

# 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**

**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

The excessive heat we have been experiencing has slowed down visitors to our park but the deer seem to enjoy it. Both the S.D.Tracking Team Survey and the Rangers have seen many deer or deer signs. Please take plenty of water when you visit.

Ranger Louis is expecting more staff to be joining our team. They have been kept busy watering trees, keeping wildlife drinkers filled and closing down rogue trails. The Native garden by the Visitor Center is thriving.

With financial help from our friends group, the staff are constructing an arbor to be used for weddings and other special events.

We will not be participating in the 8 September Poway Days Parade. During the coming year please - Friends - look for a vintage vehicle - car or truck - for our use next year. Thanks.

*Carol*



ALEXANDER S. KUNZ

# What the heck is the San Diego Alligator Lizard?

Scientific Name:

*Elgaria multicarinata webbii*

Believe it or not, the San Diego Alligator Lizard has not been well studied. Little is known about its mating habits and a lot of its lifestyle as well. What we do know is below:

On top of their serpentine demeanors, some of these reptiles grow to more than 20 inches. It's no komodo dragon, but it's certainly formidable. And what it doesn't have in size, it makes up for in attitude.

When left alone, these lizards are said to be generally skittish and will scurry out of sight in short order. This spunky little lizard has been seen fighting off predators as formidable as snakes and even crows. When approached closely or menaced, two behaviors in particular have been observed.



First, when attacked in the wild by snakes and other predators larger than themselves, the alligator lizard attempts to intimidate predators by opening their mouth and showing teeth. If that doesn't scare the menace away, the Alligator lizard has been observed to bite the attacker on the nose and hold on tight, making it impossible for the lizard itself to be swallowed. They also defecate on their attacker. Pretty clever! However, when human fingers get too close, they can be mistaken for hungry snakes. This writer picked up a very large Alligator Lizard and was bitten so hard, the lizard had to be shaken off. The lizard left quite a mess and some scarring on my hand. Please do not forget to keep your fingers, and any little fingers that you may be supervising, at a safe distance away from those powerful little jaws.

Second, the Alligator Lizard is one of several species that have gained notoriety for another clever trick employed to evade predation – shedding their tails. When bitten by a predator in the wild, the lizard may twist until its tail detaches. In order to ensure an effective diversion, the tail will continue to thrash about for some time after it has detached, hopefully distracting predators long enough to allow escape. A new tail will grow in its place, but it will rarely be as long as the original.



The tail is probably the most notable and interesting characteristic of these lizards. The long, slender tail, according to [CaliforniaHerps.com](http://CaliforniaHerps.com), can stretch up to twice the length of their body. This, along with a rather serpent like head, has lead to more than a few gardeners initially mistaking the lizard for a snake.

The alligator lizard moves with a snake-like undulating motion, often tucking the rear legs up against the side of the body and pulling itself along on its belly with the front feet. Alligator lizards are good climbers, using their somewhat prehensile tail to hold on, but they aren't easy to spot in trees since they blend in well with the branches.



This lizard feeds primarily on insects and small invertebrates, but will also feed on larger prey like young rodents and lizards when it can get them. While some California lizards have been observed to snack on flowers and buds, the carnivorous Alligator lizard is not known to be among them, making it harmless to your produce. Quite a bit more than that however, a number of gardeners across the web have pointed out that the presence of lizards of any type in a garden can usually be taken as a good indicator of both garden health and ecosystem functioning. As one poster put it – **“Lizards are good guys!”**



Alligator Lizards mating

There is little difference between the sexes, and it is difficult for observers to determine sex by casual inspection. Mating occurs in Spring, most likely from March through May. A male lizard grabs on to the head of a female with his mouth until she is ready to let him mate with her. They can remain attached this way for many hours, almost oblivious to their surroundings. Besides keeping her from running off to mate with another male, this probably shows her how strong and suitable a mate he is.



Alligator Lizard laying eggs



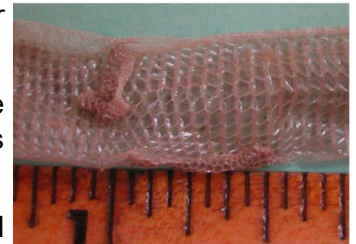
Lizard hatching

Normally 5 to 20 eggs are laid between May, June and July. Eggs are placed in rock crevices or burrows of rodents. The lizards hatch after 11 weeks and are about one and one-third inches in length, and weighing about 2 ounces. Female lizards also have the capacity to lay two or three hatches of eggs per mating season.

