter, Estefana, and, in 1861, made plans to build his country home (the recently renovated Johnson-Taylor Ranch house) at the east end of the canyon. In 1860, Johnson "paid a \$4 fee to record his brand and turned his stock out to graze on the ranch" (Ref. 3). Estefana's brother, Diego, "Occupied the old Alvarado homestead (founded by Capt. Ruíz) at the west end of Peñasquitos Canyon" (*ibid*, page 8).

From these documents, it is clear that the Ruíz adobe was in fact built by *Commandante* Ruíz, that it was willed to Don Alvarado, along with the rest of the Rancho, when Ruíz died in 1839 at the age of 85 years.

I, for one, think that the Ruíz adobe is well worth saving. It is not only by far the oldest adobe in the Preserve (it predates the Johnson *hacienda* by 25 years and the Mohnike adobe by 75 years), but also it is the only Mexican adobe there. The others were all constructed after the American-Mexican war was over, and perforce, are built in a different style and of different materials. In fact, the Ruíz adobe is the oldest standing adobe domicile in San Diego County. I suggest that former City Councilman Bill Mitchell, long a supporter of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve in general and the Ruíz adobe in particular, as a possible contact. Bill not only knows the canyon well (he

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Election Results

Voters Support Balance & Planning

Mike Kelly

November 5's election results for local San Diego land use issues show the voters want good planning and a balance between development and the environment. Voters approved Propositions E and H, while voting down Propositions F and G.

All four propositions dealt with future developments in the North City Future Urbanizing Area (NCFUA). This 12,000 acre area is bordered by Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve on the south, Rancho Peñasquitos on the east, Carmel Valley on the West and the San Dieguito River Valley on the north. The NCFUA was put off limits by Proposition A in 1984 to urban level development without a "phase shift" vote of the people. We covered these issues in our Sept./Oct. 1996 newsletter.

E and H had been recommended as a yes vote by community planning and environmental groups (the Friends included), including the Friends. These same groups recommended voting no

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Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Wildlife Track and Sign Survey

The purpose of this study is to monitor the wildlife of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve through the use of periodic track and sign count transects. This study will allow the determination of the following:

- the presence or absence of certain rare species and other target species which can reflect the health of the ecosystem;
- substantial changes in wildlife populations over time;
- the use of different habitats by the target species which could lead to the identification of critical habitat areas and corridors.



Volunteers (high school and older, please) are needed to help with this quarterly survey.



Volunteer Training Saturday January 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Training will include basic track, sign, and habitat recognition as well as details on the implementation of the survey protocol. Please bring a sack lunch, be prepared to spend much of the day outdoors, and be ready to take notes. The training will be held at the Ranch House near the intersection of Black Mountain Road and Mercy Road. Also, please call 484-3219 to confirm that you will be participating in this training and survey. The same number may also be used to get directions to the training or to make further inquiries. If you have participated in one of last year's surveys and do not wish to participate in the training, you may come by between noon and 2 p.m. to sign up for your transects.

Winter 1997 Survey January 25 through February 2

At the training, volunteers will be asked to sign up for transect teams which will be lead by tracking team members at different times during the survey period.

The transects are segments of trails of approximately one mile in length which are distributed throughout Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve adjacent openspace. These transects will be surveyed four times per year. Each quarter, the transect teams will be given a period of nine days (Saturday to the following Sunday) during which to survey their transect.

If you are unable to participate in this quarter's survey, but would like to participate in the future, please call 484-3219 periodically for updates.



Good Flower Season Shaping Up

This winter's early rains have been gentle, soaking affairs that are already promoting lush growth in the Preserve. Blooms are already evident in some parts, including Spice bush, Calif. Spine bush, Indian Warrior, Manzanita, and Winter currant. Fuschia flowering gooseberry should open up its red blossoms in early January, followed closely by Shooting stars. Fair shrimp and frog and toad tadpoles are enlivening vernal pools in the area. Join one of our nature walks and enjoy the flowers and critters.

Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. **Rain (not drizzle) cancels.** For details or group hikes, call 484-3219 for recorded information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have ongoing wildlife surveys, stream surveys, invasive weed removal projects, seed collection and planting programs to name a few. We also need help with organizational aspects of our work.

January

Friends Monthly Meeting

Call Mike at 566-6489 for time and place of Friends' monthly business meeting.

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Intermediate Tracking Walk at West End

Sun., Jan. 5, 8 a.m. - noon. Practice your tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

New Moon Nightwalking

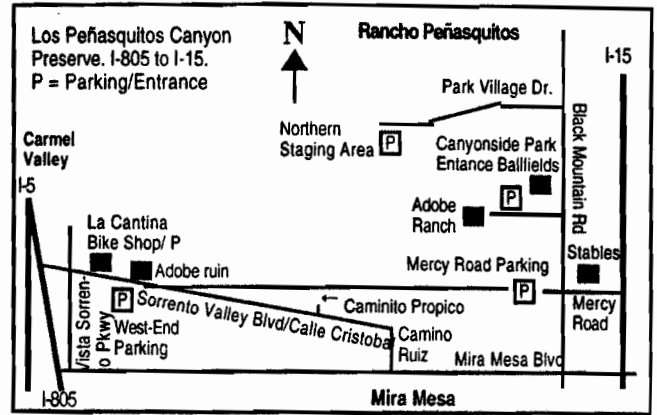
Thurs., Jan. 9, 7:30 - 9 p.m. A hike to investigate the world of nature at night. Learn to better see and sense in the dark. Explore the night mind and peripheral attention. Please wear a baseball cap used in some of the night vision exercises. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Bird Walk at Ranch House

Sat., Jan. 11, 7:30 a.m. Meet at the adobe ranch house for an early morning bird walk led by Brian Swanson, former president, Natural History Museum Canyoneers. You'll find the birds very active as they search for their morning meal. Perhaps a chance to see kites or kestrels (or maybe even a bobcat!). Bring bird book and binoculars. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

10-K Walk-a-bout to the Waterfall from Mercy Parking Staging Area

Sun., Jan. 12, 9 a.m. - noon. Cool weather is a good excuse for a walk-a-bout to get fit for the holidays. Recent rains mean lots of water is flowing through the falls. California Holly (Toyon) should be sporting its red berries and mistletoe decking the sycamores. Join Vickie Ausen for this 6-mile walk to the waterfall and back. Bring sun protection, water and a snack. Meet in the Mercy Road Parking-Staging Area, upper level, at the junction of Mercy Road and Black Mountain Road in Mira Mesa. **See**



Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Nature Walk from Mercy Road

Sun., Jan. 12, 9 a.m. This 3 - 4 mile round trip, moderately paced walk will introduce you to many of the beautiful trees and shrubs that populate the Preserve. Led by Linda King, a member of the Natural History Museum Canyoneers. Meet in the Mercy Road Parking-Staging Area, upper level, at the junction of Mercy Road and Black Mountain Road in Mira Mesa. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Vernal Pool and Fire Ecology Walk

Sat., Jan. 18, 9-11. We combine these walks because the vernal pools were in the 1992 fire area. Learn about vernal pools, their interesting plants and animals, some endangered. In the fire area learn about the vital role fire plays in our ecosystem. See many flowering plants and resprouting vegetation after the fire. Led by Les Braund. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. If full, go west on Cristobal until see fence on right, park on shoulder. Hike will begin at gate to preserve. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Track and Sign Survey Training

Sat., Jan. 18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Volunteers will receive training in basic track, sign and habitat recognition for the Friends' Winter Wildlife Survey. See separate flyer or call 484-3219 for details.

(Calendar cont'd)

Tracking/Nature Walk at Ranch House

Sat., Jan. 18, 1 – 2 p.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. Meet at the Adobe Ranch House in Rancho Peñasquitos, located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Walden Pond and Waterfall Walk

Sun., Jan. 19, 9 a.m. (About 3 hours, 4 miles round trip). Join naturalist Mike Kelly for a nature walk along the northern side of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Visit "Walden Pond," acquired in the recent land swap, the waterfall, and oak riparian forest. See some early flowers and the endangered Del Mar Manzanita. Meet at the Northern Parking Staging area at Peñasquitos Creek Park in Rancho Peñasquitos at the intersection of Park Village Drive and Camino Ruiz. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or Call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Full Moon Shadow Hike

Wed., Jan. 22, 7:30–9 p.m. At night the canyon is a world of darkness and shadow. Likewise, we have a dark or shadowy side to our personality. On this hike we will explore shadows and silhouettes while attempting to acknowledge, embrace, and integrate our own shadow. Hike includes shadow exercises, shadow puppetry, and mask work. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

Winter Wildlife Survey

Sat., Jan. 25 - Sun., Feb. 2. This quarterly survey is designed to monitor the Preserve's major wildlife. See Jan. 18 training listing. See separate flyer or call 484-3219 for details.

Geology Walk

Sun., Jan. 26, 9 a.m. - noon. With cool weather our popular geology walk is back. Join Geologist Don Albright for

a walk through time, including the Preserve's waterfall. With recent rains there should be lots of water in the falls. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. From the west take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east. It becomes Calle Cristobal as it passes Camino Santa Fe. The next street is Propico. From the east, take Mira Mesa Blvd. to Camino Santa Fe. Right on C. Santa Fe, then right on Calle Cristobal to Propico. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Park legally. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Plant Spirit Medicine

Sun., Jan. 26, 3:30–5 p.m. Learn traditional shamanistic techniques for invoking the healing energies, spirits, or allies in medicinal plants, includes visualization and imaginative fantasy. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

February**Friends Monthly Meeting**

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Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

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Vernal Pool and Wildlife Corridor Walk to the Del Mar Mesa

Sat., Feb. 1, 9 a.m. Learn about vernal pools and their special plants and critters on this walk led by Mike Kelly. Meet at the Northern Parking Staging area at Peñasquitos Creek Park in Ran-

cho Peñasquitos at the intersection of Park Village Drive and Camino Ruiz. Hike will go up a major wildlife corridor with lots of flowers and up to the Del Mar Mesa. About 3-4 miles round trip. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or Call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Intermediate Tracking Walk at West End

Sun., Feb. 2 8 a.m. – noon. Practice your tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

New Moon Nightwalking

Fri., Feb. 7, 7:30 - 9 p.m. A hike to investigate the world of nature at night. Learn to better see and sense in the dark. Explore the night mind and peripheral attention. Please wear a baseball cap used in some of the night vision exercises. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

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Sat., Feb. 8, 7:30 a.m. Meet at the adobe ranch house or an early morning bird walk led by Brian Swanson, former president, Natural History Museum Canyoneers. You'll find the birds very active as they search for their morning meal. Perhaps a chance to see kites or kestrels (or maybe even a bobcat!). Bring bird book and binoculars. Park in the Mercy Road lot opposite the intersection of Mercy Road and Black Mountain Road in Mira Mesa. There is a \$1.00 fee for parking. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

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Sat., Feb. 15, 9-11. We combine these walks because the vernal pools were in the 1992 fire area. Learn about vernal pools, their interesting plants and animals, some endangered. In the fire area learn about the vital role fire plays in our ecosystem. See many flowering plants and resprouting vegetation after the fire. Led by Les Braund. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. If full, go west on Cristobal until see fence on right, park on shoulder. Hike will begin at gate to preserve. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

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Sun., Feb. 16, 3:30–5 p.m. Learn traditional shamanistic techniques for invoking the healing energies, spirits, or allies in medicinal plants, includes visualization and imaginative fantasy. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

Nature Walk from Mercy Road

Sun., Feb. 23, 9 a.m. This 3 - 4 mile round trip, moderately paced walk will introduce you to many of the beautiful

trees and shrubs that populate the Preserve. Led by Linda King, a member of the Natural History Museum Canyoneers. Meet in the Mercy Road Parking-Staging Area, upper level, at the junction of Mercy Road and Black Mountain Road in Mira Mesa. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Geology Walk

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Moon Goddess Hike

Sun., Feb. 23, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Learn about the spiritual traditions of ancient nature religions based upon devotion to the Goddess. Explore the significance of universal archetypes while building a deeper connection to nature. Includes meditations, visualization, and song. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

DIRECTIONS**Ranch House Walks/Tours**

The ranch house is located in Rancho Peñasquitos. Take the Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Road. Right on Black Mountain, up hill, U-turn at Truman Street, back down the hill and right into the Canyonside Park entrance to the Preserve. Go past ballfields to the white-fenced parking lot. Left into the lot and walk up path to the ranch. house. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal

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

Cantina Bike Shop Meeting Area

Cantina Mountain Bike Shop is located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

Mercy Road Parking-Staging Area

Located in Mira Mesa. Take the Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Road. Proceed straight across the intersection into the parking lot. Meet on the upper level. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruíz and Park Village Drive

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

West-End Parking-Staging Area

Located off Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, on the south side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard, about 3/4 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. From the east or I-15 take Mira Mesa Boulevard west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Boulevard to the bottom of the hill. The entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Boulevard east through the business district. As you pass the last building on the right look for the Preserve entrance on the right, just past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

Vernal Pools 1996: The Fairy Shrimp

by Will Bowen, PhD

Introduction

In 1966 the vernal pool cycle was a short one. The combination of a dry winter and hot spring created conditions where many of the species common to the vernal pools could not fully develop. Many vernal pool plants, such as *Downingia cuspidata*, did not reach maturity or flowered in small numbers; others such as *Eleocharis* (Spike-rush) died young. Despite it all, the *Pogogyne Ambramsii* (Mesa Mint) bloomed and lasted, braving both unseasonable heat and dryness.

My most interesting discovery, in an otherwise disappointing season, was that of large (about 1 inch) fairy shrimp in mid-March at both Del Mar Mesa and Carmel Mountain. At that time I mistakenly thought it must be the Riverside Fairy Shrimp because it was so much larger than the other fairy shrimp in the road puddles. However, conversation with vernal pool expert Marie Simovich of the University of San Diego straightened me out with the realization that size was not the cardinal identifying characteristic of fairy shrimp. Be that as it may, my discovery did lead to a much deeper inquiry into the study of fairy shrimp. For the rest of this article, I want to share with you some of the things that I have learned about this most interesting species.

Fairy Shrimp

Class: Crustacea

Sub-class: Branchiopods

Order: Anostraca

Fairy shrimp are tiny (about the length of a fingernail and width of a pencil lead) semi-transparent shrimp-like creatures that live short lives in vernal pools, small ponds, and road rut puddles. They are in the Class called Crustacea, meaning they are related to shelled aquatic arthropods such as lobsters, crabs, shrimps, and barnacles.

More specifically, they are Branchiopods, a Sub-Class which also include clam and tadpole shrimp. The word branchiopod means "foot-breather." Branchiopods have gill-like plates on their 11 pairs of legs which capture

life-sustaining oxygen from the water in which they swim. Of particular interest to us is the Order Anostraca — the fairy shrimp — which can be found during the early successional stages of ephemeral puddles in the canyon and on the surrounding mesa tops, well as in nearby vernal pools.

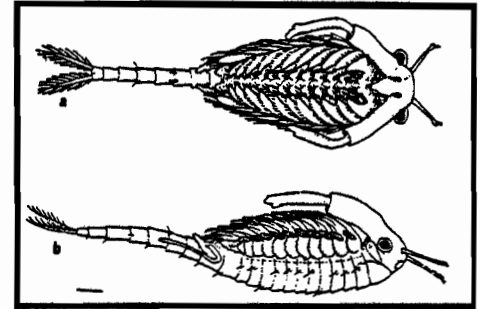
Fairy shrimp are found not only here in San Diego but throughout the world. Their global patterns of distribution can, in part, be traced to continental drift.

Different species of fairy shrimp inhabit different types of ephemeral pools. The variation in fairy shrimp is due to adaptive radiation in response to specific ecological factors such as climate, water temperature, and water chemistry — especially salinity, pH, and alkalinity. Fairy shrimp have adapted different capabilities, such as ionoregulation, to cope with the restraints of the microenvironments they inhabit. In addition, pool size and length of inundation with water have also been recognized as being tied into the species differing developmental rates and niche requirements.

California currently has 22 described species comprising over 44% of the total species diversity in the United States. Until recently, it was thought that San Diego had only one species of fairy shrimp but recently two more have been noted. Unfortunately, we know precious little about the fairy shrimp of San Diego County. This fact is made all the worse because our fairy shrimp are threatened with extinction due to habitat loss.

Our local species include *Branchinecta lindahli* — the Common Fairy Shrimp, *Branchinecta sandiegonensis* — The San Diego Fairy Shrimp, and *Streptocephalus woottoni* — The Riverside Fairy Shrimp.

Fairy shrimp swim upside down with undulating hair-like legs and have little black eyes and antenna. They can be seen by the naked eye. However, the newcomer usually needs to have someone point them out, either because the road rut water is very muddy, which serves as camouflage to aid



Branchinecta sandiegonensis, male. a. ventral view. b. lateral view. (scale bar 1.0 mm)

in their survival from predators, or because they are almost transparent in the clear water of many vernal pools. It is helpful to have a magnifying lens so that you can better see the details of their structure.

A fairy shrimp looks much like a miniature shrimp from the sea. They are usually transparent or of light color. However, I have seen some in the road puddles outside the Del Mar vernal pool complex that looked almost lime-green. Marie Simovich says color can fluctuate on the basis of what they have been eating.

It is fairly easy to tell the male from the female. The adult female will have an egg sac that trails from the lower portion of their body. When the female dies and sinks to the bottom of the pool the egg sac remains attached. In the rains of the next season the eggs hatch. It is thought that there are both summer and winter eggs. Some eggs hatch right after the first rains, still others hatch at different times later on in the season.

The male, at least in the San Diego Fairy Shrimp, has a modified antenna that serves as a clasper for grasping the female during mating. The clasper makes it look like the male has a large (for the size) handlebar mustache!

A closer look at the fairy shrimp reveals that its body consists of three regions — the head, thorax, and abdomen. All of the leg-bearing segments taken together form the thorax. The more posterior segments of these represent the abdomen. The first two abdominal segments of the males have two penes located side-by-side on their

(Fairy shrimp cont'd)

fused ventral surface. The last abdominal segment is the anal segt on which are inserted a pair of uropods (sometimes called cercopods).

Branchinecta Lindahli

Branchinecta lindahli, or the Common Fairy Shrimp is abundant in ephemeral waters throughout western North America from the Great Plains to California. It is an opportunistic species found in a wide variety of small and comparatively short lived-habitats, including tire ruts, road depressions, roadside ditches, playas, and prairie potholes, but rarely in undisturbed vernal pools. Habitat waters are typically turbid.

B. lindahli has a longevity of about 27 days. In the cool spring, maturation takes 20 days. Later in the season only 9-12 days are required. Males can grow to a length of from 11-17 mm; females to 10-15 mm.

B. lindahli is wide spread because it can tolerate a wide range of water temperatures, salinity, and pH. In one study, this species was found in waters of higher pH (6.4 - 9.8) than any other California anostracan.

On the whole, *B. lindahli* is considered to be a cool water species. It will hatch in water from 32-77° F and thrive at temperatures as low as 41° F. It does best in the range of 41-68° F but has been found in waters of up to 93° F, which were as salty as sea water. *B. lindahli* usually hatches early in the season. In San Diego they have been found in road ruts (not vernal pools) on the Miramar Naval Air Station and at the Del Mar Mesa. I believe I have seen what must have been this species in small puddles at the east end of the canyon near the new Riparian Habitat Trail. In addition, some or all of the road puddle fairy shrimp on Carmel Mountain may be of this species. In Riverside county, *B. lindahli* has been found in the same pools inhabited by *S. woottoni* — the Riverside Fairy Shrimp — which, usually by March, has displaced it (note: these pools have been disturbed). This was the only species previously reported for San Diego county. Several classic vernal pool studies mentioned it However, this was an error. A re-

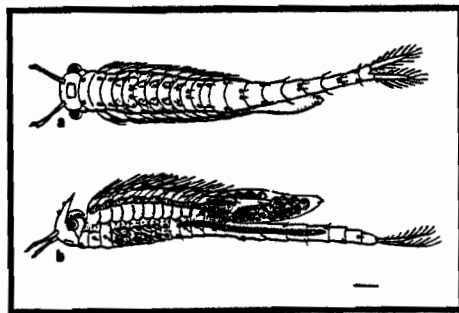
examination by Michael Fugate and Denton Belk showed that the *B. lindahli* found in San Diego vernal pools were actually *B. sandiegonensis* — the San Diego Fairy Shrimp, which is a fairly similar, but distinctly different species adapted to our local vernal pools.

Branchinecta Sandiegonensis

Branchinecta sandiegonensis, or the San Diego Fairy Shrimp, was recognized as a new species in 1990. This is the fairy shrimp found in the vernal pools at Miramar Naval Air Station, Mira Mesa and Mar Mesa. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has been petitioned to list *B. sandiegonensis* as an endangered species due to its restricted distribution and the lose of 97% of its habitat in San Diego.

This species is usually found in shallow pools less than 12 inches deep after the winter and spring rains. Males range from 9-16 mm; females from 8-15 mm (approximately 1/4 to 5/8 inch).

Like *B. lindahli*, *B. sandiegonensis* is considered to be a cool water species. It can hatch at water temperatures between 50-55° F and matures best when the water is between 50-68° F. If the water is in the low 40s it will hatch but not survive. Water temperatures in the high 70s prohibit hatching. At optimal temperatures, *B. sandiegonensis* will mature in 1-2 weeks. The life span is up to one month.



Branchinecta sandiegonensis, female.
a. ventral view. b. lateral view. (scale bar 1.0 mm))

B. sandiegonensis is easy to confuse with *B. lindahli*. But it can be keyed out by its thoracic spine pattern, female ovary length and ovisac length, shape and egg morphology, and the form of the second antenna of males (which is the cardinal character for species identification in the genus). *B.*

sandiegonensis appears to have evolved in response to the particular environment of San Diego county vernal pools.

Streptocephalus Woottoni

Streptocephalus woottoni — The Riverside Fairy Shrimp — is the most restricted of the fairy shrimp and is listed as an endangered species. Originally, it was found in only five large deep pools near Murrieta in Riverside county. As of late 1990, none of these pools were receiving protection and four out of the five pools had been seriously degraded. More recently, individual specimens of *S. woottoni* have also been found in San Diego at Otay Mesa and the Miramar Naval Base.

Although *S. woottoni* may be found in the same pools as *B. lindahli* or *B. sandiegonensis*, adults of these species never appear simultaneously. *S. woottoni* hatches and develops later in the season when the vernal pool water is warmer. Usually a pool has to be stable for at least two months for it to hatch. In addition, they are only found in large or deep vernal pools which are over 12 inches in depth.

Riverside Fairy Shrimp are also slower to mature and have a longer lifespan than *B. lindahli* or *B. sandiegonensis*. It takes a Riverside Fairy Shrimp about a month or two to reach maturity and they live from 2.5 to 4 months.

The males of this species range from 14 to 23 mm long. The female is just slightly smaller, ranging from 14 to 21 mm (about 1/2 to 1 inch long). Both the male and the female display a red color on the cercopods covering the ninth and 30-40% of the eight abdominal segments — meaning the tip of the tail is red — this is a key to identification of this species.

Discussion

There are several important issues regarding fairy shrimp that the Friends should be concerned about.

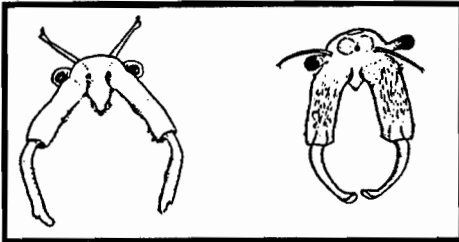
We need to try and have the fairy shrimp on Carmel Mountain identified. If they are *B. sandiegonensis*, a San Diego vernal pool species, this would seem to show that there are or were classic vernal pools here. If so, any degraded pools should be restored. If they are exclusively, *B. lindahli*, this

(Fairy shrimp cont'd)

might make us more skeptical of true vernal pools at this location.

There is a possibility that *B. lindahli* can get into our vernal pools where they might displace the more endangered *B. sandiegonensis*. Denton Belk, a prominent expert, believes that their eggs can be carried on both human and bird's dirty feet or dropped with the feces of birds that have eaten them.

The temperature, pH, and salinity of the vernal pools should be regularly monitored. Extremes of water temperature or pH changes due to pollution could effect the fairy shrimp population. A 1970 testing of the vernal pools of Kearney Mesa showed an average pH of 6.7-8.8, which was very similar to a 1974 test at the Santa Rosa plateau where the average pH was 6.74-7.77. This is the pH most favored *B. sandiegonensis* and *S. woottoni*. We should see if this is still the case and monitor pH closely. Care should be taken that no off-road vehicles or bikes disturb the pools. Even walking around vernal pools can crush and kill fairy shrimp eggs, especially when they are wet. Likewise, dogs walking through a wet pool may crush eggs. Marie Simovich has also suggested



Left: head of male *Branchinecta sandiegonensis*; Right: head of male of *B. Lindahli*.

that the practice of scraping vernal pools to relocate plant seeds may also kill fairy shrimp eggs and may need to be reevaluated. The Friends should become proficient in the identification of the three species to monitor their respective populations. We should look for the incursion of *B. lindahli*, keep track of the health of the *B. sandiegonensis*, look for the presence of *S. woottoni*, or any new species (6 of the 22 state species have been discovered in the last five years!).

We know very little about fairy

shrimp and vernal pools. Both are disappearing faster than we are able to assess their role in the overall ecology of the region. The Friends should contribute where they can to the data base on vernal pools and fairy shrimp and take steps to help protect both.

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Fund Appeal Reaches Goal

Mike Kelly, president

Although I'm sure all the money is not yet in, I'm pleased to announce that you — our members — put us over the top in our drive to buy a second-hand tractor for the Preserve. We already have just over \$3,000. in hand thanks for your generous contributions, including those of our matching donor. Additional monies beyond that needed to buy the tractor (and it may go more than \$3,000), will go towards buying attachments for the machine. These may include post-hole diggers, mowers, discers, plows, and blades.

Long-time Friends member Don Albright is scouring the back country for used equipment. If you know of any tractors, give me a call at 566-6489.

Thanks to member Marianne Mohr for her help in making the appeal a success.

We'll publish a list of contributors in our next issue.

Annual Meeting Elects Officers

Les Braund, Secretary

The Friends annual meeting, held Nov. 15, resulted in Mike Kelly being reelected president of the Friends, while Lani Noreke was elected Vice-president, Brian Swanson reelected Treasurer and Les Braund elected Secretary.

Those in attendance also heard an excellent presentation by FBI Special Agent David Strange on "Environmental Crime in San Diego." He gave an often humorous talk on the San Diego Hazardous Waste Task Force and the role of the FBI in catching environmental criminals. He detailed past (settled) cases, including one involving Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

(Elections cont'd)

on F and G. The San Diego Union-Tribune and many other parties recommended the same voting. The Union-Tribune noted that the support for Props E and H came from the fact that their proponents had engaged in constructive consultation with both environmental and community groups to achieve a balance in project design between development needs and the needs of the community for good planning, including saving additional open space. The proponents of F and G, two developments in the San Dieguito River Valley, were not supported because of the lack of consultation and planning with the surrounding communities. The same newspaper editorialized after the election about the need for developers to work with the community and environmental groups.

Carmel Mountain/8A

These results strengthen the hand of the supporters of saving Carmel Mountain (8A) from development by Pardee Co. Although 8A doesn't need a vote of the people since it lays outside the NCFUA, Pardee does need such a vote for its Subarea III of the NCFUA, adjacent to Carmel Valley. Activists are now linking approval of Subarea III to a satisfactory conclusion on saving 8A.

XMas Party Enjoyed by All

The Preserve's annual XMas Party for preserve volunteers, hosted by County Ranger Reneene Mowry, was held Saturday, Dec. 21, in the adobe ranch house.

The many volunteers from the Friends, the Archaeological Society, the Volunteer Patrol and the County all had a great time chowing down on great food, cider, and desserts. A lively 'white elephant' gift auction followed with the evening ending by Mowry attempting to teach the macarnea to one and all. Thanks Reneene!

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Call Mike at 566-6489 to volunteer for any of the following:

Thanks to Gaye Dingeman for volunteering to be the Friends new hike scheduler and to **Liza Rosenberg** to be the new Voice Mail/Hot Line System coordinator.

Chainsaw Safety Training: If you missed the last City-sponsored training with an instructor from Stihl, another will take place Sat., Jan. 25, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Friends or other volunteers from City or County parks are welcome. Call Mike at 566-6489 to sign up.

Stream-side restoration at Ranch House. Since this depends on the weather, call Mike at 566-6489 to be on the call list.

Volunteer Coordinator. We have a long list of folks who want to volunteer, but don't always have the time to call them or to send them postcards when projects come up. We need someone to coordinate our list and call volunteers for appropriate projects.

Sweetwater River Restoration. 2nd Sunday, each month, 9 a.m. Help remove invasive giant reed. Call Vivianne at 476-1042 to find out how to help.

Wildlife Track and Sign Survey. See article in this issue. Next training: January 1997.

Restore Miramar Landfill, Saturdays, Jan. 11, 18, 25. Call Burton Ewert or Mike Tverberg at 636-4834 if you would like to help restore the Miramar landfill by planting native plants. 60,000 plants need to go into the ground! Large groups can be accommodated.

New Members

Welcome to the following folks who recently joined the Friends. Call to let us know (566-6489, Mike) of any suggestions for improvements you might have.

Brian Basilico
David Colton
Michael Golden
Emily & Cory Grant
Lisa Gray
Michael Habib
Rick and Diane Hanson
Linda Henning
Suzanne Hewitt
Sharon Lee
Dushan Mitrovich
Sandra Morgan
Bryan Perlman
Jess Lamay
Chad Langberry
Debbie & Adam Macdonald
Art Manes
Paul Mattson
Jim Murphy
Liza Rosenberg
Jonathan Starr
Joseph Watson
Phil West
Mary Zanotelli

Free Folk Medicine Herbology Class

Preserve hike leader Will Bowen, PhD, will be teaching a free folk medicine/herbology class on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:20 p.m. at Mount Carmel High School starting Jan. 27, 1997. Class goes to May 19 and will cover herbs, medicinal plants, and alternative healing methods. Included in the class is training in identification and uses of plants found in Peñasquitos Canyon. Pre-enroll at the Palomar College Office at Mount Carmel High School or call Will at 452-7001 for further information.

(Northrop on El Cuervo cont'd)

used to ride horses in the canyon from Horseman's Park) and its history (his father was the local sheriff who knew both the López and Alvarado families, but also is an environmentalist interested in the canyon. Indeed, City Councilman Bill Mitchell and former County Supervisor Roger Hedgecock (who also used to ride at Horseman's Park) were instrumental in establishing the Preserve as a joint City/County park in 1978.

