

Newsletter Portfolio



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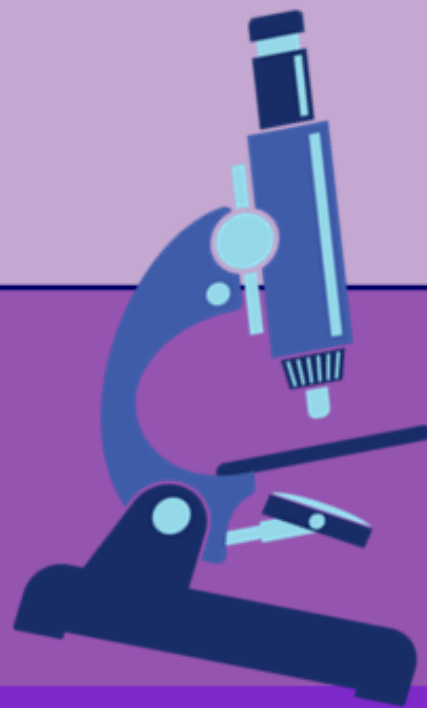


A. M. Palmer

Chollas News

April promises to be a time of excitement at Chollas Lake, with archery lessons, walking classes, book club meetings, book giveaways, nature walks and myriad blooms of the season. We invite you to discover the Jewel of Oak Park.

Oak Park Heritage



April, 2022

Volume 2, Issue 2

Microscopy

Hobby Notes

Perhaps, in the course of your travels through the park, you have seen something that invites closer inspection, a flower or a fallen leaf, or even a puddle of dank water that harbors innumerable microbes. Then, my friend, you are very much in need of a wonderful hobby, that of microscopy. Let's begin!

A range of microscopes exists, everything from the most advanced electron devices to models that are suitable for students and intrepid hobbyists. So, what information do we need in order to begin working with these optical instruments? First, it helps to regard the microscope as an extension of our own vision.

From the outset, we consider that the human eye and brain combine to establish the most comprehensive image processing system imaginable, able to detect and analyze vastly complex elements. The microscope, even in its most advanced form, can only hope to imitate the Lord's work, aiding us as we peer at the most minute forms of life. Now, which model should you choose?

There are compound microscopes with multiple lenses, and very basic instruments that contain only a single lens, sometimes hand-held, as in the case of a jeweler's loop or a simple magnifying glass. For our purposes, we can limit the present discussion to microscopes designed for biology students.

To begin, you can use a basic compound microscope—with either a binocular or monocular eyepiece—which will enable you to study cells. This instrument is best suited for high school students and beginning microscopists. After a mastery of the basics, one can graduate to a stereo microscope for the viewing of larger specimens and, eventually, make use of a digital microscope in order to take photographs.

Chollas Lake will provide you with a great many specimens to examine, whether you are a student, a hobbyist or even a research scientist with specific objectives in mind. Below, you will find resources to help you explore the joys of microscopy.

For Further Reading:

Microscope Crew Website (microscopecrew.com)

S. G. Lipson, *Optics, Experiments and Demonstrations for Student Laboratories*. UK: Institute of Physics, 2020.

Chollas News



May, 2022

Volume 2, Issue 3

Oak Park Heritage

April Highlights:

- On the 23rd, volunteers met for the Creek to Bay Cleanup event at Chollas and Sunshine Berardini Park and removed vast amounts of litter. Thank you!
- Senior Ranger Carey Goldstein conducted a wildflower walk for a crowd of enthusiastic visitors.
- Rangers conducted the first wheelchair and stroller-accessible nature walk at Charles Lewis Memorial Park.
- Archery instruction resumed!
- Recreation staff members announced the summer camp schedule.

Field Guides

Hobby Notes

As spring unfolds, and the colors of May are revealed, consider using a field guide to research flora and fauna and identify your discoveries. For Chollas Lake Park, you may wish to use *The National Audubon Society Field Guide to California*, one of the most well-respected resources for professionals and amateurs alike. Let's take a moment to consider the genre's fascinating history.

In 1890, an ornithologist named Florence Augusta Merriam Bailey wrote *Birds Through an Opera Glass*, a text for wildlife enthusiasts and protectors, often regarded as the first of its kind. However, the limitations of opera glasses and rudimentary drawings left room for improvement; Robert Ridgway's *Manual of North American Birds*, written in 1896, contains over 100 anatomical illustrations. Clearly, Ridgway's audience had more interest in identifying birds killed on hunting expeditions than appreciating them with opera glasses. Again, there was much room for improvement in the burgeoning genre of North American field guides.

In 1906, Chester Reed rose to the occasion and penned the book considered to be the first pocket guide for bird-watchers, *Bird Guide: Land Birds East of the Rockies*.

This month, as you enjoy the lake, use your favorite guide to appreciate the many bird species that inhabit Chollas throughout the year. Enjoy your adventure!

For more information on our programs, and to register for summer camp, contact us:
(619) 527-7683

Chollas News

December, 2021

Volume 1, Issue 4

Seasonal Fun!



Residents of Oak Park have enjoyed winter festivities at Chollas Lake for generations, caroling by the water's edge, sipping cocoa with friends and sharing our vibrant community. This year will bring all the fun of previous seasons with new improvements, not the least of which is the airy brightness of our main picnic shelter. Recent tree work has opened the view from our office and refreshed the environment. The winter of 2021 promises to be memorable! As always, the Chollas staff members look forward to your visit!

Local Winter Beauty (Admittedly Subtle)

Have you seen a cactus wren in the Cholla of the canyon?

Did you notice any turning leaves just west of the dam?

Has the low angle of the winter sun helped your photography?

If you discover an interesting plant, or notice the behavior of our migratory birds, take some photos and share them with the staff. We will post your work for everyone to enjoy. And, as always, we thank you for appreciating our wildlife without disturbing it.

Highlights:

- Remember that we will be closed on December 25!
- Kids 15 and under can fish for free!
- White pelicans have arrived for the winter. How many have you seen?
- If you are recycling your Christmas tree, check for the designated drop-off areas.
- Our patrons are remembering *not* to feed the animals or otherwise disturb our habitat. Hurray!

