

March 2002

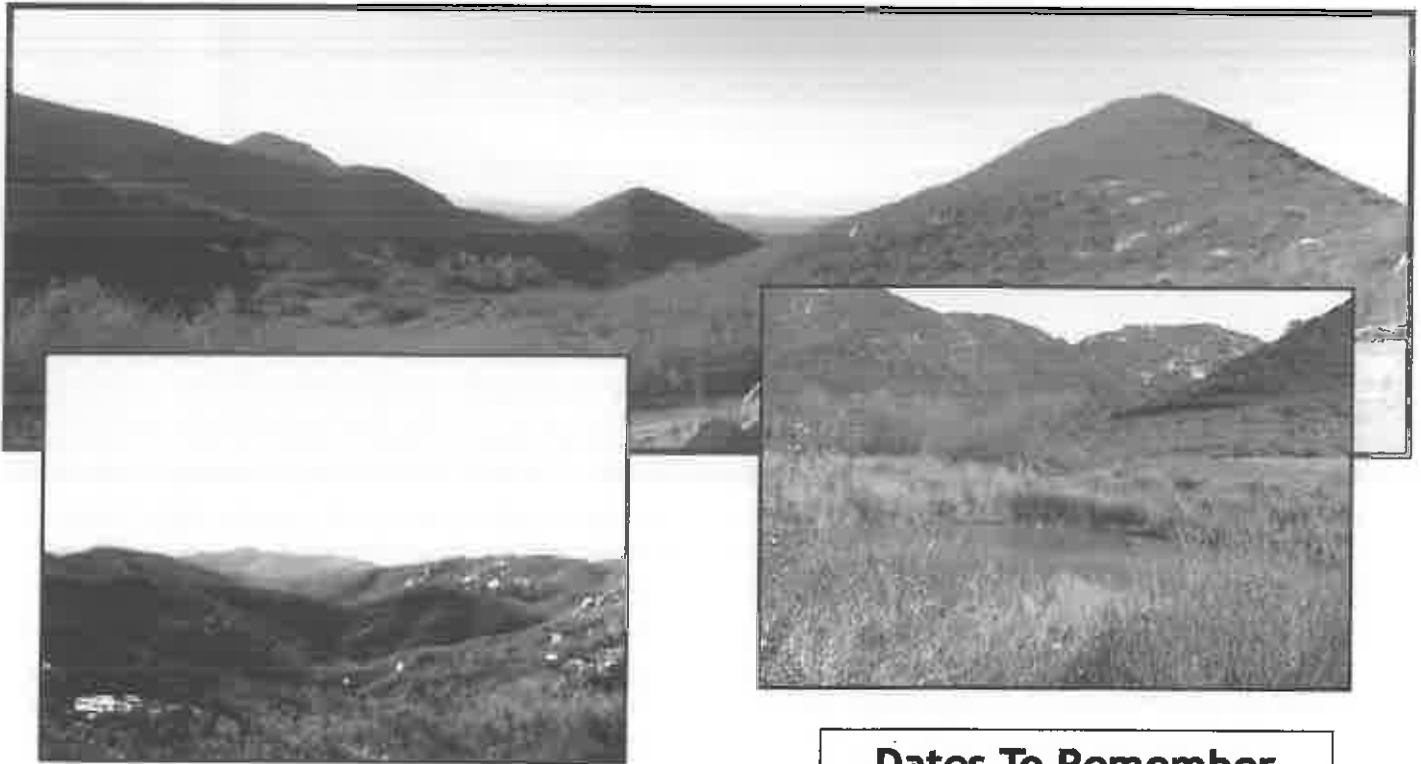


IN THE SCOPE

The Iron Mountain Conservancy

Publisher: Carin Bunney

A panoramic pictorial donated by Joe Cahak, to graphically communicate where the Poway Development property is located within the Iron Mountain Preserve. IMC is working to preserve this land. Houses here would clearly dominate the view and destroy the trail's peaceful entry into nature.



