



Santa Clara County  
**Open Space Authority**  
 6980 Santa Teresa Blvd., Ste 100  
 San Jose, CA 95119

*OSA is working to protect sensitive lands, preserve natural communities, and manage open space in ways that promote agriculture and compatible recreation.*

Celebrate the season with an outdoor adventure. Whether it's hiking, birding or stargazing, learning about oak trees, geology or mushrooms, the Open Space Authority has an autumn activity for you. Get a taste of what's in store here and check out [openspaceauthority.org](http://openspaceauthority.org) for details. Then choose your pleasure and let us know you're coming.

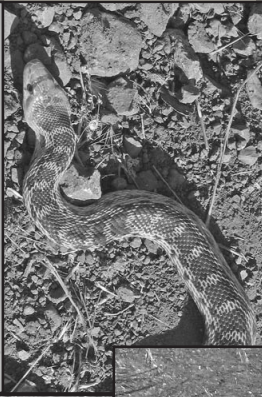
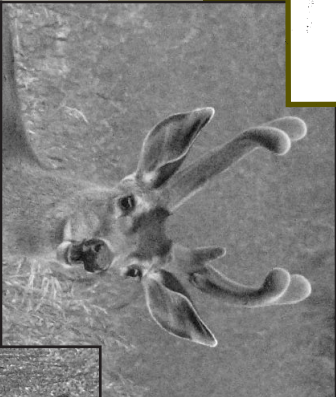


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# OSA OUTLOOK

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Open space – where the wild things are. Thanks to our many photographers who help us see the beauty of the natural environment: Cait Hutnik (bobcat, tarantula, snake), David Tharp (lacewings), Doug Reynaud (deer, mountain lion, hawk) and Derek Neumann (heron).

## Get Out, Get Together

This fall OSA is offering several hike programs for people who'd like some company when they're on the trail. This is a chance to get in shape, enjoy the fall weather, and have a good chat while you walk.

To participate, call Teri at 408-224-7476 or send an email to [teri@openspaceauthority.org](mailto:teri@openspaceauthority.org). More hike details are available at [www.openspaceauthority.org](http://www.openspaceauthority.org).



photos by Lark Burkhardt

### Walking on Wednesdays

**Sept. 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29, 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

This 5-hike series is a gentle way of gradually building up strength and endurance. The pace is casual, the goal is fun, and Cañada del Oro has a variety of trails and landscapes to keep things interesting.

### First Tuesday Rambles

**Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

First Tuesday hikes on Cañada del Oro will explore preserve trails that wind through meadows, woods and canyons. Some uphill add a bit of adventure and the scenery will take your breath away.

### Blair Buddies

**Sept. 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, 8 a.m. to 12 noon**

Another series of Tuesday hikes, the 5-mile Blair exploration takes you to an area of Cañada del Oro that is not yet open for general public use. With steep terrain and uneven footing, this hike is a good workout for those seeking a challenge.



# OSA favorite returns

## Rancho Night Bike Rides

Whether you ride under the dark of a new moon or the light of the full moon, Cañada del Oro is an exciting place to be at night. Two rides in September will open more than 8 miles of trails to mountain bikers. Start from the Casa Loma Road staging area and ride your own route at your own pace. The adjacent Calero County Park trails are closed to cyclists so riders must stay on the OSA preserve. All riders must be at least 18 years old and have bike lights and helmets.

**Friday, Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.**

**Friday, Sept. 24, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

[www.openspaceauthority.org](http://www.openspaceauthority.org) for details.

## Moveable Classroom

For children who home school or anyone who's available during the day, here is a free series of one-hour hikes that focus on natural history. As an added bonus, each event takes place at a different park or preserve. Register and get details by email to [teri@openspaceauthority.org](mailto:teri@openspaceauthority.org) or by calling Teri at 408-224-7476.

### Gee Whiz, Geology

A nature activity in geologically significant Alum Rock Park in San Jose with hands-on experience and fun visual aids.

**Tuesday, Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

### From Tiny Acorns

Rancho Cañada del Oro is a living laboratory for studying oak trees, from acorn to snag, and the animals that depend on the species for food, nesting and cover.

**Monday, Oct. 4, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

### Where the Water Goes

Visit Edith Morley Park in Campbell and learn about the water cycle that supports all life on earth – and the special features of the Bay Area.

**Monday, Nov. 8, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

### Avian Nation

It's a different world on wings. Explore Ulistac Natural Area in Santa Clara and learn how the birds live.