*Visit The Jewel of
Oak Park*



Closed
December 25th

Announcements!

Christmas Tree Disposal:

*Only in Designated
Areas, Please!*

Our much anticipated winter event, **Caroling Around the Lake**, is sure to be exciting this year, with games, food and prizes galore. Join us for the fun on **Saturday, December 11 from 3:30pm to 5:30.**

Ranger Programs

Please email the rangers at apalmer@sandiego.gov for updates and additional information.

The Beginner's Walking Class

Join our recreation leaders on **Sundays at 11 am** for a walking class of low to moderate difficulty, a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the scenery of the lake and meet new people. We will meet at the main office of Chollas Lake.

Read the Signs at Each Gate

Ethnobotany Hike

On December 11, at 1pm, Senior Ranger Carey Goldstein will conduct a hike and lecture on Kumeyaay ethnobotanical practices. Please remember to bring water and wear comfortable walking attire.

The Fishing Clinic (Kids 15 and Under)

Kids wishing to sharpen their fishing skills can participate in our weekly clinic, **Sundays at noon**. All equipment will be provided. Please meet us at the Fishing Clinic building.

The Chollas Lake Book Club

On Saturday, December 4 at 11 am, we will meet to discuss themes of adventure and personal growth as we look forward to the new year. We will be at the main office.

UC San Diego Eye Mobile for Kids

If you would like to receive services for children in your family who are under 16, please contact us to sign up for this community program. Feel free to forward this information to your friends and neighbors. (January 7, 2022)

Email Us for Updates

The Chollas Oral History Project

If you or your children have stories about the lake from days gone by, we want to hear them! Email the ranger office for details about the program.



If you are visiting for the first time, these clear and handy maps will help you to find your way—probably. If you have questions, please reach out to us at apalmer@sandiego.gov. We look forward to seeing you!



American White Pelican

Pelecanus erythrorhynchos

No one quite remembers when they first arrived, but white pelicans have become our winter visitors in recent years, noteworthy for their graceful ways and impressive size. As you stroll the shores of Chollas Lake this season, take note; these birds are one of the largest North American species, their wingspans often reaching nine feet, enabling them to dwarf the ducks and cormorants who live in close proximity. In fact, if your timing is just right, you will be able to watch as they fish, gathering mouthfuls of trout and bluegill with little effort, having adapted quite well to their habitat. And there is even more to learn about our winter visitors.

Although still vulnerable to habitat loss, their numbers are thought to have increased steadily since the 1970s, providing ample opportunity to spot them wintering in coastal shallows, estuaries and bays in Southern California and Baja (*Audubon Guide to North American Birds*).

Although most white pelicans are migratory, moving in flocks by day, some are permanent residents of Mexico and the coast of Texas. In previous years, our visitors have departed for their spring habitat by the middle of March, seeking the coastal lowlands where they breed.

As of this writing, I have spotted seven American white pelicans wintering at Chollas Lake, providing visitors with a fun, seasonal birdwatching opportunity.

Writings of Interest:

John Audubon, "Birds of America" (His essay on white pelicans is available online at: <https://www.audubon.org/birds-of-america/american-white-pelican>).

Paul Estronza La Violette, *Waiting for the White Pelicans and Other Tales From the Mississippi Gulf Coast* (Annabelle Publishing, Waveland, Mississippi, 2000)

"American White Pelican Flight: Using the Argos Satellite System to Predict American White Pelican Flight Altitudes" (Raptor Research Center, Boise State University, <https://www.boisestate.edu/raptorresearchcenter/american-white-pelican-flight/>).

Chris Clarke, "White Pelican's: California's Charismatic Megafauna in the Sky" (KCET, March 27, 2012, <https://www.kcet.org/redefine/white-pelicans-californias-charismatic-megafauna-in-the-sky>).

***These magnificent birds
tend to congregate
at the easternmost
edge of the water,
catching an abundance
of fish and preening in
the winter sun.
Let us know how many
you have seen!***



Chollas News

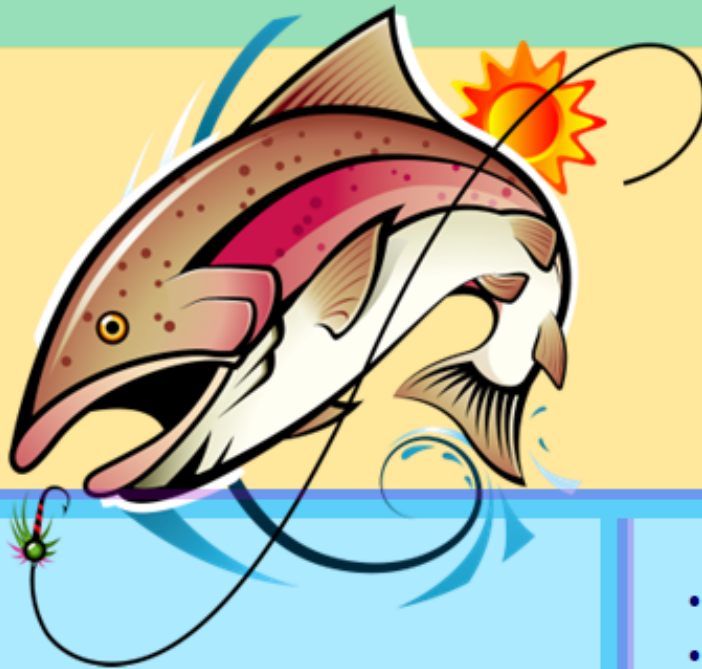


January, 2022

Vol 1, Issue 7

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Hobby Notes

Trout Fishing

As the winter sun rises on a new day at the lake, children vie for their favorite fishing spots, armed with bait from Walmart, ready to catch bluegill and catfish but hoping for trout. Stocked at various times of the year, Chollas Lake can yield surprises to patient fishers, regardless of the season. Thus begins January, a world of possibilities awaiting the children of our community. And what about this hobby of casting a line and hoping patiently for the bite of a trout?

