

Taking Flight: 2020 Annual Review



Shifting in light of new information and in light of new opportunities ~Stewart Friedman

Every year brings something new. 2020 showcased our teams' ability to adapt to new challenges, pivot, and move forward. The Conservancy continued on to tell our story. Here are a few of our shining moments of 2020 and our aspirations for the new year!



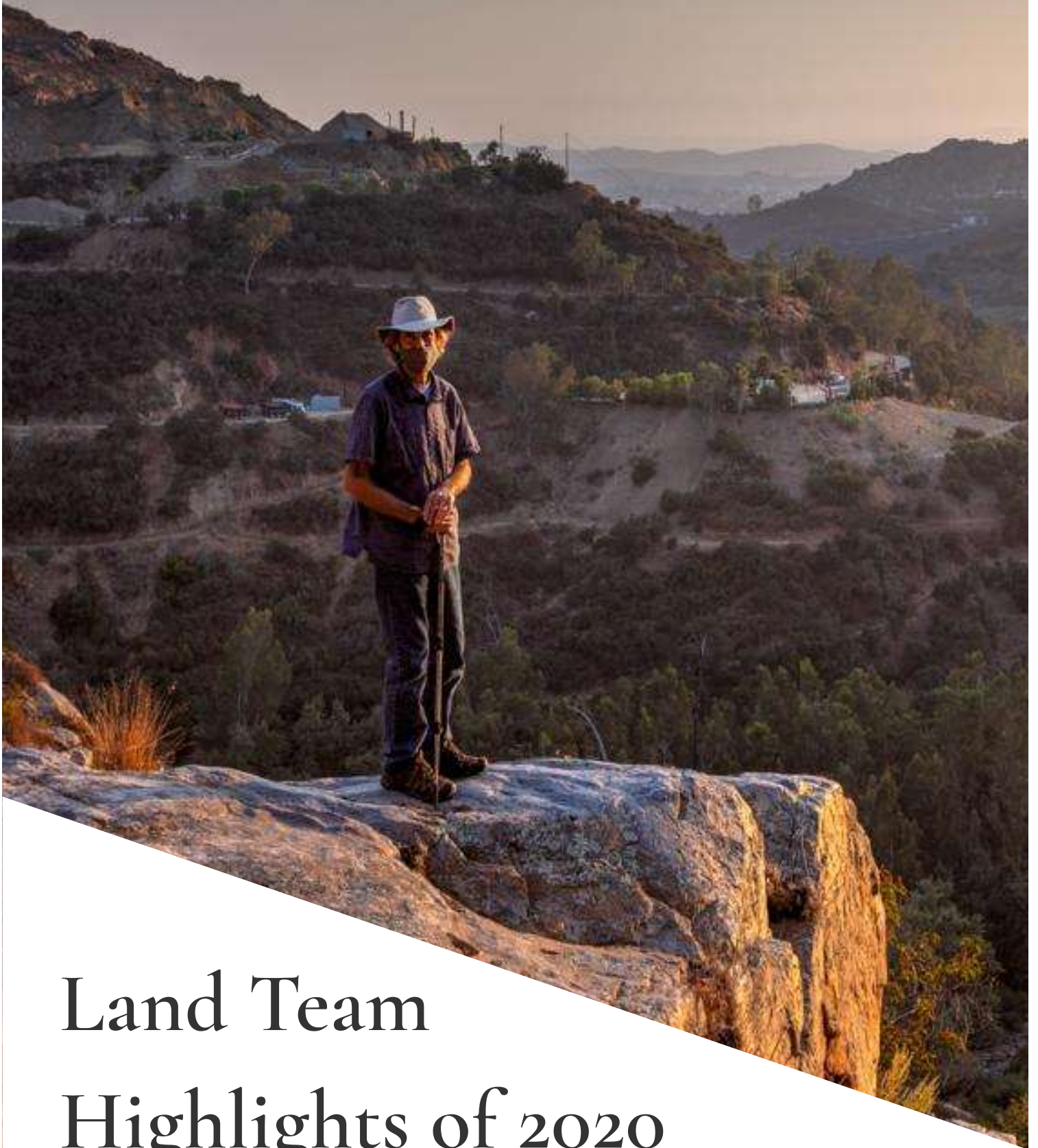
Thank you!

You are an integral part of the story.

