

DECEMBER 2008 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Wednesday, December 3, 2008

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.



Friday, December 5, 2008

7:00 p.m. -♿- \$\$ - Desert Skies Outdoor Lecture Series: Where Stars are Born...and Die

Instructor: Dennis Mammana

Suggested donation \$5

From colossal glowing clouds where new stars and planetary systems are being born, to the shattered remains of once mighty suns – all sparkle overhead on winter nights. Join us for a look deep into the winter sky, and learn where stars are born...and die. Meet at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center amphitheater. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063**

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE. PROGRAMS ARE HELD AT THE VISITOR CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. **DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON TRAILS OR TOURS.** ♿ DENOTES PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED. PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATION, (760) 767-4205.

DECEMBER 2008 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, December 6, 2008

- 6:00 a.m. - \$\$ - Pacific Crest Trail Hike: Chihuahua Valley to Tule Spring** **12 hours**
Instructor: Reena Deutsch, PhD. **Fee: \$35; ABFI Members \$25**
Meet at ABDSP Visitor Center flagpole. This 11-mile hike offers outstanding vistas and distant views of San Gorgonio and San Jacinto peaks to the north and the Salton Sea and the Santa Rosa Mountains to the east. **High clearance vehicles required.** For all hikes: wear hiking boots and layered clothing, and be prepared for changeable weather. Bring snacks, lunch, water, sun protection, a flashlight, and all essentials. All hikes are one-way; each hiker must be willing to participate in a vehicle shuttle. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063**
- 8:00 a.m. - \$\$ - Workshop: Success in a Photo Contest** **4 hours**
Instructors: Paul Johnson and Dennis Mammana **Fee: \$25**
Get tips from professional photographers on creative techniques to help you take winning photos. Learn what judges look for in evaluating photographs, and how you can make your photos stand out from the rest. Meet at Borrego Art Institute. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063**
- 10:00 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
- 10:00 a.m. – Talk – Tailgate Tours** **1 Hour**
Join Ranger Steve for a special presentation about the amazing history of this region. Program will meet and be conducted at the Carrizo Overlook, where the past, present, and hopeful future of this resource will be interpreted.
- 11:00 a.m. –Talk - Tailgate Tour** **1 Hour**
Join Ranger Don at 11:00 a.m. at Bailey’s cabin, where the past, present, and hopeful future of that resource will be interpreted. **A 4x4 vehicle is required for this program.**
- 12:00 p.m. – Talk – Tailgate Tours** **1 Hour**
Join Ranger Kelly for a special presentation about the amazing history of this region. Program will meet and be conducted at the Borrego Springs Airport, where the past, present, and hopeful future of that resource will be interpreted.
- 2:00 p.m. – Talk - ♿ - Desert Drug Store** **30 Minutes**
Join naturalist Abby Barker to discover the Native American drugstore, the creosote bush. Meet in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab.
- 7:30 p.m. - ♿ - Campfire** **Birds in Anza-Borrego** **1 Hour**
Anza-Borrego is a great place to enjoy bird watching, since its different habitats attract many species of birds. Share in all the fun by joining Ranger Bob Theriault at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire center.

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DECEMBER 2008 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Sunday, December 7, 2008

7:00 a.m. -\$\$ - Photography Walk at Truckhaven Rocks

4 hours

Instructor: Paul Johnson **Fee: \$35; ABFI Members \$25**

Knowing when a particular scene or subject will produce a dramatic or high impact photograph, rather than just another snapshot, is one of the most important skills a photographer can develop. The objective of this workshop is to learn and hone this skill, known as “photographic seeing” in this stunning setting of dramatic boulders and upthrust rocks. Easy walking (no more than 2 miles). Bring adjustable camera with tripod and interchangeable lenses, if possible. Participants should be familiar with their camera’s operation. Meet at ABDSP Visitor Center flagpole.

Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063

8:30 a.m. -\$\$ - Pacific Crest Trail Hike: Tule Spring to Table Mountain Road

9 hours

Instructor: Reena Deutsch, PhD. **Fee: \$35; ABFI Members \$25**

Meet at Diner 371 in Anza

This 10.5 mile hike stays mostly in the Park, with panoramic views of the wild northern canyons and creeks that flow down into Coyote Canyon. **High clearance vehicles required.** For all hikes: wear hiking boots and layered clothing, and be prepared for changeable weather. Bring snacks, lunch, water, sun protection, a flashlight, and all essentials. All hikes are one-way; each hiker must be willing to participate in a vehicle shuttle. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063**

10:00 a.m. – Talk - ♿ - Lifestyles of the Hot and Thirsty

1 Hour

Cactus and succulents have some amazing adaptations that help them survive in extremely hot and dry climates. This talk will reveal some little-known facts about how cacti work overtime to stay alive. Volunteer Naturalist Don Rideout will discuss the most common cactus species of Anza-Borrego as we stroll through the Visitor Center garden.

11:00 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.”

Friday, December 12, 2008

2:00 p.m. – Talk -- Tracks Tell Tales

45 Minutes

Tracks tell the fascinating stories of the lives of our animal neighbors in the Anza Borrego Desert. Meet our tracker-naturalist at the entrance to the Visitor’s Center, and start to learn to read these tales of life -- and death -- in the desert.

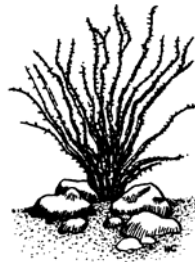
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DECEMBER 2008 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, December 13, 2008

- 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.
- 8:00 a.m. – Walk – Tracking Walk** **2 Hours**
The desert is full of life, but most of it is hidden from the casual observer. Join our tracker-naturalist at the entrance to the Visitor’s Center. Together we will explore the desert around us, finding and learning to read animal tracks and sign during a one- to two-hour walk on easy terrain.
- 8:00 a.m. - \$\$ - East of Algodones 4WD Tour** **8.5 hours**
Instructor: Paul Johnson **Fee: \$45; ABFI Members \$35**
The portion of the Colorado Desert which lies east of the old Algodones Sand Dunes (more recently known as the Imperial Sand Dunes) is poorly known and infrequently visited. We will explore some of the many fascinating and beautiful places hiding just off the beaten path. We’ll view the dunes themselves, visit a working, open-pit goldmine, and take short walks through multi-colored hills of volcanic ash and a cobble stone slot canyon. Please arrive with a full tank of gas, lunch and plenty of water, sturdy shoes and a camera. 3 short, easy, off-trail walks involving a bit of rock scrambling and hill climbing. Bring passport if not a US citizen. **4WD required.** Meet at ABDSP Visitor Center flagpole. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063**
- 10:00 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.
- 11:00 a.m. – Walk - ♿ - Hardy Desert Survivors** **45 Minutes**
Join Naturalist 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.



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DECEMBER 2008 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, December 13, 2008

- 11:00 a.m. – Hike – Discovering the Archeological History of the Morteros** **2 Hours**
Discover the hidden secrets of an ancient Native American village site. Join Volunteer Archeologist 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.
- 2:00 p.m. – Talk – ♿ -Mountain Lions** **30 minutes**
Investigate the habits and habitats of our top predator, the mountain lion, with Park naturalist Grace Clark, and discover how you can protect yourself while protecting them at the same time.
- 7:30 p.m. ♿ - Campfire Raptors of Anza-Borrego** **1 Hour**
Anza-Borrego is a great place to see different types of birds of prey. Join Ranger Jim Collins to learn more about the birds of prey of Anza- Borrego at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center

