



Top Stories



Halloween has come and gone but luckily for our ecosystems, spiders are here to stay. Spiders are pest control experts. They contribute to biodiversity and provide an important source of food for birds, reptiles and other animals. Spiders contribute to the overall stability of ecosystems and are considered an indicator species of environmental health. Photo: John Weare

Top Stories

Congrats, Peter!

Peter DeFrancesca, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy's Treasurer of 13 years, received State appreciation from Sen. Catherine Blakespear during River Valley Fest Oct. 15. We join the Senator in thanking Peter for his service and perennial good cheer.

We also thank our many, many supporters for making our annual gala a six-figure success.

River Valley Fest Thank You



Welcome aboard, Patrick!

Please join us in welcoming Patrick B. Meegan to our Board of Directors.

We appreciate Patrick's impressive experience in the financial sector and eagerness to lend his talents to our organization.



Report tracks wetlands restoration

Water quality at the San Dieguito Lagoon wetlands is in good standing. So is the density and variety of birds.

Researchers from UC Santa Barbara also conclude that the presence of exotic and invasive

species — the kind that can choke waterways and crowd out native plants — is very low.

That's all good.

When compared with other wetlands in the region, however, the San Dieguito wetlands lag in their densities of fish and invertebrates and overall vegetation cover.

Those are the findings of researchers at the Marine Science Institute at UC Santa Barbara. The scientists are monitoring conditions at the San Dieguito wetlands after a \$100 million restoration program was completed in 2011.

[Open Full Story](#)

Upstream



Nov. 4: Creekside Critters

We're excited to welcome Jeff Nordland and his rad reptiles to Creekside Critters: A Hands-on Experience for Kids and Families, 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Birdwing Open Air Classroom.

This free Speaker Series event is perfect for kids and families who love critters and want to learn more about them. Register now!

[Register](#)





Nov. 9: Walk N Talk in Ramona

Our Walk N Talk Hike for November takes us to Ramona. The hike can count for one of this year's Coast to Crest Trail Challenge hikes. Lace up and join Cheryl, Kim, Joseph and some of our board members as we explore the stunning chaparral along Santa Ysabel Creek. Meet at 9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 9.

[Register](#)

Nov. 12: Climate Change Symposium

The Coalition for Adapting to Climate Change in Del Mar is hosting a symposium on threats to coastal environments — and what people can do about them — from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 12 at the Del Mar Civic Center Town Hall, 1050 Camino Del Mar.

Sponsored by a grant from the Del Mar Foundation, the free event includes multiple speakers and a free lunch.

[Register](#)



Nov. 17: Hike with Frosted Faces in Pamo Valley

Here's something to wag about: Frosted Faces Foundation, a Ramona-based group that provides adoption services and care for senior animals, is hosting a hike to pair people with adoptable dogs from 8 to 10 a.m. Nov. 17 in Pamo Valley. The event coincides with National Hiking Day.

[Register](#)

Register



Nov. 19: Yoga at the Birdwing

Experience the magic of family yoga on the third Sunday of each month at the Birdwing Open Air Classroom. Instructor Susan McCrea leads an all-levels class designed for families to stretch, bend and have fun together, all amid the natural beauty of the San Dieguito wetlands. The next session meets at 10 a.m. Nov. 19. See you there!



Register

Downstream



Field Trip to the Wetlands

High Tech High North County 11th graders and their 3rd grade buddies visited San Dieguito Lagoon in October for a Watershed Explorer Program field trip.



Coast to Crest Trail Challenge



Sylvia Pierce and friends

Year 7 Coast to Crest Trail Challenge

Have you started the Year 7 Coast to Crest Trail Challenge?

Complete the five hikes in any order, however and whenever you'd like.

This year, we're pairing each hike with a monthly Walk N Talk.

You can hike with the group, go solo, with spouses, sweethearts, besties, kids, dogs or any combination of the above. Send us your selfies!

Find details on the Year 7 C2C Challenge Webpage.

