



IN THE SCOPE

Newsletter Of The Iron Mountain Conservancy

Letter from the President

By Janine Moniot aka "Change"

Happiness for me is having IMC events scheduled and announced in advance in the newsletter. Look for dates for our upcoming Raptor Watch and our exciting slide shows featuring Ramona's endangered species and their threatened habitat. Soon our tracking events will beat in harmony with the rhythm of the countywide tracking movement. The Penasquitos Tracking Team has been instrumental in advising, training and giving strong moral support to not only our tracking team but to fledgling groups all over the county. It is our goal to have our tracking talks dovetail with the Penasquitos tracking team training for their surveys.

What is a tracking survey and why would you want to participate? It is a rewarding experience that opens one's perception to nature in so many ways. Its main purpose is to cover a defined area for signs of animal movement. That defined area is called a transact. Food sources and life cycles vary with the seasons for

animals. They are sometimes absent from an area they may depend on at another time. What a mistake it would be for planners to hear that there is no animal movement - or no corridor activity on the basis of one survey. You can help prevent that error. Just spend some time watching nature with some wonderful people. The Penasquitos Tracking Team offers short 4-hour training sessions full of secrets about animal behavior. This prepares you for immediate participation in a tracking surveys or theirs. They also offer weekend workshops. You may have seen one announced in our newsletter.

Contact us. We will be happy to let you know when the next workshop is.



**COME ONE!
COME ALL!
POTLUCK
SATURDAY, March 20
1 PM
DOS PICOS PARK**



The IMC is a diverse group of individuals who would like to get to know you, our new members and friends. It's a fun casual afternoon spent with family, friends and a great way to meet members of the IMC.

Join us March 20th at the Dos Picos Park for a get to know you Potluck. Bring your favorite dish for at least ten people to experience, service for yourself. IMC will provide light refreshments. Don't forget to bring lawn chairs, a warm jacket for the shade and lots of great ideas to share.

See you at the picnic.....

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Dates To Remember

- Board Meeting - 3rd Monday each month
- Monthly Tracking - Feb 13
- Annual Raptor Watch - Jan 16 & Feb 7
- Mushrooms Foray - Jan 24 & Feb 14
- Toads Toads - Jan 25
- Wolves - Jan 29
- Vernal Pools - Feb 22
- Geology Walk - Mar 14
- Pot Luck Picnic - March 20
- Native Plant Talk - March 22

IMC Slide Show & Calendar Update

Work is continuing on the collection of slides that will describe the work of IMC in Ramona at future lectures. These slides will be a perpetual "work in progress" as IMC continues to evolve. The first slide show presentation should be ready for viewing around April.



We're hoping that the calendar will be ready for distribution by December, 1999. Some considerations that need to be resolved are weather it will be in black & white (large format camera) or color. Ramona has so many areas and natural resources of great beauty that it will be a difficult decision on what to include!

Kids Korner

These are stories from children who have taken our tracking walk. If you are interested in children's tracking walks, please contact Julie Savery at (760) 789-8136.



"I found some scat. It had some little teeth and a big thing in it. The big thing was attached to the little teeth. We stopped to have snacks and play on the playground. We found our own footprints from our shoes. I had a fun time and got a feather. Thank you for having the walk"

Meredith Prinz, age 5 1/2

My dad, sister and I went to Dos Picos Park for the tracking walk. I had found a little wasp's nest. It had lots of cracks and holes in it. I learned that animal tracking is very important to know, especially if you have a pet. I learned a lot of things. I liked it!

Aaron Prinz

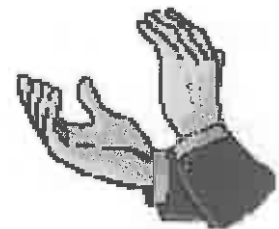


IMC WISH LIST

- Fax machine
- Binoculars for raptor watch & birding
- Fund raising ideas
- Trackers, etc
- Slide Projector

