

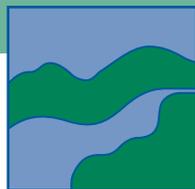
SAN DIEGUITO

RIVER PARK

newsletter

fall 2003

volume 12, issue 2



RiverScape

Sikes Adobe Farmstead Restoration Underway!

By Susan Carter, Deputy Director

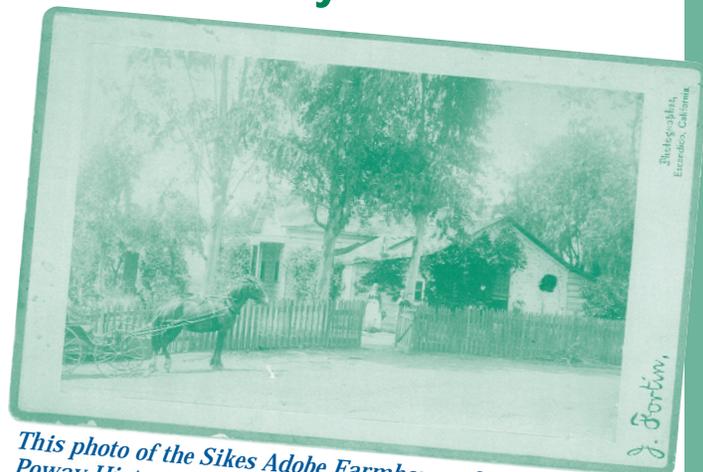
Restoration of the Sikes Adobe Farmstead is well underway. At this time we are restoring only the farmhouse. Mark Sauer Construction, a firm that is experienced in working with historic adobe structures, began work in late March and is expected to complete the job at the end of September. (The adobe, home of 19th century settlers Zenas and Eliza Sikes, is located south of Escondido's Westfield Shoppingtown mall and at the beginning of the Mule Hill Trail.) Other features of the farmstead site will be restored or replicated in the future when funds are obtained.

A number of interesting discoveries have been made during the reconstruction process. For example, we learned that the adobe's original floor was earthen. Historians Stephen Van Wormer and Susan Walter found that the family dug about a foot deep down to the clay layer, then smoothed it out and spread a mud plaster on it. They later added a wood floor, but only the joists of that original floor remain.

You can keep track of the restoration on our Web site at www.sdrp.org where photos of the construction progress are being posted.

The San Diego County Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America has taken on the responsibility for furnishing the interior of the farmhouse. The committee is preparing a Historic Furnishings Report to identify what type of furniture is appropriate for the time and income level of the Sikes family during the period of significance (roughly 1870-1890).

Colonial Dames volunteers have also been researching the Sikes family genealogy and have traced Zenas Sikes' family back eight generations to 1620 in Westhampton, Massachusetts. Zenas came west with his two brothers during the Gold Rush. Eliza's stepfather also headed to California from Ohio in 1849. Eliza and her stepmother and siblings joined him in California in 1853 after a voyage on the ship Westward Ho from Boston around Cape Horn. It was in California that she met and married Zenas.



This photo of the Sikes Adobe Farmhouse, discovered at the Poway Historical Society, dates to about 1885-1890.

This was a discovery for the researchers, who previously thought they had married in Ohio and had come west together.

Long-term goals for the Sikes Adobe Farmstead are:

- **Open the Sikes Adobe Farmhouse as a museum and educate the public about the pioneer farming experience via docent-led tours.**
- **Furnish the house with time- and context-appropriate furnishings, appliances, goods, decorative arts and clothing.**
- **Restore the creamery, corral, gardens, wheat fields and expand the tours to encompass these elements.**
- **Nominate the Sikes Adobe Farmstead to the National Register of Historic Places.**
- **Create a "Friends of the Sikes Adobe Farmstead" support and fund-raising group.**

One task we'll be working on in the near future is an interpretive narrative for docents as they talk to the public about the Sikes Adobe Farmstead. Docent tours will begin at the end of September when the restored house is opened to the public. If you are interested in becoming a docent for the Farmstead, or if you are interested in becoming a Founding Member of the Friends of the Sikes Adobe Farmstead, please contact the River Park at 858-674-2270.

Save the Date – 9/28!

