

Muisings from Ranger Mia

A silver lining in this year's focus on sticking close to home is exploring locally! Seeing nature more often and much more closely brings us such joys as spotting a Cedar Waxwing for the first time (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cedar_waxwing). Seeking out native shrubs such as Wax Myrtle, Toyon, Coffee Berry, Ceonothus (Lupine and Coyote Brush, too) and now I'm eagerly watching for which fall wildflowers the Monarch Butterflies will seek for nectar before moving to coastal overwintering sites.

We can say a fond farewell to summer by visiting one of our rocky chert outcrops which allow us to see the Bay and the Ocean and the fog all at the same time. It was a real treat to bring friends way up Redwood Canyon to see crowds of ladybugs and join neighbors at Muir Beach to welcome the turtles return to Big Lagoon (to the Marin Headlands Rodeo pond, too).

I've also stepped up my game by using iNat to share my observations and build the database for our area, by sharing my observations about nature in our monthly

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Nature Talks! Zoom gatherings with Steffen Bartschat and Lara Zegart, and now I'm watching for coyotes, from a distance, as NPS initiates a monitoring program (<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/tracking-coyotes-in-marin>).

A reminder that every day is clean-up day and we are kicking off expanding Coast Clean-up into an everyday practice of service to improve our world...here is a word on this from our Coast Clean-up crew:

*This year we can protect our shorelines starting at our very own front door! Our creeks and waterways connect us to the Bay and to the Ocean. Although it is unsafe for us to gather in large groups, we can still make a large impact by cleaning up our streets and local parks. You can clean up any day, any time. Here's a Safe Cleaning Guide to ensure that you and your family stay healthy and safe during your cleanups! Register for Coastal Clean-up to help gather data about where our trash comes from. **GET BAGS and GLOVES** at the self-serve station at*

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SeaTrek in Sausalito...I use my own gloves and newspaper bags to further reduce waste, AND if you clean up on public land and have a big bag of trash, let me know and I'll alert NPS staff to pick it up! Lastly, help spread the word about Coastal Cleanup using the following hashtags: #ProtectYourHappyPlace #CoastalCleanup

Hope to see you soon on the trails, safely distanced, masks on hand and with a friendly wave!

Ranger Mia