**Monday, Dec. 6, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**F**or these docent-led hikes and activities please take a moment to let us know you're coming. Call Teri at 408-224-7476 or send an email to [teri@openspaceauthority.org](mailto:teri@openspaceauthority.org). This will help our docents plan their activity and prepare materials. You can get directions and details at the same time.



photo by Lark Burkhardt

### Isn't It Grand!

OSA celebrates grandparents at Selma Olinder Park in San Jose. Elders and kids will enjoy an easy nature walk and arts and crafts activities on Grandparents Day.

**Sunday, Sept. 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

### Tracking the Wild Tarantula

Search for this elusive native arachnid on its fall romantic walkabout while you take a 4.5-mile hike on the Mayfair Ranch Trail at Cañada del Oro.

**Saturday, Sept. 18, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

### Fall Flair at Blair

The view's the thing on this challenging 4.5-mile hike on the old ranch roads of Blair. Observe the equinox under the open sky on this special-access hike.

**Sunday, Sept. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

### Oak Lore and Landscapes

Cañada del Oro is home to several native oak species. Join this 4.5-mile walk to hear stories about this magnificent tree and enjoy sweeping oak-studded vistas.

**Saturday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

### Sierra Vista High

Climb to what feels like the top of the world on a 5.6-mile hike from Alum Rock Park to the crest of the Boccardo Loop Trail. Expansive views, exhilarating hike.

**Saturday, Oct. 9, 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

### Stories Under the Stars

The Orionid meteor shower and Halloween are good reasons for a night out in open space. Join us for spooky tales, star gazing and other family fun.

**Friday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.**



photo by John Scanlon

### They Fly, You Walk

Take a look at the local birds with an experienced birder at Ulistac Natural Area in Santa Clara on a short, family-friendly nature walk.

**Saturday, Nov. 13, 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

### November Song

See the beauty of changing leaves and take in the ebb and flow of a landscape preparing for winter on a quiet hike along the Mayfair Ranch Trail at Cañada del Oro.

**Sunday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m. to 12 noon**

### Dark Sky, Bright Moon

Take a closer look at the nearly full moon and enjoy nature at night during this family event at the Rancho Cañada del Oro Casa Loma Road staging area.

**Saturday, Nov. 20, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

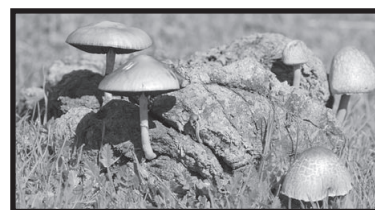


photo by Derek Neumann

### Mushroom Maverick

Rain brings out the fungi, an astounding display of color and form on Cañada del Oro. Get on the call list for this 4-mile hike that may reschedule to dodge the downpours.

**Sunday, Dec. 19, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Visit the web for details, directions, and late-breaking listings:

[www.openspaceauthority.org](http://www.openspaceauthority.org)



## Where the Kids Are

*Does this sound like you: a nature enthusiast who enjoys meeting the public? You could be an outreach volunteer. The next training will be held Wednesday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the OSA office. Learn all you need to know to staff a community event. Contact Dana Litwin for details, 408-224-7476 or [dlitwin@openspace-authority.org](mailto:dlitwin@openspace-authority.org).*

Community festivals and fairs are a great opportunity to connect with families who are looking for free and healthy ways to have fun. Our outreach volunteers share the wonders and excitement of the natural world with an eager audience of all ages. Everyone can connect with animals and quickly understand the importance of maintaining the open space they need to live. Younger booth visitors represent the next generation of conservationists. For the preservation of open space in the future, children need to catch the nature bug today.



## Acquisition puts the Pea in Rancho Cañada del Oro

**P**reservation, that's what the Pea property – and all the other additions to an open space preserve that now totals 4,334 acres – has contributed.

There's a wonderful story behind OSA's recent purchase of 228 acres that had belonged to Richard Pea, an alumnus of San Jose State University. Mr. Pea left the property to his alma mater with the hope that it would benefit future generations.

The land, however, is extremely remote; most of the roads in the area are private, one lane and dirt. To achieve the greatest value from such a generous gift took some ingenuity.

After considering several possible uses for the bequest, San Jose State decided to offer the land to the Open Space Authority because the property is adjacent to Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve.

The purchase price was \$572,450, which will support the programs and goals of the university.

As open space, the land has significant habitat value for animal species in the

area. The bay laurel and oak woodlands, as well as stands of chaparral, are a haven for many native plant species. And protection for tributaries that cross the property will aid in maintaining the water quality of Llagas Creek.

In addition, future trail connections from Rancho Cañada del Oro could expand access to the classic California landscapes so many people enjoy visiting.

