

## Descriptions and Directions to Canyoneer Walks by Region

Map references refer to the 2007 *Thomas Guide*. Other editions may be similar. Driving times are approximated from Balboa Park.

### NORTH COASTAL

#### **1. BATIQUITOS LAGOON**

**EASY**

**Sunday, October 21, 2007; 1–3 PM**

A pleasant walk on level terrain provides ample opportunity to enjoy lagoon plants and birds.

*(Carlsbad) From I-5 exit east on Poinsettia Lane. Turn right at the second traffic light onto Batiquitos Dr. Stay on Batiquitos Dr. for about 1.3 miles to a parking lot on the right, identified as Aviara Cove (at Golden Star Lane). No facilities. (Map 1127, C-7)*

#### **2. CREST CANYON OPEN SPACE PARK**

**EASY**

**Sunday, January 20, 2008; 9–10:30 AM**

Enjoy a variety of native and nonnative plants. This dirt trail descends gradually into the canyon through coastal sage scrub and chaparral.

*(Del Mar) From I-5 exit west on Via de la Valle, then turn left (south) onto Jimmy Durante Blvd. Just after crossing the bridge over the San Dieguito River, turn left (east) onto San Dieguito Dr., which becomes Race Track View Dr. Continue through to the stop sign, parking on the road shoulder. No facilities. (Map 1187, H-4)*

#### **3. SAN ELIJO LAGOON COUNTY ECOLOGICAL PRESERVE**

**EASY**

**Sunday, November 4, 2007; 8–10:30 AM**

**Saturday, June 7, 2008; 5–7:30 PM**

This is an easy walk along the lagoon, except for a few steep steps down a small hill at the trailhead. Search for water birds at this marsh habitat and estuary.

*(Solana Beach) From I-5 exit west on Lomas Santa Fe Dr. Turn right (north) onto Rios Ave. Continue until the end of the road and park. No facilities. (Map 1167, E-6)*

#### **4. TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE—SORRENTO VALLEY**

**EASY**

**Saturday, May 24, 2008; 9–11 AM**

Join us on this easy walk through chaparral among a variety of plants, birds, reptiles, and butterflies.

*(Sorrento Valley) From 805 exit Sorrento Valley Rd./Mira Mesa Blvd. Go northwest onto Sorrento Valley Rd. approximately 1 mile to Sorrento Valley Blvd. Turn left and cross tracks. At the next intersection, turn right onto Roselle St. Follow this to end, then left onto Estuary Rd. Follow Canyoneer sign at Flintkote Rd. to large dirt parking. (Map 1208, A-5)*

#### **5. TORREY PINES STATE RESERVE EXTENSION**

**EASY**

**Saturday, May 10, 2008; 9–11 AM**

See rare Torrey pines, native chaparral plants, and wildflowers on this easy walk to a vista point overlooking Peñasquitos Lagoon and the ocean.

*(Del Mar) From I-5 exit west on Carmel Valley Rd. Turn right (north) onto Del Mar Scenic Pkwy. Continue to the end of the road and park. No facilities. (Map 1207, H-1)*

### SAN DIEGO CENTRAL

#### **6. BALBOA PARK DECEMBER NIGHTS**

**Friday, December 7, 2007; 5–9 PM**

**Saturday, December 8, 2007; 5–9 PM**

In this annual event (formerly known as Christmas on the Prado), Canyoneers will be selling local mistletoe to benefit the San Diego Natural History Museum.

*(Balboa Park) From Park Blvd., go west on Village Pl. to the parking lot. Street parking is also available. Wheelchair accessible. (Map 1289, C-1)*

## **7. BAYSIDE TRAIL**

**MODERATE**

**Saturday, February 9, 2008; 10 AM–noon**

Encounter windswept vegetation and chaparral scrub forests on cliffs overlooking the harbor on this 2-mile, round-trip trail. Remnants of WWII defense installations are visible. The return walk at your own pace is all uphill.

*(Cabrillo National Monument, San Diego) From I-8 exit on Rosecrans St. Turn right on Cañon St. and continue 1 mile to the traffic signal at Catalina Blvd. Turn left (south) and follow the road to Cabrillo National Monument and park. Meet on the sidewalk to the lighthouse (next to the road). Parking is \$6 per car. Snacks, water, and restrooms are available at the Visitor's Center. (Map 1308, A-2)\$P*

## **8. COWLES MOUNTAIN (EAST)**

**STRENUOUS**

**Sunday, November 11, 2007: 9 AM–noon**

This eastern approach to the top of Cowles Mountain (elevation gain 1000 feet) provides a different view from the usual western approach.

*(Mission Trails Regional Park, San Diego) From I-8 exit north on College Ave. then turn right (east) onto Navajo Rd. Turn left (north) on Cowles Mountain Blvd. and follow it 0.4 miles to Boulder Lake Ave. then turn left. Go one block to Barker Way; turn right and park on the street. Meet at the kiosk. No facilities. (Map 1250, H-3)*

## **9. COWLES MOUNTAIN WINTER SOLSTICE**

**STRENUOUS**

**Friday, December 21, 2007: 6–7:30 AM**

Ascend Cowles Mountain in near-darkness to watch the sunrise on the first day of winter at a Kumeyaay solstice observatory, about halfway up the mountain.

