

# Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River District State Parks

Volume XXVII, Number 4, Winter 2012

## 2012 ~ A Year to Remember!

*Michele Luna, Executive Director*



The year 2012 will forever be remembered as the year that Stewards stepped up to keep Austin Creek State Recreation Area open by way of a five-year Operating Agreement with California State Parks. It took a number of months of negotiating, then some time for the approval to be finalized in Sacramento and finally by late August 2012 we had a signed agreement in hand.

We opened Bullfrog Pond campground and started operating the Armstrong/Austin Creek entrance station by mid-August by way of an early entry permit, and after a few weeks of learning the ropes, I can say that operations began to run very smoothly.

The recent storms gave our field staff some good experience handling numerous down trees. Tom Webb and Louie Guglielmino not only worked in Austin Creek clearing tree limbs but also helped park maintenance staff, Laura Parent and Tyler Langwell in Armstrong Redwoods.

Another major accomplishment is our partnership with the California State Parks Foundation and their "Models of Excellence" program and the National Trust for Historic Preservation and their "National Treasures" program. Along with California State Parks, the three nonprofit organizations will be working to create a new model for keeping our state parks thriving with sustainable programs. A big focus for Austin Creek will be to preserve and revitalize Pond Farm, the home and studio of Marguerite Wildenhain, a Bauhaus-trained potter, author, and teacher considered to be one of the most accomplished twentieth-century ceramicists in the United States.

There will be new and exciting work to look forward to in 2013 and we look forward to meeting new challenges and achieving new accomplishments with your help!



*Tom and Louie helping with down trees.*

### 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](mailto:stewards@mcn.org)

[www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org](http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org)



*Board Members, Staff and our CAL at the Annual Board/Staff Retreat in November 2012*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Michele Luna, Stewards Executive Director

### Board Members

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Greg Probst, Sonoma Coast  
Ranger

### Executive Director

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Annie Cresswell

### Administrative Assistant

Melanie Russell

### Programs Manager

Sukey Robb-Wilder

### Environmental Educator

Elizabeth Vega

### Office Assistant

Nik Szecey

### Office Specialist

Margaret Ellsworth

### Operations Manager

Tom Webb

### Service Aide

Louie Guglielmino

### Office Volunteers this Qtr

Clara Else  
Gail Vann

### E-News

To receive our E-Newsletter please go to our website and sign up for these periodic updates. You can customize your subscription.

As this amazing year comes to an end, I can't help but reflect on how lucky I am to be working with an amazing staff and board of directors. Our staff grew from 4 to 9 and our board from 9 to 13 members this year. We have a nice mix of ages and talents, which has enhanced our ability to achieve our goals in the year ahead.

### Staff Appreciation:

**Annie Cresswell** has stepped up and received a promotion to Administrative Director. She now handles everything HR-related as well as added supervisory responsibilities. I do not know what I would do without her support and dedication to Stewards.

**Melanie Russell** has also assumed more responsibility with behind the scenes fundraising duties as well as being a fantastic receptionist and database manager.

**Nik Szecey** is everyone's assistant and an accommodating and cheerful person to work with.

**Margaret Ellsworth** has been a wonderful asset handling all our IT needs as well as helping staff with a variety of projects.

**Sukey Robb-Wilder** has completely assumed the role of Programs Manager and has put together a fabulous Docent and Community Education Program for 2013 and is enhancing our Programs.

**Elizabeth Vega** has done a wonderful job reviving our place-based redwood ecology program. We are looking forward to her expertise in developing a new station-based program at Armstrong.

**Tom Webb** has done an amazing job as our Field Operations Manager. Because of him we have been very successful in operating Austin Creek SRA. His varied expertise makes him a huge asset.

**Louis Guglielmino** is the cheerful, well informed person you meet at the Armstrong/Austin Creek entrance station. He has also been a huge help with campground and maintenance operations.

### New Board Members:

I am very thankful to have such a dedicated group of board members to work for. With intention, we have recruited some talented new board members to our organization. **Chris Martin** and **Erin Davis** have brought youth, enthusiasm and a love of nature as they participate in our VIP programs.

