

# FOGR MONTHLY

News about the Gualala River and Watershed



## About the Trail

The quarter mile Gualala Bluff Trail is an excellent place to become acquainted with where the Gualala River meets the Pacific. Each spot offers something different. See page 2 for details.

-Area behind Trinks Cafe

-Area behind Surf Motel

-The Rest of the Trail

See page 2 for a unique activity this month



## This month features

# The Gualala Bluff Trail

Located in the middle of downtown Gualala, you will find this gem of a trail that overlooks the estuary and mouth of the Gualala River. The Pomo Native Americans named the area Gualala which means “water coming down place,” which is exactly what you see when you overlook the bluffs.



Lucky visitors may see a Bald Eagle overlooking the estuary



## Details of the sections of the Gualala Bluff Trail

### *Area behind Trinks Cafe*

At the north end of the trail, you will find a park-like setting that is a perfect place to relax, perhaps sit with a coffee and pastry from Trinks and view where the water comes down. This is also the area where you might see the river break through the sandbar and flow into the Pacific during the winter. You may also see a Bald Eagle or other raptors overlooking the Estuary here.

### *Area behind Surf Motel*

The area behind Surf Motel is perfect for selfies under the majestic Cypress Tree. In a normal summer, guests of the motel may also gather around a bonfire overlooking the trail.

### *The Rest of the Trail*

The trail continues past the Surf Motel to the Breakers Hotel. On this section you will find a bench surrounded by California Wild Lilac or Ceanothus, several rock gardens filled with California Poppies, native grasses and finally a wonderful bridge overlooking the Gualala Estuary where you may see river otters, brown pelicans, mergansers or many other forms of wildlife.

*All of this was made possible by The Redwood Land Conservancy (RCLC). For more information about this unique trail see their [website](#).*

This May students, teachers, locals, visitors can participate in the *iNaturalist City Naturalist Challenge*. [Click here](#) for details:



### More information about the Challenge on [Facebook](#)

**Jeanne Jackson will be at the Gualala Bluff Trail on May 1st from 10 am to noon to assist in the Nature Challenge.**

For those not familiar with iNaturalist, it is a great resource for photographers or those wishing to find unique flora and fauna online or to document their finds. Professional and amateur naturalists post photographs they have taken while out in nature.

Western Meadowlark



California Poppy



Baby Blue Eyes

The above are some examples of what you might find on the Gualala Bluff Trail in [iNaturalist.org](#) Photos by Chris Pechal