

nature notes

VOLUME 12 · SUMMER 2022

CENTRAL COAST STATE PARKS ASSOCIATION



I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art that anybody could ever want to own.

- Andy Warhol



Executive Director Kristin Howland

I am having a little trouble accepting that summer is already here, especially since the only indications of spring arriving were the fierce winds and a sprinkling of wildflowers. The absence of rain fast forwarded us into the golden hills of summer on the Central Coast. A steady stream of tourism continues to flow into the beautiful Central Coast to appreciate the many offerings we have the opportunity to enjoy every day. With the absence of winter and spring as we once knew it and the influx of visitors, our land managers and ecologists have more challenges to face. In honor of the conservation efforts, habitat restoration research, and resource management, we wanted to highlight conservation in this issue.

In a former life, I was able to enjoy a multitude of varying tasks as a park ranger. In the “off-season” the tasks usually consisted of park maintenance. During the peak season we were very busy with visitor management. My favorite tasks included interpretation, line trimming, and planting native plants and trees to enhance the habitat and aesthetics of the park. I also loved trail work! Give me a polaski and a shovel and send me off into my happy space. It didn’t dawn on me until many years later how much each of these tasks played an important role in conservation of our public lands.

The connections we make as humans to our natural environment are imperative to the success rate of conservation. Telling the stories of conservation provides tangible reasons for supporting efforts both monetarily and behaviorally. The moment we know cause and effect and are provided with actionable items we can do to make a difference is the moment that change can be made.

I applaud and celebrate our biologists, ecologists, researchers, interpreters and the many other professions in the conservation world for their dedication to preserving our oceans, waterways, parks and open spaces, making us care and providing a space that our future generations can enjoy too.

Here’s to healthy habitats!

CCSPA is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit. We are one of 85 similar cooperating associations across the state who work in partnership with State Parks. Tax ID #: 51-0198869.

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QUICK FACT

950

Brush piles burned in Montaña de Oro State Park in 2022 (and counting!)

Join the CCSPA Team!

We're looking for volunteers and board members!

Use your skills and passions to help make a difference in your local State Parks.

Email your resume and cover letter to Kristin at ed@centralcoastparks.org

Visit our website for more info



centralcoastparks.org/volunteering-ccspa

Photo by Mike Barr



SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE GUITON TRAIL

The Guiton Trail is located at Oceano Campground and leads you through lush riparian habitat along the Oceano Lagoon. The trail is named after Harold Guiton, an Oceano local who recognized the importance of the area as a natural and recreational resource and has donated land to California State Parks. This popular trail is just over one mile long and provides excellent wildlife viewing opportunities and a chance to immerse yourself in native habitat.

The trail begins just beyond the Oceano Dunes District

Visitor Center where you will most likely spot Double-Crested Cormorants sitting high up in the Monterey cypress trees. Walking further on the trail, you will pass a few lagoon viewing areas which are often being occupied by people fishing or bird watching. Follow the trail as it curves through the native plant gardens where you can see Hummingbird sage, Black sage, Yerba buena, Sand verbena, Morro manzanita, Sticky monkey-flower, Fuchsia-flowered gooseberry, and more!

This is an easy trail suitable for all ages and is sure to provide you with a memo-

rable experience at Pismo State Beach. To make the most of your time on the trail, stop and read the educational panels and bring along a pair of binoculars to spot wildlife. Be sure to stop by the Visitor Center, open daily from noon to 4 pm, and share your wildlife sightings with us and take a stroll through the exhibits to learn more about the area. The Nature Store inside the Visitor Center has some fun souvenirs, and all proceeds go to the Central Coast State Parks Association to support educational programming at your favorite Central Coast State Parks. - Mallory Claassen

