

# Big Break

MARCH & APRIL 2017

## 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.

**All programs are DROP IN, unless listed in the REGISTRATION REQUIRED box**

### 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, Mar 1**

**8:30-9am, Wed, Apr 5**

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

### MELODY OF THE MEADOWLARK

**10-11am, Sun, Mar 12**

Meadowlarks learn to sing in early spring. Join us as we search for spring birds around the park.

### BOUNTIFUL BIRDS

**2-3pm, Sun, Mar 12**

Fly on in for some winged-wonder. Soar through some fun facts about frantic feathers, big beaks, tough talons, whistling wings, and exquisite eggs.

### DAWN CHORUS YOGA

Interpretive Staff/ Brentwood Yoga Center

**7-8am, Sat, Mar 4**

**7-8am, Sat, Apr 1**

Enjoy a sunrise yoga (indoors or outdoors, weather dependent) and the park's awakening. Bring a yoga mat if you have one, and wear warm, comfortable layers to move, breathe and meditate.

### WETLAND WONDERS

**2-3pm, Sat, Mar 18**

Feel the contours on cottonwood bark, listen for marsh wrens and watch cattail seeds travel away in the wind as winter gives way to spring at Big Break.

### PLANT PARADISE

**2-3pm, Sat, Mar 4**

Join us for a spring foliage scavenger hunt!

### LOVELY BUGS AND LADY BEETLES

**10-11am, Sun, Mar 5**

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

### OWL PELLET DISSECTION

**2-3pm, Sun, Mar 26**



Join our exploration of Barn Owls and their digestive contents. Pluck apart owl pellets to discover what the prey tells us about the predators.

### SNIPE HUNT

**2-3pm, Sat, Apr 1**

Let's look for real-life, but hard-to-find Common Snipe (it's a bird!) We don't often find it- all the more reason to look!

### BIG BREAK LITTLES

**10-11am, Mon, Mar 6**

**10-11am, Mon, Apr 3**

Bring the little ones out to explore nature. In March we'll gaze at clouds and April we'll chase rainbows. Parent/caregiver participation required. 1-5 yrs.

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## ASPARAGUS EXPLORATION 2-3pm, Sun, Apr 9

Explore Big Break's past as we search for asparagus on this former, now flooded, farm.

## PLANKTONIC PLUNGE 2-3pm, Sat, Apr 15

Collect and identify some of the smallest creatures of the Delta: plankton. Examine their habits and learn the vital role they play in our ecosystem.

## ARACHNID ADVENTURES 2-3pm, Sun, Apr 23

Our eight-legged residents are prowling the park for food! Drop by to learn about spiders and join us in fun arachnid activities.

## LEEVE TOP STROLL 1-2:30pm, Sun, Apr 23

Meander through the willows on this flat one mile stroll. Calm your mind while enjoying a variety of plant and wildlife.

## SCAT TRACK FEVER 2-3pm, Sat, Apr 29

What animals roam our wetlands? Catch "scat track fever" and find out through the clues they leave behind.



## **REGISTRATION REQUIRED PROGRAMS**

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

### THURSDAY BIRDING: RAPTOR BASELINE 9-11:30am, Thu, Mar 30 #15906 Round Valley 9-11:30am, Thu, Apr 27 #15905 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.

**Registration required.**



### BROWNIE NATURALIST: BUGS 4-5:30pm, Wed, Apr 5 #15904

Brownie scouts gather together to explore the wonderful world of insects while earning your bugs badge. We'll search high and low for these little creatures. Adult participation required. One adult participation required per 5 Brownies. Only Brownies ages 6-9 registers.

**Registration required.**

### KAYAKING BIG BREAK 8:30-11:00am, Sat, Apr 8 #16366 12:00-2:30pm, Sat, April 8 #16367

Come ply the welcoming and wondrous waters of the Delta on this beginner (& up) kayak excursion. We'll start off with dry land instruction then paddle our steady and stable craft on a group exploration of this lovely Delta shoreline.

**KAYAKING PROGRAMS  
Fee: \$30 (non-res \$34)  
Registration Required 8+**