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**VOLUNTEER DAYS**

Volunteer days offer hands on land stewardship experience. We provide a forum for the community to help us take care of the parks and preserves that we all enjoy. Opportunities include habitat restoration, trail improvement, litter pick up, and landscape maintenance. Though the work varies in physical demand, a variety of activities are available for all ages and abilities. We provide water, gloves, tools, and training. Bring snacks or a lunch, sun block, a hat, and a refillable water container. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothes.

**Saturday, December 3. 9am to 1pm**  
***Aramburu Island Enhancement***

Our partners at Richardson Bay Audubon Center have worked tirelessly to convert this 17-acre island from an eroding, unproductive, bay dredge dumpsite into prime shorebird and wildlife habitat. Join us as we team up with our friends at Audubon to help them in the enhancement process. Transportation to the island provided by Richardson Bay Audubon. Volunteer work is mildly strenuous and involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. This work is recommended for ages 12 and up; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Please bring gloves if you have them. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 388-2524 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP required; due to the capacity of the boat, space is limited to 12 volunteers. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Courtney Gutman at (415) 388-2524 ex. 104 or [CGutman@audubon.org](mailto:CGutman@audubon.org). Meet at Richardson Bay Audubon Center. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131). Take Tiburon Blvd east for 1 mile. Turn right onto Greenwood Cove Dr. Greenwood Cove becomes Greenwood Beach Rd. Parking is in gravel pullouts on the right side of the road.

**Saturday, December 3. 9am to 12pm**

***Broom Busters Work Day***

Old St. Hilary's Open Space Preserve has a friend in the Broom Buster team, a loyal group of volunteers who have worked together to remove French broom on the preserve for over 15 years. In that time, incredible progress has been made to suppress the broom regrowth and allow native species to recover and thrive. Come learn about the importance of invasive species removal and lend a hand! Naturalist David Herlocker will be working with us throughout the day and will provide a short interpretive talk following lunch. Volunteer work is mildly strenuous and involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. It is possible for volunteers as young as 5 years old to join if teamed with a parent or guardian. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Rubber boots come in handy, but are not necessary. Snacks, lunch and extra water will be provided. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 473-3778 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. Questions contact: Volunteer Coordinator Greg Reza at [GReza@marincounty.org](mailto:GReza@marincounty.org) or (415) 473-3778. Meet at the Tiburon Peninsula Club parking lot in Tiburon (1600 Mar West St). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131) east 4 miles. Turn left onto Mar West St; the parking lot is on the right.

**Saturday, December 17. 9am to 1pm**

***Aramburu Island Enhancement***

Our partners at Richardson Bay Audubon Center have worked tirelessly to convert this 17-acre island from an eroding, unproductive, bay dredge dumpsite into prime shorebird and wildlife habitat. Join us as we team up with our friends at Audubon to help them in the enhancement process. Transportation to the island provided by Richardson Bay Audubon. Volunteer work is mildly strenuous and involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. This work is recommended for ages 12 and up; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Please bring gloves if you have them. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 388-2524 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP required; due to the capacity of the boat, space is limited to 12 volunteers. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Courtney Gutman at (415) 388-2524 ex. 104 or [CGutman@audubon.org](mailto:CGutman@audubon.org). Meet at Richardson Bay Audubon Center. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131). Take Tiburon Blvd east for 1 mile. Turn right onto Greenwood Cove Dr. Greenwood Cove becomes Greenwood Beach Rd. Parking is in gravel pullouts on the right side of the road.

**Saturday, December 17. 9am to 12pm**

***Creekside Restoration with One Tam***

Join Marin County Parks and One Tam staff (a Tamalpais Lands Collaborative initiative) to enrich important habitat areas of Hal Brown Park and Creekside Marsh. Be a part of a community based effort to install a diverse palette of native plants at a site once dominated by nonnative grasses and weeds. Volunteer work is mildly strenuous and involves bending, pulling, and kneeling and hiking on steep and uneven terrain. All ages are welcome; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Please bring gloves if you have them. Snacks will be provided. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 763-2977 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP's are appreciated but not required. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kirk Schroeder at [KSchroeder@marincounty.org](mailto:KSchroeder@marincounty.org) or (415) 763-2977. Meet across from Marin General Hospital at Hal Brown Park at Creekside. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 1.2 miles. Turn left onto Bon Air Rd and follow 0.3 miles. The park is on the right.

**Wednesday, January 4. 12pm to 4pm**

***Aramburu Island Enhancement***

Our partners at Richardson Bay Audubon Center have worked tirelessly to convert this 17-acre island from an eroding, unproductive, bay dredge dumpsite into prime shorebird and wildlife habitat. Join us as we team up with our friends at Audubon to help them in the enhancement process. Transportation to the island provided by Richardson Bay Audubon. Volunteer work is mildly strenuous and involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. This work is recommended for ages 12 and up; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Please bring gloves if you have them. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 388-2524 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP required; due to the capacity of the boat, space is limited to 12 volunteers. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Courtney Gutman at (415) 388-2524 ex. 104 or [CGutman@audubon.org](mailto:CGutman@audubon.org). Meet at Richardson Bay Audubon Center. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131). Take Tiburon Blvd east for 1 mile. Turn right onto Greenwood Cove Dr. Greenwood Cove becomes Greenwood Beach Rd. Parking is in gravel pullouts on the right side of the road.

