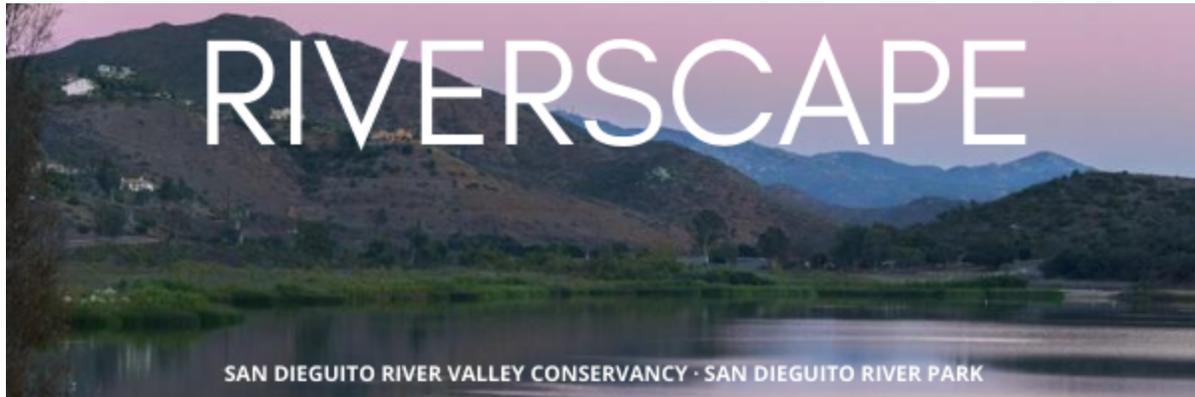


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May 2021



## A Day in Nature



Heidi Hahn produced lovely photographs from her visit to the Lower Santa Ysabel Truck Trail in Ramona. She and her husband, John Boaz, greeted River Park Rangers Avary and Sarah as

they watered new plantings. During their day in nature, the couple found a sweet spot for a picnic.

"The flowers were outstanding," Heidi said. "I identified some 40 different species and there were lots of blue ceanothus blooming once we got about half a mile or so along that Lower Santa Ysabel Truck Trail."



## Currents

### Webinar with the Grebe Whisperer

Call her the Grebe Whisperer.

Find out how Krisztina Scheef gets into the heads of the long-necked birds when she joins us to host a webinar 6 p.m. May 13.

An enormously talented photographer and native of Hungary, Krisztina and her camera capture great numbers of the diving, aquatic grebes at Lake Hodges.



### Webinar Registration



## A Glass Act

Our Campaign for Del Dios, which raised nearly \$350,000 to purchase 117 acres near Lake Hodges, prompted great generosity.

A local artist is returning the favor.

Cherrie La Porte, a glass artist who lives and works in the lakefront hamlet of Del Dios, presented gift certificates to major donors. The donors have since visited La Porte's studio to collect some of her colorful creations.

[Read Full Story](#)





Intern Shantal Piedra-guido collects data from camera traps at Del our Del Dios property.



### Survey seeks to strengthen Next to Nature program

Our Next to Nature Program is gaining new momentum thanks, in part, to our collaboration with the Green Infrastructure Consortium. During the next 12 weeks, we plan to host a half-dozen online talks to promote sustainable, eco-friendly landscaping. What days, times and topics work best for you? Please take less than a minute to answer those three questions. Thank you!

[Open Survey](#)

## Great givers

The conservation, education and recreation that's baked into our mission would not be possible without donors like Linda Corey and Chris Khoury.

They understand the importance of the bridge and trail connection planned in the Osuna Valley near Fairbanks Ranch. Recently, Chris and Linda backed those plans with a \$15,000 donation.

What can we say except thank you so much?

Donations of any size translate into conserving the habitat that is so necessary for wildlife and people alike.

[Donate](#)



## Video from The Remarkable Barn in the Sky

Thank you to Carole and Charlie Burkhard of San Pasqual Valley for sharing this video, in which Barney enters the barn bringing prey.

Carole writes: "You can't really see it hanging from his mouth because his back is to the camera. What makes this video so awesome is that Owlivia 'thanks him' by preening him all over his face. Be sure to turn on the sound because the noises they make talking to each other are awesome!"

In her blog, Carole tells the story of "The Remarkable Barn in the Sky."

Kissee Face owl video



[Open Blog](#)

## Coast to Crest Trail Challenge



**Darlanne Hocter Mulmat, Bo Smitham and Vicki King**



**Thanks for another great year of hikes!**

**— Julie Perry**

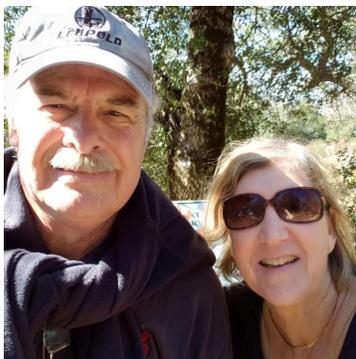


**CTC 2020-21 Details**



**I previously had never taken a selfie so that was a new experience.**

**— Kent Walker**



**Thanks for the adventure!**



**You might see a horned lizard!**



— Sharon Omahen and Jim Mosher

Photo: Jeff Nordland,  
Southwest Field Herping Association

Our Quaren-team completed this year's Coast to Crest five-hike challenge! We look forward to having a patch and certificate celebration in our neighborhood.

— Tom and Cathy Carruthers, John and Jeannine Dill, Adam and Karen Robinson



Row 1: Rich and Donna Horne; Jerry Rapp; Michael and Katie Militello; Sarah Bergvall.  
Row 2: Bijan Dorostkar and Miguel Seda; Scott and Tish Lewis; Amalio Telenti and Anen Delgado; Jennifer and Andrew Martin.  
Row 3: Charlie Kahle, Bobbie Wright, Dedette Edwards and Brenda Marshall; Chris and Jamie Nastav; Chris and Susan Clark; Frances Walters and Kathy Raymond.  
Row 4: Ginny Mugg; Guy and Sam Gary; Kathleen Aten; Leslee Hall.  
Row 5: Dana Hartley and Lisa Ruder; Marcela Hernandez; Rebecca Bronson; Shannon Pullaro and Ellen O'Toole.

## River Park News



### Meeting and greeting

As our new Conservation Manager, Emily Kochert, settles into the job, she visited the River Park offices to meet important people including Executive Director Shawna Anderson, Office Manager Brenda Miller and Yard Manager Harry the Tortoise.





## Eagle project attracts pollinators to farmstead

Alyssa Delgado isn't afraid of hard work.

To complete her Eagle project for Scout Troop 1649, Alyssa cleared an overgrown brush area and created a walking trail and native garden at the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead. She selected plants that help the environment by attracting butterflies, birds and bees.

"I loved being able to use my gardening skills in this project to give back to my community and city," Alyssa said. "I am also proud to be the first female Eagle Scout in my city and hope to inspire others to spark change."

Great job, Alyssa!



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

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

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[sdrvc@sdrvc.org](mailto:sdrvc@sdrvc.org)



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

