



Canyon News

Black Mountain Park · Del Mar Mesa Preserve
Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

Jan/Feb/Mar 2008
Volume 22, NO 1

Fire Issues 2

What's attached to your house?

Mike Kelly, conservation chair

We began discussing fire issues in our Nov. / Dec. 2007 *Canyon News*. There we focused on the brush management zone and why making it bigger than the required 100 feet doesn't necessarily increase protection of your house and safety. We saw that many, if not most of the homes lost in the recent fires were caused by burning embers carried on the wind to flammable parts of the homes, thus igniting them. What are the avenues by which fire can ignite in your home?

Fire ignition points

Here are examples, some using my own home, of how fires can ignite a house.

Open windows and doors. A friend with a home in Deerhorn Valley, Jamul returned to find his entire property burned, but his house standing. He found a note from the firefighters who protected his home. They praised his defensible perimeter around the house but told him that my

See *Fire* p. 7 for more



Slope closest to Mike Kelly's house. Here, I've corrected a problem by removing several highly flammable eucalyptus trees. I also pulled the ice plant that came with the property back from the house. In the Crest part of the 2003 fires several structures caught because of the ice plant. While many fire officials are quick to recommend planting it to prevent fire spread, they forget to tell you to keep it away from the house itself. Over the years a layer of dead ice plant builds up under the upper green layer. It was this dead layer that let the fires creep up to wooden parts of homes in Crest and ignite them. — **Photo by Mike Kelly**

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Los Peñasquitos
Canyon Preserve
Citizens Advisory Committee

The Year 2007 in Review

Geoffrey Smith,
CAC Chairperson

The purpose of the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) is to oversee management of the Preserve, provide a public resource for participation in planning, and to make policy recommendations to the members of the City- and County-elected Task Force. Task Force Members are Councilmember Brian Maienschein and Scott Peters, and County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price.

The 17 members of the CAC meet quarterly on the 3rd Thursday of odd-numbered months at the Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos adobe, starting at 7:00 pm. The public is welcome. For more information about the CAC and to receive copies of the meeting agenda, visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lpcpcac>.

Key resolutions adopted in 2007 include:

An ad-hoc subcommittee of the CAC was formed to review and possibly update the Master

See *Year* p. 6 for more

Upcoming Hikes/Events

All hikes are free to the public. If you're bringing an organized group, please call (858) 484-3219 to make arrangements. Rain cancels hikes. Be sure to wear hiking boots and bring water, insect repellent, and sun protection.

Every Saturday & Sunday

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

San Diego County Park docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's second oldest standing residence, Ranch Santa Maria de Los Peñasquitos at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds.

January

Tracking Walk

Saturday, Jan. 12, 8 a.m.
Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Peñasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Volunteer Tamarisk Bash at Black Mtn Park / Santa Luz

Saturday, Jan. 12, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Help remove the highly invasive Tamarisk (Saltcedar) in Black Mtn. Park and planting native plants in their place. Our target area is going to become one of the first full fledged restoration areas on the Santa Luz portion of Black Mtn. Park. Bring water, sun protection, and gloves if you have them. Contact mike at mkellysd@aol.com or 858-342-8856 for more info. Meet at the back side of the Black Mtn. Community Park off Carmel Valley Road. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (D1).

Canyon Favorites Hike

Saturday, Jan. 12, 3:00 p.m.
Join Pat for a moderately paced loop hike to Carson's Crossing, the waterfall, and back. Meet at the kiosk at Park Village Rd. and Camino del Sur in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring water and wear hiking boots. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Miner's Loop Trail Walk, Black Mountain /Rancho Peñasquitos

Saturday, Jan. 19, 9 – 11a.m.
Join a naturalist for a hike along the Miner's Loop Trail on the north face of Black Mountain Park. Expect to see flowers, great vistas, and learn about the old arsenic mine. Meet at the Parking Staging area off the new extension of Carmel Valley Rd. about 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. Thomas Guide p. 1189 E7 or call 858-342-8856.

Waterfall Hike

Sunday, Jan. 20, 3:00 p.m.
Join Linda for a moderately paced loop hike to Carson's Crossing, the waterfall, and back. Meet at the kiosk at Park Village Rd. and Camino del Sur in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring water and wear hiking boots. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors

Thursday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m.
Members are welcome to attend this business meeting to plan Friends' activities. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Driveway. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Lopez Homestead History Hike w/ Will Bowen

Sunday, Jan 27, 3-4:30 P.M.
Hike out into Lopez Canyon to learn about the Old Lopez Homestead—a small turn-of-the-century dairy farm. Visit the orchard, the Old Road, and see the remains of

the barn, house, and milking station. Find out about the importance of the Lopez family in early San Diego history. Start: West End Parking Staging Area, Thomas Guide p.1208 (D5).

Carmel Mountain Flower Walk w/ Diana Gordon

Sunday, Jan. 27, 9 – 11a.m. Tour one of San Diego's newest nature preserves. Good chance to see wildflowers. Take SR-56 east from I-5 to Carmel Country Road. Go right (south) across the bridge and immediately look for and park in a small dirt parking lot on the right. Wear hiking boots, bring water and sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. Thomas Guide p. 1188, C7 or call 858.484.3219.

Volunteer Trash Pickup Lopez Canyon

Sunday, Jan. 27, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Trash pickup in López Canyon. Meet at López Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Call Ranger John Garwood at 858-538-8066 for more info. Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).

Geology Hike w/ Don Albright

Sunday, Jan. 27, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet in the parking area of López Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).

February

Tracking Walk

Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 a.m.
Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Peñasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Flower Walk w/ Diana Gordon

Saturday, Feb. 9, 9 – 11a.m.

Visit vernal pools, one of San Diego's rarest habitats. Good chance to see wildflowers. From Carmel Valley take El Camino Real south. At its intersection with Carmel Mountain Road, proceed straight on what has become Carmel Mountain Road. Go up the hill several blocks to East Ocean Air Dr. Go left and park at Fairport and Shorepointe. Wear hiking boots, bring water and sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. Thomas Guide p. 1208, C2 or call 858.484.3219.

Volunteer Tamarisk Bash at Black Mtn. Park / Santa Luz

Saturday, Feb. 9, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Help remove the highly invasive Tamarisk (Saltcedar) in Black Mtn. Park and planting native plants in their place. Our target area is going to become one of the first full fledged restoration areas on the Santa Luz portion of Black Mtn. Park. Bring water, sun protection, and gloves if you have them. Contact mike at mkellysd@aol.com or 858-342-8856 for more info. Meet at the back side of the Black Mtn. Community Park off Carmel Valley Road. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (D1)

Pierre Bovet Adobe History Hike w/ Will Bowen

Sunday, Feb 10, 3-4:30 P.M. Hike out into Carroll Canyon (aka. Soledad Canyon) to visit the ruins of the Pierre Bovet Adobe. Find out why so many such adobes of San Diego County were left to deteriorate. Learn about Pierre Bovet and his family and their place in San Diego history. Understand why this area should someday be part of the larger Preserve. Start: Meet at Fire Station near the corner of Scranton and Carroll Canyon Road.

Miner's Loop Trail Walk, Black Mountain /Rancho Peñasquitos

Saturday, Feb. 16, 9 – 11a.m. Join a naturalist for a hike along the Miner's Loop Trail on the north face of Black Mountain Park. Ex-

pect to see flowers, great vistas, and learn about the old arsenic mine. Meet at the Parking Staging area off the new extension of Carmel Valley Rd. about 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. Thomas Guide p. 1189 E7 or call 858-342-8856.

Canyon Favorites Hike

Saturday, Feb. 23, 3:30 p.m. Join Pat for a moderately paced loop hike to Carson's Crossing, the waterfall, and back. Meet at the kiosk at Park Village Rd. and Camino del Sur in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring water and wear hiking boots. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Volunteer Trash Pickup Lopez Canyon

Sunday, February 24, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Trash pickup in López Canyon. Meet at López Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Call Ranger John Garwood at 858-538-8066 for more info. Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).

"El Cuervo" Adobe History Hike w/ Will Bowen

Sunday, Feb 24, 3-4:30 P.M. Hike out into the West End of Penasquitos Canyon for a intimate look at the ruins of the "El Cuervo" Adobe. Become familiar with the controversy about who built it when. Find out about Francisco and son, Diego Alvarado--the probable builders. Includes a short side hike to examine Norwood Brown's old roundup corral and to discuss the impact of cattle grazing in the Preserve. Start: Parking Lot: 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard, Thomas Guide p.1208 (D5).

March

Geology Hike w/ Don Albright

Sunday, Jan. 27, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join geologist Don Albright for a walk through geological time, including the Preserve's waterfall and a rare fossil. Meet in the

parking area of López Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).

Tracking Walk

Saturday, March 8, 8 a.m. Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Penasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Volunteer Tamarisk Bash at Black Mtn. Park / Santa Luz

Saturday, March 8, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Help remove the highly invasive Tamarisk (Saltcedar) in Black Mtn. Park and planting native plants in their place. Our target area is going to become one of the first full fledged restoration areas on the Santa Luz portion of Black Mtn. Park. Bring water, sun protection, and gloves if you have them. Contact mike at mkellysd@aol.com or 858-342-8856 for more info. Meet at the back side of the Black Mtn. Community Park off Carmel Valley Road. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (D1).

Miner's Loop Trail Walk, Black Mountain /Rancho Peñasquitos

Saturday, March 15, 9 – 11a.m. Join a naturalist for a hike along the Miner's Loop Trail on the north face of Black Mountain Park. Expect to see flowers, great vistas, and learn about the old arsenic mine. Meet at the Parking Staging area off the new extension of Carmel Valley Rd. about 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. Thomas Guide p. 1189 E7 or call 858-342-8856.

Waterfall Hike

Sunday, March 16, 4:00 p.m. Join Linda for a moderately paced loop hike to Carson's Crossing, the waterfall, and back. Meet at

the kiosk at Park Village Rd. and Camino del Sur in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring water and wear hiking boots. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Canyon Favorites Hike

Saturday, March 22, 4:00 p.m.

Join Pat for a moderately paced loop hike to Carson's Crossing, the waterfall, and back. Meet at the kiosk at Park Village Rd. and Camino del Sur in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring water and wear hiking boots. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Volunteer Trash Pickup Lopez Canyon

Sunday, March 23, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Trash pickup in López Canyon. Meet at López Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Call Ranger John Garwood at 858-538-8066 for more info. Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors

Thursday, March 27, 7 p.m.

Members are welcome to attend this business meeting to plan Friends' activities. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Driveway. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Fairy Shrimp Hike

Sunday, March 30, 3 - 4:30 p.m.

A hike to look for and learn about Fairy Shrimp - tiny freshwater shrimp that live on mesa tops in the ephemeral rain pools and puddles of early spring. Learn about their life cycle and behavior. See the male's humorous 1890s style handle bar mustache and the female's attached egg sac. Start: Carmel Mountain Trail Head

Flower Walk w/ Diana Gordon

Sunday, March 30. 3 - 5 p.m.

Visit vernal pools, one of San Diego's rarest habitats. Good chance to see wildflowers. From Carmel Valley take El Camino Real south. At its intersection with

Carmel Mountain Road, proceed straight on what has become Carmel Mountain Road. Go up the hill several blocks to East Ocean Air Dr. Go left and park at Fairport and Shorepointe. Wear hiking boots, bring water and sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. See Thomas Guide p. 1208, C2 or call 858.484.3219.

