

# Canyon News

Black Mountain Park • Del Mar Mesa Preserve  
Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.

Jan./ Feb. 2006  
Volume 20, No. 1

## Enjoy Your Canyon's Oaks

Ranger Autumn Acker

As one walks, jogs, bikes, or rides through the canyon, it's impossible not to notice the beautiful foliage offering shade overhead. One source of that shade is the magnificent Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia.*), which is unique among oaks in its ability to thrive along the coast. Its dense crown and wide-spreading limbs, which often touch the ground, create a welcoming resting place for park visitors as well as for many critters who call this tree their home. The Coast Live Oak is not only a beautiful species to behold, but it's also a critical part of our history,

See p. 5 for more

## Soledad Valley

Will Bowen, PhD

Just as Lopez Canyon was once known as El Cuervo, or Crow Canyon, Sorrento Valley was once referred to as Soledad Valley. Soledad is a Spanish word meaning solitude. Hence, Sorrento Valley's historical name would have been Solitude Valley.

Historic Soledad Valley extended south from the salt flats of Penasquitos Canyon and east to include present day Carroll Canyon.

If you go back 100 or more years, Soledad Valley was quite different than it is today. Without the present-day man-made constructions, more of a confluence, interconnection, or

See p. 4 for more

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### Volunteers Needed

## Monardella Planting

**Saturday, January 14,  
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

Please join the Friends and the Calif. Native Plant Society at López Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa to plant seedlings of the Willowy monardella (aka Poway Mint). These seedlings were grown from seed collected over the years from López Canyon.

Here's your chance to help save one of the most endangered plants in the world, our own Willowy monardella (*Monardella linoides* ssp. *viminea*). There are fewer than 1,000 of these plants naturally occurring in the wild. Their entire geographic range is sandwiched between the Scripps Poway Freeway on the north, SR67 on the east, I-805 on the west, and SR52 on the south. And a major population was just wiped out in Carroll Canyon.

Last year's planting was successful, with over 100 plants surviving the hot, dry summer and fall. Before the planting last year there were only 6 plants left of the López Canyon population.

Call Mike Kelly at 858-566-6489 or email [mkellysd@aol.com](mailto:mkellysd@aol.com) for more information.



Cub Scout Pack 621 of Rancho Peñasquitos, led by Den leader Ann Daniels and Friends' volunteers Ivan & Carol Cooper, Edward DiBella, and Mike Kelly helped plant another section of the Trans County Trail. They are standing behind a health shrub planted by volunteers in a previous year.

## Rainy Season Brings Closures, Flowers

Rainy weather is one of those mixed blessings. It brings up the flowers and the more it rains, the better the flower show — witness last year's show here and in the desert! But rain also means park closures to let the parks dry out. And our first rain of the new year has brought our first closure. To ensure that you don't meet a "park closed" sign call the rangers at 858-538-8066 any time after a significant rain event.

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

County Park docents lead free, 45 minute guided tour of San Diego's second oldest residence, Rancho Santa María de los Peñasquitos, at 11 a.m. Saturdays and 1 p.m. Sundays. See historic Mexican era rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. **La Cocina Gift Shop Hours:** 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Saturdays, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sundays. Ranch House is located on Canyonside Drive off Black Mountain Road near I-15 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (C7)**.

### January

#### Beginner & Intermediate Tracking Walks

Sat., Jan. 14, 8–10 a.m. Tracker/naturalists from the Friends' Tracking Team will lead two walks, one suitable for beginners (children welcome!) and intermediates. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Wear shoes that are good in mud. Meet at the historic ranch house. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., go right on Black Mtn. Rd. and take 1st left into Canyonside Dr., proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, walk west on trail to ranch. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 C7**.

#### Monardella Restoration Planting in López Canyon

Sat., Jan. 14, 9 - 1 p.m. Join the Friends and the Calif. Native Plant Society in planting seedlings of the highly endangered Willowy monardella plants. We'll also do some light weeding. Meet at López Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Bring water and wear hiking boots. **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (H3)**.

#### Canyon Favorites Hike

Sat., Jan. 14, 3 – 5 p.m. Join Pat Watkins for a moderately paced hike to Walden Pond, Carson's Crossing, the waterfall and back. Good chance of seeing wildlife. Meet at the end of Park Village Dr. in Rancho Peñasquitos. Bring insect repellent, water and wear hiking boots. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (J7)**.

