

Upcoming events:

- **July 29 & 30:**
Museum Open House
- **August 20:**
“Coast to Coast” & Potluck Luncheon
- **August 26 & 27:**
Museum Open House

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JOHN DEWITT MUSEUM

2116 TAVERN ROAD
ALPINE, CA 91901

Open 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.
last weekend of each month

Tom & Judy Myers, Editors
619-885-8063

COAST to CACTUS

Potluck Luncheon & Presentation • Sunday, August 20, 2017

Our Program and Potluck Luncheon on August 20th will include a special presentation of the exhibit titled **“Coast to Cactus in Southern California”** and the accompanying book ***Coast to Cactus: The Canyoneer Trail Guide to San Diego Outdoors***. If you have ever been curious about the geology, ecology and biodiversity of San Diego County, this is a great opportunity to learn from the experts.

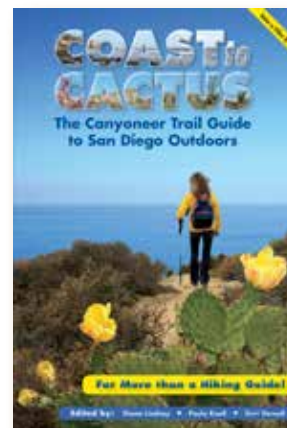
“Coast to Cactus in Southern California” is a new permanent exhibition at the **San Diego Natural History Museum** that invites visitors to explore the unique habitats of southern California, from the coastal wetlands and urban canyons to the high mountains and the desert. The Exhibit leads visitors to discover what it means to be a biodiversity hotspot: the story of

why one region is home to so very many species, why these species are so critically threatened at this moment in history, and why it matters.

Coast to Cactus: The Canyoneer Trail Guide to San Diego Outdoors is both a hiking and a field guide. Written by citizen scientists trained by the San Diego Natural History Museum Canyoneers, it is the new bible for getting to know and appreciate the county’s biodiversity while exploring it firsthand. The guide has 250 hikes, each with its own map and symbols indicating the habitats found on a trail, a full hike description with mileage, elevation gain/loss, difficulty rating, directions to the trail-head with GPS, trail use, and special features of each hike. There are 525 species of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and inverte-

brates that are described in detail. Each hike focuses on a species or natural/cultural history feature associated with that hike.

The book complements the Museum’s new 8,000-square-foot permanent “Coast to Cactus in Southern California” exhibit, which helps the visitor understand the region’s diverse ecosystems and why it is one of the world’s biodiversity hot-spots.



Please bring a potluck item to share at the luncheon at 1:00 p.m. or arrive by 1:45 p.m. for the brief General Membership meeting followed immediately by the “Coast to Coast” presentation. Location: Alpine Town Hall (Alpine Woman’s Club), at 2156 Alpine Blvd. Seating is limited, so please make your reservations early by calling Tom Myers at (619) 885-8063 or send an email request to info@alpinehistory.org. Admission is **FREE**, but your donation helps to support and maintain the museum facilities.

KEEPING CRITTERS HAPPY

On May 1, 1998 Alpine was designated the *Nation's First Certified Community Wildlife Habitat* by the National Wildlife Federation. We are very proud of this designation and continue to encourage Alpine residents to certify their gardens to keep our designation.

In the last few months **Cathie & Wayne Aymar, Kymberly Bennett, Karen & Delanian Brown, Andrea Ibanez, David & Deborah McIntosh, Dee Vee & Emory**

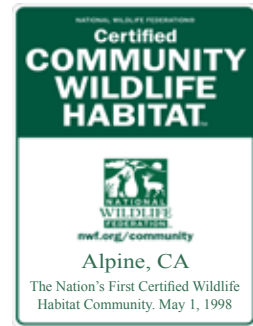
Miell, and Kathy Stewart certified their gardens. This brings us to 202 certified gardens in Alpine. Our goal is 1,000 certified gardens by 2020. Let's get started by certifying 200 more gardens during our 20th Anniversary year, i.e. before May 1, 2018.

No matter how big or small, all you need in your garden is food, water, cover, and a place to raise young. Most Alpine residents already

have these requirements without doing anything extra. Please go to nwf.org/certify and register your garden. When you do certify your garden please let me know. Send an email to WildlifeHabitats@aol.com or call 619-438-4829. Please include

your name, address, contact information and the date when you certified your garden.

Volunteers are needed to help



promote this project. You can volunteer by sending a message to wildlifehabitats@aol.com.

Thanks and Let's Keep Those Critters Happy...

