

November Town Council Meeting has been Cancelled

December 2 – Annual holiday meeting



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From the Chair

By Melanie Fallon

As we are ending October and moving into November, The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council and I know everyone in our Valley wants to thank our Fire Department again for their diligent and professional vigil over all of us during this worrisome fire season. Thank you Chief Twohy and all the staff at the Fire Department – you are the BEST! And, I am also sure that the Chief would want me to also say that just because the calendar says November, that doesn't mean that the fire season is over – it lasts all year long these days, so please keep you antennae up and your property in good order.

We have had a couple of very informative EFHGTC General Meetings that need to be shared with everyone.

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING – County staff presented their timeline and plans for the new Sage Hill park. The staff is working with the Sage Hills Committee, chaired by Eric Anderson, to survey the property and do their environmental research and analysis and they hope to have their draft plan finished in June 2010 and ready for public review and comment. In the meantime they are working on completing the fencing of the property off of Elfin Forest Road. Check it out – they are planning on installing concrete (so that no “bad guys” can pull it down) ranch style fencing which is indicative of San Diego County!

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING – County staff, this time from the Department of Health, presented the facts about septic systems – do's and don'ts and recommendations for maintenance. In this Chaparral you will find the information from this presentation in the minutes from the meeting – it is very informative. You will definitely want to read it (and maybe save it for future reference!)

EFHGTC TRAILS COMMITTEE – Three months ago we activated our dormant Trails Committee when Board member Bonnie Baumgartner volunteered to chair the committee and re-engage the community in this endeavor. Thank you Bonnie! One of the reasons many of us chose to live in this community was because of our multi-use trails and they always need our attention. In particular,

From the Chair ... continued

this Trails Committee is especially potent because we have teamed up with the Landscape Foundation to work together on all of the trails in our community so that we are all on the same page. If you have any interest in being on this committee, don't hesitate to contact Bonnie at bonnie@doubleb-ranch.com

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO STEP UP AND BE ON THE TOWN COUNCIL BOARD – We have recently lost a Board member for personal reasons so we are looking for volunteers to fill this vacant seat, and remember that our election is this upcoming February and we will have additional vacancy(s) also at that time. I know that it doesn't necessarily sound like fun and may sound like too much work, but I promise that it isn't. We need new residents to give us a new perspective and longtime residents to bring sage historical knowledge to some of our decision-making! So think on it and let me know, pretty please?

UPCOMING TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETINGS –

NOVEMBER MEETING – CANCELLED

DECEMBER 2 – Annual holiday meeting – mark your calendars – this is always a great time to spend a few minutes to visit with your friends and join in honoring some of our wonderful neighbors!

JANUARY 6 – Please plan on attending this meeting – we will be facilitating a community discussion about the possibility of having a new active recreation park in the heart of Elfin Forest! This is an important discussion that needs everyone's input.

That is all for now, but remember if you have any issues or thoughts, just let us know. You can reach me at 744-7090 or mfallon1@att.net.

What's Happening at the Fire Department—May 2009



The Summer and Fall months are always busy for your fire department. Vegetation fires are the major concern this time of year and the Department has been updating our wild land fire fighting skills. You may have seen us around the community doing hose lays and running practice scenarios. We may have even made some folks nervous with a large night operations drill off of Via Ambiente!

We have been getting updated medical training through several live question and answer video conferencing classes which allow our firefighters to remain in our communities rather than leave for class.

Our firefighters have been going door to door handing out a great CD and pamphlet on preparing your home and property for wildfire. The CD is called before the threat and doesn't take long to view. We have not quite finished so please feel free to come by the fire station and pick one up.

What's Happening ... continued

We have experienced an increase in traffic accidents including a fatal motorcycle accident on Harmony Grove Road. This time of year the sun is setting earlier and is low in the sky around the evening commute. Keep your windshield clean and watch out for other drivers.

Let's all enjoy the change of season but please stay fire safe.

By Frank Twohy

Farmers Market Comes to Cal State San Marcos

Looking for organic produce and artisan bread without the supermarket experience? The destination for both is a lot closer now that the San Marcos farmers market has opened at Cal State San Marcos. Every Wednesday from 3 to 7 p.m. the parking lot comes alive with live music, produce vendors and specialty craftsmen bringing the unique foods and goods that can only come from the labor of love that is behind them. Taste the scrumptious varieties of hummus like roasted red pepper, lemon cilantro, and pumpkin or stroll past the solo violist while she entertains children with a rendition of "Mickey Mouse."

