

MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Sunday, March 1, 2009

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

90 minutes

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. (This program will be cancelled if raining.)

8:30 a.m. – \$\$ - Wreckage of Time: The Fish Creek Badlands - Geology and Paleontology 8 hours Discovery Series Instructor: Paul Remeika Fee: Member \$35; Non-member \$45

Meet at Fish Creek primitive campground. Explore the outstanding geology of Split Mountain, Fish Creek Wash, and Sandstone Canyon. Sedimentary layers and debris deposits help geologists and paleontologists sort out the area's complex history. This auto tour is a must for any geology aficionado! Discover the fascinating geology and paleontology of the Anza-Borrego region through this series of four driving tours with a retired ranger who spent close to thirty years studying and writing about the geologic history of this area. **4WD required.** Bring plenty of water, lunch, camera, and be prepared for short adventure hikes along the way.

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

Monday, March 2, 2009

10:00 a.m. - Walk – Colorful Canyon

1 hour

Meet Ranger Jeri Zemon to take a close-up look at the colorful wildflowers of Glorietta Canyon. Meet at the entrance to Glorietta Canyon on Borrego Springs Road between mile markers 8 and 9. Parking is limited, so be prepared to carpool a short distance.

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

9:00 a.m. – Hike – Hawk Canyon

3 hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Toni Alexander, on a hike into a very colorful canyon whose rock formations and flowers are just begging to be photographed. This is a 2-mile roundtrip hike with some bushwhacking and boulder hopping toward the end. Meet at Buttes Pass Road, 1.5 miles east of Borrego Valley Road on Hwy 78, after which we will drive to the start of Hawk Canyon. This hike is limited to 15 people. Please sign up at the Visitor's Center desk.

1:00 p.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.

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. 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.

MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Wednesday, March 4, 2009

9:00 a.m. 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.

10:00 a.m. – Talk - ♿ - Those Rambunctious Ravens!

45 minutes

Can you tell Ravens from Crows? Do you believe the myths and poems about Ravens? Come hear Volunteer Naturalist Joan Rosen give an outdoor presentation in the Plaza about our Borrego Ravens and their lively times.



Thursday, March 5, 2009

9:00 a.m. - Walk – Behind the Ghost Mountain Story : Facts and Fabrications

2 hours

Learn about the Marshall South family and their experiment in primitive living on a remote mountain top. Join Volunteer Naturalists Mike and Jan Bigelow on this 2 mile round-trip, steep but scenic walk up Ghost Mountain. Bring water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Marshall South Home Trailhead in Blair Valley, 3.2 miles off Highway S2.

11:00 a.m. – Talk/Walk – What is a Borrego?

1 hour

Join Park Interpreter Nova Clarke at the Borrego Palm Canyon trailhead to learn about our resident desert bighorns. From there we will wander part way up the canyon to learn a bit more about the ecosystem, look at flowers, and perhaps see a bighorn.

1:00 p.m. – Talk - ♿ - Behind that Pretty Face is a Stealthful Killer

1 hour

The long-eared owl has several unique adaptations for survival. Join Volunteer Naturalist Beth Shugan and discover what makes this owl such a stealthy hunter.

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MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Friday March 6, 2009

7:30 a.m. – Talk - The Borrego Hawk Watch Experience

1 hour

Discover the hawk watch phenomenon with Volunteer Naturalist and hawk watcher Joe Hopkins. Meet at the Visitor Center flagpole to caravan out to the site, observe hawk watchers on duty, and we hope, see migrating raptors. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, and appropriate clothing.



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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MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, March 7, 2009

8:30 a.m. – \$\$ - Edge of Creation: The Vallecito Badlands - Geology and Paleontology 8 hours

Discovery Series Instructor: Paul Remeika Fee: Member \$35; Non-member \$45

Meet at Fish Creek primitive campground. Explore the outstanding geology of Split Mountain, Fish Creek Wash, and Sandstone Canyon. Sedimentary layers and debris deposits help geologists and paleontologists sort out the area's complex history. This auto tour is a must for any geology aficionado! Discover the fascinating geology and paleontology of the Anza-Borrego region through this series of four driving tours with a retired ranger who spent close to thirty years studying and writing about the geologic history of this area. **4WD required.** Bring plenty of water, lunch, camera, and be prepared for short adventure hikes along the way.