—*Carlette Anderson, Director Community Wildlife Habitat Programs*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A Warm Welcome to Our New Members: Marcia Bair, Judy Tweed, and Steve & Patty Tweed

A Grateful Thank You to Our Renewing Members: Kathy Balsley, Joseph & Leslie Perricone, Gary & Sue Smith, and Linda Dean

A very Special Thank You to the following business

for renewing its annual membership for 2017, and for making a generous donation:

Kamps Propane

RECOGNITION OF OUR CURRENT LIFETIME MEMBERS

Carlette Anderson • Deborah Anderson • George & Joan Anderson • Mark L. Anderson • Roy & Willa Athey
 Claude Bailey • Franklin R. Ball • Pat & Joe Brunold • David Carey • Ted Christensen • James H. Cleland
 Sharon J. Coop • Peggy & Jim Easterling • Beverly Falor • Katie & Brian Ford • Vincent Fritts • Paul Gonya
 Gail Wilson Guth • Janet M. Harris • Linda Harshberger • Ann Hill • Leslie Holben • Ken & Denise Hujing
 Ben & Kirby Johnson • Bill & Diane Keltner • Jill & Shawn Killon • John Krempp • J. Clayburn LaForce
 Joanne & Martin Marugg • Mary McBride • Carol Morrison • Tom & Judy Myers • Helen Porter
 Mark & Pattie & Haley Price • Paul & Paula Saks • Kurt Scherbaum • Pauline Silver • Albert Simonson
 Donna Sisson • Joseph Sisson • Virginia Sisson • Anne Tarr • Elma Terry • Rodney & Guille Tuttle
 Paul & Carol Walker • William & Joan Waterworth • Stanley Wilson

RECOGNITION OF OUR LIFETIME BUSINESS MEMBERS

Brabazon Alpine Paving and Trucking
 Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians • Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians
 Tom Dyke Drilling • John Garbaczewski Family Foundation
 Chris Wiley—Primary Residential Mortgage • Turvey Granite Pit • Tuttle Charitable Trust

CURRENT MEMBERSHIPS: Life Members ~ 56, Current Members ~ 82, Members up for renewal ~ 36

THIRD GRADERS VISIT THE MUSEUM

Each year during May or June we have the pleasure of hosting many of Alpine's

third-grade students at the John DeWitt museum for a tour which supplements their local history

curriculum requirement. It is always a pleasure to meet these students and this year was no exception.

We were quite impressed with the knowledge these students brought with them and the very interesting questions they asked. What a smart group of kids we have here in Alpine! They obviously have great teachers!

And, a big thanks to the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians for generously sponsoring the school tours and the bus transportation.



This photo of Mrs. Pool's Boulder Oaks Elementary third-grade class shows what an enthusiastic group of students we have here in Alpine.

EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATES WORKING TO IMPROVE JOHN DEWITT MUSEUM

We are very happy to be working with three Eagle Scout candidates on projects at the John DeWitt Museum. The projects will (1) develop a new outdoor exhibit, (2) improve access to the museum, and (3) improve signage. The three scouts, Wyatt Havin, Louis Cummings, and Josh Cummings, have been working on different projects and are still in the development phases of the process.

Wyatt Havin is undertaking a project to refurbish a hand operated 1910 water pump from our collection which was used to fill water

troughs for farm animals. Wyatt is designing and installing an exhibit that will illustrate how the pump operates and replicates how it may have been used on Alpine farms a century ago.

Louis Cummings is tackling a long-standing safety concern for the museum related to vehicle access and egress. His project is to redesign the parking lot entrance and exit, moving it further to the west. The current location at the corner of Tavern Road and Huey Lane does not provide a safe sightline to see traffic approaching from Tavern

Road when exiting the parking lot, and it causes traffic congestion when cars have to cross Tavern Road or slowdown in the lane of traffic in order to enter the lot.

Josh Cummings's project is to design and install a new sign in the museum's parking lot where it will be visible from both directions while traveling on Tavern Road. The sign will draw attention to the museum and will display days and times the museum is open. We will also have the option to hang changing banners announcing special events at the museum.

POP QUIZ: Answers can be found in articles in this newsletter.

1. What year was Alpine certified as the Nation's First Community Wildlife Habitat?
 - a. 1776
 - b. 1885
 - c. 1998
2. "Coast to Cactus" is the name given to which of these:
 - a. A new exhibit at the San Diego Natural History Museum
 - b. A new outdoor guide book describing 250 hikes through San Diego County.
 - c. Both (a) and (b)
3. Which of the following is true about Albert Simonson's Mapomania article:
 - a. The map was drawn by the first Mayor of San Diego
 - b. The map identifies Sky Mesa Ranch and the Willows Resort
 - c. The map was created in 1846 to support a 17,000 acre grant filing

17TH ANNUAL ALPINE HISTORY DAY



Our 17th Annual Alpine History Day event offered a glimpse of the old and the new in Alpine. Our newest exhibit, *Then and Now*, opened in the Beaty House to explore images and objects of days gone by side-by-side with their contemporary equivalent to show how our Alpine landscape and lifestyle have changed over the past 120 years.