Dates To Remember

March 17	<i>Raptor Watch</i>	April 25-27	<i>Land Trust Alliance</i>
March 23	<i>MHCP Potluck</i>	May 10	<i>Live Birds</i>
April 13	<i>Earth Day</i>	May 11	<i>Bug Day</i>
April 14	<i>Preview Hikes</i>	May 18	<i>Yard Sale</i>
April 17	<i>NAFTA</i>	May 31	<i>Sustainable Living</i>
April 20	<i>Bug Night</i>		

Upcoming IMC Events

USFS Hospitality is Better Than Ever!

IMC would like to apologize for the confusion over some of the programs announced in our last newsletter issue, and for the slight delay in this current issue.

The U.S. Forest Service upgraded its training space, and this construction made the space unavailable for a limited time. The roadrunner, Ecuadorian cloud forest preserve, and the fox presentations are being rescheduled. You will be among the first to know when.

The good news is that there are now restrooms in the same building where IMC's presentations take place! You'll no longer have to walk in the cool night air down the driveway during these presentations. Thanks for your understanding. Stay tuned for the new dates and times.

NAFTA

**The Environment
and the Future of Your Job
Wednesday, April 17, 7 PM
Goose Valley USFS Fire Station**

Mark J. Spalding, a member of the faculty at UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies, will be speaking on issues surrounding NAFTA.

Spalding teaches international environmental policy and law courses and acts as the faculty advisor and editor for the *Journal of Environment & Development* at UCSD. His research interests relate to trade and the environment, conservation, protected areas and ecotourism. He recently coordinated a multinational effort to save Laguna San Ignacio in Baja California Sur, the last pristine birthing grounds of the Pacific Gray Whales.

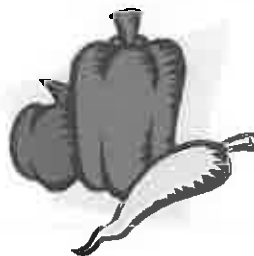
Through the end of the Clinton Administration, he was a member of a Presidential and congressional advisory committee on U.S.-Mexico environmental relations, the Good Neighbor Environmental Board. He is Chair Emeritus of the National Board of Directors of the Surfrider Foundation.

The talk should be enlightening on the current impact, and future, of your work under NAFTA.

Sustainable Living in the 21st Century

**Friday, May 31, 7 PM
Goose Valley USFS Fire Station
by Robert Farmer**

We live in times of increasing threats to the well being of our health and the balance of nature. Agriculture, which we all depend on, largely shapes our health and our environment. How can we begin to make choices that create positive change for our health and the future of our earth's resources? One way is to participate in a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program with a local farm. Tierra Miguel Foundation CSA is one that serves the Ramona and SD County area.

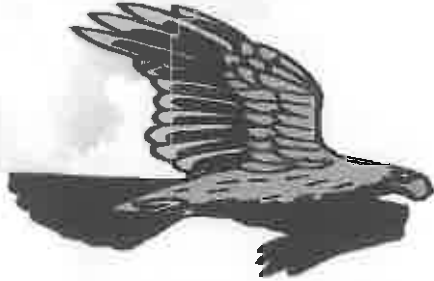


The Tierra Miguel Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, with the purpose of supporting the earth and its people by demonstrating and developing sustainable and chemical-free agriculture. We offer you our beautiful and delicious CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers)—

(Continued on page 10)

Upcoming IMC Events

Raptor Lovers Live Birds and Slideshow Friday, May 10, 7 PM



Enter the world of raptors with Nancy Conney of Skyhunters Education, a long-term supporter of IMC's Raptor Watch.

Birds, slides, and a keen desire to increase awareness of human/raptor interactions will open the door to their world for you. See a Red Tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Western Screech Owl and a Barn Owl. Learn from someone who knows what to do and what not to do when you find a sick, injured or orphaned animal and the laws we have protecting them.

Nancy is determined that her birds benefit from cutting-edge research. Collaboration among rehabilitators spreads advances in diet, cages, medicine, behaviors, risks, outbreaks of common diseases, release procedures (varies by species and locations), teaching tips to enhance educational outreaches, and fundraising to keep the programs going long term (birds need food, shelter and more). All of this information results in significant benefit to the species. One organization dedicated to such collaboration is the California Council of Wildlife Rehabilitation. Nancy and Chuck Traici (from the Fund for Animals in Ramona) both serve as board members.