Don't miss the 10th Annual San Dieguito River Park Family Hike and Trail Run on Sunday, September 28! It's your wonderful opportunity to enjoy the Park trails, spend time with family and friends, PLUS help raise money for the Park. **100% of proceeds goes toward Park programs.**

Thanks to our sponsors: **Qualcomm, Hodges Golf, San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, Smooth Jazz 98.1, Westfield Shoppingtown**



North County, Pizza Port, North County Times, Henry's Marketplace.

To register: www.sdrp.org/trailrun, www.active.com, 858-674-2275 x 14

River Park Milestone

San Dieguito River Park has made great progress on the ground with more than 17 miles of the Coast to Crest trail completed. You can now hike, bicycle, or ride your horse uninterrupted from the Lake Hodges Dam east to the intersection of Highway 78 and Bandy Canyon Road. More than \$60 million worth of projects such as the Sikes Adobe and the San Dieguito Lagoon restoration projects are underway or about to start, and properties are being acquired to extend the trail its intended 55-mile length.

All this progress has resulted in achieving another milestone, this one institutional: recognition by the State of California as one of only 26 existing or planned long-distance trail routes with statewide significance. The newest edition of the California Recreational Trails Plan includes the San Dieguito River Park Coast to Crest Trail.

The Trails Plan emphasizes the benefits of trails including health, recreation, transportation, clean air, social, economic, educational, energy conservation and resource protection. It can be accessed at www.parks.ca.gov. Click on Planning under Other Links.

Tie to Poway Trails Secured

Soon a new trail will connect the River Park's Coast to Crest Trail with the City of Poway's well-known trail system, via Poway's new Heritage Estates home development project. One goal in the Concept Plan for the River Park is to connect the Coast to Crest Trail to other park facilities and trails, providing non-motorized means of travel around the County. A Poway connection was specifically proposed in the Concept Plan. When Poway approved the Heritage Estates project, the City required the developer to construct a regional trail connection. Permits for the connection will be required from the City of San Diego because a portion of the trail will cross property owned by San Diego.

Our Generous Friends

Mark Collins, of **Evergreen Nursery**, has been a good friend to the River Park. In the past year he provided equipment and a driver to help Park rangers grade the Highway 78/Bandy Canyon Road staging area; he donated a large number of native plant species to be put in appropriate areas in the valley; and he has agreed to allow a trail connection to cross his Highland Valley Road operation to enable the Poway trail connection described above. The Park has benefited greatly from these actions, and we extend our thanks to Mark for his cheerful, supportive attitude. (Phone 858-485-7867)



And thank you, **Bitterroot Restoration** for donating over 600 native plants to the Park for restoration projects! Bitterroot is at 10459 Roselle St., Ste B, San Diego, 92121, 858-546-1980.



Lake Hodges Bridge Delayed

Construction of the Lake Hodges Bicycle/Pedestrian bridge will not begin this fall, as previously reported. A year's delay has been caused by federal requirements for the environmental process and by resulting ripple effects on when we can obtain required permits. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is being prepared and circulated for federal review. We now anticipate that a joint Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and EA will be distributed for public review in January 2004, with construction to begin mid-September 2004 after next summer's bird nesting season.

Park Receives \$25,000 Grant

The River Park received a Wetland Recovery Project Small Program Grant of \$25,000. This will be used to clean up materials that were dumped over a

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Controversy Stalls Mitigation

By Dick Bobertz, Executive Director

Those of you who have been awaiting implementation of the San Dieguito Lagoon restoration project know that it has been stymied for several years as a result of litigation. An ongoing controversy between Sandy Lane homeowners and the San Dieguito River Park concerns the relationship between opening the San Dieguito River mouth to the ocean and the amount of sand available to maintain Del Mar beaches. The Sandy Lane homeowners have residences located on the beach on the south side of the river that are currently in jeopardy from winter storm wave action and river mouth flooding. That is because the houses were built in an area of known natural hazard.

Understandably, they would be concerned because their homes are at risk now, and the long-term prognosis for beaches all along the California Coast is poor. The natural sand supply that used to nourish beaches after erosion from winter storms has been intercepted by flood control projects and dams built in the 1900s. It is estimated that the total cumulative deficit of sand yield to our San Diego County beaches as a consequence of damming of rivers between Dana Point and La Jolla is 27 million cubic yards.

So, it is fair and reasonable to question if the proposed river mouth opening could have any effect on the limited sand now available to maintain the adjacent Del Mar beach. But it is not fair or reasonable to mislead the public about credible information on the record that does not happen to support a particular assertion.