As I see it, one of the first things we should do is try to prevent further water damage to the structure. This should be undertaken immediately and would involve two steps: (1) clear out the stream channel from the Old Adobe down to the Sorrento Valley Road bridge so that flood waters can flow freely through there instead of being "ponded" around the adobe and (2) rebuild the dikes (built during the ranching days in Peñasquitos to drain the wetlands for farming) that line Peñasquitos Creek from "hanglider hill" to the Old Adobe. Along with the dike building, the stream channel should be deepened and the mud derived therefrom used to build the dikes. (Note: A permit from the Army Corps of Engineers will be required for this work.)

Sincerely yours,
(signed)
John Northrop, PhD

Founding Member of the Friends
of Los Peñasquitos Canyon
Preserve, Inc.

References

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- (2) "Historic Ranchos of San Diego," Chap. 2, "Los Peñasquitos Rancho," in *The Day of the Silver Dons*, by Richard F. Pourade, San Diego Union Tribune Pub. Co., 1966.
- (3) "Rancho de los Peñasquitos, on the Road to Yuma," by Mary Ward, County of San Diego, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 1984.

Reply To Northrop

Will Bowen, PhD

I want to thank Dr. Northrop for caring enough about the El Cuervo adobe to formulate a position on its history. I know personally that over the years he has done more than most people to try to acknowledge and protect it. However, I think that his hypothesis that the El Cuervo is the original Ruíz adobe has a strong possibility of being in error. I suggest this is due to a lack of access to all the historical materials and an insufficient rigor in Northrop's scientific skepticism of the references he has consulted.

Let me now explain why I think Northrop is in error.

First, the original El Cuervo land was *not* included in the 1823 land grant Ruíz aquired. He did not get the El Cuervo land until a second grant added additional property in 1837. This means any buildings in the western end of the Preserve would have been built after that date. We have records that show Ruíz built a dwelling in 1824, as required by law, to solidify his property rights. This dwelling could only have been constructed on the original eastern-most land holdings.

Second, an old map has recently surfaced — available at county historian Mary Ward's office — which indicates a dwelling already existed on the site Johnson later built his ranch house upon. This dwelling was most likely the Ruíz adobe.

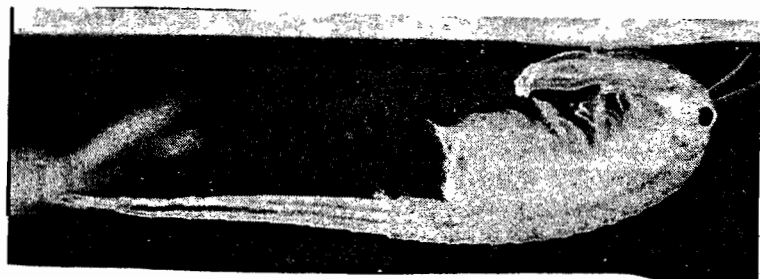
Third, George Johnson himself mentions the Ruíz adobe in his writings, describing it as a "one room thatched adobe hut;" a description which certainly conflicts with Northrop's hypothesis, because we know for sure that the El Cuervo was a many-roomed Mexican period hacienda.

Fourth, unpublished archaeological excavations report uncovering the foundation of an old abode under the Johnson-Taylor house.

Artifacts found in association with this old foundation have been dated. Their dates imply that the original structure the foundation supported was active in the time period (early 1800s) directly preceding the construction of the Johnson house. It is inferred that the old foundation was part of the original Ruíz adobe.

Fifth, Northrop's historical references consulted, including *Del Mar Looking Back*, *Days Of The Silver Dons*, and *On The Road To Yuma* should have been read with the rigor of scientific skepticism. Just because something is in a book does not mean that it is true! As it turns out, all these books appear to be in error. Indeed, County Historian Mary Ward readily admits there are errors in her book, *On The Road To Yuma*, which she plans on clearing up with the forecoming publication of a revised edition.

Dr. Northrop's suggestions about protecting the El Cuervo, and his remark that it is a true Mexican period adobe are well taken and need to be seriously considered.



Fall Volunteer Accomplishments

Mike Kelly

Thanks to the following volunteers for their great effort this past fall.

Plant rescuers

Vickie Ausen, Mel and Millie Howe, Mike Kelly and City Ranger Dion Heller beat the bulldozers by a day and rescued over a hundred native plants in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. The plants were dug up from the footprint of the new San Diego aqueduct that is crossing the Preserve next to the section of the park near Ridgewood Community Park off La Tortola Street in Rancho Peñasquitos. Volunteers only learned of the impending bulldozing on a Saturday and turned out on short notice the next day — and in a steady drizzle — to put the shovel to the soil. Species saved included the rare *Adolphia Californica* (Calif. Spinebush), *Baccharis sarathyroides* (Chaparral broom), *Salvia mellifera* (Black Sage), *Nacella pulcra* (Perennial bunchgrass), *Lotus scoparius* (Deerweed), *Artemisia californica* (Calif. sagebrush), *Gnaphalium* ssp. (Cudweed), *Eriophyllum confertiflorum* (Golden yarrow), *Chlorogalum pomeridianum* (Soap plant), and *Corethrogyne filaginifolia* (San Diego Sand Aster). The rescued plants will be used to restore other areas of the Preserve.

Stream restoration

At the beginning of December, Holly Boessow, Mike Kelly, Robb Hutsel, Cindy Burrascano, Liza Rosenberg, Carrie Barton, Kathy Bucu, Guy, and Rangers Dion Heller and Reneene Mowry put their shoulders to over a hundred wheelbarrows of soil as part of the stream restoration near the adobe ranch house. A number of wetland species of plants, shrubs, trees and ground covers were planted. The project began over a year ago when the Friends and the San Diego County Archaeological Society decided to clean out the stream of debris and remove exotic palm trees in order to stop flooding of archaeological sites and to restore the health of the stream. Hundreds of volunteer hours by dozens of people resulted in a major change for the better in the area. Many palms were salvaged by a contractor for

use elsewhere. Much work remains to be done, especially the planting of more trees and ground cover later this winter.

Eagle Scout kiosk project

Friends Secretary Les Braund is working with an eagle scout on building two new educational kiosks for the Preserve. Friends members donated \$900 for materials for one of the kiosks, while the City Parks Dept. funded the second. One will be located at the new entrance off Park Village Drive and Camino Ruíz, while the second will be located at the east end entrance off Black Mountain Road.

Invasive weed removal

Mike Kelly, Mel Howe, and Carrie Barton wacked many invasive weeds over the past two months, including more than a dozen species.

Wildlife corridor survey

Barry Martin, Lee Kirschevel, Mel Howe, Mike Kelly and Ranger Dion Heller surveyed the “merge” wildlife corridor reported on in last month’s Canyon News. They came up with many practical ideas for improving the functioning of this corridor.

Vernal pool surveys

Will Bowen, Mike Kelly, Mel Howe, Cindy Burrascano, and Holly Boessow all helped survey various vernal pools during November and December on both the Del Mar Mesa and López Ridge.

Dwarf dudleya survey

Mike Kelly, Cindy Burrascano and Holly Boessow surveyed several locations on the Del Mar Mesa for possible “lost” populations of the extremely rare dwarf dudleya plant (*Dudleya brevifolia*).

Sweetwater River giant reed removal

Part of the Friends tradition is to help out folks in other parks, so we couldn’t resist when one of our members Viviane Marquez called and asked for help in eradicating giant reed (*Arundo donax*) from a portion of the Sweetwater River in Bonita. Holly

Boessow, Mike Kelly, Rob Hutsel, Liza and Peter Rosenberg, joined Viviane and two volunteers from the California Native Plant Society, Frank Ohrmund and Rod Dossey in clearing a good size patch. This will become a once-a-month volunteer effort the second Sunday of the month, at 9 a.m. in the Driving Range parking lot on Bonita Rd. Call Viviane at 476-1042 to find out how to help. The County of San Diego will maintain the land once cleared. It is adjacent to land they are also clearing of Arundo.

Anza Borrego tamarisk progress

Several washes and canyons in Anza Borrego State Park are rid of the highly invasive *Tamarisk ramossissima* (salt cedar) due to the efforts of volunteers from the California Native Plant Society, the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and State Parks. Fish Creek and the North Fork areas (Split Canyon) were finished by this fall. Nov. 16 Cindy Burrascano, Mike Kelly, Lani Noreke and Robb Hutsel cleaned up Canyon Sin Nombre and Arroyo Seco del Diablo in the Carrizon Badlands area off of S-2. The team cleared a seep in Arroyo Seco del Diablo that was being overrun with tamarisk. Such natural water sources are critical for desert wildlife. Tamarisk is notorious for drawing down the water table in such situations to where the water disappears. The different volunteers working on these projects over the last two years have enjoyed wonderful camping (free) under the stars, shooting stars and wildlife including Desert kit foxes, tarantulas during mating season, raptors, hummers and sidewinders. They’ve also had the chance to see rare plants and botanize. The most recent team cruised in their 4x4s in canyons with spectacular geology, with fresh mud slides and newly revealed fossils from a mild earthquake only days before! The next target for tamarisk removal will probably be Arroyo Tapiado, also in the Carrizo Badlands area. To get on the list for future trips call Cindy at 421-5767 or Mike at 566-6489.



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Don Albright, Vickie Ausen, Barry Martin, Erik Noreke

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 Geology Walk Leader: Don Albright 443-5937
 Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
 Medicinal Plant & Night Walks: Will Bowen 452-7091

Mystery Tree Walks: Vickie Ausen
 Nature Walk: Les Braund 566-3958
 Newsletter: Mike Kelly, Vickie Ausen
 Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
 Tracking Walk: Chris Bader
 Vernal Pool, Fire Ecology & other walks: Mike Kelly
 Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
 Voice Mail System: Erik Noreke and Liza Rosenberg
 Wildlife Survey Committee: Barry Martin (484-4007),
 Chris Bader, Rick Botta, John Fisher, Lee Kirchhevel,
 Erik Noreke, Lani Noreke, Susan Potts.

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

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I/We are interested in the following:

- Volunteer to help the committee (call me to discuss)
 Hikes
 Indian Culture 1/97
 Educational Workshops
 School, Family, Youth Programs
 Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

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Thank you for your support! Your donation is tax deductible.
 Call 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.



Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

Mar. / Apr. 1997

Volume 11 No. 2

Route 56 Action Alert! Save Deer Canyon & Del Mar Mesa

by Mike Kelly, president

Your help is badly needed to protect San Diego's last coastal canyon and mesa top, Deer Canyon and the Del Mar Mesa. Worth preserving in and of themselves, they're also vital linkages between Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and other open space parks to the north, vital to preventing the biological isolation and slow death of our Preserve. They're being threatened by developers intent on imposing their route for the yet-to-be-built middle segment of State Route 56 (SR56) instead of an eminently feasible and affordable alternative route for the same road.

Only your support in the form of letters and petitions can ensure there is a voice speaking out on behalf of our environment, our wildlife, and our own future quality of life; a voice to balance the developers' money and political connections. Please take the time to read on for details on this issue and what you can do.

Background

The final segment of SR56, the middle section, is moving forward in the approval process. For political and tax reasons SR56 is being built in three sections. The eastern section is already built from I-15 to Black Mountain Road in Rancho Peñasquitos. The western section from I-5 east into Carmel Valley is complete except for the "flyover" ramps to connect it to I-5. (In fact, the northern flyover to connect 56 to I-5 is not approved and is a subject of bitter controversy between the community of Carmel Valley and transportation officials, who claim it's not needed.)

For decades the route for SR56 was only a conceptual line on a Caltrans (California Dept. of Transportation) map. The alignment of the western

portion was a subject of much controversy when adopted several years ago. The middle segment of SR56 is in an area of the city called the North City Future Urbanizing Area (NCFUA), an area put off limits to urban-level development until plans are brought forward to a vote of the public (Proposition A, 1984). A conceptual Framework Plan for the NCFUA was adopted by the City of San Diego several years ago as a general guiding plan for future development. SR 56

➔ next page for more

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Route 56 What You Can Do

1. Write letters — even brief notes are effective — supporting the Northern Alignment for SR 56 and against the Central Alignment to the following people:
 - City Council member Harry Mathis
 - City Council member Barbara Warden
 - Mayor Susan Golding

At: 202 C St., San Diego 92101

 - Supervisor Pam Slater
 - Supervisor Ron Roberts

At: County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego 92101

Please send us a copy of your letter if it's convenient.
2. Circulate the petition in this newsletter among your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers, then forward it to us at:

P.O. Box 26523, San Diego CA 92196
3. Make a donation to the Friends earmarked for the Save Deer Canyon campaign.
4. Become active in the **Save Deer Canyon Committee**. Your help is needed in planning, reachout, petition organizing, fundraising, etc. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489 for details.

(SR cont'd)

was included in this plan, again only conceptually, and was shown generally going through Deer Canyon.

About the same time, an official Citizens Advisory Committee for SR 56 was formed and included representatives from environmental groups (Friends and the Sierra Club), Community Planning Groups (Rancho Peñasquitos, Mira Mesa, Carmel Valley, Rancho Bernardo, Torrey Pines), developers and major landowners in the area (Pardee Co. being the largest), City Engineering and Caltrans staffers. This committee reviewed all the possible alignments for the missing middle section of 56. There were about 8 possible alignments.

In consultation with the State and Federal environmental agencies, consensus was reached that 5 of these alternatives had "fatal flaws," environmental or engineering flaws that made it prudent to rule them out. Of the remaining three, two were in the Deer Canyon area and were combined into one study corridor called the "Central Alignment." The third possible alignment was called the "Northern Alignment" since it passed to the north of the central one. Hence, the Northern and Central Alignments became the focus of the recently completed Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

During this EIR study process, voters approved two big projects in this area in November 1996: Seabreeze Farms and Torrey Highlands. Since no official or approved route for the middle segment of 56 existed, these landowners submitted alternative plans that allowed for either route to be chosen — prudent planning and not prejudicing the 56 decision process.

We'll return to the EIR and its conclusions shortly.

The importance of Deer Canyon

Deer Canyon is an east to west trending canyon that forms the northern border of the Del Mar Mesa. The northern slope of Deer Canyon is called the Santa Monica Ridge. From Deer Canyon's southern rim, the Del Mar Mesa stretches south to Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and west to include Carmel Mountain (Neighborhood 8A in Carmel Valley).

Deer Canyon and the Del Mar Mesa

are largely pristine, native habitats that escaped even agricultural development. Together, they are San Diego's last undeveloped, natural coastal canyon and mesa top. They also contain an astonishing diversity of habitat types, plants and animals, including many unique to San Diego and in danger of extinction. It's an area where mule deer, coyote, mountain lion, grey fox, California gnatcatchers, Cactus wrens, Marsh hawks and other critters can still find enough space to survive in an otherwise urban setting. Complexes of exotic vernal pools contribute to this uniqueness of the Del Mar Mesa. It's also an area where generations of horse back riders and hikers, now joined by mountain bikers, have gone to lose ourselves in nature, in its wondrous workings and to enjoy peace and tranquility — a respite from the City pressures that grind us down each day. It's an area to which I've led nature walks for years — to share this beautiful place and its many treasures. This is all threatened. The Central Alignment of SR56 is but the latest of a series of insults to this land.

What will be left for future generations?

The southwestern portion of this mesa was recently bulldozed by Pardee Co. as part of its Neighborhood 10 development in Carmel Valley. Another recently approved development, the Bougainvillea golf course resort and estate homes will soon develop hundreds more acres of the same mesa. Another project by Greystone bulldozed the easternmost portion of the mesa this winter, next to Sundance St. and Carmel Mountain Road in Rancho Peñasquitos. The good news is that much of the remaining acreage is identified as future open space, as a core biological preserve, in the City's about-to-be-adopted Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP, Natureland), an attempt to preserve an interconnected system of core preserves and habitats through wildlife corridor linkages.

The Northern Alignment of SR56 would be consistent with this MSCP preserve design. It would largely respect the integrity of this habitat block. The Central Alignment would bisect this core preserve, the largest block of

natural land left in the North City area, destroying its biological integrity. As the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) makes, clear, the Central Alignment would have much greater negative impacts on the environment than the Northern, impacts that could not be mitigated. It would also violate the North City Local Coastal Program by destroying a 3.5 acre open space preserve that was mitigation for an earlier project in the area, Rancho Glens Estates. The Central Alignment also would violate the Coastal Zone policy of avoidance of unique landforms, which certainly characterizes the Santa Monica Ridge.

The Central Alignment would put a freeway with all its impacts on the south facing slope of Deer Canyon. It would be a Route 52-style freeway as it now exists in San Clemente Canyon/Marian Bear Regional Park. To see and feel these impacts, go for a stroll in Marian Bear Park and try to have a normal conversation with someone during the day. The traffic noise makes it impossible.

There is a reasonable alternative

Oftentimes with project reviews there isn't a reasonable alternative. Such is not the case with SR56. There are reasonable alternatives. In fact, the Friends' Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the Northern Alignment for SR56, a reasonable alternative to the developer's choice, the Central Alignment. Let's see why.

Both alignments for the middle portion of SR56 have to start and end in the same locations since the east and west ends are already built. It's as they move west from Rancho Peñasquitos that they diverge. The Central Alignment is the more direct route, requiring 4.8 miles to connect up, but goes through pristine habitat to do so. The Northern Alignment is a half mile longer than the Central, but goes through the old tomato fields to the north, areas stripped of their native vegetation and topography by decades of agriculture. Despite the length difference, the Engineering Project Book for SR56 shows that the bottom line cost of either alignment would be the same at build out: \$108 million. The

➡ next page for more

Save Deer Canyon Committee Meeting

Monday, March 10, 7-9 p.m.
11875 River Rim Rd. (Mike Kelly's
home in Mira Mesa).

If you want to help with the fight to oppose the Central Alignment and save Deer Canyon come to this meeting.

Directions: Take Mira Mesa Blvd. to Camino Ruiz. Go north on Camino Ruiz until it becomes Calle Cristobal after the big curve. At the first light, take a right on Avenida del Gato, then your first left on Rimridge, then a right on River Rim. Call 566-6489 if any questions.

both SR56 alternatives. In any case, none of these same developers or planners were very concerned when the east and west ends of SR56 were actually built through two existing communities, splitting them in two: Rancho Peñasquitos and Carmel Valley. This argument is a smokescreen for the real reason for choosing the Central Alignment, landowner opposition to the Northern.

Pardee Co. and other landowners want SR56 built in their area close enough to offer access to their developments, but far enough away to not negatively impact future profits. That's the real issue here: maximizing profits — even if it means destroying the biological integrity of our last coastal canyon and mesa. It's not a question of their losing money here, only how high will their profits be. Our public open space will be used to justify premium view lot pricing.

Support mounts

Our public open space should function as natural open space should, to protect the biological diversity of the plants and animals there — not to just lot premiums to increase a developer's profits. Open spaces should be places people can get away from it all and enjoy a peaceful, relaxing experience.

Allowing the Central Alignment to

slightly longer Northern Alignment costs are balanced out by the more difficult engineering, cut and fill required for the Central Alignment. (We hear disturbing rumors that proponents of the Central Alignment are "cooking the books" now to come up with different figures. We predict that "new" information will be announced "proving" that the Central Alignment has suddenly become "cheaper.")

Either alignment would have the same basic areal footprint and at build out would be six traffic lanes, two HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lanes, a bicycle path, two recovery areas on either side, a truck climbing lane and up to three full interchanges.

The DEIR states very clearly that the Northern Alignment is the "environmentally superior alternative," yet the report advocates adopting the Central Alignment. Why?

Developer politics

Both alternatives studied for this DEIR, the Central and Northern, were regarded as so balanced in their overall pros and cons that the report carried no preferred alternative through the planning process — highly unusual for such projects and documents.

It was only days before the public release of the document that the City Engineering and Capital Projects Dept., the applicant, attached a recommendation for the Central Alignment and arguments for it in a "Statement of Overriding Considerations." Among the reasons they cited for **not** adopting the "environmentally superior" alternative — the Northern Alignment — were "expressed opposition to the Northern Alignment from property owners" and "superior design from a community planning perspective."

By "superior design" the document is referring to possible future plans for Subarea III of the Future Urbanizing Area. The Northern Alternative would bisect the conceptual plan outlined for this area in the Framework Plan. However, the major landowner for this area, Pardee Co. is the sole significant landowner in the FUA not to have come forward with a Subarea Plan for their area. This leaves lots of flexibility for future planning we believe. Other landowners that came forward with plans such as those the voters approved, included alternative plans for

fragment this open space preserve would destroy these values. That's why many others are joining the Friends in opposing the Central Alignment and favoring adoption of the eminently reasonable Northern Alignment. Already, the Rancho Bernardo Planning Group, the Sierra Club, the Carmel Valley Planning Board, the California Native Plant Society, the Torrey Pines Planning Board, the Endangered Habitats League's leaders Dan Silver and Mike Beck, Earth Time's Carolyn Chase, the Citizens Advisory Committee for Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and others support this same position.

Even the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency responsible for administering the Endangered Species Act, has sent an official letter urging adoption of the Northern Alignment and rejection of the Central because "it is not consistent with the NCCP Conservation Guidelines and may preclude the City's ability to implement a ecologically viable [MSCP] Subarea Plan." In plain language, open space being designed to protect endangered species of plants and animals works best when it is configured in large, contiguous blocks of habitat, rather than fragmented in a linear patchwork of habitat pieces.

Heartening as this support is, our battle to save Deer Canyon will be an uphill one. Pardee Co. backed by its deep pocket timber company parent — Weyerhaeuser Corp. — is the richest and politically best connected developer in town. In addition, we can expect homeowner's associations of the gated communities of the Santa Fe Valley to push the Central Alignment, in order to keep the commuting public as far away as possible. They and the Rancho Santa Fe Association even killed a highway, 680, that was to connect north to south through their area to preserve their exclusive gated nature. That's fine, as long as it's not at the expense of our open space, of protecting San Diego's habitats, plants and animals for future generations to know and enjoy.

Help us protect Deer Canyon and the Del Mar Mesa, write your letters, circulate petitions, and contribute your time and money to this effort.

Spectacular Wildflower Show

Flowers are popping up in the meadows, grasslands and coastal sage in the best show we've seen in years. Poppies are punctuating the coastal sage in places they haven't been seen in over a decade.

Bunches of Shooting stars are giving way to masses of blue dicks, peninsular onion and goldfields. Can the Blue-eyed grass be far behind? Many more species will be joining these as we roll into spring. Enjoy the show that our succession of gentle rains has brought — a show not often seen in our desert climate. Come on your own or join us for a guided walk. Don't miss it.

Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. **Rain (not drizzle) cancels.** For details or group hikes, call 484-3219 for recorded information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have ongoing wildlife and stream surveys, invasive weed removal projects, planting programs and more.

March

Friends Monthly Meeting

Call Mike at 566-6489 for time and place of Friends' monthly business meeting.

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Hawk and Raptor Walk in Lopez Canyon

Sat., Mar. 8, 3:30-5 p.m. Join Brian Swanson for a look at these birds of prey and their nests. Bring bird book and binoculars. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Geology Walk

Sun., Mar. 9, 9 a.m. - noon. With cool weather our popular geology walk is back. Join Geologist Don Albright for a walk through time, including the Preserve's waterfall. With recent rains there should be lots of water in the falls. Meet at Camini-

to Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on either side. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Vernal Pool and Fire Ecology Walk

Sat., Mar. 15, 8-10. We combine these walks because the vernal pools were in the 1992 fire area. Learn about vernal pools, their interesting plants and animals, some endangered. In the fire area learn about the vital role fire plays in our ecosystem. See many flowering plants and resprouting vegetation after the fire. Led by Les Braund. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on either side. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Trails Crew Volunteers

Sat., Mar. 15, 8 a.m. - noon. Volunteers in good physical condition and willing to get dirty are invited to join this monthly trails work party. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Spring Equinox Renewal Walk

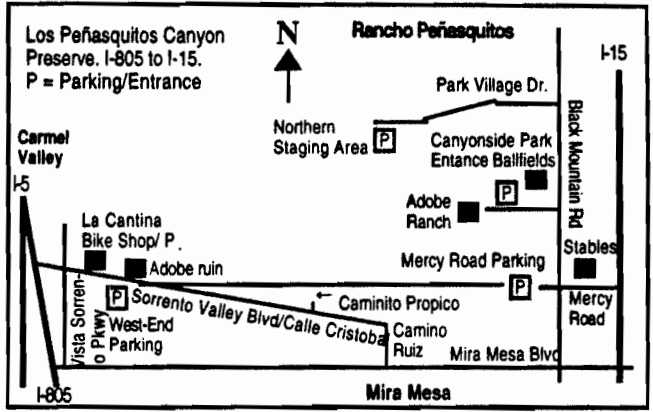
Thurs., Mar. 20, 3-4:30 p.m. Spring is the time when nature renews and regenerates herself, bringing forth new leaves, buds, and flowers. When we follow nature and open up to spring we too can renew and refresh ourselves. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Tracking/Nature Walk at Ranch House

Sat., Mar. 22, 1 - 2 p.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. Meet at the Adobe Ranch House in Rancho Peñasquitos, located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., Mar. 23, 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habi-



tat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Call 484-7504 to sign up. Rains close to the date will cancel as trail is subject to flooding. Meet at kiosk at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd. entrance, Mira Mesa.

Full Moon Frog Hike

Sun., Mar. 23, 8-9:30 p.m. Look for and learn about local frogs, toads, and tadpoles. Includes frog lore and legend. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

April

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Intermediate Tracking Training at West End

Sun., Apr. 6, 8 a.m. - noon. Practice your tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Tracking training is a prerequisite for this walk. This is not a beginner's walk. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

➡ next page for more

(Calendar cont'd)

Volunteer Work Party: Habitat Restoration

Sun., Apr. 6, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Call Mike at 566-6489 to get details on location and focus.

Vernal Pool and Fire Ecology Walk

Sat., Apr. 12, 8-10. We combine these walks because the vernal pools were in the 1992 fire area. Learn about vernal pools, their interesting plants and animals, some endangered. In the fire area learn about the vital role fire plays in our ecosystem. See many flowering plants and resprouting vegetation after the fire. Led by Les Braund. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac either side. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Track and Sign Survey Training

Sat., Apr. 12, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Volunteers will receive training in basic track, sign and habitat recognition for the Friends' Spring Wildlife Survey. See separate flyer or call 484-3219 for details.

Geology Walk

Sun., April 13, 9 a.m. - noon. With cool weather our popular geology walk is back. Join Geologist Don Albright for a walk through time, including the Preserve's waterfall. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on either side. Steep trail. Bring water, hat. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Mystery Tree & Wildflower Walk

Sun., Apr. 13, 9 a.m. (1-1/2 hours). As featured on Ken Kramer's TV spot, *About San Diego*, investigate the legend of the Mexican era sign map on trees in the Preserve that describe where the Mission treasure was buried. Visit a Native America grinding site and learn about the plants they used to survive. Also lots of wildflowers. Meet at the parking-staging area off Black Mountain Road. Take the Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Road. Cross the intersection and enter the parking for the Preserve opposite this intersection. Led by Vickie Ausen. **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

Trails Crew Volunteers

Sat., Apr. 19, 8 a.m. – noon. Volunteers in good physical condition and willing to get dirty are invited to join this monthly trails work party. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking/Nature Walk at Ranch House

Sat., Apr. 19, 1 – 2 p.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Hike includes over-

view of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. Meet at the Adobe Ranch House in Rancho Peñasquitos, located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Earth Fair at Balboa Park

Sun., Apr. 20, Call Mike at 566-6489 to volunteer for a shift at the Friends' booth.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., Apr. 20, 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Call 484-7504 to sign up. Rains close to the date will cancel as trail is subject to flooding. Meet at kiosk at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd. entrance, Mira Mesa.

Full Moon Frog Hike

Sun., Apr. 20, 8-9:30 p.m. Look for and learn about local frogs, toads, and tadpoles. Includes frog lore and legend. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Earth Day Hike

Tues., Apr. 22, 3-4:30 p.m. Celebrate Earth Day by re-connecting with the earth. Includes earth meditations, drumming and song. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Hawk and Raptor Walk Lopez Canyon

Sat., Apr. 26, 3:30-5 p.m. Join Brian Swanson for a look at these birds of prey and their nests. Bring bird book and binoculars. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

DIRECTIONS**Ranch House Walks/Tours**

Ranch is located in Rancho Peñasquitos. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Road. Right on Black Mountain. Left at first light into Park. Go past ball-fields to the white-fenced parking lot. Left into the lot and walk up path to the ranch house. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

Blue Sky Benefit

Blue Sky Ecological Reserve is holding a gala fund-raising event to begin an Endowment Fund to support interpretive services at the Reserve.

This black-tie optional event will take place March 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Poway Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$50 per person. A full program of entertainment, food and beverages, auctions, live animals and more is planned. For more information call Bill Chaffin at 675-3060.

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa

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

Cantina Bike Shop Meeting Area

Cantina Mountain Bike Shop is located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Mercy Road Parking-Staging Area

Located in Mira Mesa. Take the Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Road. Proceed straight across the intersection into the parking lot. Meet on the upper level. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz and Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos.

From I-15 take Mercy Road exit west to Black Mountain Rd. Right on Black Mountain Rd. and up hill, left on Park Village Dr., about 1 mile to Camino Ruiz. Left on Camino Ruiz and park. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 3/4 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Pky. From the east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to the bottom of the hill. The entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east, pass the last building on the right. Preserve entrance is on the right, just past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

"Living the Sky"

by Will Bowen, PhD

A window to the universe

The American Indian intently studied the night sky. While they contemplated the inherent beauty of twinkling stars, they also carefully listened to the sky for heaven's command. For, to native peoples, the sky was a "window to the universe."

In staring at the heavens, natives were both looking for signs, insights, prophesy, and foreboding about the present and the future, and trying to discern a model or pattern to base their lives upon here on earth.

While everyone seems to have looked to the heavens, most tribes had religious specialists whose job it was to look at some specific features of the heavens. The Hopi and Zuni had sun priests or sun chiefs who watched the sun set and rise. The Tsimshian of the Northwest coast had a moon reader called "G yem gat," while the neighboring Tlingit had star gazers who practiced what they termed "a.an."

The Plains-dwelling Pawnee Indians thought the positions of star clusters so important that they laid out their villages in geometric patterns similar to relative positions of the starthen houses, like the Navajo's hoogan, were also arranged with the stars in mind, and they placed a rug with a star map on it in the middle of their floors. The Blackfeet Indians, also fascinated by the stars, painted constellations such as the Big Dipper and the Pleiades on the smoke flaps of their tipis.