WESTERN MONARCH TRAIL PANEL INSTALL



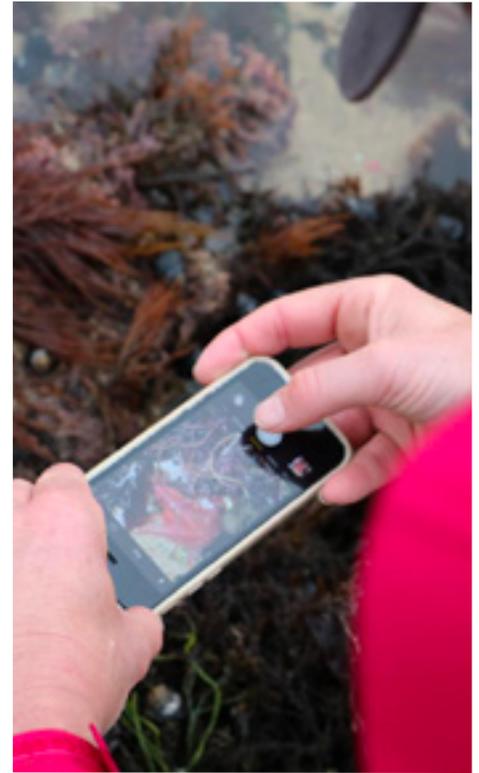
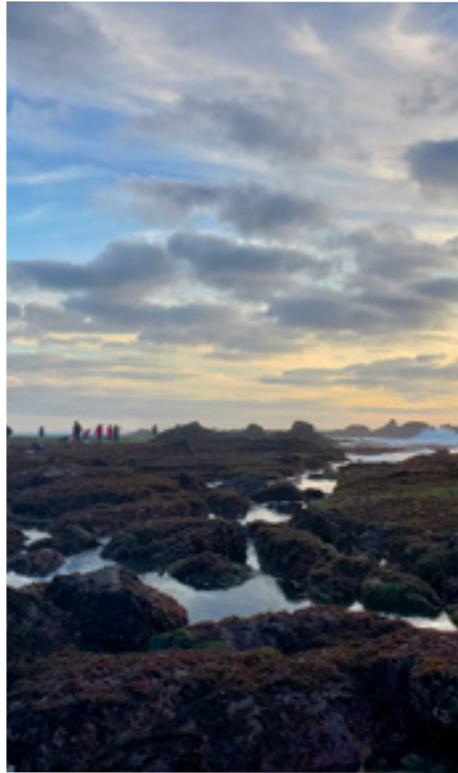
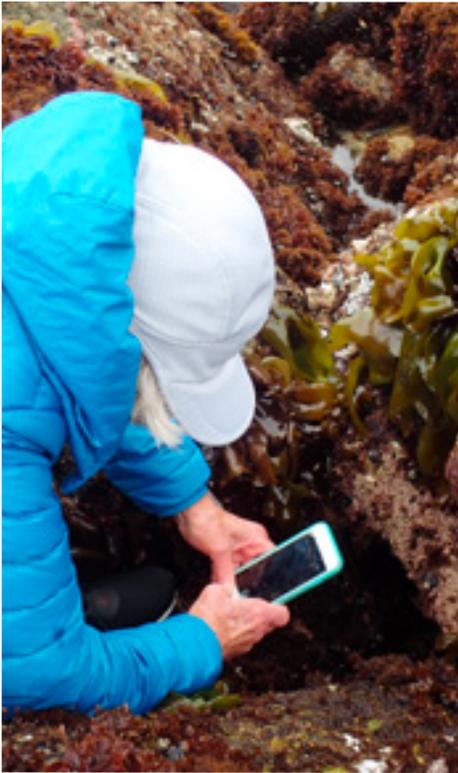
The first Western Monarch Trail panel has been installed! As of April 22nd, Earth Day, the Pismo State Beach Monarch Grove is now home to these vibrant educational panels. It was only May of last year when the Western Monarch Trail came to fruition, so it is truly incredible to see these panels installed already.

Two locations in Ventura County also recently joined the Western Monarch Trail: Hueneme Masonic Cemetery and Carpinteria Creek, thanks to the Ventura County Resource Conservation District. Panels for

four more Central Coast locations are all in the works and should be fabricated in the next year. We are also working on a series of children's panels to be placed in future locations.

Thank you to the Xerces Society for providing grant funding for these panels and those coming to other local State Parks. Thank you to Wildways Illustrated, Inc. for bringing our ideas to life, and thank you to all the scientists, researchers, and educators we have collaborated with to create consistent and accurate messaging to conserve the western monarch. Here's to spreading our wings!

For more info about the Western Monarch Trail project, please visit: www.westernmonarchtrail.com



CAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES' SNAPSHOT: CALCOAST



Over the last decade, the Community Science team at the California Academy of Sciences has been developing a community of naturalists – scientists and non-scientists alike – working together to document biodiversity, connecting people to their local nature and simultaneously collecting data critical to science and management. A number of ongoing Academy community science initiatives focus on California's coastal ecosystems. These include Snapshot Cal Coast – an annual California statewide effort to document our coastal biodiversity – as well as more frequent but more spatially limited community bioblitzes and intertidal monitoring in the San Francisco Bay Area.

