

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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Our weather continues to be unpredictable - from very hot back in March to cooler than usual now in late May; lack of rain, however, is consistent. This showed in the recent Thornmint survey this year. Margie Mulligan, Maureen Abare, Mike Ambrose and I found the populations were way down this year. Goodan/Sycamore has the largest number of plants in the county.



Melanie Tylke from the County offices of Environmental Planning presented at our board meeting the latest maps and plans for the proposed access plan. To our dismay, many of the new trails are being placed on *rogue trails* - trails that are not *official trails* and were made by hikers and bikers on their own. Many of these trails go through some of the endangered plants and sensitive wildlife areas. On the bright side, other new proposed trails are through recently acquired lands. Please review the information again and submit comments to Melanie at melanie.Tylke@sdcounty.ca.gov. Also, watch for another Public Meeting to be scheduled.

The Friends have been able to provide some needed tools for the planting of many new trees at the ranch. We have also helped with food and medical care for the fascinating raptors housed and displayed there.

We are anticipating the fall and possible participation in the annual Poway Parade on 8 Sept, and the Scripps Ranch Community Fair (date to be announced). We welcome any interested Friends who would like to be part of these events - just let us know (rcrafts@cox.net).

We hope you all have a good summer. Be sure to stop and visit with the staff when you hike, bike or ride through The Ranch.

*Carol
Crafts*

What the heck is the Quino Checkerspot Butterfly ? (*Euphydryas editha quino*)

Formerly one of the most common butterflies in southern California, the Quino Checkerspot now inhabits only six areas in southwestern Riverside and southern San Diego counties (Two were found in central San Diego County: San Vicente and Alpine. Four were found in South San Vicente, Sycamore Canyon, Fanita Ranch, and North East Miramar) and four in Baja. Of these, all but three populations contained fewer than five individual butterflies in 2000. It has not been seen in Orange County, Los Angeles County, or coastal San Diego County for nearly 30 years and is no longer in San Bernardino County as well. Wildfires in Southern California in 2003 burned 19 percent of the Quino Checkerspot's critical habitat and eliminated 27 percent of its known occurrences.



[Conservationists and biodiversity experts](#) have spent years trying to save the butterfly, which has been endangered since 1997. Once there were millions of these distinctive black, brown and white butterflies near San Diego, which would migrate as adult butterflies from the Santa Monica Mountains to Baja California. But the population crashed and conservationists have been trying to save them and bring them back ever since.



Pod containing butterfly larvae

But there is some good news. The exceedingly rare butterfly returned to the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge this past spring. Biologists had placed nearly 600 butterfly larvae in specially constructed pods over the winter. The San Diego Zoo and USFWS staff collaborated to create a release pod that would provide safety for the larvae, protect them from predators and allow them to leave when environmental cues signal them to “break” diapause and begin feeding again. Staff settled on using a spherical mesh seed feeder, with a peat moss container inside, wired shut to provide additional protection. The orbs were painted to blend into the environment, and are capped off with a plastic “rain jacket” to make sure the peat moss container and larvae don’t get too wet. Each release pod is designed to hold several larvae—ranging from 15 to 28 individuals—and they are grouped with other larvae from the same clutch of eggs laid



Quino Checkerspot Butterfly eggs

by an adult female Quino checkerspot butterfly. This ingenious pod did it's duty, and nature took its course: when the area was checked later, more than 35 Quino Checkerspot butterflies were flitting about .

The Quino Checkerspot, *Euphydryas* (= *Occidryas*) *editha quino*, has about a 1 inch wingspan and is checkered with dark brown, reddish, and yellowish spots. Adult Quino Checkerspot butterflies live from four to eight weeks. There is typically one generation of adults per year, with a 4 to 6 week flight period beginning from late January to early March and continuing as late as early May, depending on weather

conditions. Females are usually mated on the day they emerge from pupae, and lay one or two egg clusters per day for most of their adult life. Female Quino deposit eggs on plants located in full sun, preferably surrounded by bare ground or sparse, low vegetation. They do not lay eggs on plants shaded through the midday hours (1100 to 1400) or embedded in taller vegetation probably because of the high temperature requirements of their larvae. In optimum conditions, the eggs hatch in about 10 days and the larvae begin to feed immediately.



Quino Checkerspot larvae



dwarf plantain
(*Plantago erecta*)

Indian paintbrush
(*Castilleja exserta*)

The larvae may use either dwarf plantain (*Plantago erecta*) or Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja exserta* spp. *exserta*; also called purple owl's clover), both of which may be common in meadows and upland sage scrub/chaparral habitat. These plants are annuals which die back in the summer. The butterfly larvae then seek shelter among leaf litter and become dormant. Fall and winter rains spark the germination of the host plant, which in turn causes the larvae to come out of dormancy. These butterflies can spend several years in a dormant period, briefly breaking and reentering dormancy over and over before reaching maturity, depending largely on rain patterns.

