

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

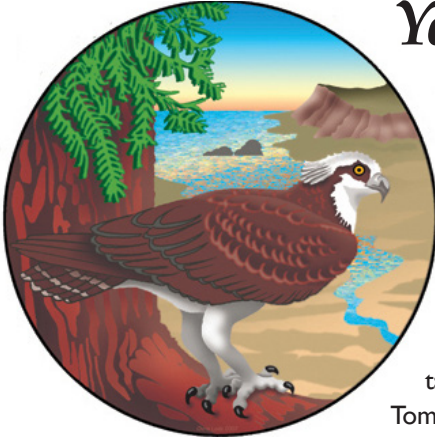
Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River District State Parks

Volume XXVIII, Number 2, Summer 2013

Your Parks: Open & Alive with Fun

Michele Luna, Executive Director



There is so much to do in your state parks this summer. Stewards has been busy working with State Parks to open up areas that have been closed for 2-3 years. There are also new wedding and special event sites to rent in Austin Creek.

BULLFROG POND CAMPGROUND

Bullfrog Pond campground is open for its first full season in two years. Since Memorial Day weekend we have been full every Friday and Saturday nights. There is plenty of availability during the week which is a great time to come out and enjoy this lovely, well-maintained campground. On Sundays, we have Junior Ranger activities for children, compliments of Tom Webb, our Field Operations Manager and Naturalist. (See page 3 for the upcoming schedule of programs). The downside is that fire closures are already in effect, which is very early in the year.

Last year, closures didn't happen until August so that means we are losing some camping business and the revenue we hoped to generate through firewood sales. We do want to do our part to lessen the chance of wildland fires so this is something we have to accept. We are successfully taking reservations for groups who want to book 4 or more campsites at one time (one group per night). Check our website for our brochures: <http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/austincreekstaterecreationarea.htm>.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPSITES IN AUSTIN CREEK

As of Memorial Day weekend, we opened the Austin Creek backcountry sites. Thank you to those campers who have been patiently awaiting this opportunity during the past two years. It's first come, first serve and **Pack it in, Pack it out**. You can have as many as 16 people per campsite. There are three campsites available: Tom King, Mannings Flat #1 and #2. Check our website for more information: <http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/austincreekstaterecreationarea.htm>.

POMO CANYON CAMPGROUND

Stewards is also pleased to offer camping opportunities at Pomo Canyon Campground for groups who work with us on a stewardship project or participate in an educational program for a few hours during their stay. We are excited to have scout groups interested in helping us finish a campsite relocation project that we started on Earth Day. If you are interested, we invite you to contact

Continued on page 3

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 3 & 7 for details

Junior Ranger Programs - Every Sunday morning from	10- 11 am
Family Day in YOUR Park	June 22
Harbor Seal Viewing with docent Bill Bambrick	July 4
Nesting Birds of Bodega Bay with Naturalist Hollis Bewley	July 6
Art in the Park	July 13
Sunset/Moonrise Red Hill hike with Rich Lawton	July 22
Stargazing in Austin Creek SRA	Aug. 10
Old Grove Festival - Ramble in the Redwoods	Sept. 14

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E-News

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Michele Luna, Stewards Executive Director

Opening closed areas of our state parks has been a great accomplishment by Stewards taken on less than a year ago. Now the task at hand is to work on plans to sustain our efforts through new funding endeavors. During the past few months we have been working on some ideas that we hope will eventually bring in the funding needed to sustain new park operations into the future.

Weddings/Events in Austin Creek

We have identified five locations in Austin Creek that are suitable for different types and sizes of gatherings. Just this week, we booked a small, intimate wedding at Vista Point, with its expansive views. Other options may accommodate groups as large as 80 guests. Schoolhouse Flat is a special location because it has a nice flat area suitable for tables and chairs overlooking a lovely view of Austin Creek. There are also spots under the redwoods in the campground that would work for larger groups and there is a lovely spot overlooking Bullfrog Pond that would work for a very small ceremony. Check our website for a special event packet with pricing and options.



Vista Point View

Fee-based School Programs

There are school groups that can afford to pay for residential programs providing redwood ecology and tide pool activities in western Sonoma County. We would like to develop outdoor camping experiences for youth that include an enriching educational component as well. We've also submitted a funding proposal for an aquatic safety and job training program for teens.

