



MAY, 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 MEMBERSHIP

May is membership month at Crystal Cove Alliance!

With the help of its members and donors, CCA is dedicated to protecting and preserving the unique cultural, natural and historic resources of Crystal Cove including the cottages, the Historic District and the natural environment which surrounds them, including 3.2 miles of coastline, 2,400 acres of backcountry and an 1,100 acre offshore underwater park. CCA is also creating innovative science and environmental educational programs focused on developing our next generation of environmental stewards to care for our delicate coastline.

Kate Wheeler, Director of Partnership Development says, "The support we receive from membership and annual giving is absolutely essential to CCA being able to fulfill its mission. We don't take our members' investments lightly. We value their support and we're dedicated to stewarding their investments here at the Cove."

CCA's education programs, supported in part by membership and annual giving, are nurturing a well-informed community which understands the real value of wild places and which actively seeks to protect the fragile environment. Through partnerships with California State Parks and University of California, Irvine (UCI), Crystal Cove has become a frontline laboratory for learning. CCA Board member and Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives at UCI, Al Bennett says, "Programs like the ones offered by Crystal Cove Alliance are enabling teachers to better meet student needs by offering them a way to engage students in science in an inspiring setting. This kind of opportunity will certainly help encourage more young people to consider careers in environmental science."

By leveraging the park's natural and historic resources, CCA is able to provide inspirational science and art education to school-age children, families, the elderly, the disabled and other non-traditional park visitors. Membership support also means that visitors can continue hiking backcountry trails and building sand castles to be washed away at high tide. Students can continue counting Harlequin bugs at the Michael & Tricia Berns Environmental Study Loop to study restoration and measuring water quality with us in the underwater park. CCA's neighbors, perhaps even you, can continue to bring out-of-town guests to the Historic District for plein air art shows, to watch the sunset from the deck of the Beaches Cottage, and to explore the tidepools or search for sea glass at low tide.

Members of Crystal Cove Alliance not only support the fulfillment of CCA's mission, but they also receive member discounts, invitations to special members-only events including art show openings, whale watching cruises, member receptions during summer movies on the beach and other benefits. Wheeler adds, "We know our members enjoy those benefits, but we suspect it's not really at the heart of why they give. We think they give because they are as dedicated as we are to preserving this iconic place." Visit CCA's [membership page](#) to become a member or to learn more about member benefits.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

CCA'S NEW COASTAL FIELD SCIENCE PROGRAM LAUNCHES AT THE BERN'S ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY LOOP!

What does it take to conserve a place like Crystal Cove State Park? This spring, over 500 local students will find out as they take part in Crystal Cove Alliance's new Coastal Field Science school program!

Based out of the Michael & Tricia Berns Environmental Study Loop, the new field trip immerses fifth grade, seventh grade, and high school students in real restoration science at Crystal Cove's Moro Canyon. Student research teams use university-grade scientific equipment to collect data for research projects like comparing the effectiveness of different restoration techniques by measuring how much water is available for native plants.

The data that students collect during the program are added to ongoing online data sets, which students can graph and analyze back in their classrooms. At the end of the season, the data will be shared with UCI Center for Environmental Biology researchers and Crystal Cove State Park natural resource managers, who can use it to make recommendations and decisions about how to best conserve and protect Crystal Cove.

UCI's Center for Environmental Biology, who helped design several of the research projects, as well as UCI's School of Education, who are evaluating learning outcomes and helping to develop and test classroom lesson plans with local K-12 teachers.

As well as involving hundreds of students in authentic science, the Coastal Field Science program also inspires young researchers by allowing them to actively contribute to the conservation of Crystal Cove State Park.

"My favorite part is how we're helping the environment," says Anthony, a fifth grade student who visited the Berns Environmental Study Loop with John S. Malcolm Elementary School in late April. "Crystal Cove is a beautiful place, but if the invasive plants take over, we won't have any native plants left."



