

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River Sector State Parks

Volume XXXIV, Number 4, Winter 2017



A Time for Recovery, Resilience and Hope

Michele Luna, Executive Director

Members of our Stewards family are experiencing the aftermath of the fire storms of October. A number of you have lost homes, were evacuated for days on end and are dealing with resulting smoke damage. It was a helpless feeling to watch from western Sonoma County and hear little by little how each of you were affected by the devastation of this disaster. Members of our staff and board stepped up to help in many ways. Personal donations, gift cards and volunteering at shelters were some of the ways we tried to provide some initial assistance. We coordinated with State Parks on the Sonoma Coast and provided volunteer and staff support when campgrounds were inundated by evacuees, some who were undocumented and fearful to access needed services at local shelters. Several of the schools that we regularly serve were closed down, with other neighboring schools now sharing their campuses. During a time when kids especially need nurturing outdoor experiences, we will do our best to provide opportunities for them by utilizing our scholarship fund and taking our Steward Ship to their schools free of charge. Stewards donated as an organization to the Fire Relief Fund and we are looking towards dedicating some of our 2018 fundraising dollars to the recovery effort as well. We will continue to join our Sonoma County community to offer our help in any way we can.

In my year-end letter, I shared that we had to cut back on staff hours while we were experiencing a financial shortfall. I want to thank our staff for their willingness to accept these short-term actions and am happy to report that they are back to working their regular hours again. Thanks to you, our dedicated supporters, year-end donations are helping tremendously and other revenue generating activities are strong as well. Our parks and visitor centers are busy, campers are enjoying Bullfrog Pond Campground and purchasing firewood now that the fire ban has been lifted. Our new Forest to the Sea retail store had its best day ever on Small Shopping Saturday – locals who visited earlier in the year to check out the new store are coming back to do their holiday shopping. We've also been awarded some grants in the past few months that will provide funding for programs in the upcoming year. We aren't out of the woods yet, but each of these revenue-generating streams will help us get there. Just as Sonoma County has shown itself to be a resilient community, Stewards is demonstrating our resilience with your support. We are gearing up for another successful year of our Volunteers in Parks programs and co-management progress at Armstrong Redwoods and Austin Creek. We have hope that together we will achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves in the New Year. I am lucky to have a dedicated board of directors working with me to achieve sustainability for Stewards in the coming years. We welcome anyone who wants to be part of this effort. Feel free to contact me at michele@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

Contact

PO Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430
(707) 869-9177 | (707) 869-8252 Fax
stewards@stewardscr.org
www.stewardscr.org

With Gratitude & Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season!



Forest to the Sea Nature Store



16215 Main Street, Guerneville
forest2sea.org • (707) 604-7116
20% Discount to Members of Stewards



Board Members

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Assistant Field Operations Mgr

Hut Wade

Service Aides

Carlos Amador
Rachel Hathaway

Volunteer Celebration 2017

Michele Luna, Executive Director

With the theme "Under the Sea," our Stewards and State Park staff did another commendable job of putting on our Annual Volunteer Celebration. A wonderful crowd of attendees enjoyed beverages, appetizers, a Pasta Bar and our exciting holiday auction. Volunteers were honored with recognition awards by Stewards, and State Parks honored some special volunteers who went above and beyond with Poppy Awards. This year, Jackie Mielke was honored with the prestigious State Park Medallion for over 40 years volunteering in California State Parks.

Recognition Award Recipients: Alan Durall, Avery Dinauer, Bonnie Wilson, Christy Staats, Ellie Rilia, Greg Armstrong, Jeffrey Smith, Joe Riedel, Kathy Nixon, Larry Williams, Sandra Bugg

Poppy Award Recipients: Glen Blackley, Julie Cross, Bill Nay, Glen Alpert, Carol Farnes

State Park Medallion Recipient: Jackie Mielke



2017 Volunteer Celebration Recognition Award Recipients

Left to right: Greg Probst, Casey Marks, Richard Shipp, Larry Williams, Joe Riedel, Avery Dinauer, Jeffrey Smith, Christy Staats, and Sarah Angulo.

Well Wishes and a New Face

Saying Goodbye to Sarah Angulo and Jazy Dingler

Stewards will miss our two popular program staff members.

Both Jazy and Sarah helped Stewards better organize our volunteer programs and did so much to elevate the quality of the work being done through the programs office.

