

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 P E N S P A C E

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Preserve may be closed during and after heavy rains. For your safety, please observe all closure notices.

Park hours are:
April - Sept (8 a.m. - 7 p.m.);
Oct- March (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.)
For more information, call the Visitor Center at 858-513-4737.

The Friends of Goodan Ranch/ Sycamore Canyon are on the web: GoodanRanch.Org

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

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Damage to the roads and trails during the February rains was extensive.

We have just had an unusual May rain – nearly an inch fell May 5-6. It should help our endangered Thornmint continue to bloom for a few more weeks.



The San Diego Thornmint (*Acanthominta ilicifolia*) is thriving at Goodan/Sycamore. Our survey was completed on May 11th

with the help of Jessie Vinge, Brenda McMillan, Victoria Marshall, Phoenix Von Hendy, Cathy Colby, Laura Masutto, Mike Ambrose and Ranger Maureen. The more eyes scanning the ground the easier it was to find these delicate plants.

It still took us a total of 123 hours to complete this survey! The paper work will take longer!

We even found a survey marker installed by Dr. Ellen Bauder in the early 1990's.



In Memory of

Bill Boggeln

09/16/1948 - 03/21/2017

I'm sad to report that Bill Boggeln passed away peacefully on March 21 after a long illness.

Bill joined the San Diego Zoo in 1973 and served as a mammal keeper and senior keeper. He retired in 2002.

Bill then worked at Goodan Ranch and for many of us he was "the Soul of Goodan Ranch".

Bill's wife Liz (who also worked at the Zoo) held a small gathering at Goodan Ranch on 18 April in his honor.

Carol Crafts

GIANT MOSQUITO? MOSQUITO-EATER? **NOPE, IT'S A CRANE FLY!**

By [Gig Conaughton](#), County of San Diego Communications Office

They look like giant mosquitoes, or daddy-longlegs with wings, and they fly like crazy bumper-car drivers, bouncing off walls, each other, ceilings and light sources.

But they're nothing to be afraid of, says Chris Conlan, the County's supervising vector ecologist.

They're crane flies — also known as “mosquito hawks,” “skeeter-eaters,” and “daddy longlegs.”

Conlan said they're harmless to people and that this is the time of year you usually spot them in San Diego County, after the rains and as spring temperatures start to warm up. They're big for bugs. Their bodies sometimes reach an inch or more in length, but they can look even bigger because of their six, long, stilt-like legs.



Conlan said there's an easy way to tell if the bug you're looking at is a crane fly. If it's bigger than a dime, he said, then it's too big to be a mosquito and it's probably a crane fly. Conlan said among bug experts crane flies are also called “five-legged flies,” because their spindly legs are so fragile it's hard to find one with all six legs intact.

Whatever you call them, Conlan said people may be seeing more crane flies than they usually do this spring — and lots of other bugs — because we just had our rainiest winter in years.

Few bugs have generated as many myths and misconceptions as the crane fly.

Conlan said here's what you need to know:

Crane flies are not giant mosquitoes

Conlan said crane flies are related to mosquitoes, but they are not mosquitoes. They don't bite; they don't suck blood. In fact, most adult crane flies don't eat at all. Those that do, Conlan said, drink nectar.

(Continued on page 3)

Crane flies can't transmit disease

They're not a public health issue like mosquitoes or other vectors, which are the main concern for Conlan and the County's Department of Environmental Health.

Crane flies do not eat mosquitoes

Nicknames like "mosquito hawks" and "skeeter-eaters" are colorful but totally inaccurate. Their wormlike larvae generally live in wet or moist soil, feeding off decaying organic matter. Some even live underwater. Adult flies don't live long, about 10 days at the most — unless they're gobbled up before that by birds, lizards or other creatures.

Conlan said crane flies are actually around all year long, but we notice them more in spring because it's their peak season, after winter rains create the best breeding conditions for them.

Because their populations are high, and because they're attracted to lights, this is also the time of year they can often get into houses through open doors and windows.

