

# Big Break

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2018

## NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Programs meet at the Visitor Center unless otherwise noted.

Big Break Visitor Center is open Wednesday - Sunday from 10am-4pm, (510) 544-3050.

### DELTA DISCOVERIES

**11am-2pm, Every Sat & Sun**

Discover the wonders of the Delta through hands on arts and crafts activities! Each week we will explore different wetland wonders.

### TESTING THE WATER

**9-10am, Every Sat & Sun**

Track the health of the Delta! Using state of the art instruments, we'll test for dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, and more. Our results go into a regional database for use by researchers, scientists and water managers.

### COFFEE TALK & DELTA NEWS

**8:30-9am, Wed, Jan 3**

**8:30-9am, Wed, Feb 7**

*Supervising Naturalist Mike Moran*

From tunnels to research projects, farming to fish stocks, the Delta is always in the news. Stop by the Visitor Center on the FIRST Wednesday of each month for coffee and discussion of science and events shaping the region.

### NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY A LA IPHONE

**8:30-11:30am, Sat, Jan 27**

*Naturalist Cat Taylor*

Do you love taking nature photos with your i-phone? Discover simple tricks for better results in the field and share them in a group critique. Bring charged phone and cord.

### HAPPY HAWK

**2-3pm, Sun, Jan 7**

*Interpretive Student Aide*

Frolicsome feathered friends are famously found in our park! Join us on a hike and discover how hawks hunt in their habitat.

### CRITTER CLUES

**2-3pm, Sat, Jan 27**

*Interpretive Student Aide*

Come discover what animals roam our wetlands! Examine chewed branches, listen to bird calls and keep a look out for animal tracks as you become a Big Break critter detective.

### BIG BREAK LITTLES

**10-11am, Mon, Jan 8**

**10-11am, Tue, Jan 9**

**10-11am, Mon, Feb 5**

**10-11am, Tue, Feb 13**

*Naturalist Nichole Gange*

Bring the little ones to explore nature. In January we'll search for birds and February we'll meet the reptiles that live in the park. Parent/caregiver participation required. 1-5 yrs.

### STORYTIME!

**10-11am, Sat, Feb 3**

*Naturalist Cat Taylor*

Bring your favorite stuffed animal or blanket and join us for nature storytime over milk and cookies!

### 5 SENSES WETLANDS WANDER

**12:30-2pm, Sat, Feb 3**

*Naturalist Cat Taylor*

Touch, taste, see, smell and hear all that the wintry wetlands have to offer as we explore slough, trail and Delta.

### GET BUG-GY

**2-3pm, Sat, Jan 13**

*Interpretive Student Aide*

Come learn about the bugs that roam and fly through our park! We'll learn about their special adaptations and play insect-themed games.

### OUTSTANDING OTTERS

**2-3pm, Sun, Feb 4**

*Interpretive Student Aide*

Discover how river otters differ from sea otters. Come along to find otter clues in our park.

### PLANKTON PLUNGE

**2-3pm, Sat, Jan 20**

*Interpretive Student Aide*

Explore the incredible world of water bugs! Let's collect and identify some plankton and macroinvertebrates to discover their important role in the wetland ecosystem.

### REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

**2-3pm, Sat, Feb 10**

*Interpretive Student Aide*

Love your planet by recycling! Come find fun ways to reuse common household items, as well as some hints for recycling and reducing waste.

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## THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 9-11:30am, Sat, Feb 17

*Naturalist Cat Taylor*

Join the worldwide community of birders during this popular annual event. All levels welcome! Bring binoculars/spotting scope if you have them; we have some to loan.

## ALL ABOUT ALMONDS 2-3pm, Sun, Feb 18

*Interpretive Student Aide*

Come discover the life cycle of an almond and, with luck, incredible almond blossoms.

## HOOT OWLS FAMILY EXPLORATION 6:30-8:30pm, Fri, Feb 23

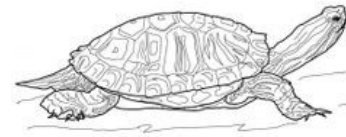
*Naturalist Cat Taylor*

HOOOO goes there? Families will delve into the nocturnal world of owls tonight as we trek o'er darkening trails listening for screeches, hoots and clicks in the night. Bring flashlights.

## WHERE ARE THE REPTILES? 2-3pm, Sat, Feb 24

*Interpretive Student Aide*

How do cold blooded animals survive the winter? Explore the micro-habitats that allow reptiles to beat the chill.



## LOVELY BUGS & LADY BEETLES 10-11am, Sun, Feb 25

*Naturalist Nichole Gange*

Why do farmers love lady bugs' ferocious appetites but birds can't stomach this beetle? Join us as we explore these and other bugs around Big Break.

## REGISTRATION REQUIRED PROGRAMS

### DRAWING ON NATURE WITH GRAPHITE

Big Break Cat Taylor

**9:30am-1:30pm, Sat, Jan 6 #19620**

Draw on your inner artist! Explore the natural world and render what you see effectively in graphite. Learn how shadow and light combine to create the illusion of dimension. Ages 12+.

**Registration Required**

### BIRDING DOW WETLANDS

Dow Wetland Cat Taylor

**9:30-1:30pm, Sat, Jan 13 #19621**

Welcome to the Pacific Flyway! We'll seek out the winter avian abundance on a leisurely stroll into this special wildlife habitat preserve. Meet at Antioch Marina Parking Lot. **Registration Required.**

### KAYAKING IS FOR THE BIRDS!

Big Break Cat Taylor & Recreation Staff

**8:30-Noon, Sat, Jan 20 # 19351**

What better way to see birds than by kayaking? We'll begin with dry-land instruction then paddle our steady and stable craft on a group exploration of resident and winter migrant birds.

\$40/person. Ages 8+ **Registration Required**

### THURSDAY BIRDING: RAPTOR BASELINE

**9-11:30am, Thu, Jan 25 #19670**

Big Break Regional Shoreline

**9-11:30am, Thu, Feb 22 #19668**

Morgan Territory

The morning (eastern) side of Mount Diablo hosts a magnificent array of birds of prey; hawks, falcons, eagles. Help us document their variety and numbers in this fun, social, citizen science research project. No experience necessary – we'll teach you how to identify these birds. We'll meet at a different park on the last Thursday of each month (EXCEPT NOVEMBER!). Join in for one or all.

**Registration required.**

### SUNSET & FULL MOON PADDLE

Big Break Cat Taylor & Recreation Staff

**4-7pm, Tue, Jan 30 # 19452**

Paddle as the light of the setting sun and the rising moon sparkles on the waves. After dry-land instruction, we'll wend our way in our steady and stable kayaks. \$35/person. Ages 8+

**Registration Required**



To register for a program please  
call 888-327-2757 option 2  
or visit [www.ebparks.org](http://www.ebparks.org)