*(Mission Trails Regional Park, San Diego) From I-8 exit north on College Ave. then turn right (east) onto Navajo Rd. Dr. 2.5 miles to Golfcrest Dr. Turn left on Golfcrest Dr. and park. Meet near the northeast corner of Golfcrest Dr. and Navajo Rd. (Map 1250, F-4)*

## **10. FLORIDA CANYON**

**EASY**

**Saturday, September 15, 2007; 1–2:30 PM**

**Sunday, December 9, 2007; 9–10:30 AM**

Enjoy this canyon preserved by Helen Witham Chamlee. Together with Docents of the San Diego Natural History Museum, Chamlee founded the Canyoneers in 1973.

*(San Diego) From Park Blvd., take Morley Field Dr. east, crossing Florida Dr. At the top of the hill, turn right twice into the parking lot next to the lawn. Snack stand and facilities at tennis courts. (Map 1269, C-7)*

## **11. FORTUNA MOUNTAIN**

**STRENUOUS**

**Saturday, March 29, 2008; 10 AM–1 PM**

From this high vantage point, enjoy a surprising variety of wildflowers and a view of a location that once contained ancient beaches.

*(Mission Trails Regional Park, San Diego) From I-15 exit east on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. Turn left at Via Valarta, then right on Collegio Dr., and another left on Alejo St. Turn left on Belardo Dr., then right*

*on Camino Playa Catalina, and left on Corte Playa Catalina. Park on the right side of the street. No facilities. (Map 1230, A-7)*

**12. KATE O. SESSIONS MEMORIAL PARK**

**EASY**

**Saturday, January 19, 2008; 9–10:30 AM**

Enjoy one of the most beautiful spots in San Diego, overlooking Mission Bay, and explore its natural charm. Caution: parts of the trail are steep or have poor footing.

*(San Diego) From I-5 exit west on Garnet Ave. then turn right (north) onto Lamont St. Turn right on Park Dr. into the parking lot. Meet near the playground. Restrooms and water. (Map 1248, A-4)*

**13. KWAAY PAAY**

**STRENUOUS**

**Sunday, March 2, 2008: 9–11 AM**

Wear a hat and boots on this 2.5 mile round-trip up to Kwaay Paay peak (elevation gain/loss 880 feet). Low chaparral enables views from along the trail.

*(Mission Trails Regional Park, Santee) From I-8 exit north on Mission Gorge Rd., then turn left onto Father Junipero Serra Trail. Continue through the gated road for 1.8 miles to the parking lot at the dam, or park along the road at the dam. Alternate route: From Santee, take Mission Gorge Rd. west and turn right onto Father Junipero Serra Trail to the parking lot. Water and chemical toilet. (Map 1230, F-6)*

**14. LAKE MURRAY (BALTIMORE DRIVE)**

**EASY**

**Sunday, March 30, 2008; 8–9:30 AM**

Walk in this disturbed finger canyon leading to Lake Murray and see cholla, prickly pear, brass buttons, cattails, mosquito fish, buckwheat, laurel sumac mixed among pepper trees, castor bean, fennel, and tamarisk.

*(Mission Trails Regional Park, San Diego) From I-8 exit north on Lake Murray Blvd. then turn left onto Baltimore Dr. Meet Canyoneer host at Baltimore and Bertro Dr. (Map 1250, G-6)*

**15. LAKE MURRAY (KIOWA)**

**EASY**

**Saturday, December 8, 2007; 1–2:30 PM**

Enjoy a walk at the lake where waterfowl are plentiful. The easy path gives access to chaparral and coastal sage scrub.

*(Mission Trails Regional Park, San Diego) From I-8 exit north on Lake Murray Blvd., then left at Kiowa Dr. Go through the gate and meet near the parking lot. Restrooms and water. Wheelchair accessible. (Map 1270, F-1)*

**16. LAKE MURRAY (MURRAY PARK DRIVE)**

**EASY**

**Saturday, November 17, 2007, 1–2:30 PM**

On this easy walk along the west side of Lake Murray, look for wildflowers and water birds as you make your way toward the 1918 dam. This area is wheelchair accessible.

*(Mission Trails Regional Park, San Diego) From I-8 exit north on College Ave. then turn right onto Navajo Rd. Continue to Park Ridge Blvd. and turn right. Turn left on Murray Park Dr. and park at the baseball fields. Chemical toilet. (Map 1250, E-6)*

**17. MISSION TRAILS (JACKSON DRIVE)**

**EASY**

**Saturday, October 13, 2007; 1–2:30 PM**

This side entrance to Mission Trails Regional Park allows viewing access to a combination of exotic and native plants. Meta volcanic, plutonic, and volcanic rock also make this area very interesting geologically.

*(Mission Trails Regional Park, Santee) From I-8 exit north on Mission Gorge Rd., then left (north) at Jackson Dr. and park in the lot. No facilities. (Map 1250, D-3)*

**18. MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK (CALLE DE VIDA TRAILHEAD)      MODERATE**

**Saturday, June 21, 2008; 8–9:30 AM**

Chocolate lilies and shooting stars can be seen on this trail through chaparral vegetation.

