

# *nature notes*

VOLUME 17 • FALL 2023



CENTRAL COAST STATE PARKS ASSOCIATION



**F**all is an amazing season for CCSPA. We move into the slower seasons at some of our retail locations and ramp up at others. The weather in the fall presents us with transformative opportunities to enjoy our parks but also allows for a quieter time in which everything takes a deep breath. The arrival of the monarchs and the Butterfly Ball take the stage and highlight this beautiful time of year.



Kristin and Beca at the art show.

Although we did feel the effects of inflation on the retail end of our operations, we have kept our ambition to succeed through events. We hosted a very well-received Morro Bay Chamber mixer at the Museum of Natural History. We celebrated a successful art show, "Through the Eyes of a Monarch", in partnership with the SLO Arts Council and The Bunker SLO. Our first annual Mariposa Festival in partnership with the Latino Outreach Council was a huge success for our community. The community engagement and educational outreach that resulted from these efforts was incredibly rewarding and we remain grateful for these opportunities.

The Western Monarch Trail is moving along with 10 new host sites added. We are in the process of updating the website to highlight the new additions! We cannot wait to expand our efforts eastward into the breeding and nectar foraging habitats.

As we move into the end of the year, we can't wait for the new exhibits and improvements at the Museum of Natural History as a result of the California Museum Grant Program! We look forward to a successful year-end campaign for much needed restoration efforts at the Pismo State Beach Monarch Grove. We are excited to see all the faces of the students that are able to access programming at our State Parks through our School Group Transportation program. And we look forward to seeing all of you outside... enjoying all that our Central Coast State Parks have to offer!

What do you hope to celebrate in our parks this fall and winter? We love hearing from you, our park visitors. Please share your thoughts with us.

Happy fall!

CCSPA is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit. We are one of 89 similar cooperating associations across the state who work in partnership with State Parks. Tax ID #: 51-0198869.

Cover photo: Raccoon kitten by Gary Bendig | Unsplash.com  
Newsletter design: Brady Teufel

# STAFF DIRECTORY

**Kristin Howland**

Executive Director  
ed@centralcoastparks.org  
(805) 548-0391

**Sheri Robesky**

Development Director  
development@centralcoastparks.org  
(805) 548-0384

**Sierra Emrick**

Community Outreach Manager  
programs@centralcoastparks.org  
(805) 548-0385

**Julie Lewis**

Retail Operations Manager  
store@centralcoastparks.org  
(805) 548-0384

**Beca Martin**

Operations and Events Manager  
events@centralcoastparks.org  
(805) 548-0393

**Angelena Masicampo**

Retail Operations Manager  
retail@centralcoastparks.org  
(805) 548-0390

## BOARD MEMBERS

**Valerie Glahn** - Board Chair

**Robert Priola** - Treasurer

**Marylou Gooden** - Acting Secretary

**Victor Herrera** - Director

**Alexis Peterson** - Director

**Laurel Cadena** - Director

**John Barbieri** - Director

## STATE PARKS LIASONS

**Danielle Bronson**

State Park Interpreter III  
Oceano Dunes District

**Robyn Chase**

State Park Interpreter III  
San Luis Obispo Coast District

**QUICK FACT**

**10,000**

Number of miles whales are known to travel on roudtrip journeys



## ‘THROUGH THE EYES OF A MONARCH’ ART SHOW INSPIRES

In partnership with SLO County Arts, the Central Coast State Parks Association (CCSPA), the Western Monarch Trail, and the Shanbrom Family Foundation hosted Through the Eyes of a Monarch, an art show inspired by the migration of the western monarch.

