



The Hellhole Canyon Gazette

Wild Turkeys to be Subject of September 25 meeting

Yes... Turkeys! And we're not talking about your brother in law!

Americans have not shown a lot of respect for turkeys over the years. They were almost hunted to extinction in the early 1900's, and in spite of the fact that Benjamin Franklin thought the turkey to be a more dignified bird than the eagle, the country's largest game bird was denied national respect.

Turkeys have been re-introduced to not only their original territories, but all over the states, in Europe and New Zealand. America now has far more turkeys than it did in the pre-settlement days. Favorite habitats for turkeys are open woodlands where they can forage for acorns and other seeds, fruit, insects, buds, fern fronds and even salamanders. At night they roost high in trees, away from predators.

Wild turkeys weigh about half of what domestic birds do. A male, called a tom, can

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Wild Turkeys in Northern California, Moller Ranch

Hell Creek Headwaters Land Conservation Project

Letter from Friends President

Dear Friends, our upcoming mailing to Friends members and supporters to renew or begin your membership will hit mailboxes in the next few weeks. Your membership dues help support the day-to-day activity of our organization and we are always grateful for your support. Included in that mailing will also be an appeal to support our

current acquisition and conservation project, the acquisition of the Hell Creek Headwaters parcel on the eastern border of the Preserve. This project represents the Friends' third land conservation acquisition. First

was the 150-acre Brown parcel in the heart of the Canyon.; second was the Pulver parcel, just west of the Preserve staging area and an important Oak Riparian drainage into the Preserve. To date, with the support and commitment of our members, our board and thru collaboration with the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department we have acquired and permanently conserved 190-acres of important wildlife corridor and habitat. The Hell Creek acquisition will bring that total to 230 acres of open space protected in our community. Your help is needed for this project and I urge to contribute as much as you can afford to help us conserve this land.

This land, if conserved, will protect wildlife habitat connectivity of the Preserve with open space lands to the east. Habitat connectivity is vital to the genetic diversity of local wildlife and their continued survival in our region.



A view of Rodriguez Mountain from the Hellcreek Headwaters Parcel

See Hell Creek, (Continued on page 4)

Friends of Hellhole Canyon
Open Space Preserve
PO Box 221
Valley Center, CA 92082
Website: www.hellholecanyon.org
760 749-5320

The Hellhole Canyon gazette is published quarterly, in Valley Center, C.A.

Board of Directors

Rick Landavazo, President
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Joaquin Aganza, Secretary
Susan Fajardo, Director
Kenny Goldberg, Director
Julie Picot, Director
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Board of Directors Meetings are held monthly, on second Fridays. Call 760 751-1443 for location and info.

Bookkeeping provided pro bono by Roxanne Greene, Business Services, North County Accountancy, Tom Bouse

The Friends is a nonprofit land trust and environmental education. We are dedicated to protecting natural open space at the Preserve and in our community.

County of San Diego Parks Staff
Ranger assigned to Hellhole Canyon:
Dave Holt, Supervising Ranger
Nick Sloan, Ranger
Offices at Wilderness Gardens Preserve
Phone (760)742-1631
Cell (760) 212-5549
14209 Highway 76
Pala, Ca 92059



Friends Meetings

The Friends hold public general meetings once per quarter. The meetings feature an educational program on some natural or environmental topic and committee and officer updates.

The Friends' July 2009-June 2010 is posted on the website, www.hellholecanyon.org.

For up-to-date info on events and activities check www.hellholecanyon.org. Click on Current News.

Docent Led Hikes

Hikes are led monthly on every 3rd Saturday, 9am from the Preserve parking lot. For information call us at 760-749-5320 or visit our web-site at www.hellholecanyon.org

For a great and safe hike, we suggest you bring the following: lots of water, hat, sunglasses and sunscreen, long-sleeved shirt and pants, sturdy hiking shoes, snack foods, binoculars, camera, tails guide books. Please note that the Preserve can get warm and then hot quickly compared to the earlier morning start times. Be Safe and See you there!!

Volunteers, Board Members Sought

Volunteers are needed to help with projects with the Friends. Are you a good organizer? Know how to mail merge? Can you write grants? Willing to join a committee of neighbors to help out

here and there? Please volunteer with the Friends. We have a place for you and need your help. Call 760 828-0726 for more info and to get started.

Are you interested in helping to provide leadership and contributing to the growth and development of our organization? Then please consider joining our Board of Directors. Our board is composed of regular community residents. You are qualified by your interest in protecting open space and outdoors recreation. Please call or email Rick at 760 828-0726, landavaz@cougars.csusm.edu for more info or to discuss how you can help the Friends. We need you! Don't be shy!

Join Friends Email List

Visit www.hellholecanyon.org and click on join email list and receive updates and reminders of upcoming events and news.

Hell Creek Headwaters Campaign info on Web

Details about the Hell Creek Headwaters land acquisition campaign are available at www.hellholecanyon.org. Please visit

(Program, Continued from page 1)

weigh 17 to 23 pounds. A female, called a hen, is a lighter 8 to 12 pounds. Both sexes manage to get that weight moving with a wingspan of over four feet. Turkeys can run 20 mph and fly 40 mph.

