

# Sycamore Sage

## 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**

**President**  
Carol Crafts

**Vice President**  
Ann Tibbs

**Secretary**  
Phoenix Von Hendy

**Treasurer**  
Terry Callan

### **Board Members at Large**

Michael Overy  
Catherine Overy  
Barbara Lerma  
Robert Laudy  
Maureen Abare  
Shawnie Williams

# IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Did you remember to send in your membership for 2019? This year, invite a friend to join along with you.

With over 7" of rain in February, our hillsides are now bursting into bloom. California poppies can be seen every where.

The Proposed access plan for our canyon is still in review. See the article in this newsletter. Please try to attend the meeting on 28 March to express your comments.

This spring may you have time to enjoy our many trails.



*Carol*

# Sycamore Canyon Goodan Ranch Public Access Plan (PAP) Stakeholder Meeting Notes/Background

**Date: February 22, 2019**

**Location: Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Headquarters, 5500 Overland Avenue**

Attendees: Melanie Tylke, DPR Project Planner; Bethany, DPR: Margaret Dis, DPR Trails Coordinator; Matt Sanford, DPR District Manager; Mike, DPR Development; Dave Knopp, DPR Chief; Ben Stone, SDMBA vice president; Doug, SDMBA member; Cindy Denny, Trails Alliance; George Courser, Sierra Club Conservation Chair; Libby Lucas, Sierra Club; Bill Tippetts, WHCC; Maureen Abare-Laudy, Friends of Goodan Ranch Sycamore Canyon Preserve.

County staff handed out an information sheet Summary of PAP Public Comments post January 2018 Public Workshop. Steps included possible revisions to the plan informed from comments, trail alternatives are to be analyzed through the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process and presented at the next public meeting. Final trail alignments are to be selected based on results of the environmental analysis and other factors.

County is currently conducting studies, such as Biological, Archaeological, Soils, Drainage, Topography, Slopes, Wetlands, Water, weighing constraints in the proposed areas. Environmental Impact Report (EIR) has not yet been done, significance of the proposed areas are unknown. DPR states they are balancing trails with natural resources and most new trails are on disturbed footprints. DPR states they will mitigate for any new impacts.

The Environmental Groups, including 18 non-profits, WHCC, Friends of Sycamore Canyon, SDTT and the State and Federal Wildlife Agencies, have opposed this PAP. A letter with recommendations based on Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP), Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO), County Guidelines Significance of Biological Resources and USGS, BCI, SDTT Corridor Analysis Documents was sent to DPR in August 2018.

At this meeting, the Environmental Groups reiterated that Sycamore Canyon Preserve is a Biological Resource Conservation Area (BRCA) central to wildlife habitat and a major connection to linkages to surrounding core blocks of habitat within the larger MSCP. The PAP trails and use will significantly impact many listed sensitive species of concern, by bisecting corridors, fragmenting habitats, impeding the functioning ecosystem.

The Environmental Groups also expressed concerns for the impacts on many archeological documented sites and many more that most likely exist in new proposed trail alignments have porous, erodible soils that may expose artifacts to vandalism. Point was also made that the Environmental non-profit stakeholders became involved in the PAP process only after being made aware in 2018. For years prior, the Parks Dept. had been exclusively meeting, planning and mapping the current Sycamore PAP with a mountain biking group.

The Environmental groups have suggested providing access from Poway along new alignments

(Continued from page 2)

paralleling Sycamore Canyon Road, instead of using the Scripps Poway Parkway Wildlife tunnel. County continues to analyze connections with Poway and TCT San Vicente trails using current Wildlife tunnels.

The latest PAP Map was presented and only one proposed trail realignment was removed from the original map. Approximately 21 proposed trails and realignments remain.

Next County Public Meeting on the Sycamore PAP will be on March 28, 2019 from 6:00 -8:00 pm in the Poway Community Park Auditorium, at 1309 Civic Center Drive 858-966-1377.