**Call Nancy Conney at (619) 445-6565
for information about Skyhunters.**

It's Bug Day Saturday, May 11, 8 AM

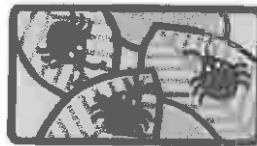


It may not be a national holiday, but it is certainly a celebration! Join IMC on May 11 in Dos Picos Park for the daytime rendezvous with insects and people-that-like-them.

Many bugs are most active in the morning. The park's pond, beautiful oak grove, and chaparral habitat are home to a diverse population of insects.

Bring your butterfly nets, enthusiasm (and coffee if you need it). A bug enthusiast will bring insect books and share a vast understanding of insects along with a wealth of clues on how to identify them.

Don't miss this daytime-bug opportunity and bring your friends. Remember, it's **FREE**.

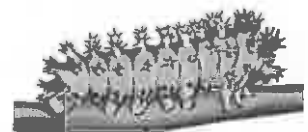


Don't Miss Bug Night Dos Picos Park Saturday, April 20 Around Dusk

Nighttime is the right time to see nocturnal insects. That's why IMC and Dos Picos Park have teamed up to provide "nightlife" to local bug lovers.



The walk will be preceded by an insect light show hosted by an entertaining bug walk leader who can provide useful information to even the most serious studiers of insects. Check out our upcoming daytime show (see related article). These are both **FREE** programs!!



Announcements

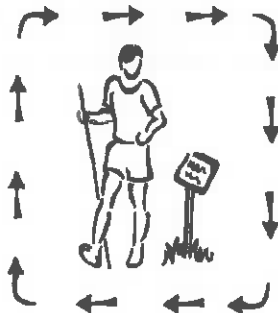
Scenic Preview Hikes Sunday, April 14, 8:30 PM

The Ramona Serena/Barnett Ranch and Boys and Girl Club Property parks won't be open to the public for a while, so take advantage of our "preview" walks to see them.

Join IMC for a walk on the wild side at the Barnett Ranch. This walk will be led by Kay Steward, long-term California Native Plant Society member and landscape architect; Connie Newgard, CNPS and IMC liaison; and a representative of County Parks. This preview will begin at the corner of Devany Road and San Vicente Road (with plenty of parking outside the gates). First stop is the working Barnett Ranch where owner Dan Parker will give a brief history of the Ranch. Next explore the grasslands, oak woodlands, and chaparral within the 750-acre preserve. Plan to be out for about 3 hours. Bring water, a hat, binoculars and a friend. Community--like friendships--takes time to build and is refreshed by doing different things together. Ramona Trails Association (RTA) members and others will be attending the preserve hikes. IMC would be pleased to help facilitate carpooling.

Contact us at

(760) 788-WILD



Coming in the Fall : Boys and Girls Club Walk.

Highlights of this walk include awesome views from the ridge over Foster Canyon, walking down the canyon to San Vicente Reservoir, and visiting the stone/adobe buildings and hand dug well at the historic sheep ranch. The surroundings vary from coastal sage scrub, to oak woodlands, to grasslands. Susan Hector, PhD in archeology will lead the hike.

Come Celebrate Earth Day April 13 at Poway April 21 at Balboa Park



IMC would like to be "visible" at local Earth Day events in Poway and in Balboa Park this April. So come and help out.

If you want to see more land designated as open space on futuristic maps and in real life. Spend a leisurely day meeting potential new IMC supporters and giving support to this needed national awareness movement. This program's viewing pleasure will only be made possible by support from you.

Not only does IMC need your help with Earth Day, but so do the people pulling the whole event together. Call IMC at 760-788-WILD for more information.

IMC T-Shirt



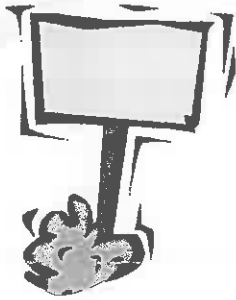
Look good and advertise IMC.
Buy these beautiful colored
T-shirts with our local majestic
Golden Eagles
tending their babies.
Only \$15.00

Available in small, medium, large and extra large.

