



Currents

Newsletter of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy



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Upcoming Events & Donor Recognition

Second Spring: Conserving Nature in Life and Art Exhibit and Gala

Presented in partnership with the Plein Air Painters of America (PAPA) and the California Center for the Arts, Escondido



ART IN NATURE ALLIANCE

Spring is a celebration of nature's creativity as the landscape bursts forth with color and new life. In just a couple of weeks, plein air artists will capture the beauty of the San Dieguito River Valley in all its springtime glory.

Twenty nationally-recognized artists from PAPA will spend several days exploring and interpreting the stunning diversity of San Dieguito's natural treasures – from the coastline, along our scenic river and sweeping valleys, through chaparral and oak groves, and to the forested crest of Volcan Mountain. The fresh-from-the-field art will be displayed in the museum galleries at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido. The "wet-paint exhibition" will be unveiled to *Second Spring Gala* attendees on Saturday, April 5 and to the public on Sunday, April 6.

"The Art of Looking at Art"
Presentation by Mr. Jean Stern
Saturday, April 5 | 5-6pm

Second Spring Gala
Saturday, April 5 | 6-9pm

"Nature and the Hybrid Mind"
Presentation by Richard Louv
Saturday, April 13 | 1:30 pm

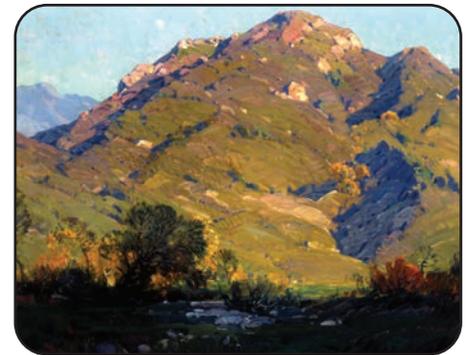
Gala Tickets (including the special presentation) are \$100.

Second Spring Gala

You are invited to be among the first to see and purchase the works of these renowned painters at the *Second Spring Gala* event. Guests will enjoy delicious food, wine, beer and soft drinks in a casual setting, while taking in works from past, present and future artists.

Special Presentation Before the Gala

Gala ticket holders are invited to a presentation by Mr. Jean Stern, the Director of Irvine Museum who will present "The Art of Looking at Art." This special presentation will be held on April 5 at 5:00, before the *Second Spring Gala* at the Council Chambers located adjacent to the Center for the Arts, Escondido campus. The presentation is offered at no charge to gala ticket holders but seating is limited. **Reserve your seat by purchasing gala tickets at www.ArtInNatureAlliance.org.**



Plein Air Artist Hanson Puthuff

Conserving Nature in Life and Art Exhibit

April 6-27 | Exhibit hours:

Monday-Wednesday: Closed
Thursday-Saturday: 10am-4pm
Sunday: 1-4pm

General Admission: \$8

Free to Center members and children under 12. Discounts available for seniors, students and military.

Conserving Nature in Life and Art

The *Art in Nature Alliance* is comprised of three nonprofits that unite to present a plein-air art exhibition featuring the beauty of the protected, living landscape in the San Dieguito River Valley. The event combines three exhibitions that bring together nature with art from the past, present and future. The exhibition takes place April 6-27 at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido and features historic works from public and private museum collections, as well as freshly-painted pieces created by nationally-known and young artists.

Early Artists – An exhibition of early California impressionist painters that documents the San Diego area in the early 20th century. Among the featured artists are: Charles A. Fries (1854-1940), Maurice Braun (1877-1941), Alfred R. Mitchell (1888-1972) and Charles Reiffel (1862-1942).

Contemporary Plein-Air Painters – Twenty talented PAPA artists will spend several days painting on location within the 55-mile San Dieguito River Park and on the coastline from La Jolla to Encinitas. More than 100 works by PAPA artists will be on exhibit and for sale during the event.

Future Plein-Air Painters – The California Center for the Arts, Escondido coordinates with local schools and art education organizations to provide young artists the opportunity to create works by observing nature. Paintings by these young and talented artists will be on display during the exhibit.

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President's Message *By Peter Shapiro*



Spring signifies new beginnings and growth. That could not be truer for me as I take over the position of President of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy Board of Directors. As I step into my new role, I am inspired by those who came

before me. There have been many dedicated individuals who worked to preserve the open space that we know as the San Dieguito River Park and to restore natural habitats throughout the watershed.

I am grateful to those who came before me, including past president, Rand Newman who led the Conservancy to achieve many significant accomplishments. I am especially inspired by the people who, 27 years ago, shared a vision of a 55-mile regional park that followed the San Dieguito River and worked to make it a reality. The Conservancy recently lost two of these early pioneers in preserving San Diego's natural resources. Abbe Wolfsheimer-Stuz, who helped to create the River Park, was a founding member of the Conservancy and remained on the Advisory Board until her death. Tom Clotfelter worked tirelessly to preserve both the San Dieguito and San Elijo lagoons from development and to protect these habitats for migratory birds. Their hard work ensures that future generations will enjoy the ecological wonder that is the San Dieguito watershed. But our work is not done.

