

Rancho del Oso

Nature and History Center

News

October–December 2015



Volume 30/4



Native Bird Connections

with Jenny Popka † Saturday, November 21 † 1 pm † Nature Center

Please join **Native Bird Connections** for an informative and engaging visit with **live non-releasable** raptors. Learn about how these birds of prey see their world, who they are in the wild, and how they adjust to a captive life. There will be artifacts to examine and touch and questions are essential!



Waddell Valley Birding

Saturdays, October 17 † November 14 † December 12 † 8 am

Birding for all skill levels. Join Interpretive Specialist **Jeremy Lin**, for an approximate two mile hike to observe, listen, and enjoy morning birding in Waddell Valley. We will take our time and move slowly. Bring binoculars, a bird guide and readiness for silent observation, as we witness wildlife awakening on a crisp autumn day. We will meet on the deck in front of the Nature Center.



Come visit the Nature and History Center



Open Saturday–Sunday, 12 noon to 4 pm

Check us out on the Web and join us on Facebook!

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

Waddell Valley Wildflower and Nature Hike

Saturdays, October 10 ❖ November 14 ❖ December 12 ❖ 10 am

Join docent **Scott Peden** and learn to identify many of Waddell Valley's plants within Rancho del Oso's seven diverse habitats. Observe the monthly change of the ecosystems. Each walk is unique as blooming flowers and pollinators are constantly in flux. This walk is a leisurely four-hour amble that is great for learning while experiencing the native habitat. Bring lunch, questions and spirited fervor! October hike starts at the Nature Center. November and December hikes start at the yellow gate across from the Waddell Beach parking lot.

Snake Park Saturdays

October 10 ❖ November 14 ❖ December 12 ❖ 2 pm

Why are snakes important to us? How do they see, smell, taste, hear? What and how do they eat? What does a snake feel like? Docent **Diane Shaw** will give a talk about the fascinating world of snakes, and Naturalist **Jeremy Lin** will lead a short informative hike to find snakes and other reptiles. We will meet up at the Ranger Station, a short hike in from the parking lot at Waddell Beach on Highway 1.

Nature Wander

Sundays, October 11 ❖ November 8 ❖ December 13 ❖ 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 saunter 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.



Join the Waddell Creek Association!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Membership categories; please check one:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$100 |
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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

All of us in the Association know that the enhanced Nature and History Center offers wonderful material on all aspects of the Waddell Valley. The problem has been how to attract more people to enjoy it.

Our Interpretive Specialist, Jeremy Lin, has taken a lot of steps to solve that problem. First, he is organizing exciting programs. Beyond that, however, he's also come up with creative ideas on how to bring people in. For example, Jeremy proposed developing sandwich boards for major programs like the Wildflower and Grizzly Bear Festivals, and suggested placing them not only by the highway at the entrance to the Center, but also by the Ranger Station and at the beach parking lot. We gladly paid for them, and attendance has jumped impressively.

Building on that success, the Board also approved in concept a larger sign by the Ranger Station inviting hikers to the Center; and a second sign alerting hikers to the items available inside the Station. We have our usual drinks, snacks, and maps, available as well as our new Skyline-to-the-Sea patches dedicated to that wonderful trail system through Big Basin. We think everyone who has hiked that trail—including us and you—will want one.

—Walt Hays



Need holiday gifts for your outdoor enthusiast? Stop on by the Nature Center and check us out!
We have nature books, guides, bear sweatshirts, and lots of educational and fun stuff.

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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