



ADVENTURES WITH NATURE

APRIL 2019

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
2	Tue	10:00 AM	MB	♻️	Birding the Boardwalk	Freitas and Revel
2	Tue	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: Orienteering in the State Park Campground	Chuck Mills
3	Wed	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: About Snowy Plovers	Delany and Orr
4	Thu	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: Secrets of Sand and Sediment	Robbie Revel
5	Fri	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: Puppets-Home at the Rookery	Howell and Strohman
6	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Whales and Dolphins of the CA Coast	CDC Docents
6	Sat	1:00 PM	MB	♻️	CCC Pastel Society Opening Reception – Special Event	Various
7	Sun	10:00 AM	MdO		Hike the Sand Spit - Renshaw, Reifel	Bardeen and Kirkhart
9	Tue	9:00 AM	MB		Songbirds in the Pines	Freitas and Watts
11	Thu	1:00 PM	MB	♻️	Salt Marsh to Mudflats	Faylla Chapman
13	Sat	9:30 AM	PB		Grove to Boardwalk to Beach	Becky Bowen
13	Sat	10:00 AM	OC	♻️	Oceano's Beavers	Dan Green
13	Sat	10:00 AM	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
13	Sat	10:00 AM	MB	♻️	Birding for Beginners - Part 2	Revel and Watts
13	Sat	11:00 AM	MB		White's Point Vistas	Norma Wightman
13	Sat	12:00 PM	CDC		Tide Pooling at San Simeon Beach	CDC Docents
14	Sun	1:00 PM	MB		Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman
15	Mon	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Discover Hidden Life in the Morro Bay Estuary	Karen Watts
16	Tue	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: Orienteering in the State Park Campground	Chuck Mills
17	Wed	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: Birding the Museum and Grounds	Rouvaishyana
18	Thu	11:00 AM	MdO		Living History - The Pecho Ranch in 1919	Kathy Flock
18	Thu	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: Learning about Marine Protected Areas	Robin Hazard
19	Fri	9:00 AM	MB		Quarry Trail to Morro Vistas	Norma Wightman
19	Fri	10:00 AM	MB		Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock	Rouvaishyana
19	Fri	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: Meet the Birds	Pacific Wildlife Care
20	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Pier Safari	CDC Docents
20	Sat	11:00 AM	MB		Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders	Louise Abbott
20	Sat	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: Saturday Scientists: Honey Bees and You	Judy Neuhauser
22	Mon	10:00 AM	MB		Hike the Crespi Trail - Renshaw, Reifel	Bardeen and Kirkhart
23	Tue	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: Nature's Coverings	Sherri Barmazel
24	Wed	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: Puppets-Home at the Rookery	Howell and Strohman
25	Thu	11:00 AM	MdO		Living History - The Pecho Ranch in 1919	Kathy Flock
25	Thu	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: The Teeth Make the Skull	Mandy Ward
26	Fri	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: Whales and their Migration	Rouvaishyana
27	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Life of the California Sea Otter	CDC Docents
27	Sat	11:00 AM	MB		White's Point Vistas	Molly Stoddard
27	Sat	2:00 PM	OC	♻️	Pond Safari- Oceano Lagoon Microcosms	Cheryl Powers
27	Sat	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Spring Fling: Meet the Mammals and Reptiles	Pacific Wildlife Care
28	Sun	10:00 AM	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
29	Mon	11:00 AM	MB		Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders	Louise Abbott

***LOCation Codes:** EB-Estero Bluffs, HH-Harmony Headlands, LO-Los Osos, MB-Morro Bay, MdO-Montaña de Oro, MS-Morro Strand, NC-North Coast, CDC-Coastal Discovery Center, OC-Oceano, OF-Oso Flaco, PB-Pismo Beach
Adventure Descriptions on reverse side.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Morro Bay Museum of Natural History: 20 State Park Road, Morro Bay 93442. Open every day, 10 am to 5 pm, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year. \$3 admission, CCSPA members and under 17 are free. Special exhibit – *Two Worlds Meet: Living Together Along the Shore*.

