

CANYON VIEWS

Summer 2010

An Education for the Future

When people ask me what makes Laguna Canyon Foundation different, I can sum it up in one word: education. Education is the thread that links everything we do, from training volunteers to leading hikes to restoring natural habitat. This educational approach encourages dialogue, not debate, consensus, not controversy, allowing us to work with a diverse array of public and private organizations to support the South Coast Wilderness. Education creates the understanding that is essential to the future both of our unique ecosystem and of the natural world itself. As a young field trip participant said in a letter, "I learned that trees can live for 100s of years." We focus on education so that, in the future, people like her will help make sure the trees, and everything they represent, endure.



PHOTOS: LAURA COHEN, OC PARKS

CLOSE UP: Education Coordinator Meghan Lockwood points out a lizard to a class from Santa Ana's Washington Elementary School. The South Coast Wilderness Education Program is supported by the Elizabeth Fleming Memorial Fund and the Draper Family Foundation Fund of the Orange County Community Foundation.

Don Vivrette, President



NATURE LOVERS: Volunteer naturalist Dianna Kujawski (third from left) poses with participants after an interpretive hike in Laguna Coast Wilderness. LCF trains and schedules some 200 volunteers to lead activities, greet and orient park visitors, assist with school programs and much more.



ROSY BOA: Volunteer naturalist Bob Stuart assists at a recent Special Weekends at the Nix Nature Center event organized by Laguna Coast Wilderness Park. LCF supports the program with funding and volunteers.

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Foundation News & Notes

An enthusiastic group of supporters gathered at the Nix Nature Center on May 1 to honor the Foundation's retiring Founder and Board President Michael Pinto for over 19 years of dedicated service. Former County of Orange Fifth District Supervisor Tom Wilson presided over a ceremony that included presentations by Fifth District Supervisor Pat Bates, Irvine Mayor Pro Tem Larry Agran, Aliso Viejo Councilmember Bill Phillips, Laguna Woods Councilmember and Foundation Treasurer Bob Ring, Laguna Hills Councilmember Melody Carruth, Laguna Beach Councilmember Jane Egly, Senior Ranger Barbara Norton and Foundation President Don Vivrette. Among the guests were members of Pinto's family, including his grandson, also named Michael Pinto.

PODIUM MOMENT: "Nature is fundamental to who we are...nourishing generations in perpetuity. This land is a tribute to the journey we have shared together," Pinto said. In the background are Foundation Board Member Dave Blodgett (seated left) and supporter Jim Nix (seated right).

TEAM M & M: The Foundation's Founding Executive Director Mary Fegraus poses with her friend and former boss. Fegraus generously volunteered her time to organize what Pinto called, "A wonderful day filled with memories and good feelings." Many other volunteers also contributed to the event's success.



ALL PHOTOS: LCF



WILD BUNCH: Pictured, from left to right, are Barbara Norton, Melody Carruth, Bill Phillips, Larry Agran, Don Vivrette, Bob Ring, Michael Pinto, Pat Bates and Tom Wilson.

Donations allow us to continue our mission of preserving, protecting, enhancing and promoting the South Coast Wilderness. We thank the following donors for their support as of April 30, 2010.



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LCF

TEAMMATES: Laguna Coast Wilderness Park Senior Ranger Barbara Norton presented an OC Parks work shirt to LCF Chairman Emeritus Michael Pinto at a ceremony honoring his service. "Michael has been able to bring everyone together," she said. "LCF sets the gold standard for partnership and makes my job incredibly easy."

SOUTH COAST WILDERNESS GUIDE

Explore the 20,000-acre South Coast Wilderness with Laguna Canyon Foundation volunteers and OC Parks staff. Please make advance reservations for guided hikes and other programs and carpool if possible. Wilderness areas may be closed because of high fire danger.

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park

18751 Laguna Canyon Road, Laguna Beach
 Information: 949-923-2235 or www.ocparks.com/lagunacoast

Managed and staffed by OC Parks. Open daily, 7 a.m.-sunset, for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Parking: \$3; lots open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Staging Areas

- **Willow Canyon** on Laguna Canyon Road, just south of El Toro Road.
- **James Dilley Preserve** on Laguna Canyon Road, just north of the 73 toll road.
- **Little Sycamore Canyon** on Laguna Canyon Road/SR-133, approximately 3.5 miles south of I-5/405. Site of the **James & Rosemary Nix Nature Center**, open daily 9 a.m.- 4 p.m.
- **Laguna Heights**, trailhead for West Ridge Trail and other routes into Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park, located next to Alta Laguna Park in Laguna's Top of the World neighborhood.
- **Ridge Park**, (take Newport Coast Drive to Ridge Park Road east to end; meet at gate).
- **Big Bend** on Laguna Canyon Road, south of Willow Canyon. Staging area for equestrians as well as some guided activities and *Keep it Wild Volunteer Day* events.

Ongoing Activities

- **Naturalist-Led Hikes and Activities:** Volunteers lead guided hikes, birding, biking and other programs for people of all ages and abilities. Reservations required for most programs. For monthly event schedules, visit www.lagunacanyon.org or www.ocparks.com/lagunacoast or call 949-923-2235.

Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Park

28373 Alicia Parkway, Laguna Niguel; Information: 949-923-2200 or www.ocparks.com/alisowoodscanyons Managed by OC Parks. Open daily, 7 a.m.-sunset, for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. For activities schedule, visit www.lagunacanyon.org. Reservations required: 949-923-2235.

Staging Areas

- **Ranger Headquarters**, Gate 1, 28373 Alicia Parkway (from southbound Aliso Creek Road, turn right on Alicia, first right AWMA, left into parking lot). Parking \$3; lot open 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Canyon View**, Gate 7 (from southbound Aliso Creek Road, turn right on Glenwood [turns into Pacific Park] and right on Canyon Vistas to Canyon View Park).

Crystal Cove State Park

8471 Pacific Coast Highway, Laguna Beach
www.parks.ca.gov or www.crystalcovestatepark.com

Park Conditions: 949-494-3539; Interpretive Programs: 949-497-7647
 Managed by the state, the park is open daily, 6 a.m.- sunset, for hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. Parking: \$10.

- **El Moro Visitors Center:** Open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 6 a.m.- 3 p.m. Historic District Tours: 10 a.m. the second Saturday of each month. Information: 949-376-6200 or www.crystalcovealliance.org. Book Crystal Cove cottages for overnight stays at www.reserveamerica.com or 800-444-7275.

City of Irvine Open Space Preserve South

714-508-4757 or www.irvineranchconservancy.org The Irvine Ranch Conservancy offers docent-led hiking, family programs, wildflower and butterfly hikes, birding, badge program for scouts, sunset picnic hikes and special events. Visit website for current schedule.