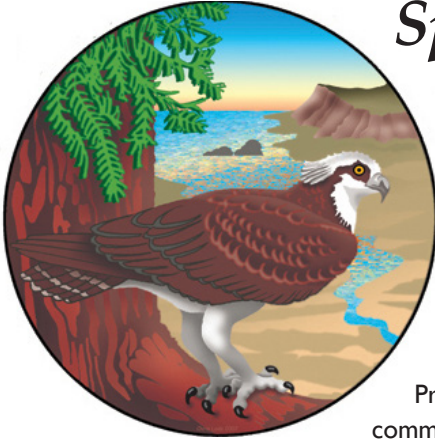


Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River District State Parks

Volume XXVIII, Number 1, Spring 2013



Spring Growth brings Inspiration

Michele Luna, Executive Director

As we transition from winter to spring, Stewards is looking forward to an exciting season with the prospect of developing new fee-based programming for all ages. This is the second stage of our plan to create a sustainable way to keep our parks open and thriving.

We succeeded in keeping Austin Creek SRA open throughout the winter, except for a week after the big storms in December. We've had at least 1 camper per week and now we getting as many as 20 a week. We are very hopeful for busy spring and summer seasons.

Programming goals include providing activities for campers as well as collaborating with other community organizations to provide ways for the public to utilize their parks to stay healthy.

What do you think about stargazing using large telescopes on a beautiful new moon night at Vista Point in Austin Creek? And what about a regular junior ranger program at Bullfrog Pond campground on Saturday mornings? Would you like to join a weekly iWalk group at Armstrong Redwoods?

We are also looking at programs that will accomplish our strategic planning goals to reach out to underserved communities and perhaps expanding to serve high school-aged participants. Wouldn't it be exciting to provide opportunities for young people to backpack in the Austin Creek wilderness?

We have preliminary approval to open Pomo Canyon Campground on a special event permit basis. Evidenced by the many phone calls we receive, there is lots of interest in using both Pomo and Willow Creek campgrounds. Both of these environmental campgrounds have been closed for the past few years due to service reductions. Stewards is working with State Parks to provide public access this summer.

Stewards is blossoming, just like the lovely wildflowers at Armstrong Redwoods. Our new endeavors require expertise and talent, which we are finding in new board members, volunteers and groups we network with. We are looking at ways to better utilize the experience of our staff and reorganizing to put together a strong program team. We invite you to join our efforts.

Mission

Stewards Promotes, Restores, and Protects Your State Parks.

Vision

Stewards is the link between people and their parks.

State Parks

Armstrong Redwoods State Nat. Reserve
Austin Creek State Recreation Area
Sonoma Coast State Park

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods
P.O. Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430
707.869.9177, 707.869.8252 Fax

stewards@mcn.org

www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - See pages 6 & 7 for details

The Art of Tracking: Seeing Patterns on the Landscape	March 23
Armstrong/Austin Creek Run	April 5
Birding on Sonoma Coast	April 7
2013 Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup Day	April 13
Introduction to the Coastal Prairie	April 20
Archeology and History of Sonoma Coast	May 4
Cultural History of Sonoma Coast	May 18
The Legacy of Pond Farm	June 1
Family Day in YOUR Park	June 22
Art in the Park	July 13
Old Grove Festival - Ramble in the Redwoods	Sept. 14

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Clara Else

E-News

It's easy to sign up for our
E-Newsletter on our website.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Michele Luna, Stewards Executive Director

One of our volunteers recently asked me about where our funding comes from. She suggested that many of our supporters may not realize what our many sources of funding are. So taking that cue, I would like to provide you with a breakdown of our revenue sources as of the end of our most recent fiscal year.

Revenue Breakdown for January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012

Grants for Operations and Programs	35%
Donations and Membership Dues	21%
Fundraisers	21%
Resale - Visitors Centers and Firewood	15%
Operations Revenue (Fees - 4 months)	7%
Fees for Guided Hikes and Adventures	1%

What this means is that your donations and membership dues are extremely important to us. If you have not renewed your membership, we hope you will do so. Also, supporting our special fundraising events is another very important sources of funding for us. If you combine these two revenue area, you will see that individuals and businesses provide Stewards with 42% of our funding.

