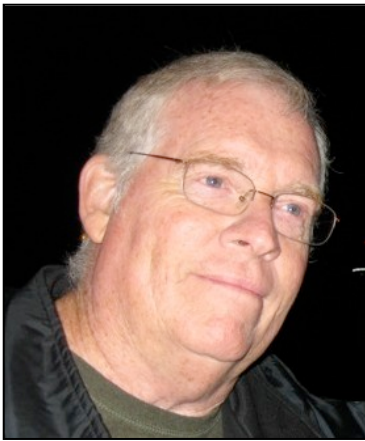


Daley Ranch News

Friends of Daley Ranch

Winter 2011

President's Letter—Fred Woods



It's almost springtime at Daley Ranch. It's a time for renewal, regeneration, and recreation. And we really know how to do recreation. The other day, I drove up to restock the plant guide box at the La Honda entrance and couldn't find a parking spot. Now that's the picture of success. With success comes the need to remind all of the Ranch users to think about why we have to stay on the trails. All that great looking land just off the pathways and roads is home to countless native plants and animals that need that space to survive. So please, stay on the trails, don't pick flowers, and keep your happy

dogs on a leash so they don't bring back a coat full of poison oak for the rest of your family to enjoy. But do enjoy the Ranch. Come back often, and bring some friends. Please let them know the rules, too.

This spring, the Friends of Daley Ranch and the Sunrise Rotary Club will be replacing the plant sign markers along the Ranch House trails. They were initially put in by the Sunrise Rotary volunteers when the ranch opened in 1997, and are in sad shape. We will also be numbering each sign to key with the numbered plants in the plant guide that you can find at the ranch house road trailhead. The signs will be produced by All Star Signs Inc., and installed in April with the help of Club members.



Escondido East Rotary Club sign committee L to R:
George Beitner, Mrs. Tavares, Ralph Tavares,
Richard Aeling, John Sawtelle

Friends of Daley Ranch Contact Information

PO Box 461173
Escondido CA 92046-1173

Fred Woods, President
760 745-4533

Rick Paul, Vice President
760 432-9122

Rick Mercurio, Secretary
760 751-2275

Irene O'Neill, Treasurer
760 432-0193

Mike Whalen, Recreation
760 740-1370

Carol Stanford, Communications
760 741-7122

Sally Thomas, Preservation
760 480-1917

Jerry Harmon, Member
760 480-9483

Dick Althouse, Member
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Don Piller, Webmaster
dpiller@cox.net

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

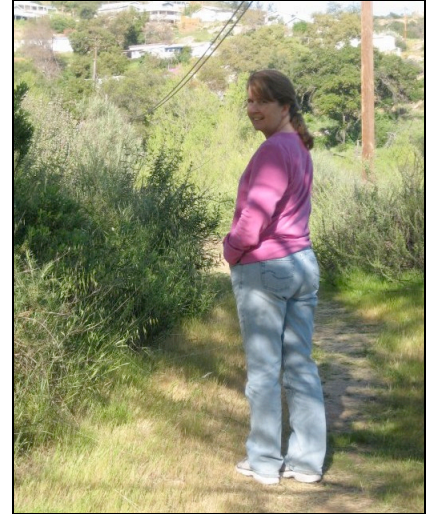
Just for Kids Hikes at Daley Ranch—D J Summers, Nature Hikes Volunteer

For the past three years, I have had the opportunity and privilege to lead young kids on nature hikes at Daley Ranch. These “kids” show up at the La Honda parking lot with their parents, grandparents, or family friends waiting to explore the trails. Sometimes they are shy and timid, not knowing what to expect. Other times, they are full of excitement and questions, anxious to start the hike. I am always glad to see these kids. When I am around them, I become like a kid again, seeing Daley Ranch through the eyes of a child. My time spent leading these hikes has given me a chance to teach the hikers about nature and also learn from them as we get to know each other during the hikes. These are some of my memories, life lessons, and experiences walking the trails with kids on Daley Ranch.

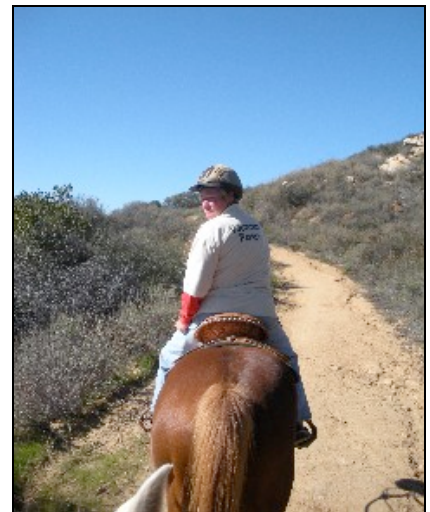
After completing the training program at Dixon Lake/Daley Ranch, I began to lead hikes, looking forward to each one. I believe I learn more from the kids than they probably learn from me. On one hike, there was a kid that was what I would call a “nature genius.” He could have led the hike! He was a walking-talking encyclopedia of “things to know about nature.” I was amazed! Kids are honest and forthright, not concerned with what others might think. For example, we often see wildlife “droppings” or “scat” along the trails and I will mention that this is a way we know that certain animals are living in the area. Sometimes when I use these “adult” words, I will get some

blank stares from the kids...so, somewhat reluctantly, I will use the “P” word and immediately the kids will know what I mean and they will start looking for more coyote “poop”! (My own kids used to hate this saying, “Mom talked about poops again on her hike!”). During the nature craft of another hike, I had brought along coloring pages of the Acorn Woodpecker for some of the younger kids. When I happened to glance up from the picnic table, I noticed that almost every male child had decided to “fly” these coloring pages instead of “color” them, folding them into paper airplanes and “flying their woodpeckers” across the Jack Creek Picnic Area. I chuckled to myself seeing that each kid is unique, learning about their surroundings in different ways.