In its seventh year, Snapshot Cal Coast is a community campaign that encourages and provides opportunities for people to make and share observations of plants, animals, and seaweeds along the California coast using the iNaturalist app. We work with partners like California State Parks to hold a series of coastal bioblitzes over two weeks every summer. We focus on intertidal zones inside and outside California State Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), but we are also interested in data from any coastal-influenced habitat along the California coast, including sandy beaches, bays, wetlands, coastal bluffs and prairies, and docks. Snapshot Cal Coast is led by the California Academy of Sciences, funded by the California Ocean Protection Council, with support from the California Marine Protected Area Collaborative Network and many, many other partners, including California State Parks. Together we are creating a snapshot in time of where species are located along our coast. This year, Snapshot Cal Coast is June 13th-July 4th, 2022.

From Del Norte to San Diego and everywhere in between, we work together to build an annual snapshot of biodiversity along the California coast that is useful for scientists at local, regional, and state levels. At the same time, we are building a community of observers and recorders interested in documenting California coastal biodiversity and helping to answer research questions in support of California ocean protection. We support partners so they can hold events that work best for them. For some, that means taking a small group of docents or summer campers out to make observations during one low tide, and for others that means organizing a larger public event. Together, we are gathering the data needed to determine species ranges now against which we can measure and monitor changes in the future. It's a snap to participate in Snapshot Cal Coast 2022:

- Download the iNaturalist app for iPhone or Android
- Create an account to start making observations
- Contact Rebecca Johnson at rjohnson@calacademy.org if you are interested in learning more about organizing an event or a team.
- Follow the Snapshot Cal Coast 2022 project on iNaturalist.
- Head to the coast on your own or with a group between June 13th-July 4th! Make and share observations of plants and animals you see, especially species on our most-wanted list and in California State Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). Check out NOAA's tide table to find times for low tides near you
- Spread the word! Use our hashtag on social media #SnapshotCalCoast.

- Rebecca Johnson, Cal Academy of Sciences



'ADVENTURES WITH NATURE' RETURNS TO CENTRAL COAST

Stepping into nature with a passionate interpretive guide can make all the difference. A tiny flower, often overlooked, can become the star of the show. A common creature that you may not give a second thought to might steal your heart. The rocky shoreline that you have strolled by many times can take on a whole new meaning when viewed through the lens of a geologist. Surrounded by curious people and an enthusiastic guide, you will be delighted to find yourself looking at sights with fresh eyes.

After pausing in-person programs due the pandemic, CCS-PA and California State Parks are thrilled to announce that Adventures with Nature have resumed offering free, in-person guided interpretive experiences for the public. These programs are open to all ages and are led by State Park Interpreters, Historians, Archaeologists, Environmental Scientists, Rangers, and Volunteers.

Programs are offered year-round and highlight the species, stories, and places that make the Central Coast an outdoor enthusiasts' paradise. Experiences may include: a stroll through the dappled sunlight of the Los Osos Oaks State Nature Reserve; breathe in the salty air on the wind-swept Estero Bluffs State Park as you explore geological land formations that are thousands of years old; discover hidden worlds in the tide pools of Montaña de Oro State Park; look and listen for rare birds at Oso Flaco Lake in the Oceano



Dunes SVRA; and explore the shoreline with sand in your shoes and smiles on your faces at Pismo State Beach.

Adventures with Nature are perfect for lifelong learners as they are exploratory in nature, revolving around cultural and natural resources in the State Parks of San Luis Obispo County. For more information and to view the upcoming events calendar, visit www.centralcoastparks.org/awn.



CCSPA has many facets, but our strongest outreach hubs are our five nature stores. With tens of thousands of visitors annually, it is critical that we sell merchandise in line with our mission to promote public awareness and stewardship of our natural resources and cultural heritage. Over time, we have collaborated with countless businesses, artists, crafters, and interpreters to create products that are educational and sustainable. The goal: interpre-merchandising. A CCSPA-coined term, "interpre-merchandising" combines interpretation and merchandise to focus our products on relevant and informative aspects of

our biodiverse Central Coast. A successful example of this is our partnership with business Drawn to Ecology and artist Alyssa Black. Through Alyssa's creative talent, State Park collaboration, and CCSPA, the "Biodiversity" line was born. This collection of decals, bumper stickers, t-shirts, and reusable water bottles and tumblers all highlight the critical message of protecting some of our most unique local species: western monarch, blue band hermit crab, ochre sea star, harbor seal, Pismo clam and more. The line blends interpretive messaging with artistic flare, resulting in souvenirs completely unique from anything sold in the past.

