**ADVENTURES WITH NATURE**

**DECEMBER 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](http://www.centralcoastparks.org)

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**Date** | **Day** | **Time** | **LOC** | **SC** | **Adventure** | **Presenter**
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3 | Tue | 10:00 AM | MB | ⚫ | Birding for Beginners - Part 2 | Revel and Watts
10 | Tue | 9:00 AM | MB | ⚫ | Songbirds in the Pines | Freitas and Watts
10 | Tue | 10:00 AM | MB | ⚫ | Birds of Land and Sea at Morro Rock | Robbie and Bob Revel
11 | Wed | 9:00 AM | MB | ⚫ | Songbirds in the Pines | Watts and Rouvaishyana
11 | Wed | 2:30 PM | MdO | ⚫ | Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove | Paul O'Connor
11 | Wed | 3:00 PM | MB | ⚫ | Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools | Faylla Chapman
13 | Fri | 10:00 AM | MB | ⚫ | Birding the Boardwalk | Revel and Freitas
14 | Sat | 1:00 PM | OC | ⚫ | Let's Identify Plants and Animals using iNaturalist | NEW
16 | Mon | 10:00 AM | MdO | ⚫ | Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk | Paul O'Connor
21 | Sat | 10:00 AM | OC | ⚫ | Our Nocturnal Neighbor the Raccoon | Peggy Coon
21 | Sat | 11:30 AM | MdO | ⚫ | Treasuring Tide Pools | Sally Krenn
23 | Mon | 10:00 AM | LO | ⚫ | Hike the Los Osos Oaks Reserve - Bardeen, Kirkhart | Reifel, Renshaw
23 | Mon | 2:00 PM | MdO | ⚫ | Intertidal Life at Hazard Reef | Faylla Chapman
24 | Tue | 2:00 PM | MdO | ⚫ | Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove | Paul O'Connor
27 | Fri | 3:00 PM | MB | ⚫ | Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools | Faylla Chapman
28 | Sat | 9:00 AM | OC | ⚫ | Oceano's Dunes - The Mystical and Artistic Dunites | Jan Ojerholm
28 | Sat | 10:00 AM | OC | ⚫ | Oceano's Beavers | Dan Green
29 | Sat | 11:00 AM | MB | ⚫ | White's Point Vistas | Norma Wightman
29 | Sun | 10:00 AM | LO | ⚫ | Plant Preview | Reifel and Renshaw
30 | Mon | 10:00 AM | MdO | ⚫ | Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk | Paul O'Connor

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**WINTER BREAK EVENTS**

A series of programs designed to interest and educate students, parents, families on break from school. All will be held at the Museum of Natural History auditorium at 2 pm each day. Museum entrance fee is $3, under 17 are free.

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21 | Sat | 2:00 PM | MB | ⚫ | Saturday Scientist - Microblitz | Docents
22 | Sun | 2:00 PM | MB | ⚫ | Secrets of Sand and Sediment | Robbie Revel
23 | Mon | 2:00 PM | MB | ⚫ | Something About Bones | Mandy Ward
27 | Fri | 2:00 PM | MB | ⚫ | Puppets: Bucket Monster | Howell and Strohman
28 | Sat | 2:00 PM | MB | ⚫ | Snakes, Lizards and Bugs, OH MY! | Dennis Sheridan
29 | Sun | 2:00 PM | MB | ⚫ | Drawing from Nature | Nancy Dickenson
30 | Mon | 2:00 PM | MB | ⚫ | Scat and Tracks | Chapman and Konko

*LOCation Codes: AG-Arroyo Grande, CDC-Coastal Discovery Center, EB-Estero Bluffs, GB-Grover Beach, HH-Harmony Headlands, LO-Los Osos, MB-Morro Bay, MdO-Montaña de Oro, MS-Morro Strand, NC-North Coast, OC-Oceano, OF-Oso Flaco, PB-Pismo Beach, SLO- San Luis Obispo*  

**ADVENTURE Descriptions on reverse side.**

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**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Holiday Open Houses:** CCSPA invites you to do your holiday shopping at the following nature stores: Monarch Grove-Dec 13,11am-2pm; Spooner Ranch House-Dec 14, 11 am -2 pm; Oceano Dunes Visitor Center-Dec 14,12pm-4pm; and Morro Bay Natural History Museum-Dec 13, 3 pm -5pm.

**Monarch Butterfly Grove:** The Monarch Butterflies are returning to overwinter in the Pismo Monarch Grove. The Grove is open daily. The Monarch Butterfly Grove will be staffed Monday through Friday from 11 am - 2 pm, with a talk at noon each day. Weekends and holidays from 10 am - 4 pm, with talks at noon and 2 pm.

**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—*The Dynamic Estuary – A look at change over time, past, present and future.* More info: call 805-772-2694.

