



Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

January / February 1999

Volume 13 No. 1

Mule Deer Survey Enters 2nd Year

Rick Botta

The Friend's Tracking Team began the second year of our Mule Deer survey with another productive week of spotlighting in November. Begun in July '97, this survey is designed to provide an estimate of our deer population, determine approximate buck-to-doe and doe-to-fawn ratios and identify primary deer use areas within the Preserve. With a full years worth of data now, we are beginning to see trends emerge between winter (i.e.: the cool, wet months) and summer (i.e.: the hot, dry months) use areas. We've also established baseline estimates of total population and herd composition.

Our November survey produced a few "memorable" moments. Mike Kelly and I drove a single route on the first night and observed 23 deer, including many fawns (now about 4 months old). Along the way, we were treated to several "fly-bys" from the Preserve's resident Barn Owls.

Dion Heller, Steve Swenson, Dean Woods and I covered both routes the second night and observed a total of 58 Mule Deer, our highest single night count to date! The number of healthy bucks and fawns observed this night was encouraging. Dion and Steve are still wondering what the large silhouette was that passed just out of their headlight range. Only the shadow knows for sure . . .

Bolstered by this record count and hoping to do even better, the third night's teams of Bill Lawrence, Chris Bader, Pat Evans, Wanda Kwiat, Lee Kirchhevel and I set off with great expectations. We too set a record — only this time it was for the lowest single night count! But neither the lack of deer, our apparently failing eyesight nor the cold weather dampened the en-

See p. 8 for more

Carmel Mountain (8A) Saved

Mike Kelly

This November San Diego voters saw fit to pass two major development proposals that also constituted a big gain for the environment, while turning down a third. Voters, acting under the mandate of Proposition A passed by the voters in 1984, voted to approve Propositions K (Black Mountain Ranch) and M (Pacific Highlands Ranch). Unfortunately, County-wide, the voters turned down Proposition B (Rural Heritage).

Part of Proposition M involved the Pardee Company turning over its land on Carmel Mountain (8A), biologically the most sensitive land, acre for acre, left undeveloped in San Diego. Following the vote Pardee swiftly moved to transfer title to the parcel at a public ceremony attended by Mayor Susan Golding. Pardee also wrote a contribution to the new Friends of Carmel Mountain Preserve, the new non-profit group that will help manage — with volunteers — the new Preserve. State Parks officials also attended and indicated their continued interest in taking over management of the area as an extension of Torrey Pines State Reserve under an agreement with the City of San Diego.

To join the new Friends group call interim Chair Lisa Ross at 755-7999.

Also under Proposition M, some 1,350 acres of open space will become dedicated parkland in the new Pacific Highlands Ranch development, linking up the San Dieguito River Valley with Carmel Mountain, the Del Mar Mesa, Deer Canyon and Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

By passing Prop. K the voters facilitated the transfer of more open space to the new Black Mountain Open Space park. All told, some 1,900 acres

See p. 7 for more

Highlights Inside

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Fall Wildlife Survey

Dean Woods

Transect teams this fall were treated to numerous sightings of both coyote and mule deer during the early morning hours when a transect is surveyed. All the animals observed appeared to be in good heath. In addition to these sightings, two transect teams found evidence of mountain lion at the West End in the form of both tracks and scat. A plaster mold was made of the track and a confirmation of the print was made by Tracking Team founder, Barry Martin.

See p. 4 for more

Winter Flowers Debut

Believe it or not, winter in San Diego means the wildflower show has begun! Look for Winter currant (*Ribes indecorum*), Fuschia flowering gooseberry *Ribes speciosum*, Warty-stem ceanothus (*Ceanothus verrucosus*), Mountain lilac (*Ceanothus tomentosus*), Shooting stars (*Dodecatheon cleveandii* ssp. *clevelandii*), Spice bush (*Cneoridium dumosum*), Calif. spine bush (*Adolphia californica*) and other flowers.

Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. 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.

January

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.**

Rose Canyon Restoration Project

Sat., Jan. 2, 8 a.m.-noon. with this monthly project to restore Rose Canyon. This month: Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) removal. Mostly lopper work. Gloves, jeans, water, eye protection, sun protection. Cutting and stacking this highly invasive, bamboo-like plant. We will have extra tools available. Take Route 52 to Regents Road exit, Regents Road north to dead end. Call Drew at 453-4587 for details.

Love Our Lagoon

Sat., Jan. 2, 9 a.m. - noon. Torrey Pines State Preserve needs volunteers in restoring and protecting critical habitat of Los Peñasquitos Marsh Natural Reserve and Lagoon. Park staff will lead work parties in removal of exotic vegetation and planting of native species. Meet at the North Beach parking lot off Carmel Valley Road. Bring gardening gloves and sturdy shoes. Free parking. Call Pamela Higgins (619) 755-2063 to sign up. Individuals and groups interested in volunteering midweek or other weekend days contact Pamela.

Winter Walk from Mercy Rd.

Sat., Jan. 9, 8-10 a.m. Join naturalist Les Braund for a winter walk. Learn about native plants and their uses. Meet at the Mercy Road staging area at the intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Park and walk in main entrance to the kiosk.

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

Peñasquitos Lagoon Wildlife Corridor Restoration

Sun., Jan. 10., 9 a.m. Help the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve kick off a new monthly project with Torrey Pines State Park volunteers. We will remove exotic invasive weeds in order to restore a vital wildlife corridor linkage between the lagoon and Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Work tools provided. Wear clothes suitable for work. Meet in parking lot at 11230 Sorrento Valley Road (**not Blvd**) in Sorrento Valley. This address is first building north of the Coaster Station in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Tracking Walk from Ranch House

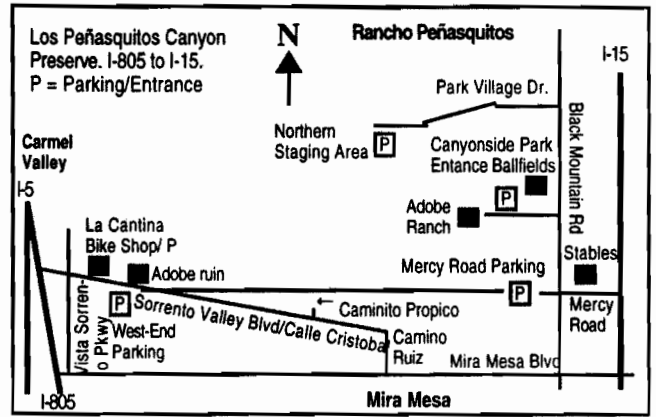
Sat., Jan. 16, 8 a.m. Learn to track animals and discover their natural environment. Hike include overview animal surveys being conducted in the Preserve. Led by Chris Bader. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd., right on Black Mtn. Rd., take first left, Canyonside Driveway and proceed up to white-fenced parking lot. Park, then walk west on trail to ranch house. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Old López Canyon "Bring Back the Natives" Grass Planting Part 2

Jan. 16, Sat., 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. We've been fighting invasive weeds on this slope for three years, now it's time to bring back the natives. Our goal is to plant 5,270 (!) plants this season, mostly perennial bunchgrass (*Nasella pulchra*). This is the second of several sessions. Meet at the Old López Trailhead in off Pacific Mesa and Pacific Center Blvd. intersection in Mira Mesa. Call Cindy at 421-5767 for more details.

Nature Walk from Mercy Rd.

Sat. Jan. 16, 9 a.m. (2 miles). Join naturalist Linda King for a fall walk. Learn native plants and their uses. Meet at the Mercy Road staging area at the intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Park and walk in main entrance to the kiosk. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**



Wildlife Volunteer Track & Sign Training and Survey

Sat., Jan. 16, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Volunteers will receive training in basic track, sign and habitat recognition for the Friends' Winter Wildlife Survey, which runs from Jan. 23 - Feb. 1. The training is free to volunteers who agree to participate in the subsequent survey. See separate flyer or call 619-672-1120 for details.

Nature Walk in López Canyon with Barbara Moore

Sat., Jan. 23, 9-11 a.m. Join naturalist Barbara Moore for a moderately paced nature and bird walk look in López Canyon. Moore is the co-author of *Walking San Diego*. Meet at West End Parking Area off south side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. 1/2 mile east of Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.**

Cara Knott Memorial Oak Planting

Sat., Jan. 23, 10 a.m. Call to confirm. You're invited to help plant an oak memorial garden at the eastern end of Peñasquitos Canyon, northeast of the intersection of I-15 and Mercy Rd./Scripps Poway Freeway: in memory of Cara Knott and other victims of violence. Take I-15 to the Mercy Road/Scripps Poway Freeway exit, exit and look for traffic monitors and signs directing you where to park. Bring gloves, water and sun protection. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Herb Hike

Sat., Jan. 23, 3:30-5 p.m. Learn to identify plants, shrubs, and trees of the canyon. Find out how they were used by Native Americans, Spanish and Anglo settlers. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet 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)**Geology Hike**

Sun., Jan. 24, 9–noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Waterfall Restoration: Volunteers!

Sun., Jan. 24, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. Help continue the native plant restoration of two areas at and near the waterfall. Planting, no experience necessary! Meet at the end of Park Village Drive in Rancho Peñasquitos. Take I-15 to Mercy Road. Mercy Road west to Black Mtn. Rd. Right on Black Mtn. Road. Left on Park Village Drive. Go all the way to the end at the barricades. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Black Mtn. Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Mon., Jan. 25, 7-9 p.m. Public is welcome to learn about and discuss issues in the Black Mountain Open Space Park. Meetings are in the Canyonside Recreation Center located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Friends' Monthly Business Meeting

Tues., Jan. 26, 7-9 p.m. Members welcome. Meet at the Adobe Ranch House, located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Friends' Board of Directors discusses Friends' policies and activities. Call Mike at 566-6489 for details.

Wolves in the Preserve!**Friends Annual Meeting. FREE!**

Fri., Jan. 29, 7 p.m. Pat Valentino of the Ulian Wolf Preserve will present a video and lecture on wolves, the history of wolves and the work of the Julian Wolf Preserve. There will be free refreshments and a short business meeting to elect officers for the Friends. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take first left onto Canyonside Driveway and proceed up to the white-fenced parking lot. Park, then walk west on trail to ranch house. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

1999 San Diego Bay Bird Festival

Fri., Jan. 29 - Sun., Jan. 31. Slide shows, lectures, bird watching walks, exhibitors and more at Imperial Beach. Call Kathie Satterfield at (619) 571-0179 for more details.

Full Moon Hike

Sun., Jan. 31st, 7–8:30 p.m. Walk in the moonlight and observe its effect on canyon life. Gaze at the moon itself and learn how it has been viewed by ancient and primitive people. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet 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.

February**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.

Rose Canyon Restoration Project

Sat., Feb. 6, 8 a.m.-noon. with this monthly project to restore Rose Canyon. This month: Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) removal. Mostly lopper work. Gloves, jeans, water, eye protection, sun protection. Cutting and stacking this highly invasive, bamboo-like plant. We will have extra tools available. Take Route 52 to Regents Road exit, Regents Road north to dead end. Call Drew at 453-4587 for details.

Love Our Lagoon

Sat., Feb. 6, 9 a.m. - noon. Torrey Pines State Preserve needs volunteers in restoring and protecting critical habitat of Los Peñasquitos Marsh Natural Reserve and Lagoon. Park staff will lead work parties in removal of exotic vegetation and planting of native species. Meet at the North Beach parking lot off Carmel Valley Road. Bring gardening gloves and sturdy shoes. Free parking. Call Pamela Higgins (619) 755-2063 to sign up. Individuals and groups interested in volunteering midweek or other weekend days contact Pamela.

Nature Walk from Mercy Rd.

Sat., Feb. 6, 8–10 a.m. Join naturalist Les Braund for an early wildflower walk. Learn about native plants and their uses. Meet at the Mercy Road staging area at the intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Park and walk in main entrance to the kiosk. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Valentine's Day Upper Peñasquitos Lagoon Wildlife Corridor Restoration

Sun., Feb. 14., 9 a.m. Show your love for the environment and celebrate Valentine's day by bringing a loved one to help the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and Torrey Pines State Park volunteers. We will remove exotic invasive weeds in order to restore a vital wildlife corridor linkage between the lagoon and Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Work tools provided. Wear clothes suitable for work. Meet in parking lot at 11230 Sorrento Valley Road (**not Blvd**) in Sorrento Valley. This address is first building north of the Coaster Station in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Geology Hike

Sun., Feb. 14, 9–noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Rose Canyon Restoration Project

Sat., Feb. 20, 8 a.m.-noon. with this monthly project to restore Rose Canyon. This month: Giant reed (*Arundo donax*) removal. Mostly lopper work. Gloves, jeans, water, eye protection, sun protection. Cutting and stacking this invasive, bamboo-like plant. We will have extra tools available. Take Route 52 to Regents Rd. exit, Regents Rd. north to dead end. Call Drew at 453-4587 for details.

Tracking Walk from Ranch House

Sat., Feb. 20, 8 a.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. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take first left onto Canyonside Driveway and proceed up to the white-fenced parking lot. Park, then walk west on trail to ranch house. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Nature Walk from Mercy Rd.

Sat., Feb. 20, 9 a.m. (2 miles). Join naturalist Linda King for an early wildflower walk. Learn about native plants and their uses. Meet at the Mercy Road staging area at the intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Park and walk in main entrance to the kiosk. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

★ext page for more

(Calendar cont'd)**Herb Hike**

Sat., Feb. 20, 3:30–5 p.m. Learn to identify plants, shrubs, and trees of the canyon. Find out how they were used by Native Americans, Spanish and Anglo settlers. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet 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.

Stargazing Hike

Sun., Feb. 21, 7–8:30 p.m. A Hike to contemplate the plants, stars and constellations and how they affect us. Consider how peoples from other times and places have viewed the night sky. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet 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.

Black Mtn. Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Mon., Feb. 22, 7-9 p.m. Public is welcome to attend to learn about and discuss issues in the Black Mountain Open Space Park. Meetings are in the Canyonside Recreation Center located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Friends' Monthly Business Meeting

Tues., Feb. 23, 7-9 p.m. Members welcome. Meet at the Adobe Ranch House, located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Friends' Board of Directors discusses Friends' policies and activities. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Nature Walk in López Canyon with Barbara Moore

Sat., Feb. 27, 9–11 a.m. Join naturalist Barbara Moore for a moderately paced nature and bird walk look in López Canyon. Moore is the co-author of *Walking San Diego*. Meet at West End Parking Area off south side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. 1/2 mile east of Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Mystery Tree & Wildflower Walk

Sun., Feb. 28, 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 Mike Kelly. **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

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 Drive. 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**.

Sorrento Valley Meeting Area

Meet in hanglider parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. 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 intersection into parking lot. Meet on 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 east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to bottom of the hill. Entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east, pass last building on the right. Preserve entrance is on right, past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

(Wildlife Surveys cont'd)

The scat samples were also visually confirmed as cougar, but have been sent out for DNA analysis. It's good to know that a mountain lion can still utilize Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve as part of its overall range. Although the cougar known to frequent our canyon has always been well behaved and shows its natural fear of man, everyone should exercise caution when hiking in the Preserve or adjacent open spaces. This is especially true if you are hiking or biking alone.

The Tracking Team was assisted during the Fall Survey by 25 enthusiastic volunteers, many of whom return season after season to support this ongoing project. We'd like to encourage everyone to come to the 6 hour training class held on a Saturday and then participate in a transect survey one morning. It's a wonderful and unforgettable sensation to walk through the stillness of the Preserve at sunrise; to feel the misty cool air, to smell the scent of sycamores, and to hear the occasional scream of a red tailed hawk. Come out and join us. The next training will be held January 16th.

Fall survey participants:

Tom Arneson, Dave Cowen, Clay Denny, Dan Evans, Dean Gould, Cindy Hawthorne, Janet Hohler, Leo Holland, Janet Honek, Jon Labaw, Pat Larson, Libby Lucas, Kaitlyn Meadows, Laura Naas, Mary Nolan, Joanne Odenthal, Susan Potts, Tarja Sagar, Rob Sewekow, Mike Thacker, Dan Vilotti, John Vilotti, Robin Vilotti, Cory Woodall, and Lysa Woodall

Transect leaders:

Chris Bader, Rick Botta, Lee Kirchhevel, Wanda Kwiatt, Barry Martin, Steve Swenson, June Warburton, and Dean Woods

Fall wildlife survey training

Some 19 people went through the wildlife survey training this fall. About half of them then helped out on wildlife transects in the Preserve. Members of the Friends Tracking Team who did the training included: Lee Kirchhevel, Wanda Kwiatt, Chris Bader, Steve Swensen, and Dean Woods.

The Old Lopez Orchard

Will Bowen, PhD

[Editor's note: If you would like to see the old López orchard come on one of Barbara Moore's walks listed in our hike schedule.]

Introduction

About a fifteen-minute walk up the main trail into López Canyon, you'll come upon a small field in which you'll find the remnants of the López Family Orchard. Only five trees are still left alive out of, perhaps, the twenty seven or so which were originally planted — probably — as Barbara Moore recently suggested, over a hundred years ago.

The remaining trees include: two quince trees, an apricot tree, and two pear trees, one of which has fallen but yet still blooms. All of the trees produce edible and quite delicious fruit. Unfortunately, the pear trees and the apricot are quite badly deteriorated by age and insect infestation. One of the quince trees shows some deterioration near the bottom of the trunk but the other appears fairly healthy.

The former residents of López Canyon undoubtedly planted the trees for fresh fruit, canning, preserves, jams, jellies, and perhaps for produce to sell. The fruits and other parts of the trees, including the leaves and bark may have also been used for medical or utilitarian purposes. Quite a bit of historic evidence exists which suggest the area of Peñasquitos and López Canyons were excellent places for growing fruits and vegetables. Incidentally, López Canyon was labeled as Cuervo Canyon on the 1950 Automobile Club Map of San Diego County! Perhaps, that's what we should call it — Cuervo Canyon!

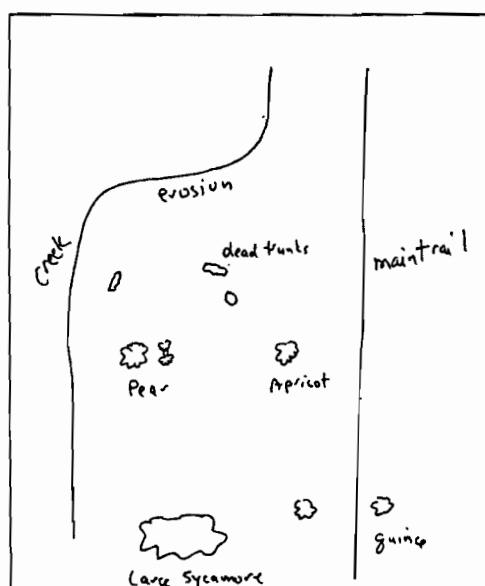
History of the orchard

At this point in time I've not been able to determine who exactly planted the López Orchard. No one I've talked to seems to know. Barbara Moore, in the 1989 edition of her book, "Walking San Diego" states that in 1840 the López Canyon area was given as a land grant to Bonifacio López, and that his descendents lived in the house he built for over one hundred years

(p.53). Moore does not mention any fruit trees being in López Canyon in her book; however, she is aware of them now.

If Moore's statement about the land grant is accurate, then one of López's descendents may have planted the orchard. If Bonafacio López himself planted the orchard, a little after 1840, that would make the trees over 150 years old. I don't know if they can live that long.

Regarding Bonafacio López, the 1850 Census of San Diego lists a Ben-



Current orchard

ifacio López, who at that time was a 40-year-old laborer. They are probably the same individual because no Bonafacio López is listed. If Bonafacio or Bonafacio had received a land grant and set up a homestead in López Canyon in 1840 he probably would have been listed as a "farmer" or a "grazer" in the census, as was Francisco Alvarado of the El Cuervo Adobe. The "Journal of San Diego History" does mention that Bonafacio López had a house in Old Town, on Whitman between Wallace and Mason Street, from the 1850s to 1870s, where meetings of the San Diego Lodge were held and that his daughter married Philip Crosswaite. However, I found nothing linking him to López or Cuervo Canyon.

I was able to view some aerial photographs, dated 1928, 1945, and 1982

of the López Homestead, some of which clearly show the orchard. I also draw upon my own experience of exploring López Canyon these past ten years. From the evidence I have at my disposal, some inferences about the orchard may be drawn.

The aerial photograph of 1928 quite clearly shows the orchard southwest of the López House, across López Creek. You can count about 27 trees in neat rows. Some of the trees have rather large foliage denoting some level of maturity. This means that they may have been at least 10-20 or more years old in 1928. This deduction lends credence to Barbara Moore's hypothesis that the orchard may be more than hundred years old and that the currently live trees are over 100 years old. While that may seem like an advanced age for a fruit tree, let me state that I was recently shown grapefruit trees producing delicious fruit at Glen Ivy Hot Springs Resort which are also supposed to be 100 years old.

If the trees were planted around 1900, then Bonafacio López would have been too old to have been responsible for their planting. Perhaps it was his son, who would have been the father of Ramon and Henrietta López, the last people to have lived in López Canyon, who planted the orchard.

The aerial photographs dated 1945 were taken by the Navy. This set of photographs is not absolutely accurate because the Navy altered them and blocked out sensitive areas due to war security.

In the 1945 photograph only 5-6 trees are visible. This means that between 1928 and 1945, a span of 17 years, over 20 trees had died. This seems very odd. Why did this happen? Was it due to natural disaster, disease, or neglect? We do know from markings on the López House cement additions and cistern that Ramon López was fixing up the place in 1953. He signed his name and date in the then wet cement. Would he have fixed the house but neglected the orchard?

The 1982 aerial photographs of the

See p. 6 for more

(Orchard cont'd)

area of the López Homestead were too dark to for me to make out the orchard or the Homestead.

Jerry Schad, in the 1986 edition of his book, "Afoot and Afield in San Diego County," mentions the López Orchard trees: "Nearby are two gnarled and ancient apricot trees, still apparently healthy and bearing fruit (p.48)." If Schad is right, and he didn't mistake the apricot tree for a pear or a quince, which is possible if you do not know fruit trees or do not see the actual ripe fruit, then one of these apricot trees died by 1988, the date I first noticed the one apricot tree which still remains. It does seem strange that Schad did not mention the two pear trees or the two quince trees, which were very close by.

I started walking López in about 1988 and I remember seeing the same five trees that exist today. Only both pear trees were still standing at that time. One pear tree fell about a year ago, but sprung branches up from the fallen trunk. At that time I thought the trees were all the same, as I did not bother to examine them closely.

Today, if you walk around the field of the orchard you can see several decaying trunks of trees that once stood in the orchard. Their state of deterioration indicates they may have been laying out in the elements for many years.

The fruit trees

At this point I want to present some information about the individual fruit trees which are in the orchard. It's my hope that this may give us some insight or clues about their role in canyon life in the past and may help us to gain a greater appreciation for them.

Quince (*Pyrus cydonia*)

Straddling the main López trail at the western edge of the López Orchard are the two quince trees. One appears healthy, the other has some deterioration of the lower trunk, but new healthy-looking branches, which are about 2 inches in diameter, are shooting straight up to 20 feet.

The quince has been cultivated since ancient times. It has always been considered a valuable medical agent as well as an excellent food. The quince

is native to Persia and Greece. The species name "cydonia" is derived from the city of Cydon, on the isle of Crete, where the Greeks first cultivated it.

Quince is mentioned in the Bible. In Canticles we see, "I sat down under His shadow with great delight, and his fruit (quince) was sweet to my taste." In Proverbs, it is written, "A word fitly spoken is like quince in pictures of silver" (meaning it belongs and completes the picture).

The Roman Pliny treated the medicinal virtues of quince at length, and stated that quince wards off the influence of evil. In many of the wall paintings and murals of Pompeii, quince is depicted, usually held in the paws of a bear. The Romans believed that quince was sacred to the goddess Venus, who is often depicted with a quince in her right hand, a gift she received from Paris. Furthermore, quince was considered to be a symbol of love, health, and happiness. Plutarch mentions the bridal custom of a quince being shared by a married couple. Quince, sent as a present or shared was regarded as a token of love and health. Into the Middle Ages, quince was used at every wedding feast.

In the Spanish days of California, quince was eaten as a fruit and made into jellies and jams. Indeed, quince was the original marmalade — the name of which comes from the Portuguese "marmelo" — their word for quince.

In Spanish folk medicine quince is considered to be good for digestion, thirstrelieving, and a good diuretic. Although the fruit has a slightly acid taste it has an anti-acid effect. The juice was thought to be a good stomach medicine which, in addition to having sedating effects, had a positive influence on sour or acid conditions of the human organism. Quince is supposed to allay gas, vomiting, nausea, cure loose stools and rid the body of poisons. It

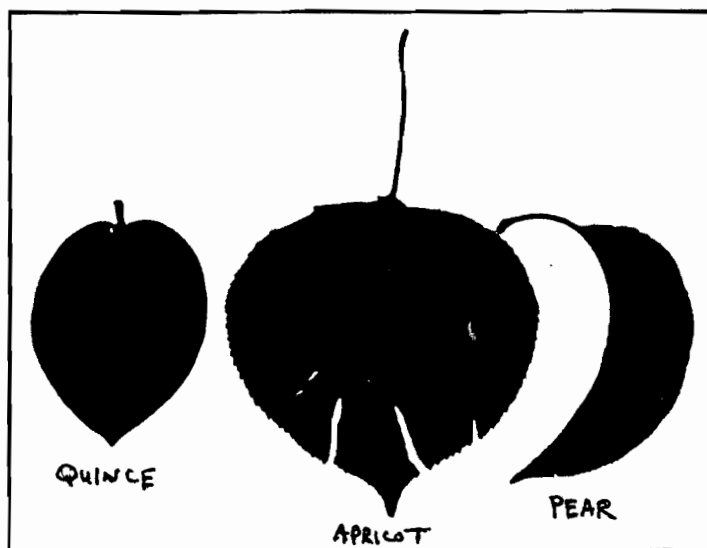
is also an excellent gargle and can be applied to sores.

The seeds of quince look a lot like apple seeds. They are dark brown and flattened on both sides. They contain two firm yellowish-white cotyledons, which have a bitter taste. When the seeds of quince are soaked in water they swell up and form a heavy mucilaginous mass, much like flaxseeds do. The mucilaginous principle in the seeds is called "cydonin." The seeds also contain malic acid, which helps the transportation of oxygen in the body.

An old folk remedy calls for one ounce of quince seeds to be boiled in three pints of distilled water. The resulting mass is then filtered through cheesecloth and boiled again, as 2 ounces of glycerine are stirred in. This is then stored in a sterile jar. One half a cup is taken 3-4 times a day for constipation.

The leaves, bark, and root of quince have astringent properties and will contract organic tissue if applied externally in a wash. The flowers have been used in cosmetic preparations. For burns or to improve the complexion a mash of pear and quince fruit were put directly on the face. To flush the body systems a blend of pear, quince, and ice was drunk. The application of quince juice to the hair was said to keep it from falling out, stimulate hair growth, cure graying hair and restore natural hair color.

As a step toward understanding the nutrition of former canyon residents, let us consider the nutritional content of one medium quince, which consists



(Orchard cont'd)

of: 53 calories, .1 mg fat, .4 mg protein, 1.6 gr. fiber, 18 IU Vitamin A, 14 mg Vitamin C, 181 mg potassium, 4 mg sodium, 7 mg magnesium, 10 mg calcium, 16 mg phosphorus, .64 mg iron, and .12 mg copper. Quince is 1.13% malic acid and takes 3.75 hours to digest.

Quince is a wonderful fruit which is often difficult to find nowadays but which ought to be part of our diet, as it was a part of the López Canyon residents' fare.

Apricot (*Prunus armeniaca*)

A few yards up the trail east from the quince trees, right on the left edge of the trail is an apricot tree. It's about 10-12 feet high with thick foliage. The trunk is very weathered and bug-eaten but the branches were packed with apricots this last year. I ate one. It was utterly delicious with an almond-like flavor. I later bought some apricots at Ralphs which did not even come close to being one tenth as good. There is really no comparison to an apricot ripe off the tree.

The Spanish name for apricot is "Albaricoque." In Mexican folk medicine the ground kernel of the fruit is made into a milky paste with water and applied to the inside of the nostrils when they are cracked or dry. The paste is also applied to goiters to shrink them.

The crushed kernels have also been boiled as a tea for cough and the flowers as a tea have been thought to increase a woman's chance of getting pregnant. The oil from the kernel has also been used as a treatment for wood furnishings.

The healthy Hunza people of the former Soviet Union, who live so long, consider apricot to be a favorite food. They make a blend of apricot and yogurt into a kefir-like drink.

Apricot is the fruit that is highest in beta-carotene. Beta-carotene consists of two paired Vitamin A molecules that divide in the body. Beta-carotene is a powerful anti-oxidant, which helps prevent free radical damage in the body.

Laetrile is contained within the apricot kernel. It has been used for the treatment of cancer. Most people think that it is a hoax. But laetrile was tested

on cancer at the Sloan-Kettering Institute in New York. The principle researcher determined that it had a definite inhibitory effect on lung cancer but because the Institute was afraid of negative publicity the results were suppressed for many years. Laetrile has also been extensively tested at Loyola University, although they too have been subjected to much pressure.

One story about the marvelous benefits of apricot which I find quite interesting concerns an 80 year old woman who "had skin which was as soft and wrinkle free as a baby's butt." Apparently, she applied a mask made from a mixture of apricot and avocado fruit mixed with olive oil daily and that is what made her skin so nice.

Three medium apricots contain the following nutrients: 51 calories, 1.5 mg protein, .6 mg fiber, 2769 IU of Vitamin A, .2 mg fat, 11 mg Vitamin C, 9 mg folic acid, 313 mg potassium, 15 mg calcium, 21 mg phosphorus, 8 mg magnesium, 1 mg sodium, .5 mg iron, 20 mg chlorine, 92 mg sulfur, 2380 mg silicon. Apricot is .0140% oxalic acid, has a pH of 4.40 and takes 2.25 hours to digest.

Pear (*Pyrus communis*)

Almost directly north of the apricot tree, about two thirds of the way across the field toward the creek bed are two Bartlett pear trees. One is standing and one has fallen. The fallen tree is sending up new branches that bloomed this past season, putting out white and pink five-petaled urn-shaped flowers. Both trees are very weathered and insect ridden. The fallen tree has much "frass" or insect excrement on it. The fallen tree reminded me of an ancient Chinese proverb that goes, "From the fallen pear tree new branches sprout," meaning no matter what happens to us or how we age or fall we can still renew ourselves. In fact, it is said that as a pear tree nears the end of its life its fruit grows correspondingly more delicious! Local horticulturist and gardens historian Carol Greentree adds, "If you want fruit for yourself plant a peach tree; if you want fruit for your children and grandchildren plant a pear tree."

Pyrus is the old name for pear. Pear in Spanish is *pera*. Pear is the one fruit that is better if ripened off the tree

than on. It has been grown since ancient times for fruit. Homer mentions pear in the 13th century BC. Our trees are Bartlett, which is the main canning variety. Pear branches are sometimes grafted onto quince trees. The wood of the pear tree is sometimes used for knife handles.