In May, we officially celebrate the Grand Opening of the Birdwing Open Air Classroom, which will provide a learning environment for the community, schools and many other organizations. In conjunction with the Birdwing Grand Opening, we partner with a wide variety of organizations to offer free programs that appeal to a broad range of interests and age groups. (*Read more about the FREE events on page 6.*)

Newly elected President, Peter Shapiro, has been on the Conservancy Board since 2011. Peter is past-chair of the Nature and Culture Committee and recently led the Conservancy's effort to update its Strategic Plan. His interest in the San Dieguito River Valley began when he became a volunteer focusing on restoration of native habitat. Peter is a retired Human Resources Executive and currently Managing Director of Sage Leadership Coaching. Raised and educated in New York, he has lived in Southern California for 35 years and resides in Rancho Santa Fe with his wife, Kathy. He is also a member of the Anza-Borrego Foundation and Anza-Borrego Natural History Association.

Our next step is to build an interpretive center in the lagoon. The center will give visitors an interactive learning environment, and provide programs about conservation, the interdependence of the natural habitats in the watershed and the wildlife that live there. The River Park is already starting work on the fully-funded Ranger Station located near the Birdwing.

We will continue to expand our conservation programs, including our Citizen Science Monitoring Program. This exciting program, expected to launch this summer, enables volunteers to perform research on vegetation, plants, birds and mammals. The program augments research being done by other groups in the watershed by focusing on areas that are not currently being monitored.

You may have noticed that we have a new logo. It is part of our efforts to revitalize our image and improve communications. We are also working on a new, streamlined website that will make it more user friendly. Behind all of these new initiatives, is a small but talented staff at the Conservancy. Trish Boaz, our Executive Director, joined us a year ago and is a tremendous asset, securing thousands in funding, as well as developing and moving forward our critical conservation, education and recreation projects. In December, we hired Julie Matibag as our full-time Development & Communications Manager. She has made significant contributions in directing events, generating press coverage and expanding our outreach programs. We will quickly fill the Conservation Manager position to keep our many conservation initiatives on track.

I look forward to working with a dedicated and energetic Board and talented staff to move the vision of the 70-mile Coast to Crest Trail to completion and to restore and protect the natural habitats in the watershed.

Thank you to Rand Newman – Conservancy President (2011-2013)

In 2010, Poway resident and park supporter, Rand Newman, was elected to the Conservancy Board of Directors. One year later he was elected President. Accomplishments at the River Park made during Rand's time on the Board include:



- Completion of the Old Coach Trail in Poway
- Extension of the San Dieguito Lagoon Trail to the east to the Del Mar Horsepark and Equestrian Facility
- Engagement of 450 volunteers in habitat restoration projects throughout the River Park
- Implementation of the Exploring *Our Sense of Place: My Big Backyard* program for youth
- Restoration of habitat over 17 river miles
- Acquisition of 420 acres at Volcan Mountain and 40 acres at Pamo Valley

We thank Rand for his years of service and look forward to seeing him on the trail and at Conservancy events.

Letter from the Executive Director *By Trish Boaz*



We are growing! Our membership is expanding and donations are increasing. This means that we are able to do more conservation, education and recreation programs. The Conservancy is fortunate to have enthusiastic, involved members. Together, we accomplish great things – many of which are highlighted in this newsletter.

I cannot believe it has been almost a year since I started as Executive Director at the Conservancy... and what a great year it has been! I have spent the last 11 months shaping the Citizen Science Monitoring Program, helping to negotiate land purchases, developing a Staff Work Plan, and participating as the environmental community representative on the City of San Diego's Watershed Quality Improvement Plan Committee. We have obtained over \$103,000 in grant funds and held our most successful annual River Valley Fest ever. Together, we surpassed the fundraising goal of \$160,000 for the Birdwing Open Air Classroom. We are currently working on the Grand Opening of the Birdwing Open Air Classroom and hope that you can join us in the celebration. We also invite you to attend the Art in Nature Alliance Exhibit from April 6 through April 27th – this is the first event of its kind in San Diego and it is sure to be a “watershed” event for the Conservancy.

We are not be able to do all of this without your generous support. We hope that you will continue to participate in our conservation, education and conservation efforts in 2014-2015.

Welcome Julie Matibag, Conservancy Development and Communications Manager



As the Development & Communications Manager for the Conservancy, Julie is responsible for outreach and community engagement. Julie brings over 20 years of experience in marketing and communications, having held management positions in high tech start-ups, as well as Fortune 500 companies. Most recently, she was a partner with her husband in a San Diego marketing agency. She also has extensive experience working with non-profit organizations, including 7 years with Las Patronas, the La Jolla Art & Wine Festival and Haute La Jolla Nights.

