

Rancho del Oso

Nature and History Center

News

January–March 2017



Volume 32/1



Salamander Saturday!

Saturday, March 4 • 12 noon to 4 pm • Nature Center

Join us for our annual celebration honoring the often overlooked, but heroically well-adapted amphibians native to the Santa Cruz Mountains and other moist habitats. Live amphibians will be on display for viewing, with all-age crafts, and activities. Ranger-led salamander hike will start at 3 PM to search for these regal creatures on the Marsh Trail. Learn about salamanders and their ecosystems on this short one mile hike! For more information: (831) 427-2288.

Herpetologist Amy Patten will present her talk, **Salamanders of the Santa Cruz Mountains**, at 1 PM.

The diverse habitats of the Santa Cruz Mountains are home to a number of spectacular salamander species. Colorful newts, minute slender salamanders, and the impressive California Giant Salamanders are just a few of the species that you might see on a walk through the woods or even in your own backyard. Each salamander has special adaptations to meet the challenges of escaping predators, finding food, breeding and surviving harsh weather conditions. This presentation covers the natural history and behavior of these salamanders, and highlights their importance in our local ecosystems.



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

Wildflower and Nature Hike of Waddell Valley

Fridays, January 13 ❖ February 10 ❖ March 10 ❖ 10 am

Join docent **Bryce Stauble** and learn to identify many of the flowering plants within Rancho del Oso's seven diverse habitats. This walk is a leisurely hike through Waddell Valley, and is a great hike for those interested in natural history and our local flora. Bring a snack, water and your curiosity! Meet at Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center.

Nature Wander

Sundays, January 8 ❖ February 12 ❖ March 12 ❖ 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.

Snake Park Saturday

March 11 ❖ 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.

Waddell Valley Birding

Saturdays, January 14 ❖ February 11 ❖ 8 am

Join Interpretive Specialist **Jeremy Lin**, for an approximate two mile hike to observe, listen, and enjoy wildlife happenings 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 crisp morning in Waddell Valley. We will meet on the deck in front of the Nature Center.

2017 California State Parks Backpacking ❖ Registration opens February 1



www.parks.ca.gov/backpacking



Join the Waddell Creek Association!

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Membership categories; please check one:

- Associate \$25 Sustaining \$100
- Family \$40 Patron \$250
- Sponsoring \$50 Benefactor \$500

Please cut out and mail this form with your check, payable to:

Waddell Creek Association
c/o Connie Adams
200 Madrona Road
Felton, CA 95018

In Memoriam

It is with great sorrow that we note the passing of **Scott Peden**. Scott's passing is a tragedy for everyone who knew him. His passion and encyclopedic knowledge of natural history, photography, and many other disciplines made him a unique hero, and a driving force in the local environmental movement.

I recall many hours spent with Scott, hiking at Rancho del Oso and drinking coffee, as we dissected his millions of photographs looking for patterns or identifying flowers and insects.

Last November, Scott shared with me the following quote.

In our world of big names, curiously, our true heroes tend to be anonymous. In this life of illusion and quasi-illusion, the person of solid virtues who can be admired for something more substantial than his well-knownness often proves to be the unsung hero—the teacher, the nurse, the mother, the honest cop, the hard worker at lonely, underpaid, unglamorous, unpublicized jobs.

—Daniel J Boorstin

Scott was a true hero, however he shall not remain anonymous. Long before I began working at Rancho del Oso, Scott had been leading his famous Wildflower and Nature Hike of Waddell Valley on a monthly basis for the benefit of curious naturalists of all skill levels. Rancho del Oso intern Bryce Stauble, who had been working with Scott for the past several months, will be carrying on this tradition by continuing to offer this monthly hike.

We love you Scott; your spirit and passion echoes throughout Waddell Valley, the Santa Cruz Mountains, and beyond!

—Jeremy Lin



Waddell Valley Watercolor Workshop Series

Saturdays, February 18 ❖ March 18 ❖ April 15 ❖ May 20 ❖ 10am

Joyce Rosenstiel will be leading this four day watercolor workshop series for beginner and almost intermediate artists. Students will focus on watercolor basics, assembling your painting kit, and fundamentals for landscape and nature painting. Waddell Valley is an inspirational place to start your watercolor journey. Learn to assemble a six by nine inch sketch and paint travel kit for summer adventures.

From Rancho del Oso to the Grand Canyon, capturing the essence of unique landscapes through your art will stay with you for many years, often more profoundly than a photograph. If you always wanted to try your hand at painting, there is no time like the present!

This will be a hands-on learning class. We will look at a scene together, then figure out several ways to sketch it out, and to mix the colors best needed to capture it on paper. You don't need to bring anything to the first class, but curiosity and a wish to learn more. You can mix any color in nature from red, yellow and blue paint.

This is a four-part series and registration is required; there is no fee. Please call (831-427-2288) or email (rdopis@parks.ca.gov) to reserve a spot. This is a small group class; space is limited.



Waddell Creek Association

3600 Highway 1
Davenport, CA 95017

Return Service Requested

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Wildflower Festival ❖ **Scott Peden Tribute**
Save the Date! ❖ **April 22 and 23**

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.

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

Editor: Judy Buck. **Writers:** Jeremy Lin.

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.