The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy preserves, protects and shares the natural and cultural resources of the San Dieguito River Valley through collaborative efforts to acquire lands, complete trails, restore habitats, establish educational programs, create interpretive centers, encourage recreation, and mobilize public support.
As I begin my tenure as President of the San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy, I’ve been reflecting on our organization’s mission—to preserve, protect, and share natural and cultural resources of the San Dieguito River Valley. As a (nearby) lifelong resident of North County, I’ve seen the region’s tremendous change firsthand. Just imagine how different it would look without groups like the Conservancy, our partners, and fellow environmental nonprofits working to preserve and protect our open spaces.

In my short time on the Board, I’ve seen the Conservancy grow in leaps and bounds—it seems every month our team is launching new recreation programming, making progress on a habitat restoration project, or expanding outreach and awareness efforts. It’s exciting to see new people discover the River Park and Conservancy through a Citizen Science event, Watershed Explorers, Trails & Ales, or Yoga at the Birdwing.

Right now, we’re focused on building on this momentum as we push to make significant progress on completing the Coast to Crest Trail. We have reached this point, thanks to your support. I’m excited to see what we accomplish in 2017 and beyond.

Sincerely,

Brad Bartlett,
President
We partnered with the San Dieguito River Park Joint Powers Authority (JPA), and other agencies to strategically and sustainably combat invasives and restore habitat throughout the San Dieguito Watershed. Our current habitat restoration projects are located at:

- Bernardo Mountain
- Crest Canyon
- Lagoon Pond
- Del Dios Gorge
- San Pasqual Valley
- Santa Ysabel Gorge
- Fairbanks Ranch

We continued to grow our Citizen Science Monitoring Program under the leadership of Conservation Manager Jess Norton, and partnered with the San Dieguito River Park JPA, Volcan Mountain Foundation, and the San Diego Archaeological Center to develop the Watershed Explorers Program. Jack Hughes was hired as our Volunteer/Docent Coordinator for the Watershed Explorers Program and hit the ground running to grow the program.

We wrapped up our 2016 surveys on Bernardo Mountain and kicked off 2017 with surveys on Volcan Mountain.

**Bernardo Mountain Data**
- 6 surveys conducted
- 232 acres covered
- 12 new citizen scientists
- 202 plant species recorded
- 92 wildlife species recorded
- 5 invertebrates
- 10 mammals
- 70 birds
- 7 reptiles

**Volcan Mountain Data**
- 5 surveys completed so far
- 114 acres covered
- 7 new citizen scientists

**Coastal Cleanup Day with I Love a Clean San Diego (9/17/16)**
- 8 sites around San Dieguito Lagoon, co-hosted by the Conservancy, San Dieguito River Park JPA, SDG&E, 22nd District Agricultural Association, and AECOM
- 130 volunteers
- 120 pounds of trash removed
- Invasive plant removal
- Installed native plants

**Major Volunteer Restoration Events/Projects**
- 22 volunteers
- 15 pounds of trash removed
- 150 pounds of ice plant removed from restoration area

**CONSERVATION**

**CONSERVANCY HOSTED 10 EVENTS INCLUDING:**

- **Trail Restoration at Bernardo Mountain Summit Trail (4/15/17)**
  - Partnered with REI, San Dieguito River Park JPA, and San Diego Mountain Biking Association
  - 35 volunteers completed trail restoration work at the Bernardo Mountain Summit Trailhead
  - Funded by $10,000 grant from REI
  - Dedicated to memory of Keith Quigley, avid mountain biker and REI employee who died in 2016

**Creek to Bay Cleanup at Crest Canyon with I Love a Clean San Diego (4/22/17)**
- 22 volunteers
- 15 pounds of trash removed
- 150 pounds of ice plant removed from restoration area

**Citizen Science**

- 5 invertebrates
- 10 mammals
- 70 birds
- 7 reptiles

**Other Citizen Science Facts**
- 49 Junior Citizen Scientists from High Tech Elementary North County conducted a “Critters on Camera” research project: reviewing wildlife photos, collected data on species occurrences, and
- 165 Rincon Middle School 6th graders reviewed wildlife camera photos

**Watershed Explorers**

The Watershed Explorers Program consists of five interactive field trips to different sites within the San Dieguito Watershed:
- Volcan Mountain
- Lake Sutherland
- San Diego Archaeological Center
- Birdwing Open Air Classroom at the San Dieguito Lagoon
- Field trips are appropriate for youth in grades 5-12

**Watershed Explorers Highlights**
- Hosted 105 students
- 1 new volunteer coordinator hired
- 15 volunteer Watershed Educators trained to host field trips

More information about the Watershed Explorers Program can be found at [www.watershedexplorers.org](http://www.watershedexplorers.org).
Our varied recreation programming continued to grow. We’re seeing progress towards our ultimate goal of completing the Coast to Crest Trail on segments at Santa Fe Valley, Lusardi Creek, Osuna Valley, Pamo Valley, and Santa Ysabel.