Sunday, December 14, 2008

- 9:00 a.m. - \$\$ - Pacific Crest Trail Hike: Celebration Hike: Table Mountain Road to Highway 74**
Instructor: Reena Deutsch, PhD. **Fee: \$35; ABFI Members \$25**
Meet at PCT-signed parking lot on Route 74, one mile east of Route 371
This 5-mile hike will include time for a party (with awards!), to celebrate the completion of ABFI's series of dayhikes traversing 112 miles of the PCT along and through Anza-Borrego Desert State Park! Participants should bring goodies to share. . For all hikes: wear hiking boots and layered clothing, and be prepared for changeable weather. Bring snacks, lunch, water, sun protection, a flashlight, and all essentials. All hikes are one-way; each hiker must be willing to participate in a vehicle shuttle. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063**
- 10:00 a.m. – Talk ♿ - Lifestyles of the Hot and Thirsty** **1 Hour**
Cactus and succulents have some amazing adaptations that help them survive in extremely hot and dry climates. This talk will reveal some little-known facts about how cacti work overtime to stay alive. Volunteer Naturalist Don Rideout will discuss the most common cactus species of Anza-Borrego as we stroll through the Visitor Center garden.
- 10:00 a.m. -Walk – Cactus Close-up** **2 Hours**
Visit a natural garden where we will see several types of cactus up close. Take Borrego Springs Road from Christmas Circle to Highway 78. Turn right at the intersection with Highway 78 and travel west 1.6 miles. Meet Ranger Jeri Zemon at the beginning of the Kane Spring Road. We will drive about 1.5 miles on a dirt road to the Cactus Garden. **4WD required for soft sand.** Easy walk on a rocky surface.

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DECEMBER 2008 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Monday, December 15, 2008

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

1 Hour

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for an easy walk around the Visitor Center Garden looking for the common birds of our desert. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them.



Wednesday, December 17, 2008

9:00 a.m. – Hike – Pictographs – What Were They Trying to Say?

2.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund on a moderate 3-mile roundtrip hike through a beautiful desert valley to a panoramic overlook. Along the way, we will look at some interesting plants, morteros and rock art. Meet at the entrance to Blair Valley, about a 45 minute drive from the visitor center.

Thursday, December 18, 2008

9:00 a.m. - Walk – What is a Borrego?

2 Hours

Join Park Interpreter Nova Clarke on a walk up Borrego Palm Canyon to learn for about our resident desert bighorns, and if we are lucky, perhaps see one. Meet at the trailhead for Borrego Palm Canyon.

Friday, December 19, 2008

10:00 a.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. The presentation will introduce the most commonly seen birds in the Park, as well as point out 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.

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DECEMBER 2008 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, December 20, 2008

- 10:00 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.
- 10:00 a.m. – Military Wash Experience Tailgate Tour** **1 Hour**
Join Ranger Jim discuss the history of Rake Station at Military Wash. Meet at Arroyo Salado Primitive Campground off Highway S22. Meet at restroom. **4WD required.**
- 11:00 a.m. – Talk - ♿ - Where is that Wascally Wabbit?** **45 Minutes**
Join Park Interpreter Nova Clarke to learn about the rabbits, roadrunners, and coyotes of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Find out what the cartoons get right and wrong. Meet at the Visitor Center Amphitheater.
- 2:00 p.m. – Walk - ♿ - Hardy Desert Survivors** **45 Minutes**
Join Naturalist 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.
- 7:30 p.m. - ♿ - Campfire Desert Plant Survival** **1 Hour**
Ranger Nancy Wittig shares the amazing adaptations of how plants survive in the desert. Meet at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.

Sunday, December 21, 2008

- 10:00 a.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. The presentation will introduce the most commonly seen birds in the Park, as well as point out 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.



- 10:00 a.m. - Walk – What is a Borrego?** **2 Hours**
Join Park Interpreter Nova Clarke on a walk up Borrego Palm Canyon to learn for about our resident desert bighorns, and if we are lucky, perhaps see one. Meet at the trailhead for Borrego Palm Canyon.

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DECEMBER 2008 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Wednesday, December 24, 2008

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 1/2 miles.

