



Hills For Everyone

Friends of the Wildlife Corridor

Newsletter No. 6

Fall 2002

Saved: One More Missing Link !



Turnbull Canyon - A saved haven in the heart of the hills

By: Andrea Gullo

For nine years, hundreds of people in Whittier and Hacienda Heights fought ferociously to save Turnbull Canyon. Finally on October 4, 2002, this 951-acre parcel, the heart of the Whittier Hills, was purchased for preservation by the Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority (Habitat Authority). Known as the Rose Hills Foundation land, it had been threatened to be bulldozed on several recent occasions.

With this acquisition complete, a solid anchor of core habitat is saved on the west side of the Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor. The Corridor, an oasis of wildland in the middle of the heavily urbanized Los Angeles metropolitan basin, is situated near half the state's population. The land plays an important role in not only protecting the wildlife and habitat but in protecting our quality of life. The undeveloped land

helps clean the air we breathe, preserve the watershed, and provide a place for people to rejuvenate their minds and bodies.

Between the letter writing campaign of Hacienda Heights' residents and the last minute town hall meetings with Whittier residents, the landowners came to understand the importance of this land for the region.

L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe played a key role in two ways. By supporting Proposition A funding he helped bring millions of dollars to these hills. Then when the Los Angeles Archdiocese proposed a cemetery for these lands the Supervisor helped convince them to drop their plans.

Though the development threat was stopped, more money needed to be

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Occasionally the universe sends little gifts that uplift and move us forward. That happened to me last month when I got a call that a hillside supporter wanted to make a donation in person. When I arrived to "collect the money," I was both impressed and touched as the story unfolded.

Twelve year old Austin Dix was already a veteran of efforts to save Brea's hills. When Austin asked his folks for an update, he learned we were still at work. On his own, he realized that it takes money to save land, so he offered to help. Over the summer he harvested lemons, washed and dried them, and carted them down to a busy road. His sign said, "Lemons For Sale - All Money Goes to Help Save Brea's Hills." He radioed in all sales on a walkie-talkie, kept the proceeds in a safe place and presented them to me at summer's end.

We are nearly \$50 richer in the pocketbook and whole lot richer in the spirit because of Austin's effort.

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Heroes of the Hills

Whittier Jim Hubler & Kent Riley

These early crusaders chaired the referendum committee that overturned the actions of the Whittier City Council when it approved development in the hills. This served as the kick off for the conservation movement in Whittier.

Hacienda Heights Mike Hughes

In all of his volunteer efforts on three local boards, Mike is active in creating open space, reducing impacts from the Landfill, creating community awareness about proposed developments and restoring degraded native habitat.

La Habra Heights Roland vom Dorp

A life-long resident of La Habra Heights, Roland has been active in preserving open space for over 15 years. He was a key leader in the successful grassroots effort to save the 500-acre Powder Canyon area from massive grading.

Chino Hills Eldona Arns

Eldona was a founding member of Hills For Everyone back in the late 1970's. Active in her own community she was recently recognized as the Chino Champion newspaper's Outstanding Citizen for 2002.

Yorba Linda Bob Kanne

A science teacher at El Dorado High, Bob is Chair of the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority's Advisory Board. He is also former Conservation Chair of Sierra Club's Angeles Chapter and is active in hillside issues in his city.

Brea Austin Dix

As a veteran of hillside protection efforts in Brea, 12-year old Austin spent his summer selling lemons to raise money to continue the fight. At the end of the lemon season he donated \$48.94. (See Executive Director's Notes)



DO YOU KNOW OF OTHER
CONSERVATION HEROES IN THE HILLS?
info@hillsforeveryone.org

MISSING LINK SAVED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

secured to buy the land. Forest Lawn, another cemetery group, stepped in. Their Memorial Park needed additional mitigation for the expansion of their existing facility in Covina. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game agreed that a contribution by Forest Lawn of \$3 million to complete the Turnbull Canyon acquisition would be appropriate. Other mitigation measures including active restoration and conservation easements both complicated and completed the deal. The perseverance of the Habitat Authority's Board of Directors and the leadership its Chairman, Whittier Councilman Bob Henderson, paid off.

Funding for this purchase came from three sources: Proposition A (\$1.8 million), Forest Lawn (\$3 million), and the Habitat Authority (\$9.2+). The Habitat Authority obtained its funding through the tipping fees of the Puente Hills Landfill as mitigation for its expansion in 1994.