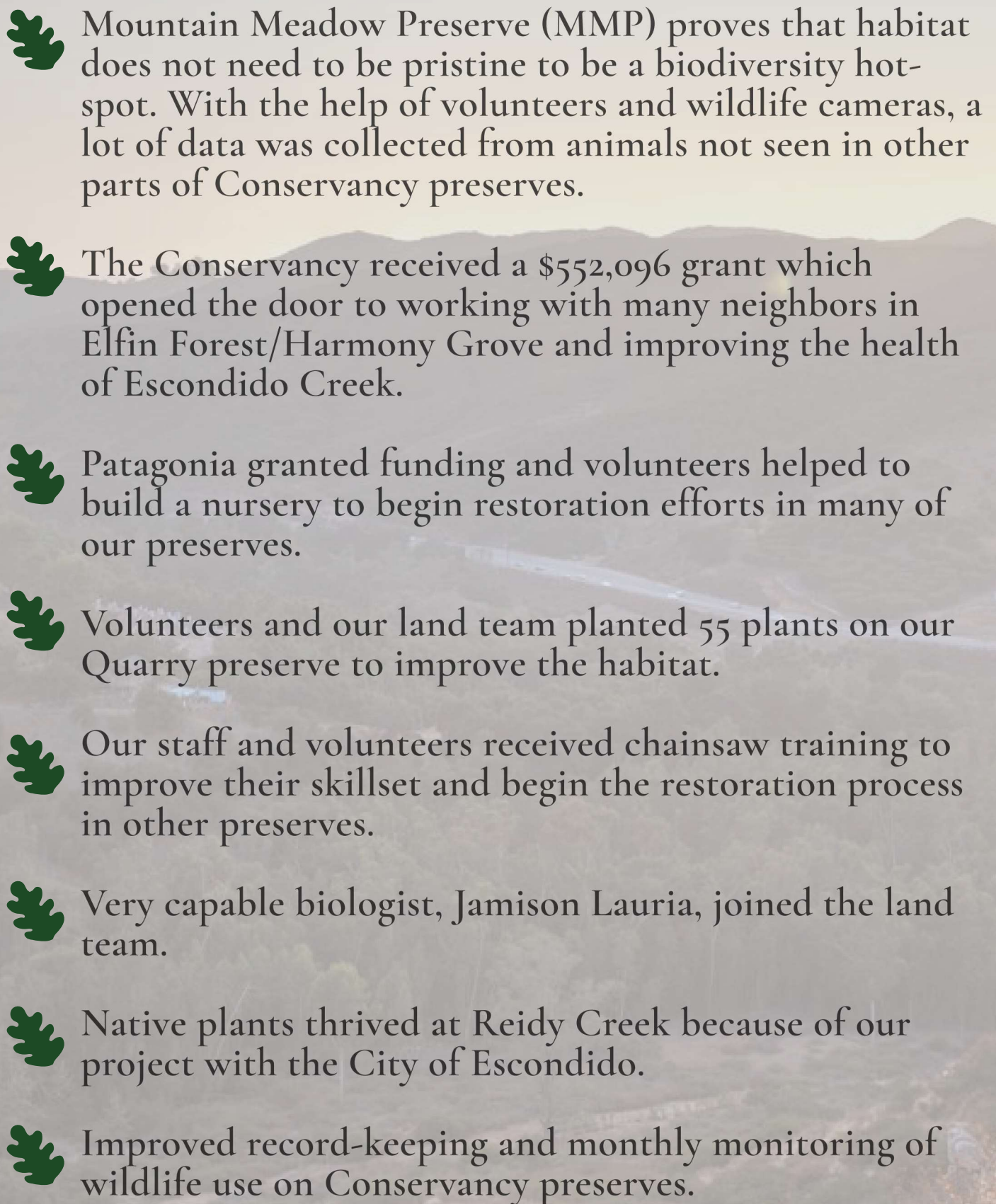












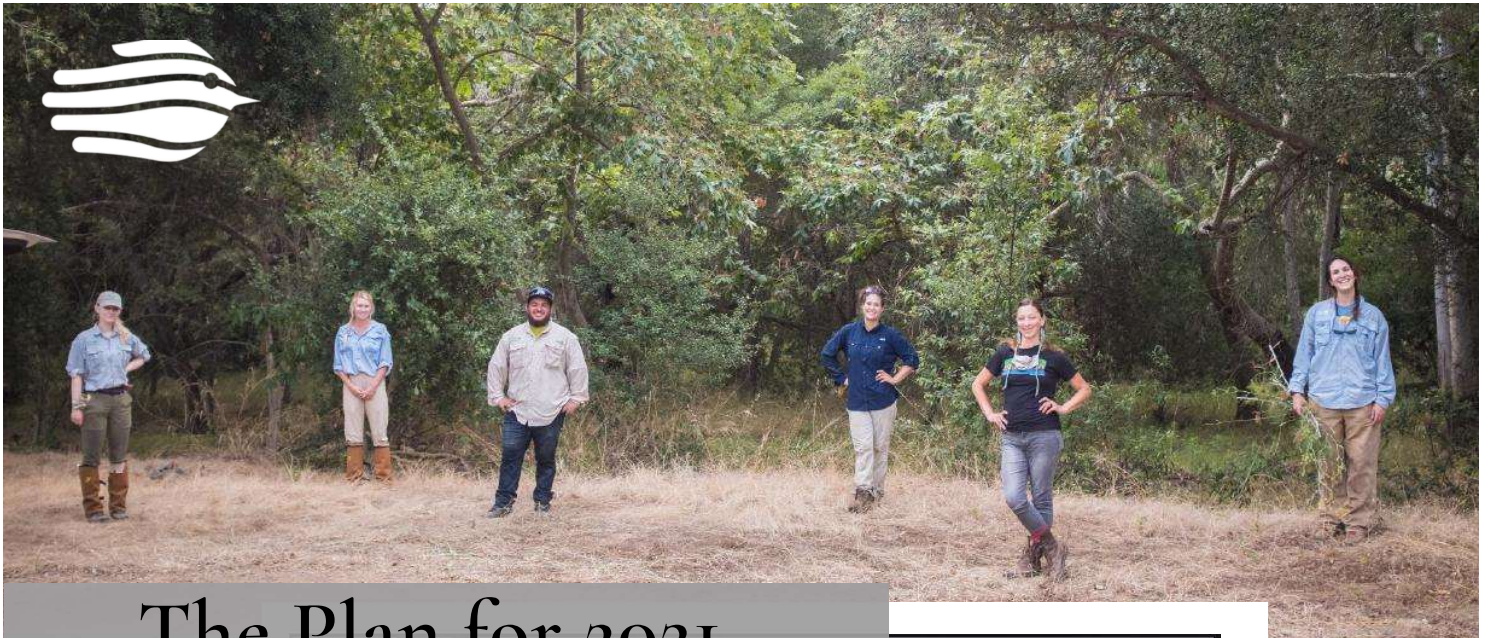
Richard Murphy



Land Team Highlights of 2020

- 
-  Mountain Meadow Preserve (MMP) proves that habitat does not need to be pristine to be a biodiversity hot-spot. With the help of volunteers and wildlife cameras, a lot of data was collected from animals not seen in other parts of Conservancy preserves.
 -  The Conservancy received a \$552,096 grant which opened the door to working with many neighbors in Elfin Forest/Harmony Grove and improving the health of Escondido Creek.
 -  Patagonia granted funding and volunteers helped to build a nursery to begin restoration efforts in many of our preserves.
 -  Volunteers and our land team planted 55 plants on our Quarry preserve to improve the habitat.
 -  Our staff and volunteers received chainsaw training to improve their skillset and begin the restoration process in other preserves.
