

A scenic view of a wetland area. In the foreground, a wooden boardwalk with railings leads towards a body of water. To the left, a large, gnarled, dead tree stands prominently. The water reflects the sky and surrounding vegetation. The background features a line of green trees and a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

FROM DREAM TO REALITY  
LAS LAGUNAS DE ANZA

WATER IN THE DESERT

















# Las Lagunas de Anza







# 2012 National Wetlands Awards

May 10, 2012

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**United States Botanic Garden**

100 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20001

*The Environmental Law Institute cordially invites you to join us in honoring the champions of wetlands conservation. Since 1989, the National Wetlands Awards have been recognizing the most innovative stewards of the nation's wetlands. We hope you can join us for this prestigious event during American Wetlands Month.*











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## Las Lagunas Camp

A traveling village of over 240 people set up camp at the end of each day, fed themselves and the livestock, then packed it up the next morning to walk 5 to 14 miles onward. In addition to the 30 families of colonists (42 men, 39 women, 119 children), there were additional soldiers, Native American guides, and vaqueros (cowboys) included. Families were important to this expedition because they would help stabilize and grow Spain's new mission communities in Alta California. What hardships did they endure? Would you have gone? We honor the remarkable achievements of these individuals and families of the Anza Expedition. They reflect the continuing spirit and strength of ordinary people everywhere who continue to overcome adversity while realizing their goals and dreams.

## Campamento Las Lagunas

Una aldea viajera de más de 240 personas que hacen campamento al final de cada día, se alimentaron a sí mismo y al ganado, empacar la mañana siguiente y caminar 5 a 14 millas más adelante.

Además de las 30 familias de colonizadores (42 hombres, 39 mujeres, 119 menores) había soldados adicionales, indios americanos de guía y vaqueros. Las familias fueron importantes a esta expedición porque ayudarían a estabilizar y hacer crecer las nuevas comunidades de misionales de España en Alta California. ¡Qué tantas dificultades aguantarían ellos! ¡Habría ido usted! Honramos los logros notables de estos individuos y familias en la Expedición de Anza. Reflejan el espíritu y la fuerza continua de personas ordinarias que por todas partes continúan venciendo la adversidad al realizar sus propósitos y sus sueños.



Partially funded through a grant from the National Park Service











**NATIONAL  
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Pied-billed Grebe  
Drying it's Wings

Don Clemans  
11/17/2010





















Mexican Mallard

Don Clemans  
11/16/2010





























# The Anza Trail

In 1775-76, Spanish Commander Juan Bautista de Anza led nearly three hundred people and one thousand cattle, horses and mules on an expedition to establish San Francisco, on the northwestern frontier of New Spain. Colonists came from as far south as Culiacán, New Spain. Due to its historic significance, the route followed by the Anza expedition was designated a National Historic Trail by Congress on 1990 and also enjoys recognition in Mexico.

En 1775-76, un comandante español Juan Bautista de Anza dirigía casi trescientas personas y mil cabezas de ganado, caballos y mulas en una expedición para fundar San Francisco, en la frontera noroeste de Nueva España. Los colonos vinieron de tan al sur como de Culiacán, México. Debido a su significado histórico, la ruta seguida por la expedición de Anza fue designada un sendero histórico nacional por el Congreso de E.U. en 1990 y así también disfrutaron de reconocimiento en México.



Partially funded through a grant from the National Park Service















### Las Lagunas Camp

El campamento de Las Lagunas fue establecido en el año 1846 por el Coronel Juan Manuel de Salcedo, jefe de la Expedición de San Juan de los Rios. Este campamento fue el punto de partida para la expedición que buscaba encontrar una ruta comercial entre el Golfo de California y el Océano Pacífico. El campamento estaba situado en un área que hoy en día es un parque estatal. El campamento fue abandonado en 1847 debido a la falta de agua y alimentos. El campamento fue redescubierto en 1946 por un grupo de investigadores que estaban buscando el sitio del campamento. El campamento fue declarado un sitio histórico en 1961.

### Campamento Las Lagunas

Este sitio es uno de los más importantes del patrimonio histórico de Sonora. El campamento fue establecido en 1846 por el Coronel Juan Manuel de Salcedo, jefe de la Expedición de San Juan de los Rios. Este campamento fue el punto de partida para la expedición que buscaba encontrar una ruta comercial entre el Golfo de California y el Océano Pacífico. El campamento estaba situado en un área que hoy en día es un parque estatal. El campamento fue abandonado en 1847 debido a la falta de agua y alimentos. El campamento fue redescubierto en 1946 por un grupo de investigadores que estaban buscando el sitio del campamento. El campamento fue declarado un sitio histórico en 1961.























NHS junior Ana Paola Andrade and photographer Don Clemens unveil an interpretive nature sign during a ceremony at Las Lagunas last weekend. At right, she is joined by Alfredo Velasquez, Santa Cruz County superintendent of schools. Below, Andrade displays her raccoon drawing.