The exhibit was on display the entire month of September at The Bunker SLO but was kicked off by an Opening Night Reception and followed later in the month by a Family Monarch Day event. Opening reception attendees enjoyed CCSPA made signature drinks and a host of treats and charcuterie while viewing the 23 different pieces. The second to last week of September for Family Monarch Day, CCSPA and State Parks welcomed families in to view pieces and hosted an informational booth, activity and

talk on the western monarch. In support of the Central Coast State Parks Association and the Western Monarch Trail the entire month and both events brought together the SLO community to celebrate the arts and raise awareness of the beauty, importance and challenges faced by the western monarch butterfly.

The show featured works by 23 different artists in a range of mediums including, but not limited to, painting, photography, embroidery, and stained glass. A panel of judges selected “Wildfires and the Monarch Butterfly” by San Luis Obispo artist James Dietze as the featured artwork for the show. Dietze’s large format colored pencil piece depicts the juxtaposition of the western monarch against habitat wildfire. Through the Eyes of a Monarch is the sixth show to exhibit

at The Bunker SLO since its opening earlier this year as a public gallery.

Through the Eyes of a Monarch goes beyond highlighting the butterfly’s known beauty to introduce the struggles the monarchs and many other pollinators face. Climate change, habitat loss and pesticides are affecting this small - yet very important - species on earth. Artists in the show tell the story of the monarch with their art “through the eyes/lens of a monarch” in various ways that speak to them, including the beauty of the migration and flight, the destruction of habitat they see and more.

Artwork can be purchased at [www.thebunkerslo.com/eyes-of-a-monarch-1](http://www.thebunkerslo.com/eyes-of-a-monarch-1)

## FIRST ANNUAL MARIPOSA FESTIVAL A FLYING SUCCESS



On September 14th, at the downtown SLO Farmers Market, the Central Coast State Parks Association, along with 20 passionate and festive community partners, gathered at the 1st annual ‘Mariposa Festival’ in celebration of the return of the western monarch butterfly and Hispanic Heritage Month. We were honored to work along side the Latino Outreach Council, local non profit chapter organizations, and multi-talented artists, making this a fun and impactful event!

In support of Central Coast State Parks and the Western Monarch Trail we created this event to honor our diverse community and highlight State Park conservation and programs. Together, with like minded SLO County organizations we were able to promote native gardening and farming, climate control, local artists, inclusive outdoor recreation, and cultural clothing and eats! The monarch butterfly and Hispanic culture share a deep connection and this event gave us the opportunity to highlight that connection, as folklore states, the monarch carries the souls of our ancestors, and returns to Mexico around Dia de Los Muertos festivities, a time to honor lost loved ones. We are so grateful to the partners who came out to celebrate this connection of community!

This fall and winter, I hope you get out and enjoy our local parks, witness the magic of the overwintering monarch, and take a moment to honor lost loved ones.

- By Sheri Robesky, Development Director



## DIVING INTO THE WORLD OF HUMPBACK WHALES

**W**hen the inland temperatures peak during the late summer months, hundreds of visitors make their way to William Randolph Hearst Memorial Beach to escape the heat and relax on the sandy shores of this San Luis Obispo County gem. People can spend hours searching for shiny seaglass, exploring tide pools filled with bright green anemones, or even fish for surf perch off the San Simeon Pier. However, there is one activity that I find more rewarding than most which is to watch gentle giants feast and play just beyond the shore.

Like us, the humpback whales, or *Megaptera novaeangliae*, love exploring the waters of the Central Coast of California. These marine mammals are known to travel incredible distances between their northern summer feeding grounds and their winter breeding and calving grounds in the tropics. In fact, some whales are known to travel on roundtrip journeys of up to 10,000 miles<sup>1</sup>. While in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, which is the marine protected area managed by NOAA that spans from Marin to Cambria covering 6,094 square statute miles, these whales feast on krill or schooling fish. The Sanctuary is rich with food due to the process of coastal upwelling where nutrient rich waters rises from the deep while the warmer surface waters are pushed offshore by strong, northerly winds.

