

Sage

FRIENDS OF GOODAN RANCH &
SYCAMORE CANYON OPEN SPACE

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.

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 Lerma
Shawnie Williams

Our Board meetings have a new location:

Poway Historical Museum

and new dates:

2nd Monday of Nov. Feb. May and Aug.

The time will remain at **7 PM.**

We welcome our new District manager **Andy Quinn** from the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department and look forward to working with him. www.sdparks.org

Board Member, Shawnie Williams and the fawn rescue were featured on CBS 8 news on Monday, August 15th. If you have never seen Monday night's Zevely Zone, you must see this. Jeff travels to Ramona to meet Shawnie Williams.

Follow link below to learn about this organization and how you can help.

<http://www.cbs8.com/story/32765435/fawn-rescue-dedicated-to-bambis-happy-ending>

There is also a great story on the Fawn Rescue written last year.

<http://ramonajournal.com/the-guest-for-a-second-chance-p6752-273.htm>

"With an unrelenting passion for animals and a deep sense of responsibility to local wildlife, the San Diego Fawn Rescue is on a mission to give abandoned fawns a second chance. According to rescue director Shawnie Williams, the nonprofit organization receives calls from all over Southern California with pleas for help.

The group could use more volunteer feeders, since the fawns eat four times a day. Other wish list items include adolescent deer food, such as yard clippings and tree branches, along with monetary donations, which can be made through their parent organization's website at www.skyhunters.org, with a notation that the funds are designated for the deer team."

TRACKING REPORT



Lots of deer sign, new woodrat nests, bobcat scat, roadrunner tracks. No raccoon signa. If you have questions about wildlife in your area, you will find additional information on the Department of Fish and Wildlife website <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/> or you can call their office @ (619) 571-4540.



MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF GOODAN RANCH & SYCAMORE CANYON AUGUST 1, 2016

Board members: Carol Crafts, Shawnie Williams, Cathy Overy, Mike Overy, Ann Tipps, Terry Callan, Barbara Lerma, De Anne Erickson A quorum was present. **Guests:** Robert Crafts, Gary Tipps

After a tour around the Goodan Ranch Visitor's Center, meeting started at 7:20 pm
Secretary's report and minutes accepted as presented.

Treasurer's Report :

Income - \$1690—Expenses - \$2051.44 (this includes \$1509 for raptor food)
Checking Account Balance - \$2156— Savings Account Balance - \$13,894—Total Balance - \$16,051

Scripps Ranch Fair went well. We will plan on doing it again next year.

Board status: Still looking for someone to take over leadership in 2017.

New Business:

Thorn mint monitoring - found in more places than originally located. Ellen Bauder collected seeds and will disperse them where they were collected. Thorn mint is surviving.

Parade:

Poway Parade on September 10th. We will not be participating but will sponsor if they ask us.

Santee Historical Society, Oct. 15th program at noon. "Love Songs of WWII" with Mike Chamberlain, The singing TV Guy. 619-449-2024 for reservations.

Next Board Meeting is Monday, November 2nd. Location to be determined. Carol will looking into meeting in the Historical Society building as the Hamburger Factory can get very noisy.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm



Seven decades ago we began our mission to enhance the quality of life in San Diego County by providing exceptional parks and recreation experiences and preserving significant natural resources.

Today we are 125 properties, 50,000 acres and more than 300 people strong, with hundreds of classes and activities taking place from the ocean to the desert and the valleys to the mountains. Working together, we've grown a one-man shop into a vigorous park and recreation system that is the pride of San Diego. Thank you for your contributions, and for sharing the upside of outside with your local community!

In September we'll be launching two contests on social media that will help to tell the story of who we are and where we came from—including a historic photo contest designed to shine a light on some of our most memorable moments over the past 70 years. Follow along on Facebook and Twitter.

**Happy 70th Anniversary, County of San Diego
Department of Parks and Recreation**

CATHY'S NOTES

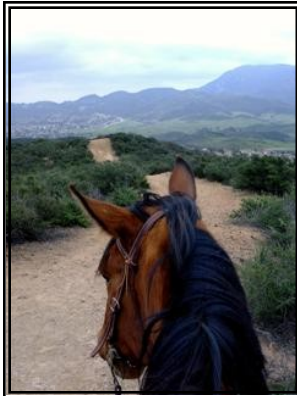
Last month our position in Sycamore Canyon shifted to the outside looking in. Several weeks ago Mike and I attended the Friends of Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon board meeting held in the park ranger station. As we opened the doors I was excited to see Ranger Maureen and Jeff in the office. What fun to be back in our old home territory and see good friends! In the meeting room my gaze often fixed on the ceiling where a perfectly taxidermied red-tailed hawk hangs. It is grasping an impeccably twisted Southern Pacific Rattlesnake in its talons.



RED-TAILED HAWK WITH SOUTHERN
PACIFIC RATTLESNAKE

This dramatic scene is a recreation of a life and death struggle we have actually observed in the park. Just before the meeting Ranger Maureen took our group on a tour of the new mew (cage for keeping raptors). The magnificent residents, a red-tailed hawk, horned owl, kestrel, and Harris hawk, are on view to the public by appointment.

