

Daley Ranch News

Friends of Daley Ranch

Autumn 2010

President's Letter—Fred Woods



Good things can sometimes combine to make great outcomes. As you already know, Dick Althouse and Bob McQuead have joined our restoration efforts at the Ranch, and have already given us valuable direction. Dick has also joined our FODR Board, and Wendy Barker from the History Center has offered to help us with our newsletters. Both

bring historical knowledge and restoration skills that will make the project successful. You will see and read Wendy's skills in this issue, and Dick will tell you about himself in his own section.

If you would like to learn more, drop by our FODR booth Saturday, September 11th, at the Grape Day festival, and talk with us about our efforts. Wendy, who I think owns the Park, will be wandering around as will the rest of us. See you there.

Utility Buildings

Restoration of these four utility buildings at the Ranch is one of our big priorities. We've been meeting with the city and hope to get approval to start restoration very soon. These humble structures are a very rare architectural resource that have played an integral part in the interesting history of Daley Ranch.



Friends of Daley Ranch Contact Information

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Rick Mercurio, Secretary
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760 480-1917

Jerry Harmon, Member
760 480-9483

Dick Althouse, Member
760 741-7629

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City Contact Information

Hike Schedule
www.ci.escondido.ca.us/glance/unicquely/daley/index.html

Ranger Station
760 839-4680

Tracking Team
Duane Boney 760 839-4345

Volunteer Coordinator
Sue Evarts 760 839-4680

Vast Array of Distributed Solar Collectors Powers Daley Ranch

A Personal Reflection—Sally Thomas



When Daley Ranch opened, I was wildly thrilled. As a kid, I romped merrily

through similar hills to scramble up boulders and run off teenage angst. Worldly worries drowned in the aroma of sagebrush saturating my jeans and then the laundry pile. Most of Escondido's chaparral was paved or built upon while I was busy with work, family and other grown up stuff. In teaching I was frustrated that books explained endangered species in distant rainforests and places where lions and whales live. The word ecology was gibberish. Geology was so old and slow, who cared. So I signed on with docent training to learn local ecology, weather, and geology. I wanted to take students out of "barren leaves," and let them glimpse "sweet lore."

During docent training led by Virginia Moran, our little group would start up Ranch House Road and stop about every 20 steps to marvel at footprints and sign, sun position, substrate, slope, orientation, and plants. Ms Moran never failed to guide us to tiny details as well as previously under-considered awareness. Local botanist James Dillane, and chaparral

champion Richard Halsey further assisted us to see plant parts and behavior in the context of climate, time, rocks, dirt, and interactions with other creatures (including humans). Small bits move my heart, still I cannot abandon the "barren leaves" and tribal elders who lead beyond my time-space and devices. Intrinsically I'm cer-

*Sweet is the lore which Nature brings;
Our meddling intellect
Mis-shapes the beauteous forms of
things:--
We murder to dissect.*

*Enough of Science and of Art
Close up those barren leaves:
Come forth, and bring with you a heart
That watches and receives.
~ William Wordsworth, 1770-1850*

tain that minutiae at the Ranch is only a fleck of something awesome, precious, and essential.

The headline for this tale is one way to sort the details: Plants are solar collectors - ancient, distributed and still thriving - that harvest solar energy every day. Creatures eat the plants and predators eat the eaters to distribute the energy even to the scavengers, creepy things and microbes that clean up and recycle. Chaparral systems, like other natural ecosystems are wireless. Without

man-made infrastructure, financial expenditure, bureaucratic entanglements, or media fanfare, they were built, operated, maintained, and upgraded, and continue, for maybe more than 14 million years without Public Utility Commission-approved rate hikes.

While I followed rabbit trails when I was younger, now I know sagebrush, chamise and buckwheat weren't so thrilled. Trails I opened made happy hunting for coyotes, bobcats and feral critters. It also set up another front for raging slow-motion floral invasion. Now when I spy a bloom of *Brodiaea orcuttii* hiding across a field or near ponds on the Ranch, I thrill at its beauty, and also wonder about its missing stamens. But not too much of that. It's just being there that matters.

Do you want to go green with this newsletter? Sign up for an email link to the newsletter which will save FODR money while it also reduces our carbon footprint.

To sign up for the electronic version, simply send an email to weavertoo@gmail.com with FODR in the subject line.