*(Tierrasanta) From I-15 exit east on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. to Seda Dr. and turn right. Proceed down Seda Dr. 2 blocks and turn left onto Calle de Vida. Proceed down Calle de Vida and go to the end of the street. The trailhead is at the yellow gate. Look for the park kiosk. (Map 1250, B-2)*

**19. MISSION TRAILS REGIONAL PARK (VISTORS CENTER)      EASY**

**Saturday, December 1, 2007; 1–2:30 PM**

Mission Trails Regional Park, one of the largest urban parks in the U.S., is an open-space park showcasing chaparral vegetation.

*(Santee) From I-8 exit north on Mission Gorge Rd. Look for the large wooden park sign on Mission Gorge Rd.. Turn left onto Father Junipero Serra Trail. The Visitor and Interpretive Center parking lot is on the left just before you get to the pipe gate on Father Junipero Serra Trail. (Map 1250, D-2)*

**20. OAK CANYON      EASY TO MODERATE**

**Saturday, November 3, 2007, 1–3:30 PM**

This is a 3-mile walk (round trip) with an elevation gain/loss of about 200 feet along a streambed rimmed by coast live oaks.

*(Mission Trails Regional Park, Santee) From I-8 exit north on Mission Gorge Rd., then turn left onto Father Junipero Serra Trail. Continue through the gated road for 1.8 miles to the parking lot at the dam, or park along the road at the dam. Alternate route: From Santee, take Mission Gorge Rd. west and turn right onto Father Junipero Serra Trail to the parking lot. Water and chemical toilet. (Map 1230, F-6)*

**21. OLD MISSION (PADRE) DAM      EASY**

**Saturday, September 29, 2007; 1–2:30 PM**

The dam was built in the early 1800s under the direction of the San Diego Mission. This walk will take you along a riparian habitat and through chaparral.

*(Mission Trails Regional Park, Santee) From I-8 exit north on Mission Gorge Rd., then turn left onto Father Junipero Serra Trail. Continue through the gated road for 1.8 miles to the parking lot at the dam, or park along the road at the dam. Alternate route: From Santee, take Mission Gorge Rd. west and turn right onto Father Junipero Serra Trail to the parking lot. Water and chemical toilet. (Map 1230, F-6)*

**22. RIM TRAIL      EASY TO MODERATE**

**Sunday, May 25, 2008, 9 AM–noon**

The rim trail in the western edge of Mission Trails Regional Park highlights views of Suycott Wash, Fortuna and Cowles Mountains, and the Peninsular Ranges to the east. Look for threatened species of variegated *Dudleya*, summer holly, coast barrel cactus, Johnny jump-ups, and shooting stars.

*(Mission Trails Regional Park, San Diego) From I-15 or Hwy. 163 exit east on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. and park at the trailhead at the end of the road. No facilities. (Map 1250, B-1)*

**23. ROSE CANYON OPEN SPACE PARK      EASY**

**Saturday, October 20, 2007; 1–2:30 PM**

Watch for hawks and owls in Rose Creek, a 275-acre oasis around the old Santa Fe Railroad roadbed. Volunteers have planted a native garden near the trailhead.

*(University City) From Hwy. 52 or Clairemont Mesa Blvd. take Genesee Ave. north to Decoro St. Park on Decoro St. on the west side of Genesee Ave. Walk south on Genesee back to the trailhead to meet the Canyoneer host. No facilities. (Map 1228, D-4)*

#### **24. GREENBELT (SHEPARD) CANYON**

**EASY**

**Saturday, March 8, 2008, 8–9:30 AM**

Take a morning stroll through the canyon toward a small reservoir that attracts birds and other animals. This is part of a greenbelt area that sustains native vegetation.

*(San Diego) From I-15 exit east on Clairemont Mesa Blvd. then turn left (north) on Santo Rd. for 0.25 miles to the greenbelt and park on the street. No facilities. (Map 1229, H-7)*

#### **25. TECOLOTE CANYON NATURAL PARK (WEST)**

**EASY**

**Saturday, September 22, 2007; 1–2:30 PM**

Observe seasonal changes of natural vegetation in the park. Visit the nature center to see informative exhibits about the canyon.

*(San Diego) From I-5 exit east on SeaWorld Dr./Tecolote Rd. and follow it past the ball fields. Park in the Nature or Recreation Center lots. Restrooms and water. (Map 1268, F-2)*

### **SOUTH BAY**

#### **26. RICE CANYON PRESERVE**

**EASY**

**Sunday, April 13, 2008; 10–11:30 AM**

This easy walk through the canyon offers the opportunity to observe a diversity of chaparral plants.

*(Chula Vista) Take I-805 south to H St. and head east on East H St. to the traffic signal at Paseo Ranchero and turn left. Go 2 blocks then turn right on Rancho Del Rey Pkwy. Across the street on the left will be a sign identifying Rice Canyon Preserve. Turn left into the parking lot. Facilities in Discovery Park. (Map 1311, A-5)*

#### **27. SWEETWATER RIVER GORGE**

**EASY**

**Saturday, April 5, 2008; 9 AM–noon**

Hike in an extensive river woodland among willow and cottonwood trees and enjoy a view of the historic iron bridge.