Horse patrol is another way we still help the park. Our horses, Tiny and Savannah, live in the nearby Sycamore Canyon stables. The entrance to the park is a short ride on the public road.



RIDING THE TRAIL

One warm morning last week Mike and I, along with our friend Carolyn and her horse Zeta, rode to the park. The six of us descended into the canyon and headed south down Sycamore Canyon road, past the ranger station, and on to the end of the park. We turned east and rode up the Ridge trail. Our loop back north on this high out-looking ridge gave us views of the blue mountains folding and dipping all the way to Mexico. Two picnic shelters have been installed along this trail. The shelters are excellent spots for hikers to rest in the shade and enjoy the sweeping views. After we arrived at the Hwy 67 staging area we descended west down Cardiac Hill and back to the Sycamore Canyon trail. We waved at park attendant Zack watering the young oak trees. Our horses got some good exercise that day and so did we.



SYCAMORE CANYON STABLES

Soon a new resident volunteer couple will start living the canyon life.

Mike and I wish them much joy.



Thank you to our members for participating in important conservation work!

Project Wildlife educator Carol Crafts & two animal ambassadors visited Felicita Park Aug. 6th. The ambassadors were a great horned owl and a barn owl who were rehabilitated from injury. Visitors learned about the care & feeding of the animals while in captivity along with the important roles the animals play in nature.

What the heck is a Tarantula Hawk?

When you hear of a tarantula hawk the first thing that comes to mind is that it is a hawk that eats tarantulas. But you'd be wrong. It is a spider wasp which hunts tarantulas.

Tarantulas have earned a deadly reputation as a predator capable of killing mice, lizards and small birds. But the spiders are known to run in fear from the tarantula hawk. The tarantula hawk wasp preys on its namesake, engaging in a ferocious battle that leads to the spider being paralyzed with a highly painful sting. Once stung, the tarantula becomes paralyzed within seconds. The condition will last for the remainder of its life. The tarantula hawk wasps then drag the sleeping spider – which can be up to eight times their weight – to a burrow, lay an egg on the tarantula and seal up the tunnel. The young wasp devours the tarantula in order to develop into an adult, eating the non-essential organs first to keep it alive for as long as possible.



Tarantula hawks have not only worked out how to successfully attack a predatory spider but also to reserve the best meals for their most valuable offspring. The wasps are able to decide the sex of their baby by choosing whether to fertilize the egg or not, fertilized eggs produce females while males come from unfertilized eggs. Males, unlike females, do not have to find and battle tarantulas, they simply seek flowers and a mate and as a result they are not required to grow as large as females.

Females are not very aggressive, in that they are hesitant to sting. So you don't really stand a chance of being bitten by the fearless wasp, unless you do something incredibly stupid like handle the wasp... but the sting is extraordinarily painful. The sting has been described as beyond imagination. It only lasts about 2 to 3 minutes, but it is unsurpassed in intensity by any other stinging insect.

And if you do get bitten...



"There are some vivid descriptions of people getting hurt by these things," says Ben Hutchins, invertebrate biologist at Texas Parks and Wildlife. "Their recommendation – and this was actually in a peer-reviewed journal – was to just lie down and start screaming, because few if any people could maintain verbal and physical coordination after getting stung by one of these things. You're likely to just run off and hurt yourself. So just lie down and start yelling."

THE SEARCH FOR A MISSING HORSE

By *DeAnne Erickson*



DeAnne Erickson

Sunday August 7 Walt and Suzzie Kirkwood were riding in Rancho Cuyamaca State Park near Dyer Spring when Walt's horse Royal a 10 year old Quarter Horse jumped a creek and Walt felt the saddle shift. He dismounted to adjust the saddle when Royal spooked and bucked running away with the saddle shifting to under his belly, spooking Royal even more. He ran out of sight not to be seen again for 6 days!

A command post was formed at a turnout on Highway 79 at Sweetwater Bridge, a regular staging area for equestrians to park our horse trailers when we go for a day ride.

The Search started Monday 8/8 and word got out to the community that the family needed help to search for the horse. Tuesday 8/9 started a huge gathering of riders to search for Royal. By afternoon a private plane, a drone and Sheriff's ASTREA joined to search by air and scent dogs were also brought to help on the ground. They requested members of the Sheriff's Volunteer Mounted Unit to assist, and I was the only member of the Unit available that day. I drove 65 miles to the command post and spent 5 hours in the saddle to help with the search for Royal. TV 8 News was there filming and the reporter wondered why so many people showed up to help with the search "after all it was just a horse that was missing!" He was told that Royal was a member of the Kirkwood's family, and the people who showed up to search know that there is a common bond among horse owners that we support each other when called upon.

