



Sycamore Sage
September 2012 vol. 14
Issue 3
www.goodanranch.org
 President's Message:

On 13 June – Karen and Carol accompanied Ranger Maureen and 3 people from the Center for Natural Lands Management as they looked for and collected seeds from the endangered plant, *Acanthomintha ilicifolia* - commonly known as San Diego Thornmint. Propagation will take place at Crestridge Ecological Reserve next year.

Minutes of the Friends of Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon Open Space Preserves

Aug 6, 2012

In attendance: Carol Crafts, Nancy Ujazdowski, Phoenix Von Hendy, Terry Callan
 The meeting was called to order at 7:11pm.

-Secretary's Report: The motion passed to approve the minutes of the meeting held May 7, 2012.

-Treasurer's Report: All tax forms submitted on schedule. Treasurer's report submitted, approved and filed.

-Ranger's Report:

Maureen's report was reviewed and discussed (see full report attached).

-Old Business:

- 1) Diane Jacobs visited Washington D.C. to meet with the Marines regarding the Stowe Trail access. Waiting results, Marines still enforcing no passage.
- 2) Calle de Rob/Hagey property remains gated off, contingent on the revised Sycamore Canyon Use Plan and biological survey. One year is the estimated project period.
- 3) Wildlife tracking report – bobcat and deer tracks noted, wood rat nests increasing

-New Business:

- 1) Goodan Ranch featured in County newsletter (see below "did you know?").
- 2) Gate added to south end of Ranch.
- 3) Gate/trail being constructed off Sycamore Cyn Rd parking lot called North Ridge Trail, paralleling Beeler Cyn, heading to Stonebridge development

with connection to Mission Trails park.

4) Annual Joint Powers Authority (JPA) meeting held 14 June – Gardner, Karen and Carol attended. Acquisitions: The total land within our reserves is now 2411 Acres. The Hagey property and the Calle de Rob access will remain closed to visitors until biological and cultural surveys are complete. Additional purchases by the county will be pursued depending on grant options. A new Resource Study of Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon will be published in 2013 for the 10th anniversary of the Cedar Fire. Alternatives to The Stowe Trail are being looked at and discussions have re-opened with the Marine Corps, thanks to the hard work of Dianne Jacob.

Gardner reported that the San Diego Biking Association is "Adopting" Martha's Trail.

The deed is pending for the official opening of the Mission Trails West adjacent parcel. Additional access to new parklands is being considered, including a route through Beeler Canyon.

SunrisePowerlink restoration work on 2 pole sites will be done next year. RECON's Mark Dolson has met with preserve staff regarding the approximately 2 acres of graded area.

Star Parties continue to be held the third Friday of each month. The lunar eclipse and transit of Venus were viewed by about 200 spectators at the Hwy. 67 staging area in June.

8% of the preserve roads damaged by heavy rains were repaired with FEMA funding.

Staff is seeking funding from SDG&E to initiate an invasive plant removal program.

A request was made by Jason Price from the CA DFG to look out for a new invasive plant, Dyer's Rocket. Jason manages the San Vicente Highlands area southeast of Sycamore Canyon, and has been noting it's presence. It starts out flat to the ground, but in one year can become 3 – 4 feet tall and is usually found in disturbed areas.

Suggestions for the next JPA meeting included news on all of the above, as well as a list of biological research projects being conducted on the property by various governmental, nonprofit and educational organizations.

5) Powerlink construction completed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm. Next Meeting: Nov 5, 2012 7pm Poway Coco's. Minutes provided by Terry Callan.

Ranger's Report:

- " West Sycamore" 1400 hundred acre City of San Diego property has completed some of their trails, kiosks no staging area yet. It may be awhile until they open according to Senior Ranger Matt Sanford because they are waiting for SDG&E to clean and restore the large pull site used on the property for the Powerlink. Sycamore Canyon Preserve habitat restoration of damaged areas from the Powerlink is also pending until rain is forecast.
- MSCP biological and archaeological surveys continue in the newly acquired areas of the Preserve.
- San Diego State PHD student Megan Jennings continues to monitor bobcat behavior with a wildlife camera located on the MG Trail
- San Diego Zoo is studying Sycamore for potential future burrowing owl reintroduction
- Funding set aside for animal enclosure construction in the Goodan office
- DCAO County administrator Sarah Agahe visited Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon last week on a multi park tour with Director Brian Albright, stopped by the Visitor center and Stowe Trail
- Receiving free owl boxes from an eagle scout project We probably had close to 150 people attend so I think it went pretty well. Everything went smoothly and it was a good movie. Thank you again to the Friends for the donation to get this movie going!

Did you know?

**County of San Diego
Department of Parks and
Recreation DPR Dispatch
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER**

FEATURED PARK:

GOODAN

RANCH/SYCAMORE

CANYON PRESERVE

Submitted By: Maureen

***Abare-Laudy, Supervising
Park Ranger***

***-Please describe your park
in one sentence or less.***

A 2300+ acre Preserve of mixed habitats primarily coastal sage scrub, and woodlands, and home to 300+ plant species, 270+

mammals, birds, reptiles invertebrates and a rich human history from the late prehistoric period.

Anything new going on?

We have a Trans County Trail connection with the City of San Diego Mission Trails Park, and a newly acquired 1400+ acres called the "West Sycamore." Preserve staff also just installed new access gates located at our Goodan Ranch staging area.

