



# Currents

Newsletter of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy



[www.sdrvc.org](http://www.sdrvc.org)

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## Celebrating the River Park and Conservancy Volunteers



This year's San Dieguito River Park and San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy Volunteer Appreciation Party was held at San Dieguito County Park on June 27th. Over 60 past and present volunteers attended the celebration. The River Park honored **Mario Ibarra**, **Jim McGihon**, and **Tom Brown**. The Conservancy honored **Kent VanSooy** and **Jeff Nordland** of the North American Field Herping Association, **Richard Fowler** and **Tom Trowbridge** of the Palomar Audubon Society, and **Miles McLeod**.



The River Park also gave the Volunteer of the Year Award to **Dick Bobertz**, and the Lifetime Achievement Award to **Ron Hall**.

Both the Conservancy and River Park rely heavily on the help of volunteers to aid in restoration projects and maintain the park. Without our dedicated volunteers, the River Park would not be what it is today: a beautiful, flourishing ecosystem for all to enjoy! We always appreciate our volunteers and encourage others to join our team. If you're interested in supporting the River Park, please visit our websites at [www.sdrp.org](http://www.sdrp.org) and [www.sdrvc.org](http://www.sdrvc.org).

### Mario Ibarra

An avid mountain biker and user of the River Park trail systems, Mario was one of the first to sign up for the SDRP Mountain Bike Patrol when it formed in 2013. Since then, he has logged over 160 hours of mountain bike patrol throughout the River Park.

### Jim McGihon

Jim's ingenuity and eagerness to help have made him a vital part of the River Park family. He routinely pitches in to help the River Park staff with particularly challenging problems and constantly looks for ways to improve the River Park and its open space.

### Tom Brown

After the 2007 wildfires devastated the River Park, Tom has helped the recovery in too many ways to list. Eight years later, Tom is one of the River Park's longest-serving Dirt Devils. The River Park wouldn't be what it is today without Tom's passion and love for the outdoors.

### Dick Bobertz

In July 2010, after serving as the San Dieguito River Park Executive Director for 12 years, Dick chose to take retirement, while continuing to perform the full duties of the Executive Director, to avoid SDRP layoffs and keep the park running. During his tenure, Dick helped acquire over 2,000 acres of open space, saw 32.1 miles of trails added to the Park, helped complete the David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge, and established the first north-south trail link connection at Old Coach North.

### Ron Hall

Ron has been a River Park volunteer since 1996! For 10 years, he led interpretive hikes throughout the River Park. In 2003, he began training to be a Sikes Adobe docent. He spent a year meeting over 200 Sikes family descendants to prepare a book about the family. Ron covered the costs of printing and publishing the book, which is in its 3rd edition. His generous donations over the years helped complete the Sikes Adobe Creamery and formed the core funding for "Friends of Sikes Adobe" projects.



### Kent VanSooy & Jeff Nordland – NAFHA

NAFHA has been a long-time partner of the Conservancy. Kent, former president and current board member, leads efforts to observe and analyze data on River Park herp (reptile and amphibian) species. He also led the "Herp Hike," one of our most popular Citizen Science programs to date.

Jeff, NAFHA's Education Specialist, has been involved in multiple events in the River Park, including field trips for local schools, the Citizen Science program, and the Watershed Explorers Program. His educational hikes and ability to find snakes and catch lizards has made him a student favorite.



### Richard Fowler & Tom Trowbridge – Palomar Audubon Society

Richard, Palomar Audubon's Conservation Chair, has provided invaluable expertise and support as the Conservancy developed and revised our Citizen Science bird surveys and protocol. He also serves as Volunteer Coordinator for those bird surveys. Tom is one of the Directors of Palomar Audubon, a regular volunteer with the River Park Dust Devils and the Trails Committee, and a huge help with both planning and leading our bird surveys. We have no idea where he finds the time for all of that, but we value the enthusiasm and commitment of both Richard and Tom.



### Miles McLeod

Over the past year, Miles has contributed hundreds of volunteer hours creating the Conservancy's new website, taking photos, producing videos, and developing Citizen Science and other mobile applications. In March, Miles and his cohorts at McLeod Media filmed the Boardwalk Brigade and shared the film with all our local news stations, increasing public awareness and support of our Save the Boardwalk Campaign.

