



The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy preserves, protects and shares the natural and cultural resources of the San Dieguito River Valley through collaborative efforts to acquire lands, complete trails, restore habitats, establish educational programs, create interpretive centers, encourage recreation, and mobilize public support.

2017-18 annual report



Nicole and Addison Welling

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Looking back on the past year is a fun exercise—it's been a good one for the Conservancy!

We've restored hundreds of acres across the River Valley at Crest Canyon, Del Dios Gorge, Fairbanks Ranch, Lake Hodges, Lusardi Creek, River Path Del Mar, Rancho Santa Fe, and the San Dieguito Lagoon.

Over 300 hikers completed the first Coast to Crest Trail Challenge—many discovering the River Park or new favorite trails for the first time!

Over 200 students participated in the Watershed Explorers Program.

Phase 3 of the River Path Del Mar project is moving forward.

The Coast to Crest Trail is getting closer to completion! The Pamo Valley segment of the trail is scheduled to be completed late this year or early 2019.

We now have over 280 Citizen Scientists who have participated in wildlife and plant surveys, reviewed wildlife camera photos and more.

All of this has been made possible through your support!

Your donations and contributions fund our conservation, education, and recreation programs. For instance, the environmental studies and permitting for the Pamo Valley trail were funded in significant part through private donations from our members, making possible the development of this 3.3 mile trail segment.

The Conservancy Board and staff are excited to celebrate all of our—your—accomplishments at River Valley Fest this October. We encourage you to spread the word of our mission by inviting a friend or family member (or several) to join you at the Fest this year! What better way to share your love of our natural legacy?

Thank you and see you at the River Valley Fest.

Sincerely,

Brad Bartlett, President

Make your River Valley Fest reservations at
sdrvcrivervalleyfest2018.eventbrite.com.

THANK YOU FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I'm happy to look back on another year filled with accomplishments, all thanks to the support of our members! Your contributions of funds and volunteer hours have helped us make great progress in our conservation, education, and recreation programs throughout the San Dieguito River Valley.

Team SDRVC is growing! Last year, we hired Ana Lutz as Education Manager. Ana started making an impact right away and we are thrilled to see her work with schools and other organizations to engage more people with the River Valley. Earlier this year, we also hired Jonathan Appelbaum as Conservation Manager. Jonathan brings of wealth of experience and it's clear that our conservation programs are in good hands!

Our first Coast to Crest Trail Challenge had over 300 finishers! One of our goals with the Challenge is to bring more people from all over San Diego to the River Valley. Many said this was their first time hiking certain trails and they found new favorites!

We're also eagerly watching the restoration and construction progress of Coast to Crest Trail segments in Pamo Valley and behind the Surf Cup property in Del Mar—filling in the gaps, bit by bit!

I can't emphasize enough how much your support is critical to all our efforts. One of the reason we've focused on outreach in many different avenues is because the more support we have from members like you, the more we can do! Please continue to tell your friends, family, coworkers, anyone you know about the Conservancy and River Park. Invite them on hikes or to a volunteer event—or to River Valley Fest!

Thank you for all you do for the Conservancy, the River Park JPA and all of our partners throughout the River Valley!

Sincerely,

Trish Boaz, Executive Director

2017-2018 AT A GLANCE

IN TOTAL, THE CONSERVANCY...

144 Hosted or participated in 144 Conservation, education, recreation, and outreach events

- 26 conservation events
- 57 education events
- 28 recreation events
- 33 outreach events

Raised through fundraising events, including River Valley Fest and Wax & Wine

\$70,000+



\$57,100 Received grant funds



Total Membership Contribution **\$116,584**



1,817 Total Members



Received Top-Rated Nonprofit recognition from Great Nonprofits and Platinum recognition from GuideStar

WE'D LIKE TO THANK OUR FINANCIAL PARTNERS, CONSERVATION PARTNERS, AND CORPORATE SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:

Financial Partners

Coastal Community Foundation
Rancho Santa Fe Foundation
The San Diego Foundation
Union Banc Investment Services
Union Bank

Conservation Partners

California Native Plant Society - San Diego Chapter
California Marine Protected Areas
The City of Del Mar
City of Escondido
City of Poway
The City of San Diego
City of Solana Beach
Climate Science Alliance South Coast
County of San Diego
Del Mar Foundation
Fairbanks Ranch Association
Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley
High Tech Elementary North County
High Tech High North County
Hike San Diego
Historic Rancho Santa Fe
I Love a Clean San Diego
Living Coast Discovery Center
Mission Resource Conservation District
Ms. Smarty-Plants
National Charity League, San Dieguito
National Resources Conservation Service
Outdoor Outreach
Palomar Audubon Society
Reality Changers
Rincon
San Diego Archaeological Society
San Diego Audubon Society
San Diego Coastkeeper
San Diego Canyonlands
San Diego Mountain Biking Association
San Diego Natural History Museum
San Diego Tracking Team
San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research
San Dieguito River Park JPA
San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy
Ship in the Woods
Sierra Club San Diego - North County Group
Skyhunters
Southwestern Field Herping Associates
The Escondido Creek Conservancy
United States Fish & Wildlife Service Partners for Fish & Wildlife
United States Geological Survey
Volcan Mountain Foundation