The New Kid On The FODR Board—Dick Althouse

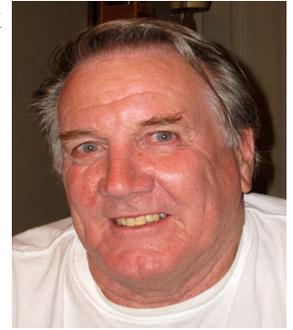
Once upon a time, a long time ago, when I was in the Marine Corps., the word was out...never volunteer for anything; they will do that for you. Well, I received a telephone call last winter from Rick Mercurio, to see if I could spare a little time to help with a project that FODR was considering. In time, I received another call to see if I would like to “tag along” on an outing to look at the decaying utility buildings located at Daley Ranch to see if they could be saved before they collapsed completely.

So I took that fateful excursion one morning this past spring and in all honesty, I was somewhat discouraged by what I saw. Four wooden structures, half leaning, half falling in on themselves, not a

pleasing sight to one’s eye, by any stretch of one’s imagination. During lunch I contemplated a course of action to “vacate the property” if you will, and quietly slip off the radar screen. But upon further consideration, I thought, “No, there is a history in those old structures that the everyday person who comes upon them does not focus upon. A ranch foreman slept in one building once upon a time; horses were probably shod or fed in another; and building # 4 is a mystery. There was some kind of machinery enclosed in that building and I wonder what its function was.

After the fourth meeting of FODR, one with the city staff to see what support we could count on, I was ambushed by Fred

Woods, Rick Paul and Jerry Harmon and asked if I would consider serving on the BOD. Why not?



I’m not really sure that I have the talent that this group is looking for, but I have restored a few houses in town, one being the 1893 Victorian that has contained all my worldly possessions for the past 33 years. And I think that those four buildings on site have a story to tell and we should do what we can to tell it to those who would listen. Look out Escondido.... Dick Althouse is on the site!

Friends of Daley Ranch Membership, Renewal and Donations

Friends of Daley Ranch is a 501c(3) non-profit, organization. Your tax-deductible contribution will be acknowledged by mail.

Make check payable to Friends of Daley Ranch and mail to
PO Box 461173, Escondido CA 92046-1173

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City/Zip _____

Email: _____ Yes, email my newsletter

This is for Membership Building restoration

New Member Continuing Member

\$15 Senior/Student \$35 Contributing \$50 Sustaining \$100 Corporate \$500 Benefactor \$ _____

My primary interests are: Conservation Recorded History Natural history Hiking Mountain biking
 Equestrian Use Other _____

Volunteer Opportunities: Newsletter editor Fundraising Building Committee Education Committee
 Recreation Committee Other: _____

It is not enough to fight for the land; it is even more important to enjoy it. While you can. While it is still there. ...breathe deep of that yet sweet and lucid air, sit quietly for a while and contemplate the precious stillness, that lovely, mysterious and awesome space.

~Edward Abbey, 1927-1989

The mission of the Friends of Daley Ranch is to:

- Support the protection, maintenance, and restoration of the Daley Ranch Conservation Bank, native habitats and wildlife
- Promote education about the biological and historic value of Daley Ranch
- Encourage responsible recreational use consistent with conservation of native habitats and wildlife

Events and Hikes

GRAPE DAY FESTIVAL

Visit our booth at the Grape Day Festival on **September 11th** in Grape Day Park from 9:30-4pm.

ESCONDIDO'S GREEN SCENE

FODR will be at Green Scene **November 13th**, 10am-3pm in Grape Day Park.. Learn how to live more lightly on the planet at the free community event.

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact volunteer coordinator Sue Evert at 760 839-4680 for any of the following opportunities:

Bike Patrol, ongoing

Horse Patrol, ongoing

Docent training starts September 25th

Trail maintenance resumes in October

HIKES

Call the Ranger Station at 760 839-4680 for the hike schedule and also to signup for a hike. The schedule is also available online at www.ci.escondido.ca.us/glance/uniquely/daley/index.html.

CHAPARRAL WALKABOUTS

The California Chaparral Institute is sponsoring monthly Chaparral Walkabouts to share the secrets of California's most characteristic and misunderstood ecosystem. The next Chaparral Walkabout with naturalist Richard Halsey will occur at Daley Ranch on **October 5, 2010** at 9am. **Evolution - in the chaparral and beyond** is the theme. Meet in the parking lot above Lake Dixon for a leisurely 2hr+ excursion. Bring water, a hat, your journal, camera, good hiking shoes, and anything else you usually would bring along on a morning walk. The Walkabout is free but is limited to 25 people. So please let us know if you are coming by sending an email to: naturalist@californiachaparral.org.

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