



Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

2011-2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.DESERTMOUNTAINS.ORG
OR CALL US AT (760) 862-9984

ALL EVENTS TAKE PLACE AT THE NATIONAL MONUMENT VISITOR CENTER,
51-500 HIGHWAY 74, PALM DESERT, CA 92260 UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

PROGRAMS ARE PROVIDED FREE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED
BY FRIENDS OF THE DESERT MOUNTAINS AND THE DONORS
WHO SUPPORT OUR CONSERVATION AND EDUCATION EFFORTS.

DONATIONS ARE APPRECIATED BY FRIENDS OF THE DESERT MOUNTAINS, TO HELP SUPPORT THE NATIONAL MONUMENT
INTERPRETIVE AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES.

Recurring Events

Name of Event: Thursday Morning Hikes

Day, Date, and Time: Every Thursday, October 6, 2011 through April 26, 2012; 9–11:30am (NO Thursday hike on November 24, 2011 or March 1, 2012)

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Explore the desert and learn about the plants, animals, and geology that make this area so unique. Destinations will vary based on participants' interests and abilities. Be sure to bring plenty of water, wear sun protection and sturdy footwear, and come ready to hit the trail.

Hike Rating, elevation change, length: Easy to Moderate, 400 feet, 3 – 4 miles

RSVP: Not required. Limited to 30 participants, arrive early to avoid disappointment.

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Saturday Morning Hikes

Day, Date, and Time: Every Saturday, October 1, 2011 through April 28, 2012; 9–11:30am (NO Saturday hike on December 24, 2011 or December 31, 2011)

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Explore the desert and learn about the plants, animals, and geology that make this area so unique. Destinations will vary based on participants' interests and abilities. Be sure to bring plenty of water, wear sun protection and sturdy footwear, and come ready to hit the trail.

Hike Rating, elevation change, length: Easy to Moderate, 400 feet, 3 – 4 miles

RSVP: Not required. Limited to 30 participants, show up early to avoid disappointment.

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Jr. Trail Guides Explorer Program

Day, Date, Time: Third Saturday of each month, October 15, 2011 through May 19, 2012; Oct-Jan 1-4pm, Feb-May 9am-Noon.

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: This program is designed to connect youth ages 8 to 14 with the outdoors and to:

- Promote safe and ethical enjoyment of the great outdoors;
- Emphasize health, nutrition, and an active lifestyle;
- Boost environmental awareness and illustrate the need for conservation;
- Increase a child's familiarity with native Cahuilla culture, local flora and fauna, and the geology and geography of the area.

There are four classes offered in total and each one offers children the chance to earn a badge specific to what they have learned. If all four programs are attended, a child can become a certified Jr. Trail Guide and earn an official t-shirt and other goodies for their completion of the program.

RSVP: Applications are available at the Visitor Center or on-line at www.DesertMountains.org and must be delivered to the Visitor Center or faxed to (760) 862-9240, Attn: Dani Ortiz. An application must be completed in order to reserve a spot in the program.

Limit: 15 participants per class

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to register.

Name of Event: Happy Tails Dog Adventure at Cahuilla Hills Park

Day, Date, Time: Every Wednesday, November 2, 2011 thru April 25, 2012; 9-11:30am

Location: Meet at Cahuilla Hills Park, Palm Desert

Guide: Emily Hoerner, BLM Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide

Description: Dogs! Fetch your leash and join other dogs on this desert hike in the Santa Rosa Mountains. This hike provides great exercise while exploring the desert. Learn about dog friendly trails in the National Monument – and hike on! Pack plenty of water for you and your K-9 friends for this fun outing.

Hike Rating, elevation change, length: Moderate, 1,000 feet, 3 miles

RSVP: Not required

Limit: 10 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve a space for you and your dog.

Name of Event: Happy Tails Dog Adventure at the La Quinta Cove

Day, Date, Time: Every Sunday, November 6, 2011 thru April 29, 2012; 9-11:30am (NO Happy Tail Dog Hike March 4, 2012)

Location: Meet at the La Quinta Cove Trailhead on Calle Tecate at Avenida Diaz

Guide: Emily Hoerner, BLM Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide

Description: Dogs! Fetch your leash and join other dogs on this desert hike in the Santa Rosa Mountains. This hike provides great exercise while exploring the desert. Learn about dog friendly trails in the National Monument – and hike on! Pack plenty of water for you and your K-9 friends for this fun outing.

Hike Rating, elevation change, length: Easy, 200 feet, 3 miles

RSVP: Not required

Limit: 10 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve a space for you and your dog.

Name of Event: Desert Mountains Art Faire

Day, Date, Time: First Saturday starting November 5, 2011 thru April 7, 2012, No Art Faire March 3, 2012.

Artists: Various

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center , 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Please join us for a wonderful celebration of local artists and artisans while learning about the five life zones in the National Monument and supporting our conservation programs. Great opportunity to view and purchase oil, acrylic and water color paintings, sculpture, pottery, photography, handcrafted clothing, hats and jewelry for yourself, your home or as unique gifts, as you enjoy the natural beauty of our Visitor Center in the foothills of the lovely Santa Rosa Mountains. Each month will focus on a life zone within the National Monument with an accompanying talk in the afternoon.

RSVP: Not Required

Contact: Judy Colgero, National Monument Visitor Services Information Assistant (760) 862-9984

Name of Event: Life Zone Series: Talks

Day, Date, Time: First Saturday starting November 5, 2011 thru April 7, 2012, No Life Zone Series March 3, 2012.

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA.

Guide: Emily Hoerner, Park Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: This incredible Southern California landmark stretches from sea level to a towering 10,834 ft. above the desert floor. Join us at the Visitor Center to learn about the five different life zones all found within this diverse landscape (Arctic Alpine, Boreal, Transition, Upper Sonoran and Lower Sonoran). Each month we will focus on a different life zone with a one hour interpretive talk. Learn about the plants, animals and other factors unique to each life zone.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Living in Earthquake Country

Day, Date, Time: Fourth Saturday starting October 22, 2011 thru March 24, 2012; 2-4pm. No talk in December 2011.

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Speaker: Joe Migliore, Associate, Earthquake Country Alliance, NAI Certified Naturalist Guide

Description: The ground we live on will shake violently and destructively during the next great earthquake in the Coachella Valley. It could happen any day! **WE ALL NEED TO BE PREPARED NOW!** See dramatic animations illustrating how faults have created the spectacular valley landscape and what can be expected when the southern San Andreas Fault strikes again!

RSVP: Not required

Limit: 30 Participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve your place.

