

Daley Ranch News

Friends of Daley Ranch

Summer 2011

President's Letter—Fred Woods



Now that summer is here and the kids are out of school, we hope you continue to enjoy the many activities available to you on the trails at Daley Ranch. With the increasing heat of summer, early morning and late afternoon are the best times for your activities. Always bring drinking water on your hikes and, if you can, go with a friend. Remember to stay on the marked trails and watch for snakes.

Bringing a dog? Make sure it's on a leash. This is for the protection of your dog as well as other hikers. Poison oak is found throughout the ranch and

can usually be seen next to the trails within easy reach of your pet. If you allow it to run loose, you can be sure of bringing some poison oak home with you.

If you've never had one, grab a map at the entrance just in case you get lost. All legal trails are marked and usually lead you back to where you want to be.

You can encounter bikes and horses at any time on any trail. If you hear them coming, just stop and stand on the side of the trail until they go by. If you are riding a horse and are new to the ranch, you can find water on the east side of the road, behind the trees by the old row of ranch buildings.

You may have noticed some activity on the old buildings. We've finally gotten permission to begin the restoration project we've talked about for several years. We still need some engineering plans and permits for some parts of the project. This will take some time to complete. It will also require lots of volunteer labor and materials. Donations of money or required materials will be gratefully accepted.

Finally, we are very grateful to the Sunrise Rotary and all of their volunteers and donors for replacing the native plant signs on the Ranch House Road and the Creek Crossing Trail. This was a project that was about a year in the planning and included donated materials or services from All Star Signs, Aelott Air Conditioning, and Frontier Fence Company. There were also many Boy Scouts from a local Troop who provided services to the Ranch and Dixon Lake. (See photos next page.)

Friends of Daley Ranch Contact Information

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City Contact Information

Hike Schedule
www.escondido.org/daley-ranch-hikes.aspx

Ranger Station
760 839-4680

Tracking Team
Duane Boney 760 839-4345

Volunteer Coordinator
Sue Evarts 760 839-4680

Progress on the Outbuildings—Mike Whalen

The Daley Ranch utility building preservation project has begun and will focus on preserving these historic buildings associated with the Ranch House. The plan is to preserve the outbuildings, rather than perform a like-new restoration. Another way to put that is that we are attempting to suspend the decay of the buildings. We are being supported by Bob McQuead, a specialist in historic restoration. Tony Smock has also contributed much to this project. The City of Escondido is also behind us and we are moving along with the building permit process.

Jerry Harmon, Dick Atlhouse and I did some cleaning in the out buildings recently. We cleaned out straw and sections of steel pipe in preparation of shoring up these historic structures.



Dick Althouse (left) and Jerry Harmon cleaning up.

Plant Marker Installation



The Sunrise Rotary Club picked our sign project for their Rotary at Work Day on May 7th. They provided all of the signs, dug the post holes, and installed 38 signs on May 7th. We think you'll agree the new plant markers look great! Photos by Mike Whalen.

A Hiker Leader's Perspective—Jack Pomeroy, Volunteer

The program of docent-guided naturalist hikes began in early 1999. I'm one of the original volunteers. I make an effort to conduct a hike once every month and hope to continue this activity as long as my health permits.

Interestingly, what I'm doing now is not that different than what I did as a college upperclassman during the 1950-1951 summers with the National Park Service in the Washington, D.C. day camps. I led counselors and day campers on short nature hikes in their respective areas. After a career as geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey we retired to Escondido from Maryland. I volunteered to become the hiking leader for a non-profit organization dedicated to providing Hispanic youth-at-risk with new adventures. After 80 hikes from 1993 to 2006 I retired from that group.

I suppose that conducting nature hikes was meant to be a continu-

ing activity for me. Needless to say, I've found this activity to be one of constant pleasure and challenge.

Major topics for my outings include geology, earthquakes, rattlers, and common plants. I preface my hikes with a five- to eight-minute poster board talk about one or more of these topics. During the first few years of conducting hikes more than 10 participants were commonplace because of fewer docents and hikes. My groups are now smaller and younger and tend to be largely made up of Daley Ranch newcomers.

My only disappointment had been a failure to convince higher authority to open up an old surveyor's trail to the top of Burnt Mountain, the highest peak within Escondido. However, once the Stanley Peak acquisition became reality I soon forgot Burnt Mountain. What I had always envi-

sioned was a Daley Ranch trail leading to a high point offering a 360 degree view. The Stanley Peak trail fulfilled that wish. I never expected to see the usage of Daley Ranch that it is currently getting. Individuals and small groups of hikers enjoy the preserve more than ever. It is a major attraction for bikers, and, generally, bikers respect other trail users. However, I've told new hikers that the chance of being hit by a bike is more likely than to be bitten by a rattler or a coyote.

Two of our kids and spouses from Florida enjoy hiking Daley Ranch. I'll never forget the recording made last year by our daughter and husband on their cell phone of calls from at least a half dozen coyotes at about 6am. My son and his wife in 2009 left the house at 5am to accomplish 10 to 12 miles of hiking before mid-morning. On both occasions I chose not to arise at a pre-dawn hour. Oh, to be young again!

Thank You!

A big thank you to All Star Signs, Aelott Air Conditioning, Frontier Fence, Sunrise Rotary Club and our local Boy Scout troop for al their help with the new plant signs. As you can see, we hosted Rotarians and Scouts for lunch at the Ranch in appreciation of their volunteer efforts.



The mission of the Friends of Daley Ranch is to:

- Support the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the Daley Ranch Conservation Bank, native habitats and wildlife
- Promote education about the biological and historic value of Daley Ranch
- Encourage responsible recreational use consistent with conservation of native habitats and wildlife

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Sue Evert at 760 839-4680 to volunteer for Bike Patrol, Horse Patrol, or Trail Maintenance

Hike Schedule

Call Ranger Station at 760 839-4680 for the hike schedule and also to sign up for a hike. The schedule is also available at www.escondido.org/daley-ranch-hikes.aspx

Go Green

Email [daleyranch@yahoo.com](mailto:daley ranch@yahoo.com) with FODR in the subject line to get this newsletter electronically.

Friends Of Daley Ranch Membership, Renewal and Donations

Friends of Daley Ranch is a 501c(3) non-profit, organization.

Your tax-deductible contribution will be acknowledged by mail.

Make check payable to Friends of Daley Ranch and mail to
PO Box 461173, Escondido CA 92046-1173

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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Email: _____ Yes, email my newsletter

This is for Membership Building restoration

New Member Continuing Member

\$15 Senior/Student \$35 Contributing \$50 Sustaining \$100 Corporate \$500 Benefactor \$ _____

My primary interests are: Conservation Recorded History Natural history Hiking Mountain biking
 Equestrian Use Other _____

Volunteer Opportunities: Newsletter editor Fundraising Building Committee Education Committee
 Recreation Committee Other: _____

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