Humpback whales are a species of baleen whale which indicates that they utilize hundreds of baleen plates to filter feed rather than biting down on prey using teeth. Although these whales typically feed beneath the surface, they occasionally engage in several dynamic feeding behaviors at the surface. In late August or early September, lucky visitors may be able to witness the visiting humpback whales lunge feeding vertically where they quickly propel through

a group of schooling fish, otherwise known as bait ball, at the surface of the water. With their head at the surface, the pleats on their throats will expand to allow them to intake a large quantity of fish and seawater. Then, their throat pleats will rapidly contract, expelling the water out of their mouths as the baleen serves as a sieve for their meals. When a pod of whales is feeding they may participate in a cooperative behavior known as bubble net where one or more whales will dive below the surface while blowing bubbles to disorient the prey.

Today, humpback whales are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972, but this level of conservation has not always been the case. Just beyond the buildings of Old San Simeon is San Simeon Point which previously served as a shore whaling station in the late 1800s. During whaling season, which aligned with the migration patterns of both gray and humpback whales, Captain Joseph Clark and crews made up of local countrymen would paddle or sail out into the Bay in search of their prey. During this time period of history, whales served as a valuable source of oil as their rendered blubber would be utilized in a similar fashion to petroleum. However, it did not take long for this industry to succumb to both environmental and societal pressures. Not only did the populations of whales dramatically decline due to the commercial whaling industry, but alternative energy sources like kerosene and petroleum became far more popular and reliable. Whaling in the United States was outlawed by 1972 with the passing of the MMPA (1).

Although whales have far better protection than they did in the past, in part due to the environmental movement of the early 1970s, they still face many threats including entanglement in fishing gear, vessel strikes, vessel-based ha-



stress levels. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary will be met with a diverse soundscape including the vocalizations of other marine organisms, natural sounds like rain hitting the surface of the water, and, now, a plethora of sounds created by anthropogenic sources. Human made, or anthropogenic sounds, could include sonar, construction, or even passing vessel traffic. As the world becomes increasingly industrialized, so too does the amount of noise in the ocean. When a whale is exposed to noise pollution, they can experience immediate adverse effects such as behavioral disruption or even long term effects on

rassment, and ocean noise (2). A whale migrating through Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary will be met with a diverse soundscape including the vocalizations of other marine organisms, natural sounds like rain hitting the surface of the water, and, now, a plethora of sounds created by anthropogenic sources. Human made, or anthropogenic sounds, could include sonar, construction, or even passing vessel traffic. As the world becomes increasingly industrialized, so too does the amount of noise in the ocean. When a whale is exposed to noise pollution, they can experience immediate adverse effects such as behavioral disruption or even long term effects on

have placed a hydrophone at the base of Monterey Canyon. This submarine canyon lies approximately halfway between the cities of Monterey and Santa Cruz and is about the same size as the Grand Canyon in Arizona. The hydrophone, or underwater microphone, sits about 3,000 feet below the surface of the water and is connected to shore via a 32-mile cable. Not only can scientists listen to the cacophony of sounds produced by the over 36 different species of marine mammals who visit and live in the Sanctuary, but they can also assess the influence of anthropogenic sound on the environment. This can help inform environmental managers about how to best protect these biodiverse ecosystems for both the animals and plants that call them home and for visitors to continue to enjoy them for generations to come.

---

**As the world becomes increasingly industrialized so too does the amount of noise in the ocean.**

---

If you want to hear more about the soundscape of MB-NMS, stop by the Coastal Discovery Center to listen to a library of sounds recorded from the hydrophone located in Monterey Canyon. The visitor center is located on W.R. Hearst Memorial Beach is a cooperatively-managed space that reflects the commitment of both Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and State Parks to protect both cultural and natural resources at the interface of land and sea. The Coastal Discovery Center is open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11:00 - 5:00.

