

# San Diego County Parks Society

Spring 2023



*Artist Brian Gibson (right) oversees the installation of the watershed model at the Los Peñasquitos Ranch House.*

## Watershed Model Unveiled at Los Peñasquitos Bicentennial

The San Diego County Parks Society provided \$60,000 for the construction of a durable bronze model of the Los Peñasquitos watershed—just in time for the February bicentennial of the Los Peñasquitos Ranch House.

The nearly three-by-six-foot model was installed in a prominent location between the parking lot and the ranch house. It will be used as part of the San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation's Discover Program.



*SDCPS board members and supporters pose with the damaged viewfinder plaque (left) and its replacement (right).*

## Viewfinder Plaque Replaced Due to Vandalism

Hike to the end of the Desert View Trail in William Heise County Park in Julian and you'll be rewarded with sweeping views of the Salton Sea and (on a very clear day) the Coronado Bridge.

To help visitors identify landmarks such as these, a viewfinder was constructed in 1983 by Boy Scout Troop 894. The viewfinder is dedicated to park ranger Glenn Wyatt, who started work on the lookout point but sadly passed away before its completion.

Over the years, the 18-inch plaque accompanying the viewfinder suffered repeated acts of vandalism and the surface became scratched and difficult to read.

The San Diego County Parks Society voted to fund a replacement plaque and moved their April meeting to William Heise County Park.

At the meeting, board members saw the new plaque and visited a bench dedicated to the memory of Edith Wyatt, Glenn's mother, who was a devoted SDCPS board member for many years.



## Family Fun at Rancho Guajome Adobe Christmas

The picturesque setting of Rancho Guajome Adobe in Vista played host to an unforgettable day of old-fashioned Christmas fun.

Visitors exploring the authentic 1850s hacienda felt as if they were transported back in time, with 28 rooms of historically accurate holiday decorations such as garlands and wreaths.

In the two courtyards, families gathered, sipping cider and savoring caramel apples as they listened to the melodies of carolers and watched in awe as a blacksmith demonstrated the time-honored craft.

On the lawn behind the adobe, kids enjoyed tractor-drawn wagon rides while celebrants of all ages were

captivated by the vibrant costumes and exuberant movements of ballet folklorico dancers.

The success of this event was made possible, in part, by the support of the San Diego County Parks Society, which provided funding for entertainers, children's craft supplies, and food and drinks for the volunteers.



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