We wish them well in their future career endeavors.

~*~*~*~

Welcoming Dale Wannan as a new Board Member

Dale Wannan was elected to the board in October 2017. His background is in sustainability and his passion is climate change and the role that corporations play in it. He is very supportive of Stewards preservation and education values. Dale runs Petaluma-based Sustainvest Asset Management, an investment firm focused on sustainable and responsible investing.



Our Amazing Volunteers in Action!



Tidepool & Seabird Monitoring Volunteer Opportunities

Hollis Bewley, Tidepool & Seabird Monitoring Coordinator



TIDEPOOL PROGRAM

What are some anemones doing when we're not looking? Do sea stars have feet as well as arms? How do barnacles find love while glued to a rock? How does a soft-bodied animal wearing neon colors defend itself? Why does an octopus have three hearts?

Find out by becoming a Tidepool Education or Roving Weekend Docent helping school groups and coastal visitors explore the intertidal environment and the amazing animals living there. Check the Docent and Community Education schedule for dates of upcoming orientations and trainings or contact stewards@stewardscr.org for more information.



SEABIRD MONITORING PROGRAM

Do you enjoy getting out to the coast and observing the drama of seabirds raising their families? Are you interested in contributing to a database of knowledge about seabird breeding success which may be used to document the impact of human disturbance, the effects of climate change or the efficacy of the Marine Protected Areas? Or are you interested in enhancing the vision and experience of park visitors by sharing a scope and doing public outreach as a coastal docent?

Join our enthusiastic group of citizen scientists and outreach docents monitoring slightly offshore breeding colonies. You don't need experience with the equipment or seabird ID – you'll receive hands-on training and be mentored by experienced volunteers. We all learn from each other and most of all by direct observation.

Watch the Docent and Community Education calendar for dates of upcoming orientations and classroom trainings or contact stewards@stewardscr.org for more information.

Remember to Submit Your Volunteer Hours!

Volunteers are reminded to submit their 2017 hours by Sunday, Dec. 31st. Your hours help us with funding and provide you with your annual State Parks day-use pass; 16 hours earns a District-wide pass and 200 hours earns a State-wide pass. Submit your hours online at www.stewardscr.org or call our office for assistance at 707-869-9177.



2018 Whale Watch Season

Norma Jellison, Whale Watch Coordinator

As we wind down 2017, we look forward to the 2018 Whale Watch season and hope it will treat us to memorable sightings of our beloved Pacific Gray Whales. The WW season starts December 30/31 and runs through May 22nd, save for Easter and Fisherman's Festival weekend.

However, the Gray Whales are already in evidence going south from Alaska to the Baja lagoons. They were seen in Monterey the last weekend in October and during the week before Thanksgiving in Dana Point. Again this year during most of the summer and fall we have been treated to sightings of Humpbacks off Salmon Creek, Bodega Head, the Golden Gate and Ocean Beach.

Be sure to turn in your volunteer hours from this past Year's WW season. It helps Stewards track total volunteer hours. If you volunteered 16 hours, that is rewarded with an annual pass for the Russian River sector (Sonoma Mendocino Coast District) state parks.

Colleen and Rich Draffin and I will be coordinating WW shifts again this year. Hope to see you at Bodega Head in 2018!



CA STATE PARKS RANGER GREG PROBST & STEWARDS BOARD MEMBER GLEN BLACKLEY ACCEPT THE PRESS DEMOCRAT AWARD FOR

Best Picnic Area at Armstrong Redwoods

"The redwood trees are majestic, amazing! Since returning [home], I have been telling everyone to visit the redwood trees in Armstrong. Thank you for all you do to keep the coastal redwoods gorgeous." - Thomas Chee, park visitor

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in a program?
Call Stewards at
(707) 869-9177 or email
stewards@stewardscr.org!