Mark it down on your calendar and don't miss the free bounce house the 1st, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, and pony rides for a few dollars on the 2nd Wednesday of the month for the kids. Free face painting and balloons from Frazzle Dazzle the clowns are provided weekly. Live music occurs weekly as well from George Wit originally from Brazil, who recently moved here from Hawaii with his wife Carol, who sells handmade jewelry and items handcrafted from her town in Brazil — unique and beautiful!!

While you are there stop by and visit Elfin Forest's very own Faraway Farm's pumpkin booth and pick up a pumpkin for baking or decorating. Then check out Smits Orchard stand which showcases the season's very best fuji apples and fresh pressed apple cider. Plant enthusiasts can stop by The Return of the Native booth, home of those native plants you have been wanting to plant this fall.

Why not take a break from cooking and try Herows and Seda Hovsepian's yummy Mediterranean sauces and dips at the Kabob Cuisine booth. Not in the mood for kabobs? There are plenty of other items to choose from at the market like Robert's fresh crepes, Yolanda's tamales and tacos, lumpias, curried chicken and kettle corn, of course!

With the holidays around the corner, gifts come in all shapes and sizes. Caroline and Warren have recycled Sari's and make into one of a kind skirts at a fraction of the regular price. Caroline also is original oil paintings and



Farmer's Market ... continued

tablecloths. Take a look at Candace's handmade jewelry or Joy's top quality handmade pottery.

Need eggs? If you have not gotten around to building that hen house you have always wanted, one of Elfin Forest's youngest entrepreneurs is offering organic eggs at the market starting this month. You can also lessen your carbon imprint by emailing Eli's Eggs at elisteria4@gmail.com to set up free weekly delivery.

With so many good things over the hill, Jack and Jill would be jealous.

By Mary E Steria

To Trail or Not to Trail — That is the Question

The EFHGTC Trail Committee hosted our first coffee social at the Fire Station on September 26, 2009. It was great to meet many of our neighbors who, run, walk, trail ride and mountain bike on our great trails. I get to walk daily with my 2 jack russell terrorists on some part of our community trails. I get to see coastal sage, CA live oaks, CA sycamore, quail, hawks, ducks, occasionally coyotes, and to walk near a year round flowing stream-**EVERY DAY**. I consider myself very fortunate and blessed. Teacher friends of mine have told me that there are children in their classes that have never walked on a dirt trail, or seen a stream, or tried to identify a bird call, or seen a wild flower. These are the same kids that we are going to expect to take care of the Earth and respect their connection to it.

We are lucky. When people visit us we can take a hike on our trails ... **FOR FUN!** We don't have to drive through our rural community. We get to drive home to it ... for Free! Or ... almost free. But here is the catch - maintenance—our trails need help- adding compost- spreading wildflower seeds - replacing fencing that has rotted out.

The trails committee has applied for a grant from the CA Trails and Greenways Fund. Hopefully we will get the grant to purchase needed fencing etc. If we do get the grant we will need time and labor to install it. Below is a list of trail committee members and their emails. Please contact any of us if you are willing to help. See you on the trails

Bonnie Baumgartner	bonnie@doubleb-ranch.com
Chris Dye	dye60@hotmail.com
Mid Hoppenrath	mail@hoppub.com
Joy Jackson	atayif@yahoo.com
Nancy Reed	nancy@elfinforest.net
Carolyn Swenerton	jeffswenerton@aol.com
Carla Zilka	jason.zilka@att.net

By Bonnie Baumgartner

Elfin Forest - Harmony Grove

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, November 7, 2009

8:00 - 11:00 am

Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Station

20223 Elfin Forest Rd

\$5.00/person

pancakes ham coffee juice milk fruit

Bring your camera and your kids and take photos with the Fire Trucks

This event is a great time to get together with our wonderful neighbors and enjoy delicious food while showing how much we appreciate our brave fire fighters. The Fire Auxiliary puts on this breakfast and all the proceeds benefit the EFHG Fire Department. This year, once again, Albertson's is a major sponsor, with Panerra donating lots of goodies too.

If you are interested in helping out or joining the Fire Auxiliary, call Bobbie MacFarland at 471-1235.