Many tribes used the stars as a basis of prophesy. The Pawnee thought shooting stars and comets were forebodings of momentous human events to come. Navajo medicine men still catch star light in their healing crystals, looking for insights into how to heal their patients. Some tribes practiced a form of astrology in which they would ask a question and look up into the stars searching for animals or faces which they would interpret for symbolic meaning.

The movement of celestial bodies was also used for timing keeping and setting calendars. The changing position of the sun or stars, rising over cer-

tain mountains peaks, were watched from stationary points to keep track of time. Accurate time was needed to plan ceremonial life, crop planting, gathering, hunting, and fishing.

The local Digueño Indians, for example, watched the sun rise at the winter solstice (called "hil ya tai") in December on Viejas Mountain, just northeast of Alpine, and on Cowles Mountain, at 1250 feet. At these observation sites stones were stacked a circle with a line of stones in the middle facing the rising sun. This was part of a ritual of blessing to insure the return of the sun god, "In ya," and hence the regeneration of nature with the spring in the months to come.

In both Canada and the United States huge rock circles as old as Stonehenge and the pyramids were constructed by Indian peoples to aid in watching the rise of the sun, stars, and constellations. These medicine wheels were occasions for large gatherings of normally separate tribes and tribal groups.

Some tribes, such as the Mescalero Apache actually tried to embody, imitate, and live the patterns of the stars. They called this — "iving the sky." Their hope was that their life could be like the fixed stars — "guz hu gu ja" (everything in order). For them, the stars clusters were symbols of "n da i bi jun t si a" (balance and harmony).

To look at the patterns in nature as a source of wisdom and inspiration is not unique to the Indians of the Americas. Many peoples through the world have shared this vision. Across the world in China, for instance, the Chinese Taoist also sought to "follow nature" and pattern their human activities upon the natural world. A favorite Taoist meditation was to focus upon the Big Dipper, which they thought was the spiritual center of the universe.

In many cultural traditions, humans were thought to be more closely associated with nature than we, as modern people, commonly do. People were thought to be the offspring of the fertile Earth Mother and the powerful

Sky or Sun Father. In those days, there was more of a notion of equality with nature or even a feeling of trying to recover some of the grace of nature. What a contrast to the modern notion of conquering or molding nature to human designs!

Rather than being viewed as inanimate physical objects, the heavenly bodies, such as the sun and moon, were viewed as living beings by primitive people. The Zuni called the sun, "Our Father," or, "tek o han an ae," which also can be translated as "life" or "daylight." The Hopi also represented God as the sun, while the Lakota Souix considered the stars as "the holy breath of God."

Indians had their own names for the stars. The Navajo called the Big Dipper "Revolving Man." The Hopi referred to it as the "Seven Ones" and the Zuni "khilelekk a kheh" or "The Seven."

Cassiopeia was known as the "Turkey's Foot" and the clustered stars of the Pleiades were a symbol of closeness and tribal unity. The Milky Way, which used to be visible before light pollution, was thought by many tribes to be the path followed by dead to the happy hunting grounds. The Cahuilla, who live in the Desert near Palm Springs, called the moon "Menid," which they said was "a lamp still up there." To the Cahuilla the moon was feminine. They claimed that the moon was "like a women because it is forever changing shape like a woman in her changing ways." They thought that it was the moon that gave their people jokes, songs, stories and the popular guessing game of Peon.

The Digueno who lived in Peñasquitos Canyon called the full moon "Hellyaach temur" and stars "Kwen-mesaap." Venus or the evening star was known as "shewalwaal muuhap." Shooting stars wee a manifestation of "Chaawp," a mythological meteor spirit.

Teaching stories

Like the ancient Greeks, native peo-

(Living the Sky cont'd)

ples possessed many myths and stories associated with the stars. Metaphorical stories were the main teaching device in non-literate oral traditions such as those of Native Americans.

I would like to share a story or two with you so you can see what they are like.

"How The Stars Were Made Into Constellations."

Navajo Black God was methodically and patiently polishing each crystal that he took out of his leather pouch. He then carefully placed it into position in the heavens. Coyote was walking along and saw Black God. He called out, "Hey, brother what are you doing?"

Black God, turned and stated, "I am placing the stars into position into the heavens, why?"

"Gee, that looks like fun. Can I do it?"

"Well, I don't think so. Its pretty hard work."

"Oh, come on, I can do. Please!"

"Ok."

Black God took off his leather pouch and gave it to Coyote and left. Coyote got to work taking the crystals out of the leather pouch, polishing them, and placing them into the sky. But soon he grew impatient.

"This is so boring and tedious," he thought to himself. "I don't want to do it!"

Thereby he tore off the pouch, hurled all the remaining crystals across the sky, and ran off. And that is why some of the stars are in order in well defined clusters, like the Big Dipper while the rest are just randomly strewn across the sky.

Another humorous story comes from the Ojibwa Indians of Canada. Its called,

"Where Did the Indian Come From?"

Everybody wants to know where the Indian comes from. No one knows for sure. Some people say he came across the Bering Straights from Asia. Others think his origin is Atlantis or that he is the Lost Tribe of Judea.

Us Ojibwa Indians know for sure. The Indian came from the Moon. That's right. Along time ago they used

to live up there. At that time the moon was very lush and green. The creatures there were very large. Why a spider was as big as an elephant. But the moon dried up and all the Indian had to eat was lichen. So the Indians up there all got together and said, "We got to get out of here. Let's go down to earth below."

"Yeah, but how?"

"I know how, follow me," cried out the shaman.

So they went and got a huge spider and had her let down an enormously long spider strand, down through a ra-



vine on the moon, through a hole in the sky, all the way to the earth. The Indians slid down that spider strand one at a time. When they got to the ground they found that the earth was a very lush country but also very wild. There were a lot of bad creatures and big monsters. So the Indians asked, "What will we do?"

The shaman said, "We'll ask Great Spirit for help."

So they prayed to Great Spirit. Great Spirit took mercy on the Indian people. He sent a message back to them on an eagle's back. The message said that He would send down a comet to kill all the monsters and evil creatures. He instructed that all the good Indians should go down to the bog and hide under the mud to be protected from the comet. When the comet came it swept across the land and burned it all up. All the monsters were killed. But even though the good Indians were safe under the mud it still got very hot and all their hair was burnt off. That's why the Indian doesn't have

as much hair as the other races. The comet burnt it off. They used to be hairy all over.

Looking for heavenly bodies

Us modern day people are often too preoccupied or busy to watch the heavens or tell stories about the stars. We never seem to have the time or it hurts our neck to look up.

When we do look, we are more interested in the inanimate scientific properties of heavenly bodies. We like the facts, not the mystery of the heavenly bodies. We can only permit superstition in certain well prescribed ways.

I have found that anyone who will take the time to stare at the heavens at night will soon find out that star or moon gazing is a very pleasing activity which grows in meaningfulness with practice. Its no accident that part of our collective mythology is the idea of "wishing upon a star." For the stars seem to be a symbol for our hopes and dreams, just as the sun stands for warmth and light and the moon for love and mystery.

At this time of year, from your porch or your backyard, or walking the beach or in the canyon, many things can be seen up in the night sky. Circling across the southern horizon you can see Orion the hunter with the bright stars of Rigel and Betelgeuse and the familiar three stars of his belt. Orion is chasing Taurus the Bull, containing the star Aldebaran. Orion is accompanied by Sirius the Dog Star. The stars in Orion has been pictured by Indians as canoes or mountain sheep climbing the sky.

One can also see the tight cluster of the Pleiades, symbol of tribal unity, and the twin stars of Castor and Polux in Gemini. Rising to the east is the Big Dipper and to the north the Northern Cross, which looks like a flying goose, in which there is supposed to be a Black Hole, and Cassiopeia, also known as "Turkey Foot."

One thing I've been working on is to use each of the stars in a constellation to stand for an ecology or nature principle so that I can be reminded of them as I walk in nature at night. I'll share these in forthcoming articles. By

Volunteer Accomplishments

by Mike Kelly

Thanks to the following volunteers for their volunteer efforts this winter (see the Wildlife Survey article for others):

Plant rescuers

Two more plant rescues besides the one written about last month were organized at the site of the new County Aqueduct line in the east end of the Preserve. Mike Kelly, Cathy Bucu, Cindy Burrascano, Mel Howe and Rangers Bill Lawrence and Dion Heller saved hundreds more plants from the bulldozers. Many of these plants have already been planted in restoration sites in the Preserve.

Coastal Sage restoration

Cathy Bucu, Rick Botta, Liz Roczky, Mel Howe, Mike Kelly, and Vickie Ausen gave many hours to restoring the overgrazed hill just north of and adjacent to the white fence leading into the ranch. They used plants rescued from the aqueduct and other sites. Last year's plant survival rate there was excellent and the hill is on its way to becoming a 'resource island' that will seed and spread throughout the surrounding area.

Dwarf dudleya survey - Part 2

Mike Kelly, Cindy Burrascano and Marcia Mann finished surveying the Del Mar Mesa for possible "lost" populations of the extremely rare dwarf dudleya plant (*Dudleya brevifolia*). None were found.

Anza Borrego tamarisk progress

Arroyo tapiado can now be added to the list of canyons and washes where the invasive tamarisk has been removed by volunteers from the Friends and the Native Plant Society. Dan Patterson, Cindy Burrascano, Mike Kelly and others.

Ranch Restoration-Exotic Weed Removal

Mike Kelly, Robb Hutsel, Liza Rosenberg, Mike Gagliadi, Christine Miller, and Paul Micheletti continued the process of restoring the stream side habitat near the ranch house by eradicating a number of exotic invasive plant species. Native plant regeneration in the area is impressive now that the giant palm trees are gone.

Sweetwater River Revival

Viviane Marquez sends her thanks to the many folks who have been helping out the second Sunday of each month on restoring the Sweetwater River, including: Rob Hutsel, Liza and Peter Rosenburg, Robb Rhew, Dennis, Nancy, Finn and Brendan O'Shea, Mike Kelly, Cindy Burrascano and the students from Southwestern College, Scripps Institute of Oceanography Graduate School, California Native Plant Society members and others. A record 27 people worked on a recent volunteer work party and restored a large area. There is already a noticeable regeneration of willows in the area where the Giant Reed (*Arundo donax*) has been removed. Call Viviane at 476-1040 for details on future work parties.

Tree planting

Cathy Bucu and Mike Kelly planted some 20 Coast live oak and cottonwood trees in the restoration area northwest of the ranch house. The small riparian area there was badly damaged when the Park Village development went in. Oaks planted over the last three years in the area are now sapling size, some 4' tall! The area is coming back nicely.

(Living the Sky cont'd)

way of an introduction each star has a principle, an Indian story, and a song associated with it.

For instance the Big Dipper has seven stars and seven principles. The first star in the handle, Alkaid, teaches us to "Follow nature — learn from nature." The second star, Alcer/Mizer, says, "Don't make a mess on the trail — don't mess up nature." The third, Alioth, states, "Don't take too much." The fourth, Meguez, reminds, "Don't be fooled by materialism and false promises — natural areas are as important as houses and roads." The fifth, Phecda, says, "Ask Spirit for guidance." The sixth, Merak, states, "All things (plants, animals, humans) are equal." The seventh, Dubbe, teaches us to "Respect nature — or suffer the consequences." The sixth and seventh stars point to Polaris the North Star which reminds us to "Accept life as it is."

I want to invite readers to turn your gaze skyward to the heavens some clear night and perhaps wonder at the universe through the eyes of a different times and peoples. Perhaps you might even use the stars to remind you of the principles of caring for the web of life.

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Winter '97 Wildlife Survey a Great Success

by Lani Noreke

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve's winter '97 wildlife survey may have been our best yet. More first time volunteers participated than ever, plus we had quite a few repeat "customers." These dedicated volunteers braved mud and high water while the canyon was closed to the public during the end of January, and they were rewarded with some exciting finds.

The highlight of the survey was long-tailed weasel tracks that were found under the I-5/805 merge. It had been over a year since anyone had seen any sign of weasels in the preserve, so this was very encouraging. We also found cougar scat on a transect for the first time. Several transect

teams were treated with live sightings of mule deer and coyotes. Because the park was closed to the public, we especially enjoyed the peace and quiet of the early morning transects.

A special thank you goes out to all of our volunteers: Ted Anasis, Carrie Barton, Uli Burgin, Dave Chase, Lisa Ellis, Dan Evans, Peter Friederici, Dion Heller, Leo Holland, Pat Holland, Mike Kelly, Brenda Lee, Stacey Love, Mark Miller, Milan Mitrovich, Reneene Mowrey, Michele Murphree, Sharon Pankey, Pat Parris, Fred Sullivan, Deb Thomas, June Warburton, Ben Wolf, Hanako Wolf, Dean Woods, Angela Vucetic, and Annalese Zeeck. We appreciate the patience of the vol-

unteers who were rescheduled as we shuffled the transects around to avoid the rain, and our apologies go out to those on the one transect which had to be canceled due to high water.

Next survey and training

The training for next quarter's survey will be held on **Saturday, April 12**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Ranch House. The transects will take place from Saturday, April 26, through Sunday, May 4. We hope to add some new transects in the Del Mar Mesa area and the proposed Route 56, so there should be plenty of room for more volunteers. Call me at 484-2259 if you have questions.

Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Tracking Team presents

An Introduction To Nature Awareness and Earth Skills

March 14-16: an intensive weekend of nature skills

- Tracking • Awareness Techniques • Movement in Nature • Survival Shelter Construction
- Fire Making • How to Find and Purify Water • Survival Hunting and Cooking • Rockworking
- Cordage Making • Plant Uses • Earth Philosophy

Call 484-3219 for more information

Registration

Friday, March 14 (5:30 PM to 9:00 PM)

Saturday, March 15 (8:00 AM to 9:00 PM)

Sunday, March 16 (8:00 AM to 4:00 PM)

Registration is \$55 per person and includes membership in the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and dinner Saturday night. (There is a \$5 discount for registrations received by March 8 and a \$10 discount for Friends members.) Class will be held at the Adobe Ranch House in Peñasquitos Canyon.

Name: _____ Phone _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Are you already a Friends Member? _____ yes _____ no Amount Enclosed: _____

Please make checks payable to the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

Please send registration to the Tracking Team at PO Box 502345, San Diego, CA 92150-2345.

Volunteer Opportunities

Thorn mint survey: Our annual thorn mint (*Acanthimintha ilicifolia*) survey will occur some time in late March or early April. If you want to help count this plant call Mike at 566-6489.

Trails Restoration Crew: Sat., March 15, 8 a.m. - noon. See Ranger article this newsletter.

Habitat Restoration Work Party: Sunday, April 2, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Call Mike at 566-6489 for location and details.

Sweetwater River Restoration. 2nd Sunday, each month, 9 a.m. Help remove invasive giant reed. Call Vivianne at 476-1042 to find out how to help.

Famosa Slough. 2nd Sat. of odd-numbered months. Next: Mar. 8. 9 a.m. at intersection of Famosa and West Point Loma Blvd. Trash pickups and weed removal.

Wildlife Track and Sign Survey. See article in this issue. Next training: April 12, 1997.

Chainsaw Safety Training: If you missed the last City-sponsored training with an instructor from Stihl, another is expected to take place this spring. Friends or other volunteers from City or County parks are welcome. Call Mike at 566-6489 to sign up.

Ranch House Docent Training. See Rancho Roundup in this issue.

Volunteer Coordinator. We have a long list of folks who want to volunteer, but don't always have the time to call them or to send them postcards when projects come up. We need someone to coordinate our list and call volunteers for appropriate projects. Call Mike at 566-6489.

Fund Appeal Tops Goal

Mike Kelly, president

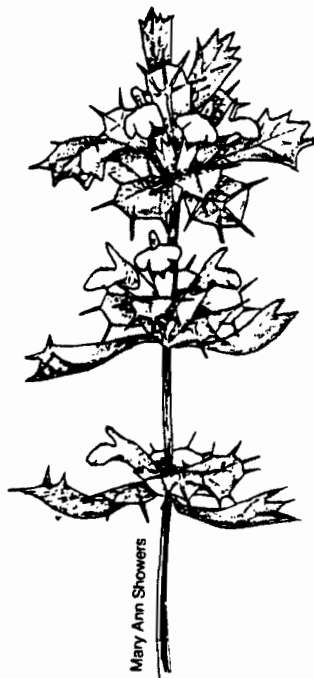
With the help of numerous and generous members, our 1996 Fund Appeal raised a total of \$4,353 to purchase a tractor and associated tools for the Preserve. Board member Don Albright is already actively looking for used tractors to purchase. Call Don at 443-5937 if you know of any. The Board of Directors thanks the following folks for their contributions.

Sandy Amison	Don Hoffman	Roy & Edwina Riblet
Norman Anderson	Mike Kelly & Chris Whitten	The Rock Family
Jude Barnes	Tom Komin	Jim Royle
Carrie & Bill Barton	Dave Kreitzer	Triska & Jerry Seeger
Adeline Black	Hans Leenhouts	Vivienne Seymore
Uli Burgin	Susan Levine	Nathaniel Spicer
Mr. & Mrs. David Carey	Paul & Carol Micheletti	Pam & Jeff Stevens
Charles Cochrane	Maurice & Ree Miller	Mary Toomey
K. Crampton	Marianne Mohr	Gail Summers
George & Jan Daniels	Edith Monsees	Lowell Tozer
Jeanne & Glenn Dunham	June Munnecke	Greg Vines
Louise Eifert	Bill and Charmaine Moore	James Walton
Jeanette Fitzgerald	Doris Nater	Jacqueline Weatherly
Ronald Getoor	James & Louise O'Neill	Tom & Jeanne White
Michael Gonzales	Jim & Barbara Peugh	Bill Witzell
David Gottfredson	Ann Pogue	Antoinette & Francisco Wong
John & Alice Greene	Mr. & Mrs. G.W. Reynolds	Dean Woods
Terry Hayes		

New Members

Welcome to the following folks who recently joined the Friends. Call to let us know (566-6489, Mike) of any suggestions for improvements you might have.

George Binckley
Marta Graham
Don Grine
Rick & Diane Hanson
Linda Henning
David & Elena Kleinsmith
Emily Long
Sharon Pankey
Phil White



San Diego thorn mint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*), an aromatic spiny plant with pale blue, two-lipped flowers, was once widespread in the coastal areas of San Diego County.

Rancho Roundup

by Supervising County Ranger Reneene Mowry

The Ranch House Garden

It's time to begin sowing this year's garden. Our first year was spent working out the kinks (like how to discourage hungry deer and ravenous rabbits). We're now moving fearlessly ahead with plans for another adventure with weeds, critters, and the elements. We'll be planting a larger percentage of heritage species, as our ultimate goal is to have a garden which represents the 1860 to 1880 time period. We also hope to incorporate the garden into our school tours, teaching the children the role agriculture played in the history of our area, and giving them the opportunity to utilize antique farm implements. We're looking for individuals or groups who would like to assist with the garden and with our school tours. We also would be most appreciative of any donations (tax deductible!) of heritage farm equipment that dates back to this time period.

Thanks to Kathy Buco for her tender, loving care of our vegetables over the past year. Kathy is moving up to the Wild Animal Park to work in their native plant garden but has agreed to continue starting seedlings for us.

Ranch House Docents

The Ranch House docents are busy preparing a display table for the upcoming Congress of History Conference (March 7 and 8 at the Handlery Hotel). This annual conference brings the local historic community together and is a wonderful opportunity for learning and networking. This year's theme is 'History of the Two Californias — Baja and Alta.' Call me if you want further details; it only costs \$15 for both days.

The next docent training will begin on April 5.

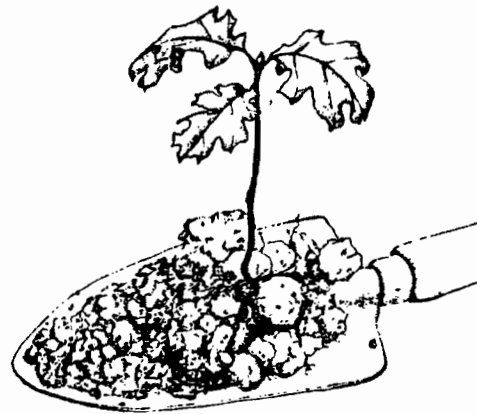
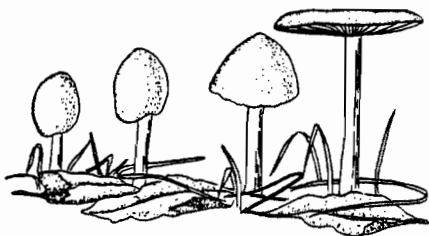
Head docent Kathy Jenkins will head up the four-week training which will be held on Thursday evenings, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., in the Ranch House conference room.

Topics to be covered include rancho history, Native Americans, archaeology, architecture, and interpretation. Anyone interested in becoming a docent or in participating in our school programs is invited to attend our docent meetings, which are held at the Ranch House, at 9:00 a.m., on the first Saturday of each month. You may sign up at the meeting, or call me (484-7504) or Kathy (569-2495).

Archaeological Dig

Archaeologist Steve Bouscaren and his City College students have started their spring dig at the Native American site on the knoll above the Ranch House. You can come out to view their findings and discuss the project with them any Friday through May, except for the Friday before Easter.

The San Diego County Archaeological Society (SDCAS) is launching a site monitoring program to oversee and protect the preserve's many archaeological sites. Archaeologists Steve Bouscaren and Anna Noah will be conducting the initial site monitor training on Sunday, April 6, at the Ranch House and in the canyon. The purpose of the training will be to teach volunteers to carry out periodic surveys of the preserve's many archaeological sites, noting any changes, damage or potential threats to them. If you're not already a member, you must join the SDCAS in order to participate. If interested, leave them a message at 538-0935, and someone will contact you.



Drawing by Geri Hulze Stephens

Ranger Notes

by Senior City Ranger Bill Lawrence

Park closures

We have had to close the Preserve twice already this year due to flood damage. Sections of the south side service road have become mud bogs barely passable with 4-wheel drive vehicles. Most Preserve visitors understand that the canyon is a major floodway, so when heavy rains cause massive runoff and flooding, we must close the park for everyone's safety.

NCCC in the Preserve

The National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC, also known as Americorps), will spend another 3 weeks in March assisting in removing exotic invasive plants. With all the help from Friends volunteers and the San Diego County Archaeological Society, major sections of the creek are clear of invasive plants for about 1 mile downstream from the Ranch. Thanks to everyone who worked and suffered through this project.

Eagle Scout projects move forward

Currently, three Eagle Scout projects are underway. Les Braund has been supervising a scout building 2 redwood kiosks that are nearing completion. They are to be placed at the eastern portion of the main trail off the east staging area and at Camino Ruiz staging area off Park Village Road.

Another scout led revegetation project is underway just east of the falls. An overlook and revegetation project has also been approved on the north side of the falls.

We are reviewing revegetation projects for next season and would like recommendations for projects Eagle Scouts can complete.

With the addition of our new Ranger Dion Heller, we now are developing a Native American and natural resources field studies for elementary students. We have already begun with 30 students in February. Thanks to Lee Kircheval for helping.

Mohnike Adobe to receive face lift

The Mohnike Adobe, located to the

Happy Trails for the Future

Trail Restoration Crew Volunteers Needed

City Ranger Dion Heller

Spring has arrived and is furnishing us with its colorful wildflower display and lush, green grasses. Unfortunately, this past winter season that quenched the year-long thirst of all the Preserve's residents, also left some of the park's trails in dire need of repair. As the politically correct Marine Corps would say, the Rangers are looking for a "few good people" to start a trail restoration crew.

This crew will be responsible for repairing and maintaining the Preserve's trail system that so many people enjoy. Whether reinstalling the creek-crossing bridges or correcting the many erosion problems, there's plenty of work to be done. No technical experience is necessary, but being in good physical condition and a willingness to get dirty are.

Our first crew will concentrate on erosion repair and control on the south access roadway/trail, west of the waterfall. This will be accomplished by installing a new type of rubberized waterbar. This new bar utilizes old, retired conveyor belts and is sandwiched between two 2 x 6 planks. Buried almost entirely underground, only the rubber flap is exposed to divert the water off the trail. The 'give' in this rubber flap has been preferred by hikers, equestrians, and cyclists alike. Most importantly, they allow access for emergency vehicles. Similar bars have been in use in several of the City's parks and are endorsed by the

U.S. Forest Service in which most trail specifications are built.

Trans-County trail grant

Not only will the trail crew be involved with restoration, but possibly with construction of trail connections associated with the Trans-County Trail. This proposed 110-mile trail will run from Torrey Pines State Reserve to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. The City of San Diego has received notification that our Los Peñasquitos Canyon Trans-County Trail connector application for a State of California Habitat Conservation Fund Grant has been recommended for funding.

This \$52,000 grant will help construct a 1.6 mile portion of the Trans-County Trail that will run east from Black Mountain Road, under I-15, and connect with City of Poway Open Space. The funding of the project is dependent upon Legislative approval and is expected in July 1997.

The crew will meet the third Saturday of each month, from 8 a.m. - noon, at varying locations around the Preserve. The first crew date has been scheduled for March 15. We will meet at the West End Staging Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. Wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves and plenty of drinking water.

For future trail crew work dates, check the Friends Activity Calendar.

If you have any questions, call the Rangers at 538-2480.

rear of the Rancho Peñasquitos Equestrian Center, is finally receiving some attention for preservation. City and County staff have inspected the building, and Anna Noah, San Diego County Archaeological Society's president-elect, has agreed to coordinate the historic site registration process and development of repair and restoration costs and methods. We will be working closely with the Equestrian

Center because the Adobe is part of their lease and they have staff living there.

Graphic designer needed

We are closer to having a new brochure and new maps for the kiosks. Several people have been helping, including Lani Noreke and Bill Witzell. We could use some help with the graphic design.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

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Vice-President: Lani Noreke 565-4586
Treasurer: Brian Swanson 695-2209
Secretary: Les Braund 566-3958

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Vickie Ausen, Barry Martin, Erik Noreke

Walks and Committees Leaders

Bird Walks: Brian Swanson 695-2209
Geology Walk Leader: Don Albright 443-5937
Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
Medicinal Plant & Night Walks: Will Bowen 452-7091
Mystery Tree Walks: Vickie Ausen
Nature Walk: Les Braund 566-3958
Newsletter: Mike Kelly, Vickie Ausen
Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
Tracking Walk: Chris Bader
Vernal Pool, Fire Ecology & other walks: Mike Kelly
Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
Voice Mail System: Erik Noreke and Liza Rosenberg
Wildlife Survey Committee: Barry Martin (484-4007),
Chris Bader, Rick Botta, John Fisher, Lee Kirchhevel,
Erik Noreke, Lani Noreke, Susan Potts.

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

Senior (62) or Student \$7.00 Individual \$10
Family \$15 Sponsor \$25 Patron \$100
Corporate \$250 Life \$1000
Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

- Volunteer** to help the committee (call me to discuss)
 Hikes
 Indian Culture 3/97
 Educational Workshops
 School, Family, Youth Programs
 Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

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 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.



SR 56

Progress on Saving Deer Canyon

Mike Kelly, president

Your letters and petitions are having a noticeably positive impact on the debate over which alignment for State Route 56 should be approved: the environmentally devastating Central/Deer Canyon Alignment, or the environmentally sensitive Northern Alignment. Keep up the good work!

We won't repeat here the information shared in our "Organizer's Kit" mailing of several weeks ago. Here's what has happened since then.

County Supervisor Pam Slater, a member of the SR56 Oversight Committee, has come out in writing in support of the Northern Alignment. She also has indicated her support for studying a modification of this northern alignment (more on this later). Be sure to thank Supervisor Slater for this forthright support for the environmentally superior alternative.

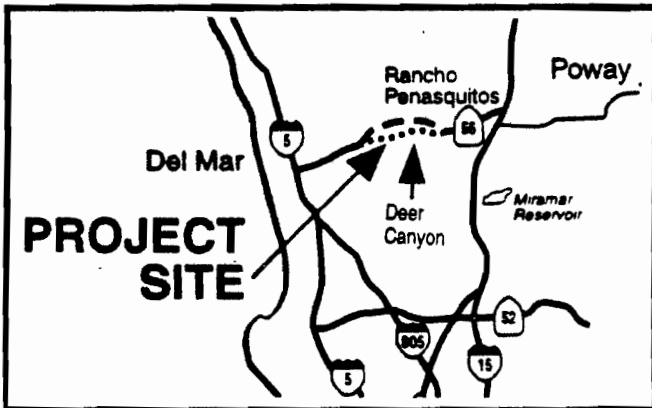
Dozens of volunteers have returned filled petitions to us. Many other folks have sent us copies of their letters in support of the Northern Alignment and saving Deer Canyon. Activists such as Edward DiBella, Dean Woods, Monica Flores, Jennifer Zamora, Les Braund, Linda King, Jennifer Carson, Gemma Bowden, Gaye Dingeman, Christian Thomas and others helped staff information booths at Earth Day and other regional fairs to gather signatures and support for Deer Canyon.

City Councilmember Harry Mathis has thrown his good offices behind seeking a compromise solution that would be acceptable to the contending parties involved in this dispute. With his help serious attention is being given to finding a way to modify the northern alignment so that it will work better for the major landowner/developers in the area — while keeping SR56 out of Deer Canyon. The idea of modifying the environmentally preferred northern alignment so that it would work better for the landowners came from the Sierra Club's Craig Adams. We have surveyed the area involved and found that the modifications suggested by the Sierra Club would not impact the pristine habitat of Deer Canyon in any fashion and might allow the Pardee Company, the largest landowner in the area, to support a northern alignment. If Pardee and other parties agree that a modified northern alignment could work for them, the environmental review process would progress with an amendment to the Environmental Impact Report for the project. This amendment process and subsequent public review and hearing process would probably culminate in a City Council alignment decision around

October of this year.

Keep circulating your petitions in support of Deer Canyon and send them to us at: **POB 26523, San Diego 92196.**

Thank you to the folks who donated funds for the Deer Canyon campaign, we'll print a list in our next newsletter.



