

# Fall is in the Air



Volume 12 Number 3

## The Wild Turkey

Have you seen the wild turkeys in Hellhole? A couple of months ago while on a horseback ride I came upon what seemed like 30+ wild turkeys. When we came upon them they took flight. I know the horses and I were shocked to see how quickly they could clear the oak trees. I was happy to see that that many turkey were prospering in the canyon.

### Wild Turkeys in San Diego

Turkeys are a popular bird for the dinner table, but it isn't well known that their wild cousins do very well in San Diego's backcountry. Places like Julian, Santa Ysabel and the surrounding areas have many wild turkeys all over the area that are easily seen from a street or road. Many, if not most of these turkeys were introduced in the area in 1993 and their population has boomed



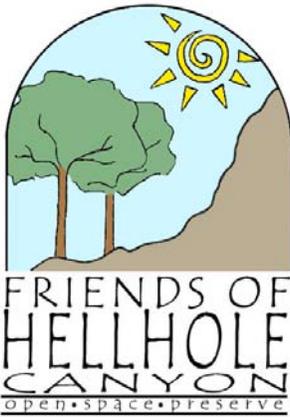
from just 300 birds to several thousand.

There is a debate as to whether or not wild turkeys are introduced or native to California in the first place. It's possible that they were once native, but were hunted or died out and then reintroduced later on. Bones of turkeys were found in the La Brea Tar Pits that may be over 10,000 years old.

Most experts will say that modern wild turkeys are mostly native to areas east of the Rocky Mountain range. Either way, wild turkeys are not common around California except in the central valley, and, now in the southern California mountain ranges.

Wild turkeys are a fairly large, ground dwelling bird that can be dangerous to people if they were

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**Friends of Hellhole Canyon  
Open Space Preserve**

P.O. Box 221  
Valley Center, CA 92082

**Board of Directors**

Joaquin Aganza, **President**  
Rosanna Thompson, **Treasurer**  
Laurie Carter, **Secretary**

Jim Campbell  
Susan Fajardo  
Julie Picot  
Dottie Christenson  
Greg Eisman

**[www.HellholeCanyon.org](http://www.HellholeCanyon.org)**

**Board of Directors Meetings**  
are held on the second Tuesdays of every month. If you would like more information about our meetings please contact Joaquin Aganza 760-533-6821

*The Friends of Hellhole Canyon is a non-profit 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 Rangers  
assigned to Hellhole Canyon:**

Bill Lipowcan, Supervising Ranger  
Nick Sloan, Ranger

Offices at Wilderness Gardens Preserve

760-742-1631

14209 Highway 76  
Pala, CA 92059

## Halloween in HELLhole

Saturday October 20th the Friends of Hellhole and the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation will be hosting a Halloween in HELLhole event. It will be held from 4:30-8:00pm. Please see attached flyer for more information



## Horse Hike

Saturday November 17th there will be a horse hike. Anyone who is interested in participating needs to be meet at the staging area and be ready to ride at 9:00am. Please keep in mind that your horses should be well behaved in large groups, easily cross water, and be used to hilly terrain. Riders should also bring their water. For questions please contact Joaquin Aganza 760-533-6821



## Dog Hike

December 15th there will be a dog hike. Please meet at the park and be ready to hike by 9:00 am. Your dog must be on a leash and able to walk up and down steep hills. Hikers should wear sturdy shoes and bring water, a hat, and sunscreen and/or other appropriate clothing for protection. For more information please contact Bonnie Wheeler 760-749-0867

## Meet Our New President

Greetings to All Friends of Hellhole Canyon

I want to thank the FHC members who attended our last general meeting and my fellow board members for the privilege of being elected board president succeeding Kenny Goldberg's and Rick Landavazo's capable tenures. I have served on the board since 2004 and had been the board secretary for the past few years. During this time the Friends have accomplished a great deal with the acquisitions of the Brown parcel, the Pulver parcel and the Casparian (Headwaters) parcel adding over 200 acres to the Preserve. More sensitive habitat needs to be protected at critical areas at the southwest and east edges to maintain valuable wildlife corridor and watershed.

