

Friends of Tecolote Canyon



Art in the Park ~ By Trent Robertson

An appreciation of natural forms can take many guises - from poetry, to photography, to expository writing. The Tecolote Nature Center has many exhibits that approach the natural world from a scientific perspective. With the installation of the new ArtsTECH graphics, along the garden fence line, the Nature Center is taking a bold step towards highlighting an artistic perspective on nature interpretation.

The installation features 17 painted wooden panels portraying different mammals, birds and reptiles that can be found in Tecolote Canyon. They were prepared by 34 students, working in teams of two, from the ArtsTECH Academy at University City High School. The ArtsTECH Academy is a specialized program for At-Risk students providing College and Career



Educational Support. The students that completed these stunning graphics were sophomores in Mr. McCarthy's Mixed Media class at the high school.

The panels themselves each feature one animal, along with its scientific name, and an example of its tracks. The animals are painted in a somewhat impressionistic style and superimposed over a boldly colored geometric element. This contrast, and the fact that there are seventeen panels, makes for a very impressive display and a beautiful addition to the Tecolote Nature Center.

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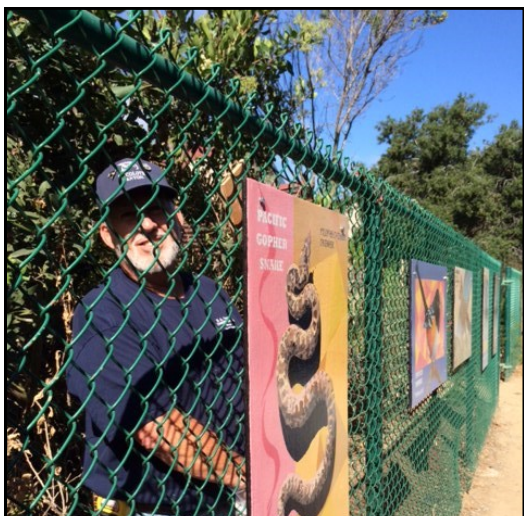
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Friends of Tecolote Canyon is a non-profit community organization committed to sponsoring nature education and restoration activities in Tecolote Canyon Natural Park. Our education program, supported by SDGE's "Environmental Champions Initiative", 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 on Family Day ~ Saturday June 4th

10:00am—2:00 pm ~ See Page 5 for details!



Volunteer Dick Crandall helping Rangers Matt and Steven with the panel installation



Some staff members and volunteers at the nature center have been pushing for more creative approaches to interpretation and there are some other projects in the works to further that aim. New interpretive panels are being prepared for the native plant garden and there has been some discussion of trying to incorporate colorful mosaics in the outdoor displays.

It is hoped that the nature center will see future collaborations with the ArtsTECH Academy and that local students and artists will continue to beautify the nature center and demonstrate that art and science both have important roles in helping us to appreciate our natural surroundings.



Meet Our Director.....

Hi! I'm Marla Gilmore, the Center Director at the Tecolote Nature Center.

I started working at the center in 2004 and have been here ever since! I consider it a privilege to have worked for the City of San Diego for more than 25 years and I absolutely love my assignment here at the nature center. As a native San Diegan and a lifetime Bay Park resident, I feel like it is my duty to share this beautiful place with others.

Ever since I was a small child I can remember caring about animals and insects. I brought stray cats and dogs home all the time and I had a pet caterpillar that I kept in a coffee can until it was time to let it go. Today I get to help kids discover the wonder of nature and sometimes we get to rescue a snake or lizard that has wandered into the center. Other times we search for tracks or scat and try to figure out who was here during the night. Who knew I'd turn my childhood passion for animals into a career with the Park and Recreation Department?

I know this is my calling. I enjoy connecting with children and building lifelong friendships with our visitors. I get to plan fun events for the community, work with dedicated volunteers including children and young adults with Autism, teach kids about snakes and other critters, meet some wonderful people, and help others discover the best kept secret in San Diego! Please stop by and say hi...I look forward to meeting you!





Partnerships in the Park

By Eloise Battle



Tecolote Canyon and the Nature Center have a long and fruitful relationship with Bay Park Elementary School. Since the mid-1990s students from Bay Park have come to Tecolote Natural Park and explored its wonders. They have given back by pulling weeds and helping control non-native invasive plants. Years ago these students planted native plants in front of Tecolote Nature Center and along the road at the entrance of the park. Today the mature plants flourish and have created an inviting canyon entrance.

On Thursday, May 26th, Mr. Doerner's 2nd grade class helped dead-head sunflower and black sage plants, collecting seeds for future use. They watered a patch of newly planted natives, re-mulched the front of the center and even weeded and raked a bit.



