



Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Jan. – Feb. – Mar. 2020

Volunteer Projects

Friends' Volunteer Restoration Projects in Black Mountain Open Space Park:

Sundays, 1-4 p.m. Jan. 26; Feb. 9, 23; Mar. 8, 22. No experience necessary. Help plant native plants, weed around them, and water them. Help us restore habitat for the Coastal Cactus Wren. Join us at Black Mtn. Ranch Community Park at the northeast corner, 14700 Carmel Valley Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Ranger John's Graffiti Warriors

Sundays, 8:30–noon. Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 8. Join Ranger John Garwood Meet at the Ranger Station, 12005 Black Mtn. Rd., SD 92129.

Ranger Melanie's Peñasquitos Canyon Restoration Projects

Saturdays, 9–noon. Jan. 18, Feb. 15, Mar. 21. Join Ranger Melanie Fontana in restoring wildlife habitat sites. Get on the list for the meeting place at: mfontana@sandiego.gov.

Ranger John's Environmental Projects

Sundays, 8:30–11:30 a.m. Jan. 26, Feb. 23, Mar. 29. Join Ranger John Garwood for trash cleanups and other types of projects. Meet at the Ranger Station, 12005 Black Mtn. Rd., SD 92129.

January Walks & Events

Waterfall History Hike with Mike Kelly

Saturday, January 11, 9-11 a.m.

A moderately paced hike over mostly flat terrain to the Preserve's waterfall with stops at the historic stagecoach road, the old immigrant trail, and the Kit Carson rescue ride spots along the way. Meet at the kiosk and white gate trailhead at the western END of Park Village Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129. Near the last house at 7107 Park Village Rd., SD 92129.

Free Wildlife Survey Introductory Class

Sat., Jan. 18, 7:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

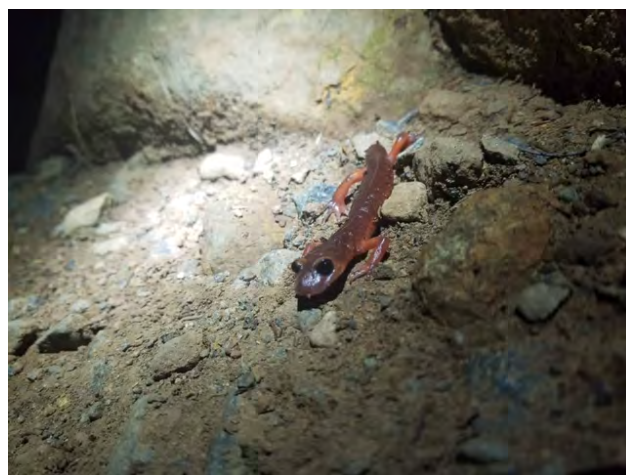
This free course prepares you to participate in surveys that monitor wildlife in San Diego's major open space preserves. You will learn about conservation, habitat fragmentation, basic track and scat identification, data collection protocols, and survey transects. Upon completing the class, you will be eligible to join experienced trackers on SDTT's wildlife surveys throughout San Diego County. Check-in: 7:45 to 8 a.m.

Location: The Ranch House in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, 12122 Canyonside Park Drive, San Diego, CA 92129
Please RSVP at sdttinfo@gmail.com

Winter Discovery Hike w Brian Swanson

Saturday, January 25, 3-5 p.m.

Winter in San Diego's canyons presents a different picture from summer, as the heavy curtain of leaves is partially or fully stripped from many trees and shrubs, pulling the curtain pulled back on nature. We'll look for evidence of other winter changes, such as dung beetles and skunks feasting on hornet larvae. Meet at the kiosk at the western



Salamander photographed on Black Mtn. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Photo courtesy of Antonella Zampoli.

edge of the ball fields, on Canyonside Park Drive for an interesting hike with naturalist Brian Swanson. The preserve may be closed due to muddy trails. Email swanlaw@att.net day of hike to confirm trails are open.

López Homestead History Hike

Sunday, January 26, 3-5:00 p.m.

Hike out into López Canyon to learn about the Ramon López Homestead—a small turn-of-the-century dairy farm. Visit the orchard, the Old Road, and see the remains of the house, barn, and milking station. Find out about the importance of the López family in early San Diego history. Meet at the West End Parking Staging Area, 4200 Sorrento Valley Blvd., SD 92121.

February Walks

Vernal Pool Walk with Mike Kelly

Saturday, February 22, 9-11 a.m.

Vernal pools are our most endangered habitat. Learn about them and the *extremophile* plants and animals that live in them. Enjoy the endangered San Diego Mesa Mint and the *Downingia cuspidata* and other flowers and amphibians. Meet at 11125 Taloncrest Way, San Diego, 92121. Contact Mike Kelly at kelly.mike8388@gmail.com if you have any questions.



Younger Coyote caught on critter cam in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

El Cuervo Adobe History Hike

Sunday, February 23, 3-5:00 p.m.

Hike out into the West End of Peñasquitos Canyon for an intimate look at the ruins of the “El Cuervo” (The Crow) Adobe built by the Alvarado family. Includes a short side hike to examine Norwood Brown’s old roundup corral and to discuss the impact of the cattle grazing on the Preserve. Meet in the Parking Lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., SD 92121.

March Walks

Vernal Pool Walk with Mike Kelly

Saturday, March 14, 9-11 a.m.

Vernal pools are our most endangered habitat. Learn about them and the *extremophile* plants and animals that live in them. Enjoy the endangered San Diego Mesa Mint and the *Downingia cuspidata* and other flowers and amphibians. Meet at 11125 Taloncrest Way, San Diego, 92121. Contact Mike Kelly at kelly.mike8388@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Birding with all your senses Jeanie Anderson

Saturday, March 21, meet 7:45 a.m., Hike 8-10 a.m.

Join Ornithologist Jeanie Anderson for an easy hike on a path in the canyon with many birds both visible and calling. Bring sturdy shoes, binoculars and cover-ups. Handouts and checklists will be provided. Meet at the west end of Canyonside Park Driveway, 1 block west of Black Mtn. Rd. at the Preserve sign at the beginning of the white ranch house fence. 12122 Black Mtn. Rd. Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Carmel Mountain Tadpole & Fairy Shrimp Hike w Will Bowen

Sunday, March 22, 4-6:00 p.m.

A hike to look for and learn about fairy shrimp, tree frog tadpoles, and spadefoot toad tadpoles—the short term inhabitants of the ephemeral rain pools and road puddles that form during the “wetting” phase of the vernal pool cycle. Meet at the Carmel Mountain Trail Head, 4730 Fairport Way (at Shorepoint Way), San Diego 92130.

Every Month

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

Saturdays at 11 a.m., Sundays at 1 p.m.
San Diego County Park docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's second oldest standing residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos. See an historic Mexican rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The ranch house is located on Canyonside Park Driveway off 12122 Black Mountain Rd., San Diego 92129 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos.

Reach Mike Kelly at kelly.mike8388@gmail.com or call 858-863-7393 for questions or more info.

Visit our website at www.penasquitos.org for a wealth of pictures, archived newsletters, videos, links and more.



Health looking Mule deer buck, 6 or 8 point, caught on critter cam in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, 11/16/19.