

# News Release

California State Parks Santa Cruz District  
303 Big Trees Park Road  
Felton, CA 95018



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**For Continuing Release**

Start: January 15, 2010

End: February 28, 2010

Contact: Linda Hitchcock/Elizabeth Hammack, SPI III

Phone No.: (831)335-6391

Or Contact Jodi Apelt, SPI I (831)335-1743 [japelt@parks.ca.gov](mailto:japelt@parks.ca.gov)

## **NATURAL BRIDGES MIGRATION FESTIVAL** **Saturday, February 12, from 11:00a.m to 4:00p.m.**

Annual Educational Event Celebrates Santa Cruz's Rich Natural Heritage

Santa Cruz, CA – California State Parks invites you to fly, swim, waddle, walk, bike or drive to Natural Bridges State Beach for the annual Migration Festival, a celebration to honor the journey of whales, butterflies, birds and the many creatures that travel. On Saturday, February 12, from 11:00am to 4:00pm, activities at the park will focus on the science and wonder of migratory animals from creatures that travel far including gray whales and monarch butterflies, to those with an annual journey of less than a mile, like the California newt.

The event features live music by the nature-loving 5M's Band, engaging guest speakers, a chance to learn about migratory animals with community groups hosting a variety of activity stations, active docent-led games for kids, theatrical skits, and hands-on art projects and crafts. To end the day of migration fun and games, the now-famous free habitat-cake will be served at the conclusion of the event.

The festival started in 1988 when Regional Park Interpreter Elizabeth Hammack noted that at the same time the monarchs were departing from their winter home in the eucalyptus grove, many other creatures were also "on the move." Gray whales travel to the warm waters of Baja California far away from their summer home in the Bering Sea, elephant seals come ashore to birth their pups, and soon, swallows will be winging-it along the Pacific Flyway on a return flight from their winter home in South America. "There's just so much going on to see, appreciate and celebrate," notes Hammack. The event is educational and interpretive in nature, allowing visitors to gain knowledge and understanding of the animals that travel among our parks and through the Santa Cruz area. "We hope visitors come away with a spark of curiosity and a desire to learn more about how to protect these species and their habitat," Hammack adds.

You can purchase an inexpensive picnic which supports education programs at the park or bring your own. A day use parking pass is \$10; the event is free. Natural Bridges State Beach is located at the end of West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz. More information is available by calling (831) 423-4609 or visit us on the web at [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

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**IMPORTANT NOTE: End of Monarch Butterfly Tour Season\***

For energy efficient recreation –  
California State Parks on the Internet: <http://www.parks.ca.gov>



The season has ended for tours of the monarch grove - please remove this activity from your calendar listings. Help us say goodbye to the migrating monarchs at the annual "Migration Festival, Saturday, February 12 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Natural Bridges State Beach.

Co-sponsored by California State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

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**Romance in the Redwoods  
A Valentine's Walk at Big Basin Redwoods State Park  
Sunday, February 13 at 11:00a.m.**

On this easy, 2-hour walk you'll learn about the courtship behaviors of some of the park's most fascinating plants and animals. Join us and discover how hummingbirds, ladybugs, banana slugs, redwood trees and others celebrate love in the wild! Meet at Park Headquarters. The park is located 9 miles outside of Boulder Creek on Hwy 236. For more information, please call (831) 338-8861.

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**Volunteer at Wilder Ranch State Park  
Docent Training Begins Saturday, February 5 at 10:00a.m.**

Wilder Ranch State Park docent training begins Saturday, February 5 at 10:00a.m. in the park's historic Meder Home. If you are interested in joining the volunteer team, you can call Wilder Ranch at (831) 426-0505 or email [rhaver@parks.ca.gov](mailto:rhaver@parks.ca.gov). Docents lead ranch tours and nature walks, present living history, and help put on a variety of annual special events. Docents also run the parks "Ranch Kids Days" where schoolchildren come for a local living history program and become "ranch hands" for a day. The park is Located two miles north of Santa Cruz on Highway 1.