Sandy Lane homeowners have established a tax-

News

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period of years in a portion of Santa Ysabel Creek in San Pasqual Valley. Removal of these materials will help restore the natural vitality of that riparian area.

Crosby Estate Trail Guaranteed

Permanent maintenance of the Starwood/Crosby Estate trail section is assured under an agreement between the Park Board and the Starwood developer of the Crosby Estate. As a condition of Crosby project approvals, Starwood was required to construct the trail and was to begin construction this summer.

The River Park accepted permanent maintenance responsibility in return for an endowment from Starwood. Income the endowment will accrue could be used to replace the trail in the future if it were to be damaged or demolished by floodwaters.

exempt organization called "Save the Beach" that has been flooding the Del Mar area with misleading information designed to alarm the public (and solicit contributions). Don't take my word for it that their information is misleading; you decide. For example:

The Save the Beach literature and Web site consistently try to cause alarm by reporting "The basins would be kept permanently open to the ocean through a 130-foot wide, 8-foot deep channel dredged through the heart of Del Mar beach." Using a handout distributed at a recent community group meeting, a Save the Beach representative attacked a Southern California Edison statement that the permanent channel at the river mouth would be only 2 or 3 feet deep as an "Edison Distortion" and cited a page in the Environmental Impact Report as proof of their 8-foot depth assertion.

What does that EIR page actually say about the river mouth depth? It says, "The design inlet channel depth east of the inlet sill would be about 3.3 feet below MSL (about -3 feet NGVD) across most of the inlet width. This is equivalent to water column depths ranging from about 1.4 to 3 feet under MSL conditions." (p.4.10-1) Where do they get the 8-foot depth assertion? Well, the next sentence in the EIR is "Extreme maximum high tides (e.g., those that occur perhaps once in 10 years) could result in even deeper water (e.g., as high as 8 feet) in the inlet for short periods of time."

Save the Beach has also tried to convince the public that other scientists disagree with the scientific studies used to design the project. Their literature asserts: "...evidence was uncovered that all of Edison's scientific experts unanimously agreed that the models used by Edison to predict beach impacts were unreliable, that '(s)ignificant and wholly unforecasted damage' to Del Mar beaches could occur...." That quote was selectively edited from an April 21, 1998 report from Professor Ashish J. Mehta. The actual sentence he wrote was: "Significant and wholly unforecasted damage to sea defenses have been reported along the famous beaches of Rio de Janeiro." His report and the other reports referenced in Save the Beach literature was directed at the necessity of monitoring in order to keep the river mouth open. That suggested monitoring was subsequently adopted as part of the project. All the scientific peer review reports complemented the analysis done for the project.

The only report by a scientist (Dr. Gregory

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The Nature of Natives

By Carrie Hammond, Events & Volunteer Coordinator

When you explore River Park trails, you pass through an ecological storybook encompassing many changes over time. Within each of the four main ecosystems represented in the Park there is a tale to tell, linked together by the plants.

However, if you were to have hiked or lived in this area hundreds of years ago, before the surge of settlers and introduction of non-native species of plants, the landscape would have looked quite different.

Native plants evolve over thousands of years in a particular area. They adapt to a specific region ensuring their long-term survival, finding their perfect niche in a habitat. Their adaptation is based on the temperature, water availability, seasonal changes, soil conditions, topography and wildlife. They evolve in particular communities, with other native plants. This results in a harmonious habitat, which beautifully supports wildlife such as butterflies, birds and mammals.

Historically, this balance began to be altered as non-natives were introduced. Aside from habitat destruction by humans, non-native species are the greatest threat to our native landscapes.

Over hundreds of years, more than 2,000 species of plants have been introduced into California, some of which are seen today as part of the natural landscape although they have crowded out the native species. One such example is black mustard, brought to this state by Father Junipero Serra and other Franciscan missionaries. Traveling from mission to mission, priests scattered the seeds of black mustard to mark the route for oth-

ers to follow. The blooms of mustard created a sunshine yellow pathway up and down the state but also introduced a plant that easily adapted to a variety of habitats and soon was so widespread throughout the state it was crowding out native wildflowers and grasses.

can take over a habitat, pushing out native species and throwing off the balance between the plants and animals. This shift limits the variety of food and cover available to animals resulting in an animal's departure from an area.

The River Park continues its efforts to replace non-native or invasive plants with native species.

