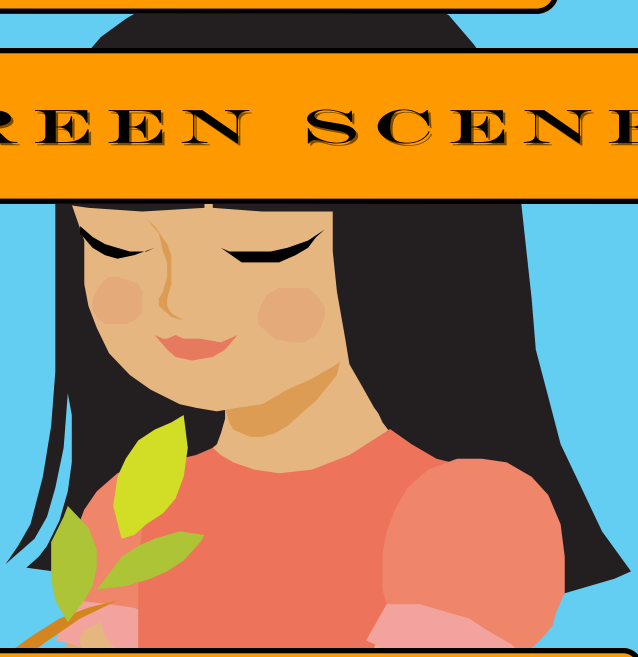
October, 2008

County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation

THE GREEN SCENE



Be one with Nature!

October is *Be One with Nature!* month. Our natural areas, High Desert Wildlife Sanctuaries and open spaces offer park visitors the opportunity to gain more respect and admiration for nature and its inhabitants by exploring unique and interesting landscapes, bird watching and horseback riding.

With an emphasis on the environment, our parks take the public "up-close" to nature with fun and educational activities. The public can see live animals, learn how they survive in the wild, take challenging hikes that let them observe nature in their own backyard. From vast and beautiful geological fascinations such as Vasquez Rocks and the Devil's Punchbowl to any one of our 19 natural area parks and wildflower sanctuaries encompassing over 5,500 acres filled with floral displays and abundant prairie animals, our parks have something for everyone. So come out and enjoy nature with us in our "natural" backyard and *Be One with Nature!*

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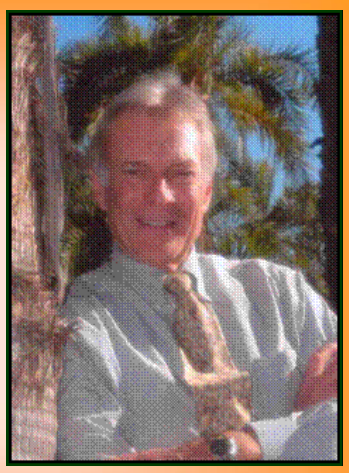
Greetings from the Director

October is *Be One with Nature!* month and there are 19 Natural Areas and Wildlife Sanctuaries where you can visit and learn about flora and fauna. It's important to remember that while we are in the business of recreation and providing opportunities where people can play, we also have an important charge to help educate the public about plants and wildlife with whom we share this earth. Our Nature Centers are some of the best around, and they offer a wealth of interesting information about nature and how we can be responsible stewards of parklands, respectful to wildlife and ultimately the planet.

I hope you wear your orange *Be One with Nature!* button with pride and share with the public the diversity that is the Department of Parks and Recreation.