The alligator lizard reaches its maturity in about 18 months and can live as long as 15 years.

### Quick and Cool Facts

- ◆ “ Just like snakes, alligator lizards shed their skin in a single intact piece by essentially turning it inside out as they crawl out of it.
- ◆ “ Observations suggest that they are able to eat animals close to or greater than their own body length.
- ◆ “ As with most lizards, they may detach their tail deliberately as a defensive tactic, however the tail will grow back, although generally not as perfectly as the original.
- ◆ “ Tail regeneration is energetically expensive. Reproductive fitness and survival have been shown to be decreased during the regeneration process.
- ◆ “ Sometimes when the tail is broken off, two tails grow back from the break point.
- ◆ “ Tail is slightly prehensile; it helps the lizard hold onto branches when climbing
- ◆ “ Its predators are snakes, loggerhead shrikes, red-tailed hawks, and domestic cats.
- ◆ “ A prominent skin fold runs down both sides the length of the body; this fold allows flexibility when lungs are expanded, when large volumes of prey consumed, and perhaps when eggs distend the body cavity.
- ◆ “ The alligator lizard doesn’t have a nose. Its tongue is slightly forked at tip to aid in gathering air-borne scents as odors are transferred to the scent organ in the roof of its mouth



Skin of a San Diego Alligator Lizard



Tail regenerated with a fork at the end

***It is also worth noting that the collection and possession of native California reptiles without proper licensing and permits may violate state or federal law.***

# TALE OF THE TAPE



**INVASIVE AEDES MOSQUITOES**



**NATIVE CULEX MOSQUITOES**

**VS**



Peter J. Bryant, University of California, Irvine

Aedes – Invasive		Culex -Native
Aedes aegypti — yellow fever mosquito Aedes albopictus — Asian tiger mosquito	<b>Name, Species</b>	Culex Tarsalis: western encephalitis mosquito Culex Quinquefasciatus: southern house mosquito
Transmitting tropical diseases like Zika virus, dengue, chikungunya, yellow fever — by first biting an infected person, then someone else.	<b>Best Known For</b>	Transmitting West Nile virus — by first biting an infected bird or animal, then biting a person.
Invasive — Hail from the tropics. First found in San Diego County in 2014 and 2015.	<b>Origin</b>	Native
Smaller than our native mosquitoes, and “pretty” (you know, for a mosquito) with distinctive black and white markings	<b>Size, Markings</b>	Culex tarsalis is a little bigger than the Aedes species, but also has black and white stripes. Quinquefasciatus is dull grey in color.
<b>YOU.</b> People are definitely their preferred menu item, but they’ll also feed on other critters as well.	<b>Favorite Food</b>	They prefer birds — birds and animals. But they will bite people too.
Aedes like to breed around people, in homes or in yards, in small amounts of water like in tree holes or the saucers under flower pots. Their eggs can go six months without water — then get submerged by water from rain or sprinklers and boom! Instant mosquito larvae. A week later, mosquitoes!	<b>Where they Breed</b>	Culex lay 200 to 300 eggs at a time in rafts on stagnant water sources.—
The prevailing wisdom is that Aedes aren’t strong fliers, with flight ranges of about 150 yards or so.	<b>Estimated Flight Range</b>	Culex Tarsalis can fly up to five miles. Culex quinquefasciatus is not as strong a flier, traveling up to 1/2 mile or so.
<b>Prevent, Protect, Report</b> — with heavy emphasis on the Prevent side. Empty out all standing water inside and outside your home so Aedes can’t breed. Report to Vector Control if you’re getting bitten during daylight hours.	<b>Best Defense</b>	<b>Prevent, Protect, Report</b> Report to Vector Control if you know water sources where mosquitoes are breeding. Wear insect repellent, long sleeves and long pants when out around dusk and dawn.

