



# Sage

F R I E N D S   O F   G O O D A N   R A N C H   &  
S Y C A M O R E   C A N Y O N   O I P E N   S P A C E

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All trails are currently open. The Preserve may be closed during and after heavy rains. For your safety, please observe all closure notices. Park hours are: April - September (8 a.m. - 7 p.m.); October - March (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) For more information, call the Visitor Center at 858-513-4737.

The past 3 months have been turbulent in many ways.

World wide disasters and weather issues have made headlines. Locally trail enforcement by the Marines has caused turmoil.

The Friends of Goodan Ranch need additional leadership. Several Board members have or are moving. The current board has been serving for all or most of the past 18 years. We

are most grateful for Barbara Lerma, Mike and Cathy Overy for coming on to the board and for Phoenix who will become secretary. We do still **need more people** to lend their wisdom and support by joining the board. Please let me know of your availability.

We look forward to meeting and sharing your beautiful reserve with you.

Carol



**Thank you to Karen Larsen Gordon, founding President and backbone of The Friends. We wish her well in her new activities.**

### Board members of Friends of Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon Open Space

**President**—Carol Crafts  
**VP**—Ann Tibbs  
**Secretary**—Phoenix Von Hendy  
**Treasurer**—Terry Callan  
**Board Members at Large**—DeAnne Erickson  
 Timothy Ann Hunt  
 Michael Overy  
 Catherine Overy  
 Barbara Larme

## TRACKING REPORT

We continue to find new woodrat nests on both sides of the road. We did not see much in the way of scat, but did see lots of deer tracks. We saw no raccoon sign and also no skunk sign this survey. The highlight of

the survey was one very nice set of long-tailed weasel tracks.

-Phoenix



Long Tailed Weasel

## FROM RANGER MAUREEN

### Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve El Nino Damages January 2016

Visitor Center lobby and office flooded partially. Needed wall across north side of building and filling in of wheelchair ramp (second wheelchair ramp exists from south entrance)

Visitor Center east side rain gutters failed- Needed larger gutters or raise existing

Goodan staging and main road, half mile erosion, ruts-Needed lots of DG

Cardiac Hill severe ruts, erosion one mile- Needed lots of DG and reconstruction

Goodan four way crossing road damage at culverts-Needed three French drains, rock armoring of culvert mouth

Highway 67 staging area flooded partially- Needed lots of DG and graded for drainage

Ridge Trail two dozen minor ruts- Needed hand labor repairs

Note: Hagey and Wu, closed properties adjacent to the Preserve, have not been assessed.



## IN MEMORIAM

DWAIN GRIMES, FORMER  
LIVE-IN VOLUNTEER,  
DIED AT HIS HOME IN  
LEMON GROVE ON  
JANUARY 26. REST IN  
PEACE



## FOUNDING OF THE FRIENDS

A reflection by Paul Kucharczyk

"I was the supervising ranger assigned to the Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon from 1996-2000. Prior experience in managing a sixth-grade camp program utilizing Urban Corps personnel, providing interpretive programs, and operations experience from my first 11 years at Agua Caliente and William Heise County Parks helped me in this promotional opportunity. My residence on-site was the stone house (est. 1939), still standing today as a burned ruin since the devastating 2003 firestorm. Twenty years ago there was no office, no computer, no Visitor

*"There shall be established a Friends group for each of our open space preserves".*

Center. There was no park truck and no other staff or volunteers assigned. The park budget was \$1,000.00 a year. Sycamore Canyon Road was mostly unpaved. Think 'Dances With Wolves' when Kevin Costner's character was sent to the furthest Union outpost in the west; that was how I felt when I arrived. I encouraged Boy Scout projects to help repair our trails, gates and fences. Other than that I was pretty much on my own, 24/7.

I did have resources through the docents of the Blue Sky Ecological Reserve. Hosting trainings for them at the Goodan Ranch brought good ideas my way. Integral to Blue Sky was the Friends of Blue Sky, a supporting non-profit. There was no similar organization I could call upon for Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon support. During these years the County of San Diego's Department of Parks and Recreation updated their 5-year plan document. Upon my review, one line-item stood out from all the others: *"There shall be established a Friends group for each of our open space preserves"*. Sounds great,

but how does one start? Back at Blue Sky I started sharing to a few docents my dream of a support group. I desperately needed help in the form of volunteer labor, and a supporting non-profit could be the catalyst.

