



DECEMBER, 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}

### CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE CELEBRATES 18th ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Start counting down to Christmas this Saturday, December 5th, by joining Crystal Cove Alliance for our 19th annual Tree Lighting ceremony! Visitors will be treated to a winter wonderland transformation of the Historic District, complete with vintage lights and décor, Christmas carolers, and complimentary treats, courtesy of The Beachcomber Café.

Beginning at 10 a.m., guests can enjoy a festive bazaar with treasures handcrafted by local residents, as well as old-fashioned holiday decorations. The highlight of the day will be the 19th Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at dusk, a holiday tradition that draws locals and visitors alike. Families will have the opportunity to meet Santa, who will take gift requests and pose for holiday photos starting around 4pm. Now one of CCA's most popular events, the Tree Lighting has continued to grow in size and scale since its inception nearly two decades ago. CCA's Founder and Interim President Laura Davick began the tradition by decorating the Cove with thousands of tiny lights, a 35 foot tree on the sand, and an illuminated star at the top of the TV antenna on the bluff.



This annual tradition has blossomed into a grand festival, echoing the communal holiday atmosphere that Laura originally envisioned. "This event is one of our most anticipated of the year as it evokes the historical and magical holiday spirit of Crystal Cove," says Laura. "There's no better way to appreciate the beauty of our seaside jewel than to celebrate the season here, alongside friends and family." All funds raised during the holiday season will support increasing accessibility to Crystal Cove State Park including the purchase of new beach wheelchairs used by more than 2,500 elderly and disabled visitors annually at the Historic District and the beach in Moro Canyon. The Tree Lighting ceremony is free to attend; with a \$15 day use fee required per vehicle. Early arrival is recommended as parking is a first come first serve basis. For more information, please visit CCA's [calendar](#) of events.

## {from the field}

### "MEMORIES OF THE COVE" EXHIBIT REFLECTS ON CRYSTAL COVE'S FONDEST MEMORIES

Crystal Cove has always been a place that celebrates community, learning, and family fun. If you're coming down to visit the Cove during the holiday season, you can explore some favorite memories from Crystal Cove's history and share your personal Cove memories by visiting the new "Memories of the Cove" exhibit in Cottage #46. The new exhibit, which opens on December 5th, will share stories from some of Crystal Cove's fondest traditions, such as the Tree Lighting Ceremony. After exploring favorite memories of the past, visitors will be able to share their own by adding a card to the Community Memories board, or posting photos to Instagram and Facebook using #covememories. "This exhibit will give visitors a new perspective and appreciation for the Cove," says Crystal Cove Alliance Education Specialist and exhibit curator Mackenzie Peich. "The exhibit will touch on the memories of this space in such a personal way that will allow visitors to relate and connect their stories to the Cove's

history." Share your own favorite memories online, and stay tuned to CCA's social media accounts for some of our favorite Cove memories from this holiday season! For a sneak peek at one of the many educational 'memories,' head over to [Then & Now](#) to learn more about the Falzettis' Flight School.



## {making a difference}

### YOU'RE INVITED TO FIELD SCIENCE SATURDAY!

Join CCA this month for the first-ever Field Science Saturday on December 12<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m., at the Berns Environmental Study Loop. This new program, part of CCA's Field Science Initiative, invites families, students, and the public to get involved in several research projects based in Crystal Cove's Moro Canyon.

Participants in Field Science Saturdays will work with CCA staff to investigate the health of Moro Canyon's ecosystem by collecting data on decomposition rates, transpiration in plants, water table levels, and fire ecology. The data from these research projects will be shared with local researchers, and will also be fed into a new environmental dashboard for Crystal Cove State Park. Starting in 2016, the Field Science Saturday program will be offered once a month to create regular data collection opportunities. For the first program on December 12<sup>th</sup>, participants will be able to test and give feedback on scientific protocols for the new research projects. Designed to be a model for linking research to resource management, Field Science Saturdays aim to empower the community to become stakeholders in the stewardship of Crystal Cove State Park.

"Studying Moro Canyon's ecosystem is a huge project that scientists and resource managers can't do on their own," says CCA Education Coordinator Kaitlin Magliano. "Bringing the community out into the field as researchers can help us collect more data for State Park managers so that places like Moro Canyon can be protected for future generations of park visitors to enjoy."

RSVPs, found [here], are encouraged. The event is free; with a \$15 day use fee required per vehicle. Participants will meet at the Berns Amphitheatre at 8:30 a.m., directions available [here]

For more information on Field Science Saturdays, please contact Kaitlin Magliano at [kmagliano@crystalcovealliance.org](mailto:kmagliano@crystalcovealliance.org)



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## {then and now}

### COTTAGE #11 – GABRIEL COTTAGE

Learning never stops in Crystal Cove, even for a couple of pelicans! Doug and Vivian Falzetti, long-time residents of the "Whistle Stop" in Cottage #15, established Crystal Cove's Pelican Flight School shortly after an out-of-business bird shelter dumped off nearly 60 shelter raised pelicans at the Cove's shores.

Flightless and hungry, the abandoned flock of pelicans quickly turned to begging at each and every cottage door in search of food.

Two lucky pelicans, Mooch and Milo, were adopted by the Falzettis and their Maine Coon cat Chuck, who mysteriously took the pelicans in as two of his own. Knowing that Mooch and Milo could not stay with them forever, as pelicans were federally protected, Doug established an impromptu flight school in an effort to re-establish their natural behaviors.



Using the beach sand as a runway and the roof of Cottage #46 as a launch pad, Doug tried different methods and used handfuls of fish treats to re-introduce the idea of flight.

"When something didn't work, we tried something else," says Doug. "Everything was absolutely impromptu and there was no great forethought put into it. They needed to learn how to fly and we knew they would respond to food."

After a few days of routine sessions, Mooch was able to catch a bit of air, roughly a foot off of the sand. In time, both Mooch and Milo were both gliding over the beach and landing on their own. Eventually, Mooch and Milo "graduated" from the Falzetti's Flight School and flew away from the Cove.

Today, the iconic turquoise Cottage #46 has retired as a Flight School launching pad, and is instead used to house interpretive exhibits, such as the "Memories of the Cove" exhibit opening on December 5<sup>th</sup>. The Falzetti's fun approach to immersive learning still lives on through educational and interpretive programs offered by both CCA and Crystal Cove State Park docents. Visit CCA's [calendar](#) to learn more about upcoming educational opportunities in the Park.

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## {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.



**CRYSTAL COVE  
ALLIANCE**