

Friends of Tecolote Canyon



Educating, Preserving, and Transforming ~Volunteering at Tecolote Nature Center~



Tecolote Canyon and Nature Center thrive under the leadership of our skilled rangers, Matt, Steve, and Janice, and our enthusiastic nature center director, Marla. However, the lifeblood of the park is our team of volunteers. They come from varied backgrounds bringing a broad range of knowledge and abilities that, when shared, preserve and transform the canyon, as well as inform and educate our visitors. There

are a myriad of ways to become part of the Tecolote family of volunteers. We will be highlighting many of the opportunities in our newsletter this year. This article is dedicated to our Arts and Activities team.

On the third Wednesday of each month, children of all ages and their parents, engage in nature based activities and create nature based crafts. Each month has a theme which usually includes a read-a-loud story, one or more crafts, and a short outdoor activity. This very popular event has hosted up to 30 children. The volunteers plan, set-up, and guide the activities as parents enjoy engaging with their children. There are a few additional opportunities to help with crafts throughout the year. If creativity, nature, and children sound like a great combination to you, this would be a wonderful place to step in with minimum commitment.



If you are interested in any volunteer opportunity, stop by the front desk or give Marla a call at (619)581-9959



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Volunteers.....	1
Meet Joan	3
I Spy Fungi.....	5
Old and New in the Park.....	6
Events	7
Acknowledgements ..	8



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.

Take them into nature ~ Because kids don't remember their best day watching T.V.

Meet Joan Brosnan



My passion for volunteering stems partially from my parents influence; my dad volunteered as a coach for high school flag football; my mom, a registered nurse, volunteered and tested the eyes and ears of elementary children.

I also inherited their extraordinary creative talents and share their drive to release my creativity and give it away to benefit others. I grew up exploring a Clairemont canyon from my backyard; the fragrance of lemonade berry and toyon take me back to those happy days. Being in nature stimulates my senses, provides continuous ever changing wonder and feeds my soul. Some of my volunteering experiences with other organizations have been a joy, others brain draining. I have supported many causes but serving in Tecolote Canyon has been the most rewarding.

As a self taught naturalist, I have been able to use many of my interests and abilities by guiding elementary school children on nature walks, creating crafts, discovery tables and displays for the nature center or using my administrative gifts to produce outreach programs.

I like to think of TC as the "Peoples Canyon". Thirty years ago, volunteers saved it from development. Today, awesome, interesting, fun volunteers and paid staff continue to conserve, educate and preserve it. I really enjoy volunteering with my peeps, the Friends of Tecolote Canyon; come visit, volunteer and join the family



Joan was the 2015 Tecolote Canyon Volunteer of the Year.

She was also a 2014 citywide volunteer nominee and a 2016 Cox Hero nominee. 2016.

Joan currently manages the Facebook page for "Friends of Tecolote Canyon." As a member of TCIG, she leads walks and staffs outreach booths. She plans and implements projects for Art & Activities program and helps organize the classroom and library. In the past she has started a partnership with the local libraries and served on the committee that researched the content for the interpretive panels in the native plant garden.

Thank you Joan for 7 years of incredible service!



I Spy Fungi

By Joan Brosnan



Our recent rains have, unfortunately, rejuvenated invasive plants as well as enlivened our native species. But to the observant and curious canyon walker, a new spectacle has appeared: fungi! While on duty in the canyon, Ranger Steve found and photographed some amazing specimens.

Fungi may be shaped liked cups , balls, umbrellas or shelves. They may be brown, white , red or other colors. All species take several days to form even though many seemingly appear overnight. No matter what shape it takes, mushrooms are the spore bearing, fruiting body of the fungi that grows in damp soil and rotting wood. A mushroom cap looks like a thick cushion on top but underneath

hang thin folds or curtains of tissue called "gills". Lining the gills are millions of spores which are the reproductive cells of the fungi. The spores spread by breezes, rain and even animals.



A common mushroom produces a half a million spores a minute. If every spore from every fruiting body found just the right food source and began growing, the earth and everything in it would soon be covered with fungi. Fortunately for us relatively few spores find the suitable environment to live and grow.



Worldwide there are over 1.5 million different species of fungi that have been identified by mycologists. I am a fascinated and a fervent admirer of fungi, but hesitant to identify any

that Ranger Steven photographed. Nevertheless, fungi are an interesting and seasonal aspect of our local canyons that bear more study for curious naturalists.



Volunteer, Derek, and center director, Marla, suited up and ready to harvest rain water from our barrel. Needless to say, they could not stop laughing as they got pummeled by the rain. They filled up 24 gallons and could have kept going but ran out of bottles.





Above: A sewer pipe is being replaced, just off the main trail, near the Nature Center. The vegetation was removed in January, the actual construction will begin in March. This project will have an impact on the trail for many months. The Battle Trail can be used as a more scenic detour, during construction. If you need directions or information regarding trail conditions, check in at the front desk or call (619)581-9959

Below: Volunteers Matt and John and Senior Ranger Matt. Volunteers and Rangers worked together to place the foot bridges on the muddy section of the Battle Trail. from trail users.



Tecolote History

April 1988 marked the 10 year anniversary of the dedication of Tecolote Canyon Natural Park. The celebration was held at the North Clairemont Recreation Center. At this time, the Nature Center wasn't even a blip on the horizon. Pictured below are Eloise Battle (center) and Sherlie Miller, the "Tecolote Twins" who headed up the fight to preserve Tecolote Canyon. Pictured with them are Councilmember Mike Gotch (right) who helped get funding for the park off the ground and Roger Hedgecock. He was the attorney that helped with the process, and was Mayor when the Tecolote Canyon Master Plan was adopted in 1983.



Did you know ~ Honey Bees Dance?