Directions

Black Mtn Open Space Park

From I-15 take SR 56 (Ted Williams Parkway) west to Black Mtn Rd. Go right (north) on Black Mtn Rd. all the way to Carmel Valley Rd. Take a right on the new extension of Carmel Valley Rd. and proceed past the Community Park on the left and down the hill. Look for a sign for the park on the right and take the next right into the park entrance. Careful, this is a tight turn off Carmel Valley Rd. Proceed up the road to the staging area. Or, take Bernardo Center Dr. from the I-15 west to where it ends at the new extension of Carmel Valley Rd. Take the latter west, past the park entrance until you can take the first available U-turn back to the park. Thomas Guide p. 1169 (E7).

Carmel Mountain Trail Head

From Carmel Valley take El Camino Real south. At intersection with Carmel Mtn Rd, proceed straight on Carmel Mtn Rd. Go up the hill to East Ocean Air Dr. Go left and park at Fairport and Shorepointe. Wear hiking boots. Bring water/sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. Thomas Guide p.1208 (C2).

Mercy Rd Parking-Staging Area

In Mira Mesa. Take Mercy Exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn Rd. and straight across intersection into parking lot. Meet on upper level. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (D7).

Northern Parking-Staging Area

Located in Rancho Peñasquitos. From I-15 take the Mercy Road exit west to Black Mountain Road.

Right on Black Mtn Rd and up hill, left on Park Village Dr., about 1 mile to Camino del Sur. Left on Camino del Sur and park by kiosk. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Park Village Drive Meeting Area

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 and take it all the way to the end at the white barricades and park entrance. Thomas Guide p. 1189 - 1188 (J7).

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 (C7).

Santa Luz Meeting Area

Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off San Dieguito Rd., opposite Montien Rd. Thomas Guide p. 1168 (J5).

Sorrento Valley Meeting Area

Meet in parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. on the north side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Sorrento Valley Rd. Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 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. Thomas Guide p. 1208, (D5).

2007 ARCH IN THE PARK A SUCCESS

Carol Serr

Thanks to the efforts of many of our board members for helping with organization, publicity, etc. we had a successful event on Saturday, October 20. A big thanks to our members for participating with displays or activities also, and to those who helped with set-up and dismantling.

Howard Schwitkis nearly single-handedly ran the mock dig (even though he felt more like a babysitter than 'instructor'). Steve Bouscaren demonstrated stone tool-making, along with a couple of his City College students. Four City College students, including SDCAS member Mark Stoudt, helped with the event throughout the day. Mark, along with non-member (as of yet) volunteer John Meriwether, were a big help with set-up in the morning. SDCAS members Vernon Montoya and Marie-Louise Harms joined Jim Royle, Patty McFarland, Erin Smith, Marla Mealey, Steve Van



sculptures, containers, etc. were made. Lovely cane baskets were made by visitors under the tutelage of basket maker Diana Caudell, of the Paa'ila Basket Weavers. Diana Caudell, a member of the San Luis Rey Band of Luiseño Indians, teaches a Cherokee basket-making method because it enables weaving beginners to complete a basket in about 30 minutes. Annemarie Cox, of the San Diego Archaeological Center, taught children how to braid twine. We appreciate the displays and participation from Brian F. Smith & Associates (Sara Clowery & Seth Rosenberg), California State Parks (Nicole Turner, Niloufar Minovi, & Marla Mealey), Gallegos & Associates (Nick Doose), Cleveland National Forest (Susan Roder), Arcadis's bone display created by Trish Mitchell, and Susan Walter's historic Stein Farm button quilt activity.

SDCAS would like to thank Gallegos & Associates for a monetary donation; and Jones & Stokes for production of the signs and posters for the event. And thanks to the County Park docents for providing visitors information on the historic adobe. Also thanks to County Park Rangers Paul Ku-

charczyk and Autumn Acker, for their coordination efforts. And, can't overlook thanking the San Luis Rey Band of Luiseño Indians for selling their yummy Indian fry bread and tacos for guests to munch on.

Apologies to anyone overlooked. (Photos by Marla Mealey.)

(Reprinted with permission from the newsletter of the S.D. County Archaeological Society.)



Wormer, and Carol Serr to break down the tables and chairs, etc. when all was over.

SDCAS member Linda Lazer was a big hit with kids with her clay booth - many very creative



Eagle Scout Project. This Carmel Mountain Open Space view point now sports a new interpretive panel and bench installed by Eagle Scout Nicholas Bianci — **Photo by Ranger Washington.**



Darkwood Lane Fencing Project. Resident Robert Paluzzi and his neighbors helped Ranger Gina Washington cleanup trash, plant natives, and install fencing on vacant lots off Darkwood Lane, adjacent to the Preserve.— **Photo by Ranger Washington.**

(Year cont'd from pg 1)

Plan for the preserve. The current master plan was adopted in 1998, and was nearly 20 years in the making.

An improvement plan for the open space lots on Darkwood Road was approved. The plan includes the installation of split rail fencing, planting of native plants, and coordination of citizen volunteer work projects by park rangers (see photo this issue).

An improvement plan for the Cara Knott Oak Memorial Garden was approved, which will include the installation of a wheel chair-accessible path to the gazebo. The Garden is located in the creek bottom just east of the I-15 bridge, north of Mercy Road. It is dedicated to the memory of Cara Knott and other victims of violent crime.

A holiday open house, sponsored by the CAC and organized by the docents, was held on December 8th at the Santa Maria Adobe. The event was open to the public, and showcased the beautifully renovated structure that was built in 1823.

The Camino Ruiz Connector trail has progressed through many

reviews and sign-offs at the City, under the staff direction of City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Dept. Trails Coordinator, Rick Thompson. The trail alignment is being finalized. The trail is expected to open initially to hiker use, with bicycle use and equestrian use to be considered by city staff subsequent to review of the trail's capacity to support the multiple user groups.

Representatives from Pardee presented an update on the Crescent Heights and Sunset Pointe developments, at the intersection of Camino Santa Fe, Calle Cristobal and Sorrento Valley Blvd. Construction was expected to commence at the end of 2007.

The new ranger station, to be built at the intersection of Black Mtn Road and Mercy Road, is expected to commence construction in April 2008. The building is a pre-fabricated design, which will be built off-site on concrete slabs, then transported to the site and set in place with landscaping and parking.

An ad-hoc committee was formed to consider the recommendations of the Metropolitan Waste Water Department 'Redirection of

Flow' engineers. The findings of the reviewers were such that the cost to remove sewer lines from any of the existing canyon alignments was prohibitive. A 24-month maintenance agreement was approved, including a right-of-entry permit to allow for cleaning of the existing sewer lines by City crews.

Representatives from Pardee's Neighborhood 10 development presented plans for pocket parks and recreation trails in their Unit 9 South project in the Carmel Valley Community. CAC recommendations to minimize impacts to the open space resource were shared, including restrictions to prevent trail access into the Preserve from residence back yards.

The Land Use and Resources Subcommittee was formed. The purpose of the committee is to deal with land and resource issues. The first priority of the Preserve is to protect the land. The new committee joins the existing Trails Committee, which has done a good job of managing trail use and recreation issues in the Preserve.

The CAC endorsed the "Natural Community Conservation Act" (Kehoe, SB373), which would aid in the dedication of open space park land in the City of San Diego. The measure subsequently passed and was signed by the governor. The San Diego City council passed a supporting resolution in December, resulting in the dedication of over 2,000 acres of land in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, and over 6,000 acres citywide. The state legislation saved the City more than \$1 million in processing costs. More than 10,000 acres of un-dedicated park land remain to be considered for dedication by the City. Thank you Senator Kehoe!

You are welcome to call or write with questions or suggestions! 858.442.1425 or gsmith@thecomputersmith.com.

(Fire cont'd from pg 1)



friend had left windows open, an easy way for burning embers to enter a home and ignite flammables inside. Close your house up.

Wooden structures attached to your home. I have three attached to my home (see accompanying photos). Mine are dry from years of use. They include a little, low deck outside the French doors to my bedroom. A second is a wooden balcony attached to the house, which leads up to a studio over the garage. A third is a wooden gate attached to another side of the house, which in turn is attached to an old wooden fence. All highly flammable.

Although I removed all objects from the side yard behind the gate (see photo) on one side of the house to allow firefighters to move safely around the house and yard, I've allowed clutter to build up right in front of the side gate. Not an attractive thing for firefighters to see when they're deciding which houses are safe to defend for them.

In a future issue I plan to discuss native versus non-native plants and which are safe or not safe to plant in brush management zone.



Above, side of Mike Kelly's house closest to a neighbor. Here I have two problems. The wooden gate runs from the "good neighbor" fence to the house itself. One solution would be to replace it with a metal one. The fence is old and likely to burn if burning embers land on it. It's very close, to my neighbor's home. They, like I, would like to replace this ramshackle fence. For privacy reasons it can't be a simple chain link of open type of fencing. One solution is to use a "woodcrete" type material, fencing made of a concrete type material, but much lighter, and manufactured to look like wood. Painting it with a fire retardant paint is a one-year, short-term solution. If you do not repaint it every year, it will become flammable again.

Top left. Wooden balcony, steps, and fence all attach to the house. Also, note the clutter of objects around the side entrance, making protective space for firefighters less attractive. Fence is going to be replaced with chain link. Balcony and stairs will be finished with a fire retardant covering. Just prior to a fire these could be covered with the fire retardant foam now on the market (Fire. etc. in downtown San Diego).

Bottom left. Eucalyptus has to come down to solve two dangers: the tree or a major limb falling on the house and the obvious danger from an easy to ignite and highly inflammable euc next to the house. Tree will come down as have others on the property. — **Photos by Mike Kelly**



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196
858-484-3219 www.penasquitos.org

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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: Brian Swanson 760.739-5451
Vice President: Don Albright 619.443-5937
Treasurer: Pat Watkins 858.538-2527
Secretary: Rick Botta 858.672-0584

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Edward DiBella, Ann Harvey, Mike Kelly

Walk Leaders

Brian Swanson, Don Albright, Will Bowen,
Mike Kelly, Pat Watkins, Linda King, and
Barbara Moore

Committees

Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
Newsletter: Carol Cooper
Tracking Team Coordinator: Rick Botta,
858.672-0584
Conservation Chair: Mike Kelly,
858.566-6489
Webmaster: Beth Williams
Wildlife Surveys: Patrick Campbell,
760.471-9197

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: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

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 858.484.3219 or 858.566.6489 for more information.



Canyon News

Black Mountain Park · Del Mar Mesa Preserve
Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

Apr/May/June 2008
Volume 22, NO 2

The Pierre Bovet Adobe Will Bowen, Ph.D.



Back view of **Bovet Adobe** from a distance.

"When I was a child, I used to pass through Old San Diego and see its ruined adobe houses. I often wondered who had lived in them, what kind of life the people had, and what had become of them. Some of the houses were still standing, some were minus great patches of plaster and the adobe was showing through, and many had melted back into the earth of which they were made. Their inhabitants were gone . . . What had happened to them? . . . Of what avail had been their lives?"

Grace B. Diffendorf 1959

Introduction

The ruins of the Pierre Bovet adobe can be found in Carroll Canyon, not far from the intersection of Carroll Road and Youngstown Way. There isn't much left of the Bovet adobe; just a mound of weather-beaten adobe bricks and flooring; partly enclosed by a chain-link fence. Nor is the space around the Bovet the same as it was in years past. The easement to Carroll Road has been pushed directly up against the back wall of the adobe, destroying two cisterns and crowding out what was once a fine vineyard. Easement sprinklers and seasonal rains continue to pelt the adobe, causing it to further melt away into oblivion; while weeds choke the decaying

See **Bovet** p. 7 for more

Highlights Inside

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MURPHY & ME

Avid Canyon Hikers!
??

