



NOVEMBER, 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}

HELP BRING BEACH WHEELCHAIRS TO THE COVE!

The Park's current fleet of specialized wheelchairs has become a common sight on Crystal Cove's beaches, ensuring that elderly and disabled Cove visitors can experience the sand and surf like everyone else. Crystal Cove Alliance is focusing its 2015 year-end campaign on raising funds to improve accessibility to Crystal Cove State Park. An important element of which will be updating the beach wheelchairs.

The current fleet of five wheelchairs serves 2,500 elderly and disabled visitors annually at the Historic District and the beach in Moro Canyon. For park visitor Joan Burns, availability of the beach wheelchairs made her recent stay in the cottages a terrific experience.

"My husband uses a walker and cane and moving through the sandy pathways is difficult," she says. "The beach wheelchair gave us the opportunity to get around to see and enjoy the Cove as other (more mobile) folks do!"



The current fleet was purchased in 2012 and is starting to show its age with wear and tear from continual use and exposure to the elements. The addition of five new wheelchairs, which cost nearly \$4,000 each, will ensure that everyone can continue to enjoy the Park and the Historic District. Funds raised in excess of the cost of the new wheelchairs will be earmarked for accessibility projects like wheelchair maintenance and repair, mobility programs with the Braille Institute, programs for seniors, and increasing accessibility to the Park for diverse and under-resourced populations.

With the holiday season in sight, you can help make more beach wheelchairs available for the public by making a donation today. Donations can be made in any amount and are completely tax-deductible.

{making a difference}

CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE WELCOMES LAURA DAVICK AS INTERIM PRESIDENT

The Board of Directors of the Crystal Cove Alliance (CCA) has selected Laura Davick, Founder, former President and current Director of External Affairs, to be CCA's Interim President, effective November 1, 2015.

Laura's interim presidency follows the resignation of Harry Helling, who has been at CCA since 2008. Harry departed at the end of October to become Executive Director of the Scripps Institute of Oceanography's Birch Aquarium-Museum in La Jolla.

The CCA Board of Directors has formed a Special Committee to conduct the search for the permanent new President and Chief Executive Officer.



{making a difference} cont.

In assuming the role of Interim President, Laura will provide continuity as well as a keen understanding of CCA's mission and goals, while the Special Committee searches for the organization's new leadership.

Working with CCA's executive leadership team is a seasoned, 19-member board, chaired by Victor K. Nichols, CEO of Valassis and former CEO of Experian North America, and comprised of prominent community and business leaders.

"All of us are grateful for everything that Harry has done at Crystal Cove and with our Crystal Cove Alliance during these past seven years. His legacy will remain here at Crystal Cove. We will endeavor to expand the innovative initiatives Harry created and we certainly congratulate him on his new position," said Victor Nichols.

{from the field}

LUNCH TIME WITH THE AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER

Most of the summer visitors to Crystal Cove State Park have headed back home, but last month, a different sort of warm weather visitor ruffled feathers when an American Oystercatcher was spotted in the Park's tidepools!

The American Oystercatcher shares many similarities and characteristics with its more common relative, the Black Oystercatcher, but it can be identified by its bold white underside and brightly colored bill. While Black Oystercatchers are commonly seen along the western coast of North America, the American Oystercatcher is usually found along more tropical areas such as Baja California and South America.



It's not known for sure why this unusual visitor ventured so far north, it might have been looking for a snack. As its name implies, the American Oystercatcher primarily feeds on bivalves such as clams, mussels, oysters, and scallops. It squeezes its long, brightly colored bill between the two shells, snipping the bivalve's abductor muscle to prevent it from closing and allowing the Oystercatcher to easily eat the meat within.

With California's warm weather continuing, keep your eyes open for any other strange visitors to the Park!

{then and now}

COTTAGE #11 – GABRIEL COTTAGE

Cottage #11 is one of a handful of oceanfront cottages resting along the north side of the Historic District. Commonly known as the Gabriel Cottage, it was constructed in the late 1920s by Cecil Payne for his wife, Biddy. Cecil, a structural engineer by trade, built the cottage with exceptional attention to detail such as a round brick fireplace and tongue-and-groove knotty pine walls, both of which were unusual characteristics for the early cottages.

In 1969, Biddy Payne left the Cove and passed the cottage over to her neighbors, Laurie and Ken Gabriel. The Gabriels continued Cecil Payne's design philosophy by adding detailed and unique features to the cottage, such as a spiral staircase and a recycled redwood hot tub, transforming the cottage into an amalgam of creativity.

Today, Crystal Cove Alliance is working on the restoration plans and permitting for the final 17 cottages along the north beach. The projected 5-year, \$26 million dollar project will mark the culminating achievement that CCA has been striving towards for the past 16 years. Of course, as with all major undertakings at Crystal Cove, the timing of the project will be driven by the success of CCA's fundraising initiatives.



If you're interested in becoming a part of special community devoted to preserving the historical and cultural assets of Crystal Cove, make a donation today or sign up to become a CCA member. Donations can be made in any amount and are completely tax-deductible.

{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
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