

Due to Covid-19 there are changes to the opening of the Parks. Also, the Preserve may be closed during and after heavy rains. For your safety, please observe all closure notices.

Hours: 8 a.m. –5 p.m. .

Open: Staging areas, Outdoor amphitheater, trails, benches, picnic tables, and visitor center (when staff is present).

Closed: Nature Center

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

President
Robert Laudy

Vice President
Ann Tibbs

Secretary
Phoenix Von Hendy

Treasurer
Terry Callan

**Board Members
at Large**
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Carol Crafts
Barbara Lerma
Joe Mossuto
Laura Mossuto

Newsletter
Rita Lee

Sycamore Sage

The President's Message

Dear Friends,

Four more months and 2020 will come to an end. We all have been challenged this year more than ever. The fires now consume our news almost more than politics and the Pandemic. Do get your flu shot and help keep that, at least, under control. Wear your masks and stay safe.

Our organization was started in the early spring of 1999 under the leadership of Karen Larson (Gordan), Terry Callan and others. Karen resigned in August of 2002. I have served as President for the years since. I have had the pleasure of meeting many of the Goodan family during this time. We now have a marvelous bequest to help carry our mission and vision forward.



Carol Crafts

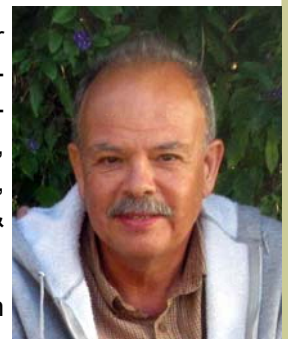
I am thrilled to announce that Robert Laudy will assume the role as President. Terry Callan will continue as treasurer and Phoenix as Secretary, so continuity is assured. I plan to remain on the board and to help where I can.

Thank you for all who have worked beside me fighting pipelines and protecting endangered species while, at the same time, helping to open the historic Stowe Trail to recreational access. I hope to see you at our Ranch when it becomes cooler.

Introducing the New President

Introducing The new President of The Friends of Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon Open Space, Robert Laudy.

Robert recently retired from the County of San Diego after 31 years. Over the years his duties included the management of a variety of county functions, including Cartography, Graphic Design, Photography & Video Production, Survey Records, Geographic Information System (GIS), Website Design & Maintenance, and the Solid Waste & Recycling Program.



Robert Laudy

Robert has a Bachelors Degree in Industrial Arts from San Diego State University and an Associate's Degree in Architecture from Mesa College.

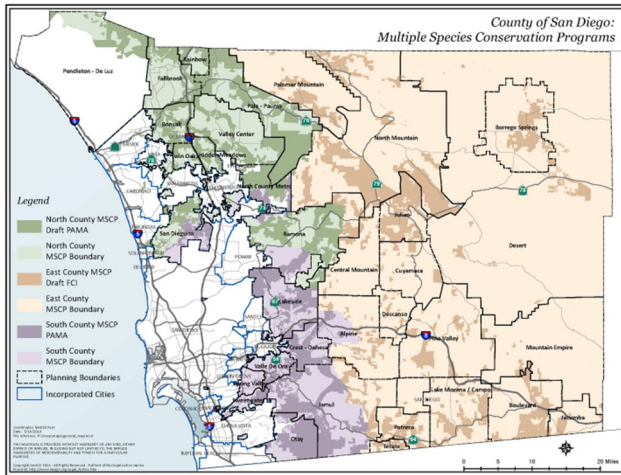
Robert enjoys hiking, bicycling, camping, traveling, and spending time with his wife and two Australian Shepherds.

Why I Love Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon Open Space

By Robert Laudy

The San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) preserves the region's native habitats and wildlife for future generations. It provides a strong conservation framework that ensures compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act, State Endangered Species Act, and State Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act.

The MSCP provides for large, connected preserves that address species needs at the habitat level rather than species-by-species or area-by-area, creating an efficient, effective preserve system that protects rare, threatened, and endangered species in the region.



The Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch County Preserve is a crucial component of the MSCP. The location of the preserve is a vital wildlife corridor link and a hub to open spaces in all directions. It gives wildlife access to the San Diego River and Mission Trails Regional Park. The preserve's grassland, riparian, coastal sage, oak woodland and mixed chaparral habitats support rare and special species including

Mountain Lion, Mule Deer, Pallid Bat, Cooper's Hawk, San Diego Horned Lizard, Western Spadefoot Toad, Quino Checkerspot, Coastal California Gnatcatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, San Diego Thornmint, Willoway Monardella, and many others.