*(Jamul) Take Hwy. 94 east past Jamacha Blvd. where Hwy. 94 turns right onto Campo Rd. Turn right at Campo Rd. (at T.G.I. Friday's restaurant) and continue east on Hwy. 94. Go 0.4 miles to Singer Lane, which will be on your right. Park along Singer Lane or in the parking area at the iron bridge. No facilities. (Map 1271, J-6)*

#### **28. TIJUANA ESTUARY**

**EASY**

**Sunday, June 29, 2008; 8–9:30 AM**

Revel in one of the few remaining salt marshes in southern California. Endangered bird species, including the Clapper Rail, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, and the California Least Tern, may be seen during this walk on level terrain.

*(Imperial Beach) From I-5 exit west on Coronado Ave. (Coronado Ave. becomes Imperial Beach Ave.). Turn left (south) on 5th St. to Iris Ave. Park on the street. Restrooms and water are available at the Tijuana Estuary Interpretive Center, 301 Caspian Way. (Map 1349, F-1)*

## INLAND

### **29. BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE**

**EASY**

**Saturday, October 6, 2007; 1–2:30 PM**

This easy walk through an ecological reserve just north of Lake Poway passes by several streams and a woodland canyon of large oaks.

*(Poway) From I-15 exit east on Rancho Bernardo Rd., which becomes Espola Rd. (S-5). The entrance to the reserve is at Espola Rd. and Green Valley Truck Trail. Park in the lot near the Reserve gate.*

*Chemical toilet. (Map 1170, G-3)*

### **30. BOULDER MOUNTAIN ROAD PRIVATE NATURE TRAIL**

**MODERATE**

**Saturday, April 19, 2008; 10 AM–noon**

The owner of this private property has given the Canyoneers special permission to lead a hike on this date only. Please join us at this Poway location!

*(Poway) From I-15 exit east on Rancho Bernardo Rd., which becomes Espola Rd. (S-5). Make right turns on Martincoit, Orchard Gate, Lime Grove and Arroyo Vista Rds. Then turn left on Boulder Mountain Rd. to meet the Canyoneer host. Do not be late, as we will have limited access through the gate. No facilities. (Map 1170, E-5)*

### **31. DALEY RANCH (BOULDER LOOP)**

**MODERATE**

**Sunday, February 3, 2008; 10 AM–1 PM**

Daley Ranch provides several habitats that support a variety of plant and animal species. Enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding areas along the trails.

*(Escondido) From I-15 exit east on El Norte Pkwy. then turn left (north) on La Honda Dr. to the parking area for Daley Ranch on the left. At the right is Dixon Lake with a restroom, water, and picnic areas.*

*(Map 1110, C-3)*

### **32. DOS PICOS COUNTY REGIONAL PARK**

**EASY**

**Saturday, March 1, 2008; 10–11:30 AM**

Wind through chaparral on a nature trail leading to a freshwater pond.

*(Ramona) From I-8, take Hwy. 67 north. (Alternate route: From I-15 take Scripps Poway Pkwy. then head north on Hwy. 67). Before entering Ramona, turn right on Mussey Grade Rd., then bear right at Dos Picos Park Rd. into the park. Restroom and water. Parking fee is \$3. (Map 1171, H-5)*

### **33. ELFIN FOREST RECREATIONAL RESERVE**

**MODERATE TO STRENUOUS**

**Sunday, April 27, 2008; 10 AM–noon**

While crossing Escondido Creek, enjoy wildflowers and the soothing sounds of water. Then go uphill on the Botanical Loop Trail and descend to the staging area (about 1 mile round-trip). If desired, continue on the Way Up Trail to the top of the ridge. Alternate Route: cross the creek via a wide, paved area to begin the Botanical Loop Trail with the option of following it to the creek or continue on the Way Up Trail.

*(Escondido) From I-15 to Escondido, go west on Hwy. 78. Exit Nordahl Rd. (which becomes Citracado Pkwy.) going south. Cross Mission Rd. and turn on Country Club Rd. Continue south 2 or 3 miles to Harmony Grove Rd. Turn right and continue about 2 miles to the Reserve's parking lot on the left.*

*Alternate Route: From I-5, exit La Costa Ave. Go east about 4 miles to Rancho Santa Fe Rd. and turn left. Proceed about 2 miles to San Elijo Rd. and turn right. Proceed about 2 miles to Elfin Forest Rd. (which becomes Harmony Grove Rd.). Continue about 3 miles to the Reserve's parking area on the right. Water and chemical toilets. Allow 1-hour driving time. (Map 1129, D1&2 then 1149, B-1)*

### **34. GOODAN RANCH**

**EASY**

**Sunday, December 16, 2007; 9–11 AM**

This 321-acre preserve, located in a valley framed by hills, provides a home for deer, bobcats, and Golden Eagles.

*(Poway/Santee) From I-15 go east 5 miles on Poway Rd. Turn right on Garden Rd. then right on Sycamore Canyon Rd. for 2.3 miles until you reach the parking lot. No facilities. (Map 1191, C-6)*

### **35. LAKE HODGES (EAST ARM)**

**EASY**

**Saturday, November 10, 2007; 1–2:30 PM**

**Saturday, February 2, 2008; 9–10:30 AM**

Hike through a variety of terrains, past a waterfall, and learn about Native American uses for plants in this area rich in Kumeyaay history.