Expanded Outreach and a Presence on Sonoma Coast

With the number of programs we offer on Sonoma Coast, we are seriously exploring options for having an additional office location and presence in the Bodega Bay area of Sonoma Coast. In addition, we have a vision of a Marine Education Center on the coast with perhaps a collaborative partnership with the Bodega Marine Lab and others. Stay tuned for more about this idea and a public meeting to engage the public in the process of exploring this option with us.

Pond Farm Pottery, the Legacy of Marguerite Wildenhain

Our partnership with the California State Parks Foundation (CSPF), the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) and California State Parks (CSP) is blossoming into a wonderful collaborative effort. The NTHP awarded Stewards a \$10,000 grant to pay for the cost estimates that made it possible



Marguerite throwing a pot.

for State Parks to submit a grant proposal for Prop 84 Cultural funds. We are very pleased to announce that State Parks was awarded close to \$500,000 to start the stabilization of the buildings at Pond Farm. The CSPF is also funding a business plan to explore the options of sustainable funding for this internationally recognized cultural site and State Parks is working on submitting the paperwork needed to give national registry status to Pond Farm.

Our partnership is hosting our first stakeholder meeting on June 20th, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Guerneville Vets Hall. We invite anyone interested in exploring options for the future of Pond Farm to attend. More information about the meeting can be found at: http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/pdf/pond_farm-for-print.pdf

PARKS FORWARD

California State Parks

represent the pride of our state throughout modern history. They offer residents and visitors a front-row seat to our culture, natural splendor and history. From the serenity of our state beaches to the majesty of our redwoods and history in the writings on our cave walls, our state parks offer learning, relaxation, entertainment, exercise and adventure.

A new Blue Ribbon Task Force is currently being formed to address the stresses that California State Parks have encountered in the past years due to their lack of financial sustainability. This initiative is being supported by the Resources Legacy Fund, a donor-driven enterprise "whose mission is to help philanthropic institutions and individuals ensure the protection and stewardship of resilient and vibrant natural systems that support healthy communities and economic vitality." This task force will work on a collaborative three-year effort to develop and implement a new vision and long-term plan for State Parks.



This is very exciting news for those of us who have been struggling for years to come up with solutions for keeping our parks open and thriving. A website (www.parksforward.com) and facebook page (www.facebook.com/ParksForward) have been set up to keep track of the volunteer commission's progress.

We expect that some of the success that Stewards is seeing with its model of keeping Austin Creek open will be looked at as an example of how parks can be operated in partnership with California State Parks in the future. We see ways that nonprofits can assist that save time and money and, equally, there are responsibilities that State Parks have the expertise to do best. We are encouraged by this step forward that is endorsed by the new Director of State Parks, General Anthony Jackson.

YOUR PARKS: OPEN & ALIVE WITH FUN!

Continued from page 1

the Stewards' office (707) 869-9177. We are paying for portable restrooms at Pomo Canyon Campground for the whole summer and early fall, so take advantage of this opportunity to utilize this very special environmental campground in the redwoods near the magnificent Sonoma Coast.

ARMSTRONG REDWOODS QUEST

A Quest is an interactive treasure hunt that uses rhyming, poetic, and artistic clues to guide the taker to a hidden treasure that awaits them upon completion. But the joy is not simply in finding the treasure at the end, it is in the sharpening of one's perceptive senses and the deepening of one's sense of place. Thanks to a group of volunteers who started the development of a Quest for Armstrong Redwoods (Mike Roa, Bill Bambrick, Vicki Vidak-Martinez) and David Berman's expertise, our Quest for Armstrong Redwoods is now ready for testing. You can pick up a copy at the Armstrong Redwoods entrance kiosk, the visitor center or the Stewards' office. Then let us know what you think, and above all "happy questing."

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAMS AT THE BULLFROG POND CAMPFIRE CENTER

Every Sunday morning from 10 to 11 am - Open to campers as well as any park visitor who pays for day-use.

