



# ADVENTURES WITH NATURE JULY 2017



Sponsored by the S. L. O. Coast & Oceano Dunes State Park Districts  
Supported by the Central Coast State Parks Association

*This schedule can be found at [www.centralcoastparks.org](http://www.centralcoastparks.org)*

Date	Day	Time	*LOC	*SC	Adventure	Presenter
1	Sat	11:00 am	NC		Discovery Saturday: Beach Exploration	CDC Staff
1	Sat	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
1	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Molly Stoddard
2	Sun	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
3	Mon	10:00 am	MB		Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock	Robbie & Bob Revel
3	Mon	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
3	Mon	1:00 pm	MB	♿	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
6	Thu	10:00 am	MdO		Birding Adventures: Montaña de Oro	Claudia Freitas & Karen Watts
6	Thu	1:30 pm	MdO		Hike the Sand Spit	Bardeen, Kirkhart, Reifel, Renshaw
7	Fri	9:00 am	EB		Walk Along the Edge	Norma Wightman
8	Sat	10:00 am	MB		Exploring Shifting Sands	Karen Watts & Robbie Revel
8	Sat	11:00 am	NC		Discovery Saturday: Central Coast Marine Mammals	CDC Staff
8	Sat	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
8	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Norma Wightman
8	Sat	12:00 pm	MdO		Pecho Players - The Spooners at Home	Ranch House Docents
9	Sun	10:00 am	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
9	Sun	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
12	Wed	10:00 am	MB		Birding for Beginners - Part 2 (S.P. Marina)	Karen Watts & Robbie Revel
15	Sat	8:30 am	MdO		Treasuring Tide Pools	Sally Krenn
15	Sat	11:00 am	NC		Discovery Saturday: Beach Exploration	CDC Staff
15	Sat	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
15	Sat	2:00 pm	MB		Saturday Scientists: Worms: Creepy Crawlies, Inside and Out	Cheryl Powers
16	Sun	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
16	Sun	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Discover Hidden Life in the Morro Bay Estuary	Karen Watts
17	Mon	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
18	Tue	11:00 am	MdO		Living History: Pecho Ranch in 1919	Kathy Flock
21	Fri	10:00 am	MB		Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock	Claudia Freitas & Robbie Revel
21	Fri	1:00 pm	MB	♿	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
22	Sat	11:00 am	NC		Discovery Saturday: Central Coast Marine Mammals	CDC Staff
22	Sat	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
23	Sun	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
24	Mon	9:30 am	MdO		Hike the Reservoir Flat Trail	Bardeen, Kirkhart, Reifel, Renshaw
27	Thu	11:00 am	MdO		Living History: Pecho Ranch in 1919	Kathy Flock
27	Thu	1:00 pm	MdO		Eucalyptus- Beauty or Beast?	Faylla Chapman
29	Sat	11:00 am	NC		Discovery Saturday: San Simeon Pier Safari	CDC Staff
29	Sat	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
30	Sun	11:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Experience	Docents
31	Mon	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor

\* **LOCation Codes:** EB - Estero Bluffs, HH - Harmony Headlands, LO - Los Osos, MB - Morro Bay, MdO - Montaña de Oro, MS - Morro Strand  
NC - North Coast, OF - Oso Flaco, PB - Pismo Beach

\* **SC - Special Codes:** ♿ - Adventure accessible by wheelchair ; **New!** - New event added to the AWN calendar

*(Adventure Descriptions on the Reverse Side)*

## SPECIAL EVENTS!

**Oceano Dunes District Visitor Center:** located on Pier Avenue, in the Oceano Campground. Call for open days and hours-- 805-474-2667.

**Spooner Ranch House:** Open daily, 11am - 2pm, bad weather will cancel. In Montaña de Oro State Park, above Spooner's Cove. Historical ranch house, Spooner history, nature displays.

**Coastal Discovery Center:** Open Fri - Sun, 11am - 5pm. Hearst State Beach, across from the entrance to Hearst Castle.

## ADVENTURE DESCRIPTIONS

*Everyone is welcome, but no dogs, please. All times are approximate. Rain cancels outdoor activities*

### **Birding Adventures: Montaña de Oro**

Explore the many habitats of the Central Coast, from grasslands to the rocky shoreline, looking for a variety of bird species. Bring binoculars, water, hat and sunscreen. Dress for wind/weather. Meet at the Bluff Trail head, about 100 yards south of Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Slow walk, chance of poison oak, 1.7 mi, 2 hrs.

### **Birding for Beginners - Part 2 (S.P. Marina)**

In the field, practice using skills introduced in Birding for Beginners - Part 1. Review making quality observations, using binoculars and spotting scopes, and exploring resources available for ongoing skill building. Participation in Part 1 helpful but not required. Park close to east end of Morro Bay State Park Bayside marina parking lot. Family event, easy walk, 1 mile, 2 hours.

### **Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock**

Observe cormorants, pelicans, and various species and age classes of gulls. Watch for resident Peregrine falcons over the Rock and sea birds in the channel. Dress for wind/weather; bring binoculars and a field guide. Meet near the chain link fencing at the base of Morro Rock, in the northwest corner of the large parking lot.

### **Discover Hidden Life in the Morro Bay Estuary** ☺

Learn about some of our planet's most fascinating, seldom seen life-forms. A video-microscope will be used to look at the life that exists in a single drop of water. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Talk, 1 hour.