Russ Guiney, Director

Natural Areas Fun Facts and Figures

- Did you know that the 19 Natural Areas and Wildflower Sanctuaries in the Department total over 5,500 acres of natural open space land? They range from 14-acre Tujunga Ponds to 1,310-acre Devil's Punchbowl. Quite a bargain with only 10 Grounds Maintenance staff!
- The Natural Areas include the northernmost park (Phacelia Wildlife Sanctuary, 2 miles south of Kern County) and the southernmost (Deane Dana Friendship Park and Nature Center, San Pedro) in the Department.
- The Natural Area budget for fertilizers and insecticides is $0.
- At least 404 species of plants have been identified in Placerita Canyon and 337 at Eaton Canyon Natural Areas. 300 kinds of birds have been recorded in the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, including the Natural Area.
- More than 80 Agency-Sensitive (Federal or State Rare, Endangered or Special Concern) species of plants and animals, such as the California Gnatcatcher, Least Bell's Vireo, Two-striped Garter Snake and Greata's Aster reside inside the Natural Areas.
- You can experience 106 degree heat at Vasquez Rocks in August and two feet of snow at Devil's Punchbowl in February, or can walk around at a 200 foot elevation along the San Gabriel River at Whittier Narrows Nature Center, look over the ocean at Friendship Park or hike to 6,200 feet at Devil's Punchbowl and view the entire Antelope Valley below.
- Some 1.5 million visitors, including over 50,000 school children, enjoy the Natural Area Parks annually.
- More than 200 active Docent Naturalists volunteer at the Natural Area Parks.

Natural Areas
Special Events

October 21, 2008
Devil's Punchbowl
Orionids Meteor Shower Viewing
All ages
Time: 9 pm
Fee: Free

October 25, 2008
Devil's Punchbowl
Telescope Program
All ages
Time: 8 pm
Fee: Free

October 26, 2008
Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park
Los Angeles County Supervisor
Michael D. Antonovich
Trail Dusters Ride
Riders under 18 must be
accompanied by an adult
Time: 9 am
Fee: $25
(Pre-Registration required)

November 15, 2008
Devil's Punchbowl
Full Moon Hikes
All ages
Time: 6 pm
Fee: Free

November 17, 2008
Devil's Punchbowl
Leonids Meteor Shower Viewing
All ages
Time: 9 pm
Fee: Free

November 29, 2008
Devil's Punchbowl
Telescope Program
All ages
Time: 8 pm
Fee: Free

December 13, 2008
Devil's Punchbowl
Full Moon Hikes
All ages
Time: 6 pm
Fee: Free

Sundays
Devil's Punchbowl
San Andreas Fault Tour
All ages
Time: 1 pm
Fee: Free

Mondays
Whittier Narrows Nature Center
Senior Bird Walk
55 years and over
Time: 9:30 am to 11 am
Fee: Free

2nd Saturday of each Month
Whittier Narrows Nature Center
Family Nature Walks
All ages
Time: 9 am to 11 am
Fee: Free
(Donations accepted)

1st and 3rd Saturday of each month
Whittier Narrows Nature Center
Woody's Outdoor Investigators
Ages: 4 to 12 years
Time: 10 am to 11:30 am
Fee: Free

2nd Saturday of each month
Whittier Narrows Nature Center
Family Nature Walks
All Ages
Time: 9 am
Fee: Free

2nd and 4th Saturday of each month
Whittier Narrows Nature Center
Bird Walks
All Ages
Time: 8 am to 12 noon
Fee: Free

Saturdays and Sundays during October
Santa Fe Dam
Pumpkin Patch
All Ages
Time: 10 am to 6 pm
Fee: Free

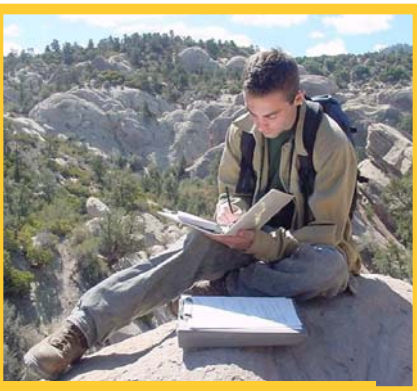
Ongoing
Whittier Narrows Nature Center
Moonlight Hikes
All Ages
Time: 5:30 pm or 8 pm
Fee: Free

Meet some of the staff at our Nature Centers

Deane Dana Friendship Park Staff
Left to right: Sherrette Fraser, Laura Jones, Lashun Spragg, Kim Bosell (kneeling), Tanesha Burrell, Marty Markham (kneeling), Ricky Millar, Alvaro Guzman
Not pictured: Monica Duran

