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Mission Trails Regional Park News

Volume 19 Number 3

Summer/Fall 2008

KUMEYAAY LAKE

“TO DRAIN OR NOT TO DRAIN, THAT IS THE QUESTION”

You may have noticed that Kumeyaay Lake is in a transition period. Just why is that, you might ask. Well, a little history may help; so let's go back a bit.

During a heavy rainy season, several years ago, the berm on the east end of Kumeyaay Lake breached. The berm was designed to divert water north of the lake by the H. G. Fenton Materials Co, the company that created the lake. The breach allowed more river water to enter and deposit ever-increasing

amounts of silt into the lake. Over time, the silt has filled in the lake; its average depth is now just over 3-4'. This of course promotes growth of native and non-native aquatic plants around the lake's perimeter and increases the temperature as well.

So, what does all that mean? Mosquitoes breed along the shoreline where the tall aquatic vegetation offers protection from both natural predators and aerial attempts to drop

Lake, continued on p. 4

MISSION TRAILS CAMPGROUND SAVED FROM THE CHOPPING BLOCK

A last-minute reprieve by the San Diego City Council has spared the least expensive, close-in tent-camping experience in the county from the budget axe. Kumeyaay Lake Campground in Mission Trails Regional Park will now remain open Thursday through Sunday nights through Labor Day, but only Friday and Saturday nights during the rest of the year. That's the good news. The bad news is that one of the largest urban parks in the United States, Mission Trails, at 6,000 acres, is down one full-time ranger position and one-half a campground director position the 2009 fiscal year.

Popular with church youth groups, scout groups and YMCA campers, as well as individual family groups, the campground offers 46 primitive campsites for tents with the convenience of hot showers and bathroom facilities in a peaceful setting adjacent to Kumeyaay Lake, only 15 minutes from San Diego's city center. An amphitheater for evening programs and picnic tables and grills are also available at the campground. Located just off Father Junipero Serra Trail and Mission Gorge Road, the campground is readily accessible to the park's 40 miles of hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails

A former camp director called the site "an ideal place for

Campground, continued on p. 3

Photo Contest Winner - People's Choice



Gerald Tietje - Tern Style



A Message From Councilmember Jim Madaffer

Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) is one of the jewels

in the City's park system, and I'm pleased to tell you about what I'm doing to significantly enhance the amenities and assets of the park.

First is to expedite completing the Mission Trails Regional Park Master Development Plan Update, which was last updated in 1985. I have proposed allocating \$200,000 from the MTRP Antennae Fund in fiscal year 2009 to be used for the first phase of the MTRP Master Plan Update. The \$200,000 is in addition to the \$70,000 allocated from the Environmental Growth Fund (EGF) designated previously for fiscal year 2009. The proposal includes renaming the capital improvement project (CIP) from the MTRP Natural Resource Management Plan to the MTRP Master Plan as well as making the Natural Resource Management Plan a subsection of the MTRP Master Plan.

The MTRP Master Plan Update addresses issues such as parking, uses and facilities, Environmental Impact Report (EIR) analysis and mitigation at areas in the park such as Lake Murray and Cowles Mountain.

Additionally, I've requested that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) agreement be written between the City of San Diego and the Mission Trails Regional Park Task Force. The agreement would designate phases for the Master Plan Update, formulate ways to expedite the process and provide a realistic time line for completing the project. As you know, the MTRP Task Force is comprised of elected officials from the City of San Diego, the County of San Diego, the City of La Mesa,

the City of Santee and the Chair of the MTRP Citizens' Advisory Committee.

I want to have the MOU between the City of San Diego and the MTRP Task Force completed and docketed for a City Council meeting well before I leave office this December.

Lastly, I've recommended allocating \$309,000 to build a public restroom at the Equestrian Staging Area. The funding will be provided by \$100,000 from the MTRP Antennae Fund and \$209,000 from a General Fund Capital Outlay Fund, which is revenue from the sale of property for the County Water Authority Mission Trails Flow Regulatory System.

