

Friends of Ruffin Canyon

This is one of the best times to see Ruffin Canyon that we have had for years. Late winter and spring is always the best time for wildflowers, which bloom longer when more water is available. Be sure to visit the Habitat Garden, where young students from Cubberly ES put in 100 new native plants, under the San Diego Audubon Society's "OutdoorExplore!" program. Each plant has a flag bearing the name of the child who planted it as well as the plant's name, so children can follow and help care for their own special plant.

FRC and Taft MS recognize the many benefits of introducing students to horticulture and plants native of Ruffin Canyon. Several attempts have been made to utilize space by the athletic fields for a school garden, without lasting effect. Now it looks like a garden better than we could have dreamed is about to materialize!

The American Society of Landscape Architects will hold their annual meeting in San Diego this year over Halloween. Their tradition is to create a "Legacy" project each year in the town where they meet, showcasing the work and materials of local businesses. Serra Mesa resident and FRC member JT Barr found time to promote our garden plans in spite of a full time job and a baby at home. FRC, as its Partner in Education, won the grant for Taft! The Legacy committee toured the campus with Principle Mike George February 12th, brainstorming all sorts of variations. No matter what the final plan, Serra Mesa will sport a fine new asset by the end of November.

Now for Ruffin Canyon's busy schedule.

February 28: FRC's monthly fourth Monday meeting, 6:30pm at the Taft library. Don't be shy; pay a visit.

March 5th: First Saturday Canyon Care 9am-noon at the Habitat Garden and nearby. Meet at Taft parking lot. Best to wear a hat.

March 26th: Volunteers from Rock Church remove invasives between the Rec. Center and the Library.

March 28th: FRC business meeting 6:30pm, Taft Library.

April 2nd: Canyon Care 9am-noon at west end of Shawn Canyon.

April 25th: FRC meets 6:30pm, Taft Library.

April 30th: I Love a Clean San Diego's 9th annual Creek to Bay Cleanup in Library Canyon. Meet 9am at the Rec. Center. Badges for scouts. Prizes.

May 7th-May 15th: San Diego River Days. Visit sandiegoriverdays.org for activities all along the watershed.

May 7th: Canyon Care 9am-noon at Taft.

May 7th: Kicking off River Days, Eric Bowlby of SD Canyonlands will offer a short presentation on watersheds and canyons at 9am before leading a fun and informative hike into the library canyon. Eric knows his onions, and captivates audiences of all ages. Don't miss this if you have wondered or wandered about this canyon!

July 4th: Pastor Gloria of Gesthemane Lutheran Church hosts a community breakfast and hike into Shawn Canyon.

Bonnie Hough for FRC



Ranger Jason demonstrates planting for students from Cubberly Elementary School