



Rancho del Oso

Nature and History Center



Volume 34/3

News

July–September 2019

Wildflower Festival Weekend is a BIG Success!



Over two hundred visitors attended Rancho del Oso's annual Wildflower Festival the first weekend in May. **Susan Krivin and Jeremy Lin** organized a group of dedicated volunteers to collect, arrange, and display by habitat a stunning diversity of over ninety species of wildflowers from the California central coast that grow in the Waddell Valley.

Several wildflower hikes were offered by local naturalist volunteers and members of the California Native Plant Society. These family-friendly hikes took place along the Hoover Nature Trail, Marsh and Skyline to the Sea Trails. Hikers were lucky enough to see two rare plant species during the wildflower walks. **San Francisco Collinsia** (*Collinsia multicolor*) is a stunning purple and white flower with a large population in RDO. Hike leader **Jordan Carter** discovered a new population of **San Francisco Campion** (*Silene verecunda ssp. verecunda*) during the guided wildflower hikes. Both species are endemic to the Monterey Bay Area and the San Francisco Peninsula, and have faced declines due to urbanization and invasive species.

Special guest Michelle Antonisse (Exhibit Curator at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles) offered two mindful wildflower drawing workshops for all ages throughout the weekend.



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, July 21 * August 18 * September 15 * 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, July 13 * August 10 * September 14 * 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 journaling and drawing, and learn what makes them different. 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.**

❁ Happy Birthday Hulda – August 1906 ❁

Hulda McLean and her husband Charles Alexander McLean homesteaded and raised their three sons on the land where Rancho del Oso exists. She was a teacher, rancher, statistician, naturalist, historian, artist, county supervisor, wife and mother. Hulda was one of the founding members of the Waddell Creek Association. Her former house has become the Rancho del Oso Nature and History Center. Here is a small excerpt from Hulda's writings about the land she loved and called home—Rancho del Oso. —*Lea Haratani*

There is magic in the music of the stream, in the cool and scented woods, in the warm and fragrant meadows, in the cathedral quiet of the redwoods. Wind and waves sing of it. It is in the storms that sweep up the valley; in the spring flower-jeweled hillsides; in summer mists dewing treetops; in shimmering, heated autumn afternoons.



Welcome new Board Members – Amy and Kat

Amy Patten manages the Rare Plant Treasure Hunt project for the California Native Plant Society, which harnesses the power of citizen science to monitor rare plant populations throughout the state. Amy is a longtime resident of Santa Cruz County and earned a Bachelor of Science in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from UC Santa Cruz in 2009. She is passionate about science outreach and in her spare time enjoys nature photography, tidepooling, birdwatching, and rock climbing.

Kat Brown is a transplant from the shores of Lake Michigan in the Midwest where she studied philosophy at the University of Illinois in Chicago. After many years of work in the demanding field of animal welfare in the San Francisco Bay Area, Kat happily harmonizes with nature tending an orchard of fruit trees, a vast garden, and spending as much time as possible outdoors.

Snake Park Saturdays

Saturdays, July 13 ❁ August 10 ❁ September 14 ❁ 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, July 13 ❁ August 10 ❁ September 14 ❁ 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



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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.

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

Editor: Judy Buck. **Photograph:** Amy Patten. **Writers:** Lea Haratani, 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.