Spring Fling Spring Break Events: A series of programs designed for students, families and even adults, during the spring school breaks in and around the county. All programs are at 2 PM. Most are in the Museum auditorium, with a \$3 entrance fee for adults, but the Orienteering programs are in the Morro Bay State Park Campground picnic area and are free to all participants. See descriptions of the programs on the reverse side.

The California Central Coast Pastel Society presents their 2019 Exhibition, *Two Worlds Meet: Living Together Along the Shore*. April 3-May 31, 10 AM to 5 PM daily. This is an exceptional collection of pastel paintings by talented artists from the California's Central coast. Natural History Museum auditorium. Opening Reception: Saturday April 6, 1-4 PM. Reception is free but admission to the Museum is \$3 for adults, CCSPA members and under 17 are free.

Oceano Dunes Visitor Center: Open Wed through Sat, Noon to 4 pm. The exhibits highlight the Oceano Dunes District's natural and cultural resources as well as our diverse recreational activities. Visitors learn about Chumash culture, the famous Pismo clams, dune habitat, shorebirds, the history of off-highway vehicles and the Dunites. Located at 555 Pier Ave, Oceano 93445 (in the Oceano Campground). For more information, please call 805-474-2664.

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

Coastal Discovery Center: Winter hours are 11 am to 5 pm, Fri, Sat and Sun. San Simeon State Park, Hwy 1, San Simeon.

ADVENTURE DESCRIPTIONS

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

Birding for Beginners – Part 2: 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.

Birding the Boardwalk: Enjoy a stroll while identifying shorebirds and more. Beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guide. 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. 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. 1 mi, 2 hrs.

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.

Great Blue Herons, Egrets and Other Rookery Wonders: Enjoy a short talk and walk to the rookery in Morro Bay State Park to observe these magnificent birds. Learn about courtship rituals, nesting habits, and in spring, see adults caring for their young. Meet at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History in the Learning Center. Easy walk, 0.25 miles, 1.5 hours.

Grove to Boardwalk to Beach: Enjoy an easy stroll through the Monarch Butterfly Grove, the boardwalk and return on the beach. Along the way, we'll discuss the area's history, the monarchs, Pismo clams, sand dollars and shorebirds as we identify area plants and animals. Meet at the benches in the Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove, 455 S. Dolliver. Easy walk, 1 mi., 2 hrs.

Hike the Crespi Trail: Explore the back country of Morro Bay State Park. Admire the views of the bay and Hollister Peak and a grove of oak trees along the Crespi Trail. Bring water to drink, and wear your hiking shoes. Meet at the end of the Chumash Trail on Turri Road about 1/3 mile east of South Bay Blvd. Moderate walk, 2 miles, 1.5 hours.

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).

Life of the California Sea Otter: Join us to learn about the lives of our local California Sea Otters, where the best places are to view them and how marine biologists study and protect them. A 45-minute talk will include a slideshow presentation, videos, live pelts and skulls. Reservation Required: To reserve space, call (805)927-2145. You will not get a call back unless we cancel. Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay, near Hearst Castle off Hwy 1.

Living History – The 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.

Oceano's Beavers: 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 room, Oceano Campground, 555 Pier Ave, Oceano. Moderate walk, 0.5 miles, 2 hours.

Pier Safari: Look for the inhabitants of San Simeon Bay and pier by using your senses of vision and hearing. Learn how to identify the seasonal birds and animals that migrate through the bay, and practice your science skills by collecting and analyzing data and plankton used to determine the health of the bay. Plankton will be examined using the Center's video microscope. Reservation Required: To reserve space, call (805)927-2145. You will not get a call back unless we cancel. Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay, near Hearst Castle off Hwy 1.