Call (760) 788 - WILD

Announcements

Round Up Your Goodies
for IMC's Yard Sale
Rodeo Round Up Weekend
Saturday
May 18, 8 AM

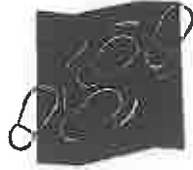


Yes, your donations can help catch the eyes of those traveling through town. IMC has storage space available for all the "stuff" for our yard sale, which will be held near 5th and Main (just east of the Women's Club).

However, volunteers are still needed. Previously, IMC raised \$1,000 through your efforts at a rummage sale. That has really helped keep IMC alive. What a great feeling to drive by Iron Mountain and know that some of the beauty that surrounds it is there because of your help with IMC. Thank you!!

Come out for the yard sale--and together let's make another miracle happen.

Call (760)788-WILD to donate goods or volunteer your time. See you there!!



IMC Annual Raptor Watch Presents
the Dynamic Trio

A Naturalist Outing

Nature Photography Adventure and
A Close Up View of Live Raptors
Sunday, March 17, 8 AM

Meet and carpool from Highland Valley Court

Take a walk through the heart of the Ramona Grasslands with Philip Lamberth, assistant resident at San Diego Audubon's Silver Wood Wildlife Sanctuary on Wildcat Canyon Road. This year's Raptor Watch will be held on the Hardy Ranch, courtesy of Gene Driscol.

Joining Phil on this Raptor Watch Walk is Dr. Cliff Oliver, award winning nature photographer. Cliff has led photo learning outings for the Natural History Museum and is prepared to give bird lovers photography pointers. One of his photos was on the cover of the *Wild Bird Magazine*.

Phil has led nature hikes on native plants, habitats, microhabitats, and bird identification for years. His mother, Sally Lamberth, an acclaimed animal rehabilitator in San Diego County for over 25 years, created a childhood environment rich in a wide variety of animal experiences for Phil.

The challenge as Phil sees it is to reach the people you need to reach--the ones who would be unlikely to attend conservation events but are important decision-makers. He is pursuing a degree as an environmental biologist to help provide crucial facts for these folks when they do have a chance to listen. Phil is actively reaching out to the most receptive people to nature's wonder--your children.

Children who attend this event will be given a free IMC coloring book, featuring raptors and other creatures. This outreach to inspire the next generation's wise adults can include a visit to the nearby Fund For Animals, a local wildlife rehab center that houses several raptors.



IMC Introduces Two New Board Members

Suzanne Michel became involved with IMC when she agreed to do a presentation on the Santa Maria Creek Greenway and Parkway Preserve last October.

Nancy Conney of Skyhunters suggested IMC approach Suzanne, in part because of her

written work on the Santa Maria grasslands "Animal Geography". We were urgently looking for a presenter with knowledge on how to get the greenway started. Nancy's recommendation was "Suzanne is great -- No grass grows under her feet." And Nancy was right! Seldom does one encounter anyone so determined to be



supportive of others' endeavors, while giving their all on their "own" projects. Suzanne is one of these remarkable people.

Suzanne deservedly received the Public Officials for Water and Environmental Reform (POWER) 2001 award, which honors "those individuals, public and non-profit agencies and private companies who have undertaken extraordinary efforts to implement and/or promote holistic water management programs and policies." IMC and local precious water resources will benefit from her extensive experience in intra- and international collaboration. Currently she repre-

(Continued on page 9)

Clytie Koehler, a native of San Diego County, has lived in Ramona since August 1998. Her daughter and both sons (now grown, married, and living in Southern California) were teenagers while Koehler attended the University of San Diego, School of Law.

While earning her degrees, Koehler attained academic recognition including several scholarships and a magna cum laude with her bachelor's degree. She was instrumental in developing and participating in student organizations whose work directly affected university policies toward women and disabled students as well as economically and ethnically diverse students.

During her second and third years at law school, she earned local and national recognition for her participation as a director of the Fifteenth Annual Far West Regional Conference on Women in the Law.

