

Get Involved with the Carpinteria Salt Marsh!
By Andrea Morden, Carpinteria Salt Marsh Friends

Change your life. Do something good for yourself and the environment this new year: learn about the life of the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. The location of the salt marsh between the land and the sea creates a diversity of life that is truly fascinating and beautiful. Salt marshes function as water purifiers, fish nurseries, habitat for plants and animals, shelters for rare and endangered organisms, and are a great place to recreate. Scientists estimate that 90-95% of California's wetlands have been destroyed by land development. As these environments disappear, the plants and animals living in marshes are vanishing, making our marsh a rare gem of preservation.

The Carpinteria Salt Marsh Friends, a group that provides educational support for the marsh, are presenting a series of classes to enlarge our group of docents. These classes are free, open to the public, and may be used by Carpinteria Unified School District teachers to obtain personal growth credits.

The Carpinteria Salt Marsh docents regularly lead tours for adults and occasionally children's tours. We have some tour materials following the state guidelines for curriculum, but we would like to increase them and create a program to integrate into the school district's K-12 program. The salt marsh is too incredible a resource not to be more fully utilized. If you would like to be at the ground floor of this development, please join us.

Carpinteria Salt Marsh Class Series Schedule:

January 5, 2005

Introduction and Fish

Andrew Brooks, Director of the University of California Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve

January 12, 2005

Marsh Geology

Arthur Sylvester, Retired UCSB Professor of Geology

January 19, 2005

Marsh Botany

David Hubbard, UCSB Research Botanist

January 26, 2005

Marine Invertebrates

Kevin Lafferty, UCSB Parasitologist

February 2, 2005

Marsh Birds

Mark Holmgren, Assistant Director of the Museum of Systematics and Ecology UCSB

February 9, 2005

Terrestrial Vertebrates
Speaker TBA

February 16, 2005

Nature Interpretation

Mary Carroll, Past Director of Education at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

These lectures will occur at 7:00 pm at the Carpinteria Library Arts and Lectures Room at 5141 Carpinteria Avenue. For more information call 684-8077 or email carp_parks@yahoo.com.