#### Small Things of Nature Walk from Mercy Road w Les Braund

Sun., Jan. 15, 9 – 11 a.m. Join Les Braund, former President of the San Diego Mycological Society for this nature walk emphasizing the small things of nature such as mushrooms, liverworts, mosses, and lichens. Learn about the interactions between wildlife and mushrooms or lichens. Good chance to see native wildflowers. Meet in Mercy Road Parking-Staging area, upper level at the junction of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

#### Black Mountain Park & Peñasquitos Canyon Citizens Advisory Committees Joint Meeting

Thur., Jan. 19, 7:30 p.m. Public is welcome to attend this meeting to plan park activities. There will be a special presentation on the City's proposal to build a Joint Ranger Station at Mercy and Black Mountain Roads. Meeting is at Canyonside Recreation Center at Black Mountain Rd and Canyonside Driveway. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (D7)**.

#### Nature Walk from Mercy Road

Sun., Jan. 22, 9 a.m. Join naturalist Linda King for this moderately paced nature walk. Learn native plants and their uses. Meet in Mercy Road Parking-Staging area, upper level at

Maps of Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and Black Mountain Open Space Parks are available at [www.penasquitos.org](http://www.penasquitos.org).

the junction of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

#### Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors

Tues., 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)**.

#### Carmel Mountain Vernal Pool & Flower Walk with Diana Gordon

Sat., Jan. 28, 9 – 11 a.m. Visit vernal pools, one of San Diego's rarest habitats. Good chance to see wildflowers. Meet at the Carmel Mountain Trail Head at Fairport and Shorepointe streets in Sorrento Hills. Wear hiking boots, bring water and sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208, C2**.

#### Medicinal Plant Hike in Peñasquitos Canyon

Sun. Jan. 29, 3 - 4:30 p.m. Learn to identify plants, shrubs, and trees. Find out how they've been used for medicinal purposes. Meets at 4206 Sorrento Valley Boulevard. **Thomas Guide p. 1208**.

### February

#### Monardella Restoration in López Canyon

Sat., Feb. 4, 9 - 1 p.m. Join the Friends and the Calif. Native Plant Society in weeding and watering the highly endangered Willowy monardella plants. Bring your own hand tools for weeding or use ours. Meet at López Ridge Park at 7245 Calle Cristobal in Mira Mesa. Bring water and wear hiking boots. **Thomas Guide p. 1208 (H3)**.

#### Nature Walk from Mercy Road

Sun., Feb. 5, 9 a.m. Join naturalist Linda King for this moderately paced nature walk. Learn native plants and their uses. Meet in Mercy Road Parking-Staging area, upper level at the junction of Mercy and Black Mtn.

Roads in Mira Mesa. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

### **Beginner & Intermediate Tracking Walks**

Sat., Feb. 11, 8–10 a.m.

Tracker/naturalists from the Friends' Tracking Team lead two walks, one suitable for beginners (children welcome!) and an intermediate. Learn how to track animals and discover the natural environment they live in. Wear shoes that are good in mud. Meet at the historic ranch house. Take Mercy Rd. exit off I-15 west to Black Mtn. Rd., right on Black Mtn. Rd. and 1st left into Canyonside Dr., proceed to white-fenced parking lot. Park, walk west on trail to ranch. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 C7**.

### **Canyon Favorites Hike**

Sat., Feb. 11, 3–5 p.m. Join Pat Watkins for a moderately paced to Walden Pond, Carson's Crossing and the waterfall and back. Good chance of seeing wildlife. Meet at the end of Park Village Road in Rcho Peñasquitos. Bring insect repellent, water and wear hiking boots. **Thomas Guide p. 1189 (J7)**.

### **Carmel Mountain Vernal Pool & Flower Walk with Diana Gordon**

Sun., Feb. 12, 1 p.m. Visit vernal pools, one of San Diego's rarest habitats. Good chance to see wildflowers. Meet at the Carmel Mountain Trail Head at Fairport and Shorepointe streets in Sorrento Hills. Wear hiking boots, bring water and sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208, C2** or call **858.484.3219**.

### **Carmel Mountain Hike w Will Bowen**

Sun., Feb. 19, 3 - 4:30 p.m. Hike up on Carmel Mountain. Learn to identify the plants and shrubs growing there. Look for early wild flowers and road pools or puddles which may contain fairy shrimp and tadpoles. Meet at the Carmel Mountain Trail Head at Fairport and Shorepointe streets in Sorrento Hills. Wear hiking boots, bring water and sun protection. Moderate hill to climb. See **Thomas Guide p. 1208, C2** or call **858.484.3219**.

