

AUGUST 2013 NEWSLETTER



Who is this cute little guy?

Everyone was pretty excited when this western pond turtle was found recently at Lake Calavera. The USGS currently has a trapping program in two local preserves to try to figure out what can be done to stop the decline of this native species. They are having a hard time competing with red-eared sliders (the most common pet turtle which often gets released in natural lands where it should not be) and bullfrogs (imports from the east coast who eat most everything smaller than they are). Remember with all of our local wildlife- look but don't touch and we can all enjoy our wonderful natural lands and the critters that live here.

Summer is upon us. We are all spending more time outdoors so here is some useful and myth-busting info about wildlife transmitted diseases. Thank you to wildlife expert Renee Owens for this info!

<http://www.sandiegolovesgreen.com/ask-greengal-about-the-diseases-wild-animals-give-you/>

Everyone keeps asking - what is happening with Quarry Creek? Our litigation effort is underway, but it is a long slow process. Since 656 residential units were approved at Quarry Creek the city of Carlsbad approved 127 affordable housing units at Little Encinas Creek- without taking one inch of open space! That is a model for responsible development that is a win-win for everyone. Then just when we thought things were looking up for preserving open space, the City Council approved the Westfield Mall Project without one affordable housing unit. Their Housing Element planned 250 affordable housing units at the mall as part of the smart growth plan. But if there are 0 units at the mall where will they build them? How much open space will be lost for 250 units somewhere else? Building projects that comply with Smart Growth criteria benefits everyone. Stupid Growth hurts us all.

August Activities

**Aug 10 Sat 8am – 10am
Introduction to Wildlife Tracking**

Join a knowledgeable San Diego Tracking Team instructor for FREE informal “dirt-time” lessons in the art of wildlife tracking. Learn how to identify the tracks and scat of coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, deer, and other wildlife in our area! No reservation is necessary. Just show up.

Where: Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve, Ranch House.
Information at www.sdt.org. Rain cancels.

Aug 17 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 a 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 7/10th 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.

Aug 18 Sun 2 PM

Buena Vista Native Plant Club

Want to learn more about our local native plants? Come to the regular monthly meeting of the Buena Vista Native Plant Club. They meet at the Buena Vista Nature Center at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month. Everyone’s welcome, regardless of their native plant knowledge or gardening expertise. Club members answer your questions and help solve your gardening issues, as well as offer tips for native gardening activities appropriate for the season. We always spend time among the native plants in the demonstration gardens or along the Nature Center trails. The Nature Center is at 2202 S. Coast Highway in Oceanside, right on the shore of Buena Vista Lagoon.

Future Events :

Sept 21 Sat – Buena Vista Valley Mini-tour

Oct 26 Sat - Hike of Dawson/Los Monos Reserve

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.

To donate online: <http://preservercalavera.org>

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