

Volunteer Corner

BY: CHERYL WEGNER, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Equestrian Doug Howarth has been a member of the Volunteer Patrol based out of Sweetwater Regional Park for about six years, having become more active in the past two years. Doug was brought up on a farm where his dad didn't allow any "hay burners" so Doug had to bum rides from neighbors when he could. Then about 20 years ago he went to a dude ranch and rekindled the "horse bug".

Asked why he volunteers, Doug said that he wanted to give back to his community. He loves nature and the outdoors and is interested in helping people. No wonder, as Doug worked for the Sweetwater Union High School District for 35 years, teaching for 13 years, and was a counselor for 23 years.

He retired a few years ago, which has given him more time to enjoy his two horses, a Tennessee Walking Horse and a Spotted Saddle Horse.



The Volunteer Patrol has provided Doug with the opportunity to meet some great riding companions. The patrol members meet once a month and try to commit one Saturday a month to work on trails in Bonita. Doug comments that the Bonita folks are committed to trails and it's a place where horse people, mountain bikers and hikers all work together.

Parks Society News

By: George Hanson, President of the San Diego County Parks Society

I have a small collection of Spanish-colonial antiques. The compound adjective "Spanish-colonial" in this instance refers to those artifacts made by inhabitants of those lands colonized by Spain beginning in the fifteenth century. For example, I have one piece that originated in the Philippines, a few from Mexico, more from Ecuador, and several from Peru.

I have a few pieces of furniture—tables and benches—but mostly what I have are religious articles, a few paintings, but mostly what are referred to as *santos* and *Cristos*, busts or full-figure representations of various saints or of Jesus. My oldest pieces date to the seventeenth century, but most are only from the nineteenth century.

Whatever the age of my artifacts, every day I am self-conscious about the fact that I am not the original owner, and I am even more self-conscious that other owners will follow me. In other words, I am aware that my possession of Spanish-colonial antiques amounts only to a custodianship. I feel responsible for their safety and care, and for their survival and transmittal into the future.

I mention all of this by way of expressing my deep gratitude to everyone who works for our County's Parks and Recreation Department. All of you are the current custodians of our shared inheritance—the parks, preserves, and historic structures of our county. Each day you do a tremendous job of maintaining what is always wanting, through the process of entropy, to fall apart. A brave mission, that!

I'm proud of my little collection of Spanish-colonial antiques (a small collection because I've never had big money). I hope you are equally proud of the places you tend to each day, being good and tender stewards of what we want our children to inherit and enjoy after us.

