



NEWS FROM NATURE

NEWSLETTER OF CHINO HILLS STATE PARK INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

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Melanie Schlotterbeck

WELCOME TO YOUR PARK, CHINO HILLS STATE PARK

Dear Friends,

The first leg of my hike took me to the top of the grass and coastal sage scrub hill where I turned to take the ridgeline trail. I stopped, did a slow turn in all directions and appreciated the sight of open, uninterrupted natural terrain as far as the eye can see.

In between my spot and the very high ridgelines to the west, I could see the valley below with the hillsides marked by dark green clusters; the tell tale sign of woodlands made up of centuries old coast live oaks. As I scanned skyward, I see the graceful turn of a red-tailed hawk in flight and closer to the ground an American Kestrel hovering over the land waiting for its next meal.

The next few hours of this ten mile hike, bring me down steep ridges and through miles of canyon bottoms where seasonal streams flow through lush green vegetation of willows and sycamores. It is in this rich habitat that the wildlife comes to life - birds sing, tree squirrels leap, and coyotes roam...

Is this hike that I took in the great outdoors several hours away in a rural and uninhabited part of the State? Not at all. Welcome to Chino Hills State Park, your local undeveloped open space in the midst of one of the most urbanized regions in the country.

Our group, the Chino Hills State Park Interpretive Association wants you, the residents near to the Park, to be aware of this wonderful natural area that is here for you to enjoy. If you would like a temporary escape, from our fast paced modern lifestyles, then we invite you for a visit. Come and enjoy a bike ride, a serious hike, or just a leisurely walk with the family.

Chino Hills State Park Interpretive Association (CHSPIA) is a non-profit volunteer based organization that works to raise funds to support educational and interpretive programs that will enhance your experience in the Park. Unfortunately, current state funding to Chino Hills State Park, and other state parks, is limited. Without additional financial support

to the Park, events and other park programs may not otherwise receive funding.

Not only do we want you to visit and enjoy Chino Hills State Park, but also we would love to have your support. You can support us, by taking part in our fundraising events. Recently, local residents have enjoyed our interpretive campfire programs, overnight campouts, and nature hikes. You can also become an associate member or join the Board. If you would like to learn more about our organization, send us an email to:

info@ChinoHillsStatePark.org.

So next time you want a temporary escape, remember, Chino Hills State Park is just around the corner and if you want to actively help make the Park a better place, we could always use your help.

Sincerely,

Tom Greene, President
CHSPIA

WHERE IS CHINO HILLS STATE PARK?



RANGER'S CORNER

By Ranger Grant

With a backlog approaching \$1 billion in deferred maintenance in the State Park system, it is getting difficult to get things fixed in Chino Hills State Park.

One of the creative solutions to circumvent the short fall in project funding has been to enlist the aid of boy scouts trying to earn their Eagle Scout rank. On average, 4 to 10 scouts are working on projects at any given time in the Park.

The scouts work with me to select a project, draft specifications, and design plans. The scouts are then responsible for raising funds to purchase needed materials, and organize their troops to build and install their project. Most projects result in the donation of about \$400 to \$1,000 worth of material to the Park plus free labor. On average, about 5 to 10 projects are completed annually.

Most of the projects offer scouts a chance to develop basic carpentry and woodworking skills. Best of all, these projects give a young scout the opportunity to make a positive and lasting impact to their community and our Park! Please email me at bgrant@parks.ca.gov for more information on available projects.



An Eagle Scout project - a topographic map made out of wood.

Melanie Schlotterbeck

Recent notable projects include:

- Replacement of bulletin boards at the Rim Crest entrance, Bane Canyon entrance station, and at the Rolling M Ranch parking area;
- Installation of mile markers and trailhead markers throughout the Park;
- Installation of two shade canopies in Bane Canyon;
- Installation of fire equipment boxes in the Campground and Rolling M Ranch; and
- Removal of obsolete barbed wire fences.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PARK NEIGHBOR?

