

FEBRUARY 2015

THE WAVE *At Crystal Cove*

Crystal Cove Alliance is the nonprofit cooperating association dedicated to education, restoration and conservation within Crystal Cove State Park.



Spotlight

EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

AS 2015 PICKS UP STEAM, CCA IS ROLLING OUT MORE EXCITING PROGRAMS AT THE PARK.

There are endless ways to experience Crystal Cove. CCA's recently launched website (crystalcovealliance.org) is a great resource for planning a day at the Park, offering a listing of programs that will please any personality and age group. Teachers and after-school leaders can also sign up to be part of the testing team for programs in development, such as the Citizen Science school programs based out of the Berns Environmental Study



Left: New Citizen Science programs in the Park and Marine Research Facility and the Berns Environmental Study Loop are being tested this spring. Right: Brownies learn about harlequin bugs as they help test the new Bug Badge Citizen Science program at the Berns Environmental Study Loop

Loop and the Park and Marine Research Facility in Cottage #22, or badge kits for Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

In the meantime, some of the educational programs planned for 2015 include the Marine Protected Area Citizen Science Cruise, which takes place year-round; public art classes in the summer as part of the "The Great Plein Air Art Experience"; and Citizen Science Hikes in the Berns Environmental Study Loop.

From the Field

'THE LITTLE GUYS OF THE COVE'

THE NEWEST EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY IN COTTAGE #46 OFFERS A VISUALLY CAPTIVATING AND EDUCATIONAL LOOK AT THE UNDERWATER PARK'S MICROSCOPIC LIFE FORMS KNOWN AS PLANKTON.

The word "plankton" derives from a Greek word meaning "wandering"—it's no surprise, then, that these marine organisms exist in a floating, drifting state at sea. Virtually every animal in the sea passes through this microscopic state, and though they account for some of the smallest living creatures on earth, they're critically important to the aquatic circle of life here at Crystal Cove and throughout the world's oceans.

At Crystal Cove, plankton is collected on CCA's Marine Protected Area Citizen Science Cruise boats, where UC Irvine professor Peter Bryant researches unusual specimens and sends samples to a lab in Washington for DNA fingerprinting. This

process can match larval forms with adult species found elsewhere in the ocean, which offers a deeper look at how climate change is affecting the marine life at the Cove.

For curious visitors, the exhibition at Cottage #46 (which opened in late January), will showcase an "under the microscope" look at plankton through stunning photographic works by Peter Bryant. Learn about CCA's ocean drifters and get interactive demonstrations on Saturdays from UC Irvine interns, who will share live plankton collected from the boats.

"It's an exploration every time," says Harry Helling, CCA's president and CEO, of each new batch of plankton. "It's a different cast of characters with each visit."



Then and Now COTTAGE #46

THE CRYSTAL COVE STORE AND SODA FOUNTAIN FROM THE 1950S NOW SERVES AS AN EXHIBITION SPACE THAT ALLOWS VISITORS TO EXPLORE THE PARK.

The blue-green structure right on the beach in Crystal Cove's Historic District once served as a store and soda fountain back in the 1950s. Run by residents Merle and Pearl Van Pelt and their son Lee, the store kept pantries stocked with groceries and supplies, in addition to providing some just-for-fun items like punch cards (lottery tickets), penny candy, ice cream and firecrackers. A soda fountain, complete with a counter and stools, also offered a popular "suicide soda"—a mix of all five flavors that was a favorite



with the kids.

Over the years, it transitioned from a store to a residence, surfboard-building shop, storage facility and artist Vivian Falzetti's studio space in the 1970s. Today, it's a dedicated space for CCA to showcase the best of Crystal Cove. Marine life, educational programs and more are on display on a rotating basis in Cottage #46, located just across the sand

from The Beachcomber Café in the Historic District.

In memory of Vivian Falzetti and her legacy at Crystal Cove.

Making a Difference

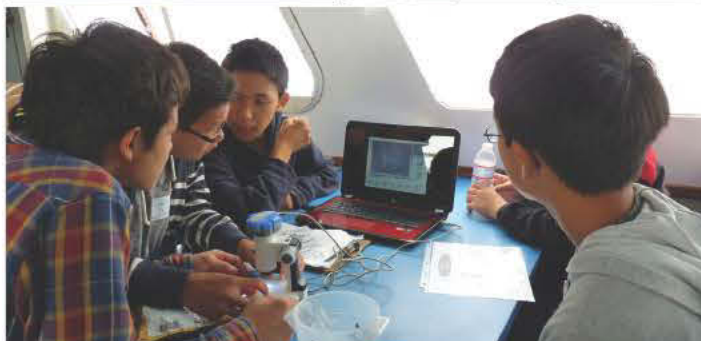
SCIENCE FOR THE PEOPLE

UPCOMING ENHANCED WHALE-WATCHING CRUISES WILL ALLOW MORE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN HANDS-ON CITIZEN SCIENCE.

CCA's Citizen Science Cruises continue to grow, focusing on gathering meaningful data for scientists and resource managers. This year, the program will expand in an exciting direction—in addition to school cruises, CCA is planning to bring the science to general whale watching boats. The nonprofit will work with Newport Landing Sportfishing, an important partner, to pilot new hands-on citizen science exhibits and exploration backpacks onboard cruises between February and June.

The program will begin testing on the Western Pride in February, allowing students to become citizen scientists and help with scientific monitoring projects. The enhanced whale-watching cruise is currently directed at fourth- and fifth-graders, and a trained marine educator will facilitate the data collection for five different self-guided stations. Students will count and record behaviors of marine mammals (whales, dolphins and sea lions) and birds; participate in a debate about the sea lion abundance along the coast; learn about gray whales; and collect and study plankton using handheld microscopes.

What's more, CCA will be able to take what's learned from this program and, perhaps, help to increase the educational experience for more than 100,000 public whale watchers that depart from Newport Landing each year.



Eat and Drink

ROMANCE AT THE BEACH

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY AT CRYSTAL COVE WITH A SPECIAL MENU AT THE BEACHCOMBER CAFÉ.

Feb. 14 is a red-letter day for couples—this year, skip the flowers and celebrate Valentine's Day with a romantic meal. The Beachcomber Café at Crystal Cove is offering a four-course dinner menu that serves as an excellent accompaniment to views of the glittering Pacific. Start with a choice of Salmon Cornet or Herb Parmesan Sweet Potato Gnocchi, followed by English Pea Soup or Baby Ruby Beet Salad. For an entree, lovebirds can enjoy a classic Surf & Turf with filet of beef and poached Maine lobster tail, or one of three other options. Finally, top the meal off with a sharable sweet: chocolate cake, accented with raspberry coulis, chocolate-covered strawberries and chocolate mint. The prix-fixe menu is \$90 per person; reservations can be made on The Beachcomber's website.



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!

Congratulations to our fourth quarter new member Stephen R. from Santa Clara, CA, winner of a two-night stay at Cottage #22.



CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE

CCA launched a new website! Visit us at crystalcovealliance.org to check out the exciting new features.