Eaton Canyon Nature Center Staff
Left to right: Helen Wong, Linda Duncan, Anthony Withers, Diane Alarcon, Chuck Haznedl, Melanie Symonds, Susan Martorana, Bill Fitzpatrick, Mickey Long
Not pictured: Rene Garcia, Alexander Chan, Patricia Fairfield, Eric Janasov and Shelly Magier

Placerita Canyon Nature Center Staff
Left to Right: Jessica Nikolai, Frank Hoffman, Dave Stives
Not pictured: Agustin Hernandez and Christopher Sapovchak



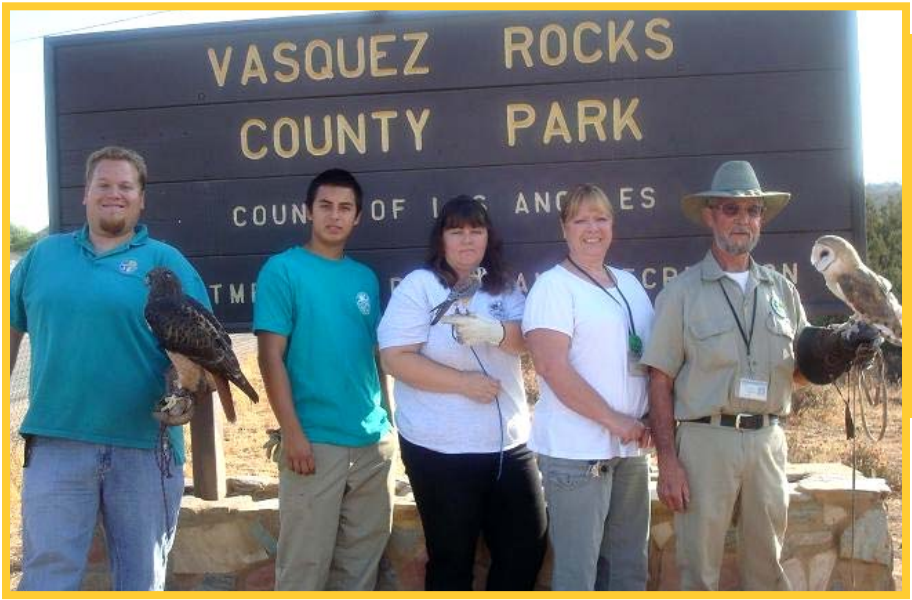
Placerita Canyon Nature Center Superintendent
Ian Swift

Meet some of the staff at our Nature Centers

Devil's Punchbowl Natural Area and Wildflower Sanctuary Staff
Left to right: Jonathan Numer, Pauline Numer, Charity Edwards, Amanda Dundes, Jack Farley, David Numer

Whittier Narrows Nature Center Staff
Left to right: Anthony Fontain, Rod Lizama, Colleen Mac Kay, Julio Diaz holding "Professor Woody Owlbert"
Not pictured: Arlene Martinez, Jody Harris, Mike Concha, Ray Jillson and Andrew Gutierrez

San Dimas Canyon Nature Center Staff
Left to right: Robert Perez, Chloe Anchondo, Roddy Gregory and Rafael Hernandez
Not pictured: Michael Paolini and Alma Parada



Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Staff
Left to right: Chris Mowry, Jordan Chocooj, Monica Chocooj, Sandra Dininger, Smitty Crosby
Not pictured: Susan Renee Carl, Allison Dininger, Michael Dixon, Debra Goodwin, Mary Johnson, Paula Reynosa, Simona Ridenour, Linda Therrien, Jacob Chocooj and Morris Hooks

Natural Areas
What Goes on Outside?

Spotted Owls nesting at Placerita Canyon Natural Area

The Natural Areas Division operates the seven Nature Centers (plus one on Catalina Island with an operating agreement with the Island Company) and 19 Natural Area Parks, encompassing a total of 5,500 acres of open space with hiking trails, equestrian trails, picnic areas and wildlife and environmental education programs. The annual attendance is over 1.5 million with more than 50,000 school children visiting.

