



Everybody's ready for a holiday weekend.

Dear friends,

In recent weeks, so many of you made the choice to support AFC as we ended our fiscal year - and we have some great news to share with you!

Not only did all of you turn out in record numbers, we were able to leverage that support into multiple major grant awards. You'll see the details of one of those below: AFC was awarded \$75,000 for a Monarch Butterfly Recovery Project.

Your gifts help us do even more, and these new grants multiply the impact of your support. Heading into this holiday weekend, we sure do have a lot to celebrate!

Thank you for everything you do to help support conservation!

AFC SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE:

- AFC awarded \$75K grant for Monarch Recovery project
- Eagle Scouts and volunteers create Rubio's new tool shed
- AFC joins Verdugo Wash Visioning Working Group
- New image of our favorite area mountain lion
- Thanks to Sunshine property donor Fred Danelian
- Upcoming Events

FUNDING FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLY PROJECT



Milkweed Planting Project Will Support Critical Ecosystem Recovery

AFC WINS \$75,000 GRANT

In January of 2021, only 1,914 Monarch Butterflies were recorded overwintering on the California coast. This critically low number follows two years with fewer than 30,000 butterflies, indicating that the Western Monarch Butterfly migration is nearing collapse.

When Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) created the Monarch Recovery grant program, AFC jumped at the chance to establish new populations of native milkweed along the foothills of the San Gabriel and Verdugo Mountains, and in the San Rafael Hills.

In partnership with Theodore Payne Foundation, AFC plans to harvest milkweed seeds from AFC properties and propagate thousands of plants at both Theodore Payne and the Hahamongna Native Plant Nursery. Milkweed will then be planted at AFC properties as well as partner sites, like Deukemejian Wilderness Park and Eaton Canyon. With advice and community outreach support from the California Native Plant Society, Pasadena Audubon, and Transition Habitat Authority's Monarch expert, Gina Carpentier, we are ready to create oases of pollinator sites to help sustain the recovery of Monarch Butterflies.

This award will do more than directly support the planting of milkweed: it will also make nature and conservation work more accessible by offering competitively-paid jobs to young people often excluded from environmental work and advocacy. Through our partnership with Outward Bound Adventures, we will hire OBA's Wildlands Resource Academy graduates to plant and water the milkweed. Great news all around!

COMING TOGETHER AT RUBIO CANYON



**Eagle Scouts, Interns, and Friends of Rubio
Come Together**

SHED REMODEL A VOLUNTEER RELAY EFFORT

Those familiar with the Rubio Canyon Preserve may have noticed our newly renovated tool shed. Originally used as a laundry room for the houses that occupied the property, it sat abandoned for years until aspiring Eagle Scout, Wulf Heinsen, contacted AFC with a plan.

Wulf, a Life Scout at the time with Troop 4 in Pasadena, put Troop 4 volunteers to work: they installed wood blocks and hooks to hang tools; moved the door from the west to the north wall for easier access from the driveway; and installed shelves, a fire hydrant, and new tar paper on the bottom half of the shed.

Our AFC Summer Interns re-roofed the shed under the guidance of volunteers from the Friends of Rubio Canyon. The Friends recently finished the job by staining the exterior a handsome russet shade called, appropriately, "October Leaves."

This shed will serve as a staging point for habitat restoration, brush clearance, and trail maintenance of Rubio Canyon Preserve for years to come. Turning the former laundry room into a functional tool shed was truly a collaborative community effort. AFC sends a big THANK YOU to everyone who played a role!