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Mohnike Adobe Imperiled

[Following on page 6 is the text of a letter from Anna Noah, Vice-president of the San Diego County Archaeological Society and chair of its Peñasquitos Steering Committee, concerning the sad state of the Mohnike Adobe. Your help is needed to prevent the loss of this historic adobe structure. The ruins of El Cuervo (the Crow) Adobe at the west end of the Preserve are a jolting testimony to the fate awaiting the Mohnike if urgent repairs aren't made. El Cuervo is a City-owned adobe that citizens urged be protected back in the 1950s and 1960s — to no avail. Now, only parts of its walls stand as a monument to neglect. **Please circulate the petition on page 7 — Editor.]**

Baby Time in the Preserve

May and June are the months when we can expect to see baby animals, including most bird species, deer, bobcat, coyote, and on down the list. Although less than normal, our rainfall was sufficient in quantity and nicely spaced so as to produce a bumper crop of many plants, the base of the food chain in the Preserve. This augers well for a healthy crop of newborns. The birds are easy to spot as they cry endlessly for mom and dad to feed them and as they struggle on the edge of their nests to explore the world around them, and as they take their first flying lessons. Mammal young are harder to see. Dusk is a good time to spot them as their parents begin to lead them out from their fawning grounds or den sites. Join us for an evening walk and a chance to see some of our wilder neighbors!

Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. **Rain (not drizzle) cancels.** For details or group hikes, call 484-3219 for recorded information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have ongoing wildlife and stream surveys, habitat restoration

May

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Nature Walk/Mercy Road

Sat., May 3, 8 a.m. This moderately paced walk will introduce you to many of the beautiful flowers, trees and shrubs that populate the Preserve. Led

by naturalist Les Braund. Meet in the Mercy Road Parking-Staging Area, upper level, at the junction of Mercy Road and Black Mountain Road in Mira Mesa. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Riparian Habitat Trail

Nature Walk Sun., May 4, 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Call 484-7504 to sign up. Rains close to the date will cancel as trail is subject to flooding. Meet at kiosk at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd. entrance, Mira Mesa.

Intermediate Tracking Training

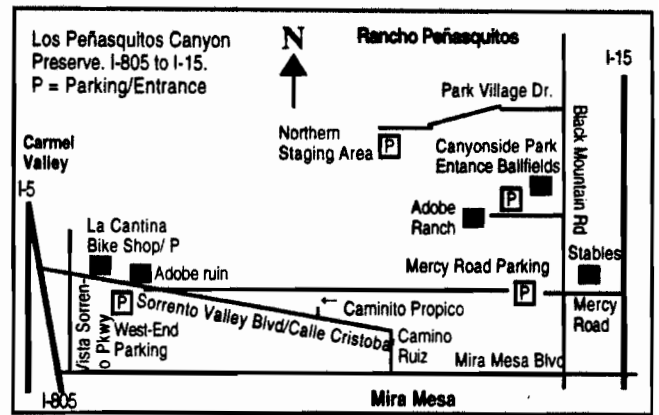
Sat., May 10, 8 a.m. – noon. Practice your tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Tracking training is a **prerequisite for this walk**. This is not a beginner's walk. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Geology Walk

Sun., May 11, 9 a.m. - noon. With cool weather our popular geology walk is back. Join Geologist Don Albright for a walk through time, including the Preserve's waterfall. With recent rains there should be lots of water in the falls. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on either side. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Trails Crew Volunteers

Sat., May 17, 8 a.m. – noon. Volunteers in good physical condition and willing to get dirty are invited to join this monthly trails work party. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.



Tracking/Nature Walk at Ranch House

Sat., May 17, 1–2 p.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. Meet at the Adobe Ranch House in Rancho Peñasquitos, located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Native Grass Restoration on North Side—Volunteers Needed

Sat., May 17, 8 a.m. – noon. Volunteers are welcome to join in restoring native grasslands in the Preserve. Long pants, good boots, sun hat, sun protection and plenty of water recommended. Call Mike for more details. Meet at the Northern Parking-Staging area in Rancho Peñasquitos at the intersection of Park Village Drive and Camino Ruiz. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Archeology in the Park

Sat., May 17, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Celebrate archeology week at Peñasquitos Canyon. There will be flintknapping demonstrations, children's activities, docent tours of the historic adobe ranch, speakers, tours of dig sites and more. Meet at the Adobe Ranch House in Rancho Peñasquitos, located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

(Calendar cont'd)

Native Grass Restoration at West End—Volunteers Needed

Sun., May 18, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to join in restoring native grasslands in the Preserve. Long pants, good boots, sun hat, sun protection and plenty of water recommended. Call Mike for more details. Meet at the West End Parking Staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1204 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., May 18, 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, freshwater clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Call 484-7504 to sign up. Meet at kiosk at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd. entrance, Mira Mesa.

Hawk Walk in Lopez Canyon

Sun., May 18, 4–5:30 p.m. Join Brian Swanson for a great time of day to see the new crop of young hawks and kites and other birds. Bring bird book and binoculars. Meet at West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for directions.

Feather Healing Hike

Sun., May 18, 5–6:30 p.m. Learn how feathers were used by Native Americans for prayer, blessing, dance, diagnosis, healing, and divination. Participants should bring two ten inch legal feathers and a gourd rattle. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Friends Monthly Meeting

Wed., May 21, 7–9 p.m. The Friends' Board of Directors meets at the historic adobe ranch house off Black Mountain Road, near I-15, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Members are welcome to attend. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Full Moon Star Gazing Hike

Wed., May 21, 8-9 p.m. Learn about how Native Americans saw the night sky. Observe heavenly bodies. Hear Indian stories and songs about the stars. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Dusk Walk to Waterfall

Thursday, May 22, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Join Naturalist Mike Kelly and explore the preserve with your senses. Learn how to attune your senses to the sights, sounds and smells of nature in the evening. Good chance to see wildlife. Meet at the Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Nature Walk with Barbara Moore — Lopez Canyon

Sat., May 31, 4–6 p.m. Bring binoculars, sun protection, water and join Barbara Moore for a nature walk in Lopez Canyon. Barbara is the co-author of *Waling San Diego* and often has books available for sale and autographing with her. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

June

Friends Monthly Meeting

Call Mike at 566-6489 for date of Friends' monthly business meeting.

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Waterfall Walk from Northern Staging Area

Sat., June 7, 8 a.m. (2–3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this general nature walk to the waterfall and back. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Intermediate Tracking Training at West End

Sun., June 8, 8 a.m. – noon. Practice your tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Tracking training is a **prerequisite for this walk**. This is not a beginner's walk. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., June 8, 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, freshwater clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Call 484-7504 to sign up. Rains close to the date will cancel as trail is subject to flooding. Meet at kiosk at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd. entrance, Mira Mesa.

Volunteer Patrol Training

June 14 and 21st. Call the Rangers at 538-2480 for more information and see article in Friends' newsletter.

Geology Walk

Sun., June 15, 9 a.m. - noon. With cool weather our popular geology walk is back. Join Geologist Don Albright for a walk through time, including the Preserve's waterfall. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on either side. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Hawk Walk in Lopez Canyon

Sun., June 15, 3–4:30 p.m. Join Brian Swanson for a great time of day to see the new crop of young hawks and kites and many other birds. Bring bird book and binoculars. Meet at the West-End

➡ next page for more

(Calendar cont'd)

Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Feather Healing Hike

Sun., June 15, 5–6:30 p.m. Learn how feathers were used by Native Americans for prayer, blessing, dance, diagnosis, healing, and divination. Participants should bring two ten inch legal feathers and a gourd rattle. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Dusk Walk to Kit Carson Crossing

Wed., June 18, 7–9 p.m. Participants often see deer, coyote, bats, and other critters of the night on these evening walks led by Naturalist Mike Kelly. Bring flashlight and insect repellent. Meet in parking lot for historic adobe ranch house, Canyonside entrance. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Full Moon Star Gazing Hike

Thur., June 19, 8–9 p.m. Learn about how Native Americans saw the night sky. Observe heavenly bodies. Hear Indian stories and songs about the stars. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Trails Crew Volunteers

Sat., June 21, 8 a.m. – noon. Volunteers in good physical condition and willing to get dirty are invited to join this monthly trails work party. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

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being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. Meet at the Adobe Ranch House in Rancho Peñasquitos, located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Sunrise Solstice Hike

Sat., June 21, 5:30–7 a.m. Watch the sun rise on this pre-dawn hike. Learn about the importance of solstice rites in ancient cultures. Salute the most northern movement of the sun. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., June 22, 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, freshwater clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Call 484-7504 to sign up. Rains close to the date will cancel as trail is subject to flooding. Meet at kiosk at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd. entrance, Mira Mesa.

Raptor Walk in Lopez Canyon

Sat., June 28, 4–8 p.m. Join naturalist Barbara Moore for a look at owls and hawks, their nests and young. Moore is the co-author of *Waliing San Diego*. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

DIRECTIONS**Ranch House Walks/Tours**

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

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal

This intersection is located in Mira

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

Cantina Bike Shop Meeting Area

The Bike Shop is located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

Mercy Road Parking-Staging Area

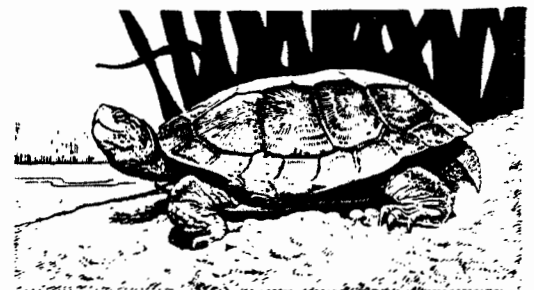
Located in Mira Mesa. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. and straight across the intersection into the parking lot. Meet on the upper level. **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruíz and Park Village Drive

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

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 3/4 mile east of intersection with Vista Sorrento Pky. From the east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to the bottom of the hill. The entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley.



Western Pond Turtle.

On Kayaking the Preserve, Flooding and . . .

John Northrop, PhD

A new sport has begun in Peñasquitos Canyon, i.e., kayaking! For information to members, I wish to report that I saw a kayaker paddling down the flooded main trail at the base of hang glider hill, about a half a mile upstream from the El Cuervo adobe at about 11 a.m. on Sunday, January 26, 1997. At that time I was trying to wade upstream to find a shallower place to cross when I looked up and saw the kayak coming right at me. I figure he was going about 5 mph because the flooding stream was rushing by pretty fast and he was paddling just enough to maintain steerage way. I was so startled I only had time to shout "Where'd you start from, the Falls?"

"Below the falls," he replied while paddling on past me.

"How far are you going?" I asked.

"Torrey Pines Beach," he called over his shoulder as he paddled on past the El Cuervo adobe, around the corner and, presumably, under Sorrento Valley Road, Interstates 5 and 805, the railroad tracks (twice) and, eventually, US 1 to Torrey Pines Beach.

Thinking about it afterwards, I believe he must have had someone who drove him up Calle Cristobal to the top of López Ridge near the burn area, helped him carry the kayak down the trail through that burned area to Peñasquitos Creek, where he launched his boat near where the trail comes out just below the Alvarado Crossing. His accomplice then must have hiked back up the hill and driven to Torrey Pines Beach to meet the kayaker. As I waded on, I felt sure he had paddled there before, during a previous flood, as he seemed assured of his whereabouts and destination.

There've been at least three floods of sufficient proportions this winter to inundate the part of the main trail I was wading in: Vis: Nov. 21, Jan. 13, and Jan. 26. In fact, when I saw Ranger Bill Lawrence later in the morning (he was preparing to close the Preserve), he said he'd heard about kayakers in Peñasquitos, but had never seen one. When I asked him if kayaking were il-

legal in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, he responded that his main worry was that there would be an accident and he'd be unable to help because nobody would know about it, of course, and furthermore, he couldn't get there because the main service road was under about 3 feet of running water.

Upon returning home, I checked my maps and found that the kayaker's trip was about 7-1/2 miles long so it must have taken him several hours to complete, assuming he didn't hit any snags or have to portage around the Sorrento Road bridge. I also checked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Maps of Peñasquitos Canyon, and saw that the area he traversed when I saw him is within the 100-year floodplain of Peñasquitos Creek.

The question of legality, however, remains moot. Of course, if the Ranger had closed the park at 9 a.m. instead of 11:30, the kayaker would have been in the Preserve illegally. If he had an accident, and sued the City, I don't believe he could collect if he was there when the Preserve was closed, but otherwise he probably could. In my opinion, one solution would be to require kayaking clubs to take out a \$100,000 insurance policy, as is required of the hang gliders.

Flooding

In addition to a kayaker being there illegally, there remains the larger problem of flooding in the Preserve. I have never seen that part of the trail flooded by so much water so often in the 20 years I have been on this Committee. Indeed, if flooding of like proportions continues, the trail there will probably be washed out (there are deep swales, or "blow-outs" in it right now that go below the water table and remain filled with water all year round) and, eventually, the Creek could assume a new course and abandon the present meanders, reducing them to oxbow lakes with stagnant water therein.

In my opinion, there are two main causes for the increased flooding: development on the surrounding mesa tops and log jams in the creek bed.

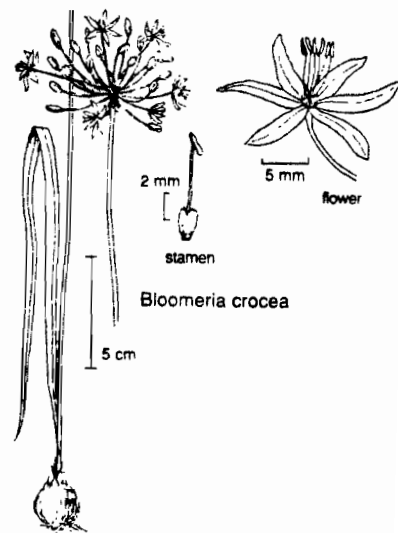
Development on the surrounding mesas

The effect of development on the mesas is twofold: 1) a replacement of natural grasses and shrubbery with asphalt, roof tops and playgrounds, and 2) drainage pipes leading directly to the canyon bottoms (there are about 18 of them in López Canyon alone). These factors not only increase the runoff by about 25% but also to reduce the time it takes to reach the creek bed so we are getting what amounts to flash floods, instead of long soakings that take place over a period of several days.

Log jams

Thick brush and dead falls have proliferated in the creek channel since the cattle were taken out of the Canyon in 1989 (they kept it open by grazing in the creek bottom in hot weather). Removing these dead falls and tree trunks would allow the creek to flow unimpeded again in its channel, thus reducing the flooding of adjacent lands. I have chopped my way through a couple of such jams and can attest to not only their presence but also the difficulty in removing them.

There is not much we can do about the development-caused runoff, but clearing out the log jams should be a high priority item on our list of things to do.



Ranger Notes

Volunteer Patrol Training

by City Ranger Dion Heller

Volunteer patrol training has been scheduled for June 14 and 21 of this year. For those new to the Friends, the first volunteer patrol unit to hit the dirt for the City of San Diego took place in the Spring of 1991, right here in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Little did we know that seven years later, that unit would prove to be the mother-program for three other major parks with possibly two more new additions this year.

This group of dedicated hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians have provided both the ranger staff and park visitors with an invaluable service. With the ever-increasing demand on the ranger staffs' time, these patrol members make it almost possible to achieve the mythical "be everywhere at once" expectation.

Among the duties that these members perform are providing directions to help navigate the Preserve, educating the public on park rules and regulations, assisting with searches for lost children (and adults), evaluating conditions within the Preserve, and most importantly, they provide medical assistance to injured park visitors. The volunteer patrol is an integral part of the Preserve's emergency response system. They have the ability to locate, evaluate, and communicate their observations via the radio and thus substantially reduce the response time of appropriate medical personnel.

The Ranger Staff is currently looking for new patrol candidates who would comprise the "Class of 1997." Training dates are set for June 14th and 21st. Members will be trained in areas such as cultural and natural history, radio communication, patrol and report procedures, San Diego Police Dept. orientation, and hands-on scenarios. Members will also participate in a patrol ride-along, First Aid and CPR certification training also will be provided.

Interested candidates are encouraged to call the Rangers at 538-2480 for further information.

February 25, 1997

Bill Lawrence and Dion Heller
City Park Staff
12020 Black Mountain Road
San Diego, CA 92129

Dear Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Heller:

Mohnike Adobe, Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

The San Diego County Archaeological Society (SDCAS) is very concerned about the deteriorating condition of the Mohnike Adobe. Located at the eastern end of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, the Mohnike Adobe was built in approximately 1912 and is an important historic property, representing the early 20th century adobe architectural style and a unique phase in the evolution of ranching in southern California.

Fred Buchanan and I, representing SDCAS, recently made a tour of the structure with both of you and with the caretaker, Rod Garcia. While there are several types of deterioration and damage that are occurring to the structure, of most critical importance is the badly leaking roof, which has caused swelling, cracking, and other damage to the upper portions of the adobe walls. Mr. Garcia has recently stretched heavy plastic across the entire roof, which has temporarily stopped the leaking.

As you know, Fred Buchanan, who is a civil engineer, recommended some minor drainage work, which would help divert surface water away from the structure. We understand that you are pursuing obtaining labor for this work, and SDCAS is willing to offer a volunteer archaeological monitor to assure that no subsurface archaeological deposits are inadvertently impacted.

Regarding the building's structural damage, SDCAS requested an assessment of stabilization needs and a cost estimate from Mr. Tom West. Mr. West was involved in the recent restoration of the Guajome Ranch House and is currently restoring the Father Serra Room at the San Diego Mission. Mr. West's report is enclosed.

SDCAS strongly requests that the City of San Diego establish funding in the 1997-98 fiscal year budget to reroof and stabilize the Mohnike Adobe.

It is our opinion that if the adobe goes through another year without an adequate roof, its structural integrity may be severely affected. We recommend that the amount budgeted for FY97-98 should include an additional 15 percent over the estimate, in order to have funds for preparing construction specifications and contract documents.

The SDCAS would like to assist the Parks Department by gathering the necessary data to have the Mohnike Adobe and its outbuildings placed on the City's Historic Site list. With this formal historic designation, the City would become eligible to apply for historic preservation grants to complete the restoration of the building.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions. Thank you for your interest in the historic resources of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

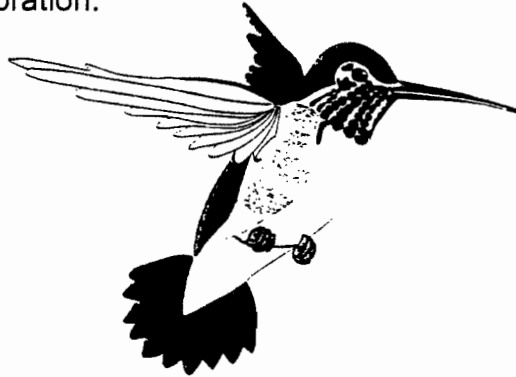
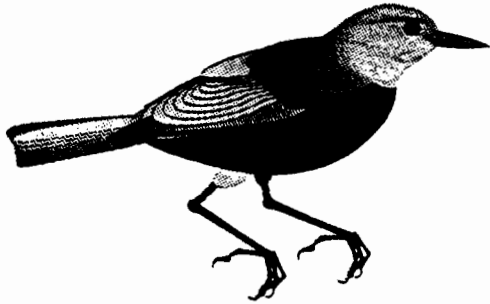
Very truly yours,

Anna C. Noah, Chair
SDCAS Peñasquitos Steering Committee

International Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 10, 1997

The San Diego Park and Recreation Department, San Diego Audubon, and the San Diego Field Ornithologists are joining together in a city wide celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Morning and evening guided bird walks and observation sites will be combined with a bird exploration fair at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center. Expert and novice birders alike are encouraged to join in the celebration.



Morning bird walks beginning at 8:00 AM are planned at Old Mission Dam, Kumeyaay Lake and Lake Murray at Mission Trails. Los Penasquitos Canyon eastern staging area on Black Mountain Road, Marian Bear Park off Genesee, and Balboa Park's Florida Canyon and Gold Canyon.

Observation sites will be set up at Tecolote Nature Center, La Jolla Cove, and in the Mission Bay area at Quivira Basin, San Diego River Flood Control Channel and Famosa Slough. These sites will have local birders available to answer questions and assist in the observation.

Evening bird walks are scheduled for 6:30 PM at Mission Trails Visitor Center and Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve eastern staging area at Black Mountain and Mercy Roads.



The birding exploration fair will be held at the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center from noon until 5:00 PM. Organizations from all over San Diego County will have information tables set up where participants can learn about local birding opportunities and activities. Speakers will be presenting informational talks, demonstrations and audio/visual programs on improving backyard habitat for wildlife, birding basics, where to bird in San Diego County, tools of the trade, neo-tropic migrant species, bird migration, golden eagle surveys in San Diego and bird conservation programs at the San Diego Wild Animal Park.

Watch for more information in your local paper or call Mission Trails Regional Park at 668-3275.

PQ Bird Walks

Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 10, there are two walks scheduled for Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

8 a.m. General Bird Walk

6:30 p.m. Owl Walk

Each will meet at the Mercy Road Parking Staging Area in Mira Mesa. Take I-15 to the Mercy Road exit. Go west on Mercy Road to the intersection of Black Mountain and Mercy Roads. Enter the parking lot at the west side of this intersection (**Thomas Guide 1997**, 1189 D-7).

Letters

Re: El Cuervo letters in Jan./Feb. 1997 Canyon News

As someone who first hiked in the preserve more than 20 years ago, and who has been a member of the Board of Directors for nearly 10 years, I'd like to put in my two cents. Regardless of which site is the oldest, an important point which was ignored is that the marshy ground east of El Cuervo is "wetlands." This valuable habitat is important to the preserve's wildlife. Marshy ground may be considered "inconvenient" or a "nuisance" to some, but the solution is not to alter the natural waterflow. Too many others have their own narrow agenda and are ignorant or unwilling to consider the bigger picture. Sure, it would be nice to reconstruct this crumbling ruin. However, the habitat and its dependent wildlife take precedence in my book.

I would hope that those responsible for managing the preserve would prevail over others, who, however well intentioned, are not considering the true harm to the preserve which would result from draining the land. If the adobe can not be restored without damaging this wetlands, I would vote to leave it in its present state as a monument to poor planning and ignorance.

Brian D. Swanson, treasurer
Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon
Prserve

Los Peñasquitos Preserve Tracking Team presents an introduction to Nature Awareness and Earth Skills May 30 – June 1, 1997

Join the Tracking Team for an intensive weekend of nature skills including:

- Tracking
- Movement in Nature
- Fire Making
- Survival Hunting and Cooking
- Cordage Making
- Earth Philosophy
- Awareness Techniques
- Survival Shelter Construction
- How to Find and Purify Water
- Rockworking
- Plant Uses

The schedule:

Friday, May 30: 5:30 – 9 p.m.

Saturday, May 31: 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Sunday, June 1: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Registration is \$55 per person and includes membership in the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and Saturday night's dinner. There is a \$5 discount for registrations received by May 24 and a \$10 discount for Friends members. The classes will be held at the Adobe Ranch House in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

Call Rick at 672-0584 for more information.

----- Registration Form -----

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Are you already a Friends' Member? Yes No

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Please send registration and check to the Tracking Team at POB 502345, San Diego 92150-2345.



RACCOON

Volunteer Opportunities

Kiosk Designer Needed

The Preserve is badly in need of someone who can organize rotating displays for the 3 informational kiosk locations in the Preserve. The Friends will help with theme ideas and access to a photo/slide collection of over 20,000 items. Call Mike at 566-6489 if interested.

Monardella survey: Our annual endangered *Monardella* plant survey will occur some time in June. This will be an early weekday evening effort over 2-3 evenings. If you want to help count this plant call Mike at 566-6489.

Trails Restoration Crew: Sat., May 17 and June 21, 8 a.m. - noon. Meet at the West End Parking/Staging Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. See Calendar listing this issue.

Habitat Restoration Work Parties: Sat., May 17, 8 a.m.-noon and Sun., May 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For May 17 meet at the Northern Parking-Staging area in Rancho Peñasquitos at intersection of Park Village Drive and Camino Ruiz. For May 18, meet at the West End Parking-Staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. Call Mike at 566-6489 for details.

Sweetwater River Restoration. 2nd Sunday, each month, 9 a.m. Help remove invasive giant reed. Call Vivianne at 476-1040 to find out how to help.

Famosa Slough. 2nd Sat. of odd-numbered months. Next: May 10 9 a.m. at intersection of Famosa and West Point Loma Blvd. Trash pickups and weed removal.

Volunteer Accomplishments

by Mike Kelly

The following folks volunteered their valuable time for preserve activities this spring:

Thorn mint survey

Cindy Burrascano, John Nardini, Jeff Lohman and Mike Kelly conducted the annual survey of the endangered San Diego Thorn mint (*Acanthimintho ilicifolia*) in April. They also made repairs to the eucalyptus fence protecting the thorn mint populations. The mint is doing well this year, rebounding from last year's low numbers.

Native Grassland Restoration

Thirteen volunteers came out April 6 to combat invasive weeds, especially artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), and italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), threatening some really nice native perennial bunch grasslands above the Old Lopez Road in Lopez Canyon. *Nassella pulcra*, our native bunch grass is accompanied by beautiful wildflowers in the area, including blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*), mariposa lily (*Calochortus splendans*), goldenstars (*Bloomeria crocea*), checkerbloom (*Sidalcea malvaeflora ssp. sparsifolia*), blue dicks (*dichelostemma venustum*), monkeyflower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), and others. The volunteers were Liza Rosenberg, John Nardini, Cathy Perry, Todd Transue, Chris Newton, Dean Woods, Doug Fenske, Cindy Burrascano, Kevin Quinn, Robb Hutsel, Edward DiBella, Liz Rozycki, and Mike Kelly.

I-15 Wildlife Corridor Restoration

Robb Hutsel, Mike Gagliardi, Liza Rosenberg, Liz Rozycki, Doug Fenske and Mike Kelly did a cleanup sweep of exotic plants in this critical wildlife corridor in a single session. In past years this area, a number of sessions and many more volunteer hours were required to cleanup this area. Progress!

Sundance Canyon Restoration

Mike Kelly, Todd Transue and Chris

Newsletter Editor Sought

Would you like to try your hand at editing and putting together the Friends' newsletter? Mike Kelly, our current editor, would like to train a replacement to free him up for other responsibilities.

Call Mike at 566-6489 if you would like to try it. The newsletter is bi-monthly and requires someone with a Macintosh or PC compatible and a page makeup program. No writing is required, but good spelling and grammar skills are a plus!

New Members

Welcome to the following folks who recently joined the Friends. Call to let us know (566-6489, Mike) of any suggestions for improvements you might have.

Steven Campana

Barbara Cota

Doug Gemeroy

Sherrill Kinsler

Stacey Love

Randy Reid

Pat Walsh

Bruce Worcester

Newton knocked back artichoke thistle and fennel in this little known part of the Preserve.

Sweetwater Arundo Removal

Vivianne Marquez continues to do a great job organizing dozens of volunteers to remove Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) from the Sweetwater River every second Sunday of the month. Many Friends volunteers have been regular attendees at these events. Vivianne has garnered great publicity for the effort, including an article in the San Diego Union-Tribune and TV coverage on Channels 8 and 10. Friends volunteers have included Mike Kelly, Robb Hutsel, Liza Rosenberg, Todd Transue, Mike Gagliardi, and Doug Fenske.

Rancho Roundup

Supervising Ranger Reneene Mowry

Where Is Eichar's Grave?

John Eichar's grave, a canyon landmark for more than 100 years, was vandalized sometime in February and has been removed for safekeeping. The vandal(s) was obviously intent on malice as some of the letters had been chiseled out of the solid marble tombstone. County Parks and Recreation Dept. has not determined whether to return the tombstone, enclosed in a heavy-duty metal cage, to its former resting place, try to obtain a replica for display, or to display it somewhere in the ranch house area, where there is better supervision. Needless to say, we're all greatly saddened by the senseless defacement of this beloved artifact. Give me a call (484-7504) if you have any input on the disposition of Mr. Eichar's headstone.

Archaeology in the Park

To celebrate California Archaeology Week, the San Diego County Archaeological Society (SDCAS) will be sponsoring an "Archaeology in the Park" day on Saturday, May 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the Ranch House. The following events will be featured:

Flintknappers — Under the pepper trees, flintknappers will be demonstrating and explaining their tool-making skills throughout the day and will, perhaps, give you the opportunity to try this ancient art.

Archaeological Dig — Archaeologist Steve Bouscaren and his City College students will be excavating on the knoll north of the ranch house and will be available for questions and demonstrations.

Ranch House Tours — The SDCAS docents will conduct tours of the Ranch House at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Brown Bag Lecture — Archaeologist Sue Wade will be the featured speaker at a brown bag lunch at the picnic table area. Bring your own lunch (food will not be available at the event) and learn about the canyon's third and least known adobe, the former home of Charles Mohnike. Sue is the archaeologist for the site and has done extensive historical research as part of her graduate studies.

Archaeology buffs may view the Statewide schedule of events for Archaeology Week (May 11-17) at the Ranch House office.

Junior Rangers Are Back !

Good news for parents — the very popular Jun-

ior Ranger program, which was offered in years past, will be available at Los Peñasquitos Canyon this summer, from July 21 through August 8. The first week "Nature Explorer" camp will feature an orientation to the outdoors, camping skills, and the world of the Kumeyaay; the following two "Wildlife Explorer" camps will explore the wonders of San Diego plant and animal life. Call 475-1633 or 694-3049 for questions, prices, and to sign up. Brochures are available at the Ranch.

SDCAS Summer Evening Programs (June 28, July 26, and August 23)

Bring a folding chair and picnic supper and join SDCAS for a series of summer evening programs in the beautiful Ranch House courtyard. Come early (6 p.m.) for a docent-led tour. Picnicking and socializing occur between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., with complimentary cake, coffee, and soft drinks provided by SDCAS. The programs, which feature local history and archaeology, begin between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. Speakers had not been confirmed at press time; however, details can be obtained before each event by calling 538-0935. These evenings are very enjoyable — the Ranch House is so beautiful at dusk. So get out of your lounge chair, and come on out. I can guarantee that it beats those TV reruns! Oh yes, don't forget to bring your mosquito repellent!

Ranch House Garden Update

The ranch house garden has been resurrected! Just when we thought there was no way we would have time to prepare the soil and plant a garden this year, former resident park volunteer Guy Relaford (yes, folks, Guy and his wife Aggie are travelling on) decided they needed to stay on a while longer, while our new resident volunteers Victor and Kym Anaya were already on-site. With the extra "man" power, the garden is now underway. When Guy cleared the area, he was delighted to find that Kathy Buco's cherry tomato plants had reseeded, and some were already a foot high! We have so many that we have potted them and are selling the robust plants for only \$1.00 each (such a deal!). We expect to have ripe tomatoes to sell in June. In the meantime, Kathy is busy getting several types of heritage cucumbers, gourds, and melons started for us, and we will be planting squaw corn and scarlet runner pole beans soon. Wish us luck with this year's venture!