- 1 - *Meet the Humpback Whale*: Monterey Bay Aquarium
- 2 - *Humpback Whale*: NOAA Fisheries
- 3 - *A Whale's World of Sound*: NOAA Fisheries

- Sophia Bargwegen, NOAA Affiliate

To gain a better understanding of how human-related sound can affect the marine environment, researchers at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI)

# FALL MARKS ARRIVAL OF WESTERN MONARCH BUTTERFLY

**M**onarch butterfly season is on the horizon! Here at Pismo State Beach, we look forward to fall and the seasonal arrival of the Western monarch butterfly. These graceful, awe-inducing insects can be seen within Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove from November to February. The peak of the monarch season where the butterflies are at their highest overwintering population size is between the holidays of Thanksgiving and New year's Day, making this time period a particularly good time to visit.

Want to have the best monarch viewing experience? Follow these six tips.

1. Always come prepared with binoculars for optimal viewing! The monarchs stay in their cluster high in the eucalyptus and Monterey cypress trees in cooler temperatures, making them hard to see without assistance from a pair of binoculars.
2. Watch where you step! Monarchs can be seen on the ground resting, mating or trying to warm up. It is very important to watch where you walk as to avoid stepping on them!
3. Please stay on the trail! The grove is shaped like a horseshoe with a walking path through the tall eucalyptus trees. It is not permitted to cross over fences- those areas are off-limits to protect the habitat.

4. Keep wildlife wild! Handling monarch butterflies is prohibited.
5. Respect the law! Do not release captive-reared monarchs in the park or near any overwinteringsites. Without a proper permit issued by CDFW, it is illegal to rear or handle monarch butterflies in California.
6. Enjoy the beauty! Western monarch butterflies are a sight to behold! Seeing one gliding in the air is spectacular, but witnessing an overwintering site with thousands of monarchs waiting for the season to change from winter to spring is simply breathtaking!

We are thrilled to share with you a new addition to the butterfly grove! A permanent scope was installed in the area where we see the most clustering. These scopes have the ability to rotate 360 degrees, so no matter where the monarchs cluster you will be able to see them! This purchase was made possible from funds awarded by the California State Parks Foundation Monarch Conservation Grant.

It is a pleasure to be able to welcome visitors back to the grove each year. If you have visited the grove and it holds a special place in your heart, perhaps you might want to consider volunteering with us. To learn more about becoming a volunteer with California State Parks at the Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove, please contact Mallory at 805-574-4511. We hope to see you at Pismo State Beach Monarch Butterfly Grove this overwintering season!

- Mallory Classen





## NEW INTERPRE-MERCHANDISE: LIVE MUTUALISTICALLY

**Mutualism:** a type of symbiotic relationship where all species involved benefit from their interactions.

**C**CSPA is proud to feature another design in our Live Mutualistically collection: the gray fox and Morro manzanita! The Live Mutualistically merchandise line was born from a desire to share unique relationships in nature and inspire people to learn from these relationships. We are all stronger when we work together.

Our first collection dropped last year and highlighted the coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and lace lichen (*Ramalina menziesii*), two species that rely on each other to thrive. Along the Central Coast, it is common to see lace lichen growing from coast live oaks. The lichen captures nutrients and moisture from the air, providing water for the oak, and the oak provides the lichen a place to grow.

Our new highlighted design, the gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) and the Morro manzanita (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*), showcases a different relationship. The fox relies on the berries of the manzanita as a stable food source, while the manzanita relies on

the fox to spread its seeds. There are countless species that rely on each other to thrive in this area, and we are no different!

Our dreams came to life through the fabulous work of Derek Schultz, a local artist who specializes in nature-focused art that reveals the connections



between humans, animals, plants, and the landscape. From the first meeting with him, there was an instant bond about how special Central Coast symbiotic relationships are. When we spoke about the fox and manzanita, it was incredible to see Derek's creative brain funnel ideas into what became one of the most beautiful pieces CCSPA has to offer. Derek told a story of a hike he took in Montaña de Oro one

spring, where he witnessed a young fox mesmerized with several small butterflies fluttering nearby. Derek translated this real-life magic into the piece, and this talent of telling real stories through art is what makes him such a special creator. CCSPA is always in search of passionate artists who see the world through a unique lens, and this is why we are so proud to be able to collaborate with Derek to turn nature's magic into a tactile item for our visitors. You can find Derek's work on his Instagram (@derekwshultz) and his website ([www.derekschultzart.com](http://www.derekschultzart.com)).

