

OCTOBER 2012 NEWSLETTER



*See below for more information about one of our neighbors at Calavera.

Local Elections

As a non-profit organization Preserve Calavera does not make any candidate endorsements. But as a service to our members we report the endorsements of the two San Diego conservation organizations that evaluate candidates support for the environment – the Sierra Club and League of Conservation Voters. Clean air, clean water, healthy beaches, and natural open spaces aren't partisan issues- they are good for everyone!

Their endorsements are as follows:

Carlsbad City Council : Keith Blackburn
Oceanside Mayor : Jim Wood
Oceanside City Council : Esther Sanchez and Dana Corso
Encinitas City Council : Tony Kranz and Lisa Shaffer
County Supervisor : Dave Roberts

For complete guide and candidate statements
see http://sandiego.sierraclub.org/Hi_Sierran/2012/HSElection12.pdf

Quarry Creek Development and Preserving the Buena Vista Creek Valley

Last month the Carlsbad City Council ignored the voices of their residents and left the fate of the Buena Vista Creek Valley in the hands of a developer- McMillin. Instead of saying reduce the project footprint and provide more open space they made no recommendation. That leaves McMillin free to continue with their development plan with 656 homes around the sacred El Salto Waterfall. Hiking along the creek or sitting on the porch of the historic Marron Adobe we will be assailed by hundreds of homes. Hundreds of homes covering the land that Native Americans have lived on going back 9,000 years. Hundreds of homes in this valley designated one of the most threatened historic areas in all of San Diego County. Hundreds of homes along Buena Vista Creek, next to the Buena Vista Creek reserve and in the wildlife movement

corridor. Hundreds of homes adding more traffic congestion, air pollution, noise and disruption to existing streets and neighborhoods. Our vision moves development off the panhandle, protecting the creek, wildlife corridor, and wonderful history of this valley. It improves pedestrian and bicycle trails and adds a new transit route to reduce traffic congestion. It is a compromise that makes sense for everyone. The critical EIR for this project is now expected to be released in November. We need everyone to help us make sure the right alternative is selected. What can you do now: 1. Call and email the Mayor and Council and tell them you want a compromise that works for everyone- move Quarry Creek development off the panhandle.council@carlsbadca.gov 2. Send a letter to the editor alerting the public about the potential loss of this area. 3. Get a group together to come and visit the area. Let us know how we can help you get involved.

We rarely ask for money, but in addition to our on-going programs there are currently several **important projects that need some funding** in order to proceed:

Support for re-opening of Village H trail - \$ 1,000

When the Thompson Corp bought Village H in 2009 they immediately built a fence around it with a locked gate. They continue to try to stop the public use of this trail that has been used for generations. We have made numerous efforts to work with the developer to re-open the trail to no avail. We have now secured pro-bono legal services through the Environmental Law Clinic of San Diego University. While their time is free, they require us to cover out of pocket costs. We believe the public has established prescriptive rights to use this trail. With your help we will be able to get this trail re-opened. (Please include a note if you want your donation restricted to this project).

Interpretive sign for Mt Calavera - \$ 1,000

We think our local extinct volcano deserves some recognition. The City of Carlsbad has a program for community groups to sponsor interpretive signs. We have solicited grant funds for this with no success. Costs will be reduced if we can do this now as part of a larger package of signs. We have funds for a sign about wildlife. With your help we can do this second sign adding to the enjoyment of Calavera for everyone who visits.

Establishing Creek Crusaders Monitoring

Several of you volunteered to help with this project- but we didn't realize there would be costs involved to get it started- workbooks, supplies and a technical expert to mentor the team.

Donations can be made through our website <http://www.preservercalavera.org/donate.html> or by mailing a check to Preserve Calavera, 5020 Nighthawk Way, Oceanside, CA 92056. No amount is too large or too small- every dollar helps us protect the priceless natural resources of coastal north SD County..

October Activities

Oct 6/7 Sat and Sun 7:30 am – 3:30 pm

Kayaking clean-up on Batiquitos Lagoon

Enjoy a two hour kayaking adventure on the lagoon, and help pick up trash that would otherwise damage this priceless lagoon. Kayaking is not allowed on the lagoon except for this special event. What a great way to see the lagoon and do something good for Mother Nature at the same time. Go to www.batiquitosfoundation.org for more information and to register.

Oct 13 Sat 11 am – 3 pm

Annual CNPS Native Plant Sale

What a great way to get started with your native plant garden. Experts are available to help you plan the best plants for your garden and there is a great selection of plants, books and everything else you need to get started. Event is held in the courtyard at Casa del Prado in Balboa Park with convenient curbside parking for loading plants. For more information see www.cnps.org.

Oct 17 Wed 7 pm social 7:30 program

“Tongues, Toes and Tails- Our Amazing Woodpeckers”

This is the monthly BVAS program. Imagine slamming your head into a brick wall at 16 mph, and then doing it 20 times a second! Oregon naturalist Steven Shunk will share some amazing facts about our native woodpeckers. This free event is held at the Buena Vista Nature Center at 2202 S. Coast Highway, on the border of Buena Vista Lagoon in Oceanside.

