

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River District State Parks

Volume XXIX, Number 2, Summer 2014



Watch for our new “Stewards Ship”

Michele Luna, Executive Director

Stewards is very excited to share our news of wonderful progress on the development of our new Mobile Marine Education Center, aka our “Stewards Ship.” We have purchased a Step Van that is in great condition with very low mileage with funding provided by the Dean Witter Foundation. Our design team is working with graphic designer Christopher Lods, who designed our programs graphics and colorized our organization logo. With Christopher’s professional help we are designing an interactive graphic for the vehicle that depicts the marine ecosystem that Stewards works very hard to protect through education, monitoring and stewardship programs. We are also working with Speedpro Imaging in Santa Rosa to wrap our entire “Stewards Ship” with the graphic image, and are grateful to Speedpro for offering Stewards a partial donation for their services.

Our Marine Education Center is one component of a larger project being funded by the State Coastal Conservancy’s Explore the Coast grant program to support activities that allow more people to explore California’s spectacular coast and provide visitors with new opportunities. Our projects will enhance visitors’ ability to learn about natural, recreational, cultural and historic resources on the Sonoma Coast. Stewards will increase our communication and outreach with coastal tourism businesses and develop new interpretive information and educational materials. In addition, we have plans to enhance ADA access at Campbell Cove, provide new Eco Adventures on the Coast and provide transportation scholarships for school groups as part of our Exploring Nature through Science and Camping in Parks programs.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Implementing our program objectives is dependent on recruiting volunteers to drive our “Stewards Ship” to locations on Sonoma Coast on the weekends, to schools and to special events. Volunteers will also be trained to conduct interactive activities and Eco

Adventures with park visitors of all ages. If you are interested in these wonderful opportunities please contact Stewards’ Program Director David Berman at david@stewardscr.org.

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@stewardscr.org

www.stewardscr.org

MARK YOUR CALENDER

Junior Ranger Programs	Sundays at 10 am at Bullfrog Pond Campground. Free for young campers.
Family Weekend in YOUR Parks	Weekend of June 21st & June 22nd
Stargazing Programs in Austin Creek	June 27, July 25-26, August 23 8 pm at Vista Point, See page 7 for details
Art in the Park	Saturday, July 12th
Austin Creek Sunset Dinner	Saturday, August 2nd
Bodega Seafood, Art and Wine Festival	Weekend of August 23rd & 24th
Old Grove Festival	Saturday, September 13th

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Michele Luna, Stewards Executive Director

In the last quarter, Stewards has accomplished a great deal. We hosted the Annual California League of Park Associations (CALPA) Conference in Guerneville in partnership with the Fort Ross Conservancy. We received kudos for our efforts to provide other Associations that support their State Parks with an opportunity to network, learn and visit Fort Ross, Sonoma Coast, Armstrong Redwoods and Pond Farm Pottery in Austin Creek. We heard from Rue Mapp of Outdoor Afro and Irma Cuevas of Regional Parks who spoke about engaging youth of all colors in outdoor experiences. We heard from the Director of State Parks, who has recently announced his retirement effective on June 30th. We also received an update from the Parks Forward Commission as they released their Draft Report, which can be found on their website, www.parksforward.com. In addition, we completed our Docent and Community Education Program for this season and provided orientations and seminars for close to 600 participants.

The Parks Forward Commission report is worth additional mention since it is our hope that the following will be accomplished:

- Long-term protection for the natural and cultural resources in our Parks
- Improved access for all Californians
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and communities
- Engaging youth by fostering deeper connections with nature and promoting leadership skills
- Building an effective Department of Parks and Recreation through collaborative partnerships
- Secure predictable, stable sources of public funding for local, regional and State Parks

You are encouraged to visit their website for future meetings and to comment on the complete document by June 30, 2014.



EXPLORING NATURE THROUGH SCIENCE

WILLOW CREEK ACADEMY~CAMPING IN PARKS PROGRAM

On May 19th, 8th graders from Willow Creek Academy in Marin County set out on a 4-day wilderness adventure.