Recently we have come full circle. A few weeks ago, Brittany and her son, Michael, came to Tecolote Canyon with a second grade class for a Nature Walk. I learned Brittany had come with Mrs. Rangbarger's class several years ago and participated in the early planting activities. She remembers the bare ground and carefully putting plants from pots into the holes. Her son, Michael, is following in her footsteps. A few weeks ago, he and his classmates were working in an area just up the road from the Nature Center.

Who knows, maybe in another twenty years the third generation may put a shovel into the ground!



The Environmental Stewards Canyon Program (ESCAPE!) team of Naturalists appreciates the enthusiasm of the children and support from the teachers and parents of Bay Park Elementary. It's wonderful to come along side young Naturalists and, together, take care of "our" beautiful canyon for future generations to enjoy!

Family Day ~ Schedule of Activities

Saturday June 4th 2016 ~ 10:00am - 2:00pm



10:00 ~ Doors Open

10:30 ~ Nature Scavenger Hunt in the native plant garden

11:15 ~ Watershed Demonstration

12:00 ~ ArtsTECH Exhibit Recognition

1:00 ~ "The Bird Call Lady" - Nicole Perretta

1:30 ~ Fundraiser winners announced!

From 10am—2pm

Free Activities!

****Create with clay * Meet the snakes***

****Insect Explorations * Owl pellets***

Animal tracking * Animal skulls

Preschool and Elementary Crafts!

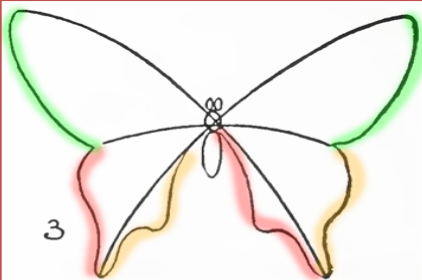
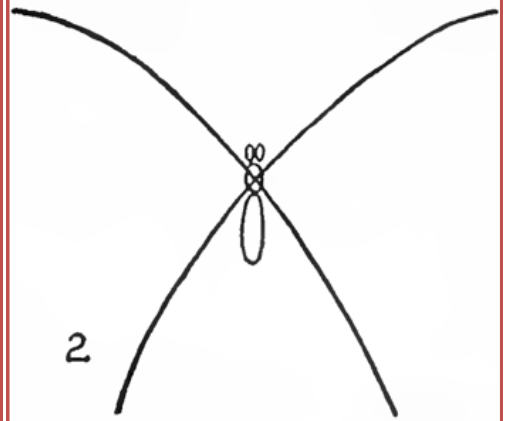
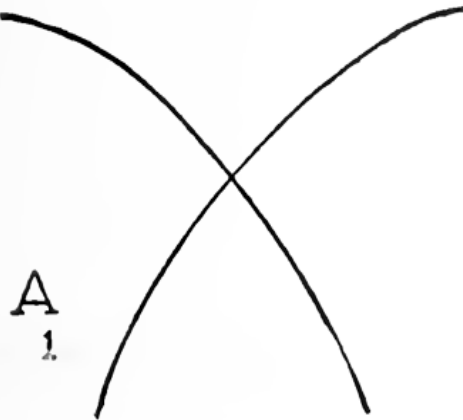
****Lite snacks will be available***



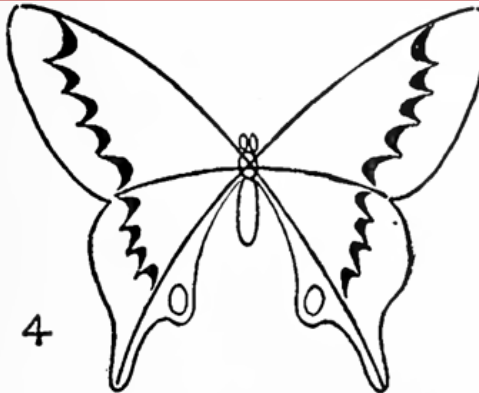
Nicole Perretta has been birding and bird calling for 30 years. She can imitate 158 bird calls and has performed on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno and The Ellen DeGeneres Show. Nicole teaches bird calling workshops throughout the western United States, has worked professionally as an aviculturist, and is a bird Illustrator. Her work has been published in a variety of books and ornithological journals.