Senior Ranger Todd Stepien applauds the dedication of volunteers and rangers. They are "creating habitat which has been lost to population growth, development and invasive species." He encourages people to join in the monthly weekend work projects that focus on habitat restoration. "It is satisfying to know you are helping restore the Park. When you come out to volunteer, you are also creating habitat for wildlife." (See box for upcoming restoration dates.)

Within the Park are four main habitats or zones, all of which, in general, are defined by their native plants. These habitats are also characteristic of the Southern California landscape. The *coastal sage scrub* occupies the area closest to the ocean, while just inland of the scrub the habitat transitions to *chaparral*. Both habitats have unique qualities however share some of the same native plants. The following plants can be found in both: California sagebrush, California buckwheat, monkey flower, prickly pear, coyote brush, and black, purple or white sage.

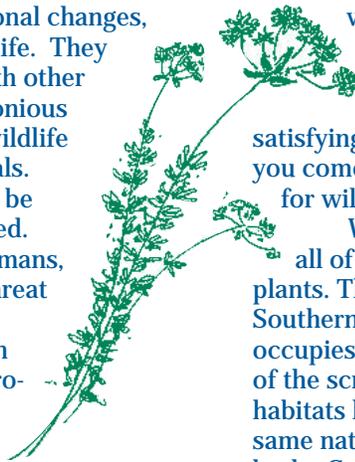
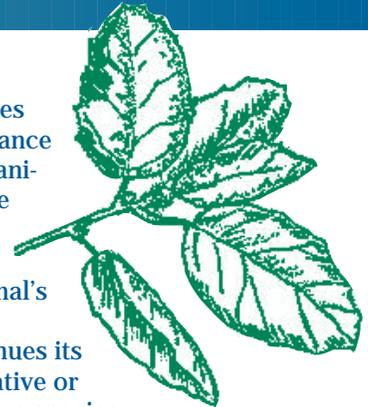
Farther east is the third habitat represented in the River Park, the *oak woodland*. The large oaks and the plants that grow beneath their canopy mark this habitat.

Engelmann oak and coast live oak make up the core of this plant community. Oaks can also be found in the coastal sage scrub area but are seen most abundantly around the area of Ramona.

And finally, we have the *riparian habitat*, which includes the area closest to the river and streams. Hiking along different portions of the Hodges and Mule Hill trails, you may see plants unique to this habitat such as willow, mule fat and yerba mansa.

Landscaping at Home with Natives

Since native plants have adapted to the local conditions, they are hardy and generally require less maintenance than conventional lawns and gardens. Natural landscapes, once established, save money and time. They need no fertilizers or pesticides and little to no amendments to the soil. According to local native plant nursery



Habitat Restoration Volunteer Days

Habitat restoration is on the third Saturday of each month. 8am-12 noon – refreshments and all tools provided. Call for directions to locations 858-764-2275 x14 or view the Activity Schedule at www.sdrp.org.

Saturday, August 16 • Mule Hill Trail - Sunset Drive Trailhead

Saturday, September 20 • Mule Hill Trail - Bandy Canyon Trailhead

Saturday, October 18 • Location and project TBA

Las Pilitas in Escondido, "Normal maintenance of a native garden after the third year is about two hours per acre, per month. The landscape becomes self-sustaining, drought tolerant and easy maintenance."

There is a huge variety of native plants to choose from, depending on your desired garden and existing conditions at the planting site. Plant a native wildflower garden, water garden or a garden that emphasizes fragrance and bright colors. Many resources (listed in the resources box) can assist you with your planning.

Local landscape architect and native plant advocate Greg Rubin states, "Natives are a great way to make a seamless transition from the chaparral slopes to your home landscape. Native birds and butterflies will be attracted into your yard. And since fire is a concern, there are lower-growing, more water tolerant natives that can be used to minimize fire danger."

As the owner of California's Own Native Landscape Design, Greg believes the most common reason people want to landscape with natives is that they feel the loss of San Diego's regional identity. They long to see wildlife attracted to their yards; they are creating habitat along with a beautiful landscape.

Native plants bring native wildlife. Butterflies and birds instead of rats and cockroaches. Thrashers, flickers and bluebirds instead of English sparrows and starlings.

Residents of California have a growing ecological consciousness and are learning to be aware of the value in landscaping with native plants.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community," Aldo Leopold, father of conservation, in *A Sand County Almanac*.