One medium pear supplies the following nutrients: 68 calories, .7 mg protein, .7 mg fat, 2.3 mg fiber, 33 mg Vitamin A, 7 mg Vitamin C, 12 mg folic acid, trace amounts of the B vitamins, 208 mg potassium, 19 mg calcium, 18 mg phosphorus, 9 mg magnesium, .4 mg iron, 1 mg sodium, 175 mg sulfur, 50 mg silicon, .5 mg bromine. Pears are .3% citric acid, .2% malic acid, .003 oxalic acid. They have a pH of 3.92 and take 2.25 hours to digest.

Conclusion

I hope that you are like me and want to know more about the history of the López Homestead and Orchard. A question that naturally arises is whether we want to try and take care of the remaining trees in order to extend their lifespan, as perhaps by trying to rid them of insect infestation. Also, would we want to replant the orchard for historic purposes some day or do we want to let the trees die and replant the field with native vegetation. It seems to be an issue of balancing historic and cultural resources with biological resources. Both are important and add value and enjoyment to our canyon preserve.

(Carmel Mtn. cont'd)

of Black Mtn. Ranch will be added to the adjoining park. In addition, they will be donating \$100,000 to the capital improvement fund for the park and an additional \$50/per building permit they pull over the life of the development.

The decisive failure of Prop. B which would have managed growth in the back country, has already unleashed the floodgates of development. Richard Louv in a column in the San Diego Union-Tribune reported that more than 70 projects are coming forward, with tens of thousands of housing units for new cookie cutter developments in our rural areas.

The Tracker's Corner

Barry Martin

Another cycle of seasons has brought us to winter. As I write this I'm reminded of all the times I, and others around me, have expressed amazement at how fast the years are speeding by. This is the season when we take stock of the past year and many of us resolve to make changes in the year to come. For the Tracking Team a meeting was held in early December for the purpose of evaluating our past year and planning for 1999. I thought I'd take this opportunity to tell you (read brag) about a few of our '98 accomplishments and give a preview of what lies ahead in '99.

For starters, our quarterly wildlife surveys have been going strong. We have been gathering data and attracting a diverse group of volunteers to assist and learn about tracking while making a difference on behalf of the last of the open space in San Diego. Our program gained momentum during the past year and we've gained national attention via our association with ecologist Susan Morse of Keeping Track and subsequent articles in the *Smithsonian* and *California Wild* magazines. We assisted in training folks from the Iron Mountain Conservancy of Ramona in tracking techniques as they prepared to set up a similar wildlife survey system. We've set up a transect in the Torrey Pines/Peñasquitos Lagoon area and also plan on working with their volunteers.

Associated with our wildlife surveys are the periodic night spotlight checks of our deer herd. This gives us valuable information on health, habits and population trends of our deer. Plus it's a lot of fun.

Tracking Team members also enjoyed participating in other events throughout the county this past year, giving lectures and slide shows to various groups and assisting with guided hikes and other educational events.

Speaking of educational events, as many of you are aware, we teach a weekend Nature Skills class that focuses not only on tracking but also naturalist and survival skills along with the philosophy of living in har-

mony with the natural environment. We did two of these classes this past year and our fall class was the first to be held at the Lost Valley Scout Reservation. We had quite a large group, many of whom were Sierra Club hike leaders. This class was a huge success and we are especially gratified to have had so many positive comments from the attendees.

One highlight of 1998 was our receipt of the "America's Finest Volunteer" award from the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department. This award was in recognition of our efforts on the wildlife study, which encourages community participation and provides valuable information.

What's Next?

So what about 1999? We're planning to continue our quarterly wildlife surveys with our next training scheduled for January 16 and the transects to be done the week of Jan. 23 to Feb. 1. See the enclosed flyer for details. We'll also continue to assist other preserves around the county as they set up tracking programs with the hope of being able to contribute to monitoring the effectiveness of the MSCP.

We also plan on continuing our Earth Skills class offerings with dates to be announced. Plans are also in the works for a children's course in nature skills and we've had a couple of inquiries from people looking for speakers for various groups around San Diego.

As you can see we have a full plate but we feel it is well worth the effort. These activities hold opportunities for anyone who wants to take an active part in making a positive difference in the world. All you need do is come on out and get involved. The more you learn and come to know about a place, the more you tend to claim ownership of it. Then you find a more caring attitude toward that place and a passion for wanting to protect it. That is what we are all about, won't you join us?

On behalf of the entire Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Tracking Team, I would like to wish you a happy and fulfilling 1999.

Volunteer Opportunities

See our calendar listings for all of the volunteer opportunities coming up in January and February. Special ones include:

- January 10 Peñasquitos Lagoon Wildlife Corridor Restoration
- January 16 Old López Bring Back the Natives revegetation.
- January 16 Wildlife Track & Sign Survey Training
- January 24 Waterfalls Restoration

(Deer Survey cont'd)

thusiasm of these dedicated volunteers. On the lighter side, it's probably the only night we'll be able to say we saw as many falling stars and Barn Owls as deer.

Thanks again to all those who helped with the November Mule Deer survey.

(Volunteers cont'd)

Helping were: Mike Kelly, Cindy Burrascano, Edward DiBella, Michelle Murphree, Dixie Stansell, Carrie Barton, Dan Evans, Ivan Cooper, Rick Botta, Liz Rozycki, Phyllis Crawford, Karen Hughes, Michelle Ahn, Susan Walters, and Cheryl Brehme.

Falls South revegetation

Dec. 20 more than 300 native shrubs and grasses were added to a restoration site begun last year by Vista High School. The site is on the southwest side of the waterfall and involves heavily eroded trails that were previously closed. Volunteering were: Cindy Burrascano, Ivan Cooper, Dan Evans, Mike Kelly and Cheryl Brehme. Many of the plants for this and other fall projects were grown from our own local seed by Rick Botta and Liz Rozycki.

Volunteer Accomplishments: More than 5,000 Hours!

Mike Kelly

From Nov. 1997 through Oct. 1998 Friends volunteers contributed more than 5,269 volunteer hours to Preserve projects. This figure actually understates the contributed hours, since many volunteer hours are put in on the phones and in other activities not recorded in our project listings. Congratulations to all of those who participated. Your efforts are turning back the clock to a more pristine era in the Preserve!

Special recognition of the Friends wildlife survey efforts came through an article about the surveys in the Fall 1998 issue of *California Wild*, magazine of the California Academy of Sciences. The article details three days of wildlife surveys along transects in wildlife corridors, emphasizing the scientific nature of the protocols being used and the tracking skills of the volunteers. Peter Fredericki, the author, reported in amazement the presence of so many wild animal species, including Mountain lion, Mule deer, and Bobcat in such an urbanized setting as Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. The Friends' surveys were also highlighted in a Smithsonian magazine article of about a year ago. Hats off to the Tracking Team for their excellent work.

Native grass growing

Thanks to Mel Howe, Mike Kelly, Linda Parady, Brian & Silka Knott for transplanting germinating *Nassella pulchra* (native bunch grass) seedlings into pots for growing up. They will be planted later this fall or winter in one of the Friends' restoration sites. Thanks also to Charles Watkins, Christine Miller and Gaye Dingeman for sorting our native grass seed, a time-consuming, tedious, but important task!

Native grass salvage

Jerry Hittleman of Congregation Beth Am brought a group including David, Debra, Joel & Tamara Kramer & Marc, Dahlia & Emma Siegel to join Mike Kelly in salvaging native bunch grass from a site in Sorrento Valley. The grass was potted up and will be used in a restoration project in

Old López Canyon this fall. This is the second year Jerry has brought a group from the Congregation to help out on a Preserve project.

Newsletter and Fund Mailings

Pat Watkins, Mike Kelly, Gaye & Bob Dingeman helped get out the Friends' newsletter and the annual Fund Appeal.

Rose Canyon Arundo

Cindy Burrascano, Mike Kelly and Robb Hutself of the Special Weed Action Team joined Drew DeShazo and other Tri-Canyon volunteers in arundo removal in Rose Canyon. Working with equipment purchased under a Riparian Enhancement Grant won by the Tri-Canyon parks, volunteers will be removing *Arundo donax* (Giant Reed) and a host of other invasive exotic plants over the next two years. This is a monthly project, meeting at 8 a.m. the first Saturday of each month. Call Drew at 453-4587 to get involved.

Sweetwater River Revival

A two-year effort came to a successful conclusion this November when volunteers removed the last of the arundo from a County Parks section of the Sweetwater River. Already numerous willows and other species are benefitting from the removal of this highly invasive giant grass. We'll have an article on this effort in our next newsletter.

Lake Hodges aquatic team

Twice over the last two months volunteers boarded boats on Lake Hodges and motored or rowed to remote locations of exotic and invasive weeds, especially *Arundo donax*. Equipped with chainsaws and loppers, they cut down numerous patches of this giant reed that aren't close to roads or trails in the park. They also cut down a number of eucalyptus, tamarisk, and castor bean plants, all highly invasive. Michele Murphree, the Friends volunteer coordinator had been bugged by the arundo while pleasure cruising on the Lake last summer and vowed to do something about it. With City Ranger Dion Heller's help, they secured permission

from the City's managers on the Lake and the use of the boats. The outings were great, with beautiful weather, lots of birds, a mule deer, and a gray fox to admire. Participating were Michelle, Ranger Heller, Mike Kelly, Drew DeShazo, Cindy Burrascano, Mel Howe, Robb Hutself, Randy Reid, Becky Scease, Pat Watkins, Suzann Leiningner, Terry Gaughen, Gideon Lidoff, Steve Swenson, Dean Woods, Dan Evans and Dixie Standsell (Michelle's mom!).

Vista high school 3rd annual restoration project

This was the third year in a row that the Earth Sciences classes from Vista High School came all the way out to the Preserve to help with our restoration projects. Teacher Gorja Austin is the inspiration behind this yearly commitment. Ranger Dion Heller visits the classes several weeks before the restoration project in order to educate the students about the Preserve and the importance of restoration work. This year, a team from the Americorps (NCCC) joined the high schoolers in the field to help in building the fences, whacking weeds and putting some 500 or so plants in the ground. Mike Kelly and Pat Watkins from the Friends also helped. This year's project is a duplicate road that is being closed from the Sycamore Crossing west, on the north side of the creek. About a half mile of the road is being closed, fenced off and replanted with native plants, including *Nassella pulchra* (native bunch grass), *Isocoma menziesii* (Goldentop), *Eriogonum fasciculatum* (California buckwheat), *Lotus scoparius* (Deerweed) and *Baccharis sarothroides* (Broom baccharis). Part of the funding for this project is coming from a recent grant won by Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

Old López Canyon bring back the natives

Nov. 13 an enthusiastic group planted over 800 native grass and other plants at the top of the old López Trail.

See p. 8 for more



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.
 P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196
 619-484-3219

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Check Your Label

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

Friends' Directory

Officers

President: Mike Kelly 566-6489
 Vice-President: moved to Sweden!
 Treasurer: Brian Swanson 695-2209
 Secretary: Edward DiBella 748-5276

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Les Braund, Barry Martin, Steve Swenson Pat Watkins, Dean Woods

Walks Leaders

Brian Swanson, Don Albright, Will Bowen, Mike Kelly, Les Braund, Chris Bader (443-5937)

Committees:

Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
 Newsletter: Steve Swenson
 Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
 Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
 Voice Mail System: Pat Wakins
 Tracking Team Coordinator: Barry Martin (484-4007)
 Volunteer Coordinator: Michelle Murphree (224-4192)
 Wildlife Survey Organizer: Dean Woods, Rick Botta

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

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

I/We are interested in the following:

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

1/99

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

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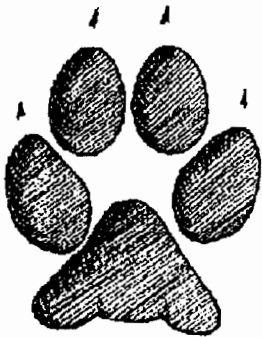
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Thank you for your support! Your donation is tax deductible.
 Call 484-3219 or 566-6489 for more information.

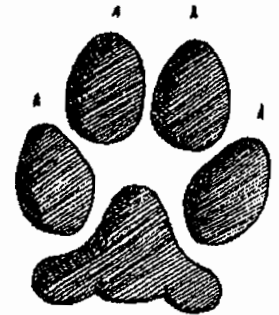
The Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Tracking Team Presents

Wolves In The Preserve!

FRIDAY JANUARY 29, 1999 7:00 P.M.



At the Ranch House Conference Room
Located West of the Canyonside Park
Ballfields off of Black Mountain Road
in Peñasquitos.



Pat Valentino of the Julian Wolf Preserve will be the next speaker in our lecture series. Pat has a very provocative show detailing the mysteries of Wolves and the work that the Julian Wolf Preserve does on their behalf.

This is the second in our new series of lectures featuring prominent individuals who are making a positive contribution to our natural world. This is a “must see” event that you will not want to miss. Mark your calendar now for Friday the 29th of January at 7:00 p.m.

This lecture coincides with the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Annual Meeting where we will take about 5 minutes to elect our officers for the coming year.

Directions

From I 15 take the Mercy Rd. exit and go west to Black Mountain Rd. and turn right. At the first intersection (3 way stop light) turn left. This is the entrance to Canyonside Park. Go west past the ballparks and look for the signs directing you to the Ranch parking lot.



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 16, 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 some of the day outdoors, and be ready to take notes. The training will be held at Los Peñasquitos Adobe (Ranch House), located behind Canyonside Community Park near the intersection of Black Mountain and Mercy Roads. Please call (619) 484-3219 for directions to the training. If you have participated in last quarter's survey 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 1999 Survey Jan 23 through Feb 1



At the training, volunteers will be asked to sign up for a transect team which will survey a transect during the morning hours one day during the survey period. Twenty transects are available allowing volunteers to choose one (or more) convenient to their schedule.

Transects are segments of trails of approximately one mile in length which are distributed throughout Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and adjacent open space. These transects are surveyed quarterly, during a period of nine days (Saturday to the following Sunday) beginning one week after the Volunteer Training.

If you are unable to participate in this quarter's survey but would like to participate in the future, or if you would like more information, please call (619) 672-1120 for updates.





Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

March/April 1999
Volume 13 No. 2

Alert! Roads Threaten Preserve

Mike Kelly, president

As traffic congestion causes commuter delays, Channel 10 TV, the Union-Tribune and Mayoral wannabees have decided the easy solution to our traffic woes is to build more roads in our open-space parks. Rather than limit urban sprawl, they want to build Camino Ruiz and Camino Santa Fe in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Similar proposals are being floated for Rose Canyon, Mission Trails and other parks.

Several years ago the San Diego City Council voted unanimously to delete Camino Ruiz from the City's General Plan after a 10-year campaign by the Friends. Peñasquitos Canyon is already crossed by I-5, I-805, I-15, Black Mountain Road, Sorrento Valley Road, the Santa Fe Railroad. Vista Sorrento Parkway will soon be extended across the canyon while the I-5, I-805 "merge" will also be expanded with additional lanes. Will two more highways across the Preserve enhance the quality of life of the thousands of San Diegans who currently bike, walk, or ride their horse in the Preserve in order to escape from urban pressures such as traffic congestion?

We're forming a committee to organize to protect the Preserve. If you would like to become part of this effort, call Mike at 566-6489.

At the Friends' Annual Meeting held January 29, 1999, the following officers were elected to lead the Friends over the next year:

- President — Mike Kelly
- Vice-president — Dean Woods
- Secretary — Edward DiBella
- Treasurer — Pat Watkins

Friends Support MSCP Lawsuit

Mike Kelly, president

January 26, the Board of Directors of the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve voted unanimously, but reluctantly, to support the MSCP vernal pool lawsuit brought by the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity against the City of San Diego. The suit was filed by a coalition of the Southwest Center with local environmental groups, including the San Diego Audubon Society, the San Diego Sierra Club and the statewide California Native Plant Society. The suit was filed in an attempt to stop the bulldozing of more than 60 vernal pools on the Cousins' Mira Mesa Marketplace site and to require a detailed plan to protect the remaining pools in other parts of San Diego. Only an estimated 3% of the vernal pools that once existed remain today. Some 97% have been lost to development. These ephemeral pools, ponding water in the winter and spring, are home to a number of Federally listed endangered species such as the well-known Mesa mint (*Pogogyne abramsii*).

The 70-acre Marketplace project is located on the old Kaiser Hospital property at the southwest corner of I-15 and Mira Mesa Blvd. The project was approved by the San Diego City Council in the fall of 1998 over the strenuous objections of environmental groups. The plaintiffs in the suit filed the suit in December and asked for a temporary restraining order against the bulldozing of the Marketplace site. The order was refused and the bulldozers rolled the next day and cleared the site in a single day — the product of hundreds of thousands of years of evolution.

Highlights Inside

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Background: MSCP

The MSCP (Multiple Species Conservation Program) is an ambitious attempt to develop a single habitat plan that would protect from extinction some 85 species of plants and animals that are rare or endangered. The plan calls for about 175,000 acres of existing and new open space core habitat preserves connected by wildlife corridor/landscape linkages. It was developed by a shaky coalition of environmental groups, developers, property owners, and the City. When the MSCP was approved by the City Council, endangered vernal pool species were included in the list of 85 species deemed "covered" by the habitat plan.

This was despite the fact that vernal pool habitat was ~~not~~ actually included in the plan! Environmental groups were told that this was not contradictory since a separate City wetlands policy would be more than adequate protection. This policy said that no net loss of vernal pools would be allowed, that the policy would be avoidance, minimize, and mitigate if a development came forward with vernal pools. That is, the pools would be avoided, would be saved, unless the impact was unavoidable, such as a road alignment, sewer line or something similar that couldn't be changed. On

(MSCP Lawsuit continued on page 10)

Spring, subdued, but here!

Spring is coming in a muted fashion this year, in sharp contrast to last year's exuberant show. The reason for this year's muted flower show is the lack of rain, due to the "La Niña" effect. Nevertheless, you can see many wonderful wildflowers. Join us on one of our walks. Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. 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

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 from Mercy Rd.

Sat. Mar. 13, 9 a.m. (2 miles). Join naturalist Linda King for a spring walk. Learn native plants and their uses. Meet at the Mercy Road staging area at the intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Park and walk in main entrance to the kiosk. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Exotic Weed Tour of Upper Peñasquitos Lagoon with Natural History Museum Canyoneers

Sat. Mar. 13, 9 – noon. (2 miles). Mike Kelly will lead a tour of the upper lagoon for the Natural History Museum Canyoneers and members of the public that will examine exotic weeds and their ecological impact on the lagoon. Fresh water and salt

marsh plants will also be identified. Meet at Flintcote and Estuary Way in Sorrento Valley. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Bird Walk from Mercy Rd.

Sat. Mar. 13, 1–3 p.m. Join Brian

Swanson for a bird walk from the kiosk inside the main entrance at the Staging area at the intersection of Mercy Road and Black Mtn. Road. Bring bird book and binoculars. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for directions.

Peñasquitos Lagoon Volunteer Wildlife Corridor Restoration

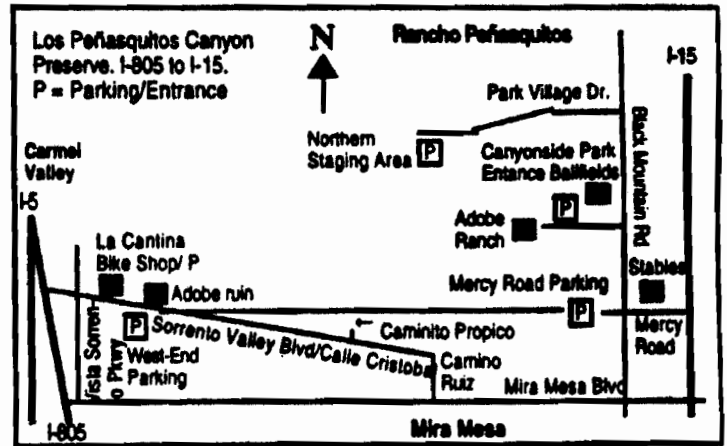
Sun., March 14, 9 – 1 p.m. Help restore this important wildlife corridor by removing exotic invasive plants choking the corridor. No experience necessary. Work tools provided. Wear clothes appropriate for work. Meet in parking lot at 11230 Sorrento Valley Road (not Blvd.) in Sorrento Valley. This is the first building north of the Coaster Station in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Groups welcome.

Black Mtn. Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Mon., March 15, 7-9 p.m. Public is welcome to attend to learn about and discuss issues in the Black Mountain Open Space Park. Meetings are in the Canyonside Recreation Center located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Gooden Ranch Tour in Poway

Sunday, Mar. 21st, 9 a.m. Visit the scenic Gooden Ranch, a new County Park in Poway. Good chance of seeing Chocolate lilies (*Fritillaria biflora*) and many other blooming plants. Hike through oak groves and along a mountain stream. Led by Cindy Burrascano and Mike Kelly of the Calif. Native Plant Society. Volunteers are also welcome to stay after the walk and help cleanup some invasive tamarisk (*Tamarix ramossis-*



sima) and artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*). Light work. Take I-15 to Poway Road, take Poway Road to Garden Road. Right on Garden Road to Sycamore Rd. Right on Sycamore Rd all the way under Scripps Poway Parkway to the dirt part of the road. Continue to the park entrance and parking lot. Bring water and sun protection. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info.

Ranch Tour & Family Activity

Sun., Mar. 21, 1 p.m. Join County interpreter Susan Potts for a tour of the historic Ranch house and a family activity afterward at the Los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House. 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.

Friends' Monthly Business Meeting

Tues., Mar. 23, 7-9 p.m. Members welcome. Meet at the Adobe Ranch House, located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Friends' Board of Directors discusses Friends' policies and activities. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

López Canyon Long Hike

Sat., Mar. 27, 4 – 5:30 p.m. A long hike to explore deep into López Canyon. Observe plants and wildlife. See hawks, including white-tailed kites, oak trees, animal tracks and the impact of erosion on native plant habitat. Meet in the West-end Parking-Staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 3/4 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge in the valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Geology Hike

Sun., Mar. 28, 9–noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Full Moon Frog Hike

Wed., Mar. 31st, 7:30 – 9 p.m. Learn about the frogs and toads of San Diego County. Look for them and listen for their calls. Observe puddle-dwelling tadpoles under the bright light of a full moon. Hear stories and songs about Brer Bullfrog from Native American tradition and the old South. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, ½ mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

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.

Black Mountain Open Space Park Hike

Sat. Apr. 10, 9–noon. Join the Calif. Native Plant Society and the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve on a hike in this new park. Chance to see rare San Diego Mountain Misery and other interesting plants. Led by Mike Kelly and the new park ranger, Dan Bylin (formerly of Mission Trails Regional Park). Meet at the parking-staging area off the dirt Black Mtn. Road in Rancho Peñasquitos. Find your way to Black Mountain Road in Rancho Peñasquitos. Take it north until the pavement ends. Look for a dirt road taking off from the right and follow it up the hill and down the other side until encountering a gate and sign for the park on

the right hand side. Take the paved road up to the parking lot. **Call Mike at 566-6489** for more info.

Peñasquitos Lagoon Volunteer Wildlife Corridor Restoration

Sun., Apr. 11, 9 – 1 p.m. Help restore this important wildlife corridor by removing exotic invasive plants choking the corridor. No experience necessary. Work tools provided. Wear clothes appropriate for work. Meet in parking lot at 11230 Sorrento Valley Road (not Blvd.) in Sorrento Valley. This is the first building north of the Coaster Station in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call Mike at 566-6489** for more info. Groups welcome.

Geology Hike

Sun., Apr. 11, 9–noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Bird Walk from Ranch House

Sat. Apr. 17, 8–9:30 p.m. Join Brian Swanson for a bird walk from the ranch house at the end of Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road. Bring bird book and binoculars. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for directions.

Tracking Walk from Ranch House

Sat., Apr. 17, 8 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in from Chris Bader. Meet at the kiosk inside the main entrance at the Staging area at the intersection of Mercy Road and Black Mtn. Road. Bring bird book and binoculars. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for directions.

Earth Mother Hike

Sat., Apr. 17, 4 – 5:30 p.m. A hike to celebrate and tune into mother earth. Includes awareness exercises and nature meditations. Meet in the West-end Parking-Staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 3/4 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge in the valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Ranch Tour & Family Activity

Sun., Apr. 18, 1 p.m. Join interpreter

Susan Potts for a tour of the historic Ranch house and a family activity afterward at the Los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House. 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 from Mercy Rd.

Sat., Apr. 24, 9 a.m. Join naturalist Les Braund for an early wildflower walk. Learn about native plants and their uses. Meet at the Mercy Road staging area at the intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Park and walk in main entrance to the kiosk. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Black Mtn. Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Mon., Apr. 19, 7-9 p.m. Public is welcome to attend to learn about and discuss issues in the Black Mountain Open Space Park. Meetings are in the Canyonside Recreation Center located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **Call Mike at 566-6489** for more details.

Full Moon Frog Hike

Sun., Apr. 25, 7:30 – 9 p.m. Learn about the frogs and toads of San Diego County. Look for them and listen for their calls. Observe puddle-dwelling tadpoles under the bright light of a full moon. Hear stories and songs about Brer Bullfrog from Native American tradition and the old South. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, ½ mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Friends' Monthly Business Meeting

Tues., Apr. 27, 7-9 p.m. Members welcome. Meet at the Adobe Ranch House, located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Friends' Board of Directors discusses Friends' policies and activities. **Call Mike at 566-6489** for more details.



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, Canyon-side 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.**

Sorrento Valley Meeting Area

Meet in hanglider parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. 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 intersection into parking lot. Meet on upper level. **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz 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 Ruiz. Left on Camino Ruiz 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 east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to bottom of the hill. Entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east, pass last building on the right. Preserve entrance is on right, past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

Fund Appeal Successful

Mike Kelly

Thanks to the generosity of our members, our annual fund appeal raised some \$3,825 towards the purchase of equipment and supplies to wildlife surveys. Already we have new Trailmaster Cameras in the field recording wildlife activity. Thanks to the following members for their contributions:

Sandy Amison
Shelley & Eric Archer
Dick Barber
William & Mona Beaumont
John & Dolores Bradshaw
Susan Califa
Ralph Carolin
Charles Cochrane
Coit Family
Drs. Sheri & Tom Cole
B.E. Collins
Barbara Cota
K. Crampton
George & Jan Daniels
Drew DeShazo
Edward DiBella
Dan Evans in the name of Ron,
Mark & Debbie Evans
Louise Eifert
Bill Fleming
Sharon & Bill Gebauer/Eberle
Dan & Ellen Gibbs
Jim & Karuna Gordon
Don Grine

Lois Hammond
Anne Hegwer
Don Hoffman
Christine Kehoe
Mike Kelly
David & Elena Kleinsmith
Timothy Knight
Tom Komin
Hans Leenhouts
Stacey Lomedico
Paul & Carol Micheletti
Maurice & Ree Miller
John B. Nauman
John Northrop
Joanne Odenthal
Ann Pogue
Wilhelmina Reynolds
Roy & Edwina Riblet
David & Jennifer Robinson
Kelly & Al Salkoi
Richard Savary
Triska & Jerry Seeger
Vivienne Seymore
Dixie Stansell
Melvin & Ellen Sweet
Lowell Tozer
Greg Vines
Karen & Lee Waggoner
Pat Walsh
Phil White
Antoinette & Francisco Wong
Dean Woods

Letter to the Editor

Re: The Old Lopez Orchard From John Northrop, Friends Charter Member

Kudos to Will Bowen for his recent article on the Old Lopez Orchard. We used to ride down there from Horseman's Park about 25 years ago for picnics and eat the delicious fruit...if the birds didn't get there first. At that time there were about 4 or 5 pear trees as well as the present apricot and quince. I have often thought the trees should be pruned in the spring, and would recommend that now. Pruning should be done in March, just as the leaves begin to bud if we want to save what is left of the original orchard.

Incidentally, my friend Allan Rothero told me that Ramon Lopez, whom he used to visit regularly, said that most of the fruit trees there came from the Lopez hacienda in Old Town and that some were grafted.

I am glad to see that there is renewed interest in Lopez Canyon among the Friends after a long lapse. For example, I wonder how many members know that the *triangle L* symbol in the Canyon News header is the Lopez cattle brand.

RANCH HOUSE ROUNDUP

Supervising Ranger Reneene Mowry

I Can't Believe It's Really Happening!

Believe it or not, our little spring house is now sporting a new roof, windows and door. And, equally as exciting, the walls of the duck pond have been restored! Dr. Susan Hector, our Division Chief, and an archaeologist, is now searching for funding for the floor and a pump system for the duckpond. She is also hoping to uncover the original zanjas that conveyed water from the spring into the duckpond with the help of volunteer work parties. If all goes well, we, too, may see what former San Diego residents saw over a hundred years ago: "A little below the house, he (George Johnson) has built a tank, or reservoir, sixty-five feet long, by fifty-three feet in width, and about three and a half feet in depth. The sides are built of stone and lined with a cement as hard as flint. Into this reservoir a stream of water, supplied by a large spring, is constantly flowing, and upon the bottom of the waters--clear as crystal--ducks, of several fine varieties, are always swimming," (Excerpt from the San Diego Union, 4/28/1869). I can just picture wild mallards swimming on the pond, with a couple of snowy egrets standing at the edge; and, perhaps, even a great blue heron paying a visit! Note: The spring house will be formally dedicated during "Archaeology in the Park," on May 15. We have invited County Supervisor Pam Slater to do the honors.

Come and Visit La Cocina (It's muy bueno!)

La Cocina, the rancho gift shop, is open every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and during special events. Effective March 14, it will also be open on Sundays from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. We have a variety of books, handmade soaps, rancho tee shirts, note cards, Mexican pots, vaquero hats, and other goodies. Bring your Friends newsletter or other proof of membership for a ten percent discount on books and most other items. Not only will you save money, but also your purchase will go toward the restoration effort at Rancho Los Peñasquitos.

Diggin' Up the Dirt

Dr. Steve Bouscaren and his City College archaeology class are back, excavating a pre-historic site on the knoll north of the ranch house. With the exception of spring break, the students will be here every Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Come on by and see the dig in progress. They will be happy to explain what they are doing and show you any of their recent "finds."

Mark Your Calendars

The annual SDCAS docent/ranch hand training is coming up! If you have thought about joining this very special group, now is your chance! If you don't want to give tours, you can choose to participate in a variety of other ways, including interviewing former residents, compiling

historic research, cataloguing donations, helping with the school programs, working in the gift shop or helping with the heritage vegetable garden. This year's training will begin on Saturday, April 10, at 9:00 a.m., and will continue on Thursday evenings, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., through May 1st. The following topics will be covered: Native Americans, archaeology, ranch house architecture, history of the Spanish and Early Mexican periods, history of the Late Mexican and Johnson periods, history of the Taylor, Mohnike, and late ranch periods, and interpretive techniques. Call me, at 619-484-7504; or head docent, Kathy Jenkins, at 619-573-0573, for more information and to sign up.

