



# ADVENTURES WITH NATURE OCTOBER 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
2	Mon	10:00 am	MdO		Discover Treasures of Montaña de Oro - Reservoir Flats, Part 2	Petrea White
5	Thu	10:00 am	MB	♿	Birding the Boardwalk	Rouvaishyana & Randy Bello
5	Thu	3:00 pm	MB		Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman
6	Fri	10:00 am	MB	♿	Birding the Boardwalk	Claudia Freitas & Robbie Revel
10	Tue	10:00 am	MB		Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock	Claudia Freitas & Bob Revel
10	Tue	1:00 pm	MB	♿	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
14	Sat	10:00 am	MdO		Hike the Sand Spit	Kirkhart, Reifel, Renshaw
14	Sat	10:00 am	PB	♿	Oceano's Beavers: Adorable Wildlife or Destructive Pests?	Dan Green
14	Sat	10:00 am	MB	♿	The Otter Information Station!	David Curtius & Richard Schultz
14	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Norma Wightman
15	Sun	10:00 am	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
15	Sun	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Discover Hidden Life in the Morro Bay Estuary	Karen Watts
16	Mon	10:00 am	MdO		Discover Treasures of Montaña de Oro - Reservoir Flats, Part 2	Petrea White
17	Tue	2:30 pm	MdO		Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove	Paul O'Connor
18	Wed	10:30 am	MB	♿	Birding for Beginners - Part 1	Karen Watts & Robbie Revel
19	Thu	10:00 am	MdO		Hike the Reservoir Flat Trail	Kirkhart, Reifel, Renshaw
20	Fri	4:30 pm	MdO		Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove	Paul O'Connor
21	Sat	10:00 am	MB	♿	The Otter Information Station!	David Curtius & Richard Schultz
21	Sat	11:00 am	MdO		Living History: Pecho Ranch in 1919	Kathy Flock
21	Sat	11:00 am	MB		White's Point Vistas	Molly Stoddard
21	Sat	2:00 pm	MB	♿	Saturday Scientists: Off the Docks	Karen Watts
23	Mon	10:00 am	MdO	♿	Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk	Paul O'Connor
24	Tue	9:00 am	MB		Songbirds in the Pines	Claudia Freitas & Karen Watts
24	Tue	1:00 pm	MB	♿	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
25	Wed	10:00 am	MB	♿	Birding the Boardwalk	Bob Revel
27	Fri	9:00 am	EB		Estero Bluff Rocks	Norma Wightman and Nancy Dickenson
28	Sat	10:00 am	PB	♿	Pismo Monarch Butterfly Grove	Docents
28	Sat	11:00 am	MB	♿	Skeleton Saturday	Docents
29	Sun	9:00 am	LO	♿	Los Osos Octoberfest	Docents

\* **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!



**Skeleton Saturday:** A special family event to celebrate the season and showcase the bone collections at the Morro Bay State Park Museum of Natural History. See description on the reverse side for more details.

**Pismo Monarch Butterfly Grove:** The Pismo Monarch Butterfly Grove opens for the 2017-18 season on October 28. The grove is open daily from 10 AM to 4 PM and docent-led talks are given each day at 11 AM and 2 PM. Free family fun. Handicap accessible.



**Los Osos Octoberfest:** Visit the State Parks Docent booth at the Los Osos Octoberfest and view skeletons of a variety of animals and birds from all over. We will also have skulls from very large to very small on display. 2nd Street, Los Osos. Family event, handicap accessible.

**Oceano Dunes District Visitor Center:** 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 Spoooner's Cove. Historical ranch house, Spoooner history, nature displays.

## ADVENTURE DESCRIPTIONS

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

### **Birding for Beginners - Part 1** ☼

Learn about the skills needed to master birding as a hobby. Practice making observations, learn to use binoculars and spotting scopes, and learn about resources available for ongoing skill building. Binoculars helpful but not necessary. An outdoor walk will follow a discussion in the Museum's Learning Center. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Family event, walk less than 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.

### **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.

### **Discover Treasures of Montaña de Oro - Reservoir Flats, Part 2**

Pass through a variety of coastal ecosystems and enjoy ocean views and lush creek-side greenery, looking for wildflowers. Dress for wind/weather, wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Meet at the Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Active hike, chance of poison oak, 1.7 miles, 2 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 one 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 hrs.

### **Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove**

Learn some local history while walking the bluffs looking for sea birds, whales, seals and otters. Explore the tide pools of Corallina Cove at low tide. Wear sturdy shoes, 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, 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.

### **Los Osos Oktoberfest** ☼

Visit the State Parks Docent booth at the Los Osos Oktoberfest and view skeletons of a variety of animals and birds from all over. We will also have skulls from very large to very small on display. 2nd Street, Los Osos. Family event, handicap accessible.

### **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 Avenue, Oceano.

### **Pismo Monarch Butterfly Grove** ☼

The Pismo Monarch Butterfly Grove opens for the 2017-18 season on October 28. The grove is open daily from 10 AM to 4 PM and docent-led talks are given each day at 11 AM and 2 PM. Free family fun. Handicap accessible.

### **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: Off the Docks** ☼

Have you ever wondered what all that stuff is that's growing on docks and boat bottoms? Join us as we use dissecting microscopes to take a closer look. Meet in the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History auditorium. Family event, 1 hour.

### **Skeleton Saturday**

A special family event to celebrate the season and showcase the bone collections at the Museum of Natural History. There will be displays, games with prizes, owl pellet dissection skull identification, art projects, and workshops, all centered around skeletons. All ages are invited. Events will take place at the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay, 11-3 PM. Adults \$3, children under 18 and CCSPA members are free. For more information, call 772-2694.



### **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.

### **The Otter Information Station** ☼

View otters in the waters of Morro Bay, visit our information station, and learn about these incredible creatures from museum docents!! Location varies- look for our spotting scopes on Coleman Drive. For specific location, call (805) 806-0221 after 10:00 am the day of the event. Family-friendly, wildlife viewing station, open 10am:noon.

### **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.

### **Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools**

Walk to Windy Cove below the Museum learning about the plants, the mud and the organisms that inhabit the mud and the rocks around the cove. Dress for the weather and wear shoes that can get muddy; no bare feet. Meet at the "Nature Walk" sign in front of the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. Easy family walk, 1-2 hour.

**Pismo Monarch  
Butterfly Grove opens  
on October 28**