Schedule of Events 2011- 2012

SEPTEMBER

Name of Event: FREE Night Owl Movie Series: “Life in the Undergrowth”

Day, Date, and Time: Saturday, September 17, 2011; 7– 8:30pm

Location: Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center; 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA.

Presenter: Jr. Trail Guides Explorer Program

Description: Join us outdoors, under the stars as we learn about the little creatures that outnumber us 200 million to one! These fascinating insects and arthropods will amaze you as you get a one of a kind glimpse into their world.

RSVP: Not required.

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: National Public Lands Day – Clean-up at Lake Hemet

Day, Date, and Time: Saturday, September 24, 2011; 10am – 2pm

Location: Meet at the US Forest Service, Lake Hemet Picnic Area off Highway 243, at the first parking lot

Leader: Dani Ortiz, US Forest Service, Natural Resource Management

Description: Show that you care for your public lands by taking some time out to help improve them. Join us in a clean-up effort around Lake Hemet, which is home to our countries once endangered Bald Eagles, and many other wildlife species. Great event for families to participate in and we will play some *Leave No Trace* games after the clean-up.

RSVP: Required by September 22, 2011

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

OCTOBER

Name of Event: Grand Reopening of the Carrizo Canyon and Dead Indian Canyon Trails

Day, Date, and Time: Saturday, October 1, 2011; 9-11:30am

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Be one of the first to wander back into Dead Indian Canyon this season, be present for the moment the gate is unlocked by one of our Rangers. Enjoy a guided hike through this beautiful canyon, to a secluded palm oasis, while enjoying amazing scenery as you hike along the wash. Please bring at least 1 quart of water, sunscreen and closed toed shoes. **This trail is only accessible**

October 1st through December 31st.

Hike Rating, elevation change, length: Easy, 400 feet, 2 miles

RSVP: Not required. Limited to 30 participants, arrive early to avoid disappointment.

Limit: 12 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: National Public Lands Day-Art Smith Trail Work

Day, Date, and Time: Sunday, October 2, 2011; 8am-Noon

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Reclaim the Old Art Smith Trail. Staff and volunteers will be working to remove the old Art Smith Trail through restoration of the native landscape.

RSVP: RSVP by Friday, September 30, 2011

Contact: Stacey Wellman, Recreation Technician, at (760) 862-9984.

Name of Event: Jr. Trail Guides Explorer Program: Hiking Safety and Leave No Trace

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, October 15, 2011; 1–4pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Calling all kids!!! Get outdoors and discover the Monument! Join us as we venture out to explore the desert while learning how to stay safe and aware on the trails and how to be a good steward of the earth. Learn various navigation methods by going on a real life *treasure hunt* and earn the “Peak Protector” badge.

RSVP: RSVP required by October 14, 2010. Application is available at the Visitor Center or on-line at www.DesertMountains.org and must be delivered to the Visitor Center or faxed to (760) 862-9240, Attn: Dani Ortiz.

Limit: 15 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve your place.

Name of Event: Star Party

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, October 15, 2011; 7–10pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Host: Astronomical Society of the Desert

Description: The waxing gibbous Moon provides wonderfully detailed views for binoculars and telescopes as the Sun rises on the 60-mile wide crater Copernicus. The bright “star” to the Moon’s lower left is actually Jupiter. A few minutes before 8pm, Io, one of the planet’s moons, will emerge from Jupiter’s shadow, bringing the total to all four Galilean moons visible. Light from Earth’s Moon dims the Milky Way arching overhead at nightfall through the Summer Triangle and Northern Cross. But we’ll still have fine telescopic views of double stars including colorful Albireo, head of the Swan, as well as the Hercules globular cluster, the Ring Nebula, and Andromeda Galaxy. By session’s end, the Pleiades (Seven Sisters) star cluster and “Mother Goat” star Capella will rise into view. Please bring a flashlight and warm clothing for cool evening conditions, and, if you can, binoculars for exploring the sky. We will provide large telescopes for your viewing.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details or visit the Astronomical Society of the Desert’s website at www.astrorx.org.

Name of Event: Living in Earthquake Country

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, October 22, 2011; 2-4pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Speaker: Joe Migliore, Associate, Earthquake Country Alliance, NAI Certified Naturalist Guide

Description: The ground we live on will shake violently and destructively during the next great earthquake in the Coachella Valley. It could happen any day! WE ALL NEED TO BE PREPARED NOW! See dramatic animations illustrating how faults have created the spectacular valley landscape and what can be expected when the southern San Andreas Fault strikes again!

RSVP: Not required

Limit: 30 Participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve your place.

Name of Event: National Public Lands Day-La Quinta Cove Trash Clean-Up

Day, Date, and Time: Saturday, October 29, 2011; 8am-3pm

Location: La Quinta Cove at the East Cove Trailhead Parking lot

Description: Staff and volunteers will be working to clean up trash in the La Quinta Cove near the wash and dike.

RSVP: RSVP by Friday, October 28, 2011

Contact: Emily Hoerner, BLM Ranger, at (760) 862-9984.

NOVEMBER

Name of Event: Celebrate America Recycles Day “Organizers for Everyone”

Day, Date, Time: Throughout the month of November 2011

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Leader: Deborah Stone, Interpretive Guide and Friends of the Desert Mountains Volunteer

Description: Celebrate the joys of recycling in a fun and creative manner. Learn how to turn make organizers out of household items such as cereal boxes, as well as tackle other great recyclable projects that help get you more out of your everyday and holiday “leftover” items that would otherwise end up in the garbage. Great program for families and for those who are kids at heart!

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Coachella Valley Water District Imperial Dam Bus Tour (sponsored by Friends of the Desert Mountains)

Day, Date, Time: Thursday, November 3, 2011; Registration begins at 6:30am, bus returns at 6pm.

Location: Coachella Valley Water District, 85995 Avenue 52 (Highway 111 and 52nd Avenue), Coachella, CA

Description: Join us on a fascinating and educational 350 mile, 11 hour luxury bus tour and learn about the history and importance of water in the Coachella Valley, while helping to support conservation efforts and programs in the National Monument. Find out how the desert turns green! Stops include Imperial Dam, Colorado River, Plank Road and the Algodones Dunes, Coachella Canal, All-American Canal, Salton Sea Recreation Area.

Fee: \$45.00 - includes continental breakfast, lunch, snacks and drinks!

RSVP: Wednesday, October 26, 2011

Limit: Limited to 54 participants

Contact: Judy Colgero, National Monument Visitor Services Information Assistant (760) 862-9984.