*(Rancho Bernardo) Take I-15 to the West Bernardo Dr./Pomerado Rd. exit. Turn left onto West Bernardo Dr. Within a half mile, there is a turnoff into a dirt parking lot on the right side. Meet at the signed Bernardo Bay Natural Area. No facilities. (Map 1150, A-5)*

### **36. LAKESIDE'S RIVER PARK**

**EASY**

**Saturday, January 26, 2008; 9–11:30 AM**

Join us as the 100 acres earmarked for emergent wetlands, constructed-treatment wetlands and upland habitat moves through the restoration process.

*(Lakeside) From Hwy. 8 take Hwy. 67 to Lakeside, exit left on Wintergarden Blvd., then turn first left past the freeway. Meet Canyoneer host in parking lot. (Map 1231, J-3)*

### **37. MAST PARK**

**EASY**

**Saturday, May 3, 2008; 10–11:30 AM**

Follow the San Diego River through willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores, observing the numerous bird species.

*(Santee) From Hwy. 163 merge onto Hwy. 52 East then exit left (east) on Mission Gorge Rd. Then turn left (north) on Carlton Hills Blvd. Parking to the right just beyond the San Diego River. Restroom and water. Wheelchair accessible. (Map 1231, B-6)*

### **38. OAKOASIS COUNTY OPEN SPACE PRESERVE**

**EASY TO MODERATE**

**Sunday, May 4, 2008; 10 AM–1 PM**

This trail, lined with wild lilac, is through thick chaparral on a gentle upward slope. Take a short climb to a promontory overlooking San Vicente Reservoir where you will stop to have a snack before beginning the return trip.

*(Lakeside) From Hwy. 67 exit east on Maplevue St. then turn left (north) onto Ashwood St. (name changes to Wildcat Canyon Rd.) and left (west) at 12620 Wildcat Canyon Rd., about 2.5 miles past Stelzer Park. Chemical toilets are available at El Capitan County Open Space Preserve a few yards up on Wildcat Canyon Rd. Allow 1-hour driving time. (Map 1212, F-3)*

### **39. PIEDRAS PINTADAS RIDGE**

**EASY**

**Saturday, October 27, 2007; 1–2:30 PM**

**Sunday, June 15, 2008; 3–4:30 PM**

Waterfalls and spring wildflowers are the highlights of this easy walk on the ridge overlooking Lake Hodges.

*(Rancho Bernardo) From I-15 exit west on Rancho Bernardo Rd. Turn right at West Bernardo Dr. then left on Poblado Rd. 1 mile, and park on the street. Meet at the entrance to the walkway between Moon Song Ct. and Smoke Signal Dr. No facilities. (Map 1149, H-7)*

**40. SAN DIEGUITO COUNTY PARK****EASY****Saturday, December 15, 2007; 1–2:30 PM**

This coastal park contains a blend of maintained and natural areas. An easy and extensive trail system provides access to chaparral habitats and geological formations that were once under water.

*(North County) From I-5, exit east at Lomas Santa Fe Dr. to Highland Dr. Go left (north) on Highland Dr. to the signed park entrance on the right. Meet at Area 3. Parking fee \$3. Restrooms, water, picnic area and playground. (Map 1167, J-6)*

**41. SANTA MARGARITA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE****EASY OR STRENUOUS****Saturday, April 12, 2008; 9–11:30 AM or 9 AM–2 PM**

Canyoneers have permission to guide at this SDSU field station for this date only. The longer hike will continue into open chaparral to the gorge for a spectacular view of the Santa Margarita River. Bring lunch and water for the longer hike.

*(Fallbrook) From I-15 exit west on Mission Rd. (S13) and turn right onto Willow Glen Dr. to the end of Willow Glen to Stage Coach Ln. and continue right (north). The gate to the reserve will be open a halfhour before the hike. Follow the Canyoneer sign to the parking area. No facilities. Allow 1-hour driving time. (Map 998, C-3)*

**42. SANTA ROSA PLATEAU****MODERATE****Sunday, April 20, 2008; 10 AM–2 PM**

View the only known examples of the Southern Basalt Flow vernal pools and then continue on to Riverside County's historic adobes, circa 1857. Because of the geology and the current state of erosion, the topography is nearly flat—very unusual for southern California!

*(Riverside County, Murrieta) From I-15 go southwest on Clinton Keith Rd. to the Visitor's Center and pay the park's day-use fee: \$2 adults, \$1 children. Meet the Canyoneer host there to caravan to the vernal pool trailhead. Water and facilities. Allow 1-hour driving time. (Map 409, B-3)*

**43. SILVERWOOD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY****EASY****Saturday, May 17, 2008; 9:30 AM–noon**

Visit this Audubon Society preserve, named to describe how the sunlight shines on the oaks, and see wildflowers in season and higher-elevation chaparral growth. Also, observe the plant regeneration from the 2003 Cedar fire.

*(Lakeside) From Hwy. 67 exit east on Maplevue St. then turn left (north) onto Ashwood St. (which changes to Wildcat Canyon Rd.) for 5 miles, just beyond Oakoasis. Chemical toilet. (Map 1212, F-2)*

**MOUNTAIN****44. AGUA DULCE LOOP****MODERATE****Sunday, June 8, 2008; 7:30 AM–1 PM**

This walk starts on the Old County Rd. then continues along the Agua Dulce Creek to Laguna Meadow. There are a variety of unusual plants to be found on this loop.