We've done a great job raising funds through grantwriting efforts and in particular I wish to acknowledge the **California State Parks Foundation** for their grants this past year. The lion's share of the revenue reflected by 35% of the pie came from them. Their funding provided support for keeping Austin Creek SRA open and also provided funding for Earth Day 2012 and support for our Environmental Education Programs. The second largest portion of the 35% came from the **Dean Witter Foundation**. They also provided valuable support for public access to your parks and our environmental education programs for youth.

Visitor Center and firewood sales also reflect a significant portion of our revenue. Sales are increasing annually, which is a direct result of increased park visitation, keeping our inventory fresh and adding additional days at the Visitor Center in Jenner.

I believe it also deserves mentioning where we do not receive our funding. While State Parks provides us with an office space, incredible parks in which to offer special events and two Visitor Centers to manage, they do not provide us with any monetary support. Unlike some of our colleague organizations who support programs in Regional Parks and on Open Space lands, we are not awarded contracts to provide public access and outings in our state parks. We have to raise all that money through your donations.

2013 Funding Sources

In 2013, we are working on new ways to provide fee-based programs for those who would like added value in the parks they love and use as their outdoor classroom. or for recreation We are pursuing new grant sources and expect to do well collecting fees for Austin Creek operations. This will be our first full year and we are getting lots of phone calls from those who want to use Bullfrog Pond campground for group gatherings. We already have a number of group reservations for the summer. We are taking reservations for those who want to book 4 or more campsites at a time. Otherwise it's first come, first serve. We are also making plans to open the back-country sites no later than Memorial Day.

Implementing our three larger special events and some smaller ones will help us raise additional funding. All in all, we are hoping for a successful 2013, which will only be possible with your continued support.

FRIENDS OF ARMSTRONG REDWOODS (FAR)

FAR is a group of volunteers and docents who convene bimonthly to act in an advisory capacity to State Parks and Stewards with regard to activities in Armstrong Redwoods and Austin Creek. You are invited to join this group, which will meet next on May 2nd at 10:00 am.

CAL REPORT

Greg Probst, Sonoma Coast Ranger, CAL

This week I was thrilled to see some of the first of the wild iris beginning to bloom along the side of Goat Rock Road. This week also brought the announcement from California State Parks that preparation of the general plan for Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve and Austin Creek State Recreation Area will begin this coming July. This is exciting news and it will help both of these units have a much clearer vision for how they will serve the needs of our park visitors for generations to come.

A general plan is defined as the primary management document for a unit, defining a framework for resource stewardship, interpretation, facilities, visitor use, and operations. General plans define an ultimate purpose, vision, and intent for unit management through goal statements, guidelines, and broad objectives. General plans are considered a project for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and are required by law (Public Resources Code 5002.2) before any permanent commitment of the unit resources is made.

After a unit's general plan is completed and approved, various management plans and feasibility studies may be developed which provide direction on particular resources, issues or programs. Specific project plans specify the detailed information necessary to implement projects such as trail addition, watershed restoration, facilities development, or historic landscape restoration.

California State Parks looks forward to working closely together with Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods during the preparation of the general plan.

ARMSTRONG TRAIL UPDATE FOR SPRING 2013

Laura Parent, Armstrong Maintenance

The Russian River District's Trail Crew has officially opened the newly rehabilitated and re-routed Armstrong Redwoods SNR's Pioneer Trail!

For the past few months here at Armstrong Redwoods the Pioneer Trail and Armstrong Tree/Icycle Tree Trails have been re-routed and rehabilitated.

Special funding from the State's ADA account has made this project possible, along with our District's Landscape Architect, Gary Shannon, who designed and coordinated the work crews to accomplish the project.

It hasn't been an easy project to complete due to the heavy rains our Park experienced in November and December. Then this past January and February we had extremely cold temperatures in the Grove that also made for unpleasant working conditions. But now



finally the trail is opened for everyone to enjoy as the spring season is upon us.

Our thanks go out to Gary Shannon and the District's Trail crew: Vince Zarkowski, Tyler Phillips, Justin Thaman, Alex Pantozopolous, and Nick Siggins for their dedicated work through all the inclement weather.