New Face at the Ranch House

I am pleased to announce that interpretive aide Susan Potts will be working here, on a part-time basis, through the summer. Susan has written the following article to introduce herself and explain her purpose here at Rancho Los Peñasquitos:

"Although I am the newest member of the San Diego County Parks staff at the ranch house, I am a familiar face to many of you. In 1993, I joined Barry Martin's tracking team and still enjoy searching for tracks, scat, and browse in the preserve. As a member of the San Diego Natural History Museum's Canyoneers, I have guided nature hikes in the preserve, as well as attending those offered by the Friends. My career with San Diego County Parks began in December of 1996, working as a nature interpreter at Blue Sky Reserve in Poway. In April 1998, I transferred to the Environmental Education Department. As camp coordinator, I assisted with our summer Junior Ranger program and with various school programs. Currently, I will be dividing my time between the Environmental Education office and Rancho Los Peñasquitos. Here, I will be helping with the school program, guiding tours and providing coverage on Sundays, recruiting ranch hands and docents, as well as assisting with special events. (Keep your eyes open for our "Archaeology in the Park" celebration in May). Beginning Sunday, March 14, I will be conducting tours of the ranch house every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. The third Sunday of each month (March 21, April 18) will be family oriented. This would be the best day for families with young ones to visit, as I will talk about a typical day at the rancho for children in the 1800's. After the tour, we will have activities ranging from games and crafts to wild and domestic plants and animals found in old San Diego. Please join me on a Sunday. I look forward to seeing you."

Youth are the Preserve's Future

City Ranger Dion Heller

One of the best parts of my job is being able to help educate young men and women about our natural open space parklands and the resident flora and fauna that depend on them. Most of us in the ranger profession feel that, if we can somehow teach these young people an appreciation for these natural areas, the future life of these parks and, ultimately, the environment will be preserved.

This education sometimes takes the form of a nature walk or interpretative program. Other times, in the form of community service projects. At first, some of the students are not real crazy about the idea of physical labor, but as you will read in the latter part of this article, more often than not, a positive experience is gained. It is this experience that we hope will impact the future decisions that they will make about the environment as adults.

Jorja Austin, an earth science teacher from Vista High School, also has a similar vision. Jorja is a Mira Mesa resident who knew about our restoration efforts in the Preserve and was looking for a good, hands-on project for her earth science classes. Jorja is one of those gifted teachers who has a knack of really connecting with her students and getting them excited about earth science and the environment. I was lucky enough to be contacted by her three years ago, and the rest is history. Since that time, she has managed to have approximately 450 students transported to the Preserve. These students have completed four, large-scale restoration projects. When you start to total what they have accomplished, you can see what an impact they have made. They have restored over one mile of duplicate trail and roadway with approximately 2,000 plants. They have also installed hundreds of feet in protective fencing and have removed stands of invasive fennel and eucalyptus. Pretty impressive for a bunch of kids!

This year, we decided to do something a little different -- a fifty-word essay contest on what they experienced during their visit to the Preserve on project day. Here are a few of their "Field Trip Reflections."

I didn't think I would enjoy this field trip because I'm not usually an outdoorsy person, but I had so much fun. I really loved planting and feeling like I was making a difference. I realize that in a couple of years what I did would become part of the Preserve and people would look at it and admire it. It felt good to do something helpful for nature and I really loved getting dirty and working with my hands. So, I just loved this field trip. I also learned a lot about plants, why some had to be removed, and why some could only be planted in certain ways. I think the one thing that will come with me is the knowledge that I can help the environment and have fun while doing it. *Jojo*

When I saw this place, I thought it was beautiful. My mother and I walked the trail slowly. We enjoyed simply walking. We didn't talk much, just listened. It is unique in southern California to stop, stand completely still to listen, and hear only wind through the plants, the calling of the birds, and the water flowing. There is no sound of traffic, just a blissful silence broken only by an occasional jet passing overhead. When I planted the plants, it felt good, like I was making a difference for the better. That feeling of accomplishing something worthwhile is something I will take with me. I hate seeing the destruction and the pollution mankind produces. He turns a blind eye to them. It's good to give something back to mother earth. *Alexis Lamb*

Throughout the field trip, I experienced a lot of different feelings while hiking at least five miles, but also while enjoying the scen-

ery around me. I noticed that past all the talking, it was very quiet and peaceful. Although I didn't see any deers or other animals, once in a while, I could hear them rustling in the bushes. When I was planting the plants, it made me feel good that I was helping out nature and satisfying myself with happiness. I wish I could have seen some animals other than birds, but I did enjoy seeing the animal prints through the mud. By taking this trip makes me realize that nature cannot do everything on her own and depends on us for a few things. *Shauna Drennan*

The field trip to Rancho Peñasquitos was a very challenging trip. There were many tasks that we had to accomplish in a very short amount of time. Some nice things about the trip were that it was outside and you are in the fresh air instead of a stuffy classroom. Another plus was that we were helping to revive life. To rebuild a piece of habitat. It was really neat. The thing that I think I will take away from this experience is probably that the earth can grow and rebuild all that has been destroyed if only people took the time to care. *Sarah Martin*

From this field trip I took away the thought that I can make a difference and help nature in some way. Because with my help and the help of many other students we helped the canyon go back to its natural habitat. From the field trip I also realized that it is not easy digging holes and planting a lot of plants all by yourself. With the help of others, we can accomplish many more things which can help our communities and nature itself. In the future, I want to help my community in many more ways like visiting a retirement home or as little as picking up trash when it's laying around. *Alma Sanchez*

When I went away from the activity I had a sense of pride for my community. That I could actually give back and it wasn't that hard. A few positive things would be the person JoJo and I met. She was deaf and I talked to her. I talked to her with the sign language I knew. It was nice to see everyone was willing to help no matter what was wrong with them. A broken leg, an injured knee, etc.... What I will carry with me later in life would be the sense that everyone was willing to help and didn't complain as much as I thought they would. They put their feelings aside and banded together to help the environment. *Lidith Kroeger*

I think that this field trip was fun because we got to see some of the wildlife and plants native to southern California. It was also good that we could help restore it to its natural self by removing non-native plants and planting native ones. People said the walk would be long and hard but it wasn't. It was very nice because there was always stuff to look at beside the trail. *Pat Recume*

After I was done with the field trip, I knew how important it was to keep up this ecosystem. There were lots of houses all around, but this place needs to stay because of all the wildlife. I also learned that community service makes you feel good. I have something to brag about to my friends and family. I will take this later into life. *Steve Reid*

The Preserve ranger staff would like to thank each and every one of you for a job well done and we look forward to working with you next year. We also owe a special thank you to AmeriCorps (NCCC) for their assistance and support on project day. To the rest of the readers, the parents, educators, and youth group leaders, spring is upon us and the wildflower show is just starting. It's a great time to bring those young people to the Preserve and help shape its future.



Tracker's Corner

Awareness and Concentric Rings

Barry Martin, Tracking Team

Do you remember the rings that emanate out from the point of impact a pebble tossed into quiet water makes? In still water these rings are even and expand out further and further gradually dissipating in strength as they get farther away from the source of the disturbance. These rings are known as concentric rings, and do not occur only in water. Concentric rings emanate in all directions as a result of any disturbance in any environment. Just think about the times at work when the boss comes through an area, or at a busy place such as an airport terminal when a celebrity moves through. There are noticeable and usually predictable changes in the demeanor of the people around as these events occur.

You most likely have become very good at reading the concentric rings in places like work and at home, but what about outdoors. In the woods or other natural areas would you know if there were a deer in the thicket ahead by the activity of the birds? Or if there is a predator in the area?

Tom Brown Jr. tells a story about his mentor, the Apache elder Stalking Wolf, which illustrates an exceptional ability to read concentric rings in the outdoors. Earlier in the day Tom and his best friend Rick had set traps but had not told Stalking Wolf (Grandfather). As they were sitting around the campfire that night in the Pine Barrens, Grandfather looked up with a start glanced at Tom and said, "Your trap missed," turning to Rick, "Your trap has a rabbit." The boys looked at each other in a moment of amazement and without a



word were running down the trail toward the traps. Sure enough both traps were sprung, Tom's missed and Rick's with a rabbit. It was that evening that Grandfather began to teach the boys about concentric rings and how to become so attuned and aware that not much escapes notice.

In our tracking programs here at the Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve we often are heard saying, "Tracking without awareness is not Tracking!" We work on being so sensitive to the environment we are in that very little escapes our attention. After all, if you don't have all the clues how are you going to solve the mystery? Tracking involves solving many mysteries; the question is always, "what happened here?"

Being able to read concentric rings begins with slowing down and tuning in to the area in which you find yourself. We teach techniques which help you achieve a higher level of awareness in our beginning Tracking and Earth Skills Class, which will be offered in the fall this year. For those of you who have taken that class or feel fairly proficient in the basic tracking skills, we will be offering an intermediate tracking weekend this coming June 5th and 6th. This class is a continuation of the awareness philosophy and tracking skills presented in the beginning class. Please look for our flyers and sign up soon since we will be limiting the size of the classes. Also, signing up for our quarterly wildlife survey and associated training is an excellent way to develop and expand these skills.

We look forward to seeing you there, in the meantime, see you on the trail! Will you know I'm there?!

Wildlife Survey Volunteers

Dean Woods

Winter rains made the Winter Wildlife Survey difficult to complete this quarter. Several transects were rained out and had to be re-scheduled. A couple transects could not be surveyed at all since much of the trails there were water logged. A special thanks to Tracking Team members and their volunteers who were forced to re-schedule their transects. Your extra effort is much appreciated.



In spite of the rains, we did have some sunny days and team members surveying on those days were treated to many sightings of deer and coyote especially. One transect team in the West End of the canyon observed three pairs of coyote at different locations along their survey route. It was believed these were male/female pairs.

Tracking Team members participating in the Tracking Training and the Winter Survey were: Chris Bader, Rick Botta, Uli Burgin, Daniel Evans, Lee Kirchhevel, Wanda Kwiatt, Barry Martin, Steve Swenson, June Warburton, and Dean Woods.

We had a great bunch of volunteers supporting the survey this quarter and they include: Cheryl Brehne, Dave Cowan, Susana Echevarria, Barry Finnegan, Leo Holland, Pat Holland, Holly Horton, Dorothy Jones, Reneene Mowry, Eric Niile, Jolene O'Leary, Linda Pardy, Joane Parker, Carole Rieker, Scott Rieker, Steve Romeo, Liz Rozycki, Richard Savary, Tarja Sagar, and Kevin Williamson.

The Old Lopez Road

Will Bowen, PhD

INTRODUCTION

About a two to three minute walk east of the Old Lopez Orchard, or about 13-15 minutes out into Lopez Canyon, past a stand of tall tree tobacco trees and a piece of crinkled bullet hole-riddled galvanized iron roofing sheet, on the south side of the main trail, you will notice the opening of a three foot wide footpath. This footpath winds its way through a stand of gray dried up six foot high mustard plants, wherein lies an old weather-beaten insect-infested fence post, then hugs the west side of a finger canyon all the way up to Mira Mesa.

Several yards up the path you will see on your left a black and white metal sign, which states that you are on the "Old Lopez Road," which, it is indicated, is reserved for pedestrians and equestrians only?

The Old Lopez Road is a real nice cardiovascular side-hike off the main Lopez trail which offers some really interesting views and perspectives on Lopez Canyon and the Old Lopez Homestead. It is well worth your time to explore this interesting side trail which is truly a valuable piece in the fabric of the cultural history of our canyon preserve.

HISTORIC FACT OR FANCY

According to "canyon legend", the Old Lopez Road was built by a certain Señor Lopez, who lived, in times past, in the Old Lopez House, in response to a water rights dispute between himself and the folks who ran the Peñasquitos Canyon spread to the north. The story goes that in a dry year Lopez refused to allow the Peñasquitos cattle access to his water. The Peñasquitos owners in retaliation put up a fence or locked a gate that blocked his way out west toward the ocean. So Lopez had to build another way out of Lopez Canyon from his homestead. Hence, his road.

I do not know for sure if this story is fact, fancy, or partial truth. Lately, I have begun to doubt many of the cherished beliefs about our canyon preserve that I have picked up

through word of mouth over the years.

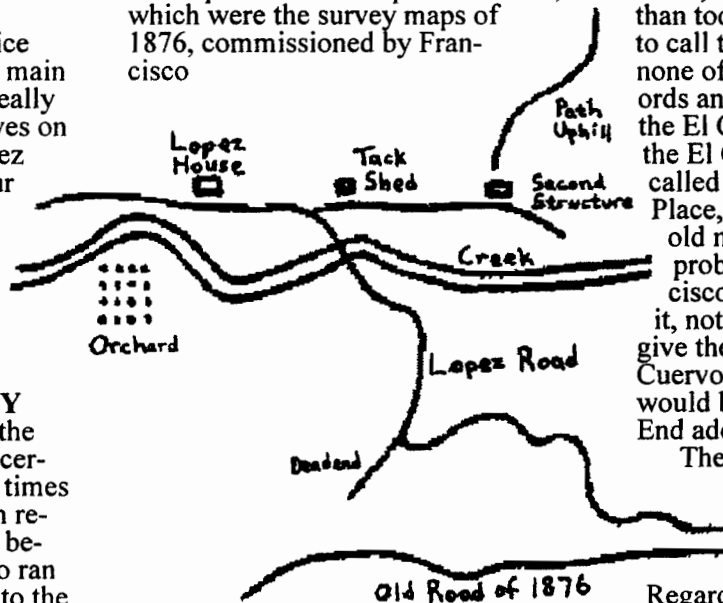
For instance, if you think about it and compare the streams and other water resources of Peñasquitos and Lopez Canyons it appears that Peñasquitos Canyon would always have had more water available than Lopez Canyon. Why, even given intermittent drying, with the larger Peñasquitos Creek, fed by a natural spring and streams from Poway, and the natural year-round water above and below the surface in the West End wetlands, would the Peñasquitos folks need the water from Lopez Canyon, which is fed by a smaller more often dry creek, fed mostly by rainwater?

Indeed, even the name we all use--Lopez Canyon--is a recent and basically erroneous invention. The earliest maps of the Peñasquitos Rancho, which were the survey maps of 1876, commissioned by Francisco

Furthermore, all of the city and county maps called Lopez Canyon, Cuervo Canyon, and Lopez Creek, Cuervo Creek, until at least 1975! So why do we now call it Lopez Canyon?

Equally strange and perplexing is the recent name change of the broken down adobe at the West End of Peñasquitos Canyon, which was, until recently, called "The Ruiz-Alvarado Adobe." We were all informed that the name had been changed to "El Cuervo Adobe." I just accepted that change with out even asking why, thinking well, somebody above me must know better.

Now, Lopez or Cuervo Creek does merge with Peñasquitos Creek near the adobe, and it did so in historic times, at a slightly different location than today. But is that a good reason to call the adobe, "El Cuervo?" In none of the old maps or historic records and writings that I have seen is the El Cuervo Adobe referred to as the El Cuervo Adobe. It is always called Diego Alvarado's House, Place, or Hacienda. Hence, while the old name Ruiz-Alvarado Adobe is probably inaccurate, because Francisco and son Diego Alvarado built it, not Francisco Ruiz, though he did give them the land, the new name El Cuervo seems equally inaccurate. It would be much better to call the West End adobe, The Alvarado Adobe, or The Diego Alvarado Adobe, or the Diego Alvarado Ruins, because we know for sure Diego Alvarado lived in it.



Lopez Road 1928

Ruiz, and of 1884, where the surveyors were actually guided by Diego Alvarado, label Lopez Canyon as "Canada del Cuerdo", or "Canada los Cuerbos" meaning Canyon of the Crows (perhaps...Crow Canyon). In these same maps, Lopez Creek is called "Canada del Cuerdo Creek", or Crow Canyon Creek.

Regarding the Old Lopez Road, rightfully named for its builder, I have not been able to accurately determine how old it really is. My good friend, Dr. Paul Chace, an historian and archaeologist suggested that County Land Use & Planning, Department of Maps and Records might have a record of the road. I went there and checked but the technicians said that if the road were as old as, say 1928, there would not be any records of it. In those days people just built private roads without getting an official permit.

(Old Lopez Road continued on next page)

(Old Lopez Road continued from previous page)

We can say that the Old Lopez Road is younger than 1884, the date of the second survey map of the canyon, where it does not appear. A short road labeled "Old Road" is discernable on both the 1884 and 1876 survey maps existing at about where Mira Mesa Boulevard is today. This road fades out at about the same westward longitude as the Old Lopez Orchard.

On the 1928 aerial photograph the Old Lopez Road jags parallel to this "Old Road" then appears to join it, going east. It is interesting to consider that the road that the Old Lopez Road intersects was called "Old" in 1876. One wonders when it was built, by whom, and for what purpose because it fades out into small trails at an odd and isolated location on the mesa above Lopez Canyon.

Another interesting thing we can see about the Old Lopez Road from the 1928 aerial photograph is that it appears to curl up westward around the hillside and go into a ravine or gully, which today is choked with utterly huge lemonade berry shrubs, some of the largest I have ever seen. An animal run into this thicket makes it appear to be an excellent deer hiding or sleeping place. The road dead-ends past the thicket, which did not exist in 1928, but go back 90 feet and it T's into the road that goes the rest of the way up the hill to the top. So why the dead-end and switch-back?

In sum, we at least know that the Old Lopez Road is older than 1928 because it is visible on the 1928 aerial photograph of Lopez Canyon and it is younger than 1884 because it is not on the 1884 Peñasquitos survey map. Hence, we can definitely say that the Old Lopez Road was built somewhere between 1884 and 1928.

THE TRAIL UP

The Old Lopez Road rises up along the canyon wall at about a 30-degree slope. The river cobbles stuck in the embankment walls indicate that a river poured into Lopez Canyon in the distant past. On the lower portion of the trail an elderberry tree will offer you some delicious berries if you happen to pass by in the last week of July.

The trail, which started at about three feet wide soon expands to about 14 feet, wide enough for a

horse drawn wagon or a Model T automobile.

Quite a bit of earth was moved to make the road, probably pushed down into the steep finger canyon below it. No doubt it was rather easy to cut the trail as the soil is a crumbling mixture of clay and slabs of sandstone, which often naturally slides downward onto the path. It was probably hard to maintain the road or use it during the rainy season.

Most days you would have this trail to yourself. One Sunday four people walked down past me from Mira Mesa, even though there is a sign at the top of the hill that states that the trail is closed. There is no indication that the trail is closed from the bottom of the trail, however.

About half way up the road if you turn around and look north you can see the old fence line above the Lopez Homestead about one third of the way up the hill towards Lopez Ridge. Someday when you walk up there you will notice two parallel fence lines with a nomans-land in between. You can also make out some cement features of what appears to have been a second structure, perhaps a house, barn, or garage, east of the main Lopez House. You can also make out the remains of an old path going north up the hill from this second structure. The cistern, a rain catching and water holding above ground circular eight foot tall cement tank, built by Ramon Lopez in 1947, is also visible.

About half way up you can see a layer of gray clay in the brown clay sandstone wall adjacent the trail. Nearby, a large sandstone slab, about 3 feet by 5 feet by 1 foot thick, has fallen on the trail. A close look at the slab reveals that it appears to contain fossils about an inch or so into the slab. It looks like fossilized tree bark. Perhaps the fossils are redwood because the fossil bark actually has a red color. We know that at one time in the distant past there were forests

in this area.

A little past the slab is the dead-end in the road which I mentioned earlier that has been overgrown by lemonade berry. It would be fun to explore into this thicket.

Past the dead-end is another large slab fallen onto the trail. There appears to be another fossil in this slab. The fossil here looks like a little three-inch hook of shell or bone.

Moving up the trail you will find a locked gate that has been partially submerged in eroded soil and mudslides. The mud is so high you could not open the gate even if you had a key to the padlock on it and you can easily step over it. There is also another single metal post from another gate on the trail that was either eroded, torn down, or unfinished.

After about 29 minutes of stopping and looking as you walk, you are at the top of the trail. You would be there in about 10-15 minutes if you just walked fast. Here there is a tall regulations sign and a large building housing CalBio Chemical Company.

At the trailhead walking west you will find a neglected cement kiosk. It actually looks like a speaker's podium overlooking the canyon. The kiosk has a recessed 2-foot by 2 foot top, which may have held a map or plaque. The Peñasquitos brand is carved into the front of the podium-like kiosk. I do not know why it has been abandoned except that it would take some effort to upkeep it.

From the kiosk you can see the space between the sycamore trees where the Lopez Road passed over the creek headed toward the Lopez House.

While I was overlooking the canyon two souped-up gang cars squealed up and parked on the street opposite the kiosk, so I silently slipped back down into the canyon where it is peaceful and nourishing and I feel safe.

On the Net

There is a very good article about the tracking team and the importance of the wildlife surveys that they are doing in the Fall 1998 issue of California Wild, the Magazine of the California Academy of Sciences. You can see it at:

<http://www.calacademy.org/calwild/archives/fall98/tracking.htm>

(MSCP Lawsuit continued from page 1)

the Cousins property all but a handful of the vernal pools could have been avoided, permitting some 40-50 of the total 70 acres to be developed. This is more developable area than many developers end up with. It was agreed that several pools would have had to be lost due to the extension of Westview Parkway onto the site. This was considered reasonable. But the Council and the Army Corps of Engineers, a federal agency that has jurisdiction over wetlands, concluded that this would involve undue economic hardship on the developers and approved the development of the entire site.

This was an outrageous violation of the 'No net loss' wetlands policy of the City and of the spirit of the MSCP. Combined with the lack of progress on developing a funding plan for the MSCP, the Friends Board concluded that the MSCP was in danger of becoming a sleight of hand scam. The MSCP plan works only if all four sources of acquisition of the lands to be included in the habitat plan work together: developers' contributed mitigation lands, Federally purchased lands, State funded lands, and lands purchased by the City. The cost of the latter lands has been estimated at some \$300 million. All four sources are necessary for the habitat plan to succeed. Failure to purchase key parcels astride wildlife corridor linkages, for example, would doom large portions of the future preserve to a slow biologic death.

Funding critical

Every major parcel of privately owned land in the City has already come forward for development approval. The developers have dedicated or purchased the necessary mitigation lands to keep their portion of the bargain. The Federal government has also made numerous key parcel purchases. The State government has lagged a bit, but most felt comfortable that additional funds would be coming forward, especially with a Democratic governor in Sacramento. What became clear, however, was that the City had no plan in place to raise the \$300 million needed to fulfill its obligations under the plan.

These funds are vital to buy^{OUT} the small to medium property owners whose land is entirely in the MSCP, lands vital to building the Preserve. If not purchased, these lands can be developed, causing the loss of critical habitats, species and linkages, dooming the Preserve.

This danger became clear at the annual MSCP review where it was revealed that the funding deadline had been extended from three to four years with no notice to the public. What were the implications of this? This deadline extension would push an election date for an Open Space Parks bond close to the end of or after Mayor Susan Golding's term of office. Mayor Golding had been the strongest supporter of the MSCP on the City Council, rescuing it from being voted down earlier in its development. Without a strong commitment from Mayor Golding, one that appeared to be lacking, getting such a measure on the ballot, never mind obtaining 2/3 approval from the electorate, appeared unlikely.

As supporters of the concept of the MSCP, of moving beyond a single-species approach to saving species, the Friends Board was reluctant to move against the MSCP. However, the trashing of the City's wetlands policy evidenced by the Cousins' Mira Mesa Market Center decision, combined with the lack of a funding plan convinced us we were quite possibly in the middle of a gigantic scam. We would have seen all the major developments approved, the dozers rolling, but see the overall habitat plan fail because critical parcels couldn't be purchased due to the lack of funding. What stake would the larger developers have in pushing for passage of a bond measure or tax if they were already home free? Or the politicians. It was the stalling of development due to the listing of a single species, the California gnatcatcher, which was the leverage that forced the developers and the City into the habitat plan in the first place. Under this scenario, the environment and the small and medium size owners of habitat parcels would be left holding the bag.

We hope the lawsuit will force a showdown now, before it's too late, to answer the question: is the City serious about protecting wetlands and funding this plan? It's better to find out now, rather than later. As part of the suit, the Southwest Center for Biodiversity and the City will be entering into settlement negotiations in an attempt to avoid a protracted court battle — which could also torpedo the MSCP. We hope an effective settlement can be achieved.



New Members Welcomed

We hope the new members listed below will be joining us on the trail soon for interpretive walks, wildlife surveys and restoration projects.

David Bainbridge
 Fran Bedingfeld
 Russ & Kim Bird
 Penny Coppernoll-Blach
 Cheryl Brehme
 Michele & Chris Bru
 Chris Corrales
 Susana Echevarria
 Eric Efron
 Joyce & Tony Esernia
 Devora Exliene
 Hair Design Stylists
 Holly Horton
 Tiona & George Marburger
 Peggy Hurley
 Jennifer Jones
 Quentin Nunnery
 Joel Roth
 Richard Savary
 Linda Sedorchuk
 Mike Schooling
 Charles Snyder
 Aimee Sugapong
 Don & Linda Tipon
 Dan & Robin Vilotti

Volunteers Put Thousands of Plants in the Ground

by Mike Kelly

With the help of both members and non-members, the Friends were able to complete a number of restoration projects, most involving planting a wide variety of native species in revegetation areas. Restoration projects were centered at Carson's Crossing, the Poleline Road, the Lopez Canyon grasslands restoration, four sites at the waterfall, the east end entrance off Mercy Road, a site 1/2 mile in the east end, and opposite the equestrian center.

In addition, many of the same volunteers eradicated exotic weeds in the upper Peñasquitos Lagoon, Peñasquitos Canyon, and Rose Canyon. A group also helped survey for the endangered *Dudleya brevifolia* on the new Carmel Mtn. Preserve.

A special thanks goes to the Scripps Chips group from Scripps Institute of

Oceanography who helped out their third year in a row! Those participating included (the number after their name indicates how many projects they helped in):

Rick Botta, 2x
Cheryl Brehme, 2x
Cindy Burrascano, 4x
Bonnie Chin
Melanie Chin
Phyllis Crawford
Drew DeShazo
Edward DiBella, 4x
Mark Dodero
Barry Eakins
Anissa Elayadi
Nora Ghbeish
Ann Harvey
Dion Heller
Karen Hughes
Robert Hutsel, 2x
Andrew Juhl
Mike Kelly, 6x

Katherine Kim
Jamie King
Grace Kang
My Yen La
Shannon Lehman
Holm Lerks
Suzann Leininger
Gideon Litoff
Chris Martin
Scott Mitchell
Michele Murphree, 3x
Linda Parady, 2x
Tara Ricasa
Liz Rozycki
Jeff Severinghaus
Jason Smart
Dixie Stansell, 2x
Aaron Sweeney
Aaron Thode
Dan & Robin Vilotti
Pat Watkins, 4x
Andrew Wei
Bill Witsell
Dean Woods

Sweetwater River Revival Arundo Removal Completed!

by Viviane Marquez

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of over 180 people the Sweetwater River Revival is completed!! During the past 2 years volunteers have dedicated over 1,675 hours to removing *Arundo donax* (Giant Reed) from the County Park in the Lower Sweetwater River Valley. Many people set aside their valuable time on a monthly basis to cut the impenetrable tangle of Giant Reed. Participants ranged from 6- to over 70-years old, including groups of students from East Lake High School, Sweetwater High School, Miramar College, Scripps University, San Diego State University, and Southwestern College.

The threat presented to biodiversity from invasive exotic plants such as Giant Reed is overwhelming. Habitat degradation is responsible for the decline of 85% of the rare species in the U.S.; over half of these are affected by invasive exotic species (Nature Conservancy Magazine Jan./Feb. 1999). The challenge is not only to

preserve our precious biological resources but also to ensure vigilant stewardship for their continued protection. This project embodies the teamwork and persistence that makes this challenge attainable.

It has been inspirational to see the energy committed by such a large group of people to returning this part of the river system to a more natural state. We salute the efforts of everyone involved in this project! The following people deserve special recognition for their repeated efforts towards this extraordinary accomplishment.

Name and Work Parties Attended

Cindy Burrascano 14
Jeff Lohman 4
George Cantrell 5
Viviane Marquez 27
Jim Cronk 6
Frank Ohrmund 3
Drew DeShazo 9
Brendan O'Shea 14
Rod Dossey 4

Denis O'Shea 5
Josan Feathers 7
Finn O'Shea 12
Doug Fenske 14
Nancy O'Shea 12
Mike Gagliardi 4
Linda Parady 8
Sandra Hardesty 4
Carlos Santander 3
Jauhn Hinkle 3
Eliza Rosenberg 7
Robert Hutsel 16
Ellen Rosenberg 3
Jerry Jalalon 19
Pete Rosenberg 5
Mike Kelly 18
John Schulte 10
Brian Knott 4
Paul Slayton 12
Pat Walsh 13





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 (619) 566-6489

Vice-President: Dean Woods

Treasurer: Pat Watkins

Secretary: Edward DiBella (619) 594-4403

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Vickie Ausen, Les Braund, Barry Martin,
 Steve Swenson, Dean Woods

Walk Leaders

Brian Swanson, Don Albright, Will Bowen, Mike Kelly,
 Les Braund, Chris Bader (443-5937)

Committees

Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman

Newsletter: Steve Swenson

Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki

Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly

Voice Mail System: Pat Watkins

Tracking Team Coordinator: Barry Martin (484-4007)

Volunteer Coordinator: Michelle Murphree (224-4192)

Wildlife Survey Organizers: Dean Woods, Rick Botta

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

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

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

Corporate \$250 Life \$1000

Contribution \$ _____

I/We are interested in the following:

Volunteer to help the committee (call Mike to discuss)

Hikes

Indian Culture

Educational Workshops

School, Family, Youth Programs

Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

03/99

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

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

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Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

May/June
March/April 1999
Volume 13 No. 3

Volunteers Just Do It!

Early spring found Friends volunteers busy at a variety of restoration projects. Hundreds more native plants were put in the ground in several projects. Weed eradication took place in the Preserve, Black Mtn. Open Space Park, Goodan Ranch in east Poway, and in Upper Peñasquitos Lagoon.

New plant discoveries

A survey team established a new location in the county for San Diego Mountain Misery (*Chamaebatia australis*). This rare shrub, resembling a 6 foot tall fern, was discovered in the Black Mtn. Open Space Park by our own Les Braund and subsequently verified by a survey team. It had never been reported from anywhere near this location before.

Les also collected a new plant for our plant list, identified by botanist Mel Howe as a small chaparral understory plant called Pubescent fruit buttercup (*Ranunculus hebecarpus*).

Mallard rescue

Braving flapping wings and jet streams of fecal discharge, Friends and Navy volunteers translocated 31 mallard ducks to a safer home. Those involved quickly learned how to look absolutely bananas while running around with nets trying to catch running and flying mallards! They also learned to identify the differences between native mallards and "mutt" ducks (non-native hybrids).

Thanks also to those who staffed tables at Poway Earth Fair and the Balboa Park Earth Fair, to the Dingemans for newsletter help, and our walk leaders: Will Bowen, Les Braund, Mike Kelly, Linda King, Barbara Moore, Brian Swanson, Pat Watkins.