 -  Very capable biologist, Jamison Lauria, joined the land team.
 -  Native plants thrived at Reidy Creek because of our project with the City of Escondido.
 -  Improved record-keeping and monthly monitoring of wildlife use on Conservancy preserves.

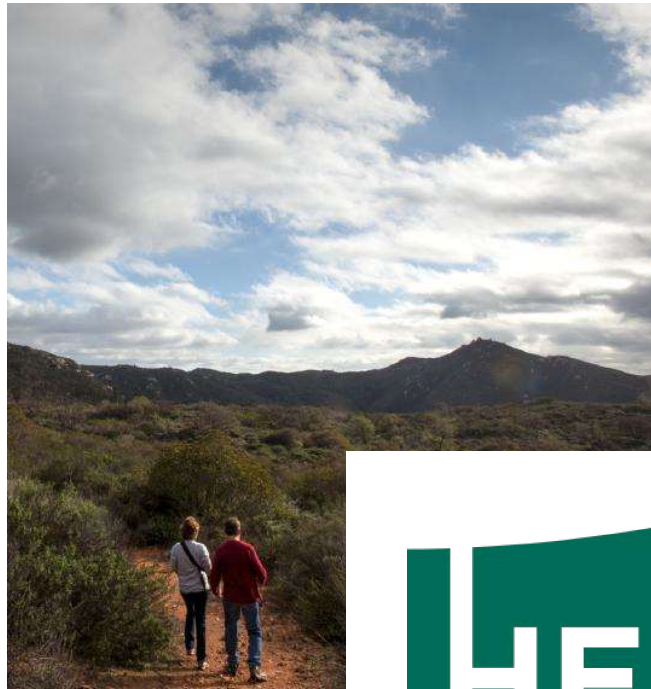




The Plan for 2021

-  Continue restoration efforts at the Sardina and Mountain Meadow preserves.
-  Collect a full set of gold spotted oak borer (GSOB) data.
-  Begin planting in-house grown plants.
-  Continue wildlife camera surveying.
-  Design avian point counts, visual encounter surveys (reptiles and amphibians), and spotlight surveys.
-  Onboard Missing Lynx campaign properties to connect more wildlife corridors.
-  Transfer 6 acres at MMP to county parks.
-  Complete 30% design for 'Park in a Park' to add a new natural park within Grape Day Park.