Murphy (my Labradoodle) and I recently started doing Volunteer Ranger patrols at Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Both avid hikers, we can regularly be seen at Lake Poway, Blue Sky Reserve, and Mount Woodson, to name a few places. For the past two and one-half years, we have also been actively involved in Scripps Memorial Hospital's Pet Therapy/Trauma program, in which we visit staff, patients, and family members twice a week.

When the October wildfires swept across California, we became temporarily displaced from our home, Lake Poway and Blue Sky. One day, during a Pet Therapy visit, one of the Emergency Room nurses suggested we try hiking at Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. When we arrived for the first time, back in November, I was thrilled to have found another wonderful place to hike and get away from it all. Murphy was similarly excited at all the new places to discover, scents on the trail, and wildlife all around us.

We soon started making friends on the trail. People recognized us

See **Murphy** p. 6 for more

Upcoming Hikes/Events

All hikes are free to the public. If you're bringing an organized group, please call (858) 484-3219 to make arrangements. Rain cancels hikes. Be sure to wear hiking boots and bring water, insect repellent, and sun protection. See you on the trail!

Every Saturday & Sunday

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

San Diego County Park docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's second oldest standing residence, Ranch Santa Maria de Los Peñasquitos at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds.

April

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors

Tuesday, Apr. 1, 7 p.m.

Members are welcome to attend this business meeting to plan Friends' activities. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Driveway. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Tracking Walk

Saturday, Apr. 12, 8 a.m.

Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Penasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Canyon Favorites Hike

Saturday, Apr 19, 5:00 p.m.

Join Pat for a moderately paced loop hike to Carson's Crossing, the waterfall, and back. Meet at

the utility gate at the end of Park Village Road. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Wildlife Survey Training

Saturday, Apr 19, 9:45 a.m.

This free training includes basic track, sign, and habitat recognition, as well as details on the implementation of survey protocol, and is required for survey volunteers. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Penasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Miner's Loop Trail Walk, Black Mountain /Rancho Peñasquitos

Saturday, Apr 17. 16, 9 – 11a.m.

Join a naturalist for a hike along the Miner's Loop Trail on the north face of Black Mountain Park. Expect to see flowers, great vistas, and learn about the old arsenic mine. Meet at the Parking Staging area off the new extension of Carmel Valley Rd. about 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. Thomas Guide p. 1189 E7 or call 858-342-8856.

Waterfall Hike

Sunday, Apr. ?, 3:00 p.m.

Join Linda for a moderately paced loop hike to Carson's Crossing, the waterfall, and back. Meet at the kiosk at Park Village Rd. and Camino del Sur in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring water and wear hiking boots. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Lopez Homestead History Hike w/ Will Bowen

Sunday, Apr ?, 3-4:30 P.M.

Hike out into Lopez Canyon to learn about the Old Lopez Homestead—a small turn-of-the-century dairy farm. Visit the orchard, the Old Road, and see the remains of the barn, house, and milking station. Find out about the importance of the Lopez family in early San Diego history.

Start: West End Parking Staging

Area, Thomas Guide p.1208 (D5).

Carmel Mountain Flower Walk w/ Diana Gordon

Sunday, Apr ?, 9 – 11a.m. Tour one of San Diego's newest nature preserves. Good chance to see wildflowers. Take SR-56 east from I-5 to Carmel Country Road. Go right (south) across the bridge and immediately look for and park in a small dirt parking lot on the right. Wear hiking boots, bring water and sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. See Thomas Guide p. 1188, C7 or call 858.484.3219.

May

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors

Tuesday, May 6, 7 p.m.

Members are welcome to attend this business meeting to plan Friends' activities. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Driveway. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Tracking Walk

Saturday, May 10, 8 a.m.

Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Penasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Beginner Tracker Naturalist Class

Wednesday, May 14, 7 a.m.

This class is devoted to developing tracking and awareness skills, with an emphasis on wildlife physiology and habits, how to move in nature, and techniques for recognizing habitats and associated flora and fauna. Email lptt@cox.net to register or go to LPTT Website, <http://www.penasquitos.org/classes.html> for more information. Meet at the historic

Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Peñasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Beginner Tracker Naturalist Class

Saturday, May 17, 8 a.m.

This class is devoted to developing tracking and awareness skills, with an emphasis on wildlife physiology and habits, how to move in nature, and techniques for recognizing habitats and associated flora and fauna. Email lpitt@cox.net to register or go to LPTT Website, <http://www.penasquitos.org/classes.html> for more information. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Peñasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Flower Walk w/ Diana Gordon

Saturday, May ?, 9 – 11a.m.

Visit vernal pools, one of San Diego's rarest habitats. Good chance to see wildflowers. From Carmel Valley take El Camino Real south. At its intersection with Carmel Mountain Road, proceed straight on what has become Carmel Mountain Road. Go up the hill several blocks to East Ocean Air Dr. Go left and park at Fairport and Shorepointe. Wear hiking boots, bring water and sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. See Thomas Guide p. 1208, C2 or call 858.484.3219.

Pierre Bovet Adobe History Hike w/ Will Bowen

Sunday, May ?, 3-4:30 P.M.

Hike out into Carroll Canyon (aka. Soledad Canyon) to visit the ruins of the Pierre Bovet Adobe. Find out why so many such adobes of San Diego County were left to deteriorate. Learn about Pierre Bovet and his family and their place in San Diego history. Understand why this area should someday be part of the larger Preserve. Start: Meet at Fire Station near the corner of Scranton and Carroll Canyon Road.

Miner's Loop Trail Walk, Black Mountain /Rancho Peñasquitos

Saturday, May 17, 16, 9 – 11a.m.

Join a naturalist for a hike along the Miner's Loop Trail on the north face of Black Mountain Park. Expect to see flowers, great vistas, and learn about the old arsenic mine. Meet at the Parking Staging area off the new extension of Carmel Valley Rd. about 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. Thomas Guide p. 1189 E7 or call 858-342-8856.

"El Cuervo" Adobe History Hike w/ Will Bowen

Sunday, May ?, 3-4:30 P.M.

Hike out into the West End of Peñasquitos Canyon for a intimate look at the ruins of the "El Cuervo" Adobe. Become familiar with the controversy about who built it when. Find out about Francisco and son, Diego Alvarado--the probable builders. Includes a short side hike to examine Norwood Brown's old roundup corral and to discuss the impact of cattle grazing in the Preserve. Start: Parking Lot: 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard, Thomas Guide p.1208 (D5).

June

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors

Tuesday, June 3, 7 p.m.

Members are welcome to attend this business meeting to plan Friends' activities. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Driveway. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

2008 National Trails Day

Saturday, June 7.

Join Us on the Trails! Visit the SDTT booth during the celebration of our America's trail system. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Peñasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Tracking Walk

Saturday, June 14, 8 a.m.

Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Peñasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Miner's Loop Trail Walk, Black Mountain /Rancho Peñasquitos

Saturday, June 14, 9 – 11a.m.

Join a naturalist for a hike along the Miner's Loop Trail on the north face of Black Mountain Park. Expect to see flowers, great vistas, and learn about the old arsenic mine. Meet at the Parking Staging area off the new extension of Carmel Valley Rd. about 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Black Mtn. Rd. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. Thomas Guide p. 1189 E7 or call 858-342-8856.

Waterfall Hike

Sunday, June ?, 4:00 p.m.

Join Linda for a moderately paced loop hike to Carson's Crossing, the waterfall, and back. Meet at the kiosk at Park Village Rd. and Camino del Sur in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring water and wear hiking boots. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Canyon Favorites Hike

Saturday, June 7, 6:00 p.m.

Join Pat for a moderately paced loop hike to Carson's Crossing, the waterfall, and back. Meet at the utility gate at the end of Park Village Road. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Flower Walk w/ Diana Gordon

Sunday, June ?. 3 – 5 p.m.

Visit vernal pools, one of San Diego's rarest habitats. Good chance to see wildflowers. From Carmel Valley take El Camino Real south. At its intersection with Carmel Mountain Road, proceed

straight on what has become Carmel Mountain Road. Go up the hill several blocks to East Ocean Air Dr. Go left and park at Fairport and Shorepointe. Wear hiking boots, bring water and sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. See Thomas Guide p. 1208, C2 or call 858.484.3219.

Directions

Black Mountain Open Space Park

From I-15 take SR 56 (Ted Williams Parkway) west to Black Mountain Rd. Go right (north) on Black Mtn. Rd. all the way to Carmel Valley Rd. Take a right on the new extension of Carmel Valley Rd. and proceed past the Community Park on the left and down the hill. Look for a sign for the park on the right and take the next right into the park entrance. Careful, this is a tight turn off Carmel Valley Rd. Proceed up the road to the staging area. Or, take Bernardo Center Dr. from the I-15 west to where it ends at the new extension of Carmel Valley Rd. Take the latter west, past the park entrance until you can take the first available U-turn back to the park. See Thomas Guide p. 1169 (E7).

Carmel Mountain Trail Head

From Carmel Valley take El Camino Real south. At intersection with Carmel Mountain Road, proceed straight on Carmel Mountain Road. Go up the hill to East Ocean Air Dr. Go left and park at Fairport and Shorepointe. Wear hiking boots. Bring water/sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. **Thomas Guide p.1208 (C2).**

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 (D7).

Northern Parking-Staging Area

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 del Sur. Left on Camino del Sur and park by the kiosk. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Park Village Drive Meeting Area

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 and take it all the way to the end at the white barricades and park entrance. Thomas Guide p. 1189 – 1188 (J7).

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 (C7).

Santa Luz Meeting Area

Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off San Dieguito Road, opposite Montien Rd.. Thomas Guide p. 1168 (J5).

Sorrento Valley Meeting Area

Meet in parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Sorrento Valley Road. Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 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. Thomas Guide p. 1208, (D5).

People to Know

Brian Swanson: *Friends' President*

Mike Kelly



Brian with bobcat friend (bobcat was confiscated by Fish & Game, and could not be released into the wild because it had imprinted on humans).

Brian Swanson, Friends' president, has been a member of the Friends' Board of Directors for about twenty years. He grew up hiking the canyons and mesas of San Diego, and first hiked in Penasquitos Canyon and Del Mar Mesa in the late '60's. At that time the area was private property and cows outnumbered people. During those hikes he met mesa resident/pioneer Walter Meklensek, who used a 1930's era water truck to bring water to his homestead. Brian is a land manager for SDG&E, where he has worked for many years. He also is a licensed attorney with a small practice assisting clients with wills and trusts. Brian joined the Friends' Board at the invitation of our founder, Dr. Alberta Fleming (enticed by the ice cream and cookies served at our annual meetings). Brian enjoys

hiking and camping, and leads natural history walks for the Friends and the San Diego Natural History Museum. Our nearby open space jewels --- Penasquitos Canyon Preserve, Del Mar Mesa, Carmel Mtn., and Black Mtn. --- offer something for everyone who seeks to renew the peaceful spirit of their soul. If you have a little time, talent, and enthusiasm, the Friends could really use your help. On behalf of the Friend's Board, Brian invites friends and neighbors to join us in educating the public about this precious resource, and helping the city and county park staff in helping to keep these p l a c e s s p e c i a l .

Maps of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and Black Mountain Open Space Parks are available at www.penasquitos.org.

Spring at Black Mountain Park

Ranger Ed Christianson

It's always a nice time of year when the grass gets green and tall, flowers are blooming, and the weather just can't get any better. Spend some time in the field and you come away with the sense that all is as it should be, exotic weeds included.

I was surveying the land this first week of March and was surprised how tall the wild Artichoke had grown in the old farmland. Another project to add to the list, clear the trail! While out there, I observed two amorous ravens, one of the most interesting animals to watch in my opinion. I then noticed a Coyote was passing his time watching me. Not a care in the world it seemed.