### **Eucalyptus- Beauty or Beast?**

Love it or hate it? Can't decide? Walk through a grove in Montaña de Oro and learn the history, biology, pros and cons, and uses of these trees. Then decide for yourself! Dress for wind/weather and bring binoculars. Enjoy the drive with the light filtering through the groves, trees, and bark as you drive to meet at the Hazard Canyon parking lot, on west side, 1.6 miles from the Montaña de Oro park entrance. Easy walk, chance of poison oak, 0.5 miles, 2 hours.

### **Exploring Shifting Sands**

How do wind and waves reshape the beach? What kinds of plants and animals live here? Dress in layers for wind/weather and wear sturdy beach shoes. Take Highway 1 north to the Yerba Buena exit; turn west to meet at Morro Strand State Beach in North Morro Bay. Easy walk, 0.5 miles, 1-2 hours.

### **Hike the Reservoir Flat Trail**

Walk through the chaparral into the riparian zone near Islay Creek. Enjoy the view back to Spooner's Cove and the ocean. Then stroll through the shady woods. Meet at the Visitor's Center, Montaña de Oro State Park. Moderate hike, 2.5 miles, 1.5 - 2 hours. Chance of poison oak.

### **Hike the Sand Spit**

Walk through the dune scrub to the beach on the Sand Spit Trail. Then walk north along the shore. Wear sturdy shoes. Dress in layers, and bring water. Meet at the Sand Spit Parking Lot, Montaña de Oro State Park (turn right on paved road 7/10 mile past the entrance sign). 3 miles, 2 hours.

### **Living History: Pecho Ranch in 1919**

Visit the Spooner Ranch House in 1919 with Katie Spooner leading the tour. Katie will talk about the making of The Pecho Ranch and Spooner family history. Meet in the Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Easy, with chairs available for sitting. 1 hour.

### **Los Osos Oaks Reserve**

Enjoy a shaded stroll through ancient forest. See native plants and evidence of Chumash habitation. Learn colorful historical background. Dress for wind/weather. Meet at Reserve entrance, 0.7 miles east of South Bay Blvd. on Los Osos Valley Road. Easy walk, chance of poison oak, 1 mile, 1.5 hours.

### **Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk** ☺

Take a pleasant hike along the bluffs for the magnificent views and look for wildlife. Dress for wind/weather and bring binoculars. Meet at Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yards south of Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Active hike, chance of poison oak, 2 miles.

### **Pecho Players - The Spooners at Home**

Visit the Spooner Ranch House and see the Spooner family at home. A reenactment of past history with actors in period dress. Spooner Ranch House, Montana de Oro State Park. Family activity. 2 hours.

### **Salt Marsh to Mudflats** ☺

Walk the State Park Marina Peninsula boardwalk to learn the history of the salt marsh and the plants and animals living in this specialized environment. Dress for wind/weather and mud. Bring binoculars. Park close to east end of Bayside marina parking lot or across the street at MB campground restrooms. Easy walk, 0.5 miles, 2 hours.

### **Saturday Scientists: Worms: Creepy Crawlies, Inside and Out**

Participants will explore the fascinating world of worms found in soil, water, our pets, and sometimes ourselves and learn to use a dissecting microscope to see these creatures in their wiggling wonder. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History across from the Morro Bay State Park. Family Event, 1 hour.

### **Sea Otter Experience** ☺

Come out to see live otters, ask questions and listen to Docents talk about these fascinating sea mammals. We have spotting scopes and binoculars for close-up viewing. Look for us on the left side of Coleman Road along the boardwalk or in the parking area across from the restrooms in the Morro Rock parking lot. Free Family event, 11am-3 pm. Handicap accessible.

### **Treasuring Tide Pools**

Gaze into a tide pool and view an entire working ecosystem while learning the rules of tide pool etiquette. Also learn about the coastal sage scrub community and geology of the area. Wear closed-toed shoes that one can get wet. Meet at the Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yards south of the Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro State Park. Chance of poison oak. 2-2.5 hours.

### **Walk Along the Edge**

Explore the bluffs and beach along Estero Bay examining relationships of animals seen. Bring binoculars; wear sturdy beach shoes and layered clothing. Meet in dirt parking lot one mile north of the end of divided section of Hwy 1, north of Cayucos. Moderate hike, 2 miles, 2 1/2 hours.

### **White's Point Vistas**

Enjoy a short, steep walk to view the estuary, home to hundreds of marine and terrestrial animals. Learn about the forces creating and changing this watery world. Dress for wind/weather. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Moderate walk, 0.5 miles, 0.75 hours.

### **Coastal Discovery Center Discovery Saturday Events - San Simeon**

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please call 805-927-6575 to reserve space in the program. Suggested donation \$2/person.

#### **Beach Exploration**

Learn about the mysteries of San Simeon Cove by beachcombing with marine biologists. Find out what causes high and low tides and investigate the animals and algae cast up on the beach. Buckets and gloves will be supplied for those who want to help clean up the beach on our way back!

#### **Central Coast Marine Mammals**

Learn how to identify local marine mammals, what you should do if you see a sick or injured seal, sea lion or sea otter, and what you can do to keep these animals healthy. Join us for lively presentation with real fur pelts, skulls and bones, followed by a walk to the pier to look for sea otters, harbor seals, whales and other marine mammals.

#### **Pier Safari**

Explore marine life in San Simeon Cove, from the largest residents to the smallest. Bring your binoculars to look for marine birds and mammals. Fish for plankton off the pier and learn the important role they play in the San Simeon Cove food web. Learn how these marine animals have influenced the rich history of San Simeon Cove. Limited number of binoculars and field guides provided.