As always, I welcome hearing your comments regarding Mission Trails Regional Park or any other issue. Call me at (619) 236-6677 or send an email to jmadaffer@sandiego.gov. I invite you to visit my Web site at Jim-Madaffer.com where you may sign up to receive my electronic newsletter.

Photos, continued from back page

Color – Scenic Views: Brian Wright, 1st place; Rick Wiley, 2nd place; Rick Wiley, 3rd place; Jay Renard, Honorable Mention.

The photography contest, reception and awards ceremony are an annual event sponsored by Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation in cooperation with the City of San Diego Park & Recreation Department.

Thank you to our Photography Contest Committee members: Betty Ogilvie, chair; Don Steele, Connie Wood & Roland Roberge.

The Sixteenth Annual Photo Contest was sponsored by the Barona Band of Mission Indians.

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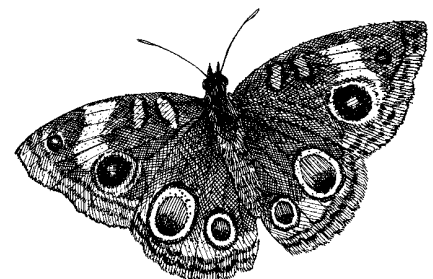
*Past Chair Mission Trails Citizens'
Advisory Committee*

*Past President Mission Trails Regional
Park Foundation*

Hon. Larry Stirling

Superior Court Judge, retired

California State Senator, retired



Art Exhibits

The Visitor Center has ongoing exhibitions of local area artists' works which can be purchased, with a percentage of the proceeds going to the MTRP Foundation.

July 12 - August 15, 2008

Barbara Siegal and
George Friedman

August 16 - September 12, 2008

Elaine Davis and Dixie Sampier

September 13 - October 10, 2008

The San Diego Seven
Richard Johnson
Betty Blount
Sandra Hayen
Bob Kelsch
Grace Schlesier
Nancy Tschopp

First Place - Color (People, Flora & Fauna)

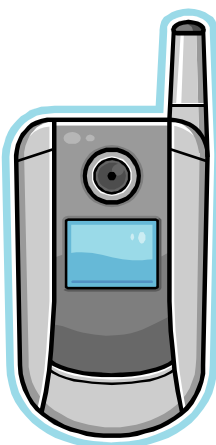


Nancy Varga - Chocolate Trio

We Need Your Help

Join the Mission Trails Cell Phone Patrol. Help us keep your park safe.

Please, use your cell phones to report any suspicious behavior in or around our parking lots and facilities.



Rangers (9:00 am - 5:00 pm) call

619-668-3281

San Diego Police Dept. call

619-531-2000

Campground, *continued from p. 1*

families to try camping for the first time, not too far from home. As a City park facility, no alcohol is allowed...even single mothers feel safe here."

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation President Joe Morse says, "Groups love the proximity of the campground to the City, saving gas and travel time while enjoying a great weekend camping experience." According to Morse, many Scout groups use the site to help their members earn important merit badges.

Volunteer Trail Guides, largely trained and scheduled by park staff, and park rangers often lead nature hikes beginning and ending at the campground. They have also given campfire programs there in the past; these are now in question because of the reduced staffing. In 2009, MTRP will have only five full-time rangers covering the park seven days a week, compared to seven rangers at peak staffing levels in 2003. The two ranger positions and half of the campground director's position have been eliminated in the last few years through budget cuts.

Pam Crooks

First Place - Youth Division



Stephanie Montierth - Mister Toad

The MTRP Visitor and Interpretive Center Runs Cool, Hot and Green

The Mission Trails Visitor Center has always been a great place to visit. With its ever changing Interpretive Museum and comfortable library, the Center is a wonderful resource for information about local history and ecology. Other amenities include one of the best views in town, a gift shop and the theater with its three informative videos visitors can enjoy on request.