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196
619-484-3219

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Friends' Directory

Officers

President: Mike Kelly 566-6489
Vice-President: Lani Noreke 565-4586
Treasurer: Brian Swanson 695-2209
Secretary: Les Braund 566-3958

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Vickie Ausen, Barry Martin, Erik Noreke

Walks and Committees Leaders

Bird Walks: Brian Swanson 695-2209
Geology Walk Leader: Don Albright 443-5937
Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
Medicinal Plant & Night Walks: Will Bowen 452-7091
Mystery Tree Walks: Vickie Ausen
Nature Walk: Les Braund 566-3958
Newsletter: Mike Kelly, Vickie Ausen
Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
Tracking Walk: Chris Bader
Vernal Pool, Fire Ecology & other walks: Mike Kelly
Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
Voice Mail System: Erik Noreke and Liza Rosenberg
Wildlife Survey Committee: Barry Martin (484-4007),
Chris Bader, Rick Botta, John Fisher, Lee Kirchhevel,
Erik Noreke, Lani Noreke, Susan Potts.

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

Senior (62) or Student \$7.00 Individual \$10
Family \$15 Sponsor \$25 Patron \$100
Corporate \$250 Life \$1000
Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

- Volunteer** to help the committee (call me to discuss)
- Hikes
- Indian Culture 5/97
- Educational Workshops
- School, Family, Youth Programs
- Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

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 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.



Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

July/August 1997
Volume 11 No. 4

Decision on 56 Stalled

Mike Kelly

We reported in our last newsletter that opposition to building SR56 through Deer Canyon (the Central Alignment) had succeeded in all but killing this alignment in favor of the less destructive Northern Alignment. We also reported interest on the part of landowners whose land 56 would cross in a "modified" Northern Alignment. Since then, your petitions and letters and opposition to the Central Alignment from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Dept. of Fish and Game have led to an informal consensus that this Deer Canyon alignment is dead. It looks good we'll save Deer Canyon from the bulldozers.

However, no final decision has been made and the process leading to this decision is stalled by opposition of several landowners to the "modified" Northern Alignment. This opposition has not swung the "pendulum" back in favor of the Central Alignment. It simply complicates the search for a consensus position on a new Alignment.

We want to thank everyone who circulated petitions and call your attention to the list of folks on page 9 who donated the funds for this effort.

Mohnike Adobe

It looks promising that funds for repairing the Mohnike Adobe (Canyon News, Vol. 11, #3) will be included in the new City budget. Some \$80,000 is needed to make overdue repairs to the roof and walls to prevent the ruin of this adobe. Your letters and petitions will have made the difference in the Mohnike Adobe avoiding the fate of the El Cuervo Adobe, which deteriorated until only parts of its walls are standing.

Del Mar Mesa & Black Mountain Friends Expanding North

Mike Kelly

The Friends' Board of Directors voted unanimously — after a year of deliberation — to expand the geographic scope and the mission of the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve to include the Del Mar Mesa and Black Mountain areas to our north. This will come as no surprise to long-time members who have followed our newsletter's coverage of the Del Mar Mesa over the years. In fact, the Friends have been cosponsoring and leading nature walks in this area for 6-7 years. In addition, for the past 3 years we have been doing exotic weed eradication on the Mesa. Two years ago we began working to restore native habitat in the Black Mountain Open Space Park.

This work compliments our many years of work to secure wildlife corridors/linkages from the Preserve north to other open space parks, including the future Del Mar Mesa Core Preserve, Black Mountain Open Space Park and the San Dieguito River Valley Park. We recognized that our Preserve and therefore the wildlife and plants in it, were in danger of becoming isolated by development. We are already surrounded by developed to the east, south and west. Older Peñasquitos developments and the newer Park Village developments already extend along one-half of our northern border on the east. The recent bulldozing of Carmel Valley Neighborhood 10 along 1-1/2 - 2 miles of our northern border in the west now leaves us with only a small area of contiguous open space, north of the waterfall area, to link up with other parks. Not even all of this remaining area will be preserved. The Bougain-

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villea Project in Subarea V of the Future Urbanizing Area has been approved for development in part of this area to our north on the Del Mar Mesa.

MSCP

Under the recently approved Multiple Species Habitat Plan, a good portion of the Del Mar Mesa — with connections to Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve — is identified as future open space. Some of it will be dedicated by developers as mitigation for future projects while much of it will have to be purchased — as we did with Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve itself — with future Park Bond monies. Several parcels are already publicly owned in this area, the result of Park Bond and mitigation money.

In addition, the voter approved Torrey Highlands (Subarea IV) development plan provides for saving McGonigle Canyon as a future wildlife corridor between the Del Mar Mesa and the Black Mountain Open Space to the north.

Black Mountain

Building on this, the already approved Black Mountain Ranch Project will dedicate 1,800 of its 4,000 acres as future open space. This land is adjacent to the Black Mountain area and

➡ p. 4 for more

Summer in the Preserve

Okay, so it's hot out there and going to get hotter. How do you enjoy the outdoors when it's hot? You join nature walks scheduled for early morning, dusk or early evening. You come on walks under the canopy of large shade trees. You come on walks in the west end of the Preserve, freshened by cool evening breezes.

Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. **Rain (not drizzle) cancels.** For details or group hikes, call 484-3219 for recorded information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have ongoing wildlife and stream surveys, invasive weed removal projects, planting programs and more.

July

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., July 6: 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Endangered Monardella Survey

Tues., July 8, 5:30–8 p.m. Call Mike at 566-6489 if you want to be part of this annual survey for this endangered plant. Meet and park on Top Gun St., off Camino Santa Fe in Mira Mesa.

Wildlife Track & Sign Survey Training

Sat., July 12: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Volunteers will receive training in basic track, sign and habitat recognition for the Friends' Summer Wildlife Survey. See article this issue or call 484-3219 for details.

Nature Walk in Lopez Canyon

Sun., July 13: 4–6 p.m. Join Brian Swanson for a great time of day to see reptiles, hawks, owls and other critters. Meet at West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for directions.

Stream & Wetlands Restoration Committee

Mon., July 14: 7–9 p.m. Plan stream/wetlands surveys and restoration plans. Several big projects possible this year. Meet at historic adobe ranch house. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **RSVP to Mike Kelly at 566-6489.**

Summer Wildlife Survey

Sat., July 19–Sun., July 27, Volunteers will spread out throughout the preserve to record wildlife data. See July 12 listing for training or see article this issue or call 484-3219 for details.

Riparian Restoration Work Party

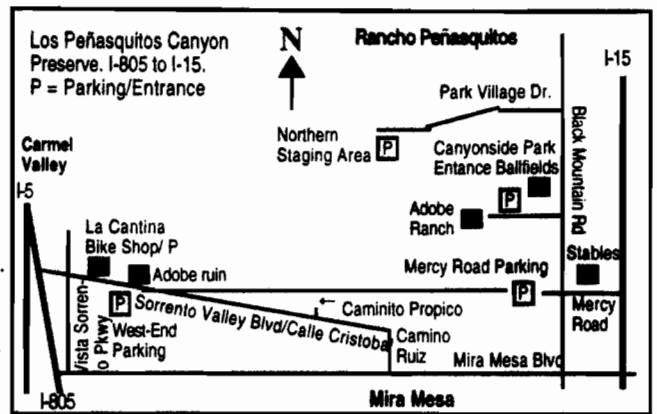
Sat., July 19, 8 a.m.–noon. Volunteers are needed for this restoration work party. No experience necessary. Call Mike at 566-6489 for details. Meet at Mercy Road Parking Staging area, lower level. Wear sturdy boots, hat, long pants and bring gloves. Bring water and sun protection.

Short and Slow Hop-a-long Evening Nature Walk

Sat., July 19: 5:30–7 p.m. Linda King will lead a 1-mile, slow paced nature walk. Look for the lady on crutches (seriously)! Linda was trained as a walk leader by the Natural History Museum Canyoneers. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., July 20: 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.



Full Moon Star Gazing Hike

Sun., July 20: 8–9:30 p.m. Learn about how Native Americans saw the night sky. Observe heavenly bodies. Hear Indian stories and songs about the stars. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Friends Monthly Meeting

Tues., July 22: 7–9 p.m. The Friends' Board of Directors meets at the historic adobe ranch house off Black Mountain Road, near I-15, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Members are welcome to attend. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Waterfall Walk from Northern Staging Area

Sat., July 26, 8 a.m. (2–3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this general nature walk to the waterfall and back. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Trash Cleanup—Volunteers Needed

Sat., July 26: 9–1 p.m. Volunteers needed in major cleanup of trashed out area. Meet at Camino Ruiz and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Take Mira Mesa Blvd. east or west to Camino Ruiz, then go north on Camino Ruiz to the big curve with Calle Cristobal. Park on nearby residential streets and meet on site. Wear long pants, hat, gloves (we will have extras), hiking boots. Bring water, sun screen. Call Ranger at 538-2480 for more details.

➡ next page for more

(Calendar cont'd)

Mid Summer's Eve Hike

Sun., July 27: 6–7:30 p.m. Join cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. and enjoy a cool evening walk. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Dusk Wildlife Walk to Waterfall

Thursday, July 31: 7–9 p.m. About 3 miles. Join Naturalist Mike Kelly and attune your senses to the sights, sounds and smells of nature in the evening. Good chance to see wildlife. Meet at the Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

August**Historic Adobe Ranch Tour**

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Trails Crew Volunteers

Sat., Aug. 2, 8 a.m. – noon. Volunteers in good physical condition and willing to get dirty are invited to join this monthly trails work party. Meet at the Mercy Road Parking Area at the intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., Aug. 3: 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Waterfall Walk from Northern Staging Area

Sat., Aug. 9, 8 a.m. (2–3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this general nature walk to the waterfall and back. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Short and Slow Hop-a-long Evening Nature Walk

Sat., Aug. 16: 5:30–7 p.m. Linda King will lead a 1-mile, slow paced nature walk. Look for the lady on crutches/cane (seriously)! Linda is a Natural History Museum Canyoneer trained walk leader. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Full Moon Star Gazing Hike

Sun., Aug. 17: 8–9:30 p.m. Learn about how Native Americans saw the night sky. Observe heavenly bodies. Hear Indian stories and songs about the stars. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Dusk Wildlife Walk

Thurs., Aug. 21, 6:30–8:30 p.m. About 3 miles. Participants often see deer, coyote, bats, and other critters of the night on these evening walks led by Naturalist Mike Kelly. Bring flashlight and insect repellent. Meet in Ranch House parking lot, Canyonside entrance. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., Aug. 17: 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Paipai Indians of Northern Baja California: Their Culture and Traditional Stories

Sat., Aug. 23, 6 p.m. Presented by Cultural Anthropologist Mike Wilken and Cultural Authority and Traditional Storyteller Benito Peralta, sponsored by S.D. County Archaeological Society. Enjoy twilight in the courtyard of the adobe ranch house. Bring a picnic dinner (wine and beer allowed) and optional lawn chair. S.D. County Archaeological Society will provide dessert and soft drinks. Join an optional docent-led tour of the historic adobe and grounds. Picnic and tour start at 6:00 p.m. Free of charge. For additional information call Anna Noah at 847-4007. At the Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House, west end of Canyonside Park Drive, Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Nature Walk in Lopez Canyon

Sun., Aug. 24, 8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m. Join naturalist Barbara Moore for a look at the critters and plants of Lopez Canyon. Moore is the co-author of *Waliing San Diego*. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Nature Walk in Lopez Canyon

Sun., Aug. 24, 4–6 p.m. Join Brian Swanson for a great time of day to see reptiles, hawks, owls and other critters. Meet at West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for directions.

End of Summer Evening Hike

Sun., Aug. 24: 6–7:30 p.m. Join cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. and enjoy a cool evening walk. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Friends Monthly Meeting

Tues., Aug. 26: 7–9 p.m. The Friends' Board of Directors meets at the historic adobe ranch house off Black Mountain Road, near I-15, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Members are welcome to attend. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

(Calendar cont'd)**DIRECTIONS****Ranch House Walks/Tours**

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

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal

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

Cantina Bike Shop Meeting Area

The Bike Shop is located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Mercy Road Parking-Staging Area

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

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruíz and Park Village Drive

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

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. 3/4 mile east of intersection with Vista Sorrento Pky. From the east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to the bottom of the hill. The entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east, pass the last building on the right. Preserve entrance is on the right, just past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

(Expansion cont'd)

extends north to the San Dieguito River Valley Park. With permission of the landowner there and the City Parks Dept., the Friends began some restoration work of this 1,800 acres of severely degraded agricultural land. It is composed of exotic annual European annual grasses and artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*) with small rocky islands of native habitat. This area is vital, despite its degraded state, as a connection to the San Dieguito River Valley Park to the north.

As part of our next wildlife survey this July the Friends Tracking Team will be establishing a new transect across the Del Mar Mesa — in addition to the 21 transects already established in the Preserve itself.

It's expected that some — if not all — of the future Del Mar Mesa open space lands will be added to Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, while the Black Mountain Ranch open space will be added to the Black Mountain Open Space Park. To us, however, it's not important what the future open space is called nor which Park or Preserve it is affiliated with. What is important to us is the knowledge that the biological health of our own Preserve is inextricably tied to these other parks and their biological and ecological integrity.

Challenges

The Friends Board hesitated at making this decision, not over disagreements about the importance of these linkages to Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, but over the enormity of the challenges. Many of us were already feeling a bit overwhelmed by the range and intensity of activities the Friends carry out here in the south. We were a bit daunted by the thought of adding this much acreage, especially the severely compromised Black Mountain Ranch lands, to our care. And, we thought it possible a separate group might emerge to our north and take on the many challenges of these new park lands. This didn't happen.

This is not to say the Friends would be doing this alone. The Parks Dept. will eventually have a Ranger on duty on Black Mountain and a Citizens Advisory Committee for Black Mountain Open Space Park — which the Friends are represented on — already exists

and is playing an important role in developing this park. However, much of the natural resources work, the restoration work, would probably become our responsibility.

Events of this past year, however, drew us steadily into this area. Deer Canyon and the fight over which alignment for State Route 56 would be approved is a good example. Deer Canyon and the wildlife passage it will make possible from the Del Mar Mesa north was absolutely vital to protect. Protecting the land from development is only half this battle for wildlife movement. The other half is restoring the land. Much of the corridor lands is degraded by plowing, discing and grazing, with little native vegetation and little cover for bigger wildlife such as deer, lion, coyote, bobcat and fox.

Whether it's politics, wildlife surveys or eradicating exotic invasive weeds and restoring native habitat we realized that we had already jumped into these new areas with both feet. So be it, we decided, let's make it official.

Join us in meeting these challenges

Do we need to change our name? We made no decision on this. Our name has a lot of history and — we think — credibility. However, it's a very specific name and doesn't encompass these new areas to the north, especially the Black Mountain Open Space. Is there another name that would make sense? What do you think about this? Let us know.

In any case, we are excited by the challenges that lay ahead and **invite you to join us**. Whether you are a veteran member or a new reader, we won't be able to succeed in these challenges without your help. And, if you're someone living in the Del Mar Mesa or Black Mountain Area whose especially interested in these areas, let us know because we will be organizing an increasing range of activities to our north, including new interpretive walk, trails work, wildlife surveys, and habitat restoration.



Miner's Canary?

Remembrances of Amphibians Past

E.N. Anderson, PhD

[Prof. Anderson's article on nearby Riverside deals with many of the same amphibians and the problems they face that we see here in San Diego — editor.]

When I moved to Riverside thirty years ago, spring and summer nights brought a loud chorus. Everywhere, the "ribbet" of the Pacific Chorus Frog echoed from countless swollen throats. By the river, the loud "jug-o-rum" of the introduced Bullfrog could not quite drown the croaking of Red-legged Frogs. In transient pools, Spadefoot Toads kept up a load but somnolent trill — somehow a very soothing sound. More marshy wetlands, and even backyards with leaky hoses, rang with the much less soothing high note of the Western Toad. The Pacific Salamander never called at all, but you could find it anyway, but turning over otten logs.

The best year was the miracle year of 1968-69. Rain fell from the first day of winter on into June; January brought almost continuous rain. The sounds at night were deafening by April. Some abandoned half-completed ponds and construction scars lay near by house; they were a paradise for the Spadefoots, whose grand choral droning became a sort of Gregorian chant, an ancient glorious music that lulled me to sleep every night for months. Later, when the Spadefoots had bone to their deep sleep. I accidentally dug one up in my garden — he had encrusted in his little shell of mucus, three feet down in sandy soil, where a temporary stream had developed during the rains. He crawled sleepily back into the sand.

The world is silent now. At best, a lone Pacific Chorus Frog, its name now a sad irony, calls from our nearby streams. All the other species are gone, except for a few Bullfrogs in the large permanent ponds along the Santa Ana River.

What happened? Largely habitat destruction. The pools and streams are just disrupted enough to go dry in the

worst years. This breaks the chain; there is nowhere for amphibians to find refuge and they die. In so far as they do survive, deep in the Santa Ana River bottoms or out a the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, they cannot find their way across freeways and city streets to the small springs and canyon streams, or to the hose leaks of my welcome yard.



There is probably more to it. Rodolfo Ruibal, Professor Emeritus (after forty years teaching at UC Riverside) and an expert on amphibians, tells me that even minute doses of some pesticides can kill amphibians, especially in the larval stage. He thinks habitat destruction has done the most damage — he used to collect Spadefoot Toads on the Riverside campus, in places where high-rise and high-tech laboratory buildings now stand. But pesticides care involved too. He tends to discount the theory that ultraviolet radiation has done major damage, but does not dismiss it entirely; the thinning of the ozone layer has let in UV of wavelengths known to damage some frogs eggs.

All around the world, the same story is unfolding. The wonderful Golden Frog of Costa Rica is extinct — in spite of a National Park that was created to save it. The park took in only the

headwaters of streams; ranchers ruined the lower courses by deforesting them; drought came, the headwaters dried up, and the frog is gone.

Australia preserved amazing frogs of ancient lineage, true "living fossils;" they survived hundreds of millions of years of evolution, but they could not survive the habitat destruction and predation brought on by introduced sheep, rabbits, and cane toads.

The levels of the tragedy are horrible. Salamander populations in the forests of the American Southwest once numbered in the billions. Now there are only hundreds — thousands, perhaps left. They are going out fast.

Those of us who love nature are saddened, but even those indifferent or merre slimy frogs should worry. Bad enough that we have lost a major insect control — many amphibians eat their own weight of insects every day, during active seasons. Worse is what this all says about our habitat. These animals are not obscure relicts doomed to die anyway. They are survivor types, tough, resilient, adaptable. Bullfrogs and Chorus Frogs have become familiar farm-pond and damp yard companions. They are all dying.

When the miner's canaries began to die, they all got out of the mine. Where will we go?



Birding in Peñasquitos Canyon

Black-shouldered Kites

by Barbara Zepf

[In contrast to the Kite problems detailed in other articles in this issue, we though our readers would like to read about a natural type of Kite we welcome in our Preserve. Read on in this reprint of an earlier Barbara Zepf article — editor.]

Birding has been variously described as a hobby, a science, an art, a sport, a game or a challenge. It is never boring, because each new day offers an opportunity to discover new birds or to watch familiar birds doing new things.

In February, my husband and I went down to the canyon to watch the planting of the native bunch grass near the adobe ranch — a nice 'earthy' affair. As the Archaeological Society gleaned the fields for unearthed artifacts, the birds discovered their own treasures — all those exposed bugs, grubs and egg cases! We went back to the bunch grass plot a few days later to see what birds were using the fields. Western Bluebirds, American Pipits, House Finches, Mourning Doves, Black Phoebes and Savannah Sparrows were literally having a field day. It was quite a show!

Next we headed for the other side of the creek to have a look at the Great Horned Owl. In spite of all the rains and high winds, she still sat tightly on her eggs. Now the eggs have hatched, and we have gone back many times to see the owlets. They're always such fun to watch.

Kite-flying time

Spring ushers in those 'Winnie-the-Pooh' blustery days. Good kite flying weather. Nature flies her own kite in Peñasquitos Canyon — the Black-shouldered Kite. Children's kites were so named because of their sudden twisting, diving, or rising in the wind like the flight of these birds.

Kites are medium-sized hawk-like birds. All are graceful on the wing, capable of swift flight and effortless soaring. They hover while hunting. They don't dive (stoop), as other hawks do; but, with wings fully

stretched upward, slip downward feet first to seize their prey before swooping (kiting) upward. American kites are comparatively gentle, lacking the ferocity of some of the hawks and eagles when they are hungry. They have shorter legs and weaker feet and talons but are well adapted to skillfully catching their small and relatively weak prey.

The Black-shouldered Kite eats mainly field mice, also wood rats, pocket gophers, ground squirrels, shrews, small birds, snakes, lizards, frogs, grasshoppers, etc. There seems to have been an explosion in the number of squirrels and lizards in the east end of the canyon this year. Maybe this explains my sighting of this kite in this end of the canyon, while we were watching the owlets.

Welcome returnees

About four or five years ago, at least three pairs of Black-shouldered Kites nested in the east end. But I haven't noticed any of them for the last few years. I was thrilled to see this one. I hope they might be returning to this end of the canyon. They are always visible in the middle of the canyon (look for them as you drive down Calle Cristobal) and at the west end of the canyon (particularly in López Canyon).

The Black-shouldered Kite is about 16 inches long. It's falcon-shaped with long, pointed wings and a square-tipped long white tail, with pale gray central feathers. The tail appears white from below. In fact, this kite used to be called the White-tailed Kite. It has a rounded head, small black bill and yellow legs. The adult has a white head and underparts, pale gray back, medium gray upperwings, with a large black patch on the fore edge of the upperwing, which is visible in perched birds (hence the name Black-shouldered Kite). Viewed from below, it shows an oval black patch at the carpal joint (wrist) of the underwing. Eyes are a brilliant red. From a distance, this bird appears wholly white.

Immatures are similar to adults, but the breast and head are streaked and washed with cinnamon brown; the tail is pearl gray with a narrow dark band near the tip.

Open country living

When soaring and gliding the Black-shouldered Kite resembles a gull, with wings held downward. It often hovers with legs dangling. Kites like to live in open country around fresh water, with scattered clumps of trees used for roosting. Kites nest in oaks, cottonwoods or eucalyptus trees, usually in branches near the top of the tree. They nest from February to June and lay 4-5 eggs. The female does all the incubation for 30 days, while the male does all of the hunting for both of them. Pairs sometimes raise a second brood after the young leave the nest 35-40 days after hatching.

The Black-shouldered Kite gives a rich, whistled "teew" call (sometimes sounds like a very loud Western Bluebird call). It is a resident of central and southern California and south Texas. It may wander north to Oregon and east to Florida. It is widespread in the American tropics and warmer regions of the Old World. Once reduced in numbers almost to the point of extinction in the United States, the Black-shouldered Kite has made a major comeback. They are actually expanding their range. I'm glad Peñasquitos Canyon is part of their territory. They are fascinating to watch! — Good Birding!



Bite Is Wake-up Call Rattlesnake Season

Mike Kelly

In the fall of 1996 we had our first known rattlesnake bite on a person in the Preserve since its opening. A probation officer supervising probation workers clearing invasive weeds was bitten on the hand. He received a serious bite, requiring three days stay in the hospital and 34 units of anti-venom, twice the previous record high for the County.

I don't report this to alarm readers. Rather, the Friends want to avoid the unnecessary confrontations between people and rattlers that usually lead to the snake's death. A few simple precautions can help avoid encounters that are dangerous to both parties.

Rattlesnakes shouldn't prevent you from venturing outside to enjoy Peñasquitos or other canyons and parks in the city. Although they can be dangerous, your chances of encountering one, not to speak of being bitten, are slim. You and your children are in more danger getting into your car for a trip to the corner store. Given that slim chance, however, here are some sensible precautions to take.

Where to look

There's no substitute for looking where you step or reach. On the main road in Peñasquitos Preserve, it's easy to see when a rattler is in the road ahead. It's tougher if you go on one of the smaller trails.

Rocky areas near water are a common place for rattlesnakes to hang out. Three such places in Peñasquitos Canyon are the slopes around Horseman's Park and the creek, the waterfall area, the gorge west of the waterfall, and around the Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos adobe ranch house in the Preserve's east end. Rattlers are seen more frequently in these areas than in other places. Don't reach into holes or crevices! And don't climb up rocks you haven't first scouted.

Freeze!

What can you do when you do encounter a rattlesnake! Agree with your group that when someone yells "Freeze!" you will all stop in your tracks and not push anyone into the

Deer Canyon Fund

Thanks to the following folks who made generous donations to our campaign to save Deer Canyon — enough to cover our expenses!

John Northrop
Ban & Joanne Boessow
Uli Burgin
Ralph Carolin
K Crampton
Marilyn & James Evans
Ellen Feeney
John Knoll
Dave Kreitzer
Stacey Love
Joanne Odenthal
Harriet & Marshall Pellar
James & Louise O'Neill
Kelly and Al Sakoi
Ron Sanders
Theodore & Terese Tanalski
Jacqueline Weatherly

snake ahead. Move well away from it. Stamp your feet in case it hasn't seen you. Usually, it will move off. Don't let anyone in your group approach it with a stick to poke at it, because the snake may strike back in self-defense. Give the snake a chance to move on and live.

Rattlers don't always "rattle"

Don't make the mistake of believing a snake is harmless because it doesn't "rattle" at you. Sometimes they don't, especially the young.

Don't think that because it's a baby it's harmless. It has a full dose of venom, and like many juveniles, it can be impetuous. It hasn't the maturity and control of an adult snake to differentiate dangers to it in its environment. Often an adult warns you off with its "rattle" or even a "dry" bite, with no venom delivered.

Carry a snake-bite kit

A good precaution is to carry a snake-bit kit with you. The Extractor is a popular small kit that fits into a pocket. It's available in sporting goods stores. Study the instructions before your next hike. It uses a vacuum pump device to suck the poison out of a bite and is useful for bee and mosquito bites as well. Keep in mind, however, that when it's a snake bite you're treating, *it's not a substitute for getting the person medical help as*

A Deadly Web

by Liz Rozycki and Rick Botta

[This article was written before the good news about the rescue of the owl was known—see Ranger Mowry's article this same issue—editor.]

Imagine walking through the oak woodlands of the Preserve on a Summer evening, enjoying the moonlight and cool evening breeze; watching the twilight dance off the strands of a forming spider's web. Wait a minute. It's not really a web, it's kite string.

We've all seen more and more kites and their string accumulating in the preserve lately, and most of us have thought nothing of it. Such was the case on our walk one Tuesday evening. Rick and I were leading a father and daughter YMCA hike when we caught site of one of these "webs."

This web had snared a different kind of prey that night. A barn owl's wing became entangled in the string and it died hanging upside down in a fan palm. Instead of the group seeing the beauty of owls in flight, they saw the impact of humans on the wildlife in the preserve. The fathers' explanation of the dangers of something as seemingly innocuous as kite string turned a distressful situation into a learning experience for the girls.

We can all help avoid this happening again. When you are in the preserve and come upon the string from a downed kite, please take the time to safely reel it in and pack it out (beware of poison oak!). If you fly kites in the parks near the Preserve, or know people who do, be aware that the string becomes an unseen snare for birds and other small animals. Take care to control your kites, and minimize overflight into the Preserve.

quickly as possible. It rarely gets all the poison out and with some people it doesn't take much poison to become seriously ill or die. About 1/3 of all bites are "dry" bites — no venom.

Having said all of this, do you know where you're most apt to encounter a rattler? In your back yard, if you're one of the tens of thousands of San Diegans who live near a canyon.

Volunteer Opportunities

Wildlife Track & Sign Survey
Volunteer training is Sat., July 12, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Summer 1997 Survey runs July 19 - 27. Call 484-3219 for a flyer if you didn't already get the separate mailing.

Endangered Monardella survey: Part two of our annual endangered *Monardella* plant survey will occur take place Tuesday, July 8, from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Meet and park on Top Gun St., off Camino Santa Fe in Mira Mesa. If you want to help survey for this plant call Mike at 566-6489. No experience needed.

Trails Restoration Crew: Sat., Aug. 2, 8 a.m. Meet at Mercy Parking/Staging Area at Mercy and Black Mountain Roads.

Habitat Restoration Work Party: Sat., July 19, 8 a.m.-noon Meet at the Mercy Parking-Staging area at Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads. Call Mike at 566-6489 for details.

Stream Survey/Restoration Committee Meeting
Monday, July 14, 7-9 p.m. at the Adobe Ranch House.

Gooden Ranch Restoration
To help with Tamarisk removal at the Gooden Ranch Park in early August, call Mike at 566-6489.

Trash Cleanup
Sat., July 26, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Camino Ruiz and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Call Rangers at 538-2480 for details.

Sweetwater River Restoration.
2nd Sunday, each month, 9 a.m. Help remove invasive giant reed. Call Vivianne at 476-1040 to find out how to help.

Famosa Slough. 2nd Sat. of odd-numbered months. 9 a.m. at intersection of Famosa and West Point Loma Blvd. Trash pickups and weed removal.

Volunteer Accomplishments

In the late spring and early summer, the following folks volunteered their valuable time for preserve projects:

Special Mention

Dean Woods has adopted a large section of López Canyon to steward and has done a tremendous job there. On numerous occasions he has cleaned up trash and eradicating the invasive weed, fennel. He has also participated in endangered plant surveys in the same area.

Monardella survey

Dean Woods, Jennifer Zamora and her friend Joe, Debra, Jeff Lohman and Mike Kelly conducted part of the annual survey of the endangered Poway Mint (*Monardella linoides viminea*) in June. This plant is threatened by severe erosion in its habitat in López Canyon

Native Grassland Restoration

Edward DiBella, Dean Woods, Liza Rosenberg, Cindy Burrascano, Mike Kelly, and Mel Howe volunteered on a number of occasions in different areas of the Preserve to save native perennial bunch grass habitats by eradicating the non-native fennel and other weeds.

Marian Bear Memorial Park

Drew DeShazo, Robb Hutsel, Mel Howe, Liza Rosenberg, and Mike Kelly put in several sessions of work to control pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), teasle (*Dipsacus sativa*) and other weeds in Marian Bear Memorial Park. This is the second year we have helped out in this sister Open-Space Park.

Gooden Ranch Weed Wack

Mike Kelly and Cindy Burrascano put in several sessions controlling artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*) in the County and City of Poway-owned Gooden Ranch. This 400+ acre open space park in east Poway is a beautiful place to hike or ride your bike.

Sweetwater River Revival

Vivianne Marquez continues to do a great job organizing dozens of volunteers to remove Giant reed (*Arundo do-*

New Members

Welcome to the following folks who recently joined the Friends. Call to let us know (566-6489, Mike) of any suggestions for improvements you might have.