But a Nature Center is an interpretive building, and is the "Gateway to the Wild," in that it is just a part of what goes on in the Natural Area at each site. So what goes on outside in the open space reserves all over Los Angeles County? Well, starting with the evening hours, you might find a great horned owl flying out from its secluded daytime roost to perch in the open and begin its hunt for an unwary rodent, like a wood rat. Or, if you're at Placerita Canyon, it might be a rare Spotted Owl. Throughout the Natural Areas, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, skunks and numerous snake species are out nightly searching for similar dinners. By day, this same role of hunting for food is filled by many other birds including red-tailed and Cooper's

Continued on next page

Endangered Species and Natural Areas

It is not surprising that with loss of open space, many wildlife and plant species in southern California are declining. If they are highly restricted in range or their populations have declined dramatically, they are listed as Federally or State Rare or Endangered. In addition, there are species that are less threatened but still of concern and they are collectively listed as "Sensitive Species". It is also not surprising that some of these flora and fauna are found in the Natural Areas. But perhaps a bit surprising is that over 80 of these plant and animal species occur on the Natural Area lands in the Department and others are still found in several Regional Parks. Some, like the Least Bell's Vireo, migrate in during April, nest and then depart for winter grounds south of the border, by September. Others like the Coast horned lizard and, of course, plants, like Plummer's mariposa lily, are year-round residents.

Since laws and regulations designed to protect these species are important to the Department, we adjust our maintenance and operations to comply and avoid impacting rare species. It may mean scheduling brush clearing or trail trimming to avoid a bird nesting season, or using hand tools for gentler pruning, instead of heavy equipment on some sites. Either way, it is a testament to the quality and size of some of the Department's open space parks that these species are here. They add depth and diversity to the Department of Parks and Recreation many offerings.

Natural Areas
What Goes On Outside?

(Continued from previous page)

hawks, among more than 500 species recorded in the Natural Areas; ground squirrels; lizards; and a myriad of insects and other arthropods. Several Natural Areas house non-releasable wildlife that are used for public education programs.

Plants, hundreds of species, and the flowers and fruits they provide for study are also a major draw in the Natural Area parks. The changing seasons and annual variation in rainfall and temperatures bring a constantly changing array of botanical wonders to study, photograph and enjoy. This is especially true for the Antelope Valley Wildflower Sanctuaries in Spring. Plants are always "out," even when animals are hiding or weather is bad, so plants are among the most commonly interpreted features on our guided walks.

All these living things and the geologic, landscape and historical wonders the Natural Areas provide for year-round enjoyment and study. Whether you use binoculars to identify a black-throated gray warbler or just enjoy "stress-relief" by listening to the song of a California thrasher, the Natural Area parks are outstanding places to *Be one with Nature!*

Nature in a Box
Melanie Symonds, Recreation Services Leader

Three days a week, Melanie Symonds steps out of her house and walks to paradise. Her two-mile route that meanders down a canyon trail teeming with wildlife and native flora to Eaton Canyon Nature Center isn't really the path to paradise, but as far as she's concerned, it's a pretty heavenly destination.

She should know. After years of burning herself out as a professional costume designer – the last a miserably stressful stint with a well-known Hollywood studio – she has found a place and a calling she loves.

Melanie is a recurrent Recreation Services Leader at Eaton Canyon. Years ago, during a hiatus from "gainful employment," she answered a call for new park docents. The specialized training in various fields – entomology, botany, etc.– took about 10 weeks, and she found herself in a setting where she finally felt really happy. She began giving nature tours twice a week and even after returning to working full-time, she gave Saturday morning tours.

Today, she is the coordinator of an innovative program called "Nature in a Box." The brainchild of Regional Park Superintendent Helen Wong, this "out of the box" program offers teachers a plastic bin filled with books and artifacts about some aspect of the natural world – and the training to know how to use them.

What started as an attempt by the Eaton Canyon staff to cobble together materials for teachers turned into an organized program, thanks to a Pasadena Community Foundation grant and continued support by the Pasadena Audubon Society. Now in its second year, the program this fall semester has attracted 23 teachers who have signed up for 41 boxes.