Young people will feel elated to catch these colorful fish, whether releasing their prizes or preparing them for dinner. Experienced fishers consider trout a suitable target for novices, so why not begin here at the lake? As for gear, trout fishing requires minimal equipment, as we shall see. Parents can use the following checklist to prepare their children for the sport:

- **Medium-Weight Rod (Six Feet)**
- **Spinning Reel**
- **Monofilament Line (Four or Six Pound)**
- **Sinkers, Swivels, Hooks, Bobbers**
- **Bait (Crickets, Minnows, Fish Eggs, Flies)**

To learn about the proper use of hooks and casting techniques, children can attend our weekend fishing clinics that begin at 11am.

If your kids plan to eat what they catch, remember to clean the fish quickly and store them in a cooler for transport.

Contact the rangers or recreation staff members if you have questions. We are here to help. We will see you at the lake!
apalmer@sandiego.gov

Share Your Pictures!

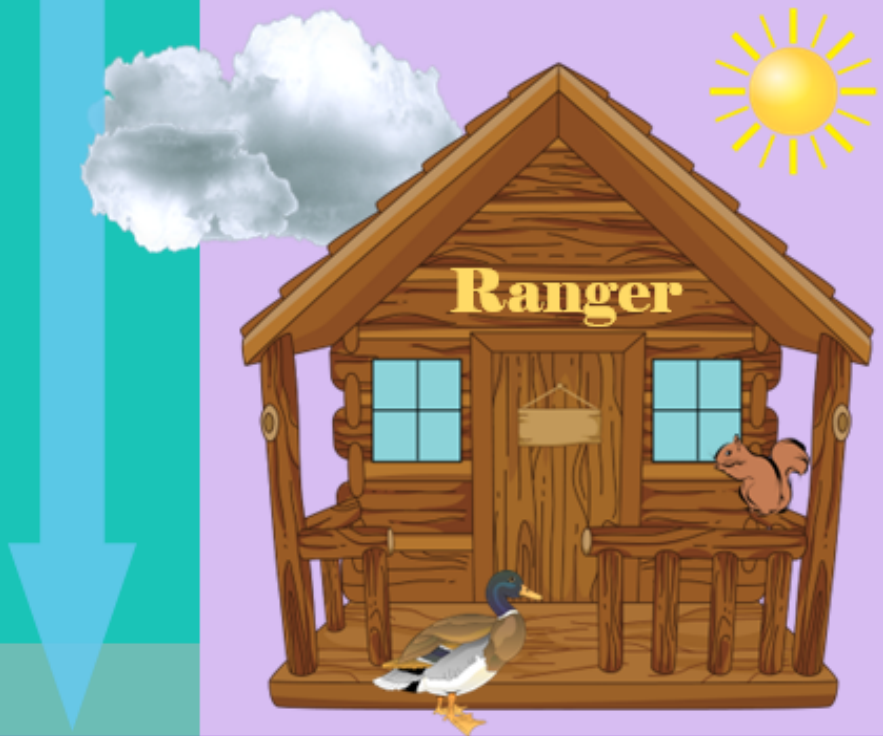
If your children wish to share their fishing success with our staff, send pictures. We will post them at the lake!

Oak Park Heritage

Christmas Tree Recycling:

Remember to dispose of your tree in the designated area at Gloria's Mesa.

The last day to use this service is February 1, 2022.



December Highlights

- On December 11, park visitors enjoyed our Caroling Around the Lake event, sharing laughter and song.
- Senior Ranger Carey Goldstein conducted an ethnobotany hike for 43 participants, teaching them about the many uses of our winter plants.
- **Congratulations** to Manrab Singh for completing the **Workout Warrior** level of the Chollas Challenge! Way to go!
- Maintenance staff members continue to beautify Chollas Lake by using cut eucalyptus trees to line walkways in the north section of the park.
- Graduate students are planning to install public art at the lake this year, making use of our geologic features to create spaces for engagement and contemplation.
- The Chollas Book Club discussed themes of personal growth during our December meeting.

January Programs and Events

Children's Free Book Day (Saturday, January 22, 11am to 2pm)

Kids of all ages are invited to visit the ranger cabin to meet our staff and receive a free book; one per child while supplies last. Join us!

Recreational Walking Class TBA

Join our recreation staff for a walk around the lake. Participants can proceed at their own pace while enjoying the company of friends and neighbors. Meet us at the main office and wear your most comfortable shoes. See you there!

UC San Diego Eye Mobile Visit (January 7, 10am to 3pm) (Gloria's Mesa)

Free eyecare services, including glasses, will be available to children 16 and under. Registration is preferred but not required.

The Pueblo Watershed Self-Guided Hike (January 15-30)

The hike begins at the southernmost trailhead of Chollas Creek Open Space, at the intersection of Chollas Road and Euclid Avenue. The route is roughly one mile, designed for contemplative walking rather than rigor. Enjoy!

The Chollas Ethnobotany Walk (January 8, 1pm) (Main office)

Learn about the medicinal plants of Chollas Lake from our ranger staff.

Children's Fishing Clinic (Saturdays and Sundays 11:30am to 1:30pm)



The clinic is free for children 15 and under. Winter fishing awaits!

The Chollas Book Club (January 8, 11am)

Join us to discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. We will meet at the main office.

Email the ranger staff for additional information: apalmer@sandiego.gov

Chollas Lake Park is located at 6350 College Grove Drive



Discover New Orientations

Topographic Maps and Elevation Models

What bravery! You have just taken up the challenge to explore the Pacific Crest Trail, with all the excitement such a journey entails. Thankfully, you will be well-equipped and possessed of an essential navigation tool: a set of topographic maps. Avid backpackers know of their usefulness, but what about visitors to Chollas Lake, those who traverse urban landscapes rather than swathes of wilderness? Let's take a moment to consider how we can use topographic maps and elevation models to study the park.