## President's Message *by Peter Shapiro*



It's been an exciting summer for the Conservancy and the River Park—most notably from being chosen to participate in REI's Every Trail Connects campaign, which you'll read more about in this issue. The \$43,825 we earned from the campaign will help us complete new segments of the Coast to Crest Trail,

which is wonderful. But I'm really drawn to the idea behind it, summed up in the line "Every Trail Connects."

The River Park gives us such a unique opportunity to see this in action, as our trail system literally connects different communities across the county. The trails also connect ecosystems and habitats ranging from coastal to riparian to chaparral to desert. And, perhaps most importantly, they connect people—to nature and to communities. I think we can all agree that connected communities are strong communities and, as we see in the River Park JPA, we are able to preserve, protect, restore, and connect more open space than any one organization or city could do on its own!

We also talk a lot about the importance of connecting people to nature. Our trails are the most important conduit we have to the outdoors. As our partners at REI say, "A life outdoors is a life well-lived." It seems like every month we see new research about how important and beneficial it is for us to spend time in nature, like the recent blog from the *New York Times* about how walking in green spaces improves mental health.

What else do trails connect us to? How about our past? I know when I take a walk or hike in the River Park, I recall great memories of hikes I've taken all over the world. So, I'm very proud the Conservancy was selected to take part in REI's campaign and, of course, grateful for your support in getting our Coast to Crest Trail funding! Happy trails to you!

## Introducing Kevin McKernan, San Dieguito River Park Executive Director

The Board of Directors of the SDRP JPA selected Kevin McKernan as the new Executive Director this spring. We're excited to work with him in the River Park!



### What did you do before joining Team San Dieguito?

I'm a native Southern Californian, growing up around the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, but I also spent 20 years of my career up in Humboldt County. I got a degree from Humboldt State in Natural Resource Recreation Management and worked for two different tribes up on the North Coast and nonprofit conservation organizations.

I came back to Southern California about five years ago. My most recent position was with the San Diego River Conservancy. When the SDRP Executive Director opening came up, I thought it would be a good opportunity to get out of state government and back into local government, bringing my skills and experience from my years serving in different organizations.

Between my leadership experience in natural resource management and my recreational development background, plus a strong interest in water source management, hydrology, and rivers, I feel like I've been molded to fit this role.

### What are you hoping to accomplish in the River Park?

One of the organization's main goals has been and will continue to be completing the Coast to Crest trail. Another big priority of mine will be getting our organization more integrated with our partner agencies that make up the JPA. Our supporters and constituents know we're doing good things, but not everyone else knows or sees that. We've started rebuilding those relationships, and I want to keep those agencies involved in our decision-making.

I also plan to use my experience to manage the River Park's finances and stay within budget to ensure the organization will be able to protect the watershed for years to come.

Finally, having fun! Part of why I wanted this job is that we actually have people on the ground doing stuff and we have a big chunk of land to manage. In my last role I was more involved in planning and funding projects, but I like getting back out on the land and working with the staff, volunteers, and supporters.

### Do you have a favorite part of the River Park?

I'm really drawn to the backcountry portions of the River Park. I like the Santa Ysabel area. And I'm a surfer, so the coast has always been where my heart is.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Executive Director*

*Jess Norton*

*Conservation Manager*

*Allison Keltner*

*Editor*

### LAYOUT & PRINTING

*The Printer's Circle*

## The Conservancy is a Top-Rated Nonprofit!



We are thrilled and grateful that, thanks to reviews from our fans and supporters, Great Nonprofits is featuring the Conservancy on its 2015 Top-Rated List! We're very proud of this and intend to keep earning your positive reviews and high ratings! You can read our reviews (and leave your own) at [sdrvc.org/gnp2015](http://sdrvc.org/gnp2015).



# SPECIAL GIFT RECOGNITION: March 27, 2015 – August 4, 2015

Thank You for supporting our work in conservation, education, and recreation in the San Dieguito River Valley.

