

## MAY 2013 NEWSLETTER

April was the best of times and the worst of times. It began with the Carlsbad City Council approving all 656 units for the Quarry Creek project and just removing R-5 from the original development as proposed by McMillin. That moves only about 1/3 of the development off the panhandle. King Solomon proposed to cut a baby in half to resolve a conflict. Perhaps the Carlsbad Mayor and Council thought cutting this priceless area into pieces would somehow make everything all right. The following day the Oceanside City Council, on a 3:2 vote, decided to take no further action. Their original position was for some roadway mitigation in Oceanside, a reduced number of units, and a road connection to Carlsbad. But in the end they accepted that only 1 of 8 traffic failures would be fixed and no reduction in units or road connection to Carlsbad would be required. The elected officials of both cities put the profits of an out of town developer over the best interests of the residents of north county. We lose one of the most significant cultural, historical and natural resources in all of San Diego County, get traffic failures in this whole section of North County- and the developer gets a 25% return on investment.

The heart of this priceless valley must be preserved and we remain committed to take all possible actions to do so. While the developer went to Pizza Port to celebrate their victory we know it is not over yet. It will take ongoing effort- likely for many years. But we have already invested twelve years into preserving this valley and with your continued support we are just getting started! Our first legal challenge will be submitted later this week- with more to come. Unfortunately money drove the decision to approve this project, and more money will be needed to challenge that decision and achieve a compromise that works. Your tax deductible donations will keep us in the fight- as long as it takes ! To donate online: <http://preservecalavera.org>

After such a terrible start, April ended on what is always one of the high points of the year- our annual wildflower hike of Calavera with James Dillane.





My personal favorite was discovering the fiesta flower. The little barbed hairs on the stems makes this flower stick to whatever you put it on. On fiesta day the ladies would pick a bouquet of fiesta flowers, stick them to their dress and dance the night away with their flowers intact. Thank you again James for sharing your knowledge of our wonderful native plants- and the stories that go with them!

### **May Activities**

**May 8 Wed 6 PM**

#### **Bi-Monthly Preserve Calavera Board Meeting**

Meetings are open to all members but

RSVP required for location and gate code.

**May 11 Sat 10 -11 am**

#### **Mini-tour of the Buena Vista Creek Valley and Grounds of the Marron Adobe**

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 short walk into the valley, tours of the grounds around the historic Marron Adobe and exhibits that tell about the early history of this area. We will meet at the cul-de-sac along Haymar Rd. 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 7/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile west along Haymar- parking in cul-de-sac and along both sides of the street. Call 760-724-3887 for more information. Advance reservations are not required. Tour takes place rain or shine. Please **help spread the word about this and pass on to anyone you know who has not yet had a chance to visit this priceless area.**

**May 11 Sat 8- 10 am**

#### **Introduction to Wildlife Tracking at Penasquitos Canyon Preserve**

This beginning tracking walk will get you inspired to attend the all-day class and join our local wildlife tracking team. This free introduction is sponsored by the San Diego Tracking Team. Go to their website for map and more information at [www.sdtt.org](http://www.sdtt.org).

**May 12 Sun 8 am – 10 am**

**Birding Hike starting at Oak Riparian Park in Oceanside**

May is a great time to visit this local park and find some migrating species- often including warblers, tanagers, vireos, orioles, grosbeaks, and flycatchers. Birding walk will go about a mile and then depending upon time and interest may extend further into the adjacent Calavera preserve. Directions: from I-5 take # 78 east to College Blvd. Turn Right onto College Blvd, then take second Left onto Lake Blvd. Follow Lake about two miles until you see Oak Riparian Park on the right. Turn right into the parking lot (at the intersection with Ridge Rd- Thomas Guide page 1107 E3). Note : If you get to Southridge you have gone too far.) For more info contact leader Steve Brad at [stevebrad1@earthlink.net](mailto:stevebrad1@earthlink.net) or call 760-274-5256.

**May 18 Sat 10 AM – 3 PM**

**Open House at Buena Vista Nature Center Celebrating Endangered Species Day**

Join us and Buena Vista Audubon Society as we celebrate birdsong and wildflowers and the wonderful diversity of plants and wildlife that we share this part of the world with. Family friendly activities will fill the day with stories, nature crafts, animal tracking and the always popular Nature Treasure Hunt- all with a focus on some of our special native plants and wildlife. Everyone will also want see the “Lagoon Discovery Dip” an up close view of lagoon critters. Special student made exhibits will highlight some of our local endangered plants and wildlife. And don't miss the native plant gardens that are in full bloom. This free event with something for everyone is at the Buena Vista Nature Center- at 2202 S. Coast Hwy in Oceanside (right next to Buena Vista Lagoon).

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