HEAVY EQUIPMENT



[LINK HERE](#)

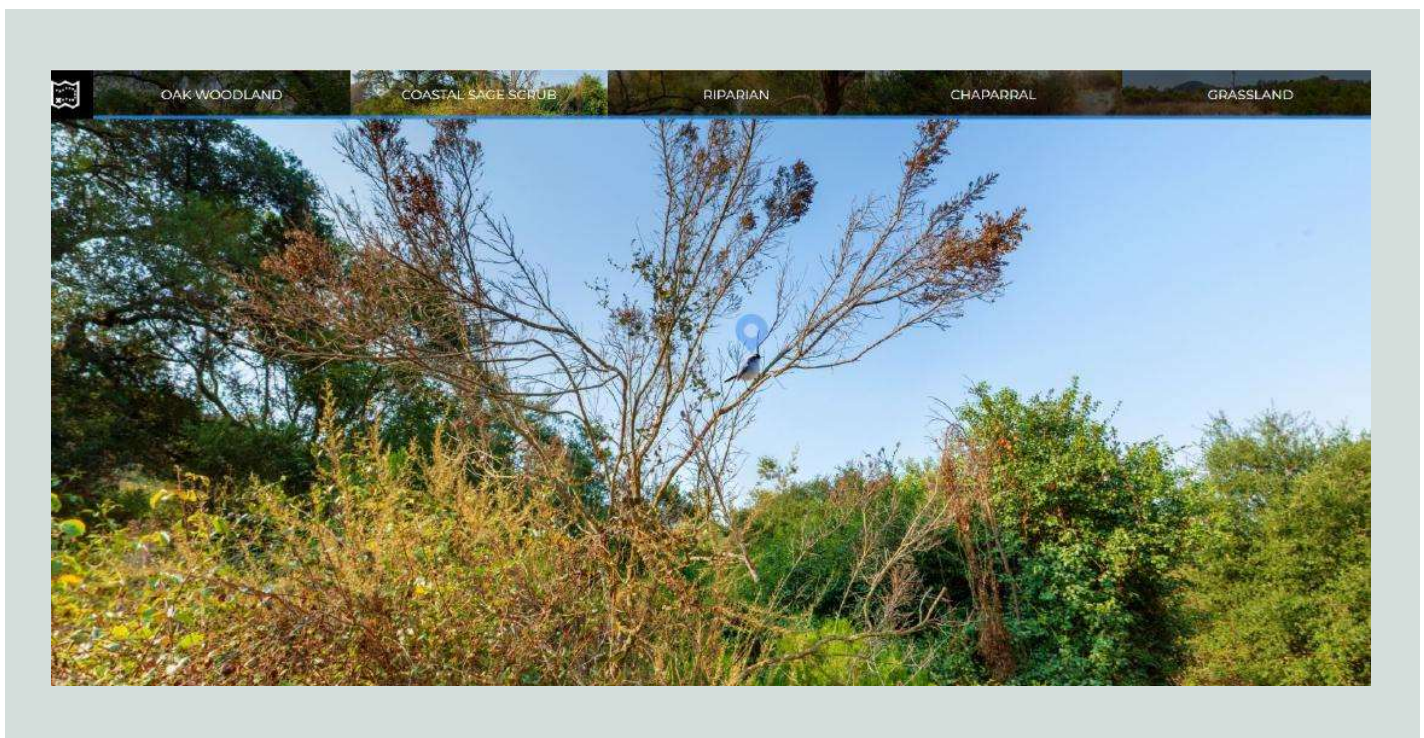


EDUCATION

Highlights of 2020



Our education team strives to provide equitable access to environmental education and empowering experiences that foster stewardship of the Escondido Creek watershed and the wider natural world.

