

Mission Trails Regional Park News

Volume 23, Number 3

-- A Publication of the Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation --

Summer 2012

MTRP Hosts Kumeyaay Flag-Raising and Jane Dumas Day Celebration By Audrey F. Baker

There's a new flag over the Mission Trails Kumeyaay Campground. The nation banner of the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Indians harmoniously flies to the right of our federal and state flags, and calls to mind the human history of our compelling open lands.

Celebration was in the air on April 28. Over 100 attended the ceremony honoring the flag's inaugural raising at Mission Trails and San Diego City Council's Proclamation of Jane Dumas Day. Mistress of Ceremonies, Ranger Heidi Gutknecht, welcomed guests and introduced speakers for two intricately interwoven events.

The idea of a national flag for the Kumeyaay-Diegueño people was sparked by the Cabrillo Reenactment Festival. A commemorative of the explorer's 1542 landing at Ballast Point, the event formerly displayed the flags of the U.S., Spain, Portugal and Mexico. Jane Dumas recognized the Kumeyaay were under-represented. She asked herself, "Where are my people?"

A member of the Jamul (The Hummingbird Band), her eyes later fixed on some hummingbirds, and she thought, "These must be people." She addressed the matter with the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Unity (an association of bands' leaders). The nation flag developed from those

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The Kumeyaay and Mission Trails - A History

Text of speech given by retired Senior Ranger Randy Hawley
at the occasion of the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Flag raising

When I was a kid I liked to play cowboys and Indians. Of course, I always wanted to be the cowboy. Then in high school, I saw a movie starring Dustin Hoffman called "Little Big Man". The movie made things pretty clear. The Indians got a raw deal. My perception had changed.

Little did I imagine that twenty years later I would be part of a ranger staff that had the chance to actually do something positive for government and Indian relations. But that's what happened here at Mission Trails in the early 90's.

The park had a Master Plan. Decisions had been made about where things were to go and what activities would happen here. But no one did an Interpretive Prospectus. No one decided what stories were to be told and what themes our programs would have.

Staff looked around the park and saw a place that was still undeveloped. A piece of the real San Diego. It was all about the chaparral, the sage scrub, the oaks, the riparian and the grasslands. This was a place that had not changed dramatically from when native peoples lived here.

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Photo by Gary G. Ballard

Senior Ranger Matt Sanford and Kumeyaay Elder Jane Dumas



A Message From Executive Director Jay Wilson

A Spectacular Summer at Mission Trails

Come and explore the Mission Trails Visitor Center this summer. It might be a little warm on our trails, but it is 72 degrees inside the Visitor Center and there is much to see and do.

We are finishing up a new water exhibit in the Exhibit Hall. Three flat-screen monitors now display information about how our water arrives into San Diego. The exhibit also includes a full-size photo of the 96-inch diameter water pipe the County Water Authority has running through Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP). It features an 8-foot ruler and allows you to measure up to this large pipe. 122,000,000 gallons of water moves through the pipe every day.

Come to the movies and relax in one of our 93 theater-style seats in the Visitor Center Theater. Take a beautiful tour of MTRP and learn about the history of the park and the Kumeyaay Indians who once lived in what is now Mission Trails.

Take the family on a scavenger hunt in our Visitor Center. It will guide you through the Visitor Center and we hope provide you with new information

about Mission Trails Regional Park. It is available at the front counter, and we even provide the pencil.

There is always beautiful art on display in the Visitor Center Gallery. Following the Art in the Park exhibition, unique exhibitions of paintings and photographs by award-winning artists will continue; and they will change every three weeks.

The Visitor Center continues to be a popular location for all types of professional meetings. During our regular business hours of 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, our three meeting rooms will accommodate up to 65 people. Where else can you meet, and when it is time for a break, step out on to the Visitor Center Terrace with a spectacular view of Mission Gorge. We are twelve miles from downtown, and you won't even hear a car driving by. Check our booking manual on our website mtrp.org/booking.asp for more information about our daytime meeting facilities or how you may hold an evening event at the Visitor Center for up to 350 people. It is not available for commercial use or private functions such as birthday parties, weddings, baptisms, and memorial services.