Saving Grace

Gazing over the horizon dancing with colors of blue and pink over the ocean, Kent and I said a prayer of gratitude for the gift of this magical Elfin Forest. We first experienced this magical place in April of 2003. We lived in Mission Hills at the time and craved a retreat nestled in nature far away from the noise and crowds of the city. Upon approaching San Elijo road, the energy began to shift. As we turned down the road to Questhaven, my whole being was flooded with a warm peaceful energy. The feeling was so strong we remained silent until we reached the gate. During our stay, we decided that this was our new home. We spent the next few years searching for the perfect place in this enchanted forest.

It was the spring of 2005 when we found it. We have both personally experienced the healing magic of this land, bringing life and truth to the stories of this area being an energy vortex, a place of healing, and where Native Americans came for peace gatherings. We both came here with health challenges and found ourselves renewed and inspired by the divinity this place radiates. Kent has taken up his passion and gift for ceramic art after twenty years, and we are enthusiastically planning an art show for December. The seven beautiful acres we live on also gave us space to build a large organic garden. As a twenty year veteran of landscaping, Kent is an expert in soil amendments so it was no surprise that our vegetables grew big and luscious. We have shared these wonderful vegetables with neighbors as well as the local raw food restaurant.



I am a certified yoga instructor, and healing facilitator. I have created a non-profit healing and yoga center, Saving Grace. I am researching a location in the local community to offer yoga, and many other healing modalities. I have gathered yoga instructors, healers, an acupuncturist, a licensed nutritionist, and others who are ready to offer their gifts on a donation basis. The vision of creating and providing a healing center for this community came to me shortly after moving here and experiencing my own healing from the amazing restorative energy of this land. Please join me in this vision of creating a connected community in this beautiful Elfin Forest where we can all share and contribute our gifts and ideas. Also, I am looking for a yurt to be donated, and anyone who wishes to offer their assistance. All contributions will be tax deductible. Please feel free to contact me at tannie2bug@yahoo.com , 760-484-0583 or visit my website www.amuseforlife.com.

By Tanya Hall

October Town Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 7, 2009

-CALL TO ORDER at 7:35PM by Eric Anderson

-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

-INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERSHIP

-TREASURER'S REPORT- MAY MEINTJES - Treasurer's report NET balance \$15,791.35 AS OF 10/07/09

-CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT- Eric Anderson -Sept 30th board meeting did not have a quorum so no business was transacted.

-SHERIFF DEPARTMENT REPORT BJ is still ill. Area has been fairly quiet with some teenagers gathering on Questhaven with Halloween approaching. An Encinitas man committed suicide in area- determined not a criminal activity. New deputies: Randy, and Kevin

-REPORT FROM FIRE CHIEF TWOHY

Mon., Oct 12th is the annual board meeting and election. An update of fire department will be presented. Chief cautioned drivers to take care with sun lower in sky; and reminded all of the Competitive Trail Ride taking place, Oct.10/11 Centered off VIA AMBIANTE. The ribbon markers will be removed after the event.

-PRESENTATION- Septic Systems by NEAL SEARING, San Diego County Environmental Health Dept

Septic is "ON SITE SEWAGE" treatment. Proper maintenance is important because it is expensive to repair. Proper maintenance protects the health of your family and the environment . Most systems in this area consist of a two chambered septic tank which traps and holds solids, and a leach field or drain field which drains waste water into specially designed fields where anaerobic/aerobic bacteria break down waste. Viruses are destroyed by the soil . Septic systems have specific requirements for percolation rate, must be permitted to be built, and inspected regularly.

Specific Don'ts for Septic System:

Don't drive over or park on the system or leach area

Don't plant on the leach field (except for grass or shallow rooted plants. Tree roots can invade leach lines and cause blockage.

Don't dig on drain field, or cover with hard surface concrete.

Don't make repairs without permit by licensed septic personnel.

Don't use septic additives- not proven to do any good!

Don't flush any toxic chemicals, paint, varnish, fat ,grease, oil, cigarettes, disposable diapers or kitty litter into your septic system- it will poison the good bacteria necessary to allow it to work.

Don't over use your garbage disposal.