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

9:00 a.m. - \$\$ - Plant Communities of ABDSP – Field Botany Series 8 hours

Instructor : Michael Wangler

Member \$35 per session, \$90 full series;

Non-member \$45 per session, \$120 full series

Explore how climate, geology, and topography have helped to shape the plant communities we see in ABDSP today, and learn about the necessary environmental conditions for a bumper crop of wildflowers. Participants will also gain hands-on experience using a botanical key. Each trip will involve several short, easy walks. Bring water, lunch, hand lens and notebook, and dress for variable weather. Meeting locations TBA (based on weather/bloom conditions). Academic credit available. All vehicles OK. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063.**

9:00 a.m. - \$\$ - Traditional Basketry Workshop

9:00 am - 4:00 pm AND Sunday, March 8, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Instructors: Kumeyaay and Paipai Artisans Fee: Member \$135; Non-member \$155

Back by popular demand, this two-day workshop is a rare opportunity to learn the basics of three types of basketry--willow, juncus, and pine needle--directly from the gifted weavers of Baja California. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063.**

9:30 a.m. – Talk – Henderson Canyon Tailgate Tour 45 minutes

Join Ranger Steve Biers for a special presentation about the park, its history, and flowers. Meet at the ABI trailer on Henderson Canyon Road by the flower fields.

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

1:00 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 Nierenberg Amphitheater at the Visitor Center.

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MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, March 7, 2009

7:00 p.m. - \$\$ - ♿ - Desert Skies Outdoor Lecture Series: 2009: Cosmic Illusions

Instructor: Dennis Mammana **Suggested donation \$5**

Join popular astronomer and syndicated columnist Dennis Mammana as he enlightens and inspires us about the mysteries of the cosmos visible from the Anza-Borrego Desert. The heavens are not always what they appear; in fact, much of what we see in the sky is merely an illusion. Explore some of these intriguing—and maddening—cosmic illusions, and discover why we frequently see things that just aren't there! Each program will be followed by telescope viewing of the desert sky, weather permitting. Please dress warmly and bring a blanket on which to sit. Feel free to bring binoculars and a flashlight (covered with red cellophane to protect night vision). **Meet at ABDSP Visitor Center Nierenberg Amphitheater. Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063.**

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.



Sunday, March 8, 2009

7:30 a.m. – Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 hours

Volunteer Naturalist Toni Alexander 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.

8:00 a.m. - \$\$ - Escape to Anza-Borrego: : Arroyo Tapiado Mud Caves

8.5 hours

Instructor: Paul Johnson **Fee: Member \$35; Non-member \$45**

Meet at ABDSP Visitor Center flagpole

In this all-day four-wheel-drive tour, we will drive through Canyon Sin Nombre, which offers 500 million year-old rocks, dramatic fault features, and vertical-walled slot canyons, then enter Arroyo Tapiado to view and explore some of the longest mud caves in San Diego County. Bring lunch, a very full tank of gas, a flashlight for each person in your group, and plenty of water. There will be 4 or 5 short walks (under 1/2 mile each) over rough terrain and in dark caves. There are no formal restroom facilities, so please come prepared. Car-pooling will be highly encouraged.

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MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Monday, March 9, 2009

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

90 minutes

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. (This program will be cancelled if raining.)

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

10:00 a.m. – Talk - ♿ - Cahuilla Medicine Chest

45 minutes

Join Volunteer Naturalist Mike Bigelow in the Discovery Lab to learn about the medicine chest full of effective treatments that the Cahuilla people utilized long before the first Europeans arrived.

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

9:00 a.m. – Hike - Truckhaven Rocks Trek

2 hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Toni Alexander on a 3 mile peaceful trek thru the sandy wash to Truckhaven Rocks. At the Rocks, meander up a canyon enjoying the sandstone beauty and the ever-changing plants and flowers. Along the way, we will enjoy the sights and smells of smoke trees, desert lavender, desert lupines, orcutt asters, desert holly and much more. Be sure to have hats and water. Meet at the overlook at just past mile marker 36 on S-22 East. We will then drive to our starting point. Limited to 10 cars, so please sign up at the front desk at the visitor center.

Thursday, March 12, 2009

10:00 a.m. – Talk - ♿ - Camels, Sloths, and Seashells --ABDSP fossils

30 minutes

Join Volunteer Naturalist Sandra Keeley for a Powerpoint presentation about recent fossil finds in Anza-Borrego.

