



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2006

Monte Nido Bobcat Victim of Rat Poison

Early this month we caught a brief glimpse of what appeared to be a large, emaciated cat in our yard under some shrubs. It appeared to be very old and close to death. A few days later, early in the morning, we again caught just a glimpse of its tail as it exited our yard. Later, thinking the cat had left, we let our chickens out for their daily activity. All of a sudden the cat leapt out and grabbed one of our hens. This was no cat! It was a very sick, severely underweight bobcat covered with mange. The bobcat proceeded to secure itself deeply under our deck while it made a nice meal of our chicken. This being on a Friday afternoon we had little hopes of getting some help.

After making some calls, we found that Wild Rescue was the only organization that would be able to help us trap this ill and potentially dangerous creature, and transport it to a rescue/ rehabilitation center. Rebecca Dmytryk, the founder of Wild Rescue and a Monte Nido resident, wasted no time - she arrived within 5 minutes. She spent quite some time assessing the situation and educating us on what to expect from this predator. She returned with a live trap and instructed us to call her day or night should we trap the cat. We awoke after the third night with a big bobcat in the live trap. We called Rebecca and, despite it being the crack of dawn, she arrived in a flash. She put the cage and cat into her van, set up a heater for its warmth, fed it some more chicken, and then transported the cat to Wildlife Care of Ventura County.

Wildlife Care of Ventura County called the next day and informed us that the bobcat was a young male who was very emaciated from parasites and had a severe case of mange. Treatment and a

veterinarian's examination suggested that this young bobcat was suffering from a suppressed immune system due to the ingestion of rodents poisoned by rodenticide. This wonderful creature is expected to make a full recovery and will be released back into the wild.

Lethal Toxins

Many people resort to rodenticides (baits, tracking powders, and fumigants) to control rats, mice, and gophers. However, humans (especially children), pets, and other wildlife, including birds, are frequently untargeted victims. Although tamper proof bait stations are recommended they do not solve the problem since small amounts of bait can be removed and secondary poisoning of nontarget predators is a significant danger! Exposure to these toxins has been shown to cause birth defects as well as nerve, heart, liver, and muscle damage.

When bait is placed for rodents, it is typically ingested over several days - building up in the rodent's system until it dies a painful death. Although the bait may be placed in protected areas, under the house, etc., rodents often do not die in those areas. Moreover, our native predators, such as hawks, owls, snakes, coyotes, and bobcats, feed on these rodents - frequently ingesting poisoned rodents. Domestic Dogs can also suffer and die from secondary poisoning.

When predators ingest toxic prey they, and their offspring, are affected - the result is a dangerous, biologically imbalanced environment. There are reports of rodents becoming resistant to some of the common anticoagulant rodenticides, which means higher and higher levels of poison are being ingested by rats/mice and their predators. Not only does this actually increase our pest

problem, due to lack of native predators, but it puts our children and domestic pets at greater risk. Furthermore, seriously ill predators are more likely to seek food and shelter where they are easily accessible - our yards!

Safe Alternatives

The first line of defense, as well as the best offense, is prevention, prevention, prevention! Rats can enter through holes the size of a quarter, mice through holes the size of a dime. Thus, it is essential to seal holes and entry areas around the house, under the house, in the garage, and in hay sheds and tackrooms. It is also important to clean up any areas that such rodents can use for food or bedding - they like warm cozy places and are attracted to fallen birdseed, fallen fruit, and other food sources.

Physical controls such as Have-A-Heart traps and snap traps are very effective. Have-a-Heart "live" traps are a good option because rodents can be released (several miles away please) instead of killing them. They are most effective when baited for a few days without being set so that rats and mice, which are very cautious, can get used to them. In addition, if your bait is gone you will know this is an effective placement of the traps. But be sure to seal up your home, etc. afterwards to prevent re-entry of other rodents.