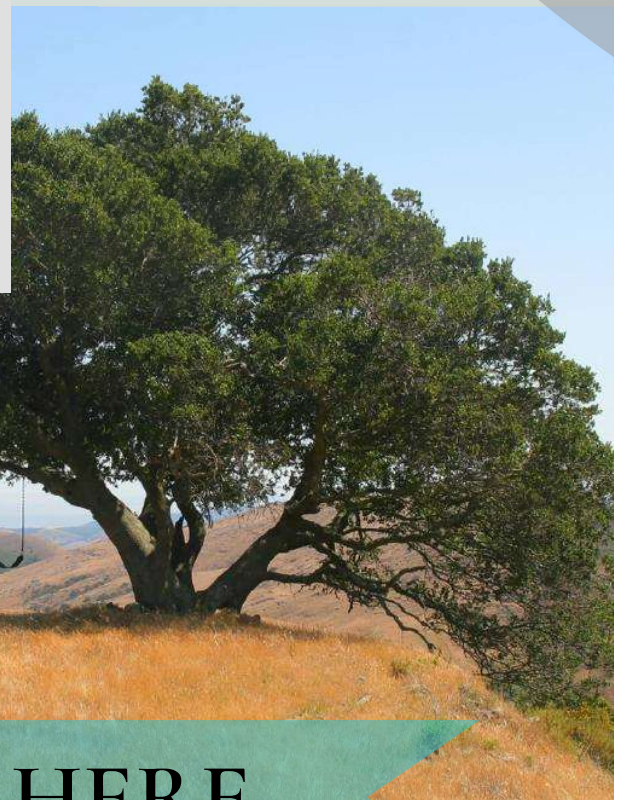




- ★ We completed implementation of our first-ever 5-year Education Strategic Plan.
- ★ We launched California Statewide Outdoor Learning (CalSOL) to make outdoor education a right for all K-12 California public schools and formed a growing coalition with partners from across the state.
- ★ We adapted to the pandemic and converted programs to a virtual format using innovative methods such as virtual reality (VR).
- ★ We won Olivenhain Municipal Water District's Non-profit of the Year Award for innovation in continuing to connect students to the environment during the pandemic.
- ★ We are serving all 3rd graders in the Escondido Union School District despite—and in compliance with—COVID-19 restrictions through grant funding from Escondido Community Foundation and Malk Family Foundation.
- ★ We were awarded National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant to empower students in Escondido to take conservation action for a cleaner community and planet.



California
Statewide Outdoor Lea



EICHEN
EDUCATION
FUND



LINK HERE

What's Next for 2021...

- ★ We will create a new 5-year Education Strategic Plan with meaningful input from the community and other stakeholders to elevate our efforts to new heights.
- ★ We will create an endowment fund for our education department.
- ★ We will launch a new summer camp that will be completely free for underserved local children in the pilot year.
- ★ We will continue expanding our CalSOL coalition to make outdoor learning an essential part of the California public school curriculum so that all K-12 students have equitable access to the outdoors.
- ★ We will continue improving the high quality of our programs, while carefully expanding our reach.



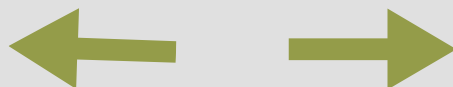


Escondido
Creek
Conservancy



THE
BOULDER
OUTLOOK

To learn more about
our Missing Lynx or
Boulder Outlook
campaigns please click
on the marks.






THE
MISSING
LYNX




ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS

Administration and Operations create a steady foundation for the Conservancy, so that our land managers and outdoor educators can focus on their work and thrive. Operations make sure the bills are paid, the books are balanced, the mission and vision of the organization are implemented consistently, and supporters and volunteers are welcomed and honored.