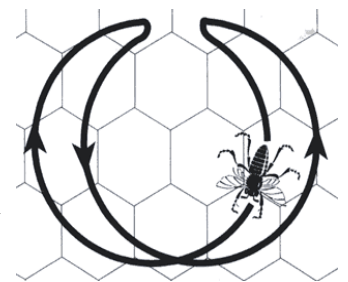
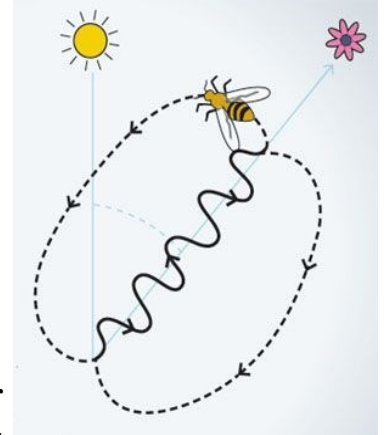
Foraging bees find new sources of food (flowers) for their hive-mates. Then, they return to the hive to let all the other bees know the location of the food by doing a “waggle dance.” Depending on the angle of the dance move, its length and number of “waggles,” the bees tell the other workers in which direction the food is and how far.



round dance

If the distance under 50 meters the forager bees perform the round dance. The circle means “close to the hive”

If the distance is between 50 and 150 meters from the hive, the bees perform a sickle dance. This dance is crescent-shaped and represents a transitional dance between a round dance and a waggle dance.



crescent dance

If the distance is more than 150 meters from the hive, the bees do the waggle dance. During the waggle dance the bee chooses a position on the wall of the hive. It wags its body and moves straight ahead. When it stops, it makes a circle to the right, comes back and waggles in along the straight line, then circles to the left. The angle of the waggle line tell the other bees the direction of the food source, in relation to the angle of the sun. The speed of the waggle tells them how far away the food is. The slower the dance, the farther the food.



waggle dance

Resources: <http://healthywithhoney.com/do-honey-bees-communicate/>
<http://climatekids.nasa.gov/bees/>

Art, ~ Activities ~ Education & Fun ~ at the Nature Center!



WONDERFUL WOODLAND WOODRATS!

**March 16, 10-11:30 am free program at
Tecolote Nature Center:**

**What makes our native, nocturnal rodent so amazing
and unusual?**

**Come see a real woodrat den at Linda
Hawley's presentation, *Nature Adventures!***

**Using songs, puppets, a related craft, and her
animated enthusiasm, Ms. Hawley engages children of
all ages in learning fascinating facts about this
admirable, wonderful woodrat.**

**There will also be presentations (different topics)
on April 20 and May 18...more details to come.**



***"At Home in Nature School" spent most of
a rainy day at Tecolote Nature Center.***

*The kids had fun learning about nature, jumping
in puddles, and sliding around on the muddy
trail. Rainy days weren't just meant for staying
indoors.*

*For information about their program visit:
<http://athomeinnature.com/>*



***Thank you for your support for our Nature Education programs as
we influence another generation of canyon stewards!***



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remain the same. Go to "about amazon smile" for more
information. Thank you for supporting our education
programs!



EVENTS IN THE PARK

Tecolote Nature Center
5180 Tecolote Road San Diego, CA 92110
858-581-9959

Monday – Closed, Tuesday – Saturday 9:00-4:00, Sunday 9:00-2:00

Wednesday, Febru”beary” 15th

1:30 – 3:00 PM Art & Activities for Kids – Free!
Who Hibernates? Fun nature crafts and activities!

3rd Saturday, February 18th & March 18th

9:00-11:00 AM – Weed Warriors
Canyon clean up with Ranger Janice
Get dirty, have fun, help out your community

3rd Sunday, February 19th and March 19th

9:00 AM Sunday in the Garden
Volunteer with Park Ranger Steven
Pull some weeds, plants some seeds

Sunday, February 19th

9:00 a.m. Guided Nature Walk – Chateau Dr.
Volunteer trail guides will be on hand to identify native birds, plants,
reptiles, and insects in one of our most popular locations.

Thursday March 16th

10:00am—11:30am Wonderful Woodland Woodrats
With Linda Hawley (see page 6)

Saturday, March 25th

8:00 AM Audubon Society Birding Walk
Meet at the Nature Center Entrance

New Activities are posted at

[www.meetup.com/Friends of Tecolote Canyon Natural Park and Nature Center](http://www.meetup.com/Friends%20of%20Tecolote%20Canyon%20Natural%20Park%20and%20Nature%20Center)

Like us on Facebook – Friends of Tecolote Canyon

Tecolote Nature Center ~ 5180 Tecolote Road San Diego, CA 92110

Hours of operation: Tues.-Saturday; 9-4:00, Sunday: 9-2:00, Closed Monday

For information call 858-581-9959



Like us on Facebook – Friends of Tecolote Canyon

Activities are free of charge.

**Donations to the “Friends of Tecolote Canyon
are always appreciated!”**

Volunteer Opportunities ~ Something for Everyone!

Docents * Interpretive Guides * Art and Crafts

Tecolote Canyon Advisory Committee * Native Plant Garden

Weed Warriors * Park Patrol * Jr Volunteers (community service)

Environmental Stewards Canyon Program (ESCAPE)

If you are interested, come in and speak with any staff member.



*Friends of Tecolote Canyon and the ESCAPE team
gratefully acknowledge a generous grant from **SDGE**
supporting another year of our Escape program.*



*We want to thank **Scott Chambers and Filmetrics**
for their donation, providing 5 years of wifi to the
nature center*

We are also greatly appreciative of our on-going partnerships with :



*The San Diego City Council, Mission Bay
Hilton Resort and the Clairemont Times.*