The California Conservation Crew, from Ukiah and their leader, Eric Weinmeister, are also to be commended for their endurance not only to have camped in the Grove thru all the harsh weather, but to have also had the strength to wheelbarrow the many tons of rock that have been laid and leveled for easier accessibility for all to enjoy.



FIELD STAFF REPORT

Louis Guglielmino, Stewards Operations Staff

The sightings of strategic daffodils, cherry blossoms and our friend the Tick, all of which can be good indicators of the onset into spring are making themselves apparent now. Only the coming torrents will tell if we will be blessed by more winter, or welcomed by an early spring.

Undaunted by beauty and common dangers of Armstrong and Austin Creek, Tom Webb and I have continued our work in restoring Bullfrog Pond Campground and its accompanying amenities. We have seen many roadblocks along the way, some more literal than others.

On top of our normal duties this winter, we have enjoyed landslides, fallen trees and limbs, trail work (a broad term as some of you know all too well), lots of road maintenance, and even a septic overflow or two. Despite "Father Winter's" challenges thus far, I feel it is safe to say there has been a welcome trend since our sun came back out. Both our visitation in Armstrong and our campers in Austin Creek have increased with each passing day. Soon we will be in full swing of spring and summer again.

Birds will sing, flowers will bloom, and Tom and I will be here to welcome you back.

PROGRAM UPDATES

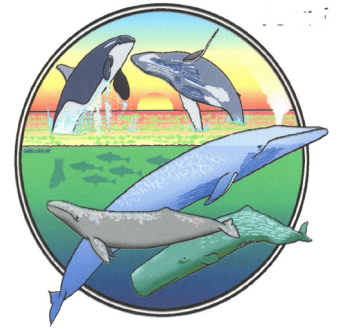
WHALE WATCH

Our 2013 whale watch season is in full swing with whale sightings just about every weekend. The whales are still heading south, most of them quite far out but some in line with the buoy at the entrance to Bodega Bay. Thanks to Ruby Herrick, for bringing us whale cookies, decorated with the “lice” as usual.

Our first day was VERY COLD, 18 hardy volunteers and unfortunately no sightings, but thereafter we’ve had sightings every weekend.

The weekend of 1/19-1/20 there were reports of extremely large swells, so that weekend we had probably close to 1000 visitors both Saturday and Sunday, everybody enjoying both the large swells and the whales swimming by. We are seeing the tail end of the southward migration and towards the end of February we should be seeing the beginning of the northward migration, when the whales swim closer to shore, so come on out and join us for a beautiful day on the coast.

Bea Brunn, Whale Mother



TIDEPOOL REPORT

Hollis Bewley, Tidepool Education Coordinator

Dust off your waders and tide books! The Tidepool programs are gearing up for the spring season with school groups visiting on low-tide weekdays and a number of weekends offering good minus tides for roving naturalists. We’re very pleased to welcome several new docents this year and to re-connect with returning veterans who have become valued friends. This year’s annual morning orientation was followed by an afternoon field seminar at Shell Beach led by Karl

Menard of the Bodega Marine Lab who generously shared his knowledge of all things intertidal. The once omnipresent ochre stars haven’t rebounded from 2011’s Red Tide event, but the group saw bat stars and seeing a beautiful yellow sea lemon (a dorid-type nudibranch) was a special treat. Several of us explored Furlong Gulch on the following weekend and discovered many new colonies of sandcastle worms in their curious honeycomb-like communities sharing rock walls with the usual assortment of barnacles, limpets, chitons, snails, mussels and algae. We’re looking forward to a successful season and if you’re interested in joining us but missed the orientation, please contact Elizabeth Vega (evega@mcn.org) and she’ll bring you up to speed.



INTERPRETATION STATIONS:

Seeing things from Another Perspective

Elizabeth Vega, Environmental Educator

Greetings Fellow Stewards!