Weeds vs. Wildflowers

By Jason Lopez, Resources & Trails Manager

The effects of the drought that we have been experiencing the past few years became very evident this spring with the return of rain and wildflowers to the Park. Enthusiasm was in the air as old friends such as *Canchalagua* and Indian paintbrush decided to visit for a while. Certain locations with enough shade and moisture sustained wildflowers into the summer months. Park trails provide great access for viewing because the edge of the trail tread is often lined with native flowers. Walking along a meandering trail with flower petals brushing against your leg was probably not your experience this spring because also with the rain and wildflowers came the weeds.

Unfortunately, our open space and trails are inundated with non-native pests such as the prickly Tecolote star thistle and voraciously growing black mustard. Weeds grow intermixed with native species.

This presented a dilemma for Park field staff because the weeds along trails need to be trimmed back to ensure that trail users will stay on the designated trails, out of wildlife habitat and can safely use the trail. But it is also important that the wildflowers have an opportunity to produce seed for the next wet winter. Wildflowers grow well along the trail because there is often less competition with weeds due to maintenance and recreational usage. The timing and technique of the trail trimming is important. Trails can be trimmed to avoid wildflowers, but the people doing the work need to have a trained eye and be able to determine what is a weed and what is a wildflower. With limited staff this can be challenging because the Park maintains about 22 miles of designated trail, regrettably not all lined with wildflowers.

Various terms define a plant that does not belong. Exotic, invasive, non-indigenous, pest, non-native and noxious all have a specific meaning that best describes a type of plant in a certain situation. The term weed is a common and general term, and, according to the book *Invasive Plants of California Wildlands*, weeds can be defined as "species, population, and individual plant that are unwanted because they interfere with management goals." Since a primary management goal of the River Park is to preserve and restore land, deciding what is a weed is essential.

Along an overgrown trail, weeds may direct people off the trail or may discourage usage. It is important for people not to be discouraged while visiting natural areas so that they appreciate the atmosphere and support further preservation.

Off the trail in wildlife habitat, weeds present

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Native Plant Resources

California Native Plant Society, www.cnps.org
California Native Plant Society, San Diego Chapter, 619-685-7321, www.cnpsd.org

National Wildlife Federation, www.nwf.org/backyardwildlife-habitat/

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, www.wildflower.org

Las Pilitas Nursery, Escondido, 760-749-5930, www.laspilitas.com

Coastal Sage Gardening Nursery, Ocean Beach, 619-223-5229

Cuyamaca College Water Conservation Garden, El Cajon, 619-660-0614, www.thegarden.org

Persevering with Permits

By Shawna Anderson, Principal Environmental Planner

We are always excited when the River Park receives a new grant to construct a public access project, and we often announce those “wins” in this newsletter. Then, as time goes by, some of our Park supporters wonder, “Whatever happened?” or “When is that trail going to be built anyway?”

Well, believe it or not, one entire staff person (and usually more than one) is devoted to just getting through the process to turn grant dollars into a piece of paper that allows us to actually put a shovel in the ground. This process can take anywhere from several months to several years, depending on the project size and complexity. Just when everyone grows weary from waiting so long – things finally begin to happen!

Grants usually cover both the design and construction phases of a project. Part of the design process involves determining the best place for a trail or bridge crossing based on many factors, one being

environmental constraints. The River Park tries to avoid impacting natural resources wherever possible, but because our Park is within a river valley, often there are impacts associated with even a dirt trail. Although part of our mission is to preserve and protect natural habitat and resources, the Park is not excused

from a myriad of environmental regulations.

Once a preliminary project alignment is mapped out, there are many steps before something can be constructed. Often the rules and regulations sound like alphabet soup – CEQA, NEPA, SDP, ESA, MSCP, 1601, 404, 401, etc.!

And each permit involves a series of mandated steps and procedures that must be followed, usually in a particular order. Each permit also involves relationships with individual local, state or federal agencies and their processing guidelines. Several specialized reports are always required including bird surveys, plant surveys, archaeology studies, geotechnical reports and biological studies.

Many surveys have to be done during certain times of the year and over several site visits. Therefore, these studies can take lots of time.

Often not just one project location or route is studied – often several alternatives must be evaluated in detail to justify the one that is preferred. We always

need help from specialists, so knowledge of experts in the field is important. Reports are submitted and resubmitted and critiqued by other experts, and our project is just one of many being processed through the same hard-working regulators, so stand in line! Nagging sometimes helps. Site visits with agency staff are always helpful and necessary but time consuming to set up and often lead to more questions and documentation.