Blue Sky Reserve docent, Karen Larson, understood the mutually-beneficial support linking volunteer opportunities to a worthy cause. Planning meant more meetings with more people, and our circle grew. The very first Friends of Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon meeting was held on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1999 at President Karen Larsen's home. Its Mission Statement paralleled the County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation's Mission Statement. The Friend's Vision Statement was an inclusive one recognizing the needs of bicyclists, hikers, and equestrians. David Breitweiser, Lee Fowler, and Bill Golightly represented hiking and cycling trail use. Mike Kelly's long-standing with the Friends of Los Penasquitos provided a parallel experience in supporting an open space preserve. Nancy and John Conney of Sky Hunters brought non-releasable birds of prey to the forefront at interpretive and community events. I'm sure this inspired Garden Road residents Jerry and Mary Kay Tomlinson in their design of the Friends logo. So far, so good, but, what I needed was help... volunteers with boots and gloves. By the end of June, the National Charity League, in which Karen and her daughter belonged, provided the first Friends volunteer cleanup on-site. Avid trail user and cyclist Terry Callen and equestrian DeAnne Erickson joined the Friends. In September we sponsored our first Friends booth in Poway's Community Day event. By 2000, Blue Sky docent and near-by resident Carol Crafts joined our efforts. Our Friends group continued to engage the public at community events and street fairs in Poway and Rancho Penasquitos. Also in 2000, a boy scout took

Continuation of

**FOUNDING OF THE FRIENDS**

A reflection by Paul Kucharczyk

*(Continued from page 3)*

on the project of constructing an amphitheater which is still in use today. My time as the resident ranger was by this time coming to a close. This led to the promotional opportunity for a new supervising ranger, Maureen Abare-Laudy, who still patrols the trails and boundaries of the Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon Open Space Preserve with her great staff. Trail maintenance, effective signage, perimeter security, staging areas, and, of course, the Visitor Center's native gardens, nature displays and interpretive programs thrive under Maureen's care and protection. Ann Laux and Robert Coates, avid equestrians and trail riders, joined the group

in 2001. Carol Crafts stepped up to become the next president of the Friends in 2002.

It was my pleasure to visit the Friends board meeting in February at the Hamburger Factory and see it continue for another year. Of course, I renewed my membership. The Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon Open Space Preserve is still my favorite place to ride my horse, 'Sedona'. Goodan Ranch history and my time living and working there will always be intertwined as I reflect on the past while riding in the present, and pondering its future."

Happy trails!

## West Sycamore

**East end of Stonebridge Parkway.** West Sycamore is now open to the public. [Link to West Sycamore Map and Trails](#). This new addition to MTRP encompasses the 1,100 acres and includes seven miles of trails to be explored by hiking, mountain biking or horseback riding. The main entrance is at the very east end of Stonebridge Parkway in Scripps Ranch. Rangers Araceli Dominguez and Andrew Miller will be primarily responsible for the West Sycamore property. See the trail map below. On Wednesday, December 17, 2014, Councilmembers Scott Sherman and Mark Kersey were joined by Park and Recreation Department staff, Citizens Advisory Committee Chair Dorothy Leonard, and community leaders of Scripps Ranch for the official ribbon cutting and opening of West Sycamore. The staging area has parking, a porta-potty, and hitching posts for equestrian use. Future amenities include a shade structure, picnic tables and park benches. The gates to this park entrance are open 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from November 1 through March 11, and 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from March 12 through October 31.

Join Ranger Andrew Miller on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 8:00 a.m. for a 90 minute guided nature walk out at West Sycamore. Learn about the native plants and wildlife commonly found at this new MTRP site. Please wear closed-toe shoes, sun protection, and bring along water (none available on site). Meet by the Ranger trailer at the Staging Area, located at the far east end of Stonebridge Parkway.

## ON SITE NEWS

BY OUR ON-SITE VOLUNTEER

El Nino, like the job promotion you desperately need and diligently prepare for, but secretly fear, sloshed into Southern California this winter.

On a Tuesday in early January, sheets of rain slapped through Sycamore Canyon. The rangers and staff had prepared for this much predicted weather event. Sandbags bordered the ranger station entrances, and brush had been removed from the dry creek beds. That afternoon Mike looked out of the trailer window and noticed water squirting through our

*"The dry creek bed behind the station had turned into a muddy, rushing river".*

wooden fence. He opened the gate with difficulty, as a stream of water flowed onto the trailer pad, and he ran to the ranger station. Ranger Maureen and the others saw the same thing happening to the station entrance doors.

The dry creek bed behind the station had turned into a muddy, rushing river. Small gullies formed in the sand and clay as the rainwater flowed downhill adding to the rapidly expanding river. Darkness fell while more sandbags were positioned and diversion trenches shoveled. Hard, fast work saved the ranger station and the chicken coop behind it from water damage. The trailer was fine; it is on higher ground than the ranger station.

As I drove home from jury duty that Tuesday, I listened to the flash flood warnings on the car radio. I cautiously picked my way forward through the rising water on Sycamore Canyon Road. Water was gushing across the park entrance road so I stopped a short way

up the hill to wait it out. Mike called and reported that water was filling creek beds as well as low points in the park road.

Eventually the rain slowed and Mike was able to pick me up with his truck. A kind neighbor named Wayne let me park my car in his driveway overnight.

After the excitement and the floodwaters both receded, a whole new world opened in the park. The old dry ranch pond between Martha's Grove Trail and Cardiac Hill Road filled up with water. It looked like a mountain lake. The rushing brown flood waters turned into multiple crystal-clear babbling brooks. A few small, colorful flowers started dotting the greening hills. The loving owl pair still calls to each other before daybreak. Sleek coyotes trot along the trails like they own the place, and I guess they do.