Sun June 16th: Planet Earth and the Rock Cycle

Learn about what the earth is made out of and about the 3 types of rock and how they are made. Play a rock ID game, learning how to ID common rocks of the area.

Sun June 23rd: Introduced Plants and Animals

Learn how plants and animals came to this area because of humans by playing a matching game. Learn about the impacts of each introduced species.



Chickeree

Sun June 30th: Weather

Learn about the water cycle and how to read a weather map. Also learn how to record weather by using the instruments that meteorologists use.

Sun July 7th: Our Solar System

Learn about the planets in our solar system by playing games with pictures.

Sun July 14th: Symbiotic/Parasitic Relationships

Learn about ecological relationships going on in the forest right in front of you, as well as those that may go on elsewhere.

Sun July 21st: Sudden Oak Death (SOD)

Learn all about SOD with pictures and a through a game where you go out and check for symptoms in the forest around you.

Sun July 28th: Bullfrog Pond Life

Explore the pond with nets, magnifying glasses using simple containers. Search around the pond for life and learn to use a field guide to look up and talk about what you find.

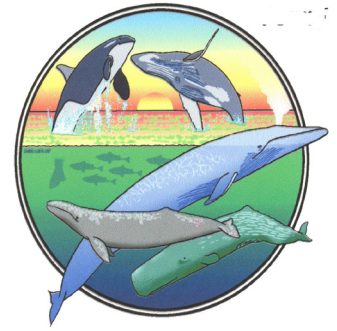
Sun August 4th: Water testing

Use water test kits and check the water of bullfrog pond. Check the ph, turbidity, nitrates, phosphates, etc, and compare it with other local water sources. Learn about what makes a healthy watershed.

PROGRAM UPDATES

WHALE WATCH

Bea Brunn, Whale Mother



We are already getting close to the end of our regular whale migration, which will end the first weekend of June. We had our first northward sighting the middle of February and our first mother/calf sighting at the beginning of April. We all agree that the northward migration this season has been somewhat different with fewer sightings and some of them further out to sea. The weather also has not been cooperating with us, as we had several weekends with up to 50-60 mph winds which we then had to cancel. However toward the end of April and beginning in May we had our usual great showing of mothers/calves - all very close in to the delight of our volunteers as well as all the visitors to Bodega Head.

Again I wish to thank all our faithful volunteers who showed up every weekend and who are talking to all our visitors and helping them look for the whales.

TIDEPOOL REPORT

Hollis Bewley, Tidepool Education Volunteer Coordinator



The Tidepool Education spring season is “winding down” this week with four classroom visits over three days. Almost 200 students are visiting the coast for a tide pool experience this week and we’re able to accommodate them all thanks to a great group of new volunteers who joined us this year, our veteran docents

and two of the Stewards staff who are putting on docent vests and carrying field guides too.

The season began with a field trip to Campbell Cove which was very special because we were able to accommodate two first-grade students who are physically challenged, thanks to the support of Stewards and Parks staff and a State Parks beach chair with big balloon wheels. You know it’s going to be a good day when one of the first discoveries is a little red octopus stranded on the beach by the outgoing tide. Everyone was treated



Docents pow wow before the students arrive.

to a glimpse of this wonderfully intelligent animal who looked back at us. The morning ended with tall ships sailing into Bodega Harbor, greeted by excited shouts of “Jolly Roger! Pirate ship!” from the kids running along the shore.

A field trip to Furlong Gulch began with a student yelling “Whale!” and we turned to see the blows of a mother gray whale and her calf side-by-side close to the shoreline. Once we got down to the beach, we were excited to find 6 or 7 juvenile purple



Red octopus at Campbell Cove

urchins, the first we’ve seen since the Red Tide event of 2011, a sign that they’re recovering and will hopefully be a common sight in our tide pools once again.

As the summer months approach, the minus tides will be occurring in the very early hours of daylight. A quiet early morning beach can be filled with treasures and very few footprints, so keep your tide book and field guide handy. But don’t forget to look up occasionally – you could miss a tall ship or even a whale.



Tall Ships arrive in Bodega Bay!

