

Daley Ranch News

Friends of Daley Ranch

Winter 2014

Foreman's Residence Restoration Takes Shape—Jim Schafer

One has to recall the quote “When you are up to your rear end in alligators, it is difficult to remember that your initial objective was to drain the swamp.”

So it goes with the “restoration” of the foreman’s residence. First was the removal of the collapsing roof and an unbelievable amount of previous rodent presence (picture at right).

Then it became quite clear that dry rot had claimed most of the remaining structure including the floor. Six dumpsters later, all we had left was a solid concrete foundation and steps, and the exterior redwood siding. That’s the “alligator’s” part (see photo below).



After a tremendous number of volunteer hours, some generous donations and a very large amount of Friends of Daley Ranch general membership funds, a code compliant dimensional accurate reconstruction has taken shape. Notice the term “restoration” has been replaced with the term “reconstruction” (photos below and on next page).

All visible new lumber will be distressed with chainsaws, wire wheels and stains to make it appear aged as it originally was.

It is also great to that we will be able to cover it with the original siding all around the outside.

We hope to finish it by adding the front porch, roof, interior walls, siding, windows, doors...The original draining the swamp part before the alligators.

Stop by the area on your next visit and see what has it been done. It’s worth a look.



Friends of Daley Ranch Contact Information

PO Box 461173
Escondido CA 92046-1173

Fred Woods, President
760 745-4533

Mike Whalen Vice President
760 740-1370

Rick Mercurio, Secretary
760 751-2275

Rick Paul, Treasurer
760 505-9840

Carol Stanford, Communications
760 741-7122

Jerry Harmon, Member
760 480-9483

Dick Althouse, Member
760 741-7629

Jim Schafer, Member
760 746-0447

Don Piller, Webmaster
dpiller@cox.net

City Contact Information

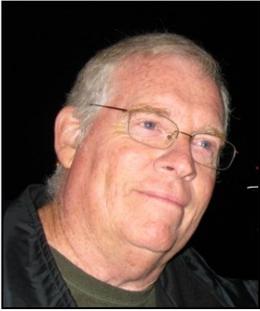
Hike Schedule
www.escondido.org/daley-ranch-hikes.aspx

Ranger Station
760 839-4680

Tracking Team
Duane Boney 760 839-4345

Volunteer Coordinator
Sue Evarts 760 839-4680

President's Message— Fred Woods



Now that the Ranch House is finished, we will be requesting that the City open it up for tours and offering our services as docents. We have already requested that the Sunday bus service be re-instated, but a recent response to our request is that at this time there is no money for this service. For all of you who know how hard it is to walk up the first hill, this eliminates a huge part of the general population of Escondido from ever seeing the Ranch House. Many of our supporters have long wanted to see the inside of the house and have gotten old waiting for the chance. If the Sunday bus never comes back, those who can't walk up the hill will never have the chance to even see the Ranch House and it's surrounding historical buildings

now being restored by The Friends of Daley Ranch.

We would like to propose that the City at least sponsor a Grand Re-opening day and provide transportation for all who want to come, enjoy a picnic, and tour the House just like the Grand Opening Day for the Ranch 17 years ago. We would further propose that the City sponsor this same trip as an annual event. The Friends of Daley Ranch would be happy to cooperate with the City to plan and organize these events and return access to the Ranch for all, not just those able to hike up the Ranch House Road.

Stay informed and wish us luck. If you want to help, email us from our website at daleyranch.org. Include your name, contact information, and how you think you can help make this a reality.

With best wishes for the New Year, Fred Woods



"Stay on the Trail" at Daley to Preserve Nature—Rick Mercurio

Some recreational users at the ranch may not understand the "Stay on the Trails" rule that is rigidly enforced. Let's begin with a brief overview of how the present Daley Ranch came to be. The Daley family owned the 3000 plus acres beginning in the 1860s. By the early 1980s, after its use as a dairy and cattle operation had all but ended, the Daleys sought to maximize their financial returns by turning the ranch into a huge housing subdivision. Working with big development interests, plans were drawn up for over 3000 housing units, a golf course, and a small shopping center, all closed off to the public behind a locked gate. The Escondido City Council at the time applauded this proposal, giving final approval and annexing the land to the City.