Julie spends her free time volunteering to manage and stage community events and raise funds for public schools and youth sports programs. She loves to hike and is very excited to explore all of the trails in the San Dieguito River Park.

continued from cover

Special Presentation by Richard Louv, Author of “The Nature Principle”

The future will belong to the nature-smart – those individuals, families, businesses, and political leaders who develop a deeper understanding of the transformative power of the natural world and who balance the virtual with the real. “The more high-tech we become, the more nature we need.” Supported by groundbreaking research, anecdotal evidence, and compelling personal stories, Louv identifies seven basic concepts that can help us reshape our lives by tapping into the restorative powers of nature. Join us for this compelling presentation at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido on April 13 at 1:30 pm. The talk is included with the price of admission to the Museum (\$8). For more information go to www.ArtInNatureAlliance.org.



Sunset on El Cajon by Alfred Mitchell

giveBIG giveBETTER in May

San Diego Foundation's giveBIG program

On Tuesday, May 6, 2014, the San Diego Foundation will host giveBIG, an online networking and giving event where people in the San Diego region come together to raise as much money as possible for local nonprofits in just 24 hours. Here is how the event works:

- From 11:59pm on May 6 until 11:59pm on May 7, you will be able to make a donation to the Conservancy on the giveBIG event webpage. <http://bettergivingsd.guidestar.org/NonprofitProfile.aspx?OrgId=38337>
- Your donation goes further with an incentive pool established by the San Diego Foundation and other sponsors. The Conservancy will receive a percentage of the pool based on donations made during the 24-hour giving period.
- You choose your donation amount, with a minimum gift starting at \$25.
- Donors of \$100 or more to the giveBIG campaign will receive “Coast to Crest and Beyond,” a beautiful, new book about the San Dieguito River Park written by Wolf Berger, Ph.D., a Conservancy Advisory Board member.



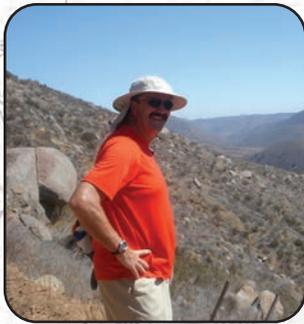
- You can generate additional funds for the Conservancy every time you shop online. Visit www.iGIVE.com/SanDieguitoRiverValleyConservancy. There are no costs, obligations, nor any hidden fees.
- Get 2 of your friends to add the iGive button to their Facebook page and iGive will donate \$25.00.



Help protect our natural legacy with your gift during the giveBIG event!

Coast to Crest Trail Blazers

Very few people have attempted to hike the San Dieguito River Park from end to end. Among the first adventurers were Terry Badger, Ray Curtis and Cole Black who, in 2006, began their hike from the beach at Del Mar and ended it at the top of Volcan Mountain. They completed the entire 70 miles in nine Saturdays over 14 months. Ray and Terry completed the journey at a time when much of the trail was not yet complete, making it an arduous journey. Tragically, Cole was killed in an airplane crash after the 6th Saturday.



When Councilman Jim Cunningham took over as the Chair of the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority Board in 2013, he made it his mission to hike the entire Coast to Crest Trail. On February 11, 2014, Jim and hiking partners, Conservancy Board Member Bill Simmons, River Park Executive Director Dick Bobertz and Priscilla Lister, a freelance writer for the

San Diego Union Tribune, completed the last leg of the journey, culminating in a celebration at North Beach in Del Mar.

These hearty trekkers blazed the trail for the next generation of adventurers – who didn't take long to pick up the challenge. Just a few short weeks after Jim and his crew completed their hike, 39 students from High Tech High North County, led by three teachers, UCSD graduate students and parent volunteers, set out to tackle the entire 70-mile Coast to Crest Trail in just seven days.



One Journey Ends and Another Begins The Largest Group to Hike the Coast to Crest Trail



On Monday, March 3rd, 2014, 39 students and two teachers from High Tech High North County began their hike of the Coast to Crest Trail, taking them across the full length of the San Dieguito River Valley watershed, from Volcan Mountain in Julian to North Beach in Del Mar. They are the largest group to attempt the 70-mile hike and they did it in an unprecedented seven days.



The weekend before their scheduled departure, San Diego had its first big rainstorm of the year, drenching the trails where the hike was to begin. "The weather forced us to plan and re-plan every detail of the hike and prepare for every contingency, making us better equipped for the adventure," said Alec Patton, an 11th grade humanities teacher at High Tech High North County.

Erina Chavez, a student from the High Tech High Adventure Team, recounts the highlights of their first five days on the hike.