Name of Event: Desert Mountains Art Faire

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, November 5, 2011; 9am-3pm

Artists: Various

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center , 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Please join us for a wonderful celebration of local artists and artisans while learning about the five life zones in the National Monument and supporting our conservation programs. Great opportunity to view and purchase oil, acrylic and water color paintings, sculpture, pottery, photography, handcrafted clothing, hats and jewelry for yourself, your home or as unique gifts, as you enjoy the natural beauty of our Visitor Center in the foothills of the lovely Santa Rosa Mountains. This month's focus will be on the Alpine Life Zone.

RSVP: Not Required

Contact: Judy Colgero, National Monument Visitor Services Information Assistant (760) 862-9984

Name of Event: Life Zone Series: Alpine

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, November 5, 2011; 1-2pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA.

Guide: Emily Hoerner, Park Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: This incredible Southern California landmark stretches from sea level to a towering 10,834 ft. above the desert floor. Join us at the Visitor Center to learn about the five different life zones all found within this diverse landscape (Arctic Alpine, Boreal, Transition, Upper Sonoran and Lower Sonoran). This month we will talk about the Alpine life zone. Learn about the plants, animals and other factors unique to the Alpine habitat.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Star Party

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, November 5, 2011; 6-9pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Host: Astronomical Society of the Desert

Description: The First Quarter (half full) Moon is ideal for observation with binoculars or telescope. Tonight a trio of craters, Ptolemaeus-Alphonsus-Arzachel, are spectacularly displayed along the Moon's sunrise terminator, or day-night boundary. The brilliant "star" east of the Moon is Jupiter. Our telescopes show all four of its satellites discovered by Galileo 400 years ago, and binoculars show Uranus close by. A half moon appears only about 1/10 as bright as the Full Moon, so the Milky Way should still be seen; look for a bright patch, the "Cygnus Star Cloud" inside the Summer Triangle, high in the west at nightfall. Binoculars easily resolve it into stars. A "Giant Dipper" is formed by the Great Square of Pegasus high in east, with a curved handle of stars in Andromeda and Perseus stretching toward the bright "Mother Goat" star Capella low in NE. By session's end, we'll spot Aldebaran, eye of Taurus the Bull, with the Pleiades (Seven Sisters) cluster above. Please bring a flashlight and warm clothing for cool evening conditions, and, if you can, binoculars for exploring the sky. We will provide large telescopes for your viewing.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details or visit the Astronomical Society of the Desert's website at www.astrorx.org.

Name of Event: Plein Air Painting Workshop with California Impressionist Diane McClary

Day, Date, Time: Thursday, November 17, 2011; 9am – 4pm

Artist: Diane McClary

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Artists have long painted outdoors, but in the mid-19th century working in natural light became particularly important, in particular to Impressionist artists such as Monet, Pissarro, and Renoir. The popularity of painting *en plein air* increased in the 1870s with the introduction of paints in tubes (resembling modern toothpaste tubes). Previously, each painter made their own paints by grinding and mixing dry pigment powders with linseed oil. Learn Plein Air painting theory and techniques at this all day outdoor workshop with renowned California Impressionist Diane McClary. Students supply their own paints, canvas, easels, etc. Call Sharon Curran at the number listed below to reserve your place, for suggestions as to which supplies are needed or any additional questions. This month's focus will be painting Bighorn Sheep.

Fee: \$100.00 per person

RSVP: Thursday, November 10, 2011

Limit: Limited to 12 participants

Contact: Sharon Curran (360) 840-7676

Name of Event: Discover the Cahuilla

Day, Date, and Time: Friday, November 18, 2011; 9am–11 am

Location: Meet at the toll gate to the Indian Canyons at 8:45am; off of South Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs

Presenters: Rocky Toyama, Agua Caliente Tribal Ranger

Description: Join us at the beautiful Andreas Canyon in the Indian Canyons for a ranger-led hike and presentation about the culture and history of the Cahuilla Indians who for thousands of years have called the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains home. The talk will include an introduction to native plants and how they were used by the Cahuilla. Bring your questions and prepare for a fascinating and educational morning. All age groups are welcome to participate.

RSVP: Required by Thursday, November 17, 2011.

Fee: Reduced admission fees of \$8 for adults; \$6 for seniors, students and military; and \$5 for children 6 – 12, will be charged at the reservation toll gate. (rates are subject to change)

Limit: 25 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Jr. Trail Guides Explorer Program: Geology and Geography

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, November 19, 2011; 1–4pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Calling all kids!!! Get outdoors and discover the Monument! Investigate the special geological features that exist in the Monument through hands on activities and learn why this side of the mountains is a “desert”. Have fun learning why these mountains *ROCK* and earn the “Geology Rocks!” badge.

RSVP: RSVP required by November 19, 2010. Applications are available at the Visitor Center or on-line at www.DesertMountains.org and must be delivered to the Visitor Center or faxed to (760) 862-9240, Attn: Dani Ortiz.

Limit: 15 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve a place.

Name of Event: Living in Earthquake Country

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, November 26, 2011; 2-4pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Speaker: Joe Migliore, Associate, Earthquake Country Alliance, NAI Certified Naturalist Guide

Description: The ground we live on will shake violently and destructively during the next great earthquake in the Coachella Valley. It could happen any day! WE ALL NEED TO BE PREPARED NOW! See dramatic animations illustrating how faults have created the spectacular valley landscape and what can be expected when the southern San Andreas Fault strikes again!

RSVP: Not required

Limit: 30 Participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve your place.

DECEMBER

Name of Event: Desert Mountains Art Faire

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, December 3, 2011; 9am-3pm

Artist: Various

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Please join us for a wonderful celebration of local artists and artisans while learning about the National Monument’s five life zones and supporting our conservation programs. Great opportunity to view and purchase oil, acrylic and water color paintings, sculpture, pottery, photography, handcrafted clothing, hats and jewelry for yourself, your home or as unique gifts, as you enjoy the natural beauty of our Visitor Center in the foothills of the lovely Santa Rosa Mountains. This month’s focus will be on the Boreal Life Zone.

RSVP: Not Required

Contact: Judy Colgero, National Monument Visitor Services Information Assistant (760) 862-9984

Name of Event: Life Zone Series: Boreal Zone

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, December 3, 2011; 1-2pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA.

