

2018 California Parks Training Conference

Presented by the Park Rangers Association of California

General Information

Conference check-in

Attendees will need to check in at the registration and information desk. Ask the front desk for Directions. You will receive your information packet, meal tickets and any pre-ordered items. Check in will be open from noon until 8:00 pm on Monday and 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Conference Apparel

Conference T-shirts are available to purchase and will feature the colorful logo as a reminder of this year's conference. Stop by the Registration desk.

PRAC Accreditation

PRAC adopted minimum professional training standards for Park Rangers in 2001. The training standards provide a recommended minimum training level for a well-rounded generalist ranger. PRAC has already issued Generalist Ranger Certificates. Participants attending any of the training sessions that apply toward a PRAC learning domain can receive a certificate of completion to be used toward fulfilling PRAC's standards. A roster will be provided in each room of qualifying sessions. Those wishing PRAC credit for a session must be sure to sign the PRAC roster.

Silent Auction

There will be a wide array of interesting items for this year's silent auction. The silent auction will be held at the Wednesday evening at the banquet.



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Monday, March 5th

The Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in Park Management

Chris Cruz from West Valley College will present a course in the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in Park Management at the Tenaya Lodge from 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Welcome Reception

Meet from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm in the lobby area. Join fellow attendees for hors d'oeuvres, beverages and a chance to catch up with old and new friends. This will be a great way to kick off your attendance at the Conference! Free with full registration.



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Tuesday March 6th

Welcome and Keynote

8:00 am to 10:00 am

Welcome Address

Matt Cerkel, President of the Park Rangers Association of California

Welcome and Keynote Speaker

TBD

Luncheon Speaker 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Luncheon Speaker

Scott Gediman the Chief Public Affairs Officer for Yosemite National Park will discuss managing public affairs and information in a high profile national park like Yosemite.



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General Sessions

Park Operations and Resource Management Track

West Valley College's Park Management Program

Tuesday March 6th 10:15 to 11:15

Session Description:

Information about West Valley College's unique Park Management Program

Presenter: Chris Cruz, is the lead instructor at West Valley College's Park Management Program and is also a National Park Ranger

Golden Gate National Recreation Area Outreach Program in the Bay Area

Tuesday March 6th 11:30 to 12:30

Session Description:

NPS Park Ranger will discuss GGNRA's outreach program in the SF Bay Area

Presenter: TBD

Coyotes in our Midst

Tuesday March 6th 2:15 to 3:15

Session Description:

Join Marin County Parks Chief Park Ranger, Rob Ruiz as he discusses the habits and identifying characteristics of our wild canine neighbor, the coyote. Two hundred years of costly persecution has not eliminated the resilient coyote from our landscape. In fact, coyotes have expanded their range two to threefold since the 1850's, largely in response to human changes to the environment and the eradication of wolves.

Presenter: Rob Ruiz is a Chief Park Ranger with Marin County Parks. Rob is a



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Presented by the Park Rangers Association of California graduate from Humboldt State University and has worked for Marin County Parks for over 35 years. He has also worked for the US Forest Service in Oregon, and Eureka Park and Recreation. He volunteers for Marin County based Project Coyote, a non- profit organization that promotes coexistence between people and wildlife through education, science, and advocacy.

Using Models in Trail Building

Tuesday March 6th 3:30 to 5:45

Session Description:

Have you ever tried to explain to the new seasonal help how to clean a water bar? They reply with “What’s a water bar?” How about assigning them the task of replacing the bull rail on the puncheon and get a blank look as if you are speaking a different language? Well you have been using trail terms that they are not aware of.

In this session we will go over terms and show you scale models of some 20+ trail structures. This knowledge will help explain to seasonal employees, volunteers and staff what you are talking about.

You will also have an opportunity to build a model yourself which will let you show and point out all the little things that go into making a structure on the trail.

