



# ADVENTURES WITH NATURE

## February 2020

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
1	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Life of the Northern Elephant Seal	CDC Docents
1	Sat	11:00 AM	PB	♻️	Western Monarch Day	Docents and Staff
1	Sat	11:00 AM	MB		White's Point Vistas	Norma Wightman
3	Mon	10:15 AM	MB	♻️	<b>Mind Walk</b> - Bats of the Central Coast	Bill Haas
4	Tue	10:00 AM	LO		Magnificent Coastal Live Oaks	Petrea White
5	Wed	10:30 AM	MB	♻️	Birding for Beginners - Part 1	Revel and Watts
7	Fri	10:00 AM	EB		Birding Adventures: Estero Bluffs <b>NEW</b>	Robbie/Bob Revel
7	Fri	2:00 PM	MdO		Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove	Paul O'Connor
8	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Life of the Northern Elephant Seal	CDC Docents
8	Sat	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Drawn to Nature	Nancy Dickenson
8	Sat	3:00 PM	CDC		Exploring Tide Pool Communities	CDC Docents
8	Sat	3:00 PM	MdO		Intertidal Life at Hazard Reef	Faylla Chapman
8	Sat	3:00 PM	MS		Life and Times on the Shore	Norma Wightman
9	Sun	9:00 AM	MB	*	King Tides Explained	Faylla Chapman
9	Sun	3:00 PM	MB		Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman
10	Mon	10:15 AM	MB	♻️	<b>Mind Walk</b> - Paderewski on the Central Coast	Harmon/Mulls
11	Tue	9:00 AM	MB		Songbirds in the Pines	Watts and Freitas
11	Tue	10:00 AM	LO		Magnificent Coastal Live Oaks	Petrea White
15	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Life of the Northern Elephant Seal	CDC Docents
15	Sat	10:00 AM	OC		Oceano's Beavers	Dan Green
15	Sat	11:00 AM	MB		White's Point Vistas	Molly Stoddard
15	Sat	1:00 PM	MdO		Living History: Pecho Ranch in 1919	Kathy Flock
15	Sat	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Saturday Scientists: Drawing Using a Microscope	Nancy Dickenson
16	Sun	10:00 AM	LO		Los Osos Oaks Reserve	Faylla Chapman
17	Mon	10:15 AM	MB	♻️	<b>Mind Walk</b> -Cactus of the Colorado Plateau	Rob Skillin
18	Tue	10:00 AM	MB	♻️	Birding the Boardwalk	Revel and Freitas
18	Tue	10:00 AM	LO		Magnificent Coastal Live Oaks	Petrea White
19	Wed	1:00 PM	MdO		Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove	Paul O'Connor
21	Fri	10:00 AM	MB	♻️	Birding the Boardwalk	Robbie/Bob Revel
21	Fri	2:00 PM	MdO		Explore the Tide Pools at Corallina Cove	Paul O'Connor
22	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Life of the Northern Elephant Seal	CDC Docents
22	Sat	3:00 PM	CDC		Exploring Tide Pool Communities	CDC Docents
22	Sat	3:00 PM	MB		Windy Cove Mud and Tide Pools	Faylla Chapman
23	Sun	10:00 AM	GB		Grand Dune Trail	Jerry Stanley
23	Sun	2:00 PM	MB	♻️	Discover Hidden Life in the Morro Bay Estuary	Karen Watts
24	Mon	10:15 AM	MB	♻️	<b>Mind Walk</b> -Central Coast Great White Sharks	Chris Lowe
27	Thu	1:00 PM	MdO		Eucalyptus - Beauty or Beast?	Faylla Chapman
29	Sat	9:00 AM	OF		History of the Oceano Dunes	Jan Ojerholm
29	Sat	10:00 AM	CDC	♻️	Life of the Northern Elephant Seal	CDC Docents

### Adventure Descriptions on reverse side

\***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

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Monarch Butterfly Grove:** The Monarch Butterflies are overwintering in the Monarch Butterfly Grove in Pismo Beach. The Monarch Butterfly Grove is 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 11 am and 2 pm.

**Western Monarch Day:** Join us on Sat, Feb 1 from 11 am - 2 pm as we celebrate the Monarch Butterfly. The event will include crafts and activities for all ages. Rain will cancel the event. Meet at the Pismo Monarch Grove, 1 mile south of Pismo Beach on Highway 1. Free event, parking is limited.

**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- *Fantastic Feathers: What Plumage Tells us about the Lives of Birds*. More info: call 805-772-2694.

**Mind Walk Series:** Every Monday morning from January to the end of March, a presentation of local interest is given at the Inn at Morro Bay from 10:15 to approximately 11:30. CCSPA members at Otter level and above are free, all others \$3. 1.5 hours.

**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 Adventures – Estero Bluffs:** Explore the habitats of Estero Bluffs to observe the variety of bird species in the area; habitats include grasslands, rocky outcroppings, shorelines, bay waters and open ocean. Bring binoculars, water, hat and sunscreen. Dress for wind/weather. On Hwy 1 north of Cayucos, meet and park 0.8 miles after road goes from 4 lanes to 2 lanes; parking lot is at the top of the hill after passing the windmill on ocean side of Hwy 1. Hike is 1.5 miles, 2 hours.