Volcan Mountain in Julian to CA 79 in Santa Ysabel

Volcan Mountain was the highest point of our hike, climbing to an elevation of 5,300 feet. The class trekked up the mountain in great time, reaching the summit in about an hour and a half. The view was gorgeous, and students ate their lunch while overlooking the farms, desert, and other mountains. Down the mountain, the hike took us through wide meadows and past archaeological sites. Out of the thick forests of trees on the mountain, we were surrounded by wide open fields dotted with large boulders.

Black Canyon Road to Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail

Under bright sun, we began a hike that would pass through several mountain sides and valleys. We could almost always see the trail before us and the thick mass of plants below us in the mountain's valleys. We spotted many animals such as red tailed hawks, rabbits, squirrels, spiders and saw several rare and interesting plants!



I hope that our class' efforts will someday help the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy build trails for these areas.

Pamo Road Trailhead to Bandy Canyon Road

Today's hike began under bright sun in Pamo Valley, assisted by Ranger Bill from the San Dieguito River Park. About seven miles into the hike, our class began to descend into relatively untouched nature. This was because there were no more well-maintained trails to follow! We trekked through streams, monstrous boulders and hills. If it weren't for the guidance of Ranger Bill, I doubt our class would have done as well as we did. This again fuels a desire to create trails along the entire length of the San Dieguito River Park, so that everyone will have easier access to hike along its beautiful scenery and understand why we need to protect our natural resources.



Bandy Canyon Trailhead to Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead

I noted that some of the plants seemed much more heat resistant than ones from the days before. The leaves were lighter in color and often branched off of red twigs and branches. Trees foliage expanded further and was less dense, as if to enlarge its sun-absorbing surface area. Roots rested closer to the surface of the ground,



often slashing through the trail. Not only plants, but animal life seemed to come alive along this trail. I saw several different birds, spiders, ants, and other insects, as well as horses, coyote tracks, and lizards. When I began this hike, I didn't expect the different areas to have such strikingly different plant/animal life.

Sikes Adobe Farmstead to Del Dios Gorge

Our Coast to Crest hiking adventure could not have started off better than it did! After lots of planning and re-planning (thanks to the weekend rainstorms that prevented us from starting at Volcan Mountain), we began our hike at the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead, located in Escondido. Everyone was excited as we started and this energy helped us get through most of the day.

Throughout today, I witnessed beautiful scenes of green quilted mountains, glistening lakes and streams, interesting animals and insects of all types, all shining freshly from the weekend rain. Exploring all this with a camera in my hand and friends by my side is incomparable.

Del Dios Gorge to San Andres Drive

As we hiked through well groomed dirt trails that winded through valleys and hills surrounding a rushing stream, we knew we were in for a treat. We continued up and around hills and slowly made our way through a variety of terrain. One of the defining features about today's hike was the range of different biomes we hiked through, from chaparral, to riparian, to salt marsh. All of our inner explorers came alive. We documented interesting plants and animals, waded through streams and scoured up large inclining slopes. All of this was exciting to me, and left me wanting more.



San Andres to Dog Beach

Day 7, our last day, was a really easy day of hiking. We only had about half a mile to hike. On the way over, we looked out across the salt marsh and saw great blue herons and other animals. We walked through the fairgrounds to North Beach to end the journey.

From the Teacher's Perspective



Matt Leader,
11th Grade Biology Teacher
High Tech High San Marcos

This past week on the trail has turned out to be a transformative experience in my teaching and thinking.

Facilitating outdoor education is more time intensive than being in class but the rewards are visibly tangible.

In just a few days, the students have come to understand how we connect with wildlife, why conservation of our natural resources matters and how ecological processes occur. All of the hiking and discovery over the course of the week on the Coast to Crest Trail are almost as good as all the conversations, (about insects and native plants, to internships, college, relationships, nature and exercise) that brought out a deeper understanding about each other, as well as the ecosystem.

The High Tech High students completed their journey on March 12 and like the hikers before them, celebrated in style at North Beach.



You Are Invited to the Grand Opening of the Birdwing Open Air Classroom

Thank you to the Birdwing Open Air Classroom Donors

\$40,000 and above

D'Augustine Family Foundation

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\$250 and above

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James Danoff-Burg
Heather Rosing & Scott Carr
Renita Greenberg
Chris Khoury & Linda Corey
Rand & Elaine Newman
Joe & Freda Reid
Peter Shapiro & Kathy Sage
Diana & Immo Scheffler

Thank you to all of our other individual supporters who also contributed to the Birdwing Open Air Classroom