That trail route you worked so hard to align just right is now being questioned and scrutinized and sometimes tweaked this way and that way. What starts out as slowly trudging through dense brush to chart a course builds to a frantic pace of revisions and iterations and phone calls, e-mails, faxes and meetings before reaching the final step of an approved construction plan.

And, if we’ve done our job right, that trail alignment that we studied and restudied will prevail in the end and be sanctioned to build. *Whew!* On to the next....

Trail Maintenance Volunteer Work Days

Trail maintenance is on the second Sunday of each month. 8am-12 noon – refreshments and tools provided. Call for directions to locations 858-764-2275 x14 or view the Activity Schedule at www.sdrp.org.

Sunday, August 10
Mule Hill Trail - East Raptor

Sunday, September 14
Piedras Pintadas Trail

Sunday, October 12
Trail and location TBA

Thanks, Veterinary Specialists!

A huge bundle of thanks to California Veterinary Specialists for their continued support and care of the River Park’s special cat, Smokey! We appreciate the donation of your time and services to help maintain his good health. (**California Veterinary Specialists**, 100 N. Rancho Santa Fe Rd. Suite 133, San Marcos, 92069, 760-734-4433)

What’s Growing On...

Continued from page 5

huge problems. Along with the blooming natives this spring, weeds demonstrated their dominance at Lake Hodges and San Pasqual Valley. In many areas where previous disturbances such as grazing, farming, grading, etc. have occurred, the weed coverage far exceeds that of the native plants. Considering the amount of historic land use in the area, one can imagine the amount of acreage that is covered by weeds.

Once established, weeds have a tremendous capacity to invade natural plant communities and prohibit native plant recovery. Typically, they steal precious moisture, nutrients and sunlight from native plants that provide wildlife a food source, nesting area and water. While visiting a park, look around at the composition of the vegetation and be aware of the weed issue. It is very possible that weeds pose the greatest threat to biodiversity on land that is already preserved.

Our New Look on the Web

Check out our newly revised Web site at www.sdrp.org. And a multitude of thanks to Adam Shiffman who did a major overhaul of the site at *no cost* to the Park! We appreciate Adam's talent and generosity. Adam's company, **Astra Consulting**, is at www.astraconsulting.org, 760-473-2694.

7 Superb Volunteers Recognized

On a beautiful rain-kissed morning at the Wild Animal Park, seven River Park volunteers were recognized at the annual Volunteer Appreciation event. Each received a photo plaque with our gratitude. Once again we'd like to thank them for their continued support and highlight their many contributions to the Park!

Chris Khoury is the #1 reason that Bernardo Mountain will forever be preserved as open space. He's building a donor base to contribute toward even more open space acquisitions.

Freda Reid, tireless in her participation in issues relating to the San Dieguito Lagoon, helped organize last year's "Lagoons for Laypeople" program. She was also very involved in the planning of the City of Del Mar's River Path project.

Tom Cook, a man who gets things done, was the driving force behind the Interpretive Stations on the Mule Hill Historical Trail. He now continues to be involved in the development of the Sikes Adobe Farmstead.

Jerry Rockwell is a previous recipient of the annual volunteer award, and we are proud to honor him again. The rangers say, "Jerry is relied upon to help us complete projects. He provides technical advice, training of other volunteers and new staff, labor, supervision and expertise."

Dave Leigh, the man behind the San Dieguito Conservancy's Corporate Donor program, got teams from various companies to volunteer their time in the Park. His efforts were also instrumental in raising the private funds for the acquisition of Bernardo Mountain.

Ron Hall is an outstanding and dedicated volunteer as a docent, volunteer patrol, history speaker, Trail Run Team Leader, and serves the Park in many other capacities. He is always willing to help in any way he can to make the River Park the best it can be.

Max Kiltz also is a former award winner. This year his award is primarily for his work on the Speakers Bureau at community fairs and other events. He impressed us all with the technical skills that he learned on the computer, culminating in a professional Power Point presentation about the Mule Hill Trail.

Congratulations on their recent promotions to Todd Stepien (left) now Senior Ranger and Jason Lopez, new Resources and Trails Manager.



Executive Director's Report

Continued from page 3

Stone) to comment negatively on the river mouth opening has been dismissed by the California Coastal Commission with the finding: "Therefore, the Commission finds that the conclusions in the Stone report are not supported by the facts, and concludes that mechanical opening of the San Dieguito Lagoon inlet should not result in increased erosion to the beach in front of Sandy Lane properties."