Guide: Emily Hoerner, Park Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: This incredible Southern California landmark stretches from sea level to 10,834 ft. Join us at the Visitor Center to learn about the five different life zones all found within this diverse landscape (Arctic Alpine, Boreal, Transition, Upper Sonoran and Lower Sonoran). This month we will talk about the Transition life zone. Learn about the plants, animals and other factors unique to the Boreal habitat.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Star Party

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, December 3, 2011; 5–8pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Host: Astronomical Society of the Desert

Description: Tonight, binoculars and telescopes show a pair of deep craters, Aristoteles and Eudoxus, on the terminator (day-night boundary) not far from the upper tip of the waxing crescent Moon. As the sky darkens, we'll watch the Seven Sisters star cluster appear in the east and recall Tennyson: "Many a night I saw the Pleiads, rising thro' the mellow shade/Glitter like a swarm of fireflies tangled in a silver braid". At nightfall, the Summer Triangle and Milky Way are descending in the west, the Square of Pegasus, Jupiter and its four moons, and Uranus are highest in the south, and Aldebaran, the "Follower" of the Pleiades, is in the east. By session's end, all the constellations of the Andromeda legend will be seen, from Cassiopeia high in the north to Cetus the Sea Monster midway up in the south. Orion will have risen in the east. Telescopic wonders include Jupiter, Uranus resolved into a disk, colorful double stars, the Double Cluster in Perseus, and Andromeda Galaxy. Please bring a flashlight and warm clothing for cool evening conditions, and, if you can, binoculars for exploring the sky. We will provide large telescopes for your viewing.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details or visit the Astronomical Society of the Desert's website at www.astrorx.org.

Name of Event: Hike to Vargas Palms

Day, Date, Time: Monday, December 5, 2011; 8:30am–12:30pm

Location: Meet: ¼ mile south on Snow Creek Road at Highway 111. West of Windy Point, near the Interstate 10 and Highway 111 intersection.

Guide: Tracy Albrecht, Interpretive Specialist, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: Hikers will journey through a variety of habitats including desert wash, sand dunes, rocky canyon and native palm oasis. Cameras recommended. Wildlife watching opportunities and views are stunning! Bring sun protection, water and snack, and be prepared for windy conditions.

Hike rating, elevation change, length: Moderate, 1,000 feet, 5 miles

Limit: 15 participants

RSVP: RSVP required by Friday, December 2, 2011.

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve your place.

Name of Event: Creating a Personalized Stepping Stone - 3 Hour Workshop with Diane "Annie" Mathias

Day, Date, Time: Wednesday, December 7, 2011; 9am – Noon

Artist: Diane "Annie" Mathias, Outta My Gourd

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Create a personalized Stepping Stone for your garden or walkway inspired by the natural beauty of the National Monument, using a variety of supplied natural materials. Participants may also bring small personal items or keepsakes to be added to your stepping stone. These personalized works of art are meaningful, beautiful, durable, and fun to create. They also make wonderful Holiday Gifts! Stepping stones, which are concrete-based, can be picked up at the Visitor Center the following day once they have had time to set.

Fee: \$60 for three hour workshop, all materials supplied.

RSVP: Saturday, December 3, 2011

Limit: Limited to 10 participants

Contact: Judy Colgero, National Monument Visitor Services Information Assistant (760) 862-9984

Name of Event: Plein Air Painting Workshop with California Impressionist Diane McClary

Day, Date, Time: Thursday, December 15, 2011; 9am – 4pm

Artist: Diane McClary

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Artists have long painted outdoors, but in the mid-19th century working in natural light became particularly important, in particular to Impressionist artists such as Monet, Pissarro, and Renoir. The popularity of painting *en plein air* increased in the 1870s with the introduction of paints in tubes (resembling modern toothpaste tubes). Previously, each painter made their own paints by grinding and mixing dry pigment powders with linseed oil. Learn Plein Air painting theory and techniques at this all day outdoor workshop with renowned California Impressionist Diane McClary. Students supply their own paints, canvas, easels, etc. Call Sharon Curran at the number listed below to reserve your place, for suggestions as to which supplies are needed or any additional questions. This month's focus will be on painting Palm Trees.

Fee: \$100 per person

RSVP: Thursday, December 8, 2011

Limit: Limited to 12 participants

Contact: Sharon Curran (360) 840-7676

Name of Event: Jr. Trail Guides Explorer Program: Plants and Animals

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, December 17, 2011; 1-4pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Calling all kids!!! Get outdoors and discover the Monument! The desert is full of life and some very unique plants that are just waiting for you to discover! Join us for an adventure on the trails as we learn about some amazing things that these plants do to survive in the desert and some techniques that will aid you in spotting wildlife while exploring the outdoors. Get ready to see the desert in a whole new way and earn the "Nature Detective" badge.

RSVP: RSVP required by Friday, December 16, 2011. Applications are available at the Visitor Center or on-line at www.DesertMountains.org and must be delivered to the Visitor Center or faxed to (760) 862-9240, Attn: Dani Ortiz.

Limit: 15 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve a place.

JANUARY

Name of Event: Desert Mountains Art Faire

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, January 7, 2012; 9am-3pm

Artist: Various

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Please join us for a wonderful celebration of local artists and artisans while learning about the National Monument's five life zones and supporting our conservation programs. Great opportunity to view and purchase oil, acrylic and water color paintings, sculpture, pottery, photography, handcrafted clothing, hats and jewelry for yourself, your home or as unique gifts, as you enjoy the natural beauty of our Visitor Center in the foothills of the lovely Santa Rosa Mountains. This month's focus will be on the Transition Life Zone.

RSVP: Not Required

Contact: Judy Colgero, National Monument Visitor Services Information Assistant (760) 862-9984

Name of Event: Life Zone Series: Transition

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, January 7, 2012; 1-2pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA.

Guide: Emily Hoerner, Park Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: This incredible Southern California landmark stretches from sea level to 10,834 ft. Join us at the Visitor Center to learn about the five different life zones all found within this diverse landscape (Arctic Alpine, Boreal, Transition, Upper Sonoran and Lower Sonoran). This month we will talk about the Upper Sonoran zone. Learn about the plants, animals and other factors unique to the Transition habitat.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Star Party

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, January 7, 2012; 5–8pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Host: Astronomical Society of the Desert

Description: Our telescopes will show the crescent Moon with craters Atlas and Hercules in good light, and Jupiter with three of its four bright moons easy to spot, while innermost Io passes directly in front of the planet during most of our session. Using high power we may spot Io passing onto and off Jupiter's disk, while its shadow cast on the planet trails behind. Orion has just risen at sunset, so as sky darkens we'll watch him appear while we recall the opening lines from Robert Frost's *The Star Splitter*: "You know Orion always comes up sideways/Throwing a leg up over our fence of mountains". At dusk the Summer Triangle departs in W to WNW. Before session's end, we'll catch the Dog Star Sirius and Procyon rising over the mountains in E to ESE. Telescopes reveal Jupiter and Uranus in same low-power field, beautiful star clusters in Taurus, Auriga, and Gemini, the Great Nebula in Orion, and galaxies in Andromeda. Please bring a flashlight and warm clothing for cool evening conditions, and, if you can, binoculars for exploring the sky. We will provide large telescopes for your viewing.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details or visit the Astronomical Society of the Desert's website at www.astrorx.org.