11:00 a.m. – Walk - Little Surprise Canyon

1 hour

Meet Park Interpreter Nova Clarke for an easy walk into this little known canyon. See what's blooming and learn a bit about the geology of the area. Meet in the Hellhole Canyon Parking area, just 1.3 miles from the Visitor Center on Highway S-22.

1:00 p.m. – Talk - ♿ - Wings Over Anza – Borrego

45 Minutes

Can you identify the more common birds found in ABDSP? Join Volunteer Naturalist Beth Shugan to learn more about our resident and migratory feathered visitors.

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MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Friday, March 13, 2009

- 11:00 a.m. - Talk ♿ - Solar Cooking Demonstration** **1 hour**
Solar energy - the old/new technology. Volunteer Naturalist Eleanor Shimeall demonstrates solar oven cooking and explains why this technology is so important. Meet at the Nierenberg Amphitheater outside the Visitor Center.

Saturday, March 14, 2009

- 8:00 a.m. – Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon** **3 hours**
Volunteer Naturalist Toni Alexander 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.
- 9:00 a.m. - \$\$ - Annual Plants of ABDSP – Field Botany Series** **8 hours**
Instructor : Michael Wangler **Member \$35 per session, \$90 full series;**
Non-member \$45 per session, \$120 full series
Learn how to recognize and identify flowering annuals, vines, and bulbs in ABDSP, and explore the habitat requirements for these plants and the environmental factors that influence the strength and timing of the spring bloom. Participants will also gain hands-on experience using a botanical key. Each trip will involve several short, easy walks. Bring water, lunch, hand lens and notebook, and dress for variable weather. Meeting locations TBA (based on weather/bloom conditions). Academic credit available. All vehicles OK. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063.**
- 9:30 a.m. – Talk – Upper Coyote Canyon Tailgate Tour** **1 hour**
Join Ranger Don Strampfer to learn more about Upper Coyote Canyon. Meet at CDF Station in Warner Springs. **A 4x4 vehicle is required for this program.**
- 9:30 a.m. – Talk – Henderson Canyon Tailgate Tour** **45 minutes**
Join Ranger Steve Biers for a special presentation about the park, its history, and flowers. Meet at the ABI trailer on Henderson Canyon Road by the flower fields.
- 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. – Hike – Discovering the Archeological 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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MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, March 14, 2009

12:00 p.m. – Talk – Tailgate Tours

1 hour

Join the only CA State Park pilot, Ranger Kelly McCague, for a special presentation about her responsibilities and see the plane up close. Program will meet and be conducted at the Borrego Springs Airport.

12:30 p.m. - \$\$ - Desert Stargazing for Beginners

8.5 hours

Instructor: Dennis Mammana

Fee: Members \$35; Non-members \$45

Meet at ABDSP Visitor Center

A third class by popular demand, this full-day workshop is designed for beginning stargazers interested in exploring the enjoyable and mind-expanding hobby of amateur astronomy with Dennis Mammana. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063.**

7:30 p.m. – Campfire - ♿ - Mysteries of Anza-Borrego

1 hour

Take a deeper look into the past. Join Ranger Josh for a trip into the earlier times of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire center.

Sunday March 15, 2009

9:00 a.m. - \$\$ - Trees and Shrubs of ABDSP – Field Botany Series

8 hours

Instructor : Michael Wangler

Member \$35 per session, \$90 full series;

Non-member \$45 per session, \$120 full series

Learn to recognize desert trees and shrubs through the identification of plant, flower and fruiting structures. Discussions will cover their distribution, life cycles, and responses to environmental disturbance. Participants will also gain hands-on experience using a botanical key. Each trip will involve several short, easy walks. Bring water, lunch, hand lens and notebook, and dress for variable weather. Meeting locations TBA (based on weather/bloom conditions). Academic credit available. All vehicles OK. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063.**

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 entrance to 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. – 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 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.

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MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Tuesday, March 17, 2009

8:30 a.m. – Hike - Plum Canyon - A Tenderfoot Trail

2-3 hours

Lets smell and feel our way up beautiful Plum Canyon. Join Volunteer Naturalist, Toni Alexander discovering plants that smell wonderful, feel sticky, and look beautiful. Learn which were used, and for what, by the Native Americans who made this their home many years ago. Don't forget your wildflower guide books and cameras, hats and water. Meet at the Plum Canyon entrance off Highway 78, west of S-3, for this 2-3 hour walk We will drive to the trailhead.

