



# News Release

**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact: Samantha Gordon**

Email: Samantha.coddington-gordon@parks.ca.gov

Phone: (707) 961-0471

## **Mendocino Coast Whale Festival –California State Parks-March 2016**

**MacKerricher State Park**, Located three miles North of Fort Bragg on Highway 1, is an ideal location for watching the gray whale migration. The park has a wheel chair accessible boardwalk allowing access to the headlands of Laguna point with stunning views of the coastline.

The 2016 Whale Festival is a 'must attend' event on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Events are free and all ages are welcome. Events are listed below. For additional information or questions contact (707)961-0471 or visit [www.mendoparks.org](http://www.mendoparks.org).

**Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. Lecture to take place in the Veterans' Memorial Building located at 360 North Harrison St., Fort Bragg.**

**Join us for this exciting lecture presented by biologist and UC Berkeley lecturer Julie Woodruff.**

Julie Woodruff Ph.D. presents a discussion and slide show about the social behavior of the whales that inhabit our coast line. Julie is an educator and researcher whose travels have taken her from Patagonia to Canada. Come join us and learn about whale socialization and examine why we feel so connected to these magnificent marine mammals.

**Saturday and Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m.**

### **Whale Walks**

Docents and State Parks' Staff lead informative guided whale walks. The program will start at the visitor center and whale skeleton for discussion before driving to Laguna Point for whale watching. Binoculars and spotting scope are provided.

**Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

**Family event includes arts and crafts, games and educational activities.**

Learn all about gray whales in this interactive learning event. Visit our education stations to collect information and tokens so you can build your very own badge of knowledge. Play games, make art, listen to music and enjoy a free hot dog lunch (donations accepted).



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**Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

**Help preserve our whale skeleton.**

Come to MacKerricher State Park Visitor Center to help paint and preserve our whale skeleton. Every year a fresh coat of paint is applied to our famous gray whale skeleton to help protect it from the elements. Bring a paint brush and wear your painting clothes.

\*Note – rain or fog will cancel\*