## \$10,000 or more

Peter House & Carol Childs  
The William and Ruth  
Tippett Foundation  
The San Diego Foundation  
Walter J. & Betty C.  
Zable Foundation

## \$5,000 or more

REI  
Martin & Carol Dickinson  
Bill & Susan Hoehn

## \$2,000 or more

Palomar Audubon Society  
Alex & Christine Sherer  
Keith & Renee Kelman

## \$1,000 or more

Colwell Family  
Distributable Fund  
Louise Keeling  
Katharine & Stein Lundby  
Jan & Robert McMillan  
Kim Godwin & Tom Wilcox

## \$1,000 or more (cont.)

Bonnie Hepburn  
Susan Lenz

## \$500 or more

Norrine Jardin  
Simon Chiu  
Keith & Sue Colestock  
Carl Crider  
Sharon Marshall  
Kevin McKernan  
Dan & Carolyn  
David & Kathy Becker Waxfield

## \$500 or more (cont.)

John & Kim Wu  
Chris Khoury & Linda Corey

## \$250 or more

Chris & Jim Anderson  
Don Fosket  
Elizabeth Gabrych  
Lee Haydu  
John & Carol Kerridge  
Julie Schneider Ljubenkov  
Mary Lueking  
Alice McCauley

## \$250 or more (cont.)

Bill Michalsky  
Donna Thal  
Howard Weiner  
Keri Woodward  
Chalice Unitarian  
Universalist Congregation  
David & Jane Lesley  
Gilbert & Judith Kunkel  
Karen & Wolf Berger  
Lifetime Members  
Marjorie Jarvis

## Grant Announcements



**Palomar Audubon Society**  
**\$2,000** for the San Dieguito  
Citizen Science Monitoring Program



**Del Mar Foundation**  
**\$6,000** for the River Path Del Mar



**REI**  
**\$7,000** for the River Path Del Mar



**The William and Ruth Tippett Foundation**  
**\$20,000** for the River Path Del Mar



**Walter J. & Betty C. Zable Foundation**  
**\$20,000** for the River Path Del Mar



**The San Diego Foundation**  
**\$53,500** Opening the Outdoors Grant for the  
San Dieguito Watershed Explorers Program

## More Progress on River Path Del Mar Project



The Del Mar Planning Commission recommended approval of the River Path Del Mar project and environmental review document at its meeting in May. The project was then presented to the Del Mar City Council in June, and the conditional use permit was approved. The California Coastal Commission hearing has been postponed to its September meeting. Construction is scheduled to start in

October once all the required approvals are received. The River Path extension should be completed by the end of this year.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$475,000. This cost includes project design, entitlements and easement acquisition, environmental review and mitigation, and construction. Currently, over 60% has been committed through a \$150,000 grant provided by San Diego County District 3 Supervisor Dave Roberts' office, \$73,000 in private donations, \$54,500 in grants received by the Conservancy (\$20,000 from the Zable Foundation, \$20,000 from the Tippett Foundation, \$7,000 from REI, \$6,000 from the Del Mar Foundation, and \$1,500 from the California 10/20 Race), and \$35,000 through the City of Del Mar, including a \$5,000 grant from the Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley.

**We are still raising funds to match the \$150,000 grant from the County! Please visit [sdrcv.org/riverpath](http://sdrcv.org/riverpath) to donate!**

## Solana Beach Community Grant Supports Boys & Girls Club Event



Thanks to the City of Solana Beach Community Grant we received in January, the Conservancy and River Park expanded our Connecting People with Nature program to the La Colonia Branch of the Boys & Girls Club. On August 3rd, we hosted 120 club members at the Birdwing Open Air Classroom for a fun afternoon of art and nature education.



These students, ranging from kindergarten through high school, learned about animal tracks and skulls, examined a snakeskin under a microscope, and made their own

seed balls with native plants. They also created their own nature art and competed in a Lagoon Detective scavenger hunt.

Special thanks to all our great volunteers that helped make this event a great success!

## San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project Annual Report

On May 11th, a public workshop was conducted by California Coastal Commission (CCC) staff and contract scientists to present the 2014 results of the CCC monitoring program for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) wetland mitigation project.

The performance of the San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration is evaluated against both absolute standards, which are evaluated only at San Dieguito, and relative standards, which require San Dieguito to perform at least as well as the poorest performing of three natural reference wetlands. The San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration met four of the five absolute standards in 2014, but failed to meet the habitat area standard, which requires areas of subtidal, mudflat, and salt marsh habitat to be within 10% of the habitat areas specified in the final design. Failure to meet this standard was due primarily to insufficient acreage of salt marsh habitat, which in 2014 was about half of the area specified in the final design.

The restoration met all the relative standards, performing better than the Tijuana Estuary reference site, despite findings that the coverage of salt marsh vegetation and the abundance and species richness of macroinvertebrates was lower than at the reference wetlands. Moreover, recent observations of recruitment of salt marsh vegetation and cordgrass (habitat for endangered Clapper rails) throughout the Restoration provide hopeful signs that the area of suitable salt marsh habitat and the coverage of salt marsh vegetation is on the increase.