By Melanie Schlotterbeck

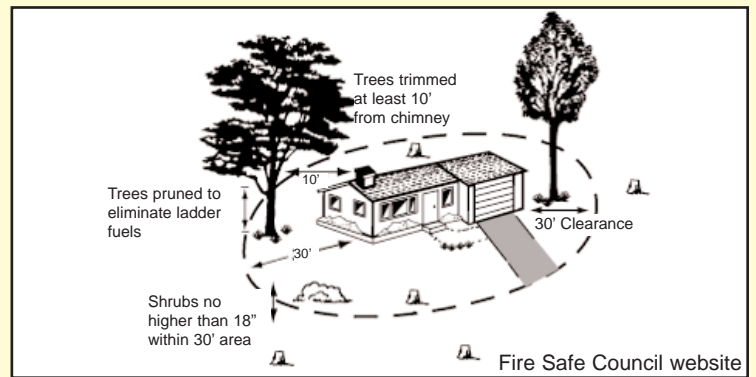
Many of us are fortunate in that we live close to Chino Hills State Park, however not all of us know how to be a good park neighbor. This short article is intended to provide a few tips on how to be just that - a good neighbor. These tips may not only help the Park, but you and your family.

When it comes to fire safety, especially in times of drought, during summer and fall, as well as days when the Santa Ana winds blow -- we all need to be extra careful. Below are a few tips to protect yourself, your family, your property, and the Park:

- Teach children about fire safety and keep matches out of their reach.
- Select materials and plants that can help contain fire rather than fuel it.
- Create a 30 to 100 foot safety zone around your home that is clear of brush.
- Clean your roof gutters of debris and choose tile roofing to help protect against windblown embers.
- Have an evacuation plan ready and follow the instructions of fire personnel immediately.
- If you know there is a fire, confine your pets to one room - they will be easier to catch if you need to evacuate in a rush.

Other ways to be a good neighbor to the Park when it comes to wildfires, include: landscaping with native, drought tolerant plants; keeping fire tools readily accessible (i.e., a shovel, axe, bucket); making sure your garden hose stretches to all corners of your home; not using equipment near dry brush that could spark a fire especially during the dry season or Santa Ana winds (i.e., a weed eater or lawn mower); and clearing brush from any propane tanks or combustible materials.

Learn more about protecting your home by visiting: www.RedCross.org, www.FEMA.gov, www.FireSafeCouncil.org, or www.Fire.CA.gov.



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS?

Which footprint and drawing belongs to which animal?

A. Rabbit ___ & ___

B. Coyote ___ & ___

C. California Quail ___ & ___

D. Bobcat ___ & ___

E. Mule Deer ___ & ___

F. Gray Squirrel ___ & ___



Answers on back page...

WORD PUZZLE

Can you find these words in the puzzle?

Trails • Mountains • Bikes • Camping • Skunk •
Eagle • Deer • Snakes • Recycle • Chino Hills •
Canyon • Flowers • Lizard • Ranger • Rabbits

N A E A G L E S I E I
C F S C K I C R E L N
A L K A E Z H A A M E
M O U N T A I N S U L
P W N Y C R N G O B A
I E K O S D O E A I E
N R R N C G H R S K D
G S R A B B I T S E E
S R E C Y C L E E S E
N R T R A I L S E S R
R S N A K E S A H R I

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

As a part of our ongoing efforts, the Interpretive Association volunteers are fundraising and working to offer quality activities for visitors. All funds raised go directly to the Interpretive Association, and not the State's General Fund.

If you are interested in learning more about the Interpretive Association, our fundraising activities or joining the board, please email us at:
info@ChinoHillsStatePark.org.

*This newsletter was printed via
a generous donation from the
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ANSWERS TO CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS?

- A. Rabbit - 2 & 12
- B. Coyote - 6 & 7
- C. California Quail - 3 & 11
- D. Bobcat - 1 & 10
- E. Mule Deer - 5 & 8
- F. Gray Squirrel - 4 & 9

WHO WE ARE

The Chino Hills State Park Interpretive Association (CHSPIA) is a non-profit volunteer based organization that assists the California Department of Parks and Recreation in maintaining and restoring Chino Hills State Park. Through interpretive programs and volunteer support designed to enhance visitor experiences, CHSPIA fosters appreciation and the enlightened use of the State Park. All funds raised go directly to CHSPIA to support our interpretive activities, events, and other Park programs that may not otherwise receive funding.

Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

CHINO HILLS STATE PARK INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION
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VISIT US ON THE WEB: WWW.CHINOHILLSSTATEPARK.ORG