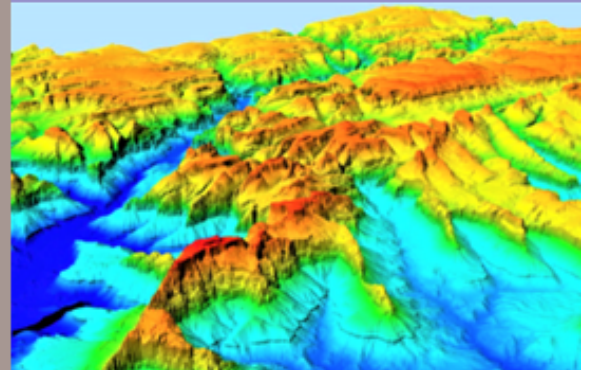
Topographic Maps Defined

The three-dimensional content of the landscape—including bodies of water, elevations, contours, natural features, roads, railways and structures—can be represented with a two-dimensional topographic map, rendering a better understanding of the environment for navigation purposes as well as long-term planning and conservation projects. (1) At Chollas Lake, we can use topographic maps and digital elevation models to monitor changes in the landscape and plan our habitat management projects more effectively. Oak Park resident Jose Rocha, a drone pilot and cartographer, is helping us to understand these tools more fully, aerial data acquisition being one of his specialties.

University Resources

At the University of California, Santa Barbara Library website, you can find a wealth of information under the heading of "USGS Topographic Maps of California." To access the Broer Map Library of California USGS maps, cut and paste: broemapsonline.org.

For those who love the environment, and wish to explore and conserve our resources, topographic maps are truly an essential tool.



Digital Elevation Models (DEMs)

If you require more precise analytical tools, topographic maps can be converted into digital elevation models. Nikita Marwaha and Elizabeth Duffy of UP42 provide basic users with an overview:

"DEMs are usually generated from remotely sensed data collected by satellites, drones and planes. They are raster grids of the Earth's surface referenced to the *vertical datum*—the surface of zero elevation to which heights are referred by scientists, insurers, and geodesists." (2)

Elevation data can help park professionals to visualize the landscape, which, in turn, aids in a variety of tasks, including monitoring the encroachment of non-native vegetation and analyzing the development of erosion patterns.

If this brief overview intrigues you, learn more by reading "What is a Digital Elevation Model?" at USGS.gov.

Works Cited:

- (1) *Natural Resources Canada* (nrcan.gc.ca)
- (2) "Everything You Need to Know About Digital Elevation Models, Digital Surface Models, and Digital Terrain Models" (up42.com, 2021).

Self-Guided Hike

The hike begins at **Chollas Creek Open Space** and proceeds south. Upon entering the trail, you will find a series of informational panels that highlight local flora and fauna, bringing the environment into perspective as you explore the landscape.

The panels will be in place from January 15th through the 30th. Bring water, wear comfortable shoes and enjoy the Pueblo Watershed. You can email the rangers for a additional information:

apalmer@san-diego.gov

The Pueblo Watershed

Chollas Creek is part of this watershed. With its headwaters in La Mesa, you can trace the creek's branches as they run through City Heights, Oak Park and Encanto and drain into the San Diego Bay by way of Barrio Logan.

Directions: Chollas Creek Open Space is located at the intersection of Chollas Road and Euclid Avenue, and the hike begins at the southernmost trailhead.

Lat: 32.7355446 Lon: -117.0873612



Cactus Wren

Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus

How can you identify these fascinating birds of the desert? For starters, they nest in thorny shrubs like cholla and prickly pear, making use of the plants for protection. You can find them throughout the Southwest, flourishing in urban enclaves as well as coastal sage scrub, incubating their eggs in late winter. Cactus wrens can be difficult to spot, so you will need to scan the landscape carefully when you search for them, preferably with a field guide in-hand.

The largest wren found in the United States, it is a stout bird with a comparatively heavy bill, rounded wings and speckled feathers. In keeping with their stature, cactus wrens are known for their bold behavior and harsh calls, their raspy voices being rather memorable. In the winter months, you might see a cactus wren here, hidden in the canyon just west of the dam.



Birdwatching Check List:



- Cholla Cactus Habitat
- Binoculars
- Bird Guide
- Notebook
- Life List

Additional Resources:

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
(<https://www.desertmuseum.org>)

At the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum website, you will find a wealth of information on cactus wrens in the "Animal Fact Sheet" section. Notes on their identifying features, adaptations, habitat, range, conservation status and typical lifespan can be found here.

Arizona State University "Ask a Biologist"
(<https://askabiologist.asu.edu/activities/bird/cactus-wren>)

If you are a homeschooling parent, or simply wish to have a better understanding of desert habitats, this webpage will be of great interest to you. Coloring pages, experiments, games, and various activities will help your students to learn more about the world that surrounds them.

As the spring approaches, the Cholla Lake staff will present programs utilizing these resources. Stay tuned!



Join Us

2022 Events!



Chollas Lake

This year will be filled with excitement, from fishing instruction for children 15 and under to archery lessons, book club meetings and ethnobotany hikes. If you would like additional information, please contact the ranger office at apalmer@sandiego.gov.

Chollas News



February, 2022



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Volume 1, Issue 8

Baking

Hobby Notes

Nothing brightens the day like a delicious cupcake or, perhaps, a slice of pie topped with seasonal fruit. Although often overlooked as a hobby, the art of baking is truly exciting to explore, a wonderful pastime for our park users to enjoy. From meat pies to gingerbread, let's consider some historical highlights as we plan our own culinary endeavors.

In the medieval period, baking was often a subsistence activity, providing food for the greater part of the population, breads and savory pies being favored. For the wealthy, heavy cakes (sometimes weighing 20 pounds) were an option. However, the most beloved product of baking is probably gingerbread, a staple of countless celebrations.

Ginger root, the main ingredient, was cultivated in ancient China and used as a medicinal herb with great success. In the Middle Ages, it was transported over the Silk Road, eventually becoming a favorite spice in Europe, where its distinct flavor was able to disguise the taste

of preserved meats. Although the earliest gingerbread recipes are said to date back to ancient Greece, formulations were eventually created in other parts of Europe as well, gracing countless tables throughout the centuries.