Name of Event: RV Fire Safety Workshop

Date, Time: Wednesday, January 18, 2012; 9:30 –11am

Location: Two Springs Resort, 14200 North Indian Canyon Drive, North Palm Springs

Presenter: Chuck Robbins, Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist, Bureau of Land Management

Description: Information on do-it-yourself inspections and traveling tips. Free fire safety materials. Demonstration on use of fire extinguishers will make your travels safer. FREE program.

RSVP: Not required.

Contact: (760) 833-7100, Bureau of Land Management Field Office.

Name of Event: Plein Air Painting Workshop with California Impressionist Diane McClary

Day, Date, Time: Thursday, January 19, 2012; 9am – 4pm

Artist: Diane McClary

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Artists have long painted outdoors, but in the mid-19th century working in natural light became particularly important, in particular to Impressionist artists such as Monet, Pissarro, and Renoir. The popularity of painting *en plein air* increased in the 1870s with the introduction of paints in tubes (resembling modern toothpaste tubes). Previously, each painter made their own paints by grinding and mixing dry pigment powders with linseed oil. Learn Plein Air painting theory and techniques at this all day outdoor workshop with renowned California Impressionist Diane McClary. Students supply their own paints, canvas, easels, etc. Call Sharon Curran at the number listed below to reserve your place, for suggestions as to which supplies are needed or any additional questions. This month's focus will be on painting Mountains.

Fee: \$100 per person

RSVP: Thursday, January 12, 2012.

Limit: Limited to 12 participants

Contact: Sharon Curran (360) 840-7676

Name of Event: Jr. Trail Guides Explorer Program: Cahuilla Indian Culture and other Important Historical Influences

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, January 21, 2012; 1–4pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Calling all kids!!! Get outdoors and discover the Monument! Travel back in time as we learn about some of the early people and events that happened right here in the National Monument. Be prepared to get your hands dirty as we dig into the past and earn the "Keeping History Alive" badge.

RSVP: RSVP required by Friday, January 20, 2012. Applications are available at the Visitor Center or on-line at www.DesertMountains.org and must be delivered to the Visitor Center or faxed to (760) 862-9240, Attn: Dani Ortiz.

Limit: 15 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve a place.

Name of Event: Ceramic Tile Painting Workshop

Day, Date, Time: Wednesday January 25, 2012; 9am – 1pm

Artist: Linda Maxson, Visions Unveiled

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Learn various techniques for decorating 6” bisque tiles using under-glazes. Each student will receive instruction as to how to create and execute their own unique designs inspired by the natural wonders of the National Monument and will have the time and materials to create one or more tiles. Tiles will be fired and ready to be picked up at the next Desert Mountains Art Faire on February 4, 2012. Materials, tools and aprons supplied.

Fee: \$35 for 4 hour workshop

Limit: Limited to 10 participants

RSVP: Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Contact: Judy Colgero, National Monument Visitor Services Information Assistant (760) 862-9984

Name of Event: Living in Earthquake Country

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, January 28, 2012; 2-4pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Speaker: Joe Migliore, Associate, Earthquake Country Alliance, NAI Certified Naturalist Guide

Description: The ground we live on will shake violently and destructively during the next great earthquake in the Coachella Valley. It could happen any day! WE ALL NEED TO BE PREPARED NOW! See dramatic animations illustrating how faults have created the spectacular valley landscape and what can be expected when the southern San Andreas Fault strikes again!

RSVP: Not required

Limit: 30 Participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve your place.

FEBRUARY

Name of Event: Weed Warriors

Day, Date, Time: Friday; February 3, 2012; 8:30–11am

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Leader: Dani Ortiz, Interpretive Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: Spend the morning at the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument taking on one of its worst enemies: *Invasive Species!* Lend us a hand as we eradicate a few of the invasive species that invade our pristine desert, threaten the native plant and wildlife communities, and our famous spring wildflowers. The exact location of the eradication will depend on which areas need the most help. We recommend you bring a hat, gloves, long-sleeved shirt, and pants for working that day.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Desert Mountains Art Faire

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, February 4, 2012; 9am-3pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Please join us for a wonderful celebration of local artists and artisans while learning about the National Monument’s five life zones and supporting our conservation programs. Great opportunity to view and purchase oil, acrylic and water color paintings, sculpture, pottery, photography, handcrafted clothing, hats and jewelry for yourself, your home or as unique gifts, as you enjoy the natural beauty of our Visitor Center in the foothills of the lovely Santa Rosa Mountains. This month’s focus will be on the Upper Sonoran Life Zone.

RSVP: Not Required

Contact: Judy Colgero, National Monument Visitor Services Information Assistant (760) 862-9984

Name of Event: Life Zone Series: Upper Sonoran

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, February 4, 2012; 1-2pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA.

Guide: Emily Hoerner, Park Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: This incredible Southern California landmark stretches from sea level to a towering 10,834 ft. above the desert floor. Join us at the Visitor Center to learn about the five different life zones all found within this diverse landscape (Arctic Alpine, Boreal, Transition, Upper Sonoran and Lower Sonoran). This month we will talk about the Lower Sonoran life zone. Learn about the plants, animals and other factors unique to the Upper Sonoran habitat.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Star Party

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, February 4, 2012; 6-9pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Host: Astronomical Society of the Desert

Description: Our telescopes aimed at the waxing gibbous Moon reveal spectacular lunar surface features, the Sea of Showers and the Bay of Rainbows, illuminated by the rising Sun, and Jupiter with three moons (the fourth hidden in shadow). At session's end, Orion reaches its highest in south, and the huge "Winter Hexagon" of "Dog stars" Sirius and Procyon, "Twins" Pollux and Castor, "Mother goat" star Capella, Aldebaran, eye of Taurus, and Rigel, Orion's foot, spans over one-third of the distance across the sky. The Big Dipper and Leo appear in NE and E, while the Great Square sets in W. Please bring a flashlight and warm clothing for cool evening conditions, and, if you can, binoculars for exploring the sky. We will provide large telescopes for your viewing.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details or visit the Astronomical Society of the Desert's website at www.astrorx.org.