As a trail patrol volunteer for San Diego Parks and Recreation I frequently make my way along the various routes in the Preserve and observe the subtle changes in plant and animal life. Fall is in the air with the widely oscillating temperatures characteristic of the season. A brisk breeze will suggest the frosty mornings in winter followed by the hot breath of a Santa Ana wind the very next day. A hike or ride through the canyon will show that that a bright green canopy still keeps the stream bed a cool oasis while on the warmer hillsides purple prickly pears peek brightly through the chaparral. Bushes that appear brown and dry quickly take advantage of the moisture of a passing Pacific disturbance and return to luxuriant shades of green while new sprouts carpet formerly bare areas. These changes can happen overnight and reward the regular visitor with a continually changing palette of color.

Growing up in Southern California has given me a special affinity to our unique landscape. Even after a 10 year hiatus in the extreme north of our state immersed in its postcard scenery I found that I prefer the smell of sage to the shade of redwoods. I have lived in Valley Center since 1996 and feel that this area is a unique sample of the natural treasures found between the ocean and the coastal ranges. I invite you to enjoy it and help us keep its beauty intact for future generations. Visit our website at [www.hellholecanyon.org](http://www.hellholecanyon.org) to watch our video, find out about guided hikes and register for membership. Feel free to contact me or any of our board members about how you can help us keep this California treasure alive.

Joaquin Aganza

Board President

Friends of Hellhole Canyon Open Space Preserve



# Halloween

## in HELLhole

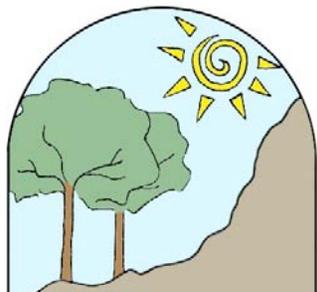
Saturday October 20, 2012

4:30-8:00pm



- Haunted Trail 4:30-6:00 pm
- Costume Contest 5:00 pm  
Prizes will be awarded for:  
Scariest, Prettiest, Most Original, Funniest
- Pumpkin Decorating Contest 6:15 pm  
Prizes will be awarded for:  
Scariest, Funniest, Ugliest, Prettiest
- Apple Bobbing 4:30-6:00 pm
- Outdoor Movie 6:30-8:00pm

- The first 25 Pumpkins will be provided by the County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department
- Carving tools will be provided
- Please bring lawn chairs, a flashlight, blankets and some warm clothes.



FRIENDS OF  
HELLHOLE  
CANYON  
open•space•preserve

Hellhole Canyon Open Space Preserve

19324 Santee Lane  
Valley Center, CA 92082  
[www.HellholeCanyon.org](http://www.HellholeCanyon.org)  
[www.SDParks.org](http://www.SDParks.org)



PARKS AND  
RECREATION  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO



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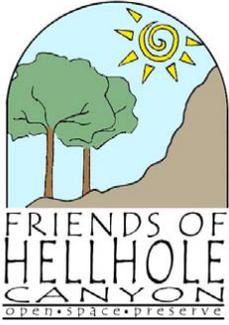
more aggressive. Usually, they choose to run or fly away from any possible danger and won't attack unless it feels cornered or to protect its chicks. Turkey hunting is usually allowed in spring in very limited numbers and only birds with a feathered "beard" are allowed to be hunted.

Courtship begins in the spring after the birds have been flocking together during the winter months. Males will try to mate with as many females as he can find who are willing. He will court them by puffing up, making a gobbling sound, and strutting. After mating, the female, on her own, finds a place to nest on the ground. She will lay about a dozen eggs and sit on them for about 28 days. The babies are hatched fully covered in down and ready to run within half a day. At first, the mother will feed the chicks (called poults), but after a few days, they will be able to feed themselves. At about two weeks, they are feathered enough to roost on trees and after three weeks, the hens and chicks return to the flock. By six weeks old, they are pretty good fliers.

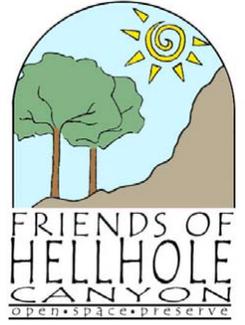
Their domestic cousins are said to have derived from domesticated turkeys bred by the Aztecs in southern Mexico. The Spaniards gathered some of them up and brought them back to Spain and the rest of the Europe. The turkeys on the Thanksgiving table are mostly derived from this subspecies which is very close to it's wild cousin, now living in San Diego's backcountry.

