

Nature Notes



by Patricia Clark-Gray

I enjoy the changing seasons and one of the tools that I use to help observe the changes is the Big Sur-Monterey-Santa Cruz Central California Coast Wild Nature Almanac, Tides, and Engagement Calendar. I use the calendar to write down the flowers and vegetables that I plant. I have a rain gauge and I record the rain on the monthly calendar. The tide chart is easy to use because it shows the tides graphically. For each month, it shows the stars/planets, important days, and information about the climate and weather.

For November, it shows that we will have a short winter rainy season usually from November to February. For Monterey, the record temperature had a high of 64

and a low of 47. The rainfall average is listed as 2.3 inches.

My favorite part of the almanac is the information about the local wildlife. For example, the common Merganser returns to coastal lakes, rivers and estuaries from their northern breeding grounds. Big-leaf maples begin to lose leaves. The population of Coopers Hawk peak in September and November. The California Ground Squirrel stores seeds and grasses for winter.

The Changing Seasons of Monterey Bay

Since we live by the coast, it provides information about whales. Pregnant Pacific Gray Whales migrate 5,000 miles from the Bering Sea to Baja and will bear calves there. Then they will return north in late January - April.

My favorite chart shows the constellations that you might be able to see on a clear night. This month look 2 hours after sunset for Cassiopeia, Cygnus (the swan), Perseus, Aries (ram), Cetus (whale), Pisces (fishes) and Pegasus. The planets that can be seen are Jupiter and Uranus.

I think we have lost our connection to the changing seasons because we spend too much time indoors. Take your family out for walks on weekends in your local parks throughout the seasons and observe the plants, animals, and weather. As a



family project you can record your observations on a calendar. You can take photos and glue them to the calendar on the appropriate

month. If you children like to draw have them draw the plants and animals they see and add them to the calendar. At the end of the year,

you and your family will have a better knowledge of the changing seasons of Monterey and better connection to nature.



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We have a couple Raffle prizes available this month to raise money for the Monterey County Food Bank.

- #1 Joico Gift Set, valued at \$85.00
- #2 Glo Minerals set, valued at \$40.00

Raffle Tickets are available at the salon:
2 for \$5 • 5 for \$10 • 10 for \$20

You do not need to be present to win and all proceeds will be donated to the Monterey County Food Bank!
We are accepting all food and cash donations through November!
Let's help everyone have a happy Thanksgiving and Holiday Season!

For information Contact Jackie at: (831) 905-9994

Senior Produce Market

Don't Forget to get your fresh produce for Thanksgiving • Wednesday, November 23, 2011 • 9:00 am - 11:00 am
211 Hillcrest Avenue in the Marina 'Rocky Han' Community Center