Co-sponsored by California State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

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**Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park Docent Training begins  
Wednesday, March 2 at 7:00p.m.**

Join a knowledgeable and enthusiastic team of volunteer naturalists and park staff dedicated to helping the environment through education at Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park. Docents lead guided walks, school group field trips, host the visitor center, and share their knowledge with the park visitors. Docent training consists of a series of classes on redwood ecology, park habitats, local history with expert led guided walks and demonstrations on how to lead park programs for a visitors and school groups. These fun and educational classes are held on Wednesday evenings and Saturdays. To join in, call the docent coordinator at (831) 335-7077 or email [dwilliford@parks.ca.gov](mailto:dwilliford@parks.ca.gov). The park is located in Felton off Highway 9.

Co-sponsored by California State Parks and Mountain Parks Foundation

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California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>**



## **Natural Bridges Tidepool Docent Training Class Begins Sunday, March 27 at 1:00p.m.**

Natural Bridges State Beach is currently seeking curious, enthusiastic new volunteers to learn and then lead educational programs about marine life at the park. The training program will get you up-to-date on park and tide pool life and provide public speaking and teaching techniques. Following training, volunteers give a minimum of 6 hours per month leading programs, hosting the visitor center, and helping with a educational events. Natural Bridges is located at the end of West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz. Call (831) 423-4609 or email [naturalbridgesstatebeach@gmail.com](mailto:naturalbridgesstatebeach@gmail.com).

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### **ACTIVITIES AT NATURAL BRIDGES STATE BEACH**

Located at the end of West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz (831) 423-4609

**Tidepool Explorations** – Natural Bridges is famous for the wave cut platforms that form the basis of some of the most diverse tidepools in the world. Join a Docent Naturalist and discover the amazing plants and animals that make their home in the intertidal habitat. Tours are 1.5 hours long. Meet at the Visitor Center on the following low-tide dates and times:

**Saturday, January 29, at 1:00pm**

**Sunday, January 30 at 1:30pm**

**Saturday, February 12 at 12:30pm**

**Sunday, February 13 at 1:00pm**

**Saturday, February 27 at 12:30pm**

**Sunday, February 28 at 1:00pm**

Layered clothing and shoes with traction are recommended. Inclement weather will cancel Tidepool Explorations. Please call the day of the scheduled walk if you would like to check conditions before you arrive at the park. For further information or accessibility assistance, please call (831) 423-4609.

**Park Restoration Troop— Sunday, February 6 from 1:00 to 3:00p.m.**

Join the effort to restore and protect habitat at Natural Bridges State Beach. Meet at 1:00pm at the visitor center. Bring gardening gloves if you have them.

Co-sponsored by California State Parks and the Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

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### **FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES AT BIG BASIN REDWOODS STATE PARK**

Located 9 miles outside of Boulder Creek on Hwy 236 (831) 338-8861

**Creeping Forest Ramble**

**Saturday, February 5 at 11:00 am**

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For energy efficient recreation –  
California State Parks on the Internet: <<http://www.parks.ca.gov>>



Explore the natural history of this less-visited trail with docent Doreen Devorah on a three-hour, 2.5-mile hike up and down the “creeping” terrain, along creeks, through fire-scarred redwoods and over log bridges. Bring water and good hiking shoes. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Redwood Loop Walk**

**Saturday, February 5 at 1:00 pm**

**Sunday, February 6 at 1:00 pm**

**Saturday, February 19 at 1:00 pm**

**Sunday, February 20 at 1:00 pm**

**Saturday, February 26 at 1:00 pm**

**Sunday, February 27 at 1:00 pm**

How do these grand redwoods grow to be so old? So tall? How are they important to humans? Join us for this fun and informative guided half-mile stroll through a magnificent old-growth redwood forest. Meet the famous Mother Tree, the Father of the Forest and the incredible Chimney Tree on this one-hour walk. Stroller and wheelchair accessible. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Ocean View Summit Hike**