PROGRAMS

Armstrong Redwoods

Visitor Center Staffing
Friends of Armstrong
Redwoods (FAR)
Docent Tour Guides
Trail Crew/Maintenance
Habitat Restoration Project
Pond Farm Interest Group

Sonoma Coast State Park

Visitor Center Staffing
Seal Watch
Whale Watch
Tidepool Program
Watershed Program
Environmental Living
Program (ELP)
Sonoma Coast Stewardship
Pinniped Monitoring
Seabird Monitoring

Other Projects

Office Help & Special Events

VOL. PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Suzanne Abrams,
Watershed & ELP
Greg Armstrong, Seal Watch
Joyce Bacci, ARVC
Bill Bambrick, Trail Crew
Hollis Bewley, Seabird &
Tidepool Programs
Julie Cross, Seal Watch
Dru Devlin, SC Beach Watch
Linda Fisher, JVC
Mary Follis, Seal Watch
Norma Jellison, Whale Watch
Brittany Kelly, Seal Watch
Kirsten Lindquist, SC Beach
Watch
Michael Murphy, AC Mounted
Assistance Unit
Keary & Sally Sorenson,
Marine Debris

Upcoming Events

To register or find out more information, visit www.stewardscr.org or call (707) 869-9177.

New Year's Day "First Day" Hike

Armstrong Redwoods SNR

Monday, Jan. 1, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ring in the new year outside! Stewards will be leading a FREE "First Day" hike at Armstrong Redwoods on New Year's Day, from 10 am - 12 pm. See majestic coast redwood and Douglas fir trees, banana slugs, deer, sword ferns and other redwood understory plants.

The hike will start in the front parking lot, at the picnic tables near the Lizzie Armstrong Jones Welcome Center, and will be an easy stroll through the redwoods along the Pioneer Nature, Discovery and Armstrong Nature Trails.

Length of hike is approx. 1.4 miles. We recommend bringing boots, walking sticks, snacks/lunch, rain gear, and warm layers. All ages welcome. Sorry, no pets.

Street parking (along Armstrong Redwoods Road) and front Visitor Center parking lot is free. Regular day use fees apply to bring a vehicle into the park.

Heavy rain will cancel. For status updates, email stewards@stewardscr.org or call 707-869-9177.



UC CALIFORNIA NATURALIST CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Russian River Area State Parks

Night Classes: 6 pm - 9 pm

Feb. 13, 20, 27
Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27
Apr. 3, 10, 16, 17

Field Trips: Feb. 11 & Apr. 8

Camping: Mar. 9, 10, 11

Registration:
\$560.00 regular
\$448.00 Stewards members
(handbook sold separately)

Register at www.StewardsCR.org or 707-869-9177

For more info, contact David Berman (david5@sonic.net) or
Meghan Walla-Murphy (phoksumdo.mwm@gmail.com).



2018 Orientations, Trainings & Seminars

January Programs

01.20 - Redwood Ed #1
01.27 - General Volunteer In Parks Program #1

February Programs

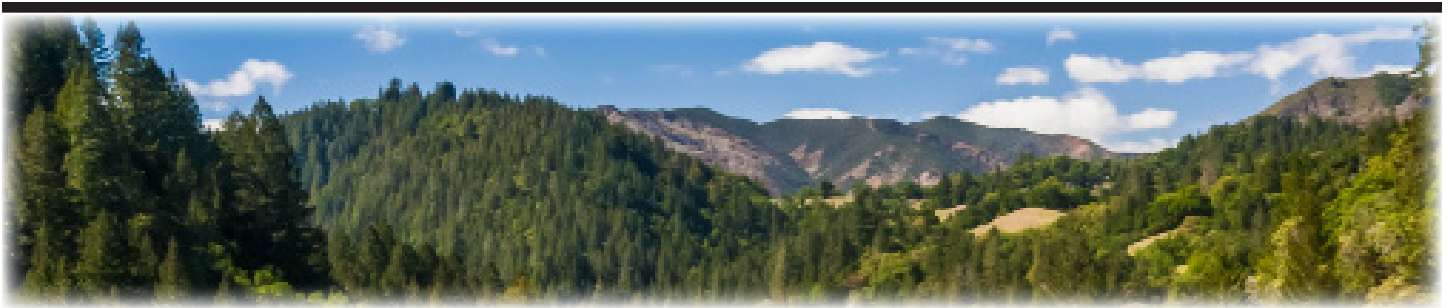
02.13 - Tidepool Volunteer Classroom Training
02.26 - Tidepool Volunteer Field Training

March Programs

03.03 - Marine Mammal Seminar with Dr. Sarah Allen
03.03 - Seal Watch Volunteer Training #1
03.10 - Pond Farm Docent Training
03.16 - Seabird Protection & Roving Volunteer Training
03.17 - General Sonoma Coast Orientation
03.31 - Wildflowers of Sonoma Coast with Laura Morgan



Registration information available soon
online at www.stewardscr.org!



