Volunteer Projects

Friends’ Volunteer Restoration Projects in Black Mountain Open Space Park: NEW Meeting Days
Sat., July 6 & 20, August 3, 17, & 31: 1 – 4 p.m. Join us at Black Mtn. Ranch Community Park at the northeast corner, 14700 Carmel Valley Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Ranger John’s Graffiti Warriors

Ranger Melanie’s Peñasquitos Canyon Restoration Project
Sat., July 20, Aug. 17, Sept 21. Join Ranger Melanie Fontana in restoring wildlife habitat sites. Get on the list for the meeting place at: mfontana@sandiego.gov.

Ranger John’s Environmental Projects

July Walks

Hey! Pollinator Walk
Sat., July 6, 10–11:15 a.m. Join Ranger Michelle for a family-friendly pollinator activity and hike. Children will role play bees visiting a flower patch and learn about the many kinds of pollinators that help flowers make seeds, fruits, and more! Visitors can then sing along to a pollinator “love song” before enjoying an easy 1 mile hike through the park. Meet at the historic Peñasquitos ranch house at 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Wildlife Survey Introductory Class
Sat., July 13, 7:45 am – 12:30 pm. This free course prepares you to participate in surveys that monitor wildlife in San Diego’s major open space preserves. You will learn about conservation, habitat fragmentation, basic track and scat identification, data collection protocols, and survey transects. Upon completing the class, you will be eligible to join experienced trackers on SDTT’s wildlife surveys throughout San Diego County. Cost: Free. Meet at the historic Peñasquitos Ranch House, 12122 Black Mtn. Rd. Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Camino Ruiz Rim to the Creek Hike w Les Braund
Sat., July 13, 8 – 10 a.m. Join naturalist Les Braund for a hike leaving from Camino Ruiz Park. Most of the hike is in the shade of tall Chaparral vegetation and follows a switch-back trail from the rim of the canyon down to the valley floor and stream side. See uncommon native plants such as the Summer holly shrub and others. Les says this is one of the most beautiful walks he’s knows. The park is located at 11489 Camino Ruiz in Mira Mesa, 92126.
Moonlight Hike w Will Bowen
Sat., July 20, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Join Anthropologist Dr. Will Bowen for a walk in the canyon at night, an eerie, unusual, and peaceful peradventure. It’s very quiet out there and one’s vision is absent of the colors of the day and filled with all sorts of shades of gray. We find our way by following fragrances and the kinesthetic jumble of perambulation. On clear nights the moon and stars dance brightly above and remind us of the things we’ve forgotten. The moist amazing thing we’ll see are the orb spiders building beautiful, symmetrical webs, in stark contrast to the dizzy fractal webs of their cousins the black widow. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., San Diego.

Nighttime Wildlife Viewing Walk with Mike Kelly
Sat., July 27, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
A moderately paced walk on flat ground. Bring insect repellent and a flashlight. Chance to see deer, owls, bats, spiders and enjoy the smells and atmosphere of the Preserve at night. Meet at the kiosk at the END of Park Village Road in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

August Walks

Ranger Kory’s Creek Crawl
Sun., Aug. 4, 10–11:30 a.m. Join Ranger Kory for a slow and easy walk along Los Peñasquitos Creek. During the 1 mile hike you’ll learn about canyon habitat, creek life, and crtawdads. Meet at the historic Peñasquitos ranch house at 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Owl Prowl – Creatures of the Night w Brian Swanson
Sat., Aug. 10 & Aug. 17, 7:30 – 9:15 p.m.
Join naturalist Brian Swanson as we experience the pungent smells and intriguing sounds of some of the many denizens of the preserve which are active at night. Expect to hear one or two species of owls, and with luck, see the elusive Western screech owl. Bring a flashlight, light jacket, and bug protection. No pets please. No restrooms. Meet at the west end of Canyonside Park Driveway, 1 block west of Black Mtn. Rd. at the Preserve sign at the beginning of the white ranch house fence. 12122 Black Mtn. Rd. Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Let’s Goat for a Walk
Sun., Aug. 11, 3–3:30 p.m. Join park staff for a leashed walk with our Nubian goats, Popcorn and Base. Learn about goat behavior, care, and personality during this interactive experience. Meet at the historic Peñasquitos ranch house at 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

Moonlight Hike w Will Bowen
Sat., Aug. 17, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Join Anthropologist Dr. Will Bowen for a walk in the canyon at night, an eerie, unusual, and peaceful peradventure. It’s very quiet out there and one’s vision is absent of the colors of the day and filled with all sorts of shades of gray. We find our way by following fragrances and the kinesthetic jumble of perambulation. On clear nights the moon and stars dance brightly above and remind us of the things we’ve forgotten. The moist amazing thing

Clydene, 80 years young, enjoying Hooker’s Evening Primrose, on Jeanie’s bird walk.
we’ll see are the orb spiders building beautiful, symmetrical webs, in stark contrast to the dizzy fractal webs of their cousins the black widow. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., San Diego.

