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www.sdrvc.org

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY



CONSERVANCY

CURRENTS

NEWSLETTER OF SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY



INSIDE

PG2

Presidents' Messages

PG3

Member Acknowledgement

PG4

Volunteers Make a Difference

PG5

Volunteer Events

PG6

Get to 71 Campaign Update

PG7

Recreation Programs

PG8-9

Conservation Efforts

PG10

Education Programs

PG11

Upcoming Events

Experience the Beauty

Rainfall brings super bloom

Thanks to record-breaking rainfall, soil is fully saturated and San Diego hillsides are bright emerald green. Once the sun has enough time to shine, splashes of vibrant orange, purple, yellow, and red colors pop up in the form of wildflowers and are expected throughout the spring.

California's biologically diverse landscapes are home to more than 7,000 species of native plants. While not a scientific term, "super bloom" describes a natural phenomenon that occurs when several species of wildflower seeds germinate and bloom flowers simultaneously.

Now is the perfect time to get outside and experience the beauty. Whether it's a walk at the lagoon or a hike in the foothills or mountains, you are sure to see wildflowers to admire, take photos of, enter an observation in the iNaturalist app, or simply to create memories so that in drier years, you can fondly tell stories of the spectacular super bloom of 2023. Want to hike with others? We invite you to check out our Events page often, www.sdrvc.org/events and we hope to meet you out on the trails.

Board of Directors

Lee Haydu,

President

Ellie Haviland,

Vice President

Mark Hennenfent,

Secretary

Peter DeFrancesca, CPA,

Treasurer

Jim Smith,

Past President

Joe Bonner

Crystal Crawford

Dan King, JD

Cindy Outlaw

Karen Searcy

Janice Swaisgood

Betty Wheeler

Gabriele Wienhausen PhD

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Karen Berger

Slader Buck

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Renita Greenberg

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Donald Mosier, MD, PhD

Nate Northrup

Phil Pryde

Oliver Ryder, PhD

Peter Shapiro, PhD

Williams Simmons

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Cheryl Goddard,

Executive Director

Debbie Croft,

Administrative Assistant

Joseph Rivera,

Associate Conservation Manager

Kim Rogers,

Community Engagement Manager



OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a great two years to be president of the Conservancy. Our most recent, exciting accomplishment is to have raised \$2 million for design and permitting of the final two, large gaps in the Coast to Crest Trail. We also purchased land along the lagoon to provide mitigation for River Path Del Mar Phase 3, which is expected to start construction later this year. With your help we purchased more than 100 acres along Del Dios Highway overlooking Lake Hodges Dam. Our education programs for children of all ages, including Exploring our Sense of Place program continue to grow in popularity. We couldn't do this without your support, so thank you!

A big transition has been Trish Boaz's retirement and being fortunate to find Cheryl Goddard. Cheryl has brought tremendous new ideas and enthusiasm. Her ideas for a more efficient organization are already paying dividends.

Board leadership changes include Lee Haydu will be President, Ellie Haviland Vice President, and Mark Hennenfent Secretary. They've contributed greatly to the Conservancy and will continue to propel the organization forward.

We'll miss termed-out board members Slader Buck, Keith Colestock, Don Mosier, and Bob Sheppard. We welcome new board members Crystal Crawford, Cindy Outlaw, Karen Searcy, and Betty Wheeler. Their diverse backgrounds will be a powerful addition to the Conservancy.

It has been an honor to serve this fantastic organization as president.

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Conservancy turns 37 this year and who would have thought 37 years ago that we would be where we are today. We are realizing our goal of preserving the San Dieguito Lagoon along with the entire river valley to Volcan Mountain. Our recent campaign, "Get to 71," raised \$2 million dollars with the help of our members and other dedicated partners. It shows how many people care about this precious resource.



The Conservancy has a wealth of hard-working volunteers and the Conservancy could not do its job without all of their help. We also rely on our enthusiastic and committed staff to protect this beautiful natural resource.

It is a great honor to follow in the footsteps of many previous presidents. I would like to thank Jim Smith for all that he has done these past two years. I am committed to moving the Conservancy forward. I am honored to be president of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy.



