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December 2020



## Bright Horizons for River Park



We are so excited that Shawna Anderson has been named Executive Director for the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority. Shawna is advancing from her longtime position as the park's principal planner.

So much of what we love about the River Park is a direct result of Shawna's hard work. Her promotion is excellent news.

An important partner to the Conservancy, the JPA is a quasi-governmental agency that includes appointed representatives from the cities of Del Mar, Escondido, Poway, San Diego, Solana Beach, and the County of San Diego.

Congrats, Shawna!



Shawna Anderson

Open SDRP Notice

## Coast to Crest Trail Challenge



Hikers who ham it up for their selfies get extra points. So far, Phil Hwang is in the lead.



Lace up those hiking boots and join the ranks of the Coast to Crest Trail Challengers.

You can do this!



Renee Therrien stands tall on the Lusardi Loop, the westernmost of five hikes that make up the 2020-21 Coast to Crest Trail Challenge.

### CTC 2020-21 Details





Row 1, left to right: Anthony Van Roy; Cynthia Whitcomb and Dinah; George Okada; Jill Sells.  
 Row 2, left to right: Ted Foster; Thomas Whitcomb; Gail Welch; Willy Wachob.  
 Row 3, left to right: Tyner Wilson; Kristen Eng; Kyle Walker; Lisa and Monte DeBel.  
 Row 4, left to right: Ryan LaCerte; Mindy LaCerte; Carl LaCerte, Alex Warneke and Thomas Brennan.  
 Row 5, left to right: Mary Frisella; Paula Van Roy; Mary Betlejewski; Lynn Beveridge.

## Upstream

### Intern Spotlight

Introducing Shantal Piedra-Güido, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy's new intern. Shantal will be working with Conservation Manager Jonathan Appelbaum to study wildlife movement on the lands we are acquiring at Del Dios. As a UC San Diego senior, Shantal is majoring in environmental systems with an emphasis on ecology, behavior and evolution. She has worked at San Diego Zoo and volunteered in the science lab at Southwestern College. Shantal is

determined to find solutions to reverse the impact of human activities on our natural systems. Welcome aboard, Shantal!



### Through the Lens

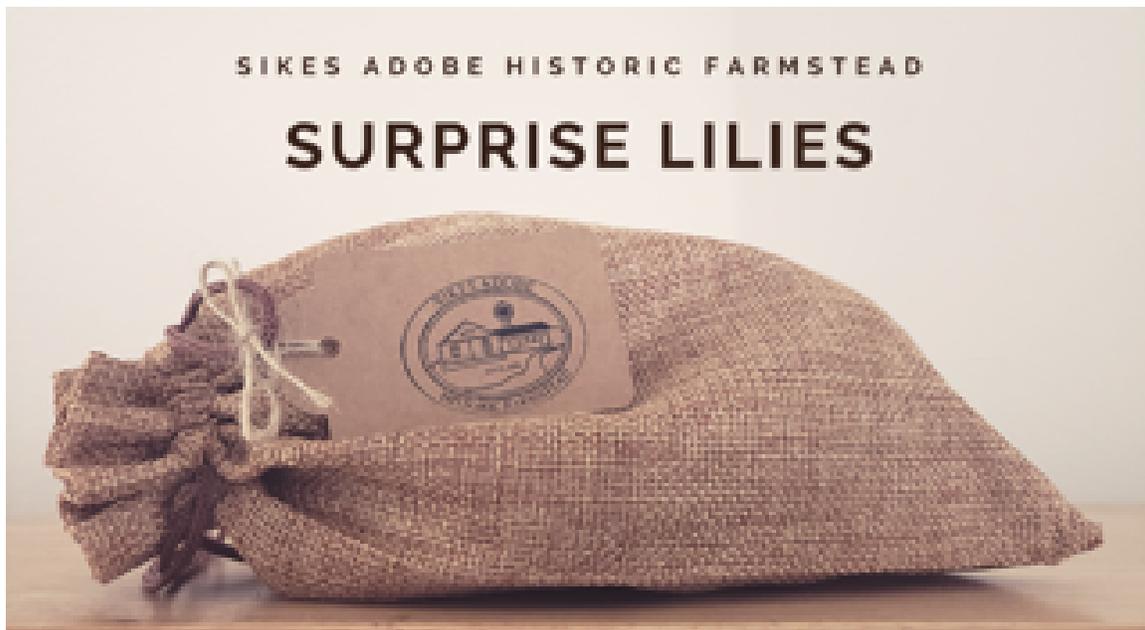
"All right, Mr. DeMille, I'm ready for my close-up."