An on-site celebration was held on Friday, October 18th. Driving south on Turnbull Canyon Road after the celebration, one could see that "Habitat Authority Wilderness Preserve" signs replaced the "No Trespassing" signs. What a wonderful sight! We did it! The largest piece of the puzzle in the western Puente Hills is now preserved for us all - wildlife and humans - to enjoy in perpetuity.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority for their grant to HFE to purchase A/V equipment. Our request for a lap top computer, LCD projector and screen was met by their generous donation. We are particularly grateful to Roland vom Dorp for choosing to use his son's Memorial Fund for these purchases.

DID YOU KNOW?

An estimated one million animals a day are killed on roads in the U.S. Statistics show that most collisions occur in the fall, at dawn, dusk and in the first few hours of darkness. According to *Friends of Animals* (Fall 2002):

- If you see one deer, it is extremely likely that more are nearby.
- Brake firmly and do not swerve as it may confuse the deer as to where to run.
- If there is no oncoming traffic use high beams, as they will illuminate a deer's eyes long before the road is illuminated.
- If you see a deer, honk your horn with one long blast to frighten it off the road.
- Slow down in rural canyon and hillside areas.

Particularly hazardous wildlife crossings in our area include: Carbon Canyon Road in Chino Hills and Brea, and Harbor Blvd./Fullerton Road in La Habra Heights near the Shea development.

UPLIFTING UPDATES

RESTORATION BEGINS

The future of Coal Canyon as a wildlife corridor was secured in 2000-2001 with the purchase by State Parks of two parcels of land north and south of the 91 Freeway. This underpass will soon begin to serve as a river of life for wildlife to move between our hills and the Santa Ana Mountains.

Two years ago we celebrated the land acquisition. Now it's time to party again!! Cal Trans will host an event on Tuesday, December 10th beginning at 9:30 a.m. Many officials are coming and the public is invited as well.

Rain or shine we will gather at Coal Canyon off the 91 Freeway. Parking will be available on the north side of the Freeway. Shuttles will take participants to the event site.

This is the first time Cal Trans has ever removed an on and off ramp and closed an underpass to help wildlife. Join us in showing our appreciation for their leadership.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The direct-mail flier [on AERA's proposed project] is really quite a coincidence in that I have been hiking this very wildlife corridor all summer. I hike on a regular basis.

On every hike I took a camera. The abundance of wildlife that I have successfully photographed has been absolutely astounding. The wildlife experience far surpasses the 400+ miles of backpacking I've done in the Sierras.

With this experience, I have come to understand and appreciate how vital a "Connected Corridor" in these hills is and how the "natural" state of these hills can enrich all our lives.