Sharing the Craft

Those who love baking will be able to join like-minded cooks at Chollas Lake, as we begin our new recipe club.

For Further Reading:

Tori Avery, "The History of Gingerbread" (The History Kitchen, December 20, 2013).

Nick Malgieri, *How to Bake* (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1995).

"A Brief History of Baking" (HistoryExtra.com).

Bakers and Baking in Massachusetts from 1620 to 1909 Boston Master Bakers' Association, 1909 (Yale Library).

SHARE YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES!

Watershed Ecology

Ideas for Further Study

Living in an urban area, it's easy to overlook the essential role played by *watersheds*, areas of land where rainfall and snowmelt are channeled to rivers and streams, proceeding to the ocean by way of outflow points. When we consider that water from hundreds of streams, creeks, and rivers enters the ocean, the scale of this process becomes apparent. (U.S. Geological Survey website, "Watersheds and Drainage Basins")

Also known as *catchments* and *drainage basins*, watersheds can extend for thousands of miles, with comparable amounts of groundwater being fed by them. Since this process of shedding water extends over great distances, pollutants have many opportunities to infiltrate outflows points. Our water supply is indeed vulnerable. With this in mind, let's consider some of the research currently being conducted in this area.

Watershed Science Institute

On the San Diego State University website (<https://watershed.sdsu.edu>) you can learn about the collaboration between scientists and communities,

as they work to manage land and water resources and address the many environmental challenges of our age, including soil erosion, climate change, and coastal contamination. Their work encompasses hydrologic and watershed modeling, remote sensing, management and policy creation and the study of water quality and ecosystems.

Additional Resources:

William S. Carlsen, *Watershed Dynamics* (Cornell Scientific Inquiry Series) (Arlington, VA: National Teachers Association, 2004).

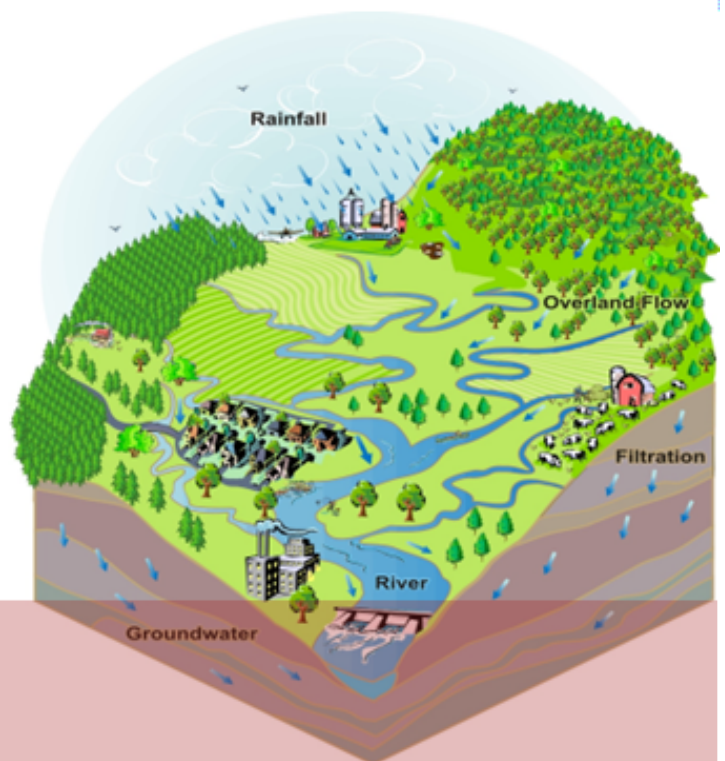
Bob Doppelt (Pacific Rivers Council), *Entering the Watershed: A New Approach to Save America's River Ecosystems* (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1993).

Ali Fares, *Coastal Watershed Management* (Boston: WIT Press, 2008).

Leslie Real, James Brown (Ecological Society of America), *Foundations of Ecology: Classic Papers with Commentaries* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991).

Key Elements:

- Watersheds—also called catchments and drainage basins—collect and distribute rainfall.
- They often encompass hundreds of streams, creeks and rivers.
- Pollutants have ample opportunity to reach outflow areas as waters move from higher points of elevation to lower regions.



US Geological Survey

<https://www.usgs.gov/>

THE CHOLLAS LAKE RECIPE CLUB



Are your
chocolate chip cookies
a crowd favorite?

Do friends eagerly await your chili?

If you have cherished recipes, join
the club and share them with our
Chollas Lake community.

Email the ranger staff with your recipes,
and we will feature them in an upcoming
issue. Our inaugural meeting
will take place this month.

February 12 at 11AM (Main Office)

Bring Your Recipes and Cooking Tips to Share!

Pre-Packaged Refreshments Will be Provided!

For Additional Information:

apalmer@sandiego.gov

Chollas News



March, 2022

Vol. 2, Issue 1



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Baseball

Hobby Notes

As spring approaches, fans of an old and venerable sport ready themselves for excitement, from afternoon practice sessions to the thrill of gathering for weekly games. With that in mind, let's take a moment to examine a few historical highlights.

Often considered more of a game than a sport, baseball, as we know it, has a rather complicated point of origin, scraps of folk history woven into a tapestry of facts. According to the staff of the History Charnel—who penned an article on March 27, 2013—Abner Doubleday had nothing to do with the game's invention. A writer, attorney and Civil War veteran, Doubleday was incorrectly credited with creating the game of baseball in Cooperstown, New York in 1839 by a mining engineer, one Abner Graves. Why? The latter was working to establish a history of the game to assist A. J. Spalding, the sporting goods magnate. It's not difficult to see that a glamorous backstory would do wonders to boost the sale of baseball equipment, what we would today call a marketing campaign. But what about the true story?

References to early forms of the game date back to the 18th century, rounders and cricket being its apparent antecedents. The article goes on to tell us that, by the time of the American Revolution, such games were being played across the country, with the New York Knickerbockers baseball club being formed in 1845.

Although the History Charnel provides a few interesting details, there is a great deal more to consider, the game of baseball occupying a prominent place in our culture. If you wish to continue your research, review the list of sources below. Enjoy!