**Donna Roper** recently retired as a nonprofit Executive Director with knowledge of the many resources available in Sonoma County. **Marcy Beck** brings expertise in the areas of organizational development, grantwriting and comes from leading energy and environmental program development activities at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Our new board has great potential and we all are excited to work together to achieve our strategic planning goals in 2013.

*The Staff and Board of Stewards Wishes you Happy Holidays!*

*May your State Parks provide you with Inspiration in the New Year!*



Stewards' Staff (l to r) Louie Guglielmino, Michele Luna, Margaret Ellsworth, Sukey Robb-Wilder  
Melanie Russell, Elizabeth Vega, Nik Szecey, Tom Webb and Annie Cresswell

## CAL REPORT

*Greg Probst, Sonoma Coast Ranger, CAL*

I would first like to start this report by wishing Superintendent Linda Rath a long and healthy retirement. Linda was a strong supporter of the partnership between State Parks and Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods. Her hard work, dedication and positive attitude here in the Russian River District will be greatly missed.

Governor Brown has recently appointed Major General Anthony L. Jackson (ret.) as the 19th Director of California State Parks. To learn more about Director Jackson (and see his swearing in ceremony), you can visit the State Park's webpage and click on his biography link. The director has already been taking the time to get out into the field and personally visit the many diverse parks, beaches, recreational areas, and historic sites that the State Park system has to offer. My first impression of the new director makes two words pop into my mind: Inspiration and Integrity.

Speaking of diversity and inspiration.....as I begin another new calendar year I always like to review the mission statement of California State Parks. I will now share that mission statement with you:

*The mission of California State Parks is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.*



*Ca State Park Director  
Major General  
Anthony L. Jackson,  
USMC (ret)*

## WELCOME TO ELIZABETH VEGA

*Elizabeth Vega, Environmental Educator*

Greetings fellow Stewards!



This is Elizabeth Vega, your new Environmental Educator (AKA Mother Nature). I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you and tell you who I am, and what I do at Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods. I am a local teacher, author and musician, recently retired from the classroom. I have taught in public and private schools and was most recently a public school teacher with the Healdsburg Unified School District (HUSD). Originally, I came on board with them as a Music Specialist and when given the opportunity to move into the multiple subject classroom I jumped at that chance. Ever since that move, I have been working "undercover for the arts" integrating music and other creative elements into my classroom as much as possible.

My other passion was, and still is, a love of sharing nature with children. I spearheaded the garden program at HUSD and was acknowledged by Congressman Mike Thompson for "Exceptional work in Environmental Education." I was very proud to receive this recognition and it encouraged me to continue providing opportunities for my students to experience and learn about nature. It was this desire that first brought me in touch with my wonderful Stewards family. I participated in the Environmental Living Program with my Fifth Grade class and was introduced to Willow Creek, Shell Beach and Pomo Campground. Docents came into my classroom and presented wonderful activities. It was such a delight to see my students engaged and inspired by this group, I knew I had to continue our relationship.

The path led me here, and after serving as a Board Member for a year or so, I was hired as Stewards' Environmental Educator. I am now a proud staff member, working hard to develop a new and exciting program here in Armstrong Woods. Presently much of my energy is directed towards this program. We are developing a Stations-Based Interpretation Program which will offer large groups of students the opportunity to circulate through the forest and interact with docents who will help them to observe and learn about different aspects of Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve. Could this be a place for your special interpretation skills? I hope to inspire and recruit some of our well versed Docents as well as some enthusiastic newcomers to this new educational experience. If you have energy and ideas, I would love to meet you. This is a new program and just developing. To be successful, we will need a team. Please consider joining us. I look forward to meeting and speaking with you all. I can be reached at [evega@mcn.org](mailto:evega@mcn.org) or (707) 869-9177 x6#. In the meantime, I send heartfelt wishes for a happy and peaceful holiday season.



## PROGRAM UPDATES

### WHALE WATCH

*Bea Brunn, Whale Mother*

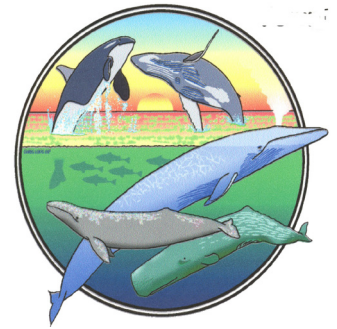
As we are gearing up for our 2013 season we have had some of our whales hanging around Bodega Head all year. Being opportunistic feeders they have been filling up on the small Mysid shrimp that have been, and are, still around.