*(Cleveland National Forest) From I-8, exit north on Sunrise Hwy. (S1). Park at Mile Marker 19.1 near the Meadows Information Station to meet the Canyoneer host. (Please refer to Parking Fee Information on the calendar page). No facilities. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 430, B-4)*

**45. CHARIOT CREEK****EASY****Saturday, April 26, 2008; 10 AM–1 PM**

The owner of this private property has given the Canyoneers special permission to lead a hike in this historically interesting place. We will also be able to observe the plant regeneration from the 2002 Pines fire.

*(Julian) From Julian, go east on Hwy. 78 about 1 mile to Banner Rd. Take Banner Rd. (Hwy. 78) about 6.5 miles. Turn right at the Canyoneer sign. Drive in as directed. No facilities. (Map 1156, G-1)*

#### **46. CONEJOS SPRING TRAIL**

**STRENUOUS**

**Sunday, May 18, 2008; 9:30 AM–1:30 PM**

This hike takes you through a forest of Coulter pines with big cones littering the trail. A vista allows you to see all the way to San Diego. The short hike will stop along the trail and the long hike will go to the top of Cuyamaca Peak.

*(Cuyamaca Rancho State Park) Take I-8 east to Hwy. 79 north and proceed about 12 miles (mile marker 10.7) to the large parking area on the right (0.5 miles past Stonewall Mine turnoff). No facilities. (Map 1176-E7)*

#### **47. DESCANSO/SWEETWATER RIVER**

**EASY**

**Sunday, April 6, 2008; 9–10:30 AM or 9 AM–1 PM**

We'll explore an easy trail in the southern corner of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, going through chaparral and streamside areas.

*(Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, Descanso) From I-8 take Hwy. 79 (Japatul Valley Rd.) north to Riverside Dr. and turn left. Continue past Perkins Store as Riverside Dr. becomes Viejas Blvd. (not Viejas Grade). Proceed just past Descanso Elementary School and park on the north side of the road. No facilities. (Map 1236, A-2)*

#### **48. INDIAN CREEK TRAIL**

**STRENUOUS**

**Saturday, May 31, 2008; 8 AM–3:30 PM**

Beautiful vistas along a canyon and a stream make this walk enjoyable. Vegetation varies from pine forest and black oaks to scrub oaks.

*(Cleveland National Forest) From I-8 east exit Sunrise Hwy. (S1) north and proceed 13.5 miles to the Penny Pines turnout near Mile Marker 27 (Please refer to Parking Fee Information on the calendar page). No facilities. Allow 1.5 hours driving time. (Map 1218-A2) \$P*

#### **49. IRON MOUNTAIN**

**STRENUOUS**

**Sunday, May 11, 2008; 8 AM–12:30 PM**

A steady uphill climb through exceptional native vegetation. At the summit trail junction, choose to return (3 miles round trip) or continue to the summit (an additional 3.5 miles round trip) for a magnificent view of the mountains and valleys. There is a 1000-foot gain to the summit.

*(Poway) From I-15 exit east on Scripps Poway Pkwy. then left (north) on Hwy. 67. Alternate route: From I-8 exit north on Hwy. 67. Park on the east shoulder just before the traffic signal at the intersection with Poway Rd. Exercise caution when entering or leaving the trailhead. Bring adequate water and food. No facilities. Allow 1-hour driving time. (Map 1191, D-1)*

#### **50. MCGINTY MOUNTAIN**

**STRENUOUS**

**Sunday, March 16, 2008; 9 AM–noon**

This small mountain close to San Diego offers a hike with a 1400-foot elevation gain/loss. Plants endemic to this island of gabbro soil are of special interest. The short hike to the South Ridge is about 2 miles round trip. The long hike to the summit is about 5 miles round trip and will take 4–5 hours.

*(Jamul) From Hwy. 94 (Campo Rd.) take Lyons Valley Rd. for about .8 of a mile; then turn left at Jamul Dr. and continue for a little less than half a mile to the entrance. Park on the shoulder. No facilities. (Map 1272, H-7)*

### **51. SANTA YSABEL OPEN SPACE PRESERVE**

**MODERATE**

**Sunday, June 1, 2008; 9 AM–1 PM**

The Nature Conservancy preserve's 3800 acres extend from Highway 79 just north of Santa Ysabel east to Farmers Rd., north of Julian. We will be walking in from the north side through grassland and riparian habitats.

*(Julian) From Julian take Main St. north out of town for about 2.2 miles (Main St. becomes Farmer Rd.). Turn right on Wynola Rd. for about 100 yards and then take the first left, which is a continuation of Farmers/Volcan Mt. Rd. about 1 mile to parking lot on left. No facilities. Allow 1.5 hours driving time. (Map 1136, B-3)*

### **52. SILVER CREST LOOP**

**MODERATE**

**Sunday, June 22, 2008; 9 AM–1 PM**

This loop has excellent views along the trail at Boucher Hill. Two species of wild orchids and ripening berry plants make this hike a winner!

*(Palomar Mountain State Park) From Hwy. 76 take S6 to Palomar Mountain. Turn left at S7 (just before the store and restaurant) to Palomar Mountain State Park. A \$6 parking fee is payable at the park entrance. Turn in the first left past the Park entrance and meet the Canyoneer host in the Silver Crest Picnic Area parking lot. Restrooms. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 409, G-6)*

### **53. STONEWALL PEAK**

**MODERATE**

**Saturday, June 28, 2008; 4–7:30 PM**

Cool off in the shade of oaks on this switchback trail to the 5730-foot granitic Stonewall Peak. Enjoy views of the lake and forested peaks of the Cuyamaca Mountains.

