

## DECEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Bobcats, birds, and people all enjoyed some of the results of our work last year.

### **A Few of Our 2014 Accomplishments:**

#### **Wildlife Movement Corridors**



*Bobcat spotted near Village H*

We worked with the City of Carlsbad and San Diego Tracking Team to come up a plan to enhance the data collection for the first major study of wildlife movement corridors in this area. We are funding additional on-the-ground surveys at key pinch points. This data will help determine if wildlife are using these areas, what the barriers are, and what can be done to address them. Next year we will have the results and will use this information to reduce the loss of wildlife to roadkill and to make sure we are doing what we can to preserve healthy, resilient wildlife populations.

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#### **Stream Bioassessments**



*Great Blue Heron at Lake Calavera-- photo by Todd Nordness*

Bioassessment and CRAM (California Rapid Assessment Monitoring) of streams are protocols that inventory plant cover, measure physical streambed parameters and collect macroinvertebrate samples along 100-150 m of a stream. Over time these metrics indicate improvement or decline in water quality, plant diversity and physical streambed parameters. We initiated these assessments of Buena Vista Creek several years ago. Working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and San Diego Coastkeeper, we now have a trained team of volunteers that continues this important work.

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### **Preserving Open Space in Carlsbad**

*Council Member Blackburn speaks with residents at the BVR property-- photo by Janell Cannon*



We were shocked when the city of Carlsbad issued their draft General Plan- and removed their long-standing commitment to 40% open space at build-out. To make matters worse, we discovered that 51 acres of natural open space was double-counted as parkland, gated/locked school yards are counted as parks, and the future Veteran's Park is being used to meet the minimum park requirements in all four quadrants of the city. We held community meetings, submitted comments, testified at hearings and raised awareness. We also supported a grass-roots neighborhood group's effort to create a park at the abandoned Buena Vista Reservoir property. Hopefully by next year this will become a separate non-profit organization, Friends of Buena Vista Reservoir Park, and their vision for a park will become a reality. In addition, we identified 23 other parcels of land that could be converted to parks or open space. All these efforts will continue next year as the city holds hearings and adopts the new General Plan. Together, we can preserve more land for parks and open space, and assure that every neighborhood has access to green spaces.

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## **Climate Change**

Two years ago we realized that if climate change is not addressed all of our conservation work will be meaningless. We decided to focus on action by local cities, especially Climate Action Plans (CAP). When our efforts to improve the city of Vista CAP were not successful we decided to work with them to implement the adopted plan. We coordinated the creation of a broad based community stakeholder group including the Chamber of Commerce, faith based groups, neighborhood groups and the city. The group is now implementing their plan to engage the broader community in projects like energy retrofits of buildings, Bike to Work Day, tree plantings and composting classes. We hope this will become a model for other cities to follow. By

working cooperatively with other stakeholders we can have much more impact than by working alone.

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### **And that's not all...**

Our ongoing work continues including: 11 years of quarterly wildlife surveys; work to acquire key parcels of land as open space; managing another restoration grant- this time for Village H; sponsoring our third Endangered Species Day event with Buena Vista Audubon; conducting hikes featuring wildflowers and the Dawson-Los Monos Reserve; improving the management of natural lands through toxic clean-ups, storm water control, and creating a new friends group; reducing the adverse impacts of development through comment letters, testimony and holding developers and government agencies accountable.

With your continued support all of this work and more will continue next year.

### **December Activities**

#### **Sat Dec 13 8:30 – 11:30 AM**

#### **Trail Volunteer Work at Village H**

This is the regular monthly city of Carlsbad Trail Volunteer work session. Meet at the trail head near Carlsbad Village Dr and Victoria. Wear long pants, long sleeved shirt, hat and sunscreen. Bring water and gloves (more available on site if you forget). Work will include erosion repair, sign installation, litter clean-up and restoring the trailhead. See our website for map: <http://preservecalavera.org>

Rain cancels the event.

#### **Wed Dec 10 6 - 7:30 PM**

### **CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION AT THE LOCAL LEVEL**

Russ Cunningham, senior planner for the city of Oceanside will present a local perspective on climate change. Although the warming of the planet is a global issue, requiring concerted action at the highest levels of government, there is much that can be done at the local level. Local action requires identifying local GHG emissions sources, assessing and building local capacity to reduce GHG emissions, evaluating local exposure to climate change impacts, and devising strategies to protect local resources against the many hazards associated with climate change. Learn what can be done in your own community. The event will be held at the Mission Branch library in Oceanside at 3861 Mission Ave.

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### **Upcoming Events:**

**Jan 24 Sat 9:30 AM-** Dove Library - Community meeting on Carlsbad parks and open space

**Jan 26 Mon – 6 PM –** Senior Center - Community meeting on Carlsbad parks and open space (repeat of Sat )

**Feb - Date TBD –** Long awaited Planning Commission hearing on the General Plan, Climate Action Plan and EIR

This is the first formal step toward adoption of the new General Plan that has been in process for over 2 years.

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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.