



SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY | SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK JPA

In Memoriam



Farewell, Jan and Bob Fuchs

By Shawna Anderson

We are feeling the loss of two dear friends – Jan and Bob Fuchs – who together were instrumental in the San Dieguito River Park's early successes.

Jan Fuchs passed away in June after losing her husband Bob this past December. Jan was an early and staunch supporter of SDRP, particularly in the fight to preserve and protect the San Dieguito Lagoon. The San Dieguito Lagoon would not be what it is today without the advocacy and determination of Jan Fuchs. She was an inaugural member of the River Park JPA's Citizens Advisory Committee and served as chair of its Project Review Committee for more than 25 years.

Bob Fuchs was a Del Mar Rotarian and donated his time in support of many efforts including lending his talents to building the Lagoon Boardwalk Trail. You can find their boardwalk donation planks as you stroll along this popular trail.

A memorial bench is being planned for placement along the new lagoon trail overlooking the restored wetlands east of Interstate 5, and adjacent to the El Camino Real wildlife undercrossing for which Jan advocated so strongly. The undercrossing now provides a safe passage for animals traveling between Gonzales Canyon and the lagoon.

Shawna Anderson is Executive Director of the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority.



It's on! Year 8 of the Coast to Crest Trail Challenge Starts Today

It's a new dawn for the Coast to Crest Trail Challenge!

Starting today—and for the eighth straight year—hikers can sample San Dieguito River Park's trail network by completing the series of five hikes.

Take the hikes in any order. Go solo or explore the beautiful backcountry with spouses, sweethearts, besties, kids, dogs or any combination of the above.

The challenge is designed to get people outdoors to appreciate the natural beauty that is so close to their homes.

"With all the bustle of our daily lives, it's easy to forget that outdoor experiences are right within reach," said Cheryl Goddard, executive director. "The Coast to Crest Trail Challenge gives you a reason to get outside and have fun in nature."

This year's hikes include:

Hike 1: Bernardo Mountain Lake View Trail

Hike 2: Piedras Pintadas Trail

Hike 3: Del Dios Gorge Trail

Hike 4: Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail

Hike 5: North Clevenger Canyon

[Details](#)



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Excellent Adventures for Watershed Explorers

The last week of June brought excellent adventures for youth from the City of Escondido participating in the 2024 Watershed Explorers program.

This year's outings brought two-dozen explorers on day trips to Volcan Mountain, Sikes Adobe, San Diego Archaeological Center, Lake Hodges, San Dieguito Lagoon and to an overnight stay at Surprise Farm Retreat Center in Ramona.

The free camp provides transportation, lunch and supplies to all attendees. Established in 2015, Watershed Explorers is in its second year of focusing on underserved communities in Escondido thanks to an Outdoor Equity Grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation.



U-T Covers Wetlands Restoration

Did you see the June 10 *San Diego Union-Tribune*



story, "From tomato fields to tidal wetlands: Milestone reached for San Dieguito Lagoon restoration"?

The story reports upon the opening of newly-created wetlands to tidal flushing, as a project spearheaded by San Dieguito River Park JPA nears completion. (U-T Photo: Hayne Palmour IV)

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Registration Opens for 2024-25 ESP Program

San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is accepting enrollments for the 2024-25 season of Exploring Our Sense of Place, a program of excursions that dives deeply into the watershed's natural history and reinforces the connections of participants to the nature that surrounds them.

Enrollment is capped at 25 and closes Aug. 7.

In a series of seven guided hikes, explorers venture into areas that are not accessible to the public. Guides lead rich conversations on the wildlife, geology and native inhabitants of each area. To lock in the participants' own connections with nature, each hike includes a special "reflection time."

The hikes are led by experts in the fields of wildlife, geology, Native Americans, birds, native plants and the ecology of wetlands.

The program ends with a graduation luncheon at San Dieguito Lagoon. To date, more than 275 explorers have graduated from ESP. Many of them continue to participate in alumni hikes and educational experiences.

Years ago, Mark Hennenfent participated in ESP with his wife. They enjoyed it so much that they signed up as volunteers for the next session. Mark has gone on to become a co-administrator of the program and a member of the Conservancy's Board of Directors.

"We enjoy meeting new people while continuously learning and exploring the amazing San Dieguito watershed," Hennenfent said. "We are blessed to have such great experts joining us on the hikes. The experience is truly unique and enriching."

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Welcome aboard, Nathan Lacy!

Please join us in welcoming Nathan Lacy to the San Dieguito River Park JPA as an environmental planner.



Nathan will help analyze JPA and related projects for environmental design and compliance, acquire relevant permits and certifications and develop plans and programs to further the environmental benefits that represent the JPA’s mission.