SEABIRD PROTECTION AND CITIZEN SCIENCE MONITORING PROGRAM

Hollis Bewley, Volunteer Program Coordinator

The Seabird Protection and Citizen Science Monitoring program began early this year thanks to funding from the Bureau of Land Management. Stewards is partnering with the California Coastal National Monument (CCNM) and Seabird Protection Network to monitor seabirds off the Sonoma Coast and eventually create a local chapter of the Seabird Protection Network. Our work will aim to reduce human disturbance to seabirds and other wildlife along the California coast through an organized outreach and education program combined with law enforcement and seabird management actions.

Thanks to the guidance of Diane Hichwa who has been working with the Sea Ranch program



Common Murre Colony

for a number of years, volunteer citizen-scientists have been monitoring three sites along the Sonoma Coast: Gull Rock which is home to a new colony of common murre (COMU), Gleason Rock, home to colonies of double-crested cormorants (DCCO) and pigeon guillemots (PIGU) and Bodega Rock, which hosts a colony of Brandt's Cormorants (BRAC) as well as California sea lions and other pinnipeds which are also being counted. Enthusiastic monitors

have been amazed to see common murre marching up and down their rock, cormorants displaying their intense blue throats and building nests, and just recently, the first nestlings exercising their wings. Volunteers have already filed several reports of low-flying aircraft which are potential sources of disturbance to these wonderful birds.

Would you like to become involved? Check out the Seabird Monitoring page on the Stewards website at http://stewardsofthecoast-andredwoods.org/st_seabirdmonitoring.htm and contact Michele Luna at mluna@mcn.org or Hollis Bewley at hollisbewley@comcast.net.



Docents training at Bodega Head

THE HISTORY CORNER

THE GREAT ESCAPE

Doris Dickenson, Docent and Author

James B. Armstrong served in the Civil War on two different occasions, neither one of which was without incident.

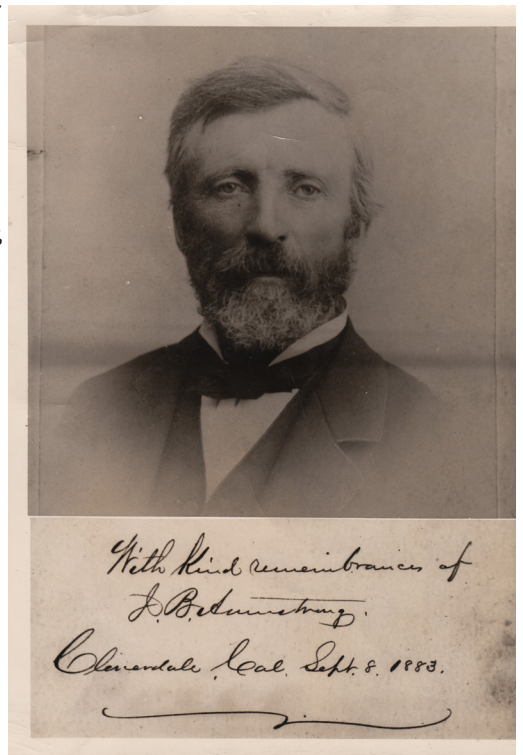
In August 1862, two years after the start of the Civil War, successful Ohio banker James Armstrong volunteered for service. Even though he had no previous military experience, he became a lieutenant-colonel with the 95th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

After only two weeks of service, and some disagreement with his commanding officer, James and most of his regiment were taken prisoner during the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky. His favorite, and valuable, horse was captured with him and James was given permission by the camp general to keep the horse with him. However, when the troops were paroled (sent home to wait for exchange with enemy troops) the new camp general refused to let him take his horse. Nothing was going to stop James, so he rode off, pursued by the Rebel cavalry, and outdistanced them as he rode back to Ohio.

This whole adventure was recorded in great detail in the Cincinnati Commercial newspaper, but that wasn't the end of the story.

When the 95th Regiment was reactivated in October, James was not among the group. He claimed that he had never been regularly mustered into the United States service and was retiring.

In November 1862, the Adjutant General's Office issued a Special Order "by direction of the President" dismissing Lt. Col. James B. Armstrong for absence without leave. However, fortunately for James, his dismissal was revoked at the request of Major General Lewis Wallace, and James remained in retirement for the next year and a half.