2020 Accomplishments

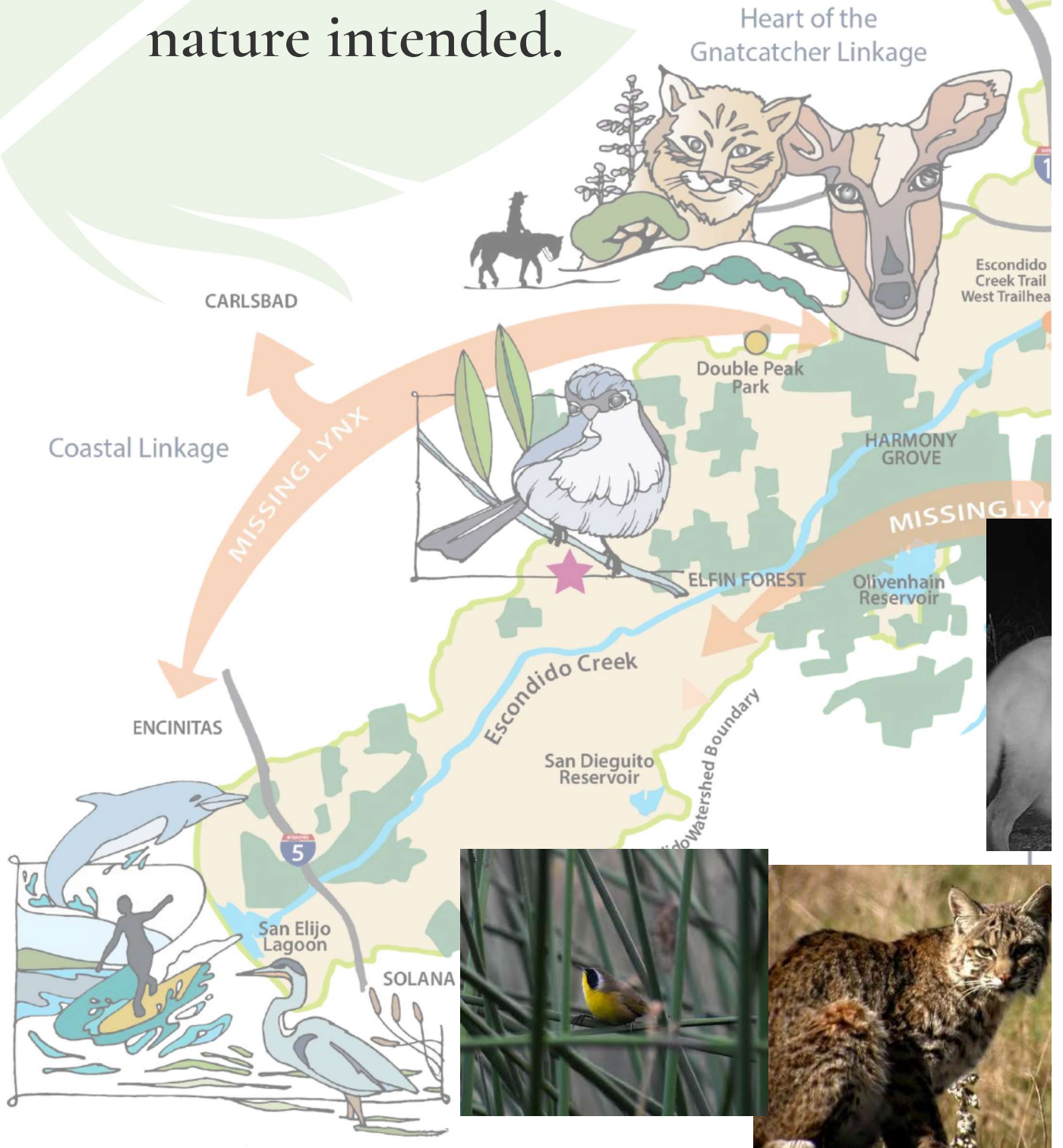
-  Responded to Covid-19, secured loan and equipment needed to keep the Conservancy functioning and safely operating.
-  Facilitated first-ever comprehensive audit of the Conservancy's finances.
-  Completed complex materials required for accreditation in the national Land Trust Alliance (LTA).

2021 The Year Ahead

-  Complete LTA accreditation and implement new requirements to meet national standards.
-  Complete the office remodel and move to the new office while raising funds to cover the costs of remodeling.
-  Complete strategic planning and implement celebrations for the conservancy's 30-Year Anniversary.

Large Animal

Photos captured on our preserves. We are grateful to get glimpses of these beautiful creatures living their lives as nature intended.

