

Marbella, September 2025

NEWSLETTER



We're kicking off our volunteer program with a bang!



On September 16 we started our conservation work in the dunes. After the summer, Foreign Invasive Species (FIS) have once again proliferated, and we need to get rid of them as soon as possible in order to protect the native flora.

Every Tuesday, our volunteers work to eradicate invasive plants and clean up the dune environments, thus helping to keep this valuable ecosystem in good condition. This is not only necessary work to protect the dunes, but also an opportunity to spend a morning outdoors, learning and working together as a team.

The hours will still follow the summer schedule, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., to avoid the mid-day heat.

If you would like to be part of this experience and do your part in coastal conservation, write to us at asociacion@produnas.org or comunicacion@produnas.org and we'll give you all the information.

NATURE NEEDS US!

Removal of items and waste in the Reserva Ecológica-Dunas de Marbella

Thanks to photo reports from responsible members of the public and inspections by Marbella Town Hall staff, the railings that irresponsible people insist on breaking “just for the fun of it” can be repaired.

At the *Monumento Natural "Dunas de Artola"*, hardly a week goes by without another report. And in the Reserva Ecológica – Dunas de Marbella, we face the same problem.

We can only hope that one day we will be able to say that a railing broke due to the passage of time and not because of vandalism. That will be the moment when we can trust that the beauty and ecological importance of our Natural Heritage truly inspire those who visit it.

Nature gives us health, peace, and happiness, but it also requires respect and commitment from everyone. Every damaged railing not only entails unnecessary public expenditure but also endangers people’s safety and the protection of ecosystems.

Caring for the dunes means caring for our future. Hopefully, the day will soon come when collective responsibility prevails over vandalism.



The 2025-2026 school year kicks off with new Environmental Education activities

At ProDunas Marbella, we welcome this new school year with a revamped program that will bring thousands of Primary, Middle, and High School students closer to the natural heritage of our coastline and dune ecosystems.

This year, we have prepared new activities, hands-on challenges, and outdoor classes in the heart of nature:

Primary students: exploration games, beach cleanups, field notebooks, and activities to identify local flora and fauna.

Middle School students: guided routes with stops to study different plants, analysis of environmental threats, and fire prevention training.

High School students: invasive species (FIS) eradication projects with field recordings, plus a photo safari that includes a school competition.

In addition, we will continue combining classroom talks with outings to the **Artola Dunes Natural Monument** and the **Marbella Dunes Ecological Reserve**, so that each student can learn not only in the classroom but also through direct contact with nature.

With more than twenty years of experience in dune conservation, we remain committed to ensuring that new generations understand, respect, and protect the biodiversity of the Marbella coastline.





We did it! The Calahonda dune is now restored

It is now ready and in good condition to be included in the Reserva Ecológica-Dunas de Marbella.

It is a great joy for ProDunas Marbella to have such a wonderful team of volunteers, who are essential in keeping the regrowth of Giant Cane under control in the different dune ecosystems.

To our loyal companions in this peaceful fight against invasive species, we send a big hug and a heartfelt thank you for their dedication.

Beware of the Oriental Hornet (*Vespa orientalis*)!



Our volunteers have spotted a hornet nest in Calahonda – We need to distinguish between the oriental and Asian hornets:

Size: The Asian hornet is larger, with queens measuring up to 3.5 cm and workers up to 2.5 cm, while the oriental hornet is smaller, with queens measuring only between 2.5 and 3.5 cm.

Thorax colour: The Asian hornet has a completely black thorax, while the oriental hornet has a yellow and black one.

Legs: The Asian hornet's legs are dark with a yellow tip, while the oriental hornet's legs are yellow.

Abdominal colour: The Asian hornet has a brown abdomen with an orange segment, while the oriental hornet has a yellow and black abdomen.

These differences are important for the proper identification and management of these wasps, especially in environments where they can cause problems. Oriental hornets are a primary pest of honeybees (*Apis mellifera*), attacking bee colonies to obtain honey and animal protein.

At ProDunas Marbella, we have been defending and protecting nature along our coastline for over 20 years. We also work to raise awareness and take action against invasive species such as the oriental and the Asian hornet.

If you find a wasp nest, DO NOT attempt to remove it yourself. Call ProDunas Marbella: we will contact the relevant local official bodies and local authorities to ensure it is safely removed.

Your notification can make a difference in halting the spread of these species and protecting both people and biodiversity.

Beach Cleaning and Dune Conservation with guests from Hotel Kimpton Los Monteros Marbella

We shared a very special day with a group of guests from Hotel Kimpton Los Monteros Marbella.

We began the activity at the pool of Club La Cabane, from where we set off walking along the beach, carrying out a beach cleanup and collecting various types of waste.

Along the way, we talked about the biological richness of our coastline, the projects to protect sea turtle nests, the importance of *Posidonia oceanica*, and the threat posed by the invasive alga *Rugulopteryx okamurae*.

Participants were able to discover the flora and fauna of the Reserva Ecológica-Dunas de Marbella and to learn first-hand about the work carried out by our volunteers. The activity ended at La Adelfa dune, where everyone took part in conservation tasks and gained a deeper understanding of the dynamics of this valuable ecosystem.

We would like to thank Hotel Kimpton Los Monteros Marbella for promoting among its guests environmental awareness experiences that contribute to the protection of our coastline.



The Dunes on the Radio with Jesús Jaén

We talked about the return of the **Tuesday Volunteer Program**, where we will continue working on the eradication of invasive plants that, after the summer months, have once again proliferated in our dune ecosystems.

Our educators also presented the latest updates in our **environmental education programs for schools**:

Hands-on sessions in the dunes, where students will learn to use tools to remove invasive plants such as *Giant Cane* (*Arundo donax*) and *Highway Ice Plant* (*Carpobrotus edulis*).

Talks and workshops in schools, tailored to each age group, to discover the flora, fauna, and birds that inhabit our coastline or use it as a stopover during their migrations.

New dynamic materials, such as stickers, games, drawings, and quizzes, so that younger children can enjoy learning in a fun way.

Through these initiatives, we aim to empower students to become true guardians of the dunes and encourage more citizens to join our Tuesday morning volunteer groups in caring for this valuable natural heritage.

Link to the interview: <https://youtu.be/gdIpJXJQDB4>



SEE YOU IN OCTOBER

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