Along Lusardi Gorge I saw a family of trail makers doing their thing browsing on shrubs, five mule deer making their way to somewhere else. Looking up at the clear blue sky you could always spot a Redtail somewhere not too far off. And in spite of the honey-bee die-off, I've been hearing about, I drove past two swarms searching for a new home.

After a recent division meeting we were asked to complete a questionnaire and one of the inquiries was 'What is good about working here?' I think the answer for me is that at the end of the day our collective work, our small contributions, adds to the common good of the world. And there is great value in that.

(Murphy cont'd from pg 1)



Labradoodle "Murphy" and companion, ??

from a distance since, everyday for the past two and one-half years; I carry Murphy on my back when he starts to get tired. He generally walks and runs for the first 5-7 miles of the day then, usually at the onset of a big uphill climb; he sits down and waits for me to pick him up. From there, I usually carry him between 3 to 5 miles a day. So far, Murphy has logged more than 3,800 miles on my back, much to his delight.

One day, we met seasonal park attendant Sam Lanning at the Preserve. We both knew Sam for a few years, frequently crossing paths at Lake Poway. Sam suggested that we contact rangers Paul Kucharczyk and Autumn Acker to see if they need some help in the form of volunteer ranger patrols. We both like giving back to the community so, without hesitation, I contacted Paul and before long, Murphy and I were accepted into the program. I want to give special thanks to Cheryl Wegner, County of San Diego, Dept. of Parks & Recreation Volunteer Coordinator, for her great support and energy in quickly moving us through the initial application process.

Before we started with our first patrol, we dropped in to speak with ranger Paul. He spoke about the local groups and organizations that play a big part in how this habitat is preserved and cared for. He also imparted to me his philosophy of providing visitors with an enjoyable experience, whether hiking, riding horseback, mountain biking, etc. In my very limited time at the Preserve, I estimate that 98% of the visitors pay heed to the signs and regulations of the area. And more so, it doesn't seem to take anything away from their experience - they truly enjoy their time here.

In conversations with Autumn, her warm approach to caring for this Preserve is very reassuring. Sam is similarly filled with kind words and information for all the people he comes in contact with. All in all, it is an honor to be able to work alongside such a wonderful team of people. As I had recently mentioned to Paul and Autumn, Murphy's and my patrols have developed into a form of Pet Therapy on the trails. As all pet owners can attest, we are all too quick to engage in a short friendly conversation about our dogs, cats, horses and so forth. What might otherwise be a quick friendly hello on the trail becomes something more than that. Murphy and I appreciate being given the opportunity to play a small role here at Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve and look forward to meeting you on the trail one day.

(Bovet cont'd from pg 1)

bricks into silent submission.

Nonetheless, the Bovet adobe is still an important archaeological and historical site which renowned San Diego archaeologist James Robert Moriarity classified as having “moderate to major significance,” meaning that it has excellent potential to contribute to the scientific understanding of an era of our history or prehistory. In addition to its archaeological value (and it has never been excavated), the Bovet is worth studying from an architectural standpoint, as it exemplifies the transition from the Mexican to American periods in San Diego building history.

The Bovet adobe is also important because of the people who lived there. Pierre Bovet was the first Swiss immigrant to early San Diego and the first professional chef and baker in Old Town. After Bovet moved to Carroll Canyon, many San Diegans came to the Bovet adobe home by horse for a fine dinner, to buy wine, or to use as a rest stop on a stage line that ran up “La Canon De La Soledad” (Sorrento Valley). After the railroad was built people even road the rails up from San Diego for an excellent repast.

The Bovet adobe is of special interest to those of us involved with Penasquitos Canyon Preserve because it is directly linked to our Ramon López’s Lopez Canyon dairy farm, to Ramon’s father Bonafacio López’s now gone Sorrento adobe, and to Diego Alvarado’s El Cuervo adobe through family ties and marriage. The Bovet adobe was an important node in a network of historic habitation sites in this area. The old dirt roads that connected these domiciles can be seen in a structural sense as the real-world manifestations of the social relations that connected them interpersonally.

The Bovet adobe is situated adjacent to a fine, but needing restoration, riparian habitat and

not far from an excellent and rare stand of thick-trunked Coast live oak, a historic cattle tunnel, and the railroad line, which dates to 1880. The land for the railroad, known as Sorrento Grade, was sold by Bovet and worked by Chinese immigrants in white shorts, sandals, and straw hats (one of their many unrecognized and little appreciated contributions to the building of the West). Only ½ a mile down the valley toward the lagoon is a Native American habitation site of such importance that is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The ruins of the Bovet adobe, the surrounding historic and prehistoric resources, and riparian habitat deserves to be protected and cared for — I suggest under the umbrella of Penasquitos Canyon Preserve.

Who Was Pierre Bovet?

Pierre Bovet was born in the French part of Switzerland in 1825. He came to this country shortly after the discovery of gold in California in 1848. He was the first Swiss immigrant to old San Diego and became a chef and baker in Old Town. A tax record from 1852 shows that Bovet and his partner, surnamed Lienre, paid \$1,200 in taxes for two horses and “stock in trade” — presumably the necessities of his baking business.

In 1854, when he was 29 years old, Bovet married Maria Lorenza de la Providencia Lopez who was 19. She was the daughter of Bonafacio Lopez, nicknamed “The King” — a colorful rotund horseman and major figure in Old San Diego — and his first wife Maria de los Dolores Rosas.

At that time, Bonafacio López lived part time in an adobe on the hillside of Old Town and part time in a country adobe near what is now the Sorrento railroad station. López had a legal claim to Sorrento Valley, albeit disputed by the City, who said it was Pueblo or

public land. López had bought Sorrento Valley from Cave Coutts for \$500 in 1853. Coutts, in turn, had acquired it from Francisco Alvarado, who originally had been granted it by Carlos Carrillo, Mexican governor of California, in 1838.

I believe that Bonafacio López built the Bovet adobe and gave it and the land, which would have been his, to his son-in-law as a marriage gift in 1854. A tax record from 1870 still exists which shows that Bovet paid \$1 a piece for 125 sheep and \$50 for improvements, presumably on his land in Carroll Canyon. The improvements were undoubtedly the vineyard that he planted.

An 1884 Survey Map, commissioned by Diego Alvarado, exists of an area known as 14 Range No.3 West. The bottom left corner of the map, labeled section 9, contains the Bovet lands. Actually, Bovet owned the top two lots of section 9. Also indicated on the map are Soledad Valley, the Bovet house, Soledad Creek, and a road heading out east. Bovet’s vineyard is also drawn in to the east and north of his house and extends up into section 4. In reality, though, Bovet had grapes growing directly in back of the house as well.

Max Dietrich and his wife came to Carroll Canyon in 1885 and started a farm just a little north of the Bovet property. Dietrich told San Diego historian Winifred Davidson that Bovet was on the land when he got there in 1885 and that Bovet had lost all of his sheep in a sleet storm in 1880. After that loss, Bovet switched to raising horses and cattle.

On an 1892 hand-penciled Plat Map of San Diego, you can also see the two parts of Section 9 owned by Bovet. The lands nearby, owned by Ramon López and Diego Alvarado, are also indicated.

In 1895, Bovet filled paperwork and acquired undisputed title to the land through a Government

Land Grant of 160 acres in the same manner that Ramon López had acquired title to López Canyon. This title can be found in the US Patent Homestead Book #5 that is on file at San Diego Historical Museum.

In an interview conducted by Fabert & Crosthwaite for the San Diego Historical Society with Eva Bovet — who married Bovet's son Johnny and lived on the ranch for one year around 1895 — Eva stated that Bovet was well educated, spoke five languages, had beautiful penmanship, and carried one of his arms in a sling due to some infirmity. Eva went on to say that the majority of Bovet's vineyard was destroyed when a dam above the farm broke one night.

Albert Smith, who was the foreman of the Andrew Cassidy ranch, which was built upon the foundation of the old Bonafacio López adobe, said that he used to come for dinner at the Bovets: "Bovet was a famous cook. The rich people would engage him to cook dinner when they gave a party. When I had charge of the Cassidy ranch in Soledad I would ride my horse up the canyon in the evening and

have dinner with Bovet." Another famous guest at the Bovet house was Helen Hunt Jackson who wrote the historical novel about early San Diego entitled "Ramona."

A 1903 Phone Book shows that by that date Bovet had moved to room at 946 Front Street, probably to be close to his daughter who worked downtown as a seamstress. Other of his children stayed on the ranch until it was sold in the late 1920s.

The Bovet Family

Pierre Bovet had five daughters and three sons with his wife Providencia, whom he affectionately called "Lencha." The daughters were named Dolores, Margarita, Enriqueta, Elvira, and Juanita. The three sons were Jesus, Augustin, and Ramon; the later went by the name "Johnny." Jesus died at the age of one day in 1856; Enriqueta died at four months in 1874 and was buried in the little cemetery in Old Town called El Campo Santo. Dolores also died as a child.

Bovet's daughter, Margarita, married William Crosthwaite, the

son of Philip C. Crosthwaite, an important San Diego pioneer patriot, educated at Trinity College in Ireland, who took part in the battle of San Pascual. Both the governor of California and Lower California (Baja) were in attendance at their wedding ceremony. Margarita and William spent much of their lives on Rancho Santa Rosa in Baja, but visited the Bovet home whenever they came up to San Diego. When Pancho Villa rose to power in northern Mexico in 1911, they moved back to the Bovet farm.

Just to show how interconnected people were in the early days of San Diego, Philip Crosthwaite had, like Pierre Bovet, married one of Bonafacio López's daughters. The elder Crosthwaite and his wife Maria Josepha had a house in Old Town and owned Rancho Poway.

Bovet's daughter Elvira married Luis Machado of the famous Machado family and lived in Vista. Juanita married a son of Diego Alvarado, named Alonso, who grew up in the El Cuervo adobe. They end up moving downtown because she got a high paying job as a seamstress for the ladies of the night in the Red Light District. Johnny Bovet's older brother Augustine, who bought and sold cattle, married Eva's mother.

The Bovet House

The Bovet adobe is unique in that it is a transitional building exhibiting elements of both the Mexican and American periods. It is somewhere between the Mexican period El Cuervo adobe and the American period López house. It had adobe walls and flooring but wooden planks on the outside walls as siding. It had a gabled roof, which was shingled, and a red brick chimney. Eva Bovet said that it had five rooms that made it smaller than the El Cuervo adobe, which had eight. Although the archaeologists who surveyed the building in the 1970s estimated there were 2-3 rooms, there



Back view of Bovet from close up.

probably were five if you consider the two rooms at the back of the house shown on the 1936 photographs. The rooms were approximately 12 foot by 15 foot and were not interconnected. You had to go out onto the porch or veranda to get from room to room.

Eva Bovet went on to say that there was a large dining table in one room that was usually filled with people. The house also had a piano and a wine press. There was a white rose climber on a trellis at the back of the west end of the house and a mulberry tree at the opposite end. In front of the house were three large Monterey cypress trees that were brought down from Monterey, California by sailing ship. Like Pepper trees, Monterey cypress were often planted by Mexican era homes because they were drought resistant and offered shade from the hot sun and protection from the wind.

The Bovet Adobe as an Object of Art — the Plein Aire School

The Bovet adobe has been the subject of at least two paintings in the style of the Plein Aire



Nell Lester's painting of the Bovet.

School of Art. The Plein Aire School was an important genre of California art during the 1920-30s and is still practiced today. There recently was an exhibition of Plein Aire Art at Torrey Pines State Park. The Plein Aire School focused on Impressionistic watercolor or oil painting of natural land-

scapes and old buildings. It featured a nostalgia for the great old colorful and romantic days of Spanish California. The founder of the school was Alfred Mitchell. One of Mitchell's students named Helen Hill painted the Bovet adobe in the 1930s. Her painting is depicted in a book titled, "Hiking and Biking Trails of San Diego," written by John Carroll Hooper. On the back of the painting, there is some inscription that says that Domasio López built the adobe in 1844. Domasio should be Bonafacio and the date should be 1854

Another Plein Aire style painting was made by Nell Lester, sister-in-law of noted San Diego archaeologist Fred Buchanan, in 1956, and is shown here.