### **Small Things of Nature Walk from Mercy Road**

Sat. Feb. 25, 9 - 11 a.m. Join Les Braund, former President of the San Diego Mycological Society for this nature walk emphasizing the small things of nature such as mushrooms, liverworts, and lichens. Learn about the interactions between wildlife and mushrooms or lichens. Good chance to see native wildflowers. Meet in Mercy Road Parking-Staging area, upper level at the junction of Mercy and Black Mtn. Roads in Mira Mesa. See **Thomas Guide p. 1189**.

### **Friends of Peñasquitos Canyon Board of Directors**

Tues., Feb. 28, 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)**.

## **DIRECTIONS**

### **Carmel Mountain Trail Head**

From Carmel Valley take El Camino Real south. At intersection with Carmel Mountain Road, proceed straight on what has become 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. See **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 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)**.

## **New members**

Welcome to these new members; see you on the trail!

Dan Anderson  
Jeff & Rose Dillon  
Brendan Duggan  
Jim & Imelda Maniquis  
Thomas Olsen  
Sue Schaffner

**To see the Friends'  
newsletter in color,  
visit**

**[www.penasquitos.org!](http://www.penasquitos.org!)**

**(Sorrento Valley cont'd)**

harmony with adjoining areas such as Penasquitos Canyon would be observable. The intermittent streams of Lopez, Penasquitos, and Carroll drained the land and flowed out to Penasquitos lagoon, holding the land together like fingers hold a hand together.

Prior to European contact there was a large Native American village site in Soledad Valley which was known as Yastequay. The central habitation area of this site was located near the east end of Roselle Street. There were subsidiary sites, such as milling stations or shell mounds located throughout the valley. Archaeologists consider the overall site to be of national importance. After contact, the Native American habitation areas began to shrink, eventually condensing into what the Spanish called a rancheria, located on Roselle Street.

The whole of Soledad Valley was given as a Mexican land grant to Francisco Maria Alvarado in 1838. This land grant was known as Rancho Soledad. Senor Alvarado was the gentleman to whom Capitan Ruiz gave Penasquitos Canyon. Alvarado and his son Diego built the El Cuervo adobe in the West end of the canyon sometime between 1830 and 1850. They utilized both Penasquitos Canyon and Soledad Valley for grazing.

The problem was that there was a conflict about the Rancho Soledad land grant. The City of San Diego would not recognize Alvarado's claim because they said that the Soledad was pueblo or city land and thus belonged to all the people. Yet Alvarado did have legal claim which he pursued a various times.

The pueblo land of Soledad valley was initially meant to be used by the



**Dead cypress trees mark the old Bovet adobe site. Photo by Bowen**



**Weeds obscure Bovet adobe ruin. Photo by Bowen**

soldiers and residents of the Presidio for small farming plots and grazing. In 1842, Bonafacio Lopez received permission to build a corral in Soledad Valley. Lopez, nicknamed "The King," was a member of the well-known Lopez family that built Casa de Lopez in Old Town. He was a rotund flamboyant horseman who served as "regateor" of the Presidio (arbitrator of disputes about cattle), substitute Presidio commandante, and member of the first grand jury empanelled in San Diego.

In 1853, Alvarado sold his claim to Rancho Soledad to Cave Coutts, a military scout and Old Town luminary, who later built Rancho Guajome in Vista. The very same day, Coutts turned around and sold his claim to Bonafacio Lopez for the same price he bought it for! No one seems to understand the nature of this transaction.

Bonafacio Lopez built an adobe on this land. It no longer exists but we do have a historical photograph of it confirming its existence. Lopez also had a house on the hill at the Presidio. He used the Soledad adobe as a base for grazing and as a get-a-way. According to historical accounts, the Lopez adobe was located near the confluence of Penasquitos and Carroll Creek or somewhere near the present day trolley station.

Bonafacio Lopez had several children. We should be very familiar with his son Ramon Lopez, Sr. because he built a wooden house and barn in Lopez canyon and ran a dairy farm there. Ramon Lopez, Sr. acquired ownership of his land of 160 acres under the US Government Land Grants program in 1895, but was settled on this land before this time.

The elder Lopez also had a daughter named Providencia who married

Pierre Bovet in 1854. Pierre Bovet was a Swiss immigrant who ran a bakery in Old Town. It appears that Bonafacio gave some land located to the southeast of his adobe in present day Carroll Canyon as a wedding gift to Bovet and his daughter.