WELCOME NEW CONSERVANCY BOARD MEMBERS



Crystal Crawford

As a member of the Del Mar City Council from 1998 to 2010, Crystal worked with the Del Mar Lagoon Committee and the River Park JPA to protect the health of the San Dieguito Lagoon and to ensure that the San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration was completed.



Cindy Outlaw

Cindy is a 35-year resident of Solana Beach. She is an avid hiker and enjoys the trails of the San Dieguito River Valley on a weekly basis. She will bring to the Board her skills of administration and public outreach.



Karen Searcy

Karen is a Del Mar resident. She is a retired lecturer and herbarium curator, Biology Dept. University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her biology background will be valuable in the rich biodiversity of the San Dieguito River Valley.



Betty Wheeler

Betty is a Del Mar resident and retired attorney. She is a recent Exploring Sense of Place alumni. She enjoys and appreciates the outdoors and the opportunities to connect with nature.

MEET YOUR SDRVC TEAM



From left to right, **Pablo Ramirez** – Intern, **Debbie Croft** – Administrative Assistant, **Cheryl Goddard** – Executive Director, **Kim Rogers** – Community Engagement Manager, **Joseph Rivera** – Conservation Manager

MEMBER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

\$2,500+

Emma Zuckerman

\$1000+

Ever Loved, Inc
Gabriele Wienhausen
Howard Weiner
John & Kim Wu
Katherine Drew
Marion Dodson
Seiber Family

\$500+

Andy Baltins & Lynne McGuire
Mike & Melissa Bishop
Sachiko Kohatsu

\$250+

Feroza Ardeshir
Gordon & Cathie Dixon
Jean & Robert Will
Joel & Kathleen Cook
Michael Pinto
Mike & Linda Mogelinski
Steve & Martha Hillyard

\$150+

Christella Widjaja
Douglas Simmons
Julia Ember
Lawrence & Sharon Haswell
Neil Meyer & Jill Pfeiffer

\$100+

Betty Wheeler
Brian & Bonnie Sellstrom
Bruce & Penny Frantz
Cathy Pautz
Craig & Cathy Greene
Dave & Georgette Kreitzer
Dawn & John Rawls
Don Melucci
Evelyn & Robert Wyatt
Dante Farenga & Tim Wolfe
Gary Martin
Jan Wahl
Jane Cassity
Janet & Larry Pollack
Jerome & Anne Sinsky

Jim Royle
John Degenfelder
Joris Gieskes
Julian & Millicent Abell
Linda Alziari
Michael & Stephanie Forman
Mike Hawker
Paul & Linnea Dayton
Rod Goodson
Ron & Janice Swaisgood
Stacy Bermingham
Stephan Miller
Verna Haas & Geoffrey Robinson
Wayne Norman

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Conservancy is always looking for committed volunteers to take part in our exciting programs and lead others in events.



WATERSHED EXPLORERS PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS

Escondido Explorers Program is a free, outdoor education program that provides middle and high school students an opportunity to experience different destinations along the San Dieguito watershed. Each site focuses on a different theme, providing a unique opportunity for students to experience and learn about the many facets of the watershed, from its natural history to its cultural significance.

Watershed Educators are volunteers who help students develop their sense of place, appreciation for and understanding of the San Dieguito watershed by assisting in running the field trips. Most programs will be 3-4 hours long on both weekends and weekdays. Volunteers can choose which sites and activities they wish to support.

NEXT TO NATURE AMBASSADORS

Interested in the myriad of sustainable practices that can turn a home into one that mimics nature and promotes local wildlife? Next to Nature Ambassadors help homeowners learn techniques to create a landscape for life, including:

- Water Conservation and Safe Harvesting
- Wildfire Resistance
- Pollinator Gardens & Bioswales
- Permaculture
- Landscape Design & Smart Irrigation

Become a N2N Ambassador for our Next to Nature Certification program and help participants make their home a Next to Nature Home. Volunteers gain valuable experience in sustainable landscaping by assisting homeowners through the program, certifying participants, and taking part in our N2N Demos, where experts share their knowledge through presentations and physical demonstrations.

To learn more about these programs and volunteer training opportunities, please contact Kim Rogers at kim@sdrvc.org.