After going through the annual 4-hour mandatory training session, teachers can check out any of seven boxes: *Geology*, *Plants*, *Insects* and *Arthropods*, *Reptiles* and *Amphibians*, *Mammals*, *Birds* and a *Story Box* containing nature-related stories and puppets. In addition to books and workbooks, the hands-on material in a box might include rock samples, skeletons or other parts of animals, such as talons or wings. The materials focus on Southern California, and the specimens are all local.

Each box contains far more material than could be taught in the 2-week loan period, so teachers can revisit a subject with different material at a later date.

"I think it's a really great program," Melanie says. "We can reach children who might never be able to visit here or be otherwise exposed to some of this knowledge. The response has been incredible, and the feedback very positive."

It's been said that success is directly proportional to enthusiasm invested. One of the reasons this program is successful is that people like Melanie are full of enthusiasm for it – and for everything they do.

Oh, for the record, the only costume she bothers with these days is the one she makes for her daughter each Halloween.

A Halloween Story!
Tarantulas

If you want to lie awake nights, consider this: there are more than 800 species of tarantula. Most of them don't reside in California, at least not in the wild, but if you're like many people, the thought of just one species is enough to give you pause.

Or how about the fact that the Blue Tarantula has legs that are deep blue and the Mexican Red Rump has, yes, you guessed it. Or that tarantulas don't trap their prey like other spiders, but chase them down? Or that a female can hatch up to 1,000 young at a time? A fact that may be the most startling is that the South American Goliath tarantula can have a leg span of up to 18". Eighteen inches! Measure that with your hands, take a deep breath, and be thankful for where you live.

California species include the California Brown and the Desert Blonde, the latter a resident of (wouldn't you know) Palm Springs and environs. We think of tarantulas as being desert denizens, but the California Brown is actually found everywhere in South California.

A male tarantula is smaller than the female and once they mate, the male dies within a few months. If kept in captivity together, the male usually dies much sooner. That's because the female will eat him because he can't get away. Sometimes, for whatever reason – call it female prerogative – she just goes ahead and eats him prior to mating.

Educating yourself about tarantulas isn't necessarily very reassuring.

The staff at our nature centers and natural area parks enjoy the tarantulas because they're such interesting critters, a great teaching tool and a surefire child pleaser. They can also be quite gentle and easy to handle if you know what you're doing. Most spiders are poisonous, and for most of us, the tarantula sting is about the equivalent of a bee sting. The exception is anyone who is allergic, in which case all stings are potentially life-threatening.

Because it's illegal to sell native species in California, there is no shortage of donated tarantulas. The females can live a couple of decades or longer, especially in captivity where they have no predators. At our natural area parks and centers, they are just another odd relative in an already eclectic family.

Desert Blonde Tarantula

A Man and His Mouse Eaters
David Stives, Animal Keeper

David Stives holding a turkey vulture named Apollo

He might be named after a Greek god, but Apollo the turkey vulture has a face only his mother could love – well, and Animal Keeper David Stives. When Apollo hops on David's gloved arm, the obvious affection between this large carrion-eater and David only proves again that love is, indeed, quite blind.

Love is also missing a few olfactory nerves, because Apollo has a definite "fragrance," stemming from a vulture characteristic of defecating on its own legs, where the fluids keep it cool. Unfazed, David says, "I was born to be with animals." Fortunately, this personable bird also loves to be hosed down. Then he spreads his 4 ½-foot wing span to dry in the sun, an amazing and sad sight.

It is sad because Apollo will never soar again, and soaring is one of the things turkey vultures do best. So well, in fact, that they rarely have to flap their wings.

Unfortunately, Apollo was hit by a car in Virginia, and after being housed at another educational facility, came to Placerita Canyon Nature Center where his expected lifespan of about 25 years will be spent educating a curious public.