We are looking forward to continuing to collaborate with Derek to showcase more local mutualistic relationships. Stay tuned for next year's design and collect them all! Whether you want to sport these graphics on a tote, tee, hoodie, tank, or sticker, we have something you'll love. You can find all items in the Live Mutualistically collection in our online store, headquarters in San Luis Obispo, and our nature stores at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History and Spooner Ranch House. Help support a local artist and State Park education with every purchase!

# KAITLYN TOLIN: THROUGH THE EYES OF A LOCAL LIFEGUARD



*Kaitlyn Tolin is a State Park Junior Guard Coordinator and Seasonal Lifeguard I for the Oceano Dunes District.*

## **What brought you to California State Parks and how long have you been working for Parks?**

Born and raised in San Luis Obispo, I enjoyed going to the beach with my parents. My parents both loved to swim so they got me involved at a young age. I joined the Pismo Junior Lifeguard Program when I was about 9 years old, and I vividly remember being terrified of the long ocean swims and cold water, regardless of my strengths in the pool. After that first summer of JG's everything changed for me. Through my fears of the ocean environment and physical nature of the program and guided by inspiration from my JG instructors, I fell in love with everything that program provided for me. Through this program along with my dad teaching me to surf, I found a love for the ocean in an everlasting way. It challenged me in many ways that brought me to where I am today. I began to care more deeply about the environment and ultimately it connected me to my community and myself.

## **What is your favorite aspect of being a lifeguard and running the junior lifeguard program in Oceano?**

I have been involved with State Parks since I was little though not directly at first, as my dad had worked for State Parks for 35 years. Through his experiences, stories and adventures in State Parks as a Lifeguard and then Peace Officer I finally gained the courage to apply to work as a Lifeguard in 2013. With a few years of Lifeguarding at Avila Beach under my belt I felt more confident to work at the Oceano Dunes where my dad was a Peace Officer for the State Parks. Through the past years I have been fortunate enough to keep up my certifications through State Parks and continue to come back and work as a Lifeguard.

Feeling the energy the kids have when they are in the ocean is something that sticks with you. It's a tangible energy that has always kept me coming back to work summer after summer. I love to educate the children about the ocean and local environment and why it's important to care for it and protect it. Working with Junior Guards

who are also afraid to swim in the ocean is something that reminds me of my fears at their age and allows me to relate to them. After sharing my experiences and providing a safe space for them to ask questions they tend to grow into their own confidence. It's really amazing to be a part of that. Once they conquer their own fears it's like another animal takes over and they are unstoppable. From then on they have a new type of energy, they always want to go in the water even if the inshore current is ripping sideways pulling them 20 ft south in 10 minutes, no matter if the onshore west winds are blowing at 25 knots and you can't open your mouth without sand filling into your teeth. They always come back for more and they always love it each and every day. Seeing their zest for that wild experience gives me that same feeling.

## **As a lifeguard you get a lot of interesting comments and questions from the public, what stands out as the most bizarre/memorable?**

The unique people that visit the beach is the most interesting part of our job in many ways. We get folks who come down and have funny workout routines they do, riding their bike in circles cheering themselves on, lifting weights in the surfline, walking with ankle weights on while dancing. It keeps things entertaining for us and keeps things interesting.