Presenter: Bill Trunick has worked for Sonoma County Regional Parks for more than 25 years. During that time, he has been recognized as one of the leaders in trail knowledge and in the department. During those years Bill has worked with and supervised crews of volunteers from REI, Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC), Boy Scouts of America, church groups, school groups, and other service organizations. Bill has also worked jointly with members of the USFS, NPS, BLM, Cal Fire, and Back Country Horsemen.

Bill is also an adjunct faculty member at Santa Rosa Junior College in the Natural Resource Management Department. For the last 9 years he has taught classes in Trail Design, Trail Maintenance, and Operations and Maintenance of Chainsaws.

He has volunteered over 100 hours for the Pacific Crest Trail Association



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Presented by the Park Rangers Association of California (PCTA) doing trail work. He is also qualified as a Class B Bucker/Limber though the USFS, PCTA and Back County Horsemen of California.

Bill has been a member of PRAC since 1986. He is a certified trails and maintenance instructor for the Park Rangers Association of California (PRAC).

Public Safety Track

The Use of Game Cameras for Park Law Enforcement

Tuesday March 6th 10:15 to 11:15

Session Description:

Park Ranger Matt Cerkel discuss the use of game cameras for park law enforcement. In the past 10 years there has been a revolution in digital game cameras and they have become a valuable law enforcement tool for park rangers. Matt will discuss game camera basics, set up, and security. He will also cover their uses for patrol and law enforcement. Finally, a sample policy for their use will be covered, which includes evidence handling, data storage, and privacy concerns.

Presenter: Matt Cerkel has been a law enforcement/public safety park ranger for the Marin Municipal Water District for 23 years, where he serves as a fully sworn peace officer, EMT, wildland firefighter, field training officer, firefighting instructor, and historian. Matt has also been a member of PRAC since the early 1990s and has been the president of the association since 2016.

Documenting and Report Writing for Use of Force Incidents

Tuesday March 6th 11:30 to 12:30

Session Description:

Park Ranger Brett Pedisich will discuss the importance of accurately documenting use of force incidents. Emphasis will be placed on how a well-written and detailed report will be your saving grace in avoiding civil and criminal liability, and in securing a conviction. In this day and age of cell phone cameras and media backlash towards law enforcement, how we document our use of force incidents is one of our most powerful weapons.



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Presenter: Brett Pedisich has been a fully sworn peace officer and Park Ranger for the Marin Municipal Water District for over 5 years. While law enforcement remains the central function of an MMWD Park Ranger, Brett also serves as an EMT, wildland firefighter, and Defensive Tactics Instructor.

Wildland Fire Evacuation

Tuesday March 6th 2:15 to 3:15

Session Description:

2017 saw some of the most catastrophic wildland fire in California's history. These fires taxed the state fire and public safety resources and pushed first responders into roles they may not perform routinely. Matt Cerkel will discuss the basics of wildland fire evacuation and how to do it safely. Future wildland fire events park rangers will play a role in evacuating park visitors and park neighbors and understanding the basics are key to doing it safely.

Presenter: Matt Cerkel

Law Enforcement Ranger – Generalist Model

Tuesday March 6th 3:30 to 5:30

Session Description:

Captain Ken Brink will discuss a generalist ranger model for law enforcement rangers

Presenter: Ken Brink is a Captain with Larimer County Natural Resources in Colorado and serves as the agency's Visitor Services Manager. He is also a member of the Park Law Enforcement Association (PLEA).



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Park Interpretation Track

How To Answer Questions When You Have No Time To Prepare

Tuesday March 6th 10:15 to 11:15

Session Description:

Questions can be the most difficult and treacherous part of an interpreter's job, both with the public and in the office. The way you handle questions has a large impact on your credibility. It is common to receive questions you don't know the answer for or to misunderstand the question. This session covers strategies to help increase your credibility when answering questions. Participants will have the opportunity to test their new skills in this highly interactive session.

Presenter: Ethan Rotman. As principle of iSpeakEASY, Ethan has been speaking to groups for 30 years and training presenters for more than 25 years.