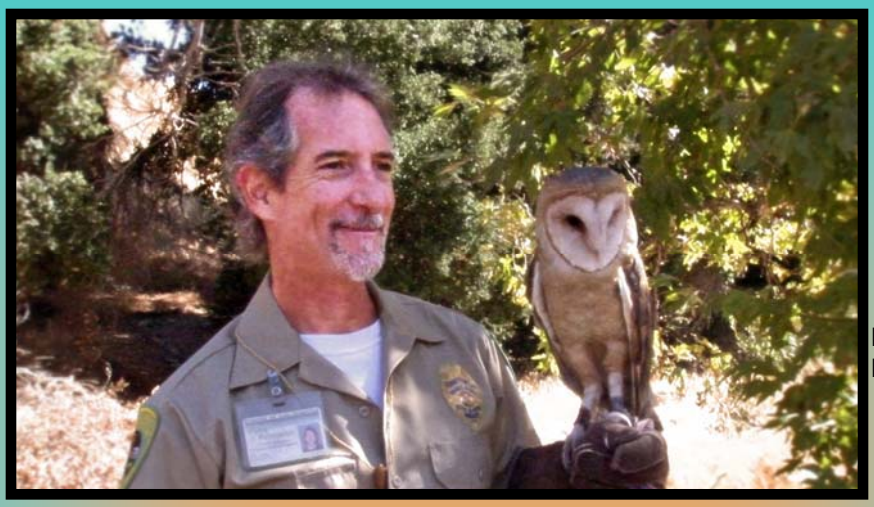
David grew up on a Pennsylvania dairy farm. "I moved to California to get away from the farm and look where I wound up," he jokes. He's been an animal keeper for almost 10 years, initially at Vasquez Rocks Natural Area Park working with birds of prey. Like his father and grandfather before him, David is a falconer. He also has a Wildlife Rehabilitation License which enables him to care for rescued animals at his home.

After a sojourn at William S. Hart Park, he came to Placerita Canyon where he gives educational tours of this spectacular natural area and its rescued critters – a menagerie that includes tarantulas, various birds of prey and snakes, one of which is Sonny, the gopher snake.

There's no other way to put it: gopher snakes have a raw deal. Although harmless to people, they have learned to imitate rattlers to scare away predators, a trait that puts them in direct conflict with humans. How do they do it? They puff out their mouths to resemble the rattler's triangular head and shake their tails which, in the leaf litter under oaks, makes a rattling sound.

Sonny, a 10-year-old donated pet, can't be released because she has never been in the wild. "She would be able to eat and drink, but she doesn't know about predators," David says. "She would come out at noon and get eaten by a hawk." Instead, she munches a thawed frozen mouse every two weeks in the security of her enclosure and comes out periodically to meet and greet her public – and educate them in an interactive, hands-on way about the biology and the importance of the wild creatures with which we share this earthly home.

Hopi the Barn Owl and Handler Frank Hoffman a Treasured Part of Placerita Canyon Family



Frank Hoffman and Hopi the Barn Owl

From the moment Hopi the barn owl was brought into Placerita Canyon Nature Center, everyone was routing for her. A park patron found her on the ground, five or six days old and not even a fledgling, and brought her in for care at the Nature Center. The community got word that a baby owl had been brought in, and not knowing if the owl was a male or a female many children came in telling Recreation Services Supervisor Frank Hoffman, "Hope he makes it!" And so, Hopi ("Hope he") found a permanent home, and a suitable name. Many years later, Hopi is a regular part of the family at Placerita. Ranger Frank (as many of the Placerita Canyon locals refer to him) and his wife adopted Hopi and raised her from her first days. Ranger Frank even sentimentally keeps Hopi's first owl pellet in his freezer at home. "Sort of like people keeping a baby's first tooth," he says affectionately.

Aside from her home, Hopi is a typical female barn owl. She loves to eat mice, crickets and quails. She is 14-16" from head to tail and has a 2 ½ foot wingspan. The tan in her chest is typical of a female as the male's chest is all white. The facial disk on her face is to collect sound and triangulate and narrow in on prey source. Hopi's sharp talons would work to help her subdue prey in the wild as most of her strength comes from her feet.

Hopi earns her keep at the Nature Center, making educational tours with Ranger Frank and being a regular part of the Placerita Canyon Nature Center Saturday shows. Recently, more than 150 people visited her booth at the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Chili Cook-off.