Don't allow backwash from water softeners to enter septic system

Meeting Minutes... continued

Specific DO's for your septic system:

- DO** know the location
- DO** have septic tank pumped regularly.
- DO** have your septic tank cover accessible for inspections.
- DO** call a professional for any signs of system failure.
- DO** keep records of repairs, etc.
- DO** conserve water to avoid overloading systems. Fix leaky toilets, faucets, etc.
- DO** divert other sources of water away from systems (roof drains etc)

SIGNS OF FAILURE:

- slowly draining sinks and toilets
- gurgling sounds in plumbing
- plumbing backups
- sewage odors in house, yard
- ground wet, mushy underfoot
- grass grows faster or greener in one part of the yard
- tests showing presence of bacteria in well water.

Horses and livestock on the leach field are OK

Riding Rings on the leach field are OK

Minor Landscape walking pavers on the leach field are OK

Planting over the system is OK BUT trees and roots could impact ability of field to filter

A few inches of dirt on top of the leach field is OK ... BUT NO compacting because it takes away evapo-transformation.

For more information contact:

**Neil Searing, Environmental Health Specialist, County of San Diego
(760) 940-2869; neil.searing@sdcounty.ca.gov**

Eric Anderson thanked Mr. Searing for his very informative presentation.

Application to be A DARK SKY COMMUNITY -EVELYN BUSTILLOS volunteered to research process to designate Elfin Forest as a Dark Sky community . BOREGGO SPRNGS just received this designation.-

ADJOURNED 8:20 PM

By Bonnie Baumgartner

Do You Have Double Poles?

In response to the 2007 fire litigation, SDGE has been replacing utility poles throughout the County at a break-neck pace! While this effort has been wonderful many of us have been left with double utility poles on or nearby our properties. This is because both SDGE and ATT have their facilities on these poles. While SDGE has been working very fast to install their new poles and transfer the electric service to these poles because of the litigation, ATT has not been under the same scrutiny and does not have the resources that SDGE has for this task and it is probably fair to say that ATT has become a tad overwhelmed by the amount of facility transfer that they now need to do.

We have recently heard from ATT however, that they are trying to work through this large volume of work and have established a new procedure so that if we contact them with a list of the locations of these double poles, they will try and see what can be done sooner than later.

So if you have double poles on your street and they are bugging you, you can email me at mfallon1@att.net or call at 760.744.7090 before November 15 and give me the location of the poles (address and street) and we will compile a list and send it on to ATT.

By Melanie Fallon

Honor Thy Neighbor — Community Service Awards

It is that time of the year when we recognize Elfin Forest and Harmony Grove citizens for a job well done over the past year. Community stewardship can consist of anything from going the extra mile in roadside property beautification to volunteering for one of our many great projects. Please nominate anyone that you think deserves some extra recognition. Send nominations and a brief paragraph about why this person should be honored to me at mfallon1@att.net or call me at 760.744.7090.

And remember to join us on Wednesday December 2 at 7:30pm at the Fire Station for the award ceremony and holiday potluck!

By Melanie Fallon

Thank You !!

The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Fire Department facilities committee would like to thank Terry Toth of Scotsman Ice Systems. They graciously donated an ice maker for the station. Ice is expensive and having an ice machine at the station will allow us to have immediate access to ice for strike team assignments and for extended operations on local incidents. If you are looking for more information on ICE Makers, please visit their website at <http://www.scotsman-ice.com>. Thank you Terry for your donation!

News from *The Escondido Creek Conservancy*

These are the Best of Times, These are the Worst of Times

I apologize for the twisted Dickens but it truly applies to today's land conservation environment. The same forces that have wreaked havoc on our 401-k's and our home values have also brought The Escondido Creek Conservancy (TECC) and our North County community an incredible opportunity. Most of us believe that in time our 401-k's value will return and our homes will once again begin to appreciate. But with that positive trend the opportunity I'm talking about will disappear forever. Of course I'm talking about the opportunity to preserve large tracts of open space in the Escondido Creek Watershed. Kevin Barnard's article about TECC's land acquisition activities, on page 13, gives you a glimpse of the opportunity.



At TECC we've realized that this is our moment to actualize the vision we dreamed of 20 years ago as we sat around Leonard Wittwer and Martha Blane's kitchen table. If we act now we can save hundreds of acres of pristine open space. If we wait for better times when our own fortunes are more secure we will surely lose these lands to suburbanization. So, please consider becoming a donor and part of our November membership drive this year. If you've donated in the past then please consider increasing your donation.

