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## Sage Mar.2011.docm

Bob & Carol Crafts <rcrafts@cox.net>  
 To: Bob & Carol Crafts <rcrafts@cox.net>

Mon, Feb 28, 2011 at 7:16 PM



### *Sycamore Sage*



*Mar. 2011*

**PARK UPDATE:** Trails at southeast side of Sycamore Park Drive maybe closed temporarily due to Sunrise Powerlink construction activities. Additionally, helicopters and heavy machinery may temporarily increase noise levels, dust, and other disturbances; hours of construction are Monday – Saturday, 7:00am to 7:00pm. For more information on the project, visit [sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink](http://sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink) or contact Todd Voorhees at [sunrisepowerlink@SDGE.com](mailto:sunrisepowerlink@SDGE.com) or by telephone at (877) 775-6818.

The Parks website is [www.sdparks.org](http://www.sdparks.org). During rainy weather and post rainy weather the Parks Preserves are closed for safety and damage control due to muddy, wet trails and roads. Please check the Parks website or call the ranger's office at 858-513-4737 for Preserve status.

### **President's Message**

And the rains came, and came and came. *Remarkably, most of the trails fared quite well. Plants are already blooming. After the board meeting a request came from the Ranger asking for help with another display taxidermy – a bobcat. The board approved this by e-mail vote and we look forward to its arrival.*

Carol

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Docents at Blue Sky (and others) are invited to attend one of the training workshops on conducting family-friendly nature programs and activities that engage children of all ages. Topics covered in this workshop will include planning a Family Nature Day activity, identifying the best type of activity for your site, setting realistic expectations for families with children (special emphasis on young children), utilizing hands-on and multi-sensory experiences in nature, and safety considerations for outdoor activities. (Come prepared with a sample activity to refine during class.) We likely haven't given enough notice, but the same workshop will be held twice, on Tuesday, March 1, 10am-noon or Thursday, March 3, 4-6pm at the Girl Scouts of San Diego-Imperial Council

2/28/2011

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office, 1231 Upas St. (corner of Richmond St. in Hillcrest), Cabin 3. There is no fee, please send RSVP to [Janice@familyadventuresinnature.org](mailto:Janice@familyadventuresinnature.org) as I can't locate the link to the registration site. Hope some of you can join us, even if we've sent this at such short notice. Anne Fege

**Anne S. Fege, Ph.D., M.B.A., Chair**

**San Diego Children and Nature Collaborative (SDCaN)**

**Phone 858-472-1293, email [fege@sandiegoaudubon.org](mailto:fege@sandiegoaudubon.org)**



As you have come to expect, The Chaparralian is a unique publication. It does not offer the usual conservation newsletter fare. This issue certainly continues that pattern.

You can download your copy from the link below:

[http://www.californiachaparral.org/images/Chaparralian\\_36\\_37\\_Dreams.pdf](http://www.californiachaparral.org/images/Chaparralian_36_37_Dreams.pdf)



## **Minutes of the Friends of Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon Open Space Reserves**

**January 31, 2011**

In attendance: Carol Crafts, Bob Crafts, Phoenix Von Hendy, Karen Larsen Gordon and Terry Callan.

Gardner Grady and DeAnne Erickson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05p.

**-Secretary' Report:** The motion passed to approve the minutes of the meeting held November 1, 2010.

**-Treasurer's Report:** DeAnne Erickson reported that the Franchise Tax board procedures have changed. The Board of Equalization filing was made today for \$7, based upon the sale of books. Terry Callan will be auditing the financials. Balances to date are: Checking - \$3,389.90, Primary Savings - \$409.17, Money Market - \$361.80, Certificate of Deposit - \$6,846.99, Total - \$11,007.86.

**-Rangers Report:** The Santee end has increased 4X4 activity, and AT&T access has caused destruction in some riparian zone habitats. A SDG&E construction meeting included Maureen on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>, with future inclusion by County Staff promised.

**-Wildlife Monitoring:** Two somewhat uncommon species documented were the spotted skunk and desert wood rat.

**-Old Business:**

1. Sunrise Power Link – Recent signage regarding closures and an encounter with a sub-contractor provoked questions, as well as the need for a member of Friends to scrutinize the EIR sections that impact the preserves. Questions posed included:

1. Parr Construction indicated they are using a separate staging area other than the heliport site. Please advise details.
2. What are the long-term plans for the heliport?
3. As larger transmission towers are being installed, what are the specifics regarding the towers and the locations?
4. Will there be mitigation and compensation for take due to impacts to the preserves?
5. Information regarding the removal of trees has been given to preserve supervising staff. Can you clarify the locations, species and causes for the removal?