The Bovet Adobe today

If you were to go down to the ruins of the Bovet Adobe today you might not think there was much left to see — just a 2-3 foot high mound of melted adobe bricks, some adobe flooring, and three dried up old dead cypress trees, one of which has fallen. You would also see two metal poles near the edge of the adobe which once held a plaque, now long lost,



Side view of Bovet — you can see wood planking and part of the front porch.



Bovet adobe in a dilapidated condition with only 1/2 the roof — notice the close cropped grass from the presence of cattle and a wall with a passage knocked thru it.

which mislabeled the ruins as “The López Adobe.” But if you knew something about the history of the place and the people who lived there and their relationship to other of the historic peoples of old San Diego, then you might be able to see more. The past might come alive again and your imagination would allow you to understand the true significance of this place.

Like other such adobes, the Bovet has deteriorated over time due to vandalism, equestrian activity, cattle, the elements, and a lack of concern. The city has been remiss in not protecting one of our few historic resources — the adobe. The private owners of the land on which most adobes sat seemed to care more about their present time activities than the past. But that is an error we all seem to make — thinking that the present is always more important than the past. Many cattlemen, such as Norwood Brown, who ran cattle through Carroll Canyon (and Peñasquitos Canyon), did not want archeologists digging holes

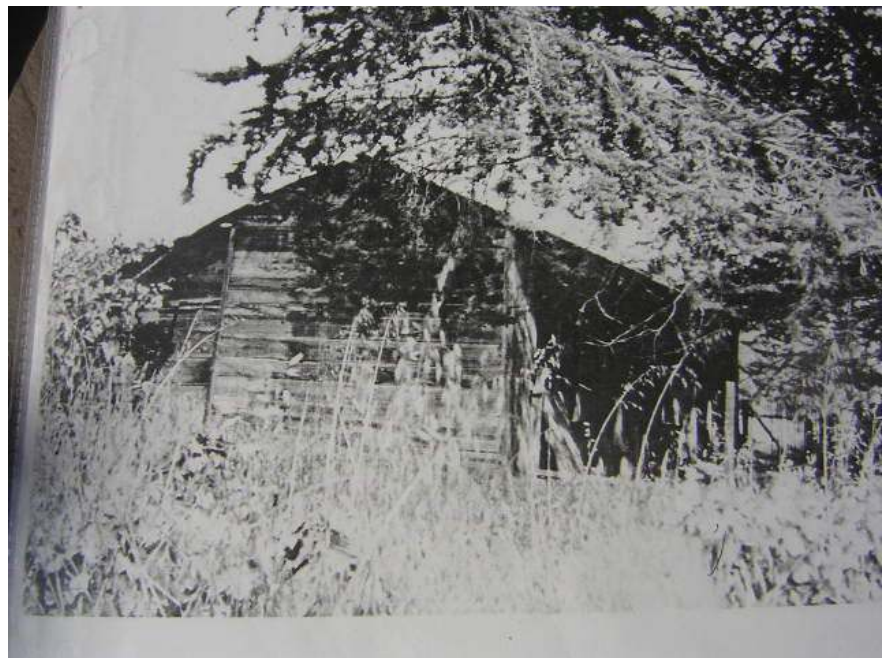
that their horses might fall in nor discovering resources that might curtail their economic activities.

The Pierre Bovet adobe is important to the Friends of los

Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve because of its relationship to the ranches and farms of our Preserve and its potential to help us better understand them. It is equally important to the people of San Diego because of its place in our history, especially the early American period following the era of Mexican rule.

It’s our lesson to learn to protect old adobes from cattle, horses, vandals, and the elements. We need to keep them whitewashed and insure the roof is intact. Then they will last for many years for people to enjoy and ponder.

Yes, the Bovet adobe is an important place and it deserves to be stewarded and cared for. If you consider the surrounding fine riparian habitat, with stands of old thick oaks and the other historic and prehistoric resources, such as the cattle tunnel and Chinese-built railroad, and the nearby Native American habitation site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, you can only conclude that this is a valuable but neglected area which needs its habitat restored, its remaining resources



Man standing by the ruins of the Bovet--just the back corner of one wall about 12 feet high.

carefully protected, and to be officially made part of something larger, such as our canyon preserve. I personally think Carroll Canyon is even more related to Penasquitos than the recent additions of Carmel Mountain and Black Mountain Open Space. Although it is admittedly late in coming, let us now take collective action to care for this important place.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

P.O. Box 26523, San Diego, CA 92196
858-484-3219 www.penasquitos.org

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Vice President: Don Albright 619.443-5937
Treasurer: Pat Watkins 858.538-2527
Secretary: Rick Botta 858.672-0584

Other Members of the Board of Directors

Edward DiBella, Ann Harvey, Mike Kelly

Walk Leaders

Brian Swanson, Don Albright, Will Bowen,
Mike Kelly, Pat Watkins, Linda King, and
Barbara Moore

Committees

Hike Scheduler: Gaye Dingeman
Newsletter: Carol Cooper
Tracking Team Coordinator: Rick Botta,
858.672-0584
Conservation Chair: Mike Kelly,
858.566-6489
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Membership Application

Membership category? Circle below:

Senior (62) or Student \$10 Individual \$15
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I / We are interested in the following:

- Volunteer** to help the committee (call to discuss)
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- Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: _____

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Canyon News

Black Mountain Park · Del Mar Mesa Preserve
Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

Jul/Aug/Sep 2008
Volume 22, NO 3

The History of Mt. Carmel Ranch, San Diego, California

John Northrop, PhD
Charter member, Friends of Los Peñasquitos, Inc.



Figure 1 - The “Big House” built by the Sisters of Mercy in 1906. It’s now a Jewish synagogue called Chabad Del Mar.

Early settlers

The McGonigles

During the gold rush days in California, an Irish '49er named Felix McGonigle came to San Diego looking for land to purchase with his newly acquired gold. At that time most of Carmel Valley, then called Cordero Canyon, was ranched by a Mexican named Don Jose de Jesus Cerano, for whom Cerna Rd. in Del Mar is named. Felix was able to acquire some land at the head of what is now called McGonigle Canyon and built a cabin there. Subsequently, he got his brother Don to join him and they began to operate a small farm there. When the Homestead Act was started right after the war with Mexico, Felix got his parents, brothers and sisters to come over from Ireland and join him. Under the Homestead Act, they each got 160 acres apiece.

The Sisters of Mercy

The Sisters of Mercy, two of whom eventually developed Mercy Hospital, arrived in San Diego from San Francisco in the 1890s (Bissel 1982). Since one of the McGonigle family (Sarah Jane) needed constant medical care, the Sisters of Mercy received 1,000 acres of the McGonigle land in return for perpetual health care. The Sisters built a three story Victorian house (Fig. 1) on the land where they ran an orphanage and operated a dairy farm. Old timers said they recalled seeing the Sisters in their big

See *History* p. 6 for more

Highlights Inside

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The Fawn Story

Senior Park Ranger
Gina Washington

I received the phone call at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday morning: one of the contractors working at the El Cuervo Mitigation site had found a small dead deer inside the newly erected deer fence and they needed to know what they should do about it. This concerned me so I returned the call and got the number for the contractor to speak to him directly.

As it turned out, the deer wasn't dead but was a very alive fawn found wandering alone inside the fence. It's important to note that the fawn was wandering, a fawn that is found lying down indicates that mamma is nearby and will return soon, a wandering baby is one that hasn't seen mamma for quite a while and may need human intervention to survive. The contractor found the fawn wandering around 4 o'clock in the afternoon so he took it home with him and purchased a bottle and formula. Fortunately, he contacted us at the Park Ranger office the next morning. I arranged to have the deer brought to my office so it could be turned over to Project Wildlife. Deer are the largest

See *Fawn* p. 5 for more

Upcoming Hikes/Events

All hikes are free to the public. If you're bringing an organized group, please call (858) 484-3219 to make arrangements. Rain cancels hikes. Be sure to wear hiking boots and bring water, insect repellent, and sun protection. See you on the trail!

Every Saturday & Sunday

Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

San Diego County Park docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's second oldest standing residence, Ranch Santa Maria de Los Peñasquitos at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds.

July

Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors

Tuesday, Jul 8, 7 p.m.

Members are welcome to attend this business meeting to plan Friends' activities. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Driveway. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Black Mtn. Open Space Park Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, Jul 10, 7 p.m.

Public is welcome to attend this meeting to plan park activities. Meet at the Canyonside Recreation Center off Canyonside Driveway at Black Mountain Park. Thomas Guide, p.1189 (C7).

Tracking Walk

Saturday, Jul 12, 8 a.m.

Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch

House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Peñasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Sunset/Full Moon Hike up Black Mtn.

Thursday, Jul 17, 7-9 p.m.

Join Naturalist Linda King for a combined sunset/full moon hike. Hike up for sunset, hike down in full moon! Enjoy great vistas! Significant elevation gain. Wear hiking boots, bring water, FLASHLIGHT and bug protection. Meet at the end of Laurentian Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (D2) or call 858-484-3219 for more info.

Miner's Loop Trail, Black Mtn.

Saturday, Jul 19, 8-10 a.m.

Join a naturalist for a nature hike up Black Mtn. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Moderate elevation gain. Learn about the old arsenic mine. Enjoy great vistas all the way to the ocean. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. Thomas Guide p. 1169 (F6/7) or call 858-484-3219 for more info.

Wildlife Survey Training

Saturday, Jul 19, 9:15 a.m.

This free training includes basic track, sign, and habitat recognition, as well as details on the implementation of survey protocol,

CORRECTION

The pictures in the Bovet article in last quarter's newsletter were inadvertently mislabeled. Our apologies to the author. Photo labels should have read:

- ◆ Page 1 - Nell Lester painting.
- ◆ Page 8 - Bovet adobe in dilapidated condition.
- ◆ Page 9 (bottom left) - Man standing by ruins of the Bovet adobe.
- ◆ Page 9 (top right) - Close up of the Bovet adobe.
- ◆ Page 10 (top left) - Bovet adobe from a distance.
- ◆ Page 10 (bottom right) - Side view of the Bovet adobe.

and is required for survey volunteers. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Peñasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Night Walk

Saturday, Jul 26, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

A hike to explore the transition of dusk into dark in the canyon. Look for nocturnal critters such as owls, bats, and deer. View night blooming plants. Enjoy your senses in the dark. Contemplate the moon, stars, and constellations. Bring a flashlight. Start: 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd.

Volunteer Trash Pickup Lopez Canyon

Sunday, Jul 27, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Trash pickup in López Canyon. Meet at López Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. **Call Ranger John Garwood at 858-538-8066 for more info.** Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).

August

Night Hike in Peñasquitos Canyon

Friday, Aug 1, 7-9 p.m.

Join Naturalist Mike Kelly to savor the sights, sounds, and smells of the preserve at night. Good chance to see deer, owls, bats, and more. Flat, moderate pace. Wear hiking boots, bring water, FLASHLIGHT and bug protection. Meet at Camino del Sur and Park Village Road in Rancho Peñasquitos. Thomas Guide, p. 1189 (A7).

Tracking Walk

Saturday, Aug 9, 8 a.m.

Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho . Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Naturalist Hike up Black Mtn.

from Hilltop Park

Saturday, Aug 16, 8-10 a.m.

