

Rancho del Oso

Nature and History Center

News

October–December 2014



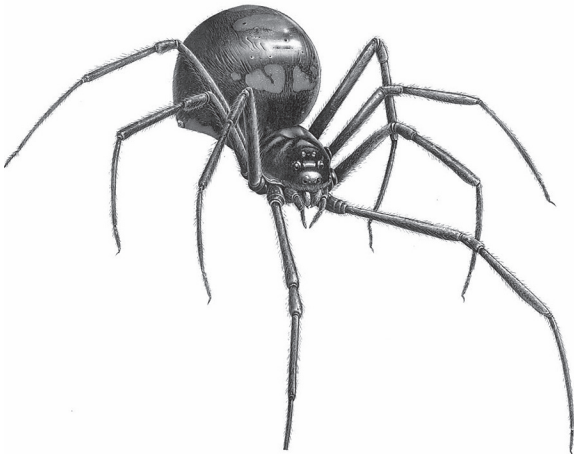
Volume 29/4



Movie Night at the Museum

Saturday, October 18 • 7 pm • Nature Center

Rancho del Oso goes Hollywood with a night at the Nature and History Center, featuring the comedy *Night at the Museum*. Join us for this family-friendly film, surrounded by a grizzly bear, mountain lion and more! Enjoy your picnic dinner on the deck before seeing the museum come to life at Rancho del Oso.



The Creepy Crawlies of Rancho del Oso

Sunday, October 26 • 2 pm

Nature Center

Face your fears of the creepy crawlies, as docent **Diane Shaw** shares her love of snakes, bats, dark forests and the scary things that go bump in the night in this hour long program. Diane will share what makes these creatures and places so unique and special, and will even have a live snake to touch!

Raptors at the Ranch

Saturday, November 15 • 2 pm • Nature Center

Join Rancho del Oso, in cooperation with **Native Bird Connections**, for a dynamic presentation of **non-releasable live! wild birds**. In this hour-long program, there will also be touchable artifacts that include feet, feathers, wings and skulls of various birds. Bring questions for this exciting afternoon learning more about these powerful birds, and what the world looks like through their eyes.



Nature and History Center Hours



October through December, open Saturday–Sunday, 12 noon to 4 pm

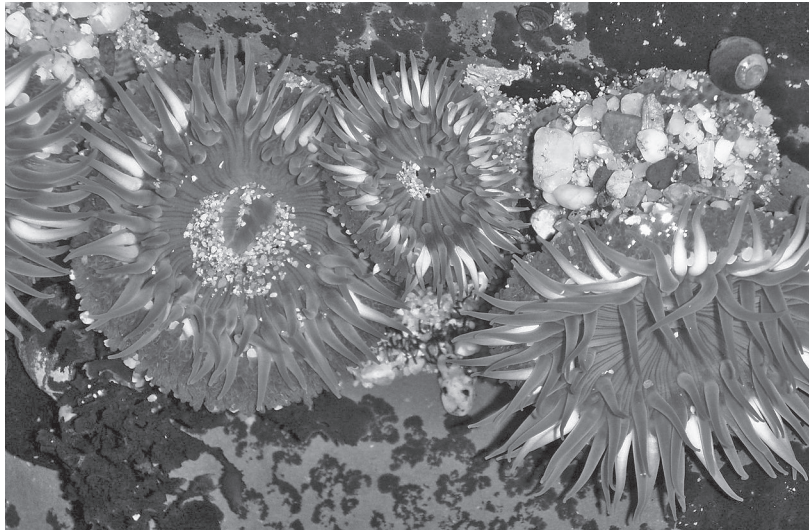
Visit us on the Web for updates and join us on Facebook!

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

Wildflower Hikes

Saturdays, October 11 ❖ November 8 ❖ December 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 yellow gate located across Highway 1 from Waddell Beach.



Tidepool Exploration

Saturday ❖ December 6 ❖ 2 pm

Come explore the wonders of the tidepools just south of Waddell Beach, from anemones and sea stars to hermit crabs and kelp! We'll meet at the Waddell Beach parking lot at 2 PM and make our way down the beach towards Greyhound Rock. Join us for this minus-tide adventure, and be sure to bring warm clothes, binoculars if you have them, and tidepooling shoes.

Fireside Stories

Sundays, October 12 ❖ November 9 ❖ December 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.

Critter Crafts

Sundays, October 19 ❖ November 16 ❖ December 21

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

Visitation and environmental education at Rancho del Oso have dramatically increased from July 2013 through June 2014. Our program offerings including hikes, tours, and walks, more than doubled and school programs quadrupled, with total attendance climbing from 38 to 242 students. Attendance at the Nature and History Center, already much higher than pre-renovation grew to 3,749 (from 2,890); and at the Ranger Station to 3,206 (from 2,557) giving us a grand total of 8,822 visitors (from 6,320)!

Those great results were due primarily to the creativity and diligence of part-time Interpretive Specialist **Morgan Dill**. Sadly for us, but happily for her—with possibly some nostalgia—Morgan has accepted a permanent position with East Bay Regional Parks. We know she'll do an outstanding job there, and hope the momentum she has established here will enable her successor, with our help, to attract even more people to experience the wonders of the Waddell Valley. —Walt Hays





Wide-eyed at Waddell

When I began at Rancho del Oso a little over two years ago, I knew there would be many things that would leave me wide-eyed. What a magnificent thing, to be able to spend time each week getting to know a place, and see the wonder in the small and the big, to slow down and appreciate all that the Waddell Valley has to offer. So often we only see a place for one moment in time, especially a park we visit, but there is always something to see out there. It brings to mind a quote from Annie Dillard's book, **Pilgrim at Tinker Creek**,

The answer must be, I think, that beauty and grace are performed whether or not we will or sense them.

The least we can do is try to be there.

And so, here are just a few of those moments that have left me wide-eyed, filled with beauty and wonder at Waddell. The early mornings where chance encounters with a bobcat were a possibility, the sound of elephant seals from atop the Westridge Trail, learning where wildflowers went from colorful bloom to seed and back again with the passing seasons, sunsets that painted the ocean in colors abundant, the bouncing song of the wrenit just outside the door, sneaking up on a resting damselfly on a log, eating plums from one of the Hoover era fruit trees, watching caddis flies crawling along rocks with the littlest visitors, popping out on the drive in to rescue lumbering California Newts from the road, singing songs by the fire, watching seeds of the coffeeberry show up in the scat of every animal in the Waddell, crunching leaves of the maple tree underfoot in the fall, fog rolling over the mountains, counting turret spider burrows on the hillside, watching a Great Blue Heron take flight from the creek, riding on trails surrounded by a carpet of redwood sorrel, the rainbow in Berry Creek Falls, and many more . . .

I hope that you continue to visit Rancho del Oso throughout the year, and discover the things that leave you wide-eyed at Waddell!

—Morgan Dill



Way up to Westridge

Sunday † November 23 † 10 am

Come with us on a hike up 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!



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 Jesse Bregman
519 Van Ness Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



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.

Go Green!

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

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

Production: Linda Brodman.