IMC's Thank You Thank You

- ◆ Sam Brown, Bob Estonias, and Michale Igo of the *Kumeyay Indian singers*.
- ◆ *Kentucky Fried Chicken* for donating to the Kumeyay Indian Storyteller and Singers.
- ◆ *Paul Elder* of (company name) for donating the art on our T-shirts. We just had our second printing.
- ◆ Bob Phillips of *the Wilds* for selling our T-shirts for no commission.
- ◆ *Birdwatcher* for becoming members.
- ◆ *Gale Cole* and *Alan Dale* for selling T-shirts at the Christmas Tree lighting on a very short notice.
- ◆ *US Forest Service* for hosting our tracking talks.
- ◆ *Peter Yingling* for helping with a herpetology survey.
- ◆ Barbara Leman of *Welcome Home* for sharing her booth at the Christmas Tree lighting, and distributing our brochure to all new Ramona homeowners free of charge.
- ◆ Carin Bunney of *SDS* for creating the quarterly newsletter and designing our new web site.
- ◆ *Jim* and *Carol Labarge* for donating many items to our yearly yard sale.
- ◆ For *all the new memberships and renewals*. For *Daniel Brimm* ..donating \$100.00 to IMC.
- ◆ For Tim Keesey becoming a new board member and treasurer.
- ◆ For all the people that *volunteer* their knowledge and experience and help to IMC.....



Thank You

IMC Tracking Team Free Slide Show Toads Toads Toads

Monday 7pm
January 25th
Goose Valley
US Forest Station
1634 Black Canyon Road
Ramona

Join Paul Griffin for a slide show about Arroyo toad conservation and their natural history. See and hear the difference between the western toad and the arroyo toad. Explore the advances his research contributed to understanding the life history and seasonal movements of the endangered Arroyo toad. The first time ever anyone radio tracked these animals was by him in a 1997-1998 study at Camp Pendleton. Imagine following individual toads as they moved through sandy washes, willow banks, dense arundo thickets, and even up into campgrounds



(Continued on page 9)

IMC T-SHIRT

Buy these beautiful colored T-shirts with our local majestic Golden Eagles tending their babies.

Look good and advertise IMC for just \$15.00
(plus postage if mail order)

Available in small, medium, large and extra large.

788-WILD

Mushrooms are coming-

Where to? To Balboa and Dos Picos Park! When? The first free event is at the Casa Del Prado Room 101 January 24th from 11am to 3pm.

At the "Mushroom Fair" you'll find a slideshow, tips on cultivation, help with identifying mushrooms, a "Children's Table", vendors, a raffle, and mushroom soup!



The second act is February 14th at 9am at Dos Picos Park. Dennis Sharmahd, foray chairman for the San Diego Mycological Society, which is the host for both shows, will take us out on a foray to identify local mushrooms.

This is dependent on weather. Unpredictable, long Santa Ana's can whither the excitement away or very heavy rains can dampen spirits. If conditions are borderline call Janine at 789-9417 for an update.

Bring a lunch so you can stay for while.

Native Plant Slide Show

March 22
US Forest Station
Goose Valley
1634 Black Canyon Road
Ramona



Enjoy a slide show and discussion on plant communities and the opportunity to feel, see and smell live plants to aid you in plant identification.

Fred Sproul has marveled many with his ability to identify plants in challenging circumstances – they call Fred the "dead stick botanist"

Fred will lead us through some of the amazing variety of plant habitat in the Ramona area. Rare plants, interesting chaparral, and our large grasslands will be a part of this talk.

5th Annual Raptor Watch



Come be entranced by raptors in flight. View a wide variety of both migratory and resident birds of prey as they establish territories and engage in nesting and foraging.

There are new faces with diverse backgrounds hosting this program:

IMC's annual raptor watch includes a special **Kid's Raptor Watch**. Jeff Barriger an enthusiastic environmental teacher at the Cuyamaca Outdoor School will captivate children's attention on **January 16th**.

Jim Hannan PhD, an ecology professor at Mesa College (with over 30 years of Raptor and Wildlife research experience) will share his expertise with us **February 7th**.

There are more opportunities to be led into the raptor's world. Fred Sproul is continuing with his raptor events independently of IMC. His dates are Jan 9, 17, 23 and Feb 6, 13, 20. For more information call (760) 789-8136.

BYOB - Bring Your Own Binoculars, and spares if you have them. Call Janine at **760-788-WILD** to confirm space and get directions. Volunteer to help out if you can. These events will be cancelled if we have heavy rains. Children are welcome.