It is important to us at CCSPA to make sure that all State Park visitors, whether tourists or locals, can leave our parks with merchandise that has true meaning. Other interpre-merchandising partnerships we have forged are with businesses like Mama Ganache Chocolates, Zooflipz Flip Books, McGovern Outdoor, and local artists Derek Schultz, Will Barkhuff, Aleks Petrovitch, Sama Whare, and countless others. We are growing our interpre-merchandise all the time and look forward to future partnerships. Be sure to check out our nature stores frequently to pick up your unique piece of interpre-merchandise today!

MANAGING EUCALYPTUS AT MONTAÑA DE ORO STATE PARK

Eucalyptus was introduced in Montaña de Oro State Park around 1895 by Alexander Hazard as part of a Timber Culture Patent from the U.S. government. The trees have since spread widely from the original plantations and have invaded dune, scrub, chaparral, and riparian habitat of many native and sensitive species, including overtaking available habitat for the federally listed Morro manzanita and Morro shoulderband snail.

While the forest may look healthy to a passer-by, a closer inspection reveals vast numbers of dead and dying trees.

As the trees matured, they have become highly vulnerable to environmental stressors. Today, the eucalyptus forest at Montaña de Oro appears to be in imminent decline. Though long-lived in native Australian habitat, these trees are unsuited to sandy substrate, freezes, and drought, and have become infested by pests and pathogens. This eucalyptus forest is impacted by long horned boring beetles, leaf beetles, cankers, and devastating termite infestations that devour heart wood.

Climate change and catastrophic wildfire threaten this unhealthy forest. The deadliest, costliest, and largest fires in the state's history have all happened in the last few years. California Legislation of 2021 empowered groundbreaking fuels management and, with it, the reinvigoration of the State Parks' ecological mandate.

Following this state action, the San Luis Obispo Coast District (SLO Coast) worked hard to build an active forestry and fire management program. The District Forestry Program consists of 11 dedicated crew members working tirelessly to accomplish habitat restoration and fuel reduction goals throughout SLO Coast. Their work helps reduce fire danger to natural, cultural, and historical resources and the neighboring communities.

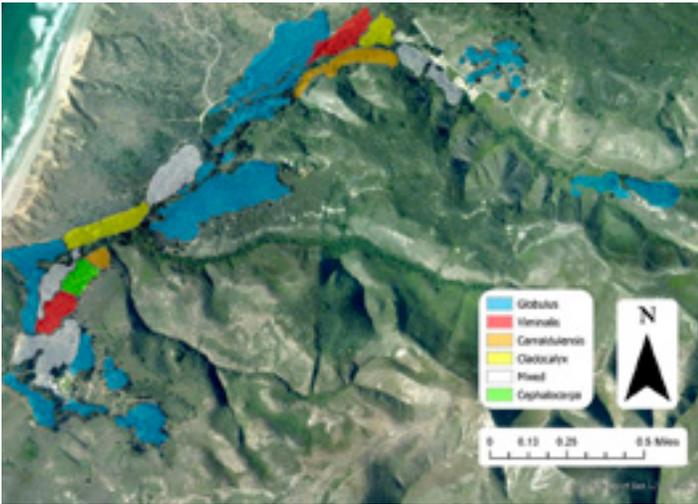
The crew consists of highly trained and educated individuals with a variety of college degrees, including M.S. degrees in forestry and certifications in fire and arboriculture (burn boss, firing boss, engine boss, squad boss, firefighter, ISA certified arborist). Many crew members are also trained and experienced resource advisors, participating across the state in on-the-ground wildfire response with the goal of preventing unnecessary damage to State Parks.

SLO Coast manages several park units, but our work in the eucalyptus forest of Montaña de Oro serves as a great example of forestry, fuels, and fire work. The eucalyptus out-compete federally listed flora and fauna, displace habitat for other sensitive species, and change the local habitat types. SLO Coast is working hard to manage fuels and restore rare native habitat in Montaña de Oro.

