



## *Sycamore Sage June 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.sd parks.org](http://www.sd parks.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**

Several of us were able to attend the lecture by Richard Louv as he presented his new book The Nature Principle. This and his previous book, Last Child in the Woods will help save us all from "Nature-deficit disorder".

For all interested in a little bit of our county history – take a look at the special edition of the Historic Highway 395. It is a trip down memory lane that is for sure!



Historic Highway 395  
Special Edition Bridge:

Karen and I have been checking on the endangered plant species again this month. So far we have found *Dudleya variegata* and San Diego Thornmint but both are being threatened by wild grasses.

Carol



### **Minutes of the Friends of Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon Open Space Reserves May 2, 2011**

In attendance: Carol Crafts, Bob Crafts, Karen Larsen Gordon, Terry Callan.

DeAnne Erickson, Nancy Ujazdowski and Phoenix Von Hendy.

The meeting was called to order at 7:09p.

**-Secretary' Report:** The motion passed to approve the minutes of the meeting held January 31, 2011.

**-Treasurer's Report:** Balances to date are: Checking - \$3,369.62, Primary Savings - \$409.37, Money Market - \$361.98, Certificate of Deposit - \$6,851.49, Total - \$11,272.46. 2011 dues payments are still being accepted. Outstanding bills may include the bobcat mounting. The financial audit is pending.

**-Rangers Report:** The new brochure, including a map, of the preserves has been published and circulated at the meeting.

**-Wildlife Monitoring:** Winter rains made the tracking conditions difficult, but additional sign of desert and big-eared wood rats was noted.

**-Old Business:**

1. Sunrise Power Link – Trail routings via Calle de Rob and the Highway 67 entrance continue to be impacted in a minor way due to continued construction. Communications regarding additional questions may be had with Todd Voorhees at [tvoorhees@semprautilities.com](mailto:tvoorhees@semprautilities.com) or (858) 650-6123.
2. Signage of wildflowers at Hellhole Canyon was observed by DeAnne and Paul, with a recommendation to explore that type as an option.
3. The display hosted by Friends at the Visitor Center will be modified in the near future.
4. Fanita Ranch continues to have development plans. Additional information will be circulated to Phoenix regarding the pending Habitat Plan for vernal pools.

**-New Business:**

1. The Joint Power of Authority annual meeting will be held June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1pm in the Visitor Center.
2. May 14<sup>th</sup> Bird watching event led by Claude Edwards will be held from 9am to 11am. Phoenix will represent the Friends.
3. Books continue to be distributed to members as they join or rejoin.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm.

Next Meeting: August 1, 2011 at 7:00pm Coco's.

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**Ranger's Report #2**

Several County employees have recently retired which means some Park and Staff will change positions.

A new person responsible for advertising programs has been hired.

Invasives are a serious problem this year ...tamarisk, Italian thistle, hoary cress, artichoke thistle, star thistle.. this is an ongoing

annual herbicide massive project. A grant may help remove the hoary cress.

Hagey Property 112 acres, Hanson Property 150 acres, South-multi ownership Properties All PENDING..TSQ..transfer surveys being conducted & stewardship cost estimates by staff.

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**SATURDAY, 14 May 2011**

**Led by Claude G. Edwards (0830 to 1330 hours)**

Start: Overcast, light south breeze, 66°F.; End: Hazy-sun, light southwest breeze, 72°F.

An enthusiastic group of about a dozen people, as well as rangers Justin and Matt, and park volunteer Phoenix Von Hendy, gathered at the Route 67 Staging Area in the eastern portion of the preserve under gray skies

and cool breezes. The preserve is a protected open space area situated north of Lakeside, northeast of Santee, east of Poway and southwest of Ramona, encompassing nearly 2,300 acres of coastal sage scrub,

chaparral, grassland, oak woodland and riparian woodland. In the middle is the historic Goodan Ranch featuring the ranger station, visitor center and restrooms.

Phoenix accompanied me and the group down the winding dirt road from the staging area to the ranger station. This route was longer and steeper than the road from the north access gate, dropping  $\pm 500$  feet in elevation. Along the way we watched for and talked about birds that we saw and heard, such as common raven, California and spotted towhees, phainopepla, lazuli bunting, common yellowthroat and lesser goldfinch. We also identified and discussed interesting and flowering plants such as golden-yarrow, bush monkey-flower, wild morning-glory, splendid mariposa-lily and white sage.

There was a greater concentration of birds around the ranger's station in the eucalyptus and oak trees as well as at some hummingbird feeders. Here we were treated to acorn woodpecker, red-shouldered hawk, hooded and Bullock's orioles and both phoebes. Many of the participants had not visited the preserve before so they enjoyed taking a look around and inside the attractive visitor center.

