

June 2021



Next to Nature Live Stream Series

Link to Webinar

Enhancing natural spaces and creating connections for wildlife can begin right in our own back yards.

Our Next to Nature series of YouTube live streams explores what we can do to create eco-beneficial landscapes. Our premiere episode last week featured a conversation with Brook Sarson, an expert in saving water.

Brook and other guests talk about how we can mimic nature.

Next week, Deputy Fire Marshal Conor Lenehan of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District covers fire safety with a discussion about defensible space and the urban-wildland interface.

Future talks will cover such topics as how to make the most of energy resources and how our yards can become food forests.

On June 21, Cody Harrison of Corona Enterprises discusses ideas developed by a cooperative of contractors on how to regenerate ecosystems and sustain life on Earth.

Link to Webinar



On July 5, wander through Finch Frolic Garden with Diane Kennedy. The garden is a permaculture-based "food forest" located on 1.68 acres in Fallbrook.

Link to Webinar



Did you catch our premiere episode May 25? Water-saving expert Brook Sarson gave pointers on rain water and gray water harvesting.

Watch Video

Future episodes

Next to Nature No. 5: Pam Meisner from the Water Conservation Garden
Monday, July 19, 4 p.m.

Next to Nature No. 6: Tom Hamilton from Lumbercycle
Monday, August 2, 4 p.m.

NTN Webpage

Next to Nature is brought to you in cooperation with the Green Infrastructure Consortium and with grant support from REI Co-op.

Currents



Herp survey

Escrow closed this month on our 117-acre acquisition above Lake Hodges and we have been busy cataloguing the natural resources with help from experts. One of them is Jeff Nordland of the Southwest Field Herping Association.

Herp Observation Chart

Observer: Jeff Nordland, Emily Reicher, Joseph Rivera
 S DRVC
 Name: Overcast to light rain, good clearing, 68-72°F
 Date: 6/16/21
 Location: Del Dios
 Survey: 8:15 AM
 Survey: 12:15 PM

Species	Number Observed (ally marked)	Total	Notes
1. So. Pacific rattlesnake	1	1	juvenile spotted by 5/26
2. CA striped racer	1	1	
3. W. Fence lizard	3	3	
4. Orange-throated whiptail	1	1	
5. Coastal Tiger whiptail	1	1	
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			

Open Webpage



Welcome aboard, Joseph!

Say hello to Joseph Rivera, our new Associate Conservation Manager. Joseph is busy coordinating our Citizen Science and Next to Nature programs, recruiting and supervising volunteers, and tackling any other project.

Earlier, as one of our interns, Joseph studied soil properties at San Dieguito Lagoon in search of factors that limited the growth of native species. At our restoration sites, he showed he's not afraid of working with his hands under the hot sun.

Joseph also has volunteered at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and AmeriCorps. He earned a Bachelor's degree in environmental systems from UC San Diego.



Welcome aboard, Joseph!



Exploring Our Sense of Place 2021-22 program begins Sept. 29

Exploring Our Sense of Place begins its eight-session program for 2021-22 with a reception Sept. 29 at the Powerhouse Community Center in Del Mar.

During the seven, once-a-month get-togethers that follow, participants take excursions up and down the watershed, attend lectures and commune with nature during moments of quiet contemplation.

"Participants connect to the River Valley with their hearts and minds," said Trish Boaz, executive director.

More than 225 Explorers have graduated from the program and are eligible to participate in alumni hikes and educational experiences.

Enrollment is limited to 25. Fees are \$250 per individual or \$450 per couple and include program materials.

- September 29: 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Reception at Powerhouse Community Center in Del Mar
- October 2: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. River Park Overview at Volcan Mountain
- November 6: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Geology at Santa Ysabel Preserve East
- January 8, 2022: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Birds of Bernardo Bay
- February 5, 2022: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Chaparral and Water at Lake Sutherland
- March 5, 2022: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wildflowers at Piedras Pintadas Trail near Lake Hodges
- April 2, 2022: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Native Americans at Clevenger Canyon South Trail
- May 7, 2022: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lagoon Restoration and Graduation Luncheon at San Dieguito Lagoon