Volunteers helping out these past 2 months included:

See p. 4 for more

Nature Program for Kids

Lee Kirchhevel, Tracking Team

By now most of you know about the different programs and activities undertaken by the Tracking Team, so I won't detail them. We have long wanted to have something to offer children, but we wanted to make sure we did it right. We have just received funding to develop an exciting new program for kids. The Friends have received a matching grant from the City of San Diego. This means that the City has contributed \$2,500 and the Friends have matched it with a contribution of \$2,500. This money will be spent on development and materials for the program.

I have been chosen to elaborate on a program I developed several years ago as an Outdoor Recreation student at San Diego State University (SDSU). I am currently employed as the Park Interpretive Specialist at Old Town San Diego State Historic Park, where I run the Jr. Historian program for kids. I also work with Jr. Rangers as an Interpretive Park Ranger at Rocky Mountain National Park in the summer. While I have no children of my own, I have a pretty good idea what it takes to run a kids program.

This new nature program for kids is being designed as a hands on experience. Two to three hour programs will be tailored to meet the needs of each group, be it a school of 4th graders, girl scouts, or cub scouts. The three themes available will be Nature Awareness and Sensory Awareness, Native American Skills and Traditional Views, and Environmental Concepts and Ecological Principles. Each of these themes will have a number of activities to choose from that are specific to that theme, and some activities that will be found in all programs.

See p. 4 for more

Highlights Inside

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Road Issue Update

Mike Kelly

On the issue of resurrecting the bad idea of building two more roads across Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve (*Canyon News*, Vol. 13, No. 2), offer this update.

City Councilmembers Barbara Warden and Harry Mathis have come out opposed to this. City Councilmember Juan Vargas, rumored to be a mayoral aspirant, put them on a "study" list. County Supervisor Pam Slater was quoted in a *Corridor News* article as being in favor of building them through the Preserve.

We suggest sending letters to Vargas and Slater at the following addresses:

Councilmember Juan Vargas
202 C St., San Diego 92101

Supervisor Pam Slater
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego 92101

Tell them more than 30 lanes and rails (5 highways and 1 railroad) crossing the preserve (plus another, Vista Sorrento Parkway already approved), is enough!

Spring Brings Wildlife Births

With the advent of spring expect to begin seeing baby animals of all sorts, including birds, coyotes, bobcat and muledeer. Especially visible will be baby raptors, redtails, white-tailed kites, and several owl species. Early morning and dusk hours are best for wildlife viewing opportunities.

Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. 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.

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.

Weed Tour of Tecolote Canyon Park

Sat., May 8, 9 a.m. (2-3 miles), at the Tecolote Canyon Visitors Center. Join Mike Kelly for a leisurely tour that will discuss the negative impacts of exotic invasive weeds on native plants and wildlife, identify major weeds and discuss control methods. Take I-5 to Seaworld/Tecolote Exit. Go left on Tecolote all the way to the end of the parking lot next to the Visitors Center. Bring sun protection and water; wear good hiking boots and long pants. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Peñasquitos Lagoon Volunteer Wildlife Corridor Restoration

Sun., May 9, 9-1 p.m. Help restore this important wildlife corridor by removing exotic invasive plants choking the corridor. No experience necessary. work tools provided. Wear clothes appropriate for work. Meet at the corner of Flintkote & Estuary Way in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call Mike at 566-6489** for more info. Groups welcome.

Friends of Mission Valley Preserve monthly meeting

Mon., May 10, 7 p.m. Western Division Police Headquarters at Friars & Napa Rds., Mission Valley. If you're interested in working with this new group come to the meeting! Call Marilyn Mirrasoul at 236-7756 for more details.

Friends of Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon Open Space monthly meeting

Tues., May 11, 7 p.m. Senior Center, Activity Room #2, Community Road, Poway. If you're interested in working with this new group come to the meeting! Call Karen Larsen at 485-5077 for more details.

Tracking Walk from Ranch House

Sat., May 15, 9 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in from Chris Bader. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take 1st left into Canyonside Driveway and proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, then walk west on trail to ranch house. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for directions.

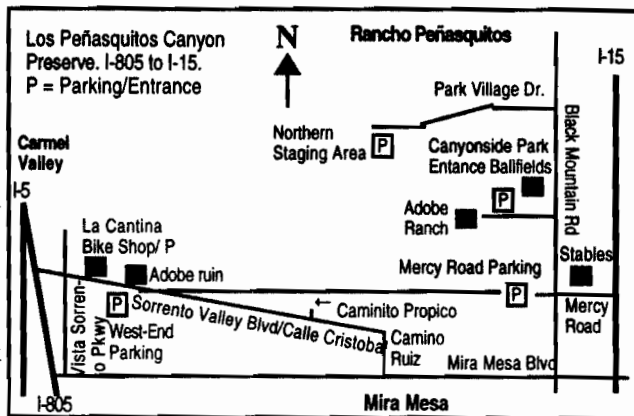
"Arch in the Park"

Sat., May 15, This annual celebration of archaeology in the park will take place between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and will feature the following activities.

- 10:00 Nature Walk and Animal Tracking Demonstrations: Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve (LPCP) and LPCP Tracking Team
- 11:00 to 12:00 Dedication of the Restored Rancho Los Peñasquitos Spring House: Ribbon-cutting ceremony by County Supervisor Pam Slater
- 11:30 to 12:30 Guided Tours: Docent-led tour of Los Peñasquitos Ranch House Dr. Steven Bouscaren's ongoing archaeological excavations of a prehistoric Kumeyaay site.
- 12:30 to 1:30 Guest Lectures: "Excavations at the Ranch House": Dr. Lynne Christenson (SDSU, Dept of Anthropology) "Historians and Spanish Occupation of San Diego": Dr. Ron Quinn (SDSU, Dept of History)
- 2:00 to 3:00 Guided Tours: Docent-led tour of Los Peñasquitos Ranch House Dr. Steven Bouscaren's ongoing archaeological excavations of a prehistoric Kumeyaay site.

Throughout the Day:

Flintknapping Demonstrations



Children's Activities

Story-telling by Barbara Zeich
Self-Guided Nature Walks

Archaeology and History Videos
Food and Refreshments Available

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.

Spring Wisdom Hike

Sat., May 15, 10-11:30 a.m. Explore traditional methods of learning from nature: absorb or invoke energy, wisdom, knowledge, and healing from nature. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in the west-end parking lot off the south side of Sorrento Valley Blvd., 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.

Geology Hike

Sun., May 16, 9-noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219** for recorded directions.

Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Thurs., May 20, 7-9 p.m. Public is welcome to attend to learn about and discuss issues in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Meetings are in the Adobe Ranch House located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Nature Walk from Northern Staging

Sat., May 22, 8-10:30 a.m. Join naturalist Les Braund and check out wildflowers and other native plants, learn how Native Americans used our local plants. Meet at the Northern Parking-Staging area at Park Village Drive and Camino Ruiz in Rancho

See next page for more

(Calendar cont'd)

Peñasquitos. Wear good hiking shoes, bring sun protection and water. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for directions.

Mystery Tree & Wildflower Walk
Sun., May 23, 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 see 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 Pat Watkins. **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

Friends' Monthly Business Meeting
Tues., May 25, 7-9 p.m. Members welcome. Meet at the Adobe Ranch House, located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Friends' Board of Directors discusses Friends' policies and activities. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Living the Stars Hike
Thurs., May 27, 8-9:30 p.m. Walk the canyon at night. Observe the moon, planets, stars, and constellations. Consider what they could mean to you. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet 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.

June

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.

Weed Tour of Rose Canyon Park
Sat., June 5, 9 a.m. (2-3 miles), trailhead on Regents Road. Take SR52 to Regents Rd. exit. Take Regents Rd. north past Governor to the end of Regents. Park on vacant lot and meet there. Join Mike Kelly for a leisurely tour that will discuss the

negative impacts of exotic invasive weeds on native plants and wildlife, identify major weeds and discuss control methods. Bring sun protection and water; wear good hiking boots and long pants. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Nature Walk from Mercy Rd.
Sat., June 5, 9 a.m. (2 miles). Join naturalist Linda King for a walk to learn native plants and their uses. Meet at the Mercy Road staging area at the intersection of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. Park and walk in main entrance to the kiosk. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Black Mtn. Open Space Park Volunteer Work Party
Sat., June 5, 8 a.m.-noon. Join Ranger Dan Bylin in a volunteer work party in this new open space park. Find Black Mtn. Road in Rancho Peñasquitos and take it north until the pavement ends. Take the dirt road taking off to the right and proceed up the hill, past the hanglider area, and down the next hill to a big curve and a signed entrance to the park on the right. Proceed up this paved road to the Parking-Staging area. Wear good boots, bring gloves, sun protection and water. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Friends of Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon Open Space monthly meeting
Tues., June 8, 7 p.m. Senior Center, Activity Room #2, Community Road, Poway. If you're interested in working with this new group come to the meeting! Call Karen Larsen at 485-5077 for more details.

Birds of the Chaparral Walk at Black Mtn. Open Space.
Sat., June 12, 8 a.m. Join Ranger Dan Bylin for the first bird walk in this new open space park. Find Black Mtn. Road in Rancho Peñasquitos and take it north until the pavement ends. Take the dirt road taking off to the right and proceed up the hill, past the hanglider area, and down the next hill to a big curve and a signed entrance to the park on the right. Proceed up this paved road to the Parking-Staging area. Wear good hiking shoes, sun protection and bring water. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Mystery Tree & Wildflower Walk
Sat., June 12, 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 see 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 Pat Watkins. **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

Peñasquitos Lagoon Volunteer Wildlife Corridor Restoration
Sun., June 13, 9-1 p.m. Help restore this important wildlife corridor by removing exotic invasive plants choking the corridor. No experience necessary. work tools provided. Wear clothes appropriate for work. Meet at the corner of Flintkote & Estuary Way in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Groups welcome.

Friends of Mission Valley Preserve monthly meeting
Mon., June 14, 7 p.m. Western Division Police Headquarters at Friars & Napa Rds., Mission Valley. If you're interested in working with this new group come to the meeting! Call Marilyn Mirrasoul at 236-7756 for more details.

Tracking Walk from Ranch House
Sat., June 19, 9 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in from Chris Bader. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take 1st left into Canyonside Driveway and proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, then walk west on trail to ranch house. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for directions.

Aromatherapy Hike
Sun., June 20, 10-11:30 a.m. Nose around the Preserve. Savor the odors, smells, and fragrances of plants and habitats. Consider how aromas affect your mood. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in the west-end parking lot off the south side of Sorrento Valley Blvd., 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.

Black Mtn. Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting
Mon., June 21, 7-9 p.m. Public is welcome to attend to learn about and discuss issues in the Black Mountain Open Space Park. Meetings are in the Canyonside Recreation Center located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Friends' Monthly Business Meeting
Tues., June 22, 7-9 p.m. Members welcome. Meet at the Adobe Ranch House, located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road, between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Friends' Board of Directors discusses Friends' policies and activi-

★ext page for more

(Calendar cont'd)

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

Nature Walk from Northern Staging
Sat., June 26, 8–10:30 a.m. Join naturalist Les Braund and check out wildflowers and other native plants, learn how Native Americans used our local plants. Meet at the Northern Parking-Staging area at Park Village Drive and Camino Ruiz in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear good hiking shoes, bring sun protection and water. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for directions.

Geology Hike

Sun., June 27, 9 –noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Power Animal Hike

Sun., June 27, 8–9:30 p.m. Explore shamanistic methods of finding a spirit guide, dream helper, or power animal. Discover your secret Indian name. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet 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.**

Sorrento Valley Meeting Area

Meet in hanglider parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. 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 intersection into parking lot. Meet on upper level. **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz 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 Ruiz. Left on Camino Ruiz 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 east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to bottom of the hill. Entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east, pass last building on the right. Preserve entrance is on right, past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

New Members

We welcome the following new members and hope to see them on future outings and projects:

Shelley Boyd
Lisa Brown
Michael & Etta Cannon
George Gray
Claudette Heffner
Claudia Kay
Toni & Rudy Kastelic
Deborah & Jeffery Larrimore
Beth Stephens

Newsletter Editor Sought

Unfortunately, after a year of well prepared newsletters, Steve Swenson has moved on to other tasks. If you are interested in becoming the Friends' new newsletter editor, give Mike Kelly a call at 619-566-6489. You should have a computer and laser or ink-jet printer. We can supply the page-makeup program if you don't have one. Mike will work closely with whomever might be interested in being trained to take over this well-received newsletter.

Each program will include a safety talk (rattlesnakes, poison oak, etc.) and a discovery hike. Other activities might include sensory exercises, animal tracking, an ecology scavenger hunt, traditional Native American hunting methods, native plant uses, ecological games, ecology definitions, and much more.

The program outline is in place, and I am currently working on putting a manual of specific activities together. We only have funding at this time to develop the program; we're currently applying for more grants to run the program, hopefully as soon as this fall. If you have a scout group or school kids and this sounds interesting, stay tuned for updates. While we hope to offer this program free of charge, there may be a minimal reservation fee to cover continuing administrative costs.

Thanks to the Friends, the City of San Diego, and the Tracking Team, we hope to bring the same high quality programs to kids as you have come to expect for adults here at Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

(Volunteers cont'd)

Don Albright
James & Linda Barlow
Carrie Barton
Les Braund, 2x
Cheryl Brehme 3x
Cindy Burrascano 6x
Ivan Cooper
Clay Denny
Drew DeShazo 3x
Edward DiBella, 2x
Dan Evans
Yosan Feathers, 2x
Doug Fenske, 2x
Rahul Gary
Terry Gaughn 2x
Mel Howe, 2x
Robb Hutsel, 4x
Mike Kelly, 6x
Diane Lincoln
Daniel Morse
Michelle Murphree 2x
Dave Neubauer
Liz Rozycki
John Shulte
Dixie Stansell
Kay Stewart
Courtney & Ken Taylor
Vilotti Family 2x
Rebecca Watkins 1x
Pat Watkins 3x

Ranch House Roundup

Supervising Ranger Reneene Mowry

Let's Have Fun at "Arch in the Park"

Come out to Rancho Los Peñasquitos on May 15 for this year's "Arch in the Park" festivities. This special event will take place between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and will feature the following activities.

- 10:00 Nature Walk and Animal Tracking Demonstrations: Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve (LPCP) and LPCP Tracking Team
- 11:00 to 12:00 Dedication Of The Restored Rancho Los Peñasquitos Spring House
Ribbon-cutting ceremony by County Supervisor Pam Slater
- 11:30 to 12:30 Guided Tours: Docent-led tour of Los Peñasquitos Ranch House
Dr. Steven Bouscaren's ongoing archaeological excavations of a prehistoric Kumeyaay site.
- 12:30 to 1:30 Guest Lectures: "Excavations at the Ranch House": Dr. Lynne Christenson (SDSU, Department of Anthropology)
"Historians and Spanish Occupation of San Diego": Dr. Ron Quinn (SDSU, Department of History)
- 2:00 to 3:00 Guided Tours: Docent-led tour of Los Peñasquitos Ranch House
Dr. Steven Bouscaren's ongoing archaeological excavations of a prehistoric Kumeyaay site.
- Throughout the Day: Flintknapping Demonstrations Children's Activities
Story-telling by Barbara Zeich
Self-Guided Nature Walks
Archaeology and History Videos
Food and Refreshments Available

It Would Have Been Nice, But . . .

Our Sunday tours and family programs have been cancelled until further notice. Interpreter Susan Potts is no longer assigned to Los Peñasquitos, and we have no replacement. The gift shop will also be closed on Sundays until I can line up volunteers to staff it. Sorry!

New Equestrian Access

Thanks to the Eagle Scout project of John Evans, equestrians can now access the preserve via the north end of the Ranch House stream-crossing road (by Canyonside Community Park). In addition to installing an equestrian entrance, John refurbished and relocated the old and battered preserve sign and cleared out the debris. To complete the project, standardized "six-pak" signage will be installed to make this entrance comparable to the other park entrances.

Don't Forget Mom!

We have just received a new shipment of beautiful and wonderfully-fragrant soaps, handmade by a local Rancho Peñasquitos resident. These soaps are our best seller and are the perfect gift for Mother's Day. We also have stained glass birds, hand-crafted Native American flutes, limited edition lithographs of the Ranch House, Rancho tote bags, field guides, note cards by local artists, and much more! Bring your newsletter label, or other proof of membership, for a ten percent discount.

SDCAS Summer Evening Programs

The San Diego County Archaeological Society (SDCAS) will launch their summer evening programs on Saturday, June 26. As in previous years, there will be a ranch house tour at 6 p.m., with a talk at approximately 7:30 p.m. Bring a folding chair, warm jacket and picnic supper to enjoy in the ranch house courtyard. SDCAS will provide a yummy cake and beverages to go along with your meal. The speaker had not been confirmed at press time. Call me at 484-7504, or check the table outside my office, after June 1st for more information.

The Tracker's Corner

Barry Martin

One of my earliest memories is of the time I went for a walk with my grandfather. I remember how he used a cane, probably more for show than anything else, but I was fascinated by the cane and asked him about it. "What is that stick for grandpa?" "It isn't a stick, it's a cane," was his calm reply. At my young age I immediately associated this with candy canes, "Why are you carrying a candy cane grandpa?" He laughed and said it was just a cane, not a candy cane. I thought about that for a while as we walked along the road that went by my grandparent's house. "But what is it for?" "It is to walk with." "Why?" "Sometimes it helps you when you get older." "Oh."

We walked on as I continued pondering this cane thing, it was one of those crystal clear late spring/early summer Spokane days that I remember so well. My grandfather seemed to be enjoying the fresh air and sunshine immensely but I think the little kid with all the questions might have been a little more than he bargained for. "Why do people need candy canes when they get older?" "Canes, not candy canes. They sometimes have aches and pains in their feet or legs and a cane makes it easier to walk around." "Why do they have aches and pains grandpa?" "Part of getting older." "Why do they get older?" He didn't answer. "Why do they get older grandpa?" "You sure ask a lot of questions! People get older so they can gain wisdom, and if they have learned all their lessons well, then they help young ones like you learn and gain wisdom too."

That shut me up for a short while, I thought about it a good two or three steps before asking, "What if they don't learn their lessons well?" (I was not real fond of school and was worried about the implications here). "Then they may not be able to teach the right lessons."

My grandfather passed away while I was still quite young and that was really the only "one on one" conversation I got to have with him. It has stuck with me all these years because I remember how he recounted it to the rest of the family over dinner after we returned from the walk, and also how I thought it was amusing to watch his irritated reaction to my reference to his "candy cane." What struck me most was the power of what he said about learning lessons and passing wisdom along.

I am constantly reminded of his words, especially when I observe the lifestyle of the typical Southern Californian. I was reminded again as I read the following words a few days ago;

"We have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints. We spend more, but have less. We buy more, but enjoy less. We have bigger houses, and smaller families conveniences, but less time. We have more degrees, but less sense; more knowledge, but less judgment.

We spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get angry too quickly, stay up too late, wake up too tired, read too seldom, watch T.V. too much, and pray too seldom. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.

We talk too much, love too seldom, and lie too often.

We've learned how to make a living but not a life. We've added years to our lives, but not life to our years.

We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have a hard time crossing the street to meet a neighbor

We've learned to rush, but not to wait. We have higher incomes, but lower morals; more food, but less appeasement; more acquaintances, but fewer friends. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we have less communication. We have become long on quantity, short on quality. These are the times of fast foods and slow digestion; tall men, and short character; steep profits, and shallower relationships.

It is a time when there is much in the window, and nothing in the stockroom."

After I read this the first time I realized that somewhere along the line many of us, our parents and even our grandparents lost the lesson plan along with the wisdom that my grandfather mentioned. Our society has succumbed to a sort of drunken pursuit of the "more is better" mantra. San Diego is no exception. Much of the last of the open space in San Diego County is being gobbled up by development at an unprecedented rate.

The Tracking Team is committed to preserving the ancient wisdom and cultivating the attitude of the caretaker. We teach the ancient skills of tracking and the naturalist approach to the appreci of the outdoors. It is through these skills that you recognize your irreversible bond with nature, which is to say, all of creation. As always we invite you to join us. Our next classes will be the Beginning Tracker/Naturalist, May 15-16, and the Intermediate Tracker/Naturalist class June 5-6.

Remember, more is not always better, and as we speed into the next millennium, there is something to be said for simplicity. Come on out to the preserve and enjoy nature's timeless truths.

Volunteers Needed for Board of Directors

The current Board of Directors of the Friends is spread much too thin. If you're a member who's been active in one of our projects or would like to get active on a regular basis, consider applying for membership on the Board. Our Board meetings take place only once a month and usually last about two hours. We have a number of ongoing projects we need help with and new ones we'd like to launch. Why not give Mike Kelly a call at 566-6489 if you'd like more information and plan on visiting a future board meeting. See our calendar listings for details on the meeting.

Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Tracking Team

Spring/Summer Schedule of Events

All of the activities listed below take place at the Historic Adobe Ranch House in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Take the Mercy Road exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Road. Go right on Black Mountain, then a quick left into Canyonside Drive and proceed up to the white fenced parking lot on the left. Park and walk the trail west to the ranch house.

May 15, 1999

Monthly Tracking Hike. 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

May 15–16, 1999

Beginning Tracker/Naturalist Weekend

The Beginning Tracker/Naturalist Weekend is devoted to learning skills in tracking and awareness with an emphasis placed on recognizing habitats and associated flora and fauna, wildlife physiology and habits, concentric ring philosophy, movement in nature and the establishment of a pattern of awareness.

This course offers the opportunity for you to acquire the tools to become proficient in the art and science of tracking animals, people and most anything that leaves a mark on the landscape. Your powers of observation will improve tremendously as will your overall awareness. Exercises in journaling, track and sign age determination, discerning concentric rings, track/sign identification, gait patterns and awareness philosophy will round out this busy weekend.

The class will be held May 15-16th running Saturday the 15th from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m. and Sunday the 16th from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Bring a bag lunch both days, dinner will be provided Saturday evening. Please be early enough so that we can start promptly at 8:00 a.m! Be prepared to take notes, do some hiking and have fun. Bring water, hiking attire, sun protection, something warm for the evening activities and a desire to learn. Cost \$35.00.¹



June 5 & 6, 1999

Intermediate Tracking Class:

This is a weekend of delving into the finer details of tracking, awareness and the philosophy of living in harmony with nature. The skill of reading concentric rings will be dealt with in detail, as will the practical use of reading pressure releases. Tracking problems in differing substrate types will be explored from soft sand to grass to hard dirt and rock. Many different exercises will be introduced and/or expanded upon such as track and sign aging, detection of movement via concentric ring interpretation and study of track character via debris interaction. Deeper study of awareness factors will be explored to include 6th sense or inner vision exercises.

This class will put you on the road to becoming an advanced tracker in the tradition of the ancient Apache Scouts. The Intermediate Tracking Class will be held June 5-6th same hours and details apply as for the Beginning Tracker/Naturalist Weekend. Cost \$35.00.¹

June 19, 1999

**Monthly Tracking Hike. 8:00 – 10:00 a.m..
Meet at the Ranch House.**

July 17, 1999

**Monthly Tracking Hike. 8:00 – 10:00 a.m..
Meet at the Ranch House.**

July 17, 1999

Summer Wildlife Tracking Training. Call for details.

July 24–Aug. 1, 1999

Summer Wildlife Survey in Peñasquitos Canyon. Call for details.

For more information on any of these programs or to register for Tracking Training classes, call Dean at 619-672-1120.

¹ Funds remaining above and beyond the cost of providing the training are used for ongoing tracking programs in Peñasquitos Canyon. Tuition assistance is available for special circumstances.

The López Cistern

Will Bowen, Phd

Introduction

A nice destination for a López Canyon walk is the old López family cistern. A cistern is, as the American Heritage Dictionary states, "a receptacle for holding water or other liquid, especially a tank for catching and storing rainwater." A cistern is usually made out of cement or stone, and it may be placed above or below the ground.

A cistern is an ancient invention, especially important in arid lands. The Romans, for example, built cisterns in Egypt and other parts of the Middle East during their occupation over a thousand years ago. There has recently been a resurgence of interest in the modern day use of cisterns. For instance, at the AWWA Conserve 99 Conference: "Water Efficiency: Making Cents in the Next Century," which took place in January of this year in Monterey, California, a session was offered called, "Cistern Systems are Back!"

The cistern which we have in our Preserve is located on a hill just northwest of the ruins of the old López family house. It's an above ground six-sided seven foot tall four foot wide open-topped tank with walls about five and one half inches thick. It's gray to yellowish brown in color, has many pock marks from bullets fired at it, has a side that shows signs of repair and a large crack cog from the same repair area. It's made of concrete with embedded small river cobbles. Although the cistern has no top, the rusted fixtures and old pieces of wood in the vicinity indicate that it once probably had a thick wooden hatch cover or lid.

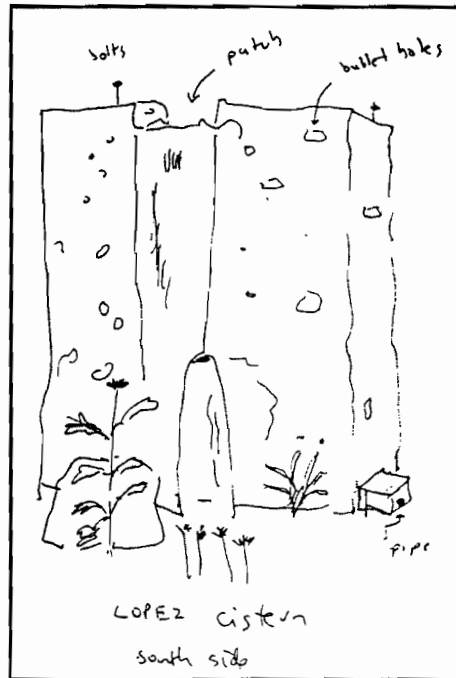
The López cistern is marked with the maker's name — "Ramon Lopez" — written in wet cement when the cistern was first built, and the date of construction — October 25, 1947. The maker, Ramon López resided with his sister Henrietta in the López family house nearby. Henrietta's name is also written on the cistern under Ramon's,

R and H are written in a similar style of lettering, as if one person wrote both names. This lettering is the same as lettering that can be found on a

step and on a wall in the López house foundation. It's unclear which of the two wrote these.

The walk to the cistern

The walk to the cistern is eventful in-and-of-itself. Start from the López parking lot and head east down the path. On your left you'll see a small pond. Look for the two eyes of a bullfrog peeking above the waterline or perhaps you will just hear his splash as he dives out of the line of sight. There may be a large tadpole or two sitting on the bottom or a sunfish darting out of the drainage pipe. Recently, I have also seen a palm-sized red slider turtle in the pond waters and yellow and black swallowtail butterflies flitting about the nearby willows.



Continue out on the trail past the kiosk keeping your eyes to the sky looking for raptors which seem to congregate in this area. Watch especially for the small kestrel or the beautiful white-colored, black tailed-kite. Both like to hover when searching for prey.

Now is a good time to listen for sounds in the air as you walk. If you hear a rapid high pitched "klee klee klee" or "killy killy killy" that's a kestrel or sparrow hawk. If you hear a whistled "klee klee," long or drawn

out that's the kite. If the air is filled with an asthmatic downward slurring "keer" that's a red-tailed hawk. A "kee yar" scream with a dropping inflection indicates a reshouldered hawk while a weak nasal "pee pee pee" or a lower pitched "chu chu chu" signals a marsh hawk or harrier. Finally perk your ears for the "caw caw" of a crow or a croaking "cruck" or "pruck" or a metallic "tok" which is the voice of the raven.

Before where the trail swings right to pass over the creek, go left and up the hill towards an opuntia cactus. Follow the trail along the hillside. You'll pass an enormous scrub oak as big as you'll ever see and some willows. The willow trees with yellow catkins are male. Those with green are female. Continue down into a gully and up another hill. Look for fragrant sagebush and a line of really beautiful weathered fence posts. Keep walking down a hill and past a fallen century plant and some man-like jumping cholla cactus.

Look for some Pacific blackberry which is flowering now. Cross a little gully and notice the old pipe there and you are into a grove of sycamore trees. At night the full moon looks absolutely lovely through the tangle of sycamore branches above your head.

From this grove you may walk north up under the trees and then up a hill on the east side of a gully to be at the cistern. Or you may continue down the path toward the López House then swing in a turn up the cleared hillside to reach the cistern.

View from the cistern

Standing next to the cistern and looking east you can see the two pepper trees and the tall eucalyptus that boundary the old López house. The hillside toward the house is still barren of native vegetation indicating that it was cleared in times past.

Facing north you can make out the old fence line and the houses of Calle Cristobal. I found an interesting snake skeleton by the old fence line which was curled inside itself like an Egyptian bracelet.

If you turn about and look west you will see rolling hills and a gully with some very nice white sage plants.

To the south you can see the creek and the López orchard. Across the canyon on the opposite hillside the image of an old z-shaped trail is visible. It also looks like there was once terracing on the same hillside. Both are overgrown with vegetation now but you can still see their outline.

The area nearby

The area in the vicinity of the cistern has numerous specimens of native bunch grass. If you do not know this plant you should get to know it. Its our main native grass and stands in stark contrast to all the exotic grasses which run rampant through the Preserve. About 15-20 feet from the cistern is a rusted pipe about 3 inches in diameter sticking about three feet or so out of the ground. It looks like it might have had something to do with pumping water or from the cistern. There are numerous pieces of old wood scattered about and some sheet metal. If you're looking around on a hot day watch out for snakes. I saw a little rattler curled up near there once.

The cistern

The López cistern is 52 years old and shows its age. The six sides vary in length ranging from 40 to 46 inches. So it was not so precisely constructed. The walls are 5 & 1/2 inches thick and almost seven feet high. On top of the walls are three large rusted bolts about 1/2 by 3 inches. By rough calculation the cistern must have held somewhere around 3200 cubic inches of water. I hope some matheician out there can translate that into gallons.

On the east side there is a small attached concrete stoop with a pipe coming out of it. This same pipe is visible when you look inside the cistern. That's where the pumped water went in or out. Rainwater came straight in through an opened top.

The south side of the cistern has a large patch job. Apparently the cistern cracked and was repaired only to crack again. I assume the weight of the water might have caused the crack because the cistern is not upright but leans slightly to the south; hence the weight of the water would not have

been equally distributed. You can see still see the brush stokes where the cement was smoothed over the repair.

Inside the cistern

You can stand on a large rock or lean a piece of wood against the cistern and clammer up on top to look inside. It looks like people have gotten down inside there from time to time. There is graffiti on the inner walls. There are names, dates, place names, and other words scratched on the walls with a rock or knife.

There are several pieces of wood lying on the floor inside which might have been part of a hatch cover.

Function of the cistern

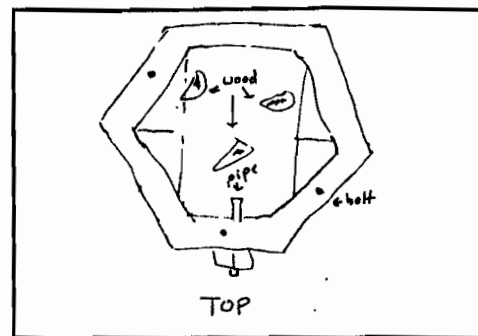
On the basis of what we know about the historic uses of cisterns one would assume that the López cistern was used to catch rainwater. I thought that the rainwater might have been used to irrigate the old López orchard in dry months. It's downhill to the south of the cistern and water would have flowed easily and naturally through a pipe down to the trees in the orchard.

