

Rancho del Oso

Nature and History Center

News

July–September 2017



Volume 32/3



Grizzly Bear and Wildlife Day

Saturday, September 2 • 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 1 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 Day. **Ranger-led hike** starts at 3 PM departing from the Center's deck and follows the Hoover Nature Trail.



Talk with Lisa Robinson • Saturday, September 2 • 1 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 and www.facebook.com/RDOSP

Wildflower and Nature Hike of Waddell Valley

Fridays, July 14 † August 11 † September 8 † 10 am

Join docent botanist **Bryce Stauble** 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 takes a leisurely pace and is great for learning the native habitats. Bring lunch, questions and curiosity! Meet at Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center.

Nature Wander

Sundays, July 9 † August 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**.

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 Saturdays

July 8 † August 12 † September 9 † 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!

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Newsworthy

When visiting Rancho del Oso's Nature Center a prominent part of the exhibit features a full grown bear, at eye level. This is his story and it begins in San Francisco.

In 1989, Northern California suffered a severe earthquake. Buildings were damaged so badly that they were closed for retrofitting, including the Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. Donors and museum lovers began fund raising and created a new building.

This created a new problem—what to save and what to give away. Children, including my own, remember visiting the dioramas; they were display windows that gave you a glimpse of wild animal specimens in a largely painted habitat. There are more modern ways to show these specimens, now, but the adults who had put their noses on that glass as children, would no doubt, expect some of these dioramas in the new museum. The decision was to decrease the number, but keep some. The remaining specimens were on offer to other museums and state parks.

Oso means bear in Spanish, so we were excited about the possibility of getting a mature bear for our museum. However, taxidermists in early days, used arsenic to preserve specimens. Our mountain lion is on display in the rafters, but the bear would be at eye level. We knew that visitors, mesmerized by real specimens, might reach out to touch, regardless of signage. Could we afford to pay for new taxidermy?

A novel solution arose! State Parks in Sacramento was preparing an exhibit about the California Gold Rush which would travel the state for three years. They wanted the bear, and we agreed. At the end of the tour, our bear came to us, arsenic free. A habitat was created with the museum remodeling, and now he stands majestically in the current place at Rancho Del Oso Nature Center. —*Joyce Rosenstiel*



Birding for Beginners in Waddell Valley

Saturdays, July 8 † September 9 † 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 explore the beautiful coastal valley. No previous experience necessary. It is helpful to bring binoculars, bird guides and a readiness for patient observation as we witness wildlife awakening on a crisp morning in Waddell Valley. We will meet at the deck in front of the Nature Center.



Waddell Creek Association

3600 Highway 1
Davenport, CA 95017

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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 jeremy.lin@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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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.