Volcan Mountain is a long way from Sunset Boulevard, but you get the point.

Here's our photo of the month taken from one of our many wildlife cameras we have hidden throughout the river valley.

This one is positioned on the Rutherford Property on Volcan Mountain.

## River Park News



## Surprise! Grab a Sack of Surprise Lily Bulbs

Every August, visitors to Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead are surprised by the brilliant bloom of *Amaryllis belladonna*, or Surprise lilies, on the east side of the building. No one knows when these beauties were first planted. We do know settlers would often trade and plant flower bulbs because they were durable and could withstand the rigors of a wagon ride. In all likelihood, early settlers shared the bulbs with neighbors and friends near and far.

This year, to make the farmstead more accessible, we transplanted the Surprise lilies and they have multiplied abundantly. So now we are sharing bulbs with our own friends and neighbors. You can purchase our homegrown Surprise lily bulbs at the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead booth during the Sunday farmers market or by emailing: [blanca@sdrp.org](mailto:blanca@sdrp.org).

## Gingerbread Contest is Good Enough to Eat!

We can't wait to see your gingerbread creations inspired by the River Park. The Gingerbread Trail Contest is designed for people of all skill levels.

Build your gingerbread structure and photograph it by itself and with also framed up with its creators. Post the pics to Facebook or Instagram (@sandieguitoriverpark) or email them to [Leana@sdrp.org](mailto:Leana@sdrp.org).

Everything on you entry must be edible.

The top three entries will be rewarded with a River Park swag bag. Happy baking!



### Contest Details

## Support Scout Project to Expand Nursery

Please help Life Scout Tom Weston raise money for his Eagle Scout Project to upgrade and expand the Sikes Adobe Nursery.

This much-needed project will go a long way toward helping us expand our native plant propagation program.

### Support Scout Project



## Adventuresome New Caretakers

Introducing David and Kristy, the new caretakers at Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead. They're fulltime RVers who hail from Missoula, Montana. He's a retired computer programmer and systems analyst; she's a retired hospice nurse. They are parents to two young adults, Kira and Brendan. Furry family members include a McNab Border Collie, Tucker; granddog Gracie Lou, and an orange tabby, Toby.

David and Kristy spend their summers working for the US Forest Service in Lolo National Forest near Missoula. They spend winters seeking new adventures, preferably somewhere warm. David enjoys reading, fly fishing, riding his motorcycle, hiking and anything else involving the outdoors. Kristy also likes to read, is a quilter, needleworker and avid resale shopper.

Welcome aboard, David and Kristy!



## Support our Del Dios Land Acquisitions



As the 2020 tax year draws to a close -- and as we amass funding to acquire 117 acres near Lake Hodges -- there has never been a better time to donate. Leave a legacy of conservation with your gift.

For the 2020 tax year, the federal government is increasing the deductibility of your donations under provisions of the CARES Act. Learn more from your tax professional and thank you for supporting the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy.

[Learn more about the Del Dios land acquisitions](#)

Donate

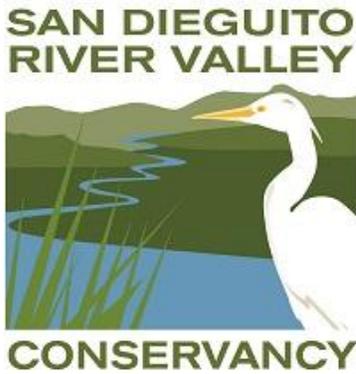
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Help boost our visibility and outstanding reputation by sharing a brief story about an experience you've had with us. Thank you!

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