Join Naturalist David Robertson for a nature hike up Black Mtn. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Significant elevation gain. Enjoy great vistas all the way to the ocean. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. Meet at the gate to the natural area next to Hilltop Park on Oviedo St., in Rancho Penasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (E2) or call 858-484-3219 for more info.

Sunset/Full Moon Hike up Black Mtn.

Saturday, Aug 16, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Join Naturalist Linda King for a combined sunset/full moon hike. Hike up for sunset, hike down in full moon! Enjoy great vistas! Significant elevation gain. Wear hiking boots, bring water, FLASHLIGHT and bug protection. Meet at the end of Laurentian Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (D2) or call 858-484-3219 for more info.

Night Walk

Saturday, Aug 23, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

A hike to explore the transition of dusk into dark in the canyon. Look for nocturnal critters such as owls, bats, and deer. View night blooming plants. Enjoy your senses in the dark. Contemplate the moon, stars, and constellations. Bring a flashlight. Start: 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd.

Volunteer Trash Pickup Lopez Canyon

Sunday, Aug 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Trash pickup in López Canyon. Meet at López Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. **Call Ranger John Garwood at 858-538-8066 for more info.** Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).

September**Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors**

Tuesday, Sep 2, 7 p.m.

Members are welcome to attend this business meeting to plan Friends' activities. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Driveway. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Black Mtn. Open Space Park Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, Sep 11, 7 p.m.

Public is welcome to attend this meeting to plan park activities. Meet at the Canyonside Recreation Center off Canyonside Driveway at Black Mountain Park. Thomas Guide, p.1189 (C7).

Night Hike in Peñasquitos Canyon East End

Friday, Sep 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Join Naturalist Mike Kelly for this first ever night hike in the east end of the preserve. Savor the sights, sounds, and smells of the preserve at night. Good chance to see deer, owls, bats, and more. Flat, moderate pace. Wear hiking boots, bring water, FLASHLIGHT and bug protection. Meet at the Rangers' Trailers in the Equestrian Center off Black Mtn. Road between Mercy Road and Canyonside Driveway. Thomas Guide, p. 1189 (D7).

Tracking Walk

Saturday, Sep 13, 8 a.m.

Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Penasquitos. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).

Night Walk

Saturday, Sep 13, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

A hike to explore the transition of dusk into dark in the canyon. Look for nocturnal critters such as owls, bats, and deer. View night blooming plants. Enjoy your senses in the dark. Contemplate the moon, stars, and constellations. Bring a

flashlight. Start: 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd.

Intermediate Tracker Naturalist Class

Wednesday, Sep 17, 7 a.m.

This two-day class will delve into the finer details of tracking, awareness, and the philosophy of living in harmony with nature. Two day Event. Email lpitt@cox.net to register or go to LPTT Website (<http://www.penasquitos.org/classes.htm>) for more information.

Intermediate Tracker Naturalist Class

Saturday, Sep 20, 8 a.m.

This two-day class will delve into the finer details of tracking, awareness, and the philosophy of living in harmony with nature. Two day Event. Email lpitt@cox.net to register or go to LPTT Website (<http://www.penasquitos.org/classes.htm>) for more information.

Miner's Loop Trail, Black Mtn.

Saturday, Sep 20, 8 - 10 a.m.

Join a naturalist for a nature hike up Black Mtn. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Moderate elevation gain. Learn about the old arsenic mine. Enjoy great vistas all the way to the ocean. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. Thomas Guide p. 1169 (F6/7) or call 858-484-3219 for more info.

Volunteer Trash Pickup Lopez Canyon

Sunday, Sep 28, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Trash pickup in López Canyon. Meet at López Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. **Call Ranger John Garwood at 858-538-8066 for more info.** Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).

Directions**Black Mtn. Open Space Park**

From I-15 take SR 56 (Ted Williams Parkway) west to Black Mountain Rd. Go right (north) on Black Mtn. Rd. all the way to Car-

See **Directions** p. 4 for more

Non-Natives in the Canyon

Rangers Paul Kucharczyk and Autumn Acker

Ever been enjoying the trails, minding your own business, and happened upon some critter that just didn't seem "right?" Well, then so have Rangers Paul and Autumn. Over our combined years here, we have had our share of encounters with the unexpected. So far it appears our "shelled" friends have been the most discovered to date.

Eastern Box Turtle

Years ago a live-in volunteer was weed-whipping by the Ranch House, and came upon a most unusual rock . . . well, it moved. The volunteer brought the "rock" to Ranger Paul's desk. After checking our reptiles and amphibians field guides, it was determined to be an exotic critter. After a couple of hours living in Ranger Paul's desk drawer, the San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society rescued it.



Red-eared slider turtle, a non-native turtle often dumped in the Preserve.

Red-Eared Slider

Recently, a park visitor popped in the Ranger Office to say: "Do you know you have a big turtle wandering around by the Ranch House?" Well, sure enough there was a critter as big as a dinner plate wandering by Wing C. This one turned out to be

a Red-Eared Slider, another non-native. Once again, the San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society assisted.

African Spur-Thigh Tortoise

Our largest "shelled" friend was an enormous 50 pound tortoise found wandering near the north trail. Upon its capture, we again contacted the San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society, who said a volunteer would arrive in a couple hours. So, staff brought the tortoise to the Ranch House, where we enjoyed watching this critter cruise around the courtyard.

Macaw

Driving out towards Canyon-side Community Park we heard a raucous call, clearly not from around these parts . . . Looking up to the top of a dead snag, there was a lone Macaw perched with a Scrub Jay and Acorn Woodpecker starring.

Red Tailed Boa Constrictor

You may recall from newsletters past a rather detailed article on the capture of a large exotic snake. As radio chatter can become somewhat distorted, staff's mention of a reported "python in the canyon," was misinterpreted as a "pipe-bomb in the canyon." It turned out to be a 6' Red Tailed Boa Constrictor. As for the "pipe-bomb", many Rangers reported to the scene to help secure the area. Once here, we realized they were less than amused to have rushed to our aid for a "python."

In the event that you stumble upon a critter "not from around these parts," bring it to a Rangers attention so that these unfortunate, misplaced individuals, can be rescued by the appropriate societies. Makes you wonder what's out there we haven't seen yet...

(Directions cont'd from pg 3)

mel Valley Rd. Take a right on the new extension of Carmel Valley Rd. and proceed past the Community Park on the left and down the hill. Look for a sign for the park on the right and take the next right into the park entrance. Careful, this is a tight turn off Carmel Valley Rd. Proceed up the road to the staging area. Or, take Bernardo Center Dr. from the I-15 west to where it ends at the new extension of Carmel Valley Rd. Take the latter west, past the park entrance until you can take the first available U-turn back to the park. See Thomas Guide p. 1169 (E7).

Carmel Mountain Trail Head

From Carmel Valley take El Camino Real south. At intersection with Carmel Mountain Road, proceed straight on Carmel Mountain Road. Go up the hill to East Ocean Air Dr. Go left and park at Fairport and Shorepointe. Wear hiking boots. Bring water/sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. Thomas Guide p.1208 (C2).

Mercy Rd. 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 (D7).

Northern Parking-Staging Area

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 del Sur. Left on Camino del Sur and park by the kiosk. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Park Village Drive Meeting Area

Located in Rancho Peñasquitos. From I-15 take the Mercy Road exit west to Black Mountain Road.

See **Directions** p. 7 for more

(Fawn cont'd from pg 1)

mammals that Project Wildlife rehabilitates; Fund for Animals generally takes the larger mammals.

I spoke with a very helpful volunteer at Project Wildlife named Cynthia; she talked me through the process of helping the fawn until I was able to get it to them. I will share with you what I learned.

1) It is important for the deer not to imprint on humans, as the goal is to be able to return them to the wild. To avoid imprinting **do not** make eye contact, name, talk to, pet or coo at the deer. This goes against every instinct we have but it is very important for successful return to the wild.

2) Young deer are unable to relieve themselves without being stimulated to do so. Like all infants, they become agitated when there is pressure. To mimic

mamma take 8-10 paper towels, lay them on top of one another. Fold them in half and then in half again and in half once more to make a small thick square. Wet the towels with very warm water you don't want it dripping, but wet. Now gently tap the fawn around the anus, like you're burping a baby. The fawn will almost immediately relieve itself and be much more comfortable.

3) If you suspect that it has been a while since it has eaten, ideally you'll give it unpasteurized goat's milk. This may be difficult to get your hands on so the second best thing is pasteurized goat's milk, which can be purchased at a grocery store. Animal formula will work but it results in undesirable effects when performing step two above. It is really tricky to get the fawn to drink from a bottle but be patient and keep trying. The fawn will try to nuzzle and lick your skin,

go ahead and let it do that, as it is part of the natural response as the fawn is looking for comfort and assurance. Now, steps two and three seem to go against step one, they kind of do, but it is important for the fawn's survival. Once the fawn is turned over to the rehabilitation center, they take measures to reduce human contact as it grows so it is able to be returned to the wild.

I found out later that the fawn is a boy and about one week old. He had no fear of humans and it was very difficult to resist petting him and keeping him forever. He would bleat for his mamma and follow me around the office. I swear there isn't anything cuter than a gangly fawn trying to run after you on tile floors. It took several hours of trying, but I finally got him to drink some water from the bottle and once he figured it out, he went crazy for it. After one of his many naps he woke up and started looking around for someone, he saw me sitting at my desk so he walked around to where I was, licked my legs a bit then went under the desk, curled up at my feet and went back to sleep.

I was able to arrange with the Project Wildlife volunteer to meet her in Rancho San Diego to take the fawn to her rehabilitation center in Jamul. So I put the little guy in a box with a towel next to me in my truck, after about a minute, he settled down and slept the whole way there. So far, the fawn is doing really well and we are planning to release him back in Los Peñasquitos Canyon when he is old enough. I think this experience was the highlight of my Park Ranger career.



One-week old fawn found wandering near the El Cuervo Mitigation site, now at the Rancho San Diego rehabilitation center in Jamul.

Park Ranger updates,
newsletters and more are
available at
www.penasquitos.org.

(History cont'd from pg 1)

black habits herding cattle with sticks. They used the dairy to provide milk for the hospital in exchange for meat and other food they couldn't grow themselves and, with the help of gardeners, maintained a prosperous vegetable garden.

The Sisters thought the steep cliffs of the mesa behind the house reminded them of their former monastery in France, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, so they named it Carmel Mountain. The Sisters ran the dairy farm there and built the big red barn and silo (Fig. 2) which have fallen down (Fig. 3). They operated it right up until WWII, when their workmen left to join the military.

The Stephens

After WWII, the property was sold to Bob and Anne Stephens (Northrop 1996). Bob, a retired Army Officer, named it the Mt. Carmel Ranch. The Stephens made a lot of improvements, including drilling a well, putting two bathrooms in the Big House and

building a swimming pool. Bob Stevens also hired Frank Knechtel, a local bean farmer, to till the fields where he planted grain and hay to feed his herd of cattle. They farmed the area for about 40 years, storing the grain and hay in the silo and barn.

When Rt. 56 was built, Bob Stephens said his ranch in Carmel Valley was "no longer suitable for *farmin*," sold all but one acre where the "Big house" stands and moved to a new home on Shaw Ridge (pers. commun. Northrop). The Stephens tried to get the "Big House" registered with the Historical Society. but it didn't qualify because the bathrooms had been added so it wasn't in its original shape.

The "Big House" stayed empty for many years, while several developers tried to buy the property. However, they failed to pay the required fees so the land reverted to the City of San Diego.

The Clews family then tried to acquire the now empty Mt. Carmel Ranch from the City of San Diego. After some initial discussion with the City, they offered to exchange



Figure 2 - The old red barn and silo as they looked in 2005. Both the silo and barn have since fallen down.