**Oceano Dunes Visitor Center:** Open daily, Noon to 4 pm. The exhibits highlight the Oceano Dunes District’s natural and cultural resources; 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.

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

**Coastal Discovery Center:** 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. 2 hours

**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.

**Drawing from Nature:** Instruction on nature journaling will be provided and the participants will try their hand at sketching something provided or of interest around the Museum. Bring a pencil, eraser, sketchbook or paper. No experience required. 1-1.5 hours

**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. Bring binoculars. Meet at Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yards south of Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Active hike, 2 miles, 2 hours.

**Hike the Los Osos Oaks Reserve:** Take a leisurely hike in the shade of the oaks and then into the dune scrub. Wear long pants to protect against plentiful poison oak. Meet at Los Osos Oaks Reserve entrance, 0.7 miles east of South Bay Blvd. on Los Osos Valley Road. 2 hours.

**Intertidal Life at Hazard Reef:** Learn some geology while walking through coastal scrub and sand dunes to see seaweeds and marine animals. Dress in layers and wear non-skid shoes that can get wet. Meet in Hazard Canyon parking lot, on West side of road, 1.6 miles south of Montaña de Oro park entrance. Look for announcement board. 2-3 hours.

**Let's Identify Plants and Animals using iNaturalist:** Join State Park Interpreters to learn how to use iNaturalist, an app created by scientists at the California Academy of Science. This free app helps you identify plant and animal species by taking a photo on your device and uploading it into a digital database. BYOD (Bring your own device - Smartphone or Tablet) and download the iNaturalist app before coming to this program. A limited number of devices will be available during the program. This program includes a 15-minute indoor session where we will introduce you to the app’s features. Then, we will venture outside to walk the Oceano Lagoon for 30 minutes to ID plants and animals. Dress for the outdoors, with sturdy shoes. Meet at the Oceano Dunes Visitor Center, Guiton Hall, Oceano Campground, 555 Pier Avenue, Oceano, CA 93445. 1 hour.

**Montaña de Oro Bluff Nature Walk:** Take a pleasant hike along the bluffs for the magnificent views and look for wildlife. Bring binoculars. Meet at Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yards south of Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro. Active hike, 2 miles, 3 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.

**Oceano’s Dunes-The Mystical and Artistic Dunites:** Who, and what made the Dunite era so special? Come along for a walk in the dunites to hear some of their stories. Meet at 9:00 am at the Pacific Dunes Ranch RV Resort, 1205 Silver Spur Rd, Oceano. Park in the parking lot near the office. 3 hours. 2 miles. Moderately hard going up and down dunes in soft sand.

**Our Nocturnal Neighbor the Raccoon:** Come meet our plentiful, clever and opportunistic nocturnal neighbor, the Raccoon. We will review the natural history of the Raccoon, discuss its place in history and learn how to keep Raccoons away from our property. We will take a short walk near the Oceano Lagoon to explore possible Raccoon habitat. Meet at 9:55 am at the Oceano Dunes Visitor Center in Guiton Hall for this 10 am talk. 1-1.5 hours.

**Plant Preview:** Catch the plants waking up to the rainy season. Anticipate the flower calendar of the coming year while enjoying an easy walk in the Elfin Forest. Meet at the North end of 15th St. in Los Osos. Easy walk 1 mile, 1.5 to 2 hours

**Puppets - Bucket Monster:** Come to learn who the Bucket Monster is and learn more about the critters that live in the tidepools. A good chance to learn respect and how to treat tide pool animals. Museum auditorium. 1 hour.

**Saturday Scientists - Microblitz:** Lots of things look very different when looked at under a microscope. Bring anything you would like to look at closer to see the structure, makeup, or unexplained interesting details. Other materials and instructions in the use of the microscope will be provided. Morro Bay Museum of Natural History auditorium. 1-1.5 hours.

**Scat and Tracks:** Learn about all kinds of animal scat and how important it is to humans as well as other animals. Also study and use models to make animal tracks. Museum auditorium, Family event, 1-2 hours

**Secrets of Sand and Sediment:** Explore samples of sand and sediment using magnifiers and microscopes. Sort living and non-living parts of the sediment and make a miniature mineral & shell collection. Learn what organisms make sand their home. Event held at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History auditorium. 1-1.5 hours.

**Snakes, Lizards and Bugs, OH MY!** Live specimens and information about them from a naturalist who loves sharing and showing them off. Specimens can be handled and passed around. Family activity, Museum of Natural History auditorium. 1-2 hours

**Something about Bones:** View a variety of bones and learn about them and the animals they belong to. 1-1.5 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, 0.5 miles, 0.75 hours.

**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. Wear closed-toe shoes that can get wet. No flip-flops. Meet at the Bluff Trailhead, about 100 yards south of the Spooner Ranch House in Montaña de Oro State Park. 2-2.5 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.

**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.