

DECEMBER 2010 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Thursday, December 2, 2010

8:00 a.m. Hike – Lute Fault

5 Hours

Earthquake geology, local history and desert plant life will be the focus of this hike. Meet Volunteer Naturalists Ted Caragozian, Mary Ekelund, and Paul Larson at the call box across from Thimble Trail on S-22. Bring water and sturdy shoes for this 2-3 mile round trip hike on uneven ground.

Friday, December 3, 2010

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Class – Tracking Desert Animals

2 Hours

Meet at the Visitor Center Discovery Lab. See following page for details.



Saturday, December 4, 2010

7:30 a.m. Walk ♿ - Beginner's Bird Walk

1.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.



7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Outdoor Class - Tracking Desert Animals

6.5 Hours

Meet at the Visitor Center flag pole. See the following page for details.

8:00 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 Hours

Volunteer Naturalist Mike Bigelow will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for him in his volunteer vest as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

UNLESS NOTED, ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND HELD AT THE VISITOR CENTER (OPEN THURSDAY THROUGH MONDAY, 9-5). **DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON TRAILS OR TOURS.**

♿ DENOTES PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED. PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATION, (760) 767-4205.

DECEMBER 2010 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



TRACKING DESERT ANIMALS – A BEGINNING

Friday, December 3, 2010 – Discovery Lab, Visitor Center
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – Class (all welcome)
and

Saturday, December 4, 2010 – nearby ABDSP location
meet at the flagpole in the Visitor Center parking lot.
7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Outdoor Class (“Dirt Time”)
maximum 16 participants

Learn to read the exciting stories written on our desert sand and help to protect our critical wildlife habitat. Experienced tracker/naturalists from the Anza-Borrego Tracking Team will provide a lively evening indoor session, followed by a hands-on outdoor application of what we’ve learned.

Completion lets you participate in tracking transects across San Diego County, and we hope you’ll sign up for at least on wildlife survey transect.

For Saturday’s outdoor session, bring water, hat, sun block, sensible footwear AND pants that let you kneel and get up-close-and-personal with tracks in the sand!

For further information, and to register for Saturday’s session email karinvickars@hotmail.com or phone 619-246-449

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DECEMBER 2010 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, December 4, 2010 (cont.)

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. - \$\$ - Mud Caves and Slot Canyons of ABDSP (South)

Instructor: Paul Johnson

Fee: \$45/\$35 for ABF Members.

Explore several different types of canyons and mud caves in Anza-Borrego's remote south end. There will be 4 or 5 short walks (under ½ mile each) over rough terrain and in dark caves—bring a flashlight for each person! Bring lunch, plenty of water, and a full tank of gas; high clearance 4WD required. Level 2 hiking (moderate). Call 760-767-4063 for details and registration.

10:00 a.m. Talk ♿ - In Search of the Elusive Elephant Tree

30 Minutes

The seldom seen, endangered elephant tree survives in only a few scattered and isolated spots in California. Join Volunteer Naturalist Karen Cormier at the Visitor Center to find out how to identify these distinctive trees, hear why Native Americans valued the trees, and discover where you can look for elephant tree herds “in the wild”.

11:00 a.m. - ♿ - Junior Rangers

45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

2:00 p.m. Walk ♿ - Hardy Desert Survivors

1 Hour

Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker as she introduces you to some unique and amazing hardy desert survivors in the garden, the desert plants. This is an easy walk around the visitor center garden. . If the weather is too bad or hot, Abby will do a power point program in the Discovery Lab.

7:30 p.m. – Campfire ♿ - Ranger Encounters!

1 Hour

Join Ranger Don Strampfer to explore the multitude of remarkable experiences a Ranger might encounter while patrolling Anza-Borrego Desert State Park's great expanses! Meet at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center Campfire Center. P.S. Campfire songs are always a possibility.

7:30 p.m. Lecture ♿ - \$\$ - Journey to Mongolia

Instructor: Phil Roullard

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

Join us for a captivating photographic journey that will reveal Mongolia's fascinating culture, beautiful landscapes and intriguing wildlife at Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center.