Elizabeth Vega here with an update on recent developments in our Environmental Education programs. I am pleased to report that the “Interpretation Stations” are coming together in a very exciting way. We have decided to work with a “Living History” theme. Taking inspiration from the Environmental Living Program, in which students take on roles of important cultural groups, we are developing curriculum which will be presented by docents who will take on the roles of important figures in the history of the forest. Those characters will present the information from the perspective of the specific historical figure. For example, Luther Burbank will be giving a botany lesson, and a Logger will present a station on tree measurement. Other historic and modern perspectives will include Lizzie Armstrong Jones, the Kashia Pomo, Forest Rangers and Stewards. Students will explore the effect of global warming upon California Redwood trees, and in particular, life in the canopy. As ancient survivors of historical and natural events, Redwood trees are thought to be a type of indicator species, and a way of examining the effects of rapid changes in the climate. It is particularly poignant, and appropriate to be cultivating this broad awareness in the minds and hearts of our young visitors. So, if you feel the calling and would like to play a part in our “Living History” Interpretation Stations, give me a call. I’d



Luther Burbank

love to hear from you!

REPORT FROM THE CLASSROOM

Elizabeth Vega, Environmental Educator

Our Environmental Education Classroom Programs are going strong. Guerneville School and Monte Rio School are participating in this year's place-based program. They are enjoying a new and innovative way of learning. I have significant experience with arts integration and music, and have implemented just such a program for Second and Third Graders in these schools. Using music and drum building, I teach lessons which come to life in a musical sense. The frame drum provides a palette for students to paint, draw and write words upon. The ideas presented in the lessons become a part of their drum. For example: One class was interested in learning about the Water Cycle. After learning the vocabulary and then about the cycle, students drew pictures of; the sun which powers the cycle, water in its liquid form, evaporation as the liquid changes to gas, clouds which represent the condensation stage of the cycle, and finally they drew precipitation - rain on their drums. The square frame of the drum provides four faces for information, and each side of the square frame provides four further options for decorating, 16 sides all together. That's a lot of fun and a lot of learning that can be documented and illustrated. Paula Green's class focused upon the three different levels of the forest, creating beautiful illustrations of each level and adding information from a lesson on producers, consumers and decomposers. After all the learning and the drawing and decorating comes the fun of playing the drums. Using a simple Rock Beat, students learned to play and sing along with the beat. The song we learned was a spin-off of the classic "Queen" song, "We will, we will Rock You." Instead, we sang, "we are, we are, connected!" Here are the words to this fun rendition. Maybe you can learn it too!

WE ARE CONNECTED....(Sung to "We will Rock you.")	
WE ARE, WE ARE CONNECTED	4X
EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT THE WATER FLOWS.	ALL AROUND THE PLANET THROUGH OUR BODIES IT GOES
WE'RE A WATERSHED FROM HEAD TO TOE.	EVERY LIVING THING NEEDS A LITTLE WATER YOU KNOW
SINGIN' WE ARE, WE ARE CONNECTED	4X
EVERYBODY BREATHIN O2 IN THE BREEZE.	SENDING CO2 BACK TO THE TREES
SMOG IN YOUR FACE IT'S A BIG DISGRACE.	SPREADIN POLLUTION ALL OVER THE PLACE
SINGIN' WE ARE, WE ARE CONNECTED	4X
EVERYBODY NEEDS A LITTLE FOOD TO SURVIVE.	THE WEB OF LIFE KEEPS US ALL ALIVE
THANKS TO LITTLE CRITTERS ALL THE ANIMALS AND PLANTS.	PROTECT HABITAT, GIVE US ALL A CHANCE

THE HISTORY CORNER

Doris Dickenson, Docent and Author

A Tribute to Lizzie

Few visitors to Armstrong Woods realize that the unpretentious bronze plaque on a granite boulder near the Col. Armstrong Tree is the only memorial to Lizzie Armstrong Jones in the park, even though she was its sole owner from 1898 to 1907.

In 1878, Col. Armstrong gave his youngest daughter, Kate, 400 acres of redwoods at the north end of Big Bottom Valley which he had recently purchased. She remained the legal owner of Armstrong Woods until her death in 1898, when she left the redwood parkland to her sister, Lizzie.