**Friends and supporters please come out or voice your opinions to protect our native wildlife, their habitats and cultural resources in Sycamore Canyon Preserve. Our natural resources need your support!**

Please send your emails to [Dianne.Jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Dianne.Jacob@sdcounty.ca.gov) or [Brian.Albright@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Brian.Albright@sdcounty.ca.gov)

## Fun Facts about the California Poppy

The California Poppy was legally named the state flower in 1906. Here are some fun facts:

1. The name is kind of misleading. The California Poppy can be found as far North as Washington State and as far South as Baja, California. They can also be found in Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and Sonora Desert.
2. The California Poppy grows from 12 to 18 inches tall, light blue-green leaves with small tapered buds bursting into a vivid orange bloom.
3. The poppy closes at night or in cold weather.
4. The poppy is short lived but can be found locally from Spring to early Summer
5. California Poppy Day is observed April 6th.
6. California poppy can be purchased in liquid or dry form and used as medicinal tea for anxiety or restlessness, acute or chronic pain, tooth pain, headaches.





## IS IT ILLEGAL TO PICK A CALIFORNIA POPPY (ESCHSCHOLZIA CALIFORNICA) IN CALIFORNIA?



Almost any kid raised in California will probably tell you that it's illegal to pick this state symbol. As it turns out, though, that's not exactly the case.

First, if you grow your own golden poppies, you can pick, step on, bend, fold and spindle *those* flowers all you want.

This spindly plant prefers to grow in disturbed, sandy sites with great drainage, and therefore is most often found

brightening up dreary roadsides, highway medians, and grassy wild areas. California poppies grow very readily in rocky, drought laden areas and nutritionally poor soils. They will often grow in huge swathes, covering hillsides, canyons, and meadows. It is truly a sight to behold! The flowers are quite often on state- or federally-owned property — as in the case of its flourishing near freeways and in national parks — which means it often grows on federal grounds. In those cases, it is illegal to pick them, because they are government property.

It is not legal to pick **any** flower — including the California poppy — or any other type of shrub or tree if it's on property other than your own. Harming the flower or plant life could be considered a misdemeanor offense, and you can be fined up to \$1000 and as many as six months in jail.

(Depending on what you're into, it might be important for you to note that this rule applies equally to "leaf mold on the surface of public land.")

But the law has a happy side, too. The golden poppy was legally named the State Flower in 1903 — and now, April 6 of each year is officially designated California Poppy Day.



# FRIENDS OF GOODAN RANCH & SYCAMORE CANYON OPEN SPACE, INC - BOARD MEETING

**Meeting Location: Poway Historical Society**  
**Meeting start time: 7:02 pm**

**Attending:** Carol Crafts, Phoenix Von Hendy, Mike Overy, Terry Callan, Maureen Abare-Laudy, Robert Laudy

**Guests:** Louis Chertkow, Patrick Wiener

**Not in attendance:** Shawnie Williams, Cathy Overy, Barbara Lerma, Ann Tipps

**Secretary's report** - Minutes of Nov 19 meeting published in Dec Sage. Minutes approved as published

**Treasurer's report** - All memberships are due for renewal as of January 1, 2019 Membership dues received from Mike & Cathy Overy and Phoenix Von Hendy at start of meeting. No significant expenses or income yet this year. Checking - \$6850 Savings - \$10,912 Total - \$17,762

## **Ranger's report**

Louis reports lots of rain in the preserve, streams are flowing, rangers have been working at maintaining trails. There were a couple of foot and bicycle races in the park. There have also been two trail maintenance days, with lots of volunteers helping out. Martha's Grove trail is looking good. Over 60 native trees have been planted, mostly Coast Live Oaks, and automatic waterers have been set up for them. The area behind the Visitor's Center will be turned into a native plant nursery area. Patrick has been working with Eagle Scouts on projects within the Preserve; one will be replacing the amphitheater seats. Staff has been patrolling the trails and blocking illegal trails with brush, signage, and T-post in Clark Canyon and other sensitive areas. There will be a CCC crew doing vegetation management in the preserve this weekend, including invasive species removal. A Civic's crew will be helping with the lower part of Martha's Grove trail soon.

Carol suggested a shade cover over the bench along the road from Sycamore Canyon Road would be nice. Louis thought that would make a good potential Eagle Scout project.