**EXPLORING OUR SENSE OF PLACE**

We celebrated the 10th year of our popular Exploring Our Sense of Place (ESP) program, that allows participants to experience the San Dieguito River Valley in all seasons, to follow its path from mountain to sea, to encounter plant, animal and human inhabitants, and to connect to the River Valley with their heart and minds. The ESP program is an 8-session seminar series that includes a reception, 7 excursions with lectures by experts, and special “reflection time.” 25 people participated in ESP last year and we anticipate a sold out series again in 2017-2018.

**RECREATION BY THE NUMBERS**

The Conservancy hosted 28 events total:

- **3** Trails & Ales Hikes
- **1** Exec Trek Hikes
- **2** Furry Friends Hikes
- **2** Full Moon Hikes
- **3** ESF Alumni Hikes
- **5** Other hikes, including Valentine’s on Volcan, #OptOutside and Take It Outside CA!
- **12** Yoga at the Birdwing sessions

**OUTREACH, AWARENESS, AND FINANCIALS**

Awareness of the Conservancy and our work in the River Park continues to spread throughout the County. We hosted and presented a wide variety of talks and events in 2016-2017, ranging from a rattlesnake safety class to in-class presentations at High Tech High North County to co-hosting a DMF Talks event with ECOLIFE Conservation Founder Bill Toone.

**OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Conservancy held, hosted, or participated in 23 total outreach events
- Executive Director Trish Boaz was named a finalist for San Diego Business Journal’s Women Who Mean Business Award in November 2016 and awarded a Sun Catcher Award from San Diego EarthWorks in May 2017.
- The Conservancy honored popular Hike Leader and San Diego County Parks Attendant Bill Augustus at the North County Philanthropy Council’s Volunteer Awards Luncheon in November 2016.
- Past President Peter Shapiro was profiled in 92067 Magazine.
- The Conservancy was recognized as a 2016 Top-Rated Nonprofit by Great Nonprofits, a leading provider of reviews and ratings of nonprofits throughout the US.
- The Conservancy was recognized as a Platinum Participant by GuideStar, the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.

**CONSERVATION**

- **$15,300** total in grants for our habitat restoration project at Fairbanks Ranch

**RECREATION**

- **$30,000** for River Path Del Mar

**EDUCATION**

- **$66,300** total in grants for the Watershed Explorers Program and Watershed Explorers Experiences

**GRANT FUNDING**

**OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Conservancy held, hosted, or participated in 23 total outreach events
- Executive Director Trish Boaz was named a finalist for San Diego Business Journal’s Women Who Mean Business Award in November 2016 and awarded a Sun Catcher Award from San Diego EarthWorks in May 2017.
- The Conservancy honored popular Hike Leader and San Diego County Parks Attendant Bill Augustus at the North County Philanthropy Council’s Volunteer Awards Luncheon in November 2016.
- Past President Peter Shapiro was profiled in 92067 Magazine.
- The Conservancy was recognized as a 2016 Top-Rated Nonprofit by Great Nonprofits, a leading provider of reviews and ratings of nonprofits throughout the US.
- The Conservancy was recognized as a Platinum Participant by GuideStar, the world’s largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.

**CONSERVATION**

- **$15,300** total in grants for our habitat restoration project at Fairbanks Ranch

**RECREATION**

- **$30,000** for River Path Del Mar

**EDUCATION**

- **$66,300** total in grants for the Watershed Explorers Program and Watershed Explorers Experiences

**GRANT FUNDING**
San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
3030 Bunker Hill Street, Ste. 309-1
San Diego, CA 92109
858.755.6956
www.sdrv.org

Your support provides for
• Conservation
• Education
• Recreation
in the San Dieguito River Valley Park

LIKE US on Facebook
facebook.com/sdrvconservancy

The San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to accelerating the development of recreational multi-use trails in the 92,000-acre San Dieguito River Park, preserving and restoring native ecosystems, and educating the public about our precious natural resources.

River Valley Fest 2017

Coast to Crest
~ and Beyond ~

October 8, 2017
4:00 - 8:00 pm

Fairbanks Ranch Country Club
15150 San Dieguito Rd. | Rancho Santa Fe

Reservations | $150 per person
R.S.V.P. by October 1, 2017
sdrv.org/rivervalleyfest