



# Fall 2009 at South Slough



All programs begin at the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Interpretive Center unless otherwise noted. **Please call (541) 888 - 5558 to pre-register and confirm all programs. Programs may be cancelled due to low enrollment or hazardous weather.** Activity fees and donations cover materials and are used by the Friends of South Slough in support of the Reserve. The Interpretive Center, located 4 miles south of Charleston on Seven Devils Road, is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 am to 4:30 pm.

For more information visit us at [www.southsloughestuary.org](http://www.southsloughestuary.org)

## DATES

## PROGRAMS

September 5th November 7th	<b>Birds on the Estuary</b> 8 - 10 am Explore the shores of our estuary in search of winged wildlife. An interpreter will provide binoculars and spotting scopes. <b>Meet at the Charleston Visitors Center.</b> (\$1/birder)
September 12th	<b>Crabbing Around</b> 10 am - 12 pm Cast a crab ring from the dock while you learn about proper crab harvesting methods. Explore the estuary for various species of crab. <b>Meet at the Charleston Visitors Center</b> (\$1/person)
September 12th	<b>Chisum Lucas Art Opening</b> 1 - 3 pm Welcome Chisum Lucas's paintings to South Slough. Chisum paints landscapes, seascapes, florals, portraits and wildlife in their natural habitat. Light refreshments provided. (free)
September 18 October 9 October 30 November 13	<b>Fit Friday Hikes</b> 8:30 - 10 am Fit Friday Hikes get our hearts pumping while remembering you may want to take the time to appreciate the environment and soak in the scenery. Each hike will range from 2 - 4 miles along various portions of the Reserve. Please wear layers, sturdy hiking pants, thick socks and hiking shoes or sneakers. Bring water, snack and any other items in a backpack. (free)
September 19 October 31 November 21	<b>Paddle the Estuary</b> 9 am - 2 pm Explore South Slough on a trail that flows with the tide from the Charleston Bridge to Hinch Lane Bridge. <b>Provide your own canoe or kayak (no inflatables or pedals), paddles, PFDs, water and lunch.</b> Be prepared to get feet and legs wet and muddy at launch points. A driver and shuttle will be provided. Trips may be cancelled up until launch time due to hazardous conditions. <b>There is a 3 boat minimum and 8 boat maximum.</b> (\$15/boat)
September 20	<b>Friends of South Slough Members Picnic</b> 1:30 to 5:30 pm Please join us for a <b>Members Only</b> potluck at the South Slough Spruce Ranch facility. We'll provide grilled tuna, beverages, plates, cups, etc. Bring your favorite picnic dish to share. We will have music, lawn games and other fun activities for everyone to enjoy. <b>Please RSVP: (541) 888 - 5558 ext. 58 or <a href="mailto:deborah.rudd@state.or.us">deborah.rudd@state.or.us</a></b>
September 26	<b>National Estuaries Day</b> <b>Explore Your Estuary</b> 10 am to 4 pm Come out and explore the trails and waterways of South Slough in honor of National Estuaries Day. Explore the exhibits and get trail recommendations. (free) <b>Film: Frontline's <i>Poisoned Waters</i></b> 10 am to 12 pm or 1 to 3 pm View the film today and then join us on September 30th and Coos Watershed Association for a discussion of the film and what you can do to help protect your estuary. <i>Poisoned Waters</i> examines the state of Puget Sound and Chesapeake Bay three decades after the passage of the Clean Water Act. (free)
September 30	<b><i>Poisoned Waters</i> Discussion Night</b> 7 to 9 pm Join us and Coos Watershed Association for Green Night at Java Jones in Empire as we show excerpts from the PBS Frontline Documentary <i>Poisoned Waters</i> and discuss the impacts for the Coos Estuary and our lives. Discussion leaders will focus on what's in our drinking water, how does land use affect water quality and the best ways to grow. (free)

*South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve's mission is to improve the understanding and stewardship of Pacific Northwest estuaries and coastal watersheds.*



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- October 3**     **South Slough Birding**     **8 to 10 am**  
**December 5**     Search the Reserve for winged wildlife. Binoculars, spotting scopes provided. (\$1/birder)
- October 3**     **Animal Signs and Tracks**     **10 am to 12 pm**  
Join us for a fun morning looking for animal signs and tracks. Draw in your journal and make a cast of a track. All supplies will be provided. For children 6 years and older. (\$3/animal detective)
- October 9**     **Collection of Natural Materials for Coastal Basketry**     **12:30 to 4 pm**  
Join weaver Nan McDonald as she explores the Reserve for the natural materials used in traditional and contemporary Northwest coast basketry. Gather and process materials for the Coastal Cedar Twined Bag class on Saturday. Sturdy shoes and water recommended. (optional)
- October 10**     **Coastal Cedar Twined Bag**     **9 am to 4 pm**  
Students will construct their own unique Cedar Twined Bag using red cedar, spruce roots, wild iris leaves and coastal sedge. Wild cherry bark and bear grass will also be on hand. All materials will be provided. Approximate size of the finished basket is 8" x 8". Good hand dexterity is essential. Please bring a sack lunch and beverage. Class limit is 8. (\$65/person)
- October 17**     **Volunteer In-Service**     **9 am to 12 pm**  
South Slough volunteers, both new and old, join us for a morning of learning how you can share the stories of South Slough. (free)
- October 24**     **Mushrooms, a Wild Edible!**     **8:30 am to 4 pm**  
Join naturalist Chuck Holbert for a day of foraging for mushrooms and wild edibles. By the end of the day students will feel comfortable with identifying at least a half dozen mushroom species. Class time will be spent in the field on moderate hiking trails so be prepared for the weather with sturdy walking shoes or boots. Please bring a sack lunch, pocket knife and plastic bag for collection purposes. Class limit is 60. (\$20/person or free to FOSS members paid prior to October 24)
- October 31**     **Tide of the Toddlers**     **10 - 11 am**  
**November 14**     Bring your wee ones, 1 - 5 years old. Sing a song, read a story, make a craft and explore the natural  
**December 12**     world. A new theme each month: Nocturnal Animals, Leaves, Whales (\$1/toddler).
- November 7**     **White Ash Tote**     **9 am to 4 pm**  
Nan McDonald shares traditional knowledge from her Algonquin indigenous roots to teach the process of choosing and processing Oregon White Ash (found throughout western Oregon) for basket making. Each student will construct a tote with canvas handle ~ perfect for shopping, books and knitting projects. Approximate finished size is 12" x 14". All materials provided. Good hand dexterity is essential. Please bring a sack lunch and beverage. Class limit is 8. (\$65/person)
- November 14**     **Winged Migration**     **2 pm to 3:30 pm**  
Join us for popcorn and a movie on the big screen! (free)
- November 28**     **Creature Feature**     **1 pm to 3 pm**  
All about the many animals both big and small who call the South Slough watershed home. (free)
- December 5**     **Estuary Arts & Crafts - Natural Ornaments**     **1 to 3 pm**  
Create natural ornaments and gifts for the holidays. For artists 6 years old and up. (\$3/artist)
- December 6**     **Holiday Volunteer Appreciation**  
South Slough would like to take this opportunity at year's end to thank all our volunteers. (free)
- December 19**     **Gray Whale Obstacle Course**     **10:30 to 11:30 am or 2 to 3 pm**  
Join us for popcorn and a movie on the big screen! (free)