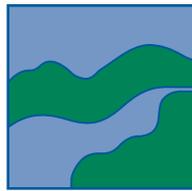
Other responsible government and environmental organizations concerned with beach erosion have reviewed the facts and weighed in on the issue. The San Diego Bay Council, a coalition of environmental organizations, adopted a Joint Statement of Support for the San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project last May. The coalition includes the Surfrider Foundation, the San Diego Audubon Society, the San Diego Chapter of the Sierra Club, the San Diego Baykeeper and the Environmental Health Coalition. The California Coastal Coalition (CalCoast), a non-profit advocacy group comprised of 35 coastal cities; seven counties; AMBAG, BEACON, SANDAG and SCAG; along with business associations and allied groups committed to restoring California's shoreline through sand replenishment, increasing the flow of natural sediment, wetlands recovery and improved water quality joined in signing the Joint Statement of Support.

In addition, the City Councils of Del Mar and Solana Beach both adopted Resolutions of Support for the project and recently, the Shoreline Preservation Committee of SANDAG heard presentations from both sides of the issue and directed their staff to prepare a letter of support for the San Dieguito Wetlands Restoration Project.

Please educate yourselves by examining representations from both sides of the controversy. And if you hear something that concerns you, don't believe it until you read the source material for yourself. A good place to start is the recently published paper "Effect of Small Southern California Lagoon Entrance on Adjacent Beach" based on long-term research of the Del Mar Beach and San Dieguito River mouth openings by Dr. Hany Elwany (ESTUARIES, Vol. 26, No. 2, June 2003). The beach monitoring done by Dr. Elwany establishes that there is no impact to Del Mar beaches resulting from river mouth openings. The full paper is also available on the San Dieguito River Park Web site www.sdrp.org.

The vision for the San Dieguito River Park is a greenway and natural open space park in the San Dieguito River Valley that will protect the valley's unique resources while providing compatible recreational and educational opportunities, including a trail for hikers, bicyclists and equestrians extending 55 miles from the ocean at Del Mar to the river's source on Volcan Mountain. Two organizations work jointly to make this vision become a reality. The San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA) is a local government agency authorized by its member agencies, the County of San Diego and the cities of Del Mar, Escondido, Poway, San Diego and Solana Beach to plan, improve and manage the Park. The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) volunteer member organization that raises funds for land acquisition and Park amenities. We ask you to send your contributions to the Conservancy where they will be used to support the Park's goals.

Are you receiving more than one copy of *RiverScape*?
 If so, please call (858) 674-2270
 so we can remove duplicates from our list.
 Visit our Web site www.sdrp.org or e-mail: sdrp@sdrp.org



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Fall 2003 Volume 12, Issue 2

RiverScape is a publication of the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority
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 Vice Chair: Pam Slater, County of San Diego
 Editors: Carrie Hammond and Gene Tendler

Contributors:
 Shawna Anderson
 Dick Bobertz
 Susan Carter
 Carrie Hammond
 Jason Lopez
 Todd Stepien

Scouts Continue to Give

Thanks to these Boy Scouts who have recently completed projects for the Park. We appreciate all the time dedicated to these tasks! Keep up the good work!

Brandon McBeth Troop 653
 Bird houses in San Pasqual Valley

Christopher Sauer Troop 800
 Mile markers for North Shore and MH/SP Trails

Eric Cheung Troop 800
 Benches for the MH/SP Trail

Alexander Jones Troop 766
 Bat boxes in San Pasqual Valley

Andrew Marini Troop 765
 Information kiosks for MH/SP and mule fat plantings along Piedras Pintadas Trail

Jeffrey Teng Troop 765
 Bat boxes for Poway Open Space

(MH/SP Trail - Mule Hill/San Pasqual Trail)

Support the San Dieguito River Park by becoming a Park Partner!

- Basic \$35 Friend \$50 Supporter \$100
 Protector \$250 Guardian \$1000
 Champion \$5000 Life \$25,000

Where would you like your money allocated?

- Land Acquisition
 Education Fund
 Endowment Fund
 Trail Construction/Maintenance

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Please make checks payable to: SDRVC

Mail to: San Dieguito River Valley
 Conservancy
 P.O. Box 89
 Del Mar, CA 92014

Dues and gifts to the SDRVC are tax deductible.
 Call the Conservancy office if you have any questions,
 (858) 755-6956