However, Dr. John North thinks that this was not how the cistern was used and that the orchard was not irrigated. Northrop believes that the water was pumped up from the area under the sycamore trees at the west edge of the old orchard to be held in the cistern. In his book, "Riding 'round Penasquitos" (1987) Northrop states: "The seep from which water was obtained is in a grove of sycamore trees directly down slope from the tank and across the creek from it."

Northrop goes on to say that the water was pumped by a water pump driven by a tractor motor, "Ramon López used the power take-off from an old farm tractor to drive the water pump that propelled well water up to the tank (ibid)."

In a recent correspondence (1999), Northrop went on to say that the water was "piped to the house for the kitchen and shower."

Northrop also includes a photograph of the cistern on page 12 of his book. Although the reproduction of the photograph is rather dark you can make out something else in the background by the cistern, but it is hard to



tell if it has anything to do with the pumping of water.

Conclusion

In the last several issues of this newsletter I have been focusing on the history of López Canyon. So far I have discussed the old López Orchard and the Old López Road. In this issue the López Cistern is described. I have still to cover the Second Structure (probably the Barn) and the López House itself.

I think it is becoming increasingly clear and it may still even become clearer that we have many interesting historic resources in López Canyon. Yet, and here is the shocking news, in the most recent brochure of Peñasquitos Canyon these resources were not mentioned! Furthermore, the enclosed map of the Preserve that accompanied this same brochure, while depicting López Canyon, did not show any of these resources, as if to imply that López Canyon was empty of any history. It is my hope that the next edition of the Penasquitos Canyon brochure will rectify this serious oversight.

Donations

A special thanks to both Robb Hutsel, Bruce & Cyndy Collins and the Fleming Family Foundation for their very generous donations outside of our normal fund drive for the Friends' activities.

In addition, thanks to alvan Cooper, Marily & James Evans, Fred & Linda Kramer, Hans Leenhout and Ian Stuart for their generous contributions to our annual fund drive.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.
 P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196
 619-484-3219

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

Friends' Directory

Officers

President: Mike Kelly 566-6489
 Vice-President: Dean Woods 672-1120
 Treasurer: Pat Watkins 538-2527
 Secretary: Edward DiBella 748-5276

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Les Braund, Barry Martin, Brian Swanson

Walks Leaders

Brian Swanson, Don Albright, Will Bowen, Mike Kelly, Les Braund, Chris Bader, Pat Watkins

Committees:

Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
 Newsletter: Mike Kelly
 Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
 Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
 Voice Mail System: Pat Watkins
 Tracking Team Coordinator: Barry Martin (484-4007)
 Volunteer Coordinator: Michelle Murphree (224-4192)
 Wildlife Survey Organizer: Dean Woods

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

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

I/We are interested in the following:

- Volunteer** to help the committee (call to discuss)
 Hikes
 Indian Culture 5/98
 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 1999

Volume 13 No. 4

Cameras Augment Wildlife Surveys

Rick Botta

Thanks to your generous contributions, our 1999 Fund Appeal raised over \$3,800 for the purchase of equipment to augment our wildlife surveys. We've recently applied for a matching grant with the City of San Diego, which, if received, will bring our available funds to over \$7,500!

We're now evaluating three different models of remote monitoring cameras. These cameras operate using infrared technology, taking photos of any animals which pass through the infrared beam. One camera system also records the date and time of up to 1,000 "events" that trigger the system even if no camera is connected.

Once we complete our evaluation and receive word on our matching grant request, we will purchase additional cameras. We intend to use the cameras in conjunction with our quarterly wildlife surveys to monitor animal movements along critical corridors. They'll also help us determine if particular animal species such as the Ringtail cat live in the Preserve.

Currently, the cameras are being used to collect additional data for our focused Mule deer study. Using our photos, we're getting a better idea of the specific use areas for one particular buck and a doe. We've recorded photos of a buck just starting to grow his antlers, a doe carrying a fawn, and numerous instances of photogenic coyotes, wood rats, and ground squirrels.

The Tracking Team would like to thank everyone who contributed to this year's fund appeal. Your generosity allows us to expand our surveys to new and exciting levels and hopefully answer long standing questions about some inhabitants of the Preserve.

Slater Opposes, Vargas Pushes Roads

Mike Kelly

In *Canyon News* Vol. 13, No. 3 we reported that County Supervisor Pam Slater was in favor of extending Camino Ruiz across Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. The Friends, with support from the communities of Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos, succeeded in having this road segment deleted from both communities' plans after a 10-year campaign. We asked readers to write letters to her and to City Councilmember Juan Vargas. The latter is pushing a formal study of deleted road segments in San Diego, including Camino Ruiz. Your letters prompted a welcome clarification of Supervisor Slater's position.

**"I do not support building roads through environmentally sensitive areas."
— Supervisor Slater**

Slater's staff called to clarify the *Corridor News* article of March 25 reporting on a meeting where Slater and Vargas spoke on the County's road system. The article said: "According to Slater, county transportation officials are now looking to the city's future urbanizing area between Rancho Peñasquitos and Carmel Valley for possible solutions. For example, Camino Ruiz now ends in Mira Mesa at Calle Cristobal, but could be extended further north to connect with other communities."

Slater's staff clarified that although the County might be studying such deleted road segments, she herself was

See p. 4 for more

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Your Support Needed

AB18 & SB57: Money for Open Space

Eric Bowlby

AB18, the "California Parks & Wildlife 2000" Bond act, passed the State Assembly with only a 1 vote margin. This measure will provide \$1.5 BILLION for expansion and improvement of local and state parks. Another park bond measure, SB57, sponsored by Senator Tom Hayden, is coming up soon for a vote in the State Senate. If it passes the Senate it's likely the two measures would be reconciled or combined in some fashion to put before the voters. Your letters are badly needed, since many San Diego area legislators are sitting on the fence on these bills.

In addition to acquiring park and wildlife areas, other funded programs will almost certainly include trails, restoration of the state park system, historic preservation, recreation facilities in cities, facilities for at-risk youth and family activities, local conservation corps, agricultural land conservation and other park and recreational programs.

See p. 4 for more

Summer Wildlife Viewing

With the heat of summer we shift most of our walks to the early morning or early evening. Join us for the best wildlife viewing opportunities of the year as young animals join their parents in venturing into the open for the first time.

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

July

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour Every Saturday & Sunday

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., on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. **La Cocina Gift Shop Hours:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 P.M. Saturdays, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sundays. The Adobe Ranch House is located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. Directions: **Thomas Guide** p.1189 or call 484-3219.

Ranger Dan's Bird Watching Walk in Crest Canyon Open Space Preserve
Sat., July 10, 8 a.m. Explore this beautiful canyon and lagoon. Take I-5 to Via de la Via west. Turn left onto Jimmy Durante Blvd (Race Track). Go southwest past Del Mar Fair grounds and turn left onto San Dieguito Lagoon Dr., and follow that to Racetrack View Dr. Meet Ranger in front of the gate on Racetrack View Dr. See **Thomas Guide** p. 1187, G-4.

Gold & Turquoise: Bird Walk in Lopez Canyon

Sat., July 10, 4:30 p.m. (1-1/2 hours). Late summer afternoons are a great time to bird watch. Join Brian Swanson as we seek out blue grosbeaks and goldfinches, along with many other avian wonders. With luck you'll see and/or hear chats, orioles and white-tailed kites. Meet in west-end Parking-Staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/2 mile east of I-5, I-805 merge in Sorrento Valley. Park entrance is on right, going east. Directions: **Thomas Guide** p.1208 or call 484-3219.

Peñasquitos Lagoon Volunteer Wildlife Corridor Restoration

Sun., July 11, 9 - 1 p.m. Help restore this important wildlife corridor by removing exotic invasive plants choking the corridor. No experience necessary. work tools provided. Wear clothes appropriate for work.

Meet at the corner of Flintkote & Estuary Way in Sorrento Valley. See **Thomas Guide** p. 1208 or call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Groups welcome.

Friends of Mission Valley Preserve Planning Meeting

Mon., July 12, 7 p.m. Help plan activities of this new friends group for this new Preserve. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Meet in the parking lot of the Western Division, San Diego Police Dept.

Friends of Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon Open Space Planning Meeting

Tuesday, July 13, 7 - 9 p.m. Meet at Poway Senior Center in the new Community Complex. Call Karen Larsen at 485-5077 for information on the new group or for directions.

Tracking Walk from Ranch House

Sat., July 17, 8 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in from Chris Bader. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take 1st left into Canyonside Driveway and proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, then walk west on trail to ranch house. Directions: **Thomas Guide** p.1189 or call 484-3219.

Weed Tour of Marian Bear Park

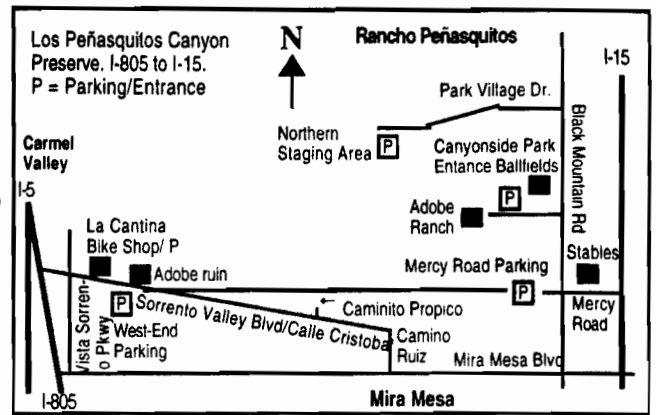
Sat., July 17, 9 a.m. (2-3 miles), trailhead off Regents Road west parking lot. Take SR52 to Regents Rd. exit. Go left on Regents Rd., then right into parking lot and go all the way to restroom end. Join Mike Kelly for a leisurely tour that will discuss the negative impacts of exotic invasive weeds on native plants and wildlife. identify major weeds and discuss control methods. Bring sun protection and water; wear good hiking boots and long pants. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details

Dusk Hike from Northern Staging Area

Sat., July 17, 6:30 p.m. Join Pat Watkins for a cool, evening hike in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, about 2.5 mile loop trail. Good chance to see wildlife. Meet at the kiosk at the intersection of Camino Ruiz & Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring insect repellent & water. Directions: **Thomas Guide** p.1189 or call 484-3219.

Mission Valley Preserve Volunteer River Restoration

Sun., July 18, 9 - 1 p.m. Help restore wildlife habitat along the San Diego River by removing exotic invasive plants in the new Mission Valley Preserve. Learn about new



trail system. No experience necessary. work tools provided. Wear clothes appropriate for work. Meet in the parking lot of the Western Division, San Diego Police Dept. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Groups welcome.

Summer Morning Hike

Sun., July 18, 9 - 10:30 a.m. Explore the canyon: identify plants, animals and birds. Look for tracks. Consider the effects of the season on life in the canyon. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in the west-end parking lot off the south side of Sorrento Valley Blvd., in Sorrento Valley. 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. Directions: **Thomas Guide** p.1208 or call 484-3219.

Black Mountain Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee

Mon., July 19, 7 p.m. Help plan activities in the newly expanding Black Mtn. Open Space Park. Meet in the Canyonside Recreation Center in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Take Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road. Directions: **Thomas Guide** p.1189 or call 484-3219.

Nature Walk from Northern Staging Area

Sat., July 24, 8-10:30 a.m. Join naturalist Les Braund and check out wildflowers and other native plants. learn how Native Americans used our local plants. Meet at the Northern Parking-Staging area at Park Village Drive and Camino Ruiz in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear good hiking shoes. bring sun protection and water. Directions: **Thomas Guide** p.1189 or call 484-3219.

San Pasqual Valley Open Space, Clevenger Canyon Volunteer Work party

Sat., July 24, 8 a.m. - noon. Help Ranger Dan Bylin in this new City Park. Projects include trail work, wildlife projects and cleanups. Call Dan at 858-538-8082 for more info. Take Highway 78 about 6 miles east of the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Turn left onto Clevenger Canyon trail head parking lot. Meet the Ranger in the parking lot. Call Ranger Dan Bylin at 858-538-8082 for more info.

See next page for more

(Calendar cont'd)

Weed Tour of Tecolote Canyon Park
Sat., July 24, 9 a.m. (2-3 miles), at the Tecolote Canyon Visitors Center. Join Mike Kelly for a leisurely tour that will discuss the negative impacts of exotic invasive weeds on native plants and wildlife, identify major weeds and discuss control methods. Take I-5 to Seaworld/Tecolote Exit. Go left on Tecolote all the way to the end of the parking lot next to the Visitors Center. Bring sun protection and water; wear good hiking boots and long pants. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more details.

Full Moon Singles Hike

Sat., July 24, 8–9:30 p.m. A hike for singles who love nature. Meet some new friends as you enjoy an evening under the stars in the canyon. Please bring a food dish to share, a blanket to sit on, a flashlight or electric lantern, and a musical instrument or anything to share. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **Thomas Guide** p. 1208 or call 484-3219 for directions.

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 27, 7–9 p.m. Members are welcome to attend this monthly Board of Directors meeting, when the Board plans Friends' activities and positions on issues. **Directions: Thomas Guide p.1189 or call 484-3219.**

Dusk Wildlife Viewing Walk in Peñasquitos Canyon (Canyonside Entrance)

Thurs., July 29, 7:30–9:30 p.m. Good opportunity to see nocturnal birds, bats, deer and other wildlife. Bring insect repellent and flashlight. Led by naturalist Mike Kelly. Meet in the County's white-fenced parking lot in the Canyonside Driveway entrance to Peñasquitos Preserve off Black Mountain Road between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **Directions: Thomas Guide** p.1189 or call 484-3219.

August**Historic Adobe Ranch Tour Every Saturday & Sunday**

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., on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. **La Cocina Gift Shop Hours:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 P.M. Saturdays, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sundays. The Adobe Ranch House is located

on Canyonside Drive off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. **Directions: Thomas Guide** p. 1189 or call 484-3219.

Black Mountain Open Park Volunteer Work Project

Sat., Aug. 7, 8 a.m. – noon. Help Ranger Dan Bylin at the newly expanded Black Mountain Open Space Park. Projects include trail work, wildlife projects and cleanups. Call Dan at 858-538-8082 for more info. Meet at the Black Mountain Park Staging area off Black Mountain Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. **Thomas Guide** p. 1169, E-7.

Peñasquitos Lagoon Volunteer Wildlife Corridor Restoration

Sun., Aug. 8, 9–1 p.m. Help restore this important wildlife corridor by removing exotic invasive plants choking the corridor. No experience necessary. work tools provided. Wear clothes appropriate for work. Meet at the corner of Flintkote & Estuary Way in Sorrento Valley. **Directions: Thomas Guide** p. 1208 or call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Groups welcome.

Friends of Mission Valley Preserve Planning Meeting

Mon., Aug. 9, 7 p.m. Help plan activities of this new friends group for this new Preserve. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Meet in the parking lot of the Western Division, San Diego Police Dept.

Dusk Hike from Northern Staging Area

Wed., Aug. 11, 6 p.m. Join Pat Watkins for a cool, evening hike in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, about 2.5 mile loop trail. Good chance to see wildlife. Meet at the kiosk at the intersection of Camino Ruiz & Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring insect repellent & water. **Directions: Thomas Guide** p. 1189 or call 484-3219.

Nature Walk / Northern Staging Area

Sat., Aug. 14, 8–10:30 a.m. Join naturalist Les Braund & check out wildflowers & other native plants Native Americans used. Meet at Northern Parking-Staging area at Park Village Drive and Camino Ruiz in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear good hiking shoes, bring sun protection and water. **Directions: Thomas Guide** p. 1189 or call 484-3219.

Ranger Dan's Bird Watching Walk in San Pasqual Valley Open Space, Clevenger Canyon North Trail

Sat., Aug. 14, 8 a.m. Explore the riparian woodlands of little known Santa Isabel Creek. Take Highway 78 about 6 miles east of the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Turn left onto Clevenger Canyon trail head parking lot. Meet the Ranger in the parking lot. Call Ranger Dan Bylin at 858-538-8082 for more info.

Blue Sky Tamarisk Bash

Sun., Aug. 15, 8 a.m. Join the Special Weed Action Team in an assault on the exotic weed tamarisk in a remote area of beautiful Blue Sky Preserve in Poway. No experience needed. Wear work clothes, including long-sleeve shirt, boots. We will supply equipment. Call Mike at 566-6489 for details.

Black Mountain Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee

Mon., Aug. 16, 7 p.m. Help plan activities in the newly expanding Black Mtn. Open Space Park. Meet in the Canyonside Recreation Center in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Take Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road. **Thomas Guide** p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking Walk from Ranch House

Sat., Aug. 21, 8 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in from Chris Bader. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take 1st left into Canyonside Driveway and proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, then walk west on trail to ranch house. **Thomas Guide** p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for directions.

Summer Evening Hike

Sat., Aug. 21, 6–7:30 p.m. Explore the canyon; identify plants, animals, and birds. Look for tracks. Consider the effects of the season on life in the canyon. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in the west-end parking lot off the south side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **Directions: Thomas Guide** p. 1208 or call 484-3219.

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 24, 7–9 p.m. Members are welcome to attend this monthly Board of Directors meeting, when the Board plans Friends' activities and positions on issues. **Thomas Guide** p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Dusk Wildlife Viewing Walk in Peñasquitos Canyon (Northern Staging Area)

Wed., Aug. 25, 7–9 p.m. Good opportunity to see nocturnal birds, bats, deer and other wildlife. Bring insect repellent and flashlight. Led by naturalist Mike Kelly. Meet in front of kiosk at the intersection of Camino Ruiz & Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. **Directions: Thomas Guide** p. 1189 or call 484-3219.

(Calendar cont'd)

San Pasqual Valley Open Space, Clevenger Canyon Volunteer Work party
Sat., Aug. 28, 8 a.m. – noon. Help Ranger Dan Bylin in this new City Park. Projects include trail work, wildlife projects and cleanups. Call Dan at 858-538-8082 for more info. Take Highway 78 about 6 miles east of the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Turn left onto Clevenger Canyon trail head parking lot. Meet the Ranger in the parking lot. Call Ranger Dan Bylin at 858-538-8082 for more info.

Sunset Evening Hike

Sat., Aug. 28, 7:30 – 9 p.m. A hike to enjoy the sunset and watch the moon and stars come out. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Avian Wonders: Birding in López

Sun., Aug. 29, 4:30 p.m. One of the two main canyons comprising Los Peñasquitos Preserve, López Canyon is home to many of the 150+ species of birds sighted in the preserve. Late afternoons are ideal times for viewing these jewels, especially the many raptors for which this canyon is famous. Perhaps we'll see a kite passing a gopher to its mate midair! Meet Brian Swanson in the West-end Parking-Staging Area off Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge in Sorrento Valley. Directions: **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219.

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.**

Sorrento Valley Meeting Area

Meet in hanglider parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. 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 intersection into parking lot. Meet on 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 d. 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 east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to bottom of the hill. Entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east, pass last building on the right. Preserve entrance is on right, past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

(Slater cont'd)

not in favor of extending Camino Ruiz or other roads through sensitive areas. In letters responding to Friends' supporters she went on the record, stating, "I do not support building roads through environmental sensitive areas." Further, she wrote, "Please be assured that my position has not changed on building roads through Preserve areas." The Supervisor later confirmed this position when we met in person.

In contrast, we are not aware of any responses to protest letters from Councilmember Vargas. In fact, his Land Use and Housing subcommittee of the San Diego City Council held a meeting where they voted to intensify the "study" of incomplete or deleted road segments, explicitly leaving Camino Ruiz and Camino Santa Fe on the table. At one time both were planned to cross the Preserve. Continue letters to :

Councilmember Juan Vargas
202 C St., San Diego 92101

Remind him that more than 30 lanes and rails (5 highways and 1 railroad) crossing the preserve (plus another, Vista Sorrento Parkway already approved), are enough!

(Park Bonds cont'd)

Not since 1988 when voters approved Proposition 70, has there been general bond support for natural and cultural resource acquisition. Yet, in California, we have grown at a dramatic rate consuming open space, habitats, threatening the existence of many species, pressuring our overcrowded recreation areas and deteriorating our quality of life.

Here are a few programs Assembly Bill 18 will support:

- Wildlife Conservation Board, \$147.5 million
- Coastal Conservancy, \$200 million
- Dept. of Parks and Recreation, \$322 million
- Local park grants, \$595.5 million
- Agricultural Land Stewardship Program, \$5 million
- Urban Forestry Grants, \$10 million
- Department of Fish and Game, \$10 million
- CA Conservation Corps, \$5 million

Some Supporters/Participants for AB18 are: National Audubon Society, Sierra Club California, Planning and Conservation League, California League of Conservation Voters, Trust for Public Land and many more.

SB57 would allocate even more monies for open space acquisition, with funds explicitly earmarked for Southern California.

We want our legislators to place AB18, SB57 or a combined measure on the ballot in November, 2000. Let's begin campaigning now to let our legislators know how important it is to expand our open space preserves.

The Planning and Conservation League (PCL) is organizing on behalf of both these measures. For more information, and to find out how you can help with California Parks and Wildlife 2000 please call:

ERIC BOWLBY
(AB18) San Diego County
Regional Coordinator for the
Planning & Conservation League.
PH# 858-284-9399

Also visit the PCL website at <http://www.pcl.org>.

Ranch House Roundup

Supervising Ranger Reneene Mowry

Summer Evening Programs

The San Diego County Archaeological Society (SDCAS) is sponsoring three highly interesting programs at the Ranch House this summer. The June program featured archaeologist Sue Wade, talking about the Mohnike Adobe and early 20th century ranching. Archaeologist Dennis Gallegos (Gallegos and Associates) will speak at the July 17 program. His topic will be "The Archaeology of Otay Mesa: From 9000 Years Ago to Spanish Contact." The final program, Aug. 21, will feature Dominic Calarco (San Diego City Parks). Dominic will discuss the controversial Presidio preservation project. As in years past, SDCAS will provide cake and beverages. There will be a Ranch House tour (which includes going inside the newly restored spring house) at 6 p.m.; talks begin at approximately 7:30 p.m. Bring a picnic lunch, warm jacket, flashlight and folding chair. La Cocina, the Rancho gift shop will be open from 6 – 7:30; don't forget that members of the Friends get a 10% discount on our books and most merchandise.

Return to the Rancho

The SDCAS Ranch House Docents have begun preliminary planning for a reunion of former rancho residents and their ancestors. The event has been dubbed "Return to the Rancho" and will take place in the fall. It will include a brief program and tour, one-on-one interviews, and a picnic lunch. Attendance will be by invitation only. The docents are looking for information on former residents, including names, addresses, and phone numbers. If you know of anyone formerly associated with the rancho, please call me at 858-484-7504 or head docent Kathy Jenkins at 858-573-0573.

They Will Be Missed

Tragedy struck at the rancho in May, when we lost both of P.J Piburn's magnificent draft horses, Barney and Clyde. At the beginning of the month, Clyde developed colic (ruptured intestine) and had to be put down. Just three weeks later, Barney was bit on the nose by a huge rattlesnake. Just when he appeared to be recovering, he also developed colic and had to be put down. The two gentle giants were an integral part of daily life at the rancho, and they will be missed by staff and park visitors.

Just Ask Mike

On a happier note, we rescued a large red-slider turtle and found it a new home. A student working at the dig site wrestled the turtle away from a young man she observed abusing it (and getting bit). I knew it wasn't native here and pondered what to do. I did what I usually do in such a situation — I called Mike Kelly! He advised me to call the San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society. The taped message listed names and numbers of members to call for assistance. One of these, a woman named Lynn, not only drove all the way from Del Mar to pickup the turtle, but also gave us a rundown on the traits and physical attributes of the red-slider. So, the next time you run across a vagrant turtle (or tortoise), just call the T & T Society — and don't forget, turtles do bite!



The Tracker's Corner

Barry Martin

Busy spring

It's been a busy spring for the tracking team. Besides our spring wildlife survey training and transects in April, we held a Beginning Tracker/Naturalist class in May and an Intermediate class in June. The turn out was excellent for both classes with over 40 in the Beginning and 26 very enthusiastic and motivated people showing up for the Intermediate class. We were fortunate to have had an article printed in the San Diego Union Tribune earlier this year detailing our wildlife survey. This generated a tremendous response with over 120 people calling to sign up for the spring transect training.

It's gratifying to see such interest in preserving our open space areas and learning the ancient skills of tracking and awareness. The folks who attend our classes tend to be quite concerned about the loss of habitat that continues to occur as development pressures mount. What sets them apart from other concerned community members is their commitment to get out and act. By learning a skill such as tracking, it's possible to collect data in open space areas and corridors that may help make the case for saving those areas, or at least altering existing development plans to accommodate wildlife flows between larger habitats.

Since we started collecting data 5 years ago, our information has had an impact. We've been able to convince planners on designating key corridors for inclusion in the MSCP. We're regularly called upon to provide information to rangers and planners as they manage projects through and on the fringes of preserves and surrounding areas. So we're proud of the fact that we have a productive hands-on outlet for people to get involved in, where it is possible to really make a difference.

That's not all!

There is another goal to our activities, and that is our vision as a team to foster outdoor education. It is the idea of getting people out into nature to explore its many mysteries and get in touch with a part of creation that so many of us have shut ourselves off

from in this modern world. By opening yourself to the outdoor world you learn to slow to nature's rhythm if only for a few hours or minutes every weekend. Doing this you open up to an aspect of yourself that you may not know existed. Perhaps your overall awareness increases, maybe as you learn more you find your appreciation of the small beauties increases — you know — the way the light filters through the trees and shimmers on the surface of the creek, or the quaking of cottonwood leaves as the wind blows. Maybe you become quite attached after a period of time spent in the outdoors to a place you like to go, it becomes your special place where it is possible to seek refuge from the world of gridlock and learn more about nature. Even though you may not hold title to such a place you take ownership of it after awhile, at least in your heart. You've watched it through the seasons and have come to know it like an old and trusted friend. As with an old and trusted friend you loath any attempts by anyone or anything that seeks to defile it. This place is your link to original creation and all that is natural, through it perhaps your connection to the rest of creation becomes more clear.

So we're not just gathering data, or learning mere track recognition, we're learning to be aware. Aware of our surroundings but also of ourselves, our role in the grand scheme of things and how we might contribute in accordance with "the original instructions."

As always we invite you to join us, see you on the trail!

Barney & Clyde Memorial Benefit

What: Poker Ride (Ride, bike, or hike), BBQ

Cost: \$25 and \$10 for additional hands

When: Sat., July 24, 1999
Check in 2 p.m.
Ride 3-6 p.m.
BBQ follows.

Where: Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve (stage at east end with overflow parking at Canyonside Stables) Ridge goes through picturesque Peñasquitos Canyon to waterfall and back

Raffle and Silent Auction

Poker Hands:

\$100 to 1st place.

\$50 to 2nd Place.

\$25 to 3rd

RSVP to Elena Juarez
760-749-5288 or for more information.

Barney & Clyde were Belgium draft horses owned by longtime Peñasquitos Canyon volunteer P.J. Piburn. The horses were used in many community service projects in the Peñasquitos area. Both passed on in May: Clyde to colic, Barney to snake bite. The friends of P.J. wish to remember their contributions by raising money for veterinary expenses.

Special Summer/Fall Volunteer Project

Saving the Endangered Monardella

The Friends, the Calif. Native Plant Society, the City of San Diego Multiple Species Program and the U.S. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Service will be working on a joint project to build erosion control measures in López Canyon to stop excessive erosion and soil loss and to protect the endangered *Monardella linoides* ssp. *viminea* (Poway mint). Already populations of this plant have been lost when the soil terraces they thrive on have been washed away by excessive runoff during winter storms. Volunteers will help construct weir dams and gabions. To help out call Mike at 858-566-6489. No experience needed. Groups welcome!

Summer / Fall Schedule of Events

Tracking Team

Monthly Tracking Hike

8 – 10 a.m. a.m.. Meet at the Ranch House.

July 17

August 21

September 18

October 16

November 20

Join one of the Tracking Team members on a Saturday morning to explore the area near the historic Adobe Ranch House at the East end of Peñasquitos Canyon. Children are welcome on this two hour field trip as we search for evidence of animal activity on the trails and near Peñasquitos Creek. Learn to identify different animal tracks and sign as well as what types of plants they like to eat. Park in the blacktopped parking lot at the back of Canyonside Community Park located near the intersection of Black Mountain Road and Mercy Road, then take the trail up to the Ranch House.

Advanced Tracking and Nature Awareness Class

September 18 (tentative date)

The Advanced Tracking and Nature Awareness Class is an intensive weekend class devoted to in depth track analysis and interpretation. The nuances of macro and micro pressure releases, track character in variable substrate, various tracking situations mostly involving animals will be examined but other exercises including lost person and speed tracking will be covered. Further development of intuitive skills relating to tracking and awareness in nature will also be covered. Class will run from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Saturday with a dinner provided, and 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Sunday. Class cost is \$35¹ and will be limited to 12 individuals.

Prerequisite is the Beginning and Intermediate Tracking Classes. Bring bag lunches both days, registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. Saturday. Call 858-672-1120 with questions.



¹ Funds remaining above and beyond the cost of providing the training are used for ongoing tracking programs in Peñasquitos Canyon. Tuition assistance available for special circumstances.

Wildlife Track and Sign Survey

Volunteer Training

Saturday July 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Summer 1999 Survey

July 24 through August 1

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

- 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) are needed to help with this quarterly survey.

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 some of the day outdoors, and be ready to take notes. The training will be held at Los Peñasquitos Adobe (Ranch House), located behind Canyonside Community Park on Canyonside Driveway, near the intersection of Black Mountain and Mercy Roads. Please call (858) 484-3219 for directions to the training. If you've participated in previous surveys and don't wish to attend the training, you may come by between noon and 2 p.m. to sign up for transects.

At the training, volunteers will be asked to sign up for a transect team which will survey a transect during the morning hours one day during the survey period. Twenty-five transects are available allowing volunteers to choose one (or more) convenient to their schedule.

Transects are segments of trails, approximately one mile in length which are distributed throughout Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve as well as new areas countywide. These transects are surveyed quarterly, each once during a period of nine days (Saturday to the following Sunday) beginning one week after the Volunteer Training.

If you are unable to participate in this quarter's survey but would like to participate in the future, or if you would like more information, please call (858) 672-1120 for updates.

Future Surveys & Training

October 16: Wildlife Tracking Training

October 23 – October 31: Fall Wildlife Survey

The Ruins of the López Barn

William M. Bowen, PhD

Introduction

If you walk about two minutes past the Old López House ruins on the trail north of López Creek in López Canyon, you'll come upon a large cleared area with a raised cleared mound. This mound measures about 45' wide by 68' long and is about 4' high at its highest. It's built into the slope of the hill with the southern or bottom portion raised. The eastern part is covered with three cracked concrete slabs placed edge to edge, two measuring about 6' by 18' and one 2' by 18'. You can still see the circular trowel marks made when the cement was wet.

