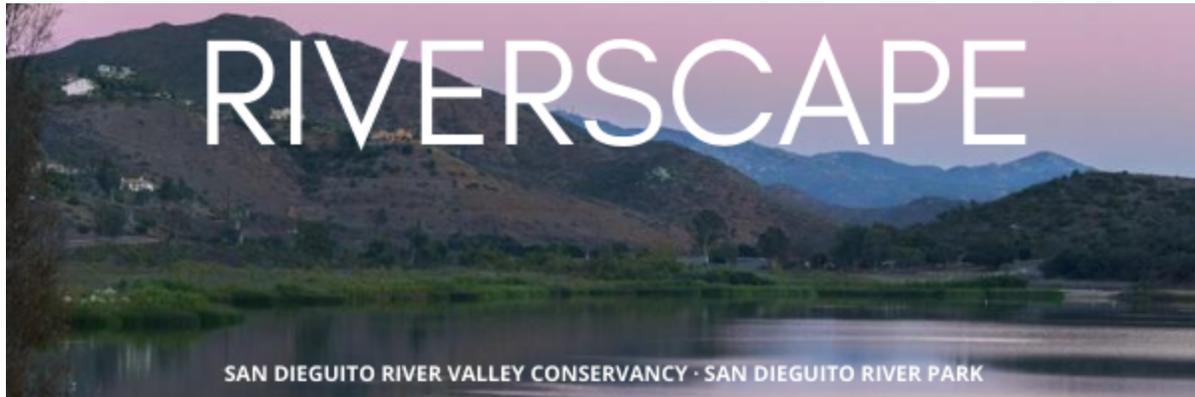


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January 2022



2021 in Review



January

For his Eagle Scout project, Herman Malik of Boy Scout Troop 685 built garden beds for the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead. "It was a very rewarding experience," Herman said, "and I learned a lot along the way."



February

Every February, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society organize the Great Backyard Bird Count. We encourage bird lovers to participate within the river valley or anywhere else. The San Dieguito River Park conducts monthly bird counts and surveys



March

The arrival of spring brought a guided hike to the Lusardi Loop. These masked hikers would agree that nothing beats the curative power of nature.



April

One of 2021's biggest accomplishments was closing escrow on 117 acres overlooking Lake Hodges. In a matter of months, nearly 200 donors gave more than \$300,000 to pay the Conservancy's share of the purchase. The undisturbed habitat is home to all manner of wildlife.



May

Jeff Nordland of the Southwest Field Herping Association helped us catalogue reptiles on the newly-purchased acreage.



June

Nothing beats a good hike. Or a great photograph. Colin and MJ shot this selfie on one of their Coast to Crest Trail Challenge treks. The five-hike challenge is a mainstay of the Conservancy's recreation program.



July

Big props to volunteers from WILD Coast and Outdoor Outreach for helping us mulch and water a restoration site at River Path Del Mar.



August

Thanks again to WILD COAST and to students from the BEWiSE program at the Fleet Science Center, who learned about careers in environmental fields while tending a restoration site in Gonzalez Canyon.



September

After a yearlong delay because of the pandemic, the San Dieguito River Park hosted a public opening of its Coastal Ranger Station just east of Del Mar.



October

In Del Mar, we closed escrow on .36 acre of lagoon-fronting property to advance conservation, education and recreation with a single, \$157,000 deal. The land will provide important mitigation credit to build a final phase of River Path Del Mar from the Grand Avenue Bridge to Crest Canyon.



November

Our largest fundraising event of the year, River Valley Fest, included a performance by Hot Rocks San Diego with a guest appearance by Executive Director Trish Boaz.



December

Executive Director Trish Boaz, who built a career upon improving the intersection of nature and people, resigned on Dec. 31. During a tenure that began in 2013, Boaz secured more than \$4.5 million in grants, acquired 118 acres in open space, restored 45 acres of habitat and added six miles of trails to the River Park.

Coast to Crest Trail Challenge



Are you ready to join the ranks of the Coast to Crest Challengers? You will love the five hikes and the swag and bragging rights that come with completing the challenge!

CTC 2021-22 Details

Ted Foster



Andrew Song



George Okada



Kim Ruff

River Park News

Happy 150th, Sikes Adobe Farmhouse!



The Sikes Adobe Farmhouse, a State Point of Historic Interest and City of San Diego Historic Site, is turning 150.

The structure is one of the area's oldest adobe homes from the American era. It is a remarkable relic of San Diego's rural history and plays an important role in preserving the legacy of old California.

In 1872, Zenas and Eliza Sikes moved onto the property with their six children and soon built a one-room, adobe structure to live in. Based on Eliza's letters, we know the farmhouse reached its final dimensions by 1881.

In 1917, the house and some buildings in nearby Bernardo were purchased as part of the Lake Hodges Dam Project initiated by Col. Ed Fletcher.

Through the years, caretakers occupied the Sikes home before the San Dieguito River Park assumed its ownership. In 2004, the structure was restored to its original footprint.

In 2007, the Witch Creek Fire burned all but the adobe walls. Workers completed a historical reconstruction in 2010. Since then, the farmhouse has hosted countless tours, field trips, Scout gatherings, weddings and other events.



[Open Webpage](#)

Bring on the owls!



A new owl box is perched above the Sikes Adobe orchard courtesy of 1st grade students at High Tech High.



Joining forces for trail improvements



The San Diego Mountain Biking Association, Del Mar Rotary, JPA Board of Directors and other volunteers joined forces this month with River Park rangers to improve 1.3 miles of the Coast to Crest Trail adjoining the former polo fields at El Camino Real and Via de la Valle.

To the east, the new trail segment will arrive at a planned bridge; to the west, the segment will connect to a future undercrossing included with the City of San Diego's planned replacement of the El Camino Real Bridge.

During the work party, volunteers smoothed the trail surface for hikers, cyclists and equestrians. Future work includes trail fencing, signage and habitat restoration.

Valentine's Tea cancelled

The Friends of Sikes Adobe regret to announce the cancelation of Valentine's Teas planned for next month. Organizers look forward to returning to this and other great traditions when health authorities deem it is safe to do so. Throughout 2022, the Friends plan to host other events to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Sikes Adobe.

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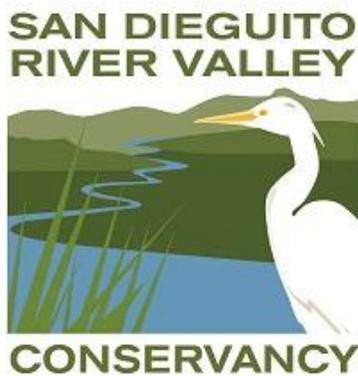
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Your donations make our programming possible. Any gift of any size translates directly into Conservation, Education and Recreation. Thank you!

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