

Our Dictionary Hill

DHOSA

Dictionary Hill Open Space Advocates

Western Fence Lizard



June 2020

www.dictionaryhill.info

Thank You Carol Guerrero

After years of dedication to DHOSA we are saddened to report that Carol is moving to Williamsburg, Virginia with daughter Laura. Her years of dedication will forever be part of the DHOSA story and legacy. Carol Guerrero got involved early on in the 20-plus year community effort to halt development on Dictionary Hill and preserve it for everyone to enjoy. She actively participated in the evolution of our local advocacy group, including the early name change from Lookout Mountain Advocates to Dictionary Hill Open Space Advocates (DHOSA). Carol attended workshops on strategic planning and helped guide our steering committee's work to prepare DHOSA mission, vision and goals statements.

Carol thoroughly researched the process for incorporating DHOSA as a 501(c) (3) charitable non-profit organization and shepherded us through the details of preparing by-laws and filing documents. DHOSA achieved official non-profit status in November, 2010.

With her attention to detail and cheerful attitude, Carol kept DHOSA's financial records and served as the group's treasurer for several years. She carefully tracked finances, filed all required annual forms and was always alert to remind us if we seemed to be getting off-track with our dream of preserving the special open space on Dictionary Hill.

None of us will ever forget Carol and her wonderful late husband, Javier, sweetly singing and playing guitar at one of our summer potlucks.



The Geology of Dictionary Hill

When you stand on Dictionary Hill you are standing on the remnants of a truly ancient volcano,

You probably know that the surface of the Earth is a jigsaw puzzle of vast moving plates which collide and sometimes sink below neighboring plates. 200 million years ago even before the present Pacific Plate was formed, the Farallon Plate slowly plunged below the Continental Plate. This sinking produced enormous pressure and heat deep under the surface which turned the solid rock into magma. This magma forced its way up from many miles down to explode out at the surface. The volcano we now know as Dictionary Hill.

We see this in Dictionary Hill's neighbors Mount Miguel and Black Mountain. Vast ages have weathered and eroded and rounded these volcanic peaks, but below your feet as you climb Dictionary Hill is that very volcanic rock that was forced up from the depths of the earth. We call this rock andesite and felsite.

The erosion of this volcanic rocks mixes with organic material to form the soil on which our precious native plants thrive.



NO FIREWORKS in Spring Valley **July 4th**. In past years people have driven to the top of Dictionary Hill to watch firework displays. The Hill is now a County Open Space Reserve and motorized vehicles are prohibited. A County Park Ranger will be present July 4th to enforce this regulation.

Follow us on Facebook.

Dictionary Hill Open Space Advocates



The Bees of Dictionary Hill

Here's a remarkable fact for our newsletter—UCSD PhD candidate Keng-Lou James Hung has identified more than 500 species of native bees in San Diego County.

Bees are our most important pollinators. Beyond the domesticated honey bee that was imported from Europe, there are over 1600 wild bee species native to California that pollinate wild plants as well as many of our food crops. Most don't form



Black faced bumblebee
(*bombus californicus*)

hives, but instead are solitary nesters, laying eggs in tunnels in the ground, in decaying wood or hollow plant stems. Native bees can have a hard time finding pollen and nectar to eat and places to nest and lay eggs in neighborhoods dominated by manicured lawns.

The number of species on the hill is not yet carefully researched, but it could be over twenty and as many as thirty separate species. You can use the app iNat to identify and report insects, including bees. You will be a direct participant in building our knowledge of the wild life of our hill.



Yellow faced bumblebee
(*Bombus vosnesenskii*)

We can help the native bees in and around Dictionary Hill by making our own sustainable bee nesting habitat. This is a super project for children while our schools are closed. Plus, you won't need to spend a dime on this craft, as it's entirely made of recycled materials commonly used at home. You will attract mason bees which are efficient pollinators. Individual female mason bees lay

their eggs in a series of tiny chambers they create in tunnels in decaying wood. You can recreate these kinds of nesting tunnels.

You can find full and simple instructions by just googling **Buzzworthy Mason Bee Condos**.

As far as possible the photos of animals, plants and insects in this newsletter are taken on Dictionary Hill. Our thanks to Jim Merzbacher who gave us permission to include his photographs of insects.

Bees Need Water

Surprisingly bees are thirsty little guys and need a water supply. You can keep a shallow bowl full of water in your yard. Place stones in the water so the bees can crawl to the water without danger of them drowning. Just let it dry out occasionally



so that mosquito larvae don't breed in there.

Then next time you see bees when you're out walking on Dictionary Hill you can say that you are part of keeping them alive and thriving.

DHOSA Zoom Meetings

Until we get the covid19 all clear we meet on line 9:30 am on the third Saturday of each month.

If you want to be included email Chris Heiserman at cheise9400@aol.com We would love to see your face on our screens and get to know you.

While Schools are Closed

A good project would be to make a photographic record with your cell phone camera of climbing Dictionary Hill. Start with shots of leaving your house or car, ending up at the top. Along the way record plants and insects and the views. Photograph walking towards the camera up the slope followed by shots moving past and beyond the camera.

A photographer's tip is never to stand still smiling at the camera. Be doing something such as smelling a flower or examining a stone. And get in close.

You can compile an album of the photos to share when schools starts again. Shutterfly.com is easy to use and produces an impressive glossy book.

We would love to see your results and share them on Facebook with other lovers of Dictionary Hill. Send your photos to kenbarratt@earthlink.net.

With a simple editing program you can even make a video record of your hike up Dictionary Hill and post it to YouTube. For an example go to YouTube and find "**Dictionary Hill Our Heritage**". You can post your own Dictionary Hill video to YouTube and send the link to friends and family anywhere in the world,