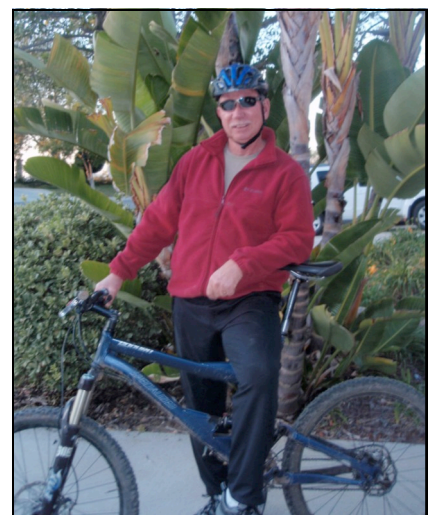
I could probably fill the pages of a book with all the interesting and magical things that the “kids of Daley Ranch” have taught me. I look up to their parents who take the time to drive them up the hill to “go on a hike” and experience nature instead of sitting at home experiencing a computer game or an iTouch (my kids love these devices, too!!). Every time I hike the trails at Daley, I usually see something I had not noticed before, and it sparks my longing to learn more about nature and to just be awed by my surroundings. When I get to lead the “Just For Kids” hikes, I am reminded by these kids to become like them and keep on looking at Daley Ranch “through the eyes of a child.”



D J Summers



Teri Nelson



Dan Cannon

Dream to Ride into a Painting—Teri Nelson, Patrol Volunteer

I now know why for 25 years I felt a yearning to ride my horse at Daley Ranch. While I lived just down the road in Escondido, I drove past the La Honda Drive entrance to Daley Ranch and wished that I could just go up there and ride a horse for hours! I moved to Valley Center where I am fortunate enough to have my horses at home now. Thanks to the kindness of Volunteer Rangers Todd and Glenda Yates, my dream has come true. I met the Yates through their daughter, Wendy, who told me at the school bus stop one day, as we waited to pick up our daughters, that she often joined her parents and their horses on the trails at Daley Ranch. I asked her PLEASE invite me to go next time you go! And she did. Wendy is a great trail

friend too, but since she is so busy with other pets, work and two young daughters, she does not have as much time to ride the trails at Daley. However, Todd & Glenda are the most consistent trail riders that I have ever met. They are so dedicated to a weekly ride that they hardly ever miss a week. Because of them I have not only become a much better horse rider, but also found a new job. A volunteer job that I love! Now I get to “pay it forward” to other trail & horse lovers. Below is a photo of Deanne and Paris, the eleventh rider and her horse that I have introduced to these wonderful trails at Daley Ranch. I enjoy riding and getting to know more and more riders while I help them discover a new riding location. As we walk along the trail I usu-

ally warn new friends about washouts or holes in the trail. I always get a kick out of it when after the third or fourth trail hole we pass they always say: “wow, you really do know these trails don’t you!” I have only the Yates to thank for sharing this wonderful adventure of riding my horse right into a painting! That’s what I think it feels like when I enjoy all the beautiful surroundings at Daley Ranch as I mosey down the trail. Thanks Todd & Glenda Yates! I promise to keep “paying it forward”!

We hope you enjoy getting to know a few Daley Ranch volunteers. Call our volunteer coordinator to join their ranks.

Bike Helmets Save Lives—Dan Cannon, Patrol Volunteer

After riding both road and mountain bikes for the past 22 years, I completely endorse the use of bike helmets for everybody riding a bike. Back when I started riding a street bike, I was inexperienced and took a couple bad falls, in which I put my helmet to good use. I most likely would not be writing this article, if I took those falls without a helmet... I would be dead! As I became a better rider, I took more risks, and had fewer falls and thankfully again used my helmet. Then I decided it was time to buy clip-in pedals and

shoes, and guess what, I went through another learning curve; falling a few times, and got to use my helmet yet again. About 11 years ago, I purchased my first mountain bike and since then, I’ve continued to use a helmet to protect my hard head.

I was riding down Crest Trail at Daley Ranch about 5 years ago, where the trail was severely eroded. I was attempting to stay out of the ditch by riding on an adjacent narrow trail route. I ended up hitting some not-so-soft brush, pushing me into the 3 foot

ditch. I slid about 10 yards down the trail, and only stopped when my head and shoulder hit a boulder. The fall and collision put a 2 inch gash in my helmet, and bruised by my shoulder enough that I couldn’t ride for a month.

Unfortunately, on my patrols I have noticed many people stupidly not wearing helmets. Obviously they are inexperienced and don’t know any better... or think ‘Nothing will happen to me.’ No one plans on an accident! Be prepared and wear your helmet!

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 weavertoo@gmail.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: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City/Zip _____

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: _____

Friends of Daley Ranch
PO Box 461173
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www.fodr.org