**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. 1-2 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.

**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 auditorium. 1 hour.

**Drawn to Nature:** Watch a "how to" demo on nature journaling--then try your hand at sketching either indoors or outdoors (weather dependent). Bring a pencil, eraser, sketchbook, and layered clothing. No experience required. Ages 7 and up. Meet at the Museum of Natural History, 20 State Park Rd., Morro Bay. 2 hours.

**Eucalyptus – Beauty or Beast?:** Love it or hate it? Can't decide? Walk through a grove in Montaña de Oro (MdO) and learn the history, biology, pros and cons, and uses of these trees. Then decide for yourself! Enjoy the drive with the light filtering through the groves, trees and bark, to meet at the Hazard Canyon parking lot, on west side, 1.6 miles from the MdO park entrance. Easy walk, 0.5 miles, 2 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.

**Exploring Tide Pool Communities:** Join biologists from Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to explore the amazing plant and animal communities that live on the rocks between tides. Learn how scientists study the intertidal and why. Wear water shoes or sandals, and dress in layers. **Meet at the Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Cove for the following field trips and presentations, free to the public. Call or text 805-801-0773 to reserve a space and leave a call-back number.**

**Grand Dune Trail:** Take a leisurely walk through the Pismo Dunes while learning about the dunes and habitats close to the ocean. Meet at entrance kiosk at the ocean end of Grand Avenue, Grover Beach. Free parking is available. Moderate walk, 2 miles, 2 hours

**History of the Oceano Dunes: Geology, History and People:** The Oceano Dunes have been used by people for thousands of years. Learn about dune formation, the Chumash, Spanish Explorers, early settlers and the Dunites. Drive south on Hwy 1 toward Guadalupe. After passing Trilogy turn right on Oso Flaco Road. Drive to the end and park in the parking lot. Parking passes will be provided. An easy, mostly wheelchair accessible, 2.5 mile round trip walk. 2 - 3 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.

**King Tides Explained:** King Tides, or the highest and lowest tides, occur from December through February each year as a result of Earth's closeness to the Moon and in conjunction with the Sun. Come observe a very high tide from the Museum of Natural History, hear the history of the term King Tides, learn how to read a tide calendar and find out what climate change will mean with these tides. Meet at the Museum of Natural History in Morro Bay and walk down to Windy Cove to observe the tide. The museum portion is ADA accessible. Dress for the weather. 1 hour.

**Life and Times on the Shore:** Observe life on the shore and in the tide pools of Morro Strand to North Point. Learn about seasonal changes of the beach. Bring binoculars; wear sturdy beach shoes, and layered clothing. Take Hwy 1 north to Yerba Buena exit; turn west to meet at Morro Strand State Beach entrance kiosk in North Morro Bay.

**Life of the Northern Elephant Seal:** Winter is the most exciting time of the year to view elephant seals at Piedras Blancas rookery where females give birth and males defend their territory. Learn about the amazing life of the northern elephant seal in an informative 45 minute presentation before visiting the seals at the main rookery with a docent from Friends of the Elephant Seal. **Meet at the Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Cove for the following field trips and presentations, free to the public. Call or text 805-801-0773 to reserve a space and leave a call-back number.**

**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.

**Magnificent Coastal Live Oaks:** Hike through coastal sage scrub to a pocket woodland of California Coastal Live Oaks. Experience beautiful vistas of the estuary and back bay while looking for seasonal wildflowers along the way. Chocolate Lilies? Meet at the Chumash Trail on Turri Road about 1/3 mile off South Bay Blvd. 2.5 miles, 2 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.

**Saturday Scientists- Drawing Using a Microscope:** Observe tiny creatures and learn to capture what you see in a nature journal. Training will be given in use of the microscopes. Appropriate for ages 7 and up. Morro Bay Museum of Natural History auditorium. 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 at a slow pace, 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.

**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.

## MIND WALKS – At the Inn at Morro Bay at 10:15

**Mind Walk – Bats of the Central Coast:** Bill Hass covers the number and types of bat species that occur on the Central Coast, bats and transmittable diseases, the importance of bats to agriculture and how to encourage them while keeping them at arm's length. Inn at Morro Bay 60 State Park road, Morro Bay. CCSPA members at the Otter level and above are free, all others \$3. 1.5 hours

**Mind Walk – Ignace Jan Paderewski on the Central Coast:** Marjorie Harmon and Melody Mullis give a brief overview of the life of Paderewski, focusing on the impacts of this pianist, performer, statesman and ambassador. His influence on agriculture and local legacy will be discussed. Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. CCSPA members at the Otter level and above are free, all others \$3. 1.5 hours

**Mind Walk – A Tour of the Cactus of the Colorado Plateau:** Rob Skillin will discuss two little-known genera of American cacti found on the Colorado Plateau: Pediocactus and Sclerocactus. Learn what these plants are, where they are found and their adaptations for survival. Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. CCSPA members at the Otter level and above are free, all others \$3. 1.5 hours.

**Mind Walk – Great White Sharks:** Chris Lowe will talk about the myths, misconceptions and realities of great white sharks off the Central and Southern California coasts. Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay. CCSPA members at Otter level and above are free, all others \$3. 1.5 hours.