



SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY | SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK JPA

Top Stories



\$1.5 million for restoration in Rancho Santa Fe

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy has received \$1.5 million from the Wildlife Conservation Board to restore 12.5 acres of riparian habitat in Rancho Santa Fe.

Approved Feb. 15, the grant from the state agency will pay to remove invasive trees and plants and revegetate a quarter-mile stretch of high-value, riparian habitat north of Lusardi Creek and east of the Arroyo Preserve.

Clearing the waterway of eucalyptus, palms, reeds and other nonnative plants will greatly improve fire safety in a high-risk area blackened by wildfire in 2007. The work also will reduce flood risks by improving streamflow in the river.

The three-year project is expected to begin in the fall and continue through summer of 2027, with the bulk of non-native species removal programmed for gaps in the nesting seasons. The state grant covers monitoring of the restoration area through 2027.

As designed, the project will provide important habitat for two documented endangered birds — the least Bell's vireo and light-footed Ridgway's rail — and connections to other

conserved lands for mammals such as the American badger, mountain lion, coyote, bobcat, mule deer and gray fox.

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Matt Hudson



Bill Adelson



Ian Ryen

Welcome, New Board Members!

We are excited to welcome three new members to our Board of Directors.

Matt Hudson is a Contracts Manager for Keck Medicine of USC and adjunct faculty in leadership at Point Loma Nazarene, Alliant International and National universities.

Bill Adelson is a licensed architect who specializes in Building Integrated PhotoVoltaics.

Ian Ryen is Vice President of Impact Investment at Children's Institute, a \$100 million human services organization based in Los Angeles.

Thanks so much to all of you for bringing your talents to our Board!



We Love What We Do!

We love what we do and love doing it together. Our nimble team includes (left to right) Cheryl Goddard (executive director), Debbie Croft (administrative assistant), Sophia McGovern (outreach intern), Leila Akhondzadeh (conservative intern), Kim Yingst (community engagement manager) and Joseph Rivera (conservation manager).

[Contact Us](#)



Al Tarkington November 18, 1939-March 13, 2024

Farewell, Al Tarkington.

Thanks so much for the generous support and abundant good you brought to the river valley and beyond.

Our deepest sympathies to your many loved ones.

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Upstream

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY

CONNECTING CREATURES, CLIMATE, AND COMMUNITY

We are excited to announce our new Speaker Series hosted by the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, dedicated to promoting environmental awareness and conservation. Join Mike Thacker as he introduces Geology of San Diego county.

SATURDAY APRIL 6, 2024
SANTA YSABEL NATURE CENTER

To register scan QR code or visit: sdrcv.org/events 1:00PM - 3:00PM

MEET THE SPEAKER

Mike Thacker
The Geology of San Diego county - the formative years

April 6: Rockin' Talk with Mike Thacker

Retired scientist Mike Thacker presents a rockin' talk on the formative years of San Diego County's geology from 1 to 3 p.m. April 6 at the Santa Ysabel Nature Center, 22135 Highway 79, Santa Ysabel. The session is the fourth of five in our "Connecting Creatures, Climate, and Community" series. Join us!

[Register](#)



April 7: Yoga Sculpt at the Birdwing

Let's sculpt! Yoga Sculpt meets at 10 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month at the Birdwing Open Air Classroom. Set to a bangin' soundtrack, the class blends traditional poses with light hand weights and cardio exercises for a high-intensity, calorie-burning result. A traditional, Vinyasa flow class for families meets on the third Sunday of the month. Bring a mat and water bottle and join us!

[Register](#)

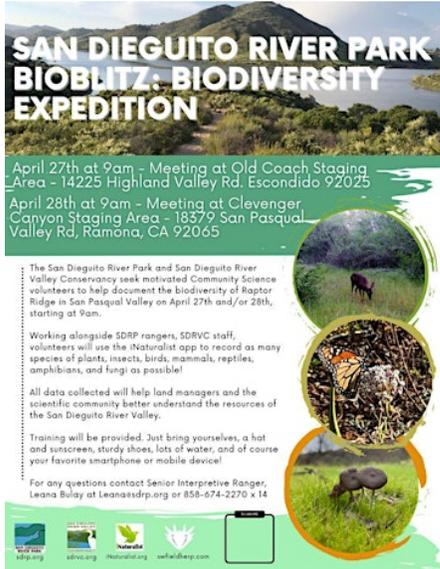


April 20: Drawing is Seeing with Sue Britt

Artist Sue Britt returns to lead a three-hour class designed to focus attention, retain details

and indulge curiosity. Sue makes great connections with her students, who don't need any drawing experience to participate and get a lot from the class. Meet at 9 a.m. April 20 at the Piedras Pintadas trailhead.

Register



**SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK
BIOBLITZ: BIODIVERSITY
EXPEDITION**

April 27th at 9am - Meeting at Old Coach Staging Area - 14225 Highland Valley Rd, Escondido 92025
April 28th at 9am - Meeting at Clevenger Canyon Staging Area - 18379 San Pasqual Valley Rd, Ramona, CA 92065

The San Dieguito River Park and San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy seek motivated Community Science volunteers to help document the biodiversity of Raptor Ridge in San Pasqual Valley on April 27th and/or 28th, starting at 9am.

Working alongside SDRP rangers, SDRVC staff, volunteers will use the iNaturalist app to record as many species of plants, insects, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fungi as possible!

All data collected will help land managers and the scientific community better understand the resources of the San Dieguito River Valley.