The five hikes (and upcoming Walk N Talk dates) are:

- HIKE 1: San Dieguito Lagoon Trail
- HIKE 2: Santa Fe Valley
- HIKE 3: Sikes Adobe to the base of Bernardo Summit
- HIKE 4: Santa Ysabel Lower Truck Trail (Nov. 9)
- HIKE 5: Pamo Valley (Dec. 14)



Year 7 C2C Challenge Webpage



Willie Wachob



Karen Kissinger



Oksana Glukhikh and friends



Sherri Glidden

River Park News



Leadership Training

Senior Interpretive Ranger Leana and Interpretive Ranger Calei bring their smiles to Outdoor Recreation Leadership Training hosted by the California State Parks Office of Community Involvement. The specialized training targets recipients of Outdoor Equity Program grants.

Nov. 12: Monthly Trail Maintenance

Work with rangers to improve trails and restore habitat from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 12 in Escondido. Meet at the Ysabel Creek Trailhead Staging Area, 16414 Ysabel Creek Rd.

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!

Contact: leana@sdrp.org



Nov. 13: Interpretive Ranger Volunteer Training

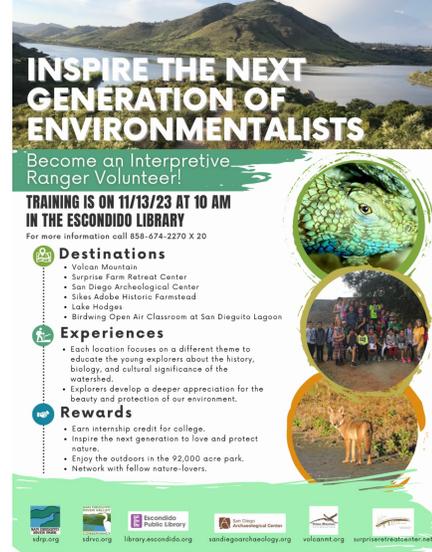
Inspire the next generation of environmentalists by becoming an interpretive ranger volunteer. We are excited to host a free volunteer training session from 10 a.m. to noon Nov. 13 at the Escondido Library, 239 S. Kalmia St., Escondido.

Volunteers can earn internship credit for college, network with fellow nature-lovers and enjoy the outdoors in the 92,000-acre park.

We can find just the right task for any volunteer. Join us!

Contact: calei@sdrp.org

[Open Flyer](#)



INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Become an Interpretive Ranger Volunteer!

TRAINING IS ON 11/13/23 AT 10 AM IN THE ESCONDIDO LIBRARY
For more information call 858-674-2270 X 20

Destinations

- Volcan Mountain
- Surprise Farm Retreat Center
- San Diego Archeological Center
- Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead
- Lake Hodges
- Birding Open Air Classroom at San Dieguito Lagoon

Experiences

- Each location focuses on a different theme to educate the young explorers about the history, biology, and cultural significance of the watershed.
- Explorers develop a deeper appreciation for the beauty and protection of our environment.

Rewards

- Earn internship credit for college.
- Inspire the next generation to love and protect nature.
- Enjoy the outdoors in the 92,000 acre park.
- Network with fellow nature-lovers.

Logos for: sdrp.org, sdrp.org, library.escondido.org, sandiegoregionarchaeology.org, volcanmt.org, surprisefarmretreatcenter.org

Dig in to the Sikes Adobe Farmstead Garden

Lend a hand to the hardworking Friends of Sikes Gardeners from 9 to 11 a.m. on the first and third Mondays and second and fourth Sundays of every month at the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead, 12655 Sunset Drive, Escondido.

Beyond sprucing up the gardens, volunteers preserve and promote the heritage of the historic Sikes Adobe.

Contact: calei@sdrp.org



History of the Walls at Sikes Farmstead

One of the first things to catch your eye when you enter the east porch and sitting room in the Sikes Farmhouse is the charming blue wallpaper sprinkled with pink roses. This pattern of wallpaper was one of several that was uncovered during the original restoration of the Sikes home in the early 2000's. The layers of paint and wallpaper uncovered during that restoration give an interesting glimpse into not only the purpose and use of each of the rooms, but also of the changing taste and style of the Sikes family from roughly 1872 through the 1880's.

[Open Full Story](#)



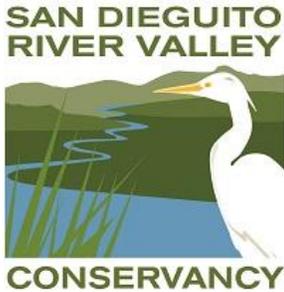
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Your donations make our programming possible. Thank you!
Photo: John Weare

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San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy | 3030 Bunker Hill Street, Ste. 309-1, San Diego, CA 92109

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