



Sage

FRIENDS OF GOODAN RANCH &
SYCAMORE CANYON OPEN SPACE

Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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

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

BOARD MEETINGS

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.

THE PRESIDENT'S



I hope all of our readers have noted the positive change in our newsletter as well as on our web site. That is thanks to Rita Lee.

In case you missed it, the **San Diego Reader**, Sept 10,

2016 issue had an article entitled "Mountain Bikers allowed on Miramar? Affirmative". Starting in 2017 – with a base pass - riders will be allowed on the Old Stowe Trail.

And, our park was the featured article in **92064 Magazine, September/October issue.**

With the cooler months of winter ahead of us, I hope to see you on the trails.

Carol

**RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP**



Please remember to renew your membership. Memberships run from January 1st to December 31st. Beat the rush and renew now!!

Also, if you can't find a gift for that special someone for Christmas, consider the gift of membership.

MATT'S MUSINGS

Hi,

It's always good to read your Sage articles, it brings back fond memories of Goodan/Sycamore and I enjoy learning about what's going on with the friends group. It made me think about the days I spent at Sycamore, where it was uncertain what kind of wildlife one would run into on a given day. That is one aspect of the beauty that Sycamore Canyon provides and something I will always treasure about that place. A memory that stood out for me was the amount of different types of snakes that I saw there.

It may be of some interest to you.

1. Red Coach whip
2. Western Blind Snake
3. Ring Neck
4. Western Long Nose
5. Red Diamond
6. South Western Speckled
7. Southern Pacific
8. Night Snake
9. Rosy Boa
10. Gopher Snake
11. Striped King
12. Banded King
13. Striped Racer
14. Garter Snakes
- 15.....and I know there are a few more, just can't remember right now.

Matt



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.

DECEMBER 2016

December 10, 2016— MOUNTAIN BIKING RACE

Quick N Dirty MTB Racing and park staff will be hosting a mountain biking race here in Sycamore Canyon. More info including race and registration information can be found at quickndirtymtb.com or by emailing quickndirtymtb@gmail.com.



December 17, 2016 - DIRTY FEET 10K/HALF-MARATHON

Dirty Feet Productions and park staff will be hosting a foot race here in Sycamore Canyon. More info including race and registration information can be found at quickndirtymtb.com or by contacting park staff at (858)- 513-4737.

JANUARY 2017

January 7, 2017 | 10:00am–12:00pm - INTRO TO GEOCACHING

Geocaching is a treasure hunt that utilizes Global Positioning System (GPS) and the Internet to find caches as a recreational experience. Reservations are required. Please call (858) 513-4737.



January 20, 2017 | Sunset - STAR PARTY

Join SDAA volunteer astronomers and County Parks for a night with the stars. View our galaxy using the same technology used by the professionals.



What the heck is a CoachWhip Snake?

Why is a snake called the “coachwhip”? The coachwhip snake often resembles the braided lash of an 18th century British coachman's horsewhip. It is one of the fastest, longest, and most lithe snakes in the North America.

This snake forges on the surface during the day and is often active in hot conditions when other snakes seek shelter in cool retreats. Encounters with this snake are usually brief as it wastes little time disappearing into nearby cover when threatened. It spends most of its time on the ground but it is a capable climber that is occasionally encountered in trees and on cacti. It hibernates during the cold months of late fall and winter.



According to folklore, the coachwhip will pursue and attack a person, squeezing its victim in its coils and lashing him to death with its tail. It will even stick the tip of its tail up a comatose victim's nose just to make certain that breathing has ceased and life has ended. Otherwise, the snake will resume its lashing. The best known myth about these snakes is that the coachwhip will actively chase people and whip them to death, that's false. The hoop snake legend, where a snake grabs its tail with its jaws and rolls itself like a wheel after prey, possibly refers to coachwhip snakes.

In real life, of course, the coachwhip will not set upon a human, but it will certainly defend itself vigorously if cornered. Generally, the snake will try to elude predators with a sudden burst of speed (up to 4 mph) or by climbing into trees and bushes, or disappearing into the burrows of small mammals. If cornered, these snakes will coil defensively, vibrating the tail in trying to mimic a rattlesnake. If persistently harassed it may feign death by tucking the head down close to the ground and remaining motionless. If cornered, these snakes will coil defensively, vibrating the tail in trying to



mimic a rattlesnake. If handled, they will fight fiercely and bite to defend themselves. These non-venomous snakes have needle-sharp teeth which produce lacerations when it bites, rather than punctures like fangs on venomous snake.

It is an impressive predator with a keen eyesight that eats

a wide variety of animals including lizards, snakes (including rattlesnakes), mice, birds, insects, bats, frogs, toads, and small turtles. They have good vision that's better than most other snakes, and are sometimes seen with their heads raised above the ground looking for prey or on lookout for possible predators.

The coachwhip is a fairly thin-bodied snake with smooth scales, a long and tapered tail, small angular head and proportionally large eyes with round pupils. An adult coachwhip may reach more than 8 feet in length, but the average is about 4 to 6 feet.



The color varies a lot, but it mostly reflects their natural surroundings ensuring a proper camouflage. In western parts their color ranges from dark brown, tan, and yellowish to gray or even pinkish for the Red coachwhip also known as Red racer. Normally the belly is lighter colored in some cases with cross banding.

Although little is known about the lifespan of the coachwhip in the wild, captive coachwhips have been known to live longer than 16 years.

San Diego Management & Monitoring Program

Oct. 26, 2016



After introductions, Yvonne Moore gave the background, purpose, process and concepts of MSP 2013 and update on MSP 2016. She said today's meeting will be on the http web site at: portal.SDMMP.com. Initially 3 strategic plans were established and now 3 more are being added including Abiotic – temperature & rainfall. A “roadmap” will be established for 2017-2021.

Kris Preston then gave a great summary of “Why Monitor?” referencing an Index of Biological Integrity – Diffendorfer et al 2007. We are building toward a Regional Preserve System Monitoring Plan.

Comments and suggestions are requested by mid November.

The next SDMMP meeting will be Dec. 14, 2016.

Our membership year is from January 1st to December 1st.
If you join now, your membership will be good until
December 2017.



**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
Space.**

Name or Business _____
Contact Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____

Please select your membership level

- ☐ • \$25 Individual
☐ • \$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

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MEMBERSHIP**

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The Sycamore Sage
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Poway, CA 92064