At our event we were also reminded of the past with exhibits

of Model T Fords, our restored Doctor's buggy, Betty's '54 T-Bird, folks dressed in vintage outfits, Tintype photographers, and a women's chorus singing in 4-part "barbershop" harmony. And to showcase what is new in Alpine we welcomed exhibits by the Joan MacQueen Middle School Robotics Team, the Greater Alpine Fire Safety Council, the Alpine Fire Department, Alpine Pageant Queens, New Quilts made in traditional ways, Amigos 4H Club farm animals, birds from Sky Hunters Raptor Rehabilitation Center, and a reptile petting zoo from Animals and Animals. The Kiwanis

Cook Shack provided us with the finest hamburgers and hot dogs in Alpine, followed by our famous Ice Cream Sundaes.

A big thank-you goes out to our major sponsor, the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, as well as the many businesses who supported our event.

And we couldn't have pulled it off without the help of our hometown scouts from Troop 105, who helped to set up and take down the pop-up canopies, tables and chairs for the event.

If you weren't able to attend this year, we hope you will enjoy these photos—see what you missed!



MAPOMANIA AT OUR MUSEUM

By Albert Simonson

The 1846 map of Alpine/Viejas is uncommonly rich in detail. The sons of the first San Diego Mayor, Juan Maria Osuna, used it to support their land grant filing for 17,000 acres of grazing land under Mexican law. Because of good labeling, over 30 specific features have been identified and subjected to peer review and critique.

When you study this upside-down Mexican map, you feel like your vision of Alpine/Viejas is

dissolving into something seen by ancient eyes, an open vista of upland meadow (“Mesa del Arroz”) dotted with mission cattle, a cross-hatched grain field of the same odd shape as the 20 acre stone enclosure on Wright’s Field’s saddle between hills (“portesuelo”), and water holes (“ojos de agua”).

Try overlooking modern encrustations of the environment and submit to historical hallucination of a primeval panorama.

I think the Osuna boys rode up the flank of Viejas Mountain and just sketched the panorama before them.

Coming down from the left was the old Indian trail from the mountains (“Camino de la Sierra que baja al valle de Santa Monica”). Santa Monica was the mission’s name for their huge ranch at Lakeside.

In the distance was Bell Bluff and the Sweetwater River (“Cañada y Arollo de Secuan”), which has had many names. Branching off in the Mesa del Arroz was the road down toward Sequan and Spring Valley (“Camino para Secuan”).



Viejas was shown as “Valle de las Viejas.” Barren hills were “Lomas Muertas.” Only reliable springs were indicated. Four were shown along our local trail. An ornate arrow pointed east, and a scale showed distance in Castilian varas.

...So there you see, history can alter your view of even familiar surroundings like our museum. To “see” what no longer exists is the magic of *mapomania* and our museum.



[Editor’s note: At the 2017 History Day event, we had the wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Albert Simonson, a prolific researcher and writer and a former Director of the Alpine Historical Society. Later, Albert sent us an article about some of the interesting maps of the Alpine area dating back to the Mission period. The full article is a bit long for this newsletter, but we want to share a portion of the article here.]

ALPINE HISTORICAL AND CONSERVATION SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Tom Myers
1st Vice President, Programs: Vikki Coffey
2nd Vice President, Membership: Judy Myers
3rd Vice President, Property: [position open]
Secretary: [position open]
Treasurer: Fred Barker
Archivist: Carol Morrison

Director, Gift Shop Coordinator: Anne Tarr
Director: Janet Harris
Director: Norm Kling
Director, [open position]
Director, [open position]
Lifetime Director: Elma Terry
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Caretakers: Baltazar & Laura Marquez

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the *Alpine Historical & Conservation Society* is to encourage the community in an effort to retain structures and sites of historical significance, conserve natural resources and parkland, make available the visible evidence of the history of our community, and develop historical programs which emphasize the contributions of the various cultural, ethnic, religious and social groups that comprise the Alpine area.

ANSWERS TO POP QUIZ: 1–c. 1998 (page 2); 2–c. Both (a) and (b) are correct (page 1); 3–c. The 1846 map was created to support a land grant filing under Mexican law (page 5)

Alpine Historical & Conservation Society
P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Address Service Requested

**ALPINE
HISTORICAL &
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY**

P. O. Box 382
Alpine, CA 91903-0382

Phone: 619-659-8740
E-mail: info@alpinehistory.org

We're on the Web!
www.alpinehistory.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address/P.O. Box: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Send Newsletters via: E-mail U.S. Mail

Membership Category (Please check one):

- Student \$5 Individual \$25 Nonprofit \$30 Business \$50
 Senior (1) \$15 Family \$35 Nonprofit Life \$600 Business Life \$1,000
 Senior (2) \$20 Life \$500

Amount Enclosed:

Membership \$ _____
Donation \$ _____
TOTAL \$ _____

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Museum Open Houses History Day
 Programs & Events Oral Histories
 Exhibit Development Archival Data Entry
 Garden Maintenance Other _____

Please complete this form and include your check made payable to the Alpine Historical Society, a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.