Our facebook page continues to expand. We have recently added several specific groups to the site so you can share your comments and photos of your recent visits to the park with people of similar interest; Hiking, Mountain Biking, Rock Climbing, the Visitor Center, Birding, Cowles Mountain, Flora, and Fauna.

Visit Mission Trails this summer! After a tour of the Visitor Center, if you are planning on going on a hike or bicycle ride, be sure to come prepared with plenty of water to keep you hydrated, wear a hat, and sturdy shoes, and use sunscreen. Remember, we also have free guided walking tours leaving the Visitor Center every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday starting at 9:30 a.m.

It is a great summer, come out and enjoy the numerous wonders of Mission Trails.

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Flag-Raising, continued from p. 1

meetings, and, in 2006, joined its counterparts in the sky above the Cabrillo Monument.

At our ceremony, Guest of Honor Jane Dumas gave a moving tribute to the day. The demure octogenarian spoke of the beautiful natural surroundings, the good will of friends assembled, and of happiness and gratitude felt on a joyful occasion.

MTRP Rangers (current and former), staff, and volunteers, as well as MTRP Foundation representatives attended. Jamul, Manzanita, Mesa Grande, San Pasqual, Sycuan and Viejas Bands were represented. Rangers and staff from Tecolote Canyon joined us, as did Kumeyaay organizations' personnel, including The Southern Indian Council (SIC), Indian Health Coalition, the Ipai Interpretative Center, and archivist for the Kumeyaay Community College, Carl Shippek.

The speeches, from the heart and delivered as personal messages, lent to the atmosphere of a "family" celebration. For many, Jane Dumas is "Aunt Jane." The intimacy speaks to her stature as a highly respected elder.

On behalf of the MTRP Foundation and Citizens' Advisory Committee, Dorothy Leonard

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**Twentieth Annual Photography Contest
Reception and Awards Ceremony**

The winners of the 20th annual Amateur Photography Contest were announced at a reception held on Sunday, May 27 in the Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center.

The Leonard Butterman Best of Show award was presented by Executive Director, Jay Wilson in memory of Leonard Butterman, an avid amateur photographer for seven decades. Best of Show was awarded to David Cooksy for "Do Bees have Allergies." The public was invited to vote for the People's Choice which was awarded to Gerald Botroff for "Red Tailed Hawk."

A complete list of winners and their entries can be seen on our Photo Contest web page: mtrp.org/photo_contest.asp

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.

Best of Show



Do Bees Have Allergies by David Cooksy

**Best of Show Winner
David Cooksy**



Flag-Raising, *continued from p. 3*

expressed appreciation for the long-term relationship between MTRP and the Native-American community.

The park's first ranger, Senior Ranger Randy Hawley (retired) related Jane Dumas' pivotal contributions to MTRP. That association goes back two decades and parallels significant moments in park history, forging a connection between two cultures.

The celebrants were also honored with the presence of Native American Bird Singers. Leroy Elliot led the intra-band group and explained the importance of land in Kumeyaay tradition. Bird songs "tell of our travels and activities."

The performers use a traditional gourd rattle. The elder introduced the tempo and lyric line of each piece and was joined by the others. As the recital progressed, women formed a line across from the men.

Senior Ranger Matt Sanford's public reading of the San Diego City Council Proclamation of Jane Dumas Day gave the audience a glimpse into the life of a woman dedicated to teaching and preserving the traditions, language and history of her people. In her quest, she has enriched the lives of all San Diegans by providing us with a fuller understanding of our shared history.