Ethan Rotman, principle, brings his excitement and enthusiasm to each workshop and coaching session, leading by example and always showing the importance of preparation. Sessions are light, interactive and focus on your needs – teaching you to be the best speaker and presenter you can be. Ethan helps identify your strong suits, highlight your personality and guides you to confidently use these in your speaking. He works with you in a comfortable manner to help you bridge the gap between your topic and your audience.

He began his career as a park ranger in 1980. He quickly learned that Park Rangers must engage their audience or people will simply walk away. In the business world, bored audiences tend to remain in their seats, but their minds wander. Ethan helps you become an engaging speaker that not only holds the interest of your audience, but sparks their imagination as well.

iSpeakEASY was founded in 2006 to bring a new approach of communication into the business world. He offers workshops and individualized coaching to help speakers improve their effectiveness and profitability.



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Ethan holds three levels of professional certification from the National Association for Interpretation. He writes articles as a regular feature in a national speaker's magazine, manages a blog, and speaks frequently about the challenges of public speaking. He has founded several non-profits, served on Boards of Directors, and helped establish two charter schools. He resides in Marin County with his wife, two teenage children, a dog, and several chickens. He loves good food, wine, and is frequently seen running the trails of Marin County.

Reptiles

Tuesday March 6th 11:30 to 12:30

Session Description:

There are many fascinating things to learn about reptiles, our widely misunderstood and often maligned, cold-blooded companions. The program will focus on California native species with most of the limelight on lizards and snakes. We will go over characteristics of different reptiles and techniques to help identify species. Find out why a lizard does "push-ups", and how snakes move the way they do. We will also discuss first-aid treatment for snake bites in the field.

Presenter: Cecilia Rejas is a Park Ranger for California State Parks based out of Mount Tamalpais State Park and China Camp State Park in Marin County, CA. She has been a state park ranger for 15 years and started her career with state parks in the Mojave Desert. While in the desert, she volunteered with a Reptile Rescue non-profit, and relocated snakes. She has been a reptile enthusiast since her youth and has always had herptile companions. Currently, she has a CA kingsnake and a bearded dragon. She enjoys sharing her love and knowledge of California wildlife with others.

Creating Effective Informal Signage

Tuesday March 6th 2:15 to 3:15

Session Description:

Be prepared to talk, share, groan and laugh as we explore elements of good (and some not so good) signs intended to inform or direct visitors. Creating an



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informational or directional sign often seems like an easy and straightforward task. While the meaning and perceived effectiveness may be clear to us, our visitors may have a different experience. Participants in this session will review guidelines to designing signs that correctly and effectively reach the intended goal.

Presenter: Ethan Rotman

Creating a Native Garden – On a budget and with NO budget

Tuesday March 6th 3:30 to 5:00

Session Description:

Ranger Amy shares lessons learned from coordinating the installation and maintenance of two native gardens at open space park entrances in Livermore, California. One garden was done bit by bit with no budget or initial plan in mind and one was carefully planned and grant-funded. You'll learn how to select and obtain native plants (including growing your own from seeds and cuttings) and get ideas for signage and interpretive elements to add to your garden. We'll talk about ways to protect your garden from wildlife damage and what is involved in ongoing maintenance and watering (and how to recruit volunteers and park users to help).

Presenter: Amy Wolitzer. Ranger Amy has worked as a generalist park ranger for 20 years. She has developed a strong interest in native plants although she has no formal training in botany or restoration. Once considered to have a "black thumb", she has found native plants to be sufficiently hardy to survive and sometimes thrive under her care. Seeing people and pollinators enjoying the native gardens is one of her greatest joys.



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Wednesday March 7th

Opening Speaker

8:00 am to 9:00 am

Opening Speaker

Day two of the Parks Training Conference starts with a special speaker

Lunch and General Membership Meeting of the Park Rangers Association of California 12:45 pm to 2:00 pm

The annual General Membership Meeting of the Park Rangers Association of California.