Karen and Phoenix volunteered to continue attempts at communicating with Todd Voorhees at [tvoorhees@semprautilities.com](mailto:tvoorhees@semprautilities.com) or (858) 650-6123.

2. Signage of plant species is recommended with 19 specific signs @ \$50 each. Clustering the signs in a small area and creating a brochure describing the species was suggested.
3. The display hosted by Friends at the Visitor Center will be modified in the near future to highlight mountain bike users.
4. There was continued discussion regarding hazards on Martha's Grove trail. An educational sign regarding the degree of the trail grade vs. using black diamond demarcation is preferred by Gardner.
5. Community Values Vision Summit, hosted by County of San Diego Parks and Recreational Services, was attended by Carol Crafts on December 1st. Priorities of preserving land and advancement of trails were first and foremost with recreational center activities secondary.

**-New Business:**

There was no new business.

Future Programs: February 26, 9:00a.m. – History Walk – Meet at Sycamore Rd. Staging Area. Led by Carol Crafts.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Next Meeting: May 2, 2011 at 7:00pm Coco's.



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### Sunrise PowerLink Questions Posed at the Quarterly Meeting on January 31, 2011

Karen spoke with Todd Voorhees on February 4, 2011. Below are the responses she received:

1. Parr Construction indicated they are using a separate staging area, other than the heliport site, for their component of the project. Please advise details.

The construction area is southeast of Sycamore Park Drive, and only closure of the area heading off towards Slaughterhouse Canyon should be necessary. Sycamore Park Drive will remain open for public use. (Friends might want to monitor the situation based on San Diego Thornmint, Chocolate Lilly and Variegated Dudleyea populations nearby.)

2. What are the long-term plans for the heliport?

The heliport is to the west of Sycamore Canyon on property within the McMillan development, otherwise known as Mission Trails North. The long-term combined use for the area will be as an equestrian park and access for SDG&E to service utility towers to the east. During the construction phase, the area is to be fenced and protected with cameras and security guards in order to avoid dumping, 4X4 use and vandalism. Take a look at the helicopter being used at: <http://www.sdge.com/sunrisepowerlink/sunbird.html>

3. As larger transmission towers are being installed, what are the specifics regarding the towers and the locations?

Only existing tower sites within the preserve will be used. Viewable towers number 5, with 3 existing 69 kV to remain in place and upgraded for use. 2 towers will be replaced using the existing footprints. These 2 will be 230kV.

4. Will there be mitigation and compensation for take due to impacts to the preserves?

No compensation is due to the county for Sunrise PowerLink impacts in Sycamore Canyon Preserve. (Having reviewed portions of the EIR, I found little reference to the area. One note is that the Sycamore Canyon Substation frequently referenced in the EIR is on MCAS property, and is the facility seen from the west off of Pomerado Road.)

5. Information regarding the removal of trees has been given to preserve supervising staff. Can you clarify the locations, species and causes for the removal?

Todd was unfamiliar with the removal of tree/trees in conjunction with the project.

Contact information is:

Todd Voorhees at [voorhees@semprautilities.com](mailto:voorhees@semprautilities.com) or (858) 650-6123.

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**Dead Birds:** Dead less than 24 hours – no obvious damage – do Not freeze. Call 1-888-551-4636. Weekends: 858-565-5255

Have you found an injured or orphaned bird or mammal in San Diego County?

Call **Project Wildlife** at 619-225-9202. See their web site at: [www.projectwildlife.org](http://www.projectwildlife.org)

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We need to keep following 2 issues: the Water District's San Vicente Pipeline [www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org); click on "infrastructure"; then "esp"; then "San Vicente Pipeline" and

SDG&E's Powerlink: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/aspen/sunrise/sunrise.htm>

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### Events at Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon:

Over ten miles of trails and service roads open to hiking, mountain biking and equestrian use. Preserve visitors are welcome to visit our new visitor center. Live animals and exhibits on Goodan History, Cedar Fire, Kumeyaay and the MSCP are on display.

Events, hikes and programs start at various Preserve locations. **Some require a one mile walk from Goodan Ranch staging to the Visitor Center. ALLOW ½ HOUR TO PARK AND WALK TO THE VISITOR'S CENTER. Please check descriptions closely.** No vehicular traffic is permitted in the Preserve. Transportation for those with disabilities can be arranged, by calling the ranger at (858)513-4737. Goodan staging area accessed from Poway Rd. east on Garden Rd, then south on Sycamore Canyon Rd. Sycamore Canyon Rd. ends at parking lot.