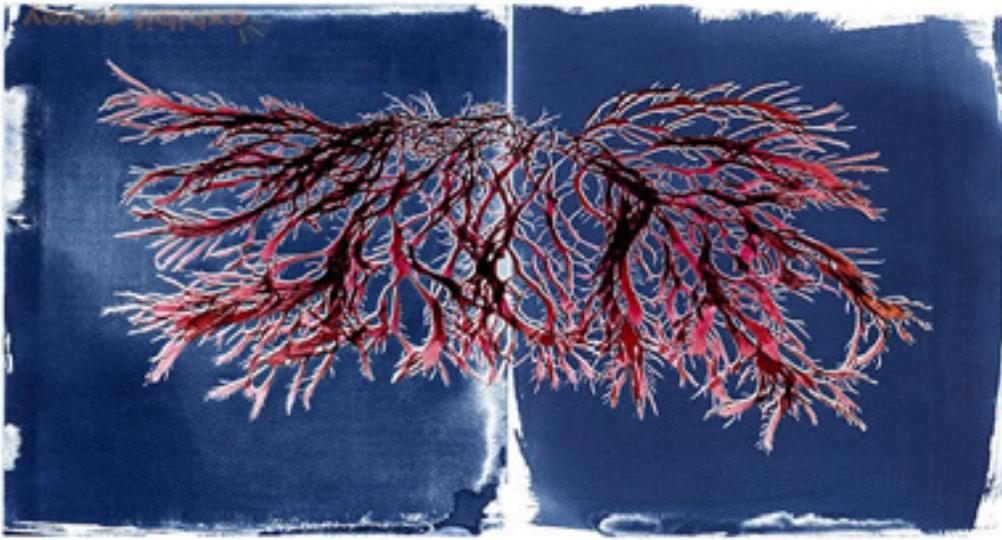
## **What do you do during the offseason?**

Anything from construction worker, to barista, to bartender kept me busy. As State Park Lifeguards we are able to work 1900 hours per year, and while this is my favorite job in the world it sadly doesn't allow us to work full time with benefits unless we want to be commissioned law enforcement. The physical perks and time spent on the beach and with kids and community makes it the best job in the world.

## **What is one message you always pass onto your junior guards that you wish everyone visiting the beach could know?**

I try to convey how important and special our ocean is. Through programs like our JG program we give kids the confidence to be able to fully enjoy the ocean experience. Our connection to water as human beings is so vital to our way of life. Once the kids and beach patrons understand this, they form a new appreciation and respect towards mother nature. I then tie this into why we need to protect this sacred source. To respect our ocean environment no matter where you are in the world. I try to emphasize that our ecosystem is deeply connected, so by being good stewards of the land no matter where we are, it makes a great impact.

- By Sierra Emrick, Community Outreach Manager



## 'THE CURIOUS WORLD OF SEAWEED' EXHIBIT

**A**nother traveling exhibit by Exhibit Envoy is coming to the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History! From mid-October to December 23rd, *The Curious World of Seaweed* provides a new look at marine flora through stunning color "portraits" of specimens, scientifically-accurate text panels, and surprising stories highlighting Indigenous peoples' and women's connections to seaweed.

Seaweeds have been used by the Indigenous peoples of California and the Pacific Northwest for thousands of years. European explorers plucked specimens from our rocky shores during exploratory expeditions. In the late 1800s, women living in Pacific Grove, CA, sent fresh specimens collected around the Monterey Peninsula to colleagues at UC Berkeley. And, today, seaweed is receiving major attention as kelp forests rapidly disappear from our coastline. From nori to giant kelp, from bull kelp to surfgrass and eelgrass, seaweed holds many such stories for visitors to discover through the traveling exhibition *The Curious World of Seaweed*.

Seaweeds have three requirements for survival: something to hold onto, sunlight to provide energy, and nutrients to fuel growth. The thin section of ocean from the intertidal zone to about three hundred feet deep is where they find these three elements for success. This is a minuscule sliver of ocean area, less than two percent of the entire sea floor, and yet it is a zone of incomparable richness, where seaweeds, or marine algae, are the supreme eco-engineers. They oxygenate the waters, create three-dimensional habitat for countless organisms, and form the base of a food chain that keeps our planet unique in the universe as we know it – opulently rich in life.