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Sunday, December 5, 2010

9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Hike - \$\$ - Clark Lake Petroglyphs

Instructor: Chuck Bennett

Fee: \$35/\$25 for ABF Members

Wear comfortable hiking shoes for this moderate 3-mile hike (Level 2, moderate) to early Cahuilla petroglyphs with a member of the Colorado Desert Archaeology Society. Bring water and a snack. 4WD recommended, high clearance required. Call 760-767-4063 for details and registration.

1:00 p.m. Talk ♿ - "Song Dog" ... The Wiley Coyote

45 Minutes

Have you heard them at night? Have you seen them...even during the day? Coyotes are increasing their range and increasing their numbers, and they're right here in Anza-Borrego and in town too.

Join Volunteer Naturalist Thad McManus as we explore the myths and realities of our desert neighbor.

12:00 p.m. Hike – Discovering the Archaeological History of the Morteros

2 Hours

Discover the hidden secrets of an ancient Native American village site. Join Volunteer Archaeologist and Naturalist Sam Webb to explore both rock art and historic milling features. This 1.5 mile hike is over uneven terrain. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Morteros trailhead in Blair Valley, 3 miles off Highway S-2.

Friday, December 10, 2010

9:00 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 Hours

Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for her as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.

Saturday, December 11, 2010

9:00 a.m. Hike – Climb the Mountain

1.5 Hours

Meeting at the Visitor Center, we will walk across the desert and up the Panoramic Overlook Trail for good views of Borrego Springs, the surrounding valley, and Font's Point. Join Volunteer Naturalist Jan Bigelow for this short steep walk. Total walk is about a mile and a half.

11:00 a.m. - ♿ - Junior Rangers

45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the visitor center as space is limited.

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DECEMBER 2010 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, December 11, 2010 (cont.)

1:00 p.m. Garden Walk - Small World

1 Hour

Everyone is impressed with the vast dimensions and stunning vistas of Anza Borrego Desert State Park. The desert is equally impressive on a micro-scale. Stretch your perspective and explore the natural history of the park up close and personal with Volunteer Naturalist Daniel Hellyer for a 1 hour easy walk. Meet at the Visitor Center.

1:00 p.m. -9:00p.m. - \$\$ - Lecture Introduction to Desert Stargazing

Instructor: Dennis Mammana

Fee: \$45/\$35 for ABF Members

Sights that boggle the mind are visible in the clear, dark desert skies. This full-day workshop is designed for beginning stargazers interested in exploring the enjoyable and mind-expanding hobby of amateur astronomy. Evening hours will provide opportunity to practice navigating the night sky and to view some of its wonders through a large telescope. Call 760-767-4063 for details and registration.

7:30 p.m. – Campfire - - Armchair Tour of the Borrego Badlands

1 Hour

Join Ranger Jennifer Rodriguez as she takes you on a campfire tour of those out-of-the-way places in the beautiful badlands. A great way to see them without a four-wheel drive! Meet at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.

Sunday, December 12, 2010

9:00 a.m. Hike – Box Canyon and Mormon Battalion of 1847

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Jan and Mike Bigelow in Box Canyon near Blair Valley for a 3-mile hike through an area that is packed with stories about the Mormon Battalion, the Butterfield Stage Line, and the Southern Immigrant trail. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Meet at Mile Marker 26.3 on S-2. Parking is available on the left side of the highway.

10:00 a.m. Talk - The View from the “Bridge”

1 Hour

Join Volunteer Naturalist Karen Cormier on the “Bridge” above the entrance to the Visitor Center for an introduction to Anza Borrego Desert State Park and an overview of some of the park’s diverse natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources. View the desert landscape and observe many well-known landmarks, directions to take for drives or hikes, and become familiar with some native plants growing in the garden, and perhaps glimpse some desert wildlife.

1:00 p.m. Walk Desert Scents

1 Hour

Follow your nose and discover the natural wonders of the desert environment. Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker on this easy walk around the Visitor Center Garden.