Monarch overwintering sites are located within the eucalyptus forest. The goal when working around monarch habitat is to reduce the fuels so that when a wildfire occurs, the trees themselves will not be destroyed. We have observed monarch sites destroyed or set back from wildfires in other parts of the State including a site in San Simeon when a 1989-1990 wildfire occurred. Prior to that fire, over 10,000 butterflies were previously found at that site. By reducing downed and dead fuels, we hope to allow wildfires to pass through the groves with lower intensity, leaving the trees

Cont'd next page >





Eucalyptus varieties within Montaña de Oro State Park as mapped by master's thesis writer Spencer Gordon.

alive. Burn operations include researchers from the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History who are discovering more about smoke flies. Smoke flies are barely visible flies that are attracted to smoke and are poorly studied. Researchers have already recently discovered new species in North America and are currently sampling smoke flies during our burn operations.

Implementation of this management requires funding, personnel, support from management and the public, endangered species permitting, smoke dispersal management, cooperative weather conditions, and fire management agency approvals. In addition to numerous permits and permissions, the fire crew must conform to industry standards and certifications. Each crew member receives extensive formalized training following the California Incident Management and Certification System and the standards established by the National Wildland Fire Coordinating Group. Training is followed by experience that is documented in task books, and successful performance leads to certification at the given



Cores of diseased trees: dry rot (left), canker, and termite excavation.



Morro shouldberband snail, smoke fly and the recently discovered Morro 10-lined june beetle (photos courtesy of Brian Brown / LAMNH)

level of expertise. This regimented development is to ensure safe and competent performance of high-risk operations with major repercussions.

Burning in eucalyptus is a challenge, as this is one of the most flammable vegetation types in the state, and it's located adjacent to the community of Los Osos. We have burned under five different eucalyptus species, as well as in mixed forests, requiring different techniques to suit the characteristics of the tree.

Several goals are met as we manage the eucalyptus: decreased hazardous fuel accumulation, protection of monarch habitat, and removal of eucalyptus duff layer which prevents establishment of native habitat. In 2022, these efforts have resulted in the burning of 950 brush piles, 15 acres of understory duff, and restoration of these areas with native habitat including installation of federally listed Morro manzanita. - Mike Walgren and Kevin Hurt, Environmental Scientists



SPOTLIGHT ON PARK STAFF: JOHN SAYERS, ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST FOR THE SLO COAST DISTRICT

Tell us a little about yourself and your background.

I grew up in Southern California, where my father was a Geotechnical Engineer involved in the housing development industry. I would tag along when I could and eventually ended up working for him as a certified nuclear technician testing the physical properties of the soils and ensuring the developments followed the engineering guidelines. Exploring the wild places before, during and after the land was developed gave me a better appreciation for the undeveloped lands and all the wildlife that lives there. Often, I could be found chasing after coachwhips, rattlesnakes, king snakes, gopher snakes, etc. on the side of the projects. I would do this work off and on from the time I was about 10 years old earning extra cash on weekends cleaning up the office and lab, to my time in college helping to pay for school. My love of the outdoors comes from my time spent around these massive developments as well as from our frequent camping trips and my time spent in Scouting where I achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

After high school I earned a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies Urban Policy and Planning from UC Santa Cruz. I briefly worked for the City of Santa Cruz Future Planning Department before moving to Bend, Oregon, where I worked at Mt. Bachelor in the winter and spent summers as a wildland firefighter on a private engine crew. I returned to California and attended Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, earning a second degree in Horticultural Science with an emphasis in native plant production. After Cal Poly, I worked at two native plant nurseries in the

Santa Cruz area supervising production at one and managing the second as well as being a certified arborist.

I returned to San Luis Obispo around 2000 to start a nursery of my own which grew plants for local restoration projects with clients such as the Land Conservancy of SLO and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program. After three years of running the nursery mostly solo, I decided to sell the business and pursue other goals. When I started to look for work again, I applied for a job at State Parks as a Resource Ecologist but did not get the position. However, I was offered a job monitoring western snowy plovers along the beaches, and did that job for two seasons at the SLO Coast District under the supervision of Regena Orr before I was hired full time in November 2006 as an Environmental Scientist and have been here ever since.

When I am not working, I enjoy gardening, surfing, fishing and exploring the outdoors with my daughter and my dog.

What are some of your current projects?