Our orientation on November 10th was another great success with many volunteers, both “old” and “new” showing up. Our new location at Bodega Bay Fire Protection District turned out to be very comfortable. The whole program was very informative. There were presentations by Programs Manager Sukey Robb-Wilder, Stewards’ Board Member Gregory Fearon and Ranger Alexis Jones. Participants also enjoyed several videos about whales and one about Marine Protected Areas. After your Whale Mother talked a little about whales in general, our sign-up for the season went very well, as usual.

The day ended at Bodega Head where Lifeguard Steve Bourget gave us a short talk about ocean safety. And, of course Blowdega Head showed us one of her “best” days with lots of wind and white caps.

We would also like to thank Michele Sokol for helping out at the sign-in table and Margaret Ellsworth for furnishing coffee and all kinds of goodies.

Thanks you all - and we look forward to another great season at the Head.



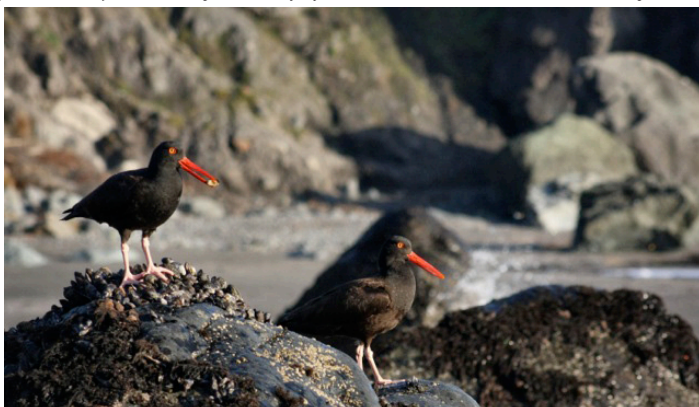
### NEW SEABIRD PROTECTION AND MONITORING PROGRAM

California is home to an amazing and diverse population of seabirds. A new Seabird Protection and Monitoring program will begin in 2013, thanks to funding from the Bureau of Land Management. Stewards will be partnering with the California Coastal National Monument (CCNM) to monitor seabirds off the Sonoma Coast and eventually create a local Seabird Protection Network. A Seabird Protection Network works 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. The first step is to monitor local seabirds to determine the level of disturbance and from what sources. Seabirds can be disturbed by hikers, low-flying planes, boats and paddlers.

Did you know that disturbances to seabirds during breeding season can:

- Scare birds off their nests
- Dislodge eggs and chicks from nest sites
- Allow predators access to eggs and chicks
- Lead to deaths when eggs and chicks are exposed to heat and cold
- Cause chicks to drown when they are forced to leave the nest too soon.

*Information provided by the Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary*



#### **Seabird Monitoring Volunteer Orientation**

Thursday, January 10, 2013  
10:00 am to Noon

Stewards is partnering with the Bureau of Land Management/ California Coastal National Monument to implement a new seabird monitoring program on Sonoma Coast. Citizen monitors receive a stipend to cover gas/meals.

#### **Seabird Monitoring Field Training**

Thursday, January 17, 2013  
10:00 to 3:00 pm

*Instructor: Jim Weigand, BLM*

Learn about the natural history of seabirds, monitoring protocols and procedures. Citizen monitors receive a stipend to cover gas/meals.

#### **ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

[http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/seminar\\_registrationpage.htm](http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/seminar_registrationpage.htm)

Call Michele Luna for questions: (707) 869-9177 X4#

## VOLUNTEER HOURS DUE

It's that time of year to start documenting all the volunteer hours you give to your State Parks. Besides ensuring your invitation to our Annual Volunteer Celebration on December 7th, Stewards uses your hours to document our success. Many grants will allow us to match funds we solicit with the value of your volunteer hours. Currently, the Independent Sector equates the value of volunteer time in California to be \$24.18 per hour.

Turning in your hours is quite easy. You can download a form on our website: <http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/pdf/volhoursform.pdf> or you can fill out an online form at: <http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/volunteerhours.htm>. Or call or email the office and we will mail or email you a form. (707) 869-9177 or [stewards@mcn.org](mailto:stewards@mcn.org).