Birdwing Construction March 15

May 13, 2014 at 10:30am

County Supervisor Dave Roberts will cut the ribbon to welcome the community to the new Birdwing Open Air Classroom. Leaders from the Conservancy, the River Park Joint Powers of Authority and other public officials will discuss plans for the classroom and how the Birdwing Open Air Classroom is designed to meet the needs of the community while fitting seamlessly into the natural landscape of the lagoon. As a part of the Birdwing Grand Opening, the Conservancy and the River Park have partnered with other organizations and individuals to offer a series of FREE, public events presented each Saturday through mid-July. Please see the scheduled programs below and stay tuned for announcements of additional programs as they become finalized. **Get program updates by subscribing to our e-newsletters at www.sdrvc.org/newsletter.**

Birdwing Open Air Classroom Events

Chaparral, Estuaries, & Grizzly Bears: A Different Way to Fall in Love with Nature in San Diego May 17 | 10am

Richard W. Halsey, Writer, Naturalist and Director, California Chaparral Institute

It is hard to believe that herds of grizzly bears roamed the shoreline of the San Dieguito estuary. Once bordered by beautiful, dense stands of chaparral, the estuary still provides a rich habitat for thousands of species. Join us as we discover the importance of this vital natural treasure and why it represents such a vital link to nature for all Californians. Enjoy a spirited, witty and moving discussion about connecting with nature followed by a hike of the lagoon with Richard W. Halsey.

Stories, Art & Nature | May 17 | 2pm

Susan Middleton, Librarian at La Jolla Country Day, Reflection Guide for the Exploring Our Sense of Place Program & Annie Osborn, Art Instructor and Student Elementary School Teacher

Your children will be enthralled by lively readings of *Play With Me* by Marie Hall Ets and *On Meadowview Street* by Henry Cole – both inspired by children's interaction with nature. Between readings, they will create art projects to take home. After the program in the Birdwing Open Air Classroom, a Park Ranger will lead a brief hike along the lagoon to see and hear wildlife in nature.

The Fascinating World of Insects, Butterflies and More | May 24 | 10am

Dr. James Danoff-Burg, Dir. Conservation Education, San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research & Leanna Bulay, Interpretive Ranger, River Park JPA

Insects are some of the smallest but most abundant life in the San Dieguito River Valley. They represent the bulk of our planet's animal diversity and biomass! In fact, bugs are responsible for keeping much of the watershed functioning. Learn about these fascinating little creatures and participate in a series of activities with live bugs, butterflies, caterpillars and more.

Trail Runners Boot Camp and Lagoon Run | June 7 | 8:30am

Dr. Victor Runco, Clinical Director, San Diego Running Institute

For 14 years, Dr. Runco has been training and treating San Diego runners, Ironman athletes and ultra-marathon runners. He is the Chief Running Officer of Dirt Devil Racing and is an avid trail runner. Whether you are just considering getting on the trail or are an experienced runner, your participation in this boot camp will teach you how to be prepared (not sorry) for your trail runs. The boot camp is followed by a trail run at the lagoon.

Sky Hunters – Birds of Prey | June 7 | 1pm

Nancy Conney, Director, Sky Hunters Raptor Rehabilitation and Education

See live birds of prey up close! Hawks, owls, eagles and falcons live in our communities and play an important role in maintaining a balance in nature. Learn about how they live and where they can be found in the River Park. Find out why many of these hunting birds are endangered and what you should and should not do if you find a sick, injured or orphaned wild animal.

Attracting Butterflies & Hummingbirds to Your Garden | June 14 | 10am

Marcia Van Loy, UCCE Master Gardener

Discover the joy of growing a hummingbird and butterfly friendly garden. Master Gardener Marcia Van Loy will lead you through steps to create a beautiful, healthy and thriving nature wonderland. Discussed will be benefits to your garden, the types of plants and habitat that provide food sources and shelter and how you can keep the environment safe for these creatures. Reference material will be provided.

Bird Walk | June 21 | 8am

John Haddock, a member of the Buena Vista Audubon Society and Whelan Lake Bird Walk Leader

You see them and you hear them everywhere, but how many birds can you identify? Birding can be daunting, especially for beginners. Get tips to help you think like a naturalist! Enjoy a brief talk followed by a hike to discover birds of the San Dieguito Lagoon and learn about the local ecosystem.

Yoga at the Lagoon | June 28 | 9am

James Danoff-Burg Ph.D., Registered Yoga Instructor and Conservancy Board Member

Create inner peace and balance with yoga in nature. This 90-minute, gentle yoga session explores a series of Earth-themed viniyoga poses flowing one into the next. With a spectacular view of the lagoon, you are certain to attain both inner and outer harmony and peace. Please bring a mat. All levels welcome.

Ranger Led Walk at the Lagoon | July 12 | 9–10:30am

San Dieguito River Park Ranger

The entire family will enjoy this walk along the San Dieguito Lagoon led by a River Park ranger. Topics will include the lagoon restoration project and plant and wildlife identification. You will also get updates on current River Park projects and volunteer opportunities. Come discover the beauty of the Lagoon with us!