Corporate Sponsors

A16 Outfitters
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Knorr Candle Factory
Patagonia
Plan 9 Alehouse
The Printer's Circle
REI
SDG&E
Sunroad Enterprises
Viewpoint Brewing Co.
Whole Foods

CONSERVATION

We partnered with the River Park and other agencies to strategically and sustainably combat invasives and restore habitat throughout the San Dieguito Watershed. Conservation Manager Jonathan Appelbaum leads our habitat restoration projects and works with our partners to bring the most effective scientific methods and tools to our conservation and field research projects.

Our current habitat restoration projects are located at:



Bernardo Mountain
Photo by Aaron Chang



River Path Del Mar



Fairbanks Ranch



Del Dios Gorge
Photo by Gil Jansky



San Pasqual Valley

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS



FAIRBANKS RANCH RESTORATION PROJECT COMPLETED 3RD YEAR

- Volunteers covered 27 acres between Fairbanks Ranch and Rancho Santa Fe west of Black Mountain Open Space
- Removed Arundo, eucalyptus, and other invasive species
- Managed by the Conservancy in partnership with US Fish & Wildlife Service, California Native Plant Society - San Diego Chapter, Fairbanks Ranch Association, and Rancho Santa Fe Association
- On-the-ground work led by Arne Johanson and Bob Byrnes of CNPS



FIVE VOLUNTEER EVENTS AT RIVER PATH DEL MAR

- Coastal Cleanup Day with I Love a Clean San Diego (9/16/17)
- La Jolla High Service Club (10/15/17)
- Resolution Restoration Project (12/31/17)
- Creek to Bay Cleanup (4/21/18)
- National Trails Day (6/2/18)
- Over 60 volunteers total
- Over 1000 yards of ice plant removed
- 160 native species planted
- 2500 pounds of asphalt and other debris removed

Visit sdrvc.org/what-we-do/conservation for more information about our conservation projects.

EDUCATION

Our Watershed Explorers and Citizen Science Monitoring Programs continued to grow under the leadership of Education Manager Ana Lutz, who also implemented Watershed Explorers Experiences, the Coastal Wetlands Field Ecology Project, Exploring Our Sense of Place, and other programs throughout the watershed.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

We completed our Volcan Mountain surveys and several other surveys with our partners throughout the watershed.



Volcan Mountain Data

- 6 surveys conducted with Palomar Audubon
- 75 acres covered
- 24 citizen scientists
- 157 plant species recorded
- 70 wildlife species recorded
 - 10 mammals
 - 60 birds



Other Highlights

- 4 herp surveys conducted with Southwest Field Herping Association (Santa Ysabel, Sycamore Canyon, Bernardo Mountain, Fairbanks Ranch)
- 1 bird survey with Palomar Audubon (Fairbanks Ranch)
- 6 other surveys at Fairbanks Ranch, Lake Hodges, and San Pasqual Valley

105 New Citizen Scientists

Total Citizen Scientists **562**

More information about the Citizen Science Monitoring Program, including updated results, can be found at sdrvc.org/what-we-do/citizen-science.

WATERSHED EXPLORERS



The Watershed Explorers Program consists of five interactive field trips, appropriate for youth in grades 5-12, to different sites within the San Dieguito Watershed:

- Volcan Mountain
- Lake Sutherland
- San Diego Archaeological Center
- Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead
- Birdwing Open Air Classroom at the San Dieguito Lagoon



Watershed Explorers Highlights

- 7 field trips
- 4 new van drivers contracted for field trips

WATERSHED EXPLORERS EXPERIENCES

Working with several partners, we brought unique educational experiences to bring kids and families closer to the wildlife of the watershed.



Watershed Explorers Experiences Highlights

- 2 events with Ms. Smarty-Plants
- 2 events with Living Coast Discovery Center
- 2 Watercolors of the Watershed events with artist Kerry Campbell
- 1 Herp Hangout with herpetologist Jeff Nordland
- 1 event with Skyhunters
- 1 Running Grunion performance with Abel Silvas
- 1 Lake Hodges Family Adventure with Outdoor Outreach

