



## Top Story



**Zechariah Zhu and friends.**

### **A Bumper Crop of Coast to Crest Trail Challengers**

Nothing beats an email inbox jam-packed with Coast to Crest Trail Challenge selfies. This month, they really piled up. Those smiling faces are things of beauty, akin to a bloom of wildflowers on the landscape.

The 2022-23 Challenge was challenged by blazing heat and pouring rain. For all who hustled to complete the five hikes, we salute you.

Year 7 trail segments will be posted soon. In the meantime, take a few more weeks to complete the Year 6 Challenge. We'll see you on the trails!

## Upstream



### July 13: Walk N Talk at San Dieguito Lagoon

We are excited to join forces with WILDCOAST to host our second-Thursday-of-the-month Walk N Talk at San Dieguito Lagoon.

At the lagoon, our WILDCOAST friends are diving deeply into blue carbon research — the study of the wetlands' unique and powerful ability to store carbon dioxide and, in so doing, mitigate climate change.

You'll also get a chance to hear the latest on the San Dieguito Lagoon restoration efforts.

Don't miss this hike SDRVC and WILDCOAST staff!

Meet at 9 a.m. July 13 at the San Dieguito Lagoon Staging Area, 15648 San Andres Drive.

[Register](#)

*Stop by the San Dieguito River Valley Watershed education booth at the 2023 San Diego County Fair!*



## Today through July 4: We're at the San Diego County Fair

Heading to the fair? Be sure to visit the Conservancy and River Park JPA at our booth in the Theme Exhibit right inside the O'Brien Gate.

The theme for this year's fair, "Get Out There," is a call for San Diegans to explore regional parks and outdoor activities. Talk about a theme that's made to order for everything we do!

The fair is open daily through July 4.

[Open Website](#)

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### July 29: Next to Nature Demo on Wildfire Risk Prevention

As part of our Next to Nature Series, Conor Lenehan, Deputy Fire Marshal for the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District, will lead a demonstration on home fire safety 10 a.m. July 29 in Conference Room 121 of the San Diego Science Center, 3030 Bunker Hill Street, San Diego.

Among other topics, Lenehan's demonstration will address how to prepare your home from wildfires for the very dry summer ahead.



[Register](#)



### You are the Wind Beneath Our Wings

Your donations support the Conservation, Education and Recreation programs that define us.

You make our award-winning work possible.

Thanks so much!

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## Oct. 15: River Valley Fest

The 14th annual River Valley Fest is set for 4 to 7 p.m. Oct. 15 at Morgan Run Club and Resort in Rancho Santa Fe.

This year's theme, "Wings of Migration," highlights the journey of birds and recognizes the San Dieguito River Park's importance as a layover on the Pacific Flyway. The Park provides crucial habitat and resources for numerous avian species during their annual migrations.

We will celebrate great accomplishments: The Conservancy was named the "Nonprofit of the Year" by state Senator Catherine Blakespear; we raised \$2 million toward completion of the Coast to Crest Trail; we expanded recreational programming and got kids excited about nature.

The event will feature cocktail music by Bill Fleming, opportunity raffles and a live auction. Please email questions about River Valley Fest and sponsorship opportunities to [sdrvc@sdrvc.org](mailto:sdrvc@sdrvc.org).

[More Info](#)

Downstream



## Dusk-lit Hike on Dust Devil Nature Trail

To recognize National Trails Day on June 3, the Executive Directors of the Conservancy and the River Park JPA led a dusk-lit hike on the Dust Devil Nature Trail. Cheryl and Shawna updated hikers on the San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration Project 2 and plans for the Coast to Crest Trail.





## Extreme relaxation at Surprise Farm Retreat Center

Next time you need to hit the Reset button, we strongly recommend a weekend of camping in Ramona at the Surprise Farm Retreat Center, which welcomed our Watershed Explorer Program this month.

[Open Website](#)





## Sikes Master Gardeners Tour

Master gardeners toured the grounds and traded tips this month during a tour of the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead.



## Exploring Volcan Mountain

The Watershed Explorers Program brings kids to locations up and down the

watershed, including the pine-covered slopes of Volcan Mountain.

[Open Webpage](#)



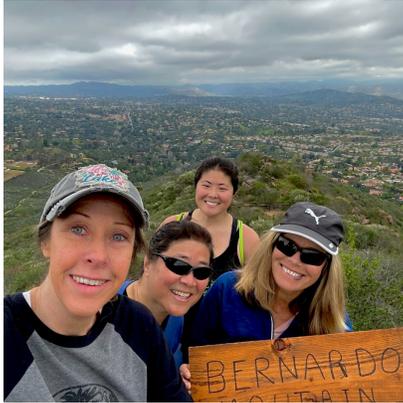
## Coast to Crest Trail Challenge



Melinda and Cassidy Walker



C2C Challenge Info



(L-R): Lydia Ikeda and friends; Matt Grindstaff, Cathy Frederick and Annette Conway.



(L-R): Alexandra Daily; Alison and Chris Oden; Austin and Mike Spangler; Caroline Ruiz and Craig Rand.



(L-R): Cheryl Hamel; Dana Hartley and Lisa Ruder; Daniel and Michele Monroe; Dawn Arriola and friends.



(L-R): Elyse Hallett and friends; Heike Rodriguez and friends; Ian and Esther Merki; Jill and Jake Johnson and Luna.



(L-R): Josephine Ng; Kathleen Roth; Kira Moniz and friends; Laura Jeremiah, Lisa Battiato, Liz Beloso.



(L-R): Mary-Lou Kiley; Tak and Michelle Sze; Paulette Sottak; Philip Hwang.



(L-R): Phillis Dattilo and Meinir Heilburn; Rhianna Steins; Lynn Beveridge and Nick Pitcherella; Shannon Pullaro and Ellen O'Toole.

## River Park News



### Monthly Trail Maintenance

Work with rangers to improve the trails and restore native habitats from 9 a.m. to noon July 9 in Escondido. Meet at the Old Coach Staging Area, 14225 Highland Valley Road.

We'll 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!

## Welcome Aboard, Dewanda!

Please welcome Dewanda Vandermost, the River Park JPA's new Office Manager! Dewanda does much more than manage our office, she is a QuickBooks wiz and ensures our accounting practices are of a high standard. She is responsible for all administration tasks, interfaces with our vendors, administers the CAC and JPA Board meetings, and works closely with all the staff. Dewanda is an equestrian too and loves working for the San Dieguito River Park! We are fortunate to have her on our team!



Welcome aboard, Dewanda!



## Awesome Interns

During May and June, four students from High Tech High North County completed four-week assignments as volunteer interns. Two of the interns, Lyric Chavez and Alanna Archuleta, focused on incorporating more art into our interpretive programs. The others, Tor Guthey and Jonathan Armando Venegas, worked with the rangers in the field. On their final day, the awesome interns delivered presentations about their experiences, which Jonathan captured with a video.



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Your donations make our programming possible. Thank you!  
Photo: Hanna Zhao

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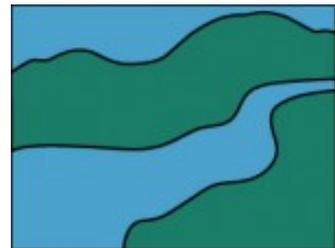
## Stay in Touch!

**SAN DIEGUITO  
RIVER VALLEY**



**CONSERVANCY**

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