**Saturday, January 14. 9am to 1pm**

***Aramburu Island Enhancement***

Our partners at Richardson Bay Audubon Center have worked tirelessly to convert this 17-acre island from an eroding, unproductive, bay dredge dumpsite into prime shorebird and wildlife habitat. Join us as we team up with our friends at Audubon to help them in the enhancement process. Transportation to the island provided by Richardson Bay Audubon. Volunteer work is mildly strenuous and involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. This work is recommended for ages 12 and up; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Please bring gloves if you have them. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 388-2524 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP required; due to the capacity of the boat, space is limited to 12 volunteers. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Courtney Gutman at (415) 388-2524 ex. 104 or [CGutman@audubon.org](mailto:CGutman@audubon.org). Meet at Richardson Bay Audubon Center. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131). Take Tiburon Blvd east for 1 mile. Turn right onto Greenwood Cove Dr. Greenwood Cove becomes Greenwood Beach Rd. Parking is in gravel pullouts on the right side of the road.

**Saturday, January 14. 9am to 12pm**

***Creekside Restoration with One Tam***

Join Marin County Parks and One Tam staff (a Tamalpais Lands Collaborative initiative) to enrich important habitat areas of Hal Brown Park and Creekside Marsh. Be a part of a community based effort to install a diverse palette of native plants at a site once dominated by nonnative grasses and weeds. Volunteer work is mildly strenuous and involves bending, pulling, and kneeling and hiking on steep and uneven terrain. All ages are welcome; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Please bring gloves if you have them. Snacks will be provided. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 763-2977 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP's are appreciated but not required. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kirk Schroeder at [KSchroeder@marincounty.org](mailto:KSchroeder@marincounty.org) or (415) 763-2977. Meet across from Marin General Hospital at Hal Brown Park at Creekside. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 1.2 miles. Turn left onto Bon Air Rd and follow 0.3 miles. The park is on the right.

## **Monday, January 16. 9am to 12pm**

### ***Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service***

The Corporation for National and Community Service promotes MLK Day of Service as "a day on, not off!" This important call to service is a way to honor the legacy of Dr Martin Luther King Jr, and support projects that empower and strengthen local communities. Our focus will be to do just that as we work together to spruce up landscaped areas at the Marin County Civic Center. All skills levels are welcome and no previous experience is necessary. All ages are welcome; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Snacks and extra water will be provided. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 763-2977 to find out about event status. RSVP's are appreciated but not required. Questions: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kirk Schroeder at [KSchroeder@marincounty.org](mailto:KSchroeder@marincounty.org) or (415) 763-2977. Meet at the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium (10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for North San Pedro Rd (if coming from Hwy 101 North, follow the signs to the Civic Center and to North San Pedro Rd). Once on North San Pedro Rd, turn left at stop light onto Civic Center Drive and follow for 0.5 mile. Turn right onto Avenue of the Flags; parking is available in the lot adjacent to Civic Center Dr and in front of the Veterans' Memorial Auditorium.

## **Saturday, January 21. 9am to 12pm**

### ***Back to Bahia***

We're back to Bahia on Rush Creek Preserve to wipe out the remaining invasive French broom. The great news is that after 13 years of hard work we are nearing complete eradication. We need your help to search out every last broom plant to ensure that it does not come back. All skill levels are welcome and no previous experience is necessary. It is possible for volunteers as young as 5 years old to join if teamed with a parent or guardian. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Snacks and extra water will be provided. In the event of heavy rain and /or high winds call (415) 473-3778 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP's are appreciated but not required. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Greg Reza at (415) 473-3778 or [GReza@marincounty.org](mailto:GReza@marincounty.org). Meet at the Bahia trailhead near the end of Bahia Dr in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for Atherton Ave east approximately 1 mile. Turn left onto Bugeia Ln, which turns into Bahia Dr at the "y". Follow Bahia Dr approximately 0.5 miles. Trailhead is on the left before Bahia Dr dead ends.

## **Saturday, January 28. 9am to 1pm**

### ***Aramburu Island Enhancement***

Our partners at Richardson Bay Audubon Center have worked tirelessly to convert this 17-acre island from an eroding, unproductive, bay dredge dumpsite into prime shorebird and wildlife habitat. Join us as we team up with our friends at Audubon to help them in the enhancement process. Transportation to the island provided by Richardson Bay Audubon. Volunteer work is mildly strenuous and involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. This work is recommended for ages 12 and up; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Please bring gloves if you have them. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 388-2524 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP required; due to the capacity of the boat, space is limited to 12 volunteers. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Courtney Gutman at (415) 388-2524 ex. 104 or [CGutman@audubon.org](mailto:CGutman@audubon.org). Meet at Richardson Bay Audubon Center. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131). Take Tiburon Blvd east for 1 mile. Turn right onto Greenwood Cove Dr. Greenwood Cove becomes Greenwood Beach Rd. Parking is in gravel pullouts on the right side of the road.

**Saturday, February 4. 10am to 12pm**

***Upton Beach Cleanup***

Join us to help clean up Upton Beach in the town of Stinson. This beautiful beach stretches from the north end of Stinson Beach all the way to Bolinas. It is exposed to winter storms and high tide events which can bring in large quantities of debris. Our efforts will help protect marine life from harmful trash and keep one of Marin's most picturesque beaches looking great. All skill levels are welcome and no previous experience is necessary. It is possible for volunteers as young as 5 years old to join if teamed with a parent or guardian. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Please bring gloves if you have them. Snacks and extra water will be provided, but bring a lunch. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 763-2977 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kirk Schroeder at [KSchroeder@marincounty.org](mailto:KSchroeder@marincounty.org) or (415) 763-2977. Meet at the beach near the north parking lot at Stinson Beach. DIRECTIONS: Meet at the beach near the north parking lot at Stinson Beach. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 20.4 miles to Olema. Turn left onto Hwy 1 and follow 13.6 miles, Turn right at the sign that says Stinson Beach Parking GGNRA and park in the first lot on your right.