How to Draw a Butterfly



- Letter 'C' and backwards 'C'
- Letter 'S'
- Backwards Letter 'S'



To a Butterfly

*I've watched you now a full half-hour
Self-poised upon that yellow flower
And, little Butterfly! Indeed
I know not if you sleep or feed.
How motionless! - not frozen seas
More motionless! And then
What joy awaits you, when the breeze
Hath found you out among the trees,
And calls you forth again!*

~ William Wordsworth



Andrew Butterfield Photography

Anise Swallowtail Butterfly



Hike the trails at Tecolote with Parks Fit San Diego 2016!

Challenge: Walk Run, Roll, or Swim 30 miles

Between June 13, 2016 and Aug 13, 2016

Reward: Get fit, stay healthy & receive a

Parks Fit San Diego t-shirt!

Join this year's Parks Fit San Diego program by visiting any City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department facility (recreation center, pool,

Nature Center, activity center or golf course) for a free and easy enrollment process. Choose one activity or mix it up. Track you miles and turn them in by the due date for your Parks Fit San Diego t-shirt!

Sign up at you local recreation center or at www.SDRecConnect.com

***Join Marla, the center director, every Friday morning in July
for a nature power walk on the Battle Trail.***

Meet in front of the nature center at 8:00am on July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

*"We have such a brief opportunity to pass
on to our children our love for this Earth,
and to tell our
stories. These are the moments when the
world is made whole.*

*In my children's memories, the
adventures we've had together in nature
will always exist."*

~Richard Louv, Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our
Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder



Events in the Park

Saturday, June 4th 2:00-10:00 Family Day

Face painting, games, skull identification, owl pellets, nature discovery tables, bugs, scavenger hunt, The Bird Calling Lady and more, free family fun!

Saturday, June 11th 9:00-12:00 Nature Walk – Mount Carol Entrance

We will be meeting at the south end of Mt. Carol Drive by the signed entrance to Tecolote Canyon Natural Park. There are no facilities at this neighborhood entrance and parking is on the street. Look for our sign.

Wednesday, Jun 15 & Jul 20th 1:30-3:00 Art & Activities for Kids

The June theme is bugs! Go on a bug hunt, create a craft, story time. July TBD

Jun 18th & Jul 16th : 9:00 -11:00 Weed Warriors (3rd Saturdays)

Clean up the canyon with Park Ranger Janice. Wear sturdy shoes and long pants.
gloves and tools provided

Jun 19th & Jul 17th: 9:00– 12:00 Sunday in the Garden (3rd Sundays)

Volunteer with Park Ranger Steven in our native plant garden.
Get dirty, have fun, help out your community! *gloves and tools provided*

Sunday Jun 19th 8:00am Tri-Canyon Beginning Birders

with TCIG Host Trent Robertson ~Rose Canyon Regents Rd Trailhead
See Beginning Birder's Meetup link below.

Jun 25th & Jul 23rd: 8:00am Audubon Society Birding Walk (4th Saturdays)

People come from all over the world to see and hear the birds in our canyon. No experience?
No problem! Plenty of helpful birders on this walk. TNC

TNC = Tecolote Nature Center entrance

Updated activities are posted at:

<http://www.meetup.com/Friends-of-Tecolote-Canyon-Natural-Park-and-Nature-Center/>
&
<http://www.meetup.com/The-San-Diego-Beginning-Birders/>
&
www.facebook.com/friendsoftecolotecanyon

For more information call 858-581-9959 ~

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

For information call 858-581-9959

Front Desk (585) 581-9944

Park Rangers (858)581-9961

Senior Park Ranger (858)581-9952

Friends of Tecolote (858)292-5548 Tecolote Advisory Committee (858)581-9959 Center Director (858)581-9959

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



Like us on Facebook – Friends of Tecolote Canyon
Activities are free of charge.

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

There are a variety of volunteer opportunities at Tecolote:

Nature Center Docent

Tecolote Canyon Interpretive Guides (TCIG),

Native Plant Garden

Weed Warriors

Elementary Outreach Assistants

Park Patrol

Art and Craft Events

Tecolote Canyon Advisory Committee (TCCAC).

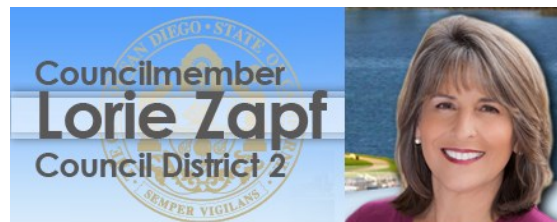
Environmental Stewards Canyon Program (ESCAPE)



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

*We are presently seeking additional corporate and
private donations for the 2015/16 school year, to continue our mission to
“Inspire students to connect with nature and respond by becoming stewards of Tecolote Canyon.”*

Thank you to all of our Family Day Sponsors!!



SD City Council Community Project and Services