*(Cuyamaca Rancho State Park) From I-8, exit north on Hwy. 79. Meet across the highway from the Paso Picacho Campground entrance. Restrooms. There may be a parking fee. (Maps 1176/1196, E-2)*

### **54. SUNSET TRAIL**

**MODERATE**

**Saturday, June 14, 2008; 9 AM–2 PM**

This loop winds through the Laguna meadows, then on behind the mountains, using part of the Sunset Trail for some spectacular views.

*(Cleveland National Forest) From I-8 take Sunrise Hwy. (S1) north. Drive 13.5 miles to the Penny Pines turnout near mile marker 27 and park. No facilities. A National Forest Adventure Pass is required to park. (Please refer to Parking Fee Information on the calendar page). No facilities. Allow 1.5 hours driving time. (Map 1218, A-2) \$P*

### **55. THUNDER SPRING/CHIMNEY FLATS**

**STRENUOUS**

**Sunday, May 25, 2008; 10 AM–2:30 PM**

Enjoy a picturesque trail to Thunder Spring while hiking through bracken fern, oaks, and conifers. There are some steep gains and losses as well as plentiful poison oak along the trail.

*(Palomar Mountain State Park) From Hwy. 76 take S6 to Palomar Mountain. Turn left at S7 (just before the store and restaurant) to Palomar Mountain State Park. A \$6 parking fee is payable at the park entrance. Follow the signs to Doane Pond and park in the lot. Restrooms. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 409, G-6)*

### **56. WEIR/LOWER FRENCH VALLEY**

**MODERATE**

**Saturday, June 21, 2008; 10 AM–2 PM**

Enjoy a picturesque trail through bracken fern and conifers, complimented by a side trip to the weir. (Palomar Mountain State Park) From Hwy. 76 take S6 to Palomar Mountain. Turn left at S7 (just before the store and restaurant) to Palomar Mountain State Park. A \$6 parking fee is payable at the park entrance. Follow the signs to Doane Pond and park in the lot. Restrooms. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 409, G-6)

**DESERT**

**57. FONT'S POINT—WESTERN BORREGO BADLANDS HIKE**

**MODERATE**

**Saturday, January 12, 2008; 10 AM–2 PM**

Hike approximately 4 miles cross-country along ancient lakeshores and plains that hint of life a million years ago. Climb to Burk's Knoll in the silent midst of the badlands then traverse the rim of Mammoth Cove to end at the sweeping vista into forever from Fonts Point. Return via shuttle back to Hwy. S-22. (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) Take Hwy. 67 or 78 east to Ramona, continue east on Hwy. 78 to Santa Ysabel (Dudley's world-famous Bakery); north (left) on Hwy. 79 to Warner Junction with Hwy. S-2; east (right) 5 miles on Hwy. S-2 to Montezuma Junction with Hwy. S-22; (mile marker 0) northeasterly (left) on Hwy. S-22 into desert and through Borrego Springs (mile marker 19, last restrooms) continuing easterly on Hwy. S-22 to Fonts Point Wash (just before mile marker 30.) Meet the Canyoneer host here and consolidate into 4WD or high clearance vehicles to travel in potentially deep sand. Allow 2 hours driving time from San Diego. (Map 410, D-7)

**58. GHOST MOUNTAIN**

**MODERATE**

**Saturday, March 15, 2008, 10 AM–2 PM**

Marshal South and his wife built their house atop Ghost Mountain and lived there with their three children during the 1930s and 40s. View the ruins of their adobe home and the cisterns that captured their water supply. A panoramic view of the desert is an added plus. (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 east take Hwy. 79 through Cuyamaca State Park to Julian. Turn east on Hwy. 78 and proceed to the junction of Hwy. 78 and S2 (Scissors Crossing) and turn south (right) on S2. Go about 6 miles to the signed entrance to Blair Valley on the east side of the road. Follow the dirt road around the east side of Blair Valley for 2.7 miles. Turn right at the fork leading to the base of Ghost Mountain (Marshal South Cabin Trail). Meet in the parking lot. No facilities. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 430, B-1)

**59. INDIAN HILL**

**MODERATE**

**Sunday, March 9, 2008, 9 AM–2 PM**

Hike through hillsides of teddy bear cholla and barrel cactus to the remains of a 1912 railroad camp. Four-wheel drive, high-clearance vehicles are recommended to reach the trailhead. (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 east go northwest on S2 (Ocotillo exit) for 4.1 miles, turning left onto an unmarked dirt road. Meet the Canyoneer host there. No facilities. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 430, F-6)

**60. MAIDENHAIR FALLS**

**EASY TO MODERATE**

**Saturday, January 26, 2008, 10 AM–3 PM**

This hike is 6 miles round trip on mostly flat terrain. The climb becomes steep as you near the falls (located at the end of the canyon) to admire the maidenhair ferns, which give the falls their name. Note: This hike involves some boulder scrambling.

