



AUGUST, 2015

THE WAVE *At Crystal Cove*



Crystal Cove Alliance is the non-profit, cooperating association dedicated to education, restoration, and conservation within Crystal Cove State Park



{making a difference}

SEA GLASS WRAPPING WEDNESDAYS: A WINDOW TO THE PAST

Sea glass wrapping continues to be one of this summer’s most talked about activities at Crystal Cove Alliance’s Community Days. Every Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., CCA staff member Rick Boufford can be found in the Education Commons, engaging everyone around him in free lessons on how to turn a found item into a beautiful piece of jewelry.

Collecting sea glass from Crystal Cove’s beaches and turning it into jewelry is one of Rick’s most cherished passions. “I love sea wrapping so much,” he says. “There is nothing I’d rather be doing on a Wednesday!”

While sea glass is often associated with unique crafts and pendants, it often begins its life as broken bottles that become weathered and smoothed by salt water, waves, and sand. Much of the sea glass found on Crystal Cove’s beaches comes from old bottles buried with the refuse from the Historic District’s early residents. Some colors are rarer than others and each piece is a window into the Park’s past.

Collecting sea glass on Crystal Cove’s beaches is permitted. Sea glass wrapping takes these found pieces of glass and breathes new life into them as a community art form. While teaching beachgoers how to wrap, Rick also educates Park visitors about the importance of the ocean and how everyone can do their part in preserving it.



Recognizing the significance of sea glass in the Crystal Cove community, Crystal Cove Alliance invites all sea glass lovers to become members of its distinguished Sea Glass Circle. Crystal Cove would not exist as it is today if not for the generous support and contributions from the local community. Sea Glass Circle looks to build on this communal effort by bringing people together who are passionate about CCA’s efforts in restoration, conservation, and education. To join or for membership benefits, please visit CCA’s [Sea Glass Circle](#).

{from the field}

STRANGERS FROM THE SEA: AN INSIDE LOOK AT CRYSTAL COVE’S UNUSUAL VISITORS

The ocean’s temperature has been gradually rising for almost a year, resulting in some unusual sightings in the waters surrounding Crystal Cove. Swing by Cottage #46 this month as Crystal Cove Alliance highlights some of those sightings in our “Strangers from the Sea” photo exhibition.

With El Nino in full effect, local fishermen and Crystal Cove State Park beachgoers are beginning to see marine creatures not common in this area—such as Bryde’s Whales, Pelagic Red Crabs, Green sea turtles and Scalloped Hammerhead Sharks. Many of these species normally live in subtropical waters off the coasts of Baja Mexico or Central America, but with waters around Crystal Cove getting warmer, they’re occasionally observed much farther north.



With the help of Crystal Cove Alliance’s partners at Newport Landing Whale Watching, the photography exhibit showcases some of these strange sightings, drawing on photos taken by crewmembers and photography enthusiasts Dale Fink and Slater Moore. Exhibit visitors will have the opportunity to submit their own unusual sightings around park via [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#); the best submissions will be added to the exhibit. “Strangers from the Sea” is FREE, open to the public, and will last throughout the months of August and September.

{then and now}

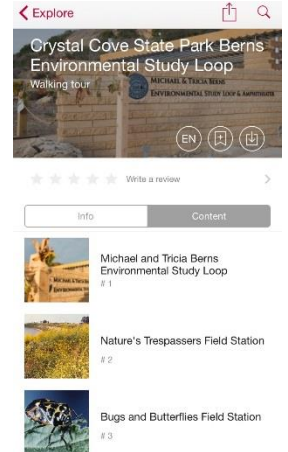
CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE INTRODUCES A NEW MULTI-MEDIA AUDIO GUIDE AND PHONE APP FOR EXPLORING THE BERNS ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY LOOP

Exploring the Berns Environmental Study Loop just got a little easier with the addition of a new multimedia audio guide for your smart phone! Produced by CCA and narrated by Crystal Cove State Park Interpretive Naturalist Winter Bonnin, the new audio guide will introduce park visitors to the natural history of Moro Canyon, the ongoing monitoring projects taking place in the park, as well as provide opportunities for users themselves to contribute to these projects.

Before its revitalization and the installation of the Berns Environmental Study Loop, lower Moro Canyon used to be a difficult place for the public to explore. Starting in the 1920s, the area housed a trailer park with no public access to the beach. In 2006, the trailer park closed and the beaches were reopened to the public. In 2014, the Berns Environmental Study Loop was officially introduced to the public as an educational hub designed to immerse park visitors in the science of conservation and park management.