In Appreciation of Our Donors, Sponsors & Funders

Over \$40,000

The San Francisco Foundation

\$10,000 to \$15,000

Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
 Ocean Protection Council/Coastal Quest
 Estate of Josephine C. Marks
 Marcy & Jim Beck

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Gregory Fearon & Pat Kuta
 Oak Avenue Catering
 Redwood Credit Union
 California State Parks Foundation
 Russian River Recreation & Park District
 California Council for the Humanities
 Save the Redwoods League

\$2,000 to \$4,999

First 5 Sonoma County
 Community Foundation Sonoma County
 Clif Bar Family Foundation
 Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival
 Russian River Getaways, Inc.
 PG&E Corporation Foundation
 Terry & Joanne Dale

\$1,000 to \$1,999

Barefoot Wines

Euphrat Family Fund
 Hollis Bewley
 Lennox Foundation
 Rotary Club of Sebastopol
 Don Dickenson
 Leonard A. Fisher & Risa Teitelbaum Fund
 Aileen Liu
 Doug & Leslie Bowman
 Big Indie-Beautiful Boy, LLC
 Laura Morgan & Jim Seward
 Maresca Money Management
 Zitrin Foundation
 Glen & Terri Blackley

\$500 to \$999

Moshin Vineyards
 Gaffney Insurance Services, Inc.
 Eileen Keremitsis
 Pacific Coast Trail Runs LLC
 The Benevity Community Impact Fund
 Warren & Janis Watkins
 Arthur & Judith Slater
 Betty Riess
 Carmen J. Finley, Ph.D.
 Hafner Vineyard
 Wild Hog Vineyard
 Old World Winery
 Ellen Matics
 Rhonda Berney & Richard Shipp

A Hot Tub Place Inc.
 Terry Grant
 Harold C. Appleton
 MJZ Productions
 The Rotary Club of Russian River
 Rick Royer
 Jennifer Bice
 Rotary Club of Sebastopol Sunrise
 Westamerica Bank
 Joe & Kathy Riedel
 Patricia & Michael Busk
 Margo Eachus
 The Heck Foundation
 Dale Wannan
 Michael Hofman & Janet Moyer
 Dwight Cary
 Leslie Risbrough
 Donna Roper
 Mary & Christopher Szecsey
 Bill & Karen Nay



New Members ~ 4th Quarter

Osprey Circle

Dale Wannan

Bobcat Business

Dorothy Cournale

Contributing Harbor Seal

Celia Harms
 Ken Lutter
 Nila Rosen

Otter Family

Jared Archbold
 Paul Armstrong
 Nicole Barden & Danny Blackman

Rick Gutierrez & Paul Foster

Alison Gude
 Marty Hales
 Leland & Janet Ness
 Tarana Shaghasi
 Jim & Jeanne Sternbergh

Individual Trillium

Bob Ahders
 Gay Bishop Brorstrom
 Garrett Lowe
 David Peck

Owl Senior & Student

Kathleen Bacon

Tim Brandabur
 Carol Ciavonne
 JoEllen DeNicola
 Nancy Dudum
 Jack Dunlap
 Michael Harrow
 Ruth Marshall
 Dianne Neuman
 Susan Noble
 Melinda Pahl
 Diana Pennington
 Safina Rabinovich
 John Sander
 Nan Still

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

PO Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430

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stewards@stewardscr.org | www.stewardscr.org

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Your Stewards Membership
includes a copy of this quarterly newsletter by email or mail, a 20% discount on retail items, special events & community education seminars.

TO MAKE A VEHICLE DONATION CALL: (800) 320-0476

For more info on how you can contribute to Stewards' Endowments, please contact:

Michele Luna
(707) 869-9177 ext. 4#
michele@stewardscr.org

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods Membership Form

YES, I'd like to become a member!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- RENEWAL
- \$25 Owl Senior/Student
- \$35 Individual Trillium
- \$45 Otter Family
- \$100 Contributing Harbor Seal
- \$150 Bobcat Business
- \$250 Gray Whale Patron
- \$500+ Osprey Circle

Payment Type: Check (made payable to Stewards)

Credit Card (VISA, MC, Discover acceptable)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV #: _____

Signature: _____

Bequests

Your Gift to the Future of State Park Preservation

With your gift of a bequest, 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).

Example: 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.

For more information and other planned giving options, please contact your legal advisor.