



FRIENDS OF  
LOS PEÑASQUITOS  
CANYON PRESERVE

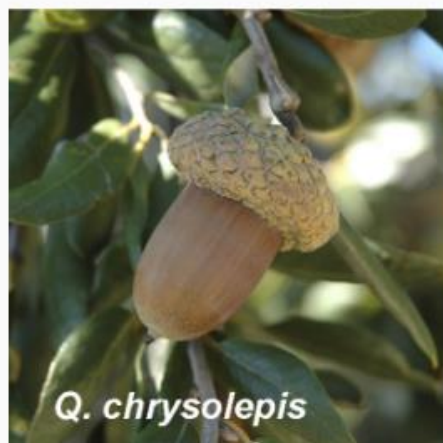
Fall 2022

## Oaks of San Diego County I

by Fred M. Roberts, CNPS-SD Rare Plant Botanist

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Oaks appear to be one of the more popular native plants in California. There seem to be plenty of San Diego CNPS members that think so just based on the number of oak t-shirts I sold at the CNPS Chapter Plant Festival last fall and the number of people who have recently asked how the second edition of my oak book is coming along.



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## Oaks of San Diego County II

Fred M. Roberts, CNPS-SD Rare Plant Botanist

In Oaks of San Diego County, part 1, I covered oaks in general and in more detail, the red and golden oaks. The white oaks are a bit more challenging. I thought I might add more history into the mix. If you step back in time early in the last century, say 1927, the choice of white oaks in San Diego County and books to identify them were a good deal more limited than they are today. As a botany enthusiast, you might have a copy of Davidson and Moxley's Flora of Southern California (1923) and Willis Jepson's Manual of Flowering Plants of California (1924) on hand. Botany is a whole other experience at that time.

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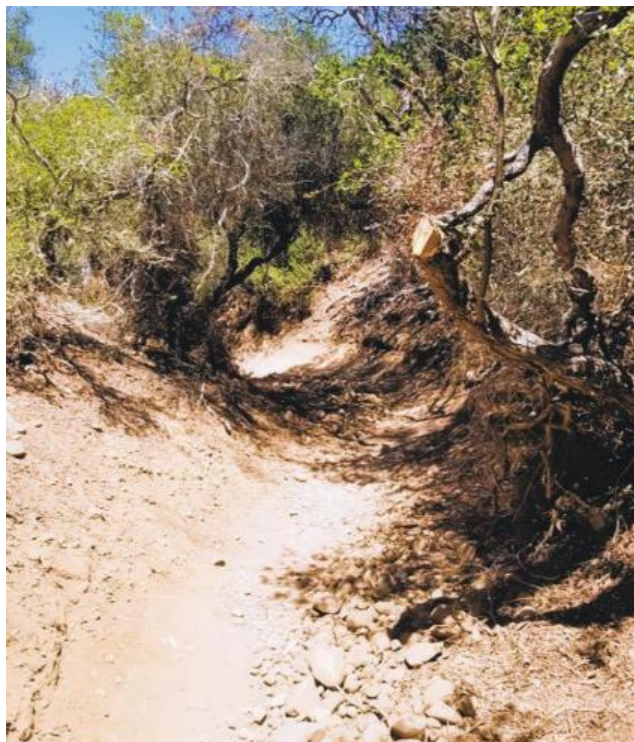
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## Del Mar Mesa Preserve Trail Trees Vandalized

Dr. Karen Billing

This story originally appeared in the July 7, 2022 issue of the San Diego Union Tribune.

A trail in the Del Mar Mesa Preserve was recently vandalized as someone made multiple cuts of trees and brush that create the preserve's unique Tunnel trails that take users on a single-track path under a low, overhanging canopy of branches. San Diego Parks and Recreation Senior Ranger Gina Washington said she was made aware of the damage on June 29 and said the cuttings happened sometime in the week before. She counted seven areas where the cuts were made of Nuttall's scrub oaks (one of the rarest oaks in California) and lemonade berry shrubs, mostly at the top part of Tunnel 4.



GINA WASHINGTON

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### **New Friends' Officers Elected**

At the Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors May 10, 2022 meeting, the old Board of Directors, under its new bylaws, elected its new officers. Beth Mather was elected President; Anne Harvey, Vice-president; Jeanie Anderson, Treasurer; and Mike Kelly, Secretary. Cecile Cowan, Les Braund (former president), Brian Swanson, Anne Harvey, Pat Watkins, and Antonella Zampolli were elected as directors.

The election followed a ballot election by the membership that proposed changing the structure of the Friends to a model used by other local non profits such as the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and the San Diego River Park Foundation, the Board will now elect its own officers as happened May 10, reflecting the very low participation of the membership in the old method of direct elections.

There are open places on the Board of Directors for anyone interested in joining the Board and taking on some responsibility for our activities

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### **Girl Scout Workshop**

Pictured is the gathering Aug 14 at Breen Community Park in Mira Mesa for a workshop organized by Girl Scout Troop 3997 of Mira Mesa Brownies and Girl Scouts rotated through about a dozen stations, most staffed by experienced Girl Scouts or their leaders, except for a couple staffed by other groups, including the Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve.

Stations focused on hands on training on setting up a tent, building a fire effectively, astronomy, first aid, packing your backpack, journaling, cooking outdoors, camping, learning about invasive and native plants (our Friends group), making a sign map of rocks, campfires songs, and others.

Girls and parents came from as far away as Vista, Escondido, Mission Trails Park, and more locally, Rancho Bernardo and Mira Mesa.



## Spotlight on our Native Plants: Matchweed

By Beth Mather, President

A native plant that grows in our area but is not particularly well known is the plant commonly called matchweed or snakeweed (*Gutierrezia californica* or *G. sarothrae*). We first noticed this plant several years ago north of Carmel Valley Rd. on the trail up to the top of Doug Hill in Black Mountain Open Space. (See [penasquitos.org](http://penasquitos.org) for a description of a self-guided hike on Doug Hill). Subsequently we have seen several stands of matchweed growing nearby. It has also been reported on the slopes of Los Peñasquitos Canyon. If you see a small mounding plant approximately 1-1.5' tall that is covered in bright yellow flowers late spring to fall, that may be matchweed. Check it out using iNaturalist or your favorite plant identification app.



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## Monarch Caterpillars at Our Restoration Site

By Mike Kelly, Conservation Chair

For several years Monarch butterflies have flitted (flittered?) with our Milkweed plants. We didn't have a lot. An early planting higher on our site on Doug Hill seemed to take, flourish, reproduce with seedlings, but they died out after a year. And no evidence of Monarch's depositing eggs and later, caterpillars



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## **Nite Hikes: Will Bowen's Full Moon Hikes**

Having a problem seeing this picture from Will Bowen's latest Full Moon Hike?

Yeah, it was taken at night. On this recent walk, Will's guests not only saw a full moon but mule deer, owls, and lots of spiders. Will

Does different hikes have always been popular. This summer his focus has been on full moon walks. Will rotates each year thru a series of different hikes, including his Lopez Homestead history hikes, his medicinal plant hikes, his vernal pool hikes on Carmel Mtn., his sensory awareness drumming hikes, and his El Cuervo adobe ruins history hikes. He has a nice repertoire of hikes and is constantly updating his knowledge base. Did you know Will has a PhD in Anthropology and is a teacher by days.

