



Hills For Everyone

Friends of the Puente-Chino
Hills Wildlife Corridor

Newsletter No. 11

Spring 2004

GREAT HILLS! GREAT EARTH WALK! GREAT SUCCESS!

By: Melanie Schlotterbeck

On Saturday, May 1st Hills For Everyone (HFE) participated in the first ever statewide Great Earth Walk. Non-profits across California joined together to raise funds and awareness of environmental issues. HFE sponsored six walk locations across the 31-mile long Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor. Volunteer hike leaders led guided walks at each site. See stories from each walk site on pages 2 and 3.

“We hoped this event would give hillside supporters not only the opportunity to see land we’ve already preserved, but also to learn about current threats,” stated Claire Schlotterbeck, Executive Director of HFE. “The most serious threat is the 3,600 unit housing proposal by Aera Energy (Shell-ExxonMobil), on the 3,000 acres between Rowland Heights and Brea. This project could sever the Wildlife Corridor.”

With over 300 participants hiking the hills, walkers learned about the longstanding cooperative preservation effort. Walkers were enthusiastic, interested and generous. Participants were encouraged to get pledges from family, friends and co-workers. Those participants that brought in \$25 donations received a “Hike the Hills” t-shirt.

Though the final tally is not yet in, HFE apparently not only raised the most money, but also hosted the most walk sites. More walkers than expected turned out at



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every site. Walkers shared a variety of memorable moments and we heard many positive comments including requests for future hikes.

People were surprised by the preservation stories each site had to offer. For example, at Coal Canyon, walkers saw the decorated stakes placed as a gateway for wildlife by Native Americans when they rededicated the land back to the animals. At Powder Canyon, hike leaders reminded the walkers that individuals like Dr. Jill Kowalik, can make all the difference between conservation and condominiums. Although the bobcat was a no show, walkers at least got to see the sycamore tree in Telegraph Canyon where HFE’s famous bobcat photo was taken by hike leader Dr. Jeff Hansen.

THANK YOU...

Our success could not have been possible without a lot of people pitching in. We are indebted to them for their enthusiasm and energy.

Hike Leaders: Grace Allen, Enrique Arroyo, Ofelia Bermudez, Anne Coté, Tom Greene, Dr. Jeff Hansen, Jo Sarachman, Melanie Schlotterbeck, Jeff & Lynn Yann.

Volunteers: Alan Boege, John Chavira, Luanne Collins, Jeff Coté, Diana & Eric Johnson, Joan Licari, Bridgette Pinsky, Dr. Karl Reitz, Hal Sintov, Leona Weiser, Bill Welcher, and Lee Willard.

Park Staff: Alissa Ing & Ron Krueper of State Parks, Francine Godoy, Kenn Hughes & Laura Just of the Habitat Authority.



ARROYO PESCADERO

By: Jo Sarachman

People of all ages came to hike at Arroyo Pescadero. More walked than registered and a lot stopped by to hear our story, buy a t-shirt or make a donation. One runner went home and returned shortly with a very substantial check saying that he “believed in what we were doing.”

Even first time “hill walkers” returned from the walk smiling and asked if they could come back on their own. Participants originally curious about the ‘wilderness’ but somewhat afraid of walking the trails felt enriched by the experience. This event had given them a great chance to explore and learn about a resource close to their homes!



CARBON CANYON

By: Enrique Arroyo

Our 30 walkers took a slow pace, stopping at various interpretive sites and involuntarily at one. Discussion points included the new bridge, made of flat bed railcars, and its importance for the riparian area. We visited the restoration site, located in a former lemon grove, and saw where more efforts are afoot to restore native habitat.

Walkers enjoyed the walnut woodlands, prickly pear cactus, chaparral and coastal sage scrub communities in Telegraph Canyon. Upon our return we encountered an orange rattlesnake a few feet from several walkers. The group heard the famous rattling and though it slithered back into the bushes, the encounter was a highlight!



COAL CANYON

By: Melanie Schlotterbeck

Thirty participants walked along the Santa Ana River Trail and into Chino Hills State Park. Walkers learned about this unique linkage, the need for connecting open space lands and the significance of the acquisition and restoration of this former freeway exit.