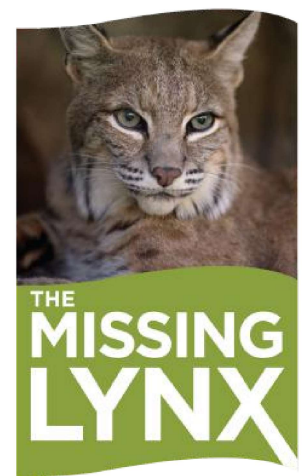
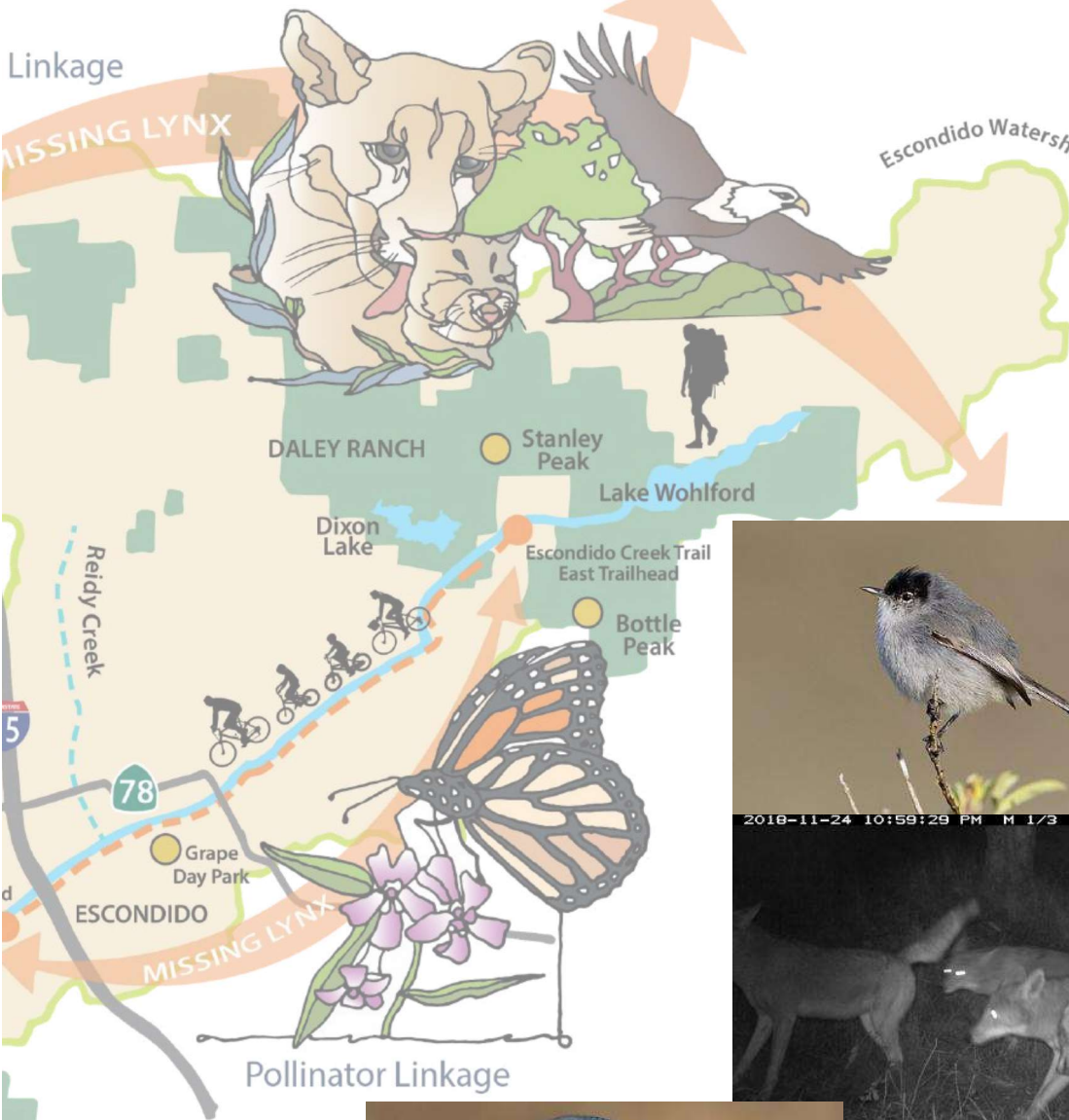