Shortly after that, Bovet built an adobe on this land. By 1870, Bovet paid taxes on a 100 sheep which he grazed on the land. He also paid taxes on "Improvements" to his land which was probably his large grape vineyard.

The Bovet adobe had 5 rooms and was thus somewhat smaller than the El Cuervo adobe in Penasquitos Canyon. It had three large cypress trees in front of it and was surrounded by grape vines. Many people stopped by Bovet's adobe home to buy wine or to have dinner, as he was known as an outstanding chef. The foreman of the Cassidy ranch told San Diego historian Winifred Scott that he often road his horse up the valley to have dinner at the Bovets.

After Bonafacio Lopez died, his widow and children remained on the land in Soledad but soon ran into difficulties paying the land tax. Lopez's adobe and surrounding land was sold at auction and went through a string of owners. Eventually it was bought by Andrew Cassidy, who was probably the most famous Irishmen of early San Diego.

Cassidy eventually sold his land to a man named Baker. The pepper trees around the I-5/ 805 merge were planted by Baker, on the eastern part of his land. A German gentleman by the name of Diffendorf used to admire the Baker ranch land whenever he traveled north on the El Camino Real. He eventually bought it. His daughter Grace Diffendorf wrote a book under the pen name Booth Vandercook about her life on the ranch which was entitled "The Long Lane."

The railroad was built through Soledad Valley in November 1886. The effect was to immediately double land value in San Diego. The railroad was built by Chinese workers, who worked with pick axes, shovels, and dynamite. They dressed in baggy white shorts and rolled up long sleeve shirts. They had a pyramid-shaped straw hats and

straw sandals. Their attire was quite practical but also quite distinct from their Anglo overlords who wore long pants, vest, jacket, and boots. As elsewhere, the Chinese never really got the credit they deserved for their contributions to the building of the American West.

The Diffendorf family stayed in old Bonafacio Lopez adobe until they built a more suitable dwelling. Their ranch specialized in two money making occupations. One was dairy farming and the other was lima beans. They also sometimes took horses in for boarding. Grace Diffendorf mentions that they often had to flag the train down so they could get their horses off the track and says that their cattle were sometimes hit by it. When the railroad built their trestles, she says, "they changed the course of the stream... tules and cattail crept inland and good bean land turned into marsh and topsoil was washed out to sea." I wonder if this helps explain the tules, *Frankenia grandifolia*, and pickleweed (salt marsh plants) growing so out of place right next to the El Cervo adobe!

Lima beans were the most profitable crop of Soledad Valley. Several years ago John Northrup took me out to see Deer Lake in Carmel Valley and on the way we traversed Knecktle's bean field where lima beans were still grown.

Water has always been a problem in Soledad Valley. The streams provided water for washing clothes and watering stock but dried up in the summer. The Diffendorf's dug holes in the creek bed to bring up water and sunk wells, but they had to pump all day

long to barely water their cattle sufficiently. Hence, they sometimes had to move their cattle to the nearby mountains or as far away as Imperial Valley when it got really dry. On the other hand, when it rained hard the whole valley was "a lake from hill to hill."

Diffendorf mentions that they often saw enormous mountain lions, wild cats (bob cats) and coyotes on their ranch. Deer also often got into their lima bean fields.

She says that they went on picnics up to present day Torrey Pines State Park before it was a park. Since there was no road they had to take a long steep windy trail up the hill near where the park entrance is now. They would also go down to the lagoon mouth where they would throw out nets and catch more fish than they could use.

Diffendorf explored other nearby areas; she says, "We used to climb the hills to see brodiaea, violets, and cyclamen that carpeted the mesa." It appears they were looking at vernal pool plants. Her brodiaea would be *Brodiaea jolonensis* and the violet would be *Downingia*, both indicator plants of vernal pools. Unfortunately, I could not find cyclamen in Munz's book of California plants. She continues, "The mesa was very beautiful after a rain. Where there was no bush it was carpeted by low-growing wild flowers of every color."

Next time you are on I-5 or I-805 driving over Sorrento Valley or perhaps driving down from Mira Mesa on Sorrento Valley Road, you might ponder how Sorrento Valley once looked. . . when it was Soledad or Solitude Valley.

### (Your canyon cont'd)

and of our environment.