Malvina Abbott
Linda Case
David Cowan
Dawn Davis
Barbara & Al Fisher
Ed Jones
Christopher & Nancy Kohrs
Lisa Mann
Paul Maschka
Bett McDade
Ellen Warner Scott
Paula Svoboda
Steve Swenson
Todd Transue
Paul Taubman
Eileen Wahlman
Kevin Williamson
Arlene & Steve Young



nax) from the Sweetwater River every second Sunday of the month. Many Friends volunteers have been regular attendees at these events.

Community Fair

Jennifer Zamora, Annie Chin, Penelope Greenwood, Barry Martin, Les Braund, Mike Kelly staffed a Friends booth at the Rancho Peñasquitos Spring Fiesta. The booth was always crowded with people seeking information on Route 56 and Deer Canyon. Many signatures were gathered to save Deer Canyon.

Wildlife Training

Helping to train future trackers were Lani & Erik Noreke, Barry Martin, Chris Bader, John Fisher, Rick Botta, June Warburton, Uli Burgin, Nathaniel Spicer, and Paul Matson.

Barn Owl Rescue from Kite String

Supervising Ranger Reneene Mowry

When I listened to my phone messages on the morning of June 18th, I learned that some concerned soul (unidentified) had reported to Park Host Jack Neales the previous day that a barn owl was mired in kite string at the top of a palm tree about 3/4 mile from the eastern parking area. Although I felt that our chances of finding it were slim and the prospect of getting it out of the tree even if we did find it were even slimmer, Jack and I set out to search for it. We found a large palm entwined with kite string and the offending kite lodged in a nearby tree but could find no sign of the owl.

Assuming that it had been able to break the string, we continued down the trail. Suddenly, Jack shouted, "There it is!" It was a heartbreaking scene. The owl was perched high up in a palm, with one wing fully extended above its head, firmly anchored by string. It appeared totally lifeless. Jack threw a small pebble toward it, and we saw a slight movement! Although we were excited to learn that it was alive, removing it from the tree, which was beside a single-track trail and surrounded with poison oak and a large prickly pear cactus, presented a challenge. We scouted the segment of trail between the palm tree and the service road and decided that, with some careful maneuvering, we could get the park truck down to the tree without creating any major damage to the habitat or the truck. I then began calling wildlife rescue organizations for advice on how to handle the owl if, by some miracle we could get to it. I had about exhausted my list when I reached Chuck Traisi of Fund for Animals (789-2324), a Ramona-based group.

Chuck told me he would contact a team to come out to the site and remove the bird. Things were looking up! Thirty minutes later Heidi Taylor and Bob Casey rolled up to the East gate. Undaunted by dagger-like palm fronds, cactus needles, and poison oak, the two set to work.

Using nets taped onto long poles wavering high over their heads, they were finally able to get the bird into the net, and with the help of Jack Neales, disengaged it from the tree. Once it was down, they gingerly checked out the wing that had been extended for so many hours and found that it appeared to be sound. The exhausted owl offered no resistance as they looked it over and placed it in a box for transport to the rehab center.

As they drove off, we were concerned that the owl might not survive due to the trauma of its long ordeal. I called Heidi the next morning, and was amazed to get a glowing report on "Barnett." She had been hydrated and had devoured four mice the previous evening. They were going to let her loose in their huge aviary that day, and expected a quick turn-around. That afternoon Heidi called and said she was bringing Barnette back to the preserve. We drove a short way into the canyon, and Heidi removed her from the carrier. Seconds later, the owl was making a bee-line for the tree tops! It was an event to be savored — one of those times when daily frustrations and problems are diminished by the magnificence of the moment.

Let's be responsible

Luckily, this story had a happy ending. However, the result could easily have been quite different. My thanks to Fund for Animals for their quick response and professionalism, and to Park Hosts Jack Neales and Kym Hiller for their assistance with the rescue. For any youngsters or parents reading this article, I can't stress too strongly the hazard that "escaped" kites pose for our wildlife. With all the new homes along the canyon rims, the problem is escalating. One can not go far in the preserve without observing kites lodged in the treetops, and string across trails and wrapped around tree limbs and brush. Along with the pleasure that living adjacent to our beautiful preserve provides comes the responsibility to help steward the land and its wildlife. On behalf of Barnette, "Give a hoot," and make sure your kite does not endanger our canyon wildlife.

Don't forget the SDCAS Summer Evening Program: August 23)

Bring a folding chair and picnic supper and join SDCAS for another summer evening program in the beautiful Ranch House courtyard. Come early (6 p.m.) for a docent-led tour. Picnicking and socializing occur between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m., with complimentary cake, coffee, and soft drinks provided by SDCAS. The Saturday, Aug. 23 program will be: "The Paipai Indians of Northern Baja California: Their Culture and Traditional Stories."



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

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Friends' Directory

Officers

President: Mike Kelly 566-6489

Vice-President: Lani Noreke 565-4586

Treasurer: Brian Swanson 695-2209

Secretary: Les Braund 566-3958

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Vickie Ausen, Barry Martin, Erik Noreke

Walks and Committees Leaders

Bird Walks: Brian Swanson 695-2209

Geology Walk Leader: Don Albright 443-5937

Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman

Kiosk Designer: Linda King

Medicinal Plant & Night Walks: Will Bowen
452-7091

Mystery Tree Walks: Vickie Ausen

Nature Walk: Les Braund 566-3958

Newsletter: Mike Kelly

Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki

Tracking Walk: Chris Bader

Vernal Pool & other walks: Mike Kelly

Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly

Voice Mail System: Erik Noreke and Liza Rosenberg

Wildlife Survey Committee: Barry Martin (484-4007),

Chris Bader, Rick Botta, John Fisher, Lee Kirchhevel,

Erik Noreke, Lani Noreke

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

Senior (62) or Student \$7.00 Individual \$10

Family \$15 Sponsor \$25 Patron \$100

Corporate \$250 Life \$1000

Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

Volunteer to help the committee (call me to discuss)

Hikes

Indian Culture

7/97

Educational Workshops

School, Family, Youth Programs

Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

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

Call 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.



Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

September/October 1997
Volume 11 No. 5

Volunteer Opportunities

Trash Cleanup

Sat., Sept. 13: 9-1 p.m. Volunteers needed in major cleanup of trashed out area. Meet at Camino Ruiz and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Take Mira Mesa Blvd. east or west to Camino Ruiz, then go north on Camino Ruiz to the big curve with Calle Cristobal. Park on nearby residential streets and meet on site. Wear long pants, hat, gloves (we will have extras), hiking boots. Bring water, sun screen. Call Ranger at 538-2480 for more details.

Wildlife Track/Sign Survey Training

Sun., Oct. 19: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free training in wildlife track and sign identification for volunteers who want to participate in the fall wildlife survey (see below), At the historic Adobe Ranch House. Call Lani at 565-4586 for more details.

Wildlife Track/Sign Survey

Sat., Oct. 25-Sun., Nov. 2. Help the Friends conduct our quarterly wildlife survey. Must have participated in earlier surveys or gone through Oct. 19 training (above). Call Lani at 565-4586 for more details.

Stream/Wetlands Restoration Committee

This committee is active once again, now that fall is upon us. Several field trips have already been held and a number of projects are being planned: including revegetating a stream bank, building erosion control devices in a finger canyon to protect an endangered species, documenting the *dewatering* of a wetlands at the waterfall and planning how to stop it, surveying the tributary creeks that feed into Peñasquitos Creek in the Poway watershed and more. If you want to work with this committee, call Mike at 566-6489.

Trans County Trail Building Crew Leaders Sought

The City of San Diego Parks and Recreation's Northern Division is looking for volunteers who would like to be trained to be crew leaders for building portions of the new Trans County Trail. The trail will begin at Torrey Pines State Beach and end at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor's Center, 110 miles away. Most of the trail is already built and this year's effort will concentrate on critical linkages in Peñasquitos Canyon. Call City Rangers Dion Heller or Bill Lawrence at 538-2480.

How They Got There

Vernal Pools on Carmel Mtn & Del Mar Mesa

John Northrop, PhD

The vernal (from the Latin *vernal* meaning *spring*) pools on Del Mar Mesa are formed by rainwater that collects in the red sandstone rocks of the Linda Vista Formation. Water is trapped there because of an underlying hard pan layer at the bottom of the formation. The hard pan is impervious to water so that during the winter rainy season water is ponded within the Linda Vista Formation creating a perched water table. The Linda Vista Formation itself is very resistant to erosion and, indeed, forms the cap rock on the mesa top as well as the rim of Peñasquitos (Spanish for *little cliffs*) Canyon. Linda Vista sandstones are *thixotropic* and, if saturated with water (as when the vernal pools are full), loses its thixotropy,

See p. 4 for more

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Looks Good for Deer Canyon

New 56 EIR Due

Mike Kelly, president

By late this year, a new Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be out on State Route 56 (SR56). Opposition to the Central Alignment that would have destroyed Deer Canyon by environmentally minded folks and opposition to the Northern Alignment by key developers led to the identification of two new variations of the Northern Alignment. These will be presented, along with the old alignments already studied, in the new EIR. Amongst everyone involved in the planning or decision making for SR56, the consensus is that the Central Alignment or any alignment through Deer Canyon is dead.

The Friends will keep our readers apprised of the quality of this document and any issues we find in future newsletters.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I want to thank everyone who circulated the petitions and sent in letters. It had a tremendous impact and, when we look back on this period several years hence, to have saved San Diego's last coastal canyon.

Cooler Weather Must Be Coming. Right?

Wow, it's still hot out there, so our activities reflect this, with most scheduled for the cooler early morning or late afternoon/dusk hours.

Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. **Rain cancels.** For details or group hikes, call 484-3219 for recorded information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have ongoing wildlife and stream surveys, invasive weed removal projects, planting programs and more.

September

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Intermediate Tracking Walk

Sat., Sept. 13, 7–10 a.m. Prerequisite is participation in either the Wildlife Survey or the Nature Awareness and Earth Skills Weekend. Practice your tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Meet at the white-fenced, Adobe Ranch House parking lot, located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions. Led by Rick (672 0584).

Trash Cleanup—Volunteers Needed

Sat., Sept. 13: 9–1 p.m. Volunteers needed in major cleanup of trashed out area. Meet at Camino Ruiz and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Take Mira Mesa Blvd. east or west to Camino Ruiz, then go north on Camino Ruiz to the big curve with Calle Cristobal. Park on nearby residential streets and meet on site. Wear long pants, hat, gloves (we will have extras), hiking boots. Bring water, sun screen. Call Ranger at 538-2480 for more details.

Trails Crew Volunteers

Sun., Sept. 14, 8 a.m. – noon. Volunteers in good physical condition and willing to get dirty are invited to join this monthly trails work party. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call Rangers at 538-2480** for more information.

Nature Walk in Lopez Canyon

Sun., Sept. 14, 8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m. Join naturalist Barbara Moore for a look at the critters and plants of Lopez Canyon. Moore is the co-author of *Walking San Diego*. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Sweetwater Revival

Sun., Sept. 14: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Help restore wildlife habitat by joining this *Aruno donax* (giant reed) removal project. Meet at the Bonita Driving Range 1 mile east of I-805 on Bonita Road. Call Vivane at 476-1040 for details.

Full Moon Hike

Sun., Sept. 14: 8–9:30 p.m. A tribal gathering hike. Bring a song, story, or rhythm to share. Drums, rattles, and flutes welcome. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Designing with Native Plants for Enduring Gardens

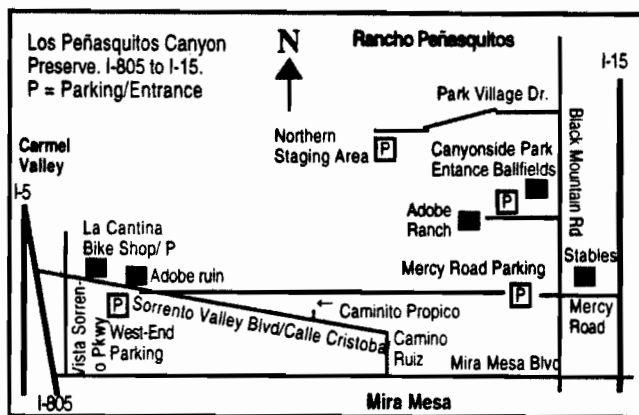
Tues., Sept. 16, 7:30 p.m. Natural History Museum Auditorium. Three local experts will talk on using native plants in your garden. Free! Sponsored by Calif. Native Plant Society.

Dog Walk in Peñasquitos Canyon

Fri., Sept. 19, 6 p.m. Dogs are welcome to bring owners on this dog led walk. All owners are required to be on leash. 6.5 mile roundtrip to waterfall and back, brisk pace. RSVP only, limited to 8 dogs and owners. Call Vicky at 271-9040.

Waterfall Walk /Northern Staging Area

Sat., Sept. 20, 8 a.m. (2–3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this nature walk to the



waterfall and back. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Nature Walk Focusing on Birds

Sat., Sept. 20: 8–9:30 a.m. Join Brian Swanson for this cool morning walk. Meet by the trailer in the upper level of the Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Short & Slow Hop-a-long Nature Walk

Sun., Sept. 21, 9 a.m. Linda King will lead a short, slow paced (leader may still be on crutches) nature walk (1–2 miles). Linda was trained as a walk leader by the Natural History Museum Canyoneers. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., Sept. 21: 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Fall Equinox Hike

Sun., Sept. 21: 6–7:30 p.m. Welcome the beginning of Fall. Look for signs of seasonal change to flow with. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for directions.

See next page for more

(Calendar cont'd)

Geological History of the Ramona Region. Slide show and talk.

Fri., Sept. 26: 7 p.m. Spon. by Iron Mountain Conservancy at Charles Nunn Performing Arts Center, Olive Pierce Middle School, 1521 Hanson Lane, Ramona CA. Dr. Pat Abbott, Prof. of Geology at SDSU will be the featured speaker. **Call 788-WILD for more information.**

October**Historic Adobe Ranch Tour**

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Dog Walk in Peñasquitos Canyon

Fri., Oct. 3, 5:30 p.m. Dogs are welcome to bring owners on this dog led walk. All owners are required to be on leash. 6.5 mile roundtrip to waterfall and back, brisk pace. RSVP only, limited to 8 dogs and owners. **Call Vicky at 271-9040.**

Tracking & Nature Walk at Ranch House

Sat., Oct. 4, 1 p.m. (1-2 hours). Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. Right on Black Mountain, then first U-turn, right into Canyonside Park past ballfields to Preserve sign and new parking lot. Walk up path to ranch. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., Oct. 5: 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Nature Walk in Lopez Canyon

Sun., Oct. 5, 4-6 p.m. Join naturalist Barbara Moore for a look at the critters and plants of Lopez Canyon. Moore is the co-author of *Walking San Diego*. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Calif. Exotic Pest Plant Symposium '97.

Fri., Oct. 10 - Sun., Oct. 12, Concord, Calif. **Call Mike at 566-6489 for a brochure and details.**

Nature Walk Focusing on Birds

Sat., Oct. 11: 8-9:30 a.m. Join Brian Swanson for this cool morning walk. Meet by the trailer in the upper level of the Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Intermediate Tracking Walk

Sat., Oct. 11: 8-11 a.m. Prerequisite is participation in either the Wildlife Survey or the Nature Awareness and Earth Skills Weekend. Practice your tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.** Led by Dean Woods (672-1120).

National Wildlife Refuge Week

Oct. 11-19. Special events for the family are planned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Chula Vista NatureCenter and the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center in Imperial Beach. The emphasis of the week's activities will be on native wildlife and habitats, native peoples and how we can derive the most from the urban wildlife refuges of San Diego County. Call the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center in Imperial Beach at 575-2704 and the Chula Vista Nature Center at 422-2481 for more information and reservations. All events are free.

Trails Crew Volunteers

Sun., Oct. 12, 8 a.m. - noon. Volunteers in good physical condition and willing to get dirty are invited to join this monthly trails work party. Meet at the West-End Parking Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call Rangers at 538-2480 for more information.**

Waterfall Walk from Northern Staging Area

Sat., Oct. 18, 8 a.m. (3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund leads this general nature walk to the waterfall and back. Meet at Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Fall Wildlife Survey Training

Sun., Oct. 19: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free training in wildlife track and sign identification for volunteers who want to participate in the fall wildlife survey (see below). At the historic Adobe Ranch House. **Call Lani at 565-4586 for more details.** The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Short and Slow Hop-a-long Nature Walk

Sun., Oct. 19, 9 a.m. Linda King will lead a short, slow paced (hopefully she'll be off the *!@#! crutches by this time) nature walk (1-2 miles). Linda was trained as a walk leader by the Natural History Museum Canyoneers. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Full Moon Hike

Sun., Oct. 19: 8-9:30 p.m. A tribal gathering hike. Bring a song, story, or rhythm to share. Drums, rattles, and flutes welcome. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., Oct. 19: 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Fall Wildlife Survey

Sat., Oct. 25-Nov. 2. Help survey the Preserve's wildlife. Must have participated in previous surveys or gone through Oct. 19 Training (see above). **Call Lani at 565-4586 for more details.**

Annual Native Plant Sale - Balboa Park

Sat., Oct. 25: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Patio, Balboa Park. The best place to get native plants for your garden at the perfect time for planting. **To help or for more information, call John Stewart at 277-9485 or Don Miller at 755-5143.**

➡ next page for more

(Calendar cont'd)**Night Walking**

Wednesday, Oct. 29: 8–9:30 p.m. Explore the canyon at dark. Experiment with developing the night senses. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley. 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

DIRECTIONS**Ranch House Walks/Tours**

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

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal

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

Cantina Bike Shop Meeting Area

The Bike Shop is located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley. 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Mercy Road Parking-Staging Area

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

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruíz and Park Village Drive

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

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley. 3/4 mile east of intersection with Vista Sorrento Pky. From the east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to the bottom of the hill. The entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east, pass the last building on the right. Preserve entrance is on the right, just past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

(Vernal Pools cont'd)

or strength, and becomes a quagmire. This accounts for the many ORV, dual-tire truck tire marks and deep horse tracks in the pool areas.

Open pit wells

Early settlers on Del Mar Mesa dug shallow (about 5–10' deep) wells in the Linda Vista as far down as the hard pan for their water supply. Several of these "open pit" wells can be seen in and around the community of Del Mar Mesa and eastward near the big vernal pools like that shown in Fig. 1. Some of the vernal pools have hillocks, called *Mima Mounds*, in them (Fig. 2), a criteria which has been used somewhat erroneously to classify vernal

pools as such; i.e., not all vernal pools have *Mima Mounds*. One well is in area 8A near the power lines (Fig. 3).

The Linda Vista Formation was formed during the Pleistocene Ice Age and is 750,000 years old, given or take 100,000 years, the oldest lying to the east and the youngest nearest the coastline to the west. It was formed when the ancient strand line that existed there in glacial times retreated westward, leaving the beach sands and near shore deposits high and dry. These two types of sediment (called *facies*) are shown on the map (Fig. 2) as Q1b and Q1n for Quaternary, Linda Vista, beach and Quaternary, Linda Vista, near shore, respectively. The Q1b fa-

See p. 9 for more

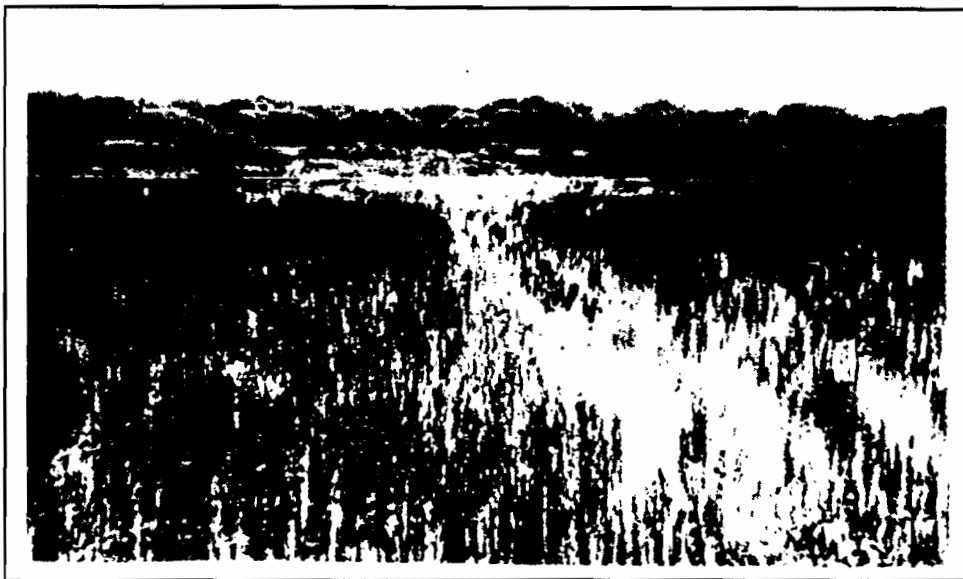


Fig. 1. One of the largest vernal pools on Del Mar Mesa. Shallow well near it is in the eucalyptus grove just west of the vernal pool. From Northrop, J. Geology of Peñasquitos.



Fig. 2. *Mima Mound*, López Ridge vernal pool. From Northrop, J. Geology of Peñasquitos.

Coyote and the Stinkbug

Will Bowen, PhD

Many areas of the canyon seem to be making a "come back" — re-vegetating nicely, looking much more lush or healthy than before. In large part, this is due to all the work and care that the Friends have shown in encouraging the life in the canyon to flourish once again. But also of importance has been the conscientiousness of most of the visitors to our canyon preserve who have left it as they found it. Unfortunately, however, there have been and are some visitors who have made a mess on the trails when they came to the canyon. Two examples come to mind. One is a couple of old fishermen who fish a pool near the El Cuervo adobe. I know when they have been there fishing because they leave a mess behind them — empty bait containers, plastic bags, and tons of cigarette butts. The second example concerns certain mountain bikers, not necessarily representative of the whole, who cut new trails and find new ways to cross the creek that end up making a mess of the riparian habitat. Neither of these two groups of individuals seem to care about preserving the natural beauty of the canyon.

The Kumayaai Indians that once lived in the canyon were also aware of this type of problem. They tell a story that can help us, liked it helped them, to remember the principle of not making a mess on the trails when we come to the canyon.

"Coyote was walking smartly down the trail in Penasquitos Canyon. He was feeling really good about himself. Up ahead on the trail he spied a little black stinkbug poking around in the dirt. The stinkbug's head was bowed low to the the ground and his rear end was stuck up high in the air.

"Ah ha!" exclaimed Coyote. "Looks like a tasty morsel ahead! No doubt a delightful meal will soon be mine."

Thereupon he swooped down and put his long cold nose right up next to the stinkbug and said, "Good morning, Mr. Stinkbug. How do you do? Such a fine day, isn't it? And how is your fam-

ily? I wonder if you realize what an important day this is for you? Why, today is the last day of your life, for I will shortly gobble you up!"

The stinkbug looked up from the ground and drolly stated, "I would appreciate it if you would not eat me right now. I am engaged in something of the utmost importance." Coyote scratched his head, thought a moment, and asked, "What is it that you are doing that is so important?"

"I am listening to stories from the underworld," replied Stinkbug.

"The underworld!" remarked Coyote. "Well, what are they saying?"

"They are telling me about two fellows that they strung up for making a mess on the trail," stated Stinkbug. "And they are looking for a third. They said that if I see him that I should warn him to watch out."

"Oh, is that so," stated Coyote, thinking about the big old pile of plop he had left in the middle of the trail a few miles back.

"Say," stated Coyote, "I want you to wait right here for me. I got something I have got to do. I'll be back in a few minutes. You'll stay here?"

"Sure," said Stinkbug.

Thereupon Coyote ran quickly back up the trail until he came to where he had left his "business." He looked at it admiringly for a moment, but then quickly picked up a stick and flicked the poop into the bushes. Then he swept the trail clean with a little wand of broom bacharis.

His work completed, Coyote then ran back up the trail to find Stinkbug. Only when he got there Stinkbug was gone.

The moral of this story, or its deep meaning, for the Kumaayai was that one should not leave a mess on the trail where it could be found by a wild beast or an enemy and traced to its owner. The modern meaning of the story is that we must be careful not to make a mess when we come to the canyon. If we do we just might have the spirits of the underworld to contend with.

Memorial Fund

Lisa Wood

When someone dies it is tragedy for the loved ones. I may ask the grieving family members, "what can I do? but know I cannot take away their pain. I feel an urge to action. When a loved one dies of a particular illness, research into a cure for the illness is the obvious answer. In previous situations I have donated to AIDs and cancer research, and felt good about the positive action I had taken to make something good out of an otherwise sad situation. In the case I am writing about, it is a little more difficult to find the appropriate action because a specific illness was not the cause of the death of this 32-year old man.

A city employee, Rebecca Castrejon, recently suffered the loss of her husband, Manolo. Some other friends and I were discussing it and, knowing we would never be able to answer the question "why?" we focused instead on what we could do to put our grief into a positive action. We knew that Rebecca and Manny had been working very hard to protect some biologically important open space located near their home. It wasn't a NIMBY issue, it was an important connector parcel, most of which had already been identified as a priority for preservation in the County's Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. The owner is willing to sell the property as mitigation, if at least some local, state, or federal money is forth-coming — otherwise he has plans to develop it. While efforts continue to identify other sources of money, the Back Country Land Trust (BCLT) has agreed to earmark money for purchase of this site. (In the event that negotiations with the owner fall through, money contributed to this fund will be divided evenly between the BCIT for other open space purchases and the Endangered Habitats League, for various efforts to protect open space.)

To contribute any amount, from ten dollars to whatever, please send tax-deductible contributions to:

Manolo Castrejon Memorial Fund for Open Space in care of:

BCLT, POB 1372, Alpine CA 91903

LDS Church Cleans Up Parks

Bill Moore

July 19, several hundred members of the LDS Church of Peñasquitos spent the day at our preserves in Peñasquitos Canyon and at Black Mountain Open Space Park. They came in force to remove tons of trash accumulated through illegal dumping and carelessness. With their families, pick-up trucks, gloves, shovels, axes, strong backs and high spirits they tackled the mounds of unsightly and sometimes dangerous refuse strewn among precious habitats of our neighboring critters.

At least once every year the church performs a community service mission for the local area. This year they chose the open, preserved lands near their sanctuary and community. The participating members were shocked and overwhelmed by the amount of trash they found. In fact, they filled three very large industrial dumpsters and were barely able to dent the piles of trash at the foot of Black Mountain.

Brian Bacalski, an elder, said that with more dumpsters, they could make more significant impact on the remaining debris. He indicated that the membership enjoyed the excursion and would like to continue this project for future community service missions.

Everyone was particularly dismayed by the extensive damage they observed wrought upon the hillside by off-roaders all around the north western slopes of Black Mountain. Literally acres of pristine habitat have been obliterated by the trespassing off-road warriors practicing their hill-climbing techniques. When the winter rains come, tons of topsoil may be swept away leaving gaping slashes in the mountainside. If nothing is done to mitigate the runoff, the same cycle will repeat next year — with new roads being forged by the joy riders, destroying increasing amounts of habitat.

Special thanks to City Parks and Recreation and American General Developers for providing the dumpsters. For more information about Black Mountain Open Space Park call me at 484-5500 ext 3017.

Deer Study Initiated

Rick Botta

Past articles in this newsletter have acquainted you with our quarterly wildlife surveys. In June, we supplemented these surveys with a focused study on the Preserve's Mule Deer. The goals of this focused study are to obtain an estimate of our deer population, determine an approximate buck-to-doe ratio and identify primary deer use areas. We will perform data collection for this study on a quarterly basis and combine it with data from the wildlife surveys. This will help us identify any substantial changes in our deer population.

The deer study is based on observations made at night using spotlights. Our protocol, developed with the assistance of the California Department of Fish and Game, uses two vehicles that travel the length of the Preserve simultaneously. One vehicle drives the utility road on the south side of the creek while the other drives the north side utility road. Each vehicle is equipped with a high-powered spotlight that is used to continually scan each side of the route. Every deer we observe is counted and classified as a buck, a doe or a fawn with a distinction made, where possible, between adults and yearlings. We further categorize bucks by the number of points on their racks, for instance a spike buck or a 2x2. If we cannot positively identify a deer as either a buck or a doe, we simply record it as "unclassified." One of the primary concerns using this type of procedure is prevention of duplicate counts caused by deer passing between the routes. Use of ra-

dio communication and frequent route synchronization between vehicles has proved extremely effective in eliminating any duplicate counts.

At the present time, routes are driven 3 times over the course of a week, quarterly. Additional observation methods are being investigated for data collection in areas of the Preserve not easily accessible by vehicles, such as López Canyon and the area east of Black Mountain Road.

On the best night of the past survey period we observed 38 deer, including numerous fawns and several young bucks. The presence of these young bucks is encouraging given the number of bucks killed on the roads surrounding the preserve over the past 2 years.

Of special interest to us was a deer that had an ear tag. We are trying to determine where it may have come from and when it was tagged. This could provide us with important information on current, or past, wildlife corridors.

The study team would like to thank the Department of Fish and Game for assisting in development of the protocol. A special thanks is also extended to the members of the Tracking Team and friends who provided vehicles and stayed out into the wee hours of the morning counting deer (when most other people were at home counting sheep).

Nature Awareness & Earth Skills Training Postponed Until Nov.

Youth Programs

One area the Friends and Ranger personnel in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve would like to expand is our nature-oriented youth outreach programs. If you are interested in helping to accomplish this, in developing a curriculum and program, give Ranger Dion Heller a call at 538-2480.

Deer Canyon Fund

Add two more names to the list of generous folks who donated to the campaign to save Deer Canyon. They are:

Charles Cochrane
Theodore T. & Therese Tanalski

Treasures in the Trash

Lani Noreke

I had no idea there was so much trash in Penasquitos Canyon. I'd seen the trash that clogged the riparian areas after each rain, but we never would have guessed that there was enough trash on just one hillside to fill three large dumpsters.

On Saturday, July 26th, my husband, Erik and I joined Ranger Bill Lawrence, San Diego Police Officer Marty Guerra, and two probation crews for a trash cleanup at the end of Camino Ruíz and Calle Cristobal. Someday the flat part of this site will be a neighborhood park, but so far it has been used as a migrant camp, a hangout for beer drinkers, and as a neighborhood dump.

As the crews worked across the hillsides, they filled the bags of trash and hauled them to the top. I positioned myself in a dumpster to sort recyclables, and Erik worked the hillsides ahead of the probation crew collecting the bottles as well as he could before they got into the heavy trash pickup. The bags were filled as fast as Ranger Bill Lawrence could supply new ones. In some places, the trash was so plentiful, there was a constant stream of trash bags coming up the hillside. Bag after bag of beer bottles was filled. The vast quantity of beer bottles astounded even the probation crews who were used to clean-ups.