VOLUNTEER EVENTS



SAN MARCOS BOY SCOUT VOLUNTEER PLANTING EVENT

SDRVC teamed up with Boy Scout Troop 651 for a planting event aimed at restoring the habitat of the San Dieguito Lagoon. Working together, we planted a variety of native plants to attract important pollinators such as bees and butterflies. The Boy Scouts worked hard to dig holes, plant the new vegetation and get the plants ready for an upcoming rain. They learned about the importance of habitat restoration and the role that native plants play in supporting the ecosystem overall. It was a successful and rewarding event that brought together community members to make a positive impact on the environment.

Stop by the San Dieguito River Valley Watershed education booth at the 2023 San Diego County Fair!

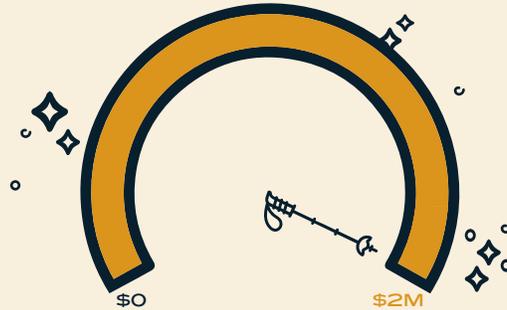


SAN DIEGO FAIR VOLUNTEERS - GET OUT THERE

Adventure awaits at the 2023 San Diego County Fair—"Get Out There!" to explore the great outdoors and get s'more of what life has to offer Wednesday, June 7 through Tuesday, July 4 at the Del Mar Fairgrounds. The Conservancy and the San Dieguito River Park JPA will have a joint booth at the Fair and we are looking for volunteers who

are interested and passionate about the River Park and the Conservancy's mission to conserve, educate and offer responsible recreation. Volunteers will be provided free premium parking and a free Fair ticket for the day(s) they volunteer. Shifts are a minimum of four (4) hours. If you are interested in becoming a Booth Booster, please contact Kim Rogers, kim@sdrvc.org for more information.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US
REACH OUR GOAL OF
\$2 MILLION



GET-TO-71 TRAIL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Supporters of the Conservancy and the San Dieguito River Park JPA have done it again! With your support, we are closer than ever to Getting to 71 uninterrupted miles on the Coast to Crest Trail. Together, we have reached our \$2 million goal to help close 13 miles of trail gaps from east San Pasqual Valley to Boden Canyon and from Lake Sutherland to Santa Ysabel West Preserve. Our members and supporters are amazing! We thank everyone who has joined in to raise more than \$2 million to allow for the planning, design, and environmental clearances to fill these trail gaps. Additional funds raised for this campaign will be used towards construction of the trail gaps.

GET-TO-71 DONOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

\$1 million

Sandra & Peter
Zarcades

\$100,000+

Gary & Maxine Kreitzer
Diane & Stan Coombs

\$70,000+

Alan & Steve
Tarkington

\$50,000+

William Sherrard
Irwin & Joan Jacobs
Foundation
Wayne Pfeiffer
Peter House & Carol
Childs

\$30,000+

Herb & Paula Engel

\$20,000+

Golich Family
James Clark & Jane Lea
Smith
Marc Sands
Eliza Rose Gabrych
Jeffrey Barnouw
Chris Khoury & Linda
Corey

\$10,000+

Matthew Jones &
Simonette Ignacio
Bill & Gigi Simmons
Matt & Angela Kilman
John & Christine
Murphy
Kim Godwin & Tom
Wilcox
Seth Sprague
Educational &
Charitable Foundation

Gabriele Wienhausen
Eric Lodge
Annie Dunne
Dan & Joan Meyer
Karen Berger

\$5,000+

Alana C Asmussen
Heather Rosing & Scott
Carr
Scott B Wilson
Ann Hesselink
Wayne & Elizabeth
Dernetz
Mike & Rebecca Bogan
Mary Proctor & Mercer
McKinley

\$2,000+

Peter F DeFrancesca
Paul Courtright
Peter Shapiro & Kathy

Sage
Lee Haydu
Crystal Crawford
Eve Spencer
Barbara Bashein
Ellie & Tim Haviland
Chris Gilbert
Deborah Davies
Seiber Family

Additional Pledges

Carol Mann & Alan Vier
Don Mosier & Ann
Feeney
Heather Rosing & Scott
Carr
Irwin & Joan Jacobs
Foundation
Bill Simmons & Gigi
Gary & Jeri-Ann Jacobs

