

Welcoming Autumn

Fall Training, New Horses & Aquaponics By Luna

Our Outdoor Education Program has an enthusiastic bunch of Naturalists this year! We covered a lot of topics during staff training from risk management to new teaching strategies. We also visited Sage Mountain Farm and the Hamilton Museum in Anza to learn about organic farming and the local history on the mountain.

Since our last newsletter in the spring, we added a couple new horses to our equine family! Tumbleweed, Queeny and Mary were able to adapt quickly

to their new home and welcomed with open arms by all of the staff. They are still a little shy, but they definitely look out for each other and will instantly melt your heart once you get to know them.

One more exciting change is that we received a grant through EcoLife Conservation to install an aquaponics system in our Nature Center. It's fully operational with goldfish and plants that are now sprouting! We

hope to incorporate this system into discussions about nutrient cycling, sustainability and other topics during our academic classes. For more information about EcoLife, please visit <https://www.ecolifeconservation.org/product/ecocycle/>.



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Garbology Awards:

- *Desert Prep*
- *Sky Country*

Nature Quotes:

- *"In every walk with Nature, one receives far more than [one] seeks." John Muir*
- *"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrain of nature- the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after the winter."*
Rachel Carson

Thousand Islands Oasis (Indio Hills) By Ridge

The Thousand Islands Oasis Preserve is located on the northern side of the Coachella Valley, nestled into the Indio Hills. This location encompasses many unique features; from a palm log cabin built in the 1930's, to a newly restored pond, to geological features of the San Andreas fault. To learn

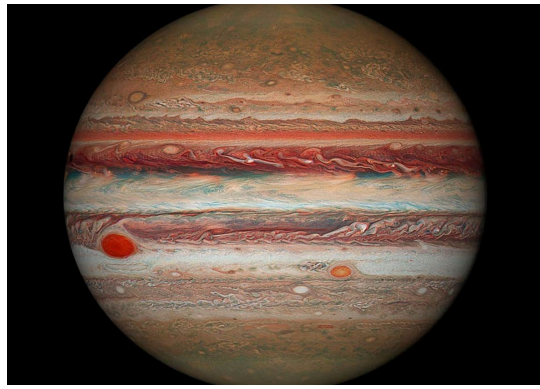


about these different features you can take a guided hike with an experienced

naturalist. Naturalists also offer hikes looking at birds, wildflowers and native plants. Information on these tours can be found by calling (760) 343-1234. The preserve also offers picnic tables, over 30 miles of trails, and a nature center for you to explore and enjoy the park with friends and family.

New Astronomy Evening Program By Dandelion

Pathfinder has got some stellar news for our Astronomy class. Thanks to a gracious donor, we recently finished building a dome, which we'll be using as a planetarium to view the virtual night sky and take light speed tours of our solar system. Groovy! We also recently acquired two digital telescopes. Our new telescopes will be at a higher magnification, so we will be able to look more closely at stars and planets in our night sky. Hopefully your school has selected Astronomy as one of their evening programs!



The surface of Jupiter: can you find the Great Red Spot, one of Jupiter's many surface storms?

During the fall we will be taking a close look at Jupiter and Antares. Jupiter is one of the first planets to appear in our night sky at this time of year. Antares is a star that is also fairly noticeable in the night sky at this time of year. Antares translates into "not Mars" because of the star's red color. You can tell that Antares is not tares (Mars) because Antares twinkles in the sky. Super cool!

Fall Open House & Spring Family Camp By Trail Mix

Earlier this month, Pathfinder Ranch hosted another successful Open House. Students and their families were able to tour the campus and have all their questions answered regarding upcoming school trips. We were excited to have one of the highest turn outs for an Open House in recent years! Attendees also got to meet the farm animals and have an archery lesson. Thank you to all that took time out of their weekend to visit us! FYI We'll have another Open House in March so keep an eye

out on our Facebook page for details.

From April 17-19, we will be opening our doors to families and alumni for a weekend of fun on the mountain! Our Family Camp program will include lots of fun activities like rock climbing! For more info, visit our website at www.pathfinderranch.com or Facebook page. We hope to see you there!



DIY Project: What to Do with Your Old CDs! By Carrots



Upcycling old CDs and DVDs

Do you have old CDs or DVDs that you are no longer able to use but you don't want to throw out? Have no fear! Those CDs and DVDs can be repurposed into a flashy and fun frame for photos. First, take the discs and cut them up into varying sized pieces. For the frame base you can use cardboard with a square cut in the middle or you can just repurpose an existing frame. Next, you can

glue the pieces of CD or DVD onto the frame. For extra fun, you can use puffy paint to fill in the cracks between disc pieces. The last step is to pick your favorite picture and place it in your frame!

Pathfinder Ranch is a non-profit organization founded in 1964 that is dedicated to connecting people to nature and each other. We offer outdoor education field trips, youth summer camp, and retreat opportunities for groups of all types and ages. We take pride in providing affordable and high quality programming throughout the year. Check out our website and Facebook page for more information, and contact us if you have questions.

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