This well used Corridor offered us many opportunities to view wildlife, from an egret in the River to lizards on the trail. In the Canyon itself, a deer and its yearling were spotted on the hillside heading toward the underpass. Scat and tracks proved the passage is also being used by predators. On a final note, we heard the kitten-like call of the endangered California gnatcatcher.

NEWSWORTHY NOTES

HABITAT AUTHORITY CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

The Puente Hills Landfill Native Habitat Preservation Authority hosted 250 guests in May to recognize its successful preservation of over 3,800 acres. The Habitat Authority receives \$1 per ton for trash that is dumped at the landfill. They have been using the funds to save land that makes up the backbone of open space in the western part of this hillside system.

Public outreach to local schools has enlightened students and led to the creation of a very active and successful Junior Ranger Program. Great job rangers and students!

AERA ENERGY DELAYS

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT: This document is being written by a consulting firm handpicked by Aera Energy (Shell-ExxonMobil) to assess its proposed plan for 3,600 housing units and three commercial centers. This development proposal lies in the middle of the Wildlife Corridor. Now the report may not be released until January 2005.

APPRAISAL: HFE provided a grant to the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Authority last year. Though some work has been done, staff is further researching appropriate valuation methodologies.



LUANNE COLLINS

For four years, Luanne has been sharing her artistic and graphic talents with our efforts to save the hills. Always willing and patient, she turns ideas and thoughts into pictures. From decorating booths to designing logos, flyers, decals, bumper stickers and t-shirts, Luanne’s donated work has helped spread the word for preservation.

Luanne’s designs are displayed to the right of this article:



POWDER CANYON

By: Ofelia Bermudez & Anne Coté

Hiking the historic Schabaram Trail, over 100 people, some first time hikers, felt Powder Canyon was breathtaking. Several walkers commented that it was well worth the effort. Hike leaders discussed the native plants and animals, the Corridor's history, and the role of citizens in its protection. A couple of lucky hikers even witnessed a deer crossing the trail!

The spirit of the group was one of awe and optimism. The generous contributions of both those who hiked and those who sponsored the event showed that people can truly make a difference. The late Dr. Jill Kowalik, who fought to save this Canyon would not have been prouder.



RIM CREST

By: Dr. Jeff Hansen

The crowd of 40 hikers was as diverse as a crowd at a Laker's game. Many didn't know the Park even existed, so this was the virgin voyage into the Park for most of the group. The unseasonably hot morning couldn't melt the enthusiasm of the group as we headed up South Ridge. However, the arduous six mile walk made one wonder if Ben & Jerry's delivered!

But soon the shady cool of Telegraph Canyon took most everyone's mind off the heat as ooh's and ahh's echoed amongst the group. From the still silence and expressions on the faces of the hikers sitting on the benches under the canopy of oaks it was obvious the hills were their own best spokesmen.