PHOTO/MANUEL C. COPPOLA

Alasia

# Art students leave mark at trailhead

By Manuel C. Coppola  
Nogales International

Nogales High School junior Ana Paola Andrade's drawing of a raccoon takes center stage on an interpretive nature sign created by her and some of her classmates. The sign was unveiled during a ceremony last week at Las Lagunas de Anza wetlands.

"One day you will bring your children here to show them your contribution to this important site," said Arlyn Johnson of the Santa Fe Rancho Foundation, which has led efforts to clean the marsh area that is said to be Spanish explorer Juan Bautista de Anza's first camp this side of the border.

The interpretive sign by the students in Helen Holt's class at NHS is the latest addition to the site, which now includes a parking area, loop trails, a curved wood boardwalk and floating dock, and two ranadas. Previously, the marshland was uninviting and covered with cattail.

The sign depicts the various habitats and wildlife that make their home on the nine-acre wetland site on Country Club Drive in Nogales, across from St. Andrew's Church.

Anza was the captain of the Royal Presidio at Tubac when the area was still part of Mexico. In 1775-76 Anza provided military escort for more than 240 people and 1,000 head of live-

stock from Tubac to San Francisco, Calif.

"Imagine," Johnson told Andrade. "This is the trailhead for a path that ultimately led all the way to San Francisco."

The Santa Fe Ranch has been protecting, restoring and enhancing Las Lagunas with the NHS Science Club and other partners including the project team, City of Nogales, Santa Cruz County, Anza Coalition, volunteers and family.

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail meanders through extreme deserts to mountains and along coastal areas between Nogales and San Francisco. Las Lagunas, also known as campsite No. 13 on



the Anza Trail, is now best to visiting birders, historians, photographers and school groups.

The upgrades have been made possible in part through grants from the National Fish

and Wildlife Service and National Park Service, and representatives from both agencies were on hand, along with other special guests at the ceremony held Saturday, Feb. 25.





































## Mysterious Reeds Make Great Walking Sticks

Mary Dahl & Shaw Kinsley, Tubac Presidio State Historic Park

One of the most remarkable objects available in the Tubac Presidio Park gift shop is a sturdy, lightweight, attractive, one-of-a-kind walking staff. The staffs are full of history, both natural and cultural. They are made from Arundo stalks which are harvested from the Anza campsite known as Las Lagunas in Nogales, Arizona. They are carefully trimmed and prepared as walking staffs by Santa Fe Ranch volunteers and staff. Volunteer-extraordinaire Don Clemans invented an Arundo rotisserie that allows him to finish the staffs with heat to bring out their natural beauty and individual character.

The great mystery is how these tall, sturdy reed plants from Asia got to Las Lagunas in the first place. Did tiny plant parts hitch a ride on (or in) one of Anza's soldier's horses? Or were the plants deliberately brought by some inventive 19th century entrepreneur eager to corner the musical reed and flute market in the American southwest? To begin to solve this mystery, it would be helpful if the mid-20th century denizens of the old drive-in theater in Nogales could tell us if the tall grass was there then, but that might be as likely as getting them to remember the titles of the movies they "watched"!

The reed is formally called *Arundo donax* but it is also known as Carrizo, Spanish cane, wild cane, and giant cane. Today it grows in a dense thicket along the north edge of Las Lagunas, a perennial wetlands owned for years by the Sedgwick Family. Tony Sedgwick and his Santa Fe Ranch Foundation have been restoring the wetlands, encouraging the return of wildlife, and sharing the wonder of the environment with local school kids as an outdoor environmental classroom and cultural site.

Arundo is an ancient plant that has been used for thousands of years for a variety of purposes. Egyptians used its leaves as a funereal wrap for the dead. It also has enjoyed less ghoulish utility as fishing poles and strong supports for climbing plants or vines. The ancients used Arundo to make musical flutes and pan pipes, which are considered to be the first mouth organ

and ancestor of the pipe organ and harmonica. (Little known fact: Peruvian police are issued pan pipes to be used as an alert to other officers in case of trouble.) The strong flexible nature of Arundo has made it the principal material for reeds for woodwinds such as oboes, bassoons, clarinets and saxophones.

As a sign of the times, Arundo is being evaluated and has shown great potential not only for biomass energy production, but also as a significant agent for below ground carbon sequestration. These are often viewed as critical to meeting the planet's energy needs and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Who knows what future our Las Lagunas Arundo stand has in helping us achieve energy and climate stability!

Drop by the Tubac Presidio gift shop and check out these splendid, historic walking staffs. The \$20 price includes an excerpt from Father Font's 18th c. diaries describing Las Lagunas. All proceeds are shared between the Santa Fe Ranch Foundation which owns Las Lagunas and the Tubac Historical Society which operates and maintains the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park located at 1 Burruel Street in Tubac, Arizona. It is open daily from 9am to 5pm. Admission to the Park is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children age 7 to 14, and free for kids under 7.

*Arundo walking sticks*











Inquisitive  
Sora Rail

Don Clemens  
11/16/2010















