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News from Watsonville Wetlands Watch

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Don't Miss Our Annual Native Plant Sale This Saturday!



You won't want to miss our annual **Native Plant Sale** taking place this **Saturday, October 7th, from 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM.**

We have an incredible selection of native plants from the Pajaro Valley and the Monterey Bay. All of our plants are locally adapted and excellent choices for attracting birds, bees, and butterflies to a beautiful drought tolerant landscape.

Not only will 60 varieties of native plant species be for sale, but we'll have tours of our native plant demonstration gardens and nursery along with expert advice from staff and volunteers about how to select, grow, and care for your native plants and landscape. We'll also have our classroom filled with native and non-native plants in flower throughout the wetlands for

attendees to learn all about our local plant communities.

All proceeds go to support our efforts to preserve and restore the Pajaro Valley's wetlands and educate youth and the community about this incredible natural resource in our backyard!

Located at the Fitz WERC at the top of the Pajaro Valley High School located at 500 Harkins Slough Road, Watsonville, California 95076. [Click for map/directions.](#)

We look forward to seeing you there!

Presentation: The Underwater World of Point Lobos



Scuba Diving at Point Lobos

Please join us on **Tuesday, November 14th**, when **Jerry Loomis**, retired park ranger and state park diver, leads us on an underwater adventure to learn about a part of Point Lobos seldom seen by park visitors.

Jerry created this presentation because of a question often asked of divers as they exit the water in Whalers Cove: "What did you see down there"? The curiosity of visitors to know what exists in the world below the water urged him to start taking underwater photos and share what Jerry feels is the most amazing dive spot in the world.

Jerry Loomis was a ranger, diver, and docent coordinator at Point Lobos for 22 years beginning in 1980. He is currently a Docent at Point Lobos and the Point Lobos Summer Adventures program which he started five summers ago as a retired ranger turned Interpreter. The highlight of his career was acting as the Point Lobos Docent Coordinator, seconded by his job as a State Park Diver in the underwater portion of Point Lobos.

This talk is from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center. [Click for map/directions.](#)

Admission is free but you must reserve a seat online by [clicking here.](#)

For information, email wetlandscoordinator@gmail.com.

Introducing Wetland Wonders



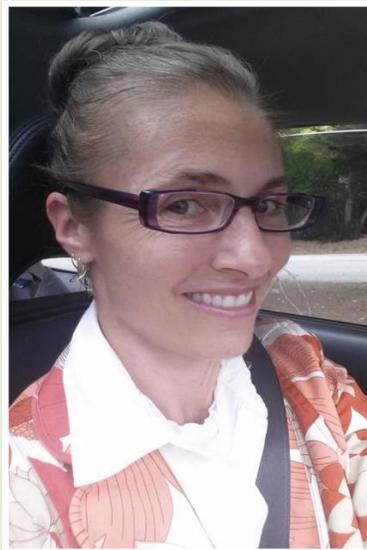
5th graders enjoying a view of the wetlands

Formerly named Cycles of Restoration, the redesigned **Wetland Wonders Program** is a year-long 5th grade program that inspires wetland stewardship. In this program, students design their own wetland exploration and investigation project while out in the wetlands with support from their classroom teachers and Watsonville Wetlands Watch environmental educators and docents. As students explore they make observations and collect

data to assess wetland health. This, in turn, informs stewardship actions necessary to keep our wetlands healthy and beautiful while giving the students the opportunity to learn in a dynamic and supportive environment.

The new Wetland Wonders program design is a result of the past two years of discussion and collaboration with teachers and administrators from the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Our goal is to increase the amount of outdoor and experiential learning in our wetlands in a way that directly supports classroom learning. The revised program is designed around the 5 E Learning Cycle and supports California public schools' recently adopted Next Generation Science Standards.

Mica J. Hall Joins the Board of Directors



Mica Hall, a Dean at Defense Language Institute, recently joined the Board of Directors of the Watsonville Wetlands Watch as a way to give back to the community.

Mica has a strong personal interest and belief in preserving the unique ecological habitat of the area through education and collaboration with other community-minded organizations.

As a career educator, she believes the way to change the present and the future is by educating children, and supporting them in taking the lessons they have learned back to their families, who, in turn, make better choices for the community.

Mica's professional background is in foreign language education and sociolinguistics and she is a strong advocate for enjoying and preserving the natural beauty the local area offers. Mica hopes to contribute to Watsonville Wetlands Watch's restoration, preservation, and education efforts by supporting her colleagues and citizen science in all its forms. She expects to put her

experience with strategic planning and resource management to work to help WWC reach its goals and set new ones. By paying attention and taking an interest in the physical world around us, Mica believes each of us can make a difference.

Please join us in welcoming Mica to the Board!

Cute Newt Baby Pictures



CA Newts a few weeks old



Now a few months old

This past spring and summer we raised California Newts from eggs! California Newts are a local species that with a careful eye in the right location, can be seen crawling over land in the daytime through an oak woodland, riparian area, wetland or marsh. They become aquatic while breeding and lay their eggs in ponds and wetlands. Believed to live for more than 20 years, the California Newt plays a special role ecosystems of Pajaro Valley wetlands. If you have not yet met them, come by the Fitz WERC and check them out. So cute!

Saturday Community Restoration



Community volunteers gather to help restore the wetlands

On **Saturday, October 28th**, we invite you to help restore wetland habitat as part of our fourth Saturday Community Restoration events. We will work from 9 a.m. to noon, and we always make time for birding or a short hike around the wetlands. We supply the gloves, tools, and yummy snacks.

Meet at our Fitz Wetlands Educational Resource Center ([map/directions](#)).

For questions, please contact Mary Paul at mary@watsonvillewetlandswatch.org or 831-566-4938.

Learn How To Double Your Donation



Does your employer have a **Matching Gift Program**?

A matching gift program is a corporate philanthropy program designed to support the nonprofit organizations that their employees are passionate about by matching donations made by employees. Employer Match Programs Can Double Your Donation!

Approximately two-thirds of companies match donations to 501(c)3 organizations including those that support environmental and educational programs like the **Watsonville Wetlands Watch** so there is a good chance that your company will, too!

Ask your employer about their matching gifts program and sign-up if they have one so that your gift to Watsonville Wetlands Watch can be matched - you and your employer, together, will be supporting critical wetlands restoration and educational programs so important to our community.

Please consider making a donation today.

[Donate](#)

Thank you!

Watsonville Wetlands Watch advocates for wetland issues, educates elementary, middle, and high school students, restores degraded habitats, preserves what remains whole, and teaches appreciation for the unique beauty and life of the Pajaro Valley wetlands. In cooperation with numerous other agencies, we support studies of and planning for these sites.

Watsonville Wetlands Watch is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, federal tax i.d. #77-0519882.