Highway 67 staging area accessed through SOUTHBOUND Highway 67 only, half a mile south of Scripps Poway Parkway.

All events are free. For information or to make event reservations call (858)513-4737 or email [Justin.Gibbons@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Justin.Gibbons@sdcounty.ca.gov).

## MARCH

**Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 10:00am – 11:00am**

**Gardening with Native Plants.** Join park staff and Jeremy Sison and learn all about planting and gardening with native plants. Using native plants in your garden has so many benefits including ease of maintaining them as well as saving on water use. Native plants are used to growing in our local environment and so grow more easily and abundantly. Come learn the best ways to put natives to use as well as see examples of local gardens and landscape using just such plants. **Space is limited to 30 so please call (858)513-4737 for reservations. Guests will park at Goodan Staging area and must walk approximately 1 mile down to visitor center. Rain or muddy conditions cancel.**

Program will be held at Preserve Visitor Center.

**Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 8:00pm – 10:00pm**

**Star Hike.** Join George Varga for a unique and enlightening star gazing hike. Guests will be shown various galaxies, nebulas, clusters as well as others visible with the naked eye while enjoying beautiful Sycamore Canyon at night. George is very knowledgeable in his field and is sure to keep you looking to the stars. Guests are encouraged to bring binoculars as well as sturdy shoes and warm clothes. **Space is limited to 30 so please call (858)513-4737 for reservations. Rain or Cloudy conditions cancel.**

Program will start at Goodan Staging Area.

## APRIL

**Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 10:00am – 11:00am**

**Snakes Encounter.** Do you like snakes? Would you like to see them close up? Join park staff and learn all there is to know about our local species of snakes found right here in San Diego. You will learn all about these wonderful reptiles including what they eat, how they survive in the wild, and even get a chance to see them up close. Kids and adults are welcome so bring the family out for a chance to understand a commonly misunderstood animal. **Space is limited to 50 so please call (858)513-4737 for reservations. Guests will park at Goodan Staging area and must walk approximately 1 mile down to visitor center.**

Program will be held at Preserve Visitor Center.

**Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 9:00am – 11:00am**

**Ecology Walk.** Fall is here and Winter is fast approaching. With the new seasons comes a whole new batch of plants and animals. Come enjoy the cool weather and learn all about how nature and the animals and plants within it interact with each other. This walk, led by Ranger Maureen, will teach you all about the different, unique and amazing creatures we have throughout our park and how they all interact with each other. She will

show you the abundant plant life we have throughout the preserve and why these plants are important for the survival of everything else. Everything here is connected, so come out and learn how! This hike is moderate to strenuous so make sure you are up for the challenge.

**Program will meet at Highway 67 staging area. Rain or muddy conditions cancel.**

## MAY

**Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011 8:30pm – 10:30pm**

**Star Party.** Join SDAA volunteer astronomers and County Parks for a night with the stars. Come experience the chance to view the Sombrero Galaxy, the Whirlpool Galaxy, Bode's and the Cigar Galaxies as well as various open star clusters and many more. These events are informative and fun for the whole family. We promise you will be wowed by this star experience!

**Program will be held at Highway 67 Staging area accessed Highway 67 southbound only. RAIN or CLOUDS CANCEL.**

**Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 9:00am – 11:00am**

**Birding Walk.** Join Claude Edwards of the San Diego Audubon Society in what is sure to be a fun and informative birding walk through beautiful Sycamore Canyon Open Preserve. Spring is upon us and with the change in season comes a whole new flock of birds. With Claude's immense knowledge of bird locations and sounds, guests are sure to discover more than they have ever before. Don't miss this opportunity to learn from the best. This hike is mild to moderate so make sure you wear comfortable shoes and bring water.

**Program will meet at Highway 67 staging area. Rain or muddy conditions cancel.**

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**JOIN NOW FOR 2011 All Memberships are from 1 January of each year.**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ \$20 Senior 62 plus    \_\_\_\_ \$20 Student

\_\_\_\_ \$25 Individual

\_\_\_\_ \$40 Family

\_\_\_\_ \$100 Patron

\_\_\_\_ \$250 Corporate    \_\_\_\_ \$1000 Lifetime

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO “FRIENDS OF GOODAN RANCH”**

AND SEND IT TO: MEMBERSHIPS

13030 Birch Lane,

Poway, CA 92064