What can the public expect this time of the year?

Air temperatures are warm, usually in the 80s. Early morning or evening is the best time to explore. Unusually abundant wildlife viewing of deer, coyote, fox, jack rabbits, snakes, raptors, birds, tarantulas, owls, and bats. There are great views of the surrounding mountains daily from the upper Hwy 67 staging area. Experience unusual solitude in the Preserve even with the urban interface.

We are a group of friendly rangers happy to answer visitor's questions.

Any new features?

The preserve has added 113 new acres of sage scrub habitat to our northern boundary and 200 acres of riparian sage scrub habitat to the

preserve's southern boundary purchased through grants and county funding. In addition to the wildlife habitat, existing trails for recreational users have also been acquired.

What projects are you currently working on?

We are working on the MSCP biological and archaeological surveys of the newly acquired 300 acres and overall preserve monitoring. We are re-designing a new lobby snake enclosure, and we resurfaced all the main roads including the re-building of two new creek crossing bridges.

Are there any new programs for the public?

On the 3rd Friday of each month, we host an SDAA star party, which offers a special viewing of solar eclipses, and the surrounding planets.

Any unusual fact or tidbits about your park?

A 1945 prototype fighter jet crashed that same year leaving a debris field in the Preserve. A caretaker by the name of Fred Albee protected the private Goodan Ranch by firing shotguns at trespassers, and the Preserve was 95% burned from the 2003 Cedar Fire.

From:

MaureenAbareLaudy

I was 15 years old when I competed in the 200 meter event at the 1972 Track & Field Olympic Trials. I placed fourth and was invited to train with the Olympic team prior to the Olympics in Germany. I flew to Ohio and trained with the females training in the 400-800 meter events. While there, the coaches asked me to be an alternate member of the US Track & Field team for the 200 meter event. This was my dream come true. However, I had a dilemma. By taking the alternate spot, I would be replacing my own teammate who had been partying instead of performing at the training camp. Painfully, I decided I could not accept the offer. I felt it would be unethical and a betrayal to my teammate despite her behavior. Unfortunately, as it

turned out, the 1972 Olympics became infamous and tragic when 11 Israel athletes and coaches and others were killed by terrorists. The following year I made the American Junior Track & Field team and competed proudly and successfully in Russia, Poland and Germany. I also had the privilege of carrying the American flag in the Opening Ceremonies. Go USA!

Beginning Tracking Walks

Join an experienced SDTT Tracker for a **FREE** easy wildlife tracking walk. Look for tracks, scat, and further evidence that coyotes, bobcats, raccoon, deer, and other wildlife have been in the area! No reservation is necessary. Simply show up at the designated time and location:

First Saturday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at the Mission Trails

Regional Park Visitor Center For information: www.mtrp.org or 619.668.3281

Second Saturday of every month at 8:00 a.m. at the Adobe Ranch House in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

For information: www.sdtt.org or 760.715.4102

E-mail: info@sdtt.org
“Tracking Our Native Wildlife”

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

The Parks website is www.sdparcs.org. See http://www.co.sandiego.ca.us/reusable_components/images/parks/doc/ProgramGuides/Spring2012ProgramGuide.pdf

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.

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.**

SEPTEMBER
Saturday, September 8th
2012 8:00am – 10:00am

Birding Walk. Join Jeanie Anderson in what is sure to be a fun and informative birding walk through beautiful Sycamore Canyon Open Preserve. Fall is coming and with the change in season comes a whole new flock of birds. With Jeanie'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. **Space is limited to 50 so please call (858)513-4737 for reservations.**

Program will meet at Goodan staging area. Rain or muddy conditions cancel.

Friday, September 21st, 2012 Sunset

Star Party. Join SDAA volunteer astronomers and County Parks for a night with the stars. Come experience the chance to view our galaxy using the same technology used by the professionals. Viewers get a chance to see many amazing sights, depending on time of year, that they wouldn't normally see without the trained eye of the astronomers. Come prepared to be amazed.

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

Saturday, September 29th, 2012 11:00am – 12:00pm
Live Raptors Experience. Join Ranger Maureen and her live raptors to learn all there is know about these magnificent birds. Eating habits, nesting, and survival will all be discussed alongside the chance to view these large raptors up close. Bring your questions and curiosity. Feathers, skull reproductions, and pellets will also be on display for your examination. Don't miss this opportunity to see your local large birds of prey. **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. Rain or muddy conditions cancel.**

OCTOBER

Friday, October 19th, 2012 Sunset

Star Party. See 21 Sept.

Saturday, October 27th, 2012 10:00am – 12:00pm
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! **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. Rain or muddy conditions cancel.** Program will meet at Visitor Center.

NOVEMBER

Friday, November 16th, 2012 Sunset
Star Party See 21 Sept.

Saturday, November 24th, 2012 8:30am – 10:30am
Explore Nature!!! Join Park Rangers for an exciting day of crafts and exploration. Kids will get a chance to learn about native wildlife and plants than participate in a craft and finish up with a chance to explore the park using their new-found

knowledge. Every kid will leave with a craft, new wisdom about our local plants and animals and fond memories of the experience. Don't miss this opportunity to get out into nature and learn while having fun.

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. Rain or muddy conditions cancel.

Program will be held at Preserve Visitor Center.

Friends of Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon Open Space
Carol B. Crafts, President
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