For Further Reading:

Baseball: The National Pastime in the National Archives
(Information on this book can be found by entering the title into your browser.)

"Baseball (Sports Industry: A Research Guide)"
(The Library of Congress)

Those who are interested in the business side of this game can learn more by entering the title of this guide into the Library of Congress website.

Society for American Baseball Research (sabr.org)

For an overview of history and analytics, this website is very useful.

Chollas Lake Little League

If you would like to obtain current information on the season, please email the ranger staff at apalmer@sandiego.gov.

Oak Park Heritage

Highlights

Chollas Lake



- During February, our grounds maintenance staff members re-installed the pullup bars, just west of the lake.
- Donations were received for our book program, for which we thank the Friends of the Oak Park Library.
- New participants continue to join our Chollas Challenge fitness program.
- As the days grow longer, our closing times are adjusted accordingly. We ask all visitors to read the signs posted at each gate prior to entering the park.
- Soon, the many plants that grace our nature trails will begin to bloom. Let us know what you have seen.

iNaturalist

If you enjoy discovering new plants, consider using the iNaturalist application to log your photos and obtain identification. Chollas Lake is the perfect place to begin your botanical journey.

<https://www.inaturalist.org>

March Events and Programs

Kumeyaay Ethnobotany Hikes (March 26, 2PM)

Senior Ranger Carey Goldstein will lead visitors on a delightful tour of early spring blooms. Meet him at the main office, wearing your comfortable shoes and carrying your water bottle.

Wildflower Hike (March 12, 1PM)

For a low-impact walk, with a few hills and stretches of uneven terrain, meet the ranger at the main office.

Chollas Lake Book Club (March 5, 11AM)

Meet the ranger at the main office to discuss spring and summer reading. We will create our list during this meeting. Join us!

Chollas Lake Recipe Club (March 26, 11AM)

Meet the ranger staff at the main office to share recipes and cooking tips!

Adult Walking Class (TBA)

This low-impact walk around the lake is the perfect way to meet your neighbors. Meet our staff at the main office. Comfortable shoes and proper hydration are strongly recommended.

Children's Free Book Day (March 26, from 11AM)

Children and parents are invited to stop by the ranger cabin for a free book. We look forward to seeing you!

Wheelchair-Accessible Botanical Tour (March 12, 11AM)

An exciting journey through a lesser-known botanical treasure, please note that this program takes place at **Charles Lewis Memorial Park (4612 Home Avenue)**.

Contact Us for Details: apalmer@sandiego.gov

6350 College Grove Drive

Jackie Robinson

Baseball Biography

It would be difficult to overstate the impact Jackie Robinson had on baseball, as well as the course of recent history, integrating the Major League as he joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. As we celebrate the coming of a new season in baseball, let's take a moment to consider the life of one of its true luminaries.

Born in 1919 in Cairo, Georgia, Robinson grew up in a family of sharecroppers under the shadow of segregation, an upbringing that would inspire him to pursue excellence and, in so doing, to integrate the sport he loved.⁽¹⁾ His journey would take him from Pasadena Junior College and UCLA—where he distinguished himself in baseball, basketball, football and track—to the United States Army, where he completed Officer Candidate School and attained the rank of second lieutenant. And it was during this time that he experienced what was undoubtedly one of the formative chapters of his life.

The year was 1944. As a 25-year old lieutenant, attached to the 761st Tank Battalion, Robinson was told by a military bus driver that he would have to move to the back of the vehicle, this despite the fact that the U.S. Army had recently ordered racial segregation to cease on all of its posts. The young lieutenant refused. His courageous stand was met with outrage, and Robinson was arrested and charged with drunkenness—although he did not drink—disturbing the peace, refusing to obey the lawful orders of a superior officer, insulting a civilian woman, and disturbing the peace. Witnesses for the prosecution had numerous inconsistencies in their testimonies, and Robinson was acquitted, being honorably discharged in 1944.⁽²⁾

After playing in the Negro Baseball League for a season in 1945, he would go on to hit a dozen homeruns and become National League Rookie of the Year upon joining the Brooklyn Dodgers. In 1949, he was named the National League's Most Valuable Player of the Year and inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.⁽³⁾

Robinson's narrative would have been a delight to the creators of the sport, a true tale of courage and the pursuit of excellence. Those who enjoy the stories of baseball's luminaries, and wish to learn more about Robinson, will find a wealth of resources to explore. Also of interest is the Pasadena Robinson Memorial which stands at Centennial Square in the heart of Pasadena.⁽⁴⁾



For Further Reading:

The Jackie Robinson Papers, 1934-2001

Explore primary source materials at the Library of Congress website (loc.gov/item/mmm2001084832).

Jonathan Eig, *Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season*. (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007).

Jackie Robinson, *Jackie Robinson: My Own Story*. (New York: Greenburg, 1948).