Now, over a month later, trail and road repair continue. The recently re-worked Ridge Trail held up well during the storm and needed surprisingly little attention. Groups of hikers are taking advantage of the park's beautiful spring-like weather. Early one foggy morning Mike spotted a watchful mountain lion on a rocky outcropping near the Highway 67 entrance.

We are waiting to see if El Niño has anything else in store. As of this writing the pond is again dry, and most of the creeks are dry or merely trickles. Life is sometimes exciting as well as good!

— Cathy

**MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF  
GOODAN RANCH  
AND  
SYCAMORE CANYON**

## February 1, 2016

Board members: Carol Crafts, Karen Larsen Gordon, De Anne Erickson, Terry Callan, Ann Tibbs Timothy Ann Hunt, and Phoenix Von Hendy. A quorum was present.

Guests: Bob Crafts, Michael Overy, Catherine Overy, Barbara Lerma, Steve Gordon, Maureen Abare, Paul Kucharczyk .

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

### **Secretary's Report:**

Minutes submitted from the November 2, 2015 meeting were approved after having a motion moved, seconded and passed as written.

### **Treasurer's Report :**

\$3,795 income \$4,078 in expenses. Balance: \$16,409.

Recent activities include donations of \$1200, and expenses of \$180 for web services.

Balance Total: \$17,295.

Terry Callan met with Michelle Bourget to proceed with the financial review of 4 years of transactions. Charitable Registration of 2015 was completed.

Membership renewals are due January 1, 2016.

### **Ranger's Report:**

El Niño rains on January 6, 2016 flooded the visitor center, so sand bags and clean up were needed. Road damage will be deferred until Spring 2016 as decomposed granite and a grader will be needed. The Ridge Trail dropping to the canyon from the Highway 67 staging area to the canyon had been improved last summer and has held up well. The Cardiac Hill road has suffered much damage. A ramada will be built at the Highway 67 staging area in order to provide shade. Tree planting and re-vegetation will occur on the Wu property (100+ acres on the north of Goodan Ranch). 3 new staff members are on staff: Maria Buckner, Ben Madruga and Zach Hunter.

**Wildlife Monitoring:** No report.

**Old Business :**

Tracking report: No report. The next survey will be held February 12, 2016.

Organizational Structure: Continuing on with the Friends organization for 2016 discussion was held. Officer positions and the need for larger participation within the board and for special projects are in demand. Paul gave a review of the origins of Friends of Goodan Ranch. He was responsible for Blue Sky Ecological Reserve and Goodan Ranch in 1996. Due to a line item in the county parks management plan for Friends groups, the vehicle for volunteerism began. 1999 saw the organizational formation. Paul will continue working on the historic narrative.

Happily, Carol Crafts is willing to stay on as president for another year, Ann Tibbs as vice president, Phoenix Von Hendy as secretary and Terry Callan as treasurer. A suggestion was made to encourage the Trail Riders to participate. Cathy Overy, Mike Overy and Barbara Lerma are willing to join the board as members at large.

A meeting was held with Cailin Hunsaker on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carol, Terry and Karen expressed Friends concerns about the future of Friends of Goodan Ranch. The mechanics of transferring funds to the San Diego County Parks Society and hopes for revitalizing membership were discussed. Rob Hutzel of the San Diego River Valley Conservancy is also willing to address issues should Friends not continue to operate.

Scripps Ranch Sustainability Fair will be held May 15<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are welcome. Cathy, Mike and Barbara are available to help Carol and Phoenix.

A motion was made, seconded and approved by email to provide \$852.00 for JW Lumber, \$800 for a Home Depot gift card and \$1000 for mice – all items related to the great mews and raptors by the Visitor Center.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to provide \$1000 for mice when the raptors are hungry (Maureen will advise).

Carol Crafts and Karen Larsen Gordon continue to attend the San Diego Management and Monitoring meetings in order to keep Goodan Ranch in the forefront of monitoring threatened or endangered species.

**New Business :**

Website and Facebook management will be taken on by a new volunteer, Rita Lee. Additionally, she will be posting the Goodan Ranch book on EBay. Friends will need to reactivate their California seller's permit.

Board Elections: A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the resignations of Nancy Ujazdowski and Karen Larsen Gordon.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to elect the following:

President: Carol Crafts

Vice President: Ann Tibbs

Secretary: Phoenix Von Hendy

Treasurer: Terry Callan

Members at large: DeAnne Erickson, Timothy Ann Hunt, Michael Overy, Catherine Overy, Barbara Larne.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:58pm

Next Meeting: May 2 at 7:00p.m. at the Hamburger Factory on Midland Road

## EVENTS AT GOODAN RANCH / SYCAMORE CANYON

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).

Mar 18 Sunset Star Party  
Mar 26 Edible plants  
Apr 9 Geocaching  
Apr 23 Snakes Encounter  
May 7 Bats Alive  
May 20 sunset Star party

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.

The Parks website is [www.sdparks.org](http://www.sdparks.org).

During and after 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.

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT  
[GOODANRANCH.ORG/POWAY](http://GOODANRANCH.ORG/POWAY)



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