

Friends of Tecolote Canyon

February/March 2024



From Marla, our amazing Nature Center Director and Friend



Thank you Tecolote! After 34 years working with the City of San Diego, 19 of those years at the Tecolote Nature Center, I have decided to hang up my blue staff shirt and retire. The connections and friendships I have made with the community, volunteers, children, families (so many wonderful families) has filled my heart. It's been a pleasure watching your children grow into young adults, college students, and even having families of their own. There are too many to mention individually but you know who you are. You have made my time here so special and meaningful. I will miss my Wednesdays with Ms. Eloise, daily greetings to the regular trail users, field trips with Bay Park Elementary School, Art and Activities with my crafty ladies, and monthly meetings and events with the Tecolote Canyon Interpretive Group. I will miss my coworkers who I have built deep, caring relationships with and have become like family. I especially want to thank Senior Park Ranger Steven, who has guided me along the way and supported me over the past 10 years. Please continue to support Parks Rangers Steven, Austin, Monica, and Intern Cassidy in the work they do. They are the absolute best staff, and I look forward to seeing all the wonderful things they do moving forward. The parks are in great hands under their direction.

Thank you to Eloise, Sherlie, and all The Friends of Tecolote Canyon for their continued dedication to funding education programs and special events in Tecolote Canyon. You are an amazing group of citizens who are committed to sharing all that Tecolote Canyon has to offer, and I have cherished my time with you! I am excited about my future, and the future of Tecolote Canyon. Thank you for being a part of my journey. I hope to see you on the trail!

Gratefully, Marla Gilmore

We can never have enough of nature."

~Henry David Thoreau

Your donations to Friends of Tecolote Canyon are always appreciated and make our educational programs possible. You can donate while visiting the Nature Center or through our website:

Thank you ~for considering us!

<https://www.friendsoftecolotecanyon.org/>

Restoration and Clean-up Events

Our January planting day was a success with the rainfall cooperating perfectly to soften the soil right before our planting event. Join the **restoration fun** again -or for the first time

- Saturday, February 3rd from 9am to 11am! Sign up with San Diego Canyonlands at:
<https://sdcanyonlands>

Bring the family to our next **Tri-Canyon Cleanup** event in Marian Bear Park on Tuesday, February 13th from 9am to 11am. Volunteers can meet at the Marian Bear East Regents lot (off of SR-52, Clairemont Mesa/Regents rd exit). No sign-up necessary.



The Northern Flicker~

by Trent Robertson

The largest woodpecker in our area is the Northern Flicker at 12 to 12.5 inches in length. The subspecies that is most common in our area is the "Red-Shafted" variety. In flight, the undersides of the wings are red-orange in color. (The "Yellow-shafted" form can also be seen in San Diego County.) Flickers are here year-round but they are most common between the months of October and April.

The Northern Flicker is a very colorful bird with a barred brown back and a spotted breast. The top of the head is brown while the throat and cheeks are light grey in color. The bill is black and the bird has a distinctive black "bib". The male has a red mustache stripe that the female lacks. Both sexes have a white rump.

Like other woodpeckers, Northern Flickers eat tree-boring insects, flying insects, berries and acorns. They also eat ants. They prefer areas with tall trees such as oaks and sycamore so they are commonly found in our canyon bottoms. They can also be seen in tall trees in suburban yards.

The Northern Flicker makes a number of different vocalizations. The first is a "klee-yer" which sounds similar to a Cooper's Hawk. The second is "wick, wick, wick, wick" and the third sounds like "flick-a, flick-a" which is how the bird got its name. If you are hiking the canyon bottom and you hear one of these sounds, scan the tree tops and you may see one of these colorful woodpeckers.



Join us for Canyon Coffee - Saturday March 9th from 9:00 - 10:30am

We have a new tradition! You are invited to our new bi-monthly event, Canyon Coffee. Come enjoy tea and coffee while spending time getting to know our park rangers. This is a great way to ask questions about the trails, plants, and animals present in the canyon, as well as the on-going work being done to conserve our precious open space. The nature center will also be open to explore, and volunteers will be available to share their wealth of information about the center and about events taking place throughout the year. As always, we want to thank our wonderful non-profit partner, The Friends of Tecolote for their on-going support of this event.




NATIVE PLANT WATERING DAY!

Habitat restoration efforts require regular watering. We will be hosting a volunteer restoration event focusing on removing invasive weeds and watering newly planted native plants!

TECOLOTE NATURE CENTER

PARKING AT THE CORNER OF CROSS ST AND GARDENA AVE
(FOLLOW THE SIGNS TO THE RESTORATION SITE)

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
9AM-11AM

EMAIL ALANE@SANDIEGO.GOV WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

Visit our Partners

Meet-up “Friends of Tecolote Canyon Natural Park and Nature Center”

This group is for anyone interested in learning more about all of the fun happenings going on in and around the Tecolote Canyon Natural Park and Nature Center! This includes walkers, hikers, bikers, bird lovers, those interested in botany, nature lovers, pretty much anyone who would like to get out and explore Tecolote Canyon and it's Nature Center. Join us in celebrating all of the fun and interesting things happening in this unique and wonderful urban canyon!

<https://www.meetup.com/friends-of-tecolote-canyon-natural-park-and-nature-center/>

The San Diego Bird Festival, February 21 - 25, 2024 Marina Village ~1936 Quivira Way, San Diego 92109

The San Diego Audubon Society invites you to the San Diego Bird Festival, which celebrates the birds and habitats of San Diego county. Pick and choose from four days of speakers and fieldtrips many of which are free. For information and registration visit: <https://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birding/san-diego-bird-festival/>

Volunteer Opportunities ~ Something for Everyone!

Jr Volunteers (community service)~ Native Plant Garden ~Tecolote Canyon Advisory Committee ~Weed Warriors
Environmental Stewards Canyon Program (ESCAPE)Docents ~ Interpretive Guides ~ Art & Crafts
Nature Center Hosts ~ Park Patrol

If you are interested in volunteering, we welcome you to come in and speak with any staff member.

Thank you to our sponsors

SDGE: A Sempra Energy
Utility
Scott Chalmers
Clairemont Town Council
City of San Diego
Many generous
neighbor volunteers and
donors



Please consider joining our Meetup.com group Friends of Tecolote Canyon and Nature Center as another way to stay connected with our events and the events of our nature loving partners. TCCAC meets at 6:30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Nature Center. For more information about TCCAC you may contact Darrel Madison at at darrel.madison@outlook.com

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.



California Native Plant Society PROPAGATION COMMITTEE Tecolote Nature Center

The Propagation committee meets twice per month, learning about all the tips and tricks and sharing stories about growing and sometimes not being able to grow California native plants.

Please email propagation@cnpssd.org to join a Committee contact list if you are interested in helping out or just learning and enjoying the day alongside our growing group! Check out our calendar at:

<https://www.cnpssd.org/calendar-view> for general announcements and dates!

Start plants from seeds, cuttings, & transplanting. Discuss soil mixes, irrigation and watering, nursery layout, best management for health, plant ID, seed collection, & mulch more!