*Information courtesy of Darlene Lucklins and Examiner.com*





## It's Membership Renewal Time



### Some reasons why you should become a member of the Friends!

Your membership with the Friends is *very important* and here are some reasons why!

1. You keep the Friends on sound financial footing. Membership dues provide our core funding support for day to day costs. Your dues go a long way because we are 100% volunteer organized and run.
2. Your membership is a “vote” for open space protection. Open space provides habitat for wildlife, opportunities for outdoor recreation and helps contribute to property values!
3. You become connected to your neighbors and community! We are more than a conservation organization, we are people—friends, neighbors and family— working to improve our community!
4. Land conservation grant-giving foundations and funders care how many members we have. A strong membership is a demonstration of community support and gives confidence to key donors considering supporting our acquisition and open space protection projects!

Enjoy nature! Meet nice people! Support land conservation! Enhance your community! - A —Win-win all around!

We need your membership to continue as an effective member-driven organization. But... we would *PREFER* your participation in the Friends organization. There is much more we could do if we could get more persons involved. We are all lay persons but each can bring special knowledge and expertise. And what we don't know, we figure out! Together. Thanks for considering a membership with the Friends, and thanks more if you can find some time to join our Board or a participate in a Friends activity or event. We are grateful for your support.

Thanks you,

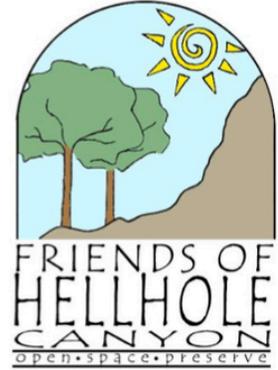
Julie Picot  
Membership Chairperson  
619-884-3982  
[jewels92040@yahoo.com](mailto:jewels92040@yahoo.com)

### Join the Friends Email List

Visit our website at [www.HellholeCanyon.org](http://www.HellholeCanyon.org) and click on 'join email list' and receive updates and reminders of our upcoming events.

# Membership Support

The Friends of Hellhole Canyon Open Space Preserve is a non-profit organization dedicated to creating public awareness and appreciation of Hellhole Canyon Open Space Preserve and encouraging the establishment and protection of natural open space in Valley Center, California. We coordinate with the County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation department to support educational hikes, outings, events, and recreational events at the Preserve promoting the native plants, wildlife and habitats of the Preserve. **The 'Friends' organization is committed to the expansion and protection of Hellhole Canyon Open Space Preserve.** We believe that the Preserve represents an extraordinary natural resource that must be safeguarded for the enjoyment and inspiration of present and future generations. **While the Friends organization works to create public awareness and appreciation of the Preserve it is also incorporated as a land conservancy.** We are proactively working to expand the Preserve by creating opportunities for willing landowners to create open space through land sales, conservation easements and contributions of land. We are working to obtain public and private funds so that critical habitats and sensitive open space can be acquired and conserved in the public interest.



*Membership and Open Space Campaign Contribution Form* Your Membership Contribution supports the day-to-day work of the Friends. Contributions to the Open Space Campaign go 100% to land acquisition and conservation. We need your support, won't you please become a member and support our campaign to conserve our local natural open spaces?

Enclosed is my (circle one) new / renewing annual Membership Contribution in the amount of:

- \$20 Student / Senior (55+)
- \$35 Individual
- \$50 Household
- \$ 100 Sycamore Tree Sustaining
- \$150 Oak Tree Foundation
- \$350 Manzanita
- \$500 Canyoneer

add \$15 additional to your membership, for joint membership in both the Friends and the Valley Center Trails Assn. (Your \$15 will be forwarded to the VCTA.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, in addition to my membership contribution I want to support the Friends' Open Space Campaign. My contribution goes 100% to natural land acquisitions. Enclosed is my:

Acquisition Fund contribution:

\$50    \$100    \$200    \$Other \_\_\_\_\_

Enroll me in the 100 Acres Club. Enclosed is my \$500 Contribution.

Membership contributions and Open Space Campaign contributions are tax deductible. Contributions will be acknowledged with an IRS approved year end contribution letter. Please clip and mail this form to Friends of Hellhole Canyon Open Space Preserve, PO Box 221 Valley Center, CA 92082, or visit [www.hellholecanyon.org](http://www.hellholecanyon.org) to contribute online.