**Picnic with Goats**
Sun., Aug. 18, 12-1 p.m. Bring your lunch for a pen-side picnic with our goats, Popcorn and Base. During the picnic, park staff will discuss 1860s ranch life, animal care, and Nubian goats. At the end, there will be an opportunity to interact with the goats and tour our nearly 200 year old ranch house. Meet at the historic Peñasquitos ranch house at 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.

**Camino Ruiz Rim to the Creek Hike w Les Braund**
Sat., Aug. 24, 8 – 10 a.m.
Join naturalist Les Braund for a hike leaving from Camino Ruiz Park. Most of the hike is in the shade of tall Chaparral vegetation and follows a switch–back trail from the rim of the canyon down to the valley floor and stream side. See uncommon native plants such as the Summer holly shrub and others. Les says this is one of the most beautiful walks he’s knows. The park is located at the 11489 Camino Ruiz in Mira Mesa, 92126.

**Nighttime Wildlife Viewing Walk with Mike Kelly**
Sat., Aug. 31, 7:15 – 9:15 p.m.
A moderately paced walk on flat ground. Bring insect repellant and a flashlight. Chance to see deer, owls, bats, spiders and enjoy the Preserve at night. Meet at the kiosk at the END of Park Village Road in Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

**September Walks**

**Owl Prowl – Creatures of the Night w Brian Swanson**
Sat., Sept. 7, 7 – 9 p.m.
Join naturalist Brian Swanson as we experience the pungent smells and intriguing sounds of some of the many denizens of the preserve which are active at night. Expect to hear one or two species of owls, and with luck, see the elusive Western screech owl. Bring a flashlight, light jacket, and bug protection. No pets please. No restrooms. Meet at the west end of Canyonside Park Driveway, 1 block west of Black Mtn. Rd. at the Preserve sign at the beginning of the white ranch house fence. 12122 Black Mtn. Rd. Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

**Moonlight Hike w Will Bowen**
Sat., Sept. 14, 7 – 9 p.m.
Join Anthropologist Dr. Will Bowen for a walk in the canyon at night, an eerie, unusual, and peaceful peradventure. It’s very quiet out there and one’s vision is absent of the colors of the day and filled with all sorts of shades of gray. We find our way by following fragrances and the kinesthetic jumble of perambulation. On clear nights the moon and stars dance brightly above and remind us of the things we’ve forgotten. The moist amazing thing we’ll see are the orb spiders building beautiful, symmetrical webs, in stark contrast to the dizzy fractal webs of their cousins the black widow. Meet at 4206 Sorrento Valley Blvd., San Diego.

**Picnic with Goats**
Sun., Sept. 15, 12-1 p.m. Bring your lunch for a pen-side picnic with our goats, Popcorn and Base. During the picnic, park staff will discuss 1860s ranch life, animal care, and Nubian goats. At the end, there will be an opportunity to interact with the goats and tour our nearly 200 year old ranch house. Meet at the historic Peñasquitos ranch house at 12122 Black Mtn. Rd., Rancho Peñasquitos 92129.
Birding with all Your Senses w Jeanie Anderson
Sat., Sept. 21, meet 7:45 am, Hike 8-10 am
Join Ornithologist Jeanie Anderson on a path in the canyon with many birds both visible and calling. Bring sturdy shoes, binoculars and cover-ups. Handouts and checklists will be provided. Meet at the west end of Canyonside Park Driveway, 1 block west of Black Mtn. Rd. at the Preserve sign at the beginning of the white ranch house fence. 12122 Black Mtn. Rd. Rancho Peñasquitos, 92129.

Every Month
Historic Adobe Ranch Tour
Saturdays at 11 a.m., Sundays at 1 p.m.
San Diego County Park docents lead a free guided tour of San Diego's second oldest standing residence, Rancho Santa Maria de los Peñasquitos. See an historic Mexican rancho with three foot thick adobe walls, settler and Indian artifacts and tour the grounds. The ranch house is located on Canyonside Park Driveway off 12122 Black Mountain Rd., San Diego 92129 between Mira Mesa and Rancho Peñasquitos.

Visit www.penasquitos.org for lots of information on hikes, volunteer activities, meetings, and decades of newsletters, videos, and more.

Reach Mike Kelly at kelly.mike8388@gmail.com or call 858-863-7393 for questions or more info.

Justin Daniels, president of the California Native Plant Society, examines the root structure of the endangered Willowy Monardella (Monardella viminea) in Lopez Canyon, with Mike Kelly, Conservation Chair of the Friends of los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve. The two were part of a team of 8 volunteers surveying this species June 2019. They were joined by Cindy Burrascano, Les Braund, Brian Swanson, Vivien, Rose & Lauren Gustafson.