San Diego County residents and visitors are fortunate to have had great public access to Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon for many years. Mountain bikers, equestrians and hikers currently enjoy more than 10 miles of trails that lead to inspiring viewpoints, thriving wildlife and signs of historic use by the Kumeyaay and early settlers. The visitor's center at Goodan Ranch, which was built next to the remains of the original ranch house that was burned during the devastating 2003 Cedar Fire, is beautiful, informational, innovative, and marvelous.



As President of the Friends of Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon Open Space, I will work with our board members, along with citizens, visitors and local government to protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources, help build and maintain a sensitivity to the area's MSCP status. As a team, we will promote awareness and the responsible use of Goodan Ranch and Sycamore Canyon Open Space -- for wildlife, habitat, and visitors alike.



8 Tips for Hiking with Your Dog in County Parks



**PLEASE
STAY ON
TRAIL**

September is typically our hottest month. With more people sat home with their pets, it is a great time to remember these tips for hiking with your dog. This is an article written Tom Christensen, County of San Diego Communications Office in 2016. Even tho the article is years old, it is still pertinent to today, Enjoy!

You grab your leash, and your dog automatically starts heading for the door. He knows it's time for a walk. But this time it's no ordinary walk around the neighborhood. This time you've decided to go for a hike in a San Diego County park and you're bringing your canine companion along for the journey.

The good news is dogs are allowed at virtually all County parks. The only exceptions are Wilderness Gardens Preserve and the trails at Agua Caliente. Assistance or guide dogs are always welcome at all parks as long as they are in compliance with all regulations and check in with park staff.

Before you head out, there are some preparations to follow and guidelines and tips you'll want to keep in mind to make the hike enjoyable for both you and your dog.

1. First, **plan out your hike**. How long is the trail you're hiking and what's the terrain like? You should know your dog's fitness level so you can match that with the type of trail you choose. You can check out all the County parks trails online.
2. Your dog should be **up-to-date on vaccines** and have a collar or been treated to prevent ticks and fleas. Also make sure your four-legged friend has **current ID tags and a well-fitted collar** in case you get separated. If your dog does become lost, contact the County of San Diego Department of Animal Services.
3. Make sure the time of day you choose to hike with your dog is appropriate temperature-wise. Unless you hike with your dog often and they are used to that type of rigorous exercise, they could succumb to heat exhaustion. **Dogs are much more susceptible to heat stroke than humans.** Dogs' only sweat glands are on their feet. If the ground is too hot for your hand, it's too hot for your dog's paws.
4. Always **have plenty of water for both you and your dog**. It's better to bring along a little extra than not enough. You might also want to pack a few doggie treats and search for a shaded area to take your breaks.
5. **Stay on the marked trail**. In all County parks, dogs are required to be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet in length at all times. A leash prevents dogs from becoming lost and protects them from having an unexpected encounter with a rattlesnake, mountain lion or a sick or injured animal.
6. **Make sure to maintain control of your dog at all times**. Dogs that are out of control or that pose a demonstrated risk to others may be asked to leave by a park ranger.
7. Always **clean up after your dog**. Practice the Leave No Trace principles that allow everyone to enjoy our parks.
8. If you decide to make it a weekend or an overnight in a County park with camping, the fee for dogs in camping parks is just **\$1 per dog per night**. You must be able to furnish current license and vaccination information as well.



Hiking with your dog in a County park is a great way to get some exercise and enjoy a change of pace from your usual walks around your neighborhood. If you observe the above tips and guidelines, you'll be sure to enjoy your hike and some quality bonding time with your pup.

FUN FACTS ABOUT OPOSSUMS

The "O" is Important

Some people might think that the name "opossum" and the name "possum" are interchangeable—but they're not. Opossums are a group of marsupials (pouched mammals) that live in the Americas. Possums—without the "o"—are a different group of marsupials, which all live in Australia and New Guinea. The story goes that Captain John Smith first used the name "opossum" in western culture in 1608. The word comes from the Algonquin name "apousum" which means "white beast."



They Are the Only Marsupial in Canada and the U.S.

