

Rancho del Oso

Nature and History Center

News



Volume 29/2

April-June 2014



Annual Wildflower Festival

Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27 • 11 to 4 pm • Nature Center

Spring has arrived in the Waddell Valley and each year a unique variety of wildflowers appear, in an assortment of colors and forms to delight the senses. Come and see what's in bloom!

View plants on display at the Nature and History Center, featuring fifty or more natives and non-natives with identification, and grouped by habitat. Naturalist-led walks start at 11 AM and 1:30 PM on Saturday and Sunday, where you will see species in their natural setting while learning their unique features.



The Romance of Rosy Ridge

Saturday, May 17 • 7 pm • Nature Center

Rancho del Oso goes Hollywood with a movie night featuring the terrific tale of *The Romance of Rosy Ridge*. Filmed in the surrounding Santa Cruz Mountains, and guest starring two of the Hoover family's own Rancho del Oso horses, this one hour and forty-five minute (1947) film tells the story of a rural community in the aftermath of the American Civil War. Enjoy a picnic dinner on the porch before showtime!

Nature and History Center Hours

Saturday-Sunday, 12 noon to 4 pm

Starting May 24 through June, open Saturday-Monday, 12 noon to 4 pm

Visit us on the Web and Facebook!

www.ranchodeloso.org and www.facebook.com/RDOSP

Fireside Stories

Sundays, April 13 ❖ May 18 ❖ June 15 ❖ 11 am

Pretend, play, sing and explore! Bring the family and gather round the fireplace for storytelling followed by activities focused on the story's theme. This thirty minute program will introduce youngsters to the wonders of nature. We recommend children be at least three years old. All will be held at the Nature and History Center.

Critter Crafts

Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27 ❖ 12 noon to 4 pm

Sundays, May 25 ❖ June 22 ❖ 12 noon to 4 pm

Drop in for fun nature-themed craft time at the Nature and History Center. We will have a **free** make-and-take-activity that most children can complete independently, although parents may need to assist preschool-aged children. All children are welcome to participate.



Bike and Hike the Waddell Valley



Sunday, May 11 ❖ Saturday, June 14 ❖ 10 am

Pump up the tires on your bike, grab your helmet and bike lock, and bring a lunch with plenty of water on this guided bike and hike. Together, we'll ride up the canyon, learning and seeing the Waddell Valley sites, including Eagle Tree, remnants of William Waddell's logging operation, banana slugs and more. We will ride up to fourteen miles, dependent on the group, and we may even make it all the way to beautiful Berry Creek Falls. This adventure requires a bike that can handle rough fire roads. Participants must provide their own bikes, locks and helmets. The bike and hike will meet at the Ranger Station, located less than a mile in from the yellow gate opposite Waddell Beach. Call (831)427-2288 with any questions.

Creekside Exploration

Saturdays, May 24 ❖ 10 am and June 28 ❖ 2 pm

Bring the whole family to get down and look around as we become creek detectives out on the trail, searching to solve the aquatic mysteries of Waddell Creek! We'll hike to Waddell Creek, and use nets and other tools to discover all the tiny critters that live in the water and learn about why it is so important to keep our streams clean. Wear shoes that you're not afraid to get a little wet on this three hour, three mile hike and program. We will meet at the Ranger Station, located approximately one mile from the gate opposite Waddell Beach.



President's Report

It's wonderful to bring new faces and fresh ideas to our Board, and thanks goes to Carol Fuller who nominated them. We are looking forward to Jesse Bregman and Steve Smith's participation.

Jesse Bregman has lived in Santa Cruz since 1971, having arrived as a graduate student in Astronomy and Astrophysics at UCSC. He is married to Ziggy and has three creative and talented adult children. He recently semi-retired after 37 years as an astronomer for NASA. Jesse enjoys woodworking, restoring old British cars, hiking, and pretending to try to catch fish while standing in cold mountain streams.

Steve Smith has lived in Santa Cruz County since 1977, when his family moved to the Big Basin area. It was there that he learned about Big Basin and worked as a camp counselor at Camp Hammer. Later they moved, and are now closer with easy access to Henry Cowell State Park. Steve is a member of the State Parks Association today because of those experiences. His primary career has been in law enforcement, and teaching. He currently teaches at Gavilan College in Gilroy. Steve and his wife Lynn, have three daughters and live in Scotts Valley.

—Walt Hays



Wildflower Walks

Saturdays, April 12 ❖ June 14 ❖ Sunday, May 11 ❖ 10 am

In April, hike starts at the Rancho del Oso gate located along Highway 1, across from the Waddell Beach parking lot. May and June wildflower moseys begin at the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center. Take a hike among the wildflowers of Rancho del Oso's Waddell Valley. Docent **Scott Peden** will lead an approximately four mile hike to view a variety of wildflowers—there's always something exciting in bloom! Photographers are easily accommodated. Show up with lunch, water and energy to hike.