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DECEMBER 2010 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Monday, December 13, 2010

10:00 a.m. Talk ♿ - Botany Society – Desert Landscaping

1 Hour

ABDSP Botany Society's General Meeting is open to the public and will feature a talk by Mr. Burch Baldwin, a well known local landscape artist. Mr. Baldwin has created some of the most beautiful residential and commercial gardens in Borrego Springs. He will discuss landscaping, design, gardening, and especially his desire to discourage the use of invasive garden plants such as oleander and pampas grass. He delights in questions from his audiences.

Thursday, December 16, 2010

9:00 a.m. Hike – Mountain Palm Springs

5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund for a moderate to strenuous 5-mile loop hike through several palm groves and Torote Bowl at the southern end of the park. Bring water, lunch, binoculars, hat, sunscreen and sturdy footwear. Meet at the entrance to Mountain Palm Springs on Highway S-2 at mile post 47.1.

10:00 a.m. Walk ♿ - Desert Scents

1 Hour

Enjoy an easy stroll through the visitor center garden with Volunteer Naturalist Ingrid Coffin. Use your senses on this plant exploration program that meets at the visitor center entrance.

Saturday December 18, 2010

7:30 a.m. Walk ♿ - Beginner's Bird Walk

1.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.

11:00 a.m. - ♿ - Junior Rangers

45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

12:00 p.m. Hike – Discovering the Archaeological History of the Morteros

2 Hours

Discover the hidden secrets of an ancient Native American village site. Join Volunteer Archaeologist and Naturalist Sam Webb to explore both rock art and historic milling features. This 1.5 mile hike is over uneven terrain. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Morteros trailhead in Blair Valley, 3 miles off Highway S-2.

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DECEMBER 2010 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday December 18, 2010 (cont.)

2:00 p.m. Walk - Desert Drug Store

45 Minutes

Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker to discover the Native American drugstore, the creosote bush. This is an easy walk around the visitor center garden. If the weather is too bad or hot, Abby will do a power point program in the Discovery Lab.



3:00 p.m. Sunset/Moonlight Hike

4 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Ted Caragozian and Paul Larson for a badlands hike to enjoy the sunset over the mountains and a great view over some of our badlands. Return under the nearly full moon to get a different perspective of the desert. Bring warm clothes and a flashlight (to be used only if necessary). Limited to 15 participants – please sign up at the Visitor Center and include your phone number to receive meeting details.

7:00 p.m. -9:00p.m. - \$\$ - Shadow On The Moon (Desert Skies Outdoor Lecture)

Instructor: Dennis Mammana

Suggested Donation: \$5.00

On the evening of December 21, Southern Californians will be treated to a spectacular total eclipse of the moon. Learn how eclipses work, how they've influenced history, and how you can view and photograph this stirring celestial event like a pro, followed by telescope viewing of the desert sky (weather permitting). Please dress warmly and bring a blanket on which to sit. While it isn't necessary, feel free to bring binoculars and a flashlight with red covering to protect night vision. No registration required.

7:30 p.m. - Campfire Ranger Surprise

1 Hour

Join Ranger Brittany Veator at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center for an evening campfire program.

Sunday, December 19, 2010

11:00 a.m. Talk - "Song Dog" ... The Wiley Coyote

45 Minutes

Have you heard them at night? Have you seen them...even during the day? Coyotes are increasing their range and increasing their numbers, and they're right here in Anza-Borrego and in town too. Join Volunteer Naturalist Thad McManus as we explore the myths and realities of our desert neighbor.

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Thursday, December 23, 2010

9:00 a.m. Hike – Squeeze through the Slot

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson on a moderate 3-mile round trip hike through a winding slot canyon with rugged walls, overhanging rocks, and some surprising wild flowers. You will have to negotiate some tight squeezes and a short climb up a very steep hill. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at Buttes Pass Road, 1.5 miles east of Borrego Springs Road on Highway 78.

Friday, December 24, 2010

11:00 a.m. Walk-♿ Desert Scents

1 Hour

Follow your nose and discover the natural wonders of the desert environment. Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker on this easy walk around the Visitor Center Garden.