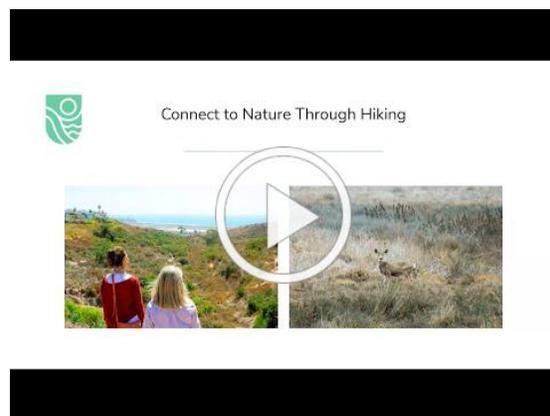
ESP Enrollment

Video Vault

Hiking San Diego Webinar

Executive Director Trish Boaz was one of four hiking experts to speak during a May 26 webinar hosted by the Living Coast Discover Center.

Other speakers included Jim Varnell, past president of the SDNAT Canyoners; Elayna Flanders, volunteer director of the Nature Collective, and Rick Romine, avid hiker, guide, and owner of How To Wilderness.



[Watch Video](#)

Coast to Crest Trail Challenge



Kim-Ashleigh and Eric Mostert



Awesome hikes!
— Pat Robinson



CTC 2020-21 Details



We truly live in a beautiful area and are so fortunate.
— Carol Tarka



Thank you for providing guidance and calm in a very



We realized we live in the most beautiful and diverse area!

Such a great challenge!
Really enjoyed finding some
new hiking trails.

bizarre year!

— Shellie Reader and husband
Brookes

— Amy McLenahan and niece
Shannon Little

— Chelsea Law and husband
Josh





Row 1: Debra Tsukashima and Lili; Mary Lou Kiley; Amy McLenahan and Shannon Little; Bob and Jann Peterson.

Row 2: Shellie and Brookes Reeder; Caleb Hummel; Carol Tarka; Caroline Ruiz and Craig Rand.

Row 3: Jeanette Freeman; Gloria Gallagher; Chelsea and Josh Law; Courtney Lapin.

Row 4; Jesus and Sharon Robles; Joni Hall and friend; Kelly Mamer; Kim-Ashleigh and Eric Mostert.

Row 5: Mandy Erskine; Pat Robinson; Peter Evans and Andreas Wingen; Donna and Rich Horne.

Row 6: Rosey Gustafson; Scott Mocabee and Michelle Good; Shannon Pullaro and Ellen O'Toole; Will Shakespeare.

River Park News



Something to cluck about

Eight new chicks are calling the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead home in a coop built by Eagle Scout Brayden Riley.

The chicks include Dark Brahmas, a feather-footed variety, and Easter Eggers, which someday will lay colorful eggs.

Chickens at the farmstead support the River Park's interpretive programs.

Meet Denea and Drew

Say hi to Denea and Drew, new caretakers at the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead.

Drew is a former chef and long-range fisherman and now captains a tugboat in San Diego Bay. Denea, a former massage therapist and caregiver, focuses on achieving the couple's shared goal of living a fully self-sustained lifestyle. Their family includes a 2-year-old German shepherd, Moya.

Welcome aboard!

A native plant of many names

Have you seen the elegant blossoms of the *Hesperoyucca whipplei*?

It's a native plant of many names: chaparral yucca, Quixote yucca, foothill yucca, Spanish dagger, and even Our Lord's Candle, for the glow created when rays of sunshine illuminate the blossoms.

One of the special traits of yucca plants is their symbiotic relationship with yucca moths.

Donate



Your generosity makes our conservation, education and recreation programs possible. Thank you so much for your continued support.

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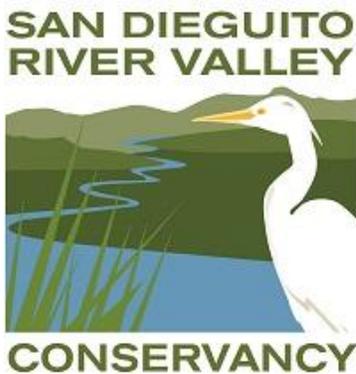
Write a Review



Help boost our visibility and outstanding reputation by sharing a brief story about an experience you've had with us. Thank you!

Write a Review

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sdrvc@sdrvc.org



sdrp@sdrp.org