Patrick is going through a ranger training program. He reports that use is down on unauthorized trails, and monitoring is ongoing. Cardiac still needs some work due to the rain, but no damage has occurred to the preserve from the rains. The first Star Party of the year was held a couple of weekends ago, with more scheduled through the summer, one every other month. Patrick was out with a group doing archaeological surveying on one of the new parcels, working on mapping everything that is out there for the PAP.

## **Tracking Report**

The Sycamore Canyon survey was scheduled for Friday, February 1, but had to be cancelled due to heavy rainfall on Thursday, January 31. The survey has been rescheduled for Friday, March 1.

## **PAP**

There will be a pre-meeting on February 22. Only 2 representatives from the Friends of Goodan Ranch may attend. Maureen and Robert will be attending on behalf of the Friends of Goodan Ranch and will report back.

## **New Business:**

Maureen mentioned that Megan Jennings is involved with a conservation and planning focus group that will examine how future planning in southern California can meaningfully integrate natural land connectivity, water sustainability, fire risk and the resilience of local communities at the wild land interface. The focus group is a partnership between the Climate Science Alliance, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Institute for Ecological Management and Monitoring at SDSU. The group has recently received new funding from the California State Strategic Growth Council to advance this project.

**Next Newsletter will be out on June 1, 2019**  
**Next Board Meeting is Monday, May 13, 2019**  
**Membership dues are due the first of 2019**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm**





Improving the County's 350+ mile trail system is a priority for the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation, and efforts to expand trail access are balanced by efforts to preserve sensitive habitats and culturally significant areas.

Over the years, unauthorized trails have appeared in Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch County Preserve. These trails negatively affect these areas and can cause harm to plants, animals and other resources. You may notice signs and other barricades

blocking access to these unauthorized trails.

**Please stay on trail and only in authorized areas as we work to protect this urban oasis.**





### **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)

**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](http://www.sdparks.org).

**SDAA Stars at Sycamore Canyon @7:15 pm on Fridays, March 15, April 19<sup>th</sup>, and June 21**

Join San Diego Astronomy Association (SDAA) volunteer astronomers and County Park 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.

**West Sycamore Nature Walk @ 9 a.m. on Sundays, March 17<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup>, and May 19<sup>th</sup>**

Join an MTRP Trail Guide on a guided nature walk and learn about the plants, animals, geology, history, and ecology of the park

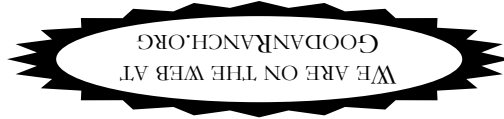
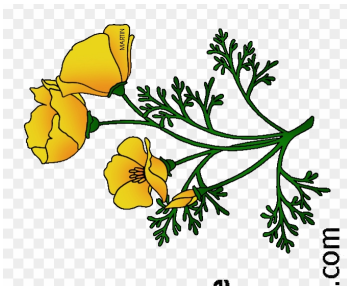
**West Sycamore Volunteer Crew @ 9 am on Sundays, April 7<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup>**

Get your exercise for the day AND help improve your park at the same time, by lending a hand on our West Sycamore Volunteer Crew! Crews meet at 8:00 a.m. on the 1st Sunday of each month (weather permitting/excluding the summer months) at the West Sycamore Staging Area (located at the Far East end of Stonebridge Parkway), and work until 12 noon at the latest. Please bring work gloves and wear long pants and sturdy, closed-toe shoes. A hat, sunglasses and sunscreen are also recommended on sunny days. Water, Gatorade and snacks are provided! **NO WORK CREWS IN: JUNE, JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER** due to summer heat.





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



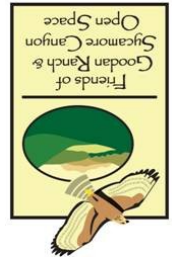
**Please enroll me as a member of Friends of Goodan  
Ranch & Sycamore Canyon Open Space.**

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name or Business \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

**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

The Sycamore Sage  
103030 Birch Lane  
Poway, CA 92064



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

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