Bags of trash arrived at the dumpster at such a rate that it soon became impossible for me to sort them all, and I resorted to simply ripping open the bottom of the heavier bags and removing the intact bottles that had sunk to the bottom. Aluminum cans and plastic were removed only as they presented themselves. The pace was frantic as I tried to save as much as I could from the landfill. Imagine my surprise as amidst the mountain of trash I suddenly found myself face to face with a beautiful pastel alligator lizard. Time seemed to stand still as we looked at each other, and I knew I'd never be able to forgive myself if I allowed this creature to perish in a landfill. After a few fumbled attempts, I realized I wouldn't be able to catch the lizard

with my heavy leather work gloves on, so I remove them, and my luck changed. I spoke to it softly, and it seemed to listen to my reassuring words as I reached my hand around and grasped it gently around the shoulders. I wondered if the species had earned the name 'alligator lizard' by biting, yet this one barely struggled at all as I carried it back into the canyon.

Meanwhile one of the probation crews reached the heart of the migrant encampment: a wooden house built at the bottom of a finger canyon, complete with windows and door. The crew found newspapers and magazines in there dating back to 1992! The crew began dismantling the structure, but it was clear that there was far more refuse at the bottom of that steep canyon than they could possibly carry up in one afternoon.

Several sections of rope were located, and we tied them together to form a 200 foot length. With the rope tied to the back of the Police Blazer, we were able to pull drag bags, containing the equivalent of a dozen trash bags at a time, up through the thick brush as the crew guided them around obstacles. After about 20 pulls, the police Blazer had an unfortunate encounter with the local flora, finding that a Lemonade-berry twig was no match for the sidewall of a tire. As the Blazer hobbled out of the way with a flat tire, Erik filled in with his truck and continued making a dozen or so additional pulls. When it was time for the probation crews to leave, there was still a lot of debris at the bottom of the hill, but we got the worst of it.

We were very impressed with how hard working the probation crews were and how productive they were at clearing the hillsides of trash. These crews definitely took pride in their work. They moved across the hillsides clearing out the trash with the power of a bulldozer.

After the crews left, we loaded both Erik and Ranger Bill's trucks full of recyclables which we took to Miramar Recycling. Erik and I further separated the recyclables and redeemed them for

the Friends.

The results of the cleanup were tremendous. The area looks a lot better, the trash that was previously visible from the canyon floor is gone, and much of the migrant encampment was removed. Three dumpsters were filled with trash including filthy clothing, food waste, a desiccated Christmas tree, chairs, bicycles, car parts, and a sofa. We collected twelve large trash cans full of beer bottles, one of mixed glass, one of aluminum cans, and two of recyclable plastics. Even with all this, we probably managed to rescue only a third of the glass and a small fraction of the other recyclables from the dumpsters. This site is still in need of another full day's worth of cleanup, hopefully not too long in the future, so watch the newsletter if you'd like to help.

Recycling saves...

Did you know that recycling one ton of glass saves not only 1.2 tons of raw materials, but it also saves the equivalent of 30 gallons of oil and avoids creating the carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases that the combustion of that oil would produce? Likewise, each aluminum can that is recycled saves the equivalent of half a can of gasoline. Recreating an aluminum can from recycled aluminum uses 95% less energy than to make one from new materials. For each ton of paper that is recycled, 17 trees are spared, and 60 pounds of air pollution are kept out of the sky. On a planet of finite resources, recycling definitely makes sense.

[From "Save Our Planet: 750 Everyday Ways You Can Help Clean Up the Earth" by Diane MacEachern, 1995, Dell Publishing.]

Volunteers Never Stop

by Mike Kelly

Despite the brutal heat this summer, our many volunteers carried out a number of volunteer projects.

Special Mention

Thanks to Edward DiBella, who besides volunteering for many work parties and surveys over the last few months, has also been researching and obtaining many documents concerning the biology, ecology and especially the hydrology of our watershed. These documents are revealing much useful information for our stream and wetlands restoration work.

Peñasquitos Creek Restoration

In July a team with Brian Knott, Debra Jones, Dean Woods, Cindy Burrascano, Edward DiBella and Mike Kelly tackled a variety of nasty exotic plants and trees along Peñasquitos Creek, behind the now finished Caltrans Mitigation Site, just west of Eichar's grave. The Caltrans Mitigation site is a three acre parcel of land that had been infested with eucalyptus trees that had crowded out native plants. It is now a healthy mix of cottonwoods, sycamores, oaks, willows, mulefat, and many shrubs and ground covers. July's team was extending this zone of restoration north and west. Brian Knott helped customize several useful tools for weed control and donated a specialized tool for our work which is already being put to good use.

Water Restored at Gooden Ranch

Two aggressive teams of volunteers turned out twice in August to eradicate Tamarisk from this County and City of Poway Park in east Poway. Temperatures reached 100° F one of the days! At the second session, water was found breaking the surface where none had been before. Tamarisk is known to suck down the water table. Removing it can improve the water table for other plants very quickly, as it apparently did here. Joining the work parties under the direction of County Ranger Paul Kucharczyk were Cindy Burrascano, Robb Hutsel, Debra Jones, Mike Kelly, Drew DeShazo, Edward DiBel-

la, Doug Fenske and Reneene Mowry.

Sweetwater River Revival

Under Vivianne Marquez's direction volunteers finished the biggest patch of giant reed (*Arundo donax*) left in the lower Sweetwater River and got well into the next. Many willows are already benefitting from being freed from the suffocating embrace of the giant reed. This effort is continuing year round, every second Sunday at 9 a.m. at the Bonita Driving Range, 1 mile east of I-805 on Bonita Road.

Marian Bear Memorial Park

Drew DeShazo, and Mike Kelly returned to Marian Bear Memorial Park to continue eradicating the invasive pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata*), and other weeds. It is hoped one more work party can finish off the last of the pampas grass, the most widespread of remaining exotic invasive plants. Drew also ventures out on his own on surveys, trash pickups and weed control, as well as finding time to join volunteer work parties in Peñasquitos Canyon and Gooden Ranch.

Friends Renewal Campaign

Long-time activist and friend of the canyon Gaye Dingeman corralled visiting relatives to organize the Friends' successful renewal campaign this summer. Gaye is also organizing our hike schedule, calling the various hike leaders to set up their schedules for the coming months.

July Wildlife Survey

Thanks to the dozens of volunteers who helped train and carry out the wildlife transects, putting in some 500 hours! If this writer hadn't suffered a brain fart, he might have remembered to ask the Wildlife Survey coordinator for the names of these fine folks to thank in this space!

Daley Ranch Exotics Survey

Cindy Burrascano and Mike Kelly did a preliminary survey of invasive plant species in the newly acquired open-space park in Escondido, Daley Ranch. We found the infestations to be relatively light. The Ranch is as close to pris-

New Members

Welcome to the following folks who recently joined the Friends.

Monique Bedard
David Bussone
Jeff Coleman
Douglas Danner
Drew Deshazo
Daniel Fockler
Terri and Al Hamlin
Kimberly Hiller
Aurie Kryzuda
Steven Kusyi
Miguel Lerma
Janine Moniot
Melissa Mersy
Todd Nadeau
Elizabeth Pinner
Jean C. Rannels
Dianne Souza
Steve Swenson
Diane Villescaz
Cynthia Ward
Pat Watkins & Family
Mark Woodbridge

tine as anything gets in San Diego. Make this a must see place to visit to ride your bike, horse or to walk. Lots of Coast live and Engelmann oaks.

Stream/Wetlands Restoration

Members of this committee are already swinging into action, holding several meetings and field trips. They include Susan George, Edward DiBella, Karen Waggoner, Cindy Burrascano, Mike Kelly, Bruce Martin, Don Albright, and Dean Woods. County and City Rangers are also working with the team. Special thanks to Walt Shaw, a retired engineer who volunteers with Marian Bear Regional Park. Walt is advising the team on erosion control technologies, including weir dams and gabions. You have to join the stream committee to find out what these terms mean!

(Vernal Pools cont'd)

cies contains myriad red pebbles about the size of marbles that winnow out of the sediment and lie about in profusion on the crest of Carmel Mountain. They are composed of Iron (Fe) and Titanium (Ti) Oxide that formed *in situ* in a reducing environment after the sediment was deposited. The reason the concretions appear to be mostly of marble size is that the smaller ones get blown and/or washed away during storms and there are no larger ones. The deposit of Fe, Ti-iron oxide concretions on Carmel Mountain is the largest concentration of such ore deposits known in California, if not in the world. Vernal pools form more readily on Qlb sediment than on Qln, but there are many pools on López

Ridge (Fig. 3) and the western slopes of the Carmel Mountain where Qln outcrops.

Spade-footed toads

Vernal pools drain slowly and eventually evaporate in summer, leaving just enough time for the spade-footed toads and California chorus frogs to propagate. Tadpoles are there in profusion in the spring and, indeed, it is impossible to walk in the big pools like that shown in Fig. 1 without crushing the young ones. When the pools dry up, the spade-footed toads burrow down into the basal hard pan layer and hibernate until the next rainy season because the hard pan layer stays moist all year round; a fact that kept the early open-pit wells usable year round.

Vernal pools in the Linda Vista For-

mation formerly existed further inland and along the coast extending from Mira Mesa to Torrey Pines and Carlsbad to Point Loma, respectively. Most of the area, including much of Del Mar Mesa, has been or is currently being developed and Carmel Mountain is now the *only* unspoiled beach ridge left in San Diego.

References

- Northrop, J., "Geology of Peñasquitos," Windsor Associates, San Diego 1997.
 Rindell, A.K., "Rebuttal to Responses by Geocoin, Inc., to comments on the Draft EIR for the Neighborhood 8A Precise Plan." Coastal Consultants, San Diego 1966.
 Kennedy, M.P. and G.L. Peterson, "Geology of the San Diego Metropolitan Area," California Division of Mines and Geology, Sacramento, CA Bull. 200 1975.



Fig. 3. Neighborhood 8A showing the areal Geology and location of a shallow well. From Kennedy. Geology of the San Diego Metropolitan Area.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.
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Friends' Directory

Officers

President: Mike Kelly 566-6489
 Vice-President: Lani Noreke 565-4586
 Treasurer: Brian Swanson 695-2209
 Secretary: Les Braund 566-3958

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Vickie Ausen, Barry Martin, Erik Noreke

Walks and Committees Leaders

Bird Walks: Brian Swanson 695-2209
 Geology Walk Leader: Don Albright 443-5937
 Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
 Kiosk Designer: Linda King
 Medicinal Plant & Night Walks: Will Bowen 452-7091
 Mystery Tree Walks: Vickie Ausen
 Nature Walk: Les Braund 566-3958
 Newsletter: Mike Kelly
 Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
 Tracking Walk: Chris Bader
 Vernal Pool & other walks: Mike Kelly
 Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
 Voice Mail System: Erik Noreke and Liza Rosenberg
 Wildlife Survey Committee: Barry Martin (484-4007),
 Chris Bader, Rick Botta, John Fisher, Lee Kirchhevel,
 Erik Noreke, Lani Noreke

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

Senior (62) or Student \$7.00 Individual \$10
 Family \$15 Sponsor \$25 Patron \$100
 Corporate \$250 Life \$1000
 Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

- Volunteer to help the committee (call me to discuss)
 Hikes
 Indian Culture 9/97
 Educational Workshops
 School, Family, Youth Programs
 Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

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 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.



Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

November/December 1997
Volume 11 No. 6

Raptor Study Underway in Preserve Hawks, Owls and the Canyon

James Hannan, Ph. D.

[Editor's note: Jim Hannan is a biology professor at Mesa College. He is a Federally and State Licensed Bird Bander affiliated with the Wildlife Research Institute, which has been conducting the San Diego Golden Eagle Project. The goal of his current raptor study is to monitor the health of Peñasquitos Canyon using raptors as an "umbrella" species. That is, their reproductive success is an indirect measure of the "health" of an ecosystem. This data, when combined with data from other raptor studies, may allow planners and conservationists to predict the impact of development on raptors and ecosystems, such as in the controversial Carmel Mountain (8A) area.]

Hawks are magnificent expressions of nature — wild, beautiful, almost defiant in their gaze. For the casual observer they are easily seen as they play out the drama of their lives high overhead. In Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve (LPCP) they seem particularly abundant and diverse. For the alert observer, an hours walk through almost

Raptor Volunteers

To volunteer for the raptor study, call Jim Hannan at 627-2786.

any part of the canyon will yield sightings of several species. In the spring, spectacular courtship displays and aerial battles are common. And, whether perched or soaring, they are usually hunting. Incidentally, Red-tailed Hawks are almost 4 times as success-

See p. 11 for more

Trans-County Trail Crew Leader Training

City Ranger Dion Heller

The City of San Diego Park and Recreation Dept. has received a \$52,000 grant from the California Habitat Conservation Fund Program to restore a trail within the Preserve, one that will be a vital link in the new ocean to the desert trail system.

The grant will construct a 1.6 mile multiple-use trail that will run from the equestrian center off Black Mountain Road east under I-15. From I-15 it will run from the newly acquired Mercy property to hook up with the City of San Diego's Sabre Springs trail system. This system, running parallel and south of Sabre Springs Parkway extends east into Poway where it will connect to the City of Poway Open Space Trail System. There use to be a trail through the east end of the Preserve, but it was wiped out by the construction of Mercy Road in the 1980s.

When complete, the Trans-County Trail System will be a continuous 110-mile trail extending from Torrey Pines State Reserve to the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

To complete this crucial connector trail, the Rangers are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to participate in a Trail Crew Leader Training that has been scheduled for November 15-16th. Subjects to be covered in the

Rangers are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to participate in a Trail Crew Leader Training that has been scheduled for November 15-16th.

See p. 11 for more

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Dam Proposed for PQ Canyon

John Northrop, PhD

[Editor's note: Let us know what you think of Dr. Northrop's dam proposal. The Friend's Board of Directors has proposed two projects to relieve the flooding in Sorrento Valley that Dr. Northrop refers to. One proposal is to remove the dikes that channelize the creek opposite the El Cuervo Adobe ruins in the west end, thus restoring the flood plain for lessor flood events, while also restoring wetlands habitat. The second proposal is to remove the dikes from the old Poway Sewage Ponds just west of the historic Adobe Ranch House off Black Mtn. Road. This would also restore historic flood plain, while expanding the riparian coast live oak forest in this area. Both should alleviate the flooding that occurs in Sorrento Valley after relatively moderate rains. In addition, the Board is asking the City of San Diego to conduct an analysis of hydrology, erosion and pollution on a watershed basis to address these and other concerns.]

Fearing an El Niño winter of unprecedented rains in Southern California, various steps are being considered to reduce the flooding in Sorrento Valley. As is usually the case, these steps are

See p. 9 for more

Fall Finally Arrives

Cooler weather is finally here (at least some of the time!). Look for fall colors — such as they are in San Diego — in the stretches of yellow-turning Sycamores in López Canyon and in the flat areas west of the waterfall in the main Peñasquitos Canyon. The bright green clumps high in the increasingly bare Sycamores are mistletoe, a parasitic plant feeding off the trees. Look for the reds of poison oak peeking out from the underbrush — but don't touch. The bright red berries you see on some tall shrubs in the Preserve, especially noticeable on the south side approaching the waterfall, are Toyon or California holly. The birds love the berries on this native shrub.

Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. **Rain cancels.** For details or group hikes, call 484-3219 for recorded information.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are always needed to help with conservation or other activities. Call Mike Kelly at 566-6489. The Friends have ongoing wildlife and stream surveys, invasive weed removal projects, planting programs and more.

November

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Waterfall Walk /Northern Staging Area

Sat., Nov. 8, 8 a.m. (2–3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this nature walk to the waterfall and back. See fall colors, mistletoe and Calif. holly. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Intermediate Tracking Walk

Sat., Nov. 8, 8–11 a.m. Prerequisite is participation in either the Wildlife Survey or the Nature Awareness and Earth Skills Weekend. Practice your tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Park at the white-fenced,

Adobe Ranch House parking lot, located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Then walk up to the Ranch House itself to meet walk leader Barry. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Sweetwater Revival Volunteers

Sun., Nov. 9: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. Help restore wildlife habitat by joining this *Arundo donax* (giant reed) removal project. Meet at the Bonita Driving Range 1 mile east of I-805 on Bonita Road. Call Viviane at 476-1040 for details.

Nature Walk at East End

Sun., Nov. 9, 9 a.m. Linda King will lead a leisurely nature walk (1–2 miles). See California holly and mistletoe and learn native plants. See historic Eichar grave. Linda was trained as a walk leader by the Natural History Museum Canyoneers. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Nature Awareness and Earth Skills Weekend

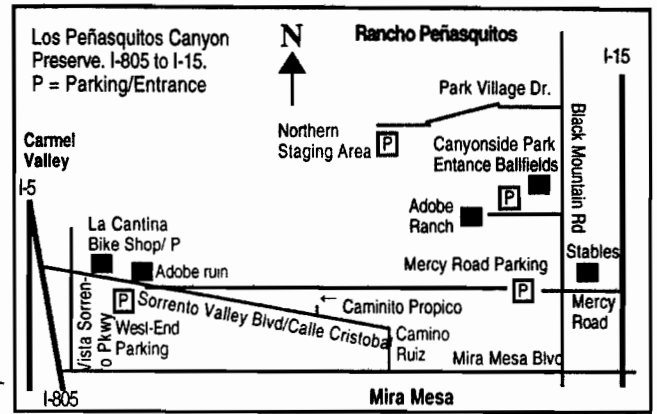
Fri., Nov. 14–Sun., Nov. 16. Join the Tracking Team for an intensive weekend of nature skills. Fee required. Call Rick at 672-0584 for more information.

Trans-County Trail Crew Leader Training

Sat. and Sun., Nov. 15–16: 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m. Trans-County Trail Overview, Introduction to Planning and Environmental Review, Basic Layout and Alignment, Construction Techniques, Tool Usage and Safety, Erosion Control, Introduction to Structures, Leadership. Training will be held in the Crafts Room at Canyonside Community Park Rec Center. Bring a sack lunch, boots, gloves, sunscreen, hat, and water. **RSVP required.** Call Rangers at 538-2480 to RSVP a slot. Only 25 positions available!

Natural History Museum Canyoneer Interpretive Walk

Sat., Nov. 15, 10–11:30 (short) or 10–2 p.m. (long) interpretive walk led by Brian Swanson for the San Diego History Museum Canyoneers. Meet by the trailer in the upper level of the Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.



Medicinal Plant Hike

Sat., Nov. 15: 3–5 p.m. Learn about how the plants of the canyon were used by Native Americans, Spanish and early settlers. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Volunteer Habitat Restoration Planting at East End

Sun., Nov. 16, 9 a.m. – noon (or so). **New volunteers welcome,** join the Friends Habitat Restoration Team in planting native trees and shrubs. Meet in parking lot at Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Meet on the upper level. Bring gloves, sun protection and water, we'll provide the training and tools.

Riparian Habitat Trail Nature Walk

Sun., Nov. 16: 9:30 a.m. Join park host Jack Neales for an interactive adventure along the Elberta Fleming Riparian Habitat Trail. This easy, one-hour hike is an excellent introduction to the dynamics of the creek and riparian habitats. Discover crayfish, fresh-water clams, wild celery, and animal tracks. Meet in parking lot at Mercy & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Full Moon Hike

Sun., Nov. 16: 8–9 p.m. Walk the canyon at night. Observe plants and other natural features bathed in moonlight. Look at the stars. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

See next page for more

(Calendar cont'd)

Waterfall Walk from East End

Sat., Nov. 22, 9–noon. Vicki Ausen will lead this brisk 6 mile round-trip walk to the waterfall and back. See fall colors, California holly and mistletoe. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Partners for Wildlife Tamarisk Bash: San Dieguito River Valley Park

Sat., Nov. 22, 8–noon. No experience necessary. Great place to work in. Take Hwy I-15 north or south to West Bernardo/Pomerado exit (just south of Lake Hodges). Proceed east on Pomerado Road. Turn left on Highland Valley Road. At about 2.5 miles (just past a dirt road on right called Sycamore Creek Road) look for San Dieguito River Park signs across from the main entrance to the Pine Tree Farm. Call Ranger Jason Lopez at 235-5440 Ext 26 for more information.

Tracking & Nature Walk at Ranch House

Sat., Nov. 22, 1:30 p.m. (1-2 hours). Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. Right on Black Mountain, then first U-turn, right into Canyonside Park past ballfields to Preserve sign and new parking lot. Walk up path to ranch. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Volunteer Habitat Restoration Planting at West End Marsh

Sun., Nov. 23, 9 a.m. – noon (or so). **New volunteers welcome**, join the Friends Habitat Restoration Team in planting native-marsh plants to restore a brackish marsh. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208**. Bring gloves, sun protection and water, we'll provide the training and tools.

Nature Walk in López Canyon with Barbara Moore

Sun., Nov. 30, 3–5 p.m. Join the coauthor of *Walking San Diego* for a moderately paced nature and bird walk in López Canyon. Meet in the West End Parking Staging area off the south side of Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Sorrento Valley Road. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

December**Historic Adobe Ranch Tour**

Every Saturday San Diego Archaeological Society docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's oldest residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m., lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The Adobe Ranch House is located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Carnivores in San Diego's Canyons: Slide show and talk by Wildlife Biologist Kevin Crooks

Fri., Dec. 5, 7–9 p.m. Join the Friends at our annual meeting where we elect our officers for the coming year (5 minutes) and present our guest speaker. No fee for the meeting or refreshments. Kevin Crooks was trained at UC Santa Cruz under Mike Soulé, the well-known founder of Conservation Biology. Kevin has been doing followup studies of San Diego's urban canyons that Soulé began many years ago, studying the impacts of urbanization on native plants and wildlife. Kevin has a special focus on native carnivores: fox, coyote and bobcat and how they're doing in our ecosystem. In addition, he is studying the controversial impact of housecats and feral cats on area wildlife. Join us at 6:30 for a social half-hour with free refreshments. The election of officers will take place at 7 p.m. and the slide show presentation will begin about 7:10 p.m. There will be a question and answer period. The meeting will take place in the historic adobe ranch house. Take I-15 to Mercy Road exit, Mercy Road exit west to Black Mtn. Rd. Go right on Black Mtn. Rd. to the first light, Canyonside Driveway. Take a left and proceed into the park. Go past the ballfields to the white fenced parking lot and entrance on the left. Park in this lot and walk up to the ranch house.

Waterfall Walk from East End

Sat., Dec. 6, 9–noon. Vicki Ausen will lead this brisk 6 mile round-trip walk to the waterfall and back. See fall colors, California holly and mistletoe. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Intermediate Tracking Walk

Sat., Dec. 13, 8–11 a.m. Prerequisite is participation in either the Wildlife Survey or the Nature Awareness and Earth Skills Weekend. Practice your tracking skills with a training walk led by the Friends' Tracking Team. Park at the white-fenced,

Adobe Ranch House parking lot, located off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Then walk up to the Ranch House itself to meet walk leader Barry. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Waterfall Walk from Northern Staging Area

Sat., Dec. 13, 8 a.m. (3 hours). Naturalist Les Braund will lead this nature walk to the waterfall and back. See fall colors, mistletoe and Calif. holly. Meet at the Northern Staging Area on the corner of Camino Ruiz and Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Nature Walk at East End

Sun., Dec. 14, 9 a.m. Linda King will lead a leisurely nature walk (1–2 miles). See California holly and mistletoe and learn native plants. See the historic Eichard grave. Linda was trained as a walk leader by the Natural History Museum Canyoneers. Meet in Parking lot at Mercy Road & Black Mtn. Rd., Mira Mesa. Meet at kiosk next to drinking fountain. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Full Moon Hike

Sun., Dec. 14: 7:30–9 p.m. Walk the canyon at night. Observe plants and other natural features bathed in moonlight. Look at the stars. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Partners for Wildlife Tamarisk Bash: San Dieguito River Valley Park

Sat., Dec. 20, 8–noon. No experience necessary. Great place to work in. Take Hwy I-15 north or south to West Bernardo/Pomerado exit (just south of Lake Hodges). Proceed east on Pomerado Road. Turn left on Highland Valley Road. At about 2.5 miles (just past a dirt road on right called Sycamore Creek Road) look for San Dieguito River Park signs across from the main entrance to the Pine Tree Farm. Call Jason Lopez at 235-5440 Ext 26 for information.

Tracking & Nature Walk at Ranch House

Sat., Dec. 20, 1:30 p.m. (1-2 hours). Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. Right on Black Mountain, then first U-turn, right into Canyonside Park past ballfields to Preserve sign and new parking lot. Walk up path to ranch. Learn how to track animals and discover the nat-

★ext page for more

(Calendar cont'd)

ural environment they live in. Hike will include an overview of the animal surveys being conducted in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

XMas Party for Volunteers

Sat., Dec. 20, the City and County Rangers are hosting their annual Xmas party for volunteers. If you have volunteered with the Friends, the Archeo Docent Society, the Volunteer Patrol, or with the Rangers, you are invited to attend. Call Reneene Mowry at 484-7504 or Bill Lawrence at 538-2480 to RSVP and for details after the first of December.

Nature Walk Focusing on Birds at Canyonside Park

Sun., Dec. 21, 9–10:30 a.m. Join Brian Swanson for this cool morning walk. Besides birds, see Calif. holly and mistletoe and other native plants. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd. Right on Black Mountain, then first U-turn, right into Canyonside Park past ballfields to Preserve sign and new white-fenced parking lot. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Sunrise Winter Solstice Hike

Sun., Dec. 21: 6–7:30 p.m. Watch the sun rise on this dawn hike. Learn about the importance of solstice rites in ancient cultures. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for directions.

New Year's Eve Family Walk in López Canyon with Barbara Moore

Wed., Dec. 31, 3–5 p.m. Join the coauthor of *Walking San Diego* for a moderately paced family oriented nature walk in López Canyon. Meet in the West End Parking Staging area off the south side of Sorrento Valley Blvd., 3/4 mile east of its intersection with Sorrento Valley Road. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

New Year's Eve Hike with Will Bowen

Wed., Dec. 31: 7:30–9 p.m. A hike to reflect on and review the past year and to find new directions for the year to come. Bring a notebook and a pen or pencil, plus a small flashlight to see, so you can write up your memories and reflections. Led by cultural anthropologist Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in front of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop in Sorrento Valley, located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Scouts Make an Impact

City Ranger Dion Heller

Those of you in the Preserve on a regular basis are probably familiar with some of the eagle scouts' handy-work Kiosks that dress the entrances of the park, rock staircases at the falls, and mileage markers that help guide your way are just a few of the projects.

Local eagle scout hopefuls logged log, hot hours under the summer sun to complete several projects that will benefit the park and those who use it.

DIRECTIONS

Ranch House Walks/Tours

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

Caminito Propico & Calle Cristobal

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

Cantina Bike Shop Meeting Area

The Bike Shop is located at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of its intersection with Vista Sorrento Parkway. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

Mercy Road Parking-Staging Area

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

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruíz and Park Village Drive

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

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 3/4 mile east of intersection with Vista Sorrento Pky. From the east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to the bottom of the hill. Entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east, pass last building on the right. Preserve entrance is on right, past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

In early summer, Kris Kubow completed his viewpoint and revegetation project on the north side of the waterfall. The viewing area that was installed will eventually have an interpretive display describing the interesting geology of the area. The revegetation of the illegal trail just below this area is of significance due to the number of sensitive and rare plant species that have been impacted there.

Mid-summer brought two more eagle scout proposals. Rusty Smith re-established a once-used creek crossing just west of the one mile marker. The new 32-foot long bridge provides excellent access for those people entering the park from the Peñasquitos Creek Park area on the north side of the Preserve. Thus, it's name, "Peñasquitos Creek Park Crossing." Look for the new wooden signs also made by Rusty to direct you to the crossing.

Anthony Midealor's project was a good compliment to Rusty's in that he spruce up the Peñasquitos Creek Park staging area with his fencing project. Anthony recycled old split-rail fencing from the interior of the park, a remnant of the Preserve's old ranching era. He re-installed it around the perimeter of the parking area.

A project that was just finished over at the Equestrian Center area was Johnathon Litwiller's. He restored an historic drainage brow ditch structure just uphill from the Mohnike Adobe site. This crucial restoration was greatly needed due to the fact that the previous ditch had filled with silt, allowing the rain runoff to wash against the foundation of the Adobe. A special thanks goes to Anna Noah and Fred Buchanan of the San Diego County Archaeological Society for their guidance and archaeological monitoring while the project was being conducted.

While all of you are out enjoying this beautiful fall weather in the Preserve, keep an eye out for some fall eagle scout projects that are already in the works. And, if you happen to pass some of these dedicated scouts, lend them some moral support to let them know how much you appreciate their hard work.

Teasel: An Exotic Pest Plant

Will Bowen, PhD

[**Editor's note:** Dr. Bowen's alarm about this pest plant is timely. It is spreading in our upstream drainage in the riparian area in Sabre Springs. In Marian Bear Regional Park it is expanding rapidly in grasslands. The Nature Conservancy reports this plant is a serious threat to native biodiversity on several of its Preserves. The Friends Habitat Restoration Team is experimenting with different control methods, including one test plot underway in Marian Bear. There are two species of teasel, both non-native invasives: *Dipsacus sativus* and *Dipsacus sylvestris*.]

The Friends have been hard at work eradicating introduced non-native exotic pest plants, such as tamarisk, desert artichoke, and Brazilian peppertree, from the canyon. This is work of the utmost importance because if left unchecked, exotic pest plants can easily displace or crowd out our native species and thus ruin large areas of habitat.

The pest plant eradication undertaken by the Friends has influenced other agencies in San Diego county to do likewise and must be counted as one of our most important contributions to local conservation.

This author recently discovered a few specimens of a pest plant not commonly mentioned, growing in the west end wetlands under the tall sycamore trees. This plant is known as "teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris* Huds.) The genus name, *Dipsacus*, is derived from the Greek, "dipsa" meaning "thirst", an allusion to how the upper leaves of the plant form a sturdy basin in which rain-water collects. Other common names for this plant, also stemming from the water-holding characteristics, include "Venus' Basin" or "Water Thistle."

Teasel is a prickly biennial herb, native to Europe, with a bristly stem from 3-8 feet tall. It produces pinkish flowers from July through October, later drying to a stiff woodiness. Teasel is usually found in ditches, old fields, and other wastelands, but I have seen it along trails and, of course, now in our wetlands.