*The Curious World of Seaweed* features the works and research of Josie Iselin, a photographer, author, and designer of many books. Her newest book, *The Curious World of Seaweed*, features visually rich narratives of our iconic West Coast seaweeds and kelps. It was released by Heyday Books in August 2019 and has been shortlisted for the Northern California Book

Award and the the Alice Award, recognizing illustrated books. Iselin's writing and art focusing on seaweed, kelp and sea otters puts her on the forefront of ocean activism, presenting and working with scientists and environmental groups working to preserve the kelp forests of our Pacific Coast. She holds a BA in Visual and Environmental Studies from Harvard and an MFA from San Francisco State University. She currently teaches in the School of Design at SFSU.

CCSPA and CA State Parks are excited to welcome Josie to the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History to present at the exhibit launch event on November 1st. Join us for this free event from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM and enjoy refreshments, an informative presentation, and the brand new exhibit!

Museum admission is \$3 for adults and free for guests 17 and under. It's open daily from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**WE'RE HIRING!**

**Join our team today!**

We're looking for people to help with Retail Operations in our Pismo Beach Butterfly Trailer!

**Volunteer & paid positions available.**

**Requirements:**

- Provide excellent customer service & accurate information to park patrons
- Accurately handle cash & reconcile drawer
- Receive, restock, and manage inventory

**Scan here to learn more**

# MARYLOU GOODEN: SUPPORTING CCSPA & MORE SINCE 1983

**H**ave you ever thought about joining a board? What's stopping you? Here at CCSPA it feels that we are reaching the end of an era and reaching a new one. Marylou Gooden has been volunteering her time since 1979 and CCSPA has been blessed enough to have her presence and oversight for many years. Marylou's most recent term is ending this December and we thought you might be interested in hearing more about what it is like serving on the CCSPA Board.

## Tell us a little about how you got started volunteering.

I was a mother of young children craving adult interactions when I saw a blurb recruiting volunteers for Pismo State Beach. I enjoyed giving talks around the Oceano Lagoon and fell in love with the monarch butterflies that overwinter in Pismo Beach. I began volunteering in the grove in 1980 and have not missed a season since, switching from roving and presenting in the grove to working as a CCSPA volunteer in the monarch trailer during Covid while the park was closed.

## Can you talk a bit about your involvement with CCSPA?

I first became involved with the Natural History Association, CCSPA's former name, in 1983. I served on the Board from 1983 until 1995, and again from 2017 to 2023, in a variety of positions, including president, vice president, secretary, film festival, and programs.

We are very fortunate in San Luis Obispo County to have so many beautiful state parks. It is a joy to support the parks and help preserve them for future generations. I've always been impressed with the quality of volunteers and now the staff involved with CCSPA. Some highlights of CCSPA history include:

- 1976 - Natural History Association established as a nonprofit
- 1980 to 1984 - the beginning of many new programs
- 1986 - Eileen Bowen Learning center created after 3 years of fundraising and building
- 1995 - Grand opening of Pismo Nature Center
- 1996 - NHA changes name to CCSPA
- 2001 - Construction began on final phase of Morro Bay Museum modernization project
- 2016 - CCSPA is updated and reorganized.
- 2018 - Present - Expansion, more staff hired, bigger facility, cargo van purchased, operating 5 retail sites

## Why have you served on boards and why do you feel that service is important?

I agree with Albert Schweitzer when he said, "One thing I know; the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

I have been on at least one board, and at times three, continuously since 1982. When my term ends in December, it will be the first time in 41 years that I will not be serving on a board (Marylou's lifetime service has included CCSPA, Central Coast Memorial Society, Central Coast Children's Choir, Womenade, Delta Kappa Gamma, San Luis Coastal Teacher's Association, American Association of University Women, Docent Council, Avila Valley Advisory Committee, Laguna Middle School PTA, Bellevue PTA, Cal Poly Children's Center and Grandmother's House Children's Center).