Name of Event: Two Day Paper Making Workshop – Creating Desert Valentines

Day, Date, Time: Wednesday and Thursday, February 8 and 9, 2012; 9 – 11am

Artist: Diane "Annie" Mathias, Outta My Gourd

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Create the Ultimate Desert Valentine! You will create your own indigenous paper using a variety of desert plants: leaves, flowers, fibers and whatever else the desert has to add to our slurry. In the first two hour session each sheet of paper is hand-dipped from vats, using screens, placed on a board and then allowed to dry. Each participant will make 4 sheets of paper. In the next session, after your incredible paper has been allowed to dry, you will create your one-of-a-kind personal Valentines note cards or greeting cards. Add colorful ribbons, beads or yarns, to add your own personal touch.

Fee: \$55 for (2) two hour workshops, all paper making materials and embellishments supplied.

RSVP: Wednesday, February 1, 2012

Limit: Limited to 10 participants

Contact: Judy Colgero, National Monument Visitor Services Information Assistant (760) 862-9984

Name of Event: Weed Warriors

Day, Date, Time: Friday; February 10, 2012; 8:30–11am

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Leader: Dani Ortiz, Interpretive Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: Spend the morning at the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument taking on one of its worst enemies: *Invasive Species!* Lend us a hand as we eradicate a few of the invasive species that invade our pristine desert, threaten the native plant and wildlife communities, and our famous spring wildflowers. The exact location of the eradication will depend on which areas need the most help. We recommend you bring a hat, gloves, long-sleeved shirt, and pants for working that day.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: “Be My Valentine” Hike

Date, Time: Tuesday, February 14, 2012; 1–3pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Guide: Steve Fuchs, Interpretive Guide and Volunteer, Friends of the Desert Mountains

Description: Love is in the air and on the trails. Whether you are single or already taken, come on out and enjoy a late afternoon hike in the romantic Santa Rosa Mountains. Learn about some of the things animals do to show off and express their love for their mate. Special Valentines will be provided to give to a loved one or a new friend you meet on the trail.

Hike Rating, elevation change, length: Easy, 423 feet, 2.4 miles

RSVP: RSVP required by Monday, February 13, 2012.

Limit: 20 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve a space.

Name of Event: Plein Air Painting Workshop with California Impressionist Diane McClary

Day, Date, Time: Thursday, February 16, 2012; 9am – 4pm

Artist: Diane McClary

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Artists have long painted outdoors, but in the mid-19th century working in natural light became particularly important, in particular to Impressionist artists such as Monet, Pissarro, and Renoir. The popularity of painting *en plein air* increased in the 1870s with the introduction of paints in tubes (resembling modern toothpaste tubes). Previously, each painter made their own paints by grinding and mixing dry pigment powders with linseed oil. Learn Plein Air painting theory and techniques at this all day outdoor workshop with renowned California Impressionist Diane McClary. Students supply their own paints, canvas, easels, etc. Call Sharon Curran at the number listed below to reserve your place, for suggestions as to which supplies are needed or any additional questions. This month’s focus will be on painting Smoke Trees.

Fee: \$100 per person

RSVP: Thursday, February 9, 2012

Limit: Limited to 12 participants

Contact: Sharon Curran (360) 840-7676

Name of Event: Weed Warriors

Day, Date, Time: Friday; February 17, 2012; 8:30–11am

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Leader: Dani Ortiz, Interpretive Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: Spend the morning at the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument taking on one of its worst enemies: *Invasive Species!* Lend us a hand as we eradicate a few of the invasive species that invade our pristine desert, threaten the native plant and wildlife communities, and our famous spring wildflowers. The exact location of the eradication will depend on which areas need the most help. We recommend you bring a hat, gloves, long-sleeved shirt, and pants for working that day.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Jr. Trail Guides Explorer Program: Hiking Safety and Leave No Trace

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, February 18, 2012; 9am-Noon

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Calling all kids!!! Get outdoors and discover the Monument! Join us as we venture out to explore the desert while learning how to stay safe and aware on the trails and how to be a good steward of the earth. Learn various navigation methods by going on a real life *treasure hunt* and earn the “Peak Protector” badge.

RSVP: RSVP required by February 17, 2012. Applications are available at the Visitor Center or online at www.DesertMountains.org and must be delivered to the Visitor Center or faxed to (760) 862-9240, Attn: Dani Ortiz.

Limit: 15 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve your place.

Name of Event: Living in Earthquake Country

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, February 25, 2012; 2-4pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Speaker: Joe Migliore, Associate, Earthquake Country Alliance, NAI Certified Naturalist Guide

Description: The ground we live on will shake violently and destructively during the next great earthquake in the Coachella Valley. It could happen any day! WE ALL NEED TO BE PREPARED NOW! See dramatic animations illustrating how faults have created the spectacular valley landscape and what can be expected when the southern San Andreas Fault strikes again!

RSVP: Not required

Limit: 30 Participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve your place.

MARCH

Name of Event: Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, March 3, 2012; 9am-4pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Spend the day with your family and friends in support of the National Monument and Friends of the Desert Mountains. Join us in search of wildflowers with guided hikes and nature walks, and enjoy kids' activities, plein-air painting, various workshops, raffles, and vendors.

RSVP: Not required

Fee: Free entry to event. Food and merchandise will be available for purchase.

Contact: (760) 568-9918, Friends of the Desert Mountains or (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center, for more details.

Name of Event: Creating a Personalized Gourd Rattle - 3 Hour Workshop with Diane "Annie" Mathias

Day, Date, Time: Wednesday, March 7, 2012; 9am - Noon

Artist: Diane "Annie" Mathias, Outta My Gourd

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Learn about the importance of rattles in a variety of cultures and create your own rattle from a Coachella Valley Melon Gourd, also known as the Coyote Gourd, which has been hand harvested from our desert. Each rattle will be filled with ingredients of the participant's choosing from a variety of supplied local natural materials including seeds, grains and small stones. Small personal items can also be added to your rattle if desired. Filled rattles will then be sealed and decorated by participants and can be taken home at the end of the session.

Fee: \$55 for three hour workshop, all materials supplied.