We began exploring Armstrong Redwoods, then camped out at Pomo Canyon, trekked 7 miles back and forth to Shell Beach, canoed down the Russian River from Burkes Canoe to Guerneville, and courageously cabled through the Alliance Redwoods Canopy Course.

Totally tuckered out, but rich in memories, the students left with increased confidence, teambuilding skills, and a deep love for this place we call West County.



Special thank you to Programs Director David Berman, Naturalists Susanna Mayo and Elizabeth Vega and Board Members Gregory Fearon and Erin Davis for making this program possible.

TIDE POOL MANIA

Hollis Bewley, Board Member & Tidepool and Seabird Monitoring Coordinator



The Tide Pool Education program got off to a slow start this spring due to an unusual shortage of negative tides coinciding with weekdays. But we caught up during one week in May when we guided seven school groups with over 375 students, their parents and teachers through the intertidal over just three days on three beaches. The weather was glorious, the coast was showing off its beauty and best of all, students were overheard exclaiming “What a cool place!” and “Best field trip EVER!” Many thanks to our wonderful team of tide pool education docents, Stewards’ naturalists and a few classmates from the UC California Naturalist program who all pitched in to help provide a wonderful experience for these students, enhancing their educational objectives of learning more about this very special ecosystem firsthand and the different and marvelous ways its inhabitants have adapted to survive its challenges.

SEABIRD MONITORING

Carol Farnes, Seabird Monitoring Volunteer

I started monitoring seabirds at a rock close to Gleason Beach last year. I loved the intimacy of being able to watch individual birds as they progressed through courting to nesting and raising chicks. This year I continue to monitor there and find myself wondering if I am observing the same birds. The double crested cormorants are nesting on the top of the rock this year amongst some low vegetation, not on the front face as last year, so they are more difficult to spot, but on my last shift I was able to see three babies! The western gulls are also on the top and I eagerly await seeing their chicks which are unbearably cute and fuzzy, like a baby chicken with brown spots.

As I had such an enjoyable time last year I decided to try the other two rocks as well this year. The trail down to Gull Rock is across the coastal prairie and right now there are wildflowers everywhere. Sometimes it’s so foggy that you can’t even see the rock, but when it clears the reward is a seething mass of Common Murres looking to the unpracticed eye like little penguins standing at attention rubbing shoulders with each other. I wonder how we are going to be able to count the chicks when they come. There are also 2 kinds of cormorants and a few Pigeon Guillemots with their pretty red feet making a total of around 700 birds.



Bodega Rock is even further away from the vantage point but it is a very exciting place. Hundreds of Brandt’s Cormorants have staked out spots on the upper and seaward portions, whilst lower down and at the harbor end are hundreds of pinnipeds. I have seen a few very impressive Steller sea lions there, which I haven’t seen anywhere else along our stretch of coast. On two occasions so far we have seen whales with their calves go by much to everyone’s delight. The cormorants build their nests out of guano, which look like dormant volcanos on the rock. Last time I was there nearly all the nests were occupied. We thought we saw a few youngsters but it was very hard for us to tell. Brown pelicans also like to rest on the rock and we usually see a few other species in the waters just off the cliff in front of us.

The other benefit of the program is that it brings together some wonderful volunteers all equally enthused about observing the birds. Some of them are very experienced birders, others know many wildflowers and grasses. All are ready to share - we work hard, we laugh a lot and we help each other.

WHALE WATCH

Bea Brunn, Whale Mother



Whale at Goat Rock

Whale Watch has been going strong this year and we are getting close to the end. As usual we have had many dedicated and sturdy volunteers as we had some very blistery days on "Blowdega Head." In May, we had some fantastic shows, especially the cows/calves on their northbound migration with many breachings close to shore to the delight of not only our volunteers but many, many visitors.

We are also really excited about the reports from Los Angeles areas that this year there have been many more sightings of mothers/calves than ever before. On that note, we are looking forward to another great whale watch season in our area. A heartfelt thanks to all our great volunteers.



THE HISTORY CORNER SAVE THE PARK

Most of us associate Colonel Armstrong's family with saving Armstrong Woods for public use, but there was also another family that shared this responsibility. This was the Harrison LeBaron family.

