

Rancho del Oso

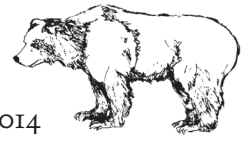
Nature and History Center

News

July–September 2014



Volume 29/3



Grizzly Bear Festival

Saturday, August 16 † 12 noon to 4 pm † **Nature Center**

Bring the whole family for an afternoon of crafts, activities, storytelling, and walks with the bears!

Celebrate the once-abundant California Grizzly Bear that roamed Waddell Valley. Throughout the day there will be crafts and activities for all ages at the Nature and History Center. At 12 NOON, there will be a Grizzly Bear story time with activities around the fire for children and their families. Join us at 2 PM for a guided walk into the forest, where we will imagine what it might have been like with Grizzly Bears roaming around.



Movies at the Ranch

The Gnome-Mobile, Saturday, July 12 † 7:00 pm

Vertigo, Saturday, August 9 † 6:30 pm

Rancho del Oso goes Hollywood with movie nights at the Nature and History Center, featuring films made in Big Basin Redwoods State Park. *The Gnome-Mobile* is a 1965 fantasy film featuring a 943 year old gnome, redwoods, and music (run time 84 minutes). Alfred Hitchcock's 1958 classic *Vertigo* tells the tale of a detective attempting to recreate a woman in the image of his lost love (run time 129 minutes). Enjoy your picnic dinner on the deck before seeing a part of California's oldest State Park on the silver screen.

Nature and History Center Hours

Saturday–Monday through September 1, 12 noon to 4 pm

Starting September 6, open Saturday–Sunday, 12 noon to 4 pm

Visit us on the Web for updates and join us on Facebook!

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

Fireside Stories

Sunday, July 13 ☿ 11 am and Saturday, August 16 ☿ 12 noon

Sunday, September 14 ☿ 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.

Creekside Investigation

Sunday, July 20 ☿ Saturday, August 30 ☿ 10 am

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.



Bike and Hike the Waddell Valley



Saturdays, July 26 ☿ September 27 ☿ 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.

Critter Crafts

Sunday, July 27 ☿ Saturday, August 16 ☿ Sunday, September 28

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.



☞ President's Report ☞

Our Board of Directors decided that in addition to the newsletter and 10% discount on purchases, we should do something special for our loyal members, so we scheduled a special membership appreciation event for Sunday, June 29. A big part of the specialness was that former Resident Naturalist Diane West-Bourke, who not only knows all about local flora and fauna, but does a wonderful job of interpreting it, volunteered to lead two hikes, a longer one experiencing the seven distinct habitats in the valley, and a shorter one for those wanting something less strenuous. The day culminated with a light dinner at the Nature and History Center. Everyone had a great time, and we were pleased to give our members the thanks they deserve.

—Walt Hays



Wildflower Hikes

Saturdays, July 12 ☞ August 9 ☞ September 13 ☞ 10 am

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. Hikes begin at the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center.

Wildflower Wanders

Sundays, July 27 ☞ August 24 ☞ 10 am and 1 pm

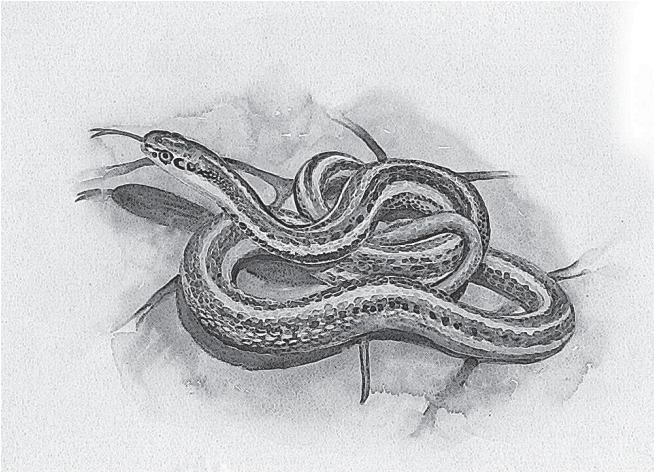
Find out what's growing and showing in the Waddell Valley on this one mile, one plus hour, guided hike with docent naturalist **Ann Garside**. Ann will share observations about the plants of Rancho del Oso, as the group walks from coastal scrub through one of the last native stands of Monterey pine left in the world. Show up with questions, curiosity and energy. Hikes start at the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center.

Marsh Moseys

Mondays, July 14 ☞ July 28 ☞ August 11 ☞ August 25 ☞ 10 am

Join us for a family friendly walk, as we listen with our deer ears, walk like a fox, and use our owl eyes to experience the wonder of the Marsh Trail. We'll find evidence of animals, learn about plants, and see Waddell Creek on this one mile, one hour walk. We will meet at the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center.