Unfortunately, there's no writing in the cement, as there is at the Cistern or the López House cement foundation. The western part of the mound is dirt now covered with grasses, mustard, and coyote melon. Strewn about are a lot of old pieces of wood, some of which are large and thick, and a few concrete bricks. Just north and a little west of the mound area is what looks like a U-shaped concrete drain sluice, with a 6' by 9' concrete slab in front of it, and a trail leading up the hill. The trail ends abruptly in a cleared area about 10' by 10' square.

It's obvious that at one time there was a structure here. For lack of a better name I've been calling this ruin the "López Second Structure," with the main house ruins being the "First Structure."

After considerable thought, I want to propose that this "Second Structure" was probably the López Family Barn. John Northrop, in his book, *Riding 'Round Penasquitos* (1987), presented a photograph of a painting by Allan Rothero of a barn that existed in López Canyon and belonged to Ramón López. It seems logical that the ruins on the mound in question were at one time this barn.

I've not been able to determine any other ruins or area that would offer a better site for the Barn.

Finding the ruins

I've often walked past the ruins, sometimes stopped to explore it, and thought about what it must have been. Sometimes I've forgotten where it was and have been unable to find it. Sometimes when the grass and mustard plants were high in the spring and early summer I couldn't find it because it was overgrown. So I'd like to give you some step by step instructions so you can visit it.

From the López parking lot walk past the kiosk to where the trail begins to bend south. Go north instead, up a rise, toward a cactus. Walk along the trail which is north of the creek. When you come to two pepper trees you'll be at the López House ruins. Continue to walk east past the house. Notice a tall eucalyptus tree and a gully cut by run off to the north. Continue to walk east. See how the trail sits on what looks like an old overgrown road. Look over to the right toward the sycamore trees and the creek. You should see a cleared area sloping down to the creek. You should also soon see a raised area just off the trail to the south. Look for some concrete and pieces of wood. When you find it you'll be at the ruins of the López Barn.



López Barn circa 1940s. Ramón López in foreground. Original painting by Allan Rothero. Reprinted with permission from *Ridin' Round Peñasquitos* by John Northrop, PhD.

The Rothero painting in Northrop's book

Allan Rothero was a friend of Ramón López. Rothero would often hike out to López Canyon to visit his friend Ramón. Rothero would also paint, draw, and sketch in López Canyon. John Northrop says that Rothero conveyed information to him about the history and workings of the López Rancho based on his numerous experiences and interactions with the López family.

The photo in Northrop's book shows Ramón López standing in front of a barn. Ramón López is standing with his feet about shoulder width apart with his hands resting on his hip joint near and outside of his pants pocket. He's wearing a long white shirt with dark and or beige bell bottom pants. He has on a white cowboy hat with a tall rounded peak and turned up sides like Festus Hagin of the old Gunsmoke TV series. You can't tell if he has on cowboy boots or work shoes.

López appears to be of medium built. It looks like he might have a beard. He's about 5' 8 or 10" tall with a fairly strong demeanor. He must be somewhere between 30 – 50 years old. Since the date of the painting is from the 1940s this would place his birth at about 1900.

It looks like López is facing north with his back to the barn and the creek behind it. By the shadow he casts it could be about 10 or 11 in the morning. Because the shadow is not long, it is probably late spring or early summer. The lush foliage on the sycamore trees which are to the south west behind the barn confirms this.

The barn behind him is made of wooden planks. It has three sections or areas. There's a side shed-like area behind him and a large main section with a slanting roof. It must be about 18 – 20' high. There's also a tall narrow loft area with a rounded or squared off top, behind the main section which is a few feet taller. There might be a lighting rod

(López Barn cont'd)

coming out of the top of the this taller section. However, it might be a telephone pole and wires that we see just behind the loft. It looks like the main door faces east, where the concrete slabs are, unless López is facing west with an early morning rising sun around midsummer when it would face north. As you can see by my ruminations it's a little hard to orient yourself as to direction without many familiar landmarks.

If López came down the old López Road he would have to swing around the barn to get to the front door. But this door would face the trail up the hill toward a dirt track, roughly where Sorrento Valley Blvd. is now. John Northrop (1999) told me this was the trail that Ramón López used when the creek flooded and he could not use the old López Road, which is on the other side of the creek, to get out of the canyon. Northrop says that this trail hooked up to Black Mountain Road in Mira Mesa and that he has ridden it on horseback. However, if you walk up the trail today you will see that it ends abruptly with no indication that it ever continued up the hill to López Ridge. Where it dead ends the ground is leveled off or squared off about 10' by 10'. The soil is a crumbly gray clay. It looks like some sort of a structure was supposed to sit level there. I thought maybe it was for another cistern.

Perhaps the barn held a car or a tractor or most probably a wagon, with tools in the shed area, and hay in the loft. There were probably chicken and pig pens and perhaps a horse corral in the gully just east of the main house.

It's odd that you only see a sycamore tree to the southwest behind the barn with an open sky to the southeast. You might expect the entire area behind the barn to exhibit these trees that today line the creek in this area.

A trail north

Up from the northwest side of the barn there's what looks like a concrete U-shaped drain vent with a cement slab in front of it.

One day as I sat in the squared off area and surveyed the canyon below four deer ran up out of the gully to my east and bounced along the ridge

across from me. I noticed they navigated between some jumping cholla which I had thought for years were only farther to the west near the tall century plants of López Canyon. This year, as of mid-June, the cholla are in bloom with a beautiful magenta flower, which I had previously never seen. Later I heard the deer cross the bottom of the creek and and run up the hill on the other side of the canyon. The squared off area is also a great place to bird watch, as I saw a great many species flitting about on the hillside across the gully.

Conclusion

The mound area, cement slabs, and wood pile east of the López House were undoubtedly the site of the Old López Barn. We have a painting done in the 1940s of a barn which confirms its presence. We just weren't sure of its location. We also have another trail out of the canyon and what may have been a drainage structure. Most of the wood and whatever was in the barn, such as a wooden wagon, has been removed from the site. This seems strange because all or most of wood at the fallen López House is still there. One wonders if the wood from the Barn was used for other purposes, such as firewood, before the López House fell.

It's sad that not much is left of the barn and whatever was in it. It's my hope that we will one day have a full layout on the López Rancho during its heyday and perhaps be able to restore it by the year 2040, which according to John Northrop, would be its 200th birthday.

Email Addresses Wanted

If you would like to be notified of late-breaking canyon news, activities and events, please email: mkellysd@aol.com.

We promise not to send jokes or junk mail!

Volunteers: 900+ hrs!

As usual, many people turned out for a wide variety of volunteer projects this May and June. Spring is traditionally endangered plant survey and weed control time.

See the article in this issue for the names of the many Tracking Team volunteers and their projects this spring.

Special thanks to hike leader Chris Bader, leading hikes for over 5 years, whom we forgot to mention in last month's hike leader list.

Volunteers also worked on the following projects, some of them multiple times. Thanks gang!

Black Mtn. Open Space Park weed control, plant surveying

Black Mtn. Ranch thorn mint surveys, weed control

Goodan Ranch weed control

Lopez Canyon trailhead weed control

Monardella surveys in Rattlesnake and López Canyons

Newsletter

Peñasquitos Lagoon wildlife corridor restoration

Rose Canyon arundo removal

San Diego River cleanup

Thorn mint survey in PQ

Volunteers included:

Don Albright
Chris Bader
Will Bowen
Les Braund
Cindy Burracano
Drew DeShazo
Edward DiBella
Dingeman family
Doug Fenske
Terry Gaughn
Mel Howe
Rob Hutsel
Sally Jackson
Mike Kelly
Jamie King
Linda King
Paul Micheletti
Michelle Murphree
Dan Vilotti



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.
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 858-484-3219

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Friends' Directory

Officers

President: Mike Kelly 566-6489
 Vice-President: Dean Woods 672-1120
 Treasurer: Pat Watkins 538-2527
 Secretary: Edward DiBella 748-5276

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Les Braund, Barry Martin, Brian Swanson

Walks Leaders

Brian Swanson, Don Albright, Will Bowen, Mike Kelly, Les Braund, Chris Bader, Pat Watkins

Committees:

Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
 Newsletter: Mike Kelly
 Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
 Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
 Voice Mail System: Pat Watkins
 Tracking Team Coordinator: Barry Martin (484-4007)
 Volunteer Coordinator: Michelle Murphree (224-4192)
 Wildlife Survey Organizer: Dean Woods

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

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

I/We are interested in the following:

- Volunteer** to help the committee (call to discuss)
- Hikes
- Indian Culture 7/98
- 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.

September/October 1999

Volume 13 No. 5

With Gratitude....

The Piburn family wishes to express its deepest gratitude to all the friends and neighbors who participated in the recent memorial ride for Barney and Clyde. In the midst of tragedy we were blessed by good wishes and financial assistance offered us in remembrance of our two Belgian draft horses. Clyde lived in the preserve for 19 years and during that time brought thousands of people into the canyon to enjoy and learn about the wondrous nature found there. Although Barney was only with us seven years, he made a significant contribution, and was a valued team member. As big as they were in life, they left a great emptiness with their deaths. While most of the donations went to paying the substantial veterinary and removal bills, there were sufficient funds left over to provide 2 living history programs to needy children. Thanks again for the tremendous support of all of you who made contributions to help us.

THE LOPEZ FAMILY

Will Bowen, Ph. D.

The History of the Lopez House

Some local canyon historians have claimed that the Lopez homestead was a Spanish land grant to Bonafacio Lopez given in 1840. To verify this claim, I checked several books on Spanish land grants, such as, "Land Grants Under the Spanish, Mexican, and American Periods" (H. Manriquez); "The History of the San Diego County Ranchos" (R. W. Brackett); "Ranchos of California" (R. G. Cowan); and "Land Grants in Alta California" (C. N. Perez), at the Museum of San Diego History in Balboa Park. I was not able to find any confirmation of any land grant in Lopez or Cuervo Canyon to Bonafacio Lopez. The individuals who believe that Lopez Canyon was a Spanish land grant probably got their erroneous information from an obituary of Henrietta (Enriqueta) Lopez that appeared in 1956 in the San Diego Union.

I did find references to land grants in Peñasquitos to Francisco Maria Ruiz in 1823 and to Ruiz and F. M. Alvarado in 1834. Lopez Canyon may have been included in these land grants. Alvarado also acquired a land grant in Soledad Canyon (Sorrento Valley) in 1838. It seems that Cave Courts may also have acquired some land in Soledad Canyon but his later claims in Anglo courts were not upheld. Soledad Canyon was later claimed by the City as Pueblo Land or public property and offered at public auction by 1860.

I think that the Lopez family must have bought or leased the land in Lopez Canyon. Perhaps it was given as a marriage gift or dowry. I looked through two large old books of early land deeds in San Diego but was not able to find reference to any Lopez family member buying property from Ruiz or Alvarado, although I did see that the latter did sell some of their

property to other individuals, such as Luis Machado. I may have missed something important, however.

Interestingly, in the "Diaries of Judge Benjamin I. Hayes", he says in an October 14, 1856 entry, "The Indians now rent to Bonafacio Lopez..." This may be hard to believe, given the low status of Native Americans in Spanish California. This statement, from a credible source, quite clearly says that Bonafacio Lopez rented the land of his Soledad Canyon country home from Native Americans. Incidentally, there is a significant Native American site at the south end of Roselle Street in Sorrento Valley which may imply that Native Americans were living there, perhaps in a "rancheria", when Bonafacio first settled there.

There are local residents, according to R. Giles, Jr. (1997), such as a gentleman named Oliver Owen, who have claimed that Bonafacio Lopez built an adobe in Lopez Canyon on the present site of the Lopez house ruins. However, in his archaeology site survey report of the Lopez homestead, Giles denies this, claiming that Bonafacio Lopez did not build in Lopez Canyon but rather next to Torrey Pines Mesa in the northwestern part of Sorrento Valley.

We do know conclusively that Bonafacio Lopez did build an adobe in this area to serve as his country home. The Museum of San Diego History has a photograph of it, taken by Grace Baker Diffendorf in the 1880's. The photograph shows the adobe in a state of deterioration. Only the walls are left standing, devoid of a roof or any whitewash. According to Winifred Davidson's notes, it finally collapsed completely in the 1930's.

In the photograph, only the adobe and several large sycamore trees are present, indicating it must have been very close to water. The exact site of the adobe is not known and there is no archaeology site report or site number for it. This makes it a very important mystery. Judge Hayes states in his diary of 1856 that it was in Soledad Valley, twelve miles north of Old Town and six miles south of San Dieguito rancho.

From what I have read, I would guess that Bonafacio's adobe was not built in Lopez Canyon. The house in Lopez Canyon was probably first built of wood a little before 1868 when Ygnacio Lopez, one of Bonafacio's sons, first paid a land tax or shortly before 1872, when José Ramon Lopez, another one of Bonafacio's sons, paid his first property tax. We know for sure that José Ramon Lopez lived in Lopez Canyon. He was the father of Ramon Lopez, Jr., who was born in the Lopez house and whose signature we find on its cement porch. Ramon Lopez, Jr. took over the Lopez farm or ranch when his father died in 1931.

As I see it, Bonafacio built his country home in Soledad Valley in the early 1850s, sometime after he sold the Jamul rancho to Henry S. Burton, leasing land from Francisco Alvarado or Native Americans. He had five sons, some of whom undoubtedly wanted their own place, and who may have settled nearby, as in Lopez Canyon. The land in Lopez Canyon was probably leased or purchased from Francisco Alvarado's son,

Beat the Heat!

Falls in San Diego are always hot, so the best time to enjoy nature is still the early morning or late afternoon/early evening. Why not join us on one of our early morning bird walks or an evening dusk or full moon walk. Outings are free. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water. For details or group hikes, call 484-3219 for recorded information.

ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

September

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday & Sunday

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., on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three-foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. La Cocina Gift Shop Hours: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Sundays. The Adobe Ranch House is located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Birds of the Chaparral & Coastal Sage at Black Mountain Open Space

Saturday, September 11, 8 a.m. Join Ranger Dan Bylin to explore the chaparral and coastal sage on the north slope of Black Mountain. Take I-15 to SR56 and go west. Turn north (right) onto Black Mountain Road. Follow this north until it turns to dirt (on the right). Follow the dirt road about 2 miles. Turn right on the paved road with the Black Mountain park sign and follow it up to the parking lot to meet. See Thomas Guide p. 1169, E-7. Bring water, a hat, sunscreen and sturdy hiking boots. Call Ranger Dan Bylin at 858-538-8082 if any questions.

Geology Hike

Sunday, September 12, 9 to noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking Walk from Ranch House

Saturday, September 18, 8 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in from Chris Bader. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take 1st left into Canyonside Driveway and proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, then walk west on trail to ranch house. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for directions.

Dusk Hike from Northern Staging Area

Saturday, September 18, 6 p.m. Join Pat Watkins for a cool evening hike in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, about 2.5 mile loop trail. Good chance to see wildlife. Meet at the kiosk at the intersection of Camino Ruiz & Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring insect repellent & water. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Fall Equinox Hike

Thursday, September 23, 1 - 3 p.m. Welcome the beginning of fall with a leisurely afternoon hike. Consider the symbolic meaning of the season and read the book of nature for advice on how to live it. Led by Will Bowen, Ph. D. Meet in the west-end parking lot off the south side of Sorrento Valley Blvd., 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.

Bird Walk at Ranch House

Saturday, September 25, 8 a.m. (1-1/2 hours). Get your weekend off to a great start! Early mornings are a great time to see our Preserve's many birds at their best. Come join me for a slow paced, interpretive walk designed for beginners as well as more experienced birders. Take the Mercy Road exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Road. Go right on Black Mountain Road, then first left into Canyonside Driveway. Proceed straight to the white-fenced parking lot to meet naturalist Brian Swanson. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Full Moon Hike

Saturday, September 25, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Explore the canyon at night. Observe the moon and stars. Led by Will Bowen, Ph. D. Meet 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.

October

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Every Saturday & Sunday

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., on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. La Cocina Gift Shop Hours: 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Sundays. The Adobe Ranch House is located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Bird Walk at Ranch House

Saturday, October 9, 8 a.m. (1-1/2 hours). Get your weekend off to a great start! Early mornings are a great time to see our Preserve's many birds at their best. Come join me for a slow paced, interpretive walk designed for beginners as well as more experienced birders. Take the Mercy Road exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Road. Go right on Black Mountain Road, then first left into Canyonside Driveway. Proceed straight to the white-fenced parking lot to meet naturalist Brian Swanson. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking Walk from Ranch House

Saturday, October 16, 8 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in from Chris Bader. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take 1st left into Canyonside Driveway and proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, then walk west on trail to ranch house. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for directions.

Dusk Hike from Northern Staging Area

Wednesday, October 20, 5:30 p.m. Join Pat Watkins for a cool, evening hike in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, about 2.5 mile loop trail. Good chance to see wildlife. Meet at the kiosk at the intersection of Camino Ruiz & Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring insect repellent & water. See Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Full Moon Hike

Sunday, October 24, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Explore the canyon at night. Observe the moon and stars. Led by Will Bowen, Ph. D. Meet 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.

Halloween Hike

Saturday, October 30, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Wear a costume or a mask. Hike, then celebrate the night with a communal food sharing. Bring a food dish to share, a blanket to sit on and a flashlight or electric lantern. Led by Will Bowen, Ph. D. Meet 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 ball fields 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.

Sorrento Valley Meeting Area

Meet in hanglider parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. 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 intersection into parking lot. Meet on upper level. Thomas Guide p. 1189.

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz 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 Ruiz. Left on Camino Ruiz 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 Parkway. From east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd to bottom of the hill. Entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east, pass last building on the right. Preserve entrance is on right, past the curve. Thomas Guide p. 1208.

Wildlife Track and Sign Survey**Volunteer Training**

Saturday October 16, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fall 1999 Survey October 23 - 31

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

- 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) are needed to help with this quarterly survey.

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 some of the day outdoors, and be ready to take notes. The training will be held at Los Peñasquitos Adobe (Ranch House), located behind Canyonside Community Park on Canyonside Driveway, near the intersection of Black Mountain and Mercy Roads. Please call (858) 484-3219 for directions to the training. If you've participated in previous surveys and don't wish to attend the training, you may come by between noon and 2 p.m. to sign up for transects.

At the training, volunteers will be asked to sign up for a transect team which will survey a transect during the morning hours one day during the survey period. Twenty-five transects are available allowing volunteers to choose one (or more) convenient to their schedule. Transects are segments of trails, approximately one mile in length which are distributed throughout Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve as well as new areas countywide. These transects are surveyed quarterly, each once during a period of nine days (Saturday to the following Sunday) beginning one week after the Volunteer Training. If you are unable to participate in this quarter's survey but would like to participate in the future, or if you would like more information, please call 858-672-1120 for updates.

Welcome New Members

Dave Bilak
Wanda Crook
Anne Danks
Doug Hansen
Ann Hunt
Karen Landes
Jim & Patricia Lawson
Michelle Murphree
Pete Nelson
Jane Owen

William Porter
Scott & Carole Rieker
Erwin & Mary Rose
Jane Schneider
John Schultz
Loren Spaulding
Mike Volberg
Mr. & Mrs. Winfield Wagner
Ms. Hendricks Whaley

Carmel Mountain News

Mike Kelly

Thanks to the dedication of several dozen activists, the latest threat to Carmel Mountain (Neighborhood 8A in the community of Carmel Valley) was averted. The bulldozers were already rolling on a parcel of land owned by Standard Pacific Homes, a parcel formerly known by the name of its owner, the Elder parcel, when volunteers arrived at the property and announced their willingness to step in front of the bulldozers. Not such a dramatic confrontation has taken place since a similar incident at Miramar Lake many years ago. Although symbolic, the action of the supporters of Carmel Mountain attracted widespread media attention and live television coverage. The coverage helped bring the developer back to the negotiating table they had recently abandoned. Subsequent negotiations led to a complex deal to resolve the issues on this property.

The Elder/Pacific Standard Homes parcel lies to the south of a larger parcel of land owned by the Pardee Company. The Pardee parcel of land was secured as permanent open space with voter approval of a deal with Pardee enshrined in Proposition M on the November 1998 ballot. Acre for acre, Carmel Mountain has the most sensitive species and habitat types of any left in San Diego and has been at the center of one of the longest political battles in San Diego's environmental history.

The Elder parcel had an approved tentative map and grading permits when the controversy erupted. There were two issues involved. No one argued that they didn't have the legal right to grade for and build their development. The first issue was the amount of land it would take to protect a set of vernal pools on the property. These pools had been delineated on the maps and were to be saved from development. The issue was how much of the adjacent area constituted the watershed necessary to sustain the pools. Environmental groups argued that there had been an agreement to hold off development near the pools until the watershed issue was settled and mapped. The developer disagreed and the City Planning Dept. supported them, citing the San Diego City Council motion that had been passed at the time of approval of the developer agreement.

The second issue was an aesthetic one. All the other parcel owners in the area had designed their projects to keep their roof lines below the mesa top in order to preserve the visual aesthetics of this area, a stunning 360° view of the area, including the surf at Torrey Pines State Beach. This design element had been a bedrock part of the position of the Carmel Valley Planning Group in the many years of negotiations with all of the land-owners. It came as an unwelcome shock to see Standard Pacific's blueprints and grading plans that showed some 26 units violated this principal and would blight the viewshed from the mountain top.

Tough negotiations resulted in a deal that keeps the developer whole by transferring the 26 units to other land in Carmel Valley and making up the difference in sales value with cash payments in the millions. Mike Beck of the Endangered Habitats League and Lisa Ross, chair of the Friends of Carmel Mountain Preserve and a member of the Carmel Valley Planning Board played key roles in the negotiations. Both had played important roles in the passage of Proposition M that saved the bulk of the rest of Carmel Mountain. Jan Fuchs and Ann and Lee Harvey were also critical in mobilizing community support to stop the dozers and in putting the complex deal together. Isabel Kaye of

the Carmel Mountain Conservancy played a vital role in turning out supporters on the spot and garnering crucial publicity. The Mayor's office was of tremendous help and made finding a solution a top priority, as they have in the past on Carmel Mountain. And we have to thank the many other people who turned out on the mesa top or helped with their calls and letters and public testimony to resolve these issues and protect another piece of the puzzle that is the biological diversity of Carmel Mountain.

How to Build a Native American Hut

Mike Kelly

In July I had the privilege of being asked if I would like to help build several huts typical of those constructed by local Native Americans in centuries past. The occasion was an historical exhibition being mounted at the Presidio. Dr. Lynne Christenson, an archeologist who has presided over digs in Peñasquitos Canyon and has volunteered with the Citizens Advisory Committee for the canyon for many years, told me of the opportunity. We and several students and professional associates of hers volunteered to help Abel Silvas collect and transport the materials and build the actual huts. Abel is a Native American comedian and storyteller who enjoys sharing his knowledge of local Native American ways as a cultural ambassador. He obtained a permit from the Preserve's City Rangers to collect the needed materials from the Preserve.

We joined him in gathering cattails and willow branches. We chose the cattails based on their having a lot of fronds, while the willow branches had to be 5-6 feet long and about an inch thick. Several pickup truck loads of materials were transported to a hill near the Presidio. There, Abel showed us how to construct the huts. The final dimensions of the circular hut were about 5 feet high by 5.5 - 6 feet in diameter. First, willow branches were arched from opposing directions and lashed with string. Centuries ago it might have been natural string harvested from a plant such as the Yucca (*Yucca schidigera*). Additional branches were arched over from other directions to be tied in the middle at the top of the future hut until a circular framework had been assembled. Then more willow branches were horizontally strung around the base of and inside the vertical branches, now in the shape of a dome. Horizontal branches were tied to the vertical branches at the bottom, in the middle and near the top. With the basic framework completed, we turned our attention to weaving the fronds of the cattails in a vertical fashion between the bottom and middle horizontal branches, and then between the top and middle horizontal branches. Once we had filled the empty spaces between the willow branches, a perimeter of horizontal willows were tied to the outside of the fronds and willow branches, binding the fronds to the frame. We then trimmed the bottom of the fronds to neaten them up. The door of the huts, Abel explained, would be oriented in a particular direction depending on which tribe one belonged to. As interesting as it was to learn how such huts were built and from what materials, it was also a lot of fun as Abel regaled us with some of his comedian routines and storytelling.

RANCHO ROUNDUP

Supervising Ranger Reneene Mowry

Return to the Rancho

The docents and ranch hands are eagerly anticipating meeting and interviewing former residents, descendants, and associates of Rancho Los Peñasquitos at "Return to the Rancho", to be held at the Ranch House on September 25. Word-of-mouth has brought forth responses from former cowhands and family members from as far away as Arkansas! In addition to conducting oral interviews, we will be copying family photographs, letters, and other memorabilia, and are hoping to gain a more complete understanding of the role played by this glorious old rancho in San Diego history. This event will not be open to the public; however, if you would like to help with the interviews, with the food, or in some other capacity, give me a call (858-484-7504). We will have training in early September on how to conduct oral histories.

Gardening Joys and Woe

We lost most of our gourds and sunflowers to a pesky gopher, but the Indian corn is high and the tomato vines are laden with fruit. And, even though the deer crane their necks over the fence to feast on the tops of the plants, we have a plentiful supply. We are holding a "farmers market" at La Cocina gift shop during the month of September. You can purchase freshly picked, organic tomatoes and herbs for a nominal fee from 10:30 to 12:30 on Saturdays and from 12:30 to 2:30 on Sundays. All proceeds will go toward purchasing seed, supplies, and tools for the heritage garden.

Ranch hand Claudia Kay, who has been working diligently to beautify the Rancho courtyard, learned first-hand that country gardening has many challenges. After finding her carefully chosen and tenderly planted flowers destroyed overnight by hungry rabbits, chicken wire was hastily installed around the planter beds. About that time, our greedy deer suddenly developed an appetite for marigolds, lambs ear, and nasturtiums, as well as the courtyard roses. In spite of these problems, Claudia is learning how to co-exist with our wildlife; and the courtyard flora is flourishing!

Attention All Shutter-Bugs

We are looking for your photographs to include in the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Year 2000 calendar. Submit your best pictures, taken in the preserve or at the rancho, to:

Rancho Los Peñasquitos
12020 Black Mountain Road
San Diego, CA 92129

Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and why you were visiting the preserve (i.e., Volunteer Patrol, work party, bird-watching, hiking). Participants whose photos are selected will receive a free calendar and name credit in the calendar. If your photo is chosen for the cover, you will receive a Rancho Los Peñasquitos brand plaque.

Calling Preserve Birders

City Ranger Dion Heller

The Preserve recently received a \$12,100 riparian restoration grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation initiative. Associated with this grant is a draft riparian bird conservation plan titled "Strategy for Reversing the Decline of Birds and Associated Riparian Species in California". The objective in developing this conservation plan was to synthesize and summarize, in one place, current state-of-the-science knowledge concerning the requirements of birds in riparian habitats and to provide recommendations for habitat protection, restoration, management, monitoring, and policy to ensure long-term persistence of birds and other wildlife dependent on riparian ecosystems. This plan has been a collaborative effort between the California Partners in Flight (CPIF) and the Riparian Habitat Joint Venture (RHJV). CPIF is associated with the national movement known as Partners in Flight, whose goal is to protect North American land birds throughout their ranges by reversing species declines, stabilizing populations, and keeping common birds common. Realizing the major cause of population declines in California appeared to be habitat loss, CPIF was founded in 1992 with the full participation of the state's land and wildlife managers, scientists and researchers, and private organizations interested in the conservation of nongame landbirds. The mission of the RHJV is to promote conservation and restoration of riparian habitat sufficient to support the long-term viability and recovery of native bird populations and associated species. The RHJV has three goals:

1. collect data and analyze existing information to promote a broad understanding among land managers, landowners, and planners of the complex issues affecting California riparian habitats;
2. double riparian habitat in California by funding and promoting on-the-ground conservation projects; and
3. provide guidance for land managers, funders, agencies, and conservation organizations to assist in selecting and implementing the highest priority conservation/land management projects.

Several questions may come to mind over all of this. First, why is there so much money, time, and effort being spent on riparian habitat and its conservation? Probably due to the more than 225 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians that depend on California's riparian habitats. Riparian habitat is crucial to all these species by providing shade, a source of food (riparian insects), and nutrients that form the basis of the food chain (Jensen et al. 1993). Another main reason for all the concern is that riparian vegetation makes up less than 0.5% (347,000 acres) of the total land area in this very large state of ours (Smith 1977).

What can I do?

Another question might be, what can I do to help? There are several ways in which you can help depending on your interests. For all you birders out there that frequent various areas around the Preserve the ranger staff would like your assistance in a data gathering effort to help us determine whether we currently have any of the 14 focal bird species designated in the conservation plan frequenting the Preserve. If so, approximately how many and where are they being sighted? These 14 focal species were

selected by a set of specific criteria outlined in the plan. For example, two of them consist of whether the species has experienced a reduction in their historical breeding range and that they must have a special management status endangered, threatened, species of concern on either the state or federal level. The 14 focal species are as follows: Swainson's Hawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Willow Flycatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Bank Swallow, Swain's Thrush, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Song Sparrow, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Blue Grosbeak.

All of these are on the Preserve's current bird list except the Swainson's Hawk and the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Off the top of my head, I can remember sighting Blue Grosbeaks on two separate occasions within the past year. Once was on the northwest corner of the Sycamore crossing and the other just north of the Peñasquitos Creek Park Crossing. Fall migration is coming up, so give us a call with your reports.

Another group of people that can help this situation are those of us that have cats. Consider keeping them indoors or at a minimum, limit and observe their time outdoors. The domestic cat is causing some of the most severe impacts on bird populations. Pet cats as well as feral cat populations (groups of cats that have escaped from their owners and are now living wild) are responsible for an estimated 4.4 million birds killed each day by cats (Stallcup 1991). Also, keep your feeding containers in an area where only your pets can access them and keep your garbage containers secure so as not to attract unwanted stray cats or wildlife. Those of us that hike, camp, and picnic in the outdoors can help maintain the natural balance between predator and prey by not feeding wildlife which leads to increased numbers of natural predators such as raccoons, fox, ravens, crows, scrub jays, and opossum. Increased numbers of these predators will impact nesting birds and depress bird populations. Then there are those of us that enjoy feeding the birds. If not done correctly, we can do more harm than good. For starters, place your feeders away from shrubs and bushes that provide stalking sites for predators to ambush our birds. Feeding birds supplements their natural diet and increases their chance for survival; however, feeding in the springtime, when high-protein insect food is readily abundant, may in some cases result in a lower quality diet for nestlings. Avoid supplementing the diet of Brown-headed Cowbirds which parasitize song bird nests. Evidence indicates that they are primarily attracted to birdseed containing millet. There are other mixtures of birdseed on the market that will attract songbirds, but may not attract cowbirds. When feeding birds in the winter, change your birdseed when it gets wet from rain. The moisture may cause mildew and some sprouting which can sicken birds if consumed. Lastly, those fascinating hummingbirds use a solution of four parts water to one part sugar. Place your feeders in the shade and do not use red dye (dye can be harmful, the red coloring typical of the feeder itself is enough to attract the hummers). Try to change your feeder's solution every 3 to 4 days to prevent cultivating pathogens that can sicken hummingbirds. Keep the feeder clean, using a weak bleach solution and brush when fungal growth occurs.