Explore the Berns Environmental Study Loop today by downloading the Crystal Cove State Park audio guide available exclusively on the izi.Travel app. The app is completely FREE to use and is available now for download on the Apple App store, Google Play Store, and the Windows Phone Store.

Be sure to try out the new audio guide and let us know what you think by writing a review.



{community voices}

WHY PROTECT THE HABITAT AT CRYSTAL COVE

Editor's note: Welcome to the Wave's first Community Voices guest post! Crystal Cove Alliance has always had a wonderful group of passionate supporters and advocates. Beginning this month, the Wave will periodically feature stories by guest writers, artists, naturalists, historians and other fascinating individuals from the local community. This community voice comes from Virginia Webber.

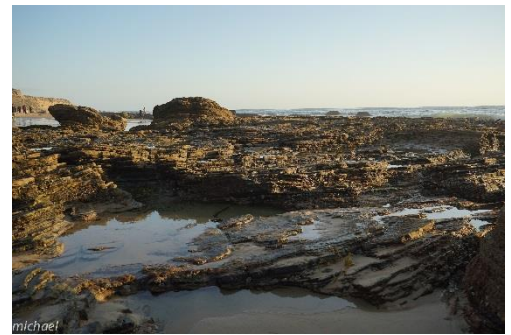
Like a curtain drawn back for a preview of a show, low tide at Crystal Cove offers a glimpse into a vibrant ocean world. This brief visibility of sea creatures and plants is what makes tidepools so special and inviting; they're windows into the workings of underwater life that's usually hidden from us. Until the tide returns, we're able to magically explore the ocean while standing on dry land.

Not far from the tidepools, at the outdoor Berns Amphitheater, an audience plays a game called Tidepool Jeopardy to show what they've learned in a ranger chat. Why is a starfish more properly called a sea star? Hands wave. Everyone need it for its house!" Arriving at these seemingly simple answers requires thinking about the properties that make a fish a fish, and about what conditions a fish, a sea star, or a hermit crab needs to live.

Tidepool Jeopardy is about conditions necessary for life, and this audience of Crystal Cove campers and visitors is ready to use their knowledge to answer even the most challenging "3-Sand-Dollar" questions about amazing adaptations, interconnected ecosystems, and what we can do to be wise stewards. Tidepool Jeopardy offers a clue to one good reason among the many good reasons to conserve the habitat of Crystal Cove, which is that witnessing how the natural world works inspires wonder, and wonder inspires inquiry and understanding. This perspective is one of the most promising paths to solutions for the future. Practical reasons for conserving habitat sustain the aesthetic and cultural ones for a place as beautiful and beloved as Crystal Cove, and reinforce the interconnectedness of life and well-being in a setting that draws visitors from the community and around the world.

Dr. Sylvia Earle, former chief scientist at NOAA and champion of Marine Protected Areas like the one at Crystal Cove offers the most practical habitat conservation argument of all, which is the singular role of the ocean in supporting life: "With every drop of water you drink, every breath you take, you're connected to the sea. No matter where on Earth you live." Habitat protection at Crystal Cove acknowledges that the life revealed at our tidepools is just the beginning of a living world ocean that governs all life on our planet, including the conditions necessary for sea stars, hermit crabs, and for air-breathing humans to thrive.

The nature of the shoreline makes it feel like a place where the ocean and the land part ways, but they never actually do. As Dr. Earle points out, no matter how far inland we travel or live, we remain connected to the one world ocean that covers more than 70% of the Earth's surface. The world revealed by low tide is not really a different world at all, but part of the same world we inhabit on land. Land and sea are both part of a profoundly interconnected Earth



{membership}

Become a member of Crystal Cove Alliance!

Our partners are all in this together! For as little as \$50, you can become a member of Crystal Cove Alliance. Our new program includes benefits such as discounts at the Park Interpretive Store, invitations to special events, a one-day parking pass, up to four shuttle passes, the CCA monthly newsletter and lots more.

Congratulations to our second quarter winner Alyna T. from Loma Linda, a CCBC six month member!

Don't miss out – [sign up](#) today as a new member to be entered into a drawing for a two-night stay for two in a Crystal Cove Cottage.