9:00 a.m.

January 16th

February 7th

**1 Block North of Junction 67 at
Highland Valley Rd &
Highland Valley Court**

Call (760) 788-WILD

Land Acquisition

By Kit Kesinger

There are many pieces to developing IMC's readiness for a management role in land stewardship. This goal became more obtainable because of Kit's ability to break down tasks into doable proportions. He is now following through on finding the right help to accomplish them.

* The local Boy Scouts have invited Kit to a meeting on January 7 to discuss their possible involvement with our revegetation projects. Look for your next newsletter for an update.

* Kit is also trying to locate professionals whose skills we need in the process of an acquisition. With the help of SEAC (The Student Environmental Action Coalition from SDSU), several land conservation consultants and attorneys have been contacted. We are hoping to find one or more who will donate their services to IMC.

* Another need for acquisition is funding. The San Diego Watershed Initiative Committee has been requesting grant applications. Other sources of funding are also being sought; once again SEAC has been

helpful, in identifying and reviewing available grants.

Of course the reason for preserving lands is to preserve habitat. The acquisition committee has been working closely with the IMC Tracking Team, as well as with biologists and other experts from outside of IMC, to determine the biological value of various natural lands in the vicinity of Ramona.

We discovered to our delight a very large "heritage" Engleman Oak on the Ramona Serena open space area. Engleman Oaks are rare, and San Diego County is the primary home for this unique species. These oaks have a distinctive leaf color and an asymmetrical form that is very beautiful. The owners of Ramona Serena have contacted IMC about the potential for IMC to acquire that property.

Contact Kit Kesinger if you would like to be involved with any of these endeavors:

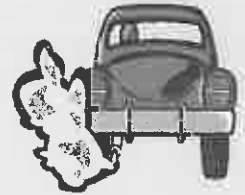
E-mail - kkesi@siketema.com
Phone - (619) 441-5489

Roadkill Prevention

An idea whose time has come to Ramona. Marty and Phoenix have begun receiving reports of roadkill observations. Thank you for contributing. Sadly there are areas where it is very dangerous for animals to cross the road. A dead mountain lion was reported on 67 near Lakeside.

Take a moment and call IMC if you find an animal. Remember we are interested in live sightings too. Look at our suggestions for what to do with a roadkill or simply call and report the date, location and species.

Our phone number is easy to remember 788-WILD or e-mail irnmtn@aol.com and your information may help justify corrective action to CALTRANS and save our furry friends lives.



Magician and the Captain's Parrot

A magician was working on a cruise ship in the Caribbean. The audience would be different each week, so the magician allowed himself to do the same tricks over and over again.

There was only one problem: The captain's parrot saw the shows each week and began to understand how the magician did every trick. Once he understood, he started shouting in the middle of the show:

"Look, it's not the same hat"

"He's hiding the flowers under the table"

"Hey, why are all the cards the Ace of Spades?"

The magician was furious but couldn't do anything; it was, after all, the captain's parrot.

One day the ship ran into trouble, and sank. The magician found himself on a piece of wood in the middle of the ocean with the parrot. They stared at each other with hate, but did not utter a word.

This went on for a day and another and then another.

After 3 days the parrot finally said: "OK, I give up. Where's the boat?"

Bats Bats Bats



After Doug Allen's presentation on bats, there was much interest in the flying mammals. I went out searching for bats and found several populations. Several people told us about bat populations they knew of.

IMC wants to know where more bats are. Please e-mail any information you have to irnmtn@aol.com, or phone 788-WILD.

Some members had questions. How do we keep bats off our front porch? Do they always have guards posted on each side of their roosts? Doug continues to provide helpful answers. A volunteer even offered to create a

committee on bats. As a result, bat information is now on the IMC website, at members.aol.com/irnmtn/index.htm

We are following up on a report that a population of bats were gassed in a tunnel under San Vicente Road.



Recreating Habitats:

The Role of Revegetation Projects For Wildlife Survival

By Kaitland Meadows

Habitat degradation causes the death or demise of San Diego County's wonderful diversity of wildlife. Human activity, the grazing of cattle, farming with pesticides, development of housing and the urbanization of our open space are leaving fewer and fewer places for wildlife to survive and reproduce.

We have a wonderful opportunity to work with many talented and dedicated individuals in San Diego to help restore these habitats by planting native plants and grasses, removing exotic weeds and non-native species, and in saving seed and root stock from the path of bulldozers.

Restoration projects are scheduled all over the county by many concerned groups at this time of year when plants have a fighting chance to take hold in

milder temperatures and occasional rains.

If you (or others you may know) plan work on your property that may require the removal of any native vegetation, if you can help with the collection of seed or root stock of native vegetation on your property, or if you just want to spend a day doing some gardening for the sake of our fragile planet, please call Kaitlin at 788-3616 for more information.



*The Los Peñasquitos Canyon Tracking Team
Presents*

Wolves In The Preserve!

Friday January 29, 199 7:00 P.M.

At the Ranch House Conference Room
Located West of the
Canyonside Park
Ballfields off Black
Mountain Road in
Peñasquitos.



Pat Valentino of the Julian Wolf Preserve has a very provocative show detailing the mysteries of Wolves and the work that the Julian Wolf Preserve does on their behalf.

Directions

From 1-15 take the Mercy Rd. exit and go west to Black Mountain Rd. and turn right. At the first intersection (3 way stop light) turn left. This is the entrance to Canyonside Park. Go west past the ball-parks and look for the signs directing you to the Ranch parking lot.

Ramona's Vernal Pools "A MAGICAL UNIVERSE" - Slide Show

By Mary Anne Pentis

The magic of a Vernal Pool is only apparent during the winter and spring; even then, most of us are unaware of the wonders of life which exist in this unique habitat. A Vernal Pool is a universe in miniature, a natural place for a specialized group of plants and animals. Scattered around San Diego County, particularly in the "mesa" areas and including Ramona, only a very few remain; more than 98% have already been destroyed.

Join IMC on Monday, February 22, 6:30 PM, at the Goose Valley US Forest Station 1634 Black Canyon Road, Ramona when Mary Anne & Al Pentis - a biologist and vernal pool expert present their slide talk "Vernal Pools, their magical life cycles, and what you might do to help protect those that remain".

Most of you are unlikely to ever see a vernal pool up close to observe this endangered microcosm; you will never have the opportunity to view the wonders of a vernal pool because mitigated vernal pools and the other vernal pools of Ramona are on or surrounded by private property. And even if you are one of the "lucky" who actually have one on your property, you are unlikely to know it is there.

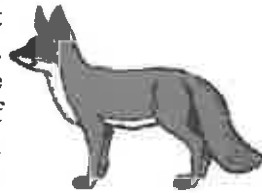
Accumulation of rainwater in an area where there is a particular substrata which allows the water to be held in a natural clay-based depression containing extremely specialized "seeds" and "eggs"; these must survive our dry, hot summers, awaiting rain. Early scientists claimed that the new life was "spontaneous generation" or "magic". The water must last long enough for the glass-encased egg cases of fairy shrimp to dissolve and hatch. These tiny crustaceans are one of the indicators of a vernal pool and are easily seen at the beginning of the vernal pool's cycle. As the water evaporates from these pools the fairy shrimp die off, having completed part of the life cycle. Plants begin to grow and, as the water level falls, different species of plants grow and bloom in a natural succession, noticeable as a "bathtub ring" effect.

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The Three Footed Fox and The Novice Tracker

By Kaitlin Meadows

He crept forward, senses totally alert, aware of the subtlest strands of scent on the breeze, the slightest stirring in the oaks, following a series of smudges and indentations in the soft soil near the creek. The "fox walk" he calls it and there is something of the wary, responsive wild animal in him as he moves soundlessly through the forest.



Barry Martin teaches techniques for refining focus and attentive observation using the tracks of animals as a metaphor. As the leader of the Los Penasquitos Preserve Tracking Team, Barry spends of good deal of time educating individuals about the life ways of animals; their habitats, diets, and ways of moving in the world.

Sparked by a fascination begun while on several IMC hikes lead by Wanda and Julie, I'd been taking tracking training for several months before the opportunity to attend an intensive weekend of "Nature Awareness and Earth Skills" sponsored by the Los Penasquitos Tracking Team came along in mid November.

Learning "the way of the scout" on that weekend (based on skills Tom Brown Jr. teaches in his many excellent books about tracking and survival skills) was a won-

derful experience. Learning to build a survival shelter out of forest debris, a solar still to capture water, and a snare to catch food made me feel so much better about my chances for survival in an emergency. It was an incredible experience blowing a glowing ember into fire from my own efforts with a bow drill, spindle, and fire board. Learning which of the native plants is edible and making cordage from plant fibers was great fun.

Yet it was the intense training in wildlife tracking that opened my eyes and senses to new understandings about the animals I have been taking care of for many years with Project Wildlife. Learning to slow down, to observe the smallest details, to be alert for particular idiosyncrasies of each species has helped me to become an intimate part of the lives of these incredible creatures.

A week after the weekend seminar, I got a pre-dawn call from a frantic friend who'd hit an animal along Highway 78 on her way to work. It had bounded onto the road from an embankment and she feared her vehicle had "bumped" it before she'd

skidded to a stop. The animal had rolled and tumbled down a ravine but her flashlight could not find it in the undergrowth.

I quickly assembled my gear and headed to the mile marker she mentioned, some thirty minutes away from my location. In a vehicle versus animal equation, animals seldom win. If the animal were alive, but injured, the task of capturing and treating it would be even more delicate. Wildlife emergencies are always challenging, adrenaline pumping experiences. I had to talk myself into a calm I did not feel. I *expected* to find the mangled ball of a bloody road kill, yet being the eternal optimist that I am, I *hoped* to find an animal I could return, mended, back to the wild.

There were skid marks and a splat of blood at the designated spot. No sign of a dead or injured animal in the roadside ditch. Cautiously I expanded my search. Heartened by a narrow swath in the dewy grass, I followed it into the underbrush. Practicing the "fox walk," slowing down, looking for clues like a sleuth, I saw a tiny bloody track and followed it, holding my breath, until the track disappeared into the brush.

(Continued on page 8)

Vernal Pools

(Continued from page 5)

Most of these pools and their creatures and wonderous plants are gone forever, having been paved over by the fast paced development which has occurred during the last thirty years. The Mira Mesa and Kearney Mesa areas of San Diego used to contain hundreds of these pools. Most of us believed that the Endangered Species Act, with its inclusion of the San Diego Fairy Shrimp, and the newly inacted MSCP (Multiple Species Conservation Plan) would be the salvation of the remaining vernal pools; they are supposed to

be protected because of their endangered status. Instead it is now a bureaucratic excuse for their continued destruction.

The recent loss of 67 vernal pools in Mira Mesa and the planned destruction of many more throughout the county, including the very large complex behind Ramona High School, should cause all of us to be concerned!

You can learn about vernal pools and what measures work for their protection. We CAN and MUST work out sensible, reasoned approaches to pro-

viding for our natural environment's protection as well as the financial welfare of the landowner. Most important is the legacy we are to leave our grandchildren. Sadly, we are losing the battle, and education of the people is our only alternative.

In order to further the protection of vernal pools we are in the process of founding a non-profit Vernal Pool Society. If you are interested in supporting such an organization or wish further information, please contact us at 760-789-4085, maryanne@pentis.com, visit our web site at pentis.com, or contact the IMC.

Children's Festival

Ramona's annual Children's Festival is on the horizon. It is easy to volunteer for such a delightful event full of dance and joyful activities. IMC's artistic outreach encourages awareness and public expression of the value of nature to children.

Children will draw pictures with materials and guidance provided by us. Their masterpieces are put up for viewing at Collier Park, where the event takes place. Volunteer and contribute to this inspirational community program for continued success. Children deserve and benefit from our positive attention.



3rd or 4th Saturday in April
Call to **VOLUNTEER - 788-WILD**

Earth Day 1999

Earth Day 1999 is coming! IMC can continue to be a part of that special day at one of several locations. Balboa Park, Poway, Vista are all places that celebrate Earth Day. Some day perhaps IMC will sponsor our own community wide festivities.

Right now we can prepare for Earth Day 99 by creating materials that highlight our area and our goals. Volunteers are needed to make signs, distribute our literature and connect us with other groups.

IMC members have really enjoyed the experience of being at the park. It is a meaningful effort to keep conservation and Ramona on the minds of the public in San Diego County.



Second Annual Yard Sale



Is there a Treasure-trove hidden in your forgotten mysterious corners? Our vender par excellence requests wares to sell.

Where are the wares going? To Gale Cole who is coordinating this sale with the tryouts for the singer of the national anthem at the Chamber's Rodeo. This helped our visibility last year.

How much do we want your donation? Enough to provide storage space and even help with moving items suitable for sale.

We need money. We have several on-going expenses like phone bills, newsletters, room rentals and education for land trusts.

Did you get better appliances and good stuff for Christmas? Think of IMC as you make space for those gifts. The date has yet to be set by the Chamber. It will occur near the end of April. If you can store things until nearer the date that would be a big help. Volunteers are appreciated too!

Gale can be reached at 788-0511.

Geology Walk



The mysterious geology walk will be March 14th at 10:00. The mystery is where will it be held. For more clues, you must meet outside "Pages" at the Ramona Albertson's shopping center. Jim Newman a geologist (some of you may have met him at our last picnic) will provide us with a fun filled "rock" walk. Pack a light lunch cuz rocks are heavy. Children are Welcome.

Timeless sharing by Sam Brown, an Indian Storyteller

Evening is the perfect time for stories. There is an infrequent pleasure in being with a group of people listening quietly or laughing to a mesmerizing speaker, or speaker as Sam has been affectionately called. Sam has that difficult to explain quality of working the audience into a place distant from where they are listening, and once they are in that place to be receptive to new ideas and enhanced empathy with other people. His stories become your stories and your stories are altered in that reflection.

The storytelling combined with the richness of the singing was a powerful though much more subtle and mellow "experience" than most. Sam Brown's son contributed the artwork to the flier, see below.

I will not say much more because I am ever so hopeful that Sam will agree to grace us with his stories, and the singers with their songs another time.

Thank-you Sam



SOUND EFFECTS

The osprey may be the most musical sounding bird of prey, whistling loudly while it works. Owls produce a whole range of spooky night noises: hoots, whistles, shrieks, and moans. A harsh "kee-kee" identifies the golden eagle. His cousin the bald eagle makes a softer echo. Redtailed hawks utter a high-pitched "kreeee" while soaring. When excited, vultures simply hiss.

The Three Footed Fox

(Continued from page 6)

Crouching under a small canopy of chaparral, I thought about what I had learned in my tracking experiences and went back to look at the few tracks I had. Yes, a small, delicate track with four toes, oblong shape, a space between toes. Now I went down in the dirt, face to the track, looking at the gait, the stride of the animal, anticipating where the next track should be if my species suspicions are correct. Sure enough, the track of a gray fox! And it's limping on the right rear foot. Then a small, fresh tendril of slick, black scat, tapered at both ends on a small rise at the intersection of the trail and the brush.

Using every ounce of patient quiet and calm I could muster, I crawled into the underbrush in the direction of the last track. Sweating, though it was cold; heart pounding, though I was moving only a millimeter at a time, I struggled into a thicket of chamise. Were there deer ticks in here, were all the snakes safely hibernating, would I ever get the grunge out of these clothes? Cautiously I tried to think like an injured thing. Where would I go? There was a little tangle of brush with a soft under growth of grass well hidden to my left, nearly impassable. There he was!

A juvenile gray fox, almost completely hidden, licking at his right rear paw. My breath stopped, I was twenty feet from him and he was too absorbed to see me. Knowing I would only stress him into a frightened attempt at escape if I tried to get closer, I just watched, hoping my clamoring heart wasn't giving me away.

I watched for over an hour. Were there signs of a concussion, was he still bleeding, were bones broken? I watched as he licked the paw, stood tentatively and shook from head to the black tip of his lovely full tail. He took two steps and made the tiniest sound of pain as he sat again. I could see his paw pad was road burned and that his hip was scraped and slightly swollen.

His eyes and nose were clear, he did not seem to have symptoms of a head injury, and it looked like his injuries were not life challenging, but still I watched, breathless. He stood again, shook, limped a few steps further into the tangled cover of chamise, curled and tucked his head under his tail. When I was sure he slept, I eased away, slithering and crawling backwards for what seemed hours. I got a flask of hydrating solution designed to provide electrolyte balance after shock and some high protein canine nourishment supplement out of my kit and crept back to a small clearing directly in front of his hiding place. I said a little prayer for him and thanked all my tracking mentors for helping me to acquire the practical skills I had used on my spiritual errand.

The next morning I slinked back to my hiding place. There around the fluids and food I had left were his unique tracks, a small matted place where he had slept, but no sign of my beautiful new friend. I had a dream that night about following his tracks out of the thicket. Three paw tracks clear and delicate, and the fourth one only lightly touching, with a slight crimp to the toes. In my dream I followed the tracks until that fourth track became clear and strong as the others. Atop a small knoll at sunset I saw his tracks turn and stop. There was an impression where he sat in the last golden, slanting rays of the sun on that knoll, looking out over a world where people cared about wildlife and did all they could to protect and preserve their lives. I'm sure I smiled in my dream.

Web Site

In February we will have a new look on our web site. Thanks to Carin Bunney at SDS and her generous giving of her time and talents to IMC, we will be able to display animation and updated articles on a timely manner.

The IMC Web site address is on the back page of this newsletter. Any comments can be e-mailed to cbunney@adnc.com.

the *Wilds* is

A nature store
Wildlife gallery
Native plant nursery



The nature store is

- ◆ strong in wild bird supply including feed
- ◆ books relating to a broad interpretation of the general nature theme, including astronomy, geology, birdwatching, native plants, fieldguides, maps, etc.
- ◆ cd's & cassettes of indigenous people influence, classics, instrumental, and blue grass.
- ◆ great hiking sticks

The wildlife art gallery features

- ◆ Adele Earnshaw
- ◆ Morton Solberg
- ◆ Gamini Ratnavira
- ◆ J.D. Mitchell

The native plant nursery

- ◆ we can obtain any plant the *Tree of Life* wholesale nursery offers. Presently we offer 3 oak varieties, ceanothus, sages, perennial wildflowers, iris, etc.

the *WILDS*
30275 Hwy. 78
Santa Ysabel, CA 92070
(760) 765-1000
Bob Phillips

FOR INJURED OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE

The Fund For Animals Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, located on Highland Valley Road (see address below or), 1 mile west of Hwy 67

If you will be bringing injured wildlife to the facility after 5 p.m., call to insure that the gate will be left open. If you encounter a wild animal that you are unable to handle, call the Fund For Animals Wildlife Rehabilitation Center immediately.

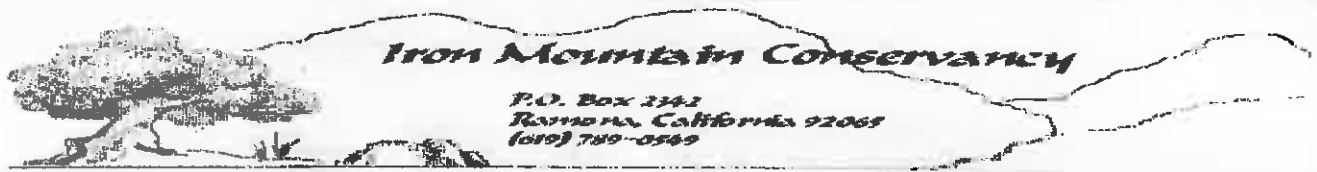
FUND FOR ANIMAL WILDLIFE

REHABILITATION CENTER

13740 Highland Valley Road

Ramona, Ca. 92065

Phone: (760) 789-2324



Jan 8, 1990

Dear Fellow Conservationist;

I'm sure that you appreciate *Iron Mountain Conservancy's* efforts offering informative programs on environmental topics, nature outings, and its interesting newsletter. You may also be aware of *Iron Mountain Conservancy's* programs for preserving habitat lands, and restoring damaged habitats through replanting of native plant species.

Your membership provides essential support for the *Conservancy*. Membership dues cover the costs of printing, lectures and outings, information services, basic materials, and administrative costs. More important, your membership says that you support the goals and efforts of *Iron Mountain Conservancy*. The strength of our membership allows *IMC* to influence government agencies, foundations, and private individuals in order to promote conservation.

We can only continue our efforts by broadening our membership base, and having members like yourself, who are dedicated to the preservation of our local wildlife and open spaces, renew their membership. It is so little and it does so much.

Please renew your membership by returning the enclosed membership form. We thank you for your past and present support.

Carin Bunney
IMC Membership Chairperson
316 Salmon Road
Ramona, CA 92065
788-WILD

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and tomato fields for over three months.

Discover why our river-specialist toad is on a serious population decline. Understand what his research means for the Arroyo toads living in the Santa Maria creek and for other river-dependent species. Arroyo toads are specialists of sandy rivers; they need wild rivers to breed, and wild lands next to the rivers to live. The Arroyo toad depends on river conditions that must be just right for egg and tadpole development. The toads on Camp Pendleton (where his research occurred) face a host of predators and disturbances that can undermine their reproduction and persistence. The same is true for Arroyo toads in Ramona, which also are threatened by airport development and urbanization near the Santa Maria Creek. Get an inside glimpse of their many challenges.

The information Paul collected points to the importance of conserving the natural conditions near rivers and creeks. Paul grew up in San Diego and was "inspired to study natural history, resource management, and conservation after a lifetime of seeing our rich canyons filled in, hilltops razed, and wildlife die out as a result". This study of Arroyo toads through UCSD was his first extensive look at the natural history of a local endangered animal. His study of Arroyo toads will continue through the 1999 spring breeding season. That motivation has earned him a Bachelor of Science, U.C. Berkeley 1994, in Natural Resource Management and the Russian Language.

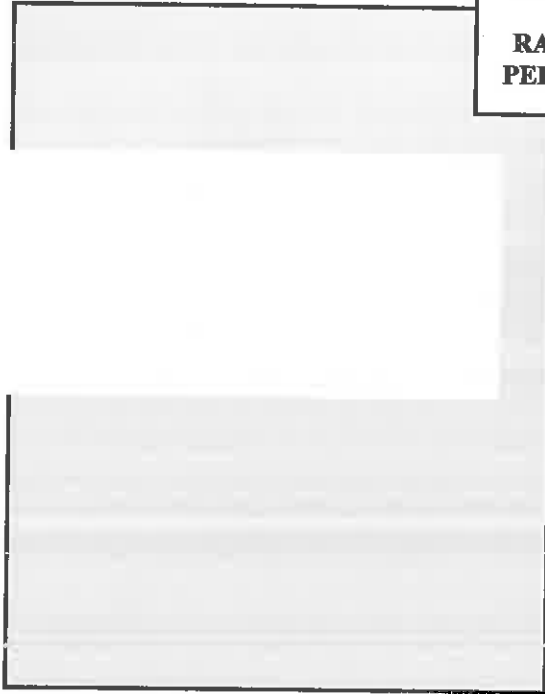
He has long had an interest in amphibians, but his greatest passion is for the conservation of the remaining wild places. During and after his undergraduate education at UC Berkeley he studied forest and amphibian ecology of Siberia and the Russian Far East for four years. He is always happy to talk about his experiences with salamanders, frogs, toads, snakes, leopards, tigers, bears, ginseng, and the crystal clear waters of Lake Baikal in Siberia.

Come Monday 7pm January 25th to the Goose Valley US Forest Station 1634 Black Canyon Road in Ramona. Another free presentation of the Iron Mountain Conservancy Tracking Team.

Newsletter Of The Iron Mountain Conservancy

P.O. Box 2342
Ramona, CA 92065

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Iron Mountain Conservancy

Iron Mountain Conservancy Membership Form

I want to save important natural resources in the Ramona area through my annual membership in the Iron Mountain Conservancy.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip _____

Phone _____

- Student \$15.00
- Senior \$15.00
- Individual \$25.00
- Family \$35.00
- Donation to the Eagle Fund

788-WILD
Contact Janine Moniot
IMC is a 501©(3) nonprofit corporation.
Your contribution is tax-deductible

Mail To:
Iron Mountain Conservancy
P.O. Box 2342
Ramona, CA 92065

Thank You.