Friday, December 26, 2008

10:00 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. – Talk - ♿ - Where is that Wascally Wabbit?

45 Minutes

Join Park Interpreter Nova Clarke to learn about the rabbits, roadrunners, and coyotes of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Find out what the cartoons get right and wrong. Meet at the Visitor Center Amphitheater.



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DECEMBER 2008 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, December 27, 2008

- 7:30 a.m. – Walk - ♿ - Beginner's Bird Walk** **1 Hour**
Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for an easy walk around the Visitor Center Garden looking for the common birds of our desert. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them.
- 10:00 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.
- 10:00 a.m. – Display ♿ - Usefulness of Desert Plants** **2 Hours**
Stop by the visitor center and see the items made from desert plants. Volunteer naturalist Marge Hatcher will be available for questions about the garden plants around the visitor center and elsewhere in the desert. Taste prickly pear products.
- 10:00 a.m. – Talk – Native Americans of Coyote Canyon Tailgate Tour** **1 Hour**
Join Ranger Nancy Wittig to learn more about the Native Americans who lived in this beautiful area of the park. Meet at the Desert Gardens Picnic Area in Coyote Canyon.
- 10:30 a.m. – Talk – Tulloch Ranch Tailgate Tour** **1 Hour**
Ranger Don talks about why this area is one of his favorites in the park. Learn a bit of the history of the area and enjoy the beautiful views! Meet at Tulloch Ranch: On Rt. 79 a short distance North of Hwy. S-1.
- 2:00 p.m. – Talk - ♿ - Desert Drug Store** **30 Minutes**
Join naturalist Abby Barker to discover the Native American drugstore, the creosote bush. Meet in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab.
- 7:30 p.m. -- ♿ - Campfire - California's Jurassic Park** **1 Hour**
Find out about the extinct mammals who used to wander here. Join Ranger Josh for a trip into the Badlands of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire center.
- 7:30 p.m. - \$\$ –Talk - ♿ - Mongolia: A Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience**
Speaker: Mark Jorgensen and Diana Lindsay **Suggested donation \$5**
In September, Park and ABFI personnel accompanied ABDSP Superintendent Mark Jorgensen on a tour of the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. Come share their images and experiences and learn how you can take part in a similar trip next summer! Lecture held at Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063**

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DECEMBER 2008 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Sunday, December 28, 2008

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

1 Hour

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for an easy walk around the Visitor Center Garden looking for the common birds of our desert. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars and a field guide if you have them.

10:00 a.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. The presentation will introduce the most commonly seen birds in the Park, as well as point out 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.

10:00 a.m. - Walk – What is a Borrego?

2 Hours

Join Park Interpreter Nova Clarke on a walk up Borrego Palm Canyon to learn for about our resident desert bighorns, and if we are lucky, perhaps see one. Meet at the trailhead for Borrego Palm Canyon.




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DECEMBER 2008 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Tuesday, December 30, 2008


10:00 a.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. The presentation will introduce the most commonly seen birds in the Park, as well as point out 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.

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

9:00 a.m. – Talk - Culp Valley Tailgate Tour 1 Hour
Ranger Rodriguez talks about why this area is one of her favorites in the park. Learn a bit of the history of the area and enjoy the beautiful views! Meet at Paroli Camp in Culp Valley: Take Hwy. S-22 west, up the Montezuma Grade; halfway up the mountain the road becomes two lanes, take the left lane and look for the "Culp Valley Road" sign and turn left onto the dirt road. Follow this road west and take the left fork in the road.

9:00 a.m. - Hike – South Palm Wash 3 Hours
Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund for a hike up a wash, then into a beautiful slot canyon up to a 20-25 foot dry waterfall. There is a rockfall about 100 meters before the waterfall that can be negotiated by those who choose. Meet at the overlook at mile marker 38 on S22 (at the phone call box near the Calcite Mine) for this moderate 4-mile hike.



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DECEMBER 2008 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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