# **FRIENDS OF GOODAN RANCH & SYCAMORE CANYON OPEN SPACE, INC - BOARD MEETING MONDAY, AUGUST 13, 2018**

**Meeting Location: Poway Historical Society**

**Attending:** Carol Crafts, Mike Overy, Cathy Overy, Phoenix Von Hendy, Barbara Lerma, Terry Callan, Ann Tipps and **Guests:** Louis Chertkow

**Not in attendance:** Maureen Abare-Laudy, Robert Laudy, Shawnie Williams

**Meeting start time: 7:19 pm**

**Secretary's report**—Minutes from May 14 meeting published in June Sage. Minutes approved

## **Treasurer's report-**

Checking - \$2056 Savings - \$13.909 Total - \$15,965 Expenses - \$3353.90 Income - \$225.65

## **Ranger's report**

Waiting on new ranger & park attendant, so somewhat short-staffed. Illegal trails are being blocked. Using a wildlife camera to monitor for illegal activity to protect sensitive habitat and wildlife. Over 55 new trees have been planted, mostly oaks, and most of them have automatic waterers. Friends have paid to help put in a wedding arch. Eagle Scouts are putting in a kiosk near south end staging area. Also working with CCC to clean up trails, do repairs, and plant trees. Drinkers are filled up every day to provide water for the animals. Request for a camera approved. \*\*Send email for Old Boys Outdoors to Louis and Terry for purchase.

## **Tracking Report**

The Sycamore Canyon survey was done on Friday, July 27th with four participants. We were happy to see quite a lot of deer sign this survey period, after finding very little last quarter. Much of the deer sign was found at the eastern end of the transect, which is unusual. Typically, we see most of the deer activity in the center of the transect, where we did find a fair amount deer activity this period, including fawn tracks. We found a small amount of raccoon sign, along with tracks and scat from skunks. The woodrats have been busily replacing nests destroyed when the road was brushed near Hwy 67, and we found several new nests in the center of the transect as well. We also saw lots of Kangaroo Rat activity, and a number of sets of Roadrunner tracks. Bobcat and coyote sign were at somewhat lower than normal levels, but the amount of gray fox sign was way down compared with prior surveys. Jackrabbit scat was not present in the large volume we found last quarter but still indicated a fairly high level of activity.

## **JPA Meeting, May 23rd**

Stowe trail passes temporarily unavailable due to broken permit machine. SDG&E pipeline project has been nixed and appears to be dead.

## **Unfinished Business:**

PAP was discussed at another meeting and a revised draft is being worked on.

## **New Business:**

County volunteer picnic is October 3rd at Sweetwater Campground, 3218 Summit Meadow Road.

Poway Days Parade September 8 - our participation TBD, dependent on availability of County truck. Louis will let us know about that availability tomorrow.

**Next Newsletter will be out on September 1, 2018—Next Board Meeting is Monday, November 12, 2018**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm**





## Rentals at the Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch COMMUNITY ROOM

**16281 Sycamore Canyon Road, Poway, CA 92064**

The Community Room is the perfect location for small weddings or receptions, corporate meetings, and classroom events. The 1,023 sq. ft. climate-controlled space includes 18 tables, 65 folding chairs, a half-kitchen and beautiful outdoor patio—with a 60-person amphitheater nearby.

Shuttles can be arranged from the staging area off Sycamore Canyon Road and ranger-led hikes and activities are available by appointment.

Location	Cost	Capacity
Community Room	\$155/2 hrs.	60
Amphitheater	\$75	30
Parking	Free	20
Outside Vendor	\$50	
Extra Hour Rate	\$50	
Cleaning Deposit	\$100	



**INFORMATION:**  
858-513-4737 | 619-955-0036  
[sdparks.org](http://sdparks.org)



**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.

**Raptors Up Close**

**October 21, 2018 @ 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM**

- Join park rangers for an in-depth and up-close look at birds of prey. Meet live raptors and learn about their amazing adaptations: Talons, beaks and eyes. Learn how to identify the birds of prey in your neighborhood and parks.

**Sycamore Star Party**

**Sept 28 & Oct 26 @ 7 PM - 10 PM**

Gaze out at the stars and enjoy a night of observation and interpretation with the San Diego Astronomy Association. View the constellations and celestial objects through a number of telescopes. Meet at the Highway 67 Staging Area, located at 13920 Highway 67 in Lakeside. Wear warm clothing and bring a snack and a flashlight. A camping-style chair is recommended.

**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).





**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

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