Finally, there is one last way to get involved for those of us that crave a hard workout and enjoy getting filthy dirty. I'm talking about our restoration crew. In some cases, the only way to restore or enhance these important habitat areas is to physically remove encroaching non-native plants. Whether it be by

hand, lopper, saw, or chainsaw, our SWAT (Special Weed Action Team) is composed of some of the most dedicated volunteers I've ever had the pleasure of working with. Those of you that have used the Preserve for years have probably witnessed some of their handy work most recently, in the area just west of Sycamore Crossing. This 35-acre riparian restoration site is being funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant. To date, 98 eucalyptus have been removed with more to come down in the next several months. This site will be replanted with native cottonwoods, California live oaks, willows, and sycamore trees this winter. So, if you have that urge to get involved and like that physical workout and don't mind getting dirty, come and join us. For information on future work parties, check the newsletter schedule or give us a call at (858) 538-8066. See you in the Preserve!

Literature Cited

Jensen, D., S. Torn, J. Harte. 1993. In Our Hands: A Strategy for Conserving California's Biological Diversity. UC Press, Berkeley, CA.

Smith, F. E. 1977. A survey of Riparian Flora and Fauna in California. in Riparian Forests in California: Their Ecology and Conservation. A. Sands (Ed.) Institute of Ecology Publication 15, University of California, Davis, CA.

Stallcup, R. 1991. Cats: A Heavy Toll on Songbirds, A Reversible Catastrophe. The Observer, No. 91, Spring/Summer. Point Reyes Birds Observer, Stinson Beach, CA.

Volunteers Accomplishments

This summer volunteers turned out for a wide variety of projects to help protect or restore Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and adjacent open space areas. These activities included the familiar interpretive walks that take place each week in the Preserve, as well as special events such as the annual visit to the Preserve of Mr. Foster's 4th grade class from Park Village Elementary School. Mike Kelly has now led this interpretive walk for four years in a row. Other volunteers took part in surveying the endangered Willoway monardella (*Monardella linoides* ssp. *viminea*) in Lopez Canyon, Rattlesnake Canyon, Carroll Canyon, and the new preserve on the old General Dynamics property. Volunteers also collected seed of this endangered plant under State and Federal permits. Some of this seed will be deposited in an approved Seed Bank for long-term preservation. Most of the seed will be germinated to grow up plants suitable for planting in new locations for the plant. Our restoration projects continue with the emphasis on invasive weed eradication this summer. Volunteers have participated in a wide range of projects, numbering more than a dozen, ranging from the Sabre Springs Wildlife Refuge that begins in the upstream portion of Peñasquitos Canyon at the Poway/San Diego boundary to the extreme western end of the canyon in Peñasquitos Lagoon. In addition, volunteers continued a multi-year effort to restore degraded portions of Lopez Canyon, the second and little-known canyon in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Volunteers and the approximate number of times they volunteered included:
Chris Bader, 2x
Beth Bodenstern

Will Bowen, 4x
Les Braund, 2x
Cindy Burrascano, 2x
Drew DeShazo, 3x
Doug Fenske,
Terry Gaughn, 2x
Mel Howe, 2x
Rob Hutsel, 3x
Cathy Perry
Brian Swanson, 2x
Pat Watkins, 3x

Fall North City Volunteer Opportunities in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Mission Valley Preserve, San Pasqual Valley / Clevenger Canyon, Black Mountain Open Space Park, and Peñasquitos Lagoon

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Board Meeting September and October To Be Announced. 7 – 9 p.m. Members are welcome to attend this monthly Board of Directors meeting, when the Board plans Friends' activities and positions on issues. Directions: Thomas Guide p.1189 or call Mike at 566-6489.

Black Mountain Open Park Volunteer Work Project
Saturday, September 4, 8 a.m. – noon. Help Ranger Dan Bylin at the newly expanded Black Mountain Open Space Park. Projects include trail work, wildlife projects and cleanups. Call Dan at 858-538-8082 for more info. Meet at the Black Mountain Park Staging area off Black Mountain Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, Thomas Guide p. 1169, E-7.

Peñasquitos Lagoon Volunteer Wildlife Corridor Restoration
Sunday, September 12, 9 – 1 p.m. Help restore this important wildlife corridor by removing exotic invasive plants choking the corridor. No experience necessary. Work tools provided. Wear clothes appropriate for work. Meet at the corner of Flintkote & Estuary Way in Sorrento Valley. See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Groups welcome.

Friends of Mission Valley Preserve Planning Meeting
Monday, September 13, 7 p.m. Help plan activities of this new friends group for this new Preserve. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Meet in the parking lot of the Western Division, San Diego Police Dept. at the corner of Napa and Friars Roads.

Black Mountain Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee
Monday, September 20, 7 p.m. Help plan activities in the newly expanding Black Mtn. Open Space Park. Meet in the Canyon-side Recreation Center in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Take Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road. Directions: Thomas Guide p.1189 or call 484-3219.

San Pasqual Valley Open Space, Clevenger Canyon Volunteer Work Party
Saturday, September 25, 8 a.m. – noon. Help Ranger Dan Bylin in this new City Park. Projects include trail work, wildlife projects and cleanups. Call Dan at 858-538-8082 for more info. Take Highway 78 about 6 miles east of the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Turn left onto Clevenger Canyon trailhead parking

lot. Meet the Ranger in the parking lot. Call Ranger Dan Bylin at 858-538-8082 for more info.

Mission Valley Preserve Volunteer River Restoration

Saturday, September 25, 9 – 1 p.m. Help restore wildlife habitat along the San Diego River by removing exotic invasive plants in the new Mission Valley Preserve. Learn about new trail system. No experience necessary. Work tools provided. Wear clothes appropriate for work. Meet in the parking lot of the Western Division, San Diego Police Dept. at the corner of Napa and Friars Rd. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Groups welcome.

Bird Habitat Restoration Volunteer Work Party

Sunday, September 26, 9 – 1 p.m. Help restore riparian habitat for birds by removing non-native Eucalyptus trees. Later, at the beginning of the rainy season we'll plant native Cottonwoods, Sycamores, and willows where the Eucalyptus have been taken out. Meet at the West End Parking Staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/2 mile east of the Coaster Station in Sorrento Valley. No experience necessary. Bring water, sun protection, boots and work clothes. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Groups welcome.

Black Mountain Open Park Volunteer Work Project

Saturday, October 2, 8 a.m. – noon. Help Ranger Dan Bylin at the newly expanded Black Mountain Open Space Park. Projects include trail work, wildlife projects and cleanups. Call Dan at 858-538-8082 for more info. Meet at the Black Mountain Park Staging area off Black Mountain Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos, Thomas Guide p. 1169, E-7.

Chainsaw Safety Training

Saturday, October 2, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Ranch House. If you'd like to help out with the Special Weed Action Team on larger projects involving exotic trees, consider this class sponsored by the City of San Diego Open Space Division and the Stihl Corp. Call Mike at 858-566-6489 for details.

Peñasquitos Lagoon Volunteer Wildlife Corridor Restoration

Sunday, October 10, 9 – 1 p.m. Help restore this important wildlife corridor by removing exotic invasive plants choking the corridor. No experience necessary. Work tools provided. Wear clothes appropriate for work. Meet at the corner of Flintkote & Estuary Way in Sorrento Valley. See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Groups welcome.

Friends of Mission Valley Preserve Planning Meeting

Monday, October 11, 7 p.m. Help plan activities of this new friends group for this new Preserve. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Meet in the parking lot of the Western Division, San Diego Police Dept. at the corner of Napa and Friars Roads.

San Pasqual Valley Open Space, Clevenger Canyon Volunteer Work Party

Saturday, October 16, 8 a.m. – noon. Help Ranger Dan Bylin in this new City Park. Projects include trail work, wildlife projects and cleanups. Call Dan at 858-538-8082 for more info. Take Highway 78 about 6 miles east of the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Turn left onto Clevenger Canyon trail head parking lot.

Meet the Ranger in the parking lot. Call Ranger Dan Bylin at 858-538-8082 for more info.

San Diego Stream Team Training Workshop

Biological Monitoring for San Diego Tribes, Natural Resource Professionals and Citizen Volunteers Using The California Stream Bioassessment Procedure
Habitat and Biological Assessment in an Arid Land
Saturday October 16, 1999 8:00am to 5:00pm
City of San Diego Water Department, Water Quality Laboratory
5530 Kiowa Dr., La Mesa, CA. 91942
(619) 668-3249, fax (619) 668-3250, Voice Mail (619) 460-7909 Please call for more details.

This one day workshop will introduce participants to the California Stream Bioassessment Procedure for use in rivers and streams under the conditions unique to San Diego.

Black Mountain Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee

Monday, October 18, 7 p.m. Help plan activities in the newly expanding Black Mtn. Open Space Park. Meet in the Canyonside Recreation Center in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Take Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road. Directions: Thomas Guide p. 1189 or call 484-3219.

Bird Habitat Restoration Volunteer Work Party

Sun., October 31, 9 – 1 p.m. Help restore riparian habitat for birds by removing non-native Eucalyptus trees. Later, at the beginning of the rainy season we'll plant native Cottonwoods, Sycamores, and willows where the Eucalyptus have been taken out. Meet at the West End Parking Staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd., 1/2 mile east of the Coaster Station in Sorrento Valley. No experience necessary. Bring water, sun protection, boots and work clothes. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Groups welcome.

Herbicide Safety Annual Update

Saturday, November 6th, 8:30–11:30 a.m. War Memorial Auditorium. If you went through the City's Herbicide Safety Class last year and are working as a volunteer applying herbicides in restoration programs in one of the City's Open Space Parks, you need to attend this refresher. Call Mike at 858-566-6489 for details.

Special Monardella Projects

Call Mike Kelly at 858-566-6489 if you would like to be called about helping save the endangered Willowy mint (*Monardella linoides* ssp. *viminea*) in López Canyon. Since we're waiting on the necessary plans and permits, we don't have a date certain time to share with you. As we explained last month, the Friends, the Calif. Native Plant Society, the City of San Diego Multiple Species Program and the U.S. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Service will be working on a joint project to build erosion control measures in López Canyon to stop excessive erosion and soil loss and to protect the endangered *Monardella linoides* ssp. *viminea*. Already populations of this plant have been lost when the soil terraces they thrive on have been washed away by excessive runoff during winter storms. Volunteers will help construct weir dams and gabions. To help out call Mike at 858-566-6489. No experience needed. Groups welcome!

Cont. from page 1

Diego Alvarado, of the El Cuervo rancho. In the end, while Bonafacio's house in Soledad Canyon fell to ruin, the Lopez farm in Lopez Canyon continued on.

Furthermore, if Bonafacio's adobe was in ruins, sitting by itself in the 1880s, and stood until the 1930s, and the Lopez house was in operation by 1872, then they could not have been built on the same site, like how the Johnson Taylor house was built over the earlier Ruiz adobe. You would of seen them together in old Diffendorf photograph. The only other possibility would be that the adobe stood deteriorating nearby, down near Cuervo (Lopez) creek.

We are certain that Bonafacio lived in a country home somewhere in this area. Judge Hayes mentions stopping for a watermelon at Bonafacio's adobe on August 23, 1856. He also mentions stopping to water his mules and talk with Bonafacio's widow, Francisca, on May 19, 1860. Bonafacio had died in July of 1859.

Another point to consider is that when Bonafacio died in 1859 his son José Ramon was only 13 years old. Surely this is to young to take over the running of a ranch or farm. But if we take 1872 as the starting date for the Lopez farm, as proposed, that would make José Ramon, 26, old enough to run a ranch or a farm. The obituary of José Ramon's daughter, Henrietta, states that she was born on the Lopez Canyon farm and her date of birth was 1877, lending further credence to our proposed starting date of 1872.

A problem, however, with this date is that the Lopez house does not appear on the 1884 survey map of Peñasquitos, even though Alvarado's El Cuervo adobe and the Johnson-Taylor house do. According to the records, for this survey, Diego Alvarado guided the surveyors, indicating the Lopez land may have been bought or leased from him.

Ramon Lopez, Jr. took over the Lopez homestead when his father, José Ramon, died in 1931 at the age of 85. I do not know how old Ramon, Jr. was in 1931, but his sister Henrietta, who lived with him, was 53. Perhaps she was an older spinster sister. We know from the Rothero painting, dated 1940, that Ramon had an intact barn at this time. In 1947 and 1952-3, Ramon, Jr. made additions to the property. When he died in 1955, his sister Henrietta may have remained at the house for a while, but she, in turn, died in 1956 or 1957, depending on which of two conflicting obituary dates you believe, at the house of a cousin on Island Street near the Gaslamp Quarter in downtown San Diego. Some time after that, perhaps in the early 1960s, the house and barn fell to the elements.

The Genealogy of the Lopez Family

In the 1790s, Becino Ignacio Maria de Jesus Lopez, son of Ignacio Lopez and Maria Facunda de Mora de Tepic, arrived to serve as a leather jacket soldier at the Presidio. He married Maria Timotea Villalobos, the daughter of another soldier. One of their children, born in 1809, was Bonafacio Lopez. Bonafacio grew up to be a large man, weighing up to 300 pounds, who was admired for his daring horsemanship. His nickname was "The King".

Bonafacio built a town house on the slope of the Presidio Hill which has been described as at the foot of Fort Stockton and as to the left of the footpath leading up from Wallace Street.

On May 15, 1833, at the age of 23, he married Maria de los Dolores Rosas, daughter of the deceased Leon Rosas and

Maria Gracia Alvarado. The marriage took place at the Presidio Church with Father Fernando Martin officiating.

In 1835, at the age of 26, Bonafacio was appointed "Juez de Campo" or judge of the country or the camp, meaning he probably had the role of chief arbitrator of the Mission settlement. By 1846, he had cattle, sheep, and horses at Rancho de Pauma with Juan Osuna and José Aquilar.

In 1848 he was placed in charge of the Mission by Philip Crosthwaite, an early San Diego sheriff and tax collector, who was married to his daughter, Maria Josefa. When Crosthwaite "returned from the mines" in August 1849 he found that Major Heintzelman with his Anglo infantry had taken possession of the Mission.

In 1850, Bonafacio was appointed to the first grand jury in San Diego County.

By some means, Bonafacio acquired the Jamul rancho, which he sold in the early 1850s for \$1200 to Henry S. Burton. Around 1853, he built a country home in Soledad Valley. On March 25 of 1856, his wife Dolores Rosas died at Soledad and was buried in El Campo Santo cemetery in Old Town. The following year on May 6, 1857, he married his second wife, Francisca Morrillo. In July of 1959, Don Bonafacio died of dropsy, which the dictionary defines as the "pathological accumulation of diluted lymph and/or the watery part of the blood in body tissues and cavities", after suffering from the disease for one year.

Bonafacio had eleven children. One of his sons was named José Ramon. José Ramon was born December 8, 1846 in San Juan Capistrano. José Ramon married and built a house in Lopez Canyon in about 1872 (my guess). Three children were born in the Lopez house: Enriqueta in 1877, Ramon, Jr. and Susie. I do not know why José Ramon named his last daughter Susie or why Enriqueta anglicized her name to Henrietta. José Ramon was in charge of the Lopez homestead until his death on December 17, 1931. Ramon Jr. took over after that.

Winifred Davidson, a San Diego historian wrote in her notes of 1934, "Just before he died in December 1931, I talked with Ramon Lopez, son of Bonafacio, in his home on the Peñasquitos ranch tract. He told me about school days in Old Town.... He said that the family of Bonafacio Lopez lived in Old Town and that they had a country home on Soledad."

Ramon, Jr. built the Lopez cistern in 1947; the cement porch and bathroom in 1952-53. He befriended Allan Rothero, whose painting of him in front of the barn we viewed in the last issue of the newsletter. I do not think that Ramon, Jr. married nor did Enriqueta, I do not know what happened to Susie Lopez.

Ramon, Jr. died in 1955 or 1956. His sister Enriqueta died about a year later at the house of a cousin, Mrs. Timothy Silva, at 3134 Island Ave. She was buried 5/24/56 or 57 at Holy Cross Cemetery. She was survived by 15 cousins



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I/We am/are interested in the following:

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- Hikes
- Indian Culture
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- Environment (plants, birds, mammals, geology)

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Canyon News

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

November / December 1999
Volume 13, No. 6

Native Grasses and Their Value for Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

Daniel Strait, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

[**Editor's note:** Native grasslands receive little attention and are infrequently the focus of mitigation projects for loss of habitat due to development, probably because their role in our ecosystems is poorly understood. In Peñasquitos Canyon we have some excellent native grasslands and the Friends have been busy restoring others for a number of years now. We hope this article will spread the word about native grasslands. *Reprinted with permission* from Grasslands, Volume IX, No. 2 Spring 1999. publication of the Calif. Native Grass Association, POB 72405, Davis, CA 95617.]

One of the frequent arguments for using native plants in revegetation projects is that they provide better wildlife habitat. The argument goes like this: because native wildlife species have evolved along with native plants, restoration of native plant habitat should provide the best and most diverse source of food, nesting sites, cover, and other wildlife needs. With respect to grasslands, when a native stand is invaded by non-natives, many wildlife species may be unaccustomed to the seeds and other foods that the exotic species produce and may find that the relatively uniform stature of the new community offers poor cover. There is evidence that stands of native perennial grasses support a greater variety and abundance of native plants and animals than non-natives. In their study of grasslands in Arizona, Bock et al. (1986) found that: 1) grasshoppers were 44% less abundant on non-native grasslands; 2) birds as a group were detected more often in patches of native grasses during both summer and winter; and 3) rodents generally were either more common in native grasslands or did not differ in number between native and non-native grasslands. They postulated that native animal species have evolved specific dependencies on the native flora so that exotic grasslands are less habitable.

Beginning with the arrival of European settlers and their livestock in the 1700s, native California grasslands have undergone perhaps the greatest percentage loss of any habitat type in the state. The purpose of this paper is to point out the importance of native grasslands to California wildlife and how revegetating an area with native grasses can enhance the value of that area for wildlife.

The Native Advantage

Before non-native annual grasses invaded California and largely out-competed the native annuals and perennials, the hills of California in June during a normal rainfall year would have looked quite different than they do today. Perennial grasses, because of their deep and complex root systems, can draw from a deeper and longer lasting wet zone beneath the soil than can annual grasses whose dense, shallow root systems typically deplete moisture from the surface layer of the soil soon after the rainy season ends. Furthermore, perennial grasses can raise the groundwater in and adjacent to riparian and wetland areas so that the areas stay wet longer. With greater moisture, flowers, shrubs, and trees are less stressed and can grow larger providing more food and cover for wildlife. Because perennial grasslands stay greener longer into the year, they can provide more palatable food later into the season for rodents, lagomorphs, ungulates, and other herbivores and

See p. 5 for more

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Nov. 3 Hearing: Stop the Roads

Mike Kelly, president

The 'roads across the Preserve' issue is coming to a head this Nov. 3 at 2 p.m. on the 12th floor of the City Administration building at 202 C Street downtown. Please come if you possible can. With a big turnout we have a chance to kill the plan to extend Camino Ruiz and Camino Santa Fe across Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. On this date, the Land Use and Housing Subcommittee of the San Diego City Council will be receiving a formal report from the City's Planning Dept. on the technical feasibility of building these and other so-called "unfinished" road segments through our open space parks.

Our communities voted to remove these road crossings from our community plans several years ago. While knowing that we might save a few minutes of commuting time to and from work if these roads were extended across, we recognized then that this wasn't all there was to our quality of life we enjoy in the communities surrounding the Preserve. For many of us, the Preserve is the place where we like to get away from it all and enjoy the peace and quiet of nature in our own back-

See p. 10 for more

Cool Weather, Fall Colors & Holiday Plants

Cool weather, fall colors, and holiday plants such as California holly (Toyon = *Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and mistletoe make this a pleasant season for visiting the Preserve. Join us on a hike, volunteer work party or just come out on your own.

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

November

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour Every Saturday & Sunday

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., on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. **La Cocina Gift Shop Hours:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Sundays. The Adobe Ranch House is located on Canyon-side Drive 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.

Bird Walk in López Canyon

Sat., Nov. 13, 9–10:30 a.m. Join Brian Swanson for a bird walk in Lopez Canyon. Meet in the west-end parking-staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd., 3/4 mile east of the I-5/I-805 merge in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking Walk from Ranch House

Sat., Nov. 20, 8 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the nat-

ural environment they live in from Chris Bader. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take 1st left into Canyon-side Dr. and proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, then walk west on trail to ranch house. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for directions.

Holiday Hike from Northern Staging Area to Waterfall

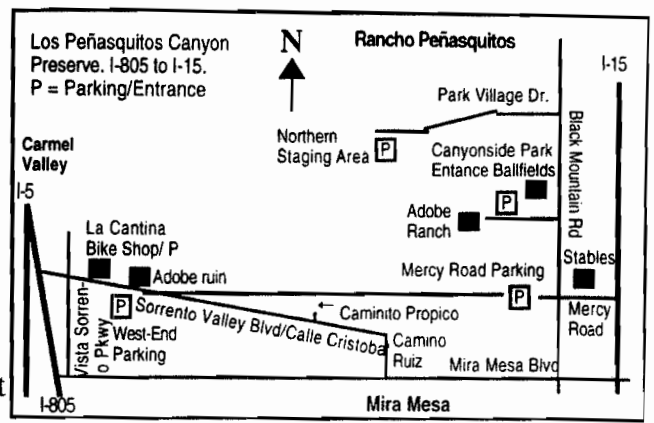
Sat., Nov. 20, 3 p.m. (2.5 miles) Join Pat Watkins for a holiday hike in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, about 2.5 mile loop trail. See fall colors and holiday plants such as California holly and mistletoe. Meet at the kiosk at the intersection of Camino Ruiz & Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring insect repellent & water. **See Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Geology Hike

Sun., Nov. 21, 9 –noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

November in the Chaparral

Sun., Nov. 21, noon–1:30 p.m. November is an excellent month for hiking in the Preserve. Your senses will be kissed by nature. Expect a nice warm sun with cool clean air and an artist's light. If we have had sprinkles it will seem a little like spring. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet 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.

Full Moon Hike

Sat., Nov. 27, 7:30–9 p.m. Explore the canyon at night. Observe the moon and stars. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet 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.

Nature Walk in López Canyon with Barbara Moore

Sun., Nov. 28, 2–4 p.m. Join Barbara Moore, naturalist and co-author of recently updated *Walking San Diego*, for a look at the critters and plants of Lopez Canyon. Meet in the west-end parking-staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd., 3/4 mile east of the I-5/I-805 merge in Sorrento Valley. **See Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

December

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour Every Saturday & Sunday

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., on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting for 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. **La Cocina Gift Shop Hours:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, 12:30 -

(Calendar cont'd)

2:30 p.m. Sundays. The Adobe Ranch House is located on Canyon-side Drive 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.

Early Bird Walk from Ranch House

Sat., Dec. 4, 7:30–9 a.m. Join Brian Swanson for a bird walk from the historic ranch house. Take the Mercy Road exit off I-15 west to Black Mountain Road. Go right on Black Mountain Road, then first left into Canyon-side Driveway. Proceed straight to the white-fenced parking lot to meet naturalist Brian Swanson. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Geology Hike

Sun., Nov. 21, 9–noon. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet at Caminito Propico and Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Park in cul-de-sac on south side of Cristobal. Steep trail. Bring water, sun protection. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Lopez Canyon Falling Leaves Hike

Sat., Dec. 11, 3–4 p.m. Last year the sycamore leaves began to fall in earnest in late December. Come watch them spin, swirl, flit, glide, drop, and soar in an aerial ballet. Try to catch one! Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet in west end parking-staging lot off Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 3/4 mile east of the I-5 and I-805 merge. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208** or call 484-3219 for recorded directions.

Tracking Walk from Ranch House

Sat., Dec. 18, 8 a.m. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in from

Chris Bader. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take 1st left into Canyon-side Driveway and proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, then walk west on trail to ranch house. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call 484-3219 for directions.

Holiday Hike from Northern Staging Area to Waterfall

Sat., Dec. 18, 3 p.m. (2.5 miles) Take a break from holiday shopping and join Pat Watkins for a holiday hike in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, about 2.5 mile loop trail. See fall colors and holiday plants such as California holly and mistletoe. Meet at the kiosk at the intersection of Camino Ruiz & Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring insect repellent & water. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189** or call **484-3219** for recorded directions.

Winter Solstice Hike

Wed., Dec. 22, 6–7:30 a.m. Watch the sun rise in the canyon on one of the important days of ancient times. Learn about what the solstice has meant. Led by Will Bowen, PhD. Meet 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, Canyon-side 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.**

Sorrento Valley Meeting Area

Meet in hanglider parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. 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 intersection into parking lot. Meet on upper level. **Thomas Guide p. 1189.**

Northern Parking-Staging Area at Camino Ruiz 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 Ruiz. Left on Camino Ruiz 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 east take Mira Mesa Blvd. west to Camino Santa Fe. Right on Camino Santa Fe, then left on Sorrento Valley Blvd. to bottom of the hill. Entrance is on the left. From the west, take I-5 or 805 to Sorrento Valley. Take Sorrento Valley Blvd. east, pass last building on the right. Preserve entrance is on right, past the curve. **Thomas Guide p. 1208.**

New Members

We welcome the following new members to the Friends fold:

Lee & Roxane Benvau
Jerry & Carol Blakely
Jan. J. Kitchel
Janice Miller
Gretchen Nell
Ted & Stephanie Shigematsu
Barry Willms Family

Tracker's Corner

The Place

Barry Martin

I discovered an incredible place years ago, where a small creek wound its way through an oak grove. It was nestled between two hills, the creek meandering out of the hills to the south before spilling into Peñasquitos creek. This "finger canyon" as we call these kinds of geographical features was more than a mere "geographical feature." This place held great appeal for me and has taught me much.

The first thing I noticed about the area was the way it seemed so inviting, with the big coast live oaks providing shade, the gentle trickle of the small creek. In this quiet coolness I could virtually feel the history of the place. Just above, cut into the side of the hill is the old Yuma to Del Mar wagon trail. I could also discern the presence of a wide diversity of animals. Tracks everywhere, deer, raccoon, opossum, fox, bobcat, coyote to name a few. I became especially acquainted with the bobcat, even though I never saw her, I always managed to find her tracks in the usual places. Her routine was predictable and I looked forward to checking up on her. It was very reassuring somehow to know that this place was able to continue to support this diversity of wildlife and the bobcat was an indicator to me of this area's health. There was also a gray fox that frequented this zone on a regular route and I made it a habit to check up on him as well.

I became quite attached to this area, and being so became somewhat driven to take care of it. One of the lessons I learned (and continue to learn) from this special place has to do with the devastating effect a few thoughtless ones can have. Besides the beauty of the area that I first noticed I was appalled to discover that someone had been dumping truckloads of old tires into here. I had noticed tires strewn along the length of Peñasquitos Preserve for quite some time and realized this was the source. Every rainy season when the water level rose, more tires would dislodge and float downstream.

Something had to be done! One by

one I started pulling tires out of the preserve. When I realized how extensive this problem was (I kept discovering more and more piles of tires), I sought help. I became obsessed, wanting to clean up this area so it would become more a more healthy and natural habitat.

Over several months we pulled out somewhere between 1500 and 2000 tires filling up several huge truck type garbage containers. We were able to get the "I Love a Clean San Diego" people to provide for the disposal. The sense of accomplishment we felt after this project was quite fulfilling. The place had a special vibrancy after we cleaned it up. I really felt a deep connection to the area, still do.

A vague uneasiness was in the back of my mind as we toiled at our clean-up efforts. It was hard, sweaty, dirty work. My uneasiness was the result of the for sale sign on the top of the hill above this place. There was also some talk of a sewer line and a pump station being constructed nearby. Upstream new housing developments and a major four-lane road were springing up. More hardscape uphill meant different water dynamics downhill. The writing was on the wall. Even though I felt a special closeness to this beautiful place and had assumed a sort of caretaker's attitude of ownership toward it, I was beginning to feel quite powerless as the bulldozers started their gruesome work. I thought maybe we could have a say in all this so I spoke to the owner of the construction company about sparing the oaks and keeping the special place as undisturbed as possible. He was a really nice guy and assured me no trees would be disturbed as the road to the pump station was constructed adjacent to my area. As it turned out he was very apologetic after the subcontractor, "went too far."

I called city planning to inquire about plans for the property uphill. I talked to various people about the possibility of saving this land for inclusion into the preserve, it was all too little, too late.

Today, Scripps Poway Parkway and associated new housing tracts have sprung up in record time missing excellent opportunities for melding open space connectors throughout the new neighborhoods. The potential was there for a network of trails and associated open space meandering through this area ultimately connecting with the preserve. what we got is a huge subdivision with a mishmash of unconnected islands of formerly healthy open land. The developers really missed the boat in my opinion. What we have is more sprawl with little or no consideration for the infrastructure impacts, much less the impacts on the adjacent open space (what's left of it).

Uphill, a monstrosity has been built to house the Nokia company. This is upon land once rich in an incredible array of wildlife, the survivors now compressed into a thin strip of land down below. Associated with all this development is a system of direct water runoff discharge with no flow dissipation to speak of. Much of this discharge is directed into my place which today is virtually unrecognizable from when I first saw it. The silt runoff from above is choking the stream, much more water comes down and what used to be a seasonal stream runs heavily all year. The old oaks that are left are suddenly getting way more water than they are used to and look very stressed. I haven't found the fox tracks in here lately, which surprises me since fox are usually quite adaptive. The bobcat has changed its routine, still in the area though. The place has lost the vibrancy it possessed and it tears at my heart every time I see it now.

It's easy to get depressed when I consider what has happened to this area, but I am heartened by the fact that we have hope for other areas as a result of our monitoring efforts in places like this. We are going out every quarter and documenting the presence or absence of the key indicator species. We write down the changes we see, human based or otherwise.

See p. 9 for more

(Grasslands cont'd)

omnivores. A non-native annual grassland, on the other hand, greens up rapidly at the start of the rainy season, typically reaching maximum size and seed production by early spring, and browns into dormancy by early summer. This means that herbivorous wildlife has to range further because of a shortage of green forage in late summer. Late summer is a particularly important time for the growth of young, for birds when preparing for migration, for mammals when preparing for hibernation, and for adult ungulates that breed at year's end and need high quality forage in order to be at their sexual peak.

Of Diversity and Food Webs

Unquestionably, plant species diversity is the key to enhancing wildlife habitat in grasslands. As each new plant species is added to the mix, a grassland can support additional wildlife species. As put forth by Ricklefs (1979), if the variety of resources in an area are increased, additional animal species can be added to the resource continuum without diminishing the ecological range of the species already present. Because of the tendency for non-native plant communities to become dominated by one or a few species, the greatest benefit to wildlife that can be achieved from the reintroduction of native grasses is the restoration of plant species diversity. Grasses and other ground cover plants support the base of the food web. Small rodents, rabbits, other small mammals, reptiles, and birds that are the prey of larger carnivorous mammals and birds eat the vegetation and seeds of grass and other low-lying plants. Insectivorous mammals such as bats and shrews, and insectivorous birds, reptiles, amphibians, and others subsist on insects that the plant community supports. Restoring native grasslands can be a benefit for each of these glades of species.