Geoff Farthing



**WHO AM I?
INQUIRING MINDS
WANT TO KNOW...**

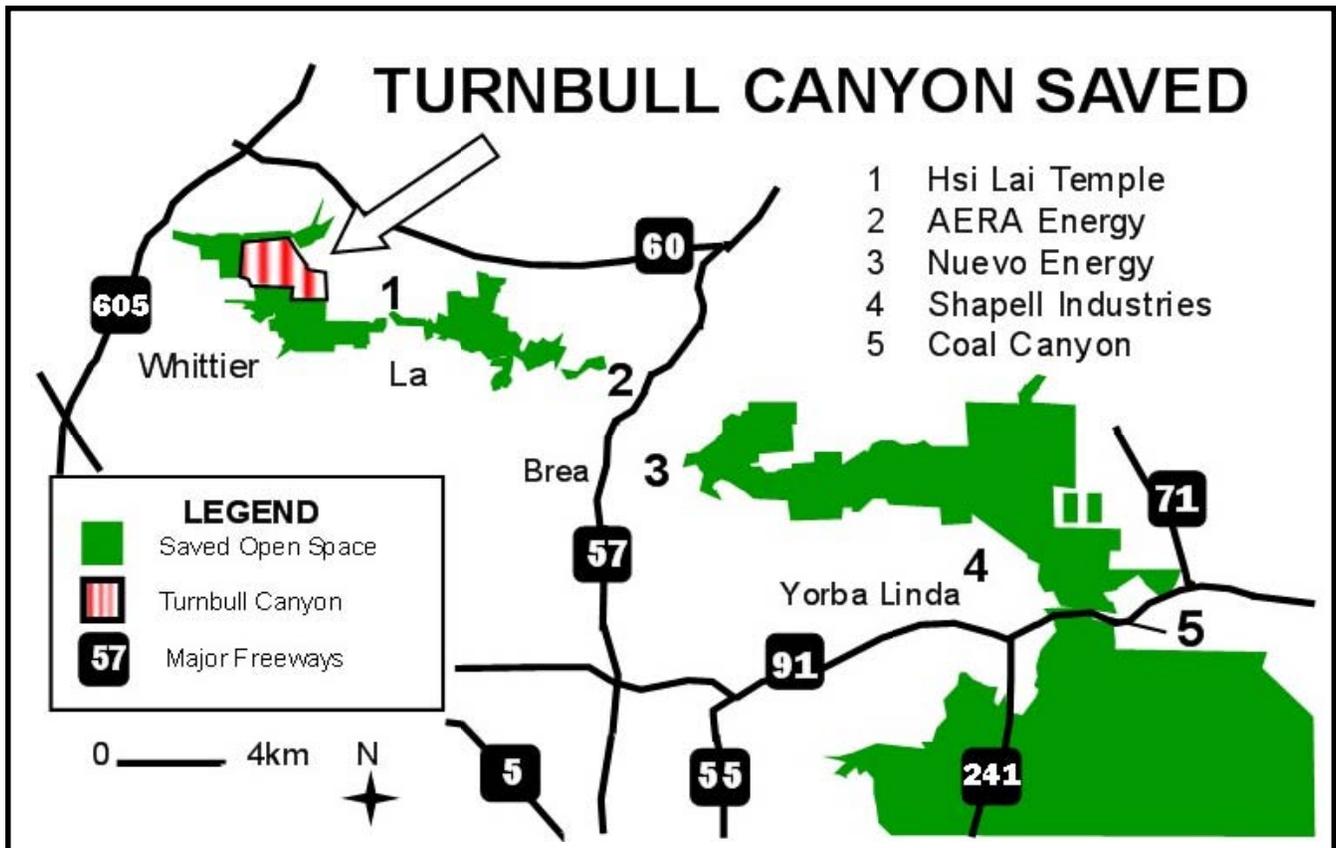
Email your answer to:
info@hillsforeveryone.org

Given the unpredictability of mail delivery, the winner will be drawn from the first five correct answers.

See the Winter 2003 for the answer

THE ANSWER TO FALL'S QUERY:

Heidi Franz of La Habra Heights correctly identified the baby barn owl (*Tito Alba*)



BOTHERSOME BULLETINS

HACIENDA HEIGHTS

The Buddhist Temple on Hacienda Blvd. is proposing a 120,000 sq. ft. building with 550 parking spaces. The proposed expansion is on the west side of Hacienda Blvd. and includes a pedestrian bridge across the road. The land is adjacent to a habitat restoration project on the former Unocal property. Several meetings with Temple representatives and local residents have been unproductive.

SHAPELL - YORBA LINDA

On a 3-2 vote the Yorba Linda City Council approved a massive development on the last undeveloped land. The project eliminates open space and triples the density of units. The project was rushed to a vote to take advantage of departing Councilman John Gullixson's vote. The newly elected Council would not have supported the project. Citizens are gathering signatures for a referendum on the amendments to the General Plan.

TONNER HILLS - BREA

Approval for the Nuevo project on the hills above Lambert both east and west of the 57 Freeway continues to move forward. The Orange County Board of Supervisors will consider the project at their Board meeting on November 19, 2002. The City of Brea supported a modified plan that removes the road from Tonner Canyon, decreases density and omits the strip mall. However, the extensive gnatcatcher population on the site now will be virtually surrounded by urbanization. This brings predation by house pets, mainly cats, not currently present on the site.

ARTISTS' CORNER

"Awesome Autumns"

Artist:
Dave Myers



Spider's Web

To submit your artwork, send it to: info@hillsforeveryone.org
Next Theme: **Winter Wonders**

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Leave your name and address
on the voice mail.



Hills For Everyone
Friends of the Wildlife Corridor
P.O. Box 9835 Brea, CA 92822-1835

WWW.HILLSFOREVERYONE.ORG