



Photo Credit: John Weare

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY | SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK JPA

## Top Stories



### Celebrating Shawna

Staff members of the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority gathered at the office March 19 to give Executive Director Shawna Anderson the appreciation she deserves to celebrate her 25th year with the agency.

In 2000, Shawna joined the River Park JPA as its principal planner. In that role, she ushered many of the park's acquisitions,

trails and restoration projects from concept to completion. She secured more than \$2 million in grants to fund the work.

Shawna became executive director in November 2020. In that role, she has been a driving force behind completing the Coast to Crest Trail—a 71-mile-long, “unique recreational treasure,” Shawna says.

The River Park’s staff have planted a native plant garden dedicated to Shawna at the entrance to the agency’s headquarters in Escondido.

Earlier this month, she received formal recognition from the River Park JPA’s Board of Directors.

During the meeting and in emails received this month, [accolades for Shawna](#) have poured in.

[Open Full Story](#)



## Valley Vibes is Set for June 1

Mark your calendars for Valley Vibes, a free, family-friendly fiesta with interactive exhibits, great food, crafts and live music courtesy of North Park Rock-n-Blues Band.

Valley Vibes will run from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, June 1, at the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead, 12655 Sunset Drive, Escondido.

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy and San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority are hosting the free event to celebrate nature and draw attention to the organizations’ conservation, education and recreation programs.

To offset costs, we are seeking a headline sponsor.

[Open Full Story](#)



**Interested in taking on the Kilimanjaro Challenge?**

Next trip: Summer 2026

Info meeting: Saturday, May 3rd

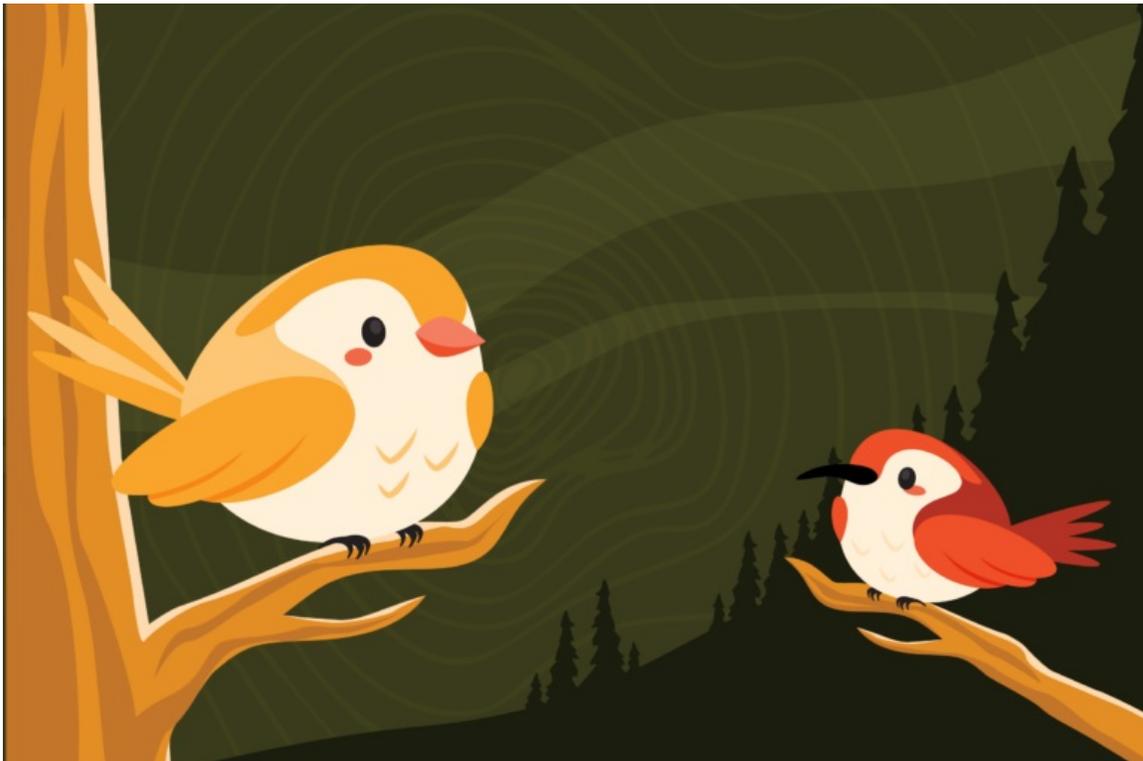
[Learn More](#)

## Details on Next Kilimanjaro Climb at Planning Meeting

Less than one month after returning from Tanzania and the adventure of a lifetime, we are planning our next Climb for the Conservancy to the peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro for summer 2026. A planning session to discuss dates, costs and past trips is set for 1 to 3 p.m. May 3 at the Coastal Ranger Station, 15648 San Andres, Del Mar.