Overall, these results are encouraging, as 2014 is only the third year following completion of the final construction of the Restoration. We will continue to closely watch macroinvertebrate density, species richness, and the cover of salt marsh vegetation to determine whether their low values are due to mechanisms other than normal time lags in wetland development.



# Every Trail Connects: Conservancy Participates in Innovative REI Trails Campaign



In August, REI invited the outdoor community to connect with 10 inspiring trails around the country, including the Coast to Crest Trail. REI is investing \$500,000 in those trails and let its community decide how to distribute those funds by voting for their favorite trails.

The campaign was scheduled to last six weeks, from August 14th through National Public Lands Day on September 26th. But thanks to passionate supporters and fast voters, all \$500,000 was earmarked in less than 48 hours! The Conservancy earned **\$43,825** from REI, which will support the completion of the 12-mile segment of the Coast to Crest Trail at Pamo Valley and help build two new trailheads to improve access. **THANK YOU** to everyone who voted for the Coast to Crest Trail on August 14th and 15th!

## National Public Lands Day Service Project with REI

Even though the voting is complete, Every Trail Connects isn't over! We are partnering with REI for a service project on National Public Lands Day—September 26th. Join us at the San Dieguito Lagoon Viewpoint at Old Grand Ave. Bridge to help clean up vegetation and debris in preparation for the construction of the River Path Del Mar extension! Visit [sdrv.org/s/rei](http://sdrv.org/s/rei) for details and to sign up!

Photo credit: Miles McLeod

## Conservancy President Peter Shapiro Nominated as One of 20 “Men Who Impact San Diego”

Congratulations to Conservancy President Peter Shapiro, who has been nominated as one of 20 “Men Who Impact San Diego” in the August issue of SD Metro!

This is no surprise to us—thanks to Peter's leadership, guidance, and hands-on participation, the Conservancy has built momentum for its conservation, education, and recreation programs, ensuring future generations will be able to enjoy the San Dieguito River Valley.

Please join us in congratulating Peter!

## Trish Boaz Named Finalist for 2015 Woman of the Year Award

Our Executive Director, Trish Boaz, was named a finalist for the San Diego Magazine's 2015 Woman of the Year Award. Trish is a proven leader who exemplifies the values of the Conservancy. In just two years, she has moved Conservancy programs forward at lightning speed.

People are taking notice of the Conservancy's recent accomplishments, including our successful effort to Save the San Dieguito Boardwalk. Trish is building on this momentum by generating new and reinvigorating existing partnerships with government, nonprofit, corporate, and media partners for the Conservancy's conservation, education, and recreation programs.

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy congratulates Trish on this prestigious recognition!



# Volunteering All Over the River Park



## Chalice Unitarian Congregation Restores Habitat in Del Dios Gorge

In April, members of the Chalice Unitarian Congregation helped the Conservancy and Rincon Consultants remove nonnative, invasive weeds from one of the

habitat restoration sites within the Del Dios Gorge.

Chalice Unitarian also collected donations from their members and donated \$275 to the Conservancy for future restoration projects!



## Eagle Creek Travel Gear Beautifies Sikes Adobe

Eagle Creek Travel Gear brought a crew to the Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead in April, where they weeded the peach orchard and northwest field and sanded and stained the picket fence. The

Farmstead looks wonderful thanks to their enthusiastic and hard work!



## Rotary Clubs Landscape at the Lagoon

The Del Mar and Rancho Santa Fe Rotary Clubs brought over 20 members to the San Dieguito Lagoon in April to complete some awesome landscaping on the trail along San Andres Drive. Not only

did they make trail look beautiful, each club made a donation of \$500!



## National Charity League First Volunteering Event

On June 19th, the Conservancy hosted the first in a series of habitat restoration events with the National Charity League (NCL). Four young ladies came out and helped us weed the planting site at the lagoon pond.

In just under two hours they filled 10 large trash bags full of weeds! We look forward to future events with this group!

# Upcoming Events: September – November



## Yoga at the Birdwing Open Air Classroom

*Sundays, September 20th, October 18th, and November 15th at 10:00 am*

Join us for a rejuvenating coastal yoga session at the San Dieguito Lagoon Birdwing Open Air Classroom with instructor Susan McCrea! All yoga levels welcome. Bring your own mat.



