



SEPTEMBER 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



{spotlight}

MOONLIGHT GALA ON SEPTEMBER 26 BENEFITS CCA, SPOTLIGHTS EDUCATION

The 13th annual Crystal Cove Alliance Gala on September 26 is right around the corner! This special event - Moonlight Gala - brings together many of CCA's wonderful friends and supporters, who have helped CCA's initiatives in restoration, conservation, and education, for an evening of dinner and dancing under the stars.

As a result of generous underwriting contributions from last year's Back to the Bluff Gala, CCA was able to deliver innovative science, technology, engineering and math programs to thousands of students this year, as well as provide scholarship support for many of Orange County's underserved schools. This year's gala will be aimed at expanding educational opportunities for youth at Crystal Cove.

Katelyn Carbajal, an incoming senior from Segerstrom High School, participated in CCA's Marine Protected Area Citizen Science Cruise last May.

"Going on that cruise blew my mind," she says. "I've always loved the ocean and the animals that live in it, but after seeing so many dolphins [bow riding with the boat] it made me want to become a marine biologist."

Looking to pursue her passion for the ocean, Katelyn was inspired to become a CCA volunteer this summer, where she used what she learned on the MPA Citizen Science Cruise to lead science activities in the Park & Marine Research Facility. "I've never had the opportunity to be a leader, to be in charge, or to work with people," she says. "Volunteering gave me that opportunity to interact with people. It opened my mind and got me out of my comfort zone."

Real stories such as Katelyn's show how powerful and inspiring experiences like CCA's MPA Citizen Science Cruise can be for students and demonstrate why CCA will dedicate all funds raised during the Fund-A-Need portion of the gala to education programs. Guests will have the opportunity to fund the participation of an entire class, grade level or school. The big event is just a few weeks away, and there are still a few sponsorships available!



{from the field}

CALLING ALL BIRD ENTHUSIASTS!

It's that time of year again! The autumn season is just beginning to settle over Crystal Cove and that means plenty of opportunities to catch glimpses of migrating birds. With the Park crowds slowing down and students headed back to school, September is the perfect time to go birding!

As the seasons change, some birds will be leaving Crystal Cove while others will be arriving. Bullock's and Hooded Orioles, for example, who have been here since the beginning of summer, are making their way south, while shore birds such as the Snowy plovers, Black Bellied plovers, Whimbrels, and Sanderlings are beginning to populate Crystal Cove's sandy beaches.

For those interested in learning more about birds, Crystal Cove State Park bird docent Tom Eastman will be hosting a Bird Walk on Saturday, September 5th, at 8m in the Berns Amphitheatre in Lower Moro Canyon. For more information, please visit the CCSP [\[calendar\]](#)



Top image: Snowy plover playing in Crystal Cove's tidepools. Photos courtesy of Trude Hurd

{making a difference}

WELCOME BACK CCA GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY STUDENTS!

Last month, ten elite students from Dana Hills High School, accompanied by CCA Education Manager Sara Ludovise, travelled to Mankwe Wildlife Reserve and Pilanesberg National Park in South Africa as part of an international conservation initiative—the Global Sustainability Project. Their mission: to monitor and assess scavenger species, particularly the Brown hyena, and learn more about their role in local South African ecosystems.

The project was sponsored by the Kenneth A. Picerne Foundation, a CCA partner, and run in partnership with the Earthwatch Institute. Before leaving on the trip, the ten students collectively volunteered over 400 hours with Crystal Cove Alliance, taking part in scientific research in Crystal Cove’s backcountry and helping to develop a new trap camera program that will be offered to other high school classes this upcoming school year.

Having worked with trap cameras for an entire year, student Kyle Small knows just how valuable an observation tool they are for scientists. “The trap camera experience at Crystal Cove helped us become more familiar with the equipment that we’re using now [in Mankwe Wildlife Reserve],” he says. “It’s all about conservation in both places, we want to make sure the wildlife back home and the wildlife here are still around in twenty years.”

Linking CCA’s education and local conservation work to the global conservation community highlights the significance of this project for Sara. “The project let the students take what they learned from conducting research in Crystal Cove State Park and apply it in a reserve on the opposite side of the world,” she says. “It emphasizes how everything is connected, and how everyone can make a difference by taking action on a local level, no matter if local is Orange County or South Africa.”

Congratulations to the Global Sustainability team on an incredibly successful year!



Global Sustainability students collecting scat

{then and now}

COTTAGE #34 – THE CULTURAL CENTER

During the 1920s and 30s, Japanese sharecroppers farmed the Crystal Cove land that once belonged to the Irvine Ranch. Looking to introduce their children to the same cultural traditions that they experienced growing up, the families came together to build a schoolhouse for their children to attend on Saturdays. Community parties, kendo demonstrations and Buddhist services were some of the immersive events that parents wanted to expose their children to.

When World War II broke out, everything changed. The Japanese families were sent to internment camps and never again returned to Crystal Cove. The schoolhouse sat empty and gathered dust until 1947, when the Kuechel family relocated the cottage to where it stands today on the bluffs of the Historic District. The cottage passed from family to family over the years until the land was eventually sold to the State of California in 1979. Today, Cottage #34 pays homage to Crystal Cove’s diverse past with its most recent incarnation as the Cultural Center. With historic panels spread throughout and as the meeting site for CCA’s historic tours, the Cultural Center serves as a reminder to what once was and the people who have helped shape Crystal Cove.

To learn more about Cottage #34, join Crystal Cove Alliance Founder & Director of External Affairs Laura Davick on Sunday, September 20th, at 12p.m. in the Cultural Center, for a two-hour walking tour of the Historic District. For more information, [click here](#) for a printable schedule.



{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
ALLIANCE**