Lizzie gave her brother, Walter, half of the property in 1907. The next year he sold it to local dairyman and banker, Harrison LeBaron. Lizzie worked ceaselessly with Harrison to get Armstrong Woods purchased as public land. It was not until the county election of 1916 that this was finally accomplished.

Lizzie remained a familiar local figure in Guerneville after the death of her husband, Parson Jones, tending to her various rental properties, her church activities, and county-wide women's club affairs. She was described as a quiet, kindly person who made her influence for good felt in many ways.

In the summer of 1924, the Women's Clubs of Santa Rosa held a Pageant of the Redwoods in Armstrong Woods, and Lizzie was to be guest of honor for her efforts on their behalf. However, she was too ill to attend and died in September 1924. On May 29, 1929, the Sonoma County Federation of Women's Clubs dedicated the plaque on the boulder in the park to Lizzie Armstrong Jones. For many years it sat off the edge of the parking lot for the Armstrong Tree, until it recently was moved to the new site near the Col. Armstrong Tree.



Volunteer Opportunities

Call the Stewards office:
869-9177 x1# or email
volparks@mcn.org

Program Activities Armstrong Redwoods

Visitor Center Staffing
Friends of Armstrong
Redwoods
Docent Tour Guides
Trail Maintenance
Habitat Restoration Project
Pond Farm Interest Group

Sonoma Coast State Park

Visitor Center Staffing
Seal Watch
Whale Watch
Tidepool Programs
Watershed Programs
Environmental Living Prog.
Sonoma Coast Stewardship
Pinniped Monitoring
Seabird Monitoring

Other Projects

Office Help & Special
Events

Volunteer Program Coordinators

Joyce Bacci, ARVC
Doris Dickenson, FAR
Laura Parent, Pond Farm
Linda Fisher, Jenner VC
Bob Caricato, Seal Watch
Bea Brunn, Whale Watch
Suzanne Abrams, ELP
Cindy Gillease, Willow
Creek Education Program
Bill Bambrick, Sonoma Coast
Water Quality Monitoring
and Trail Crews
The Sorensens, Marine
Debris & Beach Cleanups
Hollis & Jerry Bewley,
Tidepool Programs
Louise Patterson, MAU
Mark Anderson, Foot Patrol

Special Events



CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION'S
16TH ANNUAL

EARTH DAY RESTORATION & CLEANUP SONOMA COAST STATE PARK

April 13, 2013 • 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Registration by 4/8/13 required: www.calparks.org/earthday



MEET AT THE VISITOR CENTER IN JENNER FOR ALL SITES

- North Jenner Beach Land-based Cleanup - 9:00 am
- Russian River Estuary & Penny Island Paddle Cleanup - 8:30 am
Register for Paddle Cleanup with WaterTreks 707-865-2249
Visit website for details: www.watertreks.com/EarthDayCleanup.php
- Campsite Relocation at Pomo Canyon Campground - 9:00 am
Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, bring gloves and water bottle
Water, Refreshments and Lunch will be provided. Carpooling encouraged.



Sponsors
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods
Groups please contact Stewards

INFO: (707) 869-9177 • stewards@mcn.org • www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org



Enjoy Happy Hour with Stewards at Sophie's Cellars Duncans Mills



Friday, April 5, 2013 • 4-7pm
Appetizers - \$10/person
Wine/Beer - \$5 a glass

Musical Entertainment

Event benefits

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Pre-event tickets at www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org

Sponsored by: **Sophie's
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Upcoming Seminars

The Art of Tracking: Seeing Patterns on a Landscape

Saturday, March 23, 2013, 9 am - Noon
Bodega Bay First District and Sonoma Coast State Park
Instructor: Meghan Walla-Murphy, Biologist

Birding on the Sonoma Coast

Sunday, April 7, 2013, 9 am to Noon
Goat Rock State Beach
Instructor: Lisa Hug, naturalist and birding guide

Introduction to the Coastal Prairie

Saturday, April 20, 2013, 9 am – 2 pm, bring lunch
Bodega Bay Fire District and Sonoma Coast State Park
Instructor: Michelle Cooper, Bodega Marine Lab