The Coast Live Oak has been an integral part of human history. Native Americans harvested and consumed its acorns as a dietary staple, and mission builders used its wood for charcoal to make adobe mortar. Later on, pioneers used its wood for "construction, wagon parts, and farm implements," (Pavlik 1991). For thousands of years humans have used these trees for shelter, food, and as a general resource.

There are many species aside from humans which rely on the Coast Live Oak for food and shelter. "Oaks produce a cornucopia of wildlife foods including acorns, leaves, twigs, sap, roots, and pollen," (Pavlik 1991). The importance to our environment is undeniable. Mule deer and California Quail thrive under the cover of oak woodlands, and acorn woodpeckers and western gray squirrels forage for its acorns. The list of amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, and plants associated with the Coast Live Oak is immense.

But beyond the history and the importance to our wildlife, these magnificent trees also bring a feeling of magic back into our hectic everyday lives. The sun filtering through the canopy, the soft rustle of the leaves in the wind, and the awareness of the history these trees have endured release built up stress. Suddenly one feels small in the greater scheme of things.

So take some time out to enjoy the beautiful trees in the canyon, especially the Coast Live Oak. Stop and listen to the life happening around you: the babbling of the creek; the calls of the birds; the hum of the insects; and hopefully the footfalls of a mule deer. It's important to enjoy the stillness of the canyon, not just the experience of traveling through it.

Pavlik, B., P. Muick, S. Johnson, and M. Popper. 1991. *Oaks of California*. Los Olivos, CA: Cachuma Press.



**Eagle Scout candidate Nicholas Woo-Hoogenstyn with his buddies who helped him complete a planting, irrigation, and fence project inside the Mercy Road entrance to Peñasquitos Preserve.**

Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2006

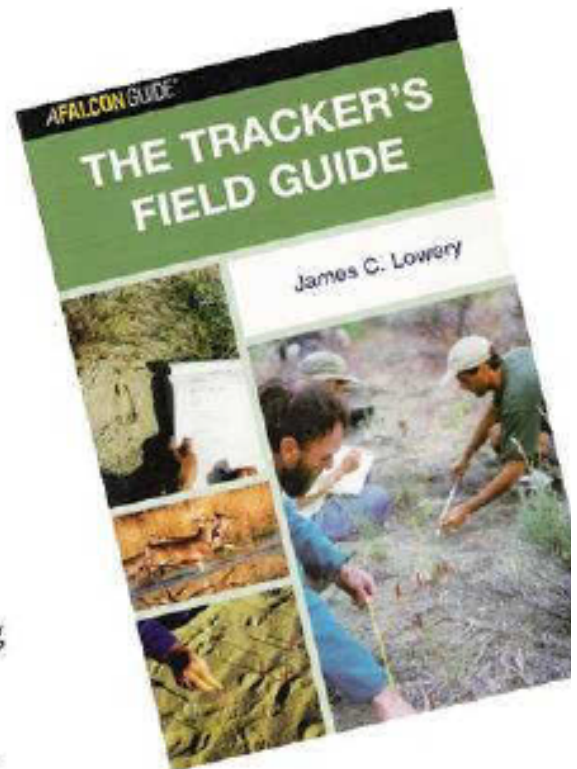
Time: 6:30 to 8:30 PM

San Diego Tracking Team

Speaker's Series Presents:

# Jim Lowery on Tracks as Windows

In this presentation specially designed for trackers, author Jim Lowery emphasizes that there should be no separation between track identification and track interpretation. Using examples from field research, Lowery will show how track identification can include measurements, habitat, time of year, time of day and behavior—yielding many surprises. Lowery will also cover some “biology for trackers”—interesting facts about behavior and biology for Southern California mammals gleaned from extensive research for his new book.


**Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**

- ◆ Refreshments & book signing from 6:30
- ◆ Lecture 7:00 to 8:30 PM
- ◆ At the MTRP visitor center
- ◆ Donations gladly accepted

Jim Lowery has taught tracking, wilderness survival and plant uses at his school, Earth Skills, in Frazier Park, California, for the past 19 years. Having been introduced to tracking by Tom Brown, Jr. in the mid 1980's, Lowery has conducted many special trainings for teachers, field biology professionals and nature center docents. He has also led "Dirt Time Workshops" to specifically track badgers, bighorn sheep and mountain lions.

**Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor Center Theater**  
take Mission Gorge Road to Father Junipero Serra Trail  
[mtrp.org](http://mtrp.org)

**RSVP: 760-715-4102 or [noreke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:noreke@sbcglobal.net)**

**San Diego Tracking Team**

**San Diego Tracking Team**

PO Box 502345  
San Diego CA 92150

Phone: 760-715-4102  
Website: [sdt.org](http://sdt.org)  
Email: [info@sdt.org](mailto:info@sdt.org)



# Fund Appeal Tops \$5,000!

Mike Kelly, conservation chair

A big thank you goes to the many members who made this fund drive the best ever! To date we've received \$5,225. I expect we'll receive more donations as we get into tax season.

What will these monies buy? We'll be outfitting the Friends Tracking Team with new digital remote sensing cameras for filming wildlife as they move (we hope!) through critical linkages between open space parks. Your donations will also buy hand held PDAs (Personal Data Assistants) to run the new Cybertracker program for capturing data in the field during wildlife surveys. These will be paired with GPS (Global Positioning Systems) to accurately pinpoint where different species of wildlife were observed. New GIS (Geographic Information System) software will store, display, and report the captured data. Finally, new high powered spotlights will allow better mule deer night time counts. Articles and photos in future newsletters will report – to you who made this possible — how this equipment is used to further our conservation goals.

Especially generous contributions (over \$100) were received from:

Norman Anderson  
Ivan & Carol Cooper  
Diane Greening  
Linda Johnson  
Richard & Ruth Mellen  
Geof Smith & Camille  
Armstrong  
Greg Vines  
Beth Williams

A big thank you also goes to:

Nancy Acevedo  
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Chris Bader  
Luanne Barrett  
Dave Bilak  
Mark & Kathie Bulley  
Mrs. Uli Burgin  
Jim & Pat Daley  
Jeff & Rose Dillon  
Jeanne & Glenn Dunham  
Lenore Edidin  
Terry Gaughen

Sharon & Ben Gebauer-Eberle  
Kathryn Heaney  
Anne Hegwer  
Leo & Patricia Holland  
Deborah & Brian Jones  
Mike Kelly  
Donald & Martha Kimball  
Alan & Judith Kiraly  
Tom & Connie Komin  
William H. Kuni  
Suzann & Bill Leininger  
Steve Lister  
Jim & Imelda Maniquis  
Patty & Tim McFarland  
Paul & Carol Micheletti  
Barbara Coffin Moore  
Amy & Kent Moser  
Sara Moser  
Gretchen Nell  
Karl & Laura Olsen  
James & Louise O'Neil  
Jim & Barbara Peugh  
Jim Powers  
Wilhelmina Reynolds  
Roy & Edwina Riblet  
David Robertson  
Erwin & Mary Rose  
Lisa & Bill Ross-Woolson  
Kelly & Al Sakoi  
Ernie Schnepf  
Robert Schmidt  
Vivienne Seymore  
Jeanne & Tom Simpson-White  
Don Steele  
Paula & Mike Svoboda  
Melvin & Ellen Sweet  
Kirsten Winter  
Toni & Frank Wong  
Anthony & Rebecca Wood

## Winter Volunteers Needed Wildlife Survey Training: Free!

**Date:** January 21  
**Time:** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Contact for info: (760) 715--4102 or visit [www.sdt.org](http://www.sdt.org).

Take part in a countywide track and sign survey to monitor the wildlife of major open space areas and other critical habitats. Learn basic track, sign and habitat recognition, as well as details on the implementation of survey protocol. This training is required for transect volunteers. In exchange for this free training, it is expected that trainees will also participate in at least one transect. Pre-registration is not required for individuals but requested for groups.

The training will be at Los Peñasquitos Adobe Ranch House, located behind Canyonside Community Park near the intersection of Black Mountain and Mercy Roads. If you have participated in last quarter's survey and do not wish to participate in the training, you may come by between noon and 2 p.m. to sign up for your transects.

It's expected that trainees will also participate in at least one wildlife survey in the weeks following the training. A survey usually averages 4 hours at locations around San Diego County. Trainees will be paired with experienced surveyors for the transects.

**Note:** Pre-registration for the training class is not required. You can just show up.

### Intermediate Tracker/ Naturalist Class Feb. 23 & 25th

Love wildlife & nature? Learn the art and science of mammal tracking and nature awareness skills! The class is sponsored by the San Diego Tracking Team. No experience required! Cost: \$50.00. Call 760-715-4102 for information and registration. See website for updates and info: [www.sdt.org](http://www.sdt.org).



**Friends of Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Inc.**

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

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**Address Service Requested**

### 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.



### 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: \_\_\_\_\_ 1/2006

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.

### 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: Mike Kelly
- 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