Young males are called jakes, young females jennies and babies are called poults or chicks.

The raising of the young is left strictly to the hen. Perhaps the tom feels he has done his work in the mating ritual by fanning and vibrating his tail, suffusing his facial area with color as he throws back his head while making 'chump' and 'humm' sounds and dragging his wingtips on the ground in an often circular mating dance. The mating sounds and gobbles can be heard up to a mile away. Turkeys are not monogamous.

The hen creates a nest in a depression on the ground surrounded by tall grasses. Gestation of the four to 17 eggs is about 27 days. The hen cares for the poults for only a few days. They are then on their own.

Hens may band together with other broods numbering up to 200 in number. The birds can require from a few hundred to 1000 acres of land, depending on the food available. They also require a reliable water source and trees, which may be 60 feet tall, for roosting.

Hunting these cautious and wily birds can be a challenge. They are said to be smart, hence difficult to stalk. Hunting season begins in the fall, and may be split into two seasons.



Wild Turkey, near Julian California

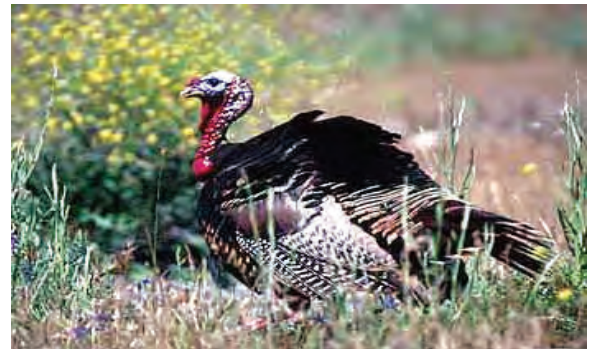
Robert Massie, Turkey Specialist to Speak at Friends' Meeting

People look at oak trees and see shade and majesty. A wild turkey looks at the same tree and sees dinner and a motel. Acorns and a high branch are an irresistible lure to these large game birds. Information such as this will be part of the talk given by John Massie, a retired wildlife biologist, at the quarterly meeting of the Friends of Hellhole Canyon. On September 25 at 10 AM in the Valley Center library community room, Massie will share his vast knowledge of wild turkeys, which are relative new comers to San Diego County.

Massie will discuss where and how turkeys live, describe their behavior, and share anecdotal experiences he has had with the birds. He is an engaging and knowledgeable speaker.

An interest in turkeys began when Massie was an Upland game coordinator. Part of his job was the trapping and relocating of turkeys. In order to achieve this goal, Massie learned a great deal about the habits and behaviors of these clever and resourceful birds.

Massie worked for 40 years for the state fish and game program. His task was to evaluate population of various wildlife, then set seasonal dates and limits for hunting. Currently he is an advisor for the San Diego chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.



Meleagris gallopavo subsp. intermedia) Wild turkey

Ramona has been Massie's home for the last 25 years. There he breeds and trains champion Labrador Retrievers. He is an accomplished hunter with an appreciation of and knowledge of the wildlife involved in his sport.

Friends of Hellhole Canyon Open Space Preserve
PO Box 221
Valley Center, CA 92082

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Friends Annual Meeting Saturday Sept 25 at 10am, at VC County Library! Don't miss our program on Turkeys, you Turkey!!! More inside!

Return Service Requested

(Hell Creek, Continued from page 1)

The Preserve and surrounding lands are considered core preservation areas in our community because of the pristine sage, chaparral, oak woodlands and riparian (creekside) habitats they contain.

Located on the Hell Creek Headwaters parcel is an existing structure—an open design dwelling—that we hope to convert to a community nature center, and hiking destination point for visitors. If any of our members are interested in touring the parcel I hope you will contact me. I will be happy to show you around.



The Hell Creek Headwaters

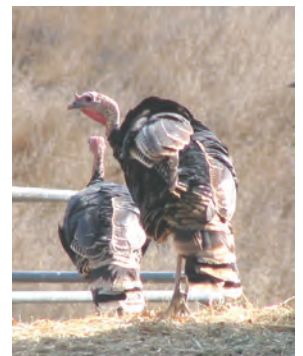


With help from the County Parks Department and local donors we have assembled raised 75% of the purchase price, leaving only \$105,000 left to raise. Now is the time for you to help! Please respond generously to our upcoming appeal. For more information please call me, or visit our website www.hellholecanyon.org Thanks!

Sincerely, Rick Landavazo, President
Friends of Hellhole Canyon Open Space Preserve

Friends talk, slide show will be on the wild turkey

Come learn about the bird founding father Benjamin Franklin proposed as our national symbol. In his own words he say the Turkey "...is in Comparison a much more respectable Bird, and withal a true original Native of America . . . He is besides, though a little vain & silly, a Bird of Courage, and would not hesitate to attack a Grenadier of the British Guards who should presume to invade his Farm Yard with a red Coat on."



Details about our Turkey program are inside.

All are welcome at the Friends' Sept 25th, Saturday morning program!