Harrison M. LeBaron, a native of North Hatley, Quebec, was born in 1842. In Canada, he went into the mercantile business. After he moved to the United States he studied photography in New York, briefly became a teacher in Minnesota, then came to California in 1873 at age 31. He lived with his uncle, Hollis Hitchcock, in Valley Ford. After his marriage in 1879, Harrison bought his own ranch, where he operated mercantile and lumbering businesses and also engaged in dairying.

When Harrison's uncle became the first president of the Dairymen's Bank of Valley Ford, Harrison was the first cashier, and eventually became president of the bank. Hollis Hitchcock was also one of the organizers of the Exchange Bank of Santa Rosa. Harrison LeBaron was naturalized in 1889. He was a staunch Republican and served in the California State Assembly for the 13th District.*

After Lizzie Armstrong Jones gave her brother, Walter, half of Armstrong Woods in 1907, he sold his land to Harrison LeBaron in 1908. Lizzie gave Harrison an option on her land, and together they began the fight to preserve Armstrong Woods for the public.

After Harrison's death in 1913, his six sons formed the LeBaron Estate Corporation and worked with Lizzie until the park was sold to Sonoma County in 1917. The estate, along with Lizzie, each gave \$5000 toward the \$80,000 purchase price by the county.

Several members of the LeBaron family have visited Armstrong Woods in recent years and continue to be interested in our area.

Doris Dickenson, Docent and Author

*Basli, Karen, Looking For LeBarons, 2014



Harrison Melvin LeBaron

Stewards Wish List

Tents, sleeping bags, pads, tarps, flashlights etc.
Camp Cooking Equipment
Laptop Computer - Windows 7
Desktop Computer - Windows 7
Binoculars
Rain Jackets/Ponchos
Plastic Storage Bins

Volunteer Needs

The following programs need additional volunteers in the upcoming year:

Seal Watch
Watershed Education Program
Tide Pool Programs
Armstrong Tour Guides
Jenner Visitor Center
Special Events

For more information contact David Berman
707-869-9177 x7#, david@stewardscr.org

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF STEWARDSHIP

A report from the field

They're "Smart with a Heart!" That's what folks are saying about the students at Guerneville Elementary School. This year Paula Green's 2nd & 3rd grade class participated in a Brain Quest fund raiser and they answered 99 out of 100 questions correctly. This earned them a nice little chunk of change and they decided to share 10% with Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods. We want to send a great big "Thank You!" out to the students and their teacher. Paula has really been planting the seeds of stewardship in their hearts and minds. Her dedication to the Place-Based Program is commendable and we are so grateful to have had her unwavering support for these past years.



Elizabeth Vega singing with the students

Tammy Leydon, another teacher at Guerneville School, has also been a pillar of strength to our program for many years. Her participation has produced many dedicated environmentalists. Students in her 2nd grade class develop a passion and then as adults go on to find their own place in the world, a place to use their energies and care for our planet in very real ways. I am reminded of our own Laura Parent, whose daughter Rachael, passed through both Paula and Tammy's tutelage, to become an environmental advocate in her own right. Rachael recently graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in Environmental Studies and is working now with our friends over at Westminster Woods. Tammy shared another of her pupils with us recently. We were fortunate to have at our last donor event, a very special guest speaker, Miss Alexis Woods, who is fast becoming a poster child for Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods. She is an articulate young lady who feels strongly about caring for our natural world. An emissary at eight, isn't that great! Thanks for planting those beautiful seeds, Tammy. We're sprouting Stewards all over the place!

Another thank you goes out to the Guerneville School, to Rebecca Allison-Anderson, a new teacher with our program. Becky

bravely stepped in and stepped up last year. We are so glad to have her with us. And to the principal at Guerneville School who tends the garden of teachers who plant the seeds, we say "Thanks again Elaine!" We love your school, your teachers, and your students.