RECREATION: PICTURE PERFECT DAY



On St. Patrick's Day, a small group of nature enthusiasts gathered for "Picture Perfect Day." Community Engagement Manager Kim Rogers led a photo hike around the Piedras Pintadas Interpretive Trail. The group learned about the local flora and fauna and the Conservancy restoration efforts while enjoying an easy nature walk. The recent rains brought beautiful blooming flowers and flowing water features, while the trail provided a perfect backdrop for nature photography. Participants captured stunning shots of the surrounding landscape. Overall, it was a fun and educational experience for all involved.

MOONLIT HIKE

Celebrate National Trails Day, June 3rd, with the Conservancy and the San Dieguito River Park JPA on a moonlit hike at Dust Devils Nature Trail. The trail is named in honor of the "Dust Devils" skilled and dedicated volunteers who work on a weekly basis with San Dieguito River Park rangers on building and maintaining trails, and restoring and managing habitat. Located on the eastern side of the San Dieguito Lagoon, the Dust Devil Nature Trail is an easy hike that consists of a series of three loops overlooking seasonal ponds. The full moon that falls in June is commonly referred to as the "Strawberry Moon" - a name that originates with Native Americans. This is because June is traditionally a time when wild strawberries are ready for harvest in North America. Space is limited for this hike. Registration is available on www.sdrvc.org/events.

CONSERVATION: THRU THE LENS OF WILDLIFE CAMERAS



Ltl Acorn ● 089F 032C 09/03/2021 18:09:56



Ltl Acorn ● 107F 042C 07/15/2021 12:46:48

Our nine wildlife cameras capture an abundance of wildlife that calls the San Dieguito River Valley home. The automated cameras have photographed mule deer and bobcats near Lake Hodges and mountain lions and coyotes in the San Pasqual Valley. These photos are living proof that these natural areas serve as essential wildlife corridors and habitats. The photos also serve as supporting documents to illustrate our grant applications.

The wildlife cameras have allowed us to create Thru the Lens, a free online course for kids. A syllabus rich with art, science, and storytelling allows students to gain a better understanding of wildlife movement, with particular emphasis on carnivores. Kids learn the animals' importance to our region, how scientists study them using tools like camera traps and telemetry, and how these animals will be impacted by climate change and increased human activity.



POLLINATOR GARDEN AT RIVER PATH DEL MAR

River Path Del Mar Sensory Signage and Pollinator Garden is under way. With great help from our volunteers, we have planted native pollinator plants such as black sage, monkey flower, California bush sunflower, California fuschia and others to attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators. This lagoon-side trail will be furnished with multifunctional, educational signs to inform passersby about the importance of both native pollinating plants and pollinator species. Currently, the signage is in the permitting process with the City of Del Mar.

SCHOLDER CREEK HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT



The Conservancy has partnered with US Fish & Wildlife Service and private property owners under the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program with the goal to restore the native habitat for the western pond turtle, the California red legged frog and other native animal and plant species found in Scholder Creek in our upper watershed. This project recently received an additional \$18,000 on top of the original \$48,000 to eradicate invasive plant species like the tree of heaven, also nicknamed tree of hell for obvious reasons, the Himalayan blackberry, and nonnative grasses as well as improving the natural flow of water to prevent any additional infestation of the American bullfrog.

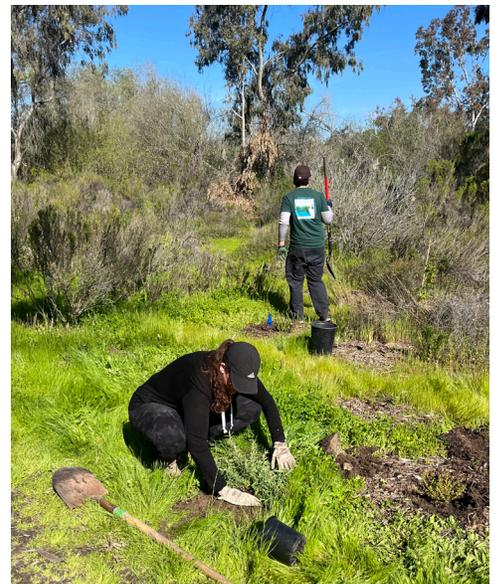
DEL DIOS 117 OPEN SPACE PRESERVE



The Del Dios Framework Resource Management Plan is the Conservancy's roadmap for monitoring and managing the 117-acre open space preserve. With help from volunteer herpetologists, botanists, biologists, ornithologists, and the California Native Plant Society, we are gearing up for surveys of the critical habitat that many forms of life call home.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER RESTORATION EVENTS