Saturday, December 25, 2010

11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ - Hardy Desert Survivors

1 Hour

Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker as she introduces you to some unique and amazing hardy desert survivors in the garden, the desert plants. This is an easy walk around the visitor center garden. . If the weather is too bad or hot, Abby will do a power point program in the Discovery Lab.

Sunday, December 26, 2010

8:00 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 Hours

Volunteer Naturalist Joe Hopkins will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for him as you hike to the palm oasis. As an experienced naturalist, he can answer many of your questions about the park. If bighorn are about, he is sure to find them! This is not a guided hike.

10:00 a.m. Walk ♿ - Hardy Desert Survivors

1 Hour

Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker as she introduces you to some unique and amazing hardy desert survivors in the garden, the desert plants. This is an easy walk around the visitor center garden. . If the weather is too bad or hot, Abby will do a power point program in the Discovery Lab.

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DECEMBER 2010 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE

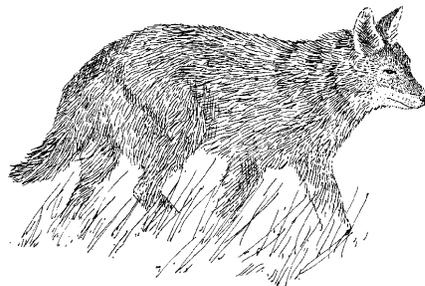


Sunday, December 26, 2010 (cont.)

- 1:00 p.m. – Talk ♿ - What Kind of Bird is That? – Basic Birding in Borrego** **45 Minutes**
Visitors to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park often ask about birds they've seen. There are over 300 bird species found in the park, but there are a few that visitors will almost always see. Join Volunteer Naturalist Thad McManus in the Discovery Lab to learn about the most commonly seen birds in the park, as well as where to find them. Novice birders can easily learn 15 different species, and more experienced birders will learn some fascinating new insights into the behavior of some species they already know.
- 1:00 p.m. Garden Walk - Small World** **1 Hour**
Everyone is impressed with the vast dimensions and stunning vistas of Anza Borrego Desert State Park. The desert is equally impressive on a micro-scale. Stretch your perspective and explore the natural history of the park up close and personal with Volunteer Naturalist Daniel Hellyer for a 1-hour easy walk. Meet at the Borrego Palm Canyon Trailhead.

Monday, December 27, 2010

- 11:00 a.m. - ♿ - Junior Rangers** **45 Minutes**
Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.



- 1:00 p.m. Talk ♿ - "Song Dog" ... The Wiley Coyote** **45 Minutes**
Have you heard them at night? Have you seen them...even during the day? Coyotes are increasing their range and increasing their numbers, and they're right here in Anza-Borrego and in town too. Join Volunteer Naturalist Thad McManus as we explore the myths and realities of our desert neighbor.

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DECEMBER 2010 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Thursday, December 30, 2010

9:00 a.m. Hike - Badlands Bench with a View

2 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund for a moderate 2 ½ mile hike up a badlands wash to a memorial bench with a marvelous view. Learn about some interesting plants and geological features along the way. Meet at the intersection of Inspiration Wash and S-22 by driving east on S-22 past mile marker 28 for a half-mile.

10:00 a.m. - 2:00p.m. Hourly Walks -Explore Our Desert Garden

45 Minutes

Enjoy a leisurely guided walk through the Visitor Center Garden with Volunteer Naturalists Grace Clark. During this easy stroll discover fascinating native plants and how they adapt to desert conditions. If there are any wildflowers, we'll be sure to find them. Meet at the Visitor Center door. Rain cancels.

11:00 a.m. - ♿ - Junior Rangers

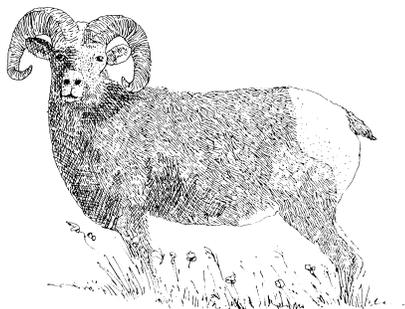
45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

12:00 p.m. Talk ♿ - Borregos in Their Park

1 Hour

If you haven't had the opportunity to get up close and personal with the namesake of the Park, or even if you have seen the Desert Bighorns, you can learn what makes these animals the favorites of Park visitors. Join Volunteer Naturalist Thad McManus as we explore the world of the Desert Bighorn.



