

# December 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



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## Thursday, December 3, 2009

### 9:00 a.m. Hike – Mine Wash Vista

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson on a drive back into mine wash where we will continue on foot for a 4-mile round trip hike with ever-changing sights around each bend. We will need to climb a couple of 4-foot dry waterfalls on our way to a spectacular view of Shelter Valley. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the beginning of Mine Wash Road, 2.7 miles east of the Tamarisk Grove intersection on Highway 78.

## Saturday, December 5, 2009

### 8:00 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.

### 8:00 a.m. – \$\$ – "Success in a Photo Contest" Workshop

4 hours

Instructors: Paul Johnson and Dennis Mammana Fee: \$25

Get tips from professional photographers on creative techniques to help you capture striking images and take winning photos. Advance registration required. Workshop will be held in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab. Call ABI 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. - Hike – Voices, Visions, and Views of Alcoholic Pass

3 Hours

Hike Alcoholic Pass! 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 3 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.

### 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."

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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 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



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## Saturday, December 5, 2009 (Continued)

### 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. Take Palm Canyon Drive east from Christmas Circle to S22. Airport on the left.

### 12:00 p.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.

### 1:00 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.

### 7:00 p.m. – \$\$ – Our Cosmic Address (Desert Skies Outdoor Lecture Series)

2 hours

Instructor: Dennis Mammana \$5 suggested donation

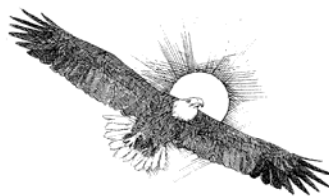
Explore where we're located in this vast universe and discover just how difficult it might be for anyone – or anything – to find us! Popular astronomer Dennis Mammana enlightens us with the mysteries of the cosmos, followed by telescope viewing, weather permitting. Dress warmly and bring blanket and flashlight to the Nierenberg Plaza at ABDSP Visitor Center.

Call ABI 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.



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# December 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



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## Sunday, December 6, 2009

### 8:00 a.m. – \$\$ – Travertine Palms Hike, Level Strenuous

8 hours

Instructor: Bob Theriault      Fee: Members \$35; Non-members \$45

Ranger Bob grew up exploring the Santa Rosa Mountains and the surprises they contain. This unique hike ends in a lovely grove of native fan palms. Advance registration required. Call ABI for more information: (760) 767-4063.

### 10:00 a.m. – Hike – Tailgate Tour

1 hour

Hike into Cool Canyon for a close up look at lichens and crystals. Moderate hike 1 mile with climbs over small rock walls. Meet Ranger Jeri Zemon on Highway S-2 between mile-marker 21 and 22 (south end of Shelter Valley).

### 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.

## Monday, December 7, 2009

### 10:00 a.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.

## Thursday, December 10, 2009

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

3 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.

### 10:30 a.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 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



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**Saturday, December 12, 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.)

**8:00 a.m. - \$\$ - Salton Sea: The Neglected Treasure**

**8 hours**

Instructor: Paul Johnson      Fee: Members \$35; Non-members \$45

Discover the abundant wildlife and mysterious geology of the Salton Sea. Advance registration required. Call ABI 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.

**11:30 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 Naturalist- Tracker Beth Shugan in the Discovery Lab, and start to learn to read these tales of life -- and death -- in the desert.



**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.

**7:30 p.m. - Campfire ♿ "Boulders, Palm trees and Water, Oh MY!"**

**1 Hour**

What happens when a 16 foot wall of water comes pouring out of Borrego Palm Canyon? Join Ranger Jennifer Rodrigues at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire center as she tells all.

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# December 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



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## Sunday, December 13, 2009

**8:00 a.m. – \$\$ – Hike of the Month: Mountain Palm Springs, Level Strenuous 6 hours**

Instructor: Steve Bier Fee: \$10

We continue our new series with a hike to visit secluded palm groves with Ranger Steve Bier.

Advance registration required. Call ABI for more information: (760) 767-4063.

**9:00 a.m. - Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon 3 Hours**

Volunteer Naturalist Bonnie Clapp 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. **This is not a guided hike.**

**9:30 a.m. - Talk ♿ - Ok, Now What Do We Do? 1 Hour**

Whether you are a first time visitor or one who has not had the opportunity to visit sections of the park, join Volunteer Naturalist Ron Shugan for a slide show presentation meant to provide an overview of the many activities and sights of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. This series of slides will make you want to get out and visit some of the many wonders of California's largest state park. Meet in the visitor center discovery lab.

## Friday, December 18, 2009

**11:00 a.m. - Talk ♿ - Modern Warrior/ Ancient God - The Scorpion 45 minutes**

Join Volunteer Naturalist Gerald Ehly to learn more about the fascinating life of the scorpion and its significance to different cultures all over the world. Meet in the Discovery Lab.



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# December 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



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## Saturday, December 19, 2009

### 7:00 a.m. - Tracking Walk – Coyote Canyon

**4 Hours**

Meet Volunteer Naturalist Karin Vickars at Christmas Circle. If you have a 4WD please bring it. We would like to carpool as far as the Bypass road. We will then explore the area around Lower Willows and use tracks and other signs to identify the animals that frequent the area.

Questions: Email to [Karinvickars@hotmail.com](mailto:Karinvickars@hotmail.com)

### 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.)

### 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.

### 12:00 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.

### 1:00 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.

### 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.

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# December 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



## **SUNDAY, December 20, 2009**

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

**3 Hours**

Volunteer Naturalist Bonnie Clapp 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. **This is not a guided hike.**

### **9:30 a.m. - Talk ♿ - Ok, Now What Do We Do?**

**1 Hour**

Whether you are a first time visitor or one who has not had the opportunity to visit sections of the park, join Volunteer Naturalist Ron Shugan for a slide show presentation meant to provide an overview of the many activities and sights of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. This series of slides will make you want to get out and visit some of the many wonders of California's largest state park. Meet in the visitor center discovery lab.

## **Monday, December 21, 2009**

### **10:00 a.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.

## **Friday, December 25, 2009**

### **10:00 a.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.

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# December 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



**Saturday, December 26, 2009**

**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. - Display ♿ - Usefulness of Desert Plants**

**3 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. She will be featuring the products of the mesquite in this program.

**11:30 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 Naturalist- Tracker Beth Shugan in the Discovery Lab, and start to learn to read these tales of life -- and death -- in the desert.



**2:00 p.m. - Talk ♿ -Mountain Lions**

**30 minutes**

Investigate the habits and habitats of our top predator, the mountain lion, with Volunteer Naturalist Grace Clark, and discover how you can protect yourself while protecting them at the same time.

**7:30 p.m. - Campfire ♿ What is really in those Badlands?**

**1 Hour**

Join Ranger Don Strampfer for a journey into our Borrego Badlands. Explore the life and beauty of this section of our park. Enjoy the breathtaking scenery without leaving your seat. Come to the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire center. P.S. Campfire songs are always a possibility!

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# December 2009 INTERPRETIVE SCHEDULE



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Monday, December 28, 2009

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.

Thursday, December 31, 2009

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.

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.



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# December 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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