**Saturday, February 12 at 10:00 am**

Join docent David Auerbach on one of our most diverse hikes—by mountain streams, oak woodlands, chaparral and redwoods. You’ll discuss forests, flowers and fires on a six-mile, four-hour hike. This somewhat strenuous ascent is rewarded with ocean views on a clear day. Bring water, lunch and good hiking shoes. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Berry Creek Falls Hike**

**Sunday, February 13 at 9:30 am**

Travel deep into the heart of Big Basin as you experience a wide range of habitats on this moderate to strenuous 12-mile-loop hike. Wind through shady redwood canyons and climb dry ridges as you hike to the jewel of Big Basin—65-foot Berry Creek Falls. Bring lots of water, lunch and wear layers. Docent Bill Rhoades will be your guide on this six-hour hike. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Romance in the Redwoods**

**Sunday, February 13 at 11:00 am**

On this easy, 2-hour walk you’ll learn about the courtship behaviors of some of the park’s most fascinating plants and animals. Join us and discover how hummingbirds, ladybugs, banana slugs, redwood trees and others celebrate love in the wild! Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Wildflower Walk!**

**Saturday, February 19 at 10:00 am**

**Sunday, February 20 at 10:00 am**

Join docent Scott Peden to learn to identify the plants and communities of the redwood forest. You’ll also visit several historical spots within the park. Saturday’s walk is a four-mile, four-hour walk that includes two chimney trees and a waterfall. Sunday’s walk is a five-mile, five-hour walk that includes a chimney tree. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Park Headquarters.

### **Coffee Talk**

**Saturday, February 19 from 10:00-12:00**

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**Sunday, February 20 from 10:00-12:00**

Come to the Sempervirens Room next to Headquarters for free coffee or hot chocolate! This is a great way to start your day in Big Basin! A Big Basin docent will be happy to answer questions about the park, suggest activities and help get you going on the right trail.

**Timm's Creek Trail Trek**

**Saturday, February 26 at 10:00 am**

This is a fun, moderate hike through beautiful forests, with a foot-soothing creek at the halfway point. Docent Doreen Devorah will lead this seven-mile, five-hour trek. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Park Headquarters.

**Shadowbrook Stroll**

**Sunday, February 27 at 11:00 am**

Take a less-traveled trail with Docent Doreen Devorah that meanders by Union Creek, over to the Sempervirens Falls and back, all through the redwoods. This is a four-mile, three-hour hike. Bring water and good hiking shoes. Meet at Park Headquarters.

Sponsored by California State Parks and Mountain Parks Foundation

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**FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES AT WILDER RANCH STATE PARK**

**Located two miles north of Santa Cruz, on Highway 1 (831) 426-0505**

**Wilder Ranch Living History Demonstrations: Weekends, 11:00 AM-3:00p.m.**

History comes alive at Wilder Ranch State Park on many weekends. Come for a stroll or picnic on the lawn and you may get a glimpse into the life of a c.1900 dairy rancher in Santa Cruz County, watch a master quilter inside the 1897 Victorian Home or taste delicious treats baked in an old fashioned wood burning stove. Call (831) 426-0505 for other days and activities.

**History, Nature, and Scenic Views: A Tour of the Grey Whale Ranch Area**

**Saturday, February 12 at 9:00a.m.**

This challenging guided three-hour hike will explore the natural and cultural history of the upper hills of Wilder Ranch State Park. Meet at the Wilder Ranch interpretive center. Bring good walking shoes, lunch, snacks, and water. Hike is canceled if rain.

**Wilder Ranch Coast Nature Walks: Saturdays, February 5, 19 & 26 at 11:00a.m.**

On these two-hour natural history excursions you will explore the plants, animals, and geology of the spectacular coastal bluffs. Meet at the Wilder Ranch interpretive center. Bring a snack, water, binoculars, and good walking shoes. Binoculars are available to borrow. Walk is canceled if rain.

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