



A link to the
Quail Hollow Ranch
Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/QuailHollowRanchCoPark>

A Ponderosa Pine on our
Discovery Loop. Recently
scientists have named these
low elevation Ponderosa's,
The Santa Cruz Mountain Pine
and claim that it is its own
species!



Quail Hollow Ranch County Park Fall Newsletter



Hello, Quail Hollow Family!

For some, summertime is relaxing, filled with days at the beach and river, and warm evening nights out with friends. For me, summer is the busiest time of year; it feels like a wild roller coaster where I am loving it, but in the back of my mind is that ever present feeling of holding on for dear life. I am glad to say, we made it!

As everything here at Quail Hollow begins to dry out, I am reminded to pay extra attention to the changes that this wondrous natural area is going through.

One of my favorite observations of the year is that Canadian Geese meet up in a central location before taking off to migrate. Our mating pair of Canadian Geese raised three goslings to full size this season at Quail Hollow. One day I showed up to the ranch and there were over 15 Canadian Geese in the meadow. It was quite the sight to see so many of them, all grazing together. The next day they were all gone. Pretty cool that they chose Quail Hollow Ranch as their final day in the area, am I right?

I hope you are all well and have had ample time to spend outside in nature this summer. Please, stop by the Ranch and share your stories with me. I would love to hear!

This issue features a re-cap of our camps, the Nest Box season, and some exciting news about the future.

As always, calendars and a list of programs can be found towards the bottom of this newsletter.

Good things to come,
Dan

This summer saw the first ever Zombie Camp at Quail Hollow Ranch. Zombie Camp is a wilderness survival skills camp for kids ages 8-11. We had 24 participants for the entire week and we had so much fun. Some highlights: We learned compass skills and orienteering and then played a giant game of hide-and-go-seek around the entire grounds of the Ranch, from the pond all the way up to the orchard. We learned first aid skills by dressing up as zombies and performing skits where campers had to include an emergency situation demonstrating which first aid skill they would perform. We took a field trip to Henry Cowell and Roaring Camp where we built epic shelters in the redwoods and built fires at Roaring Camp. We even cooked corn and ate it in our shelters!



Nature Adventure Camp was another amazing week. With just ten campers, we were able to form a super strong unit. As a group we hiked all over Quail Hollow Ranch, even exploring some special spots that are off trail and rarely seen by hikers. The campers practiced stewardship, contributed to citizen science, kept extensive nature journals, studied newts and banana slugs firsthand, and got a chance to swim and catch fish in the San Lorenzo.

Science Sleuths Camp combined classroom science with outdoor adventure and nature exploration. We made meringues, pretzels and ice cream. We made slime, Rube-Goldberg machines and rollercoasters. Campers got to hold live snakes thanks to Brian Gundy and got to go swimming at Natural Bridges state beach. We made a mess and we had a ton of fun doing so!



Quail Hollow Ranch is offering outdoor science field trips for schools around Santa Cruz County. Do you know a teacher or class that would be interested? Tell them about our park!

"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge" -A.E

Quail Hollow's Nest Box Project had its most successful season ever in 2019, our 18th year of operation. Of the 22 boxes installed around the park, 20 were occupied by five different species of songbirds. Late rains provided excellent resources, and a total of 106 birds fledged from our boxes this year, 26 more than last year!

The predominant species this year again was the Violet-green Swallow, with 10 nests. Our Western Bluebirds doubled their numbers of fledglings from last year, with one family producing a second clutch very late in the season. Other nesting species were Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Ash-throated Flycatchers, and one nest of Bewick's Wrens, only the 4th in the project's history. For the second year in a row, we had no Oak Titmice using our nest boxes. We hope to attract these birds back next year.

The nest box volunteers had a great time enjoying the beauty of the ranch, observing the boxes, noting key data in the breeding cycles of the Quail Hollow birds, and recording vital information for the nationwide data base at Cornell Ornithology Lab. We look forward to another successful year in 2020!



Please consider choosing Friends of Quail Hollow as your beneficiary when shopping on Amazon!

Friends of Quail Hollow has joined [Amazon Smile](#). To support charities and non-profits, Amazon will contribute a small percentage of the cost of items ordered from Amazon to the non-profit of your choice. There is no additional charge to you for any order. It is an easy way to support the Friends in our efforts to preserve and improve Quail Hollow Ranch County Park. See [this video](#) to find out how, and search for "friends of quail hollow". Hint: instead of amazon.com, you'll go to smile.amazon.com. Thank-you so much.



Coming up at Quail Hollow Ranch



OUR MISSION:

To promote the stewardship of the natural and cultural resources of Quail Hollow Ranch and Santa Cruz County

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

Dan Lazarus - Park Naturalist

Kathy DeWild

Program Supervisor - Editor

CONTACT US:

831-335-9348

[Dan.lazarus](mailto:Dan.lazarus@santacruzcounty.us)

@santacruzcounty.us

www.scparks.com

Mail to: 979 17th Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Facebook & Twitter:
[@SCParksDept](#)

Instagram:
[santacruzcountyparks](#)

Beginning Birding

Sunday, 8-10 AM

September 1, October 6, November 3, and December 1

Join Jim Williams, President, Friends of Quail Hollow Ranch, and an avid birder for a leisurely hike through Quail Hollow in search of our fine, feathered friends. Previous birding experience not required; open to anyone interested in birds and their antics. Wear warm clothing and comfortable shoes. Bring binoculars and a field guide (if you have them), and some drinking water. Free, drop-in. All ages welcome to attend.