The Human Equestrian Bond | July 12 | 2pm

Julia Erickson, Breeder & Owner of Freedom Song Ranch

Julia started a breeding operation in the mountains of Julian before moving it to Escondido. She is an expert in Arabians, Andalusians, and the cross between these, Hispano-Arabe. Julia now breeds rare colored Andalusians and will provide insights into breeding for color, temperament and creating a perfect riding partner for youth. She will be bringing their pony, Princess, who will delight you with some of her tricks and her precocious personality!

Equestrians in Nature | July 19 | 2pm

Patty Heyden, Back Country Horsemen

The Backcountry Horsemen of California-San Diego (BCHC-SD) is dedicated to preserving trails and the back country through practicing and teaching the “Leave No Trace” and “Gentle Use Principles.” The organization contributes thousands of volunteer hours to build, maintain, and lobby for trails. As volunteers for agencies like the US Forest Service, the BCHC-SD is available to pack in tools and supplies using horses and mules, into areas where motorized vehicles are prohibited. Learn where the trails are and what equestrians can do to minimize human impact in our natural resources. Live horses will be at the presentation.

Nature Photography | July 26 | 8am–2pm

Jim Coffee, James Coffee Studios

Join photographer Jim Coffee for a presentation about photography in nature. Put those lessons to the test by exploring and photographing the San Dieguito Lagoon from seven different locations. Participants should bring their cameras (still or video) and a bag lunch. The excursion will last approximately six hours. Participants will walk to many of the locations but will need to drive to some of them.

In Remembrance

Abbe Wolfsheimer-Stutz

Passed away on March 13, 2014



Conservancy Advisory Board Member, Environmentalist and Former San Diego City Councilwoman

Abbe was perhaps best known for working diligently to create the 92,000-acre River Park and the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy. She served on the Conservancy Advisory Board until her death on March 13. “Abbe was passionate from the beginning, and without her, it would not happen,” said friend and former River Park Executive Director Diane Coombs. “She gave her time and talent and her incredible enthusiasm.”

In addition to her environmental work, Abbe served on numerous boards and charitable organizations including: COMBO (The Combined Arts and Education Council of San Diego County), Malashock Dance Company and the Salk Institute Auxiliary. In 2003, the Valley Center History Museum was built with a \$250,000 donation from Abbe and her former husband and is dedicated to her parents.

In addition to her husband of nearly 17 years, David Stutz of La Jolla, Mrs. Wolfsheimer-Stutz is survived by a daughter, Alison Wolfsheimer; a son, Marc Wolfsheimer; stepdaughter, Kristen Stutz; stepson, Daniel Stutz; and four granddaughters.

Tom Clotfelter

May 14, 1932 – January 21, 2014



A Lifetime of Community Service and Conservation

The Conservancy says good-bye to a dear friend and trusted Advisory Board Member, Tom Clotfelter. Tom died after a brief illness in his Rancho Sante Fe home on January 21 at the age of 81.

Tom was born and raised in Rancho Sante Fe and grew up hunting and fishing in the San Elijo and San Dieguito Lagoons. He eventually went into the family real-estate business, Clotfelter Real Estate, and lent his love and expertise of Old California-style landscape design to many projects throughout the area.

He was a tireless advocate for conservation and was instrumental in protecting both the San Dieguito and San Elijo lagoons from commercial development. He served on the President’s Council of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy and on the Advisory Board for the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy. In 1985, he helped to establish the Whelan Lake Bird Sanctuary in Oceanside and was its Director for many years. His conservation work extended beyond San Diego and into Mexico, helping to guide efforts to preserve habitat and breeding grounds for migratory birds.

Tom is survived by his wife, Karen; his sons, Cutter and Chaco Clotfelter; six grandchildren; his brother, Richard Clotfelter; and his sister, Susan Winnett.

SPECIAL GIFT RECOGNITIONS: November 1, 2013 – March 10, 2014

Thank you for supporting our work in conservation, education and recreation for the San Dieguito River Valley.

\$100,000 or more

Abbe Wolfsheimer Stutz

\$10,000 or more

Donald C. & Elizabeth M.
Dickinson Memorial Fund at the
Rancho Santa Fe Foundation
Linda Corey & Chris Khoury

\$5,000 or more

Mary Proctor &
L. Mercer McKinley

\$2,000 or more

Robert Dudley
Christy Hendrickson
Carolyn Kaess

\$2,000 or more (cont.)

Caroline & Nico Nierenberg
Patagonia
Wayne Pfeiffer
Carol & Mark Shapiro
Alex & Christine Sherer
Karen Smith
Union Bank Foundation

\$1,000 or more

Karen & Wolf Berger
Emma Louise &
Kenneth L. Bowles
Linda & Dennis Costello
Paul Henkart
James Hribar
William & Suzann Leiningor
Mary-Ann Lundby

\$1,000 or more (cont.)

