

March 2011

# La Lavandería



Rancho Guajome Adobe County Park

## ***Ranger's Report: The Disturbing World of Weeds***

Have you ever cleared a patch of soil in your yard to plant an amazing garden or some ornamental plants; and then left the project for another day. Chances are if you waited for a week or more to finish your project, invasive weeds probably quickly took over the patch of soil. Next, you would have to clear the patch again; pulling weeds, spraying weeds and conducting other labor intensive landscaping tasks. Why aren't weeds taking over other areas of your yard? Well, the answer is disturbance.

Without disturbance invasive weeds have a hard time getting established. Look at any construction site in San Diego County and you'll notice the proliferation of weeds where grading has occurred. Landscape managers, habitat restoration companies, park managers and many others spend time and money to mitigate the negative impacts of invasive weeds. Weeds are not only a nuisance and a landscape eyesore, they are also environmentally destructive.

Weeds can be considered invasive and in some cases noxious. Invasive weeds are those plants that are exotic or non-native to a local ecosystem. For example, Pampas Grass, Star Thistle, Sow Thistle and Arundo Grass are invasive, or exotic

weeds. Noxious weeds are also invasive weeds, but they go one step further. Noxious is a regulatory term that basically means that the invasive weed is harmful to native plants and local ecosystems. Noxious weeds disrupt native habitat, reproduce quickly and displace native plants. Most invasive weeds are also noxious weeds.

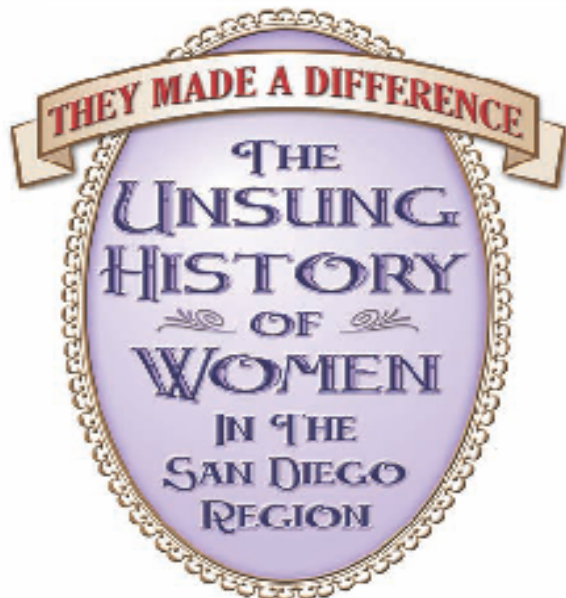
In order to help inhibit the spread of invasive weeds in your own yard, keep soil disturbance to a minimum and mulch areas that are prone to weeds. Spraying herbicides should be a last resort in your war against weeds. Furthermore, planting native plants is another way we can mitigate invasive weed impacts. Oh yes, and don't forget to pull those weeds out by the root too!



Using heavy machinery to remove Arundo Grass along the San Luis Rey River. *Courtesy Recon Environmental Inc.*

## Take Note: Congress of History Conference in March

**THIS EXCITING, EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE IS ON MARCH 4 & 5, 2011.  
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!**



**WHAT**

A Two-Day History Conference about Women in the San Diego Region

**WHERE**

The Santa Fe Room in the Balboa Park Club, and the Ballroom & Recital Hall, all in beautiful Balboa Park, San Diego

**WHEN**

Friday, March 4, and Saturday, March 5, 2011

**WHO**

Sponsored by the Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties, the Women's History Museum & Educational Center, and the City of San Diego Historical Resources Board

**COST:** Only \$25 per person for the two-day conference! • Seniors (age 65 +) only \$20 per person • Students (with student ID) \$15 each • Same price for one day or both. Note: price does not include box lunch. Walk-ins welcome both days.

**TWO DAYS OF BEGUILING WOMEN'S HISTORY, EXHIBITS, AND COLLECTIBLES  
BRING A FRIEND!**

**CONFERENCE TO INCLUDE:** Numerous speakers, with illustrated presentations; educational exhibits; historical book displays; walking tour of Balboa Park; and a Historical Women's Costume Presentation from the Women's History Museum. For an additional price, box lunches may be ordered for both days, on the pre-registration form. (Conference walk-ins welcome as space permits, but pre-registration is encouraged. Box lunches are available only to those who order/pay using the pre-registration form.)

**PLEASE HELP PROMOTE OUR CONFERENCE:** Put the conference dates on your calendar and your organization's calendar. Encourage your friends and members of all historical and women's groups to attend this unique conference – the first of its kind in San Diego and Imperial Counties! Help publicize this conference to everyone you know!