For example, restoring a native plant community made up of many native perennial grasses and forbs would increase the number, kinds, and seasonal availability of seeds compared to a less diverse annual stand. The more complex structure of the plants and the greater diversity of food can support a

greater number and variety of small mammals, and therefore more mammalian and avian predators. Finally, it can provide more diverse food and cover for insects and other invertebrates. Chung-MacCoubrey (1996) reported that more than 1,200 insect species from 11 orders feed on grasses in the southern United States. This would indicate that there are significant opportunities for increasing the diversity of insects in California by increasing the diversity of grasses on a site. For example, I and others (Anderson, pers. comm.) have seen large numbers of ladybird beetles (*Hippodamia* spp.) overwintering in clumps of deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) in Yolo County, California.

Specific Wildlife Benefits

The purpose of this section is to describe some of the specific wildlife benefits that may result when non-native annual grasslands are replaced with native grasses and forbs. Under the headings that follow, I explore how different groups of wildlife utilize grasslands, how habitat for those wildlife groups can be enhanced by reintroducing native perennial grasses, and how an increase in the diversity of plants can result in an increase in the numbers of wildlife species and the number of individuals using the site.

Herptofauna

Reptiles and amphibians use grasslands differently depending on how they move around and whether they are adapted to moist or dry environments. While dense vegetation is often found around wetland and riparian areas and can be preferred by amphibians, dense vegetation does not benefit reptiles that are adapted to drier environments where native perennial and annual grasses grow in a more sparse, open manner. Many desert areas, with their low rainfall and often poor soil, typically support a more sparse growth of grasses with perennial plants such as sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.), saltbush (*Atriplex* spp.), cacti (*Opuntia* spp.). Those open habitats are favored by reptiles, particularly lizards, that require runways free of vegetation. Scott (1996) reported that the invasion of non-native grasses has been a significant cause for the decline of lizard

species in brushland and dune habitats. Therefore, revegetating a densely overgrown area to perennial bunchgrasses interspersed with a sparse growth of annual grasses and other native plants can be an excellent habitat enhancement if desert reptiles are the focal species. Snakes and lizards, while both common inhabitants of western grasslands, have developed different strategies for mobility. The adaptation of leglessness by snakes has been very successful for exploiting dense uniform grasslands. Reintroducing native perennial grasses to an area of dense annual grasses, therefore, is unlikely to directly benefit snakes. On the other hand, the introduction of perennials may enhance the diet for snakes because the increased plant diversity will increase the attractiveness of the area for insects and other small prey animals.

Lizards are most common in grasslands where there are openings between plants such as on rocky outcrops, tree trunks, and on bare ground (Scott 1996), or in open areas around bunchgrasses. Converting a dense stand of non-native annual grasses to a more open stand of natives (with, for example, open ground between bunches) would be a significant enhancement for species such as the collared lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris*) and leopard lizard (*Crotaphytus wislizenii*) that favor more open ground. This may also be true for the blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia silus*), a species listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

In general, activities that reduce the habitat complexity of an area usually will decrease the number of reptile species. The conversion of complex plant communities to monotypic stands of dense annual grasses is a primary threat to the habitat for the collared lizard and other lizard species. Management should focus on maintaining patches of diverse native grassland of sufficient size to provide refugia for lizards, particularly for several of the species of whiptail (*Cnemidophorus* spp.) that are thought to be dependent on native plant communities (Scott, 1996). Routine manipulation of revegetated areas through burning, livestock grazing, herbicide application, or other management methods

(Grasslands cont'd)

will be critical to maintaining quality habitat for lizards. If those measures aren't taken and the area is left alone to be reinvaded by a dense growth of non-native annual grasses, it cannot be expected to provide quality habitat for lizards.

Grassland-associated reptile species that occur in California

Collared lizard (*Crotaphytus collaris*)
 Leopard lizard (*Crotaphytus wislizenii*)
 Western whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*)
 Ringneck snake (*Diadophis punctatus*)
 Racer (*Coluber constrictor*)
 Gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*)
 Common kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getulus*)
 Long-nosed snake (*Rhinocheilus lecontei*)
 Night snake (*Hypsiglena torquata*)
 Western rattlesnake (*Crotalus viridis*)
 Sources: Behler and King 1979; Scott 1996

Birds

Most land-based birds in California undoubtedly use grasslands to some degree for foraging, nesting, or resting during migration. However, relatively few are primarily grassland-associated. Davis and Baldrige (1980) cited a study reporting that of the 55 species of bird that use grasslands to some extent, only six species use it as their preferred habitat. These are the Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus saviannarum*), and Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). Since 1980, grassland bird species as a group have shown steeper, more consistent, and more geographically widespread population declines than any other group of bird species in North America (Kershner and Bollinger 1996).

One of the factors contributing to declines of grassland bird species is the loss of structural diversity of grasslands. Davis and Baldrige (1980) report that grassland birds species each exploit a different niche based on the height and density of the vegetation. It follows that restoring plant species diversity to grasslands is an effective way of enhancing the quality of habitat for these species.

There are a number of other ways that reintroducing native perennial grasses can enhance the value of the habitat for birds in general. A greater diversity of grasses can result in a greater diversity and abundance of flying insects, the main prey of kingbirds (*Tyrannus* spp.), swallows, and Common Nighthawks (*Chordeiles minor*) that hunt on the wing. A greater abundance of insects on the ground will enhance the habitat for the Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus saviannarum*), Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), and other insectivorous ground-oriented birds. Species such as the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) that prey on grasshoppers and small mammals will find better foraging in a diverse perennial grassland. For seed eaters, particularly sparrows, a diverse grassland results in a greater variety of seeds and better nutrition through that greater variety. Reintroducing native perennials improves the habitat for raptors by increasing the diversity of rodent species, and in some cases the abundance of rodents.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Neotropical Migrant Reference Book (1994), a number of sparrows rely on habitat features provided by bunchgrasses or open grasslands. The Rufous-crowned Sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*) is associated with needlegrass (*Nassella* spp.) in Southern California. This species nests in grass bunches, feeds on grass-supported insects, and eats grass seed. There are two populations of Vesper Sparrows (*Poocetes gramineus*) in California, one wintering and one breeding, that favor areas of sparsely covered or open grasslands. The Savannah Sparrow requires overhead grass for cover (USDA 1994), a feature that the larger perennial grasses are better at providing because annual grasses tend to be short and often lay down during summer. In Southern California, Grasshopper Sparrows are associated with bunchgrasses and are seldom found in areas of non-native weeds. These birds nest at the base of bunchgrasses and their nests are built of grass. The Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) builds nests concealed in clumps of tall grass in wet meadows or riparian areas. During the

breeding season a mix of shrubs and grass is essential for the species, being the preferred source for cover and feeding. Therefore, shrubby areas interspersed with reintroduced tall perennial grasses would provide some of the best habitat for Lincoln's Sparrow nesting, roosting, resting, escape cover, and as lookouts and singing perches.

Mammals

Revegetating a site with native grasses may not enhance the habitat for all mammals, but it can enhance the habitat for certain species. Grant and Birney (1979) found that dense non-native annual grasslands support high numbers of the type of small herbivorous rodents (e.g. meadow voles (*Microtus* spp.)) that make runways in the litter layer, have high reproductive rates, and subsist on large amounts of relatively low energy food. On the other hand, they found that open bunchgrass habitats are favored by some small mammal species, particularly seed eaters, that find it easier to forage where grass is bunched or sparse. Furthermore, plants of deserts and open habitats tend to put more of their energy into seed production, resulting in larger seeds that are preferred by kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys* spp.) (Grant and Birney 1979; Parmenter and Van Devender 1995) and other ground-dwelling species. Therefore, if the intent is to manage an area to favor open habitat-associated small mammals such as ground squirrels (*Spermophilus* spp.) and kangaroo rats, restoration of stands of native perennial grasses and forbs having larger seeds could be beneficial.

Bats are another group of animals that can benefit from the reintroduction of native grasses. Chung-MacCoubrey (1996) identified several species of bat commonly associated with Southwestern grasslands; the Small-footed Myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*), California Myotis (*Myotis californicus*), Cave Myotis (*Myotis velifer*), Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), Western Pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus hesperus*), and the Mexican Free-tailed Bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*). These are all species that can be found throughout much of California. Different species of bat favor different insect prey sizes and have different feeding strate-

(Grasslands cont'd)

gies. Some pluck individual insects out of the air, others fly through swarms of insects with their mouths open. By increasing the kinds of insects in an area by increasing the diversity of its grasses, an increase in the diversity of bat species using the area can be expected.

The benefits of native grasses to deer, elk, and other ungulates are less clear. The hoofed wildlife of California generally fall into two groups; those whose dietary strategy is to consume large quantities of low-nutrient forage ("grazers") and those whose dietary strategy is to eat smaller amounts of higher-nutrition forage ("browsers"). Of the ungulate grazers, the species endemic to California are the elk (*Cervus elaphis*) and the bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). The elk's diet is similar to that of the domestic cow (Strait 1991). While elk will browse on forbs and brush to seek additional vitamins and minerals to enhance reproduction or survival at critical times of the year, during much of the year they prefer to eat grass. While bighorn sheep primarily graze on grass and forbs, they will eat other vegetation depending on availability (Lawson and Johnson 1982).

The reestablishment of perennial grasslands at the expense of existing non-native annual grasslands is unlikely to do anything to enhance the habitat for grazers. Indeed, it may decrease the quality of the habitat for elk and bighorn sheep if dense stands of annual grasses are replaced by more open stands of bunchgrasses that require the animals to expend more energy ranging to find food. However, if the intent is to enhance the habitat browsers, replacing a near monoculture of non-native annual grasses with a more diverse plant community having a variety of native perennial grasses and forbs that green up earlier in the fall will benefit those ungulates.

Concluding Remarks

This article has attempted to demonstrate the potential benefits of native grass restoration to some wildlife species, based on what we know about the feeding behaviors and habitat preferences of those species. It is my conten-

tion that the primary reason that native perennial grasslands provide better habitat for wildlife species is because of the greater diversity of the plant community (in both species abundance and structure) compared to near-monoculture annual grasslands.

Yet, even without conclusive evidence that individual native grass species will directly benefit a given wildlife species, I would argue that by opening up and "disturbing" areas, the mere act of restoration itself has wildlife benefits. For support of this contention, I turn to the time honored wildlife management concept of "edge" (Shaw 1985), traditionally defined as the zone of contact between two or more habitat types, such as a forest and a cultivated field. The common observation that game species were more abundant along habitat edges led Leopold (1933) to conclude that the more edge per unit area, the higher the production of game. This is the "edge effect," or law of interspersion, a major principal in wildlife management. It holds that the greater the amount of edge, the greater the diversity of wildlife (Shaw 1985). Since opening up a dense stand of annual grasses to reintroduce perennial grasses and forbs creates more edge, it should therefore should support a greater number and variety of wildlife.

So, for the sake of wildlife, open up areas dominated by non-native annual grasses and revegetate them with native grasses and forbs. Every day in California we lose more acres of wildlife habitat to human encroachment. We need to make every acre of habitat count for wildlife, and that means restoring native plant diversity to our remaining grasslands.

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Daniel Strait is a Fish and Wildlife Biologist employed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's California State Private Lands Office in Sacramento, California. He can be reached at (916) 979-2092.

Grassland-associated bird species that occur in California

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*)

Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*)

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*)

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*)

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*)

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*)

Greater Roadrunner (*Geococcyx californianus*)

Common Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*)

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cucularia*)

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*)

Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*)

Cassin's Kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*)

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*)

Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides*)

Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)

Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*)

Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*)

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*)

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*)

Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*)

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri*)

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)

*Waterfowl species are not included on the list because their only substantial association with grasses is as nesting cover. Generally, they are not particular about which species they nest in, as long as it provides dense cover.

Sources: Bock and Bock 1988; Brown 1985; Grinnell and Miller 1944; Herkert 1994; Kantrud and Higgins

Letter to the Editor

Re: "The Lopez Family" by Will Bowen

Dear Editor,

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Dr. Bowen for his research on the history of the Lopez Family and the publication of his rather scholarly article in Canyon News. However, there are a number of discrepancies that I feel should be addressed. The first, and most obvious error, is that Don Bonafacio dies in 1859, not 1959 as stated on page 9 of Dr. Bowen's article. He is correct, though, in reporting that one of the Don's sons, Jose Ramon, came down from San Juan Capistrano to operate the Lopez Ranch as was related to me by Allan Rothero. However, the question of how Bonafacio Lopez acquired the property is further confused by Dr. Bowen's opening statement that "Some local historians have claimed that the Lopez homestead was a Spanish land grant to Bonafacio Lopez..." whereas actually it was a Mexican land grant (Ref. 1). Indeed, there were no Spanish land grants here. In fact, Allan Rothero told me that one reason Bonafacio got the grant was because his wife had been a valued cook for Pio Pico, the last Governor of Mexico.

Dr. Bowen's notion that the Lopez family may have acquired the property from Peñasquitos Rancho is fraught with difficulty because the two were sworn enemies. For example, when the well at El Cuervo became too saline for human consumption, the Peñasquitos Ranchers tried to get Lopez to give them some of his via a pipeline to be built between the two properties. According to Allan Rothero, Ramon Lopez refused, saying that he "needed all the water for himself." In retaliation, the Peñasquitos Ranchers tried to "starve him out" by locking the gate across the road so that Lopez could not get his produce to market. (The gate was where the present Lopez Trail crosses Lopez Creek"). Lopez then built another access road across the creek south of this homestead and up the hill to what is now Mira Mesa Boulevard where he built livestock corrals and loading pens (they were torn down to make way for Mira Mesa Boulevard.). Mr. Rothero told me that Ramon Lopez built the road in one summer using only picks and shovels plus a team of mules to pull a hand-held scoop. Thereafter, when Allan Rothero went to visit with the Lopez, he told me they sat on his porch and "could see who was coming down the hill" a comment that visitors today can easily understand if they hike up this so-called "Lopez Road."

Of course, water was a rare commodity in the days before San Diego began to get water from the Colorado River. The Peñasquitos Ranchers were envied by all the surrounding ranchers because, unlike other canyon bottom creeks in the area, Peñasquitos Creek held water all year around, especially in the deep pools at and below the falls. Lopez Creek, for example, dries up in summer. The only reason Lopez was able to ranch his canyon was because of a small "seep" that contained water under the large sycamore tree across the creek from the cistern. Lopez constructed a wooden enclosure around this seep and pumped water from it to the cistern with the aid of a Case tractor. He used a mobius belt connecting the tractor's power take off to a pump sunk in the seep. The late Roberta Fleming once showed me a photograph that Allan Rothero had given her, of Ramon and Henrietta Lopez standing beside the tractor. They could tell how full the cistern was by watching the heavy plank on the outside of it (where the wall is indented and flat) that was tied to a rope that went through a pulley and was attached to a float inside the cistern. When it was full, the plank would be all the way down, and when empty it would be all the way up. This water gauge was positioned so it could be seen from the Lopez house.

In order to provide water for his cattle, Lopez dug a shallow well in the creek bed about 1/2 mile upstream from the homestead, faced it with concrete and erected a windmill there. This well was destroyed when the trunk sewer line was put through Lopez Canyon in the 1980's.

Sincerely yours,
John Northrop, Ph. D.

Reference 1. Northrop, John. 1992. "Riding 'Round Peñasquitos. A Guide to Riding & Hiking Trails in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, San Diego, CA.", Windsor Associates, P. O. Box 90282, San Diego, CA.

(Trackers' Corner cont'd)

Norma Sullivan: indefatigable fighter

Mike Kelly

Norma Sullivan died of cancer Sept. 22. She was only 67. Norma was a long-time member of the Audubon Society and other groups. She was an indefatigable fighter for the environment and made no bones about it. It's hard to imagine not receiving her Bio-Alert email newsletters alerting us to the latest danger to the environment. These became a frequent thing over the last few years; only the latest way Norma had found to help organize environmentally minded groups and individuals in our never-ending battle to preserve our natural heritage in San Diego.

It's also hard to imagine City Council hearings without Norma's impassioned pleas for the environment. Whenever she received an Environmental Impact Report that had something to do with the North City area where the Friends are active, Norma would call me to discuss it, get our thinking on it and find out if there was anything she should comment on about the document or to find out if it were necessary to mobilize on an issue. This was typical of her thoroughness as an organizer.

The San Diego City Council adjourned one of its sessions in her memory, a Council whose members knew her and her/our causes so well from her participation there.

A well-attended memorial service was held in Marian Bear Regional Park Oct. 16. This was one of the places she frequently walked in and birded in. Thanks to Brian Swanson for representing the Friends there.

We'll all miss you, Norma.

Our hope is that this information can be used to assist in the planning efforts of other communities, ultimately perhaps a more sensitive approach will ensure more livable communities for all species, human and animal alike.

Don't let this story keep you from "taking ownership" of an open space area that you like. I may have failed in my efforts to save this place in its pristine state but there are many success stories that help ease the burden of the memory of this situation. If you haven't participated in our quarterly wildlife surveys come on out and see what we're up to. By volunteering to walk a transect or two and participating in the training beforehand you are making a statement that does not go unnoticed. We, by our efforts, are making it known that we care deeply about the value of preserving natural areas and will expect planners of the future to act accordingly. The data we've collected has already been used to shape projects. Have an impact, join us. Our next training will be for the winter transect and is scheduled for January 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the ranch.

Fall Volunteer Accomplishments

Volunteer projects included our quarterly wildlife survey (see article this newsletter), a weed eradication project below El Capitain dam; a Monardella erosion survey with Greg Lewis and Josan Feathers, State Parks Engineers who volunteered their time; repotting native grass seedlings grown from our own seed collected in the Preserve, for restoration plantings in Lopez Canyon this fall; newsletter editing, makeup, and mailing; Sabre Springs Wildlife Refuge exotic weed eradication; removing exotics in the new Mission Valley Preserve to restore wildlife habitat; the ongoing Upper Peñasquitos Lagoon Wildlife Corridor restoration; U.S. Fish and Wildlife restoration grant project removing invasive Eucalyptus trees from Peñasquitos Creek and replacing them with cottonwoods, sycamores and willows.

A special thanks to UP WITH PEOPLE for helping out with two service projects, one at the headwaters of Lopez Canyon, a stream trash cleanup and the other an Arundo eradication project in the Upper Peñasquitos Lagoon. Volunteers from Japan, Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Mexico and the U.S. helped out. The folks listed below helped out on the various projects, some of them several times!

Hope to see you all on future projects:

| | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Cheryl Brehme | Cindy Burrascano | Edward DiBella | Francis Byrnes |
| Drew Deshazo | The Dingeman Family | Dan Evans | Jösan Feathers |
| Dion Heller | Melanie Howe | Rob Hutsel | Mike Kelly |
| David Kimball | Larry Klassen | Greg Lewis | Janice McAlister |
| McCracken Family | Shane McNeal | Christine Miller | Marilyn Mirrasoul |
| Gretchen Morse | Michelle Murphree | Bill Neil | Linda Pardy |
| Cathy Perry | David Robinson | Liza & Ellen Rosenberg | Tarjar Sagar |
| Carrie Schneider | Mary Slupe | Dixie Stansell | Ben Stevenson |
| Glen Torbett | Patrick Vinson | Mike Wallace | Pat Watkins |
| Bill Witzell | | | |

(Roads cont'd)

yards. We enjoy the deer and other wildlife. We want to keep these critters and our Preserve's forests for ourselves and the generations to come. Four roads (and a fifth under construction), three freeways and a railroad already crossing the Preserve are enough is the message we're sending to the powers that be. Leave us that middle portion of the Preserve that includes the waterfall without the noise and pollution of traffic crossing over our heads!

Many residents in the north city area and other park users are already mobilizing to stop the roads. Katherine Cresto and her neighbors and members of the Friends in the Park Village area of Rancho Penasquitos have done a great job of organizing. They held a meeting of 150-200 people at the Park Village Elementary School several weeks ago and set up a steering committee of 15 to organize the fight. They have been leafletting door-to-door in the community and erected a giant 20 foot banner on their end of Camino Ruiz proclaiming "Save the Preserve." Visit their website at park-village.com for more information.

On the other side of the canyon Garrett Beaumont, Irwin and Mary Rose and their neighbors have been going door-to-door to alert their neighborhoods about the roads. Many people are alarmed to find out Camino Santa Fe would be extended across the Preserve so close to the waterfall, the most visited destination in the Preserve. The San Diego Mountain Bike Association is also actively protesting the road plans. Visit their website at sdmba.com for more information.

Area planning groups are also protesting the roads. The official planning groups for Rancho Penasquitos, the Del Mar Mesa, Carmel Valley and Mira Mesa have all voted to oppose both roads. Thanks to Lisa Ross in Carmel Valley, Jan Hudson on the Del Mar Mesa, John Keating and others in Rancho Penasquitos, and Pam and Jeff Stevens and others in Mira Mesa for organizing these efforts.

Check with the Friends hot line at 484-3219 after Oct. 27 for confirmation that the hearing date and time haven't changed.

Together we can preserve an important part of our quality of life here.

Summer Wildlife Survey

Dean Woods

The Tracking Team has now expanded the number of transects being surveyed each quarter from 20 to 28. Our ability to do this is due in part to the increased number of volunteers who were prompted to attend the Spring Training after reading the Union Tribune article on the Tracking Team last February. The eight new survey areas are located in various areas around the county and include:

Peñasquitos Lagoon - From the Carmel Valley Road area into Upper Peñasquitos Lagoon

Sycamore Canyon - Near Lake Hodges off Highland Valley Road

Scripps Poway Parkway - Wildlife tunnel near the intersection with Highway 67

Del Mar Mesa - Mountain bike transect from Peñasquitos, across the Del Mar Mesa, to McGonigle Canyon

Crest - A Nature Conservancy land holding south of Interstate 8 in the East County

Mt. Woodson - Two new transects near Archie Moore Road off Hwy 67

Iron Mountain - New transect near the intersection of Poway Road and Hwy 67.

Additional transects are being planned for the Fall Survey.

Tracking Team members participating in the Spring and Summer Surveys were: Chris Bader, Rick Botta, Uli Burgin, Daniel Evans, Lee Kirchhevel, Wanda Kwiatt, Barry Martin, Steve Swenson, June Warburton, and Dean Woods.

The most enthusiastic and exciting group of new trackers yet, volunteered in total, over 730 hours during the Spring and Summer Survey to locate and identify various animal tracks and sign along the 28 transects. Thanks to all who joined us and we look forward to seeing you all at the Fall Survey. The volunteers include:

Rictor Altmann, Dave Bilak, Beth Bodenstiener, Janine Brady, Cheryl Brehme, Allison Brown, Lisa Brown, George Cantrell, Jennifer Casper, Michael Casper, Elizabeth Chao,

Carolyn Cooper, Wanda & Rick Crook, Anne Danks, Douglas Dow, Susana Echeverra, Jan Farner, John Grier, Robynne Hanus, Michael Hanus, Dion Heller, Mike Higgins, Leo Holland, Pat Holland, Susan Jack, Denise Kamenzind, Trish Karolek, Janet Kawakama, Claudia Kay, Paul Koenig, Karen Landes, Debbie Larrimore, Jeff Larrimore, Robert MacDonald, Rene Marcus, Charan Masters, Martina Nagy, Gretchen Nell, Jolene O'Leary, Ryan O'Connor, Kevin Oliver, Kylie Oliver, Bill Orvosh, Eric Owen, Janet Owen, Valerie Phillips, Bill Porter, Monica Preston, Robert Reber, Mary Jo Redman, John Richards, Jerry Rockwell, Lindy Rodgers, Trenace Roley, Dave Rose, Mary Rose, Steve Romeo, Tim Roy, Tarja Sagar, Yehudit Sherman, Marilyn Taylor, Mary Tilden, Bill Vandermolen, Debbie Vandervoort, Gretchen Van Evera, Mike Volberg, Lois Warburton, Margaret Whalley, Joanne Whitely, Kevin Williamson, Dave Young, Tina Zenzola

During the Summer, the Tracking Team lost three members: Daniel Evans, Wanda Kwiatt, and Steve Swenson. Dan is in Oregon going to school. Wanda moved back East to be with family, and Steve has moved to Colorado. These three members were not only key members of the Tracking Team, but were good friends as well. We'll miss them a lot, and we wish them "all the best"!

Techniques and Strategies for Using Native Grasses and Graminoids in Restoration Projects

A Practical Training Workshop.
Thursday, Nov. 18, 1999, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Winters Community Center, Winters, CA (Outside Sacramento).
Email mkmac@ivillage.com for full information or call Mike at 858-566-6489. Sponsored by California Native Grass Association.

Volunteer Activities over the Holidays / North City Area

Cool weather makes for pleasant working conditions for the many volunteer projects coming up over the holiday season. Cool weather and rains makes it the best time to plant native plants. Following are volunteer opportunities organized by the Friends or other volunteer groups the Friends collaborate with. Wear sturdy boots; bring gloves if available; bring water. Call 484-3219 for recorded information.

November

Friends of Mission Valley Preserve

Mon. Nov. 8, 7 p.m. Help plan activities of this new friends group for this new Preserve. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Meet in the parking lot of the Western Division, San Diego Police Dept. at the corner of Napa and Friars Roads.

Mission Valley Preserve Volunteer River Restoration: Sefton Park

Sun., Nov. 7, 9-1 p.m. Help restore wildlife habitat along the San Diego River by removing exotic invasive plants in the new Mission Valley Preserve. Learn about new trail system. No experience necessary. Work tools provided. Wear clothes appropriate for work. Take I-8 to Hotel Circle North. Take Hotel Circle North to westernmost end. Take Hotel Circle Place (the street to the right of Hungry Hunter Restaurant) to the gates of Sefton Park ballfields. Park on street. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Groups welcome.

Penasquitos Lagoon Volunteer Wildlife Corridor Restoration

Sun. Nov. 14, 9-1 p.m. Help restore this important wildlife corridor by removing exotic invasive plants choking the corridor. No experience necessary. Work tools provided. Wear clothes appropriate for work. New meeting place: Meet in the parking lot of the last building on the west side of Sorrento Valley Road just before its intersection with Carmel Mountain Rd. in Sorrento Valley. See Thomas Guide p. 1208 or call Mike at 566-6489 for more info. Groups welcome.

Lake Hodges Aquatic Restoration: Arundo Removal

Sun., Nov. 21, 9-1. RSVP only. Boat to remote locations to cut down invasive Arundo donax (Giant reed). Call Mike for meeting place and details.

Black Mountain Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee

Mon. Nov. 22, 7 p.m. Help plan activities in the expanding Black Mtn. Open Space Park. Meet in Canyonside Recreation Center in Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. Take Canyonside Drive off Black Mtn. Road. Directions: Thomas Guide p.1189 or call 484-3219.

Friends of Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Board Meeting

Tues., Nov. 23. 7-9 p.m. Members are welcome to attend this monthly Board of Directors meeting, when the Board plans Friends' activities and positions on issues. Directions: Thomas Guide p.1189 or call Mike at 566-6489.

Bird Habitat Restoration Volunteer Work Party

Sun., Nov. 28, 9-1 p.m. Help restore riparian habitat for birds by removing non-native Eucalyptus trees and planting native trees. Chainsaw safety trained volunteers only. Meet at the West End Parking Staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd., 3/4 mile east of the Coaster Station in Sorrento Valley. No experience necessary. Bring water, sun protection, boots and work clothes. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info.

December

Black Mountain Open Park Volunteer Work Project

Sat. Dec. 4, 8 a.m. - noon. Help Ranger Dan Bylin at the newly expanded Black Mountain Open Space Park. Projects include trail work, wildlife projects and cleanups. Call Dan at 858-538-8082 for more info. Meet at the Black Mountain Park Staging area off Black Mountain Rd. in Rancho Penasquitos, Thomas Guide p. 1169, E-7.

Herbicide Safety Training Class

Sat. Dec. 4. Call Ranger Dion Heller at 538-8066 for details.

Vista High School Annual Restoration Plantings

Wed., Dec. 8 and Thurs., Dec. 9, 9-1. Adult volunteers needed to help high school students plant native grass and other plants in Lopez Canyon. Meet at Lopez Canyon trailhead. Take Mira Mesa Blvd. to Pacific Heights Blvd. Go north on Pacific Heights, then right on Pacific Mesa Blvd to Pacific Center Blvd. Take driveway north from this intersection to parking circle. Call Mike at 566-6489 to help.

Bird Habitat Restoration Volunteer Work Party

Sun., Dec. 12, 9-1 p.m. Help restore riparian habitat for birds by removing non-native Eucalyptus trees. Meet at the West End Parking Staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd., 3/4 mile east of the Coaster Station in Sorrento Valley. Chainsaw safety trained volunteers only. Bring water, sun protection, boots and work clothes. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info.

Native Grass Planting Volunteer Work Party

Sun., Dec. 12, 9-1 p.m. Help restore native grasslands by planting native grasses and flowers. Meet at the West End Parking Staging area off Sorrento Valley Blvd., 3/4 mile east of the Coaster Station in Sorrento Valley. No experience necessary. Tools will be provided. Bring water, sun protection, boots and work clothes. Call Mike at 566-6489 for more info.

San Pasqual Valley Open Space, Clevenger Canyon Volunteer Work Party

Sat. Dec. 18. 8 a.m. - noon. Help Ranger Dan Bylin in this new City Park. Projects include trail work, wildlife projects and cleanups. Call Dan at 858-538-8082 for more info. Take Highway 78 about 6 miles east of the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Turn left into Clevenger Canyon trailhead parking lot. Meet the Ranger in the parking lot.

Lake Hodges Aquatic Restoration: Arundo Removal

Sat., Dec. 18. 9-1. RSVP only. Boat to remote locations to cut down invasive Arundo donax (Giant reed). Call Mike for meeting place and details.

Penasquitos Lagoon Volunteer Wildlife Corridor Restoration

No work party in December.

Friends of Mission Valley Preserve Planning Meeting

Call Mike at 566-6489 to see if December meeting is being held.

Black Mountain Open Space Citizens Advisory Committee

Call Mike at 566-6489 to see if December meeting is being held.

Friends of Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Board Meeting

Call Mike at 566-6489 to see if December meeting is being held.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.
 P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196
 858-484-3219

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Check Your Label

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

Friends' Directory

Officers

President: Mike Kelly 566-6489
 Vice-President: Dean Woods 672-1120
 Treasurer: Pat Watkins 538-2527
 Secretary: Edward DiBella 748-5276

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Don Albright, Les Braund, Chris Bader, Barry Martin,
 Brian Swanson

Walks Leaders

Brian Swanson, Don Albright, Will Bowen, Mike
 Kelly, Les Braund, Chris Bader, Pat Watkins

Committees:

Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
 Newsletter: Melanie Howe
 Nursery Director: Liz Rozycki
 Stream Survey Committee: Mike Kelly
 Voice Mail System: Pat Watkins
 Tracking Team Coordinator: Barry Martin (484-4007)
 Volunteer Coordinator: Michelle Murphree (224-4192)
 Wildlife Survey Organizer: Dean Woods

Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

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

I/We are interested in the following:

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

Other: _____ **11/99**

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.