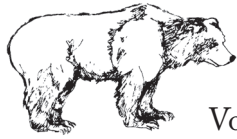


# Rancho del Oso

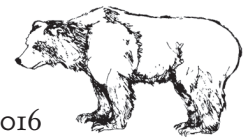
Nature and History Center

News

July–September 2016



Volume 31/3



## Grizzly Bear Festival

Saturday, September 3 • 12 noon to 4 pm • Nature Center



Join us for a day of family-friendly crafts, activities, face painting and an all-ages lecture by San Lorenzo Valley Museum Curator, **Lisa Robinson** at 2 PM. Unravel the truth and natural history of the California Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos californicus*), as Lisa illuminates the once prolific and eternally respected brown bear that roamed this land for centuries before its recent extirpation. Possibly California's most visible and enduring symbol, we pay tribute to its awesome size and strength here at Rancho del Oso's annual Grizzly Bear Festival.

## Bear Stories!

with **Lisa Robinson** • Saturday, September 3 • 2 pm • Nature Center

In the mid-1700s, the San Francisco Peninsula was home to large numbers of grizzlies. The abundance of food was shared between the hierarchy of wildlife and the native peoples; there was plenty for all. In just a few decades, this would change. Confrontations between man and bear often resulted in death or serious injury. By the late-1800s there were few grizzlies left here and by 1900, grizzlies once prolific had been hunted to extinction. **Lisa Robinson** tells the stories of bear encounters, both grizzlies and black bears, in the Santa Cruz area from the late 1700s to the present day, and reminds us that often our intolerance can lead to an unrecoverable and regrettable loss.

☸ 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](http://www.ranchodeloso.org) and [www.facebook.com/RDOSP](http://www.facebook.com/RDOSP)

# Wilderness Patrol at Rancho del Oso

April saw the beginning of a new volunteer program, the **Wilderness Patrol**. Twenty enthusiastic volunteers attended weekend enrichment programs to learn about the history of the Valley, flora and fauna, and trails. Training sessions culminated with our full day hike to Berry Creek Falls and a look at the new viewing deck.

Patrols hike the trails throughout Rancho del Oso and Big Basin, assessing conditions, providing directions, and offering roving interpretation to anyone we may encounter, about the Valley. We provide assistance if needed, but also hope our direct interaction will give a personal connection to our park. It's a wonderful way to volunteer and share information with visitors from around the world. Happy trails!

## Waddell Valley Wildflower and Nature Hike

Saturdays, July 2 ❖ August 13 ❖ September 10 ❖ 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! Hikes start at the Nature and History Center.

## Snake Park Saturdays

July 9 ❖ August 13 ❖ September 10 ❖ 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? Several snakes will be on display and native reptile adaptations will be discussed in the beautiful backdrop of Waddell Valley. We will meet up at the Ranger Station, a short hike in from the yellow gate across the parking lot at Waddell Beach on Highway 1.



### 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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40     | <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



# Celebrate Thirty Years!



## Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center

It was July 1986, when California State Parks officially opened the Center in cooperation with the Waddell Creek Association, a volunteer organization started by Hulda Hoover McLean.

The Association provides resources and support for programs, and volunteers to help staff the center.

Come visit us and enjoy our beautiful valley, wonderful trails, and natural treasures.



## Waddell Valley Birding

**Saturdays, July 9 ❖ August 13 ❖ September 10 ❖ 8 am**

Join Interpretive Specialist **Jeremy Lin**, for an approximate two mile hike to observe, listen, and enjoy morning wildlife at Rancho del Oso. We will take our time and move slowly. No previous experience necessary. Bring binoculars, a bird guide, and readiness for silent observation, as we witness wildlife awakening on a lovely summer morning in Waddell Valley. We will meet on the deck in front of the Nature Center.

## ❖ Nature Wander ❖

**Sundays, July 10 ❖ August 14 ❖ September 11 ❖ 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**.

Ann will share information about the plants and habitats of Rancho del Oso, as the group walks 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.



## 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](mailto:parksrdopis@parks.ca.gov).

### Go Green!

If you would like to go paperless, please send your full name and email to [judybugg46@yahoo.com](mailto:judybugg46@yahoo.com).

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

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**Production:** Linda Brodman.



## 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.*