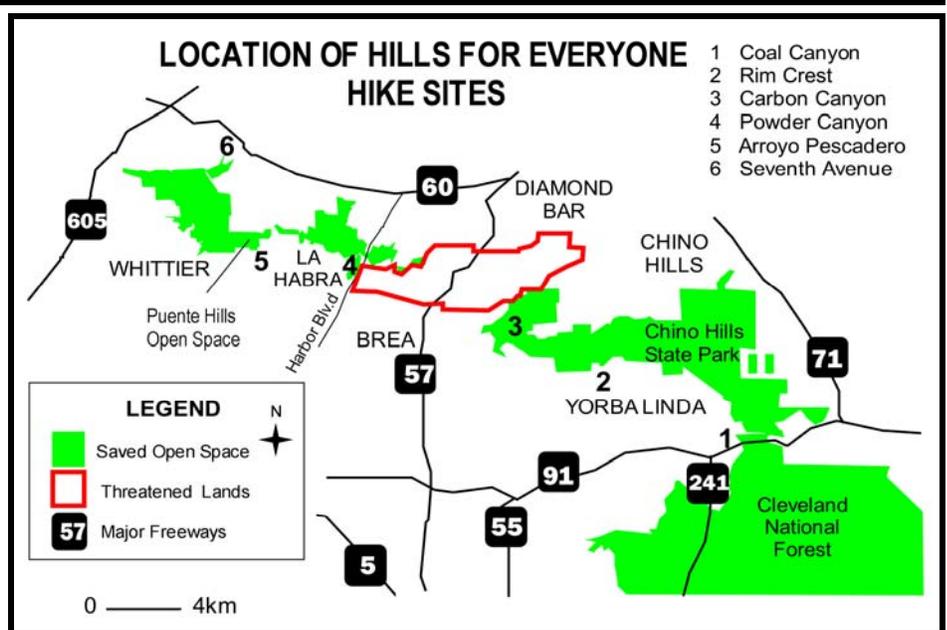


SEVENTH AVENUE

By: Jeff Yann

The steep slopes above Hacienda Heights must have been too daunting a walk for us city folk. Only six participants seemed willing to take on the "Switchback Challenge." From the Seventh Avenue access, walkers went toward the Skyline Trail and looped around the hills ending at Orange Grove.

The non-native mustard was certainly in bloom on the hills and a beautifully colored western tanager caught the eye of the group. After a short rest under the shade of a oak tree, a mother and son team were eager to see the views of the San Gabriel Valley. They were even able to locate the son's elementary school below!



INTERESTED IN A DECAL?

Send a self addressed stamped envelope to Hills For Everyone, P.O. Box 9835, Brea, CA 92822-1835. Be sure to include the number of decals you want and if you are willing to distribute them to friends!

BOTHERSOME BULLETINS

ROAD TO RUIN

A few ardent residents in a new tract at the toe of Olinda Landfill in Brea want to rid their new neighborhood of trash trucks that have been using the same access road for 40 years. Their solution - build a new road through Tonner Canyon connecting the landfill to the 57 freeway. Open space supporters understand this alignment would compromise the only place wildlife can safely cross under the freeway to migrate between the Puente and Chino Hills.

Furthermore, a road in Tonner will become a new permanent route funneling Inland Empire traffic into Brea. Proponents of the road seemed to have overlooked the fact that the dump was there before their houses were and that expansion and extension plans have been under way for years.

Mitigation money that could be set aside to buy open space would instead be used to build the road. Rather than embrace the bigger picture - that saving open space ultimately reduces traffic - these residents have joined forces with development interests in the Cities of Industry and Diamond Bar.

Brea residents should let Brea Mayor John Beauman City Council know they support using mitigation money to buy open space and that they oppose a road in Tonner Canyon. Call 714-990-7701 or email johnbe@ci.brea.ca.us.

HILLS FOR EVERYONE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Exec. Director: Claire Schlotterbeck
Editor: Melanie Schlotterbeck



UPCOMING HIKE: A THREE MONTH GLANCE



Due to the enthusiastic response to the Great Earth Walk and many requests for further HFE sponsored hikes, we have arranged for three more walks in the Wildlife Corridor this summer.

We have designated the second Saturday of each month for a volunteer-lead walk in the hills. Our first walk will be at Coal Canyon. Hike leaders there include: Ofelia Bermudez, Anne Coté, Dr. Jeff Hansen and Jo Sarachman. Walk times apply to all three hike dates:

- 7:00 am advanced walkers ONLY
(5 miles)
- 7:30 am natural history walk
- 8:00 am natural history walk
(both 3 miles)

Stay tuned to our website for future hikes and directions to walk locations. Carpooling is encouraged.

DUST OFF YOUR BOOTS!



COAL CYN: JUNE 12

From the 91 freeway, exit Green River Road; go toward the Green River Golf Course, which is beyond the commercial center on the north side of the freeway. Park in the gravel lot along side the road. No dogs allowed as their markings disrupt wildlife movement.

POWDER CYN: JULY 10

Take Harbor/Fullerton Rd. in La Habra Heights to Old Fullerton Rd. (by Rowland Water District). Drive up Old Fullerton Rd. to the second entrance. Street parking is available. Leashed dogs allowed.

RIM CREST: AUGUST 14

In Yorba Linda take Yorba Linda Blvd. to Fairmont, go north on Fairmont, left on Rim Crest Dr. to the top of street where it dead ends into Blue Gum. Street parking is available. No dogs allowed.

FIRST TIME RECIPIENTS

If you are receiving this newsletter for the first time you either donated funds, walked at the Great Earth Walk, signed a petition to help

save the hills, or asked to be added to our mailing list. **If you wish to be removed:** call 714-687-1555 or email info@HillsForEveryone.org and give us your name and address.



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