By Steve Barker
TECC Board President

Free Lecture at the Elfin Forest Reserve Interpretive Center

NOVEMBER 12TH 5:30 TO 7PM

Following the success of our first in a series of lectures at the Interpretive Center in September when Kate Tiorion spoke about 'The Escondido Creek', we are pleased to announce that Greg Rubin, owner of California's Own Native Landscape Designs has agreed to speak on 'Native plants - Myths and Legends'. Greg started working with native plants back in 1985, while renovating his parent's home in Chatsworth, CA. Although educated and subsequently employed in a successful engineering career, Greg maintained a fascination with natives based on this early experience. Soon, he was landscaping for friends and family on weekends and holidays. Demand continued to rise, and by 1993, Greg was able to start his successful and unusual landscaping business. Since that time, his company has designed over 400 native landscapes in San Diego County.

BRING A CHAIR AND A FLASHLIGHT!

A Busy Spring Brings Several Changes to TECC ...

In March, June Rady left the board after many years of service that included Board Chair. We owe June a big "thank you" for her contributions and commitment to the watershed.

Early this year, Kevin Barnard resigned as Managing Director to return to law enforcement but rejoined TECC as a member of the board in April. Kevin's staff tenure was very productive. Under Kevin's high energy and focused approach, TECC made great strides in our land acquisition efforts and construction of the Interpretive-Center. Thank you Kevin!

Everett Delano has resigned from the Board after many years of service but remains with TECC as retained legal council. Everett and especially his law partner/wife Dare have been incredibly helpful this last year in supporting our land deals and negotiations.

Steve Barker accepted the duties of Chair, Jeff Swenerton serves as Vice Chair, Brent Alspach remains as Secretary and Jon Dummer as Treasurer.

Land Acquisition Update

"A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone." Henry David Thoreau-Naturalist

By the time this newsletter reaches you, TECC anticipates an additional 120 acres will have been set aside in the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove core habitat area of the Escondido Creek Watershed. This is the 120 acres known as Family Stations which is the property across the road from the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve parking lot where the Interpretive Center is located. TECC expended approximately \$20,000 in project preparation costs, such as appraisals, HazMat surveys, etc. to attract public funding. The purchase price on this parcel was \$3.2 million and this represents an unprecedented leveraging of our community based funds, raised via TECC, to conserve and manage open space acquisitions in the watershed. At press time the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation will take title of Family Stations in a deal that is similar to what occurred several years ago with the acquisition of what is now the 350 acre Del Dios Highlands County Park.



Critical in the success of this acquisition was the contracting of real estate broker Ann Van Leer by TECC. Ann is the owner of Land Conservation Brokerage, a brokerage dedicated to the acquisition of lands for preservation. Ann has extensive background and expertise with conservation acquisitions and her hard work, patience, and incredible knowledge and network in the public funding arena made the Family Stations project relatively easy. TECC has retained Ann for several other potential acquisitions in the watershed as a result of her success with Family Stations.

Land Acquisition ... continued

This past summer, TECC, in cooperation with The Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council and Endangered Habitats League (EHL), funded a study conducted by Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) to point out to potential funders, both public and private, of the unique habitat value and connectivity of The Escondido Watershed in the Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove core habitat area. If you look at San Diego County from a 60,000 foot altitude, considered the most bio-diverse county in the United States, this core habitat area is the last remaining intact coastal chaparral habitat left in the county. This report will assist TECC in attracting more public and private funds to our watershed for land acquisition projects such as the recently completed Family Stations project. Other organizations, such as EHL, and The Conservation Fund (which recently coordinated to successful completion the acquisition of the 230 acre Sage Hill project), could conceivably utilize the report to attract more funding to acquisitions in this area.

In the spring, TECC acquired an additional 10 acres adjacent to what we refer to as the Quarry Property, which was originally an 11 acre parcel at the southwest corner of Harmony Grove Rd. and Country Club Dr. TECC purchased the contiguous 10 acres to the east, essentially expanding the Quarry Property to 21 acres. This acquisition represented an opportunity to create more connections from Escondido Creek south to the San Dieguito River Valley since The County of San Diego Park and Recreation will likely have acquired an additional 60 acres spanning the two watersheds in the same area by the time this article is published. In addition to Family Stations and the expansion of the Quarry property, at last count, TECC was directly involved in negotiating for over 1,000 additional acres for acquisition and preservation in the Escondido Creek Watershed and for the first time in TECC's history we are now involved in an acquisition east of I-15. This project is known as the Council Ridge Project, which involves over 400 acres of prime habitat on the western border of Daley Ranch, a 3,000 acre preserve in the northern area of the City of Escondido. TECC is collaborating with Deer Park Buddhist Monastery, much like TECC collaborates with other local communities throughout the watershed, to raise local funds to prepare this project for acquisition.