Many of us in the community believed that the ranch was not appropriate for development, especially as so much of the open spaces around Escondido were already taken by subdivisions and urbanization. Fortunately, slow economic times delayed the onset of construction. In addition, by the late 1980s many local citizens helped elect a new Council majority that wanted to downsize the project. The developers eventually agreed to reduce the number of houses to about 1700, but still many of us fought to save all the land.

In the early 1990s, as the economy continued to lag, construction had still not commenced, and the managed-growth City Council began working out a way to purchase the land for the City. Eventually the City was able to negotiate a deal that involved the buyback of sewer futures from the developer. For a total consideration of over \$21 million, and through agreements with the wildlife agencies, Escondido was able to take title of the ranch as a Conservation Mitigation Bank.

Continued on next page

That designation is very important to understanding the reason for strict trail regulations. A conservation mitigation bank meant that Daley Ranch must remain as a virtually untouched natural wildlife preserve for the purpose of protecting a large area of land for native flora and fauna. As development occurs elsewhere around the county, other builders may purchase mitigation credits from the City in exchange for land that their projects disturbed. In essence they are “buying” acreage credits in Daley Ranch in exchange for development in other open spaces. The City has now received hundreds of thousands of dollars from the sale of these mitigation credits. As part of the bargain, the City promised to maintain the ranch in perpetuity as a wildlife habitat.

As a bonus, the agreement did allow for passive recreational use as well, but only limited to existing roads and trails, and a very small area near the ranch house. The public was permitted to hike, bike and use horses on the trails, and this makes Daley Ranch somewhat unique, as most other conservation areas do not allow bikes or horses. The wildlife agencies asked the City to strictly enforce a “stay on the trail” policy in order to protect the habitat. Many species of birds, for example, will not nest near any human presence, including trails. If Escondido were to neglect its duty to keep users on the trails, wildlife agencies would undoubtedly impose new rules that might keep people out of the ranch altogether.

As you can see, Daley Ranch is not really a park, because it is not completely open to the public. The Friends of Daley Ranch supports its primary use as a place for wildlife, while also encouraging appropriate recreational uses that do not adversely impact the natural habitat. This is the reasoning behind the need to stay on the trails.

Remembering Good Friends

The tribute by the Friends of Daley Ranch to my mom, Irene O'Neill, was touching and heartfelt. Our family is very grateful that there is a permanent fixture honoring my mother's love and dedication to her naturalist work. Here is a quote from her journal expressing this love: "When I ask myself what mark I've made on the world or what good I've done the answer is always focused on the years after I no longer worked...., the teaching at Daley Ranch (was most important to me), hoping to have planted some tiny seed in a child's mind, a little spark of interest that might flower large at some future time." Forever our family is thankful to now have the opportunity to reflect and visit our mother at such a tranquil, beautiful place. Thank you to those involved for their efforts. We will always remember this event.

Linda Gutierrez, daughter of Irene O'Neill



Longtime FODR member and volunteer Jack Pomeroy passed away January 14 after a multi-year battle with cancer. Jack was a regular part of FODR's 7th grade student field trip program since its inception. As a career geologist, it was a natural that he manned the geology learning station. Jack never missed a 7th grade trip to the Ranch in over 10 years. Thank you notes from the schools often sited his learning station as a memorable part of the trip. Additionally, Jack was a volunteer docent for Daley Ranch hikes, historic walking tours in Old Escondido, and Sierra Club outings. He was a key source of information in the planning and creation of FODR's viewpoint visual displays atop Stanley Peak. His pleasant demeanor did not mean he kept in the background. To the contrary he was a frequent contributor to the opinion section of the local paper, and an active member of the Escondido Citizens' Ecology Committee. Jack's passion for the environment was his trademark, and he will be sorely missed.

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

Volunteer Opportunities

Contact Sue Evert at 760 839-4680 to volunteer for **Bike Patrol, Horse Patrol, or Trail Maintenance**

Hike Schedule

Call Ranger Station at 760 839-4680 for the schedule and also to sign up for a hike. The hike schedule is also available at www.escondido.org/daley-ranch-hikes.aspx

Go Green

Email daleyrancho@yahoo.com with FODR in the subject line to get this newsletter electronically.

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: _____

Friends of Daley Ranch
PO Box 461173
Escondido CA 92046-1173
www.fodr.org