



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

The City of San Diego  
Balboa Park Administration Building  
2125 Park Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92101

Phone number: (619) 235-1100

[www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov)



AS A RECIPIENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS, THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO CANNOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ANYONE ON THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, CREED, SEX, AGE, NATIONAL ORIGIN OR ANCESTRY, RELIGION, PREGNANCY, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL DISABILITY, VETERAN STATUS, MARITAL STATUS, MEDICAL CONDITION, GENDER (TRANSEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER), SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER CATEGORY PROTECTED BY FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL LAWS. IF ANYONE BELIEVES HE OR SHE HAS BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST, HE OR SHE MAY FILE A COMPLAINT ALLEGING THE DISCRIMINATION WITH EITHER THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT [CONTACT DISTRICT MANAGER (619) 235-1124] OR THE OFFICE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240. THIS INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS UPON REQUEST. PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER.

“ We enrich lives through quality parks and programs ”

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### SERRA MUSEUM

The Serra Museum has been managed by the San Diego Historical Society since opening its doors in 1929.

For general information about the Serra Museum and programs, please call (619) 297-3258.

To arrange private functions at the Serra Museum or loggia, please call the Site Rental Coordinator at 619-232-6203 extension 109.

Website: [www.sandiegohistory.org](http://www.sandiegohistory.org)



#### The Serra Museum

2727 Presidio Drive

Tues/Weds/Thurs 12-3pm

Fri 11-3pm

Sat/Sun 11am-4pm

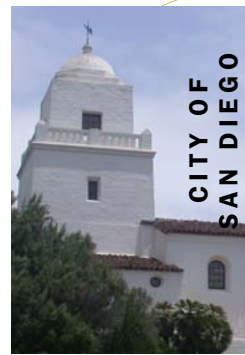
### EVENTS

If you are interested in having a special event or an outdoor wedding in Presidio Park, please call the **Permit Center** at (619) 235-1169.

You can also visit the following website to view availability and options:

[www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/bestsites.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/general-info/bestsites.shtml)

Questions or inquiries about special group tours? Please contact **Park Rangers** at (619) 235-5935.



CITY OF SAN DIEGO

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

## PRESIDIO PARK RANGER REPORT

QUARTERLY: OCTOBER 2008

...THEN THE AMERICANS ARRIVED...  
1846

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FEATURED ANIMAL	2
FEATURED PLANT	2
OTHER ITEMS	3
HELPFUL HINTS	3
CONTACT	4
FYI'S	4

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

(look for answers inside)

*Where is that?*

*The Naked Coral Tree*

After Spanish and then Mexican rule, the San Diego region shifted politically yet again. The transition was not glamorous but was made official by the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (Feb., 2nd 1848), with Mexico.

In the years prior, the Presidio had been abandoned and looted. Many of the buildings were re-used in the new community of San Diego. Today we call this area “Old Town”. But even as the Presidio lay in ruins during the 1830’s the local economy grew only very minimally, if at all.

Our little corner of what would be California suffered from geographic isolation and political disinterest.; endless miles of desert to our east and even more miles to any capable governing authority.

On July 29th, 1846 Captain of the *Cyane*, Samuel F. DuPont raised the American flag in Old Town plaza and fortified the hilltop here in Presidio. Believing they had secured the area for the United States they left within 10 days; headed to assist U.S. troops in Los Angeles.

Not long thereafter, in October of 1846, Mexican loyalists frightened the Americans enough that they fled to the Yankee whaler *Stonington*, harbored in the bay. Several weeks of this isolation forced the Americans to make a stand. They disembarked, rowed to shore, formed

battle lines and successfully pushed the Mexican loyalists out of the Old Town plaza and up the hill where the Presidio once flourished and where the American Captain DuPont had unsuccessfully established the American Fort to protect the American citizenry.

The American flag once again was raised in the small pueblo, never to be removed again. Daily skirmishes between the Mexican loyalists on the hill, who had been fortified by Mexican reinforcements of 100 men, and the Americans in the village occurred.

Having received word of the Americans’ plight the commander of coastal operations, Commodore Robert Stockton returned from the Los Angeles area with a show of force and pushed the Mexican troops back, causing them to flee up Mission Valley. Commodore Stockton re-fortified the hill and re-named Fort DuPont, Fort Stockton, which it is still called today. You will find Fort Stockton at the very highest point in Presidio, surrounded by the old trench dug originally by DuPont in 1846. Ft. Stockton was no longer necessary after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848, and slowly faded away. But then the Mormon Battalions arrived in San Diego, and a Gold Rush was beginning to catch fire to the North...



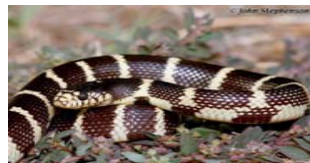
**FEATURED ANIMAL:  
CALIFORNIA KING SNAKE**

*Lampropeltis getulus californiae*: a very common snake in California; the California King snake actually can be found from southern Baja to Oregon. It is certainly a unique snake.

Not only does it perform the important task of regulating rodent populations like most other snakes, but it also helps to regulate the snake population. It eats other snakes, including the feared Rattler.

How can that be? It has long been believed that the California King Snake

was immune to the venom of other snakes. In fact, the King Snake is considered *highly tolerant* to the venom, and could potentially be killed. However, its ability to effectively constrict its prey into submission and subsequent death, gives the King Snake the proverbial upper hand on its victim.



**FEATURED PLANT:  
NAKED CORAL TREE**

*Erythrina coralloides*: the Naked Coral Tree. An interesting name to give a tree—but the reason is self-evident when one spends time observing this curious plant over a year’s cycle.

Variations of the Naked Coral Tree are found throughout the world in temperate to tropical climate zones such as Central and South Africa, Mexico and parts of South America.

They are magnificent trees with heights up to 40’ with wondrous flowers unique to the plant world.

It is also unique in that it will lose its leaves during the winter as deciduous trees do, but will not produce leaves again in the spring until first it is covered

with its unique flowers, which protrude from the ends of its long irregular, “naked” branches.



**PRESIDIO PARK RANGER-LED TOURS**

Join a Park Ranger every second Sunday of the month for a free tour of Presidio Park. The Ranger will discuss the history of Presidio Park and its relevance to the area, horticulture, archeology and more. All designed to

give you a greater understanding and appreciation of this beautiful park. Please meet outside the entrance of the Serra Museum at 1pm.

**OTHER INTERESTING ITEMS...**

**CURRENT VOLUNTEERS**

Stein Education Centers:

**This volunteer group provides litter abatement several times a week throughout the park and their help is greatly appreciated.**

Presidio Plant ID. Project:

*The project continues to move forward...having passed two years’ worth of work. Much has been accomplished yet there is much to do. GIS is on the way! A special thanks to our “core” group!....stay tuned.....*



Photography: The Scenery

Presidio Park must be one of the loveliest places in the City. Filled with beautiful vistas and colorful scenes.

Questions—Comments? Let us know your thoughts. (619) 235-5935

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:(answers)**

*Where is that?*

*The Naked Coral Tree:*

*Within the walls at the base of the chapel*



**HELPFUL HINTS**

**PLEASE BE ADVISED**

- Smoking is **ILLEGAL** in all of San Diego’s parks and beaches.
- Please keep your park clean.
- Do not stake anything into the ground. No metal detectors.
- Please do not feed the wildlife or chase them (i.e. Squirrels).
- Camping in the park is **not allowed**.
- **Please stay on designated trails.** People and pets are prohibited off trail. Staying on the trail preserves the park.
- Jump-for-Joys are not allowed.
- **Dogs must be leashed at all times.**