RSVP: Saturday, March 3, 2012

Limit: Limited to 10 participants

Contact: Judy Colgero, National Monument Visitor Services Information Assistant (760) 862-9984

Name of Event: Weed Warriors

Day, Date, Time: Saturday; March 10, 2012; 8:30-11am

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Leader: Dani Ortiz, Interpretive Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: Spend the morning at the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument taking on one of its worst enemies: *Invasive Species!* Lend us a hand as we eradicate a few of the invasive species that invade our pristine desert, threaten the native plant and wildlife communities, and our famous spring wildflowers. The exact location of the eradication will depend on which areas need the most help. We recommend you bring a hat, gloves, long-sleeved shirt, and pants for working that day.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Star Party

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, March 10, 2012; 6–9pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Host: Astronomical Society of the Desert

Description: On tonight's First Quarter (half full) Moon, the Apennine Mountains, craters Eratosthenes and Plato, and the Straight Wall show up well through our scopes. Tonight we'll see "the great Overdog" (in Robert Frost's poem *Canis Major*), "That heavenly beast, with a star in one eye" By the end of our session, the Big Dipper's handle leads us to Arcturus rising (a sure sign of spring), and Saturn rising above the mountains to the ESE. The Beehive cluster is high in S, and all of winter's prominent constellations are gathered in the western half of the sky. Please bring a flashlight and warm clothing for cool evening conditions, and, if you can, binoculars for exploring the sky. We will provide large telescopes for your viewing.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details or visit the Astronomical Society of the Desert's website at www.astrorx.org.

Name of Event: Plein Air Painting Workshop with California Impressionist Diane McClary

Day, Date, Time: Thursday, March 15, 2012; 9am – 4pm

Artist: Diane McClary

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Artists have long painted outdoors, but in the mid-19th century working in natural light became particularly important, in particular to Impressionist artists such as Monet, Pissarro, and Renoir. The popularity of painting *en plein air* increased in the 1870s with the introduction of paints in tubes (resembling modern toothpaste tubes). Previously, each painter made their own paints by grinding and mixing dry pigment powders with linseed oil. Learn Plein Air painting theory and techniques at this all day outdoor workshop with renowned California Impressionist Diane McClary. Students supply their own paints, canvas, easels, etc. Call Sharon Curran at the number listed below to reserve your place, for suggestions as to which supplies are needed or any additional questions. This month's focus will be on painting Wildflowers.

Fee: \$100 per person

RSVP: Thursday, March 8, 2012

Limit: Limited to 12 participants

Contact: Sharon Curran (360) 840-7676

Name of Event: Jr. Trail Guides Explorer Program: Geology and Geography

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, March 17, 2012; 9am-Noon

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Calling all kids!!! Get outdoors and discover the Monument! Investigate the special geological features that exist in the Monument through hands on activities and learn why this side of the mountains is a "desert". Have fun learning why these mountains *ROCK* and earn the "Geology Rocks!" badge.

RSVP: RSVP required by Friday, March 16, 2012. Applications are available at the Visitor Center and on-line at www.DesertMountains.org and must be delivered to the Visitor Center or faxed to (760) 862-9240, Attn: Dani Ortiz.

Limit: 15 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve a place.

Name of Event: Weed Warriors

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, March 24, 2012; 8:30–11am

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Leader: Dani Ortiz, Interpretive Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: Spend the morning at the Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument taking on one of its worst enemies: *Invasive Species!* Lend us a hand as we eradicate a few of the invasive species that invade our pristine desert, threaten the native plant and wildlife communities, and our famous spring wildflowers. The exact location of the eradication will depend on which areas need the most help. We recommend you bring a hat, gloves, long-sleeved shirt, and pants for working that day.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Living in Earthquake Country

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, March 24, 2012; 2-4pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Speaker: Joe Migliore, Associate, Earthquake Country Alliance, NAI Certified Naturalist Guide

Description: The ground we live on will shake violently and destructively during the next great earthquake in the Coachella Valley. It could happen any day! WE ALL NEED TO BE PREPARED NOW! See dramatic animations illustrating how faults have created the spectacular valley landscape and what can be expected when the southern San Andreas Fault strikes again!

RSVP: Not required

Limit: 30 Participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve your place.

APRIL

Name of Event: Plein Air Painting Workshop with California Impressionist Diane McClary

Day, Date, Time: Wednesday, April 4, 2012; 9am – 4pm

Artist: Diane McClary

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Artists have long painted outdoors, but in the mid-19th century working in natural light became particularly important, in particular to Impressionist artists such as Monet, Pissarro, and Renoir. The popularity of painting *en plein air* increased in the 1870s with the introduction of paints in tubes (resembling modern toothpaste tubes). Previously, each painter made their own paints by grinding and mixing dry pigment powders with linseed oil. Learn Plein Air painting theory and techniques at this all day outdoor workshop with renowned California Impressionist Diane McClary. Students supply their own paints, canvas, easels, etc. Call Sharon Curran at the number listed below to reserve your place, for suggestions as to which supplies are needed or any additional questions. This month's focus will be on painting Cactus.

Fee: \$100 per person

RSVP: Thursday, March 29, 2012

Limit: Limited to 12 participants

Contact: Sharon Curran (360) 840-7676

Name of Event: Discover the Cahuilla

Day, Date, and Time: Friday, April 6, 2012; 9–11am

Location: Meet at the toll gate to the Indian Canyons at 8:45am; off of South Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs

Presenters: Rocky Toyama, Agua Caliente Tribal Ranger

Description: Join us at the beautiful Andreas Canyon in the Indian Canyons for a ranger-led hike and presentation about the culture and history of the Cahuilla Indians who for thousands of years have called the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains home. The talk will include an introduction to native plants and how they were used by the Cahuilla. Bring your questions and prepare for a fascinating and educational morning. All age groups are welcome to participate.

RSVP: RSVP required by Thursday, April 5, 2012.

Fee: Reduced admission fees of \$8 for adults; \$6 for seniors, students and military; and \$5 for children 6 – 12, will be charged at the reservation toll gate.

Limit: 25 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Desert Mountains Art Faire

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, April 7, 2012; 9am-3pm

Artist: Various

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert

Description: Please join us for a wonderful celebration of local artists and artisans while learning about the National Monument's five life zones and supporting our conservation programs. Great opportunity to view and purchase oil, acrylic and water color paintings, sculpture, pottery, photography, handcrafted clothing, hats and jewelry for yourself, your home or as unique gifts, as you enjoy the natural beauty of our Visitor Center in the foothills of the lovely Santa Rosa Mountains. This month's focus will be on the Lower Sonoran Life Zone.

RSVP: Not Required

Contact: Judy Colgero, National Monument Visitor Services Information Assistant (760) 862-9984.

Name of Event: Life Zone Series: Talks

Day, Date, Time: First Saturday starting November 5, 2011 thru April 7, 2012, No Life Zone Series March 3, 2012.

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA.