TECC is also in regular communication with several other conservation organizations that are involved in acquisitions in the watershed. This allows for TECC to focus resources to the lands which otherwise might be overlooked by outside organizations not as familiar with the strategic or habitat value of some parcels that are available for preservation acquisition. **Your donation to the TECC Land Acquisition Fund is a way to leverage your donation like no other time in history and this may be the last opportunity for a generation or more, to set aside enough lands in our watershed to keep alive the pristine open spaces that remain.**

*By Kevin Barnard
Director—TECC*

Water Quality Update

With renewed interest in protecting endangered Southern California steelhead among state and federal regulators, the Water Quality Committee is working with a local aquaculture expert to explore the possibility of implementing a steelhead hatchery on TECC-owned land along Escondido Creek. The hatchery would be designed to protect unique species in isolation and would not release non-native strains into the creek, thereby preserving genetic stock. Members of the Water Quality Committee met with officials representing both the National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, who responded positively to the idea. In early October, National Marine Fisheries and California Fish and Game were given a tour of the watershed by TECC to evaluate the creek as a suitable environment for Southern Steelhead. This hatchery could become one component to an overall recovery strategy of the Southern Steelhead.

The Committee is now working on developing a plan for the hatchery in greater detail and has scheduled with regulators to continue the dialogue and receive ongoing feedback. **Grants and donations are being actively pursued to fund this effort, with the ultimate goal of contributing to the preservation of this valuable resource and component of the region's natural aquatic heritage.**

By Brent Alspach

TECC Secretary and Head of Water Quality Committee

Consider a Visit to the New Elfin Forest Interpretive Center at the Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve

Hundreds of people have visited the new Interpretive Center since its opening this past June. The Elfin Forest Recreational Reserve is beautiful in the fall and as the temperatures hopefully cool, hikes in the early morning or late afternoon offer a real celebration of autumn. This is the best time of year for clear spectacular views of our off shore islands and inland mountain vistas.

Did you know:

- young scientists (kids visiting the Center) discovered a 6" skeleton in an owl pellet.
- how a snake sheds its skin leaving it almost entirely intact?
- grizzly bears existed in Escondido? Come sit in one of our rocking chairs under our arbor covered by a native California grapevine and read some of our fascinating nature and historical books. **Contributions are welcome.**
- the Center features two of James Hubbell's art pieces, one completed in collaboration with Elfin Forest artist Jennifer Coburn.
- the Center is primarily built of recycled Styrofoam, is fire resistant, and one of the "greenest" buildings anywhere.

Interpretive Center ... Continued

- burned areas of the Reserve are recovering? Photos documenting this are on display at the Center. (Thanks to Ranger Dave Sanchez.)

This month will be an exciting one for the Center with the groundbreaking of the photovoltaic building. We are moving ahead with plans for an Interactive Children's Science Lab that will immediately engage children and adults upon entering the center. These and other improvements are because of our many generous donors. Special thanks to those of you who gave money in memory of Elfin Forest resident and long-time OMWD Board member Susan Varty. The Center honors her and funds raised in her memory are designated for our Children's Science Lab.



We have a wonderful group of 8 faithful docents. **We need more.** If you can give 3 hours every other week on a flexible schedule contact Park Supervisor Jeff Anderson at janderson@olivenhain.com. Because many people come to the Reserve on a regular basis, one of the goals of the Center is to have an ever-changing series of displays so visitors will always have something new to see. In addition, the Center will be implementing a series of lectures on important subjects relating to the watershed. A number of people enjoyed our first speaker, Environmental Consultant Kate Tirion's overview of Permaculture techniques. On November 12th Greg Rubin, owner of California's Own Native Landscape Design will speak on "California Natives - Myths and Legends."

Come visit our Reserve open from 8:00 to sunset and Interpretive Center open Saturday and Sunday from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Bring the kids.