I often get asked what a typical day looks like for me and what projects I am working on. There is no typical day for me. Much of my time is spent planning and implementing non-native weed control projects throughout the District, primarily these days in Morro Bay and Montaña de Oro State Parks. Throughout my education and career, I have been involved with the California Native Plant Society, California Native Grasslands Association, California Weed Science Society and California Invasive Plant Council. Because



Wild spinach removal in Montaña de Oro





Releasing a rattlesnake in Morro Bay



Searching for weeds in the canyons

of my background in weed management, I also coordinate with the County of San Luis Obispo's Weed Management Area on behalf of the District on early detection, rapid response and coordinated removal and mapping efforts. Some of our bigger control efforts are New Zealand spinach on the Bluff Trail in Montaña de Oro and iceplant on the Natural Preserve in Montaña de Oro, with smaller isolated weeds being managed throughout the District when they are detected.

I help to manage the greenhouse operations for collecting and growing select native plants for our restoration projects. I was appointed the Tree Hazard Inspector for the District which includes the duties of surveying all trees in proximity of facilities and other targets to determine if they need pruning or removal. I am a trained wildland firefighter and currently assist the program when needed on prescribed fires. I am also trained as a Resource Advisor and can respond to wildfires statewide to help document damages, recommend repairs, and protect park infrastructure as well as sensitive sites.

Smaller but no less important duties include working with the California Fish Passage Forum and with Cal Poly SLO PERL on rattlesnake and other herp studies within the parks. I assist with rare, threatened, and endangered species monitoring including western snowy plover, red-legged frog, south central coast steelhead, tidewater goby, rare plants and nesting birds when needed and under the appropriate local, State and Federal permits. I assist with permitting and CEQA compliance and attend other meetings on behalf of the resources program when needed.

What has been your favorite part of being an environmental scientist?

My favorite part of my job is being able to protect and enhance the world around me. I love being outdoors and working with people that want to make the world a better place. I love educating the public about what we are doing and why it is important to save these special places for all to enjoy.

What's the coolest thing you've done on the job?

I don't have one favorite thing. There are so many great memories I've made here working for the SLO Coast District. The prescribed and wildland fires are always arduous but memorable. Wading through our local creeks and lagoons looking for native fish is high on the list, as is surveying for red-legged frogs and removing non-native bull frogs. Assisting with nighttime bat surveys at Hearst Castle is super fun. Climbing Morro Rock to help with solstice pre-climbs and emergency services trainings and driving our UTV on the sandspit are near the top of the list.

But the one that sticks out the most in my mind over the years was helping to preserve and later clean the juvenile minke whale that died on the sandspit. We covered it with wire fencing to ensure scavengers would not scatter the bones, checked on it for two years, and eventually cut apart the rotting flesh and hauled all the stinking bones back. Nick-named the "Stinky Minke", we had to throw out our clothing after and several people almost threw up, but the whale was eventually cleaned and re-assembled for display at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History. If I can ever find a rubber boa in the park that might top it, but for now the minke tops the list.

If you had one message for visitors to our Central Coast State Parks, what would it be?

Please be respectful of all the work we do to protect and enhance the park. That includes closing trails and putting up signs to notify people of what is and what is not allowed. We cannot possibly put up a sign everywhere and for every possible scenario. The park lands were set aside not just for people to use, but also as a place for wildlife to thrive and in some cases barely hold on. One person walking off trail or one dog loose in the park is not the problem, it's the continued use and loving it to death that multiplies the damage and disturbance. With ever increasing visitor use, impacts to wildlife will increase if people continue to be selfish. Please respect wildlife at a distance, leave only footprints, take only pictures, etc. It's up to everyone to be a steward of the land and protect these places. - Interview by Monica Rutherford

'WORLD WAR II AND THE CENTRAL COAST' EXHIBITION



The Morro Bay State Park Museum of Natural History's latest exhibit, *WWII and the Central Coast* examines the impact of World War II locally. This exhibition, sponsored by CCSPA, launched in April and will remain on display through summer.

World War II was a global event that impacted the Central Coast in myriad ways—from the influx of soldiers who trained at Camp San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay, to the expulsion of residents of Japanese descent from their coastal homes, to the gripping fear of a potential attack on the coast that initiated coastal “black outs.” The new museum exhibition created by State Parks staff explores this history through exhibit panels, audio recordings, and tactile displays that engage visitors in the experience of WWII along the Central Coast, especially in our local State Parks: Mon-

taña de Oro State Park, Morro Bay State Park, Morro Strand State Beach, Estero Bluffs State Park, and Harmony Headlands State Park. Through examining the events of WWII that took place here, this exhibition endeavors to broaden historical perspectives and bring to light some of the lesser-known stories of this period of local and international turmoil.