Monte Rio School has also been working hard to instill those stewardship values in their students, and doing a nice job, I might add. Perhaps you saw them on the front page of Sonoma County's recycling newspaper. They've really "gone green!" This year Marin Schumacher's 1st & 2nd grade class joined Ms. Theresa's 4th grade class to participate in some stewardship projects at Pomo Campgrounds. Students worked hard to clear paths and create a safe access to Willow Creek, where the Watershed Program students receive their instruction. They also learned about erosion and replanted an area which was lacking in understory plants. Thank you so much to those great teachers and students, and to Jennifer Schwinn, their fearless leader and principal, who shares our love of the redwoods.

A special moment for me this year happened as I looked out over the beautiful faces of our children, so lovely and shining with trust and enthusiasm. We were teaching about flowers and it struck me how these thoughtful and innocent children are indeed the blooms of our hope. I feel blessed and lucky to tend to this lovely field of wild flowers. Many thanks to my fellow Naturalists who have joined in this year to share the task and the joy. Cindy Gillease, Suzanna Mayo, and Sophia Everett have each brought their own special strengths and resources to the classroom and the forest. It has been a pleasure to have them with me this year. Our wonderful Michael



Roa has been so helpful and a great addition to the team. Special thanks to Bill Nay who has visited our schools with his fascinating tracks and artifacts. To our own fearless leaders, David Burman and Michele Luna, thank you for making this program available for local children to learn about their very own place in the world. And lastly dear reader, I send a note of thanks to you, for being a model and a mentor to our up and coming Stewards. Thank you for all you do.

Elizabeth Haze Vega, California Naturalist

A Summer of Special Events

Volunteer Opportunities

Call the Stewards office:
869-9177 x7# or email
david@stewardscr.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
Jim Fleming, 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
Hollis Bewley, Seabird
Monitoring
Louise Patterson, MAU
Mark Anderson, Foot Patrol

ECO ADVENTURES!

Enjoy Adventures in Russian River State Parks from the Redwoods to the Coast

Exciting Summer Events

Junior Ranger Programs at Bullfrog Pond Campground - FREE

10:00 to 11:00 am, Sundays June through August 2014

Stargazing in Austin Creek SRA

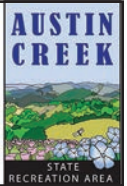
8:00 pm at Vista Point

2014 dates - June 27, July 25-26, August 23

Registration and Payment online ahead of time preferred.



150th Anniversary of State Parks 50th Anniversary of Austin Creek SRA Most Events take place at Armstrong Redwoods



Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods
Family Days in Your Parks
Días de la Familia en sus Parques
June 21 - Family Camp
June 22 - Family Day 12-5

Nature Activities, Food, Music
Actividades, Comida, Música
Free admission & activities, parking fees
La admisión y actividades libre
honorarios de estacionamiento se aplica

Tickets for Family Camp at Bullfrog Pond Campground
in Austin Creek SRA online - \$10 per tent/shared sites

Art in the Park

A Benefit for
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

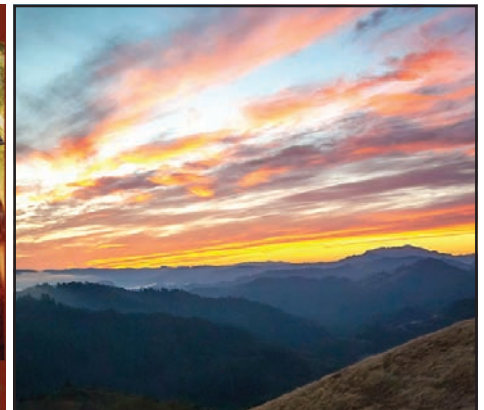
Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve
Guerneville, Sonoma County
Saturday, July 12, 2014, Noon to 5:00 pm

FREE admission, parking fees apply
Art Exhibit & Sale, Wine/Beer Tasting,
Food & Entertainment

Visit our Website for more Information and for Tickets

www.stewardscr.org

707.869.9177 • stewards@stewardscr.org



Austin Creek 50th Anniversary

Sunset Dinner

August 2, 2014, 5pm

Check our website for
Gourmet Meal and Wine Pairings
and to purchase Tickets online

\$100 per person



OLD GROVE FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 13, 2014, 4:30 pm

Mother Hips & Midnight North

In Appreciation of our Donors

Foundations/Agencies

Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival
California Coastal Commission
California State Parks Foundation
Clif Bar Foundation
Community Foundation Sonoma County
County of Sonoma
Dean Witter Foundation
The Medtronic Foundation
Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation
The National Environmental Education Fund
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Olmsted Park Fund
Santa Fe Community Foundation
Save the Redwoods League
The Sebastopol Rotary
Zitrin Foundation

Businesses/Corporations

Bodega Seafood Art and Wine Festival
Black Dog Films
Concrete Images Inc.
Creature Pictures LLC.
DigitalKichen
Gravy Productions LLC.
Hubbubble LLC.
Independent Media
North Bay Corporation
Original Film
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Park Pictures LLC.
Paydirt Pictures
Roll Giving and Paramount Community Giving
Sophie's Cellars
Webhelper

Osprey Circle Donors/Sponsors

\$10,000 plus

Camille & Rachel LeGrand
Pat Kuta & Gregory Fearon

\$5,000 plus

Jim and Marcy Beck
Family of Owen and Virginia Keech Bird
Debra Johnson, Prudential CA
BJ Fogg
Frances Kimball
Michael & Elaine Von der Porten

\$2,000 plus

John and Eddie Cole
Paula & Brian Daniels
Doris Dickenson
Carmen Finley
BJ Fogg
Alden Olmsted
Laura Morgan
The Neil and Amelia McDaniel Charitable Trust
Karen & Bill Nay
Betty Riess
Russian River Rec and Park
Elizabeth Zitrin

\$1,000 plus

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Gary Frenkel
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George Lucas Family Foundation
Adrian & Ann Mac Nab
Dennis Martino
Dennis McAuliffe
Darcie McNally
Carol Mitchel
Pacific Coast Trail Runs, LLC
Gilbert Roberts/Penelope Cohen
Catherine Ries, Worldly Goods
Russian River Rotary

\$500 plus

Barry Applebaum
Bill Bambrick
Rhonda Berney
Jennifer Lynn Bice
Beth Brown
John Brundage
David Brunner
Efrén Carrillo
Casini Ranch Family Campground
Doris Dickenson
Margo Eachus & Rudy Nothenberg
Falcon Mike
E & J Gallo Wines
Diane Gifford
Michael Hofman and Janet Moyer
Damir Hurdich
Tina Kelly
Michael & Margaret Kennett
Kristine Kolton-Grants Coordinator
Lawrence E. Jones School Expeditionary Learning
National Defense University, Elizabeth Becker
Kevin O'Connor
Sandy Leonard in memory of Robert Leonard
Kathie Lowrey
Rita O'Neill
Mike Perez - GreyLaw
Janet Randall
Dan and Mary Sipe
Luann Schend
Julie and Kurt Whitaker

Medtronic Workplace Giving - 2012-2013

Diane Gifford and Linda Price



Austin Creek SRA

NEW MEMBERS

Osprey Circle/ Patron

Mike Perez - GreyLaw

Contributing/Business

George Bertram
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Timothy Oxford
Arthur & Judith Slater
Kat Stephens

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Allan & Maureen Crivello
Michele & Steve Herman
Zora Kim Hocking
Johanna Ottenweller
Megan Perkins
Carol Seiberling
Mac Steiger
Valerie Williamson

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Elizabeth Black
Mary Bowers
Carolyn Dallara
Rachel Griffiths
Beth Lamb
Jeanne Lovell
Jaci Oshun
Lance Parker
Peter Schuch
Kyle St. John
Suzanne Stites
Beth Wakelee
Julz Wolfrum

Senior/Student

Robert Adams
Flora Lee Ganzler
Joan Grosser
Linda Hanson
Silvio Intoschi
Joan Joinville
Bert and Susanna Kaplan
Anni Law
Marion McMurtry
Carolyn Mitter
Bonnie Wilson

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

PO Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430

(707) 869.9177, FAX (707) 869.8252

stewards@stewardscr.org, stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org

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Return Service Requested

Stewards members receive this quarterly newsletter by email or mail, a 20% discount at Stewards run Visitor Centers and our special events and discounts on our educational seminars.

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 (707) 869-9177 X4# michele@stewardscr.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.