Dan & Joan Meyer
Robert & Lynda F. Orr
Charitable Foundation
Price Family Charitable Fund
Kathy Schwartz
Douglas Simmons
Alan & Steve Tarkington
Michael Thacker
Terry Wardell & Tracy Weiss

\$500 or more

Julie Hocking & Jim Baross
Heather Rosing & Scott Carr
Nancy Danningor
Denise & Gary David
John & Mary Giebink
Donald Gragg
Nancy & Bill Homeyer

\$500 or more (cont.)

Robert Hyman
Dorothy Koerner
George & Betsey LaBreche
Ed & Nancy Lyon
Elliot Parks
Dr. & Ms. Daniel Slemmons
Lula & Ross Sutherland
David Voorhies

\$250 or more

Pat & Peter Benson
Randall & Vivian Black
Thomas Carr
Berle A. Dale
Gordon & Cathie Dixon
Dan & Kim Dotson
Donald & Pat Ewing

\$250 or more (cont.)

Douglas Gillingham &
Dana Frieauff
Charles & Lynn Gaylord
Ernest L. Gibson
Dagmar & James Helgager
Monika Langhoff Hseu &
Pat Hseu
Sharon Konen
Pamela Maher
Thomas Guy & Virginia Masters
Richard & Katherine Matheron
Susan Middleton
Leslie Monteath
Barbara & Thomas Oyler
Jim and Joanna Schumacher
Jeannie Smith
Cindy Waasdorp
Brad Zlotnick

Upcoming Events

North San Diego Certified Farmers Market

Rain or Shine! | Every Sunday | 10:30am–3:30pm
Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead, 12655 Sunset Dr., Escondido.

Canyoneers Walk

Saturday, March 29 | 9am–1:30pm
Del Dios Community Park, Escondido. Easy six miles. Hosted by San Diego Natural History Museum Volunteers.

Early Season Hike to the Volcan Summit

Weather Permitting | Sunday, March 30 | 10am–1pm
Volcan Mountains Wilderness Preserve, Main Street, Julian
Meet at the Hubbell Gateway off Farmer Road at Volcan Mountain Wilderness Preserve. Strenuous five miles. Hosted by San Diego County Park Attendant Bill Augustus.

Volcan Mountain Foundation 23rd Annual Dinner Dance & Auction

Sunday, March 30 | 4:30pm–10:30pm
Camp Stevens, 1108 Banner Rd. (Hwy. 78), Julian. Hosted by Volcan Mountain Foundation. Tickets: \$75/person available at <http://volcanmt.org>.

Art In Nature Presentation

Saturday, April 5 | 5pm
Gala ticket holders are invited to a special presentation by Mr. Jean Stern, Director, Irvine Museum "The Art of Looking at Art." Presentation at Council Chambers adjacent to the California Center for the Arts, Escondido.

Art in Nature – Second Spring Gala

Saturday, April 5 | 6pm
California Center for the Arts, Escondido. Reservations \$100 per ticket available at www.ArtInNature.org.



Membership & Special Donation Contributions

San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, 3030 Bunker Hill St., Ste. 309-1, San Diego, CA 92109 Phone: 858-755-6956 Fax: 858-356-4222 Email: sdrvc@sdrvc.org Web: www.sdrvc.org

Donations and membership renewals can also be received electronically at www.sdrvc.org – Save Trees & Time – Donate Online

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

YES! Please add me to the Conservancy email list for notices of Conservancy & River Park events, "Members-Only" opportunities, etc. (Emails will be sent on a monthly basis.)

\$35 Basic \$50 Friend \$100 Supporter \$250 Protector \$1,000 Guardian \$5,000 Champion Other \$ _____

ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION \$ _____ FOR LAND ACQUISITION FOR EDUCATION FUND FOR TRAILS FOR HABITAT RESTORATION

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT: VISA MASTERCARD CARD NUMBER: _____ Expires _____ / _____

PLEASE MAKE MY DONATION: MONTHLY SEMI-ANNUAL ANNUAL OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY) _____

Name on Card (Please Print): _____ Cardholder Signature: _____

Please make check payable to SDRVC. All contributions are tax deductible. The Conservancy does not sell, rent or exchange our Donor Information. The Currents newsletter is a publication of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy.

Art in Nature – Plein Air Exhibit Open to the Public

April 6-27 | Monday–Wednesday Closed

Thursday–Saturday 10am–4pm | Sunday 1pm–4pm

California Center for the Arts, Escondido

Foxy Trail Half Marathon and 5K

Sunday, April 6 | 6am–10am

Bernardo Bay Natural Area. Half Marathon starts at 7am, 5K starts at 7:45am. Trails affected: Bernardo Bay, Bike/Ped Bridge, and Coast to Crest Trail – North Shore Lake Hodges. For more info:

www.dirtdevilracing.com/2014-foxy-trail-half-marathon/

Water Quality Monitoring

Saturday, April 12 | 9am–10am

San Andres Drive Interpretive Kiosk. The San Dieguito River Park has partnered with San Diego Coastkeeper to conduct water quality monitoring of the Urban Runoff Treatment Ponds at the San Dieguito Lagoon. Training is provided by San Diego Coastkeeper every other month. The San Dieguito River Park is looking for more volunteers to complete the training and help us at our testing site. If you are interested, please contact bryan@sdrp.org for more details.