Figure 3 - The silo after it fell down in 2006. The barn fell down

their 90 acres on the north rim of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve for the 40 acres (actually 38.44 acres behind the "Big House" (City of San Diego 2006). In addition, they offered to donate 20 acres to the City of San Diego for inclusion in the City's Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) and only use 20 acres for their horse ranch.

The City of San Diego made Clews revise his plans for the new property and required them to move both the old red barn (which fell down in 2008) and summer house called "Beth's Cottage" to different sites on the property.

This new plan was approved in June 2006 by the City's Development Services Department which issued a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (City of San Diego 2006). It was later approved by the Carmel Valley Community Planning Board. After several more changes were made, the proposed exchange and move was heard before the City Planning Commission on November 9, 2006. It was approved unanimously by the Board and subsequently by the full City Council and then the California Coastal Commission. The deed states that the property is to remain an equestrian center "in Perpetuity" so it can never be developed.

(Directions cont'd from pg 4)

Right on Black Mountain Road and up hill, left on Park Village Drive and take it all the way to the end at the white barricades and park entrance. Thomas Guide p. 1189 – 1188 (J7).

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 (C7).

Santa Luz Meeting Area

Meet at the kiosk in the parking lot off San Dieguito Road, opposite Montien Rd.. Thomas Guide p. 1168 (J5).

Sorrento Valley Meeting Area

Meet in parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Sorrento Valley Road. Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 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. Thomas Guide p. 1208, (D5).

Maps of Peñasquitos Canyon and Black Mountain Open Space Parks are available at www.penasquitos.org.

Special Award from C-3

Mike Kelly

Mike Kelly, Conservation Chair of the Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, is shown receiving a "Special Recognition Award" from Citizens Coordinate for Century 3. He is receiving the award from Howard Blackson, president of C-3 at their annual awards luncheon. The award is "For leadership and dedication to natural lands management and restoration."

C-3 is a well-known non-profit civic organization. Formed in 1961, it

describes itself as:

"For over four decades C-3 has played an important role in shaping city policy and informing citizens on planning issues -- from the preservation of rivers, parks, canyons, valleys and beaches to the revitalization of downtowns and neighborhoods. C-3 offers a comprehensive approach to growth management by encouraging open space, high standards of urban design, and coordination of planning between public and private sectors so that San Diego's continuing development will complement its natural setting. Our vision and aims are further described in Toward Permanent Paradise."

Kelly was particularly touched to receive this award from C-3 because this organization played an important role in the early fight to save Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Kelly shared some of this early history with the luncheon attendees.

"Although I've been volunteering for 22 years with the Friends, contrary to people's perceptions," he said, "the fight to preserve Peñasquitos Canyon didn't begin with me and didn't begin with the Friends of los Peñasquitos Can-

yon Preserve. We came to the fight almost 20 years after Helen Scaintlan and other citizens began the fight and got the first acres saved." Kelly then showed the crowd a newspaper article and photos of a sit-in in front of bulldozers in Peñasquitos Canyon led by C-3 way back in 1971. They were protesting the fact a massive sewer line was being put in the Canyon that would damage its pristine character -- without an environmental analysis of potential alternatives. C-3 was fighting for a change in public policy that would eventually be achieved in 1976 with CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act. CEQA turned out to be a powerful tool for concerned citizens all over the state. It requires that there be an environmental analysis of the projects potential impacts on the environment and an analysis of alternative project designs, etc. Eventually, the concept of mitigation for these impacts became accepted as a requirement of development as well.

Isn't it exciting that so many different people and organizations have been fighting to conserve our precious Peñasquitos Canyon and its neighboring open space for over 4 decades!



Mike Kelly receives C-3 Special Recognition Award from Howard Blackson, C-3 President.



Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

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858-484-3219 www.penasquitos.org

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I / We are interested in the following:

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 Hikes
 Indian Culture
 Educational Workshops
 School, Family, Youth Programs
 Environment (Plants, birds, mammals, geology)

Other: _____

Name(s) _____

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Canyon News

Black Mountain Park · Del Mar Mesa Preserve
Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve
Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

Oct/Nov/Dec 2008
Volume 22, NO 3

Bovet Adobe Update

Will Bowen, PhD



1958 Photograph of the Bovet adobe. (Photo Courtesy of Jim Hamilton)

[Will Bowen compares a newly discovered picture of the Bovet Adobe (above) with pictures used to accompany his article in our previous Canyon News (Jul/Aug/Sep 2008). Please refer to this issue or visit our website, www.penasquitos.org, to make this comparison. - Editor]

In May 1958, when he was 11 years old, Jim Hamilton and his family went on a leisurely Sunday family drive, traveling from Clairmont to Coast Highway One, down to Sorrento Valley Road, and then out Carroll Canyon Road, headed toward Escondido.

As they passed through Carroll Canyon, the Hamilton's stopped the car and parked along the two lane paved road to admire an old adobe. Although they didn't know anything about the adobe or who

had lived there they decided to climb under the barbwire fence to have a look at it.

They walked across the field of new spring grasses and contemplated the adobe up close. Jim Hamilton remembers that there wasn't any wood on the walls of the adobe at that time. He said that he looked inside and it was empty. He doesn't recall if there were one or two rooms.

As they were leaving, Jim's father took a picture of the adobe that was filed away in the family album. The Hamilton's never returned to that adobe. This past year, some 50 years later, Jim Hamilton, now retired from his profession as owner of the Hamilton Towing Company in Clairmont, and having time to pursue his interest in San Diego history, took

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the photo to the County Archaeology Center near the Wild Animal Park. They directed him to Mike Kelly of the Friends. Mike explained that the photo was probably of the Bovet adobe and referred him to myself. I met with Jim, interviewed him, and filled him in on what I knew about the Bovet adobe. Later, we both explored the Bovet ruins.

The 1958 photo that Jim is so graciously making public is a very valuable contribution to our knowledge of the Bovet adobe. When we compare it to photographs we already have, such as the ones from 1936 and 1965, we can better understand the stages of the adobe's decline. Jim's photograph also gives us further insight into the architecture that characterizes this unique and important adobe.

The 1936 photo of the Bovet adobe that we have was taken by Lenora Curtin. By this date, the Bovet adobe had been vacant for about ten years. The land it was on was under the control of Max Dietrich, who had a farm, just a little northwest of the adobe. In this photograph, you can see that

See **Bovet** p. 7 for more

Upcoming Hikes/Events

Fall is here, with winter right around the corner. However, the days can still be warm and dry. Be sure to bring adequate water and sunscreen as you prepare for your hikes. All hikes are free to the public. If you're bringing an organized group, please call (858) 484-3219 to make arrangements. Rain cancels hikes. Be sure to wear hiking boots and bring water, insect repellent, and sun protection. See you on the trail!

Every Saturday & Sunday Historic Adobe Ranch Tour

San Diego County Park docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's second oldest standing residence, Ranch Santa Maria de Los Peñasquitos at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m. on Sundays, lasting 45 minutes. See an historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds.

October

Tracking Walk

Saturday, Oct 11, 8 AM

Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Peñasquitos. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

Black Mtn Hike on Miner's Loop Trail

Saturday, Oct 18, 8 – 10 AM

Join a naturalist (David Robertson) for a nature hike up Black Mtn in Ranch Peñasquitos. Moderate elevation gain. Learn about the old arsenic mine. Enjoy great vistas all the way to the ocean. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1169 (F6/7)**

Wildlife Survey Volunteer Training

Saturday, Oct 18, 9:15 AM

This free training includes basic track, sign, and habitat recognition, as well as details on the implementation of survey protocol, and is required for survey volunteers. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Peñasquitos. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

Sensory Awareness Hike

Sunday, Oct 26, 4 – 5:30 PM

A hike to explore the senses as a path to know nature better. We will have the opportunity to experiment with sight, sound, taste, touch, and fragrance, contemplating and sharing our experience of the colors of the grasses or the sky, the song of a bird, the fragrance of a leaf, the taste of a berry, the texture of tree bark, etc. This practice can help one have a more profound and quiet connection with the natural world. Meet at West End Parking Staging Area, 4300 Sorrento Valley Blvd., Sorrento Mesa. **Thomas Guide 1208 (D5).**

November

Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve Board of Directors meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 7 PM.

Members are welcome to attend this business meeting to plan Friends' activities. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Driveway. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

Tracking Walk

Saturday, Nov 8, 8 AM

Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Peñasquitos. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

Volunteer Restoration Project at Black Mtn. Open Space Park

Saturday, Nov 8, 9 AM – 1 PM

Volunteers are welcome to join the Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon in restoring wildlife habitat in Black Mtn Open Space Park on Zanja Creek. Meet on the far (northeast) side of Black Mtn. Ranch Community Park at 14700 Carmel Valley Road, Rancho Peñasquitos, San Diego. Bring sun protection, water, and good footwear. Gloves, if you have them. Groups welcome, but RSVP first. Contact Mike at 858-342-8856 or mkelly1@san.rr.com for **more info.**

Fall Color Walk to Sycamore Crossing

Sunday, Nov. 9, 8:30 – 10:30 AM

Join naturalist Linda King for a 4-

Maps of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and Black Mountain Open Space Parks are available at www.penasquitos.org.

mile moderately paced fall color walk from Carson's Crossing to Sycamore Crossing in Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Bring sun protection, water, and good footwear. Meet at the end of Park Village Dr. (#7107) in Rancho Peñasquitos at the white barricades. Several moderately steep hills, but with great views. **Thomas Guide p. 1189-1188 (J7).**

Black Mtn Open Space Park Citizens Advisory Committee

Thursday, Nov 13, 6:30 PM

Public is welcome to attend this meeting to plan park activities. Meeting is at the Canyonside Recreation Center off Canyonside Driveway at Black Mountain Rd. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

Black Mtn Hike on Miner's Loop Trail

Saturday, Nov 15, 8 – 10 AM

Join a naturalist (Arne Johanson) for a nature hike up Black Mtn in Ranch Peñasquitos. Moderate elevation gain. Learn about the old arsenic mine. Enjoy great vistas all the way to the ocean. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1169 (F6/7).**

Peñasquitos Canyon Citizens Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, Nov 20, 7 PM.

Public is welcome to attend the bi-monthly meeting to advise the Parks Dept. on Preserve issues. Meeting is at the historic Adobe Ranch House at Black Mountain Road and Canyonside Driveway. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

Sabre Springs Fall Walk

Saturday, Nov 22, 9 – 11 AM

Join naturalist Mike Kelly for a hike on nature trails and the old Stagecoach Rd. in Sabre Springs. Learn about the old Stagecoach road and the Sabre Springs wildlife refuge. Learn about the native trees and wildlife that still call this area home. **Meet at the corner of Sabre Springs Parkway south and Springwater Point.**

Shamanic Hike**Sunday, Nov 23, 3 – 5 PM**

Short hike to a power spot where to explore shamanic traditions of the indigenous people of Americas. Learn about saging, calling the directions, creating sacred space, and accessing energies of nature for healing, insight, and wisdom. Good opportunity to connect with the spirit of the season through nature. Please bring a blanket to sit on and a drum or rattle. **Meet at West End Parking Staging Area, 4300 Sorrento Valley Blvd., Sorrento Mesa. Thomas Guide 1208 (D5).**

December**Tracking Walk****Saturday, Dec 13, 8 AM**

Everyone is invited to join us for a free, easy tracking walk to learn about the art of tracking and the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. Beginner and Intermediate levels. Meet at the historic Ranch House on Canyonside Dr., Rancho Peñasquitos. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7).**

Volunteer Restoration Project**at Black Open Space Mtn Park****Saturday, Dec 13, 9 AM – 1 PM**

Volunteers are welcome to join the Friends of los Penasquitos Canyon in restoring wildlife habitat in Black Mtn Open Space Park on Zanja Creek. Meet on the far (northeast) side of Black Mtn. Ranch Community Park at 14700 Carmel Valley Road, Rancho Penasquitos, San Diego. Bring sun protection, water, and good footwear. Gloves, if you have them. Groups welcome, but RSVP first. Contact Mike at 858-342- 8856 or mkelly1@san.rr.com for more info.