Guide: Emily Hoerner, Park Ranger and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: This incredible Southern California landmark stretches from sea level to a towering 10,834 ft. above the desert floor. Join us at the Visitor Center to learn about the five different life zones all found within this diverse landscape (Arctic Alpine, Boreal, Transition, Upper Sonoran and Lower Sonoran). This month we will talk about the Lower Sonoran life zone. Learn about the plants, animals and other factors unique to the Lower Sonoran habitat.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Jr. Trail Guides Explorer Program: Plants and Animals

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, April 21, 2012; 1-4pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Calling all kids!!! Get outdoors and discover the Monument! The desert is full of life and some very unique plants that are just waiting for you to discover! Join us for an adventure on the trails as we learn about some amazing things that these plants do to survive in the desert and some techniques that will aid you in spotting wildlife while out exploring the outdoors. Get ready to see the desert in a whole new way and earn the "Nature Detective" badge.

RSVP: RSVP required by Friday, April 20, 2012. Applications are available at the Visitor Center and on-line at www.DesertMountains.org and must be delivered to the Visitor Center or faxed to (760) 862-9240, Attn: Dani Ortiz.

Limit: 15 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve a place.

Name of Event: Third Annual Earth Day Bird-a-Thon

Day, Date, Time: Friday, April 20 through Sunday, May 6, 2012.

Location: Birding locations throughout the Coachella Valley and four surrounding counties.

Description: Take part in a birding competition/fundraiser to support the Friends of the Desert Mountains. Individuals or teams will compete to identify as many bird species as possible by sight or sound in the four counties (Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial, and San Diego) included in the *Palms to Pines Birding and Nature Trail Guide*. Fun for all ages!

Sponsor: Friends of the Desert Mountains

Fee: \$20 per team to register and t-shirts are \$10 each if pre-ordered by Monday, April 2, 2012. Pledges are encouraged to raise monies to benefit wild birds and the habitats they live in. Youth 12 and younger: no fee required.

Contact: (760) 568-9918, Tammy Martin, tmartin@desertmountains.org for more details and to register – or check the Friends of the Desert Mountains website for more details, www.DesertMountains.org.

Name of Event: Star Party

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, April 28, 2012; 7-10pm

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Host: Astronomical Society of the Desert

Description: Tonight's fat crescent Moon shows spectacular detail near the terminator, where the Sun is just rising over the lunar landscape. Consider the beauty of our local mountains illuminated by the low Sun just after sunrise or just before sunset. This evening the Moon lies at the feet of Gemini and is surrounded by the huge Winter Hexagon of bright stars. April gives us our last looks at the Pleiades for the season. In coming weeks this Seven Sisters star cluster will lead the parade of winter stars toward their annual exits over the western horizon. Leo and Regulus ascend high in south, while the eastern sky fills up with stars of spring, notably Arcturus in Bootes the Bear Herder, and Spica, Virgo's spike of grain. Saturn, near Spica this year and next, now shows rings tipped 8 degrees from edge-on, improving to 27 degrees by 2017. Please bring a flashlight and warm clothing for cool evening conditions, and, if you can, binoculars for exploring the sky. We will provide large telescopes for your viewing.

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details or visit the Astronomical Society of the Desert's website at www.astrorx.org.

MAY

Name of Event: Earth Day Bird-a-Thon - Century Run Bus Tour

Day, Date, Time: Friday May 4, 2012; 7:30am–4pm

Location: Meet at parking lot of the McDonalds restaurant, corner of Ramon Rd and Varner Rd on the north side of the 10 freeway. Arrive at 7:15 am for an on time 7:30am departure.

Guide: Kurt Leuschner, Professor of Natural Resources, College of the Desert

Description: Whether you are a beginner or a serious birder, enjoy spectacular desert and mountain scenery on a guided bus tour to well-known birding and nature hotspots in and around the Coachella Valley. Water and snacks will be provided. Bring a sack lunch to enjoy at one of our stops along the way. Before the day is over we hope to find 100 different bird species, have lots of fun and raise money for conservation.

RSVP: Space is limited!

Tickets: \$40 per person; \$25 for students with ID.

Contact: (760) 862-9084, to purchase your ticket through the Friends of the Desert Mountains.

Name of Event: Snakes and Lizards of the Monument

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, May 5, 2012, 9–11:30 am

Location: Visitors Center, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, 51-500 Hwy 74, Palm Desert

Guide: Joe Migliore, Desert Naturalist and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide

Sponsor: Friends of the Desert Mountains, and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: We will see a slide show of some of the 51 kinds of snakes and lizards found in and around the Monument and learn about superb adaptations for living from the desert to the mountain top. Then we'll do a short walk-about to observe some up close and discuss their different behaviors. Bring the kids, also binoculars, water, sunscreen, walking shoes.

Hike Rating, elevation change, length: Easy, 423 feet, 2.4 miles

RSVP: Not required

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details.

Name of Event: Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail Wildflower Wonderland Hike

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, May 12, 2012, 8am – 2:30pm

Location: Meet at Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitors Center, 51-500 Highway 74, Palm Desert for departure to Trailhead on Highway 74.

Guide: Joe Migliore, Desert Naturalist and NAI Certified Interpretive Guide

Sponsor: Friends of the Desert Mountains, and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Description: A lovely hike through chaparral and Pinyon Pine/Juniper woodland with a dazzling variety of trees, shrubs and wildflowers at this 5000 foot transition zone between coastal and desert environments. This is a moderate stroll as we appreciate the blooms and scenery. Bring water, food, sunscreen, camera and appropriate dress.

Hike Rating, elevation change, length: Moderate, 500 feet, 5 miles

RSVP: RSVP required by Friday, May 11, 2012.

Limit: 12 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve a place.

Name of Event: Jr. Trail Guides Explorer Program: Cahuilla Indian Culture and Other Important Historical Influences

Day, Date, Time: Saturday, May 19, 2012; 9am–Noon

Location: Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, 51-500 Hwy 74, Palm Desert, CA

Description: Calling all kids!!! Get outdoors and discover the Monument! Travel back in time as we learn about some of the early people and events that happened right here in the National Monument. Be prepared to get your hands dirty as we dig into the past and earn the "Keeping History Alive" badge.

RSVP: RSVP required by Friday, May 18, 2012. Applications are available at the Visitor Center and on-line at www.DesertMountains.org and must be delivered to the Visitor Center or faxed to (760) 862-9240, Attn: Dani Ortiz.

Limit: 15 participants

Contact: (760) 862-9984, National Monument Visitor Center for more details and to reserve a place.