Because she lives in captivity, Hopi's lifespan can approach 10-15 years as opposed to only two to four years in the wild. But this is no reason to think that owls like Hopi are better off in a domestic home as a pet. "You must have a license to keep an owl as a pet," says Ranger Frank, who himself is a licensed falconer for the State of California, licensed to keep animals like Hopi. "There's a lot that goes in to taking care of an owl," he continues. "People who keep owls must have the right enclosure, they must know owl biology, the various diseases owls are susceptible to, and what is best for an owl's diet. They also must know where to get veterinary care for the owl. Owls are wild animals who have to be taught to accept people."

Ranger Frank's affection for wild animals infuses every part of his life, both professionally and personally. He and his wife were married under a tree at Placerita Canyon and together they own a business called FAWN (Families Active With Nature). He continues to educate the public about wild animals at private events during his free time, bringing his own menagerie of creatures including tortoises, snakes, tarantulas, owls, opossums, hawks, skunks, geckos and many others.

"I love working with animals because I certainly get to learn from them and then share that with others; I love to teach! They also have a certain calm about them that I can appreciate," says Frank. "I'm in a very lucky position to be able to see, have and share so much here at work. I really consider myself, and folks in the same capacity, very fortunate to be able to represent The County, our wild California Heritage and our Native Wildlife in this capacity."

"Meet Milton and Alison" Desert Tortoises Handled by Chloe Anchondo and Rafael Mendoza Hernandez

Chloe Anchondo and Milton

Meet two of our department's special animals at the San Dimas Canyon Nature Center. Two Desert Tortoises, a male named Milton and a female named Alison who reside at the Nature Center and are cared for by Chloe Anchondo and Rafael Mendoza Hernandez. The male tortoise, Milton is in his early 50's, and the female Alison is 25 years of age. Both have lived at the nature center for nearly ten years. The park has a special permit from Fish and Game to house the two animals. They both are cold-blooded reptiles and only come out in the spring and for a short period in the late summer and fall to eat vegetation, drink, socialize and travel. Other times of the year they're less active or not at all and will burrow deep into the ground away from harsh weather. Here are some important and interesting facts about Tortoises that will help everyone become more familiar with these gentle reptiles:

Alison

Milton

- Since a tortoise may live between 60-100 years, many eggs will be laid in a lifetime. Only 5 out of every 100 will survive.
- For the first 6-8 years of life the tortoises shell is no thicker than a human's fingernail, therefore, it is easy prey for many animals.
- The desert tortoise is an endangered species, and many of man's activities threaten their survival: removing them from the wild; releasing pet tortoises into the desert which carry disease; driving off roads; shooting tortoises, and handling tortoises found in the desert, which causes them to loose water supplies.
- Tortoises should only be seen in the wild from a distance, and shouldn't be handled.
- If moving is necessary, move the tortoise slowly and very close to the ground as if it's still walking.
- If picked up to quickly and too high, it can be frightened and nervous, causing it to release all its water supply.
- It is illegal to release pet tortoises into the wild, because it can pass on respiratory diseases from humans and their pets.

Tortoise handler Chloe Anchondo, a Parks and Recreation Leader at San Dimas Canyon Nature Center, started her employment at the age of 12, as a member of the Nature Center's youth program as a Jr. Naturalist volunteer. She works for the Nature Center because she plans to further her career working with wildlife. "I enjoy caring and feeding the animals, teaching others about our wildlife and why we need to protect it, while figuring out exactly what I want to do for my career."

Rafael Mendoza Hernandez and Alison

Rafael Mendoza Hernandez, the tortoises' alternate handler has been with the department for 6 years and started as a Recreation Service Leader recurrent. He was also November "Employee of the Month" in 2006 and September 2007. In 2007 he was promoted to a Grounds Maintenance Worker I and loves working with animals, giving tours and conducting outreaches. "Working in natural areas has kept me in touch with all of the wonderful creatures our world has, and everyday is a learning experience working here at the center."

For more information about Milton and Alison call the Nature Center at (909) 599-7512.

Los Angeles County Day at the LA County Fair

The Department of Parks and Recreation participated in “Los Angeles County Day” at the L.A. County Fair on Sunday, September 7, 2008. This year’s theme was “Star Performers.” Many employees participated in the parade along with several other county departments. Three staffed Parks and Recreation booths were filled with information for Fair visitors on the many wonderful and fun programs available throughout the Department.