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

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.

10:00 a.m. – Talk - ♿ - Those Rambunctious Ravens!

45 minutes

Can you tell Ravens from Crows? Do you believe the myths and poems about Ravens? Come hear Volunteer Naturalist Joan Rosen give an outdoor presentation in the Plaza about our Borrego Ravens and their lively times.

Thursday, March 19, 2009

9:00 a.m. - Walk – Behind the Ghost Mountain Story : Facts and Fabrications

2 hours

Learn about the Marshall South family and their experiment in primitive living on a remote mountain top. Join Volunteer Naturalists Mike and Jan Bigelow on this 2 mile round-trip, steep but scenic walk up Ghost Mountain. Bring water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Marshall South Home Trailhead in Blair Valley, 3.2 miles off Highway S2.

11:00 a.m. – Walk - Little Surprise Canyon

1 hour

Meet Park Interpreter Nova Clarke for an easy walk into this little known canyon. See what's blooming and learn a bit about the geology of the area. Meet in the Hellhole Canyon Parking area, just 1.3 miles from the Visitor Center on Highway S-22.

1:00 p.m. – Talk - ♿ - Behind that Pretty Face is a Stealthful Killer

1 hour

The long-eared owl has several unique adaptations for survival. Join Volunteer Naturalist Beth Shugan and discover what makes this owl such a stealthy hunter.

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MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Friday, March 20, 2009

8:30 a.m. – Talk - The Borrego Hawk Watch Experience

1 hour

Discover the hawk watch phenomenon with Volunteer Naturalist and hawk watcher Joe Hopkins. Meet at the Visitor Center flagpole to caravan out to the site, observe hawk watchers on duty, and we hope, see migrating raptors. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, and appropriate clothing.



Festival of Hawks March 21 – March 29

The Borrego Valley Hawkwatch counts more spring Swainson's Hawks than any site in North America. It is possible to see 500 hawks in one day. Many of them arrive here from thousands of miles away! Join the hawk-count leaders for another exciting season of observation and exploration of this remarkable phenomenon. Hawkwatch events are free of charge and do not require registration.

For details and updates on the 2009 Hawkwatch, visit www.theabf.org.

4 pm – 6 pm Evening Hawkwatch: Who is Coming to Roost This Evening?

Every evening, from Friday, March 20 through Saturday, March 28

Join counters at the Evening Hawkwatch Site on Borrego Valley Road (1.5 miles north of Palm Canyon Drive) as hawks arrive in Borrego Valley to roost for the night. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063.**

8:00 a.m. Morning Hawk Count: Hawks, Hawks, and More Hawks!

Every morning, from Saturday, March 21 through Sunday, March 29

Join Hawkwatch experts at the Morning Count Site on DiGiorgio Road (2.3 miles north of Palm Canyon Drive) for gathering and tabulating data on migrating hawks. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063.**

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MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, March 21, 2009

10:00 a.m. – Talk - ♿ - 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. – 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 Volunteer Tracker-Naturalist Karin Vickars in the Discovery Lab, and start to learn to read these tales of life -- and death -- in the desert.



1:00 p.m. – Talk/Walk – What is a Borrego?

1 hour

Join Park Interpreter Nova Clarke at the Borrego Palm Canyon trailhead to learn about our resident desert bighorns. From there we will wander part way up the canyon to learn a bit more about the ecosystem, look at flowers, and perhaps see a bighorn.

2:00 p.m. - \$\$ - Mammals of Anza-Borrego

1.5 hours

Instructor: Dr. Scott Tremor, Curator of Mammals, San Diego Natural History Museum

Fee: Member \$10; Non-member \$15 ABDSP Visitor Center Discovery Lab

Gain an introduction to the incredible diversity of small mammals in San Diego County and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, from the curator of mammals at the San Diego Natural History Museum. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063.**

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.