## Full Moon Hike: San Dieguito Lagoon

*Sunday, September 27th from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm*

Join us for a family-friendly hike by the light of the moon along the berm surrounded by the San Dieguito Lagoon—a special treat! Don't forget your flashlights! Dogs on leash are welcome! Register at [sdrvc.org/s/fullmoon](http://sdrvc.org/s/fullmoon).



## 6th Annual River Valley Fest – Connecting Communities

*Sunday, October 11th from 2:00 to Sunset*

Our biggest event of the year is happening at Morgan Run Club & Resort on Sunday, October 11th! Don't miss a gourmet buffet by Morgan Run, delicious desserts from Claire's on Cedros, live entertainment from guitarist Bill Fleming and keyboardist Kevin McCully, and silent and live auctions led by auctioneer extraordinaire Steve Hamann!

RSVP/Sponsor: [sdrvc.org/s/rvf1](http://sdrvc.org/s/rvf1)  
Volunteer: [sdrvc.org/s/rvf2](http://sdrvc.org/s/rvf2)



## Exec Trek: Santa Ysabel Preserve East

*Saturday, October 24th from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm*

Join Executive Director Trish Boaz for a 5-mile hike in the beautiful Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve East. We will be traversing the scenic Kanaka Loop Trail. This hike is rated "easy to strenuous." Register at [sdrvc.org/s/exectrek](http://sdrvc.org/s/exectrek).



## Furry Friend Hike at Bernardo Bay

*Saturday, November 21st at 8:30 am*

Bring your dog and a donation for the Helen Woodward Animal Shelter (dry/canned food and treats are high-demand items; fleece blankets, towels, and dog toys are also welcome) and join us for a family-friendly 2-mile hike with our furry friends at the Bernardo Bay Trail, with a detour across the David Kreitzer Lake Hodges Bicycle Pedestrian Bridge, the longest stress ribbon bridge in the world! Register at [sdrvc.org/s/ffh](http://sdrvc.org/s/ffh).

Join the San Dieguito River Valley Explorers Meetup group ([sdrvc.org/explorers](http://sdrvc.org/explorers)) to get the latest updates on all our events!



# Executive Director's Letter



by Trish Boaz

## We're Celebrating Communities and Making Strides!

We can't believe it has been almost a year since our last River Valley Fest. And what an exciting year it was! Thanks to all of you, we have made huge strides in our conservation, education, and recreation programs. Your continued support is why the stars are aligned and shining bright for the future of the Conservancy! Let's look back at some of the highlights of what we have accomplished together during these past months. We look forward to sharing our plans for the upcoming year with you at the **6th Annual River Valley Fest** on October 11th at Morgan Run Club & Resort—let's celebrate!

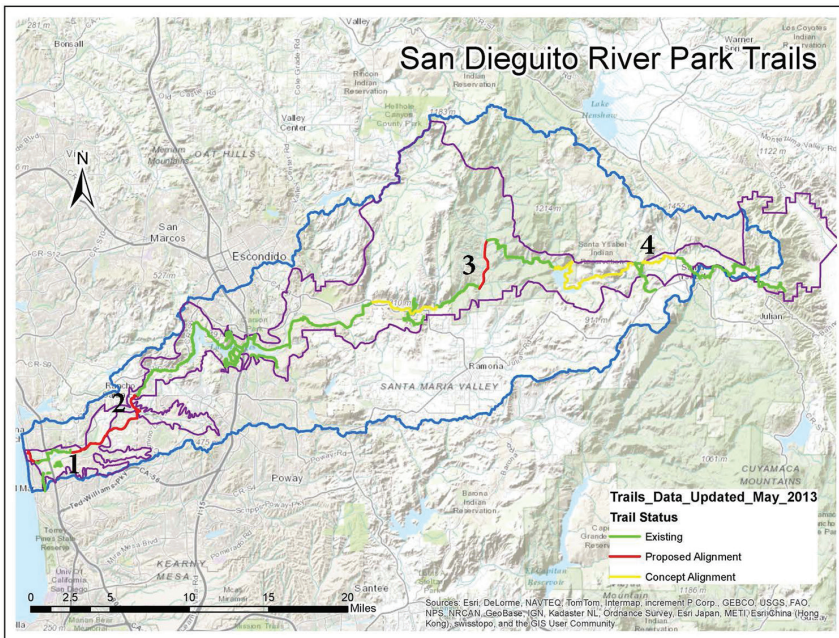
### Conservation

We partnered with the River Park and other agencies to strategically and sustainably combat invasive species and restore habitat throughout the San Dieguito watershed through grant funding, volunteer events, and public education. Current Conservancy invasive control and restoration projects are located at **Bernardo Mountain**, **Crest Canyon**, the **Lagoon Pond** adjacent to the San Dieguito Lagoon/Estuary complex, **Lake Hodges**, the **Del Dios Gorge**, and **Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve West**.