I arrived about noon for the briefing and I partnered with a woman who was a Volunteer with the Cuyamaca Mounted Assistance Unit and regularly rode the trails in the park. Tracy rode a black and white paint horse and I rode my golden palomino and we were filmed by the TV cameraman as we started our ride. The video of us became a file video of a search team that was used in 4 separate TV News segments as the days went by until Royal was found. Two of the videos of the reports are on cbs8.com

Since Tracy was very knowledgeable about the trails that we were riding that was a real bonus so she took the lead. I was the text receiver and sender. When we reached Dyer Spring area where the horse was last seen we noticed a small airplane that seemed to be looking for Royal. Sure enough I received a text message that a horse had been spotted on a ridge near us! We rode "off trail" over downed trees, around rocks and through gullies into a meadow where a helicopter appeared and hovered over us for a few minutes. I received a text that it was ASTREA that had joined in the search! Fortunately our horses did not have a problem with it thanks to their training. We rode up to the ridge that we thought had been described in the text message; however there was no sign of a horse. We met up with another rider who was part of the search team that had just searched a different ridge with no luck either. By then it was getting late so we started back down the mountain. When we reached the Command Post we heard that a rider had gone off her horse and broken her collarbone and possibly some ribs. The Rangers were transporting her in a Park Truck and the Paramedics from Julian were there waiting her arrival with lights flashing! Once again I was glad that my horse, because of her training, was not bothered by the Emergency vehicles assembled next to my horse trailer. It was with much sadness that I drove home that night knowing that Royal was still out there missing.



Royal—10 year Quarter Horse

This story has a happy ending. On Saturday, day 6 after Royal went missing, 2 hikers were given a flyer about the missing horse and when they reached Dyer Spring there was a horse that looked like the horse in the photo and he had no saddle or bridle. They called the phone number on the flyer and the search was over! Royal was dehydrated, had a cut on his leg, and his hide was rubbed where the saddle had been, before he was able to rid himself of it. Speculation is that he had been caught up in some brush with the saddle keeping him from moving until he was able to break loose. We all look at it as a miracle that he survived for 6 hot summer days on his own in the Cuyamaca mountains. Royal is now home with his family recuperating from his great adventure!

EVENTS AT GOODAN RANCH / SYCAMORE CANYON

All events are free. **Please check descriptions closely.**

ALLOW ½ HOUR TO PARK AND WALK TO THE VISITOR'S CENTER.

No night time public access including mountain bike riding

Nighttime entrance onto Sycamore Canyon Preserve equals trespassing.

No vehicular traffic is permitted in the Preserve. Transportation for those with disabilities can be arranged, by calling the **Ranger** at **(858)513-4737**. During and after rainy weather the Parks Preserves are closed for safety and damage control due to muddy, wet trails and roads. **Rain or muddy conditions cancel.** Please check the Parks website or call the ranger's office at 858-513-4737 for Preserve status.

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 16th, 2016 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.



OCTOBER

Saturday, October 15th, 2016 11:00am

Owl Program. Join Park Ranger Maureen Abare and her owl friends and see these amazing animals up close and personal. Learn all there is to know about these amazing nighttime raptors and their incredible adaptations. We will have at least one local native species for guests to see as well as owl pellets to dissect. This is sure to be a fun program for all ages so make a day of it and come out. **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.



RANGER'S REPORT

- Our new District Manager is Andy Quinn. He comes from Mission Trails. —Cailin Hunsaker has moved; Dave Holt is retiring.
- Maureen showed us the map of the properties including the new acquisitions: Woo, Hagey and Cielo. These properties are having MSCP and MHPP studies done; Calle de Rob won't open but a new access is planned. An updated brochure is in process.
- Interviewed potential new live in care takers, background check in progress. ZCode wants to do a story on Goodan Ranch for their 92064 Magazine and came out to take pictures and get interviews. The story should be in the October or November issue.
- West Sycamore", a 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 the 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 has been 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. They stopped by the Visitor center and Stowe Trail.

ABOUT GOODAN RANCH/SYCAMORE CANYON PRESERVE

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.

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT PARK RANGER MAUREEN ABARE LAUDY?

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!

**Our membership year is from January 1st to December 1st.
If you join now, your membership will be good until**



**Friends of Goodan Ranch
&
Sycamore Canyon Open Space**
Webpage—GoodanRanch.org
Facebook—Goodan Ranch
Email—FriendsofGoodanRanch@gmail.com

**Please enroll me as a member of Friends of
Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon Open
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Name or Business _____
Contact Name _____
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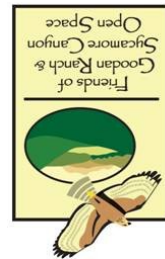
Please select your membership level

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☐ • \$20 Student /or/ Senior -62 and above
☐ • \$40 Family
☐ • \$50 Small Business
☐ • \$100 Patron
☐ • \$1,000 Lifetime Member

Fill out the requested information & mail it with your check to:

Friends of Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon
Memberships
13030 Birch Lane
Poway, CA 92064

**WE ARE ON THE WEB
AT
GOODANRANCH.ORG**



The Sycamore Sage
103030 Birch Lane
Poway, CA 92064