*(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) Take Hwy. 67 or 78 east to Ramona, continue east on Hwy. 78 to Santa Ysabel; north (left) on Hwy. 79 to Warner Junction with Hwy. S-2; east (right) 5 miles on Hwy. S-2 to Montezuma Junction with Hwy. S-22; (mile marker 0) north and east (right) on Hwy. S-22 into desert past mile marker 16 to the Hellhole Canyon parking lot (restrooms) on the north (left) at the bottom of the grade. Meet the Canyoneer host here. Allow 1.75 hours driving time from San Diego. (Map 410, B-8)*

### **61. McCAIN VALLEY**

**MODERATE**

**Saturday, March 22, 2008; 10 AM–2 PM**

Take this high-desert walk to a year-round spring. There is a remnant population of California bay laurel trees at this site.

*(Bureau of Land Management/El Centro) Take I-8 east to the turnoff for Boulevard at Ribbonwood Rd. Follow it to Old Hwy. 80 and go east to McCain Valley Rd., passing Lark Canyon campground and Cottonwood Campground on McCain Valley Rd. Proceed to the end of the road and park. Facilities are available at Cottonwood Campground. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 430, C-5)*

### **62. MINE CANYON**

**MODERATE**

**Saturday, February 23, 2008; 10 AM–2 PM**

Visit a large Kumeyaay Village where hundreds of agave-roasting pits attest to the duration of this site.

*(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 east take Hwy. 79 through Cuyamaca State Park to Julian. Turn right (east) on Hwy. 78, meeting the Canyoneer host at the beginning of Mine Wash Rd., 2.7 miles east of the Tamarisk Grove intersection on Hwy. 78. We will consolidate into 4WD or high-clearance vehicles to travel to hike location. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 1098, section 1119, F-5)*

### **63. MORTERO WASH**

**MODERATE**

**Sunday, February 24, 2008; 10 AM–noon**

We will stop at Dos Cabezas, viewing spring and large desert willows, continuing to a short half-mile hike to large grove of palm trees, continuing to moteros. Waterfalls are possible in a wet year.

*(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 east go northwest on S2 for 8 miles (between mile markers 55 and 56) turning left at Mortero Wash. Meet the Canyoneer host there. High clearance or 4WD carpool from there. (Please refer to parking fee information on the calendar page.) No facilities. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 430, F-6)*

### **64. ORIFLAMME CANYON**

**EASY TO MODERATE**

**Saturday, February 16, 2008; 10 AM–3 PM**

See the once-abundant desert and riparian plants recover from the 2002 Pines fire. A waterfall at the end of the trail makes this walk memorable. Four-wheel drive, high-clearance vehicles are recommended to reach the trailhead.

*(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 east take Hwy. 79 through Cuyamaca State Park to Julian. Turn east on Hwy. 78 and proceed to S2 (Scissors Crossing) and turn south (right). Go about 9 miles just past Mile Marker 26 and look for the Nature Walk sign to meet your Canyoneer host, and caravan to the trailhead. (Please refer to Parking Fee Information on the calendar page.) No facilities. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 430, C-2)*

### **65. SPLIT MOUNTAIN TRAIL**

**MODERATE to STRENUOUS**

**Sunday, January 13, 2008; 10 AM–3 PM**

Visit three locations—the first two are short, level hikes and the third is an optional, steep hike to see some wind caves. Observe a fault line, an elephant tree, and then continue past the Fish Creek Primitive Campground to a split-mountain viewing.

*(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) From I-8 east take Hwy. 79 through Cuyamaca State Park to Julian. Turn right (east) on Hwy. 78, meeting the Canyoneer host at the Yaqui Pass Junction (Hwy.78/S3). We will consolidate into 4WD or high-clearance vehicles to travel to hike location. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 410, C-10)*

## **66. SURPRISE CANYON**

**MODERATE**

**Sunday, January 27, 2008; 9:30 AM–noon**

Walk into the brightly colored and foliated schists and gneisses of a Paleozoic seabed that was formed over 200 million years ago, long before the surrounding San Ysidro mountain crests reached a mile into the sky. This delightful little canyon, named for its abundant surprise of springtime wildflowers, soon forks and offers a round-trip traverse of approximately a mile.

*(Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) Take Hwy. 67 or 78 east to Ramona, continue east on Hwy. 78 to Santa Ysabel; north (left) on Hwy. 79 to Warner Junction with Hwy. S-2; east (right) 5 miles on Hwy. S-2 to Montezuma Junction with Hwy. S-22; (mile marker 0) north and east (right) on Hwy. S-22 into desert past mile marker 16 to the Hellhole Canyon parking lot (restrooms) on the north (left) at the bottom of the grade. Meet the Canyoneer host here. Allow 1.75 hours driving time. (Map 410, B-8)*

## **67. WIND CAVES**

**STRENUOUS**

**Sunday, January 6, 2008, 10 AM–2 PM**

The Coyote Mountains are part of the California Desert Conservation Area. View the rich fossil deposits of the Imperial Formation. This area is part of over 12 million acres of public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

*(Ocotillo) Take I-8 east to S2 at Ocotillo. Go north on S2 to the stop sign at Shell Canyon Rd. Continue past the stop sign and proceed northwest on Hwy. S2 for 5.8 miles. Turn north (right) on a dirt road. At the end of road is the Wind Caves trailhead where you will meet your host. No facilities. Allow 2 hours driving time. (Map 430, F-6)*