Her undertakings include service as a founding member (1981) of the San Diego American Indian Health Center (working as a home health aid and traditional medicine specialist), board membership (since 1986) for the Indian Human Resources Center, and Ethnobotany instructor for Sycuan's Kumeyaay Community College. In 2002, Jane Dumas was inducted into the S.D. County Women's Hall of Fame.

She credits her mother, Isabel Thing, a Kuseyaay (medicine woman) of the Jamul Band, for her vast knowledge of herbs, plants and ancient remedies. Through two educational videos seen daily in the Park's Visitor Center theatre, Aunt Jane's insights

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First Place - Black & White



Hill Crest by William Fossett

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It was a natural fit for us. Mission Trails lent itself to telling the story of the Kumeyaay culture and that's the story we would tell the public.

When we first told management and citizen groups there was some hesitancy. "We named this park after the Mission. We have the old Mission Dam. The Indians didn't leave anything but a few holes in some rocks".

We smiled. That was the beauty of it. Here was a culture that utilized this very area for thousands of years and left nary a trace. Sounded like a good example for us today. The rangers knew that we were the new custodians of this place and we took it to heart.

We also let them know that the State of California had recently made California Indian Studies part of the fourth grade curriculum. Teachers were going to need a place to take their students for field trips. Why compete with more established parks like Cabrillo, Old Town, the Presidio and the Mission? Besides, they concentrated on the Spanish/Mexican colonial period and gave just an introductory nod to the original peoples.

We knew there was still a Kumeyaay presence in the County.

What was their side of the story? Would they tell it themselves?

Who to ask? Harder. How to ask? This part of the journey was not always smooth. Staff sometimes said the wrong thing, the wrong way to the wrong person. We may have offended people. We did not realize that this was like foreign diplomacy. One culture dealing with another. Our intentions were good. We continued on.

Understandably there was hesitancy and mistrust about some government guy, in a uniform no less, wanting to do something for them. Past dealings between government and Indians did not always turn out the way they were suppose to.

Eventually someone did take the hand that was being extended. Jane Dumas and Richard Bugbee were the first to actually sit down with us and listen to what we had to say. Jane could feel our intentions were good and began to trust us.

I remember asking her, "Did the Kumeyaay use to do this or use that?" She reached over and gently pinched me on the arm and said, "We're still here". Our perspective changed and instead of referring to everything Indian as past tense, it all became a

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First Place- Color (People, Flora & Fauna)



Blue Heron Sunset by Vernon Clinton

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annually reach thousands.

As a prelude to its raising, Louis Guassac described the development of the Kumeyaay-Diegueno flag. Twelve emblems arranged in a circle symbolize that the “Bands are One.” Each side is edged by a color (white, blue, red or black), representing the four primary compass points important to Native American culture.

It was a proud moment as four worked in concert to hoist the flag – its designer, Louis Guassac (Mesa Grande), Chairman and Lead Bird Singer Leroy Elliot (Manzanita Village), Sycuan Council Member Jamie LaBrake, and Viejas Tribal Government Secretary Anita Uqualla.

Many leapt to their feet for a better vantage point. MTRP Volunteer Judy Alvarez, both a dear friend of Jane Dumas and one of the individuals instrumental for this event thanked attendees, concluding the ceremony. Her affectionate utterance of the endearing term “Aunt Jane” succinctly characterized the unity and kinship felt by those in attendance.

History, continued from p. 4

present tense. The Kumeyaay were our neighbors and part of our community.

I want to mention that all this was pre-gaming and most San Diegans had never heard the words Viejas, Borona, or Sycuan. Nor did most people know that there were more Indian reservations in San Diego County than any other county in the country. An amazing thing was that the Kumeyaay still lived on their traditional tribal land.

Jane was just who we needed. She was a respected elder in her tribe and someone who wanted to connect our two cultures and at the same time preserve and pass on traditions. Keeping the culture within the community was traditional and there are things that just aren't shared with outsiders. Jane still reached out to us with knowledge, trust and introductions.

