



FRIENDS OF
LOS PEÑASQUITOS
CANYON PRESERVE

Fall 2023

Carson's Crossing Bridge Extension for Adaptive Cycling – Gold Award Project

by Alyssa Quick

August 2023

My name is Alyssa Quick. I am a member of Girl Scout Troop 1814. I started Girl Scouts as a Daisy in kindergarten and continued to move up through the Girls Scout levels of Brownie (2nd & 3rd), Junior (4th & 5th), Cadette (6th, 7th, & 8th), Senior (9th & 10th). I am now an Ambassador (11th & 12th). I earned the Girl Scout Bronze Award as a Junior and the Girl Scout Silver Award as a Cadette. The highest-level achievement in Girl Scouts is the Gold Award which was created in 1916 as the Golden Eaglet of Merit and has evolved through the years into the Gold Award since 1980.

For my Gold Award Project, I approached the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve rangers to help identify a project they were looking to accomplish that aligned with a Gold Award Project I wanted to tackle. I wanted to build a bridge in the canyon and wanted it to be something that would last and be useful for everyone. We landed on a project that would extend the Carson's Crossing bridge/walkway all the way across to the south side of the canyon, and that would make it crossable for the adaptive cyclists. This was challenging because there were a lot of existing roots and a lot of unlevel ground.



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My Life with the Barn Owls of Black Mountain

By Jeanie Anderson

Back in 2008, a San Diego Field Ornithologists meeting featured a talk on Barn Owls by Tom Stephan, falconer, and builder of owl boxes. I latched on to the concept of bringing barn owls to my backyard wildlife habitat to study their beauty, lifestyle and help with the rodent population in my orchard on Black Mountain. This was about the time that Molly and McGee - the San Marcos Barn Owl family - were getting live views from all over the world.

First, let's learn about Barn Owls. They are the oldest lineage of owls and the word "Common" in front of the name Barn Owl connotes that they can be found throughout the world except for polar and desert regions, making them the most widely distributed species of owl. Per Wikipedia: The barn owl is the most widespread landbird species in the world, occurring on every continent except Antarctica.



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Bats in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve?

Mike Kelly

Yes. There are bats in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. And if you're one of the lucky people to get a spot on one of the City Rangers' bat walks this October, you might get a chance to see, or, more likely, hear one of our species of bats.

Twenty-two bat species have been detected in the County historically. The 2002-2004 study found 16 of these in the several MSCP areas studied, including our own Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. It's important to note that these conserved areas are a modest portion of the county.



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Black Mountain Restoration Project - September 17

By: Jenna Huang and Anna Luo

On September 17, 2023, volunteers from the Student Leadership Club within the Asian American Parent Alliance of San Diego came together with the Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve (FLPCP) organization to plant, water, and work with native plants at the Black Mountain Open Space Park. San Diego County, where Black Mountain Park is located, has been named a biodiversity hotspot in the United States. It is home to 200 endangered plants and animals, which is more than in any other county in the nation. Therefore, this nonprofit was established with the goal of facilitating environmental restoration through a variety of educational and recreational programs. During the event, volunteers had the opportunity to talk with Mike Kelly, chair of the Conservation and Land Use Committee, along with other members of the FLPCP Board of Directors.



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Sept 23 Litter Pickup Event nets over 3700 Pounds of Trash

By Mary Lueking

On September 23, there was a litter pickup event starting under the I-15 overpass on Penasquitos Creek, at the Eastern end of our preserve. Volunteers went both direction from the starting point on the Trans County Trail to search for trash. The event was sponsored by the non-profit I Love a Clean San Diego (ILACSD) and managed by Park Ranger Aide Megan Delaney of the Los Penasquitos Ranger District.



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Velvet Ant: a lot of punch for a small critter

By Mike Kelly

Several times now, I've encountered the little female in the picture. She's a Pacific Velvet Ant (*Dasymutilla aureola*). I'm glad I never tried to capture her for a closeup look since I learned she's actually a wasp that looks like an ant (!) and has a stinger that can deliver a big punch in the way of pain. The encounters with her species have been in our restoration sites near Doug Hill, several times in the dirt road.



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