



*Securing, protecting and stewarding  
our precious open spaces*

**SPRING 2016**

## ***AFC'S BIG CATS***



We now have photographic evidence of cougars at each AFC property! It began with this stunning image taken at the Rosemont Preserve. Soon after, one of our trail cameras caught another sauntering in to Rubio Canyon after a night out in the neighborhood. Finally, we caught images of 2 different cougars in our Millard Canyon property.



Photo courtesy of Johanna Turner

This youngster, an approximately 80 pound female...



Photo courtesy of Johanna Turner

and this approximately 130 pound male.



Thanks to our partnership with photographers Johanna Turner and Denis Callet, pictured here, we are receiving fantastic, detailed photos of the wildlife calling each property home. We always hoped we were helping preserve and restore habitat for their use...now we know our efforts have been successful!

## **AFC Breathes New Life Into Old Marengo Park** *your stewardship \$\$ at work...*

Nestled in a residential neighborhood at the intersection of Marengo Avenue and Woodbury Road in Altadena, Old Marengo Park is a community beautification project completed by AFC in association with Altadena Heritage in 2008. Old Marengo demonstrates water-wise gardening techniques featuring low water native plants and a system of underground cisterns that collects and percolates rainwater to replenish the aquifer.

On November 29th, AFC partnered with Altadena Heritage and the Arroyo Seco Foundation on a work day to clear weeds and clean up the park, followed by another in December to put some more native plants into the ground just in time for the winter rains - and now it's in full bloom!



A big thanks to the neighbors who came out to help, and especially to Yopez Gardening Service, who hauled away all the debris! Keep an eye on the AFC calendar for more opportunities to care for and beautify this special slice of open space in the middle of our community - our next one is April 16th from 9AM to noon.

## **Now Available - AFC's Wildlife Photo Gallery**



AFC recently launched their website photo gallery, chock full of the critters who call Cottonwood Canyon, Millard Canyon, Rubio Canyon and the Rosemont Preserve home: <http://www.arroyosfoothills.org/photos/>. These beautiful wild animals are who we are all fighting to help survive, and the frequency of their visits to AFC properties indicate we are being successful. On their behalf, AFC thanks you for all your support - you have truly made this possible!

## Did you know...

Every year AFC publishes an Annual Report with the names of our generous donors for the fiscal year. We break people out into areas of support, like three-year Foothills Society members, annual gifts to support our core mission, and donations to help save property. This list is for our fiscal year, namely July 1 - June 30. To be recognized in this year's Annual Report, please consider making a donation by June 30, 2016. We love to publicly thank you for your dedication and continued support of AFC!

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Mickey Long, birder extraordinaire and AFC Advisor!

Mickey is the heart & soul of AFC. He is always willing to help out - whether it's taking a look at a potential property or putting together a birding survey. He brings expertise in biology, land management, site evaluation, public access and conservation planning. His 39 years of experience working in the County's Natural Areas Division give him valuable perspective in all areas of conservation and land stewardship.



Respected by his peers and admired by those he mentors, Mickey is responsible for sparking the passion for conservation in many budding ecologists.

*"Mickey's passion for nature is infectious, and he is always willing to share his knowledge."*

*E.J. Remson, The Nature Conservancy and AFC Advisor*

**Thanks so much Mickey for all your help, we couldn't do it without you!!**

## Saying Thank You!



AFC is hosting an Appreciation Event to say Thank You to our Foothills Society members and the "Friends groups" who help steward our properties. If you belong to one of those entities, be looking for more information in the coming weeks for this gathering to be held on May 15th.

If you are not yet a Foothills Society member, check out our website at [www.arroyosfoothills.org/fs](http://www.arroyosfoothills.org/fs) or email Jennifer Taylor at

[jennifertaylor@arroyosfoothills.org](mailto:jennifertaylor@arroyosfoothills.org). You are welcome to join the Foothills Society before then to join in the fun. We'd love to meet you in person!

## **Events & Volunteer Opportunities with AFC!**

## [Rosemont Preserve](#)

### **Habitat Restoration Days**

2nd Saturday of every month, 9:00-11:00am  
Join us in removing invasive plants and replacing them with natives.

### **Open Gate Days**

3rd Sunday of every month, 3:00-5:00pm  
Come visit the Preserve at your leisure, take a stroll...  
Count the deer and enjoy this beautiful open space in your backyard.



### **Upcoming Docent-led Tours**

March 26th, 9-11am: Jim Adams' tour of Native Medicinal Plants and how the Native Americans used them  
April 23rd, 9-11am: Tim Martinez discusses habitat restoration, ethnobotany and survival skills  
May 28th, 9-11am: Johanna Turner, Animal tracking and wildlife photography  
June 25th, 9-11 am: Nancy Steele, Water and Conservation at the Rosemont Preserve

**Special Events** April 17th, 3-5pm: **Spring Equinox Celebration.** Bring the whole family to the Rosemont Preserve for games, treats and tours. This is a great opportunity to have some family fun and enjoy the beauty of the Preserve in Spring!

April 30th, 3-5pm: **Take it Outside California.** This event welcomes everyone to come visit the Rosemont Preserve and enjoy the land we and our partners have preserved. Visit booths of local organizations, purchase native plants, and join guided tours of the Preserve.

No RSVP necessary for Rosemont Preserve events. Rain cancels.

## [Rubio Canyon](#)

### **Rubio Canyon Open House**

April 2, 10am-1pm: Join us for a hike through Rubio Canyon and let us show you what we've been up to! Meet at the intersection of Rubio Vista Road and Pleasant Ridge Drive in Altadena, CA. The trail begins between the two houses (1351 and 1342) on the corner.

### **Pasadena Audubon Bird Walk & Restoration Day**

May 14th, 8am-12pm: Join the Pasadena Audubon Society for a bird walk in Rubio Canyon, then help restore habitat along our historic trail! Meet at the intersection of Rubio Vista Road and Pleasant Ridge Drive, Altadena, CA.

## [Old Marengo Park](#)

### **Old Marengo Planting Day!**

April 16th, 9am-12pm: Join us as we beautify Old Marengo Park! Help neighbors and friends plant native plants, pull weeds, and bring nature back into the city. Old Marengo Park is located at the intersection of Marengo Ave and Woodbury Rd in Altadena, CA.

If you would like to volunteer with AFC [click here.](#)



## **Legacies & Bequests**

You can create a legacy that commemorates your commitment to AFC's mission. By making a gift through your estate or naming AFC as a beneficiary of your retirement or insurance plan, you will ensure

that our work of protecting the land and the wildlife on it will continue. If you would like to learn more, please contact us at 626.796.0782.

**Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy**

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