*By Jeff Swenerton
Vice-President of TECC*

TECC has a New Office

Hopefully you made it to the opening of our new office in Escondido in October. If you missed this great event, the invitation still stands to come by our new digs at 111 N Broadway for a visit or better yet to donate some time or money. When you visit you'll meet our new Office Manager, Ann Hough. Originally from the UK, Ann recently became a Harmony Grove resident after a career in banking that even took her to India for a time. Ann's smile and organizational skills have already made a positive impact on TECC.

TECC Land Management Committee Overview

The role of the TECC Land Management Committee is to ensure the proper stewardship of lands owned or managed by TECC. Currently seven parcels comprising about 270 acres fall into this category. TECC volunteers try to visit each parcel every month to make sure there are no management issues such as improper access, dumping or exotic weed infestations going unnoticed or unaddressed. Small scale clean ups, fence repair and weeding are handled by volunteer TECC work parties as the need arises. Once or twice a year TECC contracts with a professional habitat restoration company for larger scale invasive plant removal projects. January is the month we write and file annual reports to the County and wildlife agencies for the parcels that require reporting.



The Land Management Committee is also responsible for evaluating requests for access. For example, The San Diego Herpetological Society has been allowed to survey some of our land for reptiles and amphibians. The Society gets a good day in the field and TECC managers get a much better appreciation for just how many snakes, lizards, frogs, toads and salamanders call our little preserves home.

By Leonard Wittwer

Director and Head of TECC Land Management Committee



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We Need Your Help

The Escondido Creek Conservancy has made great progress this year in the acquisition of many additional acres of preserved open-space land, implemented innovative educational programs, and completed construction of the Elfin Forest Interpretive Center. **Our primary source of funding for our work comes from private donors such as you. Please help us with an annual membership donation!** For 2010 we are introducing a new annual membership and fundraising drive that will take place each November. This offers people the opportunity to take advantage of end of the year potential tax deductions.

NEW THIS YEAR! We are finding an increase interest in making donations to TECC as a gift to someone during the holidays. What a great stocking stuffer to say to a valued loved one that you have given a gift in their name to help save the environment. Imagine how much more meaningful this gift is than the customary gift certificate that is usually sent. You and the recipient share this meaningful experience. We will supply you with a beautiful card and a TECC brochure to send to each person you wish to recognize.

Cut here... Please join our conservation efforts by becoming a member Cut here...

Please make checks payable to: The Escondido Creek Conservancy

Membership Levels

Friends of the Creek - \$50 Protectors of the Creek - \$1,000 Advocates of the Creek - \$5,000

Defenders of the Creek - \$10,000 Guardians of the Creek - \$20,000 Other amount - _____

My Company will match my gift: _____

_____ I would like to volunteer. Please send information.

_____ I have included TECC in my Estate Plans.

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ St _____ ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____

Email _____

Mail to: TECC
at PO BOX 460791
Escondido, CA. 92046



All gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Securities area also acceptable-Please contact TECC at 760.471.9354

I have filled in the above form with my donation. I wish to participate in the alternative gift program and would request you to send me _____ (number) of cards (minimum donation \$20 per card).

Classifieds

Ryan Anderson - Baby Sitting/Pet Care. High school junior, responsible, with own transportation. 760-471-5850.

Elissa Benjamin - Experienced babysitter and tutor for grades K-4, all subjects/pet care. Local references. Red Cross babysitter certification. Please call early to reserve babysitting. 760-274-5379.

Amanda Clerke – Experienced Babysitter/Pet Care. Elfin Forest resident, La Costa Canyon High School. YMCA babysitter certification. 15 years old. Please call 760-510-0143.

Jessica MacKinnon - Babysitting/Feed Animals, EF Resident, 15 years old, SFC High School - 10th grade, took babysitting course through Red Cross. Contact at 760-744-8955.

FREE GOATS — Need a good home. Two Nubians — brothers — approximately 5 years old. Very very friendly. Call Karen at 760-744-9500



WWW.COASTALGSR.ORG

Coastal German Shepherd Rescue

P.O. Box 722381
San Diego, CA 92172

Tel: 858.779.9149

Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove Town Council Board members: Eric Anderson 760-471-1464, Jacqueline Arsivaud-Benjamin 760-855-0444, Bonnie Baumgartner 760-510-1175, Chris Dye 760-747-0575, Melanie Fallon 760-744-7090, May Meintjes 760-744-7336, Manu Sohaey 760-510-9114 and Bill Tele-sco 760-746-4692.

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