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**RCD Education Department  
Training Program for Environmental Educators  
Autumn 2016**

**Tuesday, September 20, Topanga State Park, 10-12:30 pm: Program Orientation.**

Learn about environmental education from those in the business. Meet dept educators while enjoying refreshments and hearing about what we do. All interested parties welcome.

RSVP by Tue Sep 13 to Stephen Vodantis, Education Supervisor: [rcdsmm.edu@gmail.com](mailto:rcdsmm.edu@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, September 27, Malibu Lagoon State Beach, 9-12 pm: Native Fish Ecology.**

First part: Dept staff will discuss the components of the marine program and demo the use of special equipment. Second part: Rosi Dagit, senior conservation biologist, will discuss the latest data on steelhead and water quality, and lead us to the sandbar for fish seining and identification.

**Tuesday, October 4, Topanga Library, 10-12 pm: Kizh Nation Culture and History.**

Aka Gabrieleno, the Kizh are the indigenous people of the LA Basin recognized by the state of California. First part: Tribal member Christina Swindall Martinez will discuss aspects of Kizh culture past and present. Second part: Dr Gary Stickel will tell the story of Toypurina, heroic Kizh leader of the eighteen century.

**Tuesday, October 11, Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, 9:30-12 pm: Birds of the Basin.**

Mark Osokow, SFV Audubon birder and retired water biologist, will lead us around the wildlife lake while demonstrating how to identify and interpret the birds of this reclaimed habitat. Themes will include special adaptations and characteristics, species behavior and identification techniques.

**Tuesday, October 18, Geology of the Santa Monica Mountains, 9:30-3 pm: A Motor Coach Tour.**

Bill Selby, SMC professor emeritus, will be our expert guide on this exclusive tour thru the mountains with multiple stops along the way. (Please note: participation in this interagency event will require prepayment online and be limited to the capacity of the bus.)

**Tuesday, October 25, Topanga Library, 10-12 pm: The Epidemic of Tree Mortality in California Forests.**

Forester Steve Bear and resource officer Jamie Uyehara, PhD, of the Angeles National Forest Service, will discuss California's "worst epidemic of tree mortality in its modern history" in the context of climate change, bark beetle infestation and continuing drought, and what this crisis means for the health and future of our forests.

**Tuesday, November 1, Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, 9-12 pm: SBWR Program Workshop.**

First part: Paula Orlovich, SBEEP coordinator and retired LAUSD teacher, will discuss the elements of the basin program, including equipment protocol and station rotations. Second part: Dept staff will take us into the reserve to model best practices and techniques of outdoor education.



**Tuesday, November 8, Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, 9:30-12 pm: Native Plants and Habitat of the Wildlife Reserve.** Steve Hartman, ecologist and California Native Plant Society member, will lead us on a hike thru the reserve to identify and interpret the plant species that grow in this reclaimed habitat. Time permitting, we'll cross over into the south reserve for a fresh look at what's happening there.

**Tuesday, November 15, Santa Monica Pier Aquarium, 12-2 pm: Marine Ecology of the Santa Monica Bay.** Nick Fash, Heal the Bay education specialist, will be our host and speaker for a full-spectrum tour of this sparkling gem under the pier, including quality time with animals in the touch tanks, invertebrates in the plankton lab, and a big-picture discussion of the marine community of Santa Monica Bay.

### **Training Program Information**

The RCD Education Department is made up of a professional staff of environmental educators who deliver outdoor education programs aligned with state standards to students from local schools (K-12). Programs are scheduled by teachers and take place at various sites in the region of the Santa Monica Mountains.

The training is designed to prepare new recruits to teach these programs, and to enrich the knowledge of returning educators. The training program consists of weekly Tuesday meetings as scheduled above, plus a required number of student program observations and co-leads. These are self-scheduled and may begin as soon as education programming starts. Observations and co-leads are a vital component of the training. Training does not finish until observations and co-leads are successfully completed, and one has been approved to lead school groups without assistance.

#### **Office and Education Site Addresses:**

RCDSMM, 540 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd, Topanga, CA 90290

Malibu Lagoon State Beach (MLSB) 23500 Pacific Coast Hwy, Malibu, CA 90265

Topanga State Park (TSP) 20829 Entrada Rd, Topanga, CA 90290

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve (SBWR), Woodley Ave Park, Van Nuys, CA 91411

Tue event addresses: 9/20 at TSP. 9/27 at MLSB. 10/4 at TL, 122 N. Topanga Cyn Blvd, Topanga 90290. 10/11 at SBWR. 10/18 visit <http://www.samo-geology.eventbrite.com> 10/25 at TL. 11/1 at SBWR. 11/8 at SBWR. 11/15 at SMPA, 1600 Ocean Front Walk, SM 90401.

A \$50 admin fee for the training program is due on or before 10/4 (payable to RCDSMM). For more information about RCD Education, contact the Education Supervisor at [rcdsmm.edu@gmail.com](mailto:rcdsmm.edu@gmail.com) or call 818-597-8627 x103.