Volunteer Trail Maintenance

Sunday, April 13 | 8am–11am

Join a Park Ranger for this volunteer trail maintenance event. Work on clearing brush from trails and improving trail conditions! Tools, gloves, and training provided. Please bring drinking water, sun protection and wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes. Please RSVP to Leana@sdrp.org or (858) 674-2275 x14.

Coastal Walk and Yoga on the Beach

Sunday, April 20 | 8:30am–10:30am

Meet at the San Dieguito Lagoon trail kiosk for a 30-minute coastal hike to North Beach, followed by 45 minutes of yoga on the beach with Susan McCrea, an experienced yoga instructor and drummer with the band Soul Seduction. All levels welcome. Bring a mat. This is a free event, but voluntary donations are gratefully accepted. Easy four miles. Co-Hosted by SDRVC and Yoga Instructor Susan McCrea.

SDRP Bike Swap Meet

Saturday, April 26 | 7am–11am

Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead, 12655 Sunset Dr., Escondido. Buy, Sell, or Trade! For more info or to become a vendor, contact david@sdrp.org.

Birdwing Grand Opening

Tuesday, May 13 | 10:30am

Birdwing Open Air Classroom located on the Coast to Crest Trail beginning at San Andres Road off Via de la Valle, Del Mar.

Wetlands Restoration at the Del Mar Fairgrounds Begins



Del Mar Fairgrounds, East Overflow Lot and the Golf Driving Range Remediation Estimation Map. The information on this map is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be used for any other purpose.

Dustin Fuller, Sr. Environmental Planner 22nd District Agricultural Association/Del Mar Fairgrounds

Shawna Anderson, AICP Principal Planner, San Dieguito River Park JPA

If you take a stroll along the Lagoon Boardwalk Trail sometime over the next several months, you will see new wetlands being restored in an area previously used as a parking lot at the Fairgrounds. On March 3, 2014 the Del Mar Fairgrounds began active restoration projects removing soil and debris and planting native wetland plants at the South Lot. Some of the excavated material will be used to create a naturalized planted slope within a buffer area to visually separate the Lagoon Trail from the adjacent parking area and to create a native transitional habitat between the Fairgrounds and the Lagoon.

These restoration projects total 3.5 acres of coastal salt marsh habitat and 4.7 acres of upland sage scrub habitat. The primary goal for the wetland restoration is to create an ecologically functional, self-sustaining wetland that is resilient to a range of natural disturbances (drought, flood, etc.) and to maximize habitat diversity and wildlife opportunities. This restoration is part of an outstanding mitigation obligation and is expected to take approximately 12 weeks.

The revitalization affects three main locations on the Del Mar Fairgrounds: the South Overflow Lot, the East Berm and the Buffer Area.

Farewell from SDRVC Conservation Manager David O'Connor

David accepts positions with the National Geographic and the Institute for Conservation Research.

“Thank you for the fantastic opportunity to be a part of the San Dieguito community. It has been wonderful to be on the Conservancy team and to work alongside the River Park and our other partners to enrich the magnificence of the San Dieguito watershed. The past two years have been a busy, happy and exciting time for me and for conservation in the watershed.”

– David O'Connor

Spring 2014

SAN DIEGUITO
RIVER VALLEY



CONSERVANCY

3030 Bunker Hill Street, Ste. 309-1
San Diego, CA 92109

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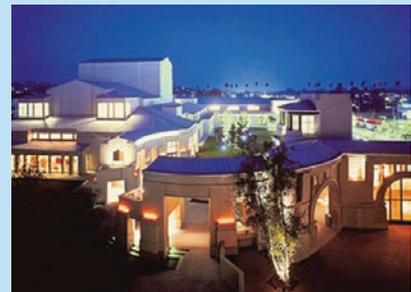


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The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating the development of recreational multi-use trails in the 92,000-acre San Dieguito River Park, preserving and restoring native ecosystems, and educating the public about our precious natural resources.

You are invited to the
Second Spring Gala and Plein Air Art Exhibit

Gala & Exhibit on
Saturday, April 5 at 6:00 pm



California Center for the Arts  Escondido



Exhibit open to the public, April 6 – 27

California Center for the Arts, Escondido
340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA 92025



Tickets available online at:
www.ArtInNatureAlliance.org
or call 858-755-6956