Which can lead unsuspecting people to spontaneously break into the bug dance — that crazy, ducking, hopping, waving your hands around your head dance — that we revert to when trying to shoo away an unexpected critter.

"It's kind of like the spider dance, only with less finger action as if trying to pull the (spider) webbing off your face," Conlan said with a chuckle.

Once again, crane flies can't hurt you. They're ungainly, but they're harmless.

But, if they really bug you — pun intended — one thing you can do is turn off your front-door and porch lights, limit your outside lighting or retrofit them with yellow bug lights. (If your front-porch light is on the same circuit as the lights in front of your house and you want to keep them on, you can just un-screw the front-porch bulb) That way, fewer crane flies and bugs will be drawn to the light, where they can fly into your house when you open the door to get in.



In any case, Conlan said that because of all the rain we had this winter, this is likely to be a banner year for bugs.

"This is something that people are going to have to kind of expect this year," he said. "You're going to see a lot more of these things as the weather warms up."

What the heck is a Spadefoot Toad?

Good news! According to Carol Crafts, President of Friends of Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon, there are many **Western Spadefoot Toads** (*Spea hammondi*) this year. While conducting the survey on the Thornmint plant, the survey group had to watch where they were walking so that they wouldn't tread on any of them. The Western Spadefoot is classified as Near Threatened (NT), and is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future. So this was good news indeed!



Photo by Maureen Abare-Laudy

Spadefoots resemble small toads with their rounded bodies and somewhat bumpy skin. You can tell them apart from true toads by their vertical, cat-like pupils, smoother skin, and lack of enlarged parotoid glands (a large lump) behind the eyes. They also have a hardened black digging spade on the back feet. (Some toads have a hardened growth on the back feet for digging, but it is usually not black.)

These 2-inch-long, stout-looking little toads are known for their purr-like trill, their spade-like adaptation for digging on each hind foot, and for their unusual ability to accelerate changing from a tadpole to a toad when shallow breeding pools start to dry up.

Rarely seen, these 2 inch long, little toads are able to inhabit their hot, dry environments by burrowing underground using the hardened spades on its hind feet. They spend most of their lives buried underground in earth-filled burrows. This Spadefoot is active for only a short period each year. Typically between October to May, depending on rainfall, they emerge to breed and lay eggs in vernal pools. The destruction of the vernal pools due to development is causing these creatures to lose their habitat. Since 1950, 80% of their habitat has been destroyed. In Southern California vernal pools can be anywhere from the size of a car tire to a football field. In San Diego County they are rarely more than six inches deep when full. For most of the year, they appear as lifeless bare spots surrounded by chaparral or disturbed coastal sage scrub. But they are vital for the breeding of the Western Spadefoot Toad.



"Spade" on the foot of the Western Spadefoot Toad

The adult Spadefoot feeds on insects, worms, grasshoppers, bugs, moths, ground beetles, ladybird beetles, click beetles, spiders, flies, ants and earthworms. It is thought to consume enough in several weeks to survive the long period they spend underground.

The call of the Western Spadefoot is truly unique. It is a short loud trill, like a quick snore, lasting less than one second. You can hear it at: <http://www.californiaherps.com/frogs/pages/s.hammondi.sounds.html>

If you see a Spadefoot, don't pick it up!! Skin secretions smell like peanuts, and probably deter predators. Exposure to the Western Spadefoot can cause a runny nose and watery eyes in humans.

EVENTS AT GOODAN RANCH / SYCAMORE CANYON

Goodan Ranch/Sycamore Canyon County Preserve
(858) 513-4737

Goodan Ranch Staging Area

16281 Sycamore Canyon Road, Poway, CA 92064

Hours: 8 a.m. – 7 p.m., April – Sept.

8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Oct. – March

Pedestrian access is available from sunrise to sunset, daily.

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

13920 Highway 67, Lakeside, CA 92040

Hours: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., daily

Pedestrian access is available from sunrise to sunset, daily . The Gate closes at 5 pm daily.