FROM THE FIELD

CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER: A CRYSTAL COVE SUCCESS STORY

As spring begins drawing in visitors from near and far, Park visitors may catch a glimpse of another Cove dweller that was once a rare sight: the California Gnatcatcher, whose resurgence is one of the Park's great conservation success stories!

California Gnatcatchers almost exclusively forage and breed in coastal sage scrub, a plant community uniquely found along the coast of California and northern Baja California. Over the past few decades, the California Gnatcatcher's habitat has been lost to development along the coast of Southern California, endangering the species and making sightings increasingly uncommon.

But habitat restoration efforts have brought about the reestablishment of this beloved and endangered native bird species within Crystal Cove State Park. The State Park's Natural Resource Management team has worked hard to restore a healthy diverse habitat of coastal sage scrub to help these birds thrive. They continue to monitor the California Gnatcatcher population along the bluffs twice a year, once for the beginning of breeding season in April, and once after breeding season ends. After the most recent round of monitoring on the coastal area of Crystal Cove in April, the Natural Resource Management team reported that Crystal Cove's California Gnatcatcher population is doing well.

"We had 25 nesting pairs in 2015," says Hailey Laskey, a Natural Resource Management intern who conducted April's pre-breeding surveys. "I am happy to say we have the same this year as well. They appear to have occupied all suitable areas of coastal sage scrub on the 3.2 miles of bluffs."

Next time you visit the Cove, keep your eyes and ears open for this little bird. To identify the call of the California Gnatcatcher, listen for a sound similar to a kitten mewing. You can also participate in Crystal Cove Alliance's [Field Science Saturday](#) on May 14th to help identify gnatcatchers within the Berns Environmental Study Loop, or go birding with a State Park docent on the first Saturday of every month.



THEN AND NOW

COTTAGE #2 – THE SHELL SHACK

Built in 1926 by Huntington Beach-based brothers-in-law Russell Paull and Lowell Bailey, Cottage #2, now affectionately known as "The Shell Shack", was first created as a movie set during the golden age of film at Crystal Cove. It changed hands several times over the years, transferring ownership from the Paull and Bailey families to a group of four co-workers from Azusa Valley Savings Bank, who shared it as a vacation home. The owners eventually built Cottage #27 next door, selling Cottage #2 to Joseph Sheeder, who worked in Hollywood and first visited the Cove during a film shoot. It remained primarily unchanged until 1961, when tent campers Bob and Peggy Davick took over the lease.

The Shell Shack may be best known today as CCA Founder & Interim President Laura Davick's childhood home. Laura, Bob and Peggy's daughter, grew up in the one-room cottage, sharing a Murphy bed with her siblings until her father added on two bedrooms. Davick recalls, "Growing up in Cottage #2 was an amazing experience. Some of my favorite memories were sleeping on the porch, and riding my horse on the beach bareback and taking him into the ocean for a swim. I will never forget the morning that I tied him up in front of Cottage #2 and went in to have breakfast with my family. I heard this loud kicking sound and found my horse had kicked a hole on the side of my father's homemade catamaran sailboat!"



THEN AND NOW - continued
COTTAGE #2 – THE SHELL SHACK

Eventually, Bob, an engineer by trade, also decided to enclose the patio and add a deck and an office, made from a combination of standard construction materials and flotsam found on the beach. Later, Laura crafted rockwork on the front of the house using stones, shells and beach glass—a decorative fixture that remains to this day.

Because there wasn't enough of the original to salvage, Cottage #2 was completely restored in late 2005. Through drawings and interviews with Laura, Cottage #2 became a faithful representation of its 1920s-era condition, with period-appropriate textiles and furnishings, two Murphy beds and a small kitchen. Of the restoration Davick says, "Growing up at Crystal Cove taught me how important it was to cherish these special places that I later learned were open spaces and public lands. This childhood experience touched me in a profound way. At age 40 I found my true purpose in life, to preserve Crystal Cove for others so they could experience it as I once had."

For more information on cottages and overnight rentals—or to take a tour of the cottages with Laura—visit crystalcovebeachcottages.com.

Become a Member

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.



**CRYSTAL COVE
ALLIANCE**