After passing the Bar, she worked 12 years in legal aid programs in Central California—the last three years as Executive Director of the Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County. Her legal work in public service typically included landlord/tenant and other housing issues, access to public benefits and health care, Social Security, family law where there was violence or abuse, and educational issues including discipline and bilingual compliance.

Koehler is an attorney, mediator, mom, and grandmother of three girls and a boy, and a llama keeper. She shares Como Se Llamas Ranch with her 101-year-old grandmother, her daughter, three grandchildren, two nieces, 13 llamas, several cats and dogs, farm animals, gophers, and a jillion crows.

Since leaving Santa Barbara, Koehler has divided her time between all of the above and a small solo practice as attorney and mediator out of her home. More recently she has begun to focus on purchasing, rehabbing and managing real estate. She hopes to combine this with a greater focus on real property in her legal practice.

Koehler became interested in IMC after mediating between divergent interests within the conservation community.

IMC's Grant Extravaganza

When Kit Kesinger became a part of IMC, the organization was catapulted into what might be called its "Grant Era." Spurred on by the stunning success of IMC's collaborative effort in the Iron Mountain Ridge Preserve, IMC's grant writing has gained momentum. IMC now has several novice writers and some experienced writers learning to write grants by writing parts of them.

The acquisition of the Boys and Girl Club property, which was enhanced by a donation of land from The Environmental Trust to San Diego County Parks, resulted in roughly 1,400 acres preserved adjacent to the pre-existing Iron Mountain Preserve. 740 acres known as either Ramona Serena or Barnett Ranch were also added to Ramona's open space "treasury" by IMC's collaborative success (yes, it is finally through escrow!). On page 4 of this issue we've announced IMC's "preview walks" on these new preserve lands.

New grant applications are one for the Santa Maria Greenway, two for improving local water supply quality, and three to get "undesirable elements" out of the creek. Some grants can only be submitted by a government agency, others by a community based non-profit. Almost all grant applications are strengthened or made possible only by collaboration.

IMC would like to acknowledge all the organizations and individuals that help to make our grant efforts happen. The following grants have not been approved so cross your fingers.

1. On February 1, IMC submitted a grant application for Riparian and Riverine Habitat preservation in collaboration with S.D. County Parks. Goals for the project include restoration, acquisition and public access centered on the Santa Maria Greenway Concept. That grant is only one (2 and 3 do too!) of several that have been completed or are in the process of being completed that benefit this long-term visionary project. IMC advocates for Ramonans enjoying a pleasant and safe creek side trail for pedestrian, equestrians, bikes and wheelchair traffic to enjoy when traveling through the heart of

town, rather than walking alongside noisy, dangerous Hwy 67/Main Street--the Santa Maria Creek Greenway Preserve does that and goes even further.

2. Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) plays a key role in protecting water quality and providing local parks, which makes it very important for IMC to work with RMWD. IMC is acutely aware that clean water is essential to viable preserves and good quality well water.

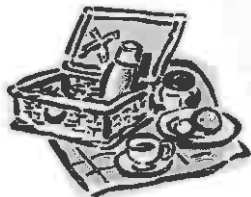
With that in mind, Kit successfully campaigned for a director's position on the RMWD. In January IMC helped complete a grant application with RMWD as the lead agent to reduce the salt in our well water, preserves, and gardens while at the same time conserving precious energy (electricity) used to pump water up the hill.

The idea is simple: RMWD uses more water from Sutherland Reservoir. Right now Sutherland water is mostly piped down the hill to San Vicente Reservoir, and then replaced with Colorado River (salty) water pumped back up the hill to Ramona. Maybe we can skip the salt. It would be good for the environment (including Santa Maria Creek), our health, energy conservation, and for everybody's pocket book.

3. This February IMC also collaborated with the San Diego County Storm Water Management Department in applying for a Non-Point Source Pollution Control Program grant. The program would divert street run off into a proposed artificial wetland. In this wetland, natural processes would clean out all kinds of bad street type elements/pollutants through natural processes, before the water enters Santa Maria Creek. The water could also be used for irrigation during the dry season.

