



Rancho del Oso

Nature and History Center



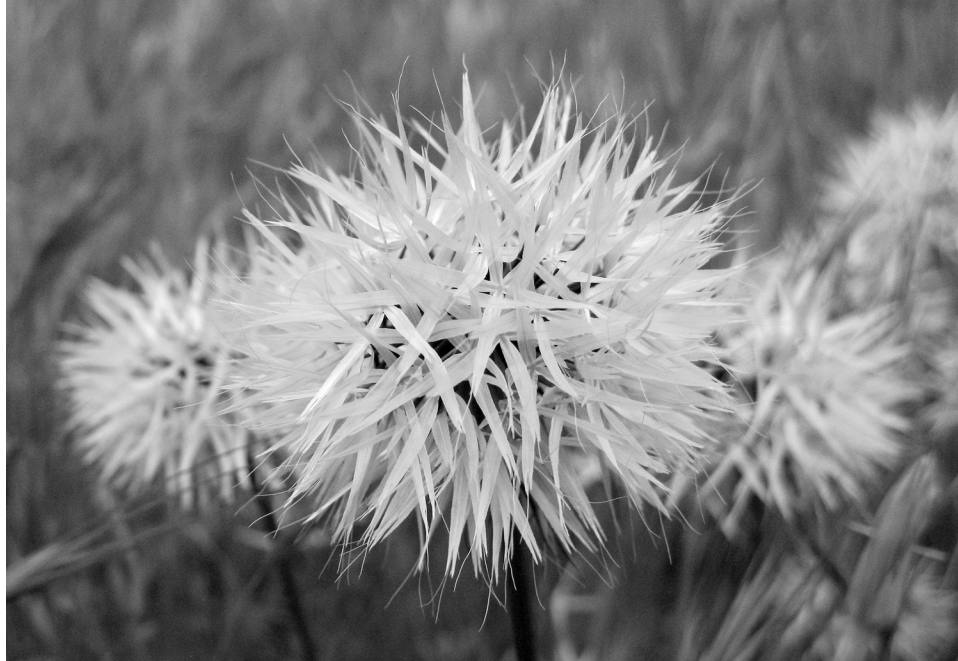
Volume 34/2

News

April–June 2019

Special Event — Wildflower Weekend

Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5 * 10 am to 4 pm * Nature Center



Rancho del Oso's elegant wildflower event displays an impressive collection of vibrant wildflowers growing along the northern Santa Cruz county region. Enjoy flourishing buttercups, exuberant shooting stars, blushing western wake robins and an array of other natural beauties. Our exhibit includes over eighty plants in bloom, including native and non-native species that are found in the western portion of Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The assortment of shapes, sizes, colors and forms are a delight to the senses.

**Join our botanist-led wildflower walks on both Saturday and Sunday at 10 AM and 1 PM.
Pick your hikes and enjoy; they all start at the Nature Center deck.**

10 AM: Approximately 4.5 miles, this moderately-paced hike will begin along the Marsh Trail and climb into our scenic Skyline to the Sea Bypass Trail. We will experience diverse ecosystems and take time to enjoy the views.

1 PM: This one mile wildflower excursion will traverse several habitats along the Hoover Nature Trail. Beginning with a slight incline into gorgeous Monterey Pine habitat, this loop-trail offers stunning views of the ocean.

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

When Species Collide

Sundays, April 21 * May 19 * 12 noon

How did Rancho del Oso become the park it is today? Who are the plants and animals that live here? Why are they here? How did humans influence the natural history of the Waddell Valley?

Join Rancho del Oso docent **Ken Koll** (kenneth_koll@yahoo.com) for a hike on the beautiful Skyline to Sea Bypass Trail. Along the way we will pass through the varied habitats of the Waddell Valley and explore topics like natives vs. non-native, invasives, and adaptations.

The hike will begin at the Rancho del Oso Ranger Station. *Please park (free) at Waddell Beach and walk ¼ mile past the yellow gate along the Skyline to the Sea Trail to the Ranger Station.* The hike will be approximately 4 miles. Bring water, snacks if you wish, and wear sturdy footwear. Don't forget your curiosity and inner-naturalist. It will be a great day.

Join the Waddell Creek Association!



Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone and Email _____

Membership categories; please check one:

Associate \$25 Family \$40 Sponsoring \$50

Sustaining \$100 Patron \$250 Benefactor \$500

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

Waddell Creek Association 3600 Highway 1 Davenport, CA 95017

Drawing for the Love of Nature

Saturdays, May 11 * June 8 * 10:30 am

*To See – To Draw: Engaging your senses with intention and curiosity
with Judy Sears, California Naturalist, student of Art and Nature*

Join **Judy Sears** in exploring nature drawing. If the weather is pleasant, the group will stay outside to discuss and practice ways to draw what you are most curious about in nature, from leaf to watershed. No art drawing experience necessary. Just bring a notepad with a rigid back, a pencil and your curiosity. You may also wish to bring something so you can sit comfortably on the ground. Come enjoy the process of developing your nature drawing style. This workshop follows the 8 am bird walk for beginners and usually ends at noon. **Please RSVP to sears.judyarcata@gmail.com.**

Salamanders Delight Visitors!

Our salamander event in March was well attended with about one hundred visitors excited to learn about our local species. Liz was a superb docent, welcoming everyone to join the scavenger hunt to find the hidden paper salamanders. We had a very special guest visit from *Saxophone Sal* who serenaded us with his saxophone, and also led us (playing his guitar) in a fun song called *Slimy Things*. Pacific Giant Salamander *Hannibal* and California Newt *Steve* were on loan from Mission Springs Outdoor School.

Although rain was forecast, it held off through two interpreter lead hikes to uncover the local species. Eager hikers were ready in their boots and rain gear, sloshing through puddles, looking under logs. Their rewards were several slender salamanders and a California newt. **Herpetologist Amy Patten's** excellent presentation about many species led everyone to want to handle the live specimens. We also had an *Ensantina* and a few Slender Salamanders. We invite you to hike on our Hoover Nature Trail or the Marsh Trail and find some for yourself!

—Judy Buck



Snake Park Saturdays

Saturdays, April 13 * May 11 * June 8 * 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? Come to the Rancho del Oso Ranger Station to learn about the fascinating world of snakes. Several snakes will be on display and native reptile adaptations will be discussed in the beautiful backdrop of Waddell Valley! Rain cancels this program. *Please park (free) at Waddell Beach and walk ¼ mile past the yellow gate along the Skyline to the Sea Trail to the Ranger Station.*

Birding for Beginners in Waddell Valley

Saturdays, May 11 * June 8 * 8 am

Interpreter **Jeremy Lin** will lead an approximate two-mile hike to observe 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 Waddell Valley morning. We will meet at the deck in front of the Nature Center. **Please RSVP to jeremy.lin@parks.ca.gov.**



Waddell Creek Association

3600 Highway 1
Davenport, CA 95017

Return Service Requested



Board of Directors:

Lea Haratani, President
Nan Singh-Bowman
Judy Buck
Susan Krivin
Amy Patten
Erika Perloff
Ed Poser
Joyce Rosenstiel

Advisory Panel:

Anne Briggs
Walter Hays
Sandy Lydon
Frank "Lud" McCrary
Alverda Orlando
Gary Strachan
Diane West-Bourke
John Working

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**.

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.