### Recreation

One of our biggest challenges this year was the California Coastal Commission's March 2015 decision to remove the San Dieguito Lagoon Boardwalk. **The Boardwalk Brigade** came out in full force on March 21st, with almost 200 supporters rallying to save the boardwalk. The Coastal Commission heard our message and we reached an unprecedented compromise that saves approximately 600 feet of the Boardwalk. Additionally, a missing segment of the Coast to Crest Trail, to be built by the 22nd District Agricultural Association as a requirement of their wetland restoration project, will be completed in the spring of 2016.

Several segments of the **Coast to Crest Trail** are closer to connecting communities throughout the watershed (the numbers refer to those on map):



### Polo Fields to Santa Fe Valley Segment

1. A feasibility study was funded by the Conservancy to determine the best option for a bridge crossing at Osuna Valley near Morgan Run. We will share the results of the feasibility study with you in a future issue of Currents.
2. The Rancho Santa Fe Association and the River Park are finalizing negotiations for a trail easement on property owned by the Association near Lusardi Creek.

### Boden Canyon to Lake Sutherland Segment

3. The River Park is finalizing its permit requirements for the Pamo Valley segment with the City of San Diego, which will connect the Upper Santa Ysabel Truck Trail with the Lower Santa Ysabel Truck Trail.

### Santa Ysabel to Highway 79

4. The County of San Diego is purchasing land at Santa Ysabel that will accommodate a segment of the Coast to Crest Trail, that is planned to connect Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve West to Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve East.

continued on back page

# Citizen Science Update: One Year of Citizen Science in the River Park

August marks the first anniversary of the San Dieguito Citizen Science Monitoring Program. Thanks to our generous funders and community partners, over the past year we successfully developed protocol, implemented 12 survey events, and shared our data with our regional partners.

A total of 150 Citizen Scientists completed an Argentine ant survey, a wildlife tracking outreach program, wildlife camera surveys, reptile and amphibian surveys, bird surveys, rare plant monitoring, and a botanical survey at the River Park Headquarters. These surveys detected 172 plants and 84 animals, including eight invertebrates, nine mammals, 53 birds, 10 reptiles, and one amphibian. You can find complete lists of observed species and wildlife camera photos on our website at [sdrvc.org/cs\\_results](http://sdrvc.org/cs_results).

This fall, we'll start the next round of surveys at Bernardo Mountain. If you would like to become a Citizen Scientist for a day or longer, we'd love to have your help! Volunteers are needed to review wildlife camera photos, conduct bird surveys, assist with educational events, and join the tracking team. Please visit our website or contact Conservation Manager Jess Norton at [jess@sdrvc.org](mailto:jess@sdrvc.org) for more information. You can also watch for upcoming events on our Facebook page and San Dieguito River Valley Explorers Meetup group ([sdrvc.org/explorers](http://sdrvc.org/explorers)).

## THANKS TO ALL OUR CITIZEN SCIENCE FUNDERS AND PARTNERS:



## DID YOU KNOW?

The San Dieguito Watershed is home to:

- 15 sensitive habitats
- 54 sensitive plants
- 77 sensitive wildlife species

(Reference: San Dieguito Watershed Management Plan, 2006)





# High Tech Elementary San Marcos Students/Citizen Scientists Create Art to Benefit the Conservancy



In February, Ms. Shelly Glenn Lee's 5th grade class from High Tech Elementary in San Marcos joined our ranks of Citizen Scientists. These students joined us for a hands-on field day, conducted plant transects, and reviewed wildlife camera photos to collect species occurrence data in the River Park. Each student also conducted research and created a piece of art based on a locally sensitive animal of their choosing.

But the story doesn't end there: the students came up with a plan to use their artwork to help raise funds for the Conservancy and the Citizen Science Program. They created t-shirts and bags with their Andy Warhol-inspired masterpieces and sold them at the school. They donated the proceeds, totaling \$145, to the Conservancy on June 19th. To thank these amazing students and Ms. Lee, we created Conservancy gear with their artwork in our online store (found at [sdrvc.org/s/store](http://sdrvc.org/s/store)). A portion of the proceeds from the sale of these items will be donated back to the school to support their Citizen Science curriculum with the Conservancy.