The hike down to the ranger station took about two hours and soon the group disbanded and participants headed back up the road independently. Phoenix

and I walked back up the road with the last of the group in only about one hour. Most of the participants got to see at least 15 species of the 42 total species that I recorded. Thanks to you all!

California Quail  
Red-shouldered Hawk  
Red-tailed Hawk  
Mourning Dove  
Greater Roadrunner  
White-throated Swift  
Black-chin Hummingbird  
Anna's Hummingbird  
Costa's Hummingbird  
Acorn Woodpecker  
Nuttall's Woodpecker  
Northern Flicker  
Black Phoebe  
Say's Phoebe  
Ash-throated Flycatcher  
Cassin's Kingbird  
Western Scrub-Jay  
American Crow  
Common Raven  
Cliff Swallow  
Bushtit  
Bewick's Wren  
House Wren  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher  
Western Bluebird  
Wrentit  
Northern Mockingbird  
European Starling  
Phainopepla  
Common Yellowthroat  
Spotted Towhee  
California Towhee  
Lark Sparrow

Sage Sparrow  
Song Sparrow  
Blue Grosbeak  
Lazuli Bunting  
Western Meadowlark  
Hooded Oriole  
Bullock's Oriole  
House Finch  
Lesser Goldfinch  
-Claude

I had two additions to Claude's list, above, that he did not see or hear (he was about 50 feet ahead of me with the fast walkers. I was bringing up the rear with the slower folks). They are Rough-winged Swallow and Cooper's Hawk. We did not see the Coop, just heard it call a couple of times.

-Phoenix

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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)

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).

### JUNE

**Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

9:00am – 11:00am

#### **Introduction to**

**Geocaching.** Never heard of Geocaching? Well now is the time to learn.

Geocaching is a sort of treasure hunt, where users use a handheld GPS device to find a hidden container, usually containing a log book and small trinkets. This phenomenon has grown to a world-wide level now available in every corner of the planet. This is your chance to experience this sport in the only County of San Diego park where it is allowed. This program is aimed at guests who have never played the sport and would like to learn about it. A slideshow and discussion in the visitor center will be followed by geocaching out in the park. It is recommended that guests bring their own gps units as the number available from staff are very limited but one can still enjoy it without one. Two new geocaches will be placed out for this event, celebrating the beginning of the summer!

**Rain or muddy conditions cancel.**

Program will meet at Visitor Center.

**Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

8:00am – 5:00pm

**Bike Race with Racer and Chasers.** Racers and Chases

is a family fun racing atmosphere that is focused on enjoying the wonderful trails we have right here in the San Diego area. We even feature a kid's race, bounce house, and a first timer's race for all to enjoy. Everyone enjoys the camaraderie and fun times had after pushing themselves on their bicycle. Whether you are here to ride or simply enjoy the festivities, bring the whole family and join us for a great time at Sycamore Canyon. For more information visit [www.racersandchasers.com](http://www.racersandchasers.com) or contact park staff at (858)513-4737.

**Rain or muddy conditions cancel.**

Program will be held throughout preserve.

### JULY

**Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

8:00pm – 10:00pm

#### **Movies in the Moonlight.**

Join park staff for an amazing evening of movies in the moonlight. A large screen will be set up in the Highway 67 staging area. Bring your family and friends for a chance to experience a modern movie in a beautiful, natural setting. Call ranger station closer to date for movie title. Dress warm and bring a flashlight and something to sit on. See you all there!

**Rain or muddy conditions cancel.**

Program will be held at the Highway 67 staging area.

**Friday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

8:00pm – 10:00pm

**Star Party.** Join SDAA volunteer astronomers and County Parks for a night with the stars. Come experience the chance to view Saturn, Leo, Orion as well as several clusters and galaxies 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.**

**AUGUST****Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

10:00am – 11:00am

**Mammal Talk.** Join park staff and Project Wildlife for an intriguing and exciting first-hand experience with a few rarely seen and commonly misunderstood mammals. Raccoons and opossums are rarely viewed as they usually become active at night but you can have a chance to examine them up close and learn all about their interesting habits. Project wildlife volunteers will bring in a raccoon and/or opossum for kids and adults to see. Bring your questions and your excitement and join us for this exciting program. **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, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

8:00pm – 10:00pm

**Movies in the Moonlight.**

Join park staff for our 2<sup>nd</sup> amazing evening of movies in the moonlight. A large screen will be set up in the Highway 67 staging area. Bring your family and friends for a chance to experience a modern movie in a beautiful, natural setting. Call ranger station closer to date for movie title. Dress warm and bring a flashlight and something to sit on. See you all here!

**Rain or muddy conditions cancel.**

Program will be held at the Highway 67 staging area.



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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

Friends of Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon Open Space  
Carol B. Crafts, President  
13030 Birch Lane, Poway, CA 92064 858-486-0919