



Fall 2019 Newsletter

Thank you for helping us purchase our tax default properties!

We always feel *great* when we buy land. Not just any land, but land that we are confident will move us closer to our goal. Our acquisition team of experts sift through a lot to focus on only the most important. These 3 fit the bill. They move us toward securing passage between the San Rafael Hills and the Verdugo Mountains.

We had to act fast. Thanks to all who responded swiftly and generously to underwrite our entire effort.

Here is a partial list. We were unable to reach some for permission. There were 91 donors in all.

Cynthia Parenti
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Dana Roth
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Pay Off by Mickey Long



It's half the length and weighs one third of a Striped Skunk, with fur much softer and glossier. It secretively prowls mostly by night along rocky areas for insects, worms, mice, small ground-nesting birds and some

vegetable matter. It is known to climb trees to hunt food or escape a predator. A wildlife camera in Millard Canyon recently caught one of these secretive little guys hunting food in a rapid-moving fashion. It was the "other skunk" in Southern California, a Western Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*).

Spotted Skunks den underground in other animal burrows like those of a ground squirrel. When feeling potentially threatened they may stamp their front feet on the ground and do a handstand, displaying the mostly-white tail, apparently to ward off a predator. If provoked further they will spray their noxious musk from anal glands and this spray can temporarily blind the intruder.

The popular public database iNaturalist, where thousands of photos of plants and animals have been recorded, shows no entry for Spotted Skunks in Los Angeles County. Perhaps not so surprising with a secretive, mostly nocturnal creature. Yet the patient wildlife cameras and their operators came through with a nice find! See the **video**.

Volunteer Spotlight - Rachel-Ann Arias

Rachel-Ann Arias' first introduction to the Rosemont Preserve was during a third grade field trip back in 2014. It inspired her. Since then, she found many ways to become involved with our organization.

When Rachel-Ann chose a project she would be passionate about for her Girl Scout Silver Award in 2017, she remembered her field trip to Rosemont. She decided to create wildlife tracking guides for visitors at the Preserve. Now, she is working on a wildlife camera study at Descanso Gardens for her Girl Scout Gold Award.

Rachel-Ann is skilled in identifying animal tracks and has her own



camera traps set up to observe wildlife on different AFC properties. She spreads her knowledge to the community by leading tours at the Rosemont Preserve about both tracking and wildlife photography. She has also participated in our summer internship program two years in a row. Currently a sophomore at Crescenta Valley High School, Rachel-Ann is often the youngest in the group of interns, but she has a great deal of knowledge and experience to share with the others.

Thanks for all you do for AFC, Rachel-Ann!

Join us for Urban Wildlife Week & P22 Day at Griffith Park!

The week long festival celebrating the famous LA Mountain Lion, P22 will be held from October 13-19th. Multiple cities throughout the Los Angeles area will participate in the fourth annual Urban Wildlife Week, uniting people through a love for wildlife and learning to coexist.

The week will culminate with P22 Day on Saturday, October 19th starting at 11am in Griffith Park where AFC will have an exhibit along with over 50 other conservation organizations. Click **here** for a listing of events and information on how to get involved!



P-61 Killed After Trying to Cross 405 Freeway

P-61 rose to fame this July after successfully crossing the 405 freeway, making him the first tracked mountain lion to do so.

Sadly, he was struck and killed when he made the attempt to cross the 10-lane freeway once again on Saturday, September 7th. It is unclear why the 4-year old mountain lion decided to cross, however, it may have had to do with the presence of another male mountain lion. Over the past few years wildlife cameras have captured an uncollared male living in the area P-61 had crossed over to. It is likely that a negative encounter took place between the two and P-61 was forced to head back west.

Did You Know?

... that if you own undeveloped land and don't pay your taxes for three consecutive years you might read in our newsletter that we now own it! The County can auction it for back taxes and penalties. In 2017 they auctioned a parcel in Cottonwood Canyon just up slope from our 11 acres. We bid the most because it is important to the Hahamongna to Tujunga Wildlife Corridor (HTC). Now it is forever a part of the corridor. We call it "Cottonwood 2".

You just helped us buy four additional properties for unpaid taxes. This time, instead of competing at an auction we paid only back taxes,

penalties and costs of sale. We qualify for a special program that allows us to pull them from the auction for a public purpose – this time to help wildlife pass between the San Rafael Hills and the Verdugo Mountains. It gave the owners more time to cure and when they didn't, we paid the County what they owed. So these too are saved for the HTC.

Plan Your Calendar!



Events and Volunteer Opportunities with AFC!

Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring water to all events!
Rain cancels.

Rosemont Preserve

Please park at Two Strike Park for Rosemont events ([map](#)). For anyone with mobility issues, please contact rosemontfriends@gmail.com for alternate parking.

October

Open Gate self-guided tour on the Preserve: Sat, Oct 5th, 9-11am

Docent Training: Sun, Oct 6th 9-11am, led by Rich Toyon

~ join us to learn how you can be a field trip docent!

Habitat Restoration: Sat, Oct 12th, 9-11am

Open Gate self-guided tour on the Preserve: Sun, Oct 20th, 9-11am

Bird Tour: Sat, Oct 26th, 8-10am; led by Pasadena Audubon

November

Open Gate self-guided tour on the Preserve: Sat, Nov 2nd, 9-11am

Habitat Restoration: Sat, Nov 9th, 9-11am

Open Gate self-guided tour on the Preserve: Sun, Nov 17th, 9-11am

Wildlife Tracking & Photography Tour: Sat, Nov 23rd

Led by wildlife tracker/photographer Johanna Turner (tour limited to 15 participants, RSVP required to rosemontfriends@gmail.com)

December

Open Gate self-guided tour on the Preserve: Sat, Dec 7th, 9-11am

Habitat Restoration: Sat, Dec 12th, 9-11am

Open Gate self-guided tour on the Preserve: Sun, Dec 15th, 9-11am

Rubio Canyon Preserve

1101 E Loma Alta Dr, Altadena 91001

October

Trails and Lore of Rubio Canyon

Sat, October 26, 9-12pm

Join Friend of Rubio Canyon and "trail boss", Mel Lynch, on a rugged exploration Rubio Canyon. Discover the history of the Canyon from the Mt. Lowe Railway and Camp Huntington days, and explore the newly improved stretches of trail.

November

Native Plant Hike

Sat, October 16, 9-11am

Join Jo Dominguez and Teresa Mei Chuc of The Regenerative Collective for a guided tour of Rubio Canyon. Learn about the uses of native plants, and the importance of restoring indigenous land through direct community action.

December

Volunteer Day

Sat, December 2, 9-11am

Help us restore habitat, clear brush, and maintain the historic Rubio Canyon trails. Please bring water and dress appropriately!



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 John Howell at 626.796.0782.



Securing, Protecting and Stewarding Our Precious Open Spaces

Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy
(626) 796-0782
arroyosfoothills@gmail.com
www.arroyosfoothills.org

Connect with us