## Summer Exec Treks

Our summer Exec Treks have been a hit! Hikers joined Conservancy Executive Director Trish Boaz at the San Dieguito Lagoon in June and at Volcan Mountain (our most popular hike to date) in July.

We look forward to continuing these treks — join us at Santa Ysabel Open Space Preserve East in October!



Photo credit: Carol Carr

## Dedication of Peter Douglas Wetlands



An interpretive panel honoring Peter Douglas (1942-2012) was placed overlooking the San Dieguito Lagoon on August 11th. Peter was the principal author of the grass roots proposition that created the California Coastal Commission in 1972 and led to the subsequent Coastal Act in 1976. He later became the Executive Director of the California Coastal

Commission, a post he held from 1985-2011, where he was a fierce and often controversial guardian of the state's 1,100-mile shoreline.

Over 40 people attended the ceremony. Speakers included Don Mosier (Chair of the JPA Board of Directors), Peter Shapiro (Conservancy President) Trish Boaz (Conservancy Executive Director), Adam Birnbaum (City of Del Mar Planning Manager), Serge Dedina (City of Imperial Beach Mayor & Executive Director of Wildcoast), Susan Hansch (Coastal Commission Chief Deputy Director), Diane Coombs (San Dieguito River Park), Dwight Worden (City of Del Mar Councilmember), and Jacqueline Winterer (Friends of the San Dieguito River Valley).

Several current and past staff of the Coastal Commission joined in saluting Peter, a man they admired and miss. We encourage you to stop and take time to read the new plaque installed to the right of the entrance to the staging area off San Andres Drive. It is a fitting tribute to a man who contributed so much to the San Dieguito River Park.

## Sport Your Conservancy Gear on the Trails (and Everywhere Else)!



Our online store for Conservancy clothing, accessories, and gear is open! Check it out at [sdrvc.org/s/store](http://sdrvc.org/s/store)!



We have clothing and accessories for every member of the family (including four-legged ones), gift items, and essentials for River Park explorers. Your purchases help support our conservation, education, and recreation programs.

## Donate and Receive River Park Apparel!

The River Park's online store features shirts, hoodies, jackets, trail accessories, and books. Make your tax-deductible donation and show off your River Park gear! All proceeds support volunteer programs in the River Park. Check it out at [sdrvc.org/s/sdrpstore](http://sdrvc.org/s/sdrpstore).



Spring 2015

SAN DIEGUITO  
RIVER VALLEY



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The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating the development of recreational multi-use trails in the 92,000-acre San Dieguito River Park, preserving and restoring native ecosystems, and educating the public about our precious natural resources.

## You are invited to the 6th Annual River Valley Fest!

Join us at Morgan Run Club & Resort on Sunday, October 11th

THE SAN DIEGUITO RIVER VALLEY CONSERVANCY INVITES YOU TO

*The sixth annual*

# RIVER VALLEY FEST

*Connecting Communities*

CELEBRATING 29 YEARS OF CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND RECREATION

## SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY OCTOBER 11, 2015, 2:00P.M.  
MORGAN RUN CLUB & RESORT



For more information, including sponsorship opportunities  
visit [www.sdrvc.org/rivervalleyfest](http://www.sdrvc.org/rivervalleyfest)

Delicious buffet prepared by **Morgan Run Club & Resort**

Irresistible desserts by **Claire's on Cedros**

Silent and live auctions by **Auctioneer Extraordinaire Steve Hamann**

Live entertainment by **Bill Fleming** and **Kevin McCully**

Register or sponsor at [sdrvc.org/s/rvf1](http://sdrvc.org/s/rvf1).

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### Education

The Conservancy and its education partners, the River Park, Volcan Mountain Foundation, and the San Diego Archaeological Center, developed the **San Dieguito River Watershed Explorers Program**. The Conservancy was awarded **\$53,500** from the "Opening the Outdoors" grant program of The San Diego Foundation to purchase a 15-passenger van for the program.

Our **Citizen Science Monitoring Program** continues to grow and gain momentum. Under the leadership of Jess Norton, 150 Citizen Scientists have surveyed Argentine ants, birds, rare plants, reptiles and amphibians, and tracked wildlife throughout the River Park. Read more about this program in this issue's Citizen Science Update.