



[BIOTREKKIES]



2015-2016 BIOTREK NEWSLETTER

IT IS NOT A MIRAGE!

A Palm Oasis Springs Up at BioTrek

Eight years in-the-making, our vision is coming to life! The completion of the first phase of the Palm Oasis adds a new component to the BioTrek Ethnobotany Garden. This plant community will be a valuable new resource in our teaching.



This segment of the project was funded by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and the Three Valleys Municipal Water District to bring the necessary teaching components highlighting this plant community and what can be done to help the local environment – both in nature and in our homes.

In the next phase of the project, we would like to add a solar power system and pump. Signage and other additions will finalize this new area, becoming an effective part of our environmental tours that will bring biomes, plant communities, and drought-tolerant adaptations into focus.



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Cal Poly Pomona**

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PROJECT BLUE

How BioTrek Is Supporting An Important Change

We have begun the first phase of a major project that is centered around a natural stream at Cal Poly Pomona. The stream, informally referred to as Kellogg Creek, runs behind one of the oldest buildings on-campus (Bldg 1). Led by Dr. Ed Bobich, BioTrek Committee Chair, Project Blue will highlight the stream that comes out of the San Jose Hills by incorporating paths, learning platforms, and interpretive displays. Project Blue will provide opportunities for us to connect with our local natural resources, bring awareness about water conservation and will exemplify energy-conserving practices through the use of solar power.



NEW AND IMPROVED

BioTrek's Website - Refreshed

BioTrek strives to continually improve our environmental education, whether experienced in person or virtually. Come visit our recently updated website to learn more about our plants, animals, and other educational resources.

POND-ERING

Upgrades to Our Garden Pond and Stream

Our native California plants love our BioTrek Ethnobotany Garden so much, that they could not contain themselves! A few roots went wild, causing some stream challenges and important maintenance needs this summer. The stream and pond are back in action, rumbling water and all.



Fabio's New Home

EVER THE WANDERER

Bon Voyage to an Old Friend

Our spectacled caiman Fabio will no longer be seen within his Rainforest enclosure at BioTrek. After 12+ years with us at BioTrek, he has outgrown his enclosure and is passing the baton to the next generation. Three new dwarf caiman will be joining the BioTrek animal family

to continue the environmental education that began with Fabio. Fabio was a great ambassador for exotic wildlife of the Central and South American rainforests, sharing with us his story, and inspiring thousands of visitors to care for animals responsibly.

Fabio is now happily residing amongst other caiman and his alligator cousins about 50 miles north of Cal Poly at the Forever Wild Exotic Animal Sanctuary. You can support the work of the sanctuary by visiting <http://www.foreverwildexotics.org/Tours.html>.

GOING IN CIRCLES

Service-Learning Students Round-Out the Gathering Circle

With the help of eight service-learning students this Fall quarter, the gathering circle in the Ethnobotany Learning Center is getting a make-over. Colored stone and peace poles are new additions that will be surrounded by ethnobotanical herbs. This change will support BioTrek's efforts to provide opportunities for learning and connection to the past natural and cultural heritage of southern California.



BioTrek is an education-based project that reaches out to K-12 and college students, government leaders, and other community members, emphasizing the need to share knowledge, values and behaviors that support biological sustainability on a finite Earth.