



JANUARY 2016

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

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS AND DOCENTS OF THE CRYSTAL COVE FAMILY!

Crystal Cove State Park wouldn't be the special place that it is without the contribution of our volunteers. Many of Park's docents and volunteers come from different walks of life, but one thing remains constant: their love for Crystal Cove and their passion to make it the best place that it can be. Marty Sorkin has been volunteering with CCSP since 2002. He can be frequently seen welcoming and interacting with park guests in the Visitor's Center, as well as running tidepool programs in the Historic District.

"When I talk to people about some of the early history of Crystal Cove, the movies filmed here and the history behind the cottages, I can put meaning into this place and make a difference in someone's experience," he says. "That becomes the reward for volunteering and I hope I can do that for people visiting here."

Susan Johnson, who has been a CCA volunteer since 2014, can be found lending her talents in the administrative office in Cottage #5. Her love for Crystal Cove was the main reason she became a volunteer.

My family has always enjoyed the beach at Crystal Cove and we often wondered what was to become of the cottages," she says. "When I learned that Crystal Cove Alliance needed some help in the main office I decided to volunteer and I'm glad to be one of the people helping the Alliance preserve this unique area for all to enjoy."

Mike Fenderson has been volunteering in the Historic District for the past twenty years. Having grown up in Crystal Cove's tent camping community Mike brings a wealth of knowledge to the Historic Tours he helps lead with CCA Founder and Interim President Laura Davick.

"I'm really grateful for how well preserved Crystal Cove is today," he says. "Having the privilege of being able to stay involved in something as dynamic as Crystal Cove gives me the opportunity to stay connected to the place where I spent my entire youth, and that is a big deal."

CCSP and CCA volunteers spend hundreds of hours every year helping support programs in the Park. If you're interested in becoming a CCSP volunteer, the State Park hosts an annual training every fall. To be put on list for future trainings, please visit CCSP's [website](#)

You can also visit the CCA's [current openings](#) to check out specific volunteer opportunities with Crystal Cove Alliance!



NATURALIST ON A MISSION

Known to generations of schoolchildren simply as "Ranger Winter," Crystal Cove State Park's Interpretative Naturalist Winter Bonnin has been the driving force for the Park's interpretative programs for the past 17 years. Today, Winter runs interpretive school programs for over 5,000 students each year. The most rewarding aspect of her work is the moment when she sees the light bulb turn for students.

"If I can help someone get it, that 'ah-ha' moment, that they understand, love, appreciate and want to protect this place, that's the best part of my day," she says. "That's what I want people to take away when they come here, instilling that that little fire in people and stimulating them to keep learning."

Winter originally began her career as a documentary producer, but decided to change her course after spending a season at the Virgin Islands National Park. Although she had never put together after spending a season at the Virgin Islands National Park. Although she had never put an interpretative program, she used her background in communications and love of being outdoors to teach people about nature.

Winter's passion and positive energy eventually led her to Crystal Cove, and she hopes people will love this special place as much as she does. "I love interpreting this beautiful place we call Crystal Cove," she says. "Working here is fulfilling. I don't feel like this is work: this is my dream job."

Winter shares her wisdom and musings every month in her *Words from Our Naturalist* column. Head over to the CCSP [website] at the beginning of each month to learn more about Crystal Cove's all-star naturalist!



From the Field

PROTECTING CRYSTAL COVE AS ACTING CENTRAL SECTOR MANAGER

In late 2015, Crystal Cove State Park welcomed Jim Newland as the new Acting Central Sector Manager of Crystal Cove State Park. Jim is no stranger to the Cove. His extensive background in cultural preservation, natural resources, and interpretation were instrumental during the original restoration of the Historic District in the early 2000s, and he has helped to turn both the Historic District and Moro Canyon into renowned public spaces for the community to enjoy.

"Crystal Cove is one of those places that has significant historical and cultural resources," he says. "To have the opportunity to take something like the Historic District and turn it into an accessible public resource is very rewarding."

Prior to becoming the Acting Central Sector Manager at Crystal Cove, Jim was the manager of resources and interpretative services at California State Park's Southern Service Center in San Diego. His familiarity with Crystal Cove will ensure that many current projects and programs, such as the [Parks Forward] Initiative, will seamlessly move forward. Jim envisions Crystal Cove State Park as a model for relevancy and access that can inform the rest of the California State Park system.

"Parks are one of America's best ideas," he says. "To have public spaces that everyone can have an opportunity to enjoy, it's a privilege to work for and is rewarding to be part of an institution committed to those beliefs." With visitation at Crystal Cove expected to increase this year, Jim hopes to enhance visitors' experiences by sharing the importance of protecting this space and why a special place like Crystal Cove should be preserved for the future.



Then and Now

CRYSTAL COVE BEACH COTTAGES: A VINTAGE HOME AWAY FROM HOME



In June of 2006, Crystal Cove Beach Cottages (CCBC) opened its doors for the first time. This year, CCBC will celebrate its tenth anniversary, offering visitors the opportunity to stay overnight in a historic cottage along Crystal Cove's pristine beach.

Maintenance Assistant Jeff Stevenson joined the CCBC team shortly after opening day. From the beginning, he has seen how the cottages have enriched people's experiences over the years.

"The cottage's popularity has been here from the get-go," he says. "We've had full occupancy from the first day we opened because people are happy to be here. They're fascinated by the cottages and they never tire of the changing beach scenery." Each cottage was not only restored back to its original design from the 1930s through 1950s, but also had to tell a unique story. Careful attention was paid

To everything from the vintage design and multi-colored walls to the decorative odds and ends in order add to the charm of this seaside oasis.

Today, CCBC continues its unprecedented growth, successfully maintaining a 98% plus occupancy rate, a figure almost unheard of in the hospitality industry. CCBC Manager Lindsay Lane has an idea as to why guests keep coming back even ten years after the original opening.

"Guests will sometimes arrive stressed out, but by the time we shuttle them to their cottage, they are smiling, relaxed, and calm" says Lindsay. "There is some kind of positive energy here that indeed adds to the attraction of being in this unique environment."

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.