



The Clear Print

The San Diego Tracking Team Newsletter

Greetings to all and best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year! We are excited about the prospects for the Tracking Teams of San Diego, both the established teams (Penasquitos, Mount Woodson, Preserve Calavera) and those teams in the making (Rose Canyon, San Dieguito, Daley Ranch, Volcan Mountain, Crest). We have made a commitment to revitalize the tracking team network in 2004 and part of our effort will include better communication. Thus we will put out our email newsletter, "The Clear Print," to remind you of upcoming events and keep you informed of various happenings that may be of interest to all you trackers around San Diego County.

San Diego Tracking Team Gets Non-Profit Designation

For those of you who haven't heard, we received our 501 C 3 designation, which means we are now an official non-profit organization under the rules of the IRS and State of California.

Meet Lani Noreke – Assistant In Charge of Administration

Original tracking team members Lani and Erik Noreke, who moved to Sweden five years ago, are now back with their toddler Lina. We have put Lani to work on a stipend basis for now doing the busy administrative work that a growing organization requires. She has already made a huge impact in re-establishing contact with many of you, and she was instrumental in getting the letters out for our first ever fund appeal. Lani will also be helping with volunteer coordination as we attempt to cover all the transects each quarter.

Fund Appeal Under Way

We are hoping to raise money to reestablish our children's outdoor education program, fund equipment purchases, and cover the cost of insurance to protect our volunteers as they participate in transects. You should have received the appeal letter by now. If not, we may not have your current address, so please help us keep our tracker database up to date by letting us know your new address (e-mail to lani.noreke@tapestryolutions.com). The most valuable contribution is the time you give toward helping preserve what is left of San Diego's open space. Your efforts are not unnoticed! Please rest assured that it is not our intent to be constantly badgering people about contributing money. We will do one fund appeal per year to the general tracker community of San Diego. You will also find that we do not charge much at all for our classes, and we will do our best to keep those charges low.

Burn Area Monitoring

I have been speaking to several people about our transects that were burned. There is a lot of interest in our data that was acquired pre-fire, and there is equal interest in the post-fire recovery monitoring. We will attend meetings in January to nail down how we will be contributing to this effort.... Stay tuned.

Upcoming Events

Saturday Jan. 10: Monthly tracking walks, 8:00am till 10:00 at the Penasquitos Preserve Ranch House. Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced levels offered.

Saturday Jan. 17: Winter Wildlife Survey Volunteer Training at the Ranch House in the Penasquitos Preserve, be there by 9:45 to register, class runs from 10:00 until 4:00, bring a bag lunch, water and dress as for a hike.

This is an introduction to tracking, essential for transect volunteers. All experienced trackers are welcome to attend and you are invited to come and help set up (look for tracks), assist with instruction or just review. Experienced trackers who do not wish to attend the training may sign up for transects by calling or e-mailing Lani (lani.noreke@tapestryolutions.com, 858-513-0359.)

Saturday Feb 14: Monthly tracking walks, see above.

Thursday Feb 26: Beginning Tracker Naturalist Class First Session, 7:00pm till 9:00pm at the Penasquitos Ranch House. Contact Lani to sign up (see above).

Saturday Feb 28: Continuation Beginning Tracker Naturalist Class, 8:00am till 6:00pm at the Penasquitos Ranch House, bring a lunch, water, dress as for a hike, some snacks provided.

Check Our Website

Be sure to check our website (sdtt.org) for our long-term schedules and information about all our teams as well as some links to other interesting sites. Our webmaster, Steve Romeo, has been working to give the site a fresh new look and to keep it up to date—thanks Steve! Keep an eye on it as we will be adding more photos and information as time goes by.

Tracking State of Mind

I was talking to Duane today, and he asked if I had been getting much dirt time lately. I told him about how I take Cleo running most days, and how we go right down my street to the preserve where I do spend a lot of time looking at tracks as she is sniffing around. He commented on how nice it must be to basically go right out the front door and be in a place where you can track. I thought about that for a minute and realized that I am always tracking, not just when the dirt is good to track on. To me tracking is a 24/7 undertaking; you can engage in it all the time no matter where you are. It involves a state of mind that thrives on an insatiable curiosity—always looking at the way people walk then looking for the pattern they leave, even on carpet or cement, and noticing habits of movement and how they may be reflected in tracks. Have you ever studied your pets as they move or lie down or stretch or eat or play? You don't need a good substrate to practice tracking, you just need to be willing to look around, start asking why and exercise your awareness muscles. Then you are always getting "dirt time."

I look forward to an exciting year and hope to see you at many tracking team events!

Stay on Track,
Barry