[Register](#)

## Upstream



## April 5: Nature Night

Go on an adventure to save the Earth! We are excited to join likeminded groups for Nature Night, a hands-on evening of science, technology, reading, engineering, art and math presented by San Diego Children's Discovery Museum from 5 to 7:30 p.m. April 5 at the

[Open Webpage](#)



### **April 6, 12, 20: Yoga at the Birdwing**

There's yoga, then there's Yoga at the Birdwing. You won't find a better place to connect mind, body and spirit. This month, join us for free, hourlong sessions 10 a.m. April 6, 12 and 20.

[Register](#)



## April 25: Walk N Talk at Santa Ysabel East Preserve

Run to the hills for our last-Friday-of-the-month Walk N Talk group hike at Santa Ysabel East Preserve. Botany braniac Jonathan Applebaum will lead the trek along the Kanaka Loop Trail. Meet at 9 a.m. April 25 at 500 Farmer Road, Julian.

[Register](#)

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## April 26: Habitat Restoration at Gonzales Canyon

Dig into habitat restoration during monthly sessions with our skilled collaborators from San Diego Canyonlands. Our next session is set for 9 to 11 a.m. April 26 at Gonzales Canyon, 13655 Sword Way, San Diego.

[Register](#)



## April 27: Bio Blitz

Join us April 27 for a day of discovery, Bio Blitz, as we document biodiversity with the help of herpetologist Jeff Nordland and botanist Don Rideout. The outing to Piedras Pintadas includes an element of friendly competition. Our group and others will be entering our findings into the iNaturalist app as part of the City Nature Challenge.

Help us keep our programming free or low-cost. Bringing people to the River Park lets them experience firsthand why it's worth protecting—and gives them more reasons to return, appreciate nature and enjoy it responsibly.

Thank you!

[Register](#)

[Donate](#)

Downstream



## Volunteers Visit Cabrillo National Monument



As part of the Volunteer Exchange Program, San Dieguito River Park volunteers visited Cabrillo National Monument in Point Loma for tours and a tidepool exploration. Next month, we will host Carbrillo volunteers on a visit to the San Dieguito Lagoon.



## Master Gardener Spring Event

The UC Master Gardener Spring Event brought great



numbers of gardeners to Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead March 22 for workshops and talks on seed starting, soil prep, irrigation, garden art and food preservation. Exhibitors offered garden-related information and wares and kids' activities made for a delightful day for people of all ages.



## Outdoor Safety Training

Kit Fox Outfitters led a sold-out outdoor safety training session March 2 at Surprise Farm Retreat Center.

The training funded by a California State Parks Outdoor Equity Grant secured by the River Park JPA.

The next training session is planned for June and will focus on heat-related issues.



## Sailors Serving in Nature

Please join us in saluting members of the Navy's VR-57 Conquistadors. The sailors joined River Park rangers March 16 for a day of habitat restoration. More than a dozen of the hardworking men and women, both active duty and reservists, brought their talents to the River Park as part of what the Navy calls "Sailor 360, [an initiative for sailors to] step beyond their daily operations to engage in community relations, strengthening their bonds and enhancing unit cohesion." Thank you for your service to our country and the River Park!

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## Walkin and Talkin at Bernardo Summit

On the final Friday of February, we walked and talked to the top of Bernardo Summit.



## Coast to Crest Trail Challenge



Julie and John Perry and Kristin Gerber



### Rise to the Challenge

The trails have never been prettier!

From the San Dieguito Lagoon to Volcan Mountain, you'll love every step of the Coast to Crest Trail Challenge.

[Year 8 Details](#)



**Denise Truett and Beth Premo**



**Dean and Susan Kernus**



**Dave Dohren**



**Carin Nishihara**



**Caleb Lau and Friends**



**Ken Nishihara**

## Volunteering



### Monthly Trail Maintenance

Work with rangers to improve the trails and restore native habitats from 9 a.m. to noon April 12 at the San Pasqual Valley Staging Area, 18192 Bandy Canyon Road, Escondido. From there, we'll caravan to the worksite.

We will provide tools, training and work gloves. Please bring drinking water, sun protection and wear sturdy, closed-toed shoes.

We can't wait to see you!

Contact: [calei@sdrp.org](mailto:calei@sdrp.org)

### Weekly Gardening at Sikes Adobe

The Friends of Sikes Gardeners meet every month from 9 to 11 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sunday and 2nd and 4th Monday to work in the gardens at the historic Sikes Adobe.

Contact: [calei@sdrp.org](mailto:calei@sdrp.org)



Donate



Your support is the wind beneath our wings. Thank you! Photo: John Weare

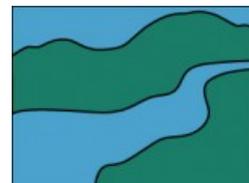
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