**Want to make a difference
in what you drink?**





**MHCP
Potluck Get Together
Saturday, March 23,
Noon**

This is a great opportunity to get together, network, AND hear an update on a current major project that impacts all of us, the MHCP (Multiple Habitat Conservation Plan). You are invited to a general meeting of the Escondido Citizens Ecology Committee at noon on March 23, at 26776 Lilac Hill Dr., Escondido. The theme for this meeting is "The E-State of North County."

This will be a potluck lunch, so please bring a dish to share and your own tableware and chair, and please car-pool for earth's sake.

Lunch will be followed by a general meeting in which IMC will be given the opportunity for 3-5 minutes to tell the gathering about the group and the group's environmental concerns. This will be followed by a talk on



LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

**Land Trust Alliance:
Pacific Coast Conference
Lake Tahoe**

Thursday and Friday, April 25-27

Take an adventure into the tools of the trade for land trusts. Join IMC members carpooling up to this meeting to gather skills in fundraising, legal issues, and advanced appraisal techniques (for those few out there that know the basics)--all to benefit local land acquisition.

Get involved, get educated and get to know others in IMC better.

**Help Protect Your Open Spaces
By Becoming A Volunteer**

Let's be ready for when Barnett Ranch, Boys and Girls Club are open County Parks in Ramona. The San Diego County Open Space is recruiting volunteers to join its Volunteer Trails Patrol Group. This opportunity is open to all user groups from the San Diego County area. By becoming a member of the San Diego County Volunteer Patrol, you will:

- Help to protect the Open Spaces for your continued use
- Help protect Open spaces for the wildlife species
- Enhance the quality of your visits by assisting staff in safely maintaining trails and in restoration projects
- Learn about the plants, animal and natural history of the area from experts in their fields
- Be covered under the County's Workman Compensation Program

**For more information
please call
County Open Space Office
(619) 956-4707**



Happy IMC Volunteers.

The Troubled Santa Maria Creek

Santa Maria changes her course from time to time, like all creeks that can still run free. Dangerous things have been placed too close to her; things that she could not avoid --that can harm her and those that she waters. She has spread out over Ramona's sewer main, embraces its manholes and is ready to flow over and into them. Heavy rains are all that she needs to pull the sewer main apart and flush into the manholes--spewing sewage unknowingly into her. And an El Nino is predicted for next year. She needs land surrounding her to be acquired to give her room to move around safely in the future, and she needs the main extracted. For those safety steps, IMC proposed a grant project with the Ramona Water District. The application's requirements were impossible to pull together in that grant cycle--maybe the next time. A grant could be necessary because the cost is high (4.5 million just to extract the main) for Ramona to bear and the need is great.

The Santa Maria Creek Greenway is an endeavor that could help give her some breathing room. Let's keep her wild--support IMC.



A manhole in the Santa Maria Creek



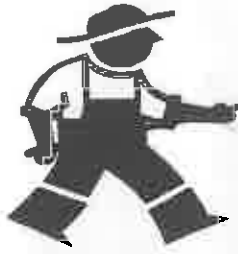
The Sata Maria Creek

(Continued from page 6) Suzanne Michel

sents Clean Water Action in San Diego and Orange County, and works as a research fellow at the Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias at SDSU.

She lives with her husband and son, near her parents in Santee. Her Education includes a Bachelor of Arts in English from UCLA; a Master of Arts in Geography from San Diego State University (areas of specialty: land use planning, biogeography and urban geography); and a Ph.D. in Geography from University of Colorado, Boulder (areas of specialty: water resources geography and law, environmental justice [equity] and Southern/Baja California). She has written numerous published papers and funded grant applications, received academic and performance awards including from the military (where she served as 1st Lt., United States Marine Corps), completed complex research projects, taught and prepared curriculum at a University level, and still maintains being an approachable, sincere and courteous person to relate to, which is why she is on our board.

(Continued from page 2) **Sustainable Living**



certified organic fruits, vegetables and herbs picked fresh and delivered to you weekly. We offer educational programs for all ages in farming and gardening. We are using organic and biodynamic principles, practicing soil conservation, composting, and other healthy agricultural techniques. We're working with universities and seeking grants and donations to carry on the Foundation's far-reaching work.

