

DuneQuest Field Trips

Saturday May 1st, 2004, All Hikes 1:00PM to 3:00PM

Guided Tour of the UNOCAL- Guadalupe Restoration Site

The Guadalupe Restoration Project Field Trip will be a 2-hour bus tour of Unocal's former Guadalupe oil field. This guided tour by Unocal's staff will provide access to a 2,700 acre site not normally open to the public. Visitors will be afforded a rare perspective to view this unique and beautiful coastal dune complex. The tour will include seeing recently restored remediation sites (including the eco-remediation demonstration project), and will point out future remediation and restoration activities. Bring your cameras, binoculars, and dress for potentially cold, windy weather. Signup on the DuneQuest website: www.dunequest.org and for more information visit the GRP website at www.guaddunes.com (see the self-guided tour under Dunes Ecology, Geomorphology). Space is limited so sign up early.

Rare plant restoration and protection at the CONOCO-Phillips Refinery

Join The Land Conservancy for a tour of their restoration efforts for Nipomo Lupine, a rare and endangered plant growing in the Nipomo Dunes. The Land Conservancy has been working to protect and expand this fragile population. This is a unique opportunity to view a site normally not open to the public. Participants will meet at the Guadalupe Vets Hall at 1PM and ride a bus to the site. From there the group will take a short walk through the dunes to view the site and recovery efforts. Signup on the DuneQuest website: www.dunequest.org and for more information.

Plover Management at Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Preserve

Join Willie Richerson, Preserve Manager, for a walk along the beach to view Snowy plover habitat and hopefully see some of these elusive shore birds. The walk is an easy stroll through soft sand, spotting scopes and binoculars will be available for viewing wildlife. Come out and learn how the park is balancing endangered species protection and recreational use. Bring water and a jacket for wind. Parking and admission is free.

Mammals and Ecology of the Oso Flaco Lake Area

Join Dunes Center educator Tom Neuman for a walk through the colorful dunes and past Oso Flaco lake. The walk will feature identification clues and materials to unravel the mysteries of tracks and habitats of this state park area. Wildflowers are sure to abound. Bring snack, water and a jacket for wind. There is a four dollar parking fee. For more information, and to pre-register visit the Dune Quest website at www.dunequest.org

Historical Tour of Guadalupe

The quant town of Guadalupe has a rich history of settlement and culture dating back to the Spanish mission period. Join Guadalupe native Stephanie Krouse for this easy stroll around the historic structures and landmarks which offer a glimpse into the roots of the Santa Maria Valley. Bring a light jacket in case of wind. Participants will meet at the Guadalupe Vets Hall at 1PM. For more information, and to pre-register visit the DuneQuest website at www.dunequest.org

You may also be interested in these field trips

Sunday May 2nd, 2004

(Offered as an extension of your dune experience, these Sunday hikes will explore some of the more remote and unique aspects of the Guadalupe - Nipomo Dunes)

Guided Tour of Black Lake Canyon

10:00AM to 1:00PM

Join The Land Conservancy for a glimpse into this amazing canyon at the western edge of the Nipomo Mesa. Years of restoration and protection have helped to give life to this fragile area. Parking is limited and pre-registration is necessary. For directions and information contact the Land Conservancy at www.special-places.org or call (805) 544-9096.

Dunes Photography Walk

4:00PM to 6:30PM

Join Jules Reuter as he guides you into the dunes to capture the unique shadows, textures and images found in this land of rolling angled dunes. Bring your camera, a tripod, a jacket, and your Ansel Adams persona. Rain or fog cancels. Hike meets at the Pacific Dunes Ranch and RV Resort, 1207 Silver Spur Place in Oceano. For more information go to www.dunescenter.org

A guided tour of the geology and natural wonder of Mussel Rock

10:00AM to 1:00PM

Join local biologist Bill Deneen for an energetic tour of the Mussel Rock Dunes. The tour will explore the beach and fore dunes at the southern edge of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex. Bill holds a wealth of knowledge about this natural marvel and will offer his insight into the formation and beauty of these, the tallest coastal dunes in California. The walk leaves from the Rancho Guadalupe Dunes Parking lot. Hikers should bring water, snack, and a jacket. For more information check out www.dunescenter.org or contact Bill directly at (805) 929-3647.

Hike into the Guadalupe Nipomo Dunes National Wildlife Refuge

10:00AM to 3:00PM

Join long time dunes explorer Hal Schartz on this day hike into the heart of the Guadalupe-Nipomo dunes. The hike heads out to the ocean from Oso Flaco, crosses a small creek, and then turns east onto a dune swale at the northern edge of the refuge. Wildflowers and solitude are sure to abound. This hike will get you sweating but the journey is worth the reward. Bring water, jacket, and a snack. For more information visit www.dunescenter.org