The City has recently designated the Center as a Cool Zone. If you are looking for a place to beat the heat, give us a visit. Our environmental systems have been completely upgraded using the latest energy efficient equipment.

The Center has also recently been equipped to be a Wi-

Fi hot spot. When you visit, make sure you bring your wireless laptop, then find a quiet spot to cruise the web.

Green is the favored color these days and the Center is moving with the times. Along with the new environmental system and recent replacement of lighting with energy efficient bulbs, plans are in the works to create an even greener building. A few more ideas are being proposed and considered and, if feasible and implemented, should enhance the visitor experience and benefit the environment.

We are proud of our award winning Center and invite you to come by and make yourself at home.

Roland Roberge

Lake, continued from p. 1

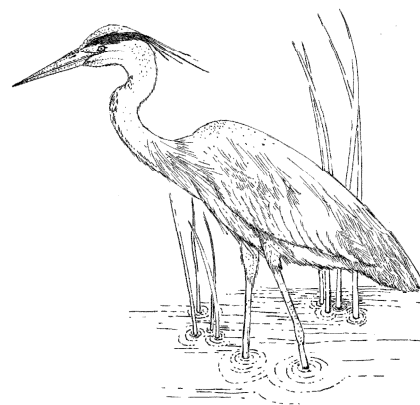
mosquito controlling larvicide. This vegetation barrier also keeps the planted mosquito fish (*Gambusia affinis*) from reaching the mosquito larvae. Pumping the lake pulls the water away from the shoreline and the associated aquatic plant material. This action, in turn, forces the mosquito larvae out from under their protective vegetative canopy allowing our larvicide drops and mosquito fish to reach the nasty little wrigglers!

Just off the press: Our first report back from County Vector Control indicates a dramatic reduction in trapped mosquitoes in the area from last year at this time.

We will be using this interim procedure during mosquito breeding season while we work with local agencies including County Vector Control to establish a long-term solution. Our primary goal is to ensure a healthy mosquito "free" Kumeyaay Lake. Obviously, the West Nile Virus, which is carried by mosquitoes, is high on our list of concerns. We want to ensure everyone has a healthy outdoor recreational experience when visiting Mission Trails Regional Park.

For more information on the West Nile Virus issue, contact County Vector Control at www.SDFightTheBite.com.

Senior Ranger Tracey Walker



Rattlesnake Safety

Yes, it's that time of year again, when the rattlesnakes are out and about throughout the park. As a visitor in *their* home, there are a few important things to keep in mind:

1. Rattlesnakes play a vital role in the population control of small mammals.
2. Rattlesnakes are fully protected by law.
3. Rattlesnakes seldom attack, unless provoked.

When hiking in rattlesnake territory, remember the following safety tips:

1. Always hike with a friend and bring a cell phone.

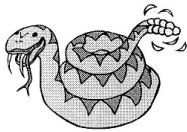
2. Stay on trails and keep pets on a leash at all times.
3. Never place your hands or feet where you can't see.
4. Leave all snakes alone; never attempt to move them.

If you see a rattlesnake while hiking, consider yourself lucky to have observed one of nature's most fascinating animals! Be sure to give the snake its space and move away slowly. If you see a rattlesnake in an area where there are a lot of people, please inform a Park Ranger at 619-668-3281, so they can safely relocate the snake to an unpopulated area. Thank you.