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General Sessions

Park Operations and Resource Management Track

Ticks and Lyme Disease in California – Get the Facts and Keep Your Community Safe in the Face of this Growing Epidemic

Wednesday March 7th 9:15 to 10:15

Session Description:

Lyme disease is the fastest-growing vector-borne disease in the United States and tick season is year-round in California. California Parks' rangers and staff need to develop heightened vigilance around ticks and tick-bites. This workshop will give you the latest hard facts on Lyme, plus offer materials that you can use immediately to remind yourselves, your co-workers and parks' visitors to check themselves for ticks and keep themselves safe. School-age children are particularly susceptible to Lyme and tick-borne infections, so we advise on the best ways to speak to young children without negatively impacting their enjoyment of the outdoors. Although Bay Area Lyme is primarily a medical research foundation, we are committed to educational outreach and prevention of this and other tick-borne diseases.

Topics covered in the workshop will include:

- Update on Lyme Disease Research - latest information from medical research and tick ecology studies
- Current issues with diagnostics and treatment options
- Minimizing on-the-job risk of tick-borne infections
- Implementing effective tick-check/tick bite protocols
- Accurate and reliable recognition of symptoms
- Tools and materials kits/takeaways
- Health and Safety Messaging for parks' visitors

Presenter Jo Ellis is Director of Education Outreach at Bay Area Lyme Foundation. Jo Ellis has 20+ years of experience developing and marketing educational programming for schools, nonprofits, and corporations. A native of



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the UK, Jo received her BA/MA from Cambridge University, and a post-graduate high-school teaching certification from the University of London. Jo is a nationally recognized educator with Johns Hopkins University.

October 2017 FIRES - Lessons Learned at Sonoma County Regional Parks

Wednesday March 7th 10:30 to 11:30

Session Description:

Several parks managed by Sonoma County Regional Parks were heavily impacted by the catastrophic wildfires that struck in October 2017. How Sonoma County Regional Parks responded to this event during and after will be discussed.

Fire Effects and Parks

- Burn Severity
- Human Crisis? Yes / Natural Crisis? not as much
- Staff Deployment – all hands-on deck during and after.
- Multi Agency Coordination, Emergency Operation Center
- Main Impacts to parks – Fire & Aggressive Fire Suppression
- Debris Flow Hazards
- Wildlife Resilience

Q&A to follow

Presenter: Brandon Brédo is a Ranger Supervisor with Sonoma County Regional Parks. He is a graduate and new Regent for California Parks & Rec Society's Maintenance Management School and a Graduate of West Valley College's Park Management Program. His diverse and unique background includes a balance of parks perspectives that includes exposure to Operations, Maintenance, Administrative, Community Engagement, Aquatics, Volunteer Services, and Natural Resource Management. His parks career started in the first year out of high school with various agencies in a seasonal capacity. His interest in the parks profession began as a child with family trips to Yosemite National Park. Brandon has been with Sonoma County Regional Parks since 2001 and has been working as a Ranger Supervisor since 2005. He currently provides a leadership role with all the Ranger and Maintenance programs in a diverse geography of coastal, river



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Presented by the Park Rangers Association of California valley, open space, and urban parks. Other duties include training coordination, EMT & Peace Officer services, rangeland management, policy updates & administration, liaison to community groups/tribal governments/advisory committees, new staff recruitment, background investigation, and project management. Brandon is a resident ranger with his family on a 3,400-acre ranch park in southern Sonoma County

Use of Prescribed Burns in Yosemite

Wednesday March 7th 11:45 to 12:45

Session Description:

The use of Prescribed Fire in Yosemite National Park

Presenter: TBD

GIS / Mapping for Field Staff

Wednesday March 7th 2:15 to 4:30

Session Description:

This course will be about utilizing SAR TOPO, a free Geographic Information System and Avenza (pdf maps) while working in a park setting. We will go over how's both systems work and plan a hasty search using this technology. We will also explore other uses for this technology including maintenance, resource management, and interpretation. Please bring your laptop computer and smartphone.

Presenter: Mike Warner is a graduate from Sonoma State University's Geography Program and an Open Space Park Ranger with Marin County Parks for the past 5 years. He is also a member of the Marin County Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team. Mike also currently serves as the Region I Director for the Park Rangers Association of California.