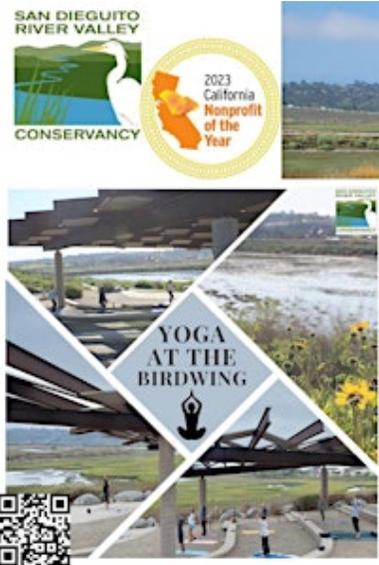
Nathan brings a wealth of experience from many different areas of the environmental industry including energy and sustainability tax credits consulting, stormwater management, municipal water use efficiency and environmental impact analysis across multiple states and jurisdictions.

Welcome to the team, Nathan!

Save the Date! River Valley Fest 2024 is Oct. 13

Mark your calendars for 4 p.m. Oct. 13 at Hilton Hotel Del Mar. That's the When and Where for River Valley Fest 2024. We'll have more details on the What as plans take shape for our largest annual fundraiser, for which supporting conservation and getting with friends will always be the Why.

Upstream



Join us for Yoga Sculpt on the first Sunday of each month and Vinyasa flow on the third Sunday of each month

July 7 & 21: Yoga at the Birdwing

Our free classes led by Susan and Mary begin at 10 a.m. on the first and third Sundays of the month at the Birdwing Open Air Classroom. Bring your water bottle and mat!

[Register](#)



July 26: Walk N Talk at Bernardo Bay

Get a jump on the Year 8 series of Coast to Crest Trail Challenge Hikes by joining us for a trek at Bernardo Bay. Walk N Talks are a great chance to chit-chat with like-minded nature enthusiasts and members of the Conservancy's staff. Join us!

[Register](#)

Downstream



Feelin the Vibe

We felt the vibe in the very best of ways during our very first Valley Vibes fundraiser June 2 at the Coastal Ranger Station.

Delicious things to eat and drink, friendly people to meet and greet, watercolors to dab and stroke, the sweet strings of the band Prairie Sky both strummed and plucked, yoga, hiking... all of it was a vibe. A very good vibe.



Coast to Crest Trail Challenge



Emmanuel, Nancy, Luca and Allegra Ortega

That's a wrap! Hundreds participate in Year 7 of Coast to Crest Trail



Challenge

Year 7 of the Coast to Crest Trail Challenge is finishing with a flurry.

So many selfies. So many smiles.

To the hundreds of Challengers who completed this year's series of five hikes, we salute you!

We can't wait to see you on the trail for Year 8!

Let's hear it for Sally Burke and the Tuesday Trekkers, a pack of 17 that calculates its average age at 73!



Left to right: Corinne Holstein; Curtis Rands; Dana Hartley and Lisa Ruder; Dean and Susan Kernus.



Left to right: Diana Papworth; Emily Dayton; Fran Wilkinson; Jake and Jill Johnson with Kaylie.



Left to right: Jeanette White; Joanna Sun and Forest; John and Lynn O'Halloran and Oliver; Kim Williams.



Left to right: Linda Goldsmith and Deb Banks; Lisa Decelles; Liz Belloso and Laura Jeremiah; Michelle Nguyen and Nabi Habib.



Left to right: Mirko Raner; Neil Cadwallader; Sara Ruth; Sarah Shinn.



Left to right: Alexis White and Kaylen Wilson; Ashley, Jessica and Morgan Welch; Cindy Steckel; Dewanda Vandermost, Carol Vann, Deborah Cappellazo and Crystal Ohre.



Left to right: Phoebe and Drew Lettington; Shannon Liska and Crisette Ocampo; Ted Foster and fiancée; Tom and Deb Cappellazo and Louie.



Left to right: Nathan and Scott Sweeney; Scott Dickson; Scott, Cindy, Nathan and Fin Faddick; Tommy Zounes.

Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead

Victorian Era Shell Art

By Anita Hissem

On display on the parlor wall at the Sikes Historic Farmstead is a charming example of



Victorian Era shell art. Various shells in shades of white and beige have been arranged to resemble flowers. Flower stems and stamens are made of fabric and the entire picture is mounted on red velvet. The effect is very life-like and pleasing to the eye.

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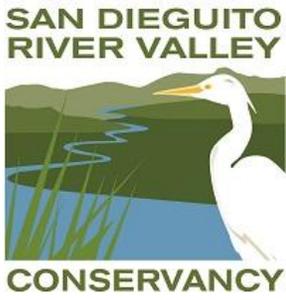
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Photo: John Weare

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