Black Mtn Hike on Miner's Loop Trail**Saturday, Dec 20, 9 – 11 AM**

Join naturalist Mike Kelly for a nature hike up Black Mtn in Ranch Penasquitos. Moderate elevation gain. Learn about the old arsenic mine. Enjoy great vistas all the way to the ocean. Wear hiking boots and bring water and sun protection. **Thomas Guide p. 1169 (F6/7)** or call 858-484-3219 for more info.

Shamanic Hike**Sunday, Dec 21, 3 – 5 PM**

Short hike to a power spot where to

explore shamanic traditions of the indigenous people of Americas. Learn about saging, calling the directions, creating sacred space, and accessing energies of nature for healing, insight, and wisdom. Good opportunity to connect with the spirit of the season through nature. Please bring a blanket to sit on and a drum or rattle. **Meet at West End Parking Staging Area, 4300 Sorrento Valley Blvd., Sorrento Mesa. Thomas Guide 1208 (D5).**

DIRECTIONS**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 (D7).

Northern Parking-Staging Area

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 del Sur. Left on Camino del Sur and park by the kiosk. Thomas Guide p. 1189 (A7-B7).

Park Village Drive Meeting Area

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 and take it all the way to the end at the white barricades and park entrance. Thomas Guide p. 1189 – 1188 (J7).

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 (C7).

Sorrento Valley Meeting Area

Meet in parking lot at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd. on the north side of Sorrento Valley Boulevard in Sorrento Valley, 1/4 mile east of its intersection with Sorrento Valley Road. Thomas Guide p. 1208 (D5).

West-End Parking-Staging Area

South side of Sorrento Valley Blvd. in Sorrento Valley, 1/2 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. Thomas Guide p. 1208, (D5).



Black Mountain Open Space Park Ranger Joel Tracy is shown installing a new bridge. Photo by Senior Ranger Ed Christenson.

ARCH in the PARK

Saturday, October 18, 2008 • 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

The **San Diego County Archaeological Society** presents
an educational day of **Archaeology and Fun** at the
Ranch House in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

- ➔ Find out what archaeology is all about; dig in a mock excavation; play games
- ➔ Discover the history of the Ranch House on a tour of the adobe
- ➔ See archaeology exhibits, demos on stone tool making, basket making, and more!



Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the shade. Fry bread, snacks, and sodas will be available for purchase.



For more information, call: 858-538-0935
visit our website:
www.sandiegoarchaeologicalsociety.com
or e-mail us at: sdcas@email.com



Peñasquitos brand



DIRECTIONS: From I-15 take Mercy Rd. west; turn right (north) onto Black Mountain Rd. Take the first left onto Canyonside Park Driveway. Follow the road all the way to the end (past ball fields) to Ranch House. Park in the Visitors lot on the left side of the road. Walk the pathway to the ranch complex.

Donor Update:
Land Acquired for Trail
Jas Arnold
Black Mountain - Open Space CAC

Progress, albeit slow, is being made towards breaking ground on the Trail for All People. The most exciting development is that the land for the trail has been donated in fee title to the City of San Diego. Donating the land is Black Mountain Ranch, LLC. We particularly want to thank Bill Dumka of Black Mountain for shepherding this through the title transfer process.

Funding for this project, which is anticipated to be at the \$200,000 level, will (hopefully) come from a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant offered through the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation. The generosity and support of the Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve has been instrumental in clearing the administrative "issues" required to submit for this RTP funding. These issues include CEQA (environmental review) which is in the works. Feedback received from the people associated with the RTP program has been extremely positive. Consensus is this is a great, much needed project that stands a good chance of receiving a grant.

Www.trailforallpeople.com, A web site, has been established to keep interested parties aware of project status and happenings and to provide a location where suggestions and donations can be made. There you can see the latest 1-foot/pixel aerial of the site.

We want to thank the following generous donors who responded to the Friends of los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve spring fund appeal for the trail:

\$500 or more

The Arnolds, Palo Alto
 Mona Baumgartel
 Friends of Peñasquitos
 Arne Johanson

\$100 - 499

Martha Alston
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 Meryl Faulkner
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 Ann Pogue
 David Robertson
 Pam & Jeff Stevens
 Judy Swink
 Mr. & Mrs. Winfield Wagner
 Toni & Frank Wong

**Los Californianos Meeting
 Features Peñasquitos**

Los Californianos will meet Oct. 24 - 26th at the Best Western Seven Seas in Mission Valley. Los Californianos (The Californians) are descendents of the early Hispanic settlers (1769 - 1848) of Alta California as the area was then called. The group is dedicated to the preservation of that heritage and as part of that goal offers researchers a Traveling Genealogy Library specializing in the Hispanic settlers of that time period. The library will be in the Lord Jim room of the Seven Seas and will be open from 3 - 8 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24, and from 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Sat., Oct. 25. The public is welcome to use it for their own genealogy research for the nominal fee of \$8 for the weekend. This fee includes the \$3 registration fee for the meeting. There will be volunteers in the library to help you.

The weekend program includes self-guided tours of the Carillo National Monument on Saturday and a tour of Rancho Los Peñasquitos on Saturday afternoon. Saturday dinner features Richard Carrico, Historian and Anthropologist, speaking on Native Americans and the Californios. Dr. Lynne Christenson, Historian of San Diego County Parks and Recreation will speak at a Sunday breakfast buffet on Strong and Beautiful: the Women of San Diego County Ranchos. Registration for the meeting will be in the Seven Seas Hospitality Suite, room 129, starting Friday at 3 p.m. For further information contact Benita and George Gray at 858-538-3027 or email address: gray850@aol.com.

On a related note, you can see a great display on the Women of the Ranchos at the Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House during the Saturday (11 a.m.) and Sunday (1 p.m.) free tours of the adobe.

Wildlife Survey & Tracking Training

Wildlife survey volunteers are invited to attend a free one-day training conducted by the experienced tracker/naturalists of the San Diego Tracking Team. This training includes basic track, sign, and habitat recognition, as well as details on the implementation of the survey protocol. During the months following the training, volunteers are expected to accompany a transect leader on at least one survey transect.

After completing this training or equivalent (including any of the LPTT's Tracker / Naturalist classes), volunteers are welcome to practice their skills by assisting with future surveys.

Pre-registration is not required for individuals but requested for groups. Please bring a sack lunch, water, and be prepared to spend much of the day outdoors. Also, please bring your calendar so that you can sign up for transects.

Trainings are held on the third Saturday of the month in January, April, July, and October. Please see our calendar for exact dates.

See the Hike Directory for more information.

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome our new members who joined the Friends this past year:

Van Barker
Cheryl Berkey
Richard & Pat Clark
Heidi Davis
Donald Gold
Hamilton James
Arne Johanson
Elizabeth Kirkbright
Mary Leuker
Brian Travis Family

We hope to see you on the trail enjoying our open spaces!



New Drainage in Santa Luz. Pictured is a newly installed drainage pipe and large gravel fill on top of it in the Black Mountain Park trail system in the Santa Luz grasslands. This gully was steadily eroding, making it difficult for safety vehicles and a pain for bikers and others. When wet it was a muddy mess. This work was done by Black Mountain Park Ranger Joel Tracy. Looks good, but of course the real test will be a good rain next winter—if we have one! I think it will. — Mike Kelly



Illegal Dumping! Pictured is a dumpster being filled with trash illegally dumped in Black Mountain Park. Once in a while a Ranger is lucky enough to catch someone in the act. Most of the time, not. But, in one recent dumping, the dumpster left an envelope with the owner's address on it! Whoops! If you see someone dumping, get the license plate and a description of the vehicle if you can do this without putting yourself at risk. Call the Ranger at 858 538 8082 to report it.

(Bovet cont'd from pg 1)

two wooden rooms are attached to the rear of the main adobe and an extension of the gabled shingle roof extends over them. A large shrub, which is perhaps the large white rose climber described by historian Winifred Davis is next to and behind the wooden rooms. It seems logical to assume the wooden rooms were added after the original adobe was built. My guess is that the original adobe was built around 1854 and the wooden rooms added in the 1880s or 90s.

In Hamilton's 1958 photo, we see that the two wooden rooms, their roof, and adjoining shrub have been removed and only the adobe structure remains. I think that the wooden rooms were dismantled to make use of the wood for building material. They probably tore down the shrub for better access to the wood of the wooden rooms. The adobe walls, however, are intact and I think this is because there is a barbed wired fence between the adobe and the cows in the background. It is known that cattle can do much damage to an adobe when left to wander around and through it.

The 1965 photo of the Bovet adobe is on file at the County Historian's office. In this photo, you can see that much of the shingle roof has collapsed and there is a gaping hole in the adobe wall at about where the back door was. I think that someone removed the 2 X 4's that braced the door and that as cattle went through it they slowly began to knock down the bricks that framed the door. This lead to a cascading reaction as more bricks fell and then the roof lost support and fell in. The fact that the grass is so close cropped indicated the presence of cattle in and around the adobe. If you look back at the 1958 photo where the cattle are separated from the adobe by barbed wire you can see that the grass in front of the adobe

is quite thick and lush.

The Bovet adobe is significant is because it is a transitional dwelling with the adobe structure of the Mexican period, yet added wooden rooms indicative the American period. Interestingly, this merger of building styles is an early foreshadowing of our current modern period which cultural critics call "Postmodernism." "Postmodernism" is characterized by a "pastiche" or a blending of divergent artistic and architectural styles and traditions.

Some Corrections **Mt. Carmel Ranch** **Anne Harvey & Mike Kelly**



Mount Carmel - Circa 1894.

John Northrop wrote a brief history of Mt. Carmel Ranch and the house the Sisters of Mercy built there in the Jul-Sept. 2008 *Canyon News*. Following are some corrections to some of this account.

The article states that "The Stephens tried to get the 'Big House' registered with the Historical Society, but it didn't qualify because the bathrooms had been added so it wasn't in its original shape." (page 6)

- The Mt. Carmel house is located in the City of San Diego. The Historical Society does not designate buildings, the City does.
- Mt. Carmel Ranch is Historic Site # 391 in the City of San Diego. It was designated historic on 9/23/99 with a

period of significance between 1899 and 1945. It was designated significant because of its relation to the Sisters of Mercy.

- Historic designations are made on the exterior of buildings, not the interior. That was the case with the Mt. Carmel Ranch designation. The presence or absence of bathrooms on the interior of the house would not affect its designation. Historic buildings last longer if someone lives or works in them. We understand that people need to make an historic building functional and bathrooms are required. The presence of them does not affect the historic designation.

The article also states that the Sisters of Mercy "thought that the steep cliffs of the mesa behind the house reminded them of their former monastery in France, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, so they named it Carmel Mountain." A more likely explanation than the former monastery in France, of which we don't have a picture, is the origins of the 'Lady' and her order in the Holy Land. The Carmelites origin is in the Holy Land, in the Biblical Land of Cana'an, or today's northern Israel near the border with southern Lebanon.

As the circa 1894 photo shows, Mount Carmel in Israel does indeed resemble the northern end of Carmel Mountain. The vegetation also appears similar to our chaparral in form and shape, although not to genus and species, since both that site and San Diego share a Mediterranean climate.



Mount Carmel - today.



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Other: _____

Name(s) _____

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City State Zip _____

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Email _____

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