Pond Safari- Oceano Lagoon Microcosms: Come to Guiton Hall at the Oceano Campground (555 Pier Ave, Oceano) for a fascinating look at small organisms you will collect with a plankton net in the lagoon. Two types of microscopes are available for viewing these fascinating critters. One and a half hours. 2 to 3:30. Families welcome and no previous experience with microscopes required.

Quarry Trail to Morro Vistas: Walk to the foot of Cerro Cabrillo to view the quarry site and learn about how the 'morros' formed. View the web of estuary waters and learn about human and natural forces that shaped the estuary. Meet at Quarry Trail parking lot off South Bay Blvd. in Morro Bay State Park, 2.6 miles from Los Osos Valley Rd. Moderate hike, 3 miles, 2.5 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.

Songbirds in the Pines: Walk through pine woods and along the edges of Morro Bay State Park, expecting to see woodpeckers, songbirds, and birds of prey. Bring binoculars and your bird guidebook. Meet at the end of Laloma St., off Quintana Blvd. in Morro Bay. Moderate walking at a slow pace, 1.5 miles, 2 hours.

Tide pooling at San Simeon Beach: Join us at low tide to explore the invertebrate and algae communities that live between high and low tides. Learn what causes tides, investigate what lives under the sand and discover the stories behind beach-cast plants and animals. Reservation Required: To reserve space, call (805)927-2145. You will not get a call back unless we cancel. Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay, near Hearst Castle off Hwy 1.

Whales and Dolphins of the CA Coast: Come join us to learn how to identify the common whales and dolphin off of California's coast. A 45-minute presentation will include photos, videos and underwater sounds of whales and dolphins right off of San Simeon Pier. We will also examine whale bones left over from the whaling days in San Simeon Cove. Reservation Required: To reserve space, call (805)927-2145. You will not get a call back unless we cancel. Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay, near Hearst Castle off Hwy 1.

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.

SPRING FLING SPRING BREAK EVENTS-Mostly in the MUSEUM at 2 PM

About Snowy Plovers: Learn about the snowy plover and the importance of protecting these birds and then make a plover to take home.

Birding the Museum and Grounds: Meet in the Museum Learning Center to learn some bird basics and then move outside to look for and identify birds around the Museum and grounds. Bring appropriate outside clothing. Binoculars supplied or bring your own.

Learning about Marine Protected Areas: Marine Protected Areas are of special importance for allowing fish and other organisms to reproduce and develop without interference. Learn about where they are and do an activity related to these areas.

Meet the Birds: See and hear about live birds unable to live in the wild and used for educational purposes instead.

Meet the Mammals and Reptiles: Pacific Wildlife docents will show and discuss various live mammals and reptiles in their collection of educational animals which can't be released into the wild.

Nature's Coverings: Some creatures have fur, others have feathers, scales or skin. Explore a variety of nature's coverings close-up and participate in some family activities for all ages.

Orienteering in the State Park Campground: Learn to read topographic maps and how to use compasses, then practice with them by following directions and headings to specific sites to find hidden treasures. Campground picnic area is towards the back.

Puppets—Home at the Rookery: Watch a puppet show about the problems Mom and Pop Blue Heron have hatching their chicks and feeding them. Get an up close and personal look at mounted specimens of all the birds nesting at the Rookery. Create your own field guide of the rookery birds.

Saturday Scientists: Honey Bees and You: Learn about honeybees and how they make honey (you'll even get to taste that honey!). Use binocular scopes to get a closer look at these furry little creatures. Look inside a honeybee hive and watch a hive of live honeybees - see if you can find the queen!

Secrets of Sand and Sediment: Discover the difference in sizes and types of sand while making a description sheet to take home

The Teeth Make the Skull: Check out the skulls of some local animals and then look at their teeth to determine what they eat and why the teeth are so different.

Whales and their Migration: Humpback and Grey Whales make regular appearances in our area each year as they migrate up and down the coast. Learn about them and see different types of baleen and bones.