Rattlesnake Crossword

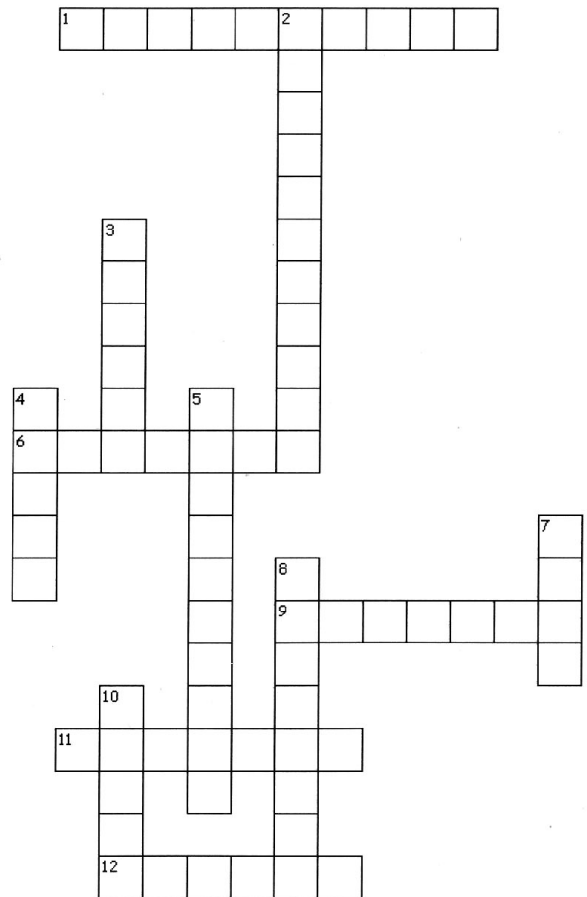
Across

1. this makes the snake hard to see
6. snakes don't have any of these
9. snakes are this type of animal
11. why a rattlesnake shakes its tail
12. a snake's body is covered with these



Down

2. rattles are the same material as these
3. snakes use this to "smell" things
4. the type of poison a rattlesnake has
5. a snake feels these to "hear"
7. a snake must do this as it grows
8. the shape of a rattlesnake's head
10. the snake injects venom with these



Answers on page 6

Gift Shop

Our Gift Shop offers merchandise geared to those who love to explore the out-of-doors. Whether a guide book or a walking stick, our merchandise will help you enjoy your excursions into nature.

Besides our own "San Diego's Mission Trails Regional Park: Official Guide Book", you will find various books dealing with the geology, history and ecology of the San Diego region.

The gift shop also continues to carry crafts made by the local Native American people. Numerous pots and baskets are available for your purchase and enjoyment.



Puzzle answers

Across

1. camouflage
6. eyelids
9. reptile
11. warning
12. scales

Down

2. fingernails
3. tongue
4. venom
5. vibrations
7. shed
8. triangle
10. fangs

Notable Donations

April – June 2008

Benefactor - \$10,000 to \$25,000
City of San Diego TOT Funds

Patron - \$2,500 to \$5,000
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Founder - \$1,000 - \$2,500
Patricia and Gerald Johnson

Trail Blazer - \$500-\$1,000
Chipotle
Lawrence and Suzanne Hess
Diane Nelson and David McLaren
Johnnie and Leslie Perkins
San Diego County Water Authority

Path Finder - \$100-\$500
Adventure 16

Ron and Nancy Anderson
Cathy Armstrong
Patricia Dispenziere
Michael and Lois Gubitosi
Tom and Joan Hayes
Diane and Jim Hamilton
Salah Hassanein
Janette Jack – John Hancock
David and Sally Kotnik
Marjorie, Alan and Diana Lanning
Helen Malone
Jeff Mudd - Best-Rate Repair
Company, Inc.
Lyn and Ola Olsson
Clement O'Neill – *In memory of
Margaret C. O'Neill*
Dianne Onstad
Jacqueline Roisman
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Savage
Diane Sipe - Torrey Pines Bank
Cecile Walters

Thank you to our Business Friends

Adventure 16
Best-Rate Repair Company, Inc.
Chipotle
John Hancock
San Diego County Water Authority
Torrey Pines Bank
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

First Place - Color (Scenic Views)



Brian Wright - Shepherd Pond

Support Mission Trails Regional Park



The easiest way yet to support Mission Trails



Simply go to www.escrip.com access the "sign up" link near the top of the page and follow the simple instructions.