One of the main reasons the Quino is endangered is primarily because habitat is being damaged, fragmented, and destroyed by human activities. Urban development, grazing, and invasion of nonnative plants, loss of habitat and landscape connectivity, invasion by nonnative plants, off-road vehicle activity, grazing, enhanced soil nitrogen, and increased atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration are the predominant threats.

While researching this butterfly for this article, it was found that there is a great deal on the internet about the Quino Checkerboard Butterfly and the proposed wall along the border in southern U.S. states. It is alleged the border wall will prove especially difficult for the butterfly's migration to Baja every year. It won't be able to fly up and over it. While some butterflies can fly high, to the Quino Checkerspot butterfly 30 feet may as well be the Himalayas. The Quino Checkerspot tends to avoid flying over objects taller than six to eight feet.

INTO THE CANYON



"Into the Canyon" - Preserve Wild Santee Media Trailer. Sycamore Canyon - Fanita Ranch - Stowe Trail Adventure!

To see this trailer recommended by none other than your great President, Carol Crafts, please [click here](#)

Or go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/PreserveWildSantee/videos/10156305833664294>

**RENEW
YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
TODAY!**



*Thank
you*

**MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF
GOODAN RANCH/ SYCAMORE CANYON
MAY 14, 2018**

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Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Coalition

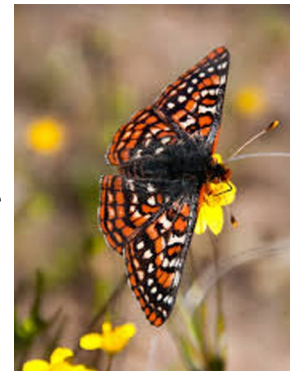
DEDICATED TO SUSTAINED CONSERVATION OF NATIVE ANIMAL AND PLANT SPECIES IN THE SOUTHWEST BIOREGION.

The Wildlife Habitat Conservation Coalition (WHCC) is comprised of 17 local conservation organizations. We engage and advocate on significant governmental decisions, development projects, and policy in order to defend and uphold environmental protection rules, protect habitat, and hold government accountable.



We work in coalition to:

- ◆ Preserve & protect the San Diego County General Plan & defeat inappropriate projects such as:
 - [Newland Sierra](#) near Deer Springs exit and 15 — Please see our [DEIR comment letter](#)
 - [Safari Highlands Ranch](#) near the Safari Park in North County
 - [Harmony Grove South](#) near Escondido Creek and Elfin Forest
- ◆ Secure adoption of an effective [North County Multiple Species Conservation Plan](#)
- ◆ Secure a quality DeAnza Cove restoration plan - [ReWild Mission Bay](#)
- ◆ [Reform SANDAG](#)
- ◆ Revise plans for [Village 13 and 14](#) that will protect breeding territories of the Golden Eagle and improve chances of survival of the [quino checkerspot butterfly](#).
- ◆ Secure adoption and implementation of a quality [Climate Action Plan by San Diego County](#).
- ◆ Secure completion of [Subarea Habitat Plans](#) in Escondido, Oceanside, Vista, and Encinitas
- ◆ Secure a path forward for a regional funding source for the MSCP



To learn more, contact wildlifehabitatcoalition@gmail.com



**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.

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

(Please see county web site for more information)

Every Sat/ Sun 10 am- Come on out. Our Park Rangers will provide a nature walk, enjoying coastal sage scrub and chaparral-covered hills and the history of Gooden Ranch.

March 16th, 2018 - Star Party - Join SDCC volunteer astronomers and County Parks for a night with the stars. Program will be held at Highway 67 Staging area which is accessed via Highway 67 southbound only.

April 21st 2108 - 9:00am-10:00am - Touch Table, Come out and join Park staff in an interactive touch table to learn more about our local flora and fauna . Find out about the rich history of this amazing preserve. Animal pelts, bone clones and historical artifacts will be on exhibit as well as much more.

May 18th, 2018 - Star Party - Join SDCC volunteer astronomers and County Parks for a night with the stars. Program will be held at Highway 67 Staging area which is accessed via Highway 67 southbound only.

**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 Park's website is www.sdparks.org.



**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.**

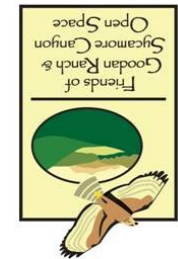
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Fill out the requested information & mail it with your check to:

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