The teasel which grows wild is a close relative of a cultivated variety

known as *Dipsacus fullomum*. The difference between the wild and cultivated variety is that the bracts of the wild plant are straight while those of the cultivated one have hooked tips.

In ancient Rome the hooked tips of the teasel bract were used for "teasing" and raising the nap of woolen cloth. Teasel has also been grown for this purpose in more modern times. There was once a sizeable industry in New York State focused on raising teasel. Nowadays modern machinery has replaced teasel but it is said that no machine can match the luxurious finish it imparts.

Teasel has also been used for medicine. As a tea it is said to be diuretic, increasing the flow of urine. The folk literature also suggests that teasel will promote sweating and aid digestion. An external wash made from the plant has been used to treat skin inflammations and fistulas.

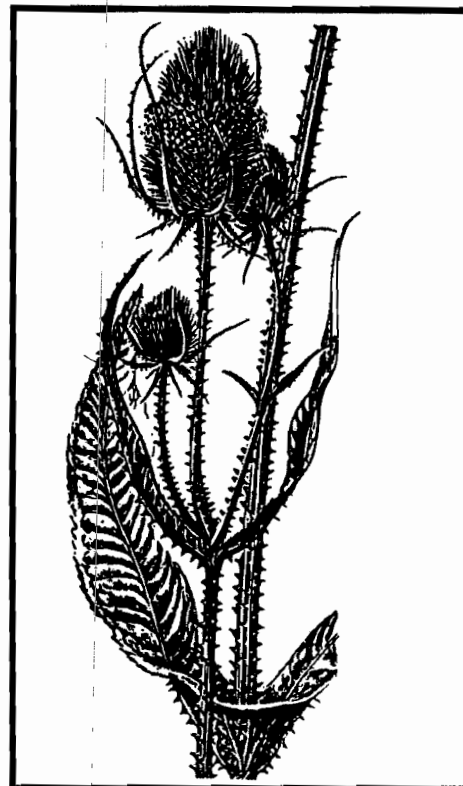
I first stumbled upon teasel years ago, growing in the far western section of San Clemente Canyon. I recall having oftened stopped to admire its beautiful and unique dry woody form. I would occasionally bring home one of the dried flowering tops. However, I did not know the name of this plant nor anything about it until Cindi Burscano, president of the Native Plant Society, who is very active in San Clemente Canyon, informed me of its name and said that they were hoping to remove it because it was a pest plant.

Over the years I watched a stand of only a couple of plants grow to one clogged with numerous individuals. The stand seemed to grow slowly but surely outward from its center, but without spreading widely all over the canyon.

Somehow teasel has made its way into our canyon. Although I have seen only a few individuals of this pest plant at the West End wetlands, a thick stand is likely to slowly and steadily grow outward from where the individual plants are now located.

If you happen to see this plant growing anywhere else in the canyon please report it to the Friends. Remember it is a admirable-looking thistle-

like plant, about as tall as a person, which dries to a woody hardness. The dried woody flower looks like it could be used as a wisk, hairbrush, or a nasty little club.



Dipsacus spp. (Teasel)

Membership Database Coordinator Needed

If you have a computer and would like to help out the Friends for several hours a month, call Mike at 566-6489. Maintaining the membership database means adding new members to the database, updating change of addresses and noting those folks who want to volunteer. The database is used to generate labels for the newsletter and fund mailings and lists of volunteers. We can help train you if necessary.



Ranch House Roundup

Supervising Ranger Reneene Mowry

Preparations for El Nino

Everyone is conjecturing about the impact of El Nino this winter, especially here at the preserve. Many of you will recall the damage caused by the 1995 floods, when the park was closed from January through May for repairs. Since then, development along the canyon rims and upstream in the Sabre Springs/Scripps Parkway area means there are now more storm drains and impervious surfaces transporting water into the preserve. The subsequent increase in flooding, even in light-rain years, has been significant. Our footbridges have already washed out once this season with only an inch of rain. We are concerned that a major flood might reach the Los Penasquitos Ranch House. While, historically, the water level has never been that high, it did cover the floor (over a foot off the ground) of the lath shed, in 1995. Also in 1995, the front meadow was completely saturated and starting to flow in the direction of the Ranch House. We have put together an emergency plan which includes closing and posting the canyon, moving large, non-stationary objects (such as picnic tables) to higher ground, sandbagging the most vulnerable portions of the Ranch House, and, if necessary, evacuating the live-in park hosts. I am starting a list of local residents who would be willing to come in and give me a hand. Please call me at 484-7504 if you are able to help. Does anybody have a small boat and outboard motor we can use?!!

La Vida del Rancho

We started up our school programs (La Vida del Rancho) in October and are already booked through the end of the school year. Always looking for ways to make the popular program even better, we have incorporated suggestions from the teachers as well as some of our own ideas this year. Our heritage clothing expert, Lois Hammond, has added several pieces of period attire to go with her corsets and "pocket" apron. Program administrator P.J. Piburn has incorporated the heritage vegetable garden into the program and plans to begin using the horse-drawn grain drill (purchased in part by the Friends) in the near future. We would love to expand the program, which is presently given only once a week due to staffing constraints, and are looking for a "few good men and women." If you would like to become part of the interpretive team at our beautiful rancho, if working with inquisitive third and fourth graders sounds like fun, and if you are willing to be decked out in period attire (warning — Lois will put you in a corset, even if you are male!), please contact P.J. or me.

Archaeology survey team\docent training in the mountains

On October 11 and 12, the Los Penasquitos Archaeology Survey Team, headed by Archaeologist Anna Noah, and the Ranch House docents joined the Vulcan Mountain

Archaeology Survey Team, headed by Archaeologist Susan Hector for a joint training and retreat at William Heise County Park. While the two survey teams were out surveying, the docents were stoking up the wood stove at the Heise Estate and enjoyed an afternoon with Julian historian Dick Zerbe and his wife Betty. Those who opted to stay overnight, enjoyed a bountiful potluck dinner, Jim Royle's African rock art slides, Jill Van Houten's homemade Portuguese bread French toast for breakfast, hiking on the park trails, playing Barbara Bell's "Escondido" monopoly game, and roasting marshmallows over the woodstove for S'mores. All agreed it was a great weekend and want to make it an annual event. Consider signing up for the one of the survey teams or join the Ranch House docents--you, too, can have such fun!

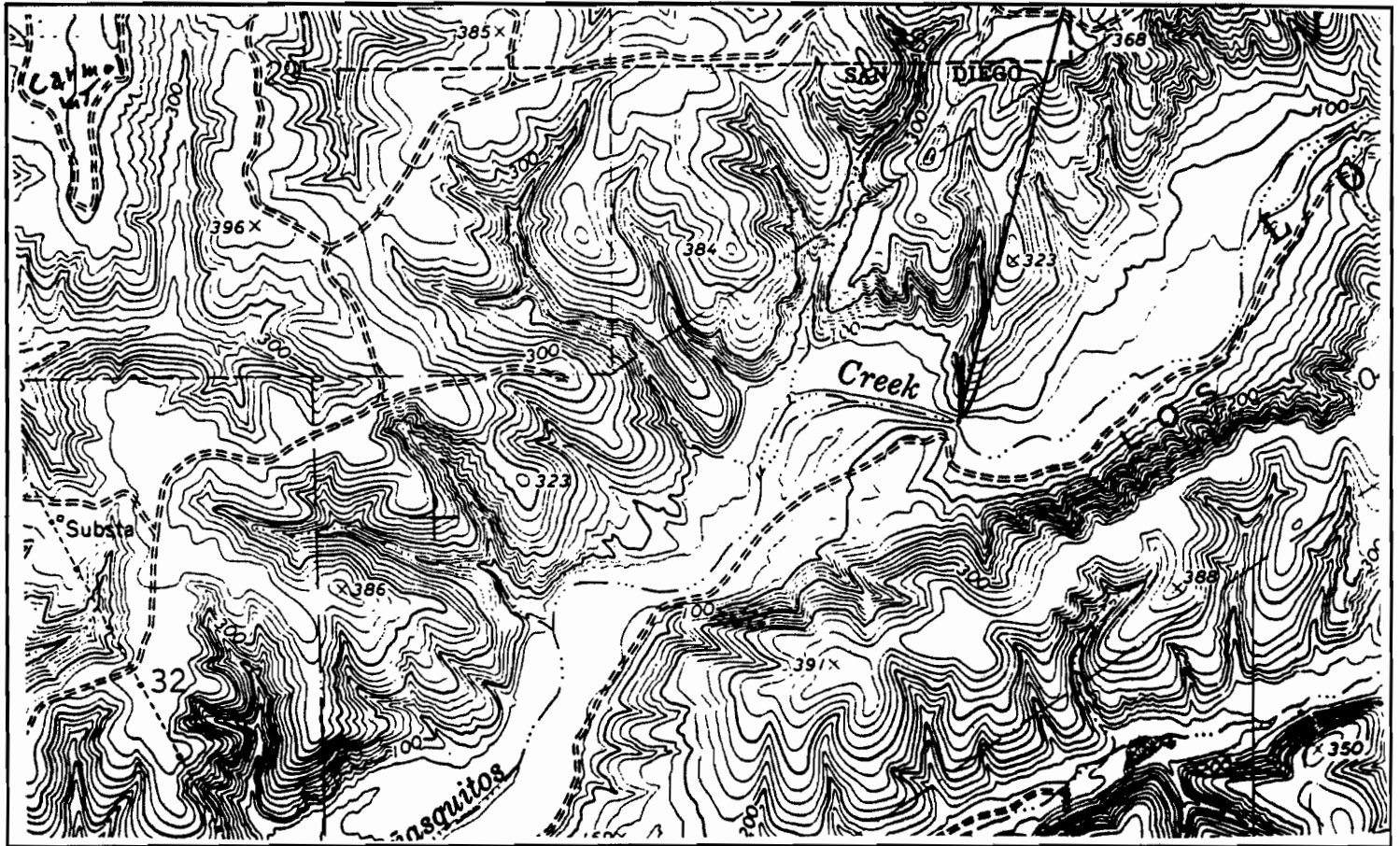
Speaking of volunteers

Thanks to Mike Kelly and members of the Friends who have helped in so many ways this past year, in particular with exotic plant removal and the riparian habitat restoration in the former palm grove area by the Ranch House. Thanks, also, to Erik Noreke for keeping us going on the computer front; it's great to have our own personal (and free!) computer consultant. While I'm giving out kudos, the Barry Martin and the Tracking Team deserve special mention for their commitment to "keeping track" of the preserve's wildlife. Barry also taught youngsters about wildlife and tracking at our Junior Ranger programs this summer.

Xmas party for volunteers: it's coming up!

Yes, another year has flown by, and Christmas will be here before we know it. We have chosen Saturday, December 20, for this year's Christmas gala. If you have volunteered in any capacity over the past year in the canyon or at the Ranch House, you are invited! We are privileged to be able hold our holiday celebration in the Los Peñasquitos Ranch House, and it is especially lovely when decorated in cedar greens, pine cones, candles, and poinsettias, with luminarios glowing in the courtyard. Mark your calendars now for an evening of festivities with like-minded souls. Flyers with all the details will be sent out the first week of December.

(Dam cont'd)



Proposed dam site. USGS Topo Map, Del Mar Quadrangle (1975). Arrow points to the "narrows."

but a "bandaid" approach that must be attacked much more effectively, i.e., constructing a dam and holding basins *upstream* from Sorrento Valley.

Several such earth dams were built there by early ranchers, one just north of the [sewage] holding ponds (it was destroyed by developers), one that still forms Walden Pond north of the falls and one south of the parking/staging area at the west end (it too was destroyed by developers). Right now, there are only two holding basins in existence, and both of them are in López Canyon. One is at Montongo Street in Mira Mesa and the other is the causeway across López Creek at the west end. This causeway was built over three culverts that are much too small to carry flood waters, so, after heavy rains, the water backs up López Creek until it spills over the road, washing it out every winter. Obviously, other dams are needed *upstream* where run-off concentrates after each rain.

The problem has been compounded in recent years by housing projects on

the mesa tops surrounding Peñasquitos Canyon because roof tops and macadam do not absorb rain as natural vegetation did over the past 1000 years or so that the Canyon has been in existence. (It was formed by down-cutting of the ancestral creek that initially formed on the mesa tops and drained westward towards the Pacific Ocean. Uplift of the area following movement along the San Andreas Fault in post Pleistocene time accelerated the down cutting until the present stream reached the resistant, 140 million-year old Santiago Peak Volcanics that appear as *fenetre* (or windows) in the central gorge at the falls in the center of the Preserve and lower gorge, such as the Vishnu Shist is exposed at the inner gorge of the Grand Canyon. Flood waters are concentrated at these two gorges, where their velocity is increased due to the constricting walls.

I propose a cement dam be constructed at the "narrows," an 100-foot deep, 100-foot wide chasm about half-a-mile below the falls where the stream

cuts through the Santiago Peak Volcanics. The outflow is just above the San Diego Water Utilities crossing, so the stream bed would be protected downstream from there, including Sorrento Valley. Furthermore, the lake formed behind this dam would provide a year 'round recreational and fishing area for park users, and also serve as a bucket drop for fire fighting aircraft.

Because earth dams in California have a well-known record of washing out when saturated, the Narrows Dam should be made of reinforced concrete, well-grouted to the volcanic walls of the gorge with horizontal bore-holes and the like.

I urge that a feasibility engineering study of this proposed dam site be undertaken immediately by the City of San Diego and the Park and Recreation Dept.

Volunteers Keep on Goin'

by Mike Kelly

Despite the brutal heat this summer, our many volunteers carried out a number of volunteer projects.

Erosion Control Surveys

In early September the Friends Stream Restoration Committee visited the Alred Collins Business Park to survey erosion control methods used to successfully restore riparian habitat in a highly degraded canyon. Those attending included Suzanne Leininger, Nicole, Erik and Lani Noreke, Mike Kelly, Susan George, Vicki Ausen, Cindy Burrascano, Walt Shaw, Dion Heller.

Parnters for Wildlife Tamarisk Bash: San Dieguito

Members of the Native Plant Society and Friends Special Weed Action Team who joined this tamarisk bash in the San Dieguito River Valley Park included Edward Di Bella, Drew Deshazo, Cindy Burrascano, Mike Kelly, Debra Jones, Robb Hutsel, Suzanne Leininger, Dean Woods, and Jeff Lohman.

October Wildlife Survey

We'll report on the volunteers and results of our quarterly wildlife survey in our next newsletter, since the survey is now in progress.

Ranch House Riparian Restoration Completed

Several work parties completed this two-year long project to restore the section of Peñasquitos Creek that runs along the south side of the historic adobe ranch house off the east end of the park. The project started in 1995 with the removal of exotic Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) from the stream banks. An Americorps (NCCC) team helped clean out the stream of palm fronds and debris dams, as did joint Friends, S.D. County Archaeological Society teams. This fall, volunteers including Suzanne Leininger, Mike Kelly, Edward Di Bella, Michelle Murphree, Jeff Lohman, Brian Knott, Drew Deshazo, and Carrie Barton finished preparing the site and planted Cottonwood (*Populus*

fremontii), Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) and Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees, mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), and yerba mansa (*Anemopsis californica*).

Peñasquitos Creek Park Riparian Restoration

Jeff Lohman, Edward Di Bella, Mike Kelly, Drew Deshazo and Michelle Murphree planted mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and juncus grass (*Juncus acutus*) species to revegetate a degraded stream crossing south of Peñasquitos Creek Community Park. This popular creek crossing has been redesigned to protect the sensitive riparian habitat. An eagle scout (see Ranger Heller's article this newsletter) built a wooden bridge across the creek, while Ranger Heller put up fencing and signage to close the older, more sensitive crossing. All users are welcome to use this crossing.

CalEPPC Conference

Friends and Calif. Native Plant Society volunteers who attended the 3-day Calif. Exotic Pest Plant Conference meeting in Concord, Calif. (at their own expense), included: Cindy Burrascano, Mel Howe, Mike Kelly, Vicki Ausen, and Bertha McKinley. A number of other folks from various parks and biology consulting companies also attended this highly educational meeting.

Sweetwater Revival Arundo Removal

Volunteers led by Vivianne Marquez passed a milestone in arundo removal in the Sweetwater River by finishing off the biggest infestation of this extremely invasive 32 foot grass. The effort is probably past the 50% mark now on our one-year anniversary. Friends volunteers have continued to be regular participants, including Edward Di Bella, Doug Fenske, Mike Kelly, Robb Hutsel (when the Chargers aren't playing!), Drew Deshazo, Mike Gagliardi, and others.

Friends Nursery

The Friends have established a nursery

New Members

Welcome to the following folks who recently joined the Friends.

Josan Feathers

Greg Gearheart

Suzann Leininger

Gretchen Morse

Cathy Perry

Sally Quenette

Keith & Kristi Sherwood

Kimberly Spafford

Karin, Billy & David

Vaughn

Volunteer Coordinator Needed

The Friends need someone who can devote several hours a month to calling members who have said they want to volunteer to tell them of that month's opportunities. Call Mike at 566-6489 if you can help.

of over 1,400 plants at Mike Kelly's home. These are already being used in restoration projects in the Preserve. While several hundred were grown from acorns and seed collected in the Preserve, over one thousand were donated to the Friends by the Metropolitan Wastewater folks when a project of theirs was delayed. Thanks to Mel Howe, Cindy Burrascano and Vicki Ausen for helping transport and care for these plants. Thanks to Biologist Kim Marshall of Metro for thinking of us. A special thanks to Liz Rozycki, a nursery manager in real life, who is developing expertise in growing natives for the Friends and who is growing and maintaining natives for the Friends in her backyard!

Exotic Plant Control

As usual, in addition to the above mentioned projects we had many exotic control expeditions, including Edward Di Bella, Mike Gagliardi, Liza Rosenberg, Mike Kelly, Mel Howe and Drew Deshazo.

(Raptor study cont'd)

ful hunting from a perch as from soaring flight (Orde & Harrell, 1977).

Being raised in the countryside of Northern California, my friends and I spent our time in the out of doors — fishing, hunting, and collecting everything from insects to coyote scat. Some of us became falconers and spent many years closely watching hawks and their nests. Thus I am always on the lookout for good wildlife locations, especially if they have raptors.

López Canyon, with its beautiful riparian woodland, has always been a favorite local hiking destination for me, especially because of its abundant raptors. But what impressed me the most about the López hawks was their apparent “compactness”; so many species in such a small arena

The battle

The event that launched me into my current long-term study of the LPCP raptors was truly spectacular. An event that I, after over 30 years of raptor watching, did not think they were mentally capable of.

First the setting: Two nests, both occupied, built a mere 250m* to 300m apart in narrow López Canyon. The Red-tail nest was high in a Sycamore, but even so it was well below the much higher White-tailed Kite nest built in a huckleberry bush on the southern rim of the canyon. It was early spring and both pairs were extremely defensive of “their” realm.

I had been watching these hawks conduct intense aerial battles for several weeks when one afternoon I saw the male Red-tail depart from the nest tree and fly low to the ground down canyon, away from the kite nest. As he flew he slowly ascended up the southern ridge. The male kite was hovering up a side canyon. He suddenly dropped (presumably toward a mouse), then stopped and resumed hovering 50' above the ground, but now below the canyon rim.

Suddenly I saw the Red-tail coming at full speed about five feet above the canyon rim directly toward the kite. I knew the kite was out of the Red-tail's sight because it was hovering below the rim. This was a sneak attack! The Red-Tail had apparently conceived the

attack and was now approaching the rim of the small side canyon at top speed. I yelled to my friend and we both watched as the Red-tail burst over the rim. The kite was totally caught by surprise and had no time to gain speed. Instead, it had to roll over on its back in midair to defend itself. The two collided. They locked talons, threw their wings out full, spread their tails, and ever so slowly floated to the ground. The pair lay motionless for several minutes. There was a sudden tussle and the kite escaped amidst a flurry of white feathers. It flew around a hill and perched under its nest, wings drooping. It was injured, but it had escaped. The Red-Tail flew off and circled high, screaming several times as if in triumph. The kite's mate flew over the nest area guarding against further intrusions by dangerous neighbors.

Later, the male kite developed a large black swelling over its right eye. This apparently did not hamper either its subsequent defense of the nest against the Red-tail, nor its ability to supply mice to the nest as months later five young were fledged.

The Red-tail also fledged its 3 young. One fledgling disappeared the very day after its first flight, possibly to the Great Horned Owl (GHO) which was nesting in a sycamore between these two hawk nests! In addition to the Red-tail, kite and GHO nests, this mile of Penasquitos Canyon also had Red-Shouldered Hawks, Northern Harriers, Kestrels and Barn Owls. Could they also be nesting? How were all these aggressive and antagonistic species coexisting? Was the battle I had observed a rarity? How could they find enough food to raise young?

The Peñasquitos Canyon raptor study

In 1997 I finally decided to stop my other research projects and direct my attention to LPCP raptor breeding. In the study, I enlisted volunteers ranging from professional biologists to anyone with information on raptor nesting in LPCP. If you are interested in participating at any level in the 1998 breeding study, please feel free to contact me. Volunteers are always welcome.

My study in 1997 involved only bi-

oculars and telescopes.

The goal was to find every nest of every raptor species in LPCP, and to observe how many young fledged from them. Doing this over many years will give the LPCP managers a measure of the human impact on this ecosystem which is increasingly surrounded and influenced by human activities.

In all, 9 breeding species were found, although there may be several more. The most successful raptor species in the 1997 breeding season was the White-tailed Kite. Twelve nests averaged 3 young each for 36 that fledged. Some of these young birds can be seen now, especially at the western end of the canyon, hunting for their favorite prey — mice (Bent, 1937; Palmer, 1988). They can be distinguished from the adults who sometimes fly with them, by the presence of a distinct yellow-brown band across their otherwise white chest. In contrast, the adults have pure white underparts.

In future articles I'll discuss more of the results of my 1997 study along with some of the more interesting stories.

*Read “yards” if you don't like meters as the two are indistinguishable at those distances.

Literature cited

- Bent, A. C. 1937. Life Histories of North American Birds of Prey, part 2. Smithsonian Inst., U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 167. 482pp
Orde and Harrell. 1977. J. of Raptor Research. 11: 82-85
Palmer, R. S. ed. 1988. Handbook of North American Birds, vols 4 & 5 (hawks & falcons). Yale Univ. Press, New Haven, CT.

(Crew Leader training cont'd)

training will include: Introduction to Planning and Environmental Review; Basic Layout and Alignment; Construction Techniques; Tool Usage and Safety; Erosion Control Devices; and much more. Participants will be required to supervise other volunteers during construction. Space is limited to just 25 trainees, so call immediately to reserve your space now. Call the City Ranger Staff for further information at 538-2480.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

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Officers

President: Mike Kelly 566-6489
Vice-President: Lani Noreke 565-4586
Treasurer: Brian Swanson 695-2209
Secretary: Les Braund 566-3958

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Vickie Ausen, Edward Di Bella, Barry Martin, Erik Noreke, Dean Woods

Walks and Committees Leaders

Bird Walks: Brian Swanson 695-2209
Geology Walk Leader: Don Albright 443-5937
Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
Kiosk Designer: Linda King
Medicinal Plant & Night Walks: Will Bowen 452-7091
Mystery Tree Walks: Vickie Ausen
Nature Walk: Les Braund 566-3958
Newsletter: Mike Kelly
Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
Tracking Walk: Chris Bader
Vernal Pool & other walks: Mike Kelly
Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
Voice Mail System: Erik Noreke and Liza Rosenberg
Wildlife Survey Committee: Barry Martin (484-4007),
Chris Bader, Rick Botta, John Fisher, Lee Kirchhevel,
Erik Noreke, Lani Noreke

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

Senior (62) or Student \$7.00 Individual \$10

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Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

Volunteer to help the committee (call me to discuss)

Hikes

Indian Culture

11/97

Educational Workshops

School, Family, Youth Programs

Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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Thank you for your support! Your donation is tax deductible.
Call 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.

Fall '97/ Winter '98

Volunteer Opportunities & Special Events

We've an extraordinary number of volunteer opportunities and special events coming up. We welcome groups and individuals to join us in restoring various sites in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. If your scout, church, school group or family would like to take on one of these (or other) projects, we will supply the tools, training, plants and supervision to successfully restore/cleanup a habitat. If you as an individual would like to work with us we invite you to join our Habitat Restoration Team on some of the projects listed below. Learn about native plants, habitat, restoration techniques. **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!** Give Mike a call at 566-6489.

Habitat Restoration Planting Projects

Sun., Sept. 28: Penasquitos Creek Park Crossing Revegetation

Restoring riparian vegetation to a degraded stream crossing. **Done!** A new crossing has just been completed. Planting mulefat, juncus grass and willows.

Sun., Oct. 16: Ranch House riparian restoration

Finishing a two-year streamside restoration project **Done!** begun in the fall of 1995. Planting cottonwoods, sycamores, oaks, mulefat, and yerba mansa.

Nov. 16 — 9 a.m. – noon/ 1 p.m.: East End, South Side Mile-marker Revegetation (Riparian reveg).

Cottonwoods, sycamores, coast live oaks, mulefat, goldenbush and other species in here. Meet on upper level of Parking/Staging area at Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa.

Nov. 23 — 9 a.m. – noon/ 1 p.m. West End Bracking Marsh Restoration

We'll be putting some tree willow poles in the ground to hide a bridge wall and revegetating a newly closed trail with pickleweed and frankenia, two brackish/salt marsh species. Meet in parking lot of Cantina Mountain Bike Shop at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., in Sorrento Valley.

November: Burn Area Knoll

Revegetating a grassy knoll degraded by illegal trail **Reserved/ Eagle Scout** fencing already in. Native bunch grass, Calif. sagebrush, goldenbush and other plants.

Wed., Dec. 10: Southwest side of waterfall. Duplicate trail closure, native bunchgrass restoration

Close and revegetate duplicate trail. Fence. Plant native bunchgrass, Calif. sagebrush, others.

Wed., Dec. 17: Power Line Road Revegetation, Oak woodlands with native grasses

Closing one of three parallel roads from **Both Reserved by Vista Hills** Bottom Crossing to Waterfall, north side. Revegetate with scrub oaks, coast live oaks, native bunchgrass, goldenbush, Calif. sagebrush, Calif. buckwheat.

Sat., Dec. 6: 9 a.m. – noon/ 1 p.m. Plant Rescues in path of County Aqueduct & Trans County Trail

Need lots of help for this one. Help the Friends rescue plants. We'll dig up and pot a variety of plants. These will later be used in revegetation sites. If we have enough folks, we'll also plant some Coast live oaks and other plants on the slope below Mercy Road. Meet on south end of La Tortola St. in Rancho Peñasquitos, next to Ridgewood Community Park and the Preserve.

Sat., Dec. 13— 9 a.m. – noon/ 1 p.m.: Hill at the Narrows Native Grassland Restoration

Help us finish a grassland restoration begun last winter. We'll plant native bunchgrass, shrubs and herbaceous species. Meet at West End Parking Staging Area off south side of Sorrento Valley Blvd., 3/4 mile east of its intersection with Sorrento Valley Road in Sorrento Valley.

Future Projects to be Scheduled (Contact us to reserve one of these or to work with us on them)

Mercy Road slope restoration: Plant Coast live oaks, chaparral broom, goldenbush, others.

East End Entrance Restoration: Native bunchgrass, chaparral broom, others near gate/new kiosk.

Ranch House Coastal Sage Restoration: Year three restoring a hillside with coastal sage plants.

Walden Pond South Side: Close and reveg a duplicate trail with grasses, shrubs, trees.

Waterfall North Side: Close and reveg a duplicate trail with grassland species.

Group Trash Pickup Projects

We can use groups for several focused trash pickups, about 3 hours each, particularly in the east end of López Canyon. Call Mike at 566-6489 to schedule. We will provide supervision and dumpsters.

Trans-County Trail Building

We need two types of volunteers for building our section of the Trans-County Trail from Torrey Pines State Reserve to Anza-Borrego State Park: Trail Crew Leaders and Trail Crew Workers.

Trail Crew Leader Training: Nov. 15-16: 8:30 a.m.- 3 p.m. If you would like to be trained as a Trail Crew Leader call the Rangers at 538-2480. There are only 25 slots open. This training is for volunteers who expect to be able to play a regular role in leading volunteer work parties. Training will include: Introduction to Planning and Environmental Review; Basic Layout and Alignment; Construction Techniques; Tool Usage and Safety; Erosion Control Devices; and much more.

Trail Crew Worker: call and leave your name with the Rangers at 538-2480.

Erosion Control Projects: Save Endangered Willowy Mint

Urban induced erosion in several finger canyons in López Canyon is threatening to wipe out *Monardella linoidea viminea*, the willowly mint, an officially Endangered species in California. The Friends Streat Restoration Committee is designing a series of gabions and weir dams to stop this erosion and save the mint and the adjacent habitat. We will need lots of help from groups (good Eagle Scout projects here) and individuals. We first must fund raise to buy needed equipment and materials. Timing depends on necessary permits we are obtaining. Call Mike at 566-6489 if interested.

Special Educational Events

Nature Awareness and Earth Skills: Nov. 14-Nov. 16, 1997

Join the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Tracking Team for an intensive weekend of nature skills including: Tracking, Awareness Techniques, Movement in Nature, Fire Making, Cordage Making, Survival Shelter Construction, Rockworking, Earth Philosophy, How to Find & Purify Water, Plant Uses, Survival Hunting & Cooking.

The schedule: Friday, Nov. 14: 5:30- 9 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 15: 8 a.m.- 9 p.m., Sunday, June 1: 8 a.m.- 4 p.m. Call Rick at 672-0584 for registration information and location.

Carnivores in San Diego's Canyons: Slide Show Presentation by Wildlife Biologist Kevin Crooks

Fri., Dec. 5. 7- 9 p.m. Historic Adobe Ranch House, off Black Mtn. Road in Mira Mesa

Join the Friends at our annual meeting where we elect officers for the coming year (10 minutes) and present our guest speaker. No fee for the meeting. Kevin Crooks was trained at UC Santa Cruz under Mike Soulé, the well-known founder of Conservation Biology. Kevin has been doing followup studies of San Diego's urban canyons, studying impacts of urbanization on native plants and wildlife. Kevin has a special focus on native carnivores: fox, coyote and bobcat and how they're doing in our ecosystem. In addition, he is studying the controversial impact of housecats and feral cats on area wildlife. 6:30: social with free freshments. 7: election of officers. 7:15: Slide show presentation TQuestion and answer period. The meeting will take place in the historic adobe ranch house off Black Mtn. Rd. in Mira Mesa.

Call 566-6489 to volunteer!
Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve