

IN THE SCOPE

The Iron Mountain Conservancy

Publisher: Carin Bunney
Editor: Lois Warburton

Letter from the President

By Janine Moniot aka "Change"

Contemplating the unique characteristics of the time between the last newsletter and this one has filled me with a soothing, subtle sensation of surprise. I am



filled with that gentle awe of growth one feels when a child takes its first step, the joy that alters and permeates our world as we witness them climb their first stair, speak their first word, or formulate their first algebraic equation. It is a long path of heartfelt empathy for each risk they take, each success and each "failure," and so it is with IMC and me.

As what IMC is changes, I begin to anticipate the "realization" of what seemed like an almost implausible but compelling goal that motivated the starting of this group. When Dianne Jacobs came out to the Boulder Oaks property in February and met with representatives from the community and county staff, it became even more credible. Various service groups were represented there in support of that acquisition: Holly Oaks Home Owners Association, Ramona Trails, California Native Plant Society, and (a special thanks to) the Mussey Grade Road Alliance. It was like having your friends watch a graduation ceremony or maybe more like your wedding--where you make a commitment to cherish and love each other. Please send your own acknowledgement of your commitment to this land by writing a letter of support. These love letters can be very short and still be effective in convincing the decision-makers to fund purchasing this

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Land Acquisition

By Land Acquisition Chairperson: Kit Kesinger

We are happy to report new successes in land acquisition. In November 1999, IMC applied for a California Transportation Commission (Cal Trans) grant to preserve habitat on Iron Mountain Ridge in the Highway 67 corridor. This April, IMC's application was forwarded to Cal Trans with a recommendation for approval. The committee reviewing the grant applications also gave a very high ranking to IMC's request, which gives us a good chance of receiving the grant. If approved, the \$250,000 grant will be IMC's first grant that can be used for land acquisition. We will be watching for Cal Trans' final decision in July.

This success points out how much we can achieve with grant funding. Most of us don't have the opportunity to contribute \$250,000 to preserve the beautiful lands of Ramona, but anyone can help create a grant proposal that will provide many thousands of dollars for conservation. IMC is planning to apply for another Cal Trans grant again this year. In addition, there are dozens of grant programs that we haven't had the time to apply for. IMC can use your help to create those grant proposals.

Some of the programs include:

- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has grants for preserving habitat lands, protecting watershed, and providing for native plants and animals.
- The California Wildlife Conservation Board has grant funds for wildlife conservation.
- Many government agencies, private organizations, and foundations have

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Dates To Remember

May 10-14	Julian Wildflower Show	June 17	Raptor Slide Show
3rd Monday	Board Meeting	June 19	Rubio's Night
May 28	Geological Trip	June 25	Tracking Event
June 2	Straw Bale Slide Show	July 14	Mule Deer Talk
June 3-4	Herb Festival	July 15	Tracking Training



THE DAY MY GRANDFATHER MET GOD

By Samuel Brown
Kumeyaay Indian Story Teller

I had two Grandfathers. One was named Sam, and the other was named Richard. My two sons have the same names. From time to time, my Grandfather would tell about his past. I remember him telling this to my Mother.

My Grandfather Richard had a very rough time when he was young. The same was true for many rural families in San Diego County early last century. All he could remember, when he was a youth, was cutting wood. His family cut wood and then went into town to sell it. Every morning he woke up before sunrise and went with his Father to cut wood. They returned in the evening after it was dark and began again the next day. One day, the family went into town to sell the wood. The next morning my Grandpa thought he was going to be able to sleep in because of the sale. Again his father woke him up before dawn. He had to go cut wood.

When he turned 15, his father told him he was too old to stay with the family and had to leave. His father took him to nearest large town of El Cajon and left him. My Grandfather did not know what to do as he watched the family wagon fade into the distance. He had just turned 15 and was illiterate. He didn't go to school because he had to cut wood. He had 15 cents in his pocket and did not know where he would sleep or how he could survive. He didn't know what to do so he began to walk down the road.

As he walked down the dusty road, a team of horses and a wagon pulled up beside him. The driver said, "Are you looking for work?" My Grandfather ended up with a place to stay and a job, and he bought some crackers and cheese to last him until payday. (Fifteen cents went further then.)

"That's the Ami-a-ha," he would say to my Mother. (Ami-a-ha is our word for God. It literally means the "High Waters.") "And now I am here Yeah-Ta-Nuk," he would say. (As with many phrases and thoughts, there is no English word for Yeah-Ta-Nuk. It means something like your heart, mind, spirit, and soul are at peace.)

From time to time, my Grandfather would tell the story. I remember thinking about my own birthdays and how happy I was when I woke up because I would be getting presents. I wondered what he was expecting for his birthday? Then there are the youths today with their video games and computers.

I am hoping that, by telling this story, we don't forget how it was. Once in awhile, someone will ask me, "What is the Indian God?" I tell them this story of the day my Grandfather met God.

Copied with permission.

If you want to read more of Sam Brown's stories go to <http://www.kumeyaay.org>

In the past 7 years, *Green Restaurants* have saved the following just by recycling and buying recycled products:

- 44,625 Trees from being logged
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- 10.5 Million kwh of energy
- 18.2 Million gallons of water
- 157,500 Pounds of air pollution
- 7,875 Cubic yards of landfill space left open



IMC T-Shirt

Look good and advertise IMC. Buy these beautiful colored T-shirts with our local majestic **Golden Eagles** tending their babies

Only \$15.00

Call (760) 788 - WILD

Available in small, medium, large and extra large.

Warning !!

**Powerful Mind-Control Technique
used on you throughout the IMC newsletter!
The mission--support letters for
Iron Mountain Ridge Preserve**

Implanted in many of this newsletter's articles is the reminder that your letter is needed to get this property preserved and what large preserves mean to wildlife-hope. Just when you start to think you can let it slide, into your subconscious enters another reminder--a hypnotic suggestion even.

When you see the Iron Mountain Preserve (maybe while waiting for the light at 67 and Poway Road), the beauty of the surrounding, still wild, lands will prompt this message to resurface, and you will feel compelled to see your letter drop in the mailbox to help them stay wild. Call it--the call of the wild. Read with care (especially if you are frightened of mind control) and write with care, too. Short and sweet, long and thoughtful, group or individual--all letters are needed. IMC would love to be cc'd, but if that extra effort is just too much, just send the letters (your whole family, whole neighborhood can write) to Susan Hector. Then you will be able to say in the future that land was preserved by community support. "Iron Mountain Ridge Preserve--it happened because of me" will be a strong truth inside you.



Susan Hector's address is:
Susan Hector PhD
Parks and Recreation
5201 Ruffin Rd, Ste P
San Diego CA 92123
NELIZAPK@co.san-diego.ca.us

"WILD THING"

**IMC FUNDRAISER NIGHT
AT THE RAMONA
RUBIO'S RESTAURANT
MONDAY JUNE 19TH
4-8 P.M.**

Rubio's is donating 25% of the pre-tax sales generated from the evening to IMC.

Spread the word!

Let everyone know about this special fundraising event.

Come see the "WILD THING" in person.

Slide Show on Strawbale Building U.S. Forest Service Station Friday June 2, 7:00 p.m.



Picture donated by Mark Tighe

Ramona is home to the person who built the first straw-bale building in the county, and he (Mark Tighe) is giving a how-to and what-for presentation on them for the IMC. The rest of this article is written by him.

After being laughed at many times over and cajoled about the three little pigs and the wolf that blew the house down (one of the most common metaphors people have for straw-bale houses), I built a small guest house in the Borrego desert two years ago. Thus began my sordid affair with the straw house. It was the first permitted straw structure in the county and drew some attention.

For me, as a builder who had built many interesting, yet still conventional structures over the past 30 years or so, straw was a fresh and (to me) new medium that exuded southwestern/pueblo capabilities, my favorite architectural style. Actually, straw buildings have been around for some time. Since the innovation of baling machinery, pioneers in the Midwest, faced with acute shortage of money and lumber, began using straw, which was then considered waste material, to build homes. They also used bales of meadow hay. Of these first straw-bale houses built in America, some are still standing today!

After I built the place in the desert, a good friend here in Ramona approached me about building a straw-bale wine-tasting room for his newly opened winery. You are invited to see step-by-step slides and photos of this construction, ask questions, and talk to the man who designs and builds these houses with the help of many other interested and enthusiastic people who are looking for a new way to build by using environmentally conscious alternatives.

**Slideshow
Raptors of Ramona
High-Flying Power
Animals**

**Saturday, June 17th. 7:00 p.m.
Ramona Woman's Club
524 Main St
Ramona, CA.**

These top predators are equipped with specialized abilities that have made them symbols of inspiration for man, and especially for the United States of America. Ramonans are the local stewards of the grasslands, a critical flyway for migratory raptors on their long travels. Pete Bloom, ornithologist/raptor expert, is a steward of raptor research and advocacy and has 30 years research experience. He is intimately aware of the habitat needs that IMC is focusing on. He operates the Center for Lands Management. As a research biologist with the prestigious Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, he has had the opportunity to develop slideshows that are known to impress even the most sophisticated raptor lovers. His teaching abilities have been honed as a professor at Saddleback Community College.

This event is important for the **Great Grassland Connection**--a collaboration of organizations working toward acquisition in the Ramona Grassland. IMC is grateful to **The California Trails and Greenways Foundation** for their grant to help with this effort. Of course, a special thank you is in order to Pete Bloom for traveling down and doing this presentation free of charge--what a gift! Please join us.



Picture donated by Kristin Osborn

**IMC's 7th Annual
Kids' Raptor Watch Goes For The Gold**

Golden Eagles (three different adults and one juvenile) were sighted in flight and volunteers worth their weight in gold combined to make this raptor watch a golden moment.

Nancy Conney of Skyhunters Raptor Education came through by bringing a captive Golden Eagle (as well as several other birds--owls, hawks, etc.) to familiarize the public with the birds that reside and hunt in our grasslands. Her ability to bring peace into the lives of the traumatized birds, especially owls (known for their hypersensitivity), was brought to our attention by Bill Haas. If we had not been told that owls are hyper-vigilant, we would have missed some of the magic we were witnessing. It is a phenomenon for owls to quietly sit for their friend, Nancy, but to perch tranquilly on Bill's unknown hand (even with cars going by and people moving about) is a strong statement of the trust that kindness can build.

Have you ever seen an owl's ear or a hole (that belongs there) in a bird's tongue? That hole in the tongue is just one of several reasons that birds found in jeopardy should go immediately to experienced rehabilitators. Food can easily go to the wrong anatomical place. Attendees got helpful pointers of things to do when an injured bird is found. One gentle reminder was that because birds are not mammals, milk is unacceptable food for them. And a suggestion was made to just be quiet, so the bird doesn't lose its fear of (or the young doesn't bond to) humans. All this and more were in the golden words of wisdom Nancy shared.

Ornithologist Bill Haas helped to identify birds, including the raptors, and explained their natural history. His knowledge of owls allowed him to mimic their calls, explain their behaviors, and demonstrate some of the techniques and strategies used in calling owls for research. So if you hear Who...Who...Who, look around for a man about six feet tall--just kidding. One member of the audience commented that Bill gave a very intelligent presentation. A unique blend of anecdotal information (that is available only from people like Bill with lots of experience), scientific observations and facts added the golden touch of knowledge to this experience.

Nancy has agreed to coordinate IMC's ongoing Raptor Watches. She invited falconers to come to this event. Two falconers arrived early in the morning to expose participants to their art. Tom Lucky and Mike Faircloths will continue to support grassland preservation and raptor education through their ongoing involvement with IMC's Raptor Watch.

When Clifford Oliver could not attend to give photo tips, he found a replacement--Richard Hermann. Richard is a professional nature photographer who not only helped at the IMC Raptor Watch but also donated three beautiful posters to IMC. Clifford Oliver is with the San Diego Field Ornithology Society and is enthusiastic about being the photographic expert for future IMC Raptor Watches.

If you love raptors, love children, and would like to help publicize, create educational posters and interactive displays, expand support, or attend these Raptor Watch events to sell T-shirts, pass out newsletters, and get to know your neighbors, contact the Iron Mountain Conservancy at 760-788-Wild. We are looking for a committee chair.

May 2000

TRACKING TEAM

The Iron Mountain Conservancy

IMC Greets A New Face On Our Tracking Advisory Group

Patterns of movement of animals can only be known through patience. For the last decade, Dr. Shawn Smallwood has been surveying transects across the State of California. He has added much to the current understanding of mammal movement, and he is interested in doing even more. Luckily for us, his statewide track count of mountain lions, black bear, bobcat, coyote, deer, etc., includes the Ramona area. On Black Mountain, north of Ramona, he saw a mountain lion lounging on his transect at 6500-foot elevation last year. IMC's efforts and other regional conservation efforts will be enriched by his historical and current involvement in our area.



He explains that the trouble with a focused, local monitoring effort is that mountain lions operate on a very large spatial scale, so local monitoring doesn't inform you whether the population was destroyed by land conversions or just moved over to another area naturally. In other words, you would need to monitor a considerable distance beyond the boundary of your project area. Fortunately, track counts are affordable across large areas. This is true for mountain lions, as well as other species. How nice it is to have this longer-term regional perspective to augment the local data currently being gathered. The tracking movement is growing around the nation and within this county to expand our knowledge even further. Dr. Smallwood has even developed methods to identify individual mountain lions by measurements of their tracks, sort of like fingerprinting. Using these methods, it is possible to estimate the number of animals in an area using estimators designed for capture-recapture methods. He is looking forward to developing this process for other species in the future.

Dr. Shawn Smallwood (Ph.D. in Ecology from UC Davis) specializes in mammal movement but especially in mountain lions. He is an author (as well as an editorial board member of

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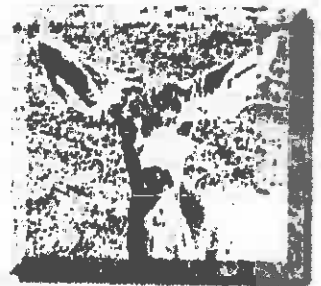
"Elementary, My Deer" Slideshow/Talk aka Mule Deer For Beginners

IMC Tracking Team Presentation
Friday July 14, 7:00 p.m.
U.S. Forest Service Station
1634 Black Canyon Road
Ramona, CA

Their presence, when seen, is often met by a quiet whisper--look there's a deer. Spellbound, the onlookers often find themselves approaching softly, feeling the deer's special magic spell draw them closer. Poof--they're gone--the onlookers inadvertently startled it. The deer may have run away, but it left an indelible imprint. This slide show is a testimony to the deer's beauty, power, and grace. The photos were taken with patience and respect. They reveal our presenter's long-time attraction to deer and the insight gained through his outreach into their lives.

Come explore the deer's unique physiology and see how that guides their behavior and movement. From fawn to antlered stag, our presenter will walk you through their life cycle. He will also take you on a tour of their natural history and introduce you to their natural predators. Learn about: subspecies distribution throughout the state; the genetic origins of the mule deer; physiology and behavior; population status; monitoring and population-estimation techniques; and much, much more.

Deer are one of the largest local mammals, and contribute to our ecosystem in some similar ways as the now locally extinct pronghorn antelopes did. Bighorn sheep are on the endangered species list right now due to habitat fragmentation. The mule deer that prune our understory and provide food for other species need large open spaces, too. (Reminder to write a letter in support of the Boulder Oaks acquisition.)



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TRACKING TEAM

The Iron Mountain Conservancy

San Diego Tracking Team Volunteer Training

Saturday, July 15, 2000

9:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Los Penasquitos Ranch House

Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve

This inclusive, one-day tracker training qualifies volunteers (high-school age and older) to participate in the team's wildlife track and sign surveys conducted quarterly. The purpose of the surveys is to monitor the wildlife of major open-space areas and other critical habitat in San Diego County. The Summer 2000 Survey will be held July 22 through August 8.

Training will include basic track, sign, and habitat recognition, as well as details on survey protocol. Please bring a sack lunch, be prepared to spend much of the day outdoors, and be ready to take notes.

Call 858-484-3219

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IMC Greets A New Face On Our Tracking Advisory Group

the Environmental Management), near completion of a book on mountain lions, and has a long history advocating for them in conservation groups like The Wildlife Society where he serves as chairman of the Conservation Affairs Committee, Western Section. A Fullbright scholar, Shawn is the lead scientist for the National Endangered Species Network and also heads the Institute for Sustainable Development's (ISD) integrated resource management. At ISD, he develops indicators of ecological integrity for large areas, using remotely sensed data, local community involvement (he strongly believes in local participation), and GIS.

Dr. Smallwood teaches at California State University in Sacramento, has published 71 professional publications and has given over 40 public presentations of research results at professional meetings. His expert testimony (meaning someone takes him very seriously) has been retained by too long a list to include here. But a few samples are eye opening. He has had several government agencies and businesses as clients. These clients include U.S.D.A., U.S.F.S., U.S.F.W., Pacific Gas and Electric, and the National Renewable Research Lab.

Welcome Dr. Smallwood!!



Tools for Tracking



Bill Haas (remember him from the tracking station and raptor watch?) offered a mental tool for tracking--compassion. He re-reminded us that scat is sign not only for trackers but for other animals. So if you pick up a sample for later identification, leave a little behind to help avoid animal misunderstandings that could result in physical harm. Bill has offered to review scat, too. Tom Myers, biologist, did a lot of the work for the training setting up a tracking station--a very valuable tool (fortunately easy, too).

The principal tool for the IMC tracking walk was a large garbage bag brought by Kaitlin Meadows. Its use is simple--pick up trash and haul it out. That is what often needs to be done with human sign. T'was a special day at Sutherland Lake.

Mental tracking tools seem to include expecting the unexpected--like bear in Ramona. Bill Ostheimer, the bear biologist is interested in genetically studying this "new" population of bears (seems some introduced bears migrated a far distance and ended up here) and maybe giving another presentation later with his new-found local knowledge. IMC expects to have a human/bear interaction article written by a professional for our next newsletter as a tool for good relations.

An educational tool that IMC would love to add to our tool kit is beautiful plaster-cast tracks that the public loves to fondle. These missing tools create a reason to have a "how to make plaster-cast tracks" workshop or playtime in the mud.

TRACKING TEAM

The Iron Mountain Conservancy

The Mountain Lion and its Fortune-Tellers Predictions and Protection

A quote from a study written by our new advisor, Dr. Shawn Smallwood, and funded by The Defenders of Wildlife in 1998, both alarms and motivates: "Based on the trends found by my track count, I predict that mountain lions will be extinct in Southern California within about 15 years from now. They will be scarce throughout the remainder of California."

How could that be? Hasn't everyone heard of increased mountain-lion sightings and human interactions? Everyone has, even the CA Dept. of Fish and Game, which has a different opinion on the current number of mountain lions. They believe that the mountain-lion population is increasing. Dr. Smallwood and multiple other "mountain-lion biologists" disagree with this Fish and Game opinion. They have warned of the disturbing trends they have found in our declining mountain-lion population. Their opinion is that the methodologies used by the government had some flaws. Controversy exists in all professions. For example: for years the CPR expert advised smacking on the back to dislodge food; now that technique is mentioned only as something not to do. Since so many people are educated to the government's perspective on mountain-lion numbers by handouts, land-use decisions, etc., IMC is opening the floor to the other point of view. Here are some of Dr. Smallwood's thoughts on the matter.

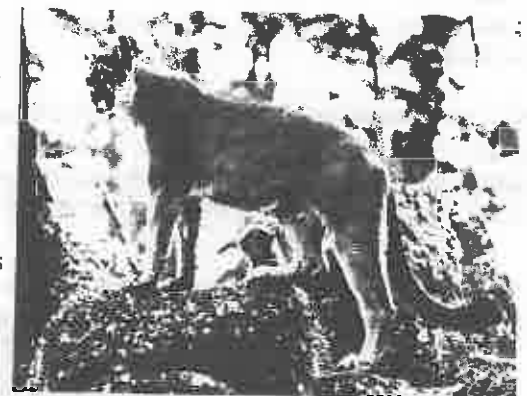
Dr. Smallwood states: "They (California Department of Fish and Game) have also inappropriately extrapolated density estimates from intensive study sites to the larger regions around the study sites, thus estimating much greater abundance of mountain lions in California than estimates derived from more appropriate, large-scale sampling designs."

A local "human" example of that type of extrapolation would be to first take a count of how many people live in a square mile of L.A. Next, you would multiply that number of people by how many square miles are in Southern California. There appears to be some room for error inherent in that methodology.

Many mountain-lion biologists disagree with CDFG's utilizing reports of human/lion interaction to help arrive at their estimate of mountain-lion numbers. Dr. Smallwood and others are concerned that human encroachment (including ranchettes on prime deer land) is the reason for the increasing number of these animal/people interactions and sightings. They feel these concerns have been prematurely dismissed by the CA Dept. of Fish and Game.

There is no doubt that Southern California is experiencing rapid, severe habitat loss and that mountain lions need large areas for their "home range." Mule deer, which are an important if not essential source of food for mountain lions, are declining in numbers. As far as I know, no one contests those three facts. Mountain lions are being killed for hunting the endangered bighorn sheep, although it is true that the largest factor in putting the sheep on the endangered species list is habitat loss caused by humans. The recovery plan for bighorn includes mountain-lion destruction, not reclamation of land lost to golf courses or homes.

In this controversy over mountain-lion numbers, maybe one of the perspectives is more right than the other. It is hard to believe that with all the changes in the environs there has been no impact on mountain-lion numbers. Mountain lions do not thrive in cities. I find myself wondering if it is possible they are having more babies, more frequently, in an attempt to restore their numbers, as other animals, including humans, do. I have heard so many stories of mama mountain lions and their juvenile cubs destroyed while hunting for easy prey like domestic animals. That scenario's being played out repetitively would result in fewer numbers surviving to adulthood. There would be fewer lions to range large distances--possibly this is what is reflected in the downward trend of the track count. The pressure to feed the juveniles would also create an increase in the number of interactions and their frequent consequences--mountain-lion fatalities.



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TRACKING TEAM

The Iron Mountain Conservancy

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The Mountain Lion and its Fortune-Tellers Predictions and Protection

A question that was raised for me while reading Dr. Smallwood's report is how can community tracking teams prevent having their data used to support the wrong premise. If CDFG uses our tracking data to validate their current position and if that logic is wrong, will our data help contribute to their local extinction?

Unfortunately, the mountain-lion question raised is not theoretical--nor is it limited to mountain lions or Southern California. The research of another IMC advisor, Dr. Kevin Crooks, in San Diego demonstrates that one of the next species to possibly be severely impacted/possibly extirpated from many areas in San Diego County due to habitat loss is the bobcat. Dr. Smallwood has been encouraged by many to do his statewide tracking studies more frequently than before to document this extinction process.

If Dr. Smallwood and others are proven right, then having this understanding of the extinction process in local areas may help initiate an earlier, more dynamic inter-ventive response in the extinction process elsewhere from people who are in positions to make land-use decisions. If they are wrong, we will gain more understanding of our local wildlife through these types of efforts. IMC decided that this would be an endeavor to support because it is a win-win situation. If you are interested in helping to fund Dr. Smallwood's research, IMC is accepting donations for that effort.

As Dr. Smallwood said, such counts are affordable. Approximately \$4,000 is all he would need for expenses to study Southern California and \$10,000 would fund the entire state.

For now, let's do the obvious and prevent habitat loss. Choose to buy smaller homes, build with alternative materials (that prevents habitat loss where the materials come from and in the landfills that take their refuse), utilize green energy, encourage public transportation, consume less, refrain from feeding wildlife in your backyard (to avoid negative interactions), grow native, and advocate for good land-use policies and decisions.

You can also continue to participate in IMC's land-acquisition efforts and help them be successful. Please do take the time to write a letter of support for the Boulder Oaks acquisition (remember IMC's motto and Think Big when it comes to habitat preservation) and encourage others to join and participate in our organization.



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"Elementary, My Deer" Slideshow/Talk

Rick Botta has been conducting deer studies in Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. His work, which includes determining composition counts (the ratio of bucks-to-does and fawns-to-does), is intended to monitor the Penasquitos Canyon deer population over time and identify the effects of habitat fragmentation caused by increased urbanization around the Preserve.

An original member of the Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Tracking Team since the mid-nineties, his attraction and commitment to deer has propelled him to intensify the study of the deer in the Preserve. In July 1997, he began his deer study with guidance from the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). Rick has had the opportunity to assist DFG in radio collaring and telemetry monitoring of the San Diego County deer population. He plans to continue his efforts in other urban open-space parks.

When I witnessed a slide show by Rick years ago, the first words out of my mouth was, "Can IMC get a copy of these slides?" These slides connect the animals' movements with the often bewildering deer tracks one finds. Have you ever wondered how can they do the movements that would make those tracks? We called those slides the deer-ballet pictures. Rick assures me that this slide show includes even more information. So if you have been fortunate enough to see it before, you know the new release will be great. Remember to bring a friend.



TRACKING TEAM

The Iron Mountain Conservancy

Mt. Woodson Wildlife Trackers

presents

A Wildlife Tracking Event



**Fund for Animals
18740 Highland Valley Road,
Ramona**

**Sunday, June 25
9:00 a.m. to noon**

Come one, come all, to this informative, fun-filled morning of tracking activities for the whole family.

Hear Chuck Traisi, manager of the Fund for Animals, talk about our local wildlife.

See displays and pick up literature on tracking.

Participate in track identification training.

Talk to experienced trackers and hear their tales.

You might decide to become a tracker.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Bats Are Back !!!

By Bat Committee Chairperson: Carin Bunney

Now that the weather has warmed up, IMC's bat project is starting up again. What a change a week of good weather will do. One week nobody had bats, and a week later we have bats everywhere.

Doug Allen, the bat biologist consultant for IMC, and Carin Bunney are surveying for bats at a camp in Julian. We currently have about 20 bat boxes up in the Ramona Country Estates, Santa Isabella and Julian areas.

I want to thank Jesse Price (now an Eagle Scout) and his fellow team mates, for working with us. Also to cub scout den 5 of pack 678 for building us the recent batch of bat boxes, and all the volunteers that have built and painted bat boxes for IMC.

If you have bats and you would like to help in our research project give IMC a call and we will set up a time to survey your property. We suggest a \$35.00 donation for a bat box and survey. This is a great gift to give to someone.



ROADKILL DATASHEET

Iron Mountain Conservancy Tracking Team

Thank you for your help with roadkill data. This information helps us identify potential wildlife corridors.

If you are unsure of the species, write "unknown" under the species heading. Also note if the kill appears to be fresh. Please provide as accurate a description of the location as possible. Write any other information you feel would be useful to us.

Mail forms to: IMC, c/o Mardy Haase, P.O. Box 2342, Ramona CA 92065. You may e-mail any roadkill information to Iron Mountain at irnmtn@aol.com.

Date	Species	Description of Location

Waterless Water Monitoring? What Happened to IMC's Stream Team?

It's true, there is no water in the Santa Maria Creek this year for the Stream Team to monitor. Darn! But they are going to survey 40 different stream courses countywide and do about 120 samples. Some of those "creeks" are in the Ramona area--like the Hatfield Creek. If you are interested in rapid bio-assessment of creeks--or if you just like playing with bugs, call Dave Gibson, watershed biologist, at his home. (It's ok--really.) 619-460-7909.



Interns Wanted

Make the Difference of a Lifetime

Consulting
Research
Education
Community Outreach

Call the Green Restaurant Association

619-BEE_GOOD
www.dinegreen.com



The Fourth Annual Herb Festival at Quail Botanical Gardens June 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Quail Botanical Gardens

ENCINITAS—Come get the latest and greatest information on herbs from experts at the fourth annual Herb Festival held at Quail Botanical Gardens.

Speakers include Steve Schechter, N.D., H.H.P., director of the Natural Healing Institute, Inc. located in Encinitas. He has authored the best-selling book, *Fighting Radiation & Chemical Pollutants with Foods, Herbs, & Vitamins*. Also, Tricia Acheatel, an herbal educator and clinician, will lecture. Acheatel weaves a texture of modern research, folklore, ritual, poetry and humor into her presentations. Amanda McQuade Crawford will also be a featured speaker. Crawford practices as an herbalist in Ojai, California and has studied and taught throughout the United States, Europe, Russia, China, and the Amazon. She is the author of the *Herbal Menopause Book and Herbal Remedies for Women*. Another speaker will be John Finch, who has studied herbs for 20 years and is the co-director of the Self-Heal School of Herbal Studies and Healing. He also writes a monthly column for *Herb Talk for Living Better* magazine.

A variety of herb-related items, such as soaps, cookbooks and crafts will be available for sale at the Herb Festival as well as refreshments. Food samples, herb walks through the Gardens and tours of the entire Gardens will also be available.

The Herb Festival is free with admission to Quail Botanical Gardens, a non-profit organization. Admission prices are: \$5 for adults; \$4 for seniors; \$2 for children age 5-12; children under 5 are free. Quail Botanical Gardens is located at 230 Quail Gardens Drive in Encinitas. Call (760) 436-3036 for a schedule of events.

Geologic Field Trip into the Salton Trough

Sunday May 28
8:30 a.m.

Meet at the Naked Bean

You are invited to go on a geologic field trip to the Salton Trough. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and hiking boots for this quick trek across the desert. Your car should be in good mechanical condition, as we will be covering quite a few miles. The trip is expected to last most of the day.

Highlights of the trip include stops at the Elsinore strike-slip fault, a detachment fault at Yaqui Ridge, views of the Peninsular Ranges, and recent sediments deposited in a basin during rifting and then uplifted at Split Mountain Gorge. If time permits, we will also visit the Fonts Point overlook of the Borrego badlands and the ancient shoreline of Lake Cahuilla.

This should be a fun trip for all, and a great chance to see some of the diverse rocks that make up the geology of San Diego County. The trip will be lead by Jim Newman, a geologist and graduate student at SDSU.



Grasslands Revegetation Project

by Grassland Coordinator: Kristin Osborn

The IMC Grasslands Revegetation project will be having its "kick-off" meeting on Sunday, May 21, at 9 a.m. We are meeting at *The Wilds* in Santa Ysabel, the owner Bob Phillips says he'll have the coffee on (many thanks, Bob)! Any level of support for this effort is appreciated (i.e., email or phone consultations, labor, planning); if it is of interest and concern to you (and we haven't had a chance to talk), please call (760) 787-0282.



CEANOTHUS (Wild Lilac)

by Connie Newgard

I am writing this little information not as a botanist, but as a farmer, gardener, crafter, and artist. Wild lilacs bloom this time of year on evergreen bushes. There are many different types, but generally their care is the same: plant in the fall after the last heat spell and let the fall and winter rains nourish the plants until the summer, about May or June, when they go into their dormant season. Then just water them once or twice a month. So their care is low water and low maintenance.

These plants bloom in different hues of blues, not unlike our local coastal mountains. Is this on purpose? (What about the white ones?) Two of my favorite varieties are "Concha" and "Ray Hartman." The flowers look great in wildflower arrangements with sticky monkey flower and California poppy. I can't wait to see how they look against Matilija poppies. This plant is food for various native bugs, which I am sure are food for various birds. My yard has attracted so many new kinds of birds this year, and I wonder if it's because I am attracting more different kinds of bugs other than the ones my horses attract? The flowers can go into homemade soaps. I have tried drying them, which doesn't work too well, because they turn brown and fall apart. They are most beautiful on a drizzling spring day in the front yard next to an oak tree as their blue heads droop gracefully, passing down raindrops to the emerald green grass. You can see a number at Dos Picos Park. You can buy them to put on your property at "The Wilds" in Santa Ysabel and "The Tree of Life" nursery in San Juan Capistrano off Highway 74.

Add on by J. Moniot. Connie Newgard is committed to helping private property owners be good stewards of the natural resources on the lands they own. She has a beautiful native plants garden on her land in the Ramona Country Estates. She extends an invitation to anyone who would like to see and learn from it. She is actively involved in outreach-one program is with the Ramona Lutheran School exposing the school to the benefits of worms, native gardening and more. You can reach her at 788-1619

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



Go Wild for Wildflowers
at the Julian Wildflower Show
(Say that fast 10 times!)

For over 60 years, this awesome event has been occurring. I always knew wildflowers were addictive. Volunteers search the highground, up to about 6,000 feet, and the low ground, all the way to the desert, covering approximately a 15-air-mile radius. Can you imagine traversing such beautiful lands and coming back with live treasure! From **May 10 through May 14**, you can examine the finds. Hours are Wednesday and Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Julian Town Hall. Stop off at "*The Wilds*," a store that sells native plants and other important things--like IMC T-shirts. It's across the street from Dudley's bakery in Santa Ysabel. Then you can start your own native live bouquet for the pollinators, birds, and soil.

(Continued from page 1)

Land Acquisition

grant funds that can be used to create specialized preserves, like wetlands and habitat for migratory birds. Ramona has critical habitat that is suitable for protection under these programs. IMC can apply the funding to buy land or conservation easements. The reason government agencies and foundations offer these grants to local groups like IMC is that the local community is often more familiar with natural resources and conservation needs in its area. In addition, through community outreach, local groups often know about land owners who are willing to sell or lands that are particularly threatened by development. For example, many people in Ramona knew that Boulder Oaks Ranch was a single property that connected San Vicente Reservoir with Iron Mountain Preserve, that the owners were interested in selling the property for conservation, and that the property is both beautiful and valuable as habitat. Both San Diego County and California Fish and Game have endorsed an acquisition plan for Boulder Oaks, based on the information that was provided by IMC and members of the community, and are committing funds to purchase the property.

If you have ever thought that you would like to contribute to preserving land in your community but can't afford to make a cash contribution, by helping to create grant proposals you can make a contribution that really makes a difference. The work is not all writing; you could gather information, make phone calls, do typing or other clerical work, use your skills with computers, take photos and do artistic layouts, or work with biologists, archeologists, historians and other professionals. There are tasks for everyone.

If you would like to help, send an e-mail to irnmtn@aol.com or call 760-788-WILD.

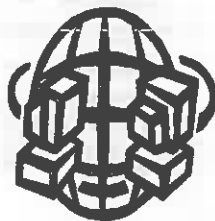


IMC Web Site

Our web site is at
<http://www.enviroweb.org/irnmt/index.html>

In the near future we will be using our domain name ironmnt.org.

Send your feedback and suggestions to
cbunney@adnc.com.



(Continued from page 1)

Letter from the President

beautiful piece of the natural world.

Iron Mountain Conservancy continues to build connections with groups that have goals in common with us. In just this last quarter alone, we have benefited by their willingness to do the equivalent of neighborhood barn-raising, except now they are helping us with a "land raising." All are important--from the student who is helping to get our webpage more together (IMC's been asked to have linkages with the City of Ramona Website and Ramona Trails.) to the City of Poway and San Diego County Parks, who have joined together with IMC to secure a transportation mitigation grant that looks very promising. (Check out the land-acquisition article.)

And then there is Ingrid Tighe, who is an active member of Ramona Trails and Backcountry Horsemen. We have been exploring ways in which IMC/Ramona might benefit from her abilities as a real-estate broker. The Schwaesdall Winery in Ramona has generously offered their wine-tasting room (a straw-bale building) for our future art show/silent auction. Packard Car Club hosted IMC's slideshow given by Carin at their meeting. Kit was invited to the Mt. Woodsen homeowners group. IMC board met with The Nature Conservancy to look at the Ramona area. The Land Trust Alliance awarded IMC's legal advisor, Attorney Craig Sherman, a scholarship to attend a dynamic educational seminar on Conservation Easements in May. IMC had three attendees at the Pacific Land Trust Conference in Santa Cruz full of short educational workshops and networking opportunities. Dr. Shawn Smallwood committed to being an IMC tracking-team advisor. All this just makes me smile.

Thank you for making this POSSIBLE!



Your E-Mail Address Is Wanted

IMC would like to have your e-mail address on the members list. If you have e-mail, please send us a message at : savewilds@aol.com. Include your name in the message, so we know who the e-mail address belongs to.

The members list is used to mail out newsletters and contact IMC members about important events. For example, before the IMC pot-lucks, presentations and walks, volunteers have been calling to remind IMC members about those events. It will be much easier to contact you by e-mail than by telephone. As Ramona's leading conservation group, we recognize how important it is to conserve our volunteers' time. So, thank you for making it easier to keep in touch with you.



RAMONA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

IMC is now a member of the Ramona Chamber of Commerce. This means that IMC members can attend all Chamber of Commerce functions. The functions are regularly announced in the Ramona Sentinel.

The United Nations and the Green Consumer Union Team Up

Right now, in over 20 countries, a global campaign sponsored by UNEP to shift youth consumption pattern is underway. In the US, the campaign will be taking shape in early May, launching a nation wide effort to bring young people (ages 16-25) together in workshops, discussions, and monthly meetings around the everyday impact our lives make on the earth. Workshops will include a survey, consumer activism, invisible theater, creating simplicity circles, videos, and interactive exercises on corporate consumer culture.

We are looking for workshop facilitators and survey distributors. Please email youthconsumption@hotmail.com for more information.

FOR INJURED OR ORPHANED WILDLIFE

The Fund For Animals Wildlife Rehabilitation Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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

18740 Highland Valley Road
Ramona, Ca, 92065
Phone: (760) 789-2324



THANKS ...

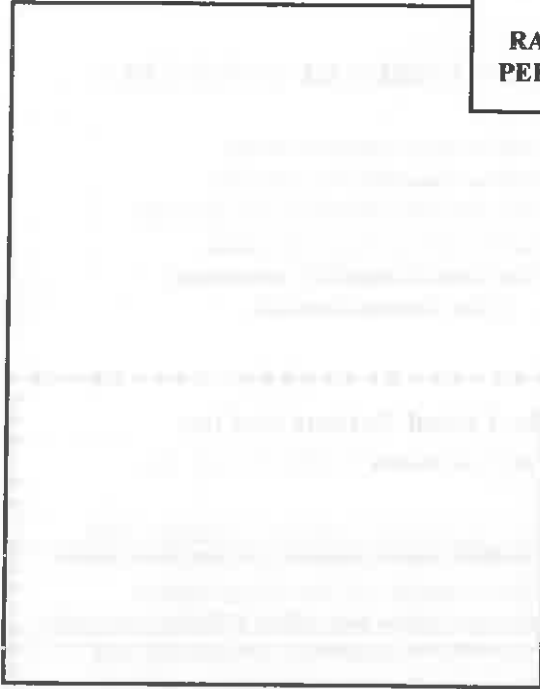
- to the Barona Indian Reservation for the "exclusive" tour of their Cultural Center and Museum;
- to the Ramona Sentinel, the Ramona High School, and the Vernal Pool Society for a wonderful, positive Fairy-Princess event on behalf of this unique habitat;
- for the Ramona Sentinel's coverage of the Boulder Oaks "showing" event and for all the letters you will be writing in support of that acquisition;
- to the USFS for their ongoing support of our tracking team and to the wonderful presenters;
- to the IMC volunteer telephone callers, Mr. Mumford, Verna Silvia, Joan Wayman and our backup caller, Kristin Osborn, and to Ida Kazentein for doing such a good job in the past;
- to Vivian Osborne for posting IMC event fliers;
- to Kristin Osborn for monitoring IMC incoming phone calls and for coordinating the revegetation efforts;
- to The Wilds for hosting our revegetation meetings;
- to Gail Cole for tracking incoming mail, for her work as treasurer, and for her willingness to look at fundraising opportunities;
- to Carin Bunney for the newsletter, board input, and high-energy availability;
- to Kit Kesinger for his valuable work as land-acquisition chair;
- to Cub Scout Den 5 of Pack 678 for making great-looking bat boxes;
- to our mailing committee and Lois Warburton for editing most of the newsletter
- to all those working on our bat research project;
- to all the chairs and advisors of our committees;
- to the Land Trust Alliance for sponsoring Craig Sherman;
- to all of you who have recently joined or renewed your membership



The Iron Mountain Conservancy

P.O. Box 2342
Ramona, CA 92065

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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.

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

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State, Zip _____
Phone _____

788-WILD
IMC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation
Your contribution is tax-deductible

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

Thank You