Opossums, classified as marsupials because they nurse and carry their babies in pouches, are the **ONLY** marsupials north of Mexico. That's right — there are no other marsupials in Canada or the United States.

The honeybee-sized newborns, called joeys, promptly crawl into the mother's pouch to continue developing. Fewer than half will survive the journey to the pouch, and those who make it will latch on to a nipple for about 50 to 70 days.

Even after the joeys can leave the pouch, the mother will tote them on her back while she hunts and scavenges for food. The rapidly growing joeys will stay with their mother for about 100 days.

They Can't Help Playing Dead

When threatened, an opossum may run, belch, bare its teeth, growl, hiss, and exude a repulsive, smelly, musk like fluid from its anal glands. If that does not work, they "play possum" and "play dead". This involuntary reaction can last up to 4 hours. When playing dead, the animal rolls over on its side, becomes stiff, shuts its eyes, and lets its tongue hang from an open mouth. Their heartbeat slows and saliva foams around the mouth and they exude a foul smelling liquid so they smell like a dead animal. The heartbeat slows and the animal appears to be dead.



Well-meaning people who find a catatonic animal and assume the worst have killed many opossums who are merely playing dead. The best thing to do upon finding an injured or apparently dead opossum is to leave it in a quiet place with a clear exit path. In minutes or hours, if the opossum is merely playing dead, it will regain consciousness and escape quietly on its own.

Opossums Have Great Memories

Opossums are incredibly smart critters and they have very sharp memories. Opossums have a relatively small brain, but are able to find food as well as remember where they found it. In fact, opossums scored better than cats, rats, rabbits, and dogs in some tests for their memory. They can also remember how toxic or noxious substances taste.

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They Are Virtually Immune to Rabies and Snake Venom

Nasty snakebites and attacks from rabies-infected animals are no match for these tough marsupials. This is because opossums are immune to almost all types of local snake venom and their low body temperatures provide an unsuitable environment for the rabies virus.

Opossums Provide Natural Pest Control

Opossums are opportunistic omnivores, and with 50 teeth in their mouth, they can eat a wide variety of animal and plant matter. While opossums may seem like vermin, they actually make great neighbors. They are sometimes called "Nature's Little Sanitation Engineers." Just like vultures, opossums feed on carrion, which is dead animals. Decaying carcasses can easily spread some diseases, particularly ones that can make humans sick.

By feeding on carrion, opossums help prevent the spread of disease. Because of their advanced immune systems, they can feed on the carrion without catching the otherwise potentially deadly diseases.



Opossums are also quite beneficial when it comes to natural pest control. They frequently eat snails, slugs, beetles, and other pests that disrupt home gardens, and they help keep rodent and cockroach populations in check by competing with the pests for food. As a bonus, they also eat rats and keep them naturally in check. The National Wildlife Federation reported in Give Opossums a Break: a study calculated "a single opossum might kill an astonishing 4,000 ticks in a week."

That said, opossums might take the occasional bite of your tomatoes or corn, and they do have an unfortunate tendency to eat out of the compost heap. Usually though, they tend to seek decayed or overripe fruit. Finally, the non-aggressive opossums are nomadic and if you see some in your yard, they probably won't stay very long.



A big "Thank you" to Joe and Laura Mossuto for making this spectacular furniture for Goodan Ranch

These amazing pieces were built out of scrap-pile materials and donated hardware.



Board Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Monday, August 10, 2020

Meeting start time: 7:11 pm

Meeting Location: Crafts residence

Attending: Carol Crafts, Phoenix Von Hendy, Terry Callan, Ann Tipps, Laura Mossuto, Joe Mossuto

Not in attendance: Barbara Lerma, Maureen Abare-Laudy, Robert Laudy

Secretary's report

Minutes from February 10 meeting published in December Sage. There was no March meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Minutes were approved as published.

Treasurer's report

2020 to date expenses: \$1981 for maintenance expenses.

2020 income: \$100,000 from the Goodan Family, \$5,495 in other income; interest earned - \$160 on CD + \$3 from savings - Checking - \$11,295 Savings - \$10,920 CD - \$100,160 Total - \$122,375

Ranger's report

SYCAMORE CANYON/GOODAN RANCH STAFF REPORT, AUGUST 2020

Supervising Park Ranger Louis Chertkow, Park Ranger Patrick Wiener, Park Ranger Nick Romero, PMW Mike Ambrose, PMW Josh Morales

Staff Report

Sycamore Goodan Ranch team really appreciates your support!