Gardening with Native Plants

Sunday, Sept. 8, 1-3 PM - \$5.00

Visit mbmg.org to register!

Did you know that Santa Cruz County is home to 1,000+ native plant species? This diversity creates options in landscape designs and offers ways to work in harmony with nature. Native plants local to your site are uniquely adapted to thrive in your soils and once established, on natural rainfall. Join UC Master Gardeners Janice Kuch and Mary Zinkievich as they give you the tools for selecting and locating the right plants for your location.

Participants will receive practical handouts, plant lists, tips, and strategies to maximize results. Live specimens will be on display and additional interpretive materials will assist in visualizing your garden. In addition, because no garden is without weeds, weed identification and eradication information will be available.

Please arrive 15 min early to check-in or register, walk-ins are always welcome!

Star Gazing at Quail Hollow

Friday, 8:00 PM-12 AM, September 20; October 18 begins at 7:30 PM, Nov. 22 & Dec. 20 begins at 6 PM

Some people promise the stars; the Santa Cruz Astronomy Club delivers! Come to Quail Hollow Ranch County Park where, gazing up at the night skies, you'll travel through space to see images like the earth's moon and all its craters and mountains, Jupiter and its moons, and the rings of Saturn. Bring your own telescope or just stop by and look through member's telescopes. Rain or cloudy skies cancels the program. All ages welcome. Free.

Future Proof Your Vegetable Garden: Improving Soil Health for Drought Resiliency

Sunday, Oct. 6, 1-3 PM - \$5.00

Visit mbmg.org to register!

"We owe our existence to a 6-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains."

Healthy soil is the foundation of a thriving garden. UC Master Gardener Delise Weir will show you how to improve soil health in your vegetable beds to absorb and maintain water while improving drainage.

Learn how low-till gardening techniques provide optimal conditions for enhancing and sustaining biotic life in the soil, making essential nutrients more biologically available. Cover crops will also be discussed; why they are important, which to use for your particular needs and how to deal with them once they're grown.

Please arrive 15 minutes early to sign in or register, walk-ins are always welcome!

Quail Hollow Ranch History Tour
Sunday, September 15, October 27, and November 24, 1- 3:00 PM
Cost \$2

Do you enjoy looking through old buildings and learning about their stories? Join history docent, Richard James, on a tour of the Quail Hollow Ranch House and learn about the history of Sun-Kissed Ranch, Sunset Magazine, and the pioneer families who made the ranch their business, home, and vacation haven. Children must be accompanied by an adult

Nature Journaling Workshop
Sunday, September 15,
10 AM-12 PM

Cost \$5 Please call to sign-up
Whether you are a seasoned Nature Journaler, a first timer, or a teacher looking to enrich your student's observational skills, you are invited to join us for this two-hour workshop of nature exploration. We will spend the entire time outside working on different activities that heighten our senses and push us to look and think deeper. If you are looking for a chance to better your recording skills, and just take some time to slow down and appreciate Quail Hollow for the beautiful and serene open space that it is, this workshop is for you! Ages 7+

Holiday Nature Crafts
Sunday, November 17 and
December 15, 12-2 PM

Cost \$5 please call to sign-up
Join park interpreter Dan Lazarus for an afternoon of creative fun for the whole family! Using a variety of natural materials, we'll make gifts, decorations, and other trinkets to spruce up your home at the Holidays! Materials provided, but please bring specific elements you want to use! Projects include pinecone birds or gnomes, dragonfly twigs, forest frames, bug collector terrariums (old plastic bottles), painted pet rocks, and nature ornaments. Ages 7+

EXCITING NEWS HERE

Quail Hollow Ranch is getting a new roof! That is right people, by the 1st of the year, our beloved Ranch house will have a brand-new roof. Thanks to all of you who show love and support for this park, and a special thanks to our maintenance crew for their hard work keeping our grounds beautiful!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2019</h1>						
1 Beginning Birding 8-10 AM	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Gardening with Native Plants 1-3 \$5	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 History Tour 1-3 \$2 Nature Journaling Workshop 10-12 \$5	16	17	18	19	20 Star Gazing 8-12 midnight	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October 2019</h1>						
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Beginning Birding 8-10 AM Future Proof your Garden 1-3 \$5	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Star Gazing 7:30-12 Midnight	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 House History Tour 1-3 \$2	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2019</h1>						
					1	2
3 Beginning Birding 8-10 AM	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	126
17 Holiday Nature Crafts 12-2 \$5	18	19	20	21	22 Star Gazing 6-12 midnight	23
24 House History Tour 1-3 \$2	25	26	27	28	29	30