Wide-eyed at Waddell

As spring heads into summer, the Waddell Valley begins to fill with visitors seeking the cool shade of the redwoods, colorful wildflowers along the trail, and a sunny day on Waddell Beach. One of the biggest concerns visitors have are ticks, and the possibility of getting Lyme Disease. Some basic knowledge about ticks and their habits, as well as a few simple, preventative measures can go a long way in helping prevent tick-borne diseases.

In California, there are forty-seven different species of ticks, with eight species known to bite humans, and only the western black-legged tick transmitting the bacteria (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) that causes Lyme Disease. Knowing where these ticks like to live at different stages of their life is important in helping prevent tick bites. Only nymph and adult females of the western black-legged tick can transmit Lyme Disease bacteria to humans, with nymphs posing a greater risk for transmission. Nymphs are most active in spring and early summer in moist, cool environments. They can be found in leaf litter, on logs, mossy rocks and even picnic tables. Adults are most active from fall through early spring, in oak woodlands, grasslands, chaparral and even on the plants of coastal sand dunes. Each life stage of the tick can only happen after one blood meal that lasts for several days at each stage, with the entire cycle taking two to three years.



Prevention Measures

Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts.

Wear light-colored clothing so ticks can be easily seen.

Stay in the middle of the trail. Avoid trail margins, brush and grassy areas.

Inspect yourself frequently for ticks while in their habitat. Once out of tick habitat, thoroughly check your entire body for ticks up to three days after being in tick areas. Examine your children, especially on the scalp, hairline and skin folds.



How should ticks be removed?

Using tweezers, grasp the tick's mouthparts as close to the skin as possible.

Gently pull the tick straight out, using a firm steady motion.

Wash your hands and the bite site with soap and water. Apply an antiseptic to the bite site.

Consult your physician if you develop any symptoms, especially a rash, within 30 days of the tick bite.

The prompt removal of a tick can prevent transmission of infection, so check often. Lucky for us, the presence of the Western Fence Lizard helps reduce the risk of Lyme Disease. This common reptile carries a protein in its blood, and when the ticks feed on the lizards' blood, the protein cleanses their bodies of the bacteria, so their annoying bites no longer pose a Lyme Disease risk.

Thanks to Tina Feiszli and Denise Bonilla of the California Department of Public Health for their presentation on ticks to the California State Parks staff.

For information, visit the California Department of Public Health at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/> —Morgan Dill

Waddell Beach Clean Up

Sunday, May 4 9 am to 12 noon

Before the busy summer season begins at Waddell Beach, come out for a spring-cleaning beach cleanup. Check-in will be at the Waddell Beach parking lot. Individual and small group volunteers are welcome. We will provide all necessary supplies, and encourage volunteers to bring their own reusable buckets, gloves, and water bottles. For more information, contact parksrdopis@parks.ca.gov or call (831)427-2288.



Almost a Hundred Years

The third printing of Hulda Hoover McLean's autobiography has been reissued by the Waddell Creek Association. It is for sale at both the Nature Center and the Ranger Station. The Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center is Hulda's former home. After the sale of her home to State Parks she played a major role in the formation of the Waddell Creek Association. If you like local history, her book will give you a fascinating look at life on our beautiful north coast in the early years of the twentieth century.

Our Mission

The Waddell Creek Association, in cooperation with California State Parks, works to educate and inspire public appreciation and stewardship of the extraordinary natural and cultural resources of the Waddell Valley, by providing resources and support for volunteer and educational programs at Rancho del Oso/Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Your membership helps us achieve these goals.

Join the Waddell Creek Association!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Membership categories; please check one:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsoring \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$500 |

Please cut out and mail this form
with your check, payable to:

Waddell Creek Association
c/o Joyce Rosenstiel
227 Blakewood Way
Woodside, CA 94062



Waddell Creek Association

3600 Highway 1
Davenport, CA 95017

Return Service Requested

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Rancho del Oso — Coastal Section of Big Basin Redwoods State Park

The Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center is open to the general public.

The Center is located 2 miles south of Año Nuevo (or 16 miles north of Santa Cruz) just off Highway 1.

Turn at the first road south of the Waddell Creek bridge and follow the signs. Extreme weather may cancel events; please call ahead.

For more information or to register for events, call 831 427-2288 or email parksrldopis@parks.ca.gov.

If you would like to go paperless, please send your full name and email to judybugg46@yahoo.com.

We do not share your information with any other group.

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