

Rancho del Oso

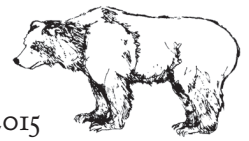
Nature and History Center

News

January–March 2015



Volume 30/1



Wildflower Hikes

Saturdays, January 10 • February 14 • March 14 • 10 am

Docent and native plant specialist **Scott Peden** will lead an approximately four mile hike to view a variety of winter and early spring blooming wildflowers. Photographers are easily accommodated. Join us for the entire hike or a portion; bring lunch, water and exuberance! Hikes begin at the gate located across Highway 1 from the Waddell Beach parking lot.



Nature Wandering

Sundays, January 11 • February 8 • March 8 • 1 pm

Find out what's growing, living and blooming right now in the Waddell Valley on this approximately one mile, one-hour-plus guided walk with docent naturalist **Ann Garside**.

Information will be shared about the plants and habitats of Rancho del Oso, as we mosey from coastal scrub through one of the remaining five distinct populations of Monterey Pine left in the world. Show up with curiosity and energy. Hikes start at the Nature Center.

Wildflower Festival coming in April

Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26 • 11 am to 4 pm • Nature Center

Spring is coming soon to the Waddell Valley, so mark your calendar now!



Nature and History Center Hours



January through March, open Saturday–Sunday, 12 noon to 4 pm

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

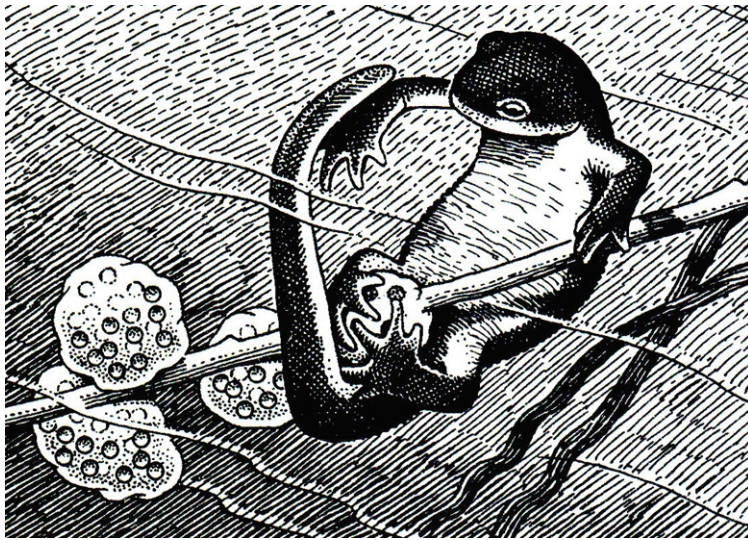
www.ranchodeloso.org and www.facebook.com/RDOSP

Salamander Story Time, Crafts, and Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, March 7 ♦ 11 am to 4 pm ♦ Nature Center

Join us as the Ranch of the Bear becomes “Ranch of the Newt,” celebrating our amphibian friends that make their way from beneath rocks and under logs to the creeks, wetlands and puddles of the park. Start out your day with salamander story time at 11 AM, where children will learn all about salamanders and their habitats.

Drop in at the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center from 12 NOON to 4 PM for a free family-friendly salamander craft. At 1 PM, meet at the gate across Highway 1 from Waddell Beach for a three mile guided salamander scavenger hunt on the trail.



Newt Night!

Saturday, March 7 ♦ 5 pm ♦ Nature Center

Come hear tales and songs of toes growing back, barking salamanders, and poison so deadly it could kill you in a campfire-style program held at the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center.

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

President's Report

The mission of our Association is **BIG**—to assist State Parks in providing high quality educational and inspirational recreation opportunities in the Waddell Valley community. Compared with other cooperating Associations, we are **SMALL**. In 2013, our total gross income counting sales was \$11,000. Our total membership renewals and contributions came to \$7,800 and our net income was only \$3,350.

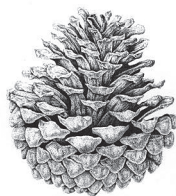
We're able to provide important assistance to State Parks even with that limited income. In 2014, we bought a projector for presenting programs, a new laptop and printer for the Interpretive Specialist, and jackets with our RDO logo for docents. We paid \$1,000 to assist in cataloging and archiving all the materials in the Center. When State Parks decided to install new exhibits in the Center, we were asked to contribute \$150,000 to remodel the building. We were able to do that by mounting a special fundraising campaign.

Recently, State Parks has come to us with another big request; namely, for a grant to rebuild the viewing platform at Berry Creek Falls. It's badly needed, and is a wonderful opportunity, because many thousands of dollars of expertise and labor are being donated.

Jim Mazzone, who designed the beautiful new boardwalk at Año Nuevo, has already drawn up plans for a new platform, and offered his building expertise at no charge. The labor for dismantling the existing weakened platform, and hauling the old materials out and the new in, will be provided by the California Conservation Corps. The only expense is \$15,000 for the new lumber, for which the Parks Administration has asked us to pay \$5,000. State Parks will be seeking the additional funding from Mountain Parks Association and the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks.

The request became urgent because the Corps was only available in January. There was no time to apply for a grant, so we agreed to the donation, even though it was a blow to our bank account.

There are many ways to support our work at the Waddell Creek Association, but one way to ensure that we have enough money to respond to time-sensitive requests is through planned giving bequests to the Waddell Creek Association. A friend and former partner of mine, Peter Sanford, who specializes in estate planning, has offered to help any interested person in making such a bequest, whether large or small, free of charge. You can contact Peter with the law firm of Bosso Williams, in Santa Cruz at (831) 426-8464. If you contact him, just say you're doing so at my suggestion. —Walt Hays



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.



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 parksrdopis@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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