1:30 p.m. Talk ♿ Camels, horses and sloths --ABDSP fossils

30 Minutes

In this 30 minute slide presentation, investigate recent fossil finds with Volunteer Paleontologist and Naturalist Sandra Keeley. Meet at the Visitor Center Discovery Lab.

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DECEMBER 2010 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Friday, December 31, 2010

11:00 a.m. - ♿ - Junior Rangers

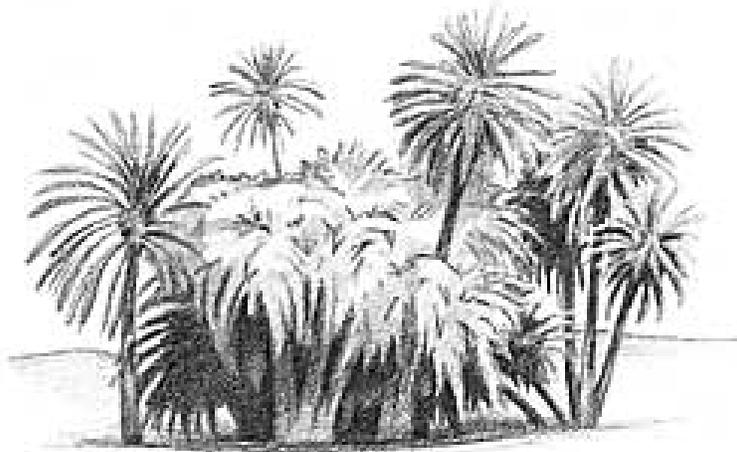
45 Minutes

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

1:30 p.m. Walk ♿ - Desert Drug Store

45 Minutes

Join Certified Interpretive Guide Abby Barker to discover the Native American drugstore, the creosote bush.. This is an easy walk around the visitor center garden. If the weather is too bad or hot, Abby will do a power point program in the Discovery Lab.



Saturday, January 1, 2011

10:00 am New Year's Day Resolution Hike: Hike Alcoholic Pass!

4 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Ron & Peg Poitras to experience and discover the prehistory, history, and present-day journey of those who have used this trail for food, water, work, and fun. This is a 4 hour excursion into the pass. Meet at the north end of DiGiorgio Road. This is a strenuous but relatively short hike, bring water, snacks and wear hiking boots.

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DECEMBER 2010 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



DESERT SAFETY

- ✓ **Carry water AND drink it**
Saving your water for the hike back has led to death in Anza-Borrego. Drink plenty of water before you leave home, while you hike, and on the return route. If you feel thirsty, it is already too late. Drink lots of water and drink often.
- ✓ **Make sure your vehicle is desert-ready.**
Equip your vehicle for the desert. You should always carry extra water, a shade tarp, a shovel, a tire pump, and extra food.
- ✓ **Prepare yourself.**
In addition to carrying water, you should have protective clothing, sunscreen, a hat, a good map, food and a first aid kit which includes a comb and tweezers.
- ✓ **Have a plan.**
Leave all your trip information with a friend. Tell him/her your destination, the route you intend to follow, your expected return time, a description of your vehicle with license plate number, and the time by which he/she should notify park authorities in case you do not return.
- ✓ **Do not split up the group**
Stay together. Never leave anyone behind to rest.
- ✓ **Leave snakes alone.**
Many venomous snakes live in the desert. If you threaten them, they may strike. It is illegal to harass, catch, or kill any snake within Anza-Borrego. If bitten, remain calm and seek immediate medical attention.
- ✓ **When emergencies happen ...**
Stop. Stay calm. Seek shelter. If you are with your vehicle, remain there; do not leave it. Signal with mirrors, white cloth, whistle (three short blasts on a whistle, pause, then three more, repeat frequently), and put your hood up. It is much easier to find a vehicle in the desert than a person!!!

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