BIG OPPORTUNITY TO INFLUENCE A CORRIDOR'S DIRECTION



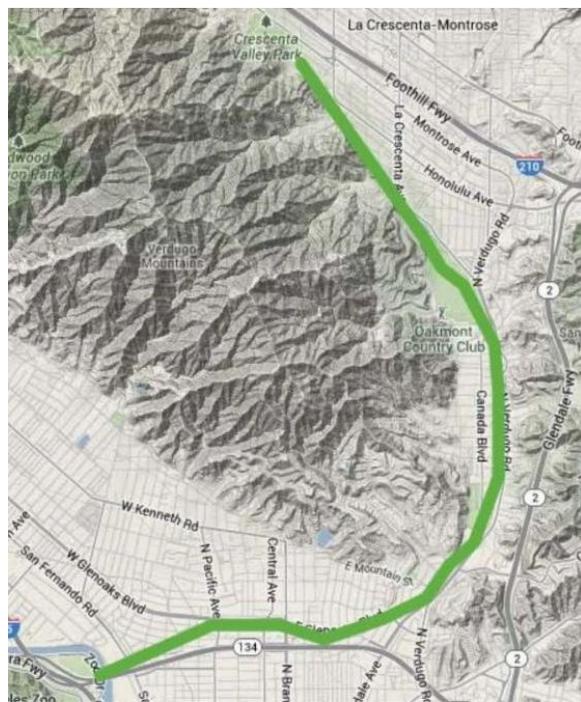
AFC Is Speaking Up for Wildlife in the Verdugo Wash

AFC JOINS CITY OF GLENDALE IN PLANNING EFFORTS

The Verdugo Wash must be a wildlife corridor!

This is our message to the City of Glendale, and they seem to have open ears: recently, the City invited AFC to participate as a member of the Verdugo Wash Working Group to help reimagine the Wash. Right now, this waterway is primarily a speedway to the ocean for rainwater, but it can be so much more. The City of Glendale says:

The goal is to create a 9.4-mile long linear park and nature trail for walking/cycling, with access to business and entertainment venues. Nature, people, places, and culture will interweave several important city centers, services, and a multitude of neighborhoods that make up a large core of Glendale.



We are excited to help with this visioning and planning effort. AFC envisions this single purpose concrete channel as a natural habitat corridor for bikers, walkers **and wildlife** to share.

The Verdugo Wash is a must for the Hahamongna to Tujunga Wildlife Corridor. It's the spine between the Verdugos and the San Rafaels. A bobcat can move down through the Sunshine Preserve and into the Wash, then north or south to exit at one of several pathways into the San Rafaels. That makes Griffith Park the tailbone and the San Gabriel Mountains the brains. Mountain lions like P-22 must be able to move up the spine to the biodiverse San Gabriels.

To read more about the project click below - and voice your opinions via their open survey!

[Learn about the Verdugo Wash Visioning Project »](#)

READY FOR HER CLOSE UP



Good to See You, Nikita!

OUR RESIDENT MOUNTAIN LION MAKES AN APPEARANCE

After months of no sightings, AFC advisor and wildlife photographer **Denis Callet** captured this stunning image of her alive and well!

Our partnerships with wildlife photographers and camera trappers like Denis are essential in our efforts to track wildlife, establish passage patterns, and study movement through our preserves and the urban-wildlife interface.

You'll see Denis' work on our social media channels frequently, but for even more incredible images of our local wildlife, follow him on Instagram!

[Follow Denis Callet on Instagram »](#)

DONOR MAKES AFC PRESERVE A REALITY



Thank you to
FRED DANELIAN

Million Dollar View

SUNSHINE PRESERVE CONNECTS CRITICAL OPEN SPACES

AFC extends our deepest thanks to Fred Danelian, who ensured that AFC's newest property, the Sunshine Preserve, became protected land. We are so grateful to Fred for his vision, his commitment to conservation, and his generosity in allowing us to preserve this critical connector.

If you haven't seen our virtual tour of the Sunshine Preserve yet, it's a fantastic glimpse at what makes this newest preserve so special - check it out!

[Sunshine Property Tour »](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

AT ROSEMONT PRESERVE

- July 3rd, **Open Gate at the Preserve**, 9-11am
- July 10th, **Restoration Work** (volunteers needed!), 8-10am
- July 18th, **Open Gate at the Preserve**, 9-11am
- July 24th, **Bats of the Rosemont Preserve**, with bat expert Steve Gustafson, 9-11am
- July 31st, **Open Gate at the Preserve**, 9-11am
- August 7th, **Open Gate at the Preserve**, 9-11am
- August 14th, **Restoration Work** (volunteers needed!), 8-10am
- August 15th, **Open Gate at the Preserve**, 9-11am
- August 28th, **History of Rosemont Preserve**, with AFC advisor Rich Toyon, 9-11am



Securing, protecting, and stewarding our precious open spaces



CONNECT WITH US