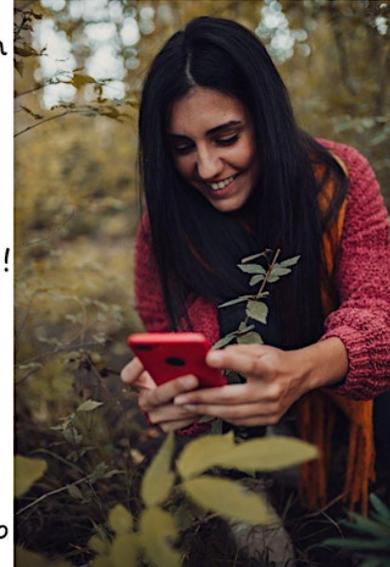
Training will be provided. Just bring yourselves, a hat and sunscreen, sturdy shoes, lots of water, and of course your favorite smartphone or mobile device!

For any questions contact Senior Interpretive Ranger, Leana Bulay at Leana@sdrrp.org or 858-674-2270 x 14

sdrrp.org sdvvc.org iNaturalist.org sefari@sdrrp.com

Help San Diego win the City Nature Challenge global competition!

Join us for a biodiversity expedition using the iNaturalist app



April 27: Bioblitz Expedition

The San Dieguito River Park Bioblitz: Biodiversity Expedition combines friendly competition with exploration and discovery. Under the guidance of experts, we'll observe wildlife and, while we're at it, capture important data. It's all part of the City Nature Challenge, an international event that employs the iNaturalist app for uploading and processing participants' data. The two-day event is set for 9 a.m. April 27 at the Old Coach Staging Area and 9 a.m. April 28 at Clevenger Canyon.

Register



Presented by
SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY **SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK**

VALLEY VIBES
a family-friendly fundraiser

Save the Date:
Sunday, June 2nd
8:30am - 3pm
JPA Coastal Ranger Station

FOOD - BEER/WINE - MUSIC - HIKE - YOGA - ART
MORE DETAILS TO COME

June 2: Save the Date for Valley Vibes

Save the date! We're laying plans for San Dieguito River Valley Vibes — a very-fun, family fiesta — June 2 at the River Park JPA's Coastal Ranger Station. More details are coming soon!

Downstream



Getting Artsy at Creekside Critters Craft Day

We love getting kids and families excited about nature and our monthly Creekside Critters program does just that.

Kids drew inspiration from nature March 2 during Craft Day with Board Member Janice Swaisgood at Escondido Library.





Walk N Talk with Kumeyaay Storyteller

Kumeyaay storyteller Juan Reynoso brought indigenous knowledge and perspectives to our Walk N Talk March 14 in Pamo Valley. He emphasized the importance of community and connection to the land.





Living with Lions

As a part of San Dieguito River Park's Volunteer Enrichment Program, participants were treated to a presentation March 20 by Robin Parks, a longtime field volunteer for the Mountain Lion Foundation. In his talk, "Living with Lions," Parks explained that the enigmatic and often misunderstood cats play a vital role in our ecosystem. Volunteers gained valuable knowledge about mountain lion behavior, habitat and their significance in maintaining ecological balance.



Making Friends at Nature Night

No one knows how to meet and greet like Sage, the rosy boa, who made many friends March 23 during Nature Night at the San Diego Children's Discovery Museum in Escondido.

So did staff from the Conservancy and River Park JPA, who talked to families about the San Dieguito Watershed.



Riding High with Ramona Trails Association

The Coast to Crest Trail takes a whole new perspective when traveled on horseback. Thanks so much to our friends from Ramona Trails Association, who joined us March 27 to host an easy ride from Sikes Adobe to the San Pasqual Valley, where we explored the location of the historic Battle of Mule Hill.



Coast to Crest Trail Challenge



Heike Rodriguez and Reishi.

Year 7 Coast to Crest Trail Challenge

For the Year 7 Coast to Crest Trail Challenge, you can hike with the group, go solo, with spouses, sweethearts, besties,

kids, dogs or any combination of the above.



Year 7 C2C Challenge Webpage



Brian Skinner



Susie and Dan Luka and Terri and Pat Olson



William and Rita Cecil and Josephine Moeller



John Tracanna



Camille Clasby

Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead



Encouraging a Hen to Lay an Egg

By Anita Hissem

Displayed in the Museum Room at the historic Sikes Adobe Farmhouse are a set of small oblong orbs, white in color and made of glass. They bear a striking resemblance to chicken eggs. And that is exactly the point! Faux eggs have had a role in domestic chicken farming for hundreds of years.

Wild or jungle fowl typically lay eggs only for the purpose of procreation. Biologists tell us that egg laying as an independent activity detached from the giving of life is not a natural phenomenon in birds.

[Open Full Story](#)

Volunteer Opportunities



Monthly Trail Maintenance

9 a.m. to noon April 14 Contact
Leana: leana@sdrp.org

Work with rangers to improve the trails and restore native habitats from 9 a.m. to noon April 14 in Escondido. Meet at the San Pasqual Staging Area, 18185 Bandy Canyon Road, Escondido. 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!



Gardening at Sikes Adobe

Monthly from 9 to 11 a.m. on the first and third Sunday and second and fourth Monday.

Contact Calei: calei@sdrp.org

Work with our dedicated Friends of Sikes Gardeners to preserve and promote the heritage and beauty of the gardens at the Historic Sikes Adobe.

Email Calei@sdrp.org for details.

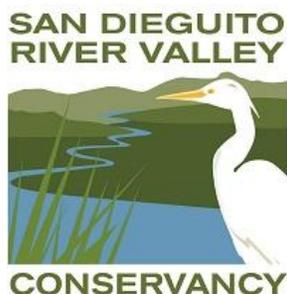
Donate



Your donations make San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy's programming possible. Thank you!
Photo: John Weare

[Donate](#)

Stay in Touch!





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