



**APRIL, 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

### FROM CRYSTAL COVE TO THE SUB-SAHARA

The science behind properly managing Parks and open spaces is important at Crystal Cove and around the world. For ten elite Dana High School students, they will have a chance to learn wildlife research techniques in Crystal Cove's backcountry and apply what they learn on an expedition to South Africa this summer.

Last October, these ten students were selected to be part of the Kenneth A. Picerne Foundation's Global Sustainability Project, which aims to prepare students to address the great environmental challenges facing their generation. Since then, the Dana Hills High School team has been working with Crystal Cove Alliance on local sustainability projects, analyzing plankton collected from Crystal Cove's Underwater Park and using trap cameras to monitor bobcats and other wildlife commonly found the Berns Environmental Study Loop. The science behind properly managing Parks and open spaces is important at



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## Eat and Drink

### DRIFT AWAY TO THE SOUNDS OF THE BEACHCOMBER CAFÉ FAVORITE, MATT AKIONA

There are few greater feelings than enjoying delicious food with friends and family. Unless, of course, you are doing so in Crystal Cove's scenic beachfront to the soothing sounds of The Beachcomber Café favorite, Matt Akiona.

Originally from the island of Maui, Matt has been serenading the crowds of Crystal Cove for the last five years. With his signature Hawaiian style infused with contemporary jazz, it's easy to see why he's become a destination of his own for locals and visitors alike.



Having been around the ocean for much of his life, he has a special connection with the water. "It feels like home," he says. "I grew up near the water and when I was young my father pointed to the ocean and said that that's our home."

Matt performs live every Thursday evening, from 6-9pm on the deck of the Bootlegger Bar. Next time you're in the Cove, stop by for a drink, enjoy the ambience and drift away to the sounds of Matt Akiona.

## Making A Difference

### WANTED: SCOUTS TO HELP TEST ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZEN SCIENCE PROGRAMS

This spring, local Brownie and Boy Scouts troops are invited to help Crystal Cove Alliance test its latest batch of innovative programs!



Since the opening of the Berns Environmental Study Loop last year, CCA has been working to develop self-guided kits that troop leaders can use when they visit the Park. In March, a troop of Brownies helped to test CCA's new Water Journey kit. During the program, the girls went on a scavenger hunt for water sources within the canyon, used scientific equipment to test research questions, and created models of the water cycle in Moro Canyon.

CCA is currently looking for 2-3 willing Brownie troops to help with the final round of testing for its new Water Journey and Bugs Badge kits. CCA is also recruiting Boy Scout troops to help with the final testing of its Soil and Water Conservation badge kit.

These innovative programs were designed to immerse scouts in authentic field monitoring projects. CCA Education Manager Sara Ludovise says, "the idea behind these kits is to help nontraditional park users get involved in the science of stewarding open spaces."

To learn more about CCA's after school offerings, visit the Crystal Cove Alliance [website](#). Interested troops should contact Sara Ludovise, CCA Education Manager, at [sludovise@crystalcovealliance.org](mailto:sludovise@crystalcovealliance.org)

## From the Field

### ROLLING UP THE WELCOME MAT FOR SOME OF CRYSTAL COVE'S WILDFLOWERS

This time of year, Crystal Cove's plants and wildflowers come alive with a dazzling spectacle of colors and smells. Although many of these flowers paint a beautiful landscape, not all of them are appreciated by resource managers.



One of these unfortunate interlopers is Black Mustard. Instantly recognizable by their vivid yellow color, they attract the eyes of many park visitors, but they are an invasive species that sprawls through an area and outcompete the native plants in that space.

In response to the mustard's threat, Crystal Cove Alliance and Crystal Cove State Park's Resource Management team have partnered to create a corporate volunteer

program designed to help get the mustard out. This spring, two of CCA's corporate partners, Experian and Capital Group, will adopt and clear plots of land near Moro Canyon.

If you'd like to help with the invasive plant removal program yourself, join the Park's Earth Day public volunteer event on April 18, 2015, from 9am-1pm. To register for the event or for more information, visit the California State Parks Foundation [website](#) [<http://www.calparks.org/help/earth-day/>].

## Then and Now

### COMMUNITY IN THE COMMONS

Dating back to the early days of beach tents and makeshift cottages, the "Commons" in the Crystal Cove Historic District was known for its warm and welcoming atmosphere. The cluster of six tiny cottages, located directly on Los Trancos creek, started as weekly rentals used by the Cove's early film makers. Later, they evolved into "Coveite" residences.



For many years, resident Coveites would gather in this space with friends, family, and visitors to enjoy the scenic beachfront setting, communal potlucks and each other's company (or, just to sit in Stella's hot tub). Continuing with this tradition of community, the restored

cottages have been rededicated as the Historic District's Education Commons. It's here that Crystal Cove preserves the rich history and culture that once filled the area.

If you want to experience community life in the cove, join us every Wednesday for Community Days, from 10am-4pm, and kick off the day by making your very own sea glass jewelry, an Education Commons staple. Be sure to follow Crystal Cove Alliance's [events](#) page to stay up to date on specific activities happening that day and throughout the Cove.

## 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**

*Where we Preserve the Past,  
Enjoy the Present and  
Educate for the Future*