



ADVENTURES WITH NATURE SEPTEMBER 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

Date	Day	Time	*LOC	*SC	Adventure	Presenter
1	Fri	10:00 am	MdO		Ranger Program - Animal Tracks: Clues Left Behind	Ranger Will Rushworth
2	Sat	10:00 am	PB	♿	Oceano's Beavers: Adorable Wildlife or Destructive Pests?	Dan Green
2	Sat	1:30 pm	PB		Geology of the Oceano Dunes	Jim Avila
8	Fri	10:00 am	MB		Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock	Claudia Freitas & Robbie Revel
9	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Molly Stoddard
10	Sun	10:00 am	PB		Grand Dune Trail	Jerry Stanley
11	Mon	10:00 am	MdO		Birding Adventures: Montaña de Oro	Robbie & Bob Revel
11	Mon	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
13	Wed	1:00 pm	MB	♿	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
15	Fri	9:00 am	EB		Estero Bluff Rocks	Norma Wightman
16	Sat	2:00 pm	MB		Black Hill Trail	Roger Randall
16	Sat	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Saturday Scientists: Lenses - From Eye to Microscope	Jean Fanselow
17	Sun	10:00 am	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
19	Tue	10:00 am	MB	♿	Birding the Boardwalk	Claudia Freitas & Bob Revel
20	Wed	10:00 am	MB		Birding for Beginners - Part 2 (S.P. Marina)	Karen Watts & Robbie Revel
24 to 30		10:00 am	MB	♿	Sea Otter Awareness Week	Various
25	Mon	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
26	Tue	9:00 am	MB		Songbirds in the Pines	Claudia Freitas & Karen Watts
28	Thu	11:00 am	MdO		Living History: Pecho Ranch in 1919	Kathy Flock
28	Thu	1:00 pm	MdO		Eucalyptus- Beauty or Beast?	Faylla Chapman
28	Thu	6:30 pm	PB	♿	Wild & Scenic Film Festival	CCSPA
29	Fri	6:30 pm	LO	♿	Wild & Scenic Film Festival	CCSPA
30	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Norma Wightman
30	Sat	6:30 pm	SLO	♿	Wild and Scenic Film Festival	CCSPA

* **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, SLO - San Luis Obispo

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

(Adventure Descriptions on the Reverse Side)

SPECIAL EVENTS!

Sea Otter Awareness Week: Join our volunteers to learn about the otters and their importance to the kelp ecosystem. Find out why they are protected and what you can do to help. Look for the table at Target Rock, across from Morro Rock in Morro Bay, daily from Sun, Sept. 24 to Sat, Sept 30th, Family event and activities, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Wild & Scenic Film Festival: 28-30 September at 6:30 pm at each of 3 sites: Pismo State Beach Golf Club, South Bay Community Center in Los Osos, and the San Luis Obispo Guild Hall. A celebration of our environment with a collection of different films each night about the concerns and celebration of our planet. For more information and tickets, go to www.centralcoastparks.org and click on Events, scroll down to September.

Oceano Dunes District Visitor Center: We are finally open! Thurs-Sun, Noon to 4 pm. Displays of the Pismo State Park and other State Parks areas, information on Dunites, Off-road vehicles and areas, Butterflies and a small nature store. Located on Pier Avenue, in the Oceano Campground. For more information call 805-474-2667.

Spoooner 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.

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 100yards 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.

Birding the Boardwalk ☺

Enjoy a stroll while identifying shorebirds and more. Beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guide. Dress for wind/weather. Park close to east end of Morro Bay State Park Bayside marina parking lot. 1 mile, 1.5 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.

Black Hill Trail ☺

Walk the most accessible of the volcanic sisters while discussing their history and enjoying a panoramic view of the surrounding geography. Dress for wind/weather. Take Golf Course Drive past the clubhouse and bear left at fork in road. Meet at the overlook parking lot above the Morro Bay Golf Course. 0.5 miles, 1.5 hours.

Estero Bluff Rocks

See the mix of tortured rocks (sedimentary, metamorphic and volcanic) that tectonic forces spewed up along this scenic section of coastline. Bring binoculars and water; wear sturdy beach shoes and layered clothing. Meet in dirt parking lot 1 mile north of the end of divided section of Hwy 1, north of Cayucos. Moderate hike but short, steep path to beach. 2 miles, 2 hours.

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.

Geology of the Oceano Dunes

A short walk in the dunes to talk about sand, wind, and our coastal region and how it all came together to be the magnificent Oceano Dunes we all enjoy. Wear comfortable shoes for hiking in the dunes, windbreaker recommended and water optional. Meet at parking lot for the Oceano Dunes Visitor Center, 55 Pier Ave., Oceano. Easy hike suitable for families and dogs on leash. Duration 1 to 1.5 hours.

Grand Dune Trail

Take a leisurely walk through the Pismo Dunes while learning about the dunes and habitats close to the ocean. Dress for wind/weather. Meet at entrance kiosk at the ocean end of Grand Avenue, Grover Beach. Free parking is available. Moderate walk, chance of poison oak, 2 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. One 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, 3 hours.

Oceano's Beavers: Adorable Wildlife or Destructive Pests? ☺

Discover the beaver's physical adaptations, their role in our country's westward expansion, why they were hunted, and their local history. Search for evidence of their activities during a short walk. Dress for wind/weather with comfortable shoes. Bring insect repellent and water: binoculars a plus. Meet at Oceano Dunes Visitor Center, Guiton Hall Meeting Rm, Oceano Campground, 555 Pier Ave., Oceano. 0.5 miles, 2 hours.

Ranger Program - Animal Tracks: Clues Left Behind

Learn about tracks of animals in the State Park.. Make a mold of a track to take home. Meet at the Spooner Ranch House picnic tables in Montaña de Oro. Family friendly. 1 hour.



SEA OTTER
AWARENESS
WEEK
SEPT. 24 - 30

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: Lenses - From Eye to Microscope ☺

Learn how lenses work starting with the lens in your eye. Perform experiments with bending of light rays with water and various types of lenses. See how a rainbow is formed by working with prisms. Learn how lenses are used to enlarge objects viewed through a microscope. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History Auditorium. Family event. 1-2 hours.

Sea Otter Awareness Week

View and learn about our local otters from volunteers with spotting scopes and information and activities related to the otters. Look for us on the North side of the Morro Bay harbor entrance across from the Morro Rock parking lot. Family event.

Songbirds in the Pines

Walk through pine woods and along the edges of Morro Bay State Park where it adjoins the golf course, the ends of streets, and private yards. Expect to see woodpeckers, songbirds, and birds of prey. Wear comfortable walking shoes and a hat. Bring binoculars and your bird guidebook, but leave spotting scopes at home. Moderate walking with some hills, at a slow pace. Expect some poison oak. No facilities nearby. Meet at the end of Laloma St., off Quintana Blvd in Morro Bay. About 1.5 miles, 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.

Wild & Scenic Film Festival ☺

28-30 September at 6:30 pm at each of 3 sites: Pismo State Beach Golf Club, South Bay Community Center in Los Osos, and the San Luis Obispo Guild Hall. A celebration of our environment with a collection of different films each night about the concerns and celebration of our planet. For more information and tickets, go to www.centralcoastparks.org and click on Events, scroll down to September.

ADMIT ONE
WILD & SCENIC
FILM FESTIVAL
SEPT. 28 - 30