

BLACK DIAMOND

NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Jan-Feb 2012

Naturalists from Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve offer a variety of natural and cultural history programs throughout central and eastern Contra Costa County. All programs meet at the parking lot at the south end of Somersville Road unless otherwise noted. Other meeting sites are listed with each program. Those requiring registration list a course code number after the naturalist's name. Accommodations will be made for visitors with disabilities upon advanced request.

Sidney Flat Visitor Center is open weekends, 10am-4:30pm

Thursday Birding: East County

Big Break Regional Trail

9-11am, Thursday, January 5

Marsh Creek Regional Trail

9-11am, Thursday, February 9

Mike Moran #28051, 28052

Winter's feathered magic flits, flies, swims, and soars! Wetland wanderers (shorebirds) and widely traveled waterfowl at Big Break Regional Trail (1/5), then Marsh Creek Regional Trail (2/9). Disabled accessible

Reg. Required: 1-888-EBPARKS

Somersville Echoes

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

10am-Noon, Saturday, January 7

Bob Kanagaki

Stroll through a peaceful valley and visit a townsite that boomed with explosions and huffed with steam engines and was home to hundreds of miners and their families. Rain cancels.

Exotic Martinez

Martinez Regional Shoreline

10am-Noon, Saturday, January 14

Bob Kanagaki #28057

History abounds at the Martinez waterfront. See how a century of human activity has changed the natural landscape as we take a stroll through the marsh. Rain cancels.

Reg. Required: 1-888-EBPARKS

Winter Water Birding

Waterbird Regional Preserve

8:30-10am, Sunday, January 15

Eddie Willis #28061

The Bay Area is a great over-wintering spot along the Pacific Flyway. Find out who's swooping in for a visit as we gawk at a restored wetland and its fowl inhabitants.

Reg. Required: 1-888-EBPARKS

Echoes of the Eocene

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

10am-Noon, Saturday, January 21

Bob Kanagaki

Hold your breath! We'll delve into the depths of the ocean and of time as we travel back to Black Diamond 50 million years ago. Rain cancels.

Full Moon Over Cosumnes

Cosumnes River Preserve, Galt

2-5:30pm, Saturday, January 7

Mike Moran #28054

Behold the Cosumnes, lone undammed river flowing into the Delta. These forests and wetlands provide a dazzling migratory bird spectacle of raptors, waterfowl, song and shorebirds, and sandhill cranes, under this evening's full moon. 5+yrs. Disabled accessible.

Reg. Required: 1-888-EBPARKS



EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT
Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve
5175 Somersville Road, Antioch, CA 94509

website: www.ebparks.org
telephone: 510-544-2750
e-mail: bdvisit@ebparks.org

Online registration: www.ebparksonline.org

calendar of events

NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Searchin' for 'Shrooms

Briones Regional Park

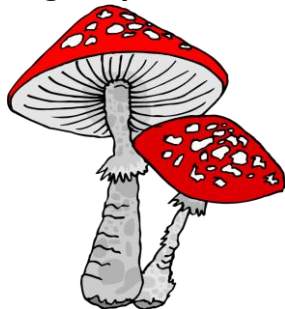
10am-Noon, Sunday, January 22

Eddie Willis

#28075

Join this fun-guy as we search the dank backwoods for the fungus all among us, and discover the hidden, rotten world beneath our feet. 8+yrs. Parking \$3

Reg. Required: 1-888-EBPARKS



Thursday Birding: Raptor Baseline

Big Break Regional Trail

9-11:30am, Thursday, January 26

Marsh Creek Regional Trail

9-11:30am, Thursday, February 23

Mike Moran

#28083, 28084

The morning (eastern) side of Mount Diablo hosts a magnificent array of birds of prey: hawks, falcons, and 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. Join in for one or all. Disabled accessible.

Reg. Required: 1-888-EBPARKS

Chaparral in Winter

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

9:30-11am, Saturday, January 28

Bob Kanagaki

Enjoy the winter beauty of the chaparral as we hike Chaparral Loop. We'll investigate the human and natural history of this scenic area. Rain cancels.

Amphibious Amble

Briones Regional Park

10am-12:30pm, Sunday, January 29

Eddie Willis

Walk as the newts do through mucky grasslands to some of their favorite breeding grounds. We'll look for all types (and stages) of amphibians during this 1-1/2 mile trek. Meet at Briones Road staging area. 6+yrs.