Linkage



MISSING LYNX

Escondido Watershed Boundary



THE MISSING LYNX

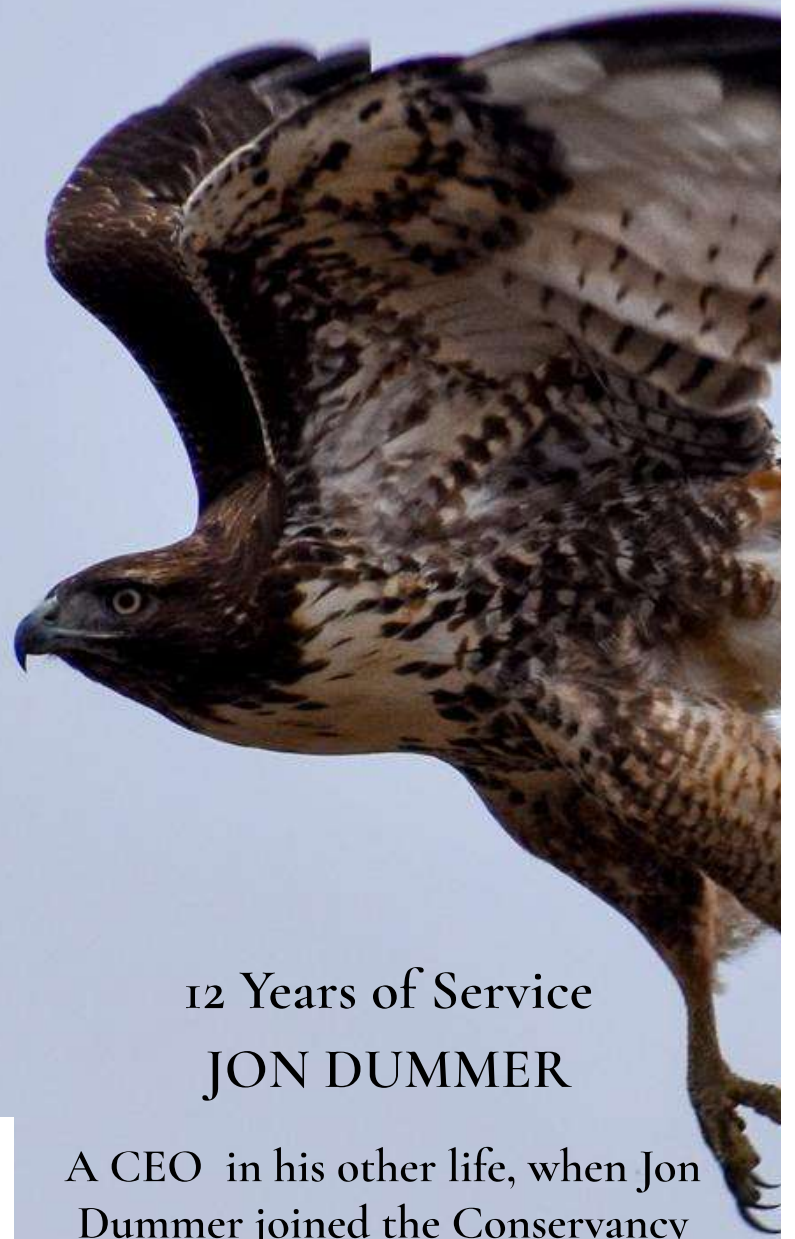
2019-08-06 9:12:22 AM M 1/3

4:48 PM M 3/3

HC500 HYPERFIRE

RECOMIX

THANK YOU!



12 Years of Service JON DUMMER

A CEO in his other life, when Jon Dummer joined the Conservancy Board, he put his business skills to work, helping the Conservancy professionalize its accounting practices. Rarely do volunteers want to tackle the less glamorous and dry topics such as budget and accounting but Jon was game to help. It was because of Jon's early work restructuring the Conservancy's accounting practices that the Conservancy is now in the position to become recognized nationally as meeting LTA standards and practices for land trusts around the country.

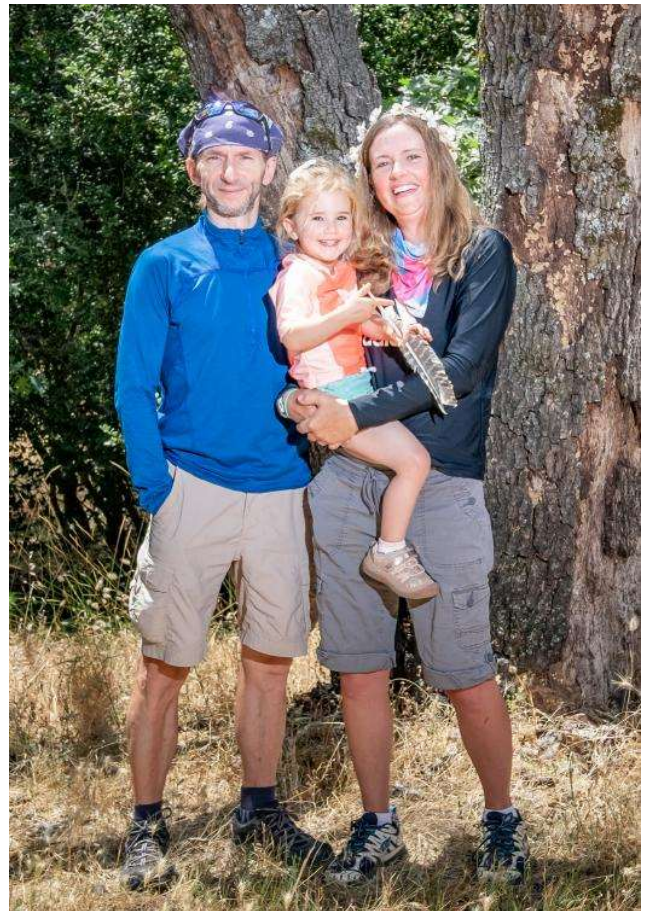


"WE ARE ALL LIKE ONE-
WINGED ANGELS. IT IS
ONLY WHEN WE HELP EACH
OTHER THAT WE CAN FLY."
-LUCIANO DE CRESCENZO



20 Years of Service
BRENT ALSPACH

In his two decades as a board member and his time as secretary, Brent Alspach has made many contributions to the Conservancy. His leadership on water quality, careful attention to detail, technical expertise, and dedication to the mission and vision has played an integral role in the success of the Conservancy. Thanks to his "always willing" attitude and hard work, the Conservancy has accumulated 15 years' worth of data to track pollution and show how the chemistry of the creek changes with the seasons.





DONATE TODAY!



CONTACT US:
information@escondidocreek.org
760-471-9354
www.escondidocreek.org