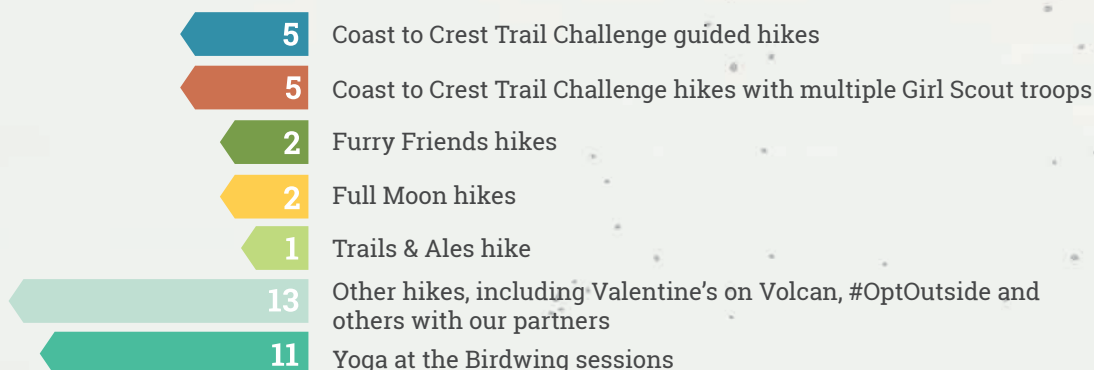
More information about the Watershed Explorers Program can be found at www.watershedexplorers.org.

RECREATION

Our varied recreation programming continued to grow. In addition to making progress on completing the Coast to Crest Trail, we introduced the **Coast to Crest Trail Challenge**, a free hiking challenge that took participants to five trails in the River Park. Upon completion, they received a certificate and prizes from our partners Adventure 16, REI, and Hike San Diego.

RECREATION BY THE NUMBERS

The Conservancy hosted **28** events total:



300 Coast to Crest Trail Challenge finishers

8 Coast to Crest Trail Challenge finishers who completed all 5 hikes in one day!

4 trails hiked with the Google Trekker camera to create Google "street views" of the trails



Kelly Mamer, Rich Grow, Dan Conger, and Sandra Grow finished the Coast to Crest Trail Challenge in one day—13 hours, 26.3 miles!



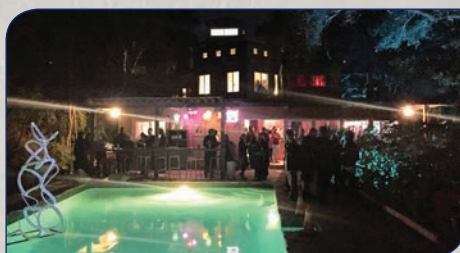
Hiking with the Google Trekker is a team effort! We took turns wearing the device as it took 360-degree images of the trail.



The weather cooperated for Valentine's on Volcan this year, and 20 hikers made the trek to the summit, where they enjoyed a picnic lunch and wine tasting.



Executive Director Trish led 30 hikers on the five Coast to Crest Trail Challenge hikes throughout the year.



Our partnership with A Ship in the Woods kicked off with TALK TALK, a multi-media live improvisational talk show. We showcased an interactive "green" piece where people were photographed by our wildlife monitoring cameras.



Violinist Gregory Lawrence provided live music to accompany instructor Susan McCrea's evening outdoor yoga class last July.

OUTREACH, AWARENESS, AND FINANCIALS

Awareness of the Conservancy and our work in the River Park continues to spread throughout the County. We were honored to be selected as a finalist for last year's Eco Ambassadors campaign, sponsored by SDG&E, CBS8, and the San Diego River Park Foundation.



OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

- The Conservancy held, hosted, or participated in 30 total outreach events.
- The Conservancy website got a facelift from the team at Salt Collective.
- La Jolla High School seniors Mason Matalon, Jordan Schultz, and Mitchell Morrison ("Clean for a Cause") donated \$500 that they collected after two years of collecting bottles and cans to trade in for cash.
- The Conservancy was recognized as a 2017 Top-Rated Nonprofit by Great Nonprofits, a leading provider of reviews and ratings of nonprofits throughout the US.
- The Conservancy was recognized as a Platinum Participant by GuideStar, the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.

GRANT FUNDING & DONATIONS

CONSERVATION

\$16,000

in grants for our habitat restoration project at Fairbanks Ranch



EDUCATION

\$3,100

in grants for our Watershed Explorers program



RECREATION

\$40,000

in grants for the River Path Del Mar



Malk Nature Fund

\$278,453 Memberships, unrestricted donations, & other fundraising (River Valley Fest, etc.)

Summer 2018



San Dieguito River Valley Land Conservancy
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858.755.6956

www.sdrvc.org

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Your support provides for

- **Conservation**
- **Education**
- **Recreation**

in the San Dieguito River Valley Park



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facebook.com/sdrvcconservancy

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating the development of recreational multi-use trails in the 92,000-acre San Dieguito River Park, preserving and restoring native ecosystems, and educating the public about our precious natural resources.

SAVE THE DATE



Filling IN_{the} GAPS

River Valley Fest 2018

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2018

4:00 PM - 8:00 PM



L'Auberge
DEL MAR

1540 Camino Del Mar • Del Mar, CA 92014

<https://sdrvcrivervalleyfest2018.eventbrite.com>