**Saturday, February 11. 9am to 1pm**

***Aramburu Island Enhancement***

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**Saturday, February 11. 9am to 12pm**

***Rick's Broom Patch***

In 2001-02, devoted Volunteer Environmental Steward Rick Thornton and friends removed a massive pioneer patch of invasive French broom on Terra Linda/Sleepy Hollow Divide. Though Rick passed away in 2005, we've maintained the site with the help of community volunteers and partners. Help us continue Rick's legacy. All skill levels are welcome and no previous experience is necessary. It is possible for volunteers as young as 5 years old to join if teamed with a parent or guardian. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Snacks and extra water will be provided. In the event of heavy rain and /or high winds call (415) 473-3778 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP's are appreciated but not required. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Greg Reza at (415) 473-3778 or [GReza@marincounty.org](mailto:GReza@marincounty.org). Meet at the gate at the end of Freitas Parkway in San Rafael. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Freitas Parkway west approximately 1.5 miles and follow to end (dead end).

**Saturday, February 18. 9am to 12pm**

***Creekside Restoration with One Tam***

Join Marin County Parks and One Tam staff (a Tamalpais Lands Collaborative initiative) to enrich important habitat areas of Hal Brown Park and Creekside Marsh. Be a part of a community based effort to install a diverse palette of native plants at a site once dominated by nonnative grasses and weeds. Volunteer work is mildly strenuous and involves bending, pulling, and kneeling and hiking on steep and uneven terrain. All ages are welcome; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Please bring gloves if you have them. Snacks will be provided. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 763-2977 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP's are appreciated but not required. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Volunteer Coordinator Kirk Schroeder at [KSchroeder@marincounty.org](mailto:KSchroeder@marincounty.org) or (415) 763-2977. Meet across from Marin General Hospital at Hal Brown Park at Creekside. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 1.2 miles. Turn left onto Bon Air Rd and follow 0.3 miles. The park is on the right.

**Saturday, February 25. 9am to 1pm**

***Aramburu Island Enhancement***

Our partners at Richardson Bay Audubon Center have worked tirelessly to convert this 17-acre island from an eroding, unproductive, bay dredge dumpsite into prime shorebird and wildlife habitat. Join us as we team up with our friends at Audubon to help them in the enhancement process. Transportation to the island provided by Richardson Bay Audubon. Volunteer work is mildly strenuous and involves bending, pulling, and kneeling. This work is recommended for ages 12 and up; anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a supervising adult. Dress in layers you can get dirty, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Please bring gloves if you have them. In the event of heavy rain and/or high winds call (415) 388-2524 to find out about event status. In the event of cancellation, program will be rescheduled. RSVP required; due to the capacity of the boat, space is limited to 12 volunteers. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Courtney Gutman at (415) 388-2524 ex. 104 or [CGutman@audubon.org](mailto:CGutman@audubon.org). Meet at Richardson Bay Audubon Center. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131). Take Tiburon Blvd east for 1 mile. Turn right onto Greenwood Cove Dr. Greenwood Cove becomes Greenwood Beach Rd. Parking is in gravel pullouts on the right side of the road.

## NATURALIST WALKS

These outings are for participants 15 and up who are interested in the diverse flora and fauna of Marin County. Our walks cover a variety of topics; some are quite specific, others are more general, but we never fail to take a moment to marvel at whatever natural wonders we encounter. Binoculars, a pocket sized magnifying lens, and your favorite field guide(s) are recommended for all walks. Most of the walks are moderately paced and cover less than 5 miles. Walks that are longer or more strenuous are noted in the descriptions. Bring a lunch if you plan to stay all day, and remember to bring plenty of water.

### **Sunday, December 4. 10am to 2pm**

#### ***Birds at Rush Creek***

These tidal wetlands at the edge of San Pablo Bay are a fantastic place to appreciate our winter birds. Ducks (in gaudy breeding plumage), shorebirds, raptors, and many types of land birds should keep us entertained all day. The road sometimes gets quite muddy, so bring appropriate footwear. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact Shannon Burke at [SBurke@marincounty.org](mailto:SBurke@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9520. Meet at the Pinheiro Fire Rd gate on Binford Rd in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for Atherton Ave east. Turn left onto Binford Rd. The gate is on the right.

### **Wednesday, December 7. 7pm to 8:30pm**

#### ***Lecture: Marin's Salmon; Past, Present, and Future***

The residents of Marin County have benefited greatly from the preservation of many of our wild lands and healthy watersheds. Among the beneficiaries of this preservation are the salmon and steelhead in several of our creeks. Our populations of endangered coho salmon are considered the healthiest in central California. This talk will focus on the ecology of these amazing fish and how habitat preservation and restoration efforts help maintain coho, chinook, and steelhead throughout the county. This lecture is intended for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet in the Auditorium in the Whittell Building at the Marin Humane Society in Novato (171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the Ignacio Blvd/Bel Marin Keys Blvd exit. Follow the signs to Bel Marin Keys Blvd, go past the overpass, and turn left at the first stop light into the parking lot.

### **Sunday, December 11. 10am to 2pm**

#### ***Focus on Gulls***

Gulls are certainly challenging but with a few tricks and a little patience we'll learn to differentiate between the species we regularly see here in winter. We'll discuss identification, plumages, and life-histories as we attempt to demystify these beautiful birds. We'll carpool to several different locations in Pt. Reyes searching for the various gulls that frequent these areas. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact Shannon Burke at [SBurke@marincounty.org](mailto:SBurke@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9520. Meet at White House Pool nature area on Sir Francis Drake Blvd (just south of Inverness Park). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the Sir

Francis Drake exit 20.4 miles to Olema. Turn right onto Hwy 1 and go 2 miles. Before the green bridge, turn left (continuing on Sir Francis Drake Blvd) and follow 0.7 miles. Look for the White House Pool sign on the right.