We celebrated the exhibit launch on April 27th, where presenters Stuart McDowell (author, *The Sinking of the SS Montebello*) and Cal Poly History lecturer Dr. Margaret Bodemer provided engaging accounts of local historical events and thought-provoking examinations of the diverse experiences of war. Make sure to view this incredible, informative exhibit now through summer at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, open daily from 10 am to 5 pm.

PIONEER WOMEN TRAVELING EXHIBIT STARTS JUNE 5

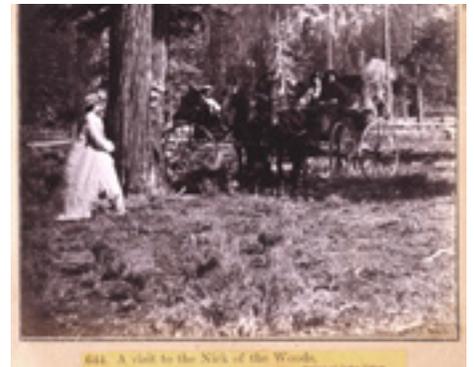
The Spooner Ranch House at Montaña de Oro State Park will host a brand new traveling exhibit beginning June 5th! *Her Side of the Story: Tales of California Pioneer Women*, an exhibition by Exhibit Envoy, will discuss the hardships, joys, and lives of female pioneers by highlighting first-person stories from the women who traveled by land or sea to settle in California prior to 1854.

In 1900, The Association of Pioneer Women of California formed and collected the reminiscences of women who arrived in California before 1854 in a single ledger. This document, filled with over 800 handwritten stories of California pioneer women, is the basis for this exhibition. While many historical accounts of nineteenth-century California highlight homesteaders and gold rush miners, these stories are often male-dominated and don't provide

a complete picture of life in the West. Together, this ledger and exhibition create a more complete and balanced understanding of the history of early California statehood by highlighting the voices of women who traveled to California during the mid-nineteenth century.

The ledger, however, does not represent all the women who came to California, as so many of them did not leave written records behind. As such, an important section of the exhibit consists of forty diverse portraits of unidentified women. These women represent the thousands of pioneers whose stories were lost to time and never recorded.

The exhibit will be on display through October 9, 2022. The Spooner Ranch House is open daily from 10 am - 4 pm.



CCSPA Store Locations:



Morro Bay Museum of Natural History
10 am-5 pm daily

Monarch Trailer at Pismo Butterfly Grove
11 am-4 pm M-F
10 am-4 pm S/S



Spooner Ranch House at Montaña de Oro
10 am-4 pm daily

Oceano Dunes Visitor Center
12 pm-4 pm daily



CCSPA Office in San Luis Obispo
9 am-4 pm M-F

And online: ccspa-store.square.site

take your mind for a walk!



Virtual Mind Walks Lecture Series

Join California State Parks and the Central Coast State Parks Association for **Virtual Mind Walks**! These free online presentations focus on recreational, natural, and cultural history topics as they relate to the Central Coast.

Join us on the first and third Friday of every month for a live lecture via Zoom with a subject matter expert. For the presentation schedule, an archive of past lectures, and to pre-register for upcoming lectures, visit the Mind Walks page on CCSPA's website.

centralcoastparks.org/mind-walks

The Mind Walks Program is underwritten by the Thomas E. and Mary Kathryn Eltzroth fund and supported by the Central Coast State Parks Association.



THE THIRD ANNUAL

Butterfly Ball

Fine dining by Trumpet Vine Catering, performances by the SLO Civic Ballet and the Mariposa Quartet, silent auction, and informative programming all in support of conserving monarch habitat in our local State Parks
Tickets on sale July 8 at centralcoastparks.org



SEPTEMBER 10, 2022
The Octagon Barn in San Luis Obispo



Central Coast State Parks Association
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 San Luis Obispo, Ca 93401
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 www.centralcoastparks.org

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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!

Any amount you donate 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. Choose a program to support:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> School group transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Mind Walks Lecture Series |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guided Interpretive Experiences | <input type="checkbox"/> Morro Bay Museum of Natural History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Western Monarch Butterfly Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing education for interpreters & volunteers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Outreach Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Area of greatest need |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural and Living History | |

Visit centralcoastparks.org/support for more details on each program.

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

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

Total enclosed: \$_____

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