Ways you can donate to Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation

The Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation Board of Directors extends sincere thanks to our many donors. It is owing to your continuing support that we are able to fulfill our Mission - *In partnership with the City of San Diego, to preserve and protect the natural environment of Mission Trails Regional Park and to provide and promote educational and recreational opportunities.*

In addition to traditional cash donations, there are other ways you can provide short and long-term financial support for park programs and projects.

Memorial or In Honor Of gifts

Honor a friend or family member with a donation.

Matching Funds

Identify Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation for a matching funds contribution if your employer

has a policy of matching charitable gifts.

Wills

Remember Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation in your will.

Gifts of Securities

In order to allow donors to realize full tax deductions for appreciated stock, Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation accepts gifts of stock. Please call (619) 668-3280 for further details.

Charitable Remainder Trusts

With a CRT, highly appreciated assets are placed in an irrevocable trust. Those asset proceeds provide income to the donor and/or to his/her beneficiaries for life. Contact your financial advisor for information.

The Foundation's Special Funds include education and library funds, trail and tree/habitat maintenance funds, education and library endowment funds. Call (619) 668-3280 for further information. - MTRP Foundation Federal Tax ID number 33-0285093.

Mission Trails Regional Park Donor Opportunities

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation provides opportunities for individuals, businesses, community organizations and foundations to support a variety of programs and projects within Mission Trails Regional Park. Thank you to our many friends who make annual contributions to Friends of Mission Trails Regional Park. A variety of donor opportunities are available as indicated below. All contributions are tax deductible. Names of contributors of \$1,000 or more will be engraved on a plaque permanently displayed at the park Visitor and Interpretive Center. Donations of \$100 and above will accumulate from year-to-year for contributor recognition purposes.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

Donor Levels

\$25 Individual _____	\$1,000 Founder _____	\$25,000 Benefactor _____
\$50 Family _____	\$2,500 Patron _____	\$50,000 Trustee _____
\$100 Path Finder _____	\$5,000 Steward _____	\$100,000 Director _____
\$500 Trailblazer _____	\$10,000 Sponsor _____	Other _____

Special Funds

Please check fund(s) for which you wish your donation to be used.

General Park Support	_____
MTRP Foundation Endowment	_____
Education Program Fund	_____
Library Fund	_____
Library Endowment Fund	_____
Tree & Habitat Maintenance	_____
Trail Maintenance	_____
Lake Murray	_____

Make check payable to MTRP Foundation and send to:
 Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, Attention Secretary/Treasurer
 One Father Junipero Serra Trail, San Diego, CA 92119-1008

Charge my donation to VISA _____ MC _____
 Card No. _____
 Expiration date _____ Signature _____

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Web Site: www.mtrp.org

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Distribution: Marjorie Ferrante*

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Sixteenth Annual Photo Contest Winners

Awards for the Sixteenth Annual Mission Trails Regional Park Photography contest were presented at a reception held at the park's Visitor & Interpretive Center on Sunday, June 1st. The Leonard Butterman Best of Show Award was presented to Mark Wade for his "The Path" photograph. Gerald Tietje received the People's Choice Award for "Tern Style".

Other winners include -
Black and White: Mark Wade, 1st place; Ken Smith, 2nd place; Stuart Allison, 3rd place; Bill Howell, Honorable Mention.
Youth Division: Stephanie Montierth, 1st place; Declan Bardin, 2nd place; Hillary Mills, 3rd place; Hillary Mills, Honorable Mention.
Color – People, Flora & Fauna: Nancy K. Varga, 1st place; Bill Howell, 2nd Place; Wendy Esterly, 3rd place; Bill Casper, Honorable Mention.

Best of Show and First Place - Black & White



Photos, continued on p. 2

Mark Wade - The Path