**Tuesday, December 13. 10am to 11:30am**

***Senior Stroll: Las Gallinas***

The ponds at the Las Gallinas water treatment facility are a fabulous place to get close looks at a variety of waterfowl, plus there are usually plenty of hawks hunting for rodents and other prey in the surrounding fields. This is a level, well-maintained, gravel road, and is wheelchair accessible. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at the Las Gallinas Sanitary District water treatment ponds in San Rafael (310 Smith Ranch Road). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Smith Ranch Rd east approximately 0.7 miles. Drive over the railroad tracks and immediately turn left to stay on Smith Ranch Rd. (If you go through the park entrance, you have gone too far). Follow Smith Ranch Rd 0.8 miles to treatment facility. Park on the left.

**Sunday, December 18. 10am to 2pm**

***Mushrooms at Indian Tree***

The mixed forests of this Novato preserve usually host an amazing array of mushrooms at this time of year. We'll see how many of them we can identify, which should be particularly challenging considering all of the name changes that have occurred during the last few years. We'll also discuss the important "behind the scenes" role that fungi play in the forest ecosystem. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at the trailhead on Vineyard Rd in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west 2.7 miles. San Marin Dr turns into Sutro Ave at Novato Blvd. Follow Sutro Ave 1 mile, turn right at Vineyard Rd and follow 1 mile. Trailhead is on the left where the paved road becomes a dirt road.

**Thursday, December 22. 10am to 1pm**

***Birding at Hamilton Wetlands***

Join us for an easy stroll along the Hamilton wetlands where we'll look for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife, and see how the tidal flow is gradually changing this newly restored area. We'll go for a slow walk as we discuss identification and life histories of the birds we see. Our walk will follow a section of the San Francisco Bay Trail. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them, and lunch. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact Shannon Burke at [SBurke@marincounty.org](mailto:SBurke@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9527. Meet at the parking area near the playfield. DIRECTIONS: From Highway 101 take the Ignacio/Bel Marin Keys exit. Stay right onto Nave Drive .7 mi, go left at Main Gate Rd, .4 mi, Main Gate Rd becomes S Palm Dr, .5mi, turn right onto Hangar Ave. The parking lot is on the right.

**Wednesday, January 4. 10am to 12pm**

***Cascade Canyon***

There's no better time than this to enjoy the beauty of this preserve; the creeks are flowing and the waterfall should be spectacular. Along the way we'll keep an eye out for fish, salamanders, early blooming flowers, and if the sun is shining, we might even find some of the first butterflies of the season. When the creek is full, we have to use a trail that is cut into a stone bank above the water; this narrow section can be slippery and challenging. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the

morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact Shannon Burke at [SBurke@marincounty.org](mailto:SBurke@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9520. Meet at the gate at the end of Cascade Dr. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west to Fairfax 3.4 miles. Turn left onto Pacheco Ave, turn right onto Broadway and make first left onto Bolinas Rd 0.4 miles, slight right onto Cascade Dr (at the stop sign) continue about 1.5 miles to the gate (dead end). Parking is limited.

### **Sunday, January 8. 10am to 2pm**

#### ***Winter at Hidden Lake***

Many people are familiar with the birds and flowers that can be found at Mt Burdell during the spring and summer but may not realize that there is a wintertime gem here as well. Hidden Lake is a vernal pool, filling with water during the rainy season and providing valuable breeding habitat for insects and amphibians. We'll make our way up to this seasonal pond and, with luck, will be serenaded by treefrogs as we eat lunch. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at the gate on San Andreas Dr in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west 2.3 miles. Turn right onto San Andreas Dr and follow approximately 0.5 miles. The gate is on the right (before dead end).

### **Thursday, January 12. 1pm to 2:30pm**

#### ***Senior Stroll: Bothin Marsh***

We'll take a slow, easy walk as we observe various waterfowl in their resplendent winter plumage and, with luck, see a variety of shorebirds coming in to feed on the exposed shore as the tide changes. Of course, we'll also keep an eye out for the resident peregrine falcons that nest nearby. This is a level, well-maintained pathway, and is wheelchair accessible. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 10am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at the Hauke Park parking area in Mill Valley. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the Tiburon Blvd/E Blithedale Ave exit west on E Blithedale Ave west 0.6 mile. Turn left onto Roque Mores Dr (Lomita Dr is on the right) and right onto Hamilton Dr. Parking lot is on the left.

### **Wednesday, January 18. 1pm to 3pm**

#### ***Salmon of Lagunitas Creek***

Each year, several species of Pacific salmon migrate up certain creeks to breed. We'll look for evidence of fish as we discuss the biology of these remarkable animals. The timing of these activities is subject to numerous environmental variables, but if we're lucky we might have a chance to observe spawning activity. It can be quite cold by the creek so bring warm clothing; also, polarized glasses are helpful to see the fish better. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 10am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact Shannon Burke at [SBurke@marincounty.org](mailto:SBurke@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9520. Meet at the Leo T. Cronin Fish Viewing Area west of Lagunitas. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 13.6 miles, the parking area is on the left (just past Shafter Bridge).

### **Sunday, January 22. 10am to 2pm**

#### ***Mushrooms at Indian Valley***

The lush forests of this Novato preserve are an ideal place to see a variety of mushrooms. We'll talk about their identification and the important role that fungi play in the ecosystem. Our route will include one sustained steep section, but we'll take this part very slowly. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for

ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at the College of Marin Indian Valley Campus in Novato, parking lot 6 (1800 Ignacio Blvd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the Ignacio Blvd/Bel Marin Keys Blvd exit west onto Ignacio Blvd approximately 2.5 miles all the way through campus. Parking lot 6 is adjacent to the police station.

#### **Thursday, January 26. 10am to 1pm**

##### ***Birds at Las Gallinas***

The ponds at the Las Gallinas water treatment facility are a fabulous place to get close looks at a variety of waterfowl, plus there are usually plenty of hawks hunting for rodents and other prey in the surrounding fields. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at the Las Gallinas Sanitary District water treatment ponds in San Rafael (310 Smith Ranch Road). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Smith Ranch Rd east approximately 0.7 miles. Drive over the railroad tracks and immediately turn left to stay on Smith Ranch Rd. (If you go through the park entrance, you have gone too far). Follow Smith Ranch Rd 0.8 miles to treatment facility. Park on the left.