Public Safety Track



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Fish and Wildlife Inspection/Enforcement/Statues

Wednesday March 7th 9:15 to 10:15

Session Description:

An update of Fish and Wildlife inspections, enforcement and legal updates from a pair of CDFW Wardens

Presenters: Two CDFW Wardens

Establishing a Peace Officer Ranger Program

Wednesday March 7th 10:30 to 11:30

Session Description:

In August 2017 the Casitas Municipal Water District sworn in their new peace officer Park Rangers, learn about the process CMWD used to establish their program.

Presenter: Carol Belser is the Park Services Manager at Casitas Municipal Water District's Lake Casitas.

CDFW's Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET):

Marijuana Trespass Grows, Officer & Environmental Safety

Wednesday March 7th 2:15 to 4:30

Session Description:

Lt. Nores will review the Department of Fish and Wildlife's marijuana enforcement program, highlighting the Marijuana Enforcement Team and the rapidly developing Watershed Enforcement Team program. Nores will highlight the program's effectiveness since its inception in mid-2013 through today, and also cover the public safety threats of outdoor cartel related trespass grow sites throughout California. In addition, Nores will cover the environmental crime concerns related to sanctioned private property marijuana cultivation operations throughout the state. Nores will explain grow site indicators for professionals working these operations, in addition to covering grow site public health threats including banned and toxic poisons, pesticides, boobie traps, and other threats



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Presented by the Park Rangers Association of California located in cultivation sites. Along with enforcement challenges and solutions since legalization under Prop. 64, Nores will highlight the negative impacts to California's water sources, highlighting the impacts to our drought engendered by illegal use, diversion, and poisoning of our state's water during one of the largest droughts in California's history.

Presenter: Lieutenant John Nores Jr.
Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET) Supervisor
Special Operations Division
California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

With a love for wildlife and our nation's wildlands, Nores earned a BS and MS degree from San Jose State University before becoming a game warden for the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife in 1992. In 2005 John promoted to Lieutenant, continuing his mission to protect and defend our nation's wildlife resources. John has investigated environmental crime and wildlife resource destruction for the last 27 years, and was awarded the Governor's Medal of Valor for lifesaving and leadership efforts in 2008. He's received several other awards for valor, life-saving, and distinguished service throughout his career, and his first book, "War in the Woods: Combating the Marijuana Cartels on America's Public Lands." was published in 2010. John recently co-authored a national cannabis issue book, Where There's Smoke (available January 2018) with a comprehensive sequel to WITW in development.

In 2013 John co-developed the Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET) and Delta Team, the CDFW's first comprehensive wilderness spec ops tactical unit and sniper unit, aimed at combatting the marijuana cartel's decimation of California's wildlife resources. The MET has been featured on Fox News, NBC Investigative Reports, CNN, and Dan Rather Reports. Lt. Nores and his team are featured in three seasons of National Geographic channel's award-winning game warden reality television series, "Wild Justice," and highlighted in the Sportsman Channel's award-winning Patriot Profiles: Life of Duty documentary TV series. Nores has written articles for Sure Fire's Combat Tactics and American Patriots: Unsung Heroes magazines and articles for Nosler Bullets and KUIU Ultralight Hunting.

Specializing in public and private land Drug Trafficking Organization narcotics



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Presented by the Park Rangers Association of California tactics and related environmental crime enforcement and training for the last 15 years, John has presented for the California Narcotics Officers Association (CNOA), the Nevada Narcotics Officers Association (NNOA), and numerous other conventions and conferences all over the Country. Nores is an annual Safari Club International (SCI) convention seminar speaker, a national and international conservation tactics instructor and has taught rifle, handgun, shotgun and basic and advanced sniper craft for the last 20 years. John is a tactical surveillance, and covert and overt special operations instructor and operator throughout California. Nores has allied with the U.S. Secret Service in rural and urban protection details for former U.S. President Barack Obama and former Israeli President Shimon Peres and in 2007, Nores co-developed and instructed at an overt and covert wildlife investigators school in Cambodia. Nores is a worldwide conservationist, back packer, two-time Baja 500 Ironman ATV racer, and two-time Ironman triathlete finisher.