Snap traps that are set correctly are very effective and more humane than poisons. Similarly, these traps should be left baited and unset for a few days. Glue traps don't kill mice/rats immediately and may trap nontarget species - therefore snap traps are the best alternative. For more information on the prevention and physical controls of rodents see <http://www.beyondpesticides.org>. For gophers, the black hole is an effective, non-toxic, method of control. All of the above mentioned alternatives are available at your local hardware store.

With a little thoughtfulness and preventive action, we can protect our children, our pets, and all the wonderful wildlife that surrounds us. Unless we take active steps to protect and preserve our native habitat, our grandchildren and the generations to follow might never have the joy of seeing a bobcat, coyote, or beautiful soaring hawk!

(The bobcat was released recently - it was doing great and looked like a completely different cat!)

-Vallerie Coleman & Lorraine Rose



The July 4th Parade and Picnic

Plans are going forward for the annual Monte Nido parade and picnic. We have a chairperson and someone to head the games and raffle committees. Help is always appreciated. If you can lend a hand even for just a few hours, please contact Suzanne Bailey at 222-7663. Please bring a baked good.

We're looking forward to see your imagination at work on our parade theme: "**Monte Nido: My Mountain Nest**". Happy July 4th to all!



Join the MNVCA!

If you would like to join, annual dues are only \$50 per family and \$25 for new members. Send your check payable to MNVCA to PO Box 8054, Calabasas, 91372.

MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting

May 9, 2006

The regular meeting of the MNVCA was called to order at 7:13 p.m. in the home of Les Hardie. In attendance were Board members: M. Cilluffo, L. Hardie, C. Hodes, J. Kay, L. Lehman, J. Low, J. Mackay, Y. Netanel, J. Slimocosky and H. Stompe along with other community members.

Treasurer's Report: Bank accounts were reviewed; 74 new memberships/renewals received thus far.

Correspondence: Malibu Creek Watershed News Upcoming Events: Tapia Tour-"Where does your water come from?" on 5-20-06 2016-A Day in Your Life on 5-20-06

Federation Report: June 23 is the date for the next annual Installation Banquet at Malibou Lake; Fran Pavley will be the highlighted speaker among others. Stokes Canyon: 6 homes will be built at a previously approved site. The Ridgeline Ordinance continues to be challenged. An updated LCP to be reviewed. The Liberty Canyon development has been revised from 49 to 23 homes.

Old Business: Newsletter – Assistance is still needed with the monthly Newsletter mailing. Membership Drive – Hoping for additional new and renewed members for this year.

Traffic/Speeding – Additional police presence has been noted on area roads; neighbors are encouraged to phone in reports of unlawful conduct.

Community Directory 2006 – Binding options for the printed Directory were discussed. A low cost binding with a high quality paper outer cover was agreed upon.

Trails: Motorized vehicles have been spotted on local trails dedicated exclusively to hiking/equestrian use. This activity is dangerous, harmful to the trail surface and illegal, though very difficult to enforce. Open communication among neighbors seems to be the only real option to help eliminate this activity.

Trail maintenance activities are on-going. All are encouraged to participate.

Dogs – It is unlawful to allow dogs to roam off-leash. Several incidents and injuries have

occurred around Monte Nido related to this issue. In some instances the Dept. of Animal Control have been called in and have provided swift, effective enforcement and control. Neighbors are encouraged to use this resource when warranted.

July 4th – A chairperson from the community has stepped forward to help make this event take place. Support is still needed within all of the various components that go into the occasion.

Triangle/Lot 7 – As per a long standing agreement, the developer of the area known as the Triangle has yet to complete the improvements to corner Lot 7. Native landscaping and fencing are still pending. Les Hardie, Yehuda Netanel, & Gary Bardovi will meet to discuss best options for making this process move forward.