#### **Sunday, January 29. 10am to 3pm**

##### ***White Hill***

We'll aim for lunch at the summit, exploring a variety of habitats and the plants and animals that live within them. We'll make the 1,000 foot ascent at a pace that will allow us to enjoy all of the scenery we encounter along the way. (6.5 miles round trip.) Remember to bring enough water and food. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact Shannon Burke at [SBurke@marincounty.org](mailto:SBurke@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9520. Meet at the roadside parking area near the top of White Hill Grade on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 8 miles. Park in the big gravel pullout on the right side, below the crest of the hill.

#### **Saturday, February 4. 10am to 2pm**

##### ***World Wetlands Day at Bahia***

Come celebrate World Wetlands Day at Bahia. This 200 acre parcel, now part of the Rush Creek Preserve, was acquired through a major fundraising effort spearheaded by Marin Audubon Society and then donated to Marin County Parks. Our day will start with a walk through the oak-studded upland habitat where we'll discuss this unique forest and why its preservation was so fortunate. Then we'll take a tour of the adjoining Marin Audubon wetland restoration site with Wetland Ecologist Jude Stalker, from Marin Audubon, who will explain how the restoration efforts here have been improving the marsh and vital habitat for the plants and animals that depend on it. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact Shannon Burke at [SBurke@marincounty.org](mailto:SBurke@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9520. Meet at the Pinheiro Fire Rd gate on Binford Rd in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for Atherton Ave east. Turn left onto Binford Rd. The gate is on the right.

**Wednesday, February 8. 10am to 11:30am**

***Senior Stroll: Hamilton Wetlands***

Join us for an easy stroll along the Hamilton wetlands where we'll look for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife, and see how the tidal flow is gradually changing this newly restored area. We'll go for a slow walk as we discuss identification and life histories of the birds we see. Our walk will follow a section of the San Francisco Bay Trail. This section is a level, well-maintained, dirt road, and is wheelchair accessible. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at the parking area near the playfield. DIRECTIONS: From Highway 101 take the Ignacio/Bel Marin Keys exit. Stay right onto Nave Drive .7 mi, go left at Main Gate Rd, .4 mi, Main Gate Rd becomes S Palm Dr, .5mi, turn right onto Hangar Ave. The parking lot is on the right.

**Tuesday, February 14. 1pm to 4pm**

***Love and Romance in the Natural World***

We'll spend Valentine's Day exploring the amorous adventures of the natural world. We'll use a car shuttle for this one way walk which will give us ample time to search for frisky ferns, sexy slime molds, naughty newts, and more. You'll never look at a banana slug again without blushing. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 10am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact Shannon Burke at [SBurke@marincounty.org](mailto:SBurke@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9520. Meet at the trailhead at the end of Glen Dr in Fairfax. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 6.7 miles, turn right onto Glen Dr and follow 0.5 miles to end (dead end).

**Thursday, February 23. 10am to 2pm**

***Birds of Abbotts Lagoon***

We'll take advantage of the outer reaches of the county to enjoy the numerous species of birds that are found overwintering along the coast this time of year. This is a great place to see raptors, shorebirds, and waterfowl that aren't as prevalent in other parts of Marin. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at Abbotts Lagoon parking lot. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 20.4 miles to Olema. Turn right onto Hwy 1 and go 2 miles. Turn left onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd and go 6.4 miles. Turn right at Pierce Point Rd and go 3.4 miles, the trailhead is on the left.

**Sunday, February 26. 10am to 2pm**

***Early Flowers at Mt. Burdell***

One of the many rare plants found here in Marin County is an inconspicuous nodding white lily called the fragrant fritillary. We'll visit a small population that should be in bloom this early in the season. We'll then head up the trail to see some other early bloomers such as shooting star, milkmaids, star lily, and maybe a few surprises. Remember to bring binoculars, if you have them. This walk is for ages 15 and up. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain my cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at the gate on Simmons Ln in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west, follow San Marin Dr 1.2 miles. Turn right onto Simmons Ln and follow to the end (dead end).

## FAMILY WALKS

Our family walks are intended for families that want to explore nature together. Bring your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, neighbors, or any other inquisitive youngsters in your life who would appreciate a deeper connection to nature. This is not a “drop off” program, we want you to stay and enjoy the experience too. We set out to search for natural wonders and share what we find with one another. The most important take home message is that animals and the habitats in which they live are fascinating and delicate things that should be treated gently. Bring a lunch, we usually stop to eat at about 11:30am, and remember to bring plenty of water.

### **Thursday, December 29. 10am to 1pm**

#### ***Nature for Kids: Indian Tree***

It's winter, it's wet, and it's cold. Salamanders, slugs, and millipedes are easy to find, but where do they go during the dry months? And where are the lizards and butterflies that we see everywhere in the dry season? We'll look in different habitats and try to answer these questions about the changes in the animal life we encounter as the seasons change. Remember to bring lunch. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at the trailhead on Vineyard Rd in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west 2.7 miles. San Marin Dr turns into Sutro Ave at Novato Blvd. Follow Sutro Ave 1 mile, turn right at Vineyard Rd and follow 1 mile. Trailhead is on the left where the paved road becomes a dirt road.