7:30 p.m. – \$\$ - Film/Talk - Ghost Mountain Documentary Film

Fee: \$10 (free with registration for Ghost Mountain hike on Sunday, March 22)

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center

Join us for a showing of the feature-length documentary by filmmaker John McDonald. In 1930 Marshal South and his wife Tanya fled civilization in pursuit of a simple back-to-nature lifestyle. For seventeen years, they lived atop Ghost Mountain and raised three children without the modern conveniences most of us take for granted. Q & A session will follow. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063.**

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MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Sunday March 22, 2009

- 8:00 a.m. – Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon** **3 hours**
Volunteer Naturalist Toni Alexander 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.
- 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 Volunteer Naturalist-Tracker Karin Vickars 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 in Palm Canyon.
- 9:00 a.m. - \$\$ - Ghost Mountain Hike** **3 hours**
Led by John McDonald
Fee: \$25 Member; \$35 Non-member (includes Saturday night film screening)
Join filmmaker John McDonald for a one-mile hike to the mountaintop homesite of the Marshal South family, and let him share with you not only stories of the Souths, but also his experiences filming on location. You will come away with a greater appreciation for how, and why, the South family made their home here for so long. Wear hiking shoes and dress in layers (the hike is moderately strenuous, mostly uphill), and bring snacks and plenty of water. Meet at entrance to Blair Valley off Highway S2. To get there: Drive south on Highway S-2 from Highway 78 and look for mile marker 23.0. Meet John at the entrance close to the restrooms. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063.**
- 10:00 a.m. – Military Wash Experience Tailgate Tour** **1 hour**
Join Ranger Jim to discuss the history of Rake Station at Military Wash. Meet at the restroom of the Arroyo Salado Primitive Campground off Highway S22, MM 34.8
4WD required.
- 10:00 a.m. – Talk - ♿ - Lifestyles of the Hot and Thirsty** **30 minutes**
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.



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MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Tuesday, March 24, 2009

10:00 a.m. – Talk - ♿ - Cahuilla Medicine Chest

45 minutes

Join Volunteer Naturalist Mike Bigelow in the Discovery Lab to learn about the medicine chest full of effective treatments that the Cahuilla people utilized long before the first Europeans arrived.



Wednesday, March 25, 2009

9:00 a.m. – Hike – Heavenly Hike through Hellhole Canyon

5 hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund for a 6 mile round trip moderately strenuous exploration of Hellhole Canyon. Meet at the Hellhole Canyon parking area; take S-22 south from Palm Canyon Drive approximately 1 mile. The parking area is on the right hand side of the road. Due to the difficult terrain, wear sturdy footwear and bring a hat, sunscreen, lunch and plenty of water.



ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. 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.

MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, March 28, 2009

- 8:00 a.m. – Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon** **3 hours**
Volunteer Naturalist Toni Alexander 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.
- 9:30 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 the Tulloch Ranch :
On Rt. 79 a short distance north of Hwy . S-1.
- 10:00 a.m. – Talk - ♿ - 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 – 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.
- 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 entrance to 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. – Hike – Discovering the Archeological 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.
- 1:00 p.m. – Talk/Walk – What is a Borrego?** **1 hour**
Join Park Interpreter Nova Clarke at the Borrego Palm Canyon trailhead to learn about our resident desert bighorns. From there we will wander part way up the canyon to learn a bit more about the ecosystem and perhaps see a bighorn.



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MARCH 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



Saturday, March 28, 2009

2:00 p.m. - Hawkwatch Lecture: What's Going on in Our Valley?

1.5 hours

Come to the Borrego Springs Library community room to find out why Borrego Valley is unique among Hawkwatch sites. Why are these magnificent birds stopping here on their 7,000-mile journey? Hawkwatch organizer Hal Cohen will present a slide program summing up the season as well as a look at all species of hawks found in the valley. **Call ABFI for more information: (760)767-4063.**

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, March 29, 2009

8:00 a.m. - Talk - The Borrego Hawk Watch Experience

1 hour

Discover the hawk watch phenomenon with Volunteer Naturalist and hawk watcher Joe Hopkins. Meet at the Visitor Center flagpole to caravan out to the site, observe hawk watchers on duty, and we hope, see migrating raptors. Bring binoculars, water, snacks, and appropriate clothing.

8:00 a.m. - Walk - Bird Walk at Tamarisk Grove

2 hours

Search for birds of the season in the area of Tamarisk Grove Campground (including Yaqui Well) with Ranger Bob Theriault. Meet at the campground office, located on County Road S-3, near the junction with State Highway 78. Bring binoculars and sturdy shoes for this moderate stroll of up to 2 hours.

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MARCH 2009 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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