Archeology and History of Sonoma Coast

Saturday, May 4, 2013, 9 am – 2 pm, bring lunch
Jenner Community Club and Sonoma Coast State Park
Instructor: Tom Origer, Professional Archeologist

Cultural History of Sonoma Coast

Saturday, May 18, 2013, 1 pm – 4 pm, bring lunch
Location TBD
Instructors: Daniel Murley, Historian, Retired State Park Ranger and more

The Legacy of Pond Farm Pottery

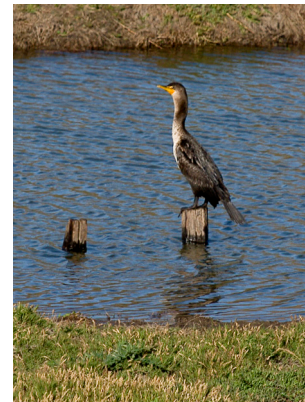
Date and Time: June 1, 2013, 9 am to Noon
Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve
Instructors: Anthony VeerKamp, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Laura Parent, State Parks

Harbor Seal Viewing by Kayak

Sunday, June 2, 2013, 9 am – Noon
Jenner Boat Launch
Instructor: Suki Waters, WaterTreks EcoTours

Register online at:

http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/seminar_registrationpage.htm



Double Crested Cormorant

In Appreciation of our Donors

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California Coastal Commission
California State Parks Foundation
Community Foundation Sonoma County
County of Sonoma
Dean Witter Foundation
The Medtronic Foundation
Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation
The National Environmental Education Fnd
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Olmsted Park Fund
Save the Redwoods League
The Sebastopol Rotary

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Tina Kelly
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Pamela Horton
Martin Jones
Bo Kearns
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Rob Milton
Diane Moor
Robin Phoenix
Clark Pillsbury
Gloria Powers
Danielle Trynolds
Jean Kingery Smith
Jane Straight
Zolton & Imri Vasale

Special Events (Continued)

Check our website for more details

Armstrong Redwoods/Austin Creek Run - May 4, 2013 - <http://www.pctrailruns.com>

Family Day in YOUR Park - June 22, 2013, Noon to 5:00, Armstrong Redwoods (bilingual)
Family entertainment, horse and carriage rides, activities for children, food & beverages

Art in the Park - July 13, 2013, Noon to 5:00, Armstrong Redwoods
Art exhibit and sale, entertainment, wine and beer tasting, food

Old Grove Festival - September 14, 2013, Armstrong Redwoods
Ramble in the Redwoods - A cross generational evening of 'Americana' featuring the sons of Phil Lesh and their band American Jubilee and many of their talented friends from the Marin music scene. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind spontaneous musical event at the magical Forest Theater. Special guests to be announced as they sign on to the 'Ramble' in the next few months.

www.oldgrovefestival.org

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

PO Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430

(707) 869.9177, FAX (707) 869.8252

stewards@mcn.org, stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org

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**CALL 800-320-0476
TO MAKE A
VEHICLE DONATION
IN THE NAME OF
STEWARDS.**

For information on contributing to Stewards' Endowments please contact Michele Luna at (707) 869-9177 X4# or mluna@mcn.org

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Membership Form

YES, I'd like to become a member.

- Senior/Student \$25.00
Individual \$30.00
Family \$45.00
Contributing \$100.00
Sustaining \$150.00
Business \$150.00
Patron \$250.00 plus
Osprey Circle \$500.00 plus

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

I'd like to help with an additional donation of \$_____

Payment type: Check Charge Card Visa MC Total tax deductible donation \$_____

Make check payable to Stewards. Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Annual Renewal Date: February 1 Signature: _____

Bequests

Your Gift to the Future of State Park Preservation

With your help, future generations will enjoy the State Parks in the Russian River District, including education and stewardship programs supported by Stewards. A gift to Stewards is a rewarding form of giving from your estate.

There are several types of charitable bequests by will (or beneficiary designation).

Sample:

I hereby give and bequeath to Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California, with a principal address at P.O. Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430, _____ percent of my estate, (or) the sum of _____ dollars, (or) the following assets _____, Tax ID # _____ provided upon request. Contact your legal advisor for further information. There are also other planned giving options for your consideration.