### **Monday, January 16. 10am to 1pm**

#### ***Nature for Kids: Verissimo Hills***

We'll start our day exploring a forest where various animals should be enjoying a cool, wet winter. For lunch we'll find our way to a grassy ridge top where we can relax and take in the view of Stafford Lake and the green hills surrounding us. This small preserve doesn't have an extensive trail system which means that it isn't regularly visited by very many people, but we'll try to figure out which creatures do spend time here. Remember to bring lunch. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at the trailhead on Vineyard Rd in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west 2.7 miles. San Marin Dr turns into Sutro Ave at Novato Blvd. Follow Sutro Ave 1 mile, turn right at Vineyard Rd and follow 1 mile. Trailhead is on the right approximately 500 feet past the point where the paved road becomes a dirt road (500 feet past the entrance to Indian Tree Preserve, which is on the left).

### **Sunday, February 12. 10am to 1pm**

#### ***Nature for Kids: Indian Valley with WildCare***

We'll join up with WildCare Family Adventures for a day of nature exploration and education. We'll be joined by Marco Berger who is a fantastic teacher and naturalist who will share his expertise in both English and Spanish. We'll look for frogs, toads, and salamanders, in addition to other winter-active animals. The creek should be full, so we'll follow it up the canyon and have lunch by a beautiful waterfall. Remember to bring lunch. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527

after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message if cancelled. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at the College of Marin Indian Valley Campus in Novato, parking lot 6 (1800 Ignacio Blvd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the Ignacio Blvd/Bel Marin Keys Blvd exit west onto Ignacio Blvd approximately 2.5 miles all the way through campus. Parking lot 6 is adjacent to the police station.

**Domingo, el 12 de febrero. 10am to 1pm**

***Naturaleza para niños: Indian Valley con WildCare***

Nos uniremos con Aventuras Familiares de WildCare para un día educativo de exploración de la naturaleza. Vamos a estar unidos por Marco Berger, que es un profesor fantástico y naturalista que compartirá su experiencia tanto en Inglés y Español. Vamos a buscar ranas, sapos y salamandras, además de otros animales que son activos durante el invierno. El arroyo debe estar lleno, así que vamos a seguirlo hasta el cañón y almorzar por una hermosa cascada. Recuerde llevar el almuerzo. Solicitamos que no se permiten mascotas (excepto animales de servicio) asisten. Para servicio de transporte gratis desde el área de Canal en San Rafael póngase en contacto (en español) con Marco Berger (415) 205 7771, llamando, por texto, o por correo electrónico: [marco@wildcarebayarea.org](mailto:marco@wildcarebayarea.org). ¡TIENE QUE CONFIRMAR SU ASISTENCIA antes de jueves el 26 de enero! La lluvia puede cancelar este evento. Si el clima está cuestionable, llame al (415) 205 7771 después de las 8 de la mañana el día del evento. COMO LLEGAR: Desde la carretera 101 en Novato, tome la salida de Ignacio Blvd / Bel Marin Keys Blvd hacia el oeste en Ignacio Blvd aproximadamente 2,5 millas todo el camino a través del campus. Estacionamiento 6 se encuentra junto a la estación de policía. Se reúnen en el Colegio de Marin Indian Valley Campus en Novato, estacionamiento 6 (1800 Ignacio Blvd).

**Monday, February 20. 10am to 1pm**

***Nature for Kids: Deer Island***

Rising above the surrounding marshland and pastures, the mix of forest and grassland on this little ridge make it a great place to see a variety of cold season critters. We'll take advantage of the different habitats to see who we can find. Remember to bring lunch. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain may cancel. If questionable weather, call (415) 893-9527 after 8am on the morning of the event to hear a recorded message. Questions: Contact David Herlocker at [DHerlocker@marincounty.org](mailto:DHerlocker@marincounty.org) or (415) 893-9508. Meet at the gate on Deer Island Ln in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for Atherton Ave east 1.7 miles. Turn right onto Olive Ave and left onto Deer Island Ln. The gate is on your right.

## RANGER ACTIVITIES

Rangers host a variety of family friendly events for all ages and interests. We offer barbeques, bike rides, campfires, fishing derbies, interpretive hikes, outdoor safety and skills seminars, skateboard contests, stargazing, and more! Bring snacks, water, and sun block.

**Saturday, December 3. 5:30pm to 7pm**

### ***Mt. Burdell Night Photography***

Join Ranger/Photographer Mike Warner on a short hike through Mount Burdell Preserve. We'll explore the photo possibilities along the way with a focus on taking long exposure photographs. Wear comfortable athletic clothing and sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring your camera, water, and a flashlight. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Heavy rain will cancel this event. Questions: Contact Ranger Mike Warner at [MWarner@marincounty.org](mailto:MWarner@marincounty.org) or (415) 473-2816. Meet at the gate on San Andreas Dr in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west 2.3 miles. Turn right onto San Andreas Dr and follow approximately 0.5 miles. The gate is on the right (before dead end).

**Saturday, December 10. 7am to 9am**

### ***Sunrise Hike at Deer Island***

Hike the 2 mile deer island loop trail with a ranger and watch the sunrise. This event is ideal for all ages. Degree of difficulty: easy. Wear comfortable athletic clothing and sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring water. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Heavy rain will cancel this event. Questions: Contact Ranger Mike Warner at [MWarner@marincounty.org](mailto:MWarner@marincounty.org) or (415) 473-2816. Meet at the gate on Deer Island Ln in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for Atherton Ave east 1.7 miles. Turn right onto Olive Ave and left onto Deer Island Ln. The gate is on your right.