Works Cited

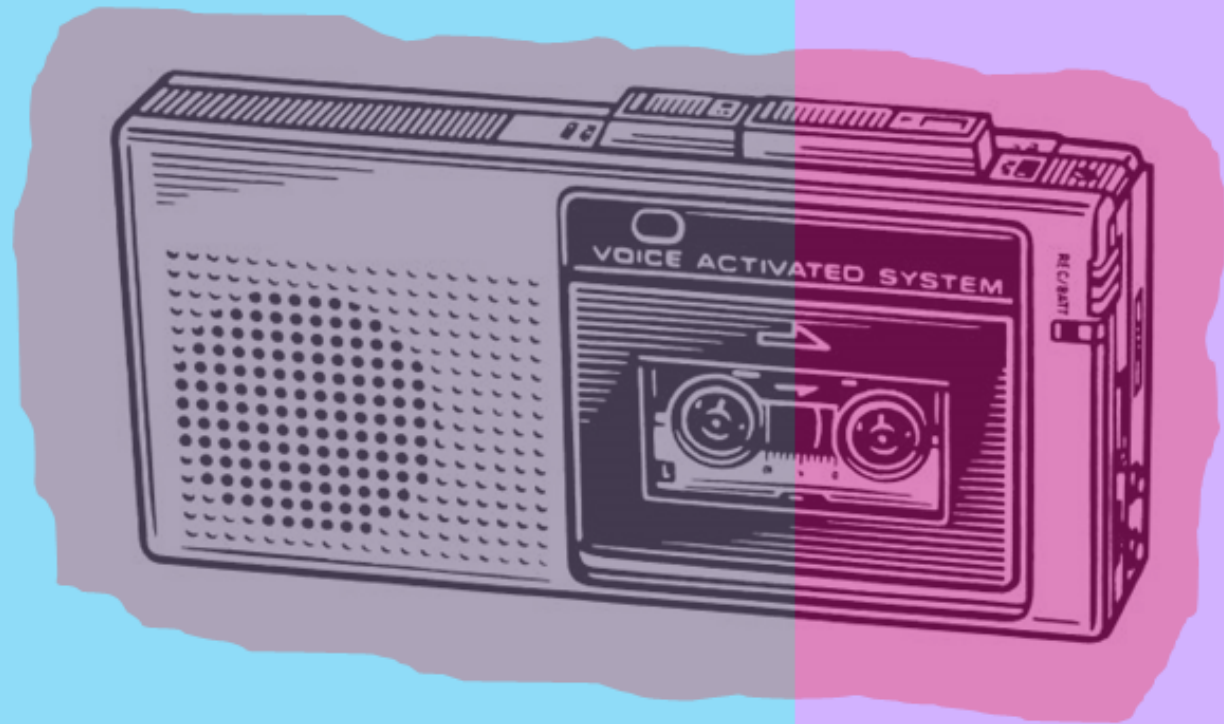
- 1) *The Official Licensing Website of Jackie Robinson* (Jackierobinson.com).
- 2) *U.S. Army Airborne & Special Operations Museum* (asomf.org) "Jackie Robinson's Career in the Army."
- 3) *The Official Licensing Website of Jackie Robinson*.
- 4) The Pasadena Robinson Memorial was constructed in 1997 as a collaborative effort by Ralph Helmick and John Outterbridge. Made of bronze, it was commissioned by the Pasadena Robinson Memorial Board (sandcartstudio.com).

Baseball



The Oral History Program

Chollas Lake Park



Share Your Memories!

Chollas Lake Park has a rich history, and you are a part of it.

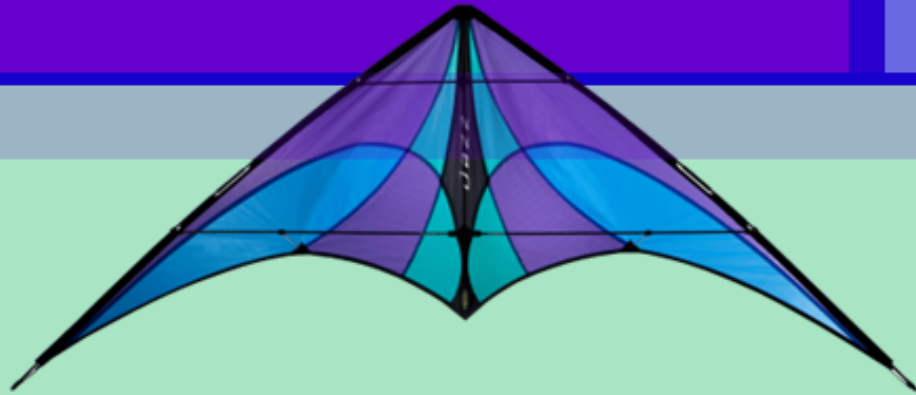
Regale us with tales from yesteryear!

We look forward to hearing them.

Contact the Ranger Staff

apalmer@sandiego.gov

Chollas News



Hobby Notes (1)
June Programs & Events (2)
Essay (Canada Geese) (3)
Updates (New Art) (4)
Farewell! (5)

Kite Flying

Hobby Notes

May Highlights

Although Mission Bay is the preferred kite flying area for locals, a few intrepid hobbyists enjoy the winds of our canyon. If you appreciate the challenges of this activity, and have a bit of patience, a great deal of fun awaits. Surprisingly, there is quite a rich history involved, so, let's take a closer look.

According to author Sourav Das, it is believed that kites were first used in China around 200 B.C., an abundance of bamboo and silk allowing for their production. Typically rectangular, Chinese kites were beautifully decorated with bright colors, often celebrating the exploits of heroic figures. And, as you can imagine, they had counterparts elsewhere in the world.

Although windsocks were used in Rome, kites, as we know them, did not become popular in Europe until the 1860s, at which time they experienced a golden age of sorts. These days, on any pleasant weekend, we see everything from traditional Chinese and Indian kites to those preferred by stunt flyers and surfers, undulating colors that decorate the sky. Would you like to join them?

As a beginner, you will benefit from watching tutorials online. Check with the experts to learn the various differences between one, two and four-line kites. Then, make your way to the park and allow favorable winds to guide you.

For Further Reading:

David Pelham. *Kites* (Woodstock, New York: Overland Press, 2000).


- Senior Ranger Carey Goldstein supervised litter removal projects at Imperial Marketplace, part of our Chollas Lake Park system.
- Recreation staff members hosted school children for an afternoon of fishing instruction and fun. Great work, Bill and Darren!
- Rangers continue sorting book donations for our summer giveaways.
- Volunteers Brian Black and Ryan Bulis began a new environmental art project, creating a rich visual experience for our visitors.
- Senior Ranger Goldstein conducted an exciting nature walk at Charles Lewis Memorial Park, our first wheelchair and stroller-accessible program. Inaugurated in April, it continues to grow.

Oak Park



Chollas Lake Park

6350 College Grove Drive



June Programs & Events:

This month, visitors can enjoy nature walks, lectures, archery lessons, book events, and a bit of exercise, right here in our wonderful Oak Park neighborhood!

We invite you to join us!

Walking Class (TBA)

Join our recreation staff for a walk around the lake, a stroll of moderate difficulty and some uneven terrain. Meet us at the main office and wear comfortable shoes. See you there!