Staff offered Mission Trails to all the nations of the Kumeyaay people as a place that is not part of an individual group but representative of them all.

Over time, members of the Kumeyaay helped us by participating in ceremonies for the re-naming of Hollin's Lake as Kumeyaay Lake, the re-opening of Father Serra Trail and the groundbreaking and Grand Opening of the Visitor and Interpretive Center.

The Visitor Center's initial exhibit theme was based on people's relationship with water, beginning with native people. Tribal members participated in art components and lent their images for public enjoyment. We were the first to bring Kumeyaay basket weavers from Baja California north of the border. Our store was the place to go for baskets and pottery. The naming of “no name mountain”, Kwai-Pai could not have happened without Kumeyaay support.

None of this could have happened without the support of City management, the CAC and the Foundation. I also want to thank Olivia Puentes-Reynolds and Karen Vigneougt for introducing me to Jane. Thank you to Richard Bugbee for assisting whenever needed. I have to also mention Clarence Brown, an elder for whom I had the utmost respect. He was a big man who shook my hand and looked me in the eyes and asked, “What are you after?” He also gave us the chance to prove ourselves.

But it was Jane Dumas who first took the outreached hand of a public employee, in a uniform no less, and saw that we were honorable in our intentions. Just as she brought members of various nations together at Mission Trails, I know she was instrumental in having this flag, which represents all the Kumeyaay nations, made.

I am so proud to see it fly over this park. It is a true honor to have it here. The park continues to tell the story of the Kumeyaay to thousands of San Diegans every year and the ranger staff continues to honor the Kumeyaay tradition as caretakers of this sacred land.

After all, there are still perceptions to change.

People's Choice



Red Tailed Hawk by Gerald Botroff

First Place - Youth Division



Lizard in the Sun by Megan Holtan

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By donating to Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation, you are preserving the past and investing in the future.

Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation provides opportunities for individuals, businesses, community organizations, and foundations to support a variety of programs and projects within the park. Community support is important to ensure adequate funding to maintain the award winning Mission Trails Regional Park Visitor and Interpretive Center and the multiple amenities the park has to offer.

Special event and project sponsorship are also available. Sponsorships for Explore Mission Trails Day, an annual event held each May, range from \$500 to \$5,000. Exhibit sponsorships begin at \$2,500. Bench and table sponsorships range from \$1,500 to \$4,000 depending upon the item and its location in the park. Contact Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation at 619-668-3280 or mtrp@mtrp.org for additional information.

Names of contributors of \$1,000 or more will be engraved on the donor board displayed at the Visitor and Interpretive Center. Yearly donations of \$100 or more are accumulated from year-to-year for donor recognition purposes.

Become a Business Friend of Mission Trails

Business Donors making contributions of \$100 to \$500 are eligible for a web site link from the Mission Trails web site for a period of six months. Business Donors making contributions of \$500 and above are eligible for a period of one year.

Our Funds ... You may designate your donation for one or more of the following funds.

- Friends of Mission Trails* - General support for all Park programs.
- Trail Maintenance*
- Tree and Habitat Maintenance*
- Education Programs*
- Library Books and Supplies*
- Lake Murray*
- Endowment Funds*
 - General Endowment Fund*
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Other ways you may donate ...

- Memorial or In Honor Of gifts** - Honor a friend or family member with a donation.
- Matching funds** - Identify Mission Trails Regional Park (MTRP) Foundation for a matching funds contribution if your employer has a policy of matching charitable gifts.
- Gifts of Securities** - To allow donors to realize full tax deductions for appreciated stock, MTRP Foundation accepts gifts of stock. Contact us at 619-668-3280 or mtrp@mtrp.org for further details.
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- 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 the donor's beneficiaries for life. Contact your financial advisor for information.

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Roland Roberge, Editor.

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First Place - Color (Scenic View)



Cottonwood Tree by David M. Page