**Saturday, December 10. 11am to 1pm**

### ***Wreath Making Workshop***

Bring the beauty of nature to your front door with a festive, homemade wreath! Join rangers at McNears Beach for a day of sipping hot chocolate, listening to holiday tunes, and creating your own natural wreath to take home. Fresh greenery, pinecones, and other natural materials will be provided. You are encouraged to bring your own decorations to use. This event is ideal for all ages. All skills levels are welcome and no experience is necessary. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. We will provide hot chocolate and snacks. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. Rain will cancel. Questions: Contact Supervising Ranger Kevin O'Donoghue at [KDonoghue@marincounty.org](mailto:KDonoghue@marincounty.org) or 415 446-4424. Park entrance fee is waived for participants. Meet at the snack bar in McNears Beach Park in San Rafael (201 Cantera Way). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Central San Rafael east. Take 2nd St east, which merges into 3rd St, and then turns into Point San Pedro Rd. Follow Point San Pedro Rd for 3.6 miles, turn right at Cantera Way, and follow to the large parking lot at the end.

**Saturday, December 17. 12pm to 1:30pm**

### ***Invasive Plants and Natural Habitats***

Join a ranger for a walk along the Camino Alto ridgeline. We'll talk about the ways that invasive plants have changed our ridgelines and why protection and management are so important. This event is ideal for ages 7 and up though explorers of all ages are welcome. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring water and snacks. Friendly dogs are welcome, but must be leashed. Heavy winds cancel. Questions: Contact Ranger Russell Andrews at [RAndrews@marincounty.org](mailto:RAndrews@marincounty.org) or (415) 473-2816. Meet at the trailhead on Escalon Fire Road in Mill Valley. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the Tiburon Blvd/E Blithedale Ave exit west on E Blithedale Ave 0.7 miles. Turn right onto Camino Alto 0.8 mi, left onto Overhill and stay to the right to remain on Overhill. Turn right on Escalon Dr and follow to the end.

## **Monday, December 26. 10am to 12pm**

### ***Learn to Skate – Free Clinic***

Join us at the McInnis skatepark where rangers will offer tips and techniques for beginners as well as ways to attack features that build confidence and skill. This event is geared towards the newbie skateboarder and those looking to cross over from other board sports, but aren't quite sure how to start. This event is ideal for all ages. All skill levels are welcome and no experience is necessary. Wear comfortable athletic clothing and sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring your board, helmet, and pads. Friendly dogs are welcome, but must be leashed. Rain will cancel. Questions: Contact Supervising Ranger Adam Craig at [ACraig@marincounty.org](mailto:ACraig@marincounty.org). Park entrance is free. Meet at the skatepark in McInnis Park in San Rafael (310 Smith Ranch Rd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Smith Ranch Rd east approximately 0.7 miles. Drive over the railroad tracks and immediately turn left to stay on Smith Ranch Rd. (If you go through the park entrance, you have gone too far). Look for the sign for the skatepark, turn right, and follow the road to the skatepark parking lot.

## **Sunday, January 1. 2pm to 4pm**

### ***Canine Appreciation Day***

Kick off 2017 by joining us for a pooch party! Bring your dogs (and humans too) for a free BBQ and raffle prizes. It will be an afternoon of fun and education with rangers and special guest speakers. We will discuss Marin County Parks rules and regulations as well as sensitive wildlife issues that all pet owners should know. This event is ideal for all ages. Friendly dogs are welcome, but must be leashed. Rain will cancel. Questions: Contact Supervising Ranger Audrea Bocchi at [ABocchi@marincounty.org](mailto:ABocchi@marincounty.org). Park entrance is free. Meet at the Hillside picnic area in McInnis Park in San Rafael (310 Smith Ranch Rd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in San Rafael, take the exit for Smith Ranch Rd east approximately 0.7 miles. Drive over the railroad tracks and immediately turn left to stay on Smith Ranch Rd. (If you go through the park entrance, you have gone too far). Look for the sign for Hillside picnic area and turn right; Hillside is immediately on the right.

## **Saturday, January 7. 10am to 2pm**

### ***New Year's Resolution Hike***

Join Ranger Blain Thompson for a day of exercise at Indian Tree Preserve. We will hike the Big Trees Trail to the top of the preserve and back down (Approx. 6 miles). The emphasis of the hike is to spend more time with nature, to get your heart pumping, and burn calories, all the while fulfilling your New Year's resolution! This event is ideal for ages 12 and up. Degree of difficulty: Moderate to strenuous. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring water and snacks. Friendly dogs are welcome, but must be leashed. Heavy rain will cancel the event. Questions: Contact Ranger Blain Thompson at [BThompson@marincounty.org](mailto:BThompson@marincounty.org). Meet at the trailhead on Vineyard Rd in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west 2.7 miles. San Marin Dr turns into Sutro Ave at Novato Blvd. Follow Sutro Ave 1 mile, turn right at Vineyard Rd and follow 1 mile. Trailhead is on the left where the paved road becomes a dirt road.

## **Sunday, January 8. 9am to 12pm**

### ***The Story of Marin's Salmon and Steelhead***

Rangers Gabe Ngarangad and Craig Solin will lead a family friendly hike along Lagunitas Creek in San Geronimo. If Mother Nature cooperates, we'll witness one of Marin's natural treasures: Steelhead and coho salmon returning from the sea. Learn about the fishes' life cycles, the efforts to restore local populations, and some of the interesting local history. This event is ideal for ages 5 and over, though explorers of all ages are welcome. Degree of difficulty: Moderate. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring water, snacks, and polarized sunglasses. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Heavy rain will cancel this event. Questions: Contact Ranger Gabe Ngarangad at [GNarangad@marincounty.org](mailto:GNarangad@marincounty.org) or (415) 473-2816. Meet at the Leo T. Cronin Fish Viewing Area west of Lagunitas. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in

Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 13.6 miles, the parking area is on the left (just past Shafter Bridge).

**Friday, January 13. 6pm to 8pm**

***Full Moon Walk at White Hill***

Join us for a walk up White Hill where we'll learn about the plants and animals that live in the area. Once we reach the top we should be able to watch a beautiful full moon rise above San Rafael. This event is ideal for all ages. Degree of difficulty: Moderate. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring a flashlight. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain or heavy winds will cancel. Questions: Contact Ranger Josh Gilmore at [JGilmore@marincounty.org](mailto:JGilmore@marincounty.org) or (415) 473-2816. Meet at the roadside parking area near the top of White Hill Grade on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 6 miles. Park in the big gravel pullout on the right side, below the crest of the hill.