We continue to have many enthusiastic volunteers committed to getting their hands dirty to plant native plants in our watershed. The immense rain that we have been receiving has not stopped our volunteers from putting their green thumbs to work by spreading mulch and pulling weeds and invasive plants to encourage the growth of native species. These efforts help promote local habitats, wildlife, and pollination in Gonzales Canyon and the lagoon. This planting season we have put more than 250 native plants into the ground so far!



EDUCATION: UPCOMING SPEAKER SERIES

Join us for an enlightening series focused on conservation and environmental stewardship. Our gatherings will bring together a diverse group of speakers from various backgrounds, all of whom share a passion for protecting our watershed and preserving its natural beauty and resources. Throughout the series, you will have the opportunity to hear from experts in their respective fields, each sharing their unique perspectives and insights on environmental conservation. From wildlife conservationists to sustainability experts, our speakers will provide a comprehensive look at the challenges we face and the steps we can take to safeguard our future. Whether you're an avid environmentalist or simply curious about the topic, this series is designed for anyone who cares about the future of our watershed and planet. Through informative talks, engaging discussions, and thought-provoking presentations, we hope to inspire and empower individuals to become environmental stewards in their own communities. The Speaker Series will be posted on Eventbrite. Be a part of these important conversations on conservation and environmental stewardship, and together, let's make a difference!

NEXT TO NATURE (N2N) DEMO SERIES



Learning how to turn your home into a N2N home has never been easier. Our N2N Demo series has brought in experts like Diane Kennedy from Finch Frolic Garden to talk about the many ways to harvest water safely in containers and in the soil. During a demonstration event in March, Diane also addressed simple erosion control methods. Cody Harrison of Corona Enterprises discussed the factors to consider when designing your N2N home, and Brook Sarson, CEO of Catching H2O, discussed water conservation and the numerous ways to transform your home into a water-conserving oasis.

Our next speaker is Connor Lennehan from the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District to give tips on how you can protect your home from the ever-rising risk of wildfires.

**OUR HOME IS
A CERTIFIED
NEXT TO NATURE
HOME**

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY REI CO-OP GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE COOPERATIVE CORONA VISUAL MEDIA





UPCOMING EVENTS

© Alana C. Asmussen

Visit www.sdrvc.org/events for more details and to register for events

May 6th: ESP Lagoon Restoration

May 6th: Watershed Explorers Program @ Lagoon

May 13th: Watershed Explorers Program @ Ilan Lael Foundation

May 16th: Drawing is Seeing Day 1 with Sue Britt

May 21st: SDRP/SDRVC Volunteer Appreciation

May 23rd: Drawing is Seeing Day 2 with Sue Britt

May 27th: Watershed Explorers Program @ Rady's Children's Hospital

June 3rd: National Trails Day Moonlit Hike

June 13th: Walk N Talk

June 7th-July 4th: San Diego County Fair Booth

July 11th: Walk N Talk

August 8th: Walk N Talk

September 12th: Walk N Talk

September 16th: Drawing is Seeing

October 15th: River Valley Fest



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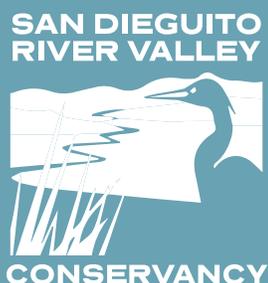


SUPPORTING THE PILLARS



San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is on a mission to advance conservation, education and recreation. We remind nature lovers that every gift of every size directly supports our mission. Thank you!

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please email sdrvc@sdrvc.org.



Currents Editor
Adam Kaye
Graphic Design
Farrah Karram Wright

**San Dieguito River Valley
Land Conservancy**
3030 Bunker Hill Street, Ste. 309-1
San Diego, CA 92109
858.866.6956
sdrvc.org