New Business: MNVCA Umbrella Organization – Many new residents to Monte Nido are not aware that Monte Nido consists of several small "home owner groups". Most homes fall within these separate associations primarily used to manage their local road/bridge maintenance and improvements. The larger organization, encompassing all of these sub-associations, is the Monte Nido Valley Community Association. The MNVCA has a much broader focus of issues/events and requires separate, albeit modest, annual dues. An upcoming Newsletter will describe and highlight this issue. *-Lisa Lehman*

How to reach us:

President: Joan Slimocosky 591-1082 Vice Pres. John Low 224-8062 Treasurer: Cynthia Hodes 591-1026 Secretary: Lisa Lehman

Send your email address to Lisa Lehman, the devoted MNVCA secretary at mnvca@charter.net, to receive announcements of meetings, community activities and the time and location of our Board meetings.

Contributions to the newsletter including nonprofit events to be listed in the calendar can be made by the 5th of the month to me (the editor) at 856 Wonder View Dr. or by email to mnvcanews@charter.net. *-Marianne Cilluffo*

Equestrian Trails, Inc., Corral 36

Trail Use Guidelines & Etiquette Tips

Respect the trails -- clean up your litter (pack out what is packed in); protect the trail environment, e.g. do not remove things that belong on trails or blaze new trails.

Become the eyes and ears of the trail system. Report problems, e.g. washed out bridges or downed trees and debris to the park's maintenance system.

Give back to the trails you use -- get involved with the trails maintenance.

Share the trails -- cyclists yield to all other trail users and hikers yield to equestrians.

On crowded trails, proceed single file. Slower traffic should keep to the right of the trail; faster users pass on the left. Do not pass on narrow bends -- pass only when you can clearly see the trail and traffic approaching from the opposite direction. When passing other trail users provide adequate warning and reduce speed.

Animals on the trail may act unexpectedly. If you are unsure about approaching someone with a horse or dog, ask the handler for guidance.

Tread gently when the trails are muddy; footprints, bicycle ruts, and hoof prints can damage the trails.

If you choose to wear a stereo/headphone set, make sure that the volume neither prevents you from hearing what is happening around you nor disturbs the other trail users.

If you come upon an injured rider (horse or bicycle), get help immediately. If you come upon a riderless horse, do not approach the horse if you are uncomfortable with horses -- seek professional help. If you choose to approach the horse, speak softly to let it know you are there -- do not chase it. Approach it from the side.

See the Santa Monica Mountains Trail Council Website for more information: www.smmtc.org.

Calendar of Events

MNVCA Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 11 at 7 PM.
at the home of Marianne Cilluffo
856 Wonder View Dr.
876-3019

ETI Corral 36 Seminar & Board Meeting,

July 11 at 7 PM,
at the home of Art & Shawn Carvalho,
24639 Mulholland Hwy.
Calabasas, (818) 224-4775

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

Lost Watch: Joan Slimocosky lost her watch on the Backbone Trail Sunday, May 28 between Piuma and meadow at base of Saddle Peak. It was of great sentimental value. If you've seen it, please contact her at 591-1082. She is offering a small reward

ANNOUNCING

The Monte Nido Valley Community Association



FOURTH of JULY CELEBRATION!



Join us for PARADE and PICNIC

Picnic will be in Fleeman's Meadow with

Games! Bake Sale! Food! Raffle! Cold Drinks! Fun!

Parade Theme: "Monte Nido: My Mountain Nest"

Parade Entrants: Gather at 10:00 a.m. at corner of Camino Colibri and Thornhill

Parade starts at: 10:30 a.m.

Picnic follows in: Fleeman's Meadow

Don't Forget: Bring a baked good! (NO watermelon this year please!)

Equestrians Take Note: If you intend to ride or lead a member of the equine species in the parade, please remember that we have ETI cover the liability issues and a waiver must be signed before you can participate. Parents must sign the waiver for all children in their family. If you would like to get the paper work done ahead of time, please call Jeanne Wallace, 818-222 2560.

**WE STILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ORGANIZE AND ASSIST ON THE 4TH!
PLEASE CONTACT SUZANNE BAILEY AT 222-7663 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**