**Saturday, January 14. 5pm to 6:30pm**

***Full Moon Adventure at Roy's Redwoods***

Join a ranger for a nature walk to experience this unique preserve after dark. We'll discuss nocturnal animals and things that go bump in the night! This event is ideal for all ages. Degree of difficulty: Easy. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring water and a flashlight. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Heavy rain will cancel this event. Questions: Contact Ranger Mike Warner at [MWarner@marincounty.org](mailto:MWarner@marincounty.org) or (415) 473-2816. Meet at the Roy's Redwoods Loop trailhead on Nicasio Valley Rd in San Geronimo. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Larkspur, take the exit for Sir Francis Drake Blvd west 8.6 miles, turn right onto Nicasio Valley Rd. Gate is approximately 0.5 miles up on the right.

**Saturday, January 28. 11am to 3pm**

***Beads, Baubles, and Found Treasures***

Try something so old that it's new again! Bring your creativity and a "found treasure" (sea shell, souvenir stone, bead, etc.) and join us at Paradise Park, where rangers will provide instruction in the ancient Viking skill of Nalbinding, a technique similar to knitting or crocheting. You'll be able to use your found treasure in creating a pendant that you'll be proud to wear! This event is ideal for all ages. Degree of difficulty: Easy. We provide supplies and healthy snacks. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. Rain will cancel. Please reserve your spot in advance, as this event is limited to 12 participants. Questions or to RSVP: Contact Ranger Maggie Guiott at [MGuiott@marincounty.org](mailto:MGuiott@marincounty.org). Park entrance fee is waived for participants. Meet at the fishing pier in Paradise Beach Park in Tiburon (3450 Paradise Dr). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131) east 1.8 miles. Turn left onto Trestle Glen Blvd, right onto Paradise Dr, and follow for 1.5 miles. The park is on the left.

**Saturday, February 4. 10am to 2pm**

***History Hike: Mt Tamalpais Scenic Railroad***

It's been almost 121 years since the ground breaking ceremony of the Mt Tamalpais Scenic Railroad. Join us for a 3 mile hike on the Old Railroad Grade as we discuss the history of the railroad. This event is ideal for all ages. Degree of difficulty: Moderate. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring a lunch and water. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain or heavy winds will cancel. Questions: Contact Ranger Mike Warner at [MWarner@marincounty.org](mailto:MWarner@marincounty.org) or (415) 473-2816. Meet at the W. Blithedale Ave trailhead. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the East Blithedale Exit west for 3 miles. East Blithedale will become West Blithedale. Gate is on the right approximately 200 yards past Lee St.

**Saturday, February 18. 10am to 12pm**

***Learn How to Pier Fish***

Join rangers, and a few of our experienced local anglers, to learn the secrets and tricks of the trade when fishing from a pier. A limited amount of poles will be available on a first come, first-served basis. A valid

California fishing license is required when fishing from the shore, not from the pier. This event is ideal for all ages. All skill levels are welcome and no experience is necessary. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring a fishing pole. We will provide bait and a limited amount of fishing poles, thanks to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. Rain will cancel. Questions: Contact Supervising Ranger Mike Maraccini at [MMaraccini@marincounty.org](mailto:MMaraccini@marincounty.org). Park entrance fee is waived for participants. Meet at the fishing pier in Paradise Beach Park in Tiburon (3450 Paradise Dr). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Mill Valley, take the exit for Tiburon Blvd (Hwy 131) east 1.8 miles. Turn left onto Trestle Glen Blvd, right onto Paradise Dr, and follow for 1.5 miles. The park is on the left.

**Saturday, February 25. 10am to 2:30pm**

***Mount Burdell's Geomorphology and Historic Quarries***

Join us on a ranger-led hike as we explore how and why Mount Burdell came to look the way it does today. We'll focus on the geology and mass movements that have shaped the mountain then we'll take a look at three different quarry sites from different time periods. This hike is approximately 5 miles with some steep sections. This hike is ideal for ages 7 and up, though explorers of all ages are welcome. Degree of difficulty: Moderate to strenuous. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring a lunch and water. We request that no pets (except service animals) attend. Rain or heavy winds will cancel. Questions: Contact Ranger Mike Warner at [MWarner@marincounty.org](mailto:MWarner@marincounty.org) or (415) 473-2816. Meet at the end of Butterfield in Novato. DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west, follow San Marin Dr .25 miles, turn right on Redwood Dr and then left onto Woodhollow drive (0.3 mi.). Turn left onto Fieldstone drive (0.6mi.) then right onto Butterfield, follow to end (dead end).

**Sunday, February 26. 9am to 11am**

***Lake Fishing for Kids***

Rangers will cast out with the kids at Stafford Lake Park to try to reel in the biggest fish in the lake. This event is ideal for all ages. All skill levels are welcome and no experience is necessary. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Don't forget to bring a fishing pole. We will provide bait and a limited amount of fishing poles, thanks to the Department of Fish and Wildlife. A fishing license is required for participants 16 and over. No pets (except service animals) are allowed at this park. Rain will cancel. Questions: Contact Ranger Jason Olivotti at [JOlivotti@marincounty.org](mailto:JOlivotti@marincounty.org). Park entrance fee is waived for participants. Meet at Stafford Lake Park in Novato (3549 Novato Blvd). DIRECTIONS: From Hwy 101 in Novato, take the exit for San Marin Dr west 2.9 miles. Turn right onto Novato Blvd and follow for 2.6 miles. The park is on the left. Turn left after the gate house and follow to the parking lot.