

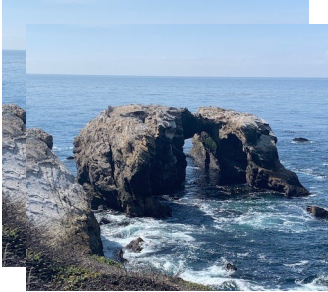
# San Luis Obispo Overnight Outing

Leaders: Ed Osada, Lorena Kai, Lynne Vogensen, Jamie Watson, Rosemary Johnson & Helen Johe



## Monday, October 17, 2022

### Point Buchon Trail



A sunny Fall Day awaited the 25 CCHC hikers who gathered at Montana de Oro (Mountain of Gold) State Park in San Luis Obispo. Helen Johe, Lynne Vogensen, and Jamie Watson led hikers for six miles on the Point Buchon Trail overlooking the ocean. The Point Buchon coastline is a Marine Protected Area and home to many species of marine wildlife, including seals spotted frolicking in the waves. Flocks of brown pelicans dived and fished near the



SLO Leaders, Arch, Elfin Forest boardwalk - Karen Arntzen  
Coon Creek Beach, Brown pelicans - Noël Siver

beach. Monarch Butterflies were in abundance.

Afterwards, hikers visited the El Moro Elfin Forest Natural Area - a 90-acre preserve overlooking Morro Bay and featuring Pygmy Oak trees.



Karen Arntzen

## Tuesday, October 18, 2022

### Felsman Loop & Bishop's Peak

Day Two of our trip, 25 hikers met at the base of Bishop's Peak, off of Patricia Drive. It is the tallest of the Nine Sisters volcanic morros stretching across SLO. The iconic mountain has a rocky crown shaped like a bishop's miter. Here the group broke off into two. Eleven hiked the Felsman Loop Trail that traversed the hill along a wide dirt trail that



passed in and out of shaded forests along the way. It clocked in at approximately 2.8 miles with a 565-ft elevation gain.

The second group of 14 continued to climb up the rocky single-track Summit Trail consisting of approximately another 2 miles of switchbacks. The trail to the 1559-ft summit provided extraordinary panoramic views over the city and nearby peaks. The southern sun-exposed mountainside was especially demanding with the temperature reaching 83 degrees by end of day, but was rewarding to get to the top! The occasional breezes along the way, water

and the shaded oak forest back at the bottom were our greatly appreciated amenities. That hike kicked my #### but I'm glad that I did it!

Pam Littlejohn



Bishop's Peak - Karen Arntzen; Felsman Loop hikers in shady grove - Noël Siver

## Wednesday, October 19, 2022

### Coon Creek Canyon Loop

This hike was shortened due to heat. However, 15 of us braved the 3.5 mile, 500' gain/loss trail, and were rewarded with lovely scenery and a nice ocean breeze. We passed many sedimentary rock formations and had fun identifying countless flowers, plants, and trees along the way. Jo Anne regaled us with her imitation of the musical wren tit. Very im-



Coon Creek Canyon - Lynne Vogensen

pressive, indeed! Hills marched away to the east, while ocean views followed us from the west as we made our way to the top. Then we zig-zagged down, down, down into cool, shaded Coon Creek Canyon. Crossing a bridge or two, we passed horsetail ferns, blackberries and, our favorite, poison oak! We came out of the canyon in bright sunlight, but found a lovely, huge bay tree to enjoy lunch under. Its spreading branches provided enough seats for each of us. Since the day was still young, we all took off to explore more of the San Luis Obispo area. Thanks, Ed and Lynne, for a great hike.  
 Diane Cannon

**Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Bluff Trail**



Seven hikers chose to do an out and back 3- or 4-mile hike on the Bluff Trail. In high eighty-degree weather, the flat path that closely followed the shoreline offered ocean views with an occasional welcome cooling marine breeze. Pelicans and other birds searched for tidbits in the waves. Three surfers enjoyed the breaking 4–5-foot waves. Small groups of dolphins roamed the surface of the water bobbing in and out to our delight.

On land, Monarch Butterflies fluttered in and out of coyote brush flowers on their migration to Pismo

Beach. Brown lizards scurried across the path to the base of protective bushes. The geographical formations below the bluff were beautiful multi-layers of beige and brown rock. The strong surf had carved out inlets, one with a tunnel for water to pool within a large hole. Beauty surrounded us in the rock of the bluffs and the roiling surf below.

Several of us backtracked to Spooner Ranch House for lunch on its porch in the shade. The museum is unique in that patrons are allowed to gently touch all the antique furnishings rather than just observe from a doorway.

Surf & rocks, Museum interior - Noël Siver

Cameron Mitchell

