

PRESS RELEASE

Date: April 25, 2008

Contact: Mary Golden, Executive Director
Central Coast Natural History Association
20 Morro Bay Road
Morro Bay, CA 93442

RE: Up Close in the Parks 2008 Event Reception

Date of Event: May 6

The Central Coast Natural History Association will open its annual Up Close in the Parks Art Exhibit with an Artists' reception at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, Tuesday, May 6 from 5-7 pm. The event is free and open to the public. Wine and appetizers will be served along with spectacular views of the bay. The artists will be available to discuss their work.

This year's show features works which show rare, threatened and endangered species of the Central Coast. "Did you know rare plants grow right in our backyard," asks Barb Renshaw, event organizer and docent for California State Parks. "Endangered birds fish in the bay and walk on our beaches. Endangered snails live side by side with rare plants in the dune scrub. This exhibit is a chance to view paintings and drawings portraying scenery, flora and fauna of our State Parks." This year, for the first time, Up Close in the Parks will include a special display of sketches right out of artists' sketchbooks.

If you want to "take home" an endangered plant or animal, the artwork will be available for sale. 30%-100% of sales will go the Central Coast Natural History Association whose mission is to support educational and interpretive programs in the State Parks as well as support understanding and conservation of the natural and cultural resources of our State Parks. "This event is even more important to us this year with the threatened closure of several of our beloved State Parks including Montana del Oro, Morro Strand State Park, Estero Bluffs and Los Osos Oaks State Reserve," said Mary Golden, Executive Director of CCNHA. "We want people to come and see the art and understand the importance of keeping our parks open."

The Morro Bay Museum of Natural History is located at 20 State Park Road in Morro Bay State Park. For more information contact Mary Golden, 772.2694 or mgoldenccnha@gmail.com.