**PRE-REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 10, 2011**

Info: e-mail: [hghalmay@aol.com](mailto:hghalmay@aol.com), or (619) 469-7283, or [www.congressofhistory.org](http://www.congressofhistory.org)

**THE 46TH ANNUAL CONGRESS OF HISTORY CONFERENCE:**

**DEDICATED TO THE VIBRANT, AMAZING WOMEN WHO MADE HISTORY.**

**Primary Conference Sponsors**

Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties ([www.congressofhistory.org](http://www.congressofhistory.org))  
 Women's History Museum & Educational Center ([www.whmec.org](http://www.whmec.org))  
 City of San Diego Historical Resources Board ([www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov))

## Docent Appreciation Luncheon Moments



The coffee and conversation were flowing freely!

Volunteer Coordinator, Cheryl Wegner, thanking the docents of Rancho Guajome.



Give yourselves a round of applause for a stellar year of volunteering! Thanks to all of our dedicated and generous docents!

## Call For “Adobe Days” Exhibitors and Vendors

We are accepting vendor/exhibitor applications for our next big event, “Adobe Days”. Vendor fee will only be \$10. We would like to have applications in by April 15th. Key words for vendors/exhibitors: history, homemade, crafts, environment, gardening, recreation, education, archaeology, plants, animals, agriculture and farming.

Email: [Jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov) for an application

## Important Dates and Events @ RGA

March 1st: Docent Meeting 10am @ Graham House/ Ranger Office

March 8, 10, 22 & 24: School Tours @ 10am

March 16th: Rancho Buena Vista Adobe Tour @ 10am



\*Sign up now for school tours, weekend tours and gift shop shifts! Make it simple, just call the park or email us. 760-724-4082/ [Jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov)

### Docent Emeritus Donates Ornamental Plants

Hank Presutti donated several Elephant Foot Trees (aka Pony Tail Palms) (*Beaucarnia recurvata*) and a mature Camellia (*Camellia japonica*) which stands at about 10 feet in height.

The Pony Tail Palm is actually not a palm, but related to agaves and yuccas. It is native to the northern deserts of Mexico, and can grow to be quite large (10-15 feet wide and tall). The Camellia will provide some more color for the Victorian Garden entrance, however we haven't decided on a place for the Elephant Foot Trees. Thanks to Hank!



Pony Tail Palm at maturity, ours are much smaller, for now!



- ◆ Docent Meeting @ the Graham House @ 10am on the 1st Tuesday of every month
- ◆ Furniture Committee @ the Graham House @ 9:30am on the 2nd Wednesday of every month

## Park Projects & Updates

### Culvert/Trail Repair

Park staff and California Conservation Corps workers completed a major improvement to our trail system. We replaced the damaged culvert where the trail crosses over the creek and continues towards the Steam Engine Museum and the Sports Park. We also increased the capacity of the drainage pipes to accommodate seasonal flooding.



## FYI: EarthFair 2011

**Place:** Balboa Park

**Time:** Sunday, April 17th, 10a-5p

**Price:** Free!

“The annual EarthFair in Balboa Park is the largest free annual environmental fair in the world. EarthFair 2011 will be our 22nd annual event! Each year, the EarthFair draws around 60,000 visitors.

Produced by 400 volunteers, EarthFair features more than 350 exhibitors, special theme areas, a Food Pavilion, a special Kids’ Activity Area, three entertainment venues, the Children’s Earth Parade, the eARTh Gallery art show, and the Cleaner Car Concourse.”

Visit [www.earthdayweb.org](http://www.earthdayweb.org) for more info.

The San Diego County Parks Dept. will also have a booth at this event, so go check it out!



# General County Info

**Main Office Address:**

County of San Diego  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
5500 Overland Dr. Suite 410  
San Diego, CA 92123

**County Parks and Recreation:**

Web Address: [www.sdparks.org](http://www.sdparks.org)

**San Diego County Parks Society**

**P.O. BOX 957**  
**Bonita, CA 91908**  
**SDCPSOC@aol.com**  
**(619) 267-7323 office**  
**(619) 267-7329 fax**

**General Information & Questions:**

Dept. Phone: (858) 694-3030  
Park Office: (760)724-4082

**E-mail:**

[Hector.live@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Hector.live@sdcounty.ca.gov)  
[Jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Jason.schwartz@sdcounty.ca.gov)

**Reservations:**

(877) 565-3600; M-F 8am-5pm  
or on-line at: [www.sdparks.org](http://www.sdparks.org)

**Rancho Guajome Adobe County Park**

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Vista, CA 92083

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E-mail: [hector.live@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:hector.live@sdcounty.ca.gov)

*A legacy preserved*