

# Friends of Tecolote Canyon

Volume 7 Issue 3 September 2022

## Inside this Issue:



Local Lizards  
pg.2

Fall Weavers  
pg.3



Composting  
Workshop &  
Events pg.4

## Flip-Cause

The Friends of Tecolote offer FREE educational field trips with our dedicated naturalists to students throughout the county, to raise awareness and appreciation of the Canyon. But many schools can't visit because there isn't money to rent a bus. If you would like to help provide transportation for these students, please join our Fund-a-Bus campaign. Simply text the word **"Give"** to **858-422-0109** to donate to our bus fund and a link will appear. For other no-cost ways to help, please email [FriendsOfTecolote@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfTecolote@gmail.com) with "Bus" in the subject line.



## Notes from Marla ~ Director—Tecolote Nature Center

On a Saturday in May, Jr. Volunteers Sierra and Tegan, called the Tecolote Nature Center to report a small mammal that seemed to be lost or in distress. The mammal was seen hiding on someone's front porch near Cecilia Terrace in Bay Park. Sierra sent a picture of the animal which turned out to be a young fox.



I recommended that they call Project Wildlife's Emergency Hotline at 619-225-9453. Luckily, they came out in time to rescue the fox pup, also known as a kit or cub. Project Wildlife informed the girls that the fox was too young to be on its own and they would care for it at their Ramona facility until it was strong enough to be released back into the wild.

Thanks to Sierra and Tegan for trusting their instincts, keeping their distance, reporting their sighting, and taking the proper steps to help wildlife in need!

~

On another note, Congratulations to Tegan and Sierra for graduating high school this year! Here they are helping at the nature center back in 2016, and now they're all grown up and moving on to college.

***Best wishes for a bright future from all your friends at the Tecolote Nature Center!***



# In Honor of World Lizard Day ~ Aug 14, 2022

Photographs by Jerry Jacobs



Baby western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis longipes*)  
AKA: Great Basin Fence Lizard (Above and right)

Each year, on August 14th, World Lizard Day is celebrated to spread love and awareness for lizards and their contributions to our ecosystems. Lizards not only help control insect populations, plant-eating lizards help disperse seeds and ultimately, lizards provide food for other animals. If you'd like to learn more about our local reptile celebrities pictured here or any of our native lizards a great website to start with is :

<https://californiaherps.com/identification/lizardsid/lizards.id.html>



Coronado Skink (*Plestiodon skiltonianus interparietalis*)



Belding's Orange-throated Whiptail  
(*Aspidoscelis pyrrhura beldingi*)



The San Diego Herpetological Society is a great place for to become involved in all things reptile. They also have club for Juniors. Members of SDHS gain access to a network of reptile & amphibian experts around the community, monthly reptile meetings, guided herp hikes with field biologists, giveaways, and other private events.

For more information visit: <https://www.sdherpsociety.org/>

*Have you ever wondered*

## *How Weavers Weave Their Webs?*



Members of our fall garden committee are out and about doing their best to decorate our yards and our canyon. Orb weaver spiders spin large, circular amazing works of art, often strung between two trees or large objects making one wonder how the spider ever crosses the chasm between them.

The black & yellow argiope, *Argiope aurantia*, and *Argiope argentata*, commonly known as the silver argiope are two of the most common orb weavers in San Diego county. While most spiders make three to four types of silk, the orb weaver makes seven different kinds of silk. The process by which they make their webs is amazing.

According to <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/> The typical orb weaver builds a web, suspended by seven lines attached to any variety of surfaces. The spider then starts pulling silk from a gland with its fourth leg while the opposite leg pulls multiple strands from about 20 additional silk glands, creating a balloon-like structure. The spider knows that eventually a warm breeze will take up the balloon, carrying the first line of silk. When the spider feels the line snag it attaches the strand and pulling itself along it gathers up the strand while laying out new silk behind it. She/he will do this up to 20 times, creating a network of silk lines in all directions. The spider will determine the 7 strongest attachment points then cut away the other 13 and commence to build the web. If this fascinates you, as it does me, you can find the rest of the story here:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/ask-smithsonian-how-do-spiders-make-webs-180957426/>

Meanwhile, I will spend some of my time on the trail this fall looking for webs, not to avoid them but to count attachment spots, appreciating with awe and wonder, one of our smallest canyon neighbors. Additional information on our local arachnids and invertebrates of all kinds can be found at the local library or by visiting one of these sites: <https://bugguide.net/node/view/15740> or <https://www.insectidentification.org/insects-by-state.php?thisState=California>.

“Poetry is a fresh morning spider-web

telling a story of moonlit hours of weaving and waiting during a night.”

— [Carl Sandburg](#)

# Master Composter Course



Five-week course digging into the art and science of various composting techniques!

Tecolote Canyon Nature Center  
Weekly on Saturdays,  
Sept. 17 - Oct. 15, 2022  
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.



Learn more & register at  
<https://bit.ly/3zteuAo>

Tecolote Nature Center  
5180 Tecolote Road  
San Diego, CA 92110

## Hours of Operation\*

Wednesday—Saturday  
10:00am—4:00pm  
Closed Sunday—Tuesday

*Occasionally when understaffed the center may close on short notice*

The garden, patio, and outdoor restrooms are open everyday.

**FACIAL COVERINGS ARE  
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**

Thank you for your understanding and patience, city employees are here to help and serve you.

## EVENTS

September 10th ~ Clairemont Family Day

We are unable to host a booth this year, but encourage you to attend this wonderful family event.

September 24th ~ Audubon Bird Walk, 8:00-11:00 am

October 1 & November 5

9:00-11:30 we will be watering plants and weeding out nonnatives in our restoration area with San Diego Canyonlands.

Volunteers can get more info and sign up at [www.sdcanyonlands.org](http://www.sdcanyonlands.org)

November 25 :

Green Friday-skip the mall and get out into nature ~ Guided and/or self-guided nature walks and activity tables.

**Like us on Facebook for  
regularly updated information**  
Facebook/Friends of Tecolote Canyon

## RAIN OR SHINE

# Clairemont FAMILY DAY

**SATURDAY 9/10**  
8am - 4pm

South Clairemont Recreation Center

PANCAKE BREAKFAST	CAR SHOW
LIVE PERFORMANCES	GREAT FOOD
LOCAL VENDORS	PONY RIDES
RIDES & GAMES	AND MORE!

Visit:  
[www.clairemontfamilyday.com](http://www.clairemontfamilyday.com)  
for more info



## About Friends of Tecolote Canyon

Friends of Tecolote Canyon is a non-profit community organization committed to sponsoring nature education and restoration activities in Tecolote Canyon Natural Park. Our education program, supported by SDGE's "Environmental Champions Initiative," is dedicated to bringing children into Tecolote Canyon and fostering connection through enjoyable, memorable, and meaningful experiences in our unique and precious local habitat.

Visit us at <https://www.friendsoftecolotecanyon.org/>

## Thank you to our sponsors

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