Park staff have been very busy with cleaning and maintenance responsibilities. The Visitor Center, restrooms, vault toilets, drinking fountains, bike station, picnic tables, and park benches are cleaned several times each day. The Visitor Center remains closed due to County Health Order, but the trails and both staging areas are fully open. Our Park Maintenance staff have also been busy repairing eroded sections of the access roads.

Staff planted 20 native trees and 30 native shrubs recently. The team have been following a watering schedule to ensure the new plants will survive the dry season. We also added solar irrigation timers to our water systems. Our recently converted greenhouse now as an overhead irrigation system and Solar timer to help care for our future plants more efficiently. A new composting area is also being constructed to generate nutritional organic material for newly planted trees. The greenhouse has also created an interpretive opportunity for educating the public about sustainable growing practices.

CA Fish & Wildlife, in collaboration with UC Davis, will be conducting a Mountain Lion Population Study Project in Sycamore Canyon, and several other County preserves, to study mountain lion movement and ecology using a combination of GPS tracking, GIS spatial modeling, and genetic work. GPS collars will be used to track movements of mountain lions within public and private lands in order to derive a minimum count of mountain lions in a localized area, to identify high-use areas, and to determine rates of dispersal. The mountain lion data collected will support efforts to quantify mountain lion density and regional population estimates, which is critical to measuring the success of current lion conservation strategies implemented in California.

Park attendance has increased in the preserve. The team continues to check on park visitors throughout the day, especially when it's hot.

The team continues to patrol and monitor the preserve properties along SR67 and have been conducting additional patrols throughout the preserve to deter unauthorized trail usage. New signs and fencing have also been installed around Clark Canyon and other areas that are not open to the public.

Ranger Patrick worked with the County GIS team to develop new maps of the preserve for the sign holders along the access road. He will also be working with an Eagle Scout candidate on refurbishing the sign holders.

And most importantly, we would like to thank Joe and Laura Mossuto who recently resigned from their live-on volunteer positions. The Sycamore Canyon/Goodan Ranch Team and County greatly appreciate all their assistance over the last four years and wish them the best!

Sincerely,

Louis Chertkow

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Tracking Report

The last two quarterly wildlife surveys were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The rangers report seeing bobcats and lots of deer in the preserve.

Unfinished Business:

The County is allowing volunteers, including those over 65, to serve again, after shutting down all volunteering in March due to the pandemic.

New Business:

PAP Update: Anna Prowant who is handling the PAP, anticipates going out for public review and holding a stakeholder meeting next month. Meeting date forthcoming.

Carol reports that she heard from two hikers about large numbers of Spade foot Toads killed on the trails, specifically Martha's Grove Trail, and crossing Cardiac Hill. The County responded by placing signs to ask trail users to slow down and watch out for the toads. There is also some talk of temporary closures of trails through the December - March rainy season, when the toads are active in large numbers. Joe & Laura said both Martha's Grove and Cardiac need to be closed in order to effectively protect the toads. They were concerned that the investigation of the toad issue (involving a number of vehicle trips up and down Cardiac Hill) caused the death of a huge number of toads. There was also discussion that, in order to be effective, signs must only be posted during the active season. If signage is up all year, people will ignore it because they will not see any toads most of the year.

What to do with our Goodan Family grant? Discussion centered on possibly contacting Supervisor Dianne Jacob for ideas. Joe & Laura thought it would be nice to restore the windmill, the dam, and the bridge behind the house. There was also talk of rebuilding the old ranch house that burned in the 2003 Cedar Fire. Ann will look for the estimate on the house rebuild that Appaloosa Construction did for us 17 years ago.

We need new board members, and Carol needs to resign as President after 19 years in that position. Terry recommended Robert Laudy, but is willing to take the position if Robert is unwilling.

Rex Trophies does our name tags and Carol was asking who still needs name tags.

Next Newsletter will be out on September 1, 2020

Next Board Meeting to be determined due to Covid 19

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm



**Just a reminder -
the membership year starts in January
for the Friends of Goodan Ranch & Sycamore Canyon .
You will find a membership form on the backside of this page.
Please renew as soon as possible.**



**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**
14753 Carlson St.
Poway, CA 92064



The Sycamore Sage
14753 Carlson St.
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