



MARCH, 2016

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



Spotlight

SPRINGTIME REFLECTIONS SPRING ART SHOW

On March 18-20, Crystal Cove Alliance welcomes in spring with its plein air art show, *Reflections!* The free public show will take place on Saturday and Sunday, March 19-20, from 10am-4pm in the Historic District's Education Commons. CCA members can get a special sneak peak during the opening reception on Friday evening from 4-6:30pm, where guests will meet the artists and enjoy live music, wine, and hors d'oeuvres. *Reflections* proudly showcase the picturesque charm that continues to draw visitors and artists alike to Crystal Cove. Jeff Sewell, a local plein air artist, has been a part of CCA's art program for the past 9 years and always looks forward to interacting with guests during the Friday night reception.

"I love meeting the people who come out to these events," says Jeff. "The art really connects with them and it's great to have that symbiotic situation where they fall in love with something and want to take it home." Half of the proceeds from the spring art show will go towards supporting CCA's mission of restoration, conservation, and education in Crystal Cove State Park. "[Crystal Cove] is a very special place to paint for me," says Jeff. "I just think it's a great place within our community and for me it's a real pleasure to support."



Please visit the [Membership](#) page for more information on supporting Crystal Cove Alliance, including unique benefits like the *Reflections* sneak peak. For more information on the spring art show and a special preview of the participating artists' work, please visit the *Reflections* event page.

Making A Difference

CRYSTAL COVE STATE PARK HAS A NEW PORTS INTERPRETER

Crystal Cove State Park proudly welcomes Francesca Henderson as the new PORTS (Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students) Interpreter. Francesca joins a small but extraordinary interpretive team following the promotion of Jennifer Langer, who is now the PORTS Program Coordinator for the South Coast District.

Living along the Southern California coast for much of her life, Francesca cultivated a passion for marine science from a very young age, culminating with her degree from UC San Diego in Environmental Systems, with a concentration in Ecology, Behavior & Evolution. It was during stint as a lifeguard for the city of San Diego that she discovered her true calling.

“It [life guarding] was my first experience with kids and teaching them about safety and the marine ecosystem,” she says. “The transition from the hard sciences to communicating with the public made me want to do more education and outreach.” Using videoconferencing tools and a mobile “edu-gator” (an off-road ATV designed to bring the classroom into the natural environment), Francesca is poised to connect over 7,500 students from all over the country to Crystal Cove’s unique ecosystem.

“There is a big story to tell here,” she says. “To have a watershed, the backcountry, a coastal environment and a Marine Protected Area all in one park is pretty amazing.” When asked what she is most excited for with this new opportunity, it’s simple—working with the students. “Every day it’ll be something different, you don’t know what they’re going to say or ask next,” she says. “This is exactly where I want to be.”

For more information on the Park’s Tide Pool Ecology PORTS program or to schedule your class, please visit the Crystal Cove State Park [PORTS](#) page.



From the Field

HELP CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE STUDY MORO CANYON

Have you checked out Field Science Saturday yet? If not, now is the time to sign up for the four remaining spring dates before summer vacation!

Since its initial launch back in [December], Field Science Saturday was designed to be a model of community driven resource management. Members of the public are invited to participate in Crystal Cove’s restoration and scientists and park managers are able to monitor the health of the ecosystem. “Research needs in the park are constantly changing,” says Crystal Cove Alliance Education Coordinator Kaitlin Magliano, “At Field Science Saturday we try to collect data on what resource managers will find most useful.”

Last month as a special opportunity for birders, Field Science Saturday participants were able to take part in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s Great Backyard Bird Count. Larry & Nina Ackman, who were visiting from Rhode Island, came for the docent led bird walk, but became citizen scientists along the way.



“Being able to assist in data collection and make a contribution to the scientific community is great,” Larry says. “There are opportunities for education, enjoyment, recreation, and inspiration,” Nina adds. To sign up for Field Science Saturday, please visit CCA’s [calendar](#) of events. RSVPs are encouraged. The event is FREE, with a \$15 day use fee required per vehicle. Field Science Saturday is recommended for ages 8 and up and participants under 16 years old must be accompanied by an adult.

Then and Now

COTTAGE #18 – SUNSET BUNGALOW

Tucked atop the northern bluffs and surrounded by panoramic ocean views rests one of the oldest cottages in Crystal Cove. Built in 1926, Cottage #18—the Sunset Bungalow began as project of some college boys from Pasadena before transitioning ownership to Ruth Starr, Bess Marshall, and Margaret and Lela Geyer. The quartet happened upon the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own a cottage when the boys ran out of money and could no longer continue paying for the lease. The master leaseholder made the partially constructed cottage available to anyone who could pay the remaining balance.

Friends, family, and cottage neighbors pooled together their expertise to help finish the cottage. Furnishing the cottage became a piece meal affair, with the first pieces of furniture being scavenged from friend’s castoffs. Throughout the years, friends who were professionals in their fields would bring over leftover materials to add new features to the cottage. In exchange, many of the people who donated their labor stayed in the cottage, often spread throughout the porch and top deck with sleeping bags.



Today, Cottage #18 has been converted into one of four unique cottages reserved for ADA Disabled guests. With a front deck overlooking the ocean, guests can experience the same Crystal Cove charm that the original quartet stumbled upon. For more information on reserving a historic cottage, please visit the Crystal Cove Beach Cottages [website](#).

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. 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.