A CSA is about a direct relationship between farmer and consumer with the purpose of fostering sustainability. e at Tierra Miguel are on a mission to nourish the land we work with tender care. By joining the CSA you become part of a community of supporters for the season. In turn, we supply our mixed vegetable and fruit boxes to you every week.

Joining for the whole year may seem like a big commitment, but this helps us plan our planting and lets us know you are willing to support the sustainability of small farms in San Diego County.

If for any reason you are not satisfied you can stop your membership and receive a refund for any pre-paid boxes not received. The concept is somewhat like a subscription to a weekly newspaper, except instead you receive a fresh box of produce. We invite you to visit the first Saturday of every month for our volunteer day here at the farm to see what and how we grow your veggies and fruits and participate in fun educational work activities.

A CSA is about more than just organic veggies, it is about community, trust, and long-term sustainability which is needed in this age of genetic engineering, irradiation, and environmental degradation.

Help create a positive future, join a CSA today!

Robert Farmer manages the Tierra Miguel Foundation Farm and CSA in Pauma Valley, CA. In collaboration with all the people working there and the board of directors, is creating a sustainable organic farm using Biodynamic farming techniques. This farm is a teaching farm where students of agriculture as well as elementary school children have a place to learn about farming. Robert feels that the common bond all people have through agriculture and the food we eat needs to be strengthened through hands on experience and first hand knowledge. The Tierra Miguel Foundation

Bat Research Continues

To assist our research on California bat habitat we are now offering our bat boxes to the general public.

These bat boxes are hand made by volunteers, and each box comes complete with installation instructions. Please call Carin Bunney at (760) 789 – 5702 if you need a bat box or have questions about bats.

A tax donation of
\$25.00



More Reasons To Smile

The purchase of Ramona Serena has been finalized. The county is working with IMC to purchase a critical linkage between Iron Mountain and Mt. Woodson.

Thanks to new and old IMC members and board members.

- Laura Lang for editing the newsletter
- Joe Cahak for taking great pictures for several IMC projects
- Helene Radzik's help in providing IMC with office space.
- Thanks to all those who make our special presentations possible
- Susan Hector's enthusiasm for IMC's land acquisition projects.
- Susan Hector, Kaitlin and Helene Radzik for taking time to prepare for an archaeological walk (and possible talk) coming this fall.
- David Gibson, Charlie Loughie, Suzanne Michel (past presenters on water issues) for reviewing grants and giving great comments.
- The USFS for use of the room at the Goose Valley Station
- Gail Cole and Maureen Armand for helping with the rummage sale
- Kit Kesinger for writing so many grants, and attending a ton of meetings and mentoring grant writers.
- Bonnie Salbach for excellent GIS mapping of the Santa Maria Greenway
- Ramona Trails Association and Ramona Parks and Recreation Association for joining the Santa Maria Creek Greenway Project
- Neal Biggart and the San Diego Stream Team for providing water quality monitoring on IMC grants The Ramona Water District, County Parks and County Stormwater Management for partnering with IMC on grant applications.
- The County of San Diego for opening the gates to the new preserves for IMC's "preview" hikes.
- Clytie Koehler agreeing to manage Commissions for Conservation.
- Patrick Uriell for his awesome support of the Greenway Preserve.
- Nancy Conney of Skyhunters Raptor Education ongoing outreach for IMC
- Gene Driscoll for allowing IMC to use Hardy Ranch for the Raptor Watch
- Joan Wayman, Verna Silvia, Betty Bernath, and Doreen Benedict for their pleasant telephone reminders.
- And who can forget Carin Bunney for her newsletter layout when she could be laying out enjoying the sun near the pool?



**THANK YOU, THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU
FOR YOUR TIME AND ALL YOUR EFFORTS !!!!!!!**



The Iron Mountain Conservancy

P.O. Box 2342
Ramona, CA 92065

**NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RAMONA, CA
PERMIT NO. 16**



Iron Mountain Conservancy Sponsorship Form

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

- Student \$15.00
- Senior \$15.00
- Individual \$25.00
- Family \$35.00
- Donation to Preserve Iron Mtn Trail \$ _____

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

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

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

Thank You