Fishing Clinic (Children 15 and Under)

Our instructors provide the equipment and the information, and the kids contribute attentive enthusiasm. Fun for all! Call for our updated schedule.

Archery Instruction (All Ages)

Learn the basics of this ancient artform from our certified instructor. Please contact us for times and dates.

Chollas Recipe Club (TBA)

Is your barbeque sauce legendary? Do neighbors long for your homemade ice cream? Share your recipes with our community and make new friends!

Children's Free Book Day (Saturday, June 18)

We invite children 12 and under to visit the ranger cabin to receive a free book and chat with our staff. Join us beginning at 10am.

Explorations with a Ranger (Monday, June 13)

Meet Ranger Najja Lyon at the main office at 10:30am for an exploration of the park. Bring your inquisitive mind and wear comfortable walking shoes! Moderate hills and uneven terrain should be anticipated.


Nature Walk (TBA)

Meet our ranger staff at the main office at 2pm for a tour of the nature trails, a series of gently sloping hills filled with native plants. Wear comfortable shoes!

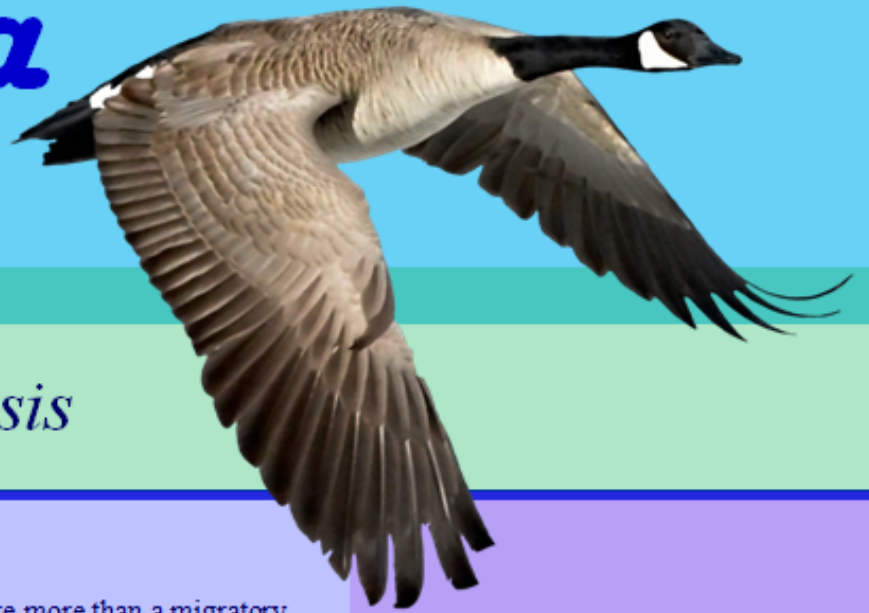
For additional information on our programs and events, and for general questions, please contact the ranger staff: (619) 527-7683

We ask all program participants to remember their water bottles and sunblock. See you there!

**Please Don't Feed
the Animals of Chollas Lake!**



Canada Geese



Branta canadensis

Our ideal weather makes Chollas Lake more than a migratory habitat for many species, among them our beloved Canada geese. In May, we saw a number of goslings in the company of their parents, walking tentatively along the water's edge. In recent years, Canada geese have graced the lake with their presence year-round, delighting visitors with their elegance. Let's learn a bit more about these birds of the lake.

According to the Audubon Society's migration map, it is indeed uncommon for Canada Geese to remain in San Diego throughout the entire year. Typically, one can gauge the season by watching their direction of flight, northbound in the spring and towards the south in the fall—unless they are well-fed enough to remain indefinitely, as is the case of Chollas Lake, but I digress.

Soaring Elegance

These large waterfowl forage for a variety of plants and often partake of berries and domesticated grains, thus becoming a bit of a nuisance to farmers. Nesting in a variety of locations, including reeds, artificial platforms and cliff edges, these birds produce 4-7 eggs which are cared for by both parents. Canada geese often mate for life and can be observed traveling in family units. If you see them at Chollas Lake, remember not to feed or disturb them.

Respect their Space

Additional Resources:

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology: NestWatch

On this site, you can learn about nest boxes and how they are used to augment the habitat of Canada Geese. Use this link: [NestWatch | Canada Goose - NestWatch](#)

San Diego Field Ornithologists

Check recent entries from those who investigate these birds in the field. Use this link: [geese, geese and more geese! - San Diego Field Ornithologists | San Diego Field Ornithologists](#)

Managing Canada Geese in Urban Environments

(PDF) [Managing Canada Geese in Urban Environments \(researchgate.net\)](#)

Art of the environment enriches our surroundings, creating beautiful narratives within the land. We are fortunate to have local artists Brian Black and Ryan Bulis working at the lake, carving old tree stumps into faces of intrigue. As the project continues, you will begin to notice the wonderful ambience these pieces create. We invite you to photograph the Chollas Lake public art project and share your images on social media. Enjoy!

Environmental Art at Chollas Lake

In previous years, the park has been upgraded by a number of woodworkers, community members who have an eye for practical beauty. The next time you approach from the main entrance, take note of our sign, its rustic charm and simplicity. We thank those unnamed woodworkers from the past for their vision and ingenuity.

The picnic shelters and staircase railings you enjoy on a daily basis are very much in need of repair. So, if you are skilled in this area, and have a decorative eye, please feel free to offer your services to the City of San Diego. I'm sure management will appreciate your efforts.



Palomar College Art Teacher
Brian Black initiated the project
with this piece, which sits
on the south side of the lake.
Can you find it?

*If you are curious about the project, or have questions
for the artists, you can contact the ranger staff:*

(619) 527-7683



- *Chollas
Flora & Fauna Weekly*

- *The Monthly
Writing Workshop
of Balboa Park*

- *Topics
for Park Professionals*

- *Chollas News*

Goodbye and Best Wishes!

Allison M. Palmer, M.A.

City of San Diego Park Ranger

2001-2022