Park Interpretation Track

A Visitor's Perspective on Park Rangers

Wednesday March 7th 9:15 to 10:15

Session Description:

How does the public view you as a ranger? You know what your job is, but do visitors know and appreciate your responsibilities? Matt and Karen will share their experiences and points of view on how the public views park rangers and, what makes for an effective ranger, in particular regarding interactions with the public. They will draw on their experiences from their travels to many of our national parks, forests and other public lands. Their insights and funny stories about their interactions with rangers will provide useful information for anyone whose responsibilities involve communicating with the public.

Presenter: Matt and Karen Smith

Matt and Karen have been married for over 35 years and live in the Seattle, Washington area. Both grew up in the Midwest; they met at the University of Kansas and have been together ever since. They are the authors of the bestselling book titled Dear Bob and Sue, a story of their travels to all 59 of the "national park" national parks in the U.S. They authored and published Dories,



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Ho! in October 2017, also a travel memoir about their float trip on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

They continue to travel to the magnificent public lands in the U.S. and intend to write more travel books.

Agents of Discovery

Wednesday March 7th 10:30 to 11:30

Session Description:

Mary Clark, CEO of Agents of Discovery, is revolutionizing the park interpreter's tool kit. Agents of Discovery is a move-to-learn, location-specific mobile games that aims to educate youth about the values of conservation, nature, and our national public green spaces. Park interpreters can build their own educational "Missions" based on their nature site/park/forest/etc. initiative, and then youth can download the game and navigate their way through the site, learning as they go. We are currently partnered with several nation-wide organizations, such as the U.S. Forest Service, to bring Agents of Discovery to youth all over the U.S.

The aim of this presentation is first to impress the great need for public environmental education – now more than ever – when our natural resources and species are in jeopardy. Second, this presentation will discuss the value that children and youth will gain from this particular type of education – for their own health, wellness, and education, but also for the future of conservation. Finally, this presentation will bridge the gap between need and solution through modern means, and will leave the audience inspired to use technology to bring together youth and nature through means that are both fun and educational.

Presenter: Mary Clark

Mary Clark is the visionary Founder of Agents of Discovery, a gamified way of encouraging kids to be active, engaged, and learning. With over 25 years of experience in education and technology, Clark serves as Agents of Discovery's Chief Executive Officer. A dynamic leader, she has spearheaded a wide range of national initiatives in the public and private sectors, including the Canadian Centennial of Flight and the Trudeau Family Kokanee Glacier Alpine Campaign. In BC, she organized a huge linear park initiative – the Mission Creek Greenway – and catalyzed the reintroduction of the Peregrine Falcon. Clark is a



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contributing author of two international science textbooks and a gifted public speaker who brings a fiery passion to her role at the helm of the Agents of Discovery team.

Honoring the Oral Tradition

Wednesday March 7th 11:45 to 12:45

Session Description:

For thousands of years, humans have gathered to hear the science of natural history through lively folktales. This presentation will be a series of stories from around the world that demonstrate the keen observational skills of indigenous people.

Presenter: Ane Carla Rovetta is an award-winning story teller, key-note speaker, educator, and artist.

Everything she does is nature based. Her scientific training and extensive field research give her unique insights about the remarkable flora and fauna that are the focus of her presentations.

While her well-chosen words and demonstrative style create beautiful images in the minds of her listeners, she often simultaneously creates stunning paintings in front of an audience that further illustrate her words.

From Earth to Art: Natural Pigments and Paints

Wednesday March 7th 2:15 to 5:30

Session Description:

Soils, soot, cones and flowers; all of these “immediate ingredients” can be fashioned into non-toxic paints. In this workshop, Ane Carla will demonstrate how to make paint out of tree sap and soaproot. The resulting elixirs can transform your creativity into an environmentally friendly endeavor.

Presenter: Ane Carla Rovetta

