



# MONTE NIDO VALLEY



## COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



*A Dark Sky Community*

E-NEWSLETTER

February 2008

### **No News is Good News**

There's an old cliché, "No News is Good News". I'm hoping there's truth to it because this month, there really is no news! As of this writing, the fires are extinguished, rains have saturated the 'hood' (with more expected), the creeks are full and flowing, and spring is on the horizon. So, with so much white space to fill, I figured this might be a good month to focus on other groups and events operating in the Santa Monica Mountains general vicinity. I've done some internet surfing. What follows is some info from just three of the many resources working to maintain and improve our beautiful environs, and provide educational and enrichment activities. Each of these web sites has links to others, which can extend your investigations. Enjoy! ... Jill Reiss

### ***Mountains Restoration Trust***

"The Mountains Restoration Trust is committed to preserving, protecting and enhancing the natural resources of the Santa Monica Mountains in the County of Los Angeles, California. MRT accomplishes this by working in several areas: land acquisition, cooperative planning, restoration, and offering education, and recreation programs. " This organization publishes a newsletter, welcomes volunteers and contributors, and hosts events on an ongoing and frequent basis. The following are only a few that piqued my interest. For a full listing and more information, visit the website.

email: [mrtrust@mountainstrust.org](mailto:mrtrust@mountainstrust.org)

### **Youth Naturalist Program: Threatened and Endangered Species *Headwater Corners***

SAT, 2/9, 9:30am - 3hrs

What reasons cause species to become threatened or endangered or to die out? A guest speaker brings some threatened animals, tells how she helps them, and answers all your questions. A craft is planned. Specifically planned for children ages 8-12. Pre-registration required 818-591-1701 x181. Fee.

### **Great Backyard Bird Count *Headwaters Corner***

SAT, 2/16, 8am - 2hrs

Every year at this time the public is asked to count the number of bird species in their own backyards. Will you help us count birds in our backyard? All you need are binoculars (we have a few to lend). This important data is then sent to scientists at Cornell Ornithology Lab and to Audubon to highlight this year's trends and findings. Refreshments. Registration is requested. 818-591-1701 x181.

### **Moonrise & Sunset *Cold Creek Preserve***

SUN, 2/17, 3:45 PM - 3hrs

A panoramic sky showcases the sun, moon and stars over the views of distant cities, valleys and mountains as seen from the trail and the site of the historic Topanga lookout tower. Bring supper, water and a 'goodie' to share. Meet Top-of-Stunt.

### ***Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness***

"T-CEP is a nonprofit, volunteer organization whose purpose is to help the Topanga community prepare for and cope with disasters such as wildfires, floods, and earthquakes...Since its inception, T-CEP has acquired its non-profit status, opened an Emergency Operations Center ( EOC ), and has developed a communications system to provide accurate and up-to-the-minute information to canyon residents and businesses during emergencies." Their website has much information on preparedness, as well as information about how the Topanga community has organized and responds. Very informative.  
[www.t-cep.org/index.html](http://www.t-cep.org/index.html)



## *The Nature of Wildworks*

Founded in 1995 by Mollie Hogan, this organization offers a variety of interactive wildlife educational programs. "Program content is tailored to a variety of age levels. Selected animals will be safely brought to your school or gathering for a unique and wonderful experience. Our up-close approach provides a highly charged educational experience for all age levels. Our presentations are approximately 45 minutes in length." For information, visit [www.natureofwildworks.org](http://www.natureofwildworks.org). The following excerpt is reprinted with permission of the author, Mollie Hogan (referenced above). The complete article was published in "The Acorn". Thank you to Damon Graddy, who requested that it be included here to foster appreciation for these wild denizens. For a pdf of the complete article, email your request to the editor.