## If you could give any advice to someone thinking about joining a board or is new to a board, what would it be?

Jump in! Even donating a little time can make a big difference for an organization or group. Share your skills with others and get satisfaction and happiness in return.



Marylou Gooden (right) and friends spot a monarch butterfly.



Central Coast State Parks Association  
Since 1976

# BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT OPEN



## JOIN OUR TEAM!

- MAKE A DIFFERENCE
- GIVE BACK
- BECOME A BETTER LEADER
- LEARN NEW SKILLS

MORE INFORMATION



(805) 548-0390

<https://centralcoastparks.org/board-service/>

"What you do has far greater impact than what you say."

-Steven Covey.

# SAVE THE DATE

CENTRAL COAST STATE PARKS ASSOCIATION  
PRESENTS THE 4th ANNUAL

# BUTTERFLY BALL

## AN ADVENTURE IN WONDERLAND

Fine dining by Trumpet Vine Catering, musical performances, silent auction, awards ceremony and informative programming all in support of the western monarch and the expansion of the Western Monarch Trail

October 14th, 2023

Octagon Barn, San Luis Obispo

Tickets on sale July 17 at  
[centralcoastparks.org/butterfly-ball](https://centralcoastparks.org/butterfly-ball)



Seeking sponsorships and silent auction donations -- contact us!



Central Coast State Parks Association  
 202 Tank Farm Road, Suite H2  
 San Luis Obispo, Ca 93401  
 (805) 548-0390  
 www.centralcoastparks.org

NON - PROFIT  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 SANTA BARBARA, CA  
 PERMIT NO. 800

# BECOME A FRIEND OF CCSPA

Become a Friend of the Central Coast State Parks Association when you make a **donation of \$35** or more!  
 When you become a Friend of CCSPA, you support interpretation and education in the California State Parks in San Luis Obispo County.

Starting at \$35, benefits include:

- Personalized **CCSPA Friend card** to present at stores for discounts
- 15 % discount at all **CCSPA nature stores**
- Free admission for two adults to the **Mind Walks Lecture Series**
- Subscription to our quarterly newsletter, **Nature Notes**
- Discounts on tickets to **CCSPA events**
- **CCSPA Friend sticker**
- 25% **holiday discount** at CCSPA nature stores
- Discounts at participating **Public Lands Alliance stores**
- **Weekly emails** about State Park events, volunteer opportunities, nature store sales, educational programs, and more

## Choose your donation level:

\$1000    \$500    \$250    \$100    \$75    \$50    **\$35**    Other: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Benefits  
start here!

**Donations are fully tax-deductible** and donations over \$35 will go directly to a specific cause or program in our local State Parks. Donate \$400 or more to a program to join the **Stewardship Society** and receive extra perks. **Donating over \$35? Choose a program to support:**

*Donations \$35 or less will go the area of CCSPA's greatest need by default.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School Group Transportation                | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural and Living History                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guided Interpretive Experiences & Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Traveling Exhibits & Exhibit Upgrades              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Monarch Butterfly Outreach         | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing education for interpreters & volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation & Restoration Efforts         | <input type="checkbox"/> Area of CCSPA's greatest need (general)            |

*Visit [centralcoastparks.org/support](http://centralcoastparks.org/support) for more details on each program.*

Name(s) to be displayed on CCSPA Friend card: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- I would like to receive Nature Notes newsletter via mail.    I would like to receive Nature Notes newsletter digitally via email.

**Total enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_**

Please make checks payable to **CCSPA** and mail to **CCSPA | 202 Tank Farm Rd, Ste H2, SLO, CA 93401**  
 You can also pay online at: [centralcoastparks.org/friend](http://centralcoastparks.org/friend)