Highway 67 staging area accessed through SOUTHBOUND Highway 67 only, half a mile south of Scripps Poway Parkway.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Reservations Required</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| June 10 | 7 pm | Movies in the Moonlight - "ET" | |
| June 23 | 7 pm to 10 pm | Night Hike | Yes |
| July 8 | 8 am | Touch Table | |
| July 21 | Sunset | Star Party | |
| August 12 | 8 am | Touch Table | |
| August 26 | 6:30 pm to 9 pm | Night Hike | Yes |

**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**.

The Parks website is 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.

MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF GOODAN RANCH AND SYCAMORE CANYON

May 1, 2017

Attending: Carol Crafts, Cathy Overy, Mike Overy DeAnn Erickson, Terry Callan, Barbara Lerma, Phoenix Von Hendy **Guests:** Maureen Abare-Laudy, Matt Sanford
A quorum was present

Meeting called to order at 7:15

Minutes from February meeting accepted as presented.

Treasurer's report:

Expenses - \$30

Total Balance - \$17407

Unfinished Business:

Tractor has not yet been purchased. Staff is still looking for the optimal purchase.

Stowe Trail has been reopened. Need to go to Miramar for permit - good for one year.

New Business:

Former Park Attendant Bill Boggeln passed away earlier this year. His memorial service on April 18 was well attended.

Tracking report:

Survey not done. Survey scheduled for May 21 had to be rescheduled.

Ranger report:

Trails are bad following all the rain this spring.

Parks is working on a trails plan for the Preserve and is soliciting input from various groups, including equestrians and mountain bikers. Melanie Tylke is taking the comments at melanie.tylke@sdcounty.ca.gov. Ranger Maureen offered to take people on the Hagey and Wu properties to look at trails there.

Thornmint monitoring:

San Diego Thornmint surveying is under way. 10 hours have been spent so far, with about two more days left to go. Jessie Vinje and Brenda McMillan from AECOM/CBI, working for SDMMMP, are training volunteers from the Friends to be doing the surveys in subsequent years. Sycamore Canyon has the largest population of Thornmint in the County.

Next SDMMMP meeting is May 24, 2017 from 9:30 - 11:30 am, and will be on Carlsbad's Pilot Ranger Program. June meeting will be long-term endangered plant management. Meeting is always at USGS Building next to Lindbergh Field.

Scripps Ranch Fair is June 11 and we will be sharing a table with SDTT again this year. New location for this year - it will be held at Alliant University.

Joint Powers Meeting Goodan Ranch - May 23, 2017

- 1) Parks is working on a PAP for Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve including existing trails and potential new trails in recent acquired properties.
- 2) Road repairs continue from winter storm damage.
- 3) Sensitive plant surveying, monitoring and training is being performed in partnership with Sycamore staff, Goodan Friends and CBI, AECOM biologists Jessie Vinjie, and Brenda McMillian for the SDMMMP.
- 4) Miramar plans on opening the Stowe trail to the public using a permit-only system access plan.
- 5) Busy Spring for wildlife and fauna - native animals, native plants and invasive plant species.
- 6) New regional manager Matt Sanford oversees Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve.

Next newsletter will be out early in June.

Next Board Meeting is Monday, August 14, 2017 in the Poway Historical Society building.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

GOOD NEWS ABOUT STOWE TRAIL

Here is the URL to get a permit to use the Stowe Trail.

<http://www.miramar.marines.mil/Resources/StoweTrail/>

You need to submit a background form and liability waiver in order to get a permit. Forms and full instructions are located on the website URL above.

Permits are only good for one year and everyone over the age of 10 must have one for walking, hiking, horseback riding, and biking.

Happy Trails!





**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.**

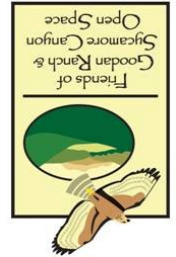
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☐ • \$40 Family
☐ • \$50 Small Business
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Fill out the requested information & mail it with your check to:

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



The Sycamore Sage
103030 Birch Lane
Poway, CA 92064

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT
GOODANRANCH.ORG

**Join or Renew
your membership**

**Membership Year
is
1 January thru 31 December**