Oct 20 Sat 8 am – 4 pm

Beginning Wildlife Tracking Class

What a great way to learn more about our local wildlife- attend this beginning wildlife tracking class by the San Diego Tracking Team. This free class provides an introduction to wildlife track, sign, habitat and the survey protocol. Attend and you can join our local tracking team. Class is held at the Ranch House at Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. To pre-register and for more information go to www.sdt.org.

Future Events : Nov 3,10, and 17- free 3-day workshop 10-2 on creating native plant gardens.sponsored by SD Audubon at Anstine Reserve in Vista

*Photo was taken by Karen Merrill by the Lake Calavera dam spillway. Hard to tell size- but this critter is the size of your hand. The Vagrant Grasshopper is found in low elevation riparian areas and feeds on streamside vegetation. It is capable of rapid flight over long distances. Can't tell sex, but it could very well be a Big Mama!

Our all volunteer organization can't do what we do without your help. Your time, talent and donations can make a difference - right here in your own backyard. Call or email us to see how else you could get involved.

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The day we have been dreading has finally come. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Quarry Creek Development has been released for public comment. The developer, McMillin, has proposed 656 homes- extending all the way from the base of the sacred waterfall almost to the tip of the panhandle. From the porch of the historic adobe we will no longer step back in time and experience our heritage in a place where it can still be felt. Instead we will see our heritage replaced with hundreds of suburban homes – one more neighborhood that is pretty much the same as every other one. We will not be able to watch the kite hunting to feed her brood, or imagine wildlife moving down the canyon to the creek, or hear whispers of the early Native Americans who built their camps here going back 9,000 years .

*We are not saying no development- but we sure are saying **no** to this development. We support a compromise- take development off the panhandle and leave intact this place where the natural, cultural and historical resources are irreplaceable. Save the panhandle and we save the heart of this valley. Save the panhandle and move development to the east- onto the land that was already destroyed by years of mining.*

With your help a few months ago we got a commitment of \$ 5m to acquire natural open space. With your help again we can save the panhandle of Quarry Creek- and with it one of the 12 most endangered historic sites in all of San Diego County. But we need your help now! What you can do to help :

1. Come to the open house on Nov 10, see the area for yourself, and get informed. (See below. Email us for more details.)

2. Call or email Mayor Hall and City Council members at 760-434-2808 or council@carlsbadca.gov and tell them why you want them to save the panhandle of Quarry Creek.

3. Submit a formal comment letter on the DEIR (deadline Dec 7th) see the full document on the city website at <http://www.carlsbadca.gov/services/departments/planning/Pages/QuarryCreekMasterPlan.aspx>

4. Schedule us to speak about this project at every group you can think of- HOA, church, service clubs- we will come any time/anywhere to spread the word and get others involved.

With your help we can save the panhandle!

November Activities

Nov. 3 , 10, and 17 Sat 10:00 am to 2:00pm

Three Day Native Gardening workshop

Come join us and learn the best practices for creating beautiful, water saving native gardens in your yard!

This workshop will equip you with knowledge, hands on experiences and projects to get you started.

Included is a field trip to the Tree of Life Nursery, free light snacks and lunch on the 3rd and 10th, hands on projects and outside field work.

Guest Speaker: Susan Krzywicki from CNPS

Contact Rebecca Wilbanks, Anstine Resident Manager at (760) 295-1548

or beckywilbanks@cox.net

Where: The Anstine- Audubon Nature Preserve 2437 Hutchison St, Vista 92084

Nov 10 Sat 8 am – 12 noon

Garage Sale- Fundraiser for Village H

Donate your extra “stuff” (can drop in driveway any time at 5020 Nighthawk Way in Oceanside) and make sure to come by and shop for bargains. Proceeds will help fund the project to re-open the trails at Village H in Calavera Hills.

Nov 10 Sat -2- 4 PM

Open House at Marron Adobe/ BV Valley

Here is your chance to come and see the Buena Vista Creek Valley and see why this area is too priceless to bulldoze for 656 more homes. There will be tours of part of the historic Marron Adobe and walks into the valley, and exhibits that tell about the early history of this area. Email us for a flier and please pass this flier on to everyone you know who would like to visit one of the 12 most endangered historic sites in San Diego County. The Adobe is located at the deadend of Haymar. From # 78 heading east take the College exit. Take first right onto Haymar/Plaza- this is frontage road along # 78 that goes past Mossy-Nissan. Head 7/10th of a mile west along Haymar- parking along both sides of the street. Call 760-724-3887 for more information.

Nov 14 Wed 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Bi-Monthly Preserve Calavera Board Meeting

Meetings are open to all members but RSVP required for location and gate code.

Nov 14 Wed 7 pm social 7:30 program

“Small Mammals in San Diego County”

This is monthly BVAS program. We’re not likely to encounter bears here, but there are a whole lot of little critters living nearby. Project Wildlife volunteers will bring some animal

ambassadors and share their stories of wildlife rescues and how we can learn to be better neighbors to our local wildlife. This free event is held at the Buena Vista Nature Center at 2202 S. Coast Highway, on the border of Buena Vista Lagoon in Oceanside.

Future Events : Dec 8 Sat- Trail volunteer work at Lake Calavera.

Our all volunteer organization can't do what we do without your help. Your time, talent and donations can make a difference - right here in your own backyard. Call or email us to see how else you could get involved.

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