### The first and last animal

Many Native American tribes credit the coyote with helping God create the world and prepare it for the first people. Or, according to other's beliefs, the coyote performed the magic himself. In the legends of many tribes, the coyote made the first humans from feathers, mud or straw. The Zuni believed that the coyote taught man to hunt, the Sioux that the coyote taught humans the use of medicinal plants, the Shasta and others believe the coyote gave man fire, the Kutenai that the coyote divided the day into equal parts of light and darkness. To the Indians, "Old Man Coyote" was, in turn, creator, transformer, trickster..."Coyote cannot die", the native people say. In more than one legend, it is prophesied that the coyote will be the last animal that remains on earth.

## **It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood...**

This month, I've had two requests from residents to print reminders about some things we can all do to maintain the beauty and desirability of Monte Nido for everyone. Harriet and Sandy Helberg kindly request that you pick up after your horse. They report that droppings pile up on the street; the dog eats it, and gets sick. If you can't clean up while you're in the saddle, please come back and do it later. The following suggestions are from a Board member. If you engage in activities that could bother others or you have animals that do, think about it and do something about it. We all live here for the same reason. Some examples that irritate others are: barking and free roaming dogs, speeding cars and trucks, loud music (remember, there are many, varied music tastes – not everyone shares yours), trash cans left in the road for days, turning our already narrow roads into one-way hazards. If you must run a business out of your home, inform your clients about the speed limits and the character of this neighborhood. Keep your noise down. Keep your lights down. Remember, we are officially a "Dark-Sky-Community". Thank you!

## **MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting December 11, 2007**

The regular meeting of the MNVCA was called to order at 7:25 pm in the home of Jocelyn Mackay. In attendance were Suzanne Bailey, Les Hardie, Joan Kay, Lisa Lehman, Jocelyn Mackay, Joan Slimocosky and Heidi Stompe along with other members of the community. **Agenda:** Agenda changes were made. **Minutes:** November minutes were approved. **Treasurer's Report:** Not available. **Correspondence:** Not available. **Federation Report:** Election of officers will be this week, Thursday, Dec. 13. **Old Business:** *Fire Issues* – Following on the heels of the recent wild fires, our local Arson Watch coordinator, Lynn Benjamin, is organizing an important presentation for January that will provide timely fire relevant information for both new and long term Monte Nido residents. *Letter to Rasmussen/Landscaping* - A letter was sent to the developer of the Triangle thanking him for completing the landscaping of the non-developed areas while encouraging his continued funding for the maintenance and care of the areas. *Saddlepeak Initiative* - The Saddlepeak Lodge is working to be a good neighbor and has invited us to consider them as a venue for future events. *Director's Insurance* - The level of liability insurance that is required to cover the various community events was discussed. Coverage details to be reviewed. *MNVCA Event Items and Paper Files* – An inventory of the various items has been completed; finding a single suitable location to store these items (tables, signs, banners, documents, etc) will be discussed at the next meeting. **New Business:** Annual Election of Officers – New officers were elected for a two-year term: Joan Slimocosky-President, John Low-Vice President, Marianne Cilluffo-Treasurer, and Jill Reiss-Secretary.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lisa Lehman

### **How to reach us:**

Send your email address to Jill Reiss, the MNVCA secretary, at [mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com), to receive announcements of meetings, community activities, and the time and location of our Board meetings.

President: Joan Slimocosky 591-1082

Vice Pres: John Low 224-8062

Treasurer: Marianne Cilluffo 876-3019

Secretary: Jill Reiss 222-1995

**Contributions to the newsletter can be sent to the editor at [mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com)**

# MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BULLETIN BOARD

February 2008

<p><b>ARCHITECT</b> Sensitive to budget &amp; lifestyle. Responsive to the land and environment. Monte Nido resident for over 25 years <b>Warren Lawson 591-0646</b></p>	<p><b>REAL ESTATE</b> In business for over 20 years, your business is appreciated. It is my professional and personal pleasure to live in Monte Nido. <b>Gail A. Lowe 222-5543</b> <a href="mailto:gailcb@earthlink.net">gailcb@earthlink.net</a></p>
<p><b>REAL ESTATE</b> Specializing in Monte Nido Properties. Top Coldwell Banker Agent representing Buyers and Sellers in our community for more than 20 yrs. How much is your house worth? Call for a complementary market analysis. <b>Tracy Bunetta 222-2272</b> <a href="http://MonteNidoRealEstate.com">MonteNidoRealEstate.com</a></p>	<p><b>COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE</b> We provide general dentistry, orthodontics, invisalign, sedation dentistry (great if you are high fear), implants, and cosmetic dentistry. Monte Nido resident practicing for over 20 yrs in Sherman Oaks. <b>Michael Bjornbak, DDS 818-781-3411</b> <a href="http://www.shermanoaksdental.com">www.shermanoaksdental.com</a></p>
<p><b>PIANO LESSONS</b> beginners and advanced <b>Call Aukse 222-6947</b> <b>or cell 310-500-5121</b></p>	<p><b>RESIDENT RECOMMENDS HELPER</b> who has helped raise their children and worked for families in Monte Nido for 20years. Available for baby/child/animal sitting, late day/over night, even house sitting. Excellent local references, has car. <b>For more information call 917-9066</b></p>
<p><b>MONTE NIDO LICENSED ELECTRICIAN</b> For all your electrical needs! <b>Joseph Cunningham</b> 818-625-3154</p>	<p><b>FOUND:</b> on the water-tower trail in December One tiny key-shaped dangle earring. Brass-colored.. If it's yours, please call <b>Carol LaCorte at 222-2648.</b></p>
<p><b>ARCHITECT</b> Custom homes and Remodels <b>Gary Bardovi 222-0313</b></p>	<p><b>EXTERIOR DESIGN</b> Landscape, pools, fireplaces, patios, BBQ's Everything to enhance your outdoor living! <b>Nick Williams 996-4010</b></p>
<p><b>DESIGN &amp; BUILD</b> Residential remodel and new construction All under one roof: Design, Construction, Interiors. Licensed General Contractor <b>917-1803</b> <a href="http://www.designblue.com">www.designblue.com</a></p>	<p><b>SADDLE PEAK LODGE</b> DINNER WE-SU 5-10pm, BRUNCH SA-SU 11am-3pm Special Wednesday Farmers' Market menu Blue jean friendly, new air conditioning Ask about our complimentary parking for our Monte Nido neighbors. <b>222 3888</b></p>

**Contact Lynn Benjamin to place an ad**  
**Phone: 222-2568      Email: [lynnben@charter.net](mailto:lynnben@charter.net)**  
**Private Party Ads, \$5 per month. Business Ads, \$10 per month**  
**Pay to: MNVCA. Mail to: Lynn Benjamin, P.O.Box 461, Malibu, CA 90265**

## Calendar of Events

---

### **MNVCA Board Meeting**

Tuesday, Feb 12, 7PM  
At the home of Joan Slimocosky  
25632 Buckhorn Dr.  
818-591-1082

### **ETI Corral 36**

Meeting & Video  
"Turning Loose" with Ray Hunt,  
a master of communication  
with the horse  
Tuesday, February 5, 7 PM,  
at the home of  
Jeanne & Don Wallace,  
1710 Cold Canyon Rd.  
818-222 2560

### **Wildfire Information Presentation**

Thursday, Jan 31, 7PM  
Salvation Army Camp  
For more information call 818-222-2568  
Or email lynnben@charter.net

### **Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation Meeting**

Thursday, Feb 21, 7:30PM  
Diamond X Ranch  
(Off Mulholland)

### **Universal Worship Service:**

First Sunday of each month, 10:00AM  
Marilyn Browning  
222-6363

### **A Course in Miracles Study Group.**

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00AM  
Marilyn Browning  
222-6362

### **Zen Meditation**

Thursday evenings at 7:30pm  
Rosemary Taylor Alden  
222-2936

---

Monte Nido Valley Community Association  
PO Box 8054  
Calabasas, CA 91372

PRESORTED STANDARD US POSTAGE PAID CANOGA PARK, CA 91304 PERMIT NO. 307
--

Please deliver by Feb 3, 2008

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
RURAL ROUTE NO. 1  
CALABASAS, CA 91302