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 & EcoAdventures

Harbor Seal Colony at the Russian River Mouth with Seal Watcher, Bill Bambrick Thursday, July 4, 2013, 9:00 am to Noon

Begin your morning at the Visitor Center in Jenner for a short natural history slide show about the Harbor Seal Colony. Then view the harbor seals from the Jenner overlook and Goat Rock State Beach. Bill has been a dedicated Seal Watcher since 2003 with a wealth of knowledge about this fascinating marine mammals that docents work so hard to protect. Dress in layers and bring water and a snack.

Nesting Birds of Bodega Bay with Naturalist Hollis Bewley

Saturday, July 6, 2013, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

See nesting sea and water birds of Bodega Bay and the Sonoma Coast raising their families on our offshore rocks. During an easy walk we hope to see black oystercatchers, cormorants, Western gulls and pigeon guillemots with a stop along Bodega Harbor to see fabulous great blue herons. Meet in the Bodega Head parking lot. Dress in layers, bring water, binoculars and a camera.

Sunset/Moonrise Red Hill Hike with retired Ranger Rich Lawton

Monday, July 22, 2013, 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm,

Hike will start at Shell Beach at 6:30 PM and stop at the top of Red Hill to watch the sunset and the moonrise. Don't miss this very special experience! Sunset is at 8:27 and Moonrise is at 8:19. Share photo tips with fellow hikers: panoramic shots, low light shots and of course sunset and moonrise shots. (More details online)

Stargazing in Austin Creek SRA

Saturday, August 10, 2013, 7:30 to 10:30 pm

Linda Sinkay and Jim Goodenough will guide us in a unique and memorable evening of viewing dozens of night sky objects, including planets, nebula, galaxies, stars and star clusters. Their Orion telescopes are state of the art and viewing in a location like Austin Creek will be a magical experience.

\$15 per person non-members of Stewards
\$5 per person for Stewards' members
(Under 16 Free)

Information and Register online:
[www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/
ecoadventures.htm](http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/ecoadventures.htm)

Old Grove Festival

"RAMBLE IN THE REDWOODS" - Sept 14

The Old Grove Festival is going to be amazing this year. Our invited artists are going to 'Ramble' through the evening taking turns performing with our house band, Houston Jones, high octane Americana. Visit our website to view YouTube videos of all our performers. www.oldgrovefestival.org

Artists to date include:
Carlos Reyes - Master of the harp and violin with fans all over the world.
Shana Morrison - Daughter of Van Morrison described as 'jazz chanteuse and rock chick.'
Alexander Nelson - Acclaimed California singer/songwriter and guitarist and the brother of Jackie Greene will blow you away!
Teresa Tudury - Teresa takes you on a musical journey of wild and powerful songs and stories from the depths of her incredibly rich and inspiring repertoire.
David Luning - David is one of the amazing young, local talents that deserves your attention. His music is original, real, and fun.
Jim and Kathy Ocean - Local musicians with a flair.



Sonoma Coast

UC California Naturalist Certification Program

at

The Occidental Arts and Ecology Center



Thursday, Aug. 15 - Thursday, Aug. 22, 2013

This week long residential intensive 40 hour class will introduce you to the wonders the Sonoma Coast and engage you in the stewardship of California's natural communities.

Through the University of California Naturalist program participants become active members in a growing movement of conservation, citizen science, and volunteer activism. This unique ecosystem offers a landscape where temperate rain forest meets Mediterranean chaparral.



Participants will explore the redwood forests, oak woodlands, and riparian habitats of California's coastal mountains. Class lectures and field trips will also take students from these coastal ranges to the ocean, informing about coastal prairies, estuaries, and marine tidal zones.

This course combines science curriculum, journaling, guest lecturers, daily field study, off site trips, and local cultural knowledge. The California Naturalist Program promotes environmental literacy and stewardship through discovery and action.

For questions contact Instructors:

David Berman: david5@sonic.net Meghan Walla-Murphy: phoksumdo.mwm@gmail.com

Read about how to register on our [OAEC website](http://www.oaec.org)

www.oaec.org

or call (707) 874-1557 ext. 101

In Appreciation of our Donors

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Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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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

RENEWAL

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.