Employee Recreation Council
Employee Picnic

The Employee Recreation Council (ERC) held the Annual ERC Employee Picnic on Saturday, September 20th at beautiful Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area. Between 400 and 500 Parks and Recreation employees and their families enjoyed delicious food, exciting games and fun music. Activities included face painting, moon bounces and prizes included a beautiful new kids bike and skateboard, movie tickets, a CD player and large Mickey and Minnie Mouse toys. Everyone enjoyed the group games and activities. The delicious menu included fried chicken, potato and macaroni salads, hot dogs, smoky links and hamburgers and all day snaking on popcorn and snow cones.

Employee Recreation Council
Employee Picnic

, Special thanks to John Norcia, Santa Fe Dam Acting Superintendent, and his staff, for making the picnic site and area immaculate and so very well manicured. Thanks to ERC Co-Chair Lashun Spragg, ERC Co-Chair Yvette Maufus and her daughter, Lisa Rose, ERC Co-Chair Rudy Lopez, Rudy Valenzuela, Alba Ibarra, ERC Vice-President Art Jones, Katherine Tawab, Joe Contreras, Camille Jones, Joe Orosco and Meliza Hernandez, and the wonderful MC Mark Lazarus, who all helped make this year's ERC Employee Picnic a success.

Thank you to the Executive/Management Staff Russ Guiney, John Wicker, Debbie Martin, Hayden Sohm, Norma Garcia, Joe Mendoza, Jim Smith, Kathleen Ritner, Ilona Volkmann, and ERC members Alba Ibarra and Yvette Maufus for assisting with serving the food; to Chefs Bryan Spragg and Sam Armas who worked diligently all day barbecuing and to everyone else who helped make the event so fun for all!

HIGH FIVE!

For Those Who Go Above and Beyond...

Thank you for your support of the L.A. County Junior Golf Program! This week was my daughter's introduction to golf and the program proved to be more than expected!

Lisa Johnson
Long Beach, CA

My daughters had a life changing experience in a truly unique program. That wouldn't have been attainable if it wasn't for the amazing Junior Golf Program. A special thank you to Program Director Mike McMonegal and instructors Brian Gonzales, Brandon Redmerski, Ian McCutcheon, Clay McCutcheon, Clark Corbett and Billy Sutt, for their support, patience and words of encouragement to our kids. They are extraordinary mentors!

Andres Campbell
Long Beach, CA

Sanoh Nimnual

Sanoh Nimnual or "Sam" as everyone calls him, has worked for the Department of Parks and Recreation for over nine years. Ten years ago after his three sons were done with college he decided to sell his three restaurants and four doughnut shops and retire. After six months of retirement life he got bored and started working part-time at the Hollywood Bowl, he then realized how much he loved working for the department and decided to have a second career in Parks and Recreation. He also worked one year at Virginia Robinson Gardens and one year at Victoria Park. Two years ago he began working at the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre as a Grounds Maintenance Worker II. "I learned a lot about landscaping, trimming and propagating from Tim Lindsay while working at Virginia Robinson Gardens." Sam said, "I enjoy working outdoors, trimming, planting and propagating."

During his time off Sanoh and his wife love spending time with their grandchildren and caring for their home garden.

Department of Parks and Recreation Photo Contest WIN $50 CASH

Attention all shutterbugs! Do you have a great photograph of one of our parks or one of our programs? Here is your chance to show your photographic talents and have the opportunity to win $50.

Photographs will be used for public information efforts for the department including the Annual Report, County Digest, County Annual Report, pamphlets, etc. Photographs must be submitted electronically to Brenda Sanchez at bsanchez@parks.lacounty.gov by 10/24/08. Indicate when and where the photo was taken. All photographs must have photo releases included if program participants are recognizable.

Selection committee will be comprised of four judges experienced in the field of photography. The grand prize winner will receive $50 cash. Photographer agrees to grant permission to department and to the County of Los Angeles to use photographs without promise of compensation.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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Second District

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Third District

Don Knabe
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich
Fifth District

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Kaye Michelson
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