Wide-eyed at Waddell



Walking on the Marsh Trail always comes with a few surprises, from a sharp-shinned hawk perched high in a tree, a bright blue damselfly landing for a moment, and horsetail reaching above your head. Sometimes you will hear the rustle of an animal taking cover from the trail in the surrounding plants, and if you watch closely, you might see the tail end of a garter snake slithering away. There are several species of garter snakes here at Rancho del Oso, including the endangered San Francisco Garter Snake, but it can be hard to identify that legless reptile in the fleeting moment. These long, slender snakes are often striped, with beautiful coloration, and are nonvenomous.

Another nonvenomous snake that has been seen several times at Rancho del Oso over the last few months is the Gopher Snake. A tan-colored snake that can reach over 4 feet long, this spring, I was lucky enough to see one on the road leading to the Ranger Station. It had been a cold day on the coast, though the sun had come through enough to warm the pavement. This promise of heat enticed the cold-blooded Gopher Snake to come from its hole on the hillside. A few visitors and staff watched as the snake calmly watched us. The Gopher Snake is often mistaken for a rattlesnake, due to its similar coloration and defensive behavior. They have even been known to flatten their heads, rattle their tails and strike, though they actually kill their prey by constriction. We were easily able to observe its distinguishing blunt face and lack of rattle from its position on the ground. It was no small snake, measuring nearly five feet long. Over the next ten minutes, it slowly made its way back to its hole, disappearing slowly. These snakes will use their heads like a shovel, moving dirt along its coils until it gains access to the burrow.

While many people have both a fear and fascination with snakes, it is important to remember that they are crucial members of the natural community. Snakes are predators and feed on a variety of creatures, in particular helping to control rodent populations. Snakes are also prey species for other predators. When encountering a snake, no matter what species, it is best to remain respectful, appreciating and observing their presence, rather than being afraid if you're lucky enough to spot one at Rancho del Oso. —Morgan Dill

Way up to Westridge

Sunday, July 6 ☿ and Saturday, September 6 ☿ 10 am

Team up with Interpretive Specialist **Morgan Dill** on a hike up to the Clark Connection Trail where it meets the Westridge Trail. We'll travel from sea level for views of Año Nuevo and coastal valleys from atop the ridge on this strenuous six mile hike. Arrive early at the Highway 1 gate across from Waddell Beach, and walk in approximately one mile to the Ranger Station to meet your guide. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and energy!

Coastal Clean-up Day

Saturday ☿ September 20 ☿ 9 am to 12 noon

Join **Save Our Shores** for California's biggest volunteer effort, Coastal Cleanup Day at Waddell Beach. Save Our Shores will provide cleanup supplies, but volunteers are encouraged to bring their own gloves, buckets, and a reusable water bottle. There will be snacks at the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center after the cleanup for participants! If you have any questions, please contact 831 427-2288.





Welcome Wilderness Patrol Volunteers

As we head into the summer, and Rancho del Oso gets busier with activity, our newest volunteers will be heading even farther out into Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Eleven new volunteers, as well as several volunteers who have been giving their time to Rancho del Oso for many years, are now part of a dedicated group called the Wilderness Patrol. Their role is to provide proactive foot and bike patrol on the trails each weekend, helping to protect the resources, enhance the visitor experience, and make sure everyone is safe out on trail. From Berry Creek Falls to Westridge Trail to Waddell Beach and back, these wonderful Wilderness Patrol volunteers will be sharing the Waddell Valley out on the trail—the best place to be at Rancho del Oso! We are excited about their role and contribution to making this a great place to hike and visit.—*Morgan Dill*

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

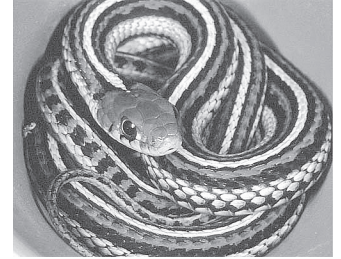
Return Service Requested

Board of Directors:

Walter Hays, President
Joyce Rosenstiel, Vice President
Connie Adams, Treasurer
Jesse Bregman
Judy Buck
Carol Fuller
Lea Haratani
Susan Krivin
Mark D. Levine
Roberta K. Smith
Steve Smith

Advisory Panel:

Anne Briggs
Reed Flocks
Sandy Lydon
Frank "Lud" McCrary
Fred McPherson
Charles Prentiss
Alverda Orlando
Ralph Steinberg
Gary Strachan
Diane West-Bourke
John Working



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 parksr dopis@parks.ca.gov.

Go Green!

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

Rancho del Oso News is published quarterly by the Waddell Creek Association, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Editor: Judy Buck. **Writers:** Morgan Dill, Walter Hays.

Production: Linda Brodman.