NEW! Black Diamond Docent Training

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

9am-2pm, Wednesdays, February 1, 8, & 15

Eddie Willis

Join our dedicated team! Docents are specially trained volunteers who assist staff naturalists with special events, hikes, and school programs. You'll learn local history, ecology, and interpretive skills while meeting like-minded people and working with a diverse public. Three five-hour training sessions required plus underground mine safety training. 18+yrs.

Application and interview required

Fee: \$35 (non-res. \$39)

Information: 510-544-2768

Vasco Caves Regional Preserve Tour

Brushy Peak Regional Preserve

9am-2pm, Saturday, February 4

Cat Taylor

#28086

Behold Vasco's spectacular rock outcrops, vernal pools--seasonal home of endangered amphibians and fairy shrimp. This is habitat for eagles and various nesting and migrating raptors hunting bountiful prey in robust restored grasslands. Archaeological sites contain Indian rock art, part of a complex reaching back nearly 10,000 years. This Preserve is accessible through guided tours only, staging from Brushy Peak Regional Preserve aboard District-provided bus transportation. 10+yrs.

Fee: \$30 (non-res. \$34)

Reg. Required: 1-888-EBPARKS



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Somersville Rocks!

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

10am-Noon, Saturday, February 4

Bob Kanagaki

Visit a town that survived on its rocks—the geologic fortune that allowed it to flourish in the nineteenth century. 7+yrs. Parking \$5



Pine Creek Peek

Diablo Foothills Regional Park

10am-1pm, Sunday, February 19

Eddie Willis

Walk along mostly flat trails to a place nestled among canyons and crags, ripe with winter rains, and host to a plethora of natural beauty. We'll visit "Little Yosemite," too. 7+yrs

Life and Death in the Coal Field

Clayton Community Library, Clayton

7-8pm, Wednesday, February 29

Traci Parent

Join us for a presentation based on the recently published book on Rose Hill Cemetery. Author Traci Parent has spent over thirty years documenting Rose Hill, the only cemetery within the Mount Diablo Coal Field. Her exhaustive research has resulted in the definitive work on the subject. Disabled accessible.

Big Break Sunrise Saunter

Big Break Regional Shoreline

6:15-8am, Wednesday, February 8

Kevin Damstra

#28087

Enjoy a winter morning with the rising sun and setting moon along the shore of Big Break! Discover the stirring wildlife and enjoy a quiet morning respite on this short easy stroll. Heavy rain cancels. Disabled accessible.

Reg. Required: 1-888-EBPARKS

Exotic Black Diamond

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

9:30-11am, Saturday, February 11

Bob Kanagaki

Coal miners changed our hills in more ways than you think. We'll look at how they changed the living landscape with trees from all over the world. Rain cancels. Parking \$5

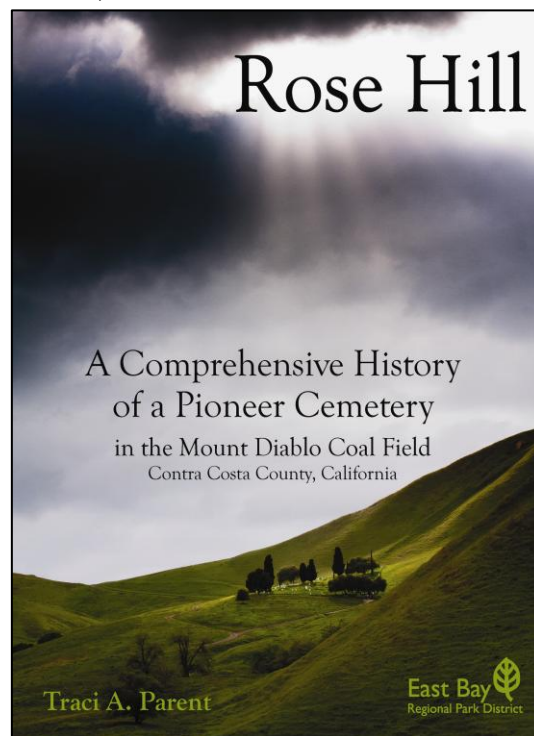
Spring Flower Forecast

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve

10am-Noon, Saturday, February 18

Bob Kanagaki

Join us as we look for signs of spring flowers as we hike Chaparral Loop. Rain cancels. Parking \$5



Rose Hill is available at the Black Diamond Visitor Center for \$65



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