We thank you for your help.

## HOLIDAY AUCTION DONORS - SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to our wonderful auction donors we raised about \$6500 in our Holiday Auction.

Adobe Systems Incorporated  
Balletto Vineyards  
Barefoot Winery  
Bea Brunn  
Big Bottom Market  
Brian Trombly  
California State Parks  
Cambria Bicycle Outfitters  
Cindy Humphrey  
Connie Cloak  
Diane Barth  
Doris Dickenson  
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Girls Speak Out  
Gregory Fearon & Pat Kuta  
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Robert Janover  
Rod Palmieri  
Russian River Getaways  
Sandra Maresca  
Sandy Eastoak  
Segway of Healdsburg  
Sharon Daniels-Duerr  
Sonoma Canopy Tours  
Susan "backpack45" Alcorn  
Thomas Fallon  
Traditional Medicinals  
Valley of the Moon Natural  
History Assn.  
VJB Vineyards & Cellars  
Watertreks



## Volunteer Opportunities

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

## VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS PROGRAM UPDATE

*Sukey Robb-Wilder, Programs Manager*

As this year draws to a close, please pause a moment to reflect on our programs and give a very large *Thank you* to our many fabulous Volunteer Coordinators. Our programs are successful in large part because of them. Their work and their dedication truly helps Stewards be the link between people and their parks.

*Thank you* to the seven capable people who coordinate our most intensive program, **Seal Watch**. This program operates on weekends for a full six months of the year, protecting harbor seals and pups during pupping season. Each of the six Monthly Shift Coordinators leads for one month, from March through Labor Day weekend: **Mary Follis, Bill Ruppert, Patricia Petzar, Bill Bambrick, Bob Caricato, and Joyce Carlson**. They ensure the Seal Watch shifts are staffed, that issues are handled, and that there's good communication among volunteers, State Parks, and Stewards staff. Our seventh position is Equipment Manager. It's a new one this year. **Elizabeth Christie** suggested it and is filling the position well.

*Thank you* to our Whale Mother, **Bea Brunn**, who led her large crew of docents through another very successful year of Whale Watching in 2012. Thank you, Bea, for mothering docents and public alike. Bea and her team are embarking on the 2013 Whale Watch season soon. They'll be out at Bodega Head on weekends helping the public understand about whales, especially the gray whales, from January to June.



*Watershed Ed Docent Bill Bambrick and students examining macro-invertebrates.*

*Thank you* to the coordinators of our Environmental Education programs. A big *Thank you* to **Hollis Bewley** for working with Tidepool Education. She organizes and trains docents to work with schoolchildren on the beaches at very low tide, and interprets the sea creatures and their fragile habitats. *Thank you* also to **Keary and Sally Sorenson** for coordinating the Tidepool Roving Docents who interpret to the public on the low-tide weekends. *Thank you* to **Suzanne Abrams** for her work with Sonoma Coast Environmental Living, where children travel back in time as one of the four cultural groups that have lived and worked on the Sonoma Coast. And, for our Watershed Ed program, *Thank you* to **Cindy Gillease**, who is in her first year as Volunteer Coordinator, and *Thank you* to **Elizabeth Christie** who is the new Equipment Manager. This is an equipment-intensive program that offers hands-on learning about life cycles of salmon and healthy stream habitats.

Big *Thank you* to the coordinators of our two Visitor Centers. **Joyce Bacci** keeps the Armstrong Redwoods Visitor Center staffed very efficiently every day of the year. At the Sonoma Coast Visitor Center in Jenner, **Linda Fisher** has extended hours of operation to more weekdays as well as weekends. Thank you to both coordinators, who are organizing volunteers and keeping inventory stocked to keep up with a steadily increasing stream of park visitors and customers.

*Thank you* to our Volunteer Coordinators in the Public Assistance program operating in Austin Creek State Recreation Area. This program is becoming more visible as public use of Austin Creek increases. **Mark Anderson** coordinates Foot Patrol, to give assistance on the trails. **Louise Patterson** coordinates our Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU), a new program this year.

Thanks to our Volunteer Coordinators, we have strong Stewardship programs. **Lanny Keyston** coordinates the Armstrong / Austin Creek Trail Crew. He is retiring this year and we will miss him terribly. **Bill Bambrick** coordinates the Sonoma Coast Trail Crew. Trail Crew coordinators work with State Parks Maintenance staff to keep the trails functioning. Bill also coordinates Water Quality Monitoring. **Keary and Sally Sorenson** coordinate the monthly Marine Debris Cleanup,. **Miki Takata** coordinated the Recycling program in 2012.

### *Thank you to all our Volunteer Coordinators*

We do have openings for volunteer coordinators in a few programs; for instance, organizing Eco-Adventures for groups upon request, conducting docent-led hikes on the Sonoma Coast, and putting together Redwood Ecology tours and group tours in Armstrong Redwoods and Austin Creek. Armstrong Tour Guides is another program without a volunteer coordinator. Right now these programs are being coordinated by Stewards staff.

Two additional Stewardship programs could use coordinators: Pinniped Monitoring and our new Seabird Monitoring Program. In addition, the coordination of our special event volunteers could use someone to recruit volunteers and schedule each event.

*Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers, we are able to be the link between people and their parks.*

# In Appreciation of our Donors

## Foundations/Agencies

Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival  
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  
Olmsted Park Fund  
Save the Redwoods League  
The Sebastopol Rotary

## Businesses/Corporations

Concrete Images Inc.  
Creature Pictures LLC.  
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Hubbubble LLC.  
North Bay Corporation  
Paydirt Pictures  
River Reader Bookstore  
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## Event Sponsors 2012

### Sea Star - \$2,000 plus

Affinity Solar Energy  
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### Wildflower Sponsors - \$500 plus

Fern Grove Cottages  
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Russian River Recreation & Parks District

### Mushroom Sponsors - \$100 plus

John De Salvio (Graphic Design)  
Garden Grill  
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### In-Kind Sponsors

Bohemian  
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Coffee Bazaar  
KRUSH 95.9  
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Sonoma County Gazette  
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WaccoBB

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Korbel Champagne • Matanzas Creek  
Hook & Ladder • Moshin Vineyards • Kendall Jackson  
Lake Sonoma • Russian River Brewery • Old World  
Winery • Alexander Valley • Gallo • Ravenswood

## Osprey Circle Donors 2011-12

### \$5,000 plus

Family of Owen and Virginia Keech Bird  
Gregory Fearon  
Camille LeGrand  
Michael & Elaine Von der Porten

### \$2,000 plus

Carmen Finley  
Debra Johnson  
Alden Olmsted  
Laura Morgan  
The Neil and Amelia McDaniel Charitable Trust

### \$1,000 plus

Dennis McAuliffe  
James Barnes  
Mary Bates-Abbott  
Doris Dickenson  
Rob Dickerson  
Leslie de Haseth  
Gail Ellestad  
Terry Grant  
Gary Heck Foundation  
Carol Mitchel  
Betty Reiss  
Gilbert Roberts/Penelope Cohen  
Elizabeth Zitrin

### \$500 plus

Barry Applebaum  
Bill Bambrick  
Efren Carrillo  
Casini Ranch Family Campground  
Doris Dickenson  
Margo Eachus & Rudy Nothenberg  
Lawrence E. Jones School Expeditionary Learning  
Barbara Gegan  
Diane Gifford  
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Michael & Margaret Kennett  
Lucasfilm Foundation  
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Sandy Leonard in memory of Robert Leonard  
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Dennis Martino  
Karen and William Nay  
Rita O'Neill  
Janet Randall  
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Julie and Kurt Whitaker

### Medtronic Workplace Giving

Diane Gifford  
Linda Price

## NEW MEMBERS

### Patron

Louise Thurman  
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### Contributing and Business Members

David Cox  
Will Wells  
Catherine Ries, Worldly Goods

### Family Members

Dave and Janie Roberts

### Individual Members

Sandra Gove

### Senior/Students

Sharon Anderson  
Stephanie Cika  
Barabara Guerrazzi  
Arlene Halligan  
Richard Handal  
Dori Heath  
Lynn Kelleher  
Carol Sims

# Